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2 found guilty of cocaine possession

One gets 12 years, the other probation

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Two Big Spring men were found guilty of cocaine possession in cases heard in 118th District Court this week.

Following a one-day jury trial Tuesday, Jesse Woodruff, 23, was sentenced to 12 years in the Texas Department of Corrections after being con-



victed of possessing more than 17 grams of crack cocaine following a traffic stop in October 2008.

"On that evening, Mr. Wood-Wilkerson ruff and two others were stopped

by police at the intersection of State and Third streets," said Hardy Wilkerson, Howard County District Attorney. "After a search, the cocaine was found to be in his possession."

Woodruff could have been sentenced to as little as two years or as much as 20 years in prison. As a first-time felon, he also was eligible for probation. Wilkerson theorized that the jury's sentence reflected its belief that this was more than just a simple drug possession case.

"Testimony indicated that (Woodruff) was a supplier to street-level drug dealers,"

Wilkerson said.

Woodruff must serve a quarter of his sentence (three years) before becoming eligible for parole.

Odessa attorney Justin Low represented Woodruff during the trial.

"With regard to the Woodruff case, I think the case reflected well on the officers of the Big Spring Police Department's Narcotics Division and the good job they are doing to try to get the drug prob-

lem in Big Spring under control," Wilkerson said

Another defendant, Consensio Ramon Ford, 23, was scheduled to stand trial this week for cocaine possession. but opted instead for a plea agreement, receiving 10 years probation in exchange for his guilty plea in front of District Judge Robert H. Moore III.

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



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan Workers prepare to righten a dump truck which overturned at the intersection of W. Business 20 and FM 700

Wednesday morning. No major injuries were reported in the accident.

Auction to benefit Kids' Zone

Boys Club assets to go on the block

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Want to buy a bus?

A 20-passenger bus will be the most visible item on the block March 21 when the Big Spring Rotary Club holds an auction to raise money

to help renovate the Kids' Zone playground area.

The auction will be held at the old Boys Club building on Third Street between Johnson and Runnels. Items will be available for inspection starting at 9:30 Moughon a.m. and the auction is set to begin at 10 a.m.



Rotarians are partnering with the Boys Club to help liquidate assets from the old building, which has been vacant for more than a year.

"Boys Club wanted to do something

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Madoff denied bail and ordered to jail

By LARRY NEUMEISTER and TOM HAYS

Associated Press Writers

NEW YORK — Bernard Madoff pleaded guilty Thursday to an epic fraud that robbed investors worldwide of billions of dollars, avoiding eye contact with swindled investors before he was led out of court with his hands cuffed behind his back.

U.S. District Judge Denny Chin denied bail for Madoff, 70, and ordered him to jail, noting that he had the means to flee and an incentive to do so because of his age.

Madoff spoke steadily in court

as he addressed the judge before

his guilty plea was accepted.

"I am actually grateful for this opportunity to publicly comment about my crimes, for which I am deeply sorry and ashamed," he

"As the years went by, I realized my risk, and this day would inevitably come. I cannot adequately express how sorry I am for my crimes."

Madoff did not look at any of the three investors who spoke at the hearing, even when one of them turned in his direction and tried to address him.

After arguments began as to whether Madoff should remain free on bail, his lawyer Ira Sorkin described the bail conditions and

See MADOFF, Page 3



Icy weather left a trace of winter on plants in the Crossroads area this morning. The cold snap is expected to end this weekend.

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Obituaries

John P. Nichols Jr.

John P. "Chuck" Nichols Jr., 79, of Big Spring died Thursday, March 12, 2009, at his residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Russell McKiski

Russell McKiski, 62, of Big Spring died Wednesday, March 11, 2009, at Medical Center Hospital in Odessa. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Support Groups

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

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous meets from 11 a.m. to reported in the 1300 block of Runnels. noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 5 p.m. until 6 p.m.

MONDAY

- Encourager's Support Group for all widows and widowers meets the first and third Monday of the month. For information, call Nancy Hale at 398-5239.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 213-1342 or 263-6819.

TUESDAY

- Grief share, sponsored by Home Hospice and the First Presbyterian Church, Seventh and Runnels (north end door), meets at 6 p.m.. Drop-ins are welcome. For more information, contact Sherry Hodnett at 264-7599.
- The Path, faith-based addiction recovery, meets at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Tabernacle Ministeries, 1209 Wright St.
- Celebrate Recovery, a 12-Step program, meets from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 811 W. Fifth St.
- •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 (432) 517-9207 for informa-

FCI prisoner guilty of assaulting officer

Herald Staff Report

LUBBOCK An inmate at the Federal Correctional Institution in Big Spring was convicted in U.S. District Court here Tuesday of assaulting a federal officer.

Ray Ramirez-Bueno, 45, was found guilty of assaulting correctional officer Terry Curtis Lloyd in March 2008. The inmate faces a maximum statutory sentence of eight years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. According to evi-

dence presented at trial, Officer Lloyd was conducting a search of inmate lockers on the third floor of the Sunset Range at FCI Big Spring on March 6, 2008.

When Lloyd attempted to search inmate Ramirez-Bueno's lock-Ramirez-Bueno

slammed his right shoulder into the locker door, causing it to close on the officer's right hand. Ramirez-Bueno refused submit to hand restraints and assumed a fighting stance with officers. corrections Ramirez-Bueno later threatened to kill the officers if they touched him, according to testimony. Eventually, Ramirez-Bueno agreed to go to the lieutenant's office, where he submitted to hand restraints and was sent to the Special Housing Unit.

The case was investigated by the FBI and Federal Bureau of Prisons, Office of Special Investigative Services. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Ann Cruce-Roberts and Jeffrey R. Haag of the Lubbock U.S. Attorney's Office prosecuted the case.



Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- JUSTEN VOGEL, 35, 2205 Warren, was arrested on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.
- YCIDRO VILLAREAL III, 41, 2929 W. Kansas, was arrested on a charge of assault causing bodily injury/family violence.
- A.J. ARTHUR, 21, 2750 S. 10th, was arrested on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.
- CASH CORBELL, 21, 205 Driver Rd., was arrested on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of a controlled substance.
- CACEE CORBELL, 25, 205 Driver Rd., was arrested on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of a controlled substance.
- STEVE ALAN HANNABASS, 51, 3611 Dixon, was arrested on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid.
- LIONSO LEE JIMENEZ III, 30, 1504 Sycamore, was arrested on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia and a parole violation warrant.
- · ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the 1900 block of Highway 87.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 2500 block of March.
- CRIMINAL TRESPASS WARNING was reported in the 1800 block of Settles. • DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED/IN-
- VALID was reported in the 3600 block of Dixon. • POSSESSION OF DRUG PARPAHERNALIA was
- THEFT was reported in the 400 block of
- Birdwell.

Sheriff

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity (Note: Officials reported 50 prisoners in the county jail):

- BRANDON SHANE ANDERSON, 26, was arrested on a bench warrant for unauthorized use of
- DANIEL PARKER WHITE, 28, was arrested on charges of possession of a controlled substance and driving while intoxicated.
- KAILA ROCHELLE EDWARDS, 19, was arrested on a charge of speeding and on six warrants.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service 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 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to
- MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of Birdwell. One person was transported to SMMC.
- GRASS FIRE was reported in the 2600 block of W. Highway 80.

Take Note

- · Michael Quinn Sullivan will be the guest speaker at a meeting of the West Texas Pachyderms, set for 7 p.m. March 18 in Howard College's Hall Auditorium. Admission is free. For more information, contact Melanie Gambrell at 267-7387.
- Howard County A&M Club is accepting applications from high school students who are graduating in May and have been accepted at Texas A&M for fall 2009. Students must be Howard County residents who plan to enroll for at least 12 hours.
- The Family History Center (genealogy library) of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be open from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesdays. If you need assistance in searching out your ancestors, bring all the information you have about your family and we will be happy to assist you. For more information, contact R.A. McKay at (432) 553-8127.
- Big Spring resident Velma Campbell was on vacation in Arizona when she had a massive stroke. She has since been transported to a hospital in Lubbock. She has many friends and is an avid bowler. If anyone would like to help, a savings account has been set up at Wells Fargo.

The savings account number is 9662778118.

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57/37

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Sun

3/15

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Bulletin Board

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

- Big Spring Main Street meets at noon in the Railroad Museum located at Second and Main streets.
- LAC Chapter 4791 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. The public is invited.

• League of United Latin American Citizens LU-

- · American Legion Auxiliary meets at 6 p.m. at 3203 W. Highway 80.
- The Prospector's Club meets at 7:30 p.m. at 606 E. Third St. The public is invited to these meetings. For more information contact Lola Lamb at 263-3340.
- · Neighbors and Newcomers Club meets. New members are welcome. Call 263-2005 for more information.

