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# BIG SPRING HERALD

**MONDAY**  
JUNE 16, 2008



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 169

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## A burning issue: Coping with fireworks ban

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

The county-wide ban on specific types of fireworks has been signed into law, but when it will be effective is still up in the air, according to Howard County officials.

County Judge Mark Barr signed an order last week banning missile- and rocket-

type fireworks that incorporate a stick or fins in Howard County, but the order may not take effect until later in the week thanks to a new state law.

"I spoke with officials with TAC (Texas Association of Counties) this week, and they have advised us we can go ahead and sign the order," said Barr. "However, state law prevents any type of fireworks ban unless

the drought index in the county is 575 or higher, and the last time we checked we were just shy of that.

"With the order already signed, what will happen is the order — which would prevent firework retailers from selling fireworks that use a stick or fins, like bottle rockets and missiles — will take effect when the drought index meets the requirement. The

*"We had several fires in the county over the past week, and if we don't have this ban on these fireworks, it's going to get a lot worse"*



—County Judge Mark Barr

interpretation of the law also says the ban would immediately be rendered ineffective if the

drought index dropped below

See **BAN**, Page 3

## BSISD to mull fate of \$1 million

By **STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

What would you do if you had \$1 million you couldn't spend?

Because of an accounting error two years ago, Big Spring Independent School District officials have faced that problem, which they will discuss with trustees during their monthly meeting at 5:15 p.m. Tuesday in the high school board room.

The money — \$1.6 million, to be exact — arrived in BSISD coffers soon after state legislators approved new school financing formulas in 2006. Because of a bookkeeping error at Texas Education Agency, however, BSISD received \$1.6 million more than it should, Superintendent Michael Downes said.

"The new legislation was not implemented correctly and, as a result, TEA overpaid us by that amount," Downes said.

Local officials were soon told of the error but were

See **BSISD**, Page 3



HERALD photos/Steve Reagan

Anna Lee, left, and Melissa Kramer dispense lemonade to thirsty visitors Saturday at the Old Soreheads Trade Days in Stanton. At right, Enrique Arvena considers purchasing one of many brightly-decorated balloon toys from one of the vendors.



## You can help others beat the heat

### Salvation Army's annual fan drive continues in Big Spring

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

With temperatures expected to once again reach and exceed the 100-degree mark next week, officials with the Big Spring Salvation Army are needing donations for their annual fan drive more than ever.

"Last year we were expecting a hot summer, and we really got lucky with just mild temperatures all season long," said Capt. Linda Keeney. "However, we're not even into July yet and we've already seen quite a few days of temperatures more than 100 degrees, so we're certainly expecting the need to be greater this year."

The annual fan drive collects donated fans and money to purchase new fans, which are then distributed to area residents in need of help in beating



Keeney

the summer heat, according to Salvation Army officials. "We're trying to target the elderly because they are the most susceptible to heat related illnesses," said Paula Lafler, a social worker with the Salvation Army. "We're also trying to target families with children 5-years-old and younger and who are at home through the day during the summer months."

"Donations can be made in several different ways. Donors can bring in their used fans that are in good, serviceable condition, or they can make a monetary donation. The box fans that we normally purchase usually run about \$12 each, but with the rising cost of everything, it could end up being higher."

Donations can be made by

purchasing fans and taking them to the Salvation Army office — located at 811 W. Fifth Street and open from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. with an hour break for lunch at noon — or earmarking monetary donations for the fan drive.

Those in need of fans can apply for assistance at the Salvation Army Office Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. with an hour break for lunch at noon. The office is located at 811 W. Fifth Street.

Capt. Russ Keeney said the summer vacation for school-age children and rising costs will only compound the danger presented by stifling summer heat.

"The kids are out of school and temperatures are rising with each passing day," said Keeney. "Summer can be fun for most of us, but our seniors and toddlers are effected the most by heat exhaustion and dehydration.

And with our current economy, gas alone is costing most working families more than they can afford. The less fortunate families and those on fixed incomes can not afford simple luxuries like fans.

"That's where we step in. Every year the people of Big Spring come together to help provide these families with a fan to help ease some of the heat. This program has always been a great success and we're aiming for yet another successful year with everyone's help."

For more information on the annual program, or to make a donation, contact the local Salvation Army at 267-8239.

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

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## Obituaries

## Andrew 'Andy' Schaefer



Andrew "Andy" Schaefer, age 66, of St. Lawrence died Friday at his home. Funeral Mass will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, June 16, 2008, at the St. Lawrence Catholic Church with interment following at St. Lawrence Cemetery. A Rosary service was held at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, June 15, 2008, at St. Lawrence Catholic Church.

He was born Jan. 7, 1942, in San Angelo. His parents were Clarence Sr. and Regina Schaefer. He was raised in

the Rowena community and graduated from Miles High School. He married Loretta Ann Halfmann Jan. 9, 1965, in Olfen. They moved to St. Lawrence in 1981 and Andy farmed there until he retired in 2008.

He was a member of the St. Lawrence Catholic Church and was also a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Parish Council and the Men's Society at the church. Andy belonged to the Polka Dance Club and the St. Lawrence Dance Club. He coached little league baseball and was a member of the Garden City Bearkat Booster Club. He was a big supporter of his grandkids in all their sporting events and activities and attended Polka Festivals with many special friends. Mr. Schaefer had served in the National Guard from 1959-1963.

Survivors include his wife, Loretta Schaefer of St. Lawrence; two sons and daughters-in-law, Douglas and Karen Schaefer and Doyle and Jacque Schaefer all of St. Lawrence; one daughter and son-in-law, Gena and Nathan Halfmann of St. Lawrence; grandchildren, Halie, Levi, Ian and Lexie Schaefer, children of Douglas and Karen, Amber, Reggie, Hannah and Allison Halfmann, children of Nathan and Gena, and M'Call, Peyton, Brylie and Kenzie Schaefer, children of Doyle and Jacque; two brothers, Clarence and wife Barbara Schaefer and Earl Schaefer, all of Rowena; one sister, Joyce and husband Jimmy Fine of Midland; four sisters-in-law, Joan and Melvin Halfmann, Janet and Richard Wilde, Annette Wheeler and Donna and Gary Howard; several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and many many special friends.

The family suggest that memorials be made to the American Cancer Society, c/o Carolyn Brooks, P. O. Box 2121, Big Spring 79721.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home and Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at [www.npwelch.com](http://www.npwelch.com).

*Paid Obituary*

## Lavada Hale

Mrs. Lavada Hale, age 86, of Westbrook died Friday, June 13, 2008, in a local hospital. Services will be at 3 p.m. Monday in the Kiker-Seale Chapel with Archie Scarborough officiating. Burial will follow in the Westbrook Cemetery under the direction of Kiker-Seale Funeral Home.

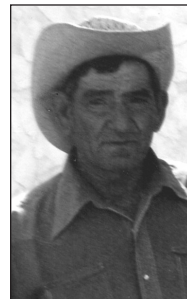
Mrs. Hale was born June 30, 1921, in Eastland County to George and Ruby Mae Penn Moore. She married Floyd Hale Sept. 1, 1946, in Roscoe. He preceded her in death Feb. 9, 2005. She was a homemaker and a member of the Plainview Church of Christ.

Sue is survived by three daughters, Donna Ginkinger, Diane Petty and Pansy Fernandez, all of Westbrook; three sons, Donnie Hale, Eddie Hale and Ray Hale, all of Westbrook; a sister, Nelda Watts of Coahoma; a brother, Lee Moore of Paige; 15 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

She is also preceded in death by her parents; a son, Wendell Hale; a sister, Bernice Ferguson; four brothers, J.W. Moore, Ed Moore, Marlin Moor and Alvin Moore; and a great-grandson, Jason Ginkinger.

