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## <u>Wednesday</u>

March 18, 2009



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**VOLUME 104, NUMBER 90** 

## U.S. to sign U.N. gay rights declaration

### By MATTHEW LEE

**Associated Press Writer** 

WASHINGTON - The Obama administration will endorse a U.N. declaration calling for the worldwide decriminalization of homosexuality that



AP photo **Barak Obama** 

then-President George W. Bush had refused to sign, Associated Press has learned. U.S. officials

said Tuesday they had notified the declaration's French sponsors that the administration wants to be added as a sup-

porter. The Bush administration was criticized in December when it was the only western government that refused

The move was made after an interagency review of the Bush administration's position on the nonbinding document, which was signed by all 27 European Union members as well as Japan, Australia, Mexico and three dozen other countries, the officials said.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because Congress was still being notified of the decision. They said the administration had decided to sign the declaration to demonstrate that the United States supports human rights for all.

"The United States is an outspoken defender of human rights and critic of human rights abuses around the world," said one official.

"As such, we join with the other supporters of this statement and we will continue to remind countries of the importance of respecting the human rights of all people in all appropriate international fora," the official said.

The official added that the United States was concerned about "violence and human rights abuses against gay, lesbian, transsexual and bisexual individuals" and was also "troubled by the criminalization of sexual orientation

See GAY, Page 3A

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#### Find us online at: Opinion **4A** www.bigspringherald.com

To reach us: Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8

**Sports** 

## a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 6 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. Sunday.

## HIGHWAY ADOPTION



Pat Simmons of Keep Big Spring Beautiful watches as a Texas Department of Transportation worker puts the finishing touches on a sign announcing a stretch of FM 700 as an adopt-a-spot for KBSB. Simmons said the group will be responsible for a two-mile portion of FM 700 from Business 20 to Wasson

## **Austin** bound

## Reservations for bus are due Thursday

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Time is running out for Crossroads residents hoping to catch the chartered bus to Austin for Big Spring Day in Austin, according to local offi-

cials, with Thursday the last day to sign up.

Teresa Darden, executive assistant for the Big Spring Economic Development Corporation, said sign ups have been fair-



ly slow the last few weeks. "The buses we have char-

tered are about half full right now, so we're hoping to get a few more people signed up to go before the 5 p.m. deadline Thursday," said Darden. "When we announced last week we were extending the deadline, I had hoped we would get a lot more people in, but it's been pretty slow."

Darden said there are currently 200 people - including students with the Howard County Choir — signed up to make the trip, which is slated for March 25.

"We're down in numbers a little compared to years past, but it's nothing drastic," said

See AUSTIN, Page 3A

## Rattlesnake Roundup to strike again following a short hiatus

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

The rattle is back.

After a one-vear absence, the Big Spring Rattlesnake Roundup will return to the Howard County Fair barns March 27-28.

The event, sponsored by the local American Business Club, took a year off in 2008 because the dates conflicted with the Easter holiday.

'That's just not a good time to hold a rattlesnake roundup," said Dennis Burns, a coordinator for the event. Despite the one-year sabbatical,

interest in the event remains high, Burns added. "A lot of people have been asking

about it," he said. "And we've gotten a lot of response from hunters. People seem to understand why we didn't have one last year." The 45<sup>th</sup> roundup will begin with

weigh-in of snakes at 1 p.m. March

Public times will be from 10 a.m. events, professional snake handler

"We teach people what to do and what not to do and how to behave around the snakes."

> -Dennis Burns, AMBUCS member and event coordinator

until 6 p.m. March 28 and noon until 4 p.m. March 29. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children ages 4 to

This year's roundup will feature many of the same attractions as past events, including handling and milking demonstrations, snake races and vendors.

Fried rattlesnake, which is said to taste remarkably like chicken, also

will be for sale. Another major attraction at past Jackie Bibby, also will be back again

this year, Burns said.

The event is a hard one to describe to someone who's never seen a rattlesnake roundup, Burns said.

"I usually just tell them to come out and see it," he said. "It's really more educational than anything. We teach people what to do and what not to do and how to behave around the snakes."

Extracting venom from the snakes also has a medical benefit, he add-

"Almost all heart attack and stroke medicine has its roots in rattlesnake venom," Burns said. Venom collected at this year's event will be sold to BioTech, a medical firm, for further

For more information on the roundup, contact Burns at 270-3409.

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

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## BIG HERALD

Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call Jonathan Hull at 263-7331, Ext. 237. Email results to: sports@bigspringherald.com

> Page 1B Wednesday, March 18, 2009

## Lady Steers drop district opener to rival Frenship

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Gremlins — and the Frenship Lady Tigers — proved too much for the Big Spring Lady Steers to handle here Tuesday.

Five errors and eight unearned runs proved the difference as Frenship posted an 11-4 victory over the Lady Steers in the District 4-4A softball opener for both teams.

Big Spring jumped out to an early 4-1 lead but defensive miscues allowed Frenship to

"It was a tough loss, especially to start district play with," said BSHS Head Coach John Sparks. "We're just as good as Frenship — I honestly believe that. We just have to learn from this and know that we can play with these people."

The Lady Steers did all their damage in the early going, posting a pair of runs in the first and second innings. Leading the way offensively for Big Spring was third baseman Jillian Valle, who had a pair of hits and scored twice.

Having gained the advantage, however, the Lady Steers were unable to maintain it as Frenship clawed to within one of the lead with a pair of runs in the third inning before retaking the lead for good in the fifth.

The Lady Tigers rapped out six hits in the decisive frame, but they were also the beneficiaries of a pair of costly Big Spring errors. Frenship plated seven runs — all but two unearned — to take a 10-4 lead and coasted home from there to take the victory.

Hope Baker relieved Frenship starter Kenvi Carnell in the second inning and held Big Spring scoreless the rest of the way to earn the victory. Kenzie Hunt took the loss for Big Spring, giving up four earned runs on 10 hits while striking out four and walking three.

The Lady Steers return to action Friday at home against Hobbs, N.M.

Frenship 102 070 1 - 11 10 1 Bia Sprina  $000 \quad 0 - 4 \quad 10 \quad 5$ 

## **Newton leads CHS** over Abilene Wylie

**Herald Staff Report** 

ABILENE – For the second time this softball season, Coahoma Buldogettes pitcher Heather Newton dominated Abilene Wylie.

Newton struck out 14 batters in a 9-1 win over Wylie Tuesday in Abilene. Earlier this season in a tournament game, Newton struck out 14 Lady Bulldogs in a 6-1 victory.

The Bulldogettes went down 1-0 in the bottom of the second inning after Wylie scored an unearned run. Coahoma's bats started waking up in the fourth, taking a 2-1 lead and later put the game out of reach with a six-run seventh inning.

Leading Coahoma at the plate was Breanna Conner, who went 2 for 3 with three RBI. Joanna Gonzales was 3 for 4, scoring three runs and knocking another in. Kalea Neff had 2 RBI as part of a 2 for 4 night.

Newton's record improves to 8-1 this season and has picked up a win in seven straight

Coahoma begins district play at 6:30 p.m. Friday, hosting Grape Creek.

000 201 6-9 12 1

010 000 0-1 3 1 Wylie

Heather Newton and Berkley Iden. Henderson and Clay. W – Newton. L – Henderson. 2B: CHS – Newton, Jennifer Castilaw, Breanna Conner. RBI: CHS - Conner 3, Kalea Neff 2, Castilaw, Joanna Gonzales, Shelbi Paige.

Check www.bigspringherald.com frequently for updates on local sports action from around the Crossroads area.

**BSHS** dominates Brownfield, 14-4

**Herald Staff Report** 

BROWNFIELD - Just a week away from starting District 4-4A play, the Big Spring Steers baseball team put together its most dominant performance of the sea-

Big Spring registered 20 hits in a 14-4 win over Brownfield Tuesday. Every starter for Big Spring had at least one hit in a game called

mercy rule.

The Steers opened up a 4-0 lead heading into the bottom of the third inning. Brownfield tied the score with a run in the third and three more in the fourth.

The Steers found their timing at the plate, scoring 10 runs in the fifth and sixth innings combined.

Cade Hollandsworth picked up

after six innings due to the 10-run the win for Big Spring, pitching six innings and allowing four runs – two earned – on two hits and six walks, while striking out eight Brownfield batters.

> The Steers host to Monahans at 6:30 p.m. Friday. They start district play at 7 p.m. Tuesday with a road game against Plainview.

Big Spring 103 037-14 20 2

Brownfield 001 300- 4 2 6

# Hawks falter at NJCAA, drop opener to Kaskaskia



**HERALD** photo/Tony Claxton

Howard College's Danielle Cota (22) shoots over Kaskaskia College (III.) guard Erica Lewis in the first round of the NJCAA National Tournament Tuesday at the Bicentennial Center in Salina, Kan. The Hawks fell to Kaskaskia, 61-55, moving into the consolation bracket. They play Vincennes University (Ind.) at 4 p.m. today.

By JONATHAN HULL

Sports Editor

SALINA, Kan. - Howard College's women's basketball team is grateful to be at the NJCAA National Tournament, but the Hawks aren't exactly satisfied, either.

This is why Tuesday's 61-55 loss to the 11th-seeded Kaskaskia College (Ill.) Blue Angels in the first round of the touranament is disappointing.

Adding to the letdown is the way Howard opened the game, leading by as many as 18 points in the first half.

"Without question, this is a game that got away from us," said Howard coach Earl Diddle. "Early in the game, we were up 12-0 and I was sitting there thinking we should be ahead 24-0. We missed some wonderful opportunities early and the next thing you know Kaskaskia is coming back."

Howard, which is a sixth seed in the tournament field of 16, scored the first 12 points of the contest. Kaskaskia didn't make its first basket until almost eight minutes had elapsed from the game clock, when Keianna Harris connected with a jumper in the lane.