FRIDAY

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

MONDAY

- 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
- Big Spring Band Boosters meets at 5:30 p.m. in the high school band hall. All band parents are invited to attend.
- Howard County Master Gardeners meet at 5:30 p.m. in the basement of the county courthouse. The public is invited.
- Big Spring Art Association meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library. 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.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday

Winning numbers drawn: 26-36-54-31-42-24. Number matching six of six: 0.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 35-33-29-24-25. Number matching five of five: 0.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 1-9-2-7. Sum It Up: 19

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 1-0-0. Sum It Up: 1

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Legislative roundup: GOP wins first Senate vote

AUSTIN (AP) — Chalk ultimately passes. one up for the Republicans.

After an all-night debate and questioning of witnesses, the GOP won its first Senate vote Wednesday on a bill that would impose tougher identification requirements on Texans at the ballot box.

The public hearing on the legislation literally went around the clock as senators heard from expert witnesses and a handful of average citizens who found themselves unexpectedly spending the night in the Senate gallery for a chance to speak out until a three-minute buzzer rang. More than 100 who had signed up to testify, unable to stay the 20-plus hours that most endured, left before their names were called.

No one was surprised that a special Senate panel, which includes all 31 senators and Republican Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, approved the legislation along straight party lines in a 20-12 vote just before 10 a.m. The vote all but assures it will pass the Senate and be sent to the House as early as Monday.

The voter ID bill is being driven by Senate Republicans over fierce opposition from Democrats, who promised a legal challenge if the bill

The approval included a rare vote by Dewhurst. who presides over the Senate and pushed for the bill despite the threat it would anger Democrats and split the chamber along rigid party lines.

"Regrettably, it has been made a partisan issue by some of the hardcore Democrats and hardcore Republicans," Dewhurst said.

Democrats have compared the proposal to a modern-day poll tax. Republicans say the ID requirements, which would take effect in time for the pivotal 2010 elections, are necessary to stop voter fraud.

CASINO GAMBLING

Two Gulf Coast legislators filed a proposal Wednesday that would allow Texas voters to decide to allow casino gambling in Galveston and other parts of the state.

Democratic Reps. Carol Alvarado and Craig Eiland are trying to pass a proposed state constitutional amendment that would allow casino gambling on barrier islands adjacent to Gulf Coast counties, which would include Galveston, and in large cities with populations over 675,000, like Houston.

It also calls for allowing gambling on Amer-

ican Indian lands in Texas and at existing racetracks.

The wide-reaching gambling proposal would have voters go to the polls in November to decide on the constitutional amendment. The measure calls for the governor to convene the Legislature in a special session by June 2010 to pass more legislation to implement the legalized gambling.

Some have suggested allowing casino gambling in Galveston is a way to revitalize the island city in the wake of the destruction of Hurricane Ike. Eiland is from Galveston and is pushing a number of legislative proposals to benefit the area. Alvarado is a former Houston city council member.

Their proposal is one of several pieces of gambling legislation filed this session.

PUPPY MILL BILL

Breeders who keep hundreds of cats and dogs in cramped, squalid surroundings are the target of a bill filed Wednesday that would require those with more than 11 unneutered female animals to submit to licensing, annual inspections, background checks and penalties as high as \$5,000 per animal if they violate minimum care standards.

Advocates for the legislation say it will allow the state to regulate breeders and prevent animal cruelty in so-called puppy mills, while opponents say it puts unnecessary strain on small breeders and could put them out of business.

The legislation by Houston Democratic Rep. Senfronia Thompson would create a commercial breeder license and an advisory council that would set minimum standards for staffing, cages, food and socialization of animals.

"We really want to clean up this industry because we think the animals deserve better," Thompson said. "I think that most persons who love animals and who want to take care of them, want them to be in that type of environment."

The bill proposed would also make it illegal to operate as or deal with an unlicensed breeder and would cap breeders at 50 unneutered adult animals.

Breeders who sell directly to consumers are not currently regulated in Texas, and investigations typically start with complaints from neighbors and the community.

The American Kennel Club inspects breeders who are registered with them, and current federal law requires that breeders be inspected only if they sell to pet stores.

REDISTRICTING **FLAP**

Rep. Mark Homer, D-Paris, says that Republicans' argument that Attorney General Greg Abbott should not testify in a Senate voter identification hearing means Abbott also should be removed from the state redistricting board.

The Republican chairman of the Senate committee of the whole said Abbott should not be testifying because litigation is imminent. The GOP-controlled Senate committee approved the voter ID measure Wednesday.

Homer had earlier filed a resolution proposing a constitutional amendment to replace the attorney general on the Legislative Redistricting Board with the agriculture commissioner.

The attorney general's participation in redistricting "would create an even more apparent conflict with even more imminent litigation coming out of it," Homer said.

Currently the Legislative Redistricting Board — which can be called upon to redraw state legislative districts — is composed of five members: the lieutenant governor, the House speaker, the attorney general, the comptroller and the land commissioner.

BUILDING **HOMES**

Home Owners for Better Building is making its presence known at the Capitol. The group championed several pieces of legislation Wednesday and urged reforms at the Texas Residential Construction Commission.

HOBB is asking its activists to write a onepage letter about bad experiences with their residential builders and to send it to Texas elected officials.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I think they're running over us. How does it feel?" - Sen. John Whitmire, D-Houston, on Senate Republicans pushing through a voter ID bill on a 20-12 vote in which every Democrat voted against it.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288 Russell McKiski, 62, died Wednesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

John P. "Chuck" Nichols, Jr., 79, died Thursday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

AUCTION

Continued from Page 1

to help Kids' Zone and they had to liquidate the property," said Ed Moughon of the Rotary Club.

The auction is the highlight of Rotary efforts to raise \$25,000 for the renovation of Kids' Zone, which was heavily damaged by arson in December.

"Club President Jim Little and Hollis Mc-Cright were instrumental in getting this established," Moughon said. "The money will go to the city, to be earmarked for the Kids' Zone project."

So far, the Rotarians have raised about \$10,000. Moughon is hopeful that the auction will raise the remainder of the club's goal.

Aside from the above-

mentioned bus, a 1984 Ford that club members said is in very good condition, other items available at the auction will include an extensive set of woodworking tools, pool and air hockey tables and antique toys, Moughon said.

"There is really an impressive amount of items available for auction," he said.

The Rotarians are just one of many groups that

have stepped up to help renovate the playground area.

"It doesn't surprise me that so many people want to help," Moughon said. "The people of Big Spring are extremely giving. When you look at all the projects the people of this community support, it's obvi-

ous that our citizens give a lot. This is just another example of why this community is such a good place to live."

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

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MADOFF

Continued from Page 1

how Madoff had, "at his wife's own expense," paid for private security at his \$7 million pent-

Loud laughter erupted among some of the more than 100 spectators crammed into the large courtroom on the 24th floor of the federal courthouse in lower Manhattan. The judge warned the spectators to remain silent.

The fraud turned a revered money man into an overnight global disgrace whose name became synonymous with the current economic meltdown.

Madoff described his crimes after he entered a guilty plea to all 11 counts he was charged with, including fraud, perjury, theft from an employee benefit plan, and two counts of international money laundering.

Prosecutors say the

disgraced financier, who has spent three months under house arrest in his \$7 million in Manhattan penthouse, could face a maximum sentence of 150 years in prison at sentencing.

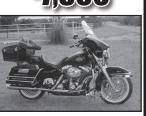
Madoff explained his scheme by telling the judge that he believed the fraud would be short-term and that he could extricate himself.

The plea came three months after the FBI claimed Madoff admitted to his sons that his once-revered investment fund was all a big lie — a Ponzi, or pyramid, scheme that was in the billions of dollars. Since his arrest in December, the scandal has turned the 70-year-old former Nasdaq chairman into a pariah who has worn a bulletproof vest to court.

The scheme evaporat-

ed life fortunes, wiped out charities and apparently pushed at least two investors to commit suicide. Victims big and small were swindled by Madoff, from elderly Florida retirees to actors Kevin Bacon and Kyra Sedgwick and Nobel Peace Prize winner Elie Wiesel.

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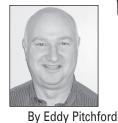


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"A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver." (Proverbs 25:11)

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Editorial

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

> **Ron Midkiff** Publisher

John A. Moseley Managing Editor

Bill McClellan News Editor

OTHER VIEWS

Excerpts from recent editorials in newspapers in the United States:

Herald-Palladium, St. Joseph, Mich., on physician reviews online:

Many doctors are not amused by what they are reading on several online sites in which patients post reviews of the care they have received. In many cases doctors have been targets of unflattering comments.

In response, some physicians are asking patients to sign waivers before doctors will agree to offer their services....

It's a nice try, but we hardly think the waiver system will really make a dent in heading off this trend. ...

Besides, we are not convinced doctors have any right to effectively place a gag order on patients from speaking out. Isn't it beneficial for other patients to be able to read such reviews? Don't patients have a right to offer opinions for mass consumption regarding the treatment they've received? It's an interesting question, and one that perhaps the courts will one day sort out.

That said, we can understand the frustration doctors feel, especially if they are unfairly targeted by vindictive patients. One of the unsettling realities of the Internet is that reputations often are trashed anonymously. ...

This is the reality of the modern wired world. Doctors, as much as anyone else, are going to have to get used to it.

Chicago Sun-Times, on Rush Limbaugh and the **Republican Party:**

Republican National Committee Chairman Michael Steele had the audacity the other day to say something less than sterling about Rush Limbaugh.

In what apparently passes for tough criticism of Limbaugh these days, Steele mentioned the obvious: Limbaugh is "an entertainer" whose show can be "incendiary" and "ugly." ...

Limbaugh claims he has no desire to lead the Republican Party. But he has stepped into a vacuum in the party, and as a radio demagogue whose rants can trigger thousand of phone calls to offending politicians from angry fans, he brooks no disagreement.

Neither the Republican Party nor political discourse in this country is the better for it.

As the minority party in Congress, Republicans can and must play an important role in governing America, challenging Obama's policies and promoting conservative alternatives. ...

But Limbaugh isn't really into complex ideas. He isn't into listening to people who disagree with

Rush can be a funny guy — sort of like ol' Uncle Charlie can be funny after he has one too many at the family holiday party and gets all outrageous. The problem is Uncle Charlie is funny for about 10 minutes, then his shtick gets awful old, awful fast.

The (Nashville) Tennessean, on nationalizing America's banks:

The debate is raging over the approach to struggling American banks, in part because of a muchmisused word: nationalization.

Some Republican leaders say that is what the Obama administration is trying to do: a complete government takeover of banks. Obama's treasury secretary, Timothy Geithner, his White House spokesman and others deny it, insisting that they know government officials make bad bankers. ...

The biggest mistake would be to let such labeling get in the way of trying to do something about the situation banks are in. A look at the major banks' balance sheets, even after billions of taxpayer dollars have been handed to them from the Troubled Assets Relief Fund or other programs, should make us consider a variety of options as the nation tries to dig out of a deep recession. ...

Rather than paint any federal intervention as "nationalization," the best course may be to let the administration offer constructive support to keep good banks in business, while the justice system roots out those individuals who are found to have manipulated the system for personal gain.

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we not cling to the past, Lord, but cling to Your word.

Troops for a fool's errand

he gravel crunched unexpectedly in our driveway so I went out to see what was up. Lo, a U.S. government car bearing a bright-eyed, bushy-tailed young man in camouflage gear.

A recruiter. He was looking for a prospect with my wife's name. Upon learning that she had lately turned 73, he appeared a bit crestfallen, but only for an instant. Then he graciously gathered himself and agreed to leave a recruiting packet for us to convey to someone younger,



Collins

maybe unemployed. The Navy, perhaps working from the same classified list, sent a similar piece by mail.

The packet was chock full of well-scrubbed determined young faces, building a future while protecting their nation. The text was awash with promises of strength, challenge, variety, potential, bonuses, tuition aid, counseling, and stipends. No mention of wounds, funerals, homelessness, suicides, or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). No photos of the maimed or the deceased returning from the front, either.

Recruiters, being savvy, know well all these omissions, which are internally corrosive to some of their own sensitive souls. They commit suicide at an accelerated rate, much like combat veterans. Indeed, with the current reduction in fighting,

suicide deaths in the military are now about equal to combat deaths.

Conversely, some non-suicidal troops just say, "Screw it," and desert. The Pentagon admits that about 5,000 are simply missing from duty, many no longer willing to impose further degradation upon the residents of a devastated and occupied land. By definition deserters are scarcely in a position to tell their stories back home, but it wouldn't matter much anyway. The patriotic corporate press does not traffic in such imperial embarrassments.

Nor does the press dwell on the millions in Pentagon spending to "Support our Troops." Donald Rumsfeld created that bogus civilian organization to gin up excitement for the war. It gave out ribbons, magnets, comic books, DVDs, dog tags and wristbands. The patriotic press loved it. Unfortunately, lacking adequate oversight, the unit became as financially corrupt as it was morally corrupt, even dragging the "Stars and Stripes" newspaper into its misspending schemes.

Only recently, in fact, has the press even caught on to the reality that personal hazard for returning soldiers does not end with discharge. The evils that they have seen and endured, and maybe participated in, stick to them like burrs. Mental illness abounds, leading to breakup of families, joblessness, homelessness and attempted suicides, which are now estimated at about 1,000 per month.

The federal response to this

hardship is much like that of a former car owner who finally unloads the thing on eBay. He doesn't want to hear about it again. But like bad pennies, needy vets keep popping up. They want treatment for PTSD, Gulf War Syndrome, and rape, as well as for lingering physical wounds. They also want those benefits that were promised by so many bushy-tailed recruiters.

Retired General Eric Shinsecki is in charge of all that now at the Veterans Affairs Department. He's the one President George W. Bush demeaned for telling the truth about troop level needs in Iraq. We'll see if he gets canned again for telling the truth about the needs of vets. Since President Barack Obama, like his predecessor, seeks to prosecute the war in Afghanistan, he may not be thrilled at the bad news about veterans any more than was President Bush. Even today, the Pentagon is reluctant to alert the VA as to who is coming home to be discharged, and our governor has killed a state program tracking their needs here. The recruiters don't mention any of that.

From a practical standpoint, the president might save himself a lot of grief by appointing a commission to figure out if we really need to be in Afghanistan at all. It already has a reputation as the graveyard of empires. Maybe we should not put our own at such needless risk.

Columnist William A. Collins is a former state representative and a former mayor of Norwalk, Conn.



Tax every dollar equally

f Barack Obama truly wanted change then he would propose throwing out our tax system and replacing it with a flat tax. No more sales tax, no more estate tax and no more to a thousand other little taxes; simply

everyone paying the same rate on a dollar for dollar basis.

A truly just society would tax every dollar the same.

Whether you make \$10,000 or \$10 million a year, everyone paying an equal percentage on a dollar for dollar basis remains

the only fair method of taxation.

Of course, this will never happen because when Obama says he wants change, he means change from what George Bush did not actual change.

DANIEL

KLINE

Actual change would mean not pandering to your "base" and not delivering a better deal for

the people that like you while

Amen sticking it to those who don't.

Whether we have a Republican or a Democrat in office, implementing a flat tax is nearly impossible because a fair system of taxation favors nobody and that makes it awfully hard to get

Politicians need votes to keep their jobs and getting votes requires pandering to large bodies of voters, but not all voters.

Obama got elected partly because he favors taxing the rich while two George Bush's got elected partly because they did not. Making everyone pay his or her fair share wouldn't be popular with anyone because people don't vote based on fairness, they vote based on who will give them the biggest break.

Currently, the rich think the poor get away without paying taxes and the poor think the rich have enough money so they should always pay more. The middle class gets it from both sides and nobody ever thinks anyone else pays enough.

Similarly, small businesses feel they get a raw deal compared to larger companies and

big businesses feel the govern-

ment takes advantage of their

success. Nobody wants to pay capital gains, inheritance taxes, sales tax or any of the dozens of other taxes that eat away at our

hard earned money each day. Basically, no person wants to share his hard-earned money with the government and nearly everybody thinks they get a raw deal.

Of course, exactly who gets screwed by the IRS depends on which political party has con-

If everyone paid the same percentage of taxes on every dollar earned, not matter how those dollars were earned, than nobody could complain. Apply this model to all forms of income be they from working, investing, winning the lottery or anything else, we would all face the same burden.

President Obama should cast aside the politics, throw away the polls and do what it right. It may not be popular, but it would be change we can believe in.

Daniel B. Kline's work appears in more than 100 papers weekly. He can be reached by e-mail at dan@notastep.com.

News Briefs

Roche agrees to take over California-based Genentech

GENEVA (AP) — Switzerland's Roche said Thursday it has agreed to buy all the remaining shares in Genentech for \$46.8 billion in a takeover described as the largest in Swiss corporate history.

The deal, approved and recommended by Genentech's board, offers \$95 for each outstanding Genentech Inc. share and ends a long corporate struggle between the Basel, Switzerland-based pharmaceutical giant and its cancer-drug partner.