*Paid Obituary*

## Robert Del Bosque



Robert Del Bosque, 82, of Big Spring died Friday, June 13, 2008, at his residence. Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel, led by Deacon Johnny Arguello. Funeral mass will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with the Rev. Ariel Lagunilla officiating. Burial will be at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

He was born July 29, 1925, in Kleberg County to Micaela and Rosendo Del Bosque. He worked on the King Ranch, Muleshoe Ranch and the Guitarr Ranch. He had been a resident of Big Spring since 1957 and was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

He is survived by one son, Robert Del Bosque Jr. of Red Oak; nine daughters, Ninfa Solis and Gloria Solis, both of Lake Worth, Fla., Margarita Leza of Arlington, Sally Ann Gonzales of Corpus Christi, Martha Malan of Marshall, Mo., Esmeralda Gonzales of DeSoto, Teresa Gonzales of Dallas, Susanna Quijano of San Antonio, and Yvonne Schier of Duncanville; one sister, Lydia B. Arguello of Big Spring; four brothers, Julio Del Bosque of Kingsville, Rumaldo Del Bosque of Big Spring and Gilbert Del Bosque and Rosendo Del Bosque Jr., both of Odessa; 41 grandchildren; several great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one son, Ramon Del Bosque; three brothers, Norberto Del Bosque, Bartolo Del Bosque and Jose Maria Del Bosque.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersandsmith.com](http://www.myersandsmith.com)

## Dale C. Stroope

Dale C. Stroope, age 100 of Odessa, died Saturday morning, June 14, 2008, at the Hospice House in Odessa.

Graveside services are scheduled for 1 p.m. Monday, June 16, 2008, at Resthaven Memorial Park in Midland. A memorial service will follow at 3 p.m. at Northside Baptist Church in Odessa.

Dale was born March 21, 1908, in Arkansas to James Martin and Annie (Moore) Martin. He married Myrtle Rowland on Oct. 26, 1929, in Big Spring. He worked as a truck driver for many years. He worked at the Big Spring Refinery. He was an oilfield driller. He worked for the city of Odessa at the water department and as a parking attendant at the First National Bank.

He has been a resident of Odessa since 1942. He was a member and a deacon of Northside Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife of 78 years, Myrtle Stroope of Odessa; a daughter, Jeanette Cates and husband Jim of Odessa; two sons, Dale R. Stroope and wife Frances of Rowlette and James Floyd Stroope and wife Martha of Fort Worth; a brother, Cecil Stroope of Mt. Ida, Ark.; two sisters, Neola Miles of Odessa and Fern Walton of Bryan; six grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and seven great-great-grandchildren.

His parents; a son, Roland Stroope; a grandson; three sisters and two brothers all preceded him in death.

The family suggests memorials to Hospice House or to the Northside Baptist Church.

Services are entrusted to Hubbard-Kelly Funeral Home.

## Clayton Muriel Coffman

Clayton Muriel Coffman, 57, of Big Spring died Saturday, June 14, 2008, in Martin County. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

## Danny Rodriguez

Danny Rodriguez, 33, of Big Spring died Friday, June 13, 2008, at Midland Memorial Hospital. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

## Ricky Lynn Potts

Ricky Lynn Potts, 37, of Big Spring died Sunday, June 15, 2008, at his residence. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

## L.A. Palmer

L.A. Palmer, 73, of Midland died Sunday, June 15, 2008 in a Midland nursing home. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

## Sheriff's report

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 71 inmates at the time of this report.

• GERALD E. POWELL, 33, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of Class C assault/family violence.

• SYRETTA DIANE SHELLMAN, 34, was arrested Friday by DPS on charges of issuance of a bad check and failure to maintain financial responsibility.

• BECKY DIANE SOLIZ, 26, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of burglary of a habitation with intent to commit other felony.

• MANUEL JUNIOR MATA, 21, was arrested Friday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• PAMELA KAY HADORN, 46, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of theft.

• STEPHEN LANCE LEBLANC, 47, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• GERALD E. POWELL, 33, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of terroristic threat to a family/household.

• RANDELL ESTON HOLLIS, 37, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated — second offense.

• FELIX SERRANO GARCIA, 24, was arrested Saturday by DPS on charges of driving while intoxicated, failure to maintain financial responsibility and displaying a registration certificate issued to another vehicle.

• MIGUEL ZAMORA, 22, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on charges of possession of marijuana — two ounces or less and failure to appear for assault causing bodily injury.

• JOSE ALFREDO MELENDEZ, 25, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a motion to revoke probation for driving while license invalid with a previous conviction and charges of unlawful restraint, evading arrest/detention and violation of a protective order.

## Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 9 a.m. Saturday and 7 a.m. today:

• VICTORIA MARTINEZ, 29, of 507 E. Fifth Street, was arrested Saturday on four local warrants and a warrant from another agency.

• FIDENCIO DELEON, 38, of 801 Lorilla, was arrested Saturday on a charge of public intoxication.

• ROBERT SANCHEZ, 44, of 429 Westover Road, was arrested Saturday on a charge of public intoxication.

• RANDY MIER, 30, transient, was arrested Saturday on a charge of public intoxication.

• JUAN MORAN, 33, of 2507 Carol, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.

• ABEL GUZMAN, 26, of 1504 Vines, was arrested Sunday on a charge of disorderly conduct — language and public intoxication.

• ALBERTO RIVAS, 49, of 306 N.E. Sixth Street, was arrested Sunday on a charge of violation of a protective order.

• THEFT was reported: in the 200 block of 11<sup>th</sup> Place. in the 1800 block of Gregg Street. in the 1200 block of 11<sup>th</sup> Place. in the 200 block of FM 700.

• BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 900 block of Rosemont.

• ASSAULT CAUSING BODILY INJURY/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 1300 block of Ridgeroad.

• ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported: in the 2900 block of Clanton. in the 400 block of Austin. in the 1900 block of Highway 87.

• AGGRAVATED ASSAULT was reported in the 1500 block of Pennsylvania.

• VIOLATION OF A PROTECTIVE ORDER was reported in the 300 block of Sixth Street.

• UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE was reported in the 2400 block of Allendale.

• CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 1700 block of Purdue.

• BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported: in the 2000 block of Merrily. in the 1700 block of Morrison.

## Fire/EMS

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

• MEDICAL was reported in the 2900 block of E. Interstate Highway 20. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1300 block of Sycamore. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1200 block of E. Third Street. Service refused.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 2900 block of W. Seventh Street. Service refused.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 100 block of Village Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAUMA was reported in the 1800 block of Alabama. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 2900 block of W. Seventh Street. Service refused.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 200 block of Marcy. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAUMA was reported in the 1700 block of Wasson. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAUMA was reported in the 1000 block of E. 15<sup>th</sup> Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAUMA was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of Westover Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAUMA was reported in the 1900 block of Wasson. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 400 block of Hillside Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1000 block of Stadium. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 2000 block of Rickabaugh. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 100 block of Weaver Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1300 block of Marijo. Service refused.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of E. 16<sup>th</sup> Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported near the intersection of Refinery Road and Midway. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 2000 block of Virginia. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of S. Monticello Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

• AUTOMOBILE FIRE was reported in the 4800 block of W. Highway 80.

• AUTOMOBILE FIRE was reported near the intersection of Third Street and N. Scurry.

## BIG SPRING HERALD

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100/72	95/71	99/74	101/73	101/73
Some clouds in the morning will give way to mainly sunny skies for the after.	Partly cloudy, chance of a thunderstorm.	Partly cloudy, chance of a thunderstorm.	Times of sun and clouds. Highs 99 to 103F and lows in the low 70s.	More sun than clouds. Highs 99 to 103F and lows in the low 70s.

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Support Groups

TUESDAY

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

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY

• RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at (432) 517-9207 for more information.

Bulletin Board

TODAY

• The Big Spring-Howard County Retired Teacher's Association meets in the Cactus Room at Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m.

• 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.

• Evening Lions Club meets at 6:45 p.m. at Dragon China Buffett.

• DAV and Auxiliary Chapter 47 meets at 6:30 p.m. at 610 Abrams St.

• Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

TUESDAY

• Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

• Big Spring Band Boosters meets at 5:30 p.m. in the high school band hall. All band parents are invited to attend.

• Big Spring Art Association meets at 7 p.m. ay the Dora Roberts Community Center. All working artists and those interested in art are invited to attend.

• 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.

Take Note

• Big Spring High School is offering TAKS Tutoring for Exit-Level TAKS re-test. Science tutorials are currently underway. Math tutorials will begin Wednesday, June 18, at 8 a.m. at the high school. Contact Molly Morris, high school counselor, at 264-3641, ext. 133, for additional information.

• June is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. Any group that would like to see a program on the topic can contact Bill Birrell at 263-0659. He has an 18-minute American Cancer Society VCR tape.

• 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.

• 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.

Correction

In the Friday, June 13, edition of the Big Spring Herald, James David Kamer, 23, was incorrectly identified as having been arrested by the HCSO on a charge of driving while intoxicated. The correct charge was driving while license invalid - first offense.

BAN

Continued from Page 1

575."

With the ban depending wholly on the drought index, which could easily change depending on the weather, Barr said his office will take measures to make sure the fireworks retailers and citizens know the state of the ban.

"We will be notifying the media and the community on this matter," said Barr. "The people with the State Forest Service have told me they expect the drought index to reach 575 possibly Monday or Tuesday, so we plan to check on it then. And, without a great deal of rain, it's very unlikely we'll see that index drop below the requirement by the Fourth of July holiday."

Barr said the ban could mean the difference between a happy holiday and tragedy this Independence Day.

"I would like to express a real concern about this. We had several fires in the county over the past week, and if we don't have this

ban on these fireworks, it's going to get a lot worse," Barr told county commissioners earlier this week. "I'd like for everyone to be very conscious of our conditions right now. We could lose a lot of property — and even some lives — if these fireworks get out of hand. So please be very, very careful."

And while the effectiveness of the ban will apparently be in the hands of mother nature, Barr said there could be help coming from Texas Governor Rick Perry.

"I was at a COG (Council of Governments) meeting this week, and there is some talk of Gov. Perry signing a disaster order that could ban fireworks altogether," said Barr. "The situation really is that desperate for counties like Howard."

Volunteer Fire Chief Tommy Sullivan couldn't agree more, saying a lack of a fireworks ban — whether restricting the type of fireworks or the holiday staple altogether — means nothing but trouble for the county and its residents.

"If we don't at least have this ban on the fins and

sticks, we're going to be in some serious trouble come the holiday," said Sullivan. "Even if we did get the ban in place in time, I'm projecting 80 to 90 runs for the firefighters just from Friday, July 4, through that Sunday because it's a holiday weekend. That's going to extend the fireworks, so we're looking at a very high run-rate that weekend, and we pray to God we keep them all small. However, the potential for a big one certainly is there."

For those fireworks enthusiasts that refuse to follow the law, Sullivan said the results could be very, very costly.

"You can't shoot these (fireworks) from the roadways or from property that's not yours. In the midst of this we're going to have to have a higher level of enforcement because it's so volatile right now. The tickets can be for up to \$500," said Sullivan. "Then, if they start a fire with fireworks and I have a firefighter get out there and get injured, it can turn into an arson case, which is a felony. It's just not worth the risk. I can't

stress that enough."

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331

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Robert Del Bosque, 82, died Friday. Vigil services will be at 7:00 PM Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 10:00 AM Tuesday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Danny Rodriguez, 33, died Friday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

BSISD

Continued from Page 1

not immediately ordered to return the money. Having more than \$1 million it couldn't spend, the district did about the only thing it could do — the money went into the bank, where it has been earning interest for the district ever since.

Downes, who said BSISD will hand over the money to TEA later this summer, said the state's error was just one more example of a flawed school financing plan.

"If TEA, with all their financial experts, couldn't figure this out, how could we have expected legislators to when they created the package?" Downes said. "The answer is, they couldn't. That's why we're in such a dire financing situation as we are now."

The report on the money will keynote a low-key meeting, Downes said.

"It's a typical June board meeting," he said. "There will be a lot of bids and budget items."

Action items on the agenda include:

• Budget amendments for the summer food program and field lighting.

• Bids for athletic supplies and equipment

and food products.

• Updates of district and board policies.

• Approval of an auditor for the district.

• Personnel matters.

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.

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Publisher

**John A. Moseley**  
Managing Editor

**Bill McClellan**  
News Editor

## OTHER VIEWS

# Pulling ad just stupid in our view

Who knew that so much controversy could be generated by something as innocuous as a black-and-white scarf?

But we shouldn't be surprised. Unfortunately, there are people in this country who can be provoked to righteous indignation over the most trivial of things.

Or in this case, the stupidest of things.

Here's what happened. Earlier this month, Dunkin Donuts launched a new Internet ad promoting its iced latte drink. It features celebrity chef Rachael Ray, a big smile on her face, holding the drink while posing against a backdrop of trees swathed in pink blossoms. A black-and-white scarf hangs around her neck.

Right away, bloggers on the Internet pointed out that the scarf looks like a kaffiyeh, an Arab headdress that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was fond of wearing. Ray was accused of unwittingly promoting Palestinian terrorists. Then conservative columnist Michelle Malkin joined in, calling the scarf "jihadi chic."

Dunkin Donuts promptly pulled the ad.

That didn't end the controversy, though. A group called the ANSWER Coalition is now urging a boycott of Dunkin Donuts because it pulled the ad. The group wants to "send a powerful message to corporations that engage in racism or pander to anti-Arab and anti-Muslim racists."

Oh brother.

We think the people outraged by this situation are in serious need of a reality check. Had Ray been chanting "Death to America!" between sips of her iced latte, now that would have been offensive. But she wasn't. She was just wearing a scarf. To think that that promotes the cause of Palestinian terrorists is just plain stupid, in our view. ...

THE TIMES-REPORTER, DOVER-NEW PHILADELPHIA, OHIO

## 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.
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- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

## LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

# Reporting for duty — not!

Iraq isn't the big story this month. Gas prices are. In May, the Associated Press reported, U.S. military deaths plunged to the lowest monthly level in four years and civilian casualties were down sharply, too. Gasoline also hit \$4 a gallon. And you don't see as many "No war for oil" bumper stickers as you used to.

The success of the Bush surge — with Iraqi forces having led offensives in three major cities and taking on Shiite militias — has been greeted in America with a collective shrug. "My perhaps overly cynical view is that it's probably too much to hope for — a lot of good news stories coming out of Iraq," U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Ryan Crocker said during a recent conference call. But also, with the al-Maliki government clearing once dangerous areas and violence dropping, "Iraq no longer occupies the status as the overarching, all-encompassing crisis that requires full national attention."

Reporters based in Iraq have seen improvements. NBC News' Richard Engel told the New York Observer about a recent trip to Najaf, "I was walking around the city doing interviews, without any kind of security or back up at all. That felt great. I hadn't done that in years. A Chinese restaurant, takeout, just opened up down the street from our bureau. There were no businesses opening in '06 and '07. People are getting out more. You see more people on the streets going to markets. When I go to do interviews, I can stay longer."

