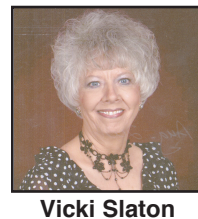




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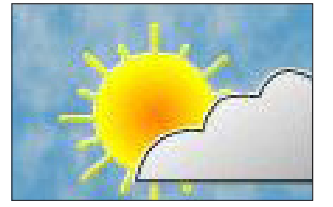


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# BIG SPRING HERALD

**FRIDAY**  
JULY 11, 2008



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 191

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## Super search about to start

### BSISD trustees meet Thursday to begin effort

By **STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

Let the search begin.  
Finding a replacement for Big

Spring Independent School District Superintendent Michael Downes is a process likely to take months and the first step in that process will be taken Thurs-

day. BSISD trustees will meet that evening to begin what they believe will be a time-intensive search for a new superintendent.

Downes, the district's chief executive since 2002, resigned in late June, citing distractions caused by an ongoing state investigation into alleged misconduct



Galan

at a previous stop in his educational career. Since his resignation, Assistant Superintendent Steven Saldivar has been handling day-to-day duties at the district.

On Thursday, trustees are scheduled to name an interim super-

intendent to handle matters until a permanent replacement is named. Also, the school board will hire a "search firm" to secure and screen applications for the position.

Attorneys with the Underwood Law Firm, which represents the district, have been busy compil-

See **SEARCH**, Page 3A



Six-year-old Hannah Lyon, one of more than 70 children currently participating in the Salvation Army's Boys & Girls Club summer program, floats her way around the city swimming pool on a Friday afternoon.

HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins

## Free Fridays a big splash

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

Despite some minor hiccups with staffing concerns, officials with the city of Big Spring say the new admission-free Fridays at the municipal swimming pool are working out just fine.

Assistant City Manager Todd Darden said there have been a few problems with maintaining the required staff during the Friday afternoon swims since the city council approved the measure June 10, but

nothing the YMCA staff — which the city contracts to operate the facility — couldn't handle.

"It's had its problems like everything else does when you make these sort of changes to them," said Darden. "However, it's getting better each week. Short staffing has been the biggest problem they have faced since the free Fridays were approved, and they have had to cycle swimmers in and out of

See **POOL**, Page 3A

## What's your life worth?

### \$1 mil less than 5 years ago, ERA says

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**  
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON — It's not just the American dollar that's losing value. A government agency has decided that an American life isn't worth what it used to be.

The "value of a statistical life" is \$6.9 million in today's dollars, the Environmental Protection Agency reckoned in May — a drop of nearly \$1 million from

just five years ago.

The Associated Press discovered the change after a review of cost-benefit analyses over more than a dozen years.

Though it may seem like a harmless bureaucratic recalculation, the devaluation has real consequences.

When drawing up regulations, government agencies put a value on human life and then weigh the

costs versus the lifesaving benefits of a proposed rule. The less a life is worth to the government, the less the need for a regulation, such as tighter restrictions on pollution.

Consider, for example, a hypothetical regulation that costs \$18 billion to enforce but will prevent 2,500 deaths. At \$7.8 million per person (the old figure), the

See **VALUE**, Page 3A



AP Photo/Carlos Osorio

Madeline Cook, left, Cassidy Collins and Steven Cook, foreground, are photographed by Stacey Cook after playing in the mud during Mud Day, sponsored by the Wayne County Parks and Recreation in Westland, Mich.

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### Canine cuisine out!

BEIJING (AP) — Canine cuisine is being sent to the doghouse during next month's Beijing Olympic Games.

Dog meat has been struck from the menus of officially designated Olympic restaurants, and Beijing tourism officials are telling other outlets to discourage consumers from ordering dishes made from dogs, the official Xinhua News Agency reported Friday.

Waiters and waitresses should "patiently" suggest other options to diners who order dog, it said, quoting city tourism bureau Vice Director Xiong Yumei.

### A&M Club auction

The Howard County A&M Club will hold its annual Scholarship Auction beginning at 5:30 p.m. Saturday at the Big Spring Country Club.

Appetizers will be served at 5:30 p.m. and the auction will begin at approximately 7 p.m.

The auction raises money to fund scholarships for Howard County students attending Texas A&M University. Among the items up for auction are a week's vacation in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, a five-piece dining set and various sports memorabilia items.

For more information, contact Dianne Newton at 263-4204.

### Spiritual event?

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A man says he was so consumed by the spirit of God that he fell and hit his head while worshipping.

Now he wants Lakewind Church to pay \$2.5 million for medical bills, lost income, and pain and suffering.

Matt Lincoln says he is suing after the church's insurance company denied his claim for medical bills.

The 57-year-old has had two surgeries since the June 2007 injury but still feels pain in his back and legs.

He says he was asking God to have "a real experience" while praying.



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## MLB offers up home cooking

### Home teams winning at 57 percent clip this season

By RONALD BLUM AP  
Baseball Writer

NEW YORK — Fans who root, root, root for the home team are leaving ballparks a lot happier this year.

Home teams have won nearly 57 percent of games, the highest figure in the major leagues since 1978. They had a 778-590 record entering Thursday, according to the Elias Sports Bureau, which comes to a .569 winning percentage. Last year's mark was .542.

Boston is 34-10 at Fenway Park and just 21-29 on the road, and the Chicago Cubs are 35-11 at Wrigley Field and 20-26 away from home. Four of the six division leaders have losing records on the road, with the Cubs joined by the Chicago White Sox, Arizona and Tampa Bay.

"There should be no rea-

son we should sweep the White Sox at home and get swept at their place, because everybody's sleeping in their own beds," Cubs second baseman Mark DeRosa said. "It's not like we're flying somewhere, changing times and having to readjust. I can't figure out why. You can understand in different sports, especially football, where home-field advantage is such a key."

DeRosa sure has it right when it comes to other sports.

Home teams had a .601 winning percentage in the NBA last season — it was as high as .628 in 2002-03.

In the NFL, home teams were at .574 last year, down from .613 in 2003.

But baseball, where so much depends on starting pitchers, traditionally has

See HOME, page 2B

## 8 and Under All-Stars



Courtesy photo

The Big Spring 8 & Under All-Star Team "KHAOS" is set to play in the All-Star tournament starting today in San Angelo. Team members are, front row, left to right: Alexis Gaitan, Hunter Seymore, Cierra Martinez, Serenity Garcia, Veronica Chavarria and Adrianna Rodriguez; second row, left to right: Ysabel Soliz, Destiny Mata, Ashley Gonzalez, Bree Franklin, Kendall Phillips and Raegan Deel. Back row, left to right: Coach Michael Mata, Manager Jolene Deel and Assistant Coaches Johnny Deleon and J.D. Gonzalez.



AP Photo/LM Otero

Second base umpire Mike Reilly, left, tosses Texas Rangers manager Ron Washington from the game as first base umpire Andy Fletcher looks on during the seventh inning of the Rangers-Los Angeles baseball game in Arlington Thursday. Los Angeles won, 11-10, in extra innings.

## Perry in fine form as he leads Deere

By ANDREW SELIGMAN  
AP Sports Writer

SILVIS, Ill. (AP) — Kenny Perry takes pride in his ability to absorb shots and bury them. And he's been doing plenty of both lately.

While others wonder why he's skipping majors, Perry's enjoying one of his best runs in more than two decades on the PGA Tour. That trend continued Thursday, when he fired a 6-under 65 in the first round of the John Deere Classic, and it won't stop if he keeps playing this way.

"That's OK," Perry said.

Perry chose not to try qualifying for the U.S. Open last month, and he won't be heading to the British Open next week. Instead, he'll play a secondary tournament in Milwaukee.

"I've been getting hammered for it," Perry said. "I'm proud of myself to be able to push that aside and go out there and shoot good scores."

The 47-year-old Perry is right behind Ken Duke and Charlie Wi in a tie for third after winning two events last month. Woody Austin was in a group at 5-under, with

2007 Masters champion Zach Johnson five strokes behind the leaders.

Play was delayed briefly in the morning because of lightning in the area and again for 1 hour, 55 minutes in the afternoon. Perry was gone by then and, maybe, back in bed.

Unable to fall asleep after his hotel fire alarm went off at 3:30 a.m., a bleary-eyed Perry faced a different line of questions than those he's been hearing lately when he arrived at the range.

"I was just kind of dragging around on the range, and everybody looked at me, 'Did you stay here all night or what?'" Perry said.

He had enough energy to birdie his first three holes at TPC Deere Run, setting the tone for his round. He started on the par-5 No. 10 and drove a sand wedge to 18 feet, then hit a 9-iron within 11 feet on the par-4 11th before driving a 5-iron to 10 feet on the par-3 12th.

"I just feel very comfortable here," he said. "It's kind of in my element here, in my wheelhouse."

He missed a 15-foot

See DEERE, page 2B

## Sports in brief

### Sponsors needed for Coahoma softball team

The Coahoma 10-under All-Stars is one of several area youth fast-pitch softball teams bound for a tournament in San Angelo starting today.

However, the 10-under squad is still looking for sponsors to accompany the girls on the trip.

If interested, contact Jennifer Chandler at 466-3727.

### Big Spring Boxing Club set to start training

The Big Spring Boxing Club is ready to open its doors to the public for any male or female from ages 9-26.

Interested people can register for the club's training services from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday at Morgan Park on the northside of town.

Anyone willing to volunteer time as a trainer, conditioner or sparring partner is also welcome to attend.

### Steer football season ticket sales to begin

Big Spring High School will begin selling 2008 season

tickets for Steer football July 28 at the Athletic Training Center.

Only persons who have previously owned season tickets are able to buy from July 28-Aug. 7.

Sales for the general public begin Aug. 11 and end Aug. 22.

Tickets can be bought Monday through Thursday between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. at the ATC.

Call Kay Cook at 264-3662 with any questions.

### UIL-required physicals due for some athletes

UIL requires all incoming seventh, ninth and 11th grade athletes to have a physical before they are allowed to participate in any sport.

This includes practices and games. All local athletic departments are encouraging athletes and their parents headed into the grades listed above to make an appointment with their doctor and get this physical before the start of the school year.

Football and volleyball players would want to get this taken care of before the start of two-a-days.

Contact your school's athletic department with any

questions.

### Rose Magers-Powell volleyball camp scheduled

Big Spring native and former Olympian Rose Magers-Powell will hold a volleyball camp from July 28-30 at Big Spring Junior High.

The camp will be held from 9 a.m. until noon all three days.

Cost is \$125 per camper.

For more information, visit [www.gotrosevolleyballcamps.com](http://www.gotrosevolleyballcamps.com).

### Ivie hunting permits applications now accepted

Application for public hunting permits on the O.H. Ivie Reservoir Wildlife Management Areas will be accepted by mail only beginning Monday and ending Aug. 15 at the reservoir field office.

Permits are limited and requests for information and application packets should be made by calling the Colorado River Municipal Water District at 267-6341 or by writing to: CRMWD, P.O. Box 869, Big Spring 79721.

## Obituaries

## Kelley Edward Lawrence II



Mr. Kelley Edward Lawrence II passed away Tuesday, the 8th of July 2008. He was born on the 14th of September 1931 in Bryan to Kelley Edward Lawrence and Hazel Deffebach Lawrence. Kelley grew up in Big Spring, where he was inducted into Big Spring High School Hall of Fame in 1951 and became a member of the Big Spring Rotary Club and the Big Spring Jaycees.

Kelley's professional career started as manager of Solvent Sales for Cosden Petroleum Corp, and was later promoted as petrochemical sales manager for Tenneco Oil Corp. He also served as president of Polychem International and president of Petromark Corporation. He was the founder of Tarquin Corporation in Houston, a leading petrochemical marketing firm where he served as CEO and president for over 30 years.

Kelley's achievements include charter member of Petrochemical Industry's Founders Club, the National Refiners and Petroleum Association, The Petroleum Club, Southwest Chemical Association, Charter member of the Littlefield Society at University of Texas, Chancellor's Council at the University of Texas, 200 Longhorn Club member, University of Texas Longhorn Foundation, Athletic Advisory Board for University of Texas at Austin, Kappa Alpha Order and founding member of The Westlake Club in Houston.

Kelley was an active member of the Krewes of Pontchartrain and Bacchus at the New Orleans Mardi Gras, and member of the Krewe of Momus at Galveston. He was a founding member of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit in Houston. During his lifetime, Kelley's many interests included hunting, deep sea fishing, gardening, traveling and entertaining. He had a passion for the University of Texas football program and was a longtime season ticket holder. Kelley was known for his story telling and persistent humor, as well as his intentional butchering of the King's English. Above all, Kelley had a deep love and devotion for family and friends.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 52 years, Joyce Edwards Lawrence, sons Dennis Edward Lawrence and wife Kimberly of Katy, David Arch Lawrence and wife Karen of Reston, Va., Donald Leon Lawrence of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., grandchildren Jennifer Layne Lawrence, Austin Edward Lawrence and Sidney Katherine Lawrence and brothers John Arthur Lawrence and Kennard Thomas Lawrence.

Special expressions of gratitude are given to Dr. John Buergler, M.D.; Dr. Howard K. Wilson, M.D.; Dr. William Guerriero, M.D.; Dr. Jimmy F. Howell, M.D.; and the wonderful staff at Methodist Hospital for their compassionate and dedicated medical care.

Friends are cordially invited to a visitation with the family from 5 o'clock in the afternoon until 7 o'clock in the evening on Friday, the 11th of July at Geo. H. Lewis & Sons, 1010 Bering Drive.

A memorial service will be held at 10 o'clock in the morning on Saturday, the 12th of July at Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit, 12535 Perthshire Road with the Rev. Patrick Hall officiating.

Honorary Pallbearers are Michael Trice, Tom Moran, Bob Roten, Fletcher Stovall, Jerry Armstrong, O. O. (Buddy) Hare, John Minnesse, Dr. W.R. Gaston and Steve Smith.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in Kelley's name to Holy Spirit Episcopal Church (12535 Perthshire Rd. Houston 77024), Boys and Girls Country of Houston, Inc. (18806 Roberts Rd, Hockley, 77447) and The Longhorn Foundation/Longhorn Legacy (P.O. Box 7399, Austin 78713-7399).

Paid obituary

## David Saunders

David Saunders, 57, of Stanton died Thursday, July 10, 2008. His services are pending with Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton.

## Lottery

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Thursday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 12-16-19-29. Bonus Ball: 9.  
Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 0.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Thursday night:  
Winning numbers drawn: 2-6-9-14-24.  
Number matching five of five: 0.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Thursday night by the Texas Lottery: 0-0-3-3. Sum It Up: 6.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Thursday night by the Texas Lottery: 1-4-7. Sum It Up: 12.

## Jean Jackson Cook



Jean Jackson Cook, 86, of Big Spring died Wednesday, July 2, 2008, at her residence in Tyler where she resided during the last eight months. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, July 14, 2008, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Rick Cunningham, minister of 14th & Main Church of Christ, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. Sunday, July 13, 2008, at the funeral home.

She was born June 7, 1922, in Leonard and married Robert J. (Jack) Cook April 26, 1942, in Dallas. Jean lived most of her life in Big Spring. She graduated from Big Spring High School and was the first president of the Big Spring High School student body.

Jean had a "true servant's heart." She was always ready and willing to meet any need of those she loved and those that needed a helping hand. She loved serving in the nursery at her church and caring for the babies during worship services. Her "perky spirit" encouraged everyone she served and befriended. Jean loved playing Bridge and was a life master Bridge player. Although this was a significant achievement, she was more comfortable fishing, picking peas, mending and serving the alteration needs of her friends and family, as well as dropping in on her friends and neighbors. For those that knew and loved her, words can only describe the "bright spot" she was to everyone, as well as those she never knew she touched.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert J. (Jack) Cook; her parents, Charles Jackson and Lavenia Maude Ross Jackson; and her sister, Margaret Battle.

Survivors include her daughters, Suzanne Mahon of Tyler and Jacquelyn Stacey of Irving; grandchildren, Kelley Smith and husband, Russell, of Tyler, Ross Conner and wife, Stacey, of Tyler, and Banning Sweatland and wife, Cassandra, of Keller; and three great-grandsons, Jack Conner of Tyler, Conner Smith of Tyler, and Caden Sweatland of Keller. She is also survived by her brother, Charles Mack Jackson of Shreveport, La., and surviving nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers will be Ross Conner, Banning Sweatland, Russell Smith, Bob Battle, Ronnie Baird, Bob Purser, Jay Purser and Bud Jackson. Honorary pallbearers will be Alex Mahon, Tom Stacey, John Little, Tom South, Broadway Broderick, Wally Slate, Terry McDaniel, Burr Lea Settles, Guy Talbot, Cliff Talbot, Kevin Brands, Danny O'Shaughnessey and Kevin Reichle.

The family suggests memorials be made to the 14th & Main Church of Christ, 1401 Main Street, Big Spring 79720; or Heart to Heart Hospice, 1402 Rice Road Suite 100, Tyler 75703 (903) 593-6619.

Arrangements 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)

## Laura Denise LeFevre

Laura Denise LeFevre, 46, of Big Spring, died July 7, 2008, in Lubbock at the Lubbock Heart Hospital.

She was born June 26, 1962, in Lake Jackson.