Roche Holding AG, which already owns 56 percent of the stock of the South San Francisco-based company, had increased its bid to \$93 per share last Friday.

Roche's initial bid of \$89 per share was rejected in July. It then surprised Genentech and Wall Street with a lowered \$86.50-per-share bid on Jan. 30, aimed directly at shareholders and seeking to bypass Genentech's board.

Hanging over the negotiations have been expectations of study data on the effectiveness of Genentech's Avastin in treating early-stage colon cancer. The drug, Genentech's best-selling product, is already approved for various types of breast, lung and colon cancers.

U.S. foreclosures rise, remain 30 percent above last year's levels

WASHINGTON (AP) — Despite halts on new foreclosures by several major lenders, the number of households threatened with losing their homes rose 30 percent in February from last year's levels, RealtyTrac reported Thursday.

Nationwide, nearly 291,000 homes received at least one foreclosure-related notice last month, up 6 percent from January, according to the Irvine, Calif-based company. While foreclosures are highly concentrated in the Western states and Florida. the problem is spreading to states like Idaho, Illinois and Oregon as the U.S. economy worsens.

"It doesn't bode well," for the embattled U.S. housing market, said Rick Sharga, vice president for marketing at RealtyTrac, a foreclosure listing firm. "At least for the foreseeable future, it's going

to continue to be pretty ugly."

The rise in foreclosure filings came despite temporary halts to foreclosures by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and major banks JPMorgan Chase, Morgan Stanley, Citigroup and Bank of America. Those companies pledged to do so in advance of President Barack Obama's plan to stem the foreclosure crisis, which was launched last week.

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Report: High medical costs, subpar results drag U.S. down in global economy

WASHINGTON (AP) — If the global economy were a 100-yard dash, the U.S. would start 23 yards behind its closest competitors because of health care that costs too much and delivers too little, a business group says in a report to be released Thursday.

The report from the Business Roundtable, which represents CEOs of major companies, says America's health care system has become a liability in a global economy.

Concern about high U.S. costs has existed for vears, and business executives — whose companies provide health coverage for workers — have long called for getting costs under control. Now President Barack Obama says the costs have become unsustainable and the system must be overhauled.

Americans spend \$2.4 trillion a year on health

The Business Roundtable report says Americans in 2006 spent \$1,928 per capita on health care, at least two-and-a-half times more per person than any other advanced country.

Close-knit, rural Alabama town stunned by shy, quiet gunman

SAMSON, Ala. (AP) — Many residents of this quiet, close-knit farming community could hear the rapid crackling of automatic gunfire that killed nine of their neighbors. Others got frantic phone calls from friends or relatives.

But none of them knew yet that the heavily armed gunman grew up among them, playing Little League baseball, graduating from the local high school and working by their sides at local factories.

Those who knew 28-year-old Michael McLendon and even those who just remembered his name or face couldn't believe his rampage across two counties near the Florida border Tuesday that left him, five of his relatives and five bystanders dead.

Josh Smith played baseball with McLendon when they were young and later went to Samson High School with him, although he had not seen him since graduation.

McLendon began his killing spree a dozen miles from Samson in Kinston in Coffee County, where he burned down the home he shared with his mother, killing her. It ended about an hour later with him taking his own life after a shootout with police in nearby Geneva at Reliable Metals, where he worked until 2003.

In between, he gunned down four relatives and the wife and 18-month-old daughter of a local sheriff's deputy on a wide front porch that looks like so many others in Samson. He then turned his gun next door and killed his 74-year-old grandmother and sent panicked bystanders fleeing and ducking behind cars.

McLendon then drove off, spraying bullets through the town lined with old brick buildings, killing three more bystanders.

Teen gunman kills 15 in Germany before taking own life after shootout

WINNENDEN, Germany (AP) — A 17-year-old wielding a Beretta 9 mm pistol burst into classrooms at his former high school Wednesday and gunned down students — some of whom died with their pencils still in hand — in a rampage that ended with 15 dead before he took his own life, authorities said.

There was no immediate indication of motive, but the gunman's victims were primarily female: eight of nine students killed were girls, and all three teachers were women. Three men were killed later as the suspect, identified by police as Tim K., fled.

"I heard two shots and then screaming," said a 15-year-old student who gave her name only as Betty. "At first I thought it was a joke, but then someone called 'Run, run!' and I saw students jumping out of the windows and took off running.'

The gunman — dressed in all black — took students in the first classroom completely by surprise, evidenced by the morbid scene that awaited the first officers to arrive, said regional police director Ralf Michelfelder.

Defiant Sudan leader calls world's bluff on war crimes trial

KHARTOUM. Sudan (AP) — State radio has been broadcasting a message each morning since Sudan's president became a wanted man: "Long live Sudan, free and defiant."

President Omar al-Bashir's response to his indictment last week by the International Criminal Court has certainly been defiant: the immediate expulsion of nearly half the aid workers providing food, medicine and shelter to millions of victims of the 6-year-old war in the Darfur region.

Many observers fear the small hopes for compromise have grown even smaller. The first international attempt to prosecute a sitting head of state is likely to turn into a long standoff, with the people of Darfur suffering the most.



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Page 6 Thursday, March 12, 2009

Pittman helps 'Horns advance in Big 12 tourney

By JEFF LATZKE

AP Sports Writer

OKLAHOMA CITY — Dexter Pittman dominated inside with a career-high 26 points and 10 rebounds, leading Texas past Colorado 67-56 Wednesday in the first round of the Big 12 tourna-

At 6-foot-10 and about 300 pounds, the oversized Pittman had his way against Colorado's interior defense. He started out 9-for-10 from the field with four dunks and even hit his first five free throws.

Colorado (9-22) didn't have an answer inside and could never break through against the 2-3 zone deployed

by the Longhorns (21-10), going 4-for-17 from 3-point range. Dwight Thorne II scored 15 to lead the 12thseeded Buffaloes, who set a new school record with their 22nd loss of

Texas' Damion James added 11 points and 11 rebounds for his 15th double-double.

Singletary takes over

Sophomore guard scores 43, leads Tech past Aggies

By JEFF LATZKE

AP Sports Writer

OKLAHOMA CITY - Mike Singletary single-handedly fueled a scintillating comeback that put Texas Tech in the Big 12 record books and left Texas A&M feeling a little less secure about its postseason prospects.

Singletary led the biggest rally in Big 12 tournament history, scoring all 29 of Texas Tech's points during a second-half surge that pushed the Red Raiders to a 88-83 win against the Aggies on Wednesday night.

Singletary finished with 43 points to break the tournament scoring record of 38 set by Iowa State's Marcus Fizer in 2000 against Baylor. "I was just in the zone, I think,"

Singletary said. "We didn't want to lose this game. We didn't want to go home."

Texas Tech advances to play No. 14 Missouri on Thursday.

The last basket in Singletary's amazing stretch was a driving layup past Bryan Davis that put the Red Raiders (14-18) up 79-78 with 39.4 seconds left and erased

See **TECH**, Page 12



AP photo/Sue Ogrocki

Texas Tech's Mike Singletary (32) reacts after scoring against Texas A&M in the second half during an NCAA basketball game at the Big 12 Conference men's tournament in Oklahoma City, Wednesday. Singletary scored 43 points to lead Tech to an 88-83 upset of A&M.

Jerrells, Rogers lift Baylor past Nebraska, 65-49

By MURRAY EVANS

Associated Press Writer

OKLAHOMA CITY — Rebounding, Nebraska coach Doc Sadler says, has been the Cornhuskers' Achilles heel in the latter stages of this basketball season. Baylor took advantage of that in a big way on Wednesday.

Led by a career-high 20 rebounds from Kevin Rogers, the Bears posted a 43-18 advantage on the boards en route to a 65-49 win over Nebraska in the opening game of the Big 12 tournament.

Curtis Jerrells scored 19 points and LaceDarius Dunn added 18 points on 4-for-9 3-point shooting and grabbed eight rebounds for Baylor (18-13). The Bears won a first-round Big 12 tournament game for only the fifth time ever, but for the second time in the last three

The ninth-seeded Bears, who had entered the tournament having lost 10 of their last 12 games, advanced to play top-seeded and No. 11 Kansas on

"I think when you are struggling in conference, it is kind of like a weight vest ... and you just can't wait to get the vest off," Baylor coach Scott Drew said. "I think (in) the conference tournament, you're able to take the vest off and you feel better."

Ade Dagunduro scored 21 points for Nebraska (18-12), which now must hope for a berth in the National Invitation Tournament. Nebraska hasn't advanced to second round of the Big 12 tournament in consecutive seasons since 1998 and 1999.

