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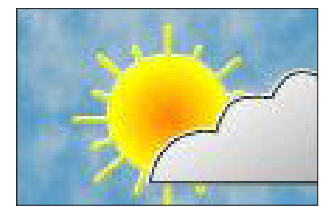
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THURSDAY

MARCH 19, 2009



VOLUME 104, NUMBER 91

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Warrant roundup nets \$77K

Success prompts idea of more frequent events

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

The success of the recent multi-agency warrant roundup has Municipal Judge Tim Green looking to the future, as local officials consider making the effort — which is held annually statewide — a quarterly event in the Crossroads area.

“We began sending out letters in February warning people who had warrants to take care of their situations before the roundup,” said Green. “The justices of the peace did the same thing shortly after we did. And between the letters going out and the roundup itself, we collected approximately \$65,000 here in Municipal Court, and the justices brought in around \$12,000. That’s \$77,000 collected, with the majority of it coming as a result of those letters. From my point of view, that’s certainly impressive.”

Green said 20 arrests were made during the March 7 roundup, which was conducted as part of a statewide effort that could very well spur more frequent roundups in the Howard County area.

“We still have plans to look at making this roundup a quarterly event,” said Green. “We’re hanging back right now and waiting for the move to the new county jail to be completed before we lay down any solid plans, but the city council has made it clear they want to see this happen more often. Depending on how things go with the jail, we’re

“Depending on how things go with the jail, we’re looking at having at least one more roundup by the end of this year, and possibly two.”



—Tim Green, Municipal Judge

looking at having at least one more roundup by the end of this year, and possibly two.”

Green said law enforcement agents with the Big Spring Police Department, Howard County Sheriff’s Office and the Texas Department of Public Safety participated in the daylong roundup, not to mention some unexpected assistance.

“Wayne (Wright, BSPD officer) did an excellent job working with the different agencies and pulling them together,” said Green. “We even had officials with the Glasscock County Sheriff’s Office assisting us on the roundup.”

And while the roundup aimed to collect on delinquent fines and get wanted individuals off the streets, Green said there’s been another, more unexpected boon from the effort.

“Even before the roundup

See **ROUNDUP**, Page 3



Courtesy photo

Riggan Sifford, a member of the Big Spring Heat team, drives to the basket during the 2008 Hoops, Dreams and Goals competition in Big Spring. Sifford and his teammates will suit up again March 27 during the 2009 Hoops, Dreams and Goals tourney at Howard College’s Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Sifford’s team is comprised of consumers from the Howard County Vo-Tech and MR.

Hoops, Dreams and Goals is back

Slated March 27 at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum

By **VALERIE AVERY**

Special to the Herald

Six teams from West Texas will take the floor March 27 at Howard College’s Dorothy Garrett Coliseum for the Fifth Annual “Hoops, Dreams and Goals” competition.

The event pits teams from each of the 23 counties West Texas Centers for MHMR serves in a friendly game of basketball, dance contests and spirited cheerleading competitions.



Smith

“This is by far my favorite event of the year,” West Texas Centers for MHMR CEO Shelley Smith, LMSW, said. “There is no way you can leave this event without a smile on your face. Everyone who attends is just uplifted by the day of basketball, music, food and dances.”

See **HOOPS**, Page 3

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Scouts set for World Thinking Day

Herald Staff Report

Put your thinking cap on! OK, forget that. Who wants to think on a Saturday anyway?

But the public is invited to help area Girl Scouts participate in World Thinking Day, Saturday, March 28, at Wal-Mart.

From noon to 2 p.m., Girl Scouts from across Howard County will be at the Supercenter to discuss

Costa Rica, Fiji, Ireland, Jordan and Keyna. They’ll be participating in games, activities and projects as they represent five regions of the world — the Western Hemisphere, Asia/Pacific, Europe, the Arab region and Africa.

“The girls are having a lot of fun with this,” said Brenda Medlock, Girl Scouts of the Permian Basin community services director. “It’s free to the public but people can donate if they wish.”

World Thinking Day honors Girl Guides and Girl Scouts in other countries.

“It’s a reminder to the girls they are part of a global community. They learn about other countries. Each group takes a separate county and learns about it,” explained Medlock.

Groups are Daisies, kindergarten through first grade; Brownies, 2-3; Juniors, 4-5; and Cadets and Ambassadors, 6-10.

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Obituaries

John E. Gibbs



John E. Gibbs, 75, 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.

The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. Friday, March 20, 2009, at the funeral home.

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

Mr. Gibbs was a graduate of Brownwood High School. He attended Texas A&M University and served his country in the United States 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 resided in Odessa, Lovington, Seminole, Monahans and Big Spring for more than 25 years. He recently moved to the Houston area and then briefly to Memphis, Tenn., to stay close to his grandchildren. John E. loved to hunt, fish and explore, and spent many hours with his family pursuing those interests.

He later traveled in the western United States, Canada and Alaska with his wife Judy during retirement. He was a devoted husband, father and provider. He was a member of the Salem Baptist Church. John E. had come to know many people since coming from Central Texas to West Texas. He had a great skill for remembering people and where they were from. He would always proudly proclaim that he was from West Texas.

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; nephew, Jim Gibbs; niece, Laura Gibbs; and four grandchildren, Pearce Council, Granger, Grace and Paige Gibbs.

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

Paid obituary

Joyce Rees Williamson



Joyce Rees Williamson was born July 15, 1924, to Aubrey and Amanda Rees in Hamlin and passed away March 18, 2009, at University Medical Center in Lubbock with her loving family by her side.

She lived a life full of love and kindness and possessed a unique beauty that touched many lives. She was very strong in her faith and active in her church and Bible study.

Joyce was raised in the farming and ranching community of Westbrook and graduated from Westbrook High School in 1941. She married Joe T. Williamson of Colorado City Nov. 2, 1941. They spent their lives together in San Diego, Calif., and Big Spring before moving to Snyder in 1956. Joe and Joyce resided in Snyder until her death. They were married for 67 wonderful and glorious years.

Joe and Joyce had three children, Jane Maroney of Snyder, Jay Williamson and wife, Sammie, of Austin and Jodi Williamson and wife, Tama, