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BIG SPRING

HERALD

FRIDAY
MAY 2, 2008



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 131

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Fore sure

Municipal golf course set to reopen Sunday



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
 Mowers put the finishing touches on one of the fairways at the Municipal Golf Course Thursday. The golf course, which has been closed for several months for renovations, will reopen this weekend.

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

Fore!
 Area golf enthusiasts will get their first chance to tee off at Comanche Trail Golf Course Sunday, as the city of Big Spring prepares to bring the course — which has been closed for more than a year for renovations — back into use with a grand opening.
 The renovations, which are expected to total approximately

\$2 million, were approved by the Big Spring City Council more than a year ago, and according to Assistant City Manager Todd Darden, should provide a pleasant — yet challenging — surprise for the golfing community.
 “I really think it will bring a whole new challenge to the golfers. Jack (Birdwell, golf club pro) said it’s going to be fun for a guy like me who isn’t an avid golfer,” said Darden. “It’s going to be challenging. Adding the

“The feedback I’m getting from the public — the people who have come out here and appreciate what’s been done to our city course — is good.”

— Todd Darden, assistant city manager



length to the course was the biggest change golfers will see when they play out here. We also added some hazards out on the course, including a lot of new sand haz-

ards. It forces the golfer to really think about his shot when there’s a bunker set at a strategic location, and you have to consider the probability of the ball land-

ing in that trap. There are 27 new sand bunkers added to the course.
 “There have been some pretty big changes to the arrangement of the course. Before, you started on a Par 3 on the front nine and started with a Par 3 on the back nine, which made it hard to time and stage your tee-offs. Now, we’re basically starting the old No. 2 hole and changed the Par 3 on the back nine to hole No. 11,
 See **GOLF**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan
 Goliad Intermediate School students participate in a series of physical fitness tests at the Big Spring Independent School District Athletic Training Center this morning. The tests are part of a state initiative to determine if there’s a connection between physical fitness and higher academic test scores.

Question: Do sounder bodies make for more sound minds?

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

Does sounder bodies lead to sounder minds?
 To help determine that answer, Texas public school students are undergoing a battery of physical fitness tests starting this school year.
 Big Spring Independent School District students in grades 3 through 12 began taking the “FitnessGram” tests this week. Over the next several days, approximately 3,000 BSISD will shuttle in and out of the Athletic



Ritchey

Center to test their speed, endurance, flexibility and strength.
 Athletic Director Mike Ritchey, who is supervising the tests, said they are a result of mandates from state education officials.
 “The Legislature wanted to measure childhood obesity and determine just how fit schoolchildren are,” Ritchey said. “So it mandated that all students in grades 3 through 12 take this fitness test.
 “The objective,” Ritchey added, “is to try to get a correlation between physical fitness and academic test scores.”
 The test begins with officials measuring the student’s Body Mass Index to determine the percentage

of body fat. After that, the student undergoes a variety of physical fitness tests, including:
 • A 20-meter pacer run, in which the student is asked to run a series of 20-meter races within a prescribed time.
 • Timed sit-ups and push-ups to determine abdominal and upper body strength.
 • An “upper torso lift,” in which the student is asked to lift his upper body at least nine inches without using his arms for support.
 • Finally, a flexibility test is conducted.
 Ritchey sees the fitness tests as a way for state
 See **FITNESS**, Page 3A

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www.bigspringherald.com

To reach us:
 Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 7 p.m. weekdays and noon Sunday.

Drill team an added highlight to dog show

By **BILL McCLELLAN**
 News Editor

They weave in and out as the music plays, making precision moves and delighting the crowd. But these youth aren’t performing as members of a marching band. No, with canines at their sides, these young men and women are members of the award-

winning Parker Pack 4H Dog Drill Team. And they’ll perform here Saturday, during the Big Spring Kennel Club AKC Dog Show.
 The annual show, which attracts the best show dogs from across Texas and New Mexico, will be held beginning at 8 a.m. Saturday and Sunday in Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Admission is free.

“Think of the high school band on the football field. Not the drill team — the band. If you know of one that does intricate maneuvers, then you know what we do. Now add dogs,” explains Jeanine Wilson, the team’s leader.
 “The group does pinwheels, they weave in and out of lines — it is very military looking and they are in constant

motion,” she said. “I can tell you even the most seasoned obedience competitor will find it a thrill watching what these kids do with these dogs.”
 The team will be performing to the music from “Pirates of the Caribbean” and is expected to be on the col-
 See **SHOW**, Page 3A

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IN BRIEF

Results from the 2008 West Texas Disc Golf Tourney

The 2008 West Texas Disc Golf Champions Tournament was held April 26-27 in Big Spring. Beautiful weather greeted 69 disc golfers Saturday morning and led to some sizzling scores in Comanche Trail Park. The youngest player was an 8-year old boy from Levelland and the oldest was a 64-year old man from Abilene. The field was comprised mainly of out-of-towners, several of whom were competing on the 27-hole layout for the first time. The course won most of the battles.

In the Open Division, Marcus Roberts and Bo Neill — both of Lubbock — stood tied at 150 after both Saturday rounds — 12 shots under the par of 162. Cold temperatures and rain put a damper on the Sunday morning round when Neill scored an 83 and Roberts carded an 86, giving the win to Neill. Roberts, gracious in losing, acknowledged the comment made by the tournament director that he had “crumbled like a day-old cookie” and praised the toughness of the course and the competition.

Grandmaster Division (over 50 years old) winner was Pat Amerson of Amarillo, shooting a respectable 262 and winning by four strokes.

Besting his competition in the Masters Division (over 40 yrs. old), Ozzie Baiza of Fort Stockton, efficiently worked his way around the course and also won by four strokes.

The largest division — Advanced — was contested hotly at the top of the field until the final round when Cody Newton of San Angelo, came back from six strokes down to tie fellow Angelo native Brandon Moore for first and then beat him in a playoff.

Mike Trimble of San Angelo, won the Intermediate Division. Odessan David Aguirre bested the Novice field. Lubbock's Zack Logan came back for first in the Juniors (8-15 year olds) and Francis Rogers from Abilene took home the first place trophy in the Women's Division.

Sonic Drive-In was the Trophy Sponsor while the Big Spring Convention and Visitors Bureau sponsored the T-shirts and discs. Blum's Jewelers, KBYG 1400AM, Sharp Image Energy, Parks Convenience Centers, Culligan Water, Rocky's Tex-Mex and Zoom Grocery Store were all valued sponsors.

This was the third year for this tournament to be hosted in Big Spring and a fourth seems likely.

Local high school baseball and softball playoffs schedule TODAY 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.

See BRIEFS, Page 2B

Aikman elected to College Football Hall

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Lou Holtz, Billy Cannon and Troy Aikman were among 15 former players and coaches elected Thursday to the College Football Hall of Fame.

Aikman started his college career at Oklahoma, then transferred to UCLA. After two stellar seasons (1987-88) with the Bruins, he was drafted first overall by the Dallas Cowboys.

Holtz coached six schools to 249 victories in a career that spanned more than 35 years. He won a national title with

Notre Dame in 1988.

“When I first heard I was going into the Hall of Fame, I went ‘Wow! Wow! How’d this happen?’” Holtz said during a National Football Foundation news conference.

Cannon played tailback and defensive back for LSU from 1957-59, winning the Heisman Trophy his senior year. This is the second time he’s been elected to the Hall of Fame. In the early 1980s, he was voted in — but the invitation was rescinded after he was arrested on federal counterfeiting charges.

Cannon pleaded guilty and was sentenced to five years in prison in 1983. He served 2½. He’s been working as a dentist at the Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola for the past 13 years.

Cannon told The Associated Press in a phone interview Thursday he was “tickled and happy” to be voted into the Hall again.

The other 11 players chosen by the NFF’s selection committee were Virginia offensive tackle Jim Dombrowski; Northwestern linebacker Pat Fitzgerald; Florida linebacker

Wilber Marshall; Washington State running back Ruben Mayes; Arizona State guard Randall McDaniel; Syracuse quarterback Don McPherson; Wyoming tight end Jay Novacek; Texas Tech split end Dave Parks; Florida State nose guard Ron Simmons; Oklahoma State running back Thurman Thomas, and Army quarterback Arnold Tucker.

Fitzgerald was a two-time winner of the Bednarik Award as the national defensive player of the year in 1995-96

See HALL, Page 2B

Jazz try to eliminate Rockets at home

By DOUG ALDEN

AP Sports Writer

SALT LAKE CITY — The playoff series the Utah Jazz appeared to have firmly in their control could be teetering.

The Jazz host the Houston Rockets on Friday in Game 6 of the best-of-7 series. Utah leads 3-2 and is just one victory away from advancing to the second round, but the Jazz are also only one loss away from a winner-take-all Game 7 back in Houston.

“We have home-court advantage right now and we don’t want to lose it. We need to treat it really like Game 7,” Jazz forward Andrei Kirilenko said.

The Rockets not only staved off elimination by winning Game 5, they did it by dominating more than either team had through the first four games. The 95-69 win Tuesday was an example of how quickly Tracy McGrady and the Rockets can pull away in a game.

The Jazz know it could also be pivotal in a series they have led 2-0 and then 3-1.

“They’re just playing better and better every game. That’s where we’ve got to be concerned,” guard Deron Williams said. “After those first two losses, it seems like they’re a different team — a more determined team.”

One thing in the Jazz’s favor is they haven’t had trouble regrouping after losses this season. Utah has not lost back-to-back games since the end of December.

That could easily change if

the Jazz play like they did Tuesday. The Jazz have gone 58-for-146 over the past two games, making only two of 23 3-pointers. On Tuesday, the Jazz were 27-for-74 and committed 18 turnovers while scoring the fewest points they have all season.

With the woeful outside shooting, Houston has been able to back off a little on defense and focus more on shutting down the Jazz in the paint.

The shots that went in earlier in the series haven’t been going in lately.

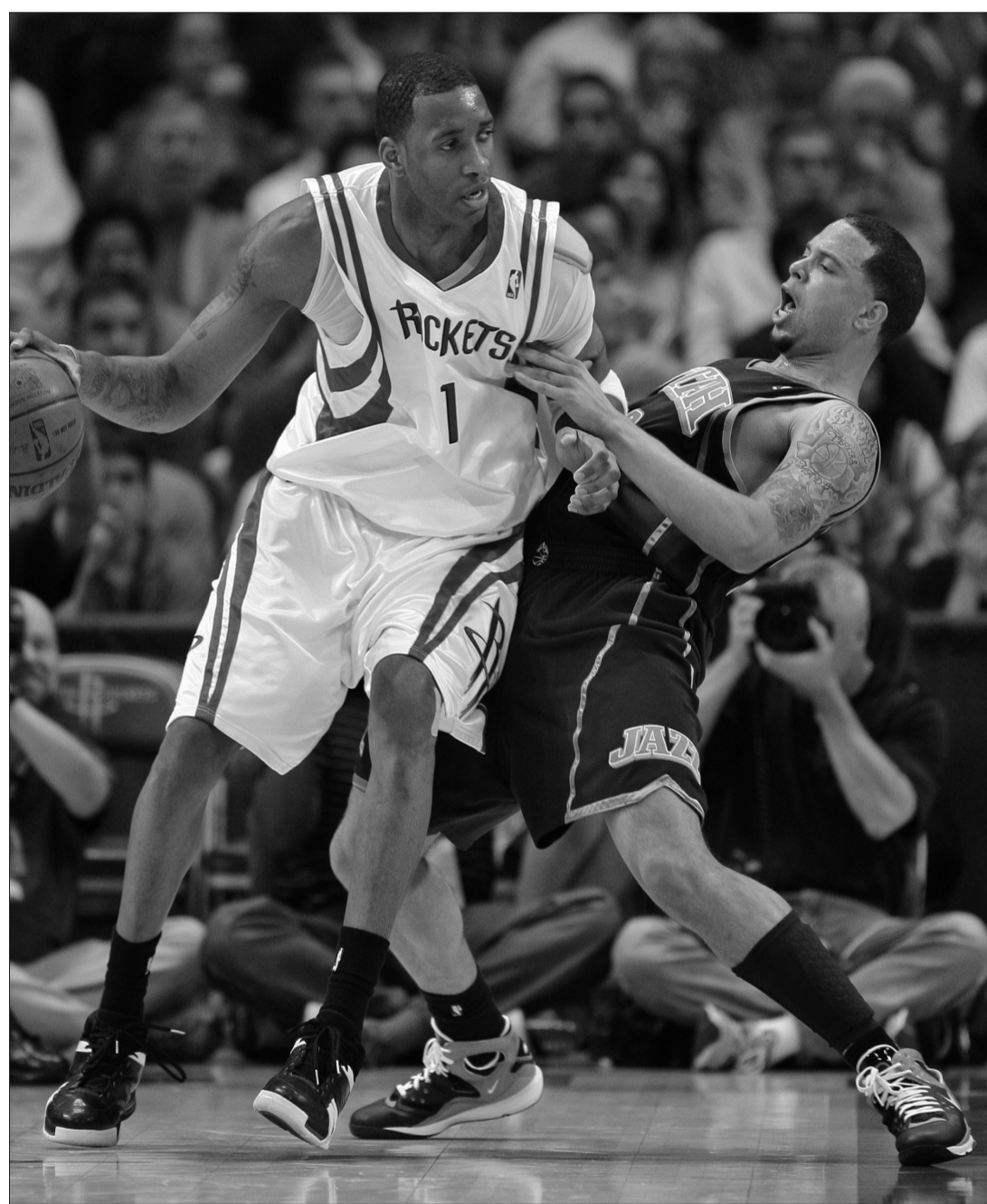
“Let’s not concentrate on that. Let’s get inside,” Kirilenko said. “We’ve never been like such a great team from the 3. We’ve always been successful from the paint.”

Utah still leads the series and has a chance to clinch at home, but the Rockets are unlikely to be rattled by the rowdy fans that cheered on the Jazz to a 37-4 home record during the regular season. Houston split the two games here last week and is one of the few teams to win in EnergySolutions Arena during the regular season.

“This is going to be their best shot. They really think they have to win this game,” Houston coach Rick Adelman said.

McGrady had his left knee wrapped during a light practice Thursday in Houston. He said the soreness that kept him out of 12 games midway through the season has returned, although it didn’t seem to slow

See ROCKETS, Page 2B



AP photo/David J. Phillip

Utah Jazz’s Deron Williams, right, defends against Houston Rockets’ Tracy McGrady (1) during the third quarter in Game 5 of an NBA Western Conference playoff basketball series Tuesday in Houston.

Kinsler, Ponson help Rangers edge Royals

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON — When Sidney Ponson got released by Minnesota last May, the big right-hander knew he wasn’t physically or mentally ready to keep pitching. So he went home and was out of the major leagues until last week.

Now his pitches are sinking again, and his confidence is soaring.

Ponson went eight innings to earn his first victory in exactly a year and the Texas Rangers finished off a successful homestand with Ron Washington still their manager, beating the Kansas City Royals 2-1 on Thursday.

“My changeup and my slider helped me throw more strikes. I was lucky enough to have two extra pitches besides my slider,” Ponson said. “I’m just happy Texas gave me a chance to pitch back in the big leagues, and I’m going to get the most out of it.”

The Rangers took two-of-three from both Minnesota and Kansas City during the homestand, which began after a miserable road trip and a meeting of owner Tom Hicks, president Nolan Ryan and general manager Jon Daniels about the team’s direction. Texas (11-18) set a team record with 18 losses in April, and still has the worst record in the majors.

“I’m judged on wins and losses. We haven’t been getting a whole lot of wins, so it falls on me. I can handle that,” Washington said. “I’m still here, and we’re going to still fight. I can’t say it doesn’t bother me. ... I just know just as bad as we were, things can turn around. The guys in that clubhouse believe it. I believe it.”

See RANGERS, Page 2B



AP photo/Michael Ainsworth/Dallas Morning News

Texas Rangers’ German Duran is tagged out by Kansas City Royals pitcher Leo Nunez on a sacrifice bunt during the eighth inning of an AL baseball game Thursday in Arlington. Texas defeated Kansas City 2-1.

Obituaries

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.

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: <http://www.npwelch.com/>

Latrice Davis

Latrice Davis, 82, of Big Spring, died Thursday, May 1, 2008, at the Hospice House of Odessa. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Maureen Lasher

Maureen Lasher, 65, of Big Spring died Thursday, May 1, 2008, at her residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Thursday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 5-20-28-31-34.

Number matching five of five: 2.

Prize per winner: \$13,786.

Winning tickets sold in: Port Arthur, Super Stop; Longview, DC-Shamrock.

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Thursday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 6-9-24-27. Bonus Ball: 27.

Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 1. Prize: \$1.8 million

Winning ticket(s) sold in: Nacogdoches, Rick's Food Mart.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Thursday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 8-7-9-6. Sum It Up: 30

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Thursday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 5-0-4. Sum It Up: 9

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Howard County Feed & Supply
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Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity Thursday:

- STEWART SHADE, 18, 1108 E. 13th, was arrested on four local warrants.
- RANDEL WILLIAMS, 37, 204 E. 11th, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- ANTHONY MCGRUDER, 37, 100 Lockhart, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- EDWIN MATTHEWS, 45, 1311 W. Second, was arrested on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.
- ERNEST CLARK, 67, 4000 W. Highway 80, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- PIERRE GORDON, 18, no address given, was arrested on two local warrants.
- TAMALA K. CALHOUN, 44, 1925 Ave. K, was arrested on a charge of driving while license ivalid.
- WENDY THOMAS, 29, 4810 Brandy, was arrested on a warrant.
- MORGAN LOPEZ, 26, 2501 Barksdale, was arrested on a charge of robbery.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the 1900 block of Highway 87 and the 500 block of Birdwell.
- ASSAULT/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 800 block of Johnson and the 2400 block of Morrison.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 300 block of Gregg.
- DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED/INVALID was reported in the 3200 block of 11th.
- TERRORISTIC THREAT was reported in the 400 block of Dallas.
- THEFT was reported in the 2500 block of Langley.

Sheriff's report

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity Thursday (Note: There were 52 prisoners reported in the county jail):

- MARK KIRBY, 34, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a bondsman off bond warrant for failure to identify giving false or fictitious information.
- JOEL ADRIAN FLORES, 26, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of aggravated sexual assault of a child.
- DAVID ERROL MCGRUDER, 60, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a motion to revoke probation for possession of a controlled substance.
- CHRISTINA MARTINEZ, 25, was arrested by deputies on a motion to revoke probation for driving while intoxicated.
- TERESA LYNNE CHRISTON, 43, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of possession of a controlled substance in a drug free zone.
- JOHN PAUL SYKES, 24, was arrested by deputies on a motion to revoke probation for possession of marijuana.
- CANDACE LYNN CAREY, 25, was arrested by deputies on a bondsman off bond warrant for aggravated robbery.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service reported the following activity Thursday:

- TRAUMA was reported in the 1700 block of E. Third. One person was transported to SMMC.
- PUBLIC SERVICE was reported in the 2900 block of W. Seventh.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 400 block of E. Fourth. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 500 block of Birdwell. Service was refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 4000 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.
- GRASS FIRE was reported at Business 20 and Interstate 20 in Midland.

Weather

Tonight, Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 40s. North winds 10 to 20 mph.

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

Saturday night, Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 40s. East winds around 10 mph.

Sunday, Sunny. Highs in the upper 70s. Southeast winds 10 to 20 mph.

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

Monday, Partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 80s.

Monday night, Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 50s.

Cinco de Mayo Festival
Heart Of The City Park
Friday - May 2nd
6:00 p.m. - Midnight
Saturday - May 3rd
11:00 a.m. - Midnight
Live Music, Dancing, Food
Washer Tournament
F.M.I. 213-5703

Bulletin Board

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

TODAY

- 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.

MONDAY

- Keep Big Spring Beautiful meets at noon in the Cactus Room at Howard College.
- District Committee Lone Star of Big Spring meets at noon at 610 Scurry.
- 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.
- for more information. Weigh-in starts at 5 p.m.; meetings begin at 5:30 p.m.
- Evening Lions Club meets at 6:45 p.m. at Dragon China Buffett.
- Howard County ARC meets at 806 E. Third in the Bingo Hall. Call 264-0674 for more information.
- The Big Spring Cruisers club meeting at 7 p.m. in the Texas RV Park meeting room.
- Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.
- Big Spring Chapter No. 178 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

TUESDAY

- Coahoma Senior Citizen luncheon is set for 11 a.m. in the Coahoma Community Center.
- Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- VFW Post 2013 meets at 7 p.m. in the VFW Hall, 500 Driver Road.
- Sheriff's Posse meets at 7 p.m. in the clubhouse on the Andrews Highway.
- Alzheimer's Association, the Greater West Texas Chapter meets at 2 p.m. in the Howard County Library conference room, 500 S. Main.
- Gospel Singing in the Kentwood Activity Center at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.
- The Howard County Sheriff's Posse meets at 7 p.m. at the Sheriff's Posse building on the Andrews Highway. For more information, call Bert Sheppard at 263-4483 or Rose Armstead at 263-2769.
- Order of the Eastern Star No. 67 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

WEDNESDAY

- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Free blood pressure screenings from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Salvation Army, 811 W. Fifth St., provided by InHome Care.
- Senior Circle meets at 10:30 a.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.
- Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.

Support Groups

TUESDAY

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.

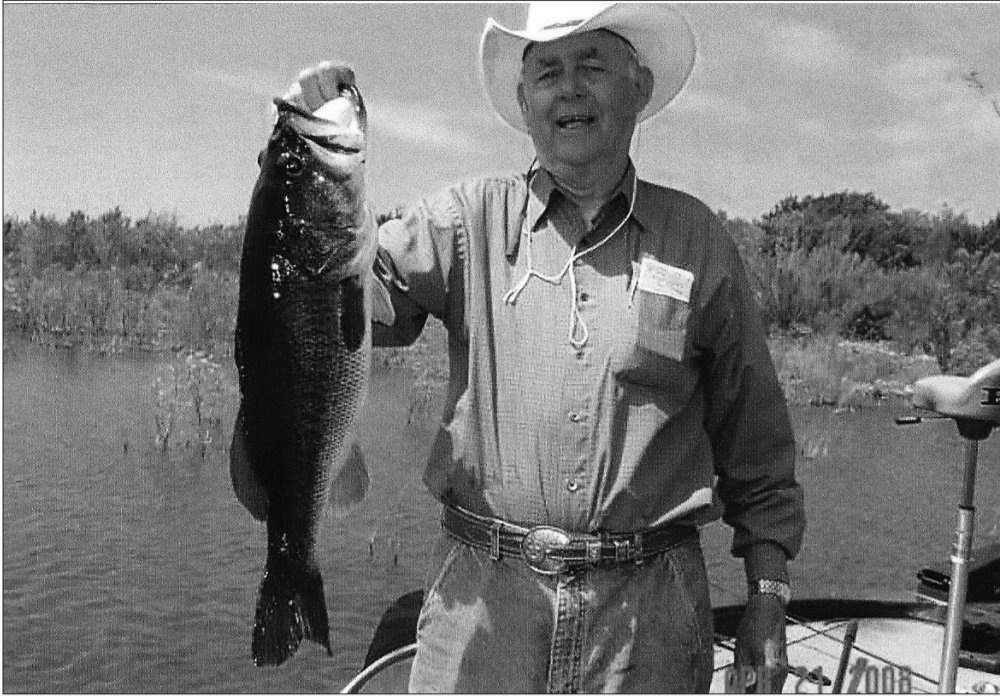
MONDAY

- 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.

BIG SPRING HERALD
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Big fish



Courtesy photo
Reverend Joel Miller, senior chaplain of the Emergency Service Chaplains Corps., holds up a 9-1/2 pound bass he caught with a plastic worm April 20 at Lake Ivey.

RANGERS

Continued from Page 1B

Washington has an 86-105 record in his second season, his first managerial job after 11 sea-

sons as a coach in Oakland, where Texas begins a three-game series Friday night. Since sweeping a doubleheader at home on April 10 to go to 5-4, the only time the Rangers have had a winning record under Washington, Texas has lost 14 of

20 games.

Ian Kinsler hit a leadoff homer in the first and Ramon Vazquez hit a tiebreaking drive in the sixth off Zack Greinke (3-1).

Ponson's previous victory was on May 1, 2007, for Minnesota against Tampa Bay.

He made only two more starts for the Twins before getting released.

"Mentally and physically I wasn't there," said Ponson, who battled injuries when he pitched for St. Louis and the New York Yankees in 2006. "I told my

agent, I ain't playing. I'm going to go home, chill and relax, get everything out of my mind."

The 31-year-old Ponson (1-0) signed a minor league deal this spring, and was recalled Saturday for his first start with the Rangers.

ROCKETS

Continued from Page 1B

him much as he scored 29 on Tuesday.

For a team that won 22 in a row this season, a three-game winning streak sounds quite possible, even with the pressure of

having the season on the line.

"We've stayed confident. When we were down 3-1, we were confident. We never lose our confidence. We feel that we can win in that building," McGrady said.

If Houston wins Friday, the Rockets will host the Jazz in a Game 7 for the second straight year.

Utah came up with a road win and advanced a year ago, but having to repeat that would be daunting.

"It'd be great for us if we could come back with a game. That means Game 7 is on our home court and we get a chance to redeem ourselves (from last year)," McGrady said.

Despite any confidence the

Rockets gained Tuesday, they are still playing an elimination game.

If the Jazz win, they will be headed to Los Angeles to start the Western Conference semifinals against the Lakers on Sunday.

The Jazz know they had a lackluster outing in a game they could have ended the series. They still

have home-court advantage, thanks to opening the series with two wins at Houston and don't want to give it back to the Rockets.

"You've got to take care of it when you have the opportunity for it. You can't say 'well we'll get them next game,'" Utah Head Coach Jerry Sloan said.

BRIEFS

Continued from Page 1B

Coahoma softball vs. Blanco in a one-game play-off 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.

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.

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.

HALL

Continued from Page 1B

and is entering his third season as coach at Northwestern.

"This will be the highest honor I can ever have awarded to me," Fitzgerald said at the news conference.

McPherson was the

Heisman Trophy runner-up in 1987 to Notre Dame receiver Tim Brown.

"The game of football has given me more than I have given it," McPherson said.

John Cooper, who went 192-84-6 with Tulsa, Arizona State and Ohio State, was the other coach selected for induction.

The latest class will be inducted at the NFF ban-

quet in New York in December and enshrined in the summer of 2009 at

the Hall of Fame in South Bend, Ind.

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box. Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Bidding Quiz

You are South, both sides vulnerable. The bidding has been:

West North East South
1 ♣ 1 ♠ Pass ?

What would you bid with each of the following five hands?

- ♠ Q952 ♥ AK763 ♦ K102 ♣ 5
- ♠ 1084 ♥ AJ5 ♦ KJ943 ♣ 72
- ♠ 82 ♥ K7 ♦ AKQJ84 ♣ KJ6
- ♠ KJ84 ♥ AJ952 ♦ Q6 ♣ 73
- ♠ Q7 ♥ Q942 ♦ KJ92 ♣ AQ8

1. **Four spades.** Partner's spade overall is not usually a bid directed toward making a game, but neither is it a bid made without appropriate values. Typically, it is based on a hand containing about nine to 16 points in high cards and a strong suit.

The salient feature of an overall is safety, and this means that the overcaller does not expect to go down more than 500 points if he gets doubled by the next player. It follows, therefore, that the quality of the suit in which the overall is made is more important than the overall strength of the hand.

Opposite your hand, partner should have an excellent chance to make four spades. A bid of two hearts or a jump to three spades, neither of which would be forcing, runs the risk of missing game, and there is not much point to bidding anything else. As usual, the simplest bid is best.

2. **Two spades.** It is not likely that

your side can make a game, but the raise should be made for competitive purposes and in case partner has an absolute maximum. It would be wrong to bid two diamonds, which would deny spade support and might result in winding up in the wrong contract.

3. **Three notrump.** No guarantees go with this bid, which is admittedly a gamble, but the hand should offer a good shot for game opposite a typical overall. Partner does not need much strength outside of his spade suit. The best thing to do is to close your eyes, bid three notrump and hope for the best.

4. **Three spades.** This bid invites partner to go on to four with a maximum overall, and allows him to pass if the overall was based on minimum values. As before, your heart suit should not be mentioned.

5. **Two notrump.** This is also only invitational, and partner is permitted to pass. It shows roughly the values for a minimum opening bid (about 13 to 15 points), balanced distribution and all-around strength, particularly in the opponent's suit.

The principle that it takes the equivalent of two opening bids to make a game applies here. You have slightly better than a minimum opening bid; if partner has close to an opening bid or better, a game is likely to be made.

Tomorrow: The safety factor.

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1107 STANFORD, Saturday 9-? Home decor, dishes, linens, nice clothes- boys- men's - juniors & women's (size 3-18) and lots of misc.

18X21 FOOT Carports \$695.00 plus tax installed on your lot. Other sizes and colors available. Bargain Barn, 508 West 3rd.

5 FAMILY Garage Sale: Saturday 8:00-12:00, 3604 Parkway & 3607 Dixon. Clothing all sizes children & adult plus maternity. Port-a-crib, little tykes toys and lots of baby items. Home combination safe, lot's and lot's of miscellaneous.

CARPORIT SALE 1604 Nolan St. Saturday only. 8-6pm. New light fixture, floral arrangements, lots of misc.

CHURCH BENEFIT Sale for VBS. 604 E. 13th. Saturday only! 7:30a.m.-1:00 p.m. Lots of miscellaneous and Breakfast Burritos (homemade tortillas).

GARAGE SALE Saturday 8-? Baby and young boy clothing, baby items, (high chair, swing, mattress, booster seats, stroller), clothes, dryer. 1202 Buena Vista.

GARAGE SALE 1014 Baylor, Saturday, 8-3pm. Baby clothes, furniture, tools, lots and lots of misc.

GARAGE SALE 2307 Roberts Dr. off of Allendale. Saturday 7:30-3:00. Bike, highchair, air walker, luggage, Xmas tree, tools, drill press and misc.

GARAGE SALE 2518 Chanutte, Thurs. & Fri. 8:30-2:00, and Saturday 8:00-? Baby clothes all sizes, junior girls clothes, decorations, dishes, bedspreads, western boy bedding set and lots of misc.

GARAGE SALE 2525 Langley, Fri & Sat, 8-? Lots of clothes, couch and love seat, lots of misc.

GARAGE SALE Friday & Saturday, 6309 Walter Rd. 1986 Ford work van, queen size bdr set, lots of misc. No early sales. 8am-?

GARAGE SALE Friday & Saturday. 8:00-1:00, 207 Pettus Rd. (North Lamesa Hwy., right on Centerpoint, right on Pettus Rd.) Follow signs. Clothes, kitchen items, toys, Christmas stuff, loveseat, lots of misc. Lots of good stuff. Priced Cheap.

GARAGE SALE: 1609 Eubanks Road, Saturday 7:00-1:00. Tamales & Burritos and lots of misc. items.

GARAGE SALE: 2103 Johnson, Saturday & Sunday 8-2. Furniture, girl & boy clothing from newborn to 3T and lots more.

GARAGE SALE: 2600 Rebecca, Saturday 8-12. Pots, dishes, Junior girl clothing, highchair, toys and lots of misc.

STORAGE SELL: 3308 Auburn, Fri.-Sat. 9-3. Furniture, clothes, tools and Junk!

Garage Sales

GARAGE SALE: 3226 Drexel, Saturday 8-? Household items, baby items and too many to list.

GARAGE SALE: 4212 Bilger, Saturday 8-? Lots of nice items, exercise equipment, air hockey table, home deco., glassware, picture frames and more.

GARAGE SALE: 424 Westover, Saturday 8-? Women's clothes, shoes, washer, dryer, tools and misc. items.

GARAGE SALE: 711 North Scurry Street, Fri. & Sat. 8-3. Stove, inside doors, living room tables, daybed, queen mattress, new sinks, 2002 Chev. Cavalier and lots of misc.

GARAGE SALE: Saturday Only 8:00-4:00, 7110 South Service Road. Couch, girls bed w/mattresses, 2 entertainment centers, dresser w/mirror, clothes, baby toys and lots of misc.

GIGANTIC GARAGE Sale: Men in Black- Relay for Life. Clothes, toys, misc. items, Breakfast Burritos and fun. May 3rd, Saturday 8:00-3:00, Old K-Mart Building.

HUGE GARAGE Sale. Upright freezer, furniture, tanning bed, lots of summer clothes (all sizes), prom dresses & suites, housewares, snake aquarium, exercise equipment & lots of misc. 211 S. Moss Lake Road. Thur., Fri. & Sat. 9-5

HUGE GARAGE Sale: 4208 Theo, Saturday 8-? Lots of stuff. Furniture, lots of clothing all sizes, baby clothing, toys, purses, decorations and burritos. Don't miss it.

MOVING SALE: 615 Dallas, Saturday 8:00-4:00. Beautiful new dining room table w/chairs and much more.

MOVING SALE: Saturday 8-1, 2606 Central. Dishes, cookware, camping gear, art work, horse collar, single tree, no clothes, pet carriers and more.

MULTI. FAMILY Garage Sale, Saturday, 7:30-1:00. 4217 Theo. Scrape booking supplies, 2 Oak in table and coffee table, Christmas items, girls & boys clothes and lots of misc.

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CLINE CONSTRUCTION is hiring Class A & B CDL drivers & Operators. Come by 1807 N. FM 700 to fill out an application.

DAY'S INN needs Day and Evening Clerk. Apply at Front Office @ 2701 South Gregg Street.

DENTAL ASSISTING: Dental office is looking for an experienced dental assistant to join our Big Spring and Midland office. Great working environment must be team player. Please call 432-570-7080.

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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.

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IMMEDIATE OPENING for Roustabout hands. Need one year experience. Starting pay \$10.00 per hour. Call (432)394-4161.

IMMEDIATE OPENING for substitute teachers. Ideally, should have experience working with small children, Apply, in person at 118 Cedar Road.

Help Wanted

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

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State briefs

Seven wildfires burning across Texas

FORT STOCKTON (AP) — At least seven wildfires, two of them consuming more than 20,000 acres each, burned across Texas on Thursday, threatening homes, a wind farm and a \$10 million vineyard, officials said.

There have been no deaths reported and just one injury, a heavy equipment operator who was treated for smoke inhalation.

One of the largest fires was the Huckabee Fire in Pecos County, about 30 miles southeast of Fort Stockton in West Texas. The 21,000 acre blaze was threatening two natural gas facilities that produce more than \$1 million of natural gas a day. Both facilities appear out of danger, said Jeanne Eastham, a spokeswoman for the Texas Forest Service.