The Cornhuskers beat Baylor 66-62 on Saturday in Waco, Texas, in the regularseason finale for both teams, but the Bears used their size advantage to turn the tables. Baylor started 7-foot Josh Lomers and 6-foot-9 Rogers, who both are taller than anyone in Nebraska's starting lineup.

"Rebounding has always been the emphasis, especially for a team like us," said Rogers, who scored 10 points and posted his seventh double-double of the season. "We are not the biggest team and that's been a focal point of ours the

See **BAYLOR**, Page 12



AP photo/Frank Gunn/The Canadian Press United States starting pitcher Ted Lilly stands by the mound as Venezuela's Henry Blanco rounds the bases after hitting a solo home run during third inning action at the World Baseball Classic in Toronto Wednesday.

Venezuela tops U.S., 5-3, wins Group

Rodriguez loves pitching for his country.

Henry Blanco homered and made a key throw in the ninth inning to help Rodriguez earn the save as Venezuela beat the United States 5-3 on Wednesday night to win Group C at the World Baseball Classic.

"For some reason I feel like right now I'm at another level," said Rodriguez, who signed a \$37 million, three-year contract with the New York Mets this offseason. "Just to be able to wear a Venezuelan jersey, it's totally different for some reason. I don't know why, but it's totally different to be able to play with your

"I'm not saying I give it more (effort), I just feel more adrenaline, more pressure," he added. "There's no question about it. Don't get me wrong. Every time I wear a different

TORONTO (AP) — Francisco jersey I take it with a lot of pride, but today was something really special."

> Gregor Blanco added three hits for Venezuela, which avenged a 15-6 loss to the Americans on Sunday night.

"It's a big deal for us, beating the United States, because they're one of the greatest teams in the world," he said. "We showed them we can play baseball, too. We showed them we can win games."

Both teams are headed to the second round of the tournament in Miami, where the U.S. will open against Group D winner Puerto Rico (3-0) on Saturday night.

Venezuela will face a surprising Netherlands team earlier in the day.

The matchup with Puerto Rico will reunite Derek Jeter with former Yankees teammate Bernie Williams.

"It's going to be fun," Jeter said. "I'm sure I'll mess with him a little bit. He worked out with (the Yankees) in Tampa before we left. It's always good to see Bernie."

Chris Iannetta hit a two-run homer in the eighth inning but Team USA couldn't finish the comeback in the

ninth. Jimmy Rollins walked and Jeter reached on a one-out error by third baseman Luis Maza. With cleanup hitter Kevin Youkilis at the plate, the United States tried a double steal and Blanco's strong throw cut down Jeter — the trail runner — at second base.

"It was a perfect throw but I can't get thrown out in that situation, not the tying run," Jeter said. "We tried to be aggressive. I had an idea that Jimmy was going to go. That can't happen, whether it was a perfect throw or not."

Rodriguez closed it out on the next pitch by striking out Youkilis.

See WBC, Page 12

Sports in brief

Send-off banquet for Howard women scheduled

The Howard College women's basketball team will be leaving Saturday for the NJCAA National Tournament in Salina, Kan.

A banquet will be held for the team at 6 p.m.

Friday in the foyer of the Coliseum. The public is invited to attend. Anyone wanting to help with the meal can contact Stan Feaster at 816-9480.

Howard was seeded sixth in the tourney and will face Kaskaskia College (Ill.) in the first round of the double-elimination bracket.

BSGSA registration continues Saturday

The Big Spring Girls Softball Association is holding sign-ups for the 2009 season continues at 10 a.m. Saturday at the Big Spring Mall.

Subsequent sign up date is the following Saturday

Girls ages 4-14 are eligible to play with a registra-

from 10 a m. to 5 p.m.

tion fee of \$65.

The fee covers full uniform.

Late registration after Saturday will include a \$10 extra charge.

For more information, contact Lucy Ramirez at 466-3670.

Lady Steers boosters meeting Monday at ATC

The Big Spring Lady Steers Booster Club is meeting at 5:45 p.m. Monday in the Athletic Training

All parents of Lady Steers athletes in junior high or high school are encouraged to attend.

Moss Creek hosting ATV and side-by-side races

The Texas Crossroads Racing Circuit is having an event hosted by Moss Creek Lake March 22.

Events feature a variet of ATV and side-by-side

Registration starts at 7 a.m. with the first races taking place at 8 a.m. A required \$15 for TCRC membership will be charged along with entrance fees for each individual race.

For more information or directions to to event, visit www.texascrc.net.

BSCC hosting 3-person scramble April 4-5

The Big Spring Country Club is hosting a 3-person scramble tournament April 4-5 with a 1 p.m. shotgun start both days.

Entry fee is \$60 per player plus golf cart. Private carts are welcome. Entry includes barbecue on the course April 4

and practice rounds the day before. Field will e flighted by first round score withe

number of flights being determined by the number of entries.

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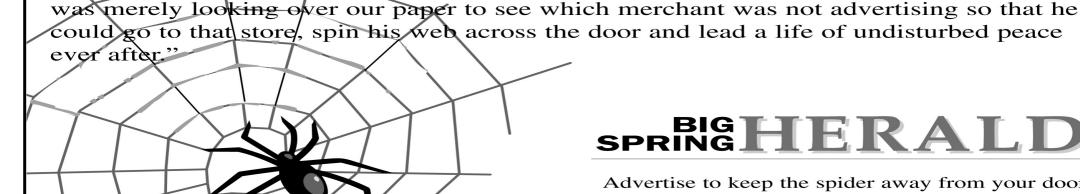
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Dear Annie: Sister not an on-call babysitter

Dear Annie: I am 26 years old and currently live with my parents due to financial hardships. My sister, "Kate," works a full-time job and has two boys to support. Kate recently became engaged to a co-worker, and they are expecting a baby in September. She has child care, but it seems every other week something comes up with the babysitter and I end up watching her kids.

Annie, I love my nephews to death, but I just got engaged myself. Last week, I booked an appointment with a wedding planner, but Kate called at the last minute saying the babysitter was busy, so I ended up canceling my appointment. This is not the first time it's happened. Out of the goodness of my heart, I've been there for Kate because I don't want her to lose her job, especially with a new baby coming. But it seems like every time I have plans, they need to be put on the back burner for her.

I feel taken advantage of. It's not fair that I have to put my plans on hold because my sister has an unreliable babysitter. Can you help me fix this? Stressed Out in Connecticut

takes advantage of you because you permit it. It's nice that you help her out and you should do so when you are able. But when the babysitter cancels and you already have other plans, it's Kate who needs to rearrange her schedule, not you. Practice saying, "I wish I could take the kids, but I have an appointment that can't be changed. Sorry." If she becomes angry, so

Dear Annie: I read the 160,000 results. letter from "S.C. in New York," whose father died while awaiting a liver transplant. She encouraged everyone to fill out donor cards.

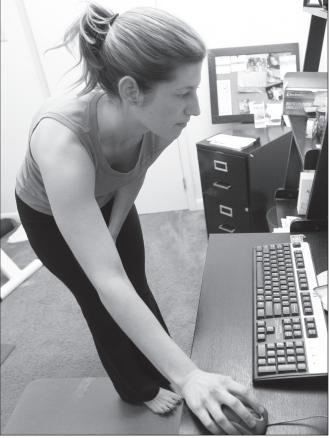
donor card (or the back no fluff in any of them." of your driver's license) unfortunate event that a person becomes braindead and is a potential donor, the patient's family has the last say in whether organ donation undertaken after death. Those who intend to be organ donors must speak with family members about their wishes. as they will be the ones who make that decision and can decline regardless of any donor card you filled out.

It has been my experience that many families have difficulty making such decisions under tragic circumstances, and by discussing your express wishes beforehand, you can make it much easier. feral – Dr. Lori in Michigan

Dear Dr. Lori: Thank Everyone you for the reminder. has a rebel Anyone who expects to be an organ donor should is yours? discuss it with family members in advance.

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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At top, Jessica Sharp uses www.yogatoday.com to lead her through her yoga practice at her home in Philadelphia. At left, Trina Schwimmer selects a workout downloaded from Netflix, for her daily aerobics exercises at her apartment in Marina Del Rey, Calif.



Digital evolution hits fitness, DVDs take hit Ross said the multimillion fitness DVD

By MEGAN K. SCOTT

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) —Trina Schwimmer's workout video collection is like a mini fitness museum: Denise Austin, Karen Voight, Mari Winsor, Crunch Fitness.