And yet, there is a "marked drop-off in the appetite for stories from Iraq," ABC news' Terry McCarthy

told the Observer. "That's partly due to the election, partly because of the fatigue, and partly because things have started to go right here. The spectacular car bombs, the massive attacks, you just don't see them anymore. A drip, drip story that's getting a little better day by day doesn't make a headline."

CNN's Michael Ware calls it "audience fatigue." Other journalists, who have risked their lives covering the war, complain that Americans aren't paying attention to their stories on Iraq.

If reporters think their work is unappreciated, imagine how U.S. troops in Iraq feel. They're working miracles — to insufficient applause.

Four years ago, before the U.S. troop death toll hit 1,000 in September 2004, the war was the moral issue. When liberal Democrats were trying to take over Congress in 2006, they used the war to clobber President Bush and told America that if they were in power, the war would end. Well, they took control of Congress, and the war continues. So now there are fewer political points to be won banging the war.

As of Thursday, 4,098 U.S. troops had died in the Iraq war. Yet Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama's No. 1 issue is the U.S. economy. When the senator talks about the war, he often does so in terms of the \$12 billion spent each month in Iraq. Clearly, Team Obama figures that it's not the toll of American blood but the price tag that enrages voters in this short-attention span nation.

It seems the better the war goes, the less interest some partisans show in Iraq. Their attention wanders if they can't play the blame game and chant, "Bush lied."

Ah, and this time, the critics were wrong when they argued the surge could not work. Obama was wrong, and, face it, opposing the surge was

the politically easy thing to do.

Conversely, John McCain supported the surge — and he did so in opposition to well-wishers and pundits who argued that his support for the war would doom his campaign.

So Team Obama is reduced to nitpicking at McCain. When McCain told NBC's "Today" show that it's "not too important" when U.S. troops are brought home — "We will be able to withdraw, but the key to it is that we don't want any more Americans in harm's way" — Obama surrogates pounced.

Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., called McCain "unbelievably out of touch with the needs and concerns of Americans, particularly of the families of the troops that are over there." Sure, McCain spent five years as a prisoner of war in the Hanoi Hilton. His 19-year-old son, Jimmy, just returned from his first tour in Iraq and another son, Jack, is in the U.S. Naval Academy. Yet somehow Team Obama paints McCain as out-of-touch with military families.

Four years ago, when Iraq was center stage and Democrats thought opposition to the war would lead to electoral victory, Kerry led off his address to the Democratic National Committee with a salute as he announced, "I'm John Kerry and I'm reporting for duty."

In 2008, now that prices at the pump are his big issue and Iraq is framed as an economic issue, what will Obama say: You deserve a break today?

*E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunder@sfchronicle.com. To find out more about Debra J. Saunders, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.*

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# Judge Kozinski scrutiny just stupid

Funny? That is how Chief Judge Alex Kozinski of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals reportedly defended the sexually explicit content of various postings on his personal Web site. There was a photo of naked women on all fours painted to look like cows, and there was a video of a half-dressed man cavorting with a sexually aroused farm animal. There was also one that reportedly chronicled, step by step, a woman shaving her pubic hair.

Maybe you just have to see them to get the humor.

Judge Kozinski didn't realize that his home server was publicly accessible. He only found out when the Los Angeles Times told him so. It was in connection with their coverage of a pornography trial that got under way this week with, yes, Judge Kozinski presiding. Kozinski immediately blocked access to the site and suspended the trial until Monday to give prosecutors the chance to seek his removal from the case. The press has been going nuts since. One of the judge's sons has taken blame/credit for uploading some of the most explicit images, if it matters.

Should the judge recuse himself from presiding over the trial? Not in my book.

Should the Justice Department move to disqualify him? I hope not. If everyone who ever viewed

or shared pornography were disqualified from judging the line between protected speech and criminal obscenity, we all would be in trouble. The problem facing Judge Kozinski illustrates what's wrong with the prosecution, not with the judge.

Hollywood "filmmaker" Ira Isaacs, who is described in press reports as portly and middle-aged, is charged with selling videos depicting bestiality and defecation. According to Isaacs, he was selling about 1,000 videos per month at \$30 apiece before the FBI raided his office early last year, and sales have since dropped to between 700 and 800 videos per month. What is most stunning about this is that Isaacs himself is featured in the videos, although he admits that he wouldn't want to have to watch them for hours on end, as the jury will. "I think I'd freak out if I had to watch six hours of the stuff," Isaacs said before the trial opened.

Judge Kozinski is one of the smartest and ablest judges on the federal bench. The son of Holocaust survivors, he came to this country at the age of 12 from Romania, was appointed chief judge of the newly formed U.S. Court of Federal Claims at the age of 32, and, when President Reagan appointed him to the bench, was the youngest federal judge in the country. He is known as a staunch supporter of the First Amendment. He took on the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts a few years ago for putting filters on the computers of the federal judiciary, which blocked their access to certain content. Kozinski won. He is

presiding over the Isaacs trial under a new program that rotates appellate judges, who review trials but don't conduct them, into the district court to actually try cases periodically.

This latest episode is clearly embarrassing for a man who has been mentioned as a possible Supreme Court nominee. Last week, when I moderated a discussion between Kozinski and his colleague, the liberal Judge Stephen Reinhardt, I said publicly that I happily would support a Kozinski nomination should John McCain win the presidency. And I would. He may be a conservative, while I'm a liberal, but his genius, integrity and decency trump our political differences.

The only reason he is in this ridiculous position is because the Justice Department has brought a ridiculous case. The press would not be checking the judge's home server for pornographic content if the Justice Department weren't checking to see what kind of garbage adults are willing to pay for. I'm all for limits on child pornography, but there are no children involved here. This is the first case to be brought in Southern California by a task force created by the Justice Department in 2005 at the urging of Christian conservative groups. It should be the last.

*To find out more about Susan Estrich and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com.*



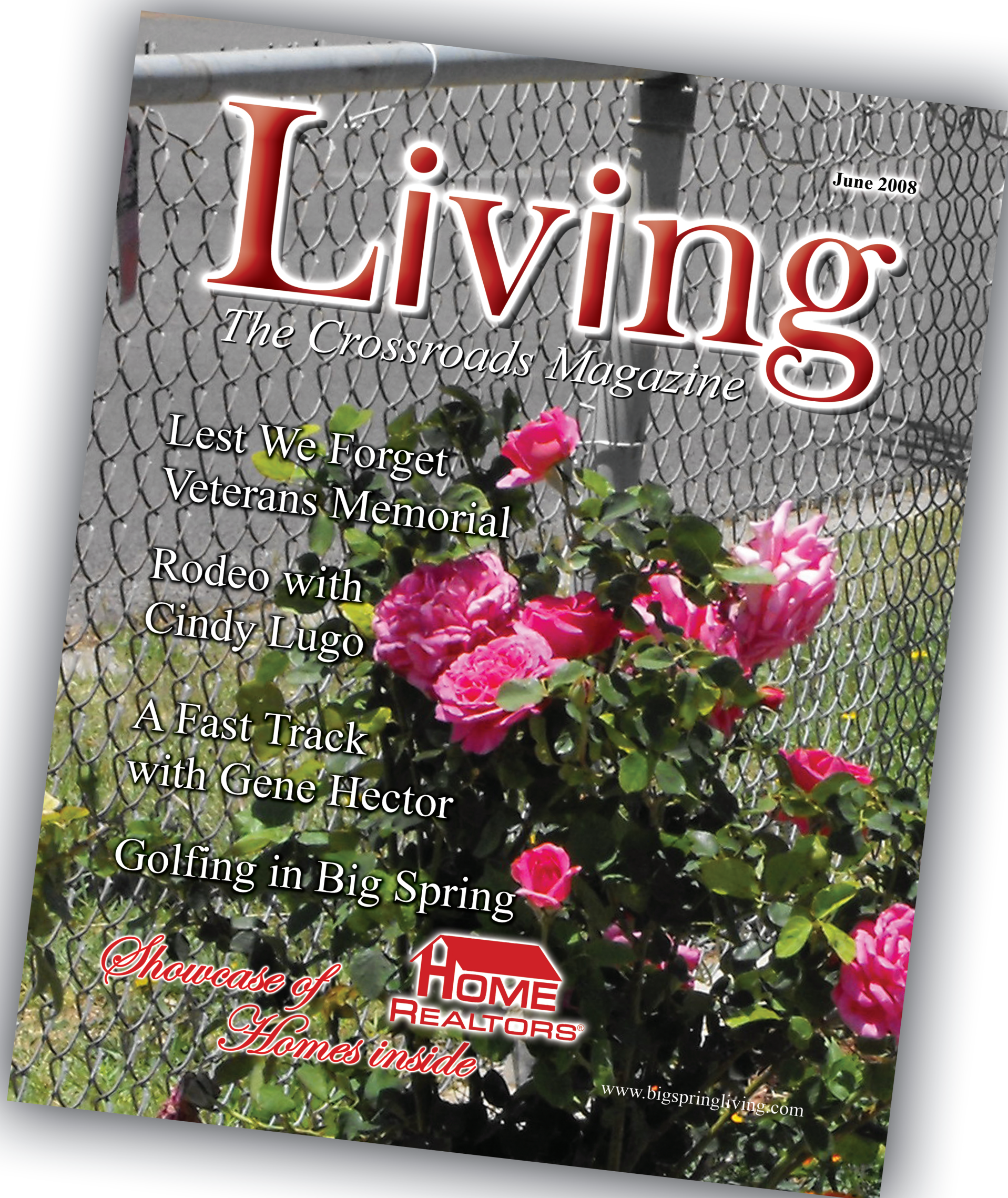
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### IN BRIEF