She is survived by her parents, James and Nelda Boyd of Benbrook and the late Leroy LeFevre of Big Spring. She is the granddaughter of Zirah Bednar of Big Spring.

Her body was transferred to the Texas Tech Medical Institute.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

## Take Note

• A benefit breakfast to assist in paying medical expenses for Cory Reyna will be held from 8 a.m. to noon Sunday at Sacred Heart Youth Center, 509 N. Aylesford.

• Big Spring High School will offer the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) Exit Level Re-Test July 15-18. Please report to the High School Library at 8 a.m. Please bring a picture I.D. The testing schedule is as follows:

July 15 — ELA (English Language Arts).

July 16 — Math.

July 17 — Science.

July 18 — Social Studies.

For more information, contact the high school at 264-3641.

• A medical expense account has been established at Cosden Federal Credit Union for Kody Jackson, who was recently diagnosed with lymphoma in his right knee. He has no medical insurance and must start chemotherapy and radiation treatment as soon as possible. Kody is the son of Susan and Johnny Jackson. For more information, contact Cosden FCU at 264-2600.

## Your Local Weather

Sat 7/12	Sun 7/13	Mon 7/14	Tue 7/15	Wed 7/16
92/67	87/66	90/67	93/67	92/67
Partly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms developing during the afternoon.	A few thunderstorms possible.	Partly cloudy, chance of a thunderstorm.	Partly cloudy. High in the low 90s and lows in the upper 60s.	A few clouds. High in the low 90s and lows in the upper 60s.

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## Police blotter

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

Note: Activity and arrest logs were not available at press time due to computer problems, according to officials with the BSPD.

## Sheriff's report

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 66 inmates at the time of this report.

• DELIA SALAZAR ZARRAGA, 41, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana — two ounces or less.

• DIJUAN EDWARD AUSBIE, 19, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana — two ounces or less.

• CHRISTIAN DAVON GORDON, 25, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal trespass of a habitation/shelter center.

• DOMONIQUE XAVIER WILLIAMS, 19, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on charges of possession of marijuana — two ounces or less and possession of a controlled substance.

• ABEL GUZMAN, 26, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on charges of escape from custody and possession of marijuana — two ounces or less.

• TERRY LEE LOUDERMILL, 50, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of tampering/fabricating physical evidence.

The Big Spring Fire Department and Emergency

## Fire/EMS

Medical Services reported the following activity:

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

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

• TRAUMA was reported in the 700 block of W. Interstate Highway 20. One person was transported to SMMC.

## Bulletin Board

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

## TODAY

• Dance at the Senior Center, 1901 Simler, from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

## SATURDAY

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

## MONDAY

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

• Big Spring Band Boosters meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Big Spring High School band hall.



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HOME

Continued from page 1B

been less influenced by which team wears home whites.

Home teams were at .517 in the strike-interrupted 1994 season, the lowest percentage since division play began in 1969. The highest mark since then was .573 in 1978.

Homefield advantage would be even more pronounced this year without interleague play: NL clubs were just 56-70 at their ballparks against the AL.

"It could be one of those cycles, where every team

has found a grouping of players that really play well in their park," Los Angeles Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "When you're trying to build a team that's going to play 81 games in the same ballpark, you certainly want to pay attention to the little nuances of your park and the type of offensive club you have to bring onto the field."

Having last licks also plays into it.

"When a game is tied and you're at home, you normally bring in your best pitcher, which is your closer, and he helps you get to your next at-bat," Yankees center fielder Johnny Damon said.

"When you're the road team,

you don't necessarily bring in your top guy."

Mariano Rivera's four wins this season have all come at Yankee Stadium after he entered with the score tied in the top of the ninth.

And then there is the intimidation factor, especially on the East Coast, which tends to attract more rabid fans. Fenway Park has had 432 consecutive regular-season sellouts dating to 2003.

"Playing at Fenway and winning there might be a little bit of an advantage because of the atmosphere," Red Sox first baseman Sean Casey said. "Maybe teams are backed up a little bit."

DEERE

Continued from page 1B

birdie putt on his final hole that would have put him in a tie for first. Even so, it was another good round, one of many in recent weeks.

"Well, I've had runs," Perry said.

None like this, though.

Perry had a memorable four-tournament run in 2003, when he won the Colonial and Memorial on back-to-back weeks and tied for third at the U.S. Open before taking first at the Greater Milwaukee Open a month later. This one is approaching the two-month mark. It started when he lost a playoff to Ryuji Imada at the AT&T Classic in May and continued with victories at the Memorial and Buick Open last month. He usually plays well on those cours-

es, and he'll be at another favorite stop next week when he returns to Brown Deer Park Golf Course in Milwaukee next week.

"They're all lined up one after another, and I think that's the reason why," Perry said when asked to explain this run.

Yet for all the shots he's made lately, Perry has also absorbed his share of passing on majors.

Ineligible for the Masters, he decided not to go through 36-hole qualifying for the U.S. Open the day after winning the Memorial because he was tired. Then, he raised a few more eyebrows by choosing to honor his commitment at Milwaukee rather than go to the British Open, even though this seems like his best shot at a major.

After all, he's playing well and Tiger Woods is out with a knee injury.

The Kentucky native is more consumed with help-

ing the U.S. win the Ryder Cup at Valhalla in Louisville, so he set a schedule that he thought would land him on the team.

"That's the only goal I've got," Perry said. "I'm not really focusing toward the majors or nothing. I'll get to play the PGA here in a few weeks and I'm looking forward to that."

While Perry kept his momentum going, Johnson hopes to build some this weekend.

He finished with a birdie on 18 and, more importantly, made it through the round pain-free after missing three weeks because of tendinitis in his left wrist. He also put himself in position to survive the cut after missing it last year.

"I'm hitting it pretty good," said Johnson, who grew up just over an hour away in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. "My driver's coming along."

China promises full media access

BEIJING (AP) — China will abide by regulations to allow foreign reporters freedom to report at next month's Olympic Games, one of the country's top leaders was quoted as saying Friday.

Li Changchun, the fifth-ranked official in the country and a member of China's powerful Politburo, encouraged foreign journalists to report "extensively" on the games, the China Daily newspaper said in published reports.

"China will earnestly abide by relevant regulations regarding foreign journalists' reporting activities in the country," he told the newspaper while touring the newly opened Beijing International Media Center on Thursday.

Although Chinese officials repeatedly have been on the record as promising journalists unfettered access, foreign reporters have been restricted and harassed.

New York-based Human Rights Watch said in a report released earlier this week that China had violated its commitments to media freedom and continues to block and threaten foreign journalists, with some receiving serious threats to their lives or safety.

And just last week, German Olympic rights holder ZDF television had a live interview on the Great Wall stopped when uniformed and plainclothes police barged in as a reporter was transmitting a show back to Germany.

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# State Briefs

## Mother, daughters formally charged

BROWNSVILLE (AP) — A mother and three daughters are scheduled to be arraigned next week following their indictments in connection with a more than \$1 million cocaine smuggling case, officials said.

Maria Venegas Vda. de Trevino, 59, and her daughters Laura Trevino, 31, Evelia Trevino, 27, and Adrianna Trevino, 23, were indicted on Tuesday by a federal grand jury on eight counts of possession with intent to distribute cocaine and bring it from Mexico.

Laura Trevino, the driver of the vehicle, was charged on all eight counts. Authorities said she confessed to spearheading the smuggling operation.

All four women were named on two of the eight counts — one for possession with intent to distribute more than 2 pounds of cocaine and the other for conspiring with others to bring more than 2 pounds of the drug into the United States, The Brownsville Herald reported Friday in its online edition.

Officials said the cocaine had street value of more than \$1.16 million.

Customs officials arrested the women at the Brownsville and Matamoros International Bridge June 18. The agents recovered approximately 16.5 kilograms of cocaine, authorities said.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement special agent Tomas Salazar testified during a court hearing last month that the women wore "girdles" underneath their clothing with cocaine packages hidden inside. Laura also wore a girdle but didn't carry any narcotics, the special agent said.

She admitted to agents she had picked up the cocaine from a source in Mexico and distributed the packages among her family, Salazar said.

At last month's hearing, she also told investigators she had been promised \$2,000 for taking the drugs across the border. She told the court that she planned to divide the money among her sisters and mother.

## Turner executed for killing parents

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Condemned inmate Carlton Turner could not evade the Texas executioner a second time.

Turner, 29, was put to death Thursday evening for killing his parents at their suburban Dallas home a decade ago. Nearly 10 months ago, the U.S. Supreme Court spared him some four hours after he could have been executed.

This time, however, the high court rejected his appeals and he became the second Texas inmate to die since

capital punishment around the nation resumed following a seven-month hiatus prompted by a Supreme Court review of lethal injection procedures.