But Schwimmer's collection has been collecting dust as the 32-year-old Marina del Rey, Calif. resident trades in purchasing a DVD each month for streaming fitness videos from Netflix to her televi-

"It's really allowed me to have more fun Dear Stressed: Kate with my workouts," said Schwimmer, who was recently laid off and is working on her own business while she looks for a job. She has in her queue workouts from "The Biggest Loser's" Jillian Michaels and the New York City Ballet.

The Web is doing to fitness DVDs what the Kindle may do to books as people seek cheaper, more varied workouts that they can access with the click of a mouse and do somewhere other than their living

Fitness enthusiasts can watch workouts online, download them to their iPods. stream them from Netflix to their television and even create their own workout videos. A search of the words "fitness video" on YouTube produces more than

"With YouTube, it's so easy," said Brandon Jubar, 41, of El Paso, Texas. Jubar estimates he has purchased 20 videos over the years, including "Billy Blanks Tae Bo" and "Hip Hop Abs." "These (YouTube) videos are certainly not as I would like to point slick and polished as the videos I used to out that filling out a buy, but the quality is good and there is

Sales figures are hard to come buy is not enough. In the because no one source tracks all the sales, says Jill Ross of the consumer catalog Collage Video, which sells exercise videos and workout equipment but declined to release its sales figures.

HOLIDAY

MATHIS

industry is growing, in part because the economy has people working out at home, and because of the popularity of television shows like "The Biggest Loser." She sees between 500 and 600 new titles each year. But many fitness video producers are

already preparing for a possible hit. Fitness video producer Linda LaRue's "Crunchless Abs" videos are available for download on www.ExerciseTV.tv and several fitness video producers are looking at purchasing the bandwidth so the digital downloads can happen on their own Web sites, she said.

For many who use online fitness resources, it comes down to wanting more workouts without buying several different

Jessica Sharp, 29, who runs a public relations firm in Philadelphia, said she was tired of doing the same Rodney Yee routines over and over on her DVDs. She does the free, one-hour yoga class on YogaToday.com, which has a new class

She also subscribes to a Yoga audio podcast on iTunes, so she can work out when she is traveling.

Meryl Blau, 34, a member of MAKE IT FIT (www.youcanmakeitfit.com), which has more than 100 streaming fitness videos, downloadable podcasts and printable workouts, wanted to have a wider selection of workouts and do them in places other than her living room.

"It was a change in the way I think about when and how my workouts are done, but the computer gives me flexibility that you just don't get from a television," said Blau, a mother of one who teaches at the University of Miami.

Still, while more people are turning to the Web for workouts, the DVD format won't become obsolete anytime soon, say fitness experts. Ross said she still has customers who purchase VHS tapes.

Most of the downloadable workouts are short and specific, says Michele Olson, a professor of exercise science at Auburn University-Montgomery, who stars in "10 Minute Solution: Kettlebell Ultimate Fat Burner."

She said in an e-mail that well-produced exercise videos include a tutorial, instructions that are well-matched with good sound and visual quality, and different levels of the workout movements.

Some people may also find that working out in front of a computer or while holding their phone cumbersome.

"It's not like watching a TV show or a movie," said LaRue. "You have to watch and do."

Plus, there are always going to be people who don't adopt new technology, said research director David Lockwood of research firm Mintel International, pointing out that millions of U.S. households weren't ready for the switch to digital TV. And while DVR may make DVDs extinct,

it could take a couple of decades, he said. James Kunitz of DV Creations, which produces 150 fitness and dance instructional DVDs a year, believes as more people become comfortable with downloading, they will go online for their workouts. His paid site, which is for Core Rhythms' fans, has free streaming video of the Latin ballroom dance workout. He is planning to offer downloadable content later this

"We're uploading content each week, so we can keep people's interest," he said. "That's what it's all about."

As for Jubar, he said he has lost close to 30 pounds using online resources. He mainly uses Craig Ballantyne of Turbulence Training.

"You can buy a collection of his stuff," he said. "I don't see the need to. Everything I need from him is right there on YouTube."

Tomorrow's Horoscope

As sophisticated as you may be, there is still a part of you deep down inside that remains untamed. The sun and Uranus get together like wolves to whoop and howl. It feels like something wild is about to go down and

you may find yourself wondering if you should your own

nature. yell. What

ARIES (March 21-April 19).

Graceful living depends on solid organization. Your mind is sharply focused. Think ahead and make your graphs and lists. It all happens on paper before it will happen in the real world.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). For you there is no such thing as partially loving someone. You want reassurance that you have the whole pack-

age: mind, body and soul.

Furthermore, your love

is unconditional and

vou're looking for the same in return.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Things are topsy-turvy. Your routine will be upset. The one who is usually strong goes wishy-washy. Your reflexes are amazing, though, and you can turn the zaniness to your advantage. CANCER (June 22-July

22). Maybe you don't exactly know where you're going, but you know where you are not going. Say "no" to the many choices that fall below your standards and eventually you'll realize what you want to say "yes" to. **LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22).

You get where people are coming from. By listening to discourse with your intuition more than your ears, you will understand all subtext. The information helps you do well in business.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Expecting yourself to do too much will only make you feel overwhelmed, and that's not

a winning feeling. To stay within the realm of possibility you probably need to cut your list in

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct.

23). You want to know whom you can trust. Most people are honest most of the time. So think positive thoughts and go forward. A Virgo will be especially accommodating of your wishes.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). No one gets every job, date or goal he or she pursues. But you are currently on a roll and the odds are in your favor. Take risks and you'll prevail with more than your share.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your ideas are good and will be even better if you work on them awhile by yourself. Don't share every emotional state you are feeling, either. What you keep to yourself will become a powerful motivator.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Listen with great concentration. Fantastic communication is a gift to both parson doing the telling.

ties involved, though you will remember more of what is told to you today than will the per-**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your friends

still like you, even if you

haven't talked to them in

a long while. You proba-

bly won't have the time for a long chat, so send bright mental energy instead — that will keep the bonds strong, too.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Try not to diffuse your energy by reaching out to too many outsiders when the people in your inner circle need you. Loved ones who feel like they are a priority will nurture and cherish you

ASTROLOGICAL **QUESTIONS:** "I'm a Leo and my husband is a Capricorn. We haven't been getting along lately. We can't seem to communicate. Everything I say he takes the wrong way. His habits bother me. He's inconsiderate and selfish. The constant tension in the house is exhausting. I want to take a vacation away from him. What should I do?"

You are two strong, proud individuals. This uncomfortable state of your relationship could conceivably go on for years. What is worth saving here? I think there is a lot, but someone has to be humble enough to break the cycle of missed

connection and it's prob-

ably going to be you. Can

vou see this marriage as a more important entity than your own pride? Consider that you may have been too harsh in your judgment of your husband, and that he may be missing the friend that he used to have in you. Assume he needs your tenderness, and even though he may seem to have a lack of respect and appreciation for you, you are going to be the bigger person and offer him a soft, loving place to start over. The meek shall inherit marital elation. CELEBRITY

PROFILES: Emmywinning actress Sharon Stone has been a fashion model and a film producer. But did you know she is also an ordained minister? Pisces is the sign of spirituality and Stone has both her natal sun and Mercury, the communication planet, in the ethereal sign of Pisces. Her moon and Jupiter in Scorpio also indicate a fascination with the unseen forces of the universe. 2009 CREATORS

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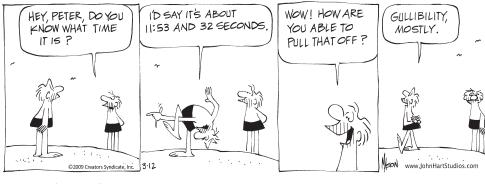


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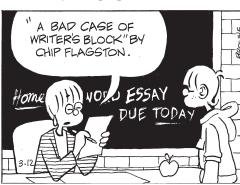
AGNES







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This Date In History

Today is Thursday, March 12, the 71st day of 2009. There are 294 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 12, 1912, Juliette Gordon Low of Savannah, Ga., founded the Girl Guides, which later became the Girl Scouts of America.

On this date:

In 1664, England's King Charles II granted an area of land in present-day North America known as New Netherland to his brother James, the Duke of York.

In 1864, Ulysses S. Grant was promoted to the rank of general-in-chief of the Union armies in the Civil War by President Abraham Lincoln.

In 1930, Indian political and spiritual leader Mohandas K. Gandhi began a 200-mile march to protest a British tax on salt. In 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt delivered the first of his 30 radio "fireside chats,"

telling Americans what was

being done to deal with the nation's economic crisis.

In 1938, the Anschluss merging Austria with Nazi Germany took place as German forces crossed the border between the two countries.

In 1939, Pope Pius XII was formally crowned in ceremonies at the Vatican.