The Huckabee Fire was also threatening a \$280 million wind farm that employs about 250 people and an 800-acre vineyard, Eastham said. The wind farm issued a voluntary evacuation. The forest service had a mandatory evacuation for one ranch in the fire's path.

Pecos County resident Weldon Blackwelder said he was keeping watch on the fire to see if it gets close to his home.

"It's amazing how this old country will burn like that," Blackwelder said in a story for Friday's Odessa American.

A separate Pecos County fire destroyed one outbuilding and threatened three homes. It was burning across 200 acres and was 40 percent contained, according to the Texas Forest Service.

The 2,000-acre Price Fire in Midland County has burned five structures, threatened 200 more and forced the evacuation of 150 homes, officials said.

A 150-acre Brooks County fire that burned one out-

building was about 40 percent contained but "extreme weather conditions and lack of air resources are limiting the ability of ground crews to gain control," Eastham said.

A train started a 320-acre fire around 12:45 p.m. Thursday in Howard County. Officials said the fire burned rapidly along Interstate 20 but was under control and about 80 percent contained. There was a 200-acre fire in Crockett County that was mostly contained and caused minimal damage.

The state's other large fire is a 23,000-acre blaze in Brewster County dubbed the Cathedral Fire. This lightning fire is in an inaccessible area but is not threatening any structures and considered mostly contained. "Crews are making good progress," Eastham said.

Toxicology test shows Emilio was intoxicated

HOUSTON (AP) — Toxicology tests indicate that Grammy-winning Tejano singer Emilio Navaira was intoxicated when the tour bus he was driving crashed into a collection of freeway barrels in suburban Houston in March, authorities said.

The toxicology tests were released this week, and the Houston Chronicle reported on the results Thursday night on its Web site. The newspaper also reported that Navaira was arrested for driving while intoxicated in September of 2000.

Navaira was behind the wheel of his tour bus March 23 when it slammed into the freeway barrels, throwing him through the windshield. Doctors had to perform two brain surgeries and repaired a potentially fatal aneurysm on Navaira's right lung.

The singer is expected to have trouble with his memory and concentration as he recovers. But his doctors

have said Navaira has been able to stand, eat, sign his name and converse with his family.

Navaira, known to fans simply as Emilio, has released more than a dozen albums with his band. He won a Grammy for best Tejano album in 2003 with "Acuerdate."

Sex offender who withdrew from mayor's race stays on ballot

WILMER (AP) — A registered sex offender who withdrew from the mayoral race in his small Texas town remains on the ballot because he missed the deadline to officially withdraw, officials said.

James Brian Sliter, who was arrested 2004 when he was caught in a police sting trying to arrange sex with a 15-year-old girl on the Internet, withdrew from the mayoral race on March 28.

But in Wilmer, candidates have five days from the day they file to officially withdraw. After that, their names stay on the ballot, Wilmer city secretary Crystal Birdwell told Dallas TV station KTVT on Thursday.

The 42-year-old accountant said he dropped out because he was "convinced by the probation department to drop out of the race for mayor in the best interests of all concerned."

The city's election is scheduled for May 10.

Records show Sliter was charged with attempting to commit sexual assault of a child and placed on 10 years probation.

Sliter was eligible to run for office in Wilmer, a town of about 3,400 just south of Dallas, because he was not convicted. He received deferred adjudication, which means he will not be convicted if he successfully completes probation.

SHOW

Continued from Page 1A

iseum floor following Best in Show. Admission to the dog show, and the drill team's performance, are free to the public.

Parker County — think Weatherford — has been competing at the 4H State Dog Show for the past 19 years. They have won the state title 17 times and placed second the other two.

"While the eight kids who are coming (to perform in Big Spring) did win state in 2007, they also represent a county that has had winning program for more years than most have been alive!" said Wilson. The youth range in age from 8 to 19, and have between two and 11 years experience showing dogs.

The Parker Pack evolved from AKC dog shows. When competing in obedience, Wilson explained, there are minimum exercises a dog must perform such as sit, heel, left turn, right turn, about turn, fast pace and so forth. Ten events must be performed

and if performed correctly at three different shows, the dogs is awarded an obedience title by AKC.

4H follows the AKC for the most part, Wilson said.

"At 4H, we quickly discovered that it is very much one team (dog and kid) against other teams," said Wilson. "Within a county, you have friends competing against friends. While this is the real world and we always want to be

teaching these life skills — we also recognized the need for the kids to cooperate toward a common goal. And so a few of us that have shown AKC for more years than I will admit to being alive, came up with the idea of a drill team."

4H drill teams can be any size. They perform for a five-minute maximum, choreographed to music. The handlers and dogs are judged on precision and unison. Ten events must

be performed within the drill.

"With that, each drill is unique," Wilson noted. "What is done is based on the imagination of the leader and the kids."

"In Parker Pack, the kids write the basic drill. Then I take what they wrote, take out and add to — and between all of us — we end with a nicely choreographed show," said Wilson.

The eight drill team

members performing in Big Spring will be Brooke Allen, Brice Allen, Natalie Allen, Andy Botzer, Aubrey Brockman, Natalie Graves, Lindsey King and Tristan Wilson with Jess Brockman as an alternate.

Treasa Wells of the Big Spring Kennel Club said more than 560 dogs are entered in both days of show competition.

The dogs will compete in one of seven groups — sporting, non-sporting,

herding, working, toy, terrier and hound — with the winners from those groups vying for Best in Show honors.

In addition to that competition, there will be four categories of obedience contests held this weekend, Wells said.

For more information, contact Wells at 517-0259.

Staff Writer Steve Reagan contributed to this report.



Members of the Parker Pack 4H Dog Drill Team from Weatherford work on their routine. The group will perform here Saturday during the Big Spring Kennel Club Dog Show. Courtesy photo

GOLF

Continued from Page 1A

which will allow for better tee management for our golfers."

According to Mayor Russ McEwen, funding for the project was made possible through a guaranteed energy plan the city signed with Siemens, keeping the cost off the shoulders of the golfers and city taxpayers.

"There will be no increases in fees to the players or increases in taxes to the taxpayers as a direct result of these renovations," said McEwen shortly after

announcing the renovation project in 2006. "In future years there may be increases in trail fees and other areas, but they would have been necessary even if we didn't renovate the course."

Darden said the city was able to stretch the \$2 million budget thanks to help from city work crews.

"The city's public works crews really deserve a lot of thanks for making this happen," said Darden. "Everyone — 110 employees in 15 departments — gave 100 percent, and without them the things that got done on this course would not otherwise have been completed. We really

have a talented crew with-in public works. We took care of all the earth moving and site clearing, so all the contractor had to do was come in and do the shaping."

Darden said the reaction he's getting from area golfers that have seen the new course are very positive.

"The feedback I'm getting from the public — the people that have come out here and appreciate what's been done to our city course — is good," said Darden. "It's something they can be proud of. This is their course, and they had a hand in this. It really is something for the people of Big Spring to be proud

of.

"If Russ McEwen hadn't been mayor, I'm not too sure this project would have ever happened. He has a passion for this town — even this golf course — and he wants to see our city grow. He knows we're going to have to compete against other cities to attract people to Big Spring. I certainly thank the rest of the council for their part in this project, but I feel like the mayor was the thrust behind getting this project off the ground."

Tee-time reservations can be made for Sunday's grand opening by calling 264-2366.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-

7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

FITNESS

Continued from Page 1A

officials to gather valuable information as to the state of physical fitness in Texas schools.

"I think it is an initiative to see if there's any correlation between a sound

mind and a sound body," Ritchey said. "If we find out there is, standards in PE classes may change."

He added he believes the new tests are a good idea.

"I think any initiatives that focus on someone's physical fitness are good," he said. "If the research concludes there is a con-

nection between fitness and test scores, that may lead to more physical education."

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

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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

We salute:

Each week, the Herald salutes individuals and groups from our community and area who have been recognized for special achievements or accomplishments.

We recognize these special people for working to help make our region a better place to live, work and play

This week we salute:

- SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf, on its Rattler Fest. The event serves to showcase this very important institution of higher learning and is lots of fun, too. We hope in the future, even more Crossroads area people will take advantage of Rattler Fest and better acquaint them with the deaf community.

- The Howard County Master Gardeners on last Saturday's plant sale. This is a great organization that — along with Keep Big Spring Beautiful — does a lot of things to make our community a better, brighter place to live.

- The Big Spring Symphony and Chorus on a stellar performance last weekend at the Municipal Auditorium. It is truly amazing what the Symphony Guild and Director/Conductor Keith Graumann put together each year and 2007-2008's "The Big Spring Symphony in Balance" was a great example. Congratulations to everyone involved, and to everyone who supports this unique Big Spring experience.

- The Relay Riders, Howard College Relay For Life team, on the bike-a-thon held last weekend. We'd like to see this become an annual event. Good first effort, folks!

- Everyone who has voted in the area elections for school board trustee, city council and the Big Spring Independent School District bond issue. If you reside within one of the area school districts or municipalities that is having an election, we would encourage you to cast a ballot if you haven't already done so.

Is there an individual or organization in our community that you feel should be saluted? If so, please send us their name and why you think they should be recognized. We must have your name and telephone number and you must provide it in writing.

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.

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- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we recognize You, Lord, for who You are and enjoy Your word.

Amen

Firing back at non-believer

This week's confession from a highly caffeinated Christian comes perking with a feisty rant for true Christianity. As an opinion columnist, I get to cheer on the good guys the way I want. I also get my share of hate mail and thought we'd read one together as I fire back a response reminiscent of Travis to Santa Anna.



TROY
BREWER

"To The Brewer, ... You are an interesting and intelligent person. It bewilders me that someone like you could believe in such nonsense as Christianity.

I have heard it said that it doesn't matter if you believe in God, but I say it matters because people like you who believe in imaginary beings are delusional. It matters because people who talk to imaginary beings are delusional. It matters because people who believe in imaginary superstitions like prayer are delusional. You and people like you, worry me.

You answer non-relevant issues but never answer questions, like why God doesn't heal amputees and why Christianity supports slavery? You'll never answer those questions.

It's that simple, and that obvious. Your religious belief hurts you personally and hurts us as a species because they are delusional.

You are a smart person. It is time for you to use your intelligence to free yourself from these delusions. It is time for you to begin thinking like a rational human being, rather than clinging to imaginary friends and childhood fantasies."

Dazed & Confused,
Burlleson

Ladies and gentlemen, the rant will now begin.

Dear Dazed and Confused, in the words of the late Ann Landers, "There is a geranium in your crani-

um."

First, nobody ever asks me those questions because they don't go to the same liberal websites where you mined those questions. While you accuse me of dishonesty, you're not even sincere enough to come up with your own gripe. When you spend so much time hating somebody you say isn't real, who's delusional?

To answer, I ask you where in the Bible is it promised that if someone looses an arm, God will miraculously grow it back? There are 31,171 verses in a King James Bible, and I am not aware of a single verse that promises a new foot if you fall under a train.

Furthermore, how do you know God has never healed an amputee?

When you say Christianity supports slavery, I think what you mean is the Bible supports slavery. It's funny to me that non-believers say the Bible supports slavery while those of us that do believe the Bible can see it doesn't. Maybe you have to actually read the Bible in context and not just a scripture strategically placed on your narrow-minded websites.

Let me ask you a question on this same subject. What are you and your atheist brothers doing to prevent slavery right now? I can tell you what we Christians and Bible believers are doing. None of the slaves in Sudan or the children sexually enslaved throughout the Caribbean are hoping the atheists of the world will unite and help them.