#### Big Spring Little League All-Star teams

Big Spring Little League baseball has announced their all-star teams in three divisions.

#### All-star 9-10

Dylan Ross, Astros; Joshua Gutierrez, Astros; Hunter Wigington, Athletics; Mani Villa, Athletics; Mason Coor, Cardinals; Matthew Wood, Dodgers; Bryson Burt, Minor Braves; Alex Byrd, Rangers; Jesse Cervantes, Red Sox; Blaze Yeater, Minor Braves; Bryce Gartman, Minor Braves; Jacob Scott (alternate), Dodgers; Lorenzo Jones, Dodgers.

#### All-star 10-11

Garrett Kilgora, Astros; Matthew Yanez, Astros; Kade Fannin, Cardinals; Ryan Pearson, Cardinals; Adam Franco, Rangers; Hunter Hill, Red Sox; Tyran Sealy, Red Sox; Matt Beal, Rockhounds; Tyler Bryan, Yankees; Blake Letcher, Rangers; Gary Watkins, Rangers; Jacob Davis (alternate), Athletics; Mike Pappajohn (alternate), Yankees.

#### All-star 12

Devin Roberson, Athletics; Austin Mize, Rangers; Brandon Warner, Rangers; Clayton Galloway, Rangers; Jesse Cantu Jr., Rangers; Blaise Coffman, Red Sox; Sagar Patel, Red Sox; Hagan Rodriguez, Rockhounds; Matthew Mims, Rockhounds; Anthony Slate, Yankees; Tobyn Tannehill, Yankees; Tyler Evans (alternate), Cardinals; Nicolas Escovedo (alternate), Red Sox.

#### BSGSA holding 5th Annual Co-ed Ragball Tourney

The Big Spring Girls Softball Association will have its 5th Annual Co-ed Ragball Tournament Friday through Sunday at the Roy Anderson Complex.

Cost is \$110 per team with an eight-game guarantee.

Register at the complex between 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Friday. Games start at 7 p.m. on the same date.

For more information contact Rodney Jones at 213-3750.

#### Sandlot boys softball team raising funds

The Big Spring Sandlot boys softball team is on a quest to reach the Youth Slow Pitch World Series in Fayetteville, Ark., and is asking for the assistance of the community.

The team will be holding two carwashes over the next two weeks, hoping to raise funds for their trip.

The first carwash is set for 8 a.m. Saturday at Wal-Mart. The second is at 8 a.m. June 28 at Advance Auto Parts.

Advance will also be donating a hydraulic

See BRIEFS, Page 7

# Earnhardt wins first Sprint Cup race

By MIKE HARRIS

AP Auto Racing Writer

BROOKLYN, Mich. — Dale Earnhardt Jr. is enjoying that old winning feel and he doesn't much care what his detractors have to say about it.

"I can understand how it might look, especially if you're not Dale Jr. fans," Little E said Sunday after ending a 76-race winless by stretching his last fuel load beyond the limit at Michigan International Speedway. "I know exactly what they're going to say Monday."

"I mean, my fans are happy and

I'm happy for them. The other half are going to tear this apart on how we won this race. But I got the trophy and I got the points. I got to see my team and my owner and my family tonight as happy as they've been in a long time. ... It's a pretty big day for me."

The most popular driver in NASCAR won this one by gambling, somehow going the last 55 laps on the two-mile oval, including three laps of overtime, without stopping for gas.

He gave most of the credit for his first win in more than two years to crew chief Tony Eury.

"We came in on that last stop and we were going to be about six laps short, and I saved six laps of gas," Earnhardt said. "So, (we were) just real lucky. I have to hand it to Tony Jr. for being a risk-taker. ... He's done a good job this year getting us good finishes, better finishes than we should probably have."

A couple of late cautions helped and Eury determined the No. 88 Chevrolet was only going to be about two laps short of finishing at that point. With about 20 laps to go, Eury radioed Earnhardt to try to save more fuel and gave him

the worst-case-scenario.

"We miss it by one lap, we finish 25th," Eury said. "If we pit and put fuel in it we're going to finish 25th. So, who cares? Go for it."

As the laps wound down, driver after driver was forced to pit for a splash of gas, and Earnhardt, whose last victory came on May 6, 2006, at Richmond, inherited the lead with five to go in regulation. It appeared he had things under control until former IndyCar star Sam Hornish Jr. spun on lap 198, bringing out another caution.

See NASCAR, Page 7

# Lakers survive, top Boston 103-98



Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant (24) dunks the ball in the closing seconds during the second half in Game 5 of the NBA finals against the Boston Celtics Sunday in Los Angeles. The Lakers won 103-98.

AP photo/Mark J. Terrill

## L.A. pushes NBA Finals to a 6th game

By TOM WITHERS

AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES — Following his final home game of the season — on Father's Day — Kobe Bryant brought his two daughters to the podium. As he balanced his adorable little girls on each knee, Bryant smiled as he answered questions.

When he finished, he kissed them both and said goodbye.

Daddy has to make one more business trip.

Bryant scored 25 points, making a key steal and decisive dunk in the final minute, and Lamar Odom added 20 points as the Lakers, playing with pride on their star-studded stage, prevented the Boston Celtics from winning a 17th championship with a 103-98 win in Game 5 on Sunday night to close to 3-2 in this restored rivalry.

The champagne stayed on ice. The T-shirts and ball caps went back into boxes. The Larry O'Brien trophy got bubble wrapped and ready for shipment.

The NBA finals aren't over. They're headed East.

At the final horn, when the Lakers had survived to

play another day, purple-and-gold streamers rained down from above Staples Center. Odom shook his head in approval, Derek Fisher caressed the game ball against his chest and Bryant clapped his hands before striding from the floor.

"I love L.A." blared through the speakers and "Not In Our House!" flashed on the scoreboard.

The P.A. announcer cried, "This is not over yet!"

Los Angeles avoided its season ending. On this night, you could call them the L.A. Dodgers.