## Galena Park police dig for fetus

GALENA PARK (AP) — Police here were investigating a 16-year-old girl's allegations that her mother buried in their backyard a fetus the girl recently birthed, officials said.

Police Chief Robert Pruett said the girl told investigators on Thursday that the fetus was buried in the backyard of their Galena Park home. She said her mother had recently discovered she was pregnant and made her have an abortion.

"The mother swears up and down the baby is buried here," said Pruett in Friday's online edition of the Houston Chronicle. "We don't know if she's telling the truth or not."

Police went to the home late Thursday night with the girl's mother, who they said pointed to the spot where the fetus was buried.

Police used cadaver dogs to dig but won't say if a body was found. They said the Harris County Medical Examiner's Office will analyze all evidence that was collected.

## SEARCH

Continued from Page 1A

ing a list of prospective interim superintendents, Board President Irene Galan said while declining to name any candidates. The district's lawyers also will recommend a search firm, she added.

Galan said no timetable

has been set for naming a permanent replacement, but added the process likely won't be a quick one.

"It's really all up to what the search firm finds for us," she said. "Right now, we're very unsure as to the how long it will take ... but I'm sure it will take at least two months."

Coahoma ISD is currently winding down the search for a new superin-

tendent, a process that has taken about three months.

Once a search firm is hired, it will then post the job opening through various sources and firm representatives will talk with trustees and other district staff to determine exactly what kind of candidate BSISD wants for the position.

After that, it will be a matter of accepting and

screening applications, a process that will take several weeks at least, Galan said.

From the pool of available candidates, Galan estimated that the trustees will interview between three and five finalists before naming a new chief executive.

This will be the fourth time in the past 20 years that the school district will

be in the market for a new superintendent. Of the last four chief executives, only Downes came from outside BSISD.

As for what she wants in a new superintendent, Galan was direct.

"One of the biggest things is that I want a superintendent who cares about the community in general and the students in particular," she said.

"And he or she must have a very, very, very open door policy. Open lines of communication are very important to me."

The school board meeting will be at 5:15 p.m. Thursday in the high school board room.

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

## POOL

Continued from Page 1A

the pool to maintain the required number of lifeguards to swimmers. But we're getting the bugs worked out, and we're very pleased with how its going."

The Big Spring City Council voted unanimously to waive all admission

fees on Fridays during the facility's summer-long run after a request from the local Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club left the city scrambling for a way to accommodate all non-profit organizations and low-income families.

Concerns raised during the council meeting regarding elevated costs at the facility due to the expected increase of par-

ticipation have yet to be a problem, according to Darden.

"We had a bad leak in the pool prior to this," said Darden, "and some of the divers with the Howard County Volunteer Fire Department came out and helped us identify them. The repairs have been made, so it's really hard to say if there's been any increase in water consump-

tion at the facility because of that leak. However, as far as chemicals and other supplies and materials go, we haven't seen a noticeable increase."

Darden said he's pleased with the response from the community regarding what has become known around the city as "free Fridays."

"I think its great the council made the decision

they did," said Darden. "This gives a lot of local families a chance to enjoy the pool when they might not have been able to otherwise. It's really had a positive impact, in my opinion."

The pool is closed Mondays, and open from 1 p.m. until 6 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Family nights are open to the public Tuesday and Wednes-

day from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. The daily fee for the pool — with Fridays the exception — is \$2 per swimmer.

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

## VALUE

Continued from Page 1A

lifesaving benefits outweigh the costs. But at \$6.9 million per person, the rule costs more than the lives it saves, so it may not be adopted.

Some environmentalists accuse the Bush administration of changing the value to avoid tougher rules — a charge the EPA denies.

"It appears that they're cooking the books in regards to the value of life," said S. William Becker, executive director of the National Association of Clean Air Agencies, which represents state and local air pollution regulators. "Those decisions are literally a matter of life and death."

Dan Esty, a senior EPA policy official in the administration of the first President Bush and now director of the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy, said: "It's hard to imagine that it has other than a political motivation."

Agency officials say they were just following what the science told them.

The EPA figure is not based on people's earning capacity, or their potential contributions to society, or how much they are loved and needed by their friends and family — some of the factors used in insurance claims and wrongful-

death lawsuits.

Instead, economists calculate the value based on what people are willing to pay to avoid certain risks, and on how much extra employers pay their workers to take on additional risks. Most of the data is drawn from payroll statistics; some comes from opinion surveys. According to the EPA, people shouldn't think of the number as a price tag on a life.

The EPA made the changes in two steps. First, in 2004, the agency cut the estimated value of a life by 8 percent. Then, in a rule governing train and boat air pollution this May, the agency took away the normal adjustment for one year's inflation. Between the two changes, the value of a life fell 11 percent, based on today's dollar.

EPA officials say the adjustment was not significant and was based on better economic studies. The reduction reflects consumer preferences, said Al McGartland, director of EPA's office of policy, economics and innovation.

"It's our best estimate of what consumers are willing to pay to reduce similar risks to their own lives," McGartland said.

But EPA's cut "doesn't make sense," said Vanderbilt University economist Kip Viscusi. EPA partly based its reduction on his work. "As people become more affluent, the value of statistical lives go up

as well. It has to." Viscusi also said no study has shown that Americans are less willing to pay to reduce risks.

At the same time that EPA was trimming the value of life, the Department of Transportation twice raised its life value figure. But its number is still lower than the EPA's.

EPA traditionally has put the highest value on life of any government agency and still does, despite efforts by administrations to bring uniformity to that figure among all departments.

Not all of EPA uses the reduced value. The agency's water division never adopted the change and in 2006 used \$8.7 million in current dollars.

From 1996 to 2003, EPA kept the value of a statistical life generally around \$7.8 million to \$7.96 million in current dollars, according to reports analyzed by The AP. In 2004, for a major air pollution rule, the agency lowered the value to \$7.15 million in current dollars.

Just how the EPA came

up with that figure is complicated and involves two dueling analyses.

Viscusi wrote one of those big studies, coming up with a value of \$8.8 million in current dollars. The other study put the number between \$2 million and \$3.3 million. The co-author of that study, Laura Taylor of North Carolina State University, said her figure was lower because it emphasized differences in pay for various risky jobs, not just risky industries as a whole.

EPA took portions of each study and essentially split the difference — a decision two of the agency's advisory boards faulted or questioned.

"This sort of number-crunching is basically numerology," said Granger Morgan, chairman of EPA's Science Advisory Board and an engineering and public policy professor at Carnegie Mellon University. "This is not a scientific issue."

Other, similar calculations by the Bush administration have proved politically explosive. In 2002,

the EPA decided the value of elderly people was 38 percent less than that of people under 70. After the move became public, the agency reversed itself.

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# EDITORIAL

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-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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## OTHER VIEWS

# God, politics and the poor

If religion were not so entwined in American politics, there would be little controversy about federal aid to faith-based charities.

Does anyone doubt that the Salvation Army does good in the world? Or Catholic Charities? Or Lutheran Family and Children's Services? Or Jewish Family and Children's Services? They help all comers, no matter what their faith. They are as deserving of federal support as any secular charity.

But in the business of politics today, churches and synagogues are viewed as interest groups to be pandered to and swayed. Certain religious leaders play into this cynical game by herding their flocks toward one candidate or another.

President George W. Bush created a White House office for "faith-based initiatives" in 2001. Last week, Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, surprised a lot of people by proposing to expand the program.

Political calculations certainly played a role in both decisions. But that shouldn't disguise the fact that aid to faith-based charities, with certain restrictions, is a good idea.

"The challenges we face today — from saving our planet to ending poverty — are simply too big for government to solve alone," Obama said last week. "We need an all-hands-on-deck approach."

The First Amendment famously forbids government from establishing a religion. But the government can help organizations that feed the hungry without imposing a religious obligation; it shouldn't matter if the sign on the kitchen door says Christian or Jewish or Muslim.

To keep faith with the Constitution, religious charities must agree not to discriminate, or use government money to proselytize. That's pretty much how the Bush initiative works, and after a rough start, it has done some good.

Faith-based charities say it's made it easier to land grants. "Sometimes, just the mere word Lutheran in our name makes people think that we're going to proselytize," says Paulette Foerster, vice president at Lutheran Family and Children's Services in St. Louis. "Our services are open to all. We're not trying to convert people."

Lutheran Services has taken federal money for its child care operation, counseling for pregnant mothers, foster care and adoption.

Obama touched a nerve when he proposed another restriction — that charities getting federal aid must not discriminate in hiring because of religion.

That's fine with some charities. "As a matter of fact, I'm Catholic," says Foerster of Lutheran Services. But other denominations think hiring people of other faiths would dilute the religious nature of their mission.