I have personally bought human beings in Mexican trash dumps and in northern Uganda. I bought two teenage girls in Costa Rica to bring them out of a brothel and into the care of a church in San Jose. I did that for the same reason you do nothing: my belief in Jesus. My Christian faith spurs me to take action.

When you say our religious beliefs hurt us and humanity as a whole, I know you are smoking mental crack.

I have been to India many times where there is a Hindu temple on every corner but never a hospital or an orphanage. It's Christians that go there and build those things.

I have been to the Middle East where there is a mosque on every corner and have never seen a single women's shelter, or an orphanage or old folks' home. No Christianity, no humanity — go figure.

Do you know that despite the overwhelming wealth of the Roman Empire, the Egyptian Empire, the Babylonian Empire and the Syrian Empire, they never did anything for the betterment of others?

In all the world's study of great nations, there has never been found one single example, through inscription or archeology, that these societies had one single hospital, housing for the poor, a food bank, an orphanage, an old folks' home, not even one single college or university. Nations never had any of these things until the Bible got into the hands of the common people, and Christians began acting like Christians. What you call delusional is in fact Life and Life more abundantly.

To this day, there has never been an atheist who put together a Constitution that gives the people power. Where are the lines of examples of atheists clothing the naked, healing the sick, helping the poor and encouraging the people to do great things?

Every good thing in this country has happened and will happen because of people that follow the teaching of Jesus Christ or non-believers who adhere to civilization that was brought on through the teachings of Christ.

So on behalf of Christians everywhere sir, enjoy your freedom, your education and civilization in general. On my personal behalf, and in the words of the prophet Flo from Mel's dinner, "Kiss my grits!"

The Rev. Troy Brewer welcomes your comments at www.FreshFromTheBrewer.com.

ADDRESSES

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

• GEORGE W. BUSH

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• RANDY NEUGEBAUER

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Lilly Ledbetter's dilemma

Lilly Ledbetter was nearing 60 and on the verge of retirement when someone sent her an anonymous letter telling her that for the preceding 19 years, she'd been earning less than her male counterparts at Goodyear Tire and Rubber. On the day she started work as a supervisor in 1979, she was paid the same as men in the same job. But by 1998, when that letter arrived and Lilly consulted a lawyer, she was making \$15,000 a year less than a man with the same experience doing the same job.



SUSAN
ESTRICH

So she sued. A federal jury found that over the course of her career, she lost out on upward of a quarter of a million dollars in pay because of discrimination, and the jury awarded her interest and penalties that brought the award to almost \$4 million. The judge reduced the award to \$360,000. The Supreme Court, by a 5-4 vote, got rid of it entirely.

Lilly's failing, in her mind, was that she should have sued back in 1980, when her pay started falling behind that of her male counter-

part. According to the law as read by the Court, she had only 180 days to complain about discriminatory pay or she was stuck with it. By the time she filed suit in 1998, the first 18 years of being shafted didn't count anymore, and the last 180 days — the only time period the five men on the Court who voted against her thought could be counted — was just the residue of the way things had been done all those years, not some new and intentional effort to pay her less. Business as usual. No recovery.

Last week, the Senate failed in its effort to overrule that particular decision of the Supreme Court.

At a time when women, no matter what their education, job classification, experience or ability, still earn on average 77 cents for every dollar men earn, Republican presidential candidate John McCain skipped the vote.

But he took time to make clear that he opposes the bill because he thinks government has no business telling employers they will be held responsible for underpaying women unless those women complain about it in the first 180 days. By a 56-42 vote (60 votes are required by Senate rules to cut off debate), the Republican minority voted to protect business at the expense of working women.

Too many lawsuits, McCain said. Too much discrimination, I would say.

There are some who believe Democrats are doing everything they can to hand this election over to the Republican in what should be a Democratic year. But Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama both took time from their campaigns to go back to Washington to vote for Lilly Ledbetter and the millions of women who know they are being shafted at work, but don't have the evidence — at least not within 180 days of the shafting — to prove it. McCain only took the time to say he would have voted against her.

It's the sort of vote women may remember, or be reminded of, when November comes around. Equal pay for equal work doesn't mean a whole lot if you don't have the ability to enforce it.

Ultimately, politics and elections often come down to whose side you're on. John McCain made that clear this week. It may yet come back to haunt him.

Some of those women he forgot about when he skipped the vote on Lilly Ledbetter may remember that, and not skip their turn to vote in November.

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Church News

First United Methodist Church

Saturday, the Big Spring chapter of Church Women United will observe "May Friendship Day" at 11 a.m. in Father Beasley Hall at 1009 Hearn.

This spring's theme is "God's Wisdom Inspires Hospitality." Saturday afternoon is "The Big Event" for Methodist churches of the Big Spring District in Lamesa at Forrest Park beginning at 3 p.m. Fun, food and fellowship, plus outstanding speakers and entertainment for all ages, is the order of the day.

Sunday the United Blood Service bloodmobile will set up shop at First Methodist from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please sign up at the church office or call there for additional information.

The Hispanic ministry under the leadership of Agustin Y'pina will be in charge of both services of worship this Sunday. At noon a fund-raiser dinner will be served in Garrett Hall. We always look forward to this wonderful home cooked meal which is the speciality of the Hispanic ministry.

We continue activities with a goodbye celebration honoring James and Sharon Johnston, long-time active members of our church and the Big Spring community. Join us in Garrett Hall from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. to honor this special couple who will soon be moving to the Austin area.

Our Relay For Life team continues efforts to reach their goal before Relay time May 16. Help them as we join forces to "Remember Shane."

Check with youth director Brent Williams to get all the information on the scheduling from now through summer camps. The Junior High Lock-In

is coming up soon, followed by a dodgeball tournament and, most importantly, the Seniors' Graduation Dinner for May 25.

There's always something going on at Fourth and Scurry. You're invited to join us. We'll be looking for you.

First Presbyterian Church, Coahoma

Worship services on the seventh Sunday of Easter are at 11 a.m., with Tom Koger preaching, as well as officiating at Communion. Lectionary for the day is Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10,32-35; I Peter 4:12-14; John 17:1-11.

First Presbyterian Church, Big Spring

Church women are invited to May Friendship Day at 1 a.m. Saturday at Holy Trinity Catholic Parish, 1009 Hearn St.

Ushers for Sunday services during April have been Joe and Patti Horton, Mike and Monika Robinson. Those who have served communion are Jerry and Katie Grimes, Paula Farquhar and Danny Kennemur.

The Adult/Youth Sunday school class is concluding the series by Ray Vander Laan titled "That the World May Know." Vander Laan takes his students on location in the Holy Land, giving a faith lesson that ties together archeology, Jewish tradition, history and the Bible.

The children's classes are beginning a new study unit "The Great Commission." Teachers for children's classes are Christine Boling, Ellen Austin, Paula Farquhar, Jamie Walker, Donna Amonett, Mike Robinson, Jennifer Patterson, Kay Kennemur and Ethel Guthrie.

The Rev. Bronaugh will

preach at the 11 a.m. worship Sunday. Anthems by the choir will be "Festival Canticle" by Robert Hillert and "God Is Gone Up with a Shout" by Joseph Martin.

The lectionary for the seventh Sunday of Easter is Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10; I Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11.

Birdwell Lane Baptist Church

The Gideons will be with us Sunday presenting their work. Sunday worship is at 10:55 a.m. and 5 p.m. Children's church is during the morning worship for ages 4-9. We are located at 1512 Birdwell Lane and a nursery is provided. Midweek services are 7 p.m. Wednesday. For a ride to church, call 264-9924 or 267-7157.

The ladies are working on crafts and gifts for their upcoming Mother-Daughter Banquet. There will be special music, a personality parade and Mrs. Regina Krieg will be the speaker. Her husband pastors Faith Baptist Church in Cisco.

For further information, call 264-9924 or 267-7157.

East Fourth Street Baptist Church

Come pray with us for our coming revival. We are having a Prayer Walk on May 9-10. If you have not signed up for a time period, please do so this Sunday morning.

Our revival begins Sunday evening, May 11 at 6 p.m. The weekday services will be at noon with a meal, Monday through Wednesday, as well as 7 p.m. each evening. Please join us in this anointed time of worship and preaching of the Word of God. Our evangelistic team will be Allen Buchanek, evangelist, and David Garrett, musician/

Self-improvement begins with God

Self-improvement? Where should I start? The exercise enthusiasts promote brisk walking, jogging or aerobic activity at least three times a week to keep the body in shape, but the intellectual gurus advocate reading and serious study to prevent dementia. What a choice!

If I'm to come out even at the end of life, as I have always hoped I would, I guess I'd better start exercising both my body and my

brain.

While body and brain are vying for time in my busy schedule, I'd rather be doing something I enjoy.

My daughter, the musician, tells me that the reason my piano playing doesn't get any better is because I never practice. I really do plan to practice as soon as I get caught up on a few other things.

However, the experts at the writer's conference I attended say that writing for an hour a day is absolutely necessary to increase skill and creativity. And I would like to learn a new song to sing before the next Fifth Sunday Singing at church, but I just can't find the time.

But wait! Shouldn't my priority be improving the way I look? I did read some essential beauty tips in a magazine once. Maybe I should spend more time curling my hair, polishing my nails, and plucking my eyebrows. I could even schedule more time for pressing my clothes and shining my shoes.

I wonder though, what self-improvement project God would place at the top of my list? The Scripture says, *For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart (I Samuel 16:7bNKJ)*

Self-improvement? Maybe I should start by finding time to hide God's Word in my heart.



BONNIE WHEAT

evangelist. Monday night, you will want to hear Allen's awesome testimony of how he survived a refinery explosion in Pasadena, Texas, in 1962. He was burned on over 50 percent of his body and has undergone 12 surgeries in which he died twice. Come hear how he was saved by fire.

If you are looking for a church home, we will welcome you at here at East Fourth Street Baptist Church, 401 East Fourth St. Our office is located behind the church at 410 E. Third St. with office hours from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Our phone number is 267-2291.

Our services are as follows: Sunday: Sunday school — 9:45 a.m., morning worship — 11 a.m., mission classes — 5 p.m., evening worship — 6 p.m. Wednesday: Adult prayer/Bible study, youth Bible study/music and chil-

dren's Backdoor Bible study/music — 7 p.m. Saturday: Men's Bible study — 7 a.m.

First Church of the Nazarene

First Church of the Nazarene welcomes everyone to our exciting and Spirit-filled services.

Sunday mornings, we offer coffee and donuts in the commons at 9:30 a.m. Worship service begins at 10 a.m. with our music minister, choir and musicians offering a mixture of contemporary and traditional music sure to uplift your soul.

This is followed by our pastor teaching scripture-based lessons. Children's Church is offered for ages 4-12 which begins at 10 a.m. every Sunday except the first Sunday of the month in the fellowship hall.

Wednesday nights, you are invited to join us at

6:30 p.m. for an interactive instruction by Kim Shafer on "How to Develop a Powerful Prayer Life," authored by Gregory Frizzel in the sanctuary for adults.

For the youth, there is "Youth Explosion!" with pizza fellowship/youth praise and worship/Biblical message addressing "hot topics" in the "Salt Shaker." Children can earn Christian badges with our Caravan program in the fellowship hall, also on Wednesday nights.

Do not miss our first annual "Biker Sunday" May 4 for all motorcycle enthusiasts at 10 a.m. We will also be having a garage sale in the gym May 10. If you would like to donate items for the sale, call the church office. And also, children's camp at Camp Arrowhead in July.

The Dare-To-Care Out- See CHURCH, Page 7A

Painter's 8-year work at Dallas church nearly done

By ROY APPLETON

The Dallas Morning News

DALLAS — Stroke by steady stroke, Vladimir Grigorenko spreads a subtle green near two sandaled feet. "This is the prophet Zechariah," he says, looking up at the robed and bearded likeness on the wall.

"That's Hosea, and that's Jonah," he continues, motioning toward his other creations inside the cupola at St. Seraphim Orthodox Cathedral.

Standing on a metal scaffold, light streaming through window panes of beaded glass, he checks his work with a straightedge — "It's better to be precise" — and brushes on.

"So little by little, the whole church will be

Painted," he says of the job at hand — a job that has been under way for more than a little while. One that's almost complete.

"Eight years is enough time for me," says Vladimir the iconographer.

Grigorenko came to Dallas from his native Ukraine to paint religious images inside St. Seraphim's new cathedral on Wycliff Avenue.

Church leaders hired him to create icons for a wooden screen that stands in front of the altar. And in April 2000, he arrived with sketchy English and a fervent Christian faith to undertake what became a yearlong project. "I had in mind I would go back to Ukraine," he says.

But once the screen was done — depicting Jesus, Mary, saints and disciples

— the cathedral's white walls and ceiling stood obviously bare.

And Grigorenko was asked to continue his work and take on a canvas of plastered drywall. He figured the challenge would take two years or so.

Since then, the wiry artist has been at it six days a week, eight to 10 hours a day, grinding pigment stones, producing colors, climbing scaffolds and glorifying his Dallas church with Christian scenes and figures.

"The most important concept here was to represent the story of Christ," he says, standing beneath his artistic vision, his bearded face void of emotion.

About 200 figures grace the sanctuary in a soft, sometimes-glowing dis-

play of reds and browns, blues and greens, tans and golds. Saints, missionaries and biblical figures cover walls. Murals overhead present important events in the life of Jesus — from the nativity and baptism to the crucifixion and resurrection.

"And here is the image of God the creator," says Grigorenko, pointing skyward to his Jesus, dominating the cupola ceiling, ringed by words from Psalm 102:

"For He hath looked down from the height of his sanctuary; from heaven did the Lord behold the earth; ... to loose those that are appointed to death."

Schooled in mechanical engineering and employed for a while in the study of coal extraction, Grigorenko was moved

more by art. An atheist, he ventured into secular landscapes and abstracts before finding a calling in iconography — the painting of religious images in what he has called the revelation of "the ultimate truth about God and man."

"Trying to find the universal or real art, I came to church art," Grigorenko says. "And the icons brought me to the church and to Christ."

Eight years after he came to Dallas, Grigorenko, 43, is nearing the final strokes on a job that has drawn rave reviews.

"To have these icons in the church is a tremendous blessing," said Father John Anderson, associate priest of the 500-member St. Seraphim congregation, which will celebrate the completion in June.

"It's sad that it's ending," he said of the \$600,000 project that ran longer than expected. No problem, he said. "It takes a while to create masterpieces."

Grigorenko, his wife, Olga, and their three children have found a spiritual home at St. Seraphim. The iconographer says he hopes to land other church-art commissions in the Dallas area and build on his accomplishment.

"It was a wonderful opportunity to finish the whole church with my own hands," he says.

A critique? "I feel good about the work. The project is successful," he says point-blank. "But I have nothing to be proud of."

"The project is a work of God and me. He chose me, and I fulfilled his wish."

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5 :PM :30	News ABC	News ABC	Locura Noticiero	Simpsons King-Hill	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News NBC	Friends Raymond	Light of the Southwest	News Business Cash Cab	Cash Cab Cash Cab	Line of Fire, Rene Russo	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Suite Life Suite Life	Lines Burning	SportsCenter
6 :PM :30	News Entertain	Jeopardy! Fortune	Yo Amo a Juan	Simpsons Two Men	To Be An- nounced	12 Cora- zones	News Millionaire	Raymond	Hagee	News-Lehrer Made	Made	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	College	Montana Suite Life	NASCAR Countdown	NBA	NBA Bas- ketball: First Round Game 6 -- Teams TBA.
7 :PM :30	20/20: Sistine	20/20: Sistine	Diablo-Gua- pos	Movie: Are We There Yet?, Jay Mohr	Ghost Whis- perer	La Traicion	Moments Moments	Raymond	Update Sala	Wash Wk NOW	Survivorman	Movie: Jurassic Park, Jeff Goldblum	CSI: Crime Scene	Law & Order	Movie: The Incredibles	Movie: The Incredibles	NASCAR Racing: Na- tionwide Series	NBA Bas- ketball: First Round Game 6 -- Teams TBA.
8 :PM :30	Duel	Duel	Fuego en la Sangre	TMZ	NUMB3RS	Pecados Ajenos	Dateline NBC	Movie: Ocean's Eleven, Andy Garcia	Light of the Southwest	Bill Moyers Journal	Man vs. Wild	UFC Fight Night	Law & Order	Iron Ring	So Raven	NBA Bas- ketball: First Round Game 6 -- Teams TBA.	NBA Bas- ketball: First Round Game 6 -- Teams TBA.	
9 :PM :30	20/20	20/20	Nuestra Belleza	Raymond	News	Noticias	News	Church Cortes	Sex & Sanchez	Smiley	Survivorman	MAN Game	Movie: Var- sity Blues, Paul Walker	Hell Date	Kim	NBA Bas- ketball: First Round Game 6 -- Teams TBA.	NBA Bas- ketball: First Round Game 6 -- Teams TBA.	
10 :PM :30	News Nightline	News Nightline	Impacto	Two Men	News Late Show	Noticias Titulares	News Tonight Show	Sex & Sanchez	Smiley	Survivorman	MAN Game	MAN Game	Movie: The Dark Half, Michael Rooker	Hell Date	Emperor Dragon	NBA Bas- ketball: First Round Game 6 -- Teams TBA.	NBA Bas- ketball: First Round Game 6 -- Teams TBA.	
11 :PM :30	Insider Jimmy Kim- mel Live	Jimmy Kim- mel Live	Fábrica de Risas	Law Order: Ci	Late Late Show	Decisions	Late Night	(:40) Movie: Scary Movie 3	Best of Light of the Southwest	Man vs. Wild	Man vs. Wild	Movie: FearDotCom, Stephen King	Iron Ring	Timon				
12 :AM :30	News Paid	News Paid	Niña Amada Mia	Reno 911!	Insider Entertain	Programa Pagado	News Poker After Dark	(:10) Movie: Bad Moon										
1 :AM :30	News Paid	Marketing	Humor	King-Hill	Paid	Pelicula:												

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"WHO ARE YA GONNA BELIEVE... MR. WILSON AN' A POLICEMAN, OR ME AN' RUFF?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

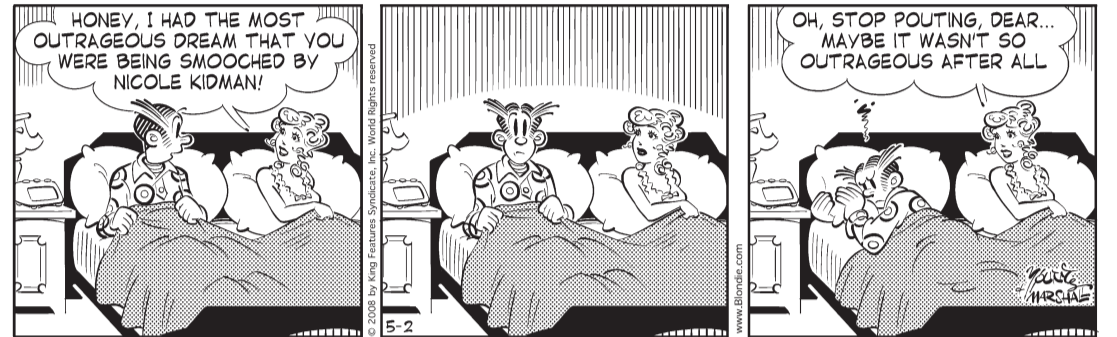


"Look! Daddy caught a worm!"

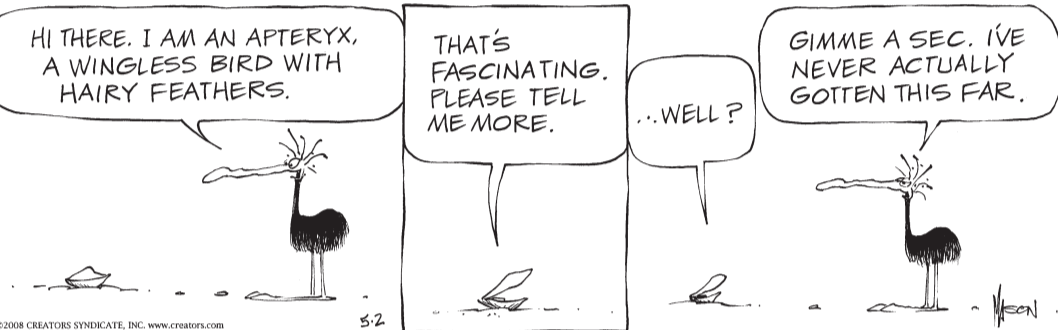
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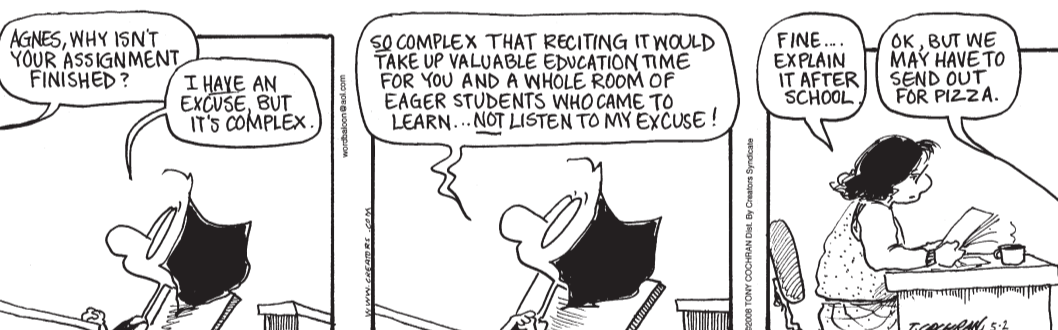
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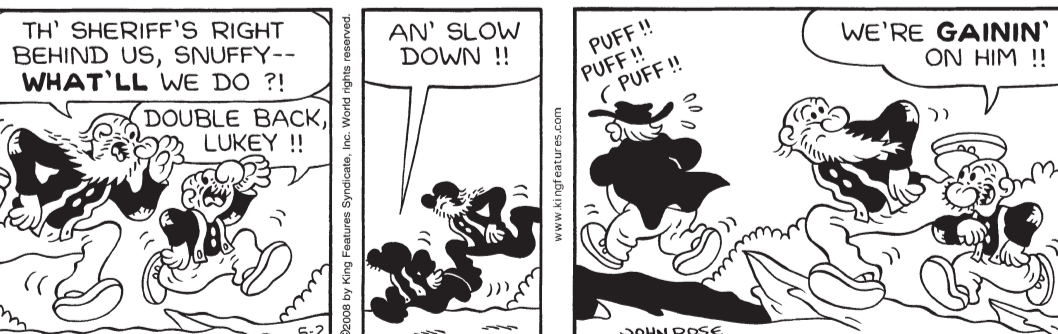
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This Date In History

Today is Friday, May 2, the 123rd day of 2008. There are 243 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: One hundred years ago, on May 2, 1908, the original version of the song "Take Me Out to the Ball Game," with music by Albert Von Tilzer and lyrics by Jack Norworth, was copyrighted by Von Tilzer's York Music Co.

On this date: In 1670, the Hudson Bay Company was chartered by England's King Charles II.

In 1863, Confederate Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson was accidentally wounded by his own men at Chancellorsville, Va.; he died eight days later.

In 1890, the Oklahoma Territory was organized.