The Hawks' lead ballooned to 18 points by the 9:03 mark, 23-5, and stayed in double digits until there was 3:22 to play in the first

Kaskaskia's run started at the 3:57 mark. Down 28-13, the Blue Angels outscored the Hawks, 14-5, in the final four minutes of the first half, trimming what was once an 18-point advantage to six,

"They were a tough group," said Diddle. "They got some

See **HOWARD**, page 6A

## Forsan falls to Miles, beats Loraine

**Herald Staff Report** 

FORSAN - Forsan played two district baseball games in two days Monday and Tuesday and came out of the consecutive games with a win and a loss.

The Buffs fell to Miles Monday, 5-2, but rebounded to smash Loraine Tuesday, 19-0.

Dylan Lowery took the loss against Miles, allowing five runs on four hits and three walks, while striking out three batters. Two of Miles' four hits were home runs.

Both of Forsan's runs came off

the bat of Jake Rhoton, who tied the game at two with a single that scored Michael Mims and Ryan

Tuesday's win went to Rey Martinez as he gave up just three hits in three innings pitched. Payton Parker finished the game, relieving Martinez in the fourth inning and pitching the final two frames. Parker surrendered just one hit and struck out three bat-

Foster Burchett shined at the plate with a triple and four RBI.

Evan Burton and Patrick Robles each had two RBI.

The Buffs scored at least three runs in each of the four innings they went to the plate, including nine in the second. The game was called after the top of the fifth due to the 10-run mercy rule.

Forsan is now 2-1 in district play and travels to Winters at 5 p.m. Friday.

The Forsan softball team was in action Tuesday, playing host to Eldorado, but results were not available as of press time.

## Sports in brief

## Moss Creek hosting ATV and side-by-side races

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

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-per-number of flights determined by entries.

son scramble tournament April 4-5 with a 1 p.m. shotgun start both days.

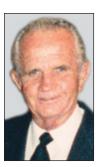
Entry fee is \$60 per player plus golf cart. Private carts are welcome.

Entry includes barbecue on the course April 4 and practice rounds the day before.

Field will e flighted by first round score withe

## **Obituaries**

## John E. Gibbs



John E. Gibbs, 75, formerly of Big Spring died Sunday, March 8, 2009, in a Memphis, Tenn., hospital. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 21, 2009, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel in Big Spring with the Rev. Monroe Teeters, pastor of Salem Baptist Church, officiating. Graveside services will be held at 4 p.m. Saturday at the

Pleasant Valley Cemetery in May, Texas.

The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. Friday, March 20, at the funeral home.

He was born June 2, 1933, in May and married Judy Word Aug. 25, 1962, in Midland.

He attended Texas A&M University and served in the U.S. Army in Germany in the early 1950s. He worked more than 40 years for Mobil Oil Corporation in the West Texas and Eastern New Mexico oil fields. He had resided in Big Spring for more than 25 years. He moved to Memphis, Tenn.,

to stay close to his grandchildren.

He was a member of the Salem Baptist Church. Survivors include his son and daughter-in-law, James "Chuck" and Lindie Gibbs of Brighton, Tenn.; his brother and sister-in-law, Jack and Sylvia Gibbs; a nephew; niece; and four grandchil-

He was preceded in death by his wife, Judy; and his eldest brother and sister-in-law, James Hugh and Patsy Gibbs.

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

## Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2400 block of Allbrook. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1100 block of Pennsylvania. One person was transported to
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1200 block of Blackmon. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1500 block of Sycamore. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 4800 block of Parkway. Service refused. TRAUMA was reported in the 3200 block of
- Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC. • MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of
- Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.
- GRASS FIRE was reported in the 1900 block of Martin Luther King Boulevard.
- RUBBISH FIRE was reported in the 1600 block of Lancaster.

## ipport Groups

## **SUNDAY**

• Alcoholics Anonymous meets from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 5 p.m. until 6

## **MONDAY**

• Encourager's Support Group for all widows and widowers meets the first and third Monday of the month. For more information, call Nancy Hale at 398-5239.

## Police blotter

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

- DENNIS WAYNE BOSWELL, 37, of 1425 E. Sixth St., was arrested Tuesday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance – more than four grams, less than 200 grams.
- GINNIFER ROSSANN BOSWELL, 28, of 1425 E. Sixth St., was arrested Tuesday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance - more than four grams, less than 200 grams.
- UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF A FIREARM BY A FELON was reported in the 2500 block of
- THEFT was reported:
- in the 700 block of Interstate Highway 20.
- in the 1200 block of 11th Place.
- in the 400 block of Birdwell Lane. in the 900 block of Willia.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 2900 block of Highway 87.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 1900 block of Martin Luther King Blvd.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 1000 block of Baylor.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the 400 block of Fourth Street.
- AGGRAVATED ASSAULT was reported in the 2900 block of Highway 80.

## Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 57 inmates at the time of this report.

- CHRIS CATALAN, 18, was arrested Tuesday by DPS on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- ANNA NICKLE, 27, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on charges of assault causing bodily injury and criminal mischief.
- SHERRY LYNN DRIGGER JOHNSON, 42, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for driving while intoxicated third or more offense.
- RUSSELL WAYNE CLAY, 48, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence (charge not provided).
- MARLA DEANNE LAUDAN, 40, was arrested Tuesday by DPS on a charge of theft by check.
- MICHAEL RENE ROBLES, 36, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal mischief.
- COLBY ROSS THURMAN, 26, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on charges of expired driver's license, speeding - 79 MPH in a 65 MPH and unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon.
- PATRICK RIOS, 19, was arrested Tuesday by DPS on a charge of no driver's license.
- RONALD ELLISON, 42, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.

## Take Note

- Michael Quinn Sullivan will be the guest speaker at a meeting of the West Texas Pachyderms, set for 7 p.m. this evening in Howard College's Hall Auditorium. Admission is free. For more information, contact Melanie Gambrell at 267-7387.
- Mobile Meals needs volunteers. If you can donate one hour per week to our organization delivering meals between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m., you will be helping the senior citizens of Big Spring. Contact Macaria Cantu at 263-4016.

#### Your Local Weather Sat 3/19 3/20 3/21 70/49 78/49 74/53 Partly cloudy. High near Mostly cloudy. Highs in Partly cloudy, chance of 70F. Winds NE at 10 to the upper 70s and lows

## **Bulletin Board**

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

### **TODAY**

• Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third St.

## **THURSDAY**

- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
- · Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association meets at 5:30 p.m. in the Big Spring City Council Chambers, 307 E. Fourth.
- League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. The public is invited.
- American Legion Post 506 meets at 6 p.m. Call 263-2084 for more information.
- · Rackley-Swords 379, Vietnam Veterans of America meets at 7 p.m. in the Sparenburg Building, 309 S. Main St.
- Big Spring Masonic Lodge No. 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

#### **FRIDAY**

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

### **SATURDAY**

- Big Spring Shrine Club meets at 6:30 p.m. at Goliad and First streets for a meal with a meeting to follow.
- Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.
- Big Spring Squares. Call 267-7043 or 263-6305 for more information.

## Lottery

The winning numbers from Tuesday night's Mega Millions drawing were: nine, 15, 24, 28 and 31. The Mega Ball number was 17.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 14-29-18-7-35. Number matching five of five: 1. Prize: \$24,845 Winning ticket purchased in: Rockwall.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 4-1-6-9. Sum It Up: 20.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 9-1-7. Sum It

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### **Garage Sales**

GARAGE SALE: To Benefit Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. 1702 Harvard Ave., Saturday 8:00-? No Early Birds. Sofa sleeper, mini refrigerator, baby items, toddler bed, books, dishes, exercise equipment, maternity clothes and much

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FARM HAND Wanted! Experience only apply. Call after 7:00 p.m. (432)684-5418.

FOOD SERVICE Manager. Experience necessary. Salary, Benefits. Fax resume to (817)656-9327. Apply in person Student Center, Howard College.

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HILLCREST CDC has Part-time Child giver position available, Mon-Fri. Must have high school diploma or GED. Hillcrest CDC, 2000 West FM

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Midland, Texas 79702 Email: hr@reefcorp.com Fax: (800)504-1840

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Refreshments and organizational assistance will be provided by the Big Spring Rotary Club and the Boys Club Board of Directors. Don't miss this opportunity to see and experience part of the history of Big Spring, while at the same time assisting the Boys Club and the Kids Zone project.

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Channing Martin, a senior at Big Spring High School, has been named Rotary Student of the Month for January. She will be attending Texas Christian University in the fall, majoring in business with a minor in communications. She is a member of the National Honor Society and a Student Council officer. She is also a member of the Principal's Leadership Program and Interact. She has been a volunteer at the Big Spring State Hospital, the Big Spring Chalet Shop, Keep Big Spring Beautiful Trash-Off, and Trick or Treat for the Humane Society. Channing is a member of The First United **Methodist Church. Pictured from** left are BSHS Principal Mike Ritchey, Greater Big Spring Rotary Club President Dr. Keith Graumann, Rotary Student of the Month Channing Martin, and Channing's parents, Johnny and Karen Martin.

## Colorado gas pump explodes in flames, killing 1

**COLORADO** SPRINGS, Colo. (AP) - A convenience fire and exploded Tuesday, killing a woman and injuring at least one other person, police said.

fire after it was hit by a pickup that had in turn been investigation.

The woman was pumping gas when the fire erupted, identified the woman who was for suspicion of careless Witnesses told The Gazette and she was trapped between killed as 18-year-old Whitney newspaper the pump caught the pump and a minivan, Hendrickson of Colorado misdemeanor, Whitlock said.

witnesses said.

"She was standing there Alderman told The Gazette.

Springs.

The SUV driver, 29-yearstore gasoline pump caught struck by an SUV. Police screaming 'Help me! Help old Kelli Renae McKay said the incident was under me! I'm going to die," Greg of Colorado Springs, was treated at Memorial Hospital Police Lt. Dave Whitlock for bruises. She was cited driving involving a death, a

A passenger in the minivan was unharmed as was the driver of the pickup.

Alderman, who works across the street from the 7-Eleven store where the explosion occurred, said he tried to get to the woman but the heat was too intense.

## **GAY**

Continued from Page 1A

in many countries."

"In the words of the United States Supreme Court, the right to be free from criminaliza-

tion on the basis of sexu-

al orientation 'has been

accepted as an integral

part of human freedom'," the official said. Gay rights and other groups had criticized the Bush administration when it refused to sign the declaration when it was presented at the United Nations on Dec. 19. U.S. officials said then that the U.S. opposed discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation but that parts of the declaration raised legal questions that needed further review.

According to nego-

tiators, the Bush team had concerns that those parts could commit the federal government on matters that fall under state jurisdiction. In some states, landlords and private employers are allowed to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation; on the federal level, gays are not allowed to serve openly in the military.

It was not immediately clear on Tuesday how the Obama administration had come to a different conclusion.

When it was voted on in December, 66 of the U.N.'s 192 member countries signed the declaration — which backers called a historic step to push the General Assembly to deal more forthrightly with antigay discrimination.

But 70 U.N. members outlaw homosexuality - and in several, homosexual acts can be punished by execution. More than 50 nations, including members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, opposed the declaration.

Some Islamic countries said at the time that protecting sexual orientation could lead to "the social normalization and possibly the legalization of deplorable acts" such as pedophilia and incest.

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

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## AUSTIN

Continued from Page 1A

Darden. "I'm not really sure why. I suppose with money so tight these days there are people who want to go but simply can't afford the cost.'

Terry Wegman, executive director of the Big Spring EDC, said the deadline only pertains to those wishing to take advantage of the chartered buses and catered lunch, but he's hoping evervone who plans to go will sign up with their office before they

"We're asking everyone to register at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, regardless of how they are getting there or when they are leaving," said Wegman. "For those planning to take advantage of the bus we have chartered, we'll be leaving from mately 11 p.m." the east parking lot at Howard College's Dorothy Garrett Coliseum at 4:30 a.m.

"It's \$40 to take the bus, and that included transportation to and from the capitol and a box lunch while we're there. The deadline to pay for a bus ticket or order a box lunch is Thursday. If you're not taking the bus but want to have a box lunch waiting for you, it's \$9. The Thursday deadline also pertains to the box lunches.

"Food and drinks on the bus will be the responsibility of those traveling, and on the way back we'll be stopping off at Coopers Barbecue, which will be Dutch treat. We expect to arrive back at Howard College at approxi-

Wegman said the time at the State Capitol will group photo on the Capbe well spent, featuring a number of events to help highlight Big and Howard Spring County.

"They will read the resolution on the floor of the House and Senate proclaiming March 25 Big Spring Day in Austin," said Wegman. "Also, students from the Howard County School Choir — made up of students from several different schools in the area — will perform in

the Rotunda. We'll have a box lunch on the East Grounds of the Capitol. as well as have a Coke and Blue Bell Ice Cream reception, followed by a itol steps."

attend are being asked to follow a dress code while in the capitol, Wegman said. "We're asking every-

Residents planning to

one to wear a Big Spring shirt and khaki pants or skirt," said Wegman.

For more information on Big Spring Area Day in Austin, call Big Spring EDC at 264-6032 or the Big Spring Chamber at 263-7641.

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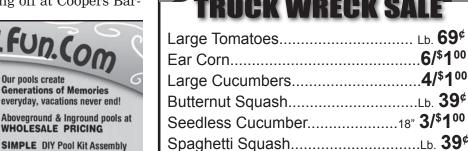
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# Editorial

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff

Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan News Editor

## Our View

# Symphony will close season with a change

omething new will be in store for the audience as the Big Spring Symphony Orchestra wraps up its 2008-2009 season Saturday night in the Big Spring High School auditorium.

Titled "The Bard and the Balladeer," the concert will feature cowboy music and poetry, including performances by guests Don Edwards and Waddie Mitchell.

While one doesn't normally think of cowboy music and symphony orchestras together, Dr. Keith Graumann says those who attend Saturday's performance, set for 8 p.m., will think differently after the show.

"Don Edwards is an old farmhand, who sings cowboy songs and has a beautiful voice," Graumann said. "And he's written a number of the songs himself that work extremely well with the lush sounds of the orchestra.

"Waddie Mitchell is perhaps the best-known cowboy poet in the country," Graumann added. "He's won numerous awards and he's very funny."

Both Edwards and Mitchell performed here several years ago and were well received by the audience, Graumann said.

The performance of the Aaron Copland piece "Hoe-Down" will open the show and following the two guest performers' work, the orchestra will close the show with several works including "Ghost Riders in the Sky," "West of Yesterday" and "Santa Rosa Serenade."

Tickets will be available at the door. Prices are \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors and \$5 for students. For more information, call 264-7223.

We hope you'll take advantage of what promises to be an extremely entertaining and fun-filled evening with the Big Spring Symphony.

We'll see you there.

## How to contact us

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

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

## LETTER POLICIES

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- Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we start anything of vital importance with You, Lord.

Obama: Both sides now

ow the tables have turned. In September 2008, when GOP presidential nominee John McCain said "the fundamentals of our economy are strong," unemployment was 6.1 percent,

the credit crunch had yet to reach the point that prompted President George W. Bush to propose a bailout, and Team Obama proclaimed that an out-of-touch McCain "just doesn't get it" on the economy.



Debra Saunders

Now with unemployment at 8.1 percent, the \$700 billion-plus Bush

bailout has been followed by the \$787 billion Obama stimulus package, and some D.C. Democrats already are arguing for another stimulus package because the first Obama stimulus bill didn't do the trick. Yet top Obama economic adviser Christina Romer told "Meet the Press" on Sunday, "Of course, the fundamentals (of the U.S. economy) are sound in the sense that the American workers are sound, we have a good capital stock, we have good technology." (Those qualifying statements sound a lot like the McCain explanation for his positive diagnosis of the economy — "that the workers of America are the fundamentals of the economy.")
President Obama himself said

President Obama himself said last week, "If we are keeping

focused on all the fundamentally sound aspects of our economy ... then we're going to get through this."

If Obama is confident about the soundness of the U.S. economy, does that mean he "just doesn't get it?" No, it means that he is president. Now he has to pay the political price for incessant badmouthing of the U.S. economy. Now he has to prop up the very system at which he had been sniping for years.

And I do mean years. Of course Obama spent 2007 and 2008 talking down the economy — he was running in a Democratic primary. But as far back as 2002, before he became a senator, Obama suggested that Bush was waging war against Saddam Hussein "to distract us from corporate scandals and a stock market that has just gone through the worst month since the Great Depression." Factually, Obama was incorrect.

There had been four bigger one-month drops since the Depression — but there was little downside to over-trashing the economy, albeit inaccurately, during the Bush years.

Now Obama owns the economy
— so the economy fear-mongering must end. As top White
House economic adviser Larry
Summers told the Brookings
Institution, "We need to instill
the trust that allows opportunity
to overcome fear and enables
families and businesses to again
imagine a brighter future." In
what he called "the central paradox of financial crisis," Sum-

mers observed "that while the problem was caused by excessive complacency and excessive optimism, what we need today is more optimism and more confidence."

That sounds like a column I wrote last September when I thought Democrats were being overly pessimistic about an economy that had been wounded by a government loan to AIG (then \$85 billion), a \$30 billion bailout in May for JP Morgan to buy Bear Stearns and the pricey shoring up of mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

Clearly, I was wrong about looming damage of overly swapped bad credit and Wall Street panic.

Six months later, two Washington administrations have thrown another \$2 trillion into the pit — and some Democrats are arguing that more spending is needed to stimulate the economy.

On the one hand, I think Summers is right. Fear and panic are stalling an engine that still has plenty of kick left — but it won't start purring until the public believes again.

Now that they're on the running-things side, Obama and company are learning that it's a lot easier to kick the economy than to jump start it.

Too bad that they were a lot better at kicking it.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfchronicle.com. COPYRIGHT 2009 CREATORS SYNDICATE INC.



NOT-SO-BIG GOVERNMENT

## Read my lips: 'Raise my taxes'

t seems everybody these days has a request for President Obama. "Bail out my bank." "Bail out my car company." "Bail out my industry." "Bail out my state."

But I have a request that the President doesn't hear too often: "Raise my

taxes."
To help explain
why, let's review
where we were as
a country eight

years ago.
President Clinton had recently departed, leaving his successor a projected 10-year surplus of \$5.1

projected 10-year surplus of \$5.1 trillion. That's a pretty nice gift to leave an in-

coming president.
Think of how President Bush

**M**IKE

LAPHAM

could have handled that awesome gift. He might have used that rare opportunity to invest in our country's future — through infrastructure improvements, rebuilding schools, investing in healthcare, or building muchneeded affordable housing. What did President Bush do

instead? His top priority was to give most of the surplus away in tax cuts for wealthy Americans. Over 56 percent of his 2001 tax cuts went to the top 10 percent of taxpayers. Thankfully, a number of wealthy folks spoke out against his No. 1 priority — repealing the estate tax. But otherwise he got most of what he wanted.

rtance
Not satisfied with draining the public coffers to this extent, he
Amen came back for more goodies for

the have-mores in 2003, passing further cuts in individual and corporate taxes, including drastically reducing dividend taxes. Year after year, Mr. Bush's tax cuts phased in further, even as the projected surplus vanished, annual deficits grew, and

we started two costly wars.

Fast forward to 2009. The "gifts" left by President Bush to his successor include: an economy in tatters, a roughly \$1.2 trillion annual deficit for FY09 (before Obama's stimulus spending), a projected one-year deficit of \$3.1 trillion, and a national debt nearing \$11 trillion. President Bush's real gift has been to wealthy individuals like me, and it's a gift that keeps on giving, year after year, even as we head deeper into a recession that has no end in sight. If you're curious how much you saved last year from recent tax cuts, there's a handy 5-minute calculator on Responsible Wealth's website.

In previous times of economic hardship, and especially during times of war, wealthy Americans have been called on to sacrifice along with everyone else, although not under Mr. Bush.

People all around the country (and indeed the world) are suffering from this recession. Homeowners have lost their homes due to unscrupulous lending practices. Workers are losing their jobs as the effects of the slowdown ripple and cascade through the economy. States are facing massive budget gaps that result in painful cuts on those who can least afford them. Reagan's trickle down never trickled down, but this current

version of trickle down tragedy

is soaking everyone, especially

those at the bottom.

It's time for those of us at the top of the economic ladder to share in the sacrifice.

President Obama seems to be having a hard time getting up the nerve to follow through on his campaign pledge to raise taxes on upper-income taxpayers. Those of us who benefited so handsomely from Bush's extravagant gifts need to raise our voices — to President Obama, to Congress, to the press, to our fellow citizens, and say forcefully, "It's our turn to sacrifice."

It's time to roll back the 2001 Bush tax cuts on upper income taxpayers (i.e., restore the 39.6 percent and 36 percent rates). It's time to reinstate the estate tax at a reasonable level (say \$2 million exemption per person and a 45 percent marginal rate). It's time to end preferential treatment of dividends and capital gains they should be taxed at least as high as ordinary income. And it's time to end the tax advantages for extreme executive pay, including hedge fund and private equity compensation.

Those of us with higher incomes and greater wealth can afford to pay more, and we have a patriotic duty — yes, patriotic — to share in the sacrifice and pay our fair share of taxes during this economic crisis.

Mike Lapham is project director of Responsible Wealth, a network of more than 700 business leaders and wealthy individuals. Since 1997, members of Responsible Wealth (a project of United for a Fair Economy) have redirected their tax cuts to tax fairness ef-

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exaggerating, but take

them up on it anyway. It

will be amusing to watch

them stretch into their

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TAURUS (April 20-May

20). Count all your many

positive traits. You need

to be in a confident mood

opportunities you'll be

given. And realizing what

you're good at helps you

know which options are

21). You are adventurous,

energetic and ready to

take on the world. There

are those around you who

can't match your glee,

but they'll go up a notch

CANCER (June 22-July

22). You have a talent for

sorting out the good ideas

from the bad ones. People

who either can't decide

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## Tomorrow's Horoscope

interesting talks going on Saturn for advice. **LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). communication. Saturn

You are being asked to compromise by someone who has not been willing to bend to accommodate you. Get distance from this situation and the other person just might change his or her tune.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). What was supposed be a temporary situation seems to be lasting forever. Good communication fixes it. Make new rules or remind the other people involved what the original arrangement was.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll be striking a deal. It's tempting to be generous too undervalue your contribution. Be careful not to cage yourself into a situation that has you doing and giving more than is good for you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Young people will respect, listen and follow you. Not because you have sound advice, but because of who you are. Your example will inspire someone to make behavioral improvements.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You are strong and capable, but it's unwise to expect yourself to do it all. Sometimes it just isn't possible balance to everything with grace. Your best move is to delegate a task before it drops by the wayside.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Though you believe in the virtues of moderation, you are attractive,

on a plan or are confused much too passionate now about the one they've to hold back. You're chosen will come to you likely to lose yourself in the ecstasy of your chosen pursuit, so make it something you can be proud of.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Older family members need you. It's not your physical help they need so much as your acceptance and love. Forgive again and let the past stay where it belongs.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Today is about building your emotional core strength. If you take what other people say too seriously, it will throw you off balance. Listen for the validity in every comment, but stay centered on what you know is right.

**ASTROLOGICAL** 

**QUESTIONS:** "I'm a Leo woman debating whether to have plastic surgery. I'm almost 40, I've never been that happy with my nose and I feel like I could use some lifting and tucking elsewhere, too.

you have any Do thoughts on the subject? My friends think I'm crazy for wanting to change my nose this late in the game." Looks are important to everyone, especially proud, presentational Leo. As you make this decision, keep the big picture in mind.

Think of beauty as not merely an arrangement of features, but an overall effect. Nothing is more beautiful than a beautiful mind. Consider whether there might be other things you could do that will make you feel more

pursuing a study, interest or cause.

Look objectively at many before and after pictures of the procedures you are thinking about and ask yourself whether the subjects actually look more attractive in the "after" photos.

In some cases you will probably think that the naturalness in the "before" picture seems better than the new improved version. If you still want the surgery after all your research, it is probably right for you. I suggest you try to schedule it on the new moon.

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** Rapper, singer, model and actress Queen Latifah is a superstar Pisces born under a show-stopping Leo moon. "Latifah" is an Arabic word for "kind." Latifah expresses her kindness through uplifting entertainment and also through the support of charities such as Citymeals-on-Wheels. Her natal communication planet, Mercury, is in Pisces, the station of empathy imagination.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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## Annie's Mailbox •

Dear Annie: When I was younger, my mother revealed to me that I have a half sister as a result of an affair my father had when I was a toddler.

I know their marriage was in trouble back then, but it doesn't excuse his betrayal, not only of Mom, but of me. My father has never spoken to me about "Donna," and until three years ago, he had no contact with her aside from child support payments.

Three years ago, Donna contacted him and asked to meet. The whole thing was very hush-hush, and I only found out later when my mother said it had opened up 20 years of hurt.

She didn't think Donna was aware that my father was married when she was conceived. year ago, I made contact with Donna. We've met and have exchanged a few e-mails. I have told her everything I know, but I'm not looking for a sibling relationship.

Recently she asked if I would mind sending pictures and inquired whether I had told my parents that we are in touch.

I feel a little guilty that I haven't confided this to Mom, but I'm afraid it will only hurt her. Donna also has asked if my younger sister would like to meet her.

if Frankly, that happens, I know my sister will spill the beans to both our parents. My husband is the only other person who knows I'm emailing Donna.

Annie, if I keep this secret, I fear it will lead to a blowup in the future if the truth comes out. Donna hasn't told her about mother our correspondence, either, because the woman had such a negative reaction when Donna contacted

My father has never taken accountability for

Dad to begin with.

KATHY MITCHELL MARCY SUGAR

this. I think he owes it to me to discuss this directly. Should I tell my parents? — Somewhat Sister

Sister: Dear Eventually, this information will come out. You are entitled to correspond with whomever you wish, but you won't protect your mother from the hurt by keeping secrets.

Tell both your parents, together, what you have been doing and apologize if it opens old wounds.

**Dear Annie:** I have been dating "Jim" for five months. We are both 53 years old. When we get together, we usually have a great time. However, at some point, he always brings up his exgirlfriend — something she said or did.

He dated her for nine years and they separated three years ago. When he does this, I become upset and we argue. Then he gets up and leaves.

Am I wrong to feel that she need not be brought up during our time together? Does this mean he still cares for her? Am I overreacting? Maybe I shouldn't be in this relationship after all. -Mary

Dear Mary: If, after three years, he still brings up the girlfriend's in name every conversation, it means he isn't over her. Use that information as you see fit.

**Dear Annie:** I read the letter from "Broke Cousin," who attended a wedding and didn't bring gift because couldn't afford it.

Whoever receives an invitation to a gift-giving affair, be it a wedding, bar mitzvah, birthday or anniversary, and then attends the event has months to save up a small amount.

Even a dollar a week can be enough. instance, a small photo album costs very little and a congratulatory note can be written on the inside cover.

If she has a camera (or borrows one), she can take pictures of the couple and put them inside.

A thoughtful gift like that can go a long way. Attending an affair with no gift or card seems inconsiderate to me, no matter how broke someone is.

Just cutting out one cup of coffee a week would be enough, and then she doesn't have to feel guilty for showing up empty-handed. — No Guilt in Sarasota, Fla.

Dear Sarasota: There are myriad gifts one can give that will not break the budget. Thanks for the great suggestions.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell andMarcySugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Pleasee-mail your questionsto anniesmailbox@comcast.n et, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit theCreators Syndicate Web page at

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## Why Not Check This Out? At the library

hile visiting some friends, the grandmother-to-be mentioned how cute her daughter's family was decorating the first grandchild's room. You can do the same thing with "Paint Can! Children's Rooms" (698.14 GOOS) by Sunny

Goode. There are lots of great ideas and techniques to try out. It is a neat book to check out.

Every relationship can go through some rough and rocky times. David H. Olson, along with Amy Olson-Sigg, has written "The Couple Checkup" (646.78 OLS D). Based on an unprecedented national survey of 50,000 marriages, "The Couple

Hollis **McC**right

Checkup" presents the principles for creating a successful couple relationship.

The free online profile includes 15 to 20 categories that are customized based on the relationship stage whether dating, engaged or married, and whether children are involved. The book also includes the SCOPE Personality Profile and the Couple and Family Map of the relationship

Each chapter of the book matches a category in the free individual profile. While the book stands on its own, using the Couple Checkup with the book provides the maximum benefit. In addition, each chapter contains couple exercises to help build couple strengths in a variety of areas. This description is from Ama-

Here is a great book on a western cowboy. Ed Blanchard was recognized as a wild and reckless cowboy long before he became the maker of spurs.

Jane Pattie, an independent writer who has written many books on western subjects, has meticulously researched Ed's life and times.

Along with Tom Kelly, they have written "Cowboy Spur Maker: The Story of Ed Blanchard" (682.092 PAT S). Ed "cowboyed" in New Mexico and on up into Wyoming areas. He was a rascal, but also a good hand who could turn his hand to anything

the ranch life could throw at him. While I have not completely read Pattie's book, just dipping into it whets my interest.

Sheila Walsh has written "Get Off Your Knees and Pray" (248.32 WAL S) which is a guide to prayer. Sometimes people think that prayer only belongs in church and proper words are required.

Walsh disagrees (as do students when confronted by an unexpected quiz in school) with that opinion.

This book is designed to guide a woman in prayer, from understanding the biblical basis to developing your own personal relationship with your God.

On a related note, check out Sandi Patty's "Layers: Uncovering and Celebrating God's Original Idea of You" (248.843 PAT S). Like Walsh, Patty also promotes a journey on discovering God within your life. While these are written by women, men should not shy away from checking these

Here are a couple of soldier books, one from Korea, the other from Iraq. Both are about Marines and both paint a true, if painful, account of war.

"The Last Stand of Fox Company" (951.904 DRU B) by Bob Drury and Tom Clavin is about Fox Company, a small and courageous unit of Seventh Marine Regiment. Just reading the opening book flap is a short account of the atrocity of the battle. The battle is only four days long, but lasts an eternity in the soldier's lives.

Bing West and Major General Ray L. Smith have written "The March Up: Taking Baghdad with the United States Marines" (956.704 WES B). This is a definitive account of the 22day march into Baghdad during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Both are well worth checking out.

Here is a neat book (and I am getting hungry reading it). It is Betty Crocker's "Ultimate Bisquick Cookbook" (641.555 WIL P) from Wiley Publishing. There are hot sandwiches, appetizers, bar cookies and lots and lots of different quick ways to use Bisquick. You may not find it on the shelf, because I am checking it out.

The Library has just received a tremendously large amount of large print books. Please check the New Book binder for the list of new LP materials.

Large print materials are not just for those people whose vision may be compromised; they are for everyone.

Many times we may not find a particular book in the "regular" print, but do find it in large print. Authors run the gamut from Jodi Picoult to Debbie Macomber, Cormac Mc-Carthy to Richard North Patterson. There is a small collection of nonfiction and biography in LP, but our main focus is fiction, mystery and westerns. Come peruse the large print aisle.

Just a reminder, the Library is lo-

cated at 500 S. Main St. Our phone number is 264-2260.

The website is www.howard-county.lib.tx.us; currently it is down, but we are working with a new ISP provider to get it back up.

Looking ahead, the Library will close for Good Friday April 10 and Saturday, April 11, for Easter Holiday. You can always return materials in the new book drop that the Friends of the Library graciously donated funds to purchase. It is designed to take books on the left-hand side and movies, BOT or BOCD on the right hand side.

Hollis McCright is director of the Howard County library.

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# **Dating**



## What is it?

Dating violence is controlling, abusive and aggressive behavior in a romantic relationship. It can happen in straight or gay relationships. It can include verbal, emotional, physical, or sexual abuse, or a combination of them. Controlling behavior includes

Not letting you hang out with your friends

- Calling or paging you frequently to find out where you are, who you're with, and what you're doing Telling you what to wear
- · Having to be with you all the time
- Verbal and emotional abuse includes:
- Calling you names
- Jealousy Belittling you (cutting you down)
- Threatening to hurt you, someone in your family, or themselves if you don't do what they want
- Physical abuse include Shoving • Punching • Slapping • Pinching • Hitting • Kicking • Hair pulling • Strangling
- Sexual abuse includes: Unwanted touching and kissing • Forcing you to have sex
- Not letting you use birth control Forcing you to do other sexual things

- Anyone can be a victim of dating violence. Both boys and girls are victims, but boys and girls abuse their partners in

- different ways. Girls are more likely to yell, threaten to hurt themselves, pinch, slap, scratch, or kick. Boys injure girls more, are more likely to punch their partner, and more likely to force them to participate in unwanted sexual activity. Some teen victims experience violence occasionally. Others are abused more often, sometimes daily. If you are a victim of dating violence, you might...
- Think it's your fault Feel angry, sad, lonely, depressed or confused
- Feel helpless to stop the abuse Feel threatened or humiliated · Feel anxious · Not know what might happen next
- Feel like you can't talk to family and friends Be afraid of getting hurt more seriously
- Feel protective of your boyfriend/girlfriend You're not alone
- One in three teenagers has experienced violence in a dating relationship
- 50 percent to 80 percent of teens have reported knowing others who were involved in violence relationships. 15 percent of teen girls and boys have reported being victims of severe dating violence (defined as being hit, thrown
- down, or attacked with a weapon). 8 percent of 8th and 9th grade students have reported being victims of sexual dating violence. Young women, ages 16 to 24 years, experience the highest rates of relationship violence
- Get help Being a victim of dating violence is not your fault. Nothing you say, wear, or do gives anyone the right to hurt you.
- If you think you are in abusive relationship, get help immediately. Don't keep your concerns to yourself. Talk to someone you trust like a parent, teacher, school principal, counselor or nurse.
- · If you choose to tell, you should know that some adults are mandated reporters. This means they are legally required to report neglect or abuse to someone else, like the police or child protective services. You can ask people if they are mandated reporters and then decide what you want to do. Some examples of mandated reporters are teachers, counselors, doctors, social workers, and in some cases, even coaches or activity leaders. If you want to help deciding who to talk to, call our Helpline at 1-800-FYI-CALL, or an anonymous crisis line in your area. You might also want to talk to a trusted family member, a friend's parent, an adult neighbor or friend, an older sibling or cousin, or other experienced person who you trust.
- · If you want to get advice about who to talk to, call our helpline (1-800-FYI-CALL) or an anonymous crisis hotline ir your area. You might also want to talk to a trusted family member, a friend's parent, an adult neighbor or friend, an older sibling or cousin, or other experienced person who you trust.

## Help Yourself

Think about ways you can be safer. This means thinking about what to do, where to go for help, and who to call ahead

- Where can you go for help? Who can you call? Who will help you? How will you escape a violence situation?
- Here are other precautions you can take
- · Let friends or family know when you are afraid or need help
- When you go out, say where you are going and when you'll be back
- In an emergency call 911 or your local police department
  Memorize important phone numbers like the people to contact or places to go in an emergency
- Keep spare change, calling cards, or a cell phone handy for immediate access to communication Go out in a group with other couples
- Help Someone Else If you know someone who might be in an abusive relationship, you can help.
- Tell the person that you are worried Be a good listener Offer your friendship and support Ask how you can help
   Encourage your friend to seek help
- · Educate yourself about dating violence and healthy relationships
- · Avoid any confrontations with the abuser. This could be dangerous for you and your friend.

Have money available for transportation if you need to take a taxi, bus, or subway to escape

**Victim Services Agency** 263-3312 www.vsofbigspring.com

Call



		WFAA 2 Dallas	KMID 3 Midland	UNI 4 Spanish	KPEJ 5 Odessa	KOSA 7 Odessa	KTLE 8 Telemundo	KWES 9 Midland	WTBS 11 Atlanta	KMLM 12 Odessa	KPBT 13 Odessa	DISC 20 Discovery	AMC 21 Classics	SPIKE 22 Spike TV	TNT 23 Atlanta	BET 26 Black Ent.	DISN 27 Disney	ESPN2 28 Sports	ESPN 29 Sports
	:PM :30	News ABC	News ABC	Locura Noticiero	Lopez Lopez		Noticias Noticiero	News NBC	Raymond Friends	Cortes Harris	BBC Business	Cash Cab Cash Cab	Movie: Cad- dyshack, Bill	CSI: NY	Bones	BET's Top 10	So Raven So Raven	Horn Basket	SportsCenter
	:PM :30	News Entertain	Jeopardy! Fortune	Tontas Cielo	Two Men Two Men	News Entertain	12 Cora- zones	News Millionaire	Seinfeld Seinfeld	Mark Hagee	News-Lehrer	Made Made		CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	Live	Suite Life Montana	College Basketball:	NBA Basketball:
7	:PM :30		Scrubs Better Off	Cuidado- Ángel			Doña Bar- bara	The Chop- ping Block	Payne Payne	Israel Scott	Journey- Earth	The Detona- tors	Catwoman,	CSI: Crime Scn	Hour 2, John	Sunset Park,	Movie: Ella Enchanted,	NIT 1st Rd.	Miami Heat at Boston Celtics.
	:PM :30	Lost	Lost	Mañana es	American Idol		El Rostro de Analia	Life	Payne Payne	Light of the Southwest	American Masters	MythBusters		UFC Fight Night	Lone	Carol Kane	Cary Elwes	College Basketball:	NBA Basket-
9	:PM :30	(:02) Life on Mars	(:02) Life on Mars	Don Fran- cisco	TMZ Raymond		Sin Senos El Cartel	Law & Order	Payne Payne		Pioneers	Global Warm	Movie: Com- mando, Dan		Bones	Harlem Harlem	Wizards Montana	NIT 1st Rd.	ball: Detroit Pistons at
	:PM		News		Raymond	News	Noticiero	News	Seinfeld	Israel	Prime	Made	Hedaya	Toughest	Trust Me		Suite Life	Baseball:	Houston Rockets.
10	:30	Nightline	Nightline	Noticiero	-	Late Show	Decisiones	Tonight Show		Dr. Young	Design e2	Made		Cowboy			So Raven	World Clas- sic Teams	
	:PM :30	Jimmy Kim-	Jimmy Kim- mel Live	La Casa de la Risa	Law Order: CI	Late Late	Decisiones	Late Night-	Sex & Movie: The	CCM Scott	Smiley Smiley	The Detona- tors	Breaking Bad	CSI: NY	Trust Me	Movie: Sunset Park,		TBA.	SportsCenter
40	:AM	mel Live	Extra	Contra	RENO 911	Show	de	Jim	Ringer, Kath-	Israel	(Off Air)	MythBusters	Movie: Stand		Cold Case	Carol Kane	Replace		NFL Live
12	:30	News	Paid	Viento	Paid	Insider	Pagado	News	erine Heigl	Sanchez			by Me, Corey Feldman				Kim		Fastbreak
	:AM			Mujer		Entertain	Pagado	Poker After		Light of the		Global Warm	reiuiiian	Amazing	Cold Case	The Deal	Emperor	Baseball	SportsCenter
	:30	Paid	Paid	Güereja	Paid	Detox	Pelicula:	Dark	Movie: An	Southwest				Video			Dragon	NFL Live	

### **DENNIS THE MENACE**



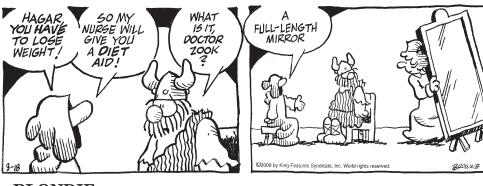
"YOU CAN'T KISS ME, MARGARET. I HAVEN'T HAD ALL OF MY SHOTS."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"If you break one, you'll have bad luck in seven years."

**HAGAR** 



**BLONDIE** 







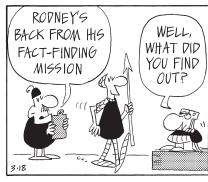
## BC



DOOKIE 1 TO TOWER. REQUESTING PERMISSION TO TAKE OFF ...

COPY THAT, TOWER. KKRRRTT : ...THIS IS YOU'RE CLEAR PROCEEDING TO FOR TAKEOFF TAXIWAY 2 NINER. DOOKIE 1, PROCEED TO RUNWAY 2 NINER. ? WILL YOU JUST GET OUTTA HERE

WIZARD OF ID











WHERE DOES MY

FAMILY DISAPPEAR TO EVERY DAY?

WHY ARE BOYS

DISGUSTING

TECHNOLOGY HAS ADVANCED SO RAPIDLY. WHY, ONLY 50

YEARS AGO, A WIRELESS

OFFICE WAS JUST A DREAM.



IVE GOT SO

MANY THINGS TO WRAP MY MIND

AROUND, MY BRAIN IS

UNRAVELING.



I HAVE THAT SAME DREAM

MYSELF.

## This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, March 18, the 77th day of 2009. There are 288 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 18, 1959, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the Hawaii statehood bill. (Hawaii became a state on Aug.

In 1766, Britain repealed the

In 1837, the 22nd and 24th president of the United States, Grover Cleveland, was born in

In 1909, Einar Dessau of Denmark used a shortwave transmitter to converse with a government radio post about six miles away in what's believed to have been the first

In 1922, Mohandas K. Gandhi

In 1937, some 300 people, mostly children, were killed in a gas explosion at a school in New London, Texas.

In 1938, Mexican President Lazaro Cardenas nationalized his country's petroleum reserves and took control of foreign-owned oil facilities. In 1940, Adolf Hitler and

Benito Mussolini met at the Brenner Pass, where the Italian dictator agreed to join Germany's war against France and Britain. In 1962, France and Algerian

rebels signed a cease-fire agreement, which took effect the next day. In 1965, the first spacewalk

took place as Soviet cosmonaut Aleksei Leonov went outside his Voskhod 2 capsule, secured by a tether.

In 1974, most of the Arab oilproducing nations ended their embargo against the United States.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Peter Graves is 83. Composer John Kander ("Chicago") is 82. Nobel peace laureate and former South African president F.W. de Klerk is 73. Country singer Charley Pride is 71. Actor Kevin Dobson is 66. Actor Brad Dourif is 59. Jazz musician Bill Frisell is 58. Singer Irene Cara is 50. Movie writerdirector Luc Besson ("The Fifth Element") is 50. Actor Thomas Ian Griffith is 47. Singersongwriter James McMurtry is 47. Singer-actress Vanessa L. Williams is 46. Olympic gold medal speedskater Bonnie Blair is 45. Country musician Scott Saunders (Sons of the Desert) is 45. Rock musician Jerry Cantrell (Alice in Chains) is 43. Rock singer-musician Miki Berenyi is 42. Rapperactress-talk show host Queen Latifah is 39. Actor-comedian Dane Cook is 37. Rock musician Stuart Zender is 35. Singer Devin Lima (LFO) is 32. Rock singer Adam Levine (Maroon 5) is 30.

® 2009 The Associated Press.

Answer to previous puzzle

SLAMS CATS TOPIC ALOE

## **AGNES**



HOW DO

BIRDS FLY? WHY IS THE

SKY BLUEZ



## Newsday Crossword

BY THE NUMBERS by Norma Steinberg

Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com 39 "You bet!" **10** Proposed as a

**42** Comparison

43 Oldest of the

conversation

members

53 Poke around

Beatles

word

48 Sprinted

50 Informal

**52** Sorority

55 Director

**11** History, so to speak

candidate

13 Goofs up

21 Young fellow 73 Drinks "on tap" 22 Tibetan bovine

**26** Supremes lead singer 28 Wilson

predecessor **30** Volcanic flow

31 Swear

32 Faxed, perhaps

33 Pipe part **34** Twisted

**35** Senate Majority

38 Glop

Leader **36** Forebears **56** Blacksmith's apparatus **57** Elongated

Sergio

keyboard key 58 Staggers

**59** Pike or perch

**60** Long-division word

61 Have the lead

63 Tense

65 Very small

10 |11 |12 |13

#### 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 24 25 28 30 |31 |32 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 38 | 39 40 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 52 | 53 55 | 56 | 57 59 60 61 66 65 68 69 70

72

CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2009 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM

73

3/18/09

## **SNUFFY SMITH**

THE OTHER COAST





## BEETLE BAILEY





## 21, 1959.) On this date: Stamp Act of 1765.

Caldwell, N.J.

broadcast by a "ham" opera-

was sentenced in India to six years in prison for civil disobedience. (He was released after serving two years.)

#### **ACROSS 68** Rubberneck 69 Written record **1** Mediterranean 70 Very good republic

person

**DOWN** 

1 Schooner

3 Suspicious

selections

5 Authenticate

6 Star Wars

**7** Strong glue

8 Tend to the

9 Investment

choices

knight

turkey

4 Jukebox

poles 2 Beta preceder

undercover

**72** One

6 Former Florida governor Bush 71 Polo participant 12 Deck wood **9** Franklin's bill

**14** Native Alaskan **15** Clean-air org.

**16** Delaware capital

**17** Exhausted **18** Things that are required

**19** Makeup mishap

20 Complete revolution

23 Ticks off 24 Insists

**25** Long (for) **27** Blasting need 29 Australian

marsupials Lee (cake name)

**37** Persistently bothers 40 Part of a

barrel

41 Non-stop **44** Love Story author Segal

45 Actress Spelling 46 Flit

47 Affectionate

address 49 Business-letter abbr.

51 Glitches 54 Caddie hirer **59** Clenched

hand **62** Emergency call 64 Being dragged

Serling **67** Strong suit

66 Stewart or

## The World Wide Web turns 20

**By Elise Ackerman** 

San Jose Mercury News SAN JOSE, Calif. — It all began 20 years ago with 29-year-old frustrated programmer who had a passion for order.

Berners-Lee.

famous as the the founder of World Wide Web, working an obscure consultantatCern, European Laboratory Particle Physics, in the suburbs of



Geneva. Berners-Lee loved the laboratory. It was full of stimulating projects and creative people, but his work, and the work of his colleagues, was stymied by the lack of institutional knowledge.

So Berners-Lee proposed adding "hypertext" to the network, basically embedding software documents that would point

to other related documents. And thus was born the Web, global communications network that has shaken up industries, created enormous wealth and transformed the way ordinary people live their lives.

"When two years is a typical length of stay, information is constantly being lost," Berners-Lee wrote in his paper proposing a new system for information management. "The technical details of past projects are sometimes lost forever, or only recovered after a detective investigation in an emergency."

OnMarch12, Cerncelebrated 20th anniversary of Berners-Lee's proposal in its trademark wooden sphere called "the globe," which it touts as a symbol of the Earth's future. In Silicon Valley, where there is less appetite for pomp, the celebration took the form of hundreds of thousands of workers using the Web to build the future.

En route to Cern, Berners-

Lee declined a request for an interview.

What lies ahead? "The only thing that you can predict about the Internet is that there are going to be surprising applications that come along that you did not predict," said Len Kleinrock, a professor of computer science at UCLA who developed the mathematical theory of packet switching, the technology that drives the Internet, while he was a graduate student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the early

Like other fathers of the Internet, Kleinrock was stunned by the power of Berners-Lee's idea.

a fantastic "This was application," Kleinrock recalls thinking.

Still, it took a while for the word to spread. Berners-Lee wrote his software in 1990 and put up the first Web site

how — explain to people what it was going to do and what it was going to be like and why it was going to be interesting, and they'd look at me with blank stares," Berners-Lee recalled in an interview in 2002.

Then in January 1993, Marc Andreessen and Eric Bina, students at the University of Illinois, released the first graphical browser for the Web. Berners-Lee forwarded announcing message their software to some news groups, and soon technically inclined people all over the world were downloading the

browser.

Craig Partridge, the chief scientistatBBNTechnologies, the company that built the Internet in the late 1960s, recalls a colleague giving him his first tour of the Web later in 1993. Though there were only 200 Web sites, "it was clear that this was going to blow away competing information services," he "I was trying to tell people recalled. "Tim got it right."

Right, but not perfect. All Web pages got names, called uniform resource locators, or URLs. It was like naming the books in the library by the shelves they were on.

"You can't move books around; you can't add new shelves," said David Clark, a senior research scientist at MIT who has been leading the development of the Internet since the mid-1970s.

And neither the Internet nor the protocols that Berners-Lee added to it were built with security in mind.

"We trusted everybody, made it very easy to get access to the network and made it anonymous," Kleinrock said. "The way we set it up was almost a perfect formula for the dark side."

But that won't stop its continued development, including plans to extend the network to outer space.

"You have to imagine, there is a whole lot more that can be done," said David Smith, an analyst with Gartner.

## www.bigspringherald.com



By Steve Becker

## A Positive Approach

East dealer. Both sides vulnerable WEST **♦** A 8 5 **♣**J764 SOUTH **↑** A K J 9 5 3 The bidding: West South North Opening lead — four of clubs.

deal with the attitude that the opposing contract can be defeated. This may sometimes require him to make what appears to be a suicidal play, but if that play offers the only hope of defeating the contract, it must be

Consider East's dilemma on this deal. He wins the opening club lead with the king and must then decide where the defense can get three more

As can be seen, if he tries to cash

the club ace, South makes the contract easily. Declarer ruffs, draws trumps and forces out the A-K of diamonds. The defenders cannot attack hearts effectively from either side while the diamonds are being established, and South eventually disposes of his heart losers on dummy's las two diamonds.

However, East should realize that South started with a singleton club, since West almost certainly has four clubs for his raise. East should further adopt the view that his partner is very likely to have an ace for his bid. as little else is missing.

The next step is to credit West with an ace that will allow the contract to be defeated. The possibility of West's holding the heart ace is therefore dismissed, since if he has that card (and declarer the other two aces), the most the defenders can

Next, East throws out the possibility of West's having the trump ace, as in that case South will end up with 11

The only hope therefore is that West has the diamond ace. If he also has exactly three diamonds, the defense is in business.

Accordingly, at trick two East lays down the king of diamonds. When i holds, he leads a second diamond to West's ace and then ruffs the diamond return to sink the contract.

•

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Tomorrow: Rara avis. ©2009 King Features Syndicate Inc

## Capitol highlights

AUSTIN (AP) Voting along strict party lines, the Republicanled Senate passed legislation Tuesday that would require Texans to produce a valid photo ID — or two alternatives — before being allowed to vote.

The measure was tentatively approved 19-12 after three hours of emotional debate, with Republicans saying the legislation was needed to combat voter fraud and Democrats warning it would rob eligible citizens of the right to

Given the GOP's 19-12 majority, the bill's passage was a foregone conclusion in the Senate. But it did undergo slight changes Tuesday. Though the financial impact of the bill was estimated at zero going into the debate, Republicans agreed to put at least \$2 million in funding behind a statewide voter education campaign.

Democrats say costs could climb because of provisions requiring the state to give out free IDs and because the law will trigger lawsuits from opponents.

In another last-minute change, author Sen. Troy Fraser, R-Horseshoe Bay, agreed to make it clear that a voter registration card can serve as one of the two pieces of alternative identification for voters who don't show a valid photo identification.

Under the new legislation, a driver's license, passport or military ID are among the most common forms of photo ID that would allow citizens to vote.

Those who don't have a photo ID could produce two alternative documents — including bank statements, mail from a government entity, a marriage license, a voter registration certificate or cards used for obtaining government benefits.

#### **UTMB** students' plea

Dozens of students from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston made the rounds of the Capitol Tuesday, asking legislators to support plans — and roughly \$300 million — to rebuild the school on the hurricaneravaged island.

Medical students, faculty, doctors and residents were displaced in the weeks and months after the storm ripped through the island campus Sept. 13.

Students have been among the most vocal critics of suggestions to move part or all of the medical school inland. saving UTMB has a long history on the island and gives them uniquely broad experience. School facilities served many of the coast's uninsured population and kept 100 beds for prison inmates, officials

# 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.

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

## **1st Annual Steak. Bean and Pie-Off**

March 28 at Trinity Baptist Church **Parking Lot** 

\$50 entry fee for steaks

(we provide the steaks)

\$10 entry fee for beans and/ or pie

**Plates will be sold after judging** 

1st place gets a **BIG** trophy and bragging rights!

**ALL PROCEEDS GO TO RELAY FOR LIFE!** 

Contact Stephanie at **816-7171** to register or for more info

Register by March 21

••••••••••

THE MEDIACOMPANY

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TexaStone Rockers were top fund-raisers in 2008 for the Howard-Glasscock County Relay for Life. So come see us on Saturday, March 21, 2009 from 9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m., for our Stone and Scrap Sale,

> all proceeds go to the AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY. Call for Details 432-354-2569.

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## In Sunday's Big Spring Herald



## Skating on thin ice

Olympic gold medalist Scott Hamilton has never backed down from a challenge, on or off the ice. Since winning his gold, Hamilton has faced cancer and a brain tumor and come out a winner both times. Plus, Ask AP and cabbage salad.

American Profile

## Team USA rallies to stave off elimination in WBC

MIAMI (AP) — Hobbled and humbled in the World Baseball Classic, Team USA is still swinging.

David Wright sliced a two-run single that capped a three-run rally in the bottom of the ninth inning Tuesday night, and the injury-plagued Americans qualified for this weekend's semifinals with a 6-5 win over Puerto Rico.

Wright's hit with one out eliminated Puerto Rico.

"That situation is what you dream about when you're a kid," he said.

The Americans advanced to the next round at Dodger Stadium. It was

"Getting a crack at a team that embarrassed us a few days earlier, to

> Meanwhiile, Kaskaskia shot better than 50 percent in the final 20 min-

an especially sweet victory after

Saturday's humiliation against

Puerto Rico that triggered the mercy

rule when the Americans fell 10 runs

behind, ending the game in the sev-

at 6 p.m. Wednesday.

tion bracket and meets 13th-seeded Vincennes University (Ind.) at 4 p.m. Wednesday. Connors defeated Vincennes, 78-64, in the first game of the tournament.

in the loss, who rained in four 3-pointers in a 21-point performance. Hope Elam registered a double-double with 12 points and 12 boards.

running for a national title.

mendous game."

25382

have the resiliency to bounce back in the ninth and steal one from them was pretty big," Wright said after the

This time the teams played a full nine, and the Americans saved their best for last in the 3-hour, 54-minute

## **HOWARD**

Continued from Page 1B

offensive rebounds and we were forced into a lot of turnovers, which is a testament to Kaskaskia's defense. We got out of our rhythm offensively and never got it back. We let them fight back into this game and at the end it was anybody's for the taking."

Kaskaskia came out of the break still holding the momentum. It took sophomore Whitney Williams just seven seconds to score the first basket of the second half after she took the inbounds pass and fought her way to the hoop for a layup.

Williams added a second layup to pull Kaskaskia within two, 33-31, with 19:10 remaining to play.

The Hawks fought off the Blue Angels and held the lead until the 16:30 mark, when another jumper from Evans gave Kaskaskia its first lead of the contest, 36-35.

From that point, the Hawks and Blue Angels traded the lead six times with the final change coming with five minutes to play.

advantage with 6:57 left, courtesy of back-to-back jumpers by sophomores DeAndra Thomas and Rachael Dryver.

Kaskaskia point guard Takara Harris drained a 3-pointer from the corner to cut the deficit back to two, then rebounded her own miss and got the putback on the following possession, tying the game at 49.

Erica Lewis, who led all scorers with 19 points, went 1-for-2 at the line to give Kaskaskia the lead for good, 50-49, with five minutes left.

By the 1:44 mark, the Blue Angels had executed a 13-3 run for a 57-52 lead. They went 4-for-4 in the final minute, putting the game out of reach for Howard.

Thomas led the Hawks with 11 points with Miesha Blackshear being the only other player in double figures scoring for Howard with 10 points. Blackshear made it a double-double performance, securing 10 boards as

Lewis' 19 was complimented by 12 from Williams for Kaskaskia.

The biggest thorn in Howard's side was scoring as the Hawks shot just 33.8 percent for the game, including Howard had inched out to a 5-point a dismal 23.5 percent in the second

half alone.

enth inning.

utes and 43.9 percent overall.

Kaskaskia moves on to face thirdseeded Connors State College (Okla.)

Howard moves to the consola-

Vincennes was led by Ashley Buis

Diddle says Howard still has plenty to play for despite being out of the

"We're happy to be at the national tournament and don't want this to be a short trip," said Diddle, "We're disappointed with the loss, but these girls play with a lot of pride. I think we match up with Vincennes very well. They have some height and shoot the ball well. Defensively, they play a zone. I think it will be a treKaskaskia College 61, Howard College 55

Kaskaskia (26-6)

Kelly Albers 2-6 1-1 5, Sad'a Ray 4-7 0-0 8, Takara Harris 2-4 2-2 7, Erica Lewis 8-12 2-3 19, Whitney Williams 5-11 2-3 12. Normeka Holder 0-7 0-0 0, Lindsey Davis 0-1 0-0 0, Keianna Evans 3-8 2-6 8, Sharika Harris 1-2 0-0 2. Totals 25-57 9-15 61.

Howard (26-8)

marathon.

Rachael Dryver 3-8 1-2 7, DeAndra Thomas 5-7 1-9 11, Miesha Blackshear 3-10 4-7 10, Patricia Malouff 2-8 0-0 5, Chassidy Cole 3-10 0-0 7, Clarissa Krum 3-12 0-0 8, Danielle Cota 2-6 0-0 4, NaTalia Smith 1-4 0-0 2. Totals 22-65 6-18 55.