"We didn't want to see any champagne popping," Odom said. "It wasn't easy. I wouldn't expect it to be."

No team has overcome a 3-1 deficit in the finals to win a title. The first 28 failed, and now the Lakers, who blew a 24-point lead and lost Game 4 and nearly squandered a 19-point lead in Game 5, have a chance to do something extraordinary.

They'll have to win on the Celtics' parquet floor Tuesday night to force Game 7, where anything is possible.

See FINALS, Page 7

# Rangers split doubleheader with Mets

By HOWIE RUMBERG

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK — Here's the scenario: The bases are loaded in a tie game. Fans are chanting, "We want Pedro!"

What does New York's beleaguered manager Willie Randolph do? He calls on a pinch-hitter who last played in the major leagues almost nine years ago.

Talk about being on the hot seat.

That pinch-hitter, Robinson Cancel, helped make Pedro Martinez a winner in his home season debut by grounding a two-run single to give the Mets a 4-2 win over the Texas Rangers on Sunday for a doubleheader split.

"I just felt like we had to take a crack at it," Randolph said. "Cancel made me look good for a minute."

Perhaps not good enough. After the game, Mets general manager Omar Minaya would not commit to repeated questions about Randolph's job security saying, "These are our coaches today. They are

our coaches. As the GM I leave myself room to evaluate things. I think we're not playing to our potential."

In the opener, Kevin Millwood pitched six solid innings, and Ramon Vazquez, Ian Kinsler and Milton Bradley homered in the Rangers' 8-7 victory. It was Millwood's first road win since last Father's Day.

Billy Wagner ended his skid of three straight blown saves and David Wright had three hits for his first multihit game in two weeks for the Mets. Carlos Beltran followed up a homer and two RBIs in the first game with a run-scoring single as New York took two of three from Texas before heading for California.

The Mets are heading west for the second time in two weeks and Randolph said his bags were packed for the trip. But after returning from a 2-5 West Coast swing on Monday, including a four-game sweep by the lowly Padres, rumors intensified that Randolph could lose his job by the end of the series



AP photo/Kathy Willens

Texas Rangers catcher Gerald Laird, left, tags out New York Mets catcher Brian Schneider (23) after Mets second baseman Jose Reyes (not shown) hit into a double play with the bases loaded to end the eighth inning of an MLB game at Shea Stadium in New York, Sunday. (AP Photo/Kathy Willens)

against Texas.

"We wanted to make the trip a little more pleasant," Randolph said of the win. "I'm glad I'm going."

He then quickly added, "Maybe I'm speaking a little too soon."

Martinez was making his first start at Shea Stadium since Sept. 27 and the fans showed him their love with the chant when his turn came with the bases loaded in the sixth inning.

But Martinez knew what the right decision was.

"I think that was my Father's Day gift from the fans," Martinez said. "I was laughing because that situation called for a pinch-hitter."

**NASCAR**

Continued from Page 6

Knowing the race was going to be extended beyond its scheduled 200 laps, Eury told Earnhardt to shut the engine off and coast whenever he could under the caution flag in a desperate effort to save more gas.

Junior did just that,

coasting fast enough at times that he passed the pace car — until NASCAR warned Eury to have Earnhardt cut it out.

"I didn't know how much they were going to worry about it," Earnhardt said. "All the cars out there are gassing it, shutting 'em off, coasting about a half straightaway, cranking 'em back up, gas it, coast. Everybody's doing it."

"There's no rules specifi-

cally against that, but I was getting a little greedy ... I wanted to coast farther, so I'd gas it harder and coast past the pace car and just let him come on and catch back up."

It worked out just right as the green flag came out on lap 202 for a two-lap sprint to the finish, which was then cut short when Patrick Carpentier spun on lap 203, freezing the field and allowing Junior

to coast — this time behind the pace car — to his 18th career victory and first at Michigan.

"They can write what they want, but we won one," Earnhardt said in the jubilation after the Lifelock 400.

He gave his new boss, Rick Hendrick, only his second victory of the season. Hendrick's team won 18 of 36 races a year ago, but has struggled to reach

Victory Circle in 2008, with a lone victory by two-time defending Cup champion Jimmie Johnson until Sunday.

After leaving the team his late father founded to drive for Hendrick's juggernaut this year, Earnhardt began the new phase of his career with two non-points victories at Daytona in February. But, despite running well so far this season, that promis-

ing start did not lead to any victories in the first 14 Cup races.

"We started out and he won the (Budweiser) Clash and the 150 (qualifying race) and we said, 'We don't have to worry about winning a race now.' Then nobody counted it because it wasn't a points race," Hendrick said in Victory Circle. "We've been waiting for this. Been so close."

**FINALS**

Continued from Page 6

Especially with Bryant, the game's best player, on hand.

"In training camp if you told us, 'We'll give you two games that you have to win to win a world championship,' we would have taken it in a heartbeat," Bryant said. "This is a great opportunity for us."

The league's MVP and ultimate finisher isn't finished yet. On a night when Bryant didn't have his best game, the other Lakers came up big.

Pau Gasol had 19 points and 13 rebounds, Odom had 11 rebounds and four blocks, Fisher added 15 points and Jordan Farmar came off the bench to get 11.

"We were aggressive. We played hard," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said. "Not smart all the time, but we played hard."

Paul Pierce led the Celtics with 38 points and played all but two seconds. Kevin Garnett added 13 points and 14 rebounds but was in foul trouble, and Ray Allen had 16 points. But Boston's Big Three couldn't close out their first chance at winning it all, and now will get two cracks at home.

"Well, we wanted to go back home, but we didn't want to play," Celtics coach Doc Rivers said. "You know what I mean? But now we have to go play, and we earned that right. That's why the regular season is so important. We fought for it all year. We have Game 6 at home, and that's not a bad place to be."

The Celtics, though, are beaten up.

They played without Kendrick Perkins, who injured his shoulder in Game 4 and may not be

available the rest of the season. On top of that Pierce and Rajon Rondo are playing hurt and after the game Allen left the arena immediately because of an undisclosed health issue with one of his children.

The Celtics, trying to win their first title since 1986, are consoled by the fact they are going home. They are 47-7 at TD Banknorth Garden this season.

Garnett missed two free throws that would have tied it with 2:32 left and was disappointed with his performance in the biggest game of his career.

"I played like garbage," he said. "I can do better and I will."

After scoring 15 points in the first quarter, Bryant went cold from the floor and finished just 8-of-21. But he made a big steal,

poking the ball away from Pierce, streaked down and caught a long pass from Odom before delivering a two-handed dunk with 37.4 seconds left.

"I just was kind of reading the play and I was able to get my hands on the ball and get out and get a dunk," Bryant said.

The Celtics called a timeout, superfan Jack Nicholson jumped to his feet and the scoreboard in Staples Center flashed: Not In Our House!

On Saturday, Bryant had said "this is far from over," and he could be right.

Accused of being selfish and too tough on his not-as-talented teammates, Bryant can bow to the other Lakers for sending the series back across country. Gasol, the 7-foot Spanish center criticized for being soft, didn't back down underneath and was

able to get Garnett into foul trouble.

But just as they did in Game 4, when they staged the biggest comeback in finals history, the Celtics pushed the Lakers to the brink of summer with another rally. This one fell a little short, but the outcome was still in doubt when Pierce, who grew up hating Boston like every other kid from L.A., made two free throws with 1:14 remaining to get the Celtics to 97-95.

Fisher then missed a jumper and the Celtics appeared to be in business when Pierce fought off two Lakers for a rebound. But as he dribbled toward the

basket, Bryant reached around and knocked the ball away to Odom, who then fed Bryant for his slam.

Still, the Celtics wouldn't go away.