Of course, religious charities don't have to take the grants, and federal aid shouldn't support discrimination. Still, we might suggest a compromise: The charity's board of directors could come from the church, but everyone else directly involved with a federal contract would be hired without religious preference.

Whoever is elected this fall should take care to insulate the Office of Faith-based Initiatives from the kind of political interference that hampered it in the early years of the Bush administration. The office's first director, John DiIulio, resigned after one year, later blaming political operatives he called "Mayberry Machiavellis" for trying to politicize the office - one more reason politics and religion should remain separate.

THE ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

# Battling America's growing buldge

Childhood obesity rates skyrocketed under more than 30 years of food industry self-regulation. They are now shockingly high.

Under mounting pressure from public health advocacy groups, the food industry has spearheaded several high-profile initiatives to address the childhood obesity epidemic and stave off government regulation of their \$10 billion to \$15 billion efforts to market junk food directly to children. Yet kids are still inundated with marketing for high-calorie foods of low nutritional value.

Food marketing works. In other words, junk-food marketing still abounds on television, in movies, on the Internet and in schools. After extensive reviews of the research, both the World Health Organization and the U.S. Institute of Medicine link child-targeted marketing to children's food choices, preferences, requests and diets.

One 30-second commercial can influence the brand choices of children as young as 2. Branding may even trump sensory input. In a study conducted at Stanford University, preschoolers identified food packaged in McDonald's wrappers as tasting better than food wrapped in plain wrappers.

Despite evidence of its culpability, the food industry — echoing Big Tobacco — initially stonewalled concerns that its unregulated marketing practices negatively affect public health.

Instead, to placate critics while preserving profits, companies

launched programs to promote exercise, nutrition education, or both. By 2007, as public pressure mounted, many major food companies pledged to curb some of their child-targeted marketing.

One year later, it's hard to see that much has changed. Consider a few flagrant examples:

— Ads for junk food can still be seen during children's television programming. This summer's blockbuster films like "Iron Man and the Incredible Hulk" are promoting Burger King Kid Meals to children as young as 3.

— Children can still go "Boardwalk Bowling with Life Savers" at Wrigley's candystand.com.

— Scholastic Inc. markets an M&M video game in elementary schools. In other words, junk-food marketing still abounds on television, on the Internet, in movies and in schools.

— McDonald's pledged to stop marketing food and beverages in elementary schools. Yet it took a major effort by the Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood, resulting in a slew of negative press, to persuade McDonald's to end just one program in one Florida school district that was sending report cards home in envelopes advertising Happy Meals.

The new pledges reflect a problem endemic to self-regulation: more emphasis on "self" than "regulation." The most glaring flaw is a lack of enforceable oversight.

In addition, individual pledges are tailored to fit each company's product line, not objective criteria based on what's best for children.

In aggregate, lack of uniformity makes the pledges hard, if not impossible, to monitor. And hypocrisy rules! Some companies pledged merely to continue policies they

have instituted — and broken — for years.

Coca Cola's "new" pledge reiterates earlier press releases stating that the company did not market to children under the age of 12 — never mind that a host of Coca Cola toys for children as young as 4 are still on the market, and that Coke continues to be integrated into the television program "American Idol," consistently a top-rated show for 2- to 11-year-olds.

Under Kellogg's new guidelines, it is still permissible to market Frosted Flakes and Pop Tarts to children. Also, many pledges are designed to exploit the fact that marketing a brand is much more important than marketing a particular product.

While not selling cheeseburgers and fries directly, Ronald McDonald can promote the McDonald's brand by visiting elementary schools under the guise of teaching everything from values to reading.

The best way to protect children from junk-food marketing is to have clear, uniform, legally enforceable rules established by an outside regulatory agency whose vested interest is in the wellbeing of children, rather than their bottom line.

When it comes to food marketing to children, it's clearer than ever that self-regulation has failed. The federal government, not the food industry, should be the guardian of public health.

*Susan Linn is the associate director of the media center at the Judge Baker Children's Center in Boston and an instructor in psychiatry at the Harvard Medical School. Readers may write to her at Judge Baker Children's Center, 53 Parker Hill Avenue, Boston, Mass. 02120.*

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# American workers still getting ahead

Where will you be in five years? Many claim the American dream has died. Earnings have supposedly stagnated, even while corporate profits boom and health coverage disappears. Most Americans believe the economy is in a recession. Pick up any newspaper, and it seems the days when most Americans could work hard and expect to get ahead are over.

But look more closely at the polls. They show that most Americans think it's harder for other Americans to get ahead, but that they personally will be better off in the future.

How can most Americans believe that opportunities are vanishing for others but not for themselves? Partly because the economy faces many real challenges. The rising price of gas is one, obviously. And food is more expensive — partly because of laws that call for turning one-eighth of the global corn crop into ethanol.

Reports that most Americans are not getting ahead mesh with the financial pain Americans feel on a daily basis. But despite these problems, few believe they have no chance of getting ahead. And they're right. The claim that working Americans are falling behind has little factual basis.

Take workers' earnings. We often hear they've stagnated over the last eight years, but that's not true. Yes, the growth of cash wages has slowed since the tech bubble burst. However, a third of workers' earnings comes in the form of benefits, such as paid time off, retirement plans and health insurance. The av-

erage American's total hourly earnings have risen 17 percent over the past eight years. The typical employee today earns 20 percent more paid time off, 33 percent more in retirement benefits and 50 percent more in health benefits per hour worked than in 2000.

Now, more benefits don't make workers feel wealthy the way higher wages can. Retirement benefits aren't spent for decades. And unless you're seriously ill, you get nothing (for now) from new — and expensive — medical advances. But these non-cash earnings provide workers real benefits, and they cost employers real money.

Living standards have improved in other ways. Nearly everyone has a cell phone. Since the iPod was introduced in 2001, it has almost become a necessity for tens of millions of Americans. Virtually everyone who wants a PC has purchased one (or more) in the last decade.

Many politicians say that productivity is growing faster than workers' earnings. They argue that workers are becoming more productive but that CEOs and investors reap the gains and leave workers behind.

The people who make these claims aren't economists. The much-hyped gap between productivity and earnings exists because the government measures productivity and earnings differently. Politicians look only at cash wages and don't adjust for the different inflation measures used to calculate productivity and earnings. When economists look at workers' total compensation — not just cash wages — and use the same measure of inflation, the gap between productivity and workers pay disappears.

It's like fretting about a speed gap because cars in Canada go 100 on

the highway, without noting that Canadian speed limits are in kilometers-per-hour. Using the same measure of speed — or inflation and earnings — makes the gap disappear.

Workers earn, in both cash and benefits, 70 percent of America's total national income, a percentage that's essentially unchanged over the past 40 years. Corporations aren't denying workers the fruits of their labor.

Perhaps that's why most Americans believe they will personally get ahead.

Still, politicians are eager to exploit a crisis of their own making.

Barack Obama wants to raise the top marginal tax rate on individuals above 50 percent, a step that seems intended to ensure no American gets too far ahead. Every Democrat in the Senate has signed on to legislation intended to promote union membership by stripping workers of their right to vote in a secret ballot before joining a union. Union organizers soon may be able to make workers an offer they can't refuse. Cap-and-trade CO2 proposals are billed as creating "green-collar jobs" but will make \$4 gas seem cheap and destroy jobs throughout the economy.

America remains a land of opportunity, where most people have a chance to get ahead. And it will stay that way — unless politicians decide otherwise.

*James Sherk is the Bradley Fellow in Labor Policy at The Heritage Foundation. Readers may write to the author in care of The Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington, D.C. 20002; Web site: www.heritage.org*

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# Church News

## First United Methodist Church to celebrate 125th anniversary

Saturday at 6:30 p.m., the long-awaited anniversary celebration commemorating the 125th anniversary of First United Methodist Church of Big Spring begins. We'll be meeting under the pavilion right across the street at the Heritage Museum for hot dogs, homemade ice cream, lots of visiting and entertainment. There will also be an opportunity to tour the museum's presentation of "Gimmie That Old Time Religion," featuring the history of area churches. On Sunday, there will be only one worship service at 10:30 a.m. featuring short presentations of remembrances of time in our church from former pastors introduced by our new pastor, Rev Sharon Wiese. Those former pastors include Dr. William Fleming, Dr. Keith Wiseman, the Rev. Ed Williamson and Dr. Jim Smith. Following the service there will be a covered dish dinner in Garrett Hall

with a continuous video presentation consisting of pictures from the church archives. And the celebration continues Wednesday, July 16, the actual anniversary date. The Rev. Wiese will have a special commemorative devotional at the regular noon Bible study and luncheon which will include a birthday cake, door prizes and continued remembrances. Join us for these activities in which we joyfully praise God for 125 years of His blessings. And this reminder, Vacation Bible School is just around the corner. Outrigger Island Adventure begins July 21 for ages 4 thru 4th grade. Pre-registration is available at the church office. Come join us on this corner at Fourth and Scurry where we continue to worship as did those staunch pioneers 125 years ago.