Halftime: HC 33, KC 27. 3-point goals: KC 2-6 (Harris 1-1, Lewis 1-1, Evans 0-2, Williams 0-1, Davis 0-1), HC 5-24 (Krum 3-11, Malouff 1-4, Cole 1-5, Blackshear 0-2, Dryver 0-1, Smith 0-1). Total fouls: KC 17, HC 15. Fouled out: Thomas. Rebounds: KC 48 (Williams 10), HC 40 (Dryver 10, Blackshear 10). Assists: KC 6 (Williams 3), HC 7 (Cole 3). Steals: KC 8 (Williams 3), HC 13 (Blackshear 5). Turnovers: KC 27, HC 19.

Howard (26-8)

Rachael Dryver 3-8 1-2 7, DeAndra Thomas 5-7 1-9 11. Miesha Blackshear 3-10 4-7 10. Patricia Malouff 2-8 0-0 5, Chassidy Cole 3-10 0-0 7, Clarissa Krum 3-12 0-0 8, Danielle Cota 2-6 0-0 4, NaTalia Smith 1-4 0-0 2. Totals 22-65 6-18 55

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## Legislators look to expand cockfighting ban

(AP) The state's ban on cockfighting would to prohibit expand profiting from or attending the rooster fights and owning selling training equipment under legislation that went before a Texas House panel Tuesday.

The proposal by Rep. Wayne Christian, Republican from Center, would make it easier for law officers to seize cockfighting equipment and money. Christian said the fights are well organized and are almost always accompanied by illegal alcohol and gambling.

Cockfights occur in large cities and small towns, and children often are present, law officers and animal protection groups testified before a House subcommittee.

"It's not just a rural problem," said Robert "Skip" Trimble, of chairman the Dallas Animal Shelter Commission.

Trimble noted there two cockfight

raids in Dallas the past the arranging of a two years. He described the details of the bloody events and the equipment used on the roosters.

"They have these spurs and slashers, their comb has been cut," Trimble said. "They have the equipment there so that they can kill each other."

Rep. Terri Hodge, a Dallas Democrat, posed tough questions to those who support Christian's bill, saying she wants to make sure to separate the allegation of animal cruelty from allegations of drugs and gambling. But law officers said all are involved in the fights.

Questioning representative Poultry Texas Federation, which supports Christian's bill because of worries of disease arising from cockfighting operations, Hodge said of poultry producers: "These are people, too, who kill poultry, but for a different reason — for the dinner table."

Along with outlawing

cockfight, the proposed legislation would ban participating in earnings from a fight; using a facility for cockfighting; owning or training a cock with the intent that the rooster be used in cockfighting; manufacturing, buying, selling or possessing a gaff, slasher or other sharp implement designed for cockfighting; attending a cockfight as a spectator.

Some offenses would jail felonies, and others would be misdemeanors.

Harris, Magnolia, representing the Texas Game Fowl Breeders Association, said he opposes the bill because he wants to maintain the right to raise and own game cocks. He said some of his 40 to 50 birds have bloodlines dating to England in the 1800s. His son showed the birds in livestock shows earned college scholarship money, he

"I raise roosters for their beauty," Harris said. "They want to take the right away from us to own a game chicken."

The roosters fight naturally, often beginning shortly after birth, he said. Chicks have been known to peck each other so hard they scar each others' eyes, he said.

The group Citizens for the Preservation opposed the bill. Its president, Dwayne White, a horseshoer, said he has owned game chickens his whole life. He said he wants to make sure lawmakers listen to all Texans.

But law officers said the cockfights they've raided aren't innocent events.

Nacogdoches County Attorney John

of Rural Lifestyle also Fleming said officers in his county busted a cockfight last August. Though there were many spectators, most of them scattered into the woods and couldn't be charged, he said.

> Fleming said there was a child present who provided a written statement about the event, but getting other statements written proved difficult.



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## News in brief

## AIG chairman in Capitol Hill hot seat defending bonus payment

WASHINGTON (AP) - Edward M. Liddy, chairman and CEO of American International Group Inc. since last fall, has become the reluctant defender of princely employee bonuses that members of Congress — and much of the American public — find indefensible.

AIG, the giant insurance company that has received \$170 billion in government assistance, is paying more than \$200 million in bonuses to keep employees from fleeing its troubled financial products division. On Wednesday, Liddy was to pull up a chair at a congressional witness table and take the heat.

The retention payments — ranging from \$1,000 to nearly \$6.5 million were not his idea. Liddy himself is not getting a bonus. The deals were cut early last year, long before then-Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson asked Liddy to take over the company.

"I do not like these arrangements and find it distasteful and difficult to recommend to you that we must proceed with them," Liddy wrote to the current treasury secretary, Timothy Geithner, over the weekend.

But the payments went out. Congress is in a lather and wants the money back. And Liddy, who had been scheduled to testify about AIG before the bonus story took root, is a timely target.

## Federal Reserve scopes out options to revive economy

WASHINGTON (AP) — With a key interest rate already near zero, Federal Reserve policymakers are weighing what other tools they can use to jolt the country out of reces-

Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke and his colleagues resume their two-day meeting Wednesday, and at its conclusion they are all but certain to leave a key bank lending rate at a record low to try to bolster the economy, which has been stuck in a recession since December 2007.

Economists predict the Fed will hold its lending rate between zero and 0.25 percent for the rest of this year and for most — if not all of —

The hope is that rock-bottom borrowing costs will spur Americans to step up spending, which would aid the economy.

So far, though, hard-to-get credit, rising unemployment and other negative forces have forced consumers and businesses to retrench.

### Austrian incest father pleads guilty to all charges

ST. POELTEN, Austria (AP) — In a stunning turn of events, an Austrian on trial for imprisoning his daughter for 24 years and fathering her seven children pleaded guilty Wednesday to all charges against him — including negligent homicide — after hearing his daughter's heart-wrenching tes-

Saying he had a change of heart, Josef Fritzl calmly acknowledged his guilt on the third day of a trial that has drawn media attention from around the world for its shocking allegations.

"I declare myself guilty to the charges in the indictment," Fritzl. 73, told a panel of judges, referring at one point to what he called "my sick behavior."

Fritzl faces up to life imprisonment on the negligent homicide count for the death of a twin baby boy, which he initially had contested along with an enslavement charge. Prosecutors also had charged him with rape, incest, forced imprisonment and coercion.

## **Treasury Secretary has** Obama's 'complete confidence'

WASHINGTON (AP) — If not distancing itself from Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, the White House is placing firmly on his shoulders responsibility for how the government handled the \$165 million in bonuses paid to about 400 executives and traders at American International Group Inc.

"Secretary Geithner last week engaged with the CEO of AIG to communicate what we thought were outrageous and unacceptable bonuses,' White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said Tuesday.

Then he volunteered the answer to a question being asked all over Washington: Did Geithner still enjoy President Barack Obama's confidence, given the whopping bonuses the failed insurance giant paid Friday after receiving taxpayer bailout money?

"The president has complete confidence" in Geithner, Gibbs said.

Is Obama satisfied that Geithner informed him of the impending bonus payments in a timely fashion?

## Obama makes 2-day swing to nation's biggest state

LOS ANGELES (AP) — California was a refuge for Richard Nixon, a ranch for Ronald Reagan and a playground for Bill Clinton. But President Barack Obama's stopover here this week will be no vacation.

The state that is home to one in eight Americans has been ravaged by recession, a housing meltdown and double-digit unemployment. The public is seething over \$165 million in post-bailout bonuses paid to executives at American International Group Inc. — an issue certain to overshadow the two-day visit.

His first appearance as president in a state that was a getaway for his predecessors could instead become a political test for Obama, whose administration has been trying to find its voice on the economy. His schedule includes a stop on Jay Leno's stage in Burbank after town hall-style meetings in Orange County on Wednesday and downtown Los Angeles on Thursday.

With the furor over the AIG bonuses, "if he doesn't have some really good answers, this could be a nightmare. It's not going to be enough to say, 'I feel your anger and we are looking into it," said University of California, Berkeley, political scientist Bruce Cain.

"There has to be some sort of deci-

sive action."

Judy Chen-Lee, a laid-off job counselor for the city of Santa Ana, has a ticket for the Orange County event and hopes to press the president about getting people back to work.

## Former President Bush says it's 'essential' to help Obama

CALGARY, Alberta (AP) — Former President George W. Bush, making his first public speech since leaving office in January, says he wants Barack Obama to succeed and that it's "essential" to support the new leader.

Bush declined to critique the Obama administration in Tuesday's speech, saying the new president has enough critics and that he "deserves my silence."

Former Vice President Dick Cheney has said that Obama's decisions threatened America's safety. Conservative talk-show host Rush Limbaugh has said he hoped Obama would fail.

"I love my country a lot more than I love politics," Bush said. "I think it is essential that he be helped in office."

Bush also said he plans to write a book that will ask people to consider what they would do if they had to protect the United States as president. "It's going to be (about) the 12 toughest decisions I had to make," he said.

### 2 octuplets return home from hospital

LA HABRA, Calif. (AP) — Two of the world's longest-surviving octuplets came home from the hospital Tuesday night, greeted by a crush of photographers, neighbors and curious onlookers gathered on a cul-desac where the mother will raise her 14 children.

Nadya Suleman was sitting with her babies in the back seat of a sport utility vehicle that waded through the crowd and went straight into the garage of her new four-bedroom, three-bath home in La Habra, about 25 miles southeast of Los Angeles.

Many photographers shoved and pushed as their cameras flashed, clinging to the vehicle until the garage door closed. The door appeared to have been damaged, with dents visible on the outside.

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