In 1947, President Harry S. Truman established what became known as the Truman Doctrine to help Greece and Turkey resist Communism. In 1968, President Lyndon B.

Johnson won the New Hampshire Democratic primary, but anti-war Sen. Eugene McCarthy of Minnesota placed a strong second. In 1969, Paul McCartney mar-

ried Linda Eastman in London.

In 1989, some 2,500 veterans and supporters marched at the Art Institute of Chicago to demand that officials remove an American flag placed on the floor as part of a student's

Today's Birthdays: Playwright Edward Albee is 81. Former Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young is 77. Actress Barbara Feldon is 76. Broadcast journalist Lloyd Dobyns is 73. Singer Al Jarreau is 69. Actress-singer Liza Minnelli is 63. Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney is 62. Singer-songwriter James Taylor is 61. Rock singer-musician Bill Payne (Little Feat) is 60. Actor Jon Provost ("Lassie") is 59. Author Carl Hiaasen is 56. Rock musician Steve Harris (Iron Maiden) is 53. Actor Jerry Levine is 52. Singer Marlon Jackson (The Jackson Five) is 52. Actor Courtney B. Vance is 49. Actor Titus Welliver is 48. Former baseball player Darryl Strawberry is 47. Actress Julia Campbell is 46. Actor Aaron Eckhart is 41. ABC News reporter Jake Tapper is 40.

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Answer to previous puzzle

REHABESHAHEZERO

SQUARE DEALING by Fred Piscop

Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

37 Big Apple

38 Signifies

tennis stadium

40 Like some veal

41 GPS screen

Charlotte

44 Baseball great

display

Reese

stopover

48 Chowder

morsel

review

50 Sheepish look

52 "__ does it!"

49 Glowing

45 Cruise

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

- **1** Grow dim **5** Landscaper's
- tool **10** One to hang
- out with
- 13 Guided a
- gondola
- **14** Clear away
- **15** Gridder
- Manning
- 16 They're coming to you
- 18 As well
- 19 Tart fruit
- 20 Meadow male 21 Packed away
- 23 Rooster topper **25** String-section
- members
- **27** Direct path **30** Free-for-all
- **32** Lab maze runners
- 33 College sr.'s test
- **35** Like thrift-shop wares
- **36** Only one-syllable
- state name
- 38 Mogul 39 Daisy
- Yokum
- **40** Sunday service **41** Elk relative
- 42 Apartment
- instrument
- 46 New Haven student
- **47** NASCAR Now
- channel 48 Rural
- swimming spot
- **50** Salon goop **51** Director
- Preminger **55** Offer, as odds
- **56** Favorable forecast

60 Forum greeting **9** Flips a condo, maybe

12 MGM beast

Bombeck

24 Smelter input 25 Hawaiian

22 Boxer Laila

sleuth

suffix

26 Feminizing

17 Writer

13 Sleepover attire 43 Comic

- outerwear 10 Place for
- **62** Gets wind of tame animals 11 Soothing stuff **63** Prescription,
- for short **64** Blackmore
- heroine

61 Bauer of

65 Italian wine spot

DOWN

- **1** Really rotten 2 As well
- **3** Got wind of
- 4 Teacher's deg.
- Range (iron-rich
- region)
- 6 Utah city **7** Simple

- **8** Guess, for short

13

63

64

CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2009 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM

- card game
- - 27 Ready to doze 28 Mill input
 - 29 Timeline
 - divisions
 - 30 It may be
 - **31** Twin of Jacob

14

- 34 Bard's "before" **36** Nativity trio
- "the word"
- 53 Polo or Hatcher
 - **54** Hosp. areas
 - **57** Big fuss
 - **58** Altar vow

 - 59 "Gotcha!" 10 11 12

15

16 18 17 19 21 22 20 23 24 25 | 26 27 28 29 30 |31 32 33 35 36 | 37 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 48 | 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 60 61 62

65

3/12/09

Kobe's big second half leads Lakers past Houston

HOUSTON (AP) — Ron Artest always enjoys playing against Kobe Bryant — even when last year's MVP dominates their individual matchup like he did in their latest meet-

Bryant scored 18 of his 37 points in the fourth Wednesday night and the Los Angeles Lakers ended Houston's 12-game home winning streak with a 102-96 victory.

Artest, who scored only 11 points on 4-for-16 shooting with six turnovers, used all of his tactics in vain to stop Bryant in the final quarter.

Artest, however, was smiling afterward.

"That's what I like," Artest said. "I'd rather have a guy mad at me, and wanting to just destroy me, than have a guy who doesn't want to compete."

Bryant said Artest helped bring out the best in him.

"It wasn't much of a battle," Bryant said. "I kicked his (butt) tonight. We've had some battles in the past and he's gotten the best of me a few

times. Tonight, I got the best of him."

Pau Gasol scored 20 points and Josh Powell added 17 for the Lakers, who snapped a threegame road losing streak.

Reserve Von Wafer scored 20 points for the Rockets, who've lost all three meetings with the Lakers this season.

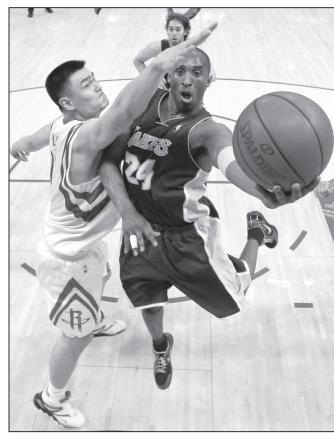
The Lakers led 75-72 when Bryant re-entered the game after a rest with 6:57 left. Only seconds later, Artest and Bryant faced off and exchanged words before referee Gary Zielinski quickly stepped in to separate them.

Both stars got technical fouls before Wafer sank a 3-pointer to tie it

"I would expect nothing less," Bryant said. "He's a competitor, I'm a competitor. It's fun."

Later, Bryant drove

inside and converted a three-point play, then swished a 3-pointer after Artest tried to make a steal. That put the Lakers up 85-80 and Bryant held his followthrough and glared at the crowd before trotting down the court.



AP photo/David J. Phillip

Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant (24) goes up for a shot as Houston Rockets center Yao Ming (11) defends during the fourth quarter of a NBA game Wednesday in Houston. The Lakers beat the Rockets 102-96.

"That's part of the game," Artest said. "You've got to talk trash to the fans. It's entertaining."

Mavericks 93. **Trail Blazers 89**

At Portland, Ore., Dirk Nowitzki had 29 points and 10 rebounds, and

Jason Terry scored 24 points to help Dalls win its seventh in nine

Nowitzki hit 13 of 24 shots, including two during the final 1:03 as Portland attempted to rally from a 13-point second-half deficit.

LaMarcus Aldridge led Portland with 23 points and 11 rebounds and Brandon Roy scored

Heat 107, Celtics 99

At Miami, Dwyane Wade scored 32 points to help the Heat remain $1\frac{1}{2}$ games behind Atlanta for fourth place Eastern the Conference.

Ray Allen scored 27 and Leon Powe had 23 points and 13 rebounds for Boston, which fell two games behind Cleveland for the East's best record.

Hawks 100, Jazz 93

At Atlanta, Joe Johnson scored 31 points, Josh Smith had 22points and rebounds,

Hawks ended Utah's 12-game winning

streak. Flip Murray scored 11 of his 16 points in the fourth quarter for

Atlanta. Deron Williams led the Jazz with 20 points and nine assists.

Magic 107, Bulls 79

At Orlando, Fla., Tony Battie had 18 points and eight rebounds to help the Magic clinch a playoff spot.

J.J. Redick had 13 points and Marcin Gortat added 13 points and 15 rebounds as Orlando inched closer to another Southeast Division title.

John Salmons had 18 points for Chicago.

Hornets 109, Wizards 98

At Washington, Chris Paul had his NBAleading sixth triple-double with 30 points, 13 assists and 10 rebounds for New Orleans.

Washington began the second half with a

See **NBA**, Page 12







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Continued from Page 11

one-point lead, before Paul compiled 14 points, six assists and four rebounds in the third quarter alone to help the Hornets outscore the Wizards 40-22 in the period.

Antawn Jamison led Washington

with 25 points and 10 rebounds.

Nuggets 112, Thunder 99

At Denver, Renaldo Balkman had 14 points and 14 rebounds and the Nuggets snapped a three-game losing

Carmelo Anthony scored 22 points and Linas Kleiza 20 for Denver, which won for just the fourth time in 12

Knicks 116, Pistons 111, OT

At Auburn Hills, Mich., Nate Robinson scored 30 points and David Lee had 16 points and 18 rebounds for the Knicks, who trailed by 10 points after three quarters.