## First Baptist Church

July is camp month for the youth and children at First Baptist Church. Our Royal Ambassadors will be leaving Monday for camp in New Mexico and return Friday, July 18. The youth will be attending Centrifuge Camp at Glorieta, N.M., July 21-25, and our Girl's Auxiliary will leave for their camp in Leuders the following week. For all our campers and sponsors, we pray God's blessings and safety.

We welcome Marc Couch back to his place of service this Sunday after his surgery and recuperation time. The Rev. Ken Coffee's morning sermon title is "Putting Your Faith on the Line" and we'll study another chapter in our What Baptist Believe, "Soul Competency and Priesthood of the Believer."

First Baptist Church is located at 705 W. FM 700. Do you have a church home? If not, then, come home, come home to First Baptist Church.

## First Presbyterian Church, Coahoma

The friendly folks at First Presbyterian Church in Coahoma invite anyone to come and worship with us. We meet at 11 a.m. Sunday to sing, pray and worship, led by Commissioned Lay Pastor Tom Koger.

The FPC Coahoma Frolic will be Saturday at the church social hall at 7 p.m. If you haven't been to one of these, you've missed an evening of old-fashioned, homemade entertainment. Everyone is welcome to participate or just be a spectator.

Jose Luis Casal, general missionary for Tres Rios Presbytery, will preach July 13, in the absence of Tom Koger, who, with his wife, will be accompanying youth from the presbytery to a Synod Youth Workshop in Tulsa, Okla., from July 13-19.

## First Presbyterian Church, Big Spring

There will be no Bible study July 16. Choir practice is suspended through the month of July.

Some youth from Midland and Odessa will be meeting others from Big Spring and Snyder to leave Big Spring next Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. for

Youth Synod Workshop at the University of Tulsa. They will return Saturday, July 19.

Ushers for the month of July are Janet Payne, Lane Reynolds, Lucy Odom and Paschal Odom. Communion servers for the month are Helen Glass, Lynn Glass, Mary Gregg and Janet Payne. Those responsible for Take Ten refreshments are Janie Conley (July 13), Jo Dell Myrick (July 20), and Lisa Harwood (July 27).

Since the choir will be singing in the congregation during the month of July, they ask everyone to help in making "a joyful noise."

The lectionary for the 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time is Genesis 25:19-34; Psalm 119:105-112; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23.

In the absence of Interim Pastor Bert Bronaugh, the Rev. Janice Six, associate pastor of First Central Presbyterian Church in Abilene will preach at the Sunday worship service. Please come and make her welcome.

## East Fourth Street Baptist Church

Our youth group and their leaders were so excited about the way God worked in their lives during youth camp last week. They were overwhelmed with how much they grew in the Lord and the decisions that were made and the rededicating of lives.

Thank you Lloyd Wells, Milton and Yvette Woody for taking your personal vacation times to take these young adults to camp and helping them to learn more about their relationship with God.

Milton will be taking the young boys, 3rd-6th grade, to Circle Six Ranch for RA camp this next week. Pray that they, too, will have a wonderful, learning experience in God's word.

VBS started Monday and goes through today from 6 p.m.-9 p.m. Tonight will be Family Night. The children will take a tour of the Hospitality House as part of the Mission Study in VBS. A churchwide challenge is to collect needed items for the Hospitality House located at 1200 W. 4th St.

Joe Whitten and "His

Children" have seen 55 souls come to know the Lord so far this year during their prison ministry. Joe is in Europe touring with the Centurymen for two weeks.

Should you be seeking a church home, we invite you to East Fourth Street Baptist, 401 E. Fourth St. You will be welcomed with smiles, hugs, and handshakes. Our church office is located 410 E. Third St. and our phone number is 267-2291.

Our Sunday services start with Sunday school (all ages) at 9:45 am; morning worship at 11 a.m.; mission classes at 5 p.m.; evening worship at 6 p.m. Wednesday: Adult prayer meeting and Bible study, youth Bible study/music, Children's Backdoor Bible study/music all starting at 7 p.m. Saturday mornings, men's Bible study at 7 a.m.

Come join us, you're sure to find something you like — Keith Weaver, pastor.

## Salem Baptist Church

Salem Baptist Church invites you to join us this Sunday for Sunday school at 10 a.m., morning service and Children's Church at 11 a.m. and evening service at 6 p.m. Nursery service is available for all Sunday services. The Wednesday evening prayer meeting is held at Parkplace at 6 p.m. Salem is located at the corner of Salem Road and Old Colorado City Highway and pastored by Bro. Monroe Teeters. For further information, please call 394-4655.

## Birdwell Lane First Baptist Church

If you are seeking a Church home we invite you to visit us at 1512 Birdwell Lane. Sunday worship services are at 10:55 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Children's Church is during the Sunday morning worship at 11 a.m. For a ride to church, call 264-9924 or 267-7157. Midweek services is at 7 p.m. Wednesday.

For further information, call 267-8214 or 267-7157.

## Coahoma First Baptist Church

Coahoma First Baptist Church invites all children preschool through grade 6 (grade completed) for our annual Club VBS. The partners (kids, that is) will ride through trails of adventure-filled Bible stories, create cool western crafts, enjoy refreshing snacks and gallop through the recreation activities.

Club VBS: Cactus Canyon will be held at Coahoma First Baptist Church, 201 S. Ave. July 14-18. We'll begin each evening at 6 p.m. and conclude at 8:30 p.m. For more information or if you need a ride, call 394-4348. Come and join the western adventure!

## College Baptist Church

CBC Youth and their sponsors are attending Centrifuge in Glorieta, N.M., this week. They will be sharing highlights of their experiences in the evening worship service Sunday.

Mylia Black and Marissa Nieto will attend "Super Summer" July 14-17 in Abilene. Our prayers will be with them and with Marissa Nieto as she goes to Japan on a mission trip July 19-31.

Other scheduled events for our busy youth include a camping trip July 31-Aug. 3, and "Rock the Desert" Aug. 8-9.

The property and space committee announced that more than \$5,000 has been donated to the fund to replace floor covering in the pre-school area.

## First Christian Church

Aye Matey! Vacation Bible School at First Christian Church casts off next week for a fun week of Bible adventure featuring Veggie Tales The Pirates Who Won't Do Anything.

VBS starts Monday and will last through Thursday. VBS at First Christian is an intergenerational event including kid-friendly dinners, singing and games and age-related, Bible-learning activities. A highlight of each evening will be fellowship singing led by the Rainwaters.

VBS will start at 5:30 p.m. with dinner and end with a wrap-up and prayer at 8 p.m.

The theme this year is "Heroes of Faith." Age groups will be preschool, K-4, grades 5-8, grades 9-12 and adults.

We are delighted to have our own pastor back from vacation leading worship this Sunday. His message, "Earthly Walk, Heavenly Goal," is based on Romans 8 and will focus on how God influences daily living.

## 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 worship leader, choir and musicians offering a mixture of contemporary and traditional music sure to uplift your soul. This is followed by a scripture-based message from our pastor.

Wednesday nights, all adults are invited to join us at 6:30 p.m. for an interactive Bible study in the sanctuary.

The youth are invited to "Youth Explosion!" with pizza and fellowship, youth praise and worship, and Biblical messages addressing hot topics held upstairs in the Salt Shaker.

Kids, don't miss out on

"God Wants You! Bible Boot Camp," coming to First Church of the Nazarene, continuing throughout the summer each Wednesday evening and Sunday morning. Wear your camo clothes, earn shirts, hats, other great prizes and a chance to use authentic Army equipment. Learn to put on the whole armor of God using the Sword of the Spirit, the Bible. Join God's Army and get involved with great stories, music, puppets, water games and more. Our schedule is as follows: Wednesday's camp: 1830 hours (6:30 p.m.) to 1930 hours (7:30 p.m.) and Sunday morning camp:

See **CHURCH**, Page 7A

# sudoku

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.