After Bryant missed one of two free throws with 16 seconds left, Eddie House nailed a 3-pointer to make it 101-98 with 14 seconds left. House then nearly stole the ensuing inbound pass, but Bryant, sprawled out on the floor, got the ball to Fisher, who drew a desperation foul.

Fisher then made two free throws and stole Boston's last pass as Lakers fans, stunned to silence a few nights ago,

left the building dreaming of seeing another improbable comeback.

This is the 11th meeting — and first since 1987 — between the league's two most storied franchises, and it could be headed for a crescendo befitting the matchups between Bird and Magic, McHale and Abdul-Jabbar, and Russell and West.

Before the game, Lakers coach Jackson said the only way for his team to approach a close-out game was to keep playing.

"A lot of things can happen," he said. "We're young enough and dumb enough to be able to do this."

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75th Annual Big Spring Cowboy Reunion RODEO

**BRIEFS**

Continued from Page 6

jack and battery charger to be raffled for \$1 a ticket.

If you want to just give a donation, call Ben Flores at 816-1262 or Diane at 264-0353.

**C. G. A. sets scholarship tournament**

The Chicano Golf Association is holding their 18th annual scholarship tournament June 28-29 at the Big Spring Country Club.

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For more information, call Sammy Reyna at 267-5627 or Gilbert Rodriguez at (432) 853-5504.

Call at 263-7331 to submit a sports brief.

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Karen Campbell 936-598-8568

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**BIG SPRING** Independent School District is now hiring for the 2008-2009 school year. Apply at 708 East 11th Place, Big Spring, Texas or online at www.bsisd.esc18.net

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Looking for qualified personnel for the following operations positions:

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at (512) 482-4000, by fax (512) 494-9581 or by email john.franklin@eon.com

\* Applicants must meet the minimum requirements as follows: Four (4) years experience applicable to operations and/or maintenance of power generation and related facilities, preferably wind, two (2) of the four (4) years can be satisfied with Associates Degree in sciences or related fields from an accredited school. Candidate must be skilled in at least one (1) of the following power plant disciplines: operations, mechanical maintenance, electrical maintenance, safety.

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**MAKE UP** to \$3,000 in 11 days. Looking for responsible adult to manage a firework stand outside Big Spring, June 24 thru July 4. No investment required. For more info go to mrfireworks.com and submit app or call 830-429-1408 9am-4pm.

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Resumes can be sent to General Manager, CRMWD, at 406 East 23rd Street, Big Spring, Texas 79720. Applications are required for this position and may be obtained at this address or by calling (432)267-6341.

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**RIMS FOR** late model Ford Ranger, New, steel, 15"X7" silver \$250. 73 Pontiac Catalina, 89 Mercury Grand Marquis, mid 80's Buick 4 door, 92 Taurus Wagon, 85 Ford F150. \$50 Each OBO on vehicles. 432-816-9512 leave message.

## Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

Today's waxing Sagittarius moon begins filling the cup of the mid-week full moon, but this is not typical tea party. It's like we're traveling to an exciting party in a foreign land, or galaxy even! The scenery is growing strange and stranger yet. So kick back and enjoy the ride, and entertain characters, ideas and discoveries from all walks of life.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). It's a day of interesting realizations. For instance, you may discover that your job fulfills something that other kinds of relationships cannot, which is only natural. Accept without judgment.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Learning is easy. It's unlearning that's hard. You'll be grappling with your tendency to react to triggers you cannot control. You're gaining ground with what you can control, though -- your own thoughts and actions.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The question of the hour is: how do you turn up the fabulousness in your life and eliminate the doldrums? Hint: It's your disposition, and not the actual circumstances, that make a scene fabulous.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're getting organized. You're already, more

than anyone you know, able to handle whatever surprising rush of activity might interrupt your normal rhythm. Now it's a matter of helping the others on your team get equally in control.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It's tough love that you're looking for, and you'll be obliged. So you're afraid. Big deal. Anyone who's ever accomplished anything has had to make friends with the knee-knocking sensation. Congratulations, you're on your way!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Just in case you find yourself choosing something you're not too crazy about because it seems to you to be "safer," the stars align to let you know that there is no safer choice than to follow your heart.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Is it corny to be optimistic? If it is, you don't care! You burn bright with good cheer, and others light their candles on the energy of your smile. As for saving the world, this very well may be the way it's done: one attitude at a time.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). As you wished, the controls are handed over to you. Power comes with the enormous responsibility of not misusing it. You can keep it all from going to your head by teaming with a grounded Taurus or Virgo.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Where money management is involved, you are successful. You have a conservative approach to handling other people's funds, but are a bit more daring

when it comes to your own. You'll risk more and win more!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). No wonder you like work so much. It's a beautiful sense of connection when people see the value in your ideas and help you advance. And you don't have long to wait before you can return the favor.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). A bold move gets the prize. But the real trick is in knowing who to share this with. Confident friends will be genuinely happy for you, sans teasing remarks or trying to weasel into your prize.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You dislike being under anyone's authority, preferring the top-dog position. The best way to accomplish this now is solo work. Lead yourself with the structure and discipline you will soon be expecting from others.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Gemini is known for their keen observations on any subject. Their ability to pull out minute facets and multiple perspectives on almost any topic makes them engaging conversationalists and a joy to behold. Helen Hunt has three luminaries in the insightful sign of Gemini. Her recent big screen directorial debut will lead to an intriguing new project -- one that closely mirrors her own life.

*Holiday Mathis is the author of "Rock Your Stars." If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com.*

## Annie's Mailbox®

Dear Annie: I am 20 years old and engaged to the girl of my dreams. "Liza" is beautiful, smart and very loving. We have no problems in our relationship.

Before she dated me, Liza dated one of my best friends. In fact, I once witnessed them making out at a party. The problem is, every time we become intimate, that image plays in my head. I know what happened before we dated is not really my business, but I feel I should let her know what is bothering me.

I know Liza would never cheat on me, but seeing her talking to another guy has hurt and troubled me at times. How do I tell her something she did in her past is affecting me every time we make love? -- Troubled in Texas

Dear Texas: This isn't really Liza's problem, it's yours. She cannot do anything about the images in your head. She can only be the beautiful, smart, loving person you think she is. It's up to you to replace those troublesome pictures with something else. Whenever you start to remember Liza kissing your friend, make a conscious decision to envision something more

## Vehicles

**TTR-125L DIRT** Bike For Sale: Has new tires, FMF Racing pipes. \$1,700.00 OBO. Call 432-466-4241 ask for Marcus.

## Legals

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
The Howard County Commissioner's Court will conduct a public hearing on Monday, June 23, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. in the Howard County Commissioner's Court Room located at 300 Main Street, County Court House, Big Spring, Texas to receive public input concerning the consideration of a Tax Abatement Agreement with Western Motels, Inc. dba Luxury Inn. All interested parties are encouraged to attend and present their views.  
JUDGE MARK J. BARR  
County Judge  
Date: June 13, 2008  
#5819 June 16, 2008



KATHY MITCHELL  
MARCY SUGAR

pleasing -- perhaps substitute your face for his. If you do this each time, it will get easier and, unless you deliberately bring up the old images, they will fade away. If you cannot do this, you may be on your way to a total obsession with thoughts that will eventually destroy your relationship.

Dear Annie: Am I crazy, or is it perfectly OK these days to knock on someone's door with a doughnut in hand, smoking a cigarette?

I am in the midst of remodeling the interior of my home. The contractors doing these various projects come to my door with a cigarette already in progress, with the ashes so long they will fall at any moment. Or they're eating the stickiest, most gooey doughnut they can find, without a plate or napkin. They proceed to do my remodeling with these staples of life in hand, constantly.

I can ask an employee not to smoke or eat in my house, but what about my brother-in-law, who showed up with a sweet roll? Does this behavior not strike them as rude? Or, should I answer my doorbell from now on with an ashtray in one hand and a trash bag in the other? -- Trying to Keep Clean

Dear Clean: It's OK to tell someone to put out the cigarette before they enter your home. The

food is more complicated. It's rude to drop bits of edible debris all over someone's house. Employees can be instructed not to eat inside. Relatives and friends who knock on your door carrying goopy, crumbly food should be told, "Wait right here while I get you a napkin." Then steer them into the kitchen.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Heartbroken Mom," whose son sustained a brain injury. I have a disabled husband who was brain-injured while serving in the military. You wonder why God would do this to you. I compare it to a family picture that has crashed to the floor and you have put it back together with tape and glue.

It was very hard at first, and I cried and told the social worker that I didn't know how to start picking up the broken pieces of the picture frame. I was so shocked and stressed.

Yes, people make idiotic remarks. My husband gets a VA pension plus disability, and some people seem to think I won the lottery. They say, "You're so lucky to get these pensions." I've learned to reply, "Don't you think I would rather have my husband's health and ability to work instead?" That makes them understand the stupidity of their remark.

Life changes, and sometimes quickly. But eventually you will be able to look at all the good you have, instead of grieving the loss of what should have been. -- Been There for 15 Years

*Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annies-mailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611.*

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# Diet, weight, gender, age play role in gallstones

The gallbladder is a small pear-shaped organ located just below the liver. It plays an important role in food digestion by storing bile produced by the liver and providing it to the small intestine where it breaks down fat.

The gallbladder generally goes unnoticed unless a patient experiences symptoms of a disorder, such as gallstones. Gallstones are like grains of sand or small rocks that develop in the gallbladder as a result of bile becoming chemically unbalanced. Only about 60 percent of people with gallstones experience symptoms, as they can develop and pass through the gallbladder and intestines without causing symptoms.

However, when a gallstone is large it may become caught in

the passageways, or ducts, of the gallbladder, pancreas or liver, resulting in extreme pain.

Gallstones generally fall into one of two categories, depending on the cause. Pigment gallstones develop when bile contains too much bilirubin, a naturally-occurring chemical normally removed by the liver. Pigment gallstones generally develop in individuals with liver conditions such as cirrhosis or sickle cell anemia.

Another type, cholesterol gallstones, comprise 80 percent of all gallstones and consist mostly of undissolved cholesterol. Because most gallstones result from high levels of cholesterol, diet plays a very important role in the prevention of gallstone development.

Diets high in fats and cholesterol are a main contributor to gallstone development. However, cholesterol levels in your bile do not always correspond to cholesterol levels in your blood, especially since cholesterol-lowering drugs do not prevent gallstones even

though they lower blood cholesterol levels.

Crash diets that include too little fat, skipping meals, too few calories, rapid weight loss or going long periods without eating prohibit the gallbladder from emptying often enough or completely, increasing the risk of gallstone development.

In addition to diet, other risk factors for developing gallstones include gender, body weight, age and ethnicity.

Women are more likely to develop gallstones because estrogen causes more cholesterol to be excreted in bile. Women who have high levels of estrogen in their bodies, such as those who are pregnant, taking birth control pills or on hormone therapy, are especially at risk.

Overweight individuals may also have higher levels of cholesterol excreted into their bile. Individuals older than 60 years of age and those of Native American and Mexican-American descent are also high-risk groups.

If gallstones develop and cause symptoms, medical intervention is necessary in order to avoid permanent organ damage. Symptoms of gallstones often include abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea especially after a high-fat or spicy meal, known as a "gallbladder attack."

Seek medical treatment immediately if you experience these symptoms especially if accompanied by dark urine, fever, chills and/or yellowing of the skin and whites of the eyes, as this may indicate an obstructed bile duct, which can result in gallbladder rupture, a potentially fatal occurrence.

The most common treatment for gallstones is surgical removal of the gallbladder. This procedure is usually performed on an out-patient basis using the laparoscopic method, allowing most patients to return to normal activities within days.

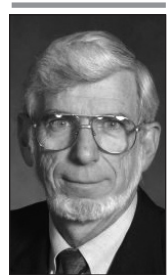
A person with a healthy liver can function normally without a gallbladder, however, lifestyle modifications such as limiting

fat intake and increasing dietary fiber may be necessary for normal digestive function.

Although surgery is the most common treatment for large gallstones and blocked ducts, non-surgical options to dissolve or break up the stones may be appropriate for individuals unable to undergo surgery due to complications such as cardiovascular conditions or liver disease.

If you experience signs or symptoms associated with gallstones or fall into a high-risk group, contact your physician to discuss treatment options and ways to minimize your risk. It is important to seek medical care at the first sign of gallbladder attack or pain to avoid additional complications such as infections, duct obstructions or gallbladder rupture.

*A member of the local medical community since 2002, Dr. Alan Abel is a board-certified general surgeon. His office is located at 1501 W. 11th Place, in the Malone and Hogan Clinic.*



ALAN ABEL  
M.D.

## Too much TV and too little physical activity: Two sides of the same coin?

Government statistics suggest that the average youth spends two to three times the recommended "screen time"

proposed by experts on children's health. But does this level of inactivity, which includes time in front of the television, the computer and playing video games, reflect parents' reluctance to intervene? Or an uncertainty about how to do so?



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The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends no more than two hours of total screen time a day. But according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), American kids are spending an average of three hours a day in front of the TV alone. When movie, video game and computer time is added in, total in-home screen time soars to an average of more than four to six hours a day. In a 2007 CDC report, only 30 percent of kids aged 6 to 13 reported less than two hours of TV the previous day.

Another statistic has seen a similar rise: Overweight among U.S. adolescents has tripled since 1971. Many

influences are surely involved, but researchers point to two that involve television time.

One new study, published in the Journal of the American Dietetic Association, takes a closer look at television advertisements aired during Saturday morning children's programming. While the results repeat previous findings noting

that about half of all advertisements were for food, researchers also evaluated the types of foods advertised; over 90 percent of the advertised foods were high in fat, added sugar or sodium, or low in nutrients.

Reducing TV time seems to be an effective strategy to treat and prevent overweight. In addition to the vital role it plays in

weight control, physical activity provides other direct health benefits. "We Can" (a federal program aimed at helping children maintain a healthy weight), the American Academy of Pediatrics and the CDC all offer suggestions for families seeking to limit screen time. One of the foremost recommendations is to

keep television out of your child's bedroom. Other steps to decrease screen time: Avoid TV during meals. Avoid using TV as a reward. Find new ways to spend family time, including board games or activities like Frisbee and tag. Parental modeling is also key, so show kids how to relax and unwind through activity, reading and other hobbies.

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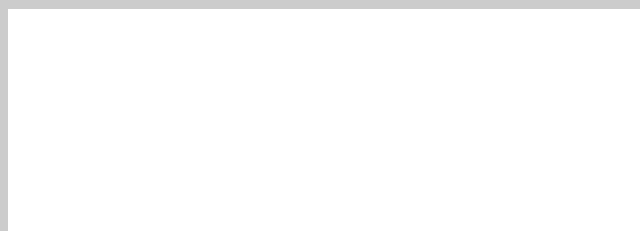


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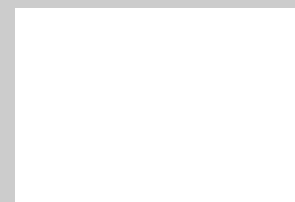
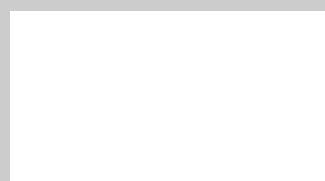


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