In 1936, "Peter and the Wolf," a symphonic tale for children by Sergei Prokofiev, had its world premiere in Moscow.

In 1945, the Soviet Union announced the fall of Berlin, and the Allies announced the surrender of Nazi troops in Italy and

parts of Austria.

In 1957, Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, the controversial Republican senator from Wisconsin, died at Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland.

In 1957, crime boss Frank Costello narrowly survived an attempt on his life in New York; the alleged gunman, Vincent "The Chin" Gigante, was acquitted at trial after Costello refused to identify him as the shooter.

In 1960, Caryl Chessman, who became a best-selling author while on death row for kidnapping, robbery and sexual offenses, was executed at San Quentin Prison in California.

In 1965, Intelsat 1, also known as the Early Bird satellite, was first used to transmit television pictures across the Atlantic.

In 1972, after serving 48 years as head of the FBI, J. Edgar Hoover died in Washington at age 77.

One year ago: In a defeat for a Today's Birthdays: Actor Theodore Bikel is 84. Singer Engelbert Humperdinck is 72. Actress and political activist Bianca Jagger is 63. Country singer R.C. Bannon is 63. Singer Lesley Gore is 62. Actor David Suchet is 62. Singer-songwriter Larry Gatlin is 60. Rock singer Lou Gramm (Foreigner) is 58. Actress Christine

Baranski is 56. Singer Angela Bofill is 54. Actress Elizabeth Berridge is 46. Country singer Ty Herndon is 46. Rock musician Todd Sucherman (Styx) is 39. Wrestler-actor Dwayne Johnson (aka "The Rock") is 36. Actress Jenna Von Oy is 31. Actor Gaius Charles ("Friday Night Lights") is 25. Pop singer Lily Allen is 23. Olympic gold medal figure skater Sarah Hughes is 23. Actress Kay Panabaker is 18.

Thought for Today: "What experience and history teach is this: that people and governments have never learned anything from history." — Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, German philosopher (1770-1831).

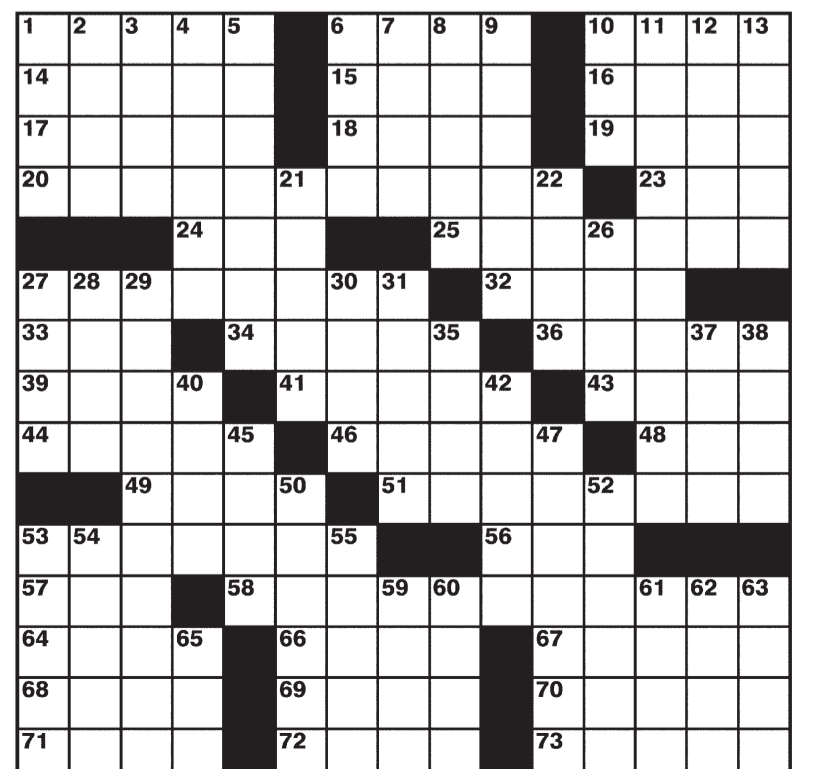
Answer to previous puzzle

POPS	LISTS	AFAR
SLAT	UCHER	NICE
SECY	DIAMOND	JIM
TOIL	GEM	ARID
FIFER	VASE	
SEIZED	MONTAGUE	
ARCED	GETTY	USA
PAIRD	SOLES	AGES
PSI	OTTER	ARGUE
YEMENITE	SWEEPS	
VERA	MILAN	
RIOT	TAM	CHAP
SINKORSWIM	OENO	
EDGE	ALONE	DITS
WEED	POSER	EMIT

Newsday Crossword

YOU'RE THE TOP by Merle Baker
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 Alamogordo event
- 6 Paint unskillfully
- 10 1998 bug film
- 14 Venomous snake
- 15 2007 erupter
- 16 Skin feature
- 17 Madonna role
- 18 Sci-fi writer Frederik
- 19 Fluffy accessories
- 20 Tropical beverage
- 23 Banned insecticide
- 24 Ensign's org.
- 25 Swirly pattern
- 27 Foreign-film feature
- 32 NASA nickname
- 33 Clumsy one
- 34 Pageant topper
- 36 View
- 39 Really laugh
- 41 Fertile soil
- 43 Pine (for)
- 44 "Tomorrow" musical
- 46 View
- 48 Card game
- 49 Bath and Evian
- 51 Sudden decline
- 53 Features
- 56 Traffic regulator
- 57 Keep out
- 58 President or king
- 64 Cream additive
- 66 Hemsley sitcom
- 67 Bulova rival
- 68 Astound
- 69 Twist's request
- 70 Peace goddess
- 71 Business sign abbr.
- 72 Pull
- 73 Altoids alternative
- 7 Proton's place
- 8 Not cool
- 9 Romantic song
- 10 LAPD alert
- 11 Campbell's offering
- 12 Commerce
- 13 Like salsa
- 21 Up to
- 22 European capital
- 26 Read superficially
- 27 CSI character
- 28 Knowledgeable about
- 29 Salad morsel
- 30 Cambodia neighbor
- 31 Put up
- 35 Away from shore
- 37 Mrs. Daryl Dragon
- 38 Quotation-book abbr.
- 40 Matured
- 42 Examine luggage, in a way
- 45 Per unit
- 47 Flexible
- 50 Hot and humid
- 52 SNL specialty
- 53 Humiliate
- 54 Veteran sailors
- 55 Fiji neighbor
- 59 October Sky actress
- 60 1024 bytes, in brief
- 61 OAS part
- 62 Carnival sight
- 63 Old flames
- 65 Close



► Religion in the news

Mayor says Birmingham needs biblical repentance

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — Struggling to confront a worsening homicide rate, the mayor invited pastors and citizens to don burlap sacks and ashes in a sign of biblical repentance.

Mayor Larry Langford said his "sackcloth and ashes" rally April 25 was inspired by the Book of Jonah, where residents of the ancient city of Nineveh wore rough fabric and ashes as a sign of turning away from sin. More than 1,000 people attended at a local auditorium.

So far this year 27 people have been killed in Birmingham, compared to 19 at the same time last year.

Since he took office last year, Langford has held three prayer rallies to fight crime and violence. Bibles were handed out at one of the events.

"This city needs to humble itself," Langford said.

Olivia Turner, director of the American Civil Liberties Union in Alabama, said the group has received complaints about the events and has been discussing them.

"The worry I have is that there's a government endorsement of religion," said lawyer Bill Messer, a state ACLU board member. "Certainly, the mayor has a right like anyone else to express his personal religious beliefs. As mayor, acting on behalf of the city, religion should not become part of the government itself. If it's an official government event, that's troubling."

Police Chief A.C. Roper, who is also a minister, supports the repentance rally, but said law enforcement cannot stop there.

Islamic body rejects proposed conversion rule meant to ease religious tensions

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Islamic authorities rejected a proposal by Malaysia's prime minister that would have required non-Muslims to tell their families before converting to Islam.

The decision, announced Tuesday, was made at a meeting of Islamic authorities, according to Wan Mohamad Sheikh Abdul Aziz, director-general of the Malaysian Islamic Development Department.

The failure by many converts to inform their families of their conversion has led to many disputes. Islamic officials have sometimes seized bodies for Muslim funerals, while non-Muslim relatives insisted the deceased never converted.

Earlier this month, Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi announced that the government would soon require Muslim converts to produce documents showing they had told their family members.

The move was considered an attempt to calm ethnic Chinese and Indian minorities over perceived religious discrimination, which led to heavy losses for Abdullah's



AP photo

Mayor Larry Langford talks about savings with participants at a Way2Save Challenge event at Linn Park in Birmingham Ala. School children from Phillips Academy also came to the event to learn how to start saving money.

ruling National Front coalition in general elections last month.

Ethnic Chinese and Indians make up more than 30 percent of Malaysia's 27 million people and are mainly Buddhist, Christian and Hindu. They complain that court decisions in religious disputes favor Muslims — who account for more than 60 percent and are mainly ethnic Malay.

Islam is the official Malaysian religion. Non-Muslims can practice their religion, but often lose out in inter-faith disputes involving Islam.

Professor at prominent evangelical college resigns over divorce

WHEATON, Ill. (AP) — An English professor is leaving his job at Wheaton College, a prominent evangelical school, because he is getting divorced.

Kent Gramm, who has worked at Wheaton for 20 years, said he knew that when divorce proceedings started he might have to resign.

Wheaton students and teachers sign a Statement of Faith and Community Covenant which sets standards of conduct, including for marriage. The policy requires Gramm to discuss the cause of the divorce with college administrators. He won't do so and is resigning to avoid being fired.

"I think it's wrong to have to discuss your personal life with your employer," he said, "and I also don't want to be in a position of accusing my spouse, so I declined to appeal or discuss the matter in any way with my employer."

Theological conservatives generally believe that the New Testament permits divorce only in cases of adultery or desertion. The school says it has evaluated sev-

eral cases of applicants or staff who have been divorced.

"You sign the statement when you accept employment at the college," said Sarah Clark, Wheaton's director of media relations. "Everyone knows it's part of the deal."

A.M.E. Church to hold convention in St. Louis despite calls for boycott

ST. LOUIS (AP) — The African Methodist Episcopal Church will hold its convention in St. Louis this summer despite boycott pleas by local blacks unhappy with the city's white mayor.

More than 40,000 delegates, church leaders and other A.M.E. visitors from around the world will meet July 3-11. The U.S. church, which has roots dating back to 1787, claims 2 million members in three dozen countries.

Mayor Francis Slay joined a dozen A.M.E. leaders at a news conference Tuesday to announce the convention. Slay is the target of a recall effort by a group of black city residents who also have waged a campaign to have conventions boycott the city.

They object to last year's dismissal of the city's first black fire chief, Sherman George.

Bishop John Richard Bryant, whose district includes states west of the Mississippi River, said planners already had signed contracts committing the church, and its estimated \$30 million economic impact, to St. Louis before learning of the boycott. Besides, "in speaking with the mayor and the council of local pastors who have worked with Mayor Slay in the past, we have no regrets," Bryant said.

Federal court hears case of Muslim woman who says veil cost her claim

DETROIT (AP) — A federal court is taking up the lawsuit of a Muslim woman who refused to remove her veil during a small-claims hearing, prompting a judge to dismiss her case.

U.S. District Judge John Feikens said Tuesday that he will issue a written opinion in the suit filed by Ginnah Muhammad against Judge Paul Paruk in Hamtramck, a city surrounded by Detroit.

Muhammad, 44, of Detroit, said her religious freedom was violated when Paruk asked her to remove the veil that covered all but her eyes, then dismissed her case last year.

Muhammad was contesting a \$3,000 rental-car company charge to repair a vehicle that she said thieves had damaged.