Jeff Green's 19 points led the

Antonio McDyess had 21 points and a career-high 22 rebounds — Detroit's first 20-20 game in over 11 years.

Warriors 116, **Nets 112**

At Oakland, Calif., Stephen Jackson scored 29 points, Jamal Crawford got 15 of his 19 points in the fourth quarter, and Golden State rallied from a 14-point second-half deficit.

BAYLOR

Continued from Page 6

entire year. I'm glad that we were able to finally kind of put it together in the tournament.'

outrebounded Rogers Cornhuskers by himself and finished one board shy of tying the Big 12 tournament record of 21, set by Drew Gooden of Kansas against Texas Tech in 2002.

Lomers, playing on an injured ankle, scored 11 points — only the second time this season he'd reached double figures — on 5 of 5 shooting.

"Who are we going to match up with Kevin and Lomers together?" Sadler said, shaking his head. "We are just not going to. You have to take something away, you know?"

Baylor finished 23 of 43 from the field (53.5 percent) while Nebraska was 17 of 54 (31.5 percent) against Baylor's zone.

Steve Harley added 10 points for the Cornhuskers, who scored fewer than 50 points for the fourth time this season.

"I don't think that they did anything different than we saw down there," Sadler said of the Bears. "It is just that we didn't make shots. ... You are not going to win many ball

games shooting 31 percent from the field."

Nebraska only managed one basket in the first nine minutes of the second half, going 1-for-10 during that stretch, as Baylor built its lead to double digits. The Bears led 46-33 with 8:51 left after a basket by

"To get them out of the zone, you have to hit some shots to make them respect the shot," Nebraska's Ryan Anderson said.

Baylor sealed the win with a 10-0 run, capped by another 3-pointer by Jerrells that made it 58-37 with 4:39

After the loss to Nebraska, Jerrells said the Bears held a team meeting to prepare for the tournament and try to put aside a disappointing conference finish.

"From this point on, everybody is 0-0. You lose, you go home," Jerrells said. "We understand that. We just want to come in and our goal is to win, win, win."

Nebraska led only once, at 2-0. The Cornhuskers tied the game at 16-16 with 7:59 left in the first half, but a 12-2 run by Baylor, fueled by two 3-pointers by Dunn, put the Bears ahead 28-18. Nebraska quickly rallied, scoring nine straight points, six by Dagunduro, and trailed 30-27 at halftime.

WBC

Thunder.

Continued from Page 6

"It was fun, the adrenaline was going 100 percent," Rodriguez said.

Victor Zambrano allowed one run and three hits in 3 2-3 innings to earn the win before a crowd of 12,358. He walked two and struck out one.

Venezuela's bullpen was tagged for 13 runs over five inning in Sunday's rout by the U.S. but redeemed itself in this one, with five relievers combining to allow two runs in six innings of

"There's a lot of guys there that have never played in the major leagues, there's a lot of guys there that don't even have a job right now," Gregor Blanco said. "They never played in a ballpark like this, they never played against Derek Jeter or Pedroia or Chipper Jones, those guys."

Baltimore right-hander Jeremy Guthrie was the loser, giving up four runs and seven hits in two-plus innings. He walked two and struck out two.

Venezuela opened the scoring in the third when Henry Blanco, a veteran backup catcher now with the San Diego Padres, led off with a homer to left off Ted Lilly, the U.S. starter. Team USA tied it in the fourth.

Jeter singled, went to second on Adam Dunn's walk and scored on Ryan Braun's double down the first-base

Venezuela reclaimed the lead in the fifth against Guthrie. Henry Blanco doubled and scored on Gregor Blanco's triple to center.

Guthrie was tagged for two more in the sixth. Miguel Cabrera led off with a double, Magglio Ordonez walked and Marco Scutaro hit a two-run sin-Venezuela chased Guthrie in the

seventh when Cesar Izturis doubled, went to third on Gregor Blanco's single and scored on a base hit by Melvin

Lilly allowed one run and three hits in three innings, walked none and struck out two.

Notes: Wednesday was Bobby Abreu's 35th birthday. The Venezuela team celebrated with a baseballthemed cake in the clubhouse.

Benefit Auction & Dinner Sat. March 14th 5:00 Brisket Dinner 6:30 Auction All proceeds go to Trustin's Fund.

If you have any items that you would like to donate to the auction you can drop it off on the dock at Crossroads Auction 6607 N. Service Rd

Or call David at 432-264-9900 or Dorothy at 432-631-0626



TRUSTIN LEE LEFEVER

Trustin is 2 and has been diagnosed with Phabdomyoscarcoma, a deep soft tissue cancer that affects children ages 1-5 and teens 15-19. The cancer that runs through his tiny body is inoperable and has reached stage 3. The tumor runs form the top of his soft palette in his mouth to the sinus cavity in his forehead. The doctors say with 48 weeks of chemotherapy and radiation treatments he has a 2/3 chance of full recovery.

He is from Big Spring, Texas and is being treated at Cook Children's Hospital in Ft. Worth. Though the prognosis is good, the family has already accumulated an insurmountable number of expenses between the CareFlight from Midland and treatment at Cooks. His parents Cody and Morgan Lefever, will never be able to pay the debt they owe, so we are asking for any assistance from anyone willing to help. All funds will go directly to his care and all details can be verified locally with David and Rhonda Lefever of Big Springs, TX at Crossroads Auction Co. (432)264-9900 or (432)263-8200.

Thank you and God Bless.

TECH

Continued from Page 6

the last part of a 21-point deficit. Alan Voskuil and John Roberson followed with a pair of free throws apiece to push the lead to five.

Singletary, a sophomore whose previous scoring best was 25 points, then iced the game with two more free throws with 2.9 seconds left that provided the final margin.

"Once I got going, posting up and hitting 3s, I felt like I was going to have a good night, and my teammates kept getting me the ball," Singletary said.

His run of consecutive points without a teammate scoring is the second longest in NCAA history, behind only the 54 in a row by Bill Mlkvy of Temple in a game against Wilkes March 3, 1951.

Donald Sloan scored 22 points and Josh Carter added 15 for the Aggies (23-9), who punctuated a six-game winning streak by beating No. 14 Missouri on Saturday to hand the NCAA selection committee a good looking resume — except for the stain left by this ugly loss to the 11th-seeded

Red Raiders. "I think we were sol-

idly in because of what we accomplished — finishing (tied for) fourth in the Big 12 — and Texas Tech's a pretty hot team. They did beat Kansas seven days or eight days ago. It wasn't like it was a big fluke or anything," Aggies coach Mark Turgeon said. 'We'll see.

"It'll be a lot more anxious than it would have been if we would have won a game or two. I know that."

Texas Tech, which eclipsed the record of a 20-point comeback set by Kevin Durant and Texas two years ago, would have to become the first Big 12 team to win four tournament games in as many days to make it to the NCAAs.

"Normally, teams would have given up three or four weeks ago. These guys just haven't given up, and I think this is a great indication of that," Red Raiders coach Pat Knight said.

Davis opened the second half with a pair of free throws to put A&M ahead 50-29. Darko Cohadarevic then hit back-to-back baskets to get Tech's offense off to a better start than the first half, when the Red Raiders missed their

first 10 shots to fall into a 15-2 hole.

But the rally really got started once Singletary — who didn't even start — got rolling.

He converted Michael Prince's steal into a right-handed jam that cut the deficit to 56-44 with 13:02 remaining and soon after added a driving layup that got Tech back within single digits for the first time since the opening drought.

That started a 9-minute stretch in which Singletary outscored A&M 29-18 to give Tech the lead for the first time.

He had a personal 7-0 run that got the lead down to 65-59 on a 3-pointer from the right wing with 6:08 left, and he had a chance to tie it at 67 before missing a free throw on the back end of a bonus situation.

The Red Raiders kept going back to him, though, and he finally tied the score at 75 on a 3-pointer from right in front of the bench with 1:36. That brought his teammates to their feet immediately, and it wasn't long before they had the lead to celebrate,

Knight, the son of college basketball icon Bob Knight, didn't know what to say in the locker room afterward.

"It was the first time I've been speechless," he said. "I let them have the last word."

It wasn't that way at halftime, when it appeared the Aggies were on their way to a second 40-point win in the series in as many years. Voskuil, who finished with 14 points, suggested that the Red Raiders started believe a comeback was possible when their defensive pressure started leading to baskets.

Knight thought other-

"He's being too politically correct. His last name's not Knight," he said. "I think I really (ticked) them off at halftime, to be honest. They were kind of not feeling thrilled to be out on the court. He can give you all the politically correct stuff but if you want to be honest, I think they kind of wanted to prove me wrong.'

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