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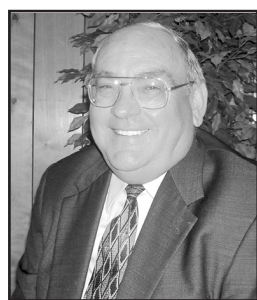
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5 :PM	News ABC	News ABC	Locura Noticiero	Simpsons King-Hill	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News NBC	Friends Raymond	Light of the Southwest	News Business	Cash Cab	Usual Suspects, Chazz Palminteri	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Suite Life Suite Life	Lines Burning	SportsCenter
6 :PM	News ABC	Jeopardy! Fortune	Querida Enemiga	Simpsons Two Men	News CBS	12 Cora-zones	News NBC	Raymond	Hagee	News Business	Cash Cab	Usual Suspects, Chazz Palminteri	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	The Boot	Montana Suite Life	Golf: American Century Championship	Countdn
7 :PM	Dance Machine	Dance Machine	Diablo-Guapos	Movie: 2 Fast 2 Furious, Eva Mendes	Ghost Whisperer	El Juramento	Moments	Raymond	Update	Wash Wk NOW	Man vs. Wild	Movie: Indecent Proposal, Woody Harrelson	CSI: Crime Scn	Movie: Con Air, John Malkovich	Movie: Somebody Help Me	Movie: Thunderbirds, Sophia Myles	Boxing: Friday Night Fights.	NASCAR Racing: Nationwide Series -- Dollar General 300.
8 :PM	Duel	Duel	Fuero en la Sangre	Flashpoint	Sin Senos					Amusemnt Prks	Koppel	Movie: Dracula 2000	Disorderly Con.	(-10) Movie: Stealth, Jamie Foxx	Baldwin The Boot	Wizards Life De	Boxing	SportsCenter
9 :PM	20/20	20/20	Fábrica de Risas	TMZ Raymond	Two Men News	Noticias Titulares	News Tonight Show	Sex & Cortes	Church	Charlie Rose	Made	Movie: Halloween: The Curse of Michael Myers	Disorderly Con.	(-40) Movie: Assassins, Julianne Moore (DVS)	Diff Wrd	Phil	Boxing	SportsCenter
10 :PM	News ABC	Nightline	Impacto	Two Men News	Noticias Titulares	News Tonight Show	Sex & Cortes	Church	Church	Charlie Rose	Made	Movie: Halloween: The Curse of Michael Myers	Disorderly Con.	(-40) Movie: Assassins, Julianne Moore (DVS)	Diff Wrd	Phil	Boxing	SportsCenter
11 :PM	Insider Jimmy Kim-mel Live	Jimmy Kim-mel Live	El Pantera	Law Order: CI	Late Late Show	Decisions	Late Night	Herbie: Fully Loaded	Joe	Smiley	Man vs. Wild	Halloween: The Curse of Michael Myers	Disorderly Con.	(-40) Movie: Assassins, Julianne Moore (DVS)	Diff Wrd	Phil	Boxing	SportsCenter
12 :AM	News ABC	News ABC	Niña Amada Mia	RENO 911 Lopez	Insider Programa Pagado	News	News	News	News	Update CCM	Man vs. Wild	Halloween: The Curse of Michael Myers	Disorderly Con.	(-40) Movie: Assassins, Julianne Moore (DVS)	Diff Wrd	Phil	Boxing	SportsCenter
1 :AM	Paid	Paid	Clasicos Humor	RENO 911 King-Hill	Entertain Paid	Pelicula: La	Poker After Dark	Movie: Ella Enchanted	Best of Light of the Southwest	Koppel	Man vs. Wild	Movie: The Texas Chainsaw	Disorderly Con.	(-40) Movie: Assassins, Julianne Moore (DVS)	BET Late	Emperor Dragon	NASCAR Racing: Nationwide Series	SportsCenter

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### THE FAMILY CIRCUS

"Daddy said if that bed was meant to be a trampoline it'd be in the backyard!"

### HAGAR

"DON'T BE SO IMPATIENT, MY SON! REMEMBER... 'ROME WASN'T BUILT IN A DAY'!"

"I DON'T WANT TO BE A BUILDING CONTRACTOR, DAD..."

"I WANT TO BE A DENTIST!"

### BC

EVER SINCE YOU JOINED THAT RAPTOR PACK, YOU'VE BEEN ACTING DIFFERENT — ARE YOU SURE IT ISN'T GOING TO YOUR HEAD?

I'M INSULTED THAT YOU WOULD EVEN IMPLY SUCH A THING. I WILL SAY GOOD NIGHT TO YOU NOW, SIR.

RAPTOR RULES! QUADROPODS BEWARE! FLIGHTLESS HUMBERS UNITE! CAT MEAT! FEAR THE CLAW!

### BLONDIE

MR. B., HOW OLD DO YOU THINK I'LL BE WHEN I START GETTING INTERESTED IN GIRLS?

OH, PROBABLY NOT UNTIL YOU'RE 11 OR 12

WOW, I'M A LUCKY GUY!

WHY ARE YOU A LUCKY GUY?

I GOT INTERESTED IN COOKIES WHEN I WAS ONLY 3

### WIZARD OF ID

THE SPOOK HAS GONE ON A HUNGER STRIKE

SO?

PARKER.

THE DUMPSTERS ARE BEGINNING TO BACK UP

### AGNES

I'VE JUST FISHED ANOTHER BRILLIANT IDEA FROM MANKIND'S RIVER OF THOUGHTS.

MANKIND HAS A RIVER OF THOUGHTS?

OH, YES! ALL THOUGHTS ARE IN THE RIVER OF THOUGHTS... IT IS OUR JOB TO SLOG ALONG THE MUCKY BANK AND FISH THEM OUT.

WHAT'S THAT SMELL? ... BAIT?

UH-OH... THE MUCKY BANK PULLED MY SHOES OFF AGAIN!

MY MISTAKE... BAIT IS MORE FRAGRANT.

### HI AND LOIS

WHAT HAPPENED?

I SPILLED A BUCKET OF PAINT ON THE LAWN!

YOU COULD LET IT GROW OUT AND THEN MOW IT.

THAT MIGHT WORK!

### THE OTHER COAST

...AND THAT'S OOG. HE'S OUR CELEBRITY CHEF.

I THOUGHT YOU WERE FABULOUS IN "TERMS OF ENDEARMENT."

### SNUFFY SMITH

I GOT ELVINEY AN' LUKEY TALKIN' AG'IN, PAW !!

HOW'D YA DO IT, MAW?

I TOLD 'EM TO GO VISIT SOME RELATIVES !!

I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH BRATTY YOUNG-UNS !!

AN' HOW 'BOUT THAT AWFUL COOKIN'?

### BETLE BAILEY

THE WATER MAIN BURST!

SURE'S UP!

THESE GUYS DON'T TAKE ANYTHING SERIOUSLY

## This Date In History

Today is Friday, July 11, the 193rd day of 2008. There are 173 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:**  
On July 11, 1804, Vice President Aaron Burr mortally wounded former Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton during a pistol duel in Weehawken, N.J.

**On this date:**  
In 1767, John Quincy Adams, the sixth president of the United States, was born in Braintree, Mass.  
In 1798, the U.S. Marine Corps was formally re-established by a congressional act that also created the U.S. Marine Band.  
In 1864, Confederate forces led by Gen. Jubal Early began an abortive invasion of Washington, D.C., turning back the next day.  
In 1934, President Franklin D. Roosevelt became the first incumbent chief executive to travel through the Panama Canal.  
In 1952, the Republican National Convention, meeting in Chicago, nominated Dwight D. Eisenhower for president and Richard M. Nixon for vice president.

**50. Jazz musician Kirk Whalum is 50. Singer Suzanne Vega is 49. Rock guitarist Richie Sambora (Bon Jovi) is 49. Actress Lisa Rinna is 45. Rock musician Scott Shriner (Weezer) is 43. Actress Debbe Dunning is 42. Actor Greg Grunberg is 42. Wildlife expert Jeff Corwin is 41. Actor Justin Chambers is 38. Actor Michael Rosenbaum is 36. Rapper Lil' Kim is 33. Rock singer Ben Gibbard is 32. Rapper Lil' Zane is 26. Pop-jazz singer-musician Peter Cincotti is 25. Actor David Henrie is 19.**

**Thought for Today:** "False democracy shouts Every man down to the level of the average. True democracy cries All men up to the height of their fullest capacity for service and achievement."  
— Nicholas Murray Butler, American educator (1862-1947).  
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## Newsday Crossword

PREPETITION by Richard Silvestri  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

**ACROSS**

- 1 Prankster of myth
- 5 Fill the tank
- 10 Harness race
- 14 Airport-counter tenant
- 15 Beethoven dedicatee
- 16 Hit the roof
- 17 Tuna/cheese concoction
- 18 Of pitch
- 19 Radames' beloved
- 20 Crime evidence?
- 23 Wheel track
- 24 Movie shoot
- 25 Person of influence
- 29 There's one at home
- 32 '60s do
- 33 Relinquish voluntarily
- 34 Dobb's of CNN
- 37 Scottish forecast?
- 41 Mystery man
- 42 Fencing move
- 43 Man, for one
- 44 Ford role
- 45 Guru
- 47 Trembly tree
- 50 Help-wanted letters
- 51 Attempt to defend yourself?
- 59 Haulers' units
- 60 Like owls
- 61 Cloverleaf component
- 62 Art Deco name
- 63 Chutzpah
- 64 California county

**DOWN**

- 1 Reading light
- 2 Above
- 3 Metric weight
- 4 Ratio words
- 5 Leave
- 6 Aviating
- 7 -Japanese War
- 8 Bomber monogram
- 9 Riches
- 10 Rapper-friendly condition
- 11 Worker's request
- 12 First name in nonsense verse
- 13 Ride
- 21 Monastic title
- 22 Distillation product
- 25 Place for pigs
- 26 In the distance
- 27 Lucky Charms alternative
- 28 Get, so to speak
- 29 Hunger messages
- 30 Like some wires
- 31 Hail, to Caesar
- 33 Cellar contents
- 34 For fear that
- 35 Christiania, today
- 36 Vista buyer
- 38 Actress Massey
- 39 Order member
- 40 Delta of Venus author
- 44 Global gadabouts
- 45 Complained
- 46 PC key
- 47 Fall flower
- 48 Gave one's word
- 49 Suit half
- 50 Barrel bracer
- 52 Sharp taste
- 53 State with assurance
- 54 Run out of gas
- 55 Casino attraction
- 56 Class ritual
- 57 No longer green
- 58 South Park kid

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## Getting to town

"I just love retirement," said our friend Ron. "It's like having six Saturdays in every week."

But shortly after his retirement from teaching school, Ron got bored and decided to try earning a little extra income selling knives door to door in the rural East Texas area where he lives. He soon discovered, however, that most folks really aren't in the market for a good set of kitchen knives delivered to their front door.

As his pickup rattled down the country roads, Ron also realized that most dogs are protective of their own turf. However, Ron, who would never hurt an animal, was not easily discour-

aged. "If you stop to throw rocks at every dog that barks," he advised, "you'll never get to town."

I have taken Ron's advice to heart, and I have shared it with several people. If I am truthful with myself, some days all I do is throw rocks. I never get any closer to town than I was at the beginning of the day because I lose my focus and spend all my time on distractions.

Although I don't recall any advice about barking dogs in the Bible, Jesus had this to say about staying focused: *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.* (Matthew 6:33 KJV)

If you and I are to make any progress toward our spiritual road to town, we will have to stay focused on the things of God and stop throwing rocks at all the other things along the way.



BONNIE  
WHEAT

## CHURCH NEWS

Continued from Page 5A

1000 hours (10 a.m.) to 1130 hours (11:30 a.m.).

A grand family celebration for our Hispanic ministry, Casa de Restauracion, honoring the first anniversary of the Rev. Felix and Marta Torres to First Church of the Nazarene will be this Sunday in the parking lot and gym of FCN. Hotdogs and the fixin's, games, bounce house, etc. will be a part of the evening. It begins at 5:30 p.m. Everyone is invited.

Dare-To-Care Outreach Ministry will be Sunday, July 20th at 2 p.m. Call our church office for details or

any questions at 267-7015. God's waiting to bless you!

### St. Paul Lutheran Church

Sunday worship service with holy communion is at 9 a.m. Sunday school and adult Bible classes are at 10:15 a.m. Wednesday services are at 6:45 p.m.

The Lutheran Hour airs at 7:30 a.m. Sunday on 1070 AM.

On-going support items include neck coolers, baby wipes (soft packages), cold drink mixes and the AT&T phone card fund.

Call the church at 267-7163 or Pastor Wayne Frost at 264-7395 for more information. St. Paul is located at 810 Scurry.

## Club News

### Keep Big Spring Beautiful

Keep Big Spring Beautiful met July 7 in the Howard College Cactus Room. Debbie Wegman presided and called on Barbara Brumley for the invocation. Minutes were approved and Jan Foresyth presented the financial report.

Pat Simmons explained that our annual wrap-up report had been submitted and that we now have the responsibility for handling the "Way to Go" program that recognizes outstanding residential yards. Nominations can be sent to Pat Simmons.

For those groups that have agreed to Adopt-a-Spot, the city will pick up bags of trash after cleanup is complete, upon notification.

Walter Ward gave a preview of the first effort to beautify the spring at Comanche Trail Park. The center of the drive by the spring will be planted in a teardrop design, with low plants on the west and taller plants on the east end.

Kathryn Wiseman gave an enthusiastic report on the state convention. She brought back numerous ideas we can copy. Our booth at the flea market in the mall was worth the effort. Thanks to Walter and Pat Ward for heading this up. Walter will also set up our booth at the county fair in September.

Debbie, Loyce Phillips

and Janell Davis will coordinate plans for the Jimmie Conley Grant in the spring.

Upcoming events: Awards banquet Aug. 14, Love Our Lake and DRCC flowerbed project Aug. 23 and Howard County Fair Sept. 24-27. Volunteers needed!

### TOPS Tx No. 21

TOPS Tx No. 21 (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) began its meeting at 5:30 p.m. Monday, July 7. Leader Laura Sickles led the group in the TOPS cheer. Invocation was offered by Frank Sickles. The TOPS pledge was led by Olnee Menges and the ROPS pledge was led by Laura Sickles. Then the TOPS welcome song was sung by all members.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read by Linda Staple and approved by all.

The business portion began with Laura Sickles announcing there will be no meeting July 14. She then read a letter from area captain Clara Cleghorn, thanking TOPS Tx No. 21 for the cordial welcome when she visited June 30. Roll call began with Hughetta Roberts calling the names and members reporting their weight losses. Everyone was elated to know it was a "No Gainer" night.

There were seven TOPS members and two KOPS members present. Hughetta

Roberts reported that Olnee Menges was the best weekly loser and Lynne Criswell was the best loser for June 2008.

The program was presented by Olnee Menges titled "Just Sit and Get Fit." Various exercise procedures were demonstrated. The members requested copies of these exercises be made and passed out to them at our next meeting. Ethel Cassady volunteered to do this task.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m. For more information about The TOPS weight loss program and meetings, call Frank Sickles at (432) 213-1342 or Olnee Menges at (432) 263-6819. Everyone is invited to attend TOPS Tx No. 21 for a fun and informative hour about weight loss and its challenges. Meetings are held from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Mondays at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad.



By Steve Becker

### Bidding Quiz

You have the following hand, neither side vulnerable:

♠ 874 ♥ 5 ♦ Q83 ♣ AK9762

1. Your partner opens One Notrump, and your right-hand opponent bids Two Hearts. What would you bid?

2. Your partner opens One Spade, and you respond Two Clubs. Your partner then bids Two Spades. What would you bid now?

3. Your left-hand opponent opens Three Hearts, which your partner doubles, and the next player passes. What would you bid?

4. Your partner opens One Spade, and you respond Two Clubs. Your partner then bids Two Hearts. What would you bid now?

1. Three notrump. You can't be sure this is the best contract, but the odds favor making three notrump. Most players treat three clubs in this situation as a nonforcing competitive bid, and it would therefore be unwise to run the risk of partner's passing with a hand likely to produce game at notrump.

Partner is a strong favorite to have at least one heart stopper, and once this is granted, the best chance for game lies in notrump. Five clubs could be a better contract than three notrump, but there is no way of exploring that possibility without

bypassing the notrump game.

2. Four spades. You have only nine points in high cards, but game is nevertheless likely given partner's spade rebid and the added value of your singleton heart. To merely invite partner to go on by bidding three spades is too pessimistic a view to take. It is unlikely partner will lose four tricks opposite this hand.

3. Five clubs. You can't afford to bid only four clubs because you would do that with a much weaker hand. The best way of showing your values is by jumping to five clubs, which just about represents what you have.

If partner passes, you will probably make just five clubs; if he raises to six, you will probably make that also. The trap to avoid is four clubs, which would not do your hand justice.

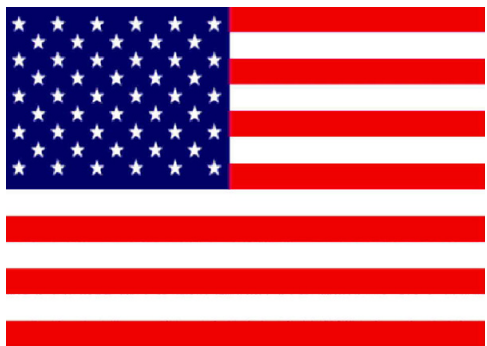
4. Two spades. Partner is most likely to have five spades and four hearts, or five spades and five hearts. Since you have a definite preference for spades, you should let partner know that right now. Partner already knows you have enough points to respond initially on the two-level, so there is no need to do anything more than bid two spades.

Note the difference in approach as compared with problem No. 2, where partner almost surely has six spades and did not bid a second suit.

Tomorrow: Careful play saves the day.

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## Video Salute To The Troops At Home and Abroad



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