Margaret Nelson, an assistant state attorney general who is representing Paruk, said Muhammad's lawsuit has no merit. She said Paruk needed to "fully observe" Muhammad, and his ruling wasn't based on religion.

CHURCH

Continued from Page 5A

reach Ministry will be May 18 at 2 p.m.

Call our church office for details at 267-7015. God is waiting to bless you!

North Birdwell Lane United Methodist Church

North Birdwell Lane United Methodist Church worship services are held each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. with fellowship and Sunday school immediately following worship.

Sunday, we will be celebrating Gideon Sunday and Bill Bowden will speak on the work of the Gideon.

Sunday evening worship is at 5 p.m. with Jacque Mauch, lay minister, leading both morning and evening services.

Bible study is held each first and third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the church and the United Methodist Women meet the second and fourth Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. in the home of Madeline Boadle at 503 E. 16th St.

North Birdwell United Methodist Women are active participants in the Big Spring unit of Church Women United which will be celebrating May Friendship Day on Saturday at 11 a.m. at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church and we urge all women of Big Spring and surrounding

communities to join women of all denominations as we worship together.

North Birdwell Church is located at 2702 N. Birdwell. For More information, call 263-2536 or 267-2203. If no answer, leave a message.

Chapel of Faith

The Chapel of Faith congregation invites everyone to attend Sunday worship service at 10:30 a.m. The Rev. Joel Miller will be telling the story, as written in the Old Testament, of one of God's helpers in keeping Judea a God-fearing nation. Then he will relate how it affects us today in modern society. There are many interesting stories in the Bible; some that are well known and others that you may have never heard. Come and learn more about God's love for His people down through the ages.

We are a congregation of God-loving people who would love to share our love of God to each of you and to give comfort to all who need to know His presence and love.

We are located on the corner of 14th and Goliad. Come visit and find God's love for yourself and your loved ones.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Everyone is invited to attend worship services at St. Mary's this Sunday. Holy Communion will be celebrated at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sunday school for all ages begins at 9:30 a.m.

This Sunday, an all-parish pot-luck luncheon will be served in the parish hall in honor of the new rector-to-be, Kevin Dellaria and his family. Everyone in the parish is invited to join us at St. Mary's for this time of fellowship after the 10:30 a.m. service. Be sure to bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share with everyone. The meat and drinks will be furnished by the church.

For more information about St. Mary's Episcopal Church, call 267-8201. St. Mary's is located at 1001 S. Goliad.

Holy Trinity Parish

A special Mass for graduates of all high schools and higher levels has been scheduled for June 1.

Mass will be at 9:30 a.m. at Immaculate Heart of Mary and 11:30 a.m. at Sacred Heart.

Graduates, please come vested in graduation gowns (no caps).

Also, the time is here! May Friendship Day-Church Women United Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Hall, Saturday at 11 a.m. Lunch will follow. Please join us!

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Worship services are at 9 a.m. Sunday and 6:45 p.m. Wednesday. Lutheran Hour begins at 7:30 a.m. Sunday on 1070 AM.

Small group Bible studies are Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday nights. Call the church at 267-7163 for times and locations.

Scripture reader is Leo Engle.

Operation Ongoing Support items are Duct tape (green, black or gray), chewing gum, lens and lens cleaners. AT&T phone cards are appreciated.

St. Paul is located at 810 Scurry.

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Biker Sunday
May 4th, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

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- Blessings of the Bikes
- Fellowship

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News in brief

US military blames al-Qaida for double suicide attack

BAGHDAD (AP) — The U.S. military on Friday blamed al-Qaida in Iraq for a double suicide bombing that killed at least 36 people during a wedding procession through a crowd of people cheering the bride and groom in a town northeast of Baghdad.

The attack Thursday evening came amid heightened worries that al-Qaida militants are regrouping, despite recent security gains by U.S.-led forces. The terror network announced April 19 that it was launching a one-month offensive against U.S. troops and U.S.-allied Sunnis.

"Al-Qaida in Iraq continues their malicious tactics against the people of Iraq and their way of life," the military said in a statement. "They seek violence and chaos in Iraq."

Thursday's blasts occurred in Balad Ruz, a predominantly Shiite Muslim town 45 miles northeast of Baghdad. An Iraqi female suicide bomber imitating pregnancy detonated the first bomb, the military said. A male bomber also blew himself up.

The woman bomber blew herself up as people were dancing and clapping while members of the passing wedding party played music. The male bomber attacked minutes later as police and ambulances arrived at the scene, said Maj. Gen. Abdul-Karim al-Rubaie, head of the Diyala provincial operations center that oversees Balad Ruz.

Report: Microsoft may go hostile in its bid for Yahoo

SEATTLE (AP) — Microsoft Corp. may go hostile in its bid for Yahoo Inc. as soon as Friday, according to a published report.

Citing unnamed people familiar with the matter, the Wall Street Journal reported early Friday that the world's largest software maker may be preparing to go straight to Internet pioneer Yahoo's shareholders.

An announcement was "likely" to come Friday, according to the report, though the newspaper said its sources cautioned that Microsoft may delay.

Chief Executive Steve Ballmer told employees in a company assembly Thursday that he knows how much he'd spend to buy Yahoo and accelerate his company's Internet play.

"We're willing to pay for that at some level, and beyond that level we're not willing to pay for it. I know exactly what I think Yahoo is worth to me," the executive said. "I won't go a dime above, and I will go to what I think it's worth if

that gets the deal done."

Hispanics lead number of federal cocaine offenses

WASHINGTON (AP) — They were indelible images of the cocaine world of the 1970s and '80s: Rich yuppies and white suburbanites partying down with a couple of lines of "blow." Stockbroker Charlie Sheen snorting up in the limo in "Wall Street." Woody Allen's sneeze in "Annie Hall."

More than 30 years later, the image remains but the reality of coke in the United States has shifted significantly. Long portrayed as a white crime, Hispanics now make up the overwhelming majority — 60 percent — of federal offenders facing powder cocaine charges.

In fact, data show, more Hispanics than whites or blacks have been sentenced on federal powder charges as far back as 1992. Law enforcement officials say that's because federal agents almost exclusively pursue cocaine traffickers from South America and Mexico instead of end-of-the-line U.S. consumers.

Until the last decade, when the price of cocaine dropped sharply, consumers were largely affluent and educated. That fed into the misperception — often reported by The Associated Press and other news organizations — that most powder cocaine offenders were white, experts say.

"There was a lot of publicity about the white population using it; it was more of a higher economic status thing," said Dorothy K. Hatsukami, a behavioral scientist at the University of Minnesota's Masonic Cancer Center. She co-authored a 1996 study medically challenging federal sentencing guidelines that penalized black cocaine offenders more harshly than white ones.

Dalai Lama's office says envoys leave China for talks aimed at ending Tibet crisis

DHARMSALA, India (AP) — Envoys of the Dalai Lama were traveling to China for talks aimed at ending the crisis in Tibet, the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader's office said Friday.

The talks would be the first official contact between representatives of the Tibetan exiles and the Chinese government

since protests turned violent in Tibet in March.

The two envoys will arrive in China on Saturday for "informal talks with representatives of the Chinese leadership," a statement from the Dalai Lama's office said. It gave no further details on where or when the talks would take place.

The representatives would convey the Dalai Lama's "deep concerns" over China's handling of the situation in Tibet and would put forward "suggestions to bring peace to the region," the statement said.

Last week, Beijing said that it would meet an envoy of the Dalai Lama. But China underscored long-established preconditions for negotiations, including that the Dalai Lama unambiguously recognize Tibet as a part of China.

The Dalai Lama, who fled Tibet amid a failed uprising in 1959, says he seeks meaningful autonomy for Tibet rather than independence from Chinese rule.

China and representatives of the Dalai Lama's government in exile held six rounds of inconclusive talks that foundered in 2006.

Analysis: Recent big win, Obama's pastor problem give Clinton a measure of hope

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Hillary Rodham Clinton has an unmistakable bounce in her step these days — a sense of energy and optimism that somehow belies the daunting challenge she faces in wresting the Democratic presidential nomination from Barack Obama.

"I feel good. We're making progress every day," she told supporters Thursday in Kentucky, which holds its primary May 20. "Wish I could be here for the Derby. ... I hope everyone's going to place a little money on the filly," a reference perhaps to horse Eight Belles and herself.

Buoyed by her convincing win in Pennsylvania's primary April 22, Clinton has been campaigning intensively before Indiana and North Carolina's contests next week. She's greeted by large crowds who respond enthusiastically to her plans for improving the faltering economy, and several polls out this week suggest she would be the stronger candidate to face Republican

John McCain this fall, both nationally and in important swing states.

Obama, meanwhile, is still contending with the fallout from the controversy surrounding his former pastor and polls showing a tight contest in Indiana, where he once led.

While Obama has won several superdelegate endorsements this week, including that of former DNC chairman and one-time Clinton backer Joe Andrew, the former first lady has secured a few of her own after weeks of superdelegate drought. On Tuesday, she got a boost in North Carolina with the endorsement of Democratic Gov. Mike Easley, another superdelegate.

Afghans pay for leftovers as crisis sends bread price skyrocketing

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Hungry Afghans looking for their next meal eye bread scraps piled up like heaps of trash at a Kabul market as a vendor weighs out fistfuls of the stale crusts on a scale. A Pashtun woman waits with an empty plastic sack.

She isn't scavenging — she's paying for leftovers that in better times were sold for feeding to sheep and cows. The woman said her household of 14 people had to give up fresh bread a month ago as the price spiraled out of reach.

Rising global food prices have hit few places as hard as Afghanistan, where the cost of wheat flour has shot up 75 percent in three months, fueling anger against the U.S.-backed government of President Hamid Karzai. In the volatile south, officials fear it could boost recruitment for the Taliban insurgency.

"Karzai is the king and this is my life," wailed the Pashtun woman, who declined to give her name because of her conservative social code. "Since the Americans came here, nothing is cheap."

The U.N. World Food Program, or WFP, warns that the situation for the

poorest in Afghanistan is dire and deaths from malnutrition are likely to increase. Protests have broken out in at least one city.

Scientists in New York to discuss plans to capture DNA of trees for genetic database

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Botanical Garden may be best known for its orchid shows and colorful blossoms, but its researchers are about to lead a global effort to capture DNA from thousands of tree species from around the world.

The Bronx garden is hosting a meeting this week where participants from various countries will lay the groundwork for how the two-year undertaking to catalog some of the Earth's vast biodiversity will proceed.

The project is known as TreeBOL, or tree barcode of life. As in a similar project under way focusing on the world's fish species, participants would gather genetic material from trees around the world.

A section of the DNA would be used as a barcode, similar to way a product at the grocery store is scanned to bring up its price. But with plants and animals, the scanners look at the specific order of the four basic building blocks of DNA to

identify the species.

The resulting database will help identify many of the world's existing plant species, where they are located and whether they are endangered. The results are crucial for conservation and protecting the environment as population and development increases, said Damon Little, assistant curator of bioinformatics at the Botanical Garden.

Oprah Winfrey's couch is safe: Cruise more subdued during taping this time

CHICAGO (AP) — Tom Cruise didn't jump on Oprah Winfrey's couch this time. The actor was in Chicago on Thursday to tape an episode of "The Oprah Winfrey Show," a tribute to his showbiz career that took off 25 years ago when he danced in his underwear in "Risky Business." Audience members told The Associated Press that Cruise's demeanor was nothing like his infamous coach-jumping incident three years ago, when he made a spectacle of himself while proclaiming his love for now wife Katie Holmes.

"He was really calm and collected," said Diane Andonovski of Toronto, Canada.

Cruise was accompanied by immediate and extended family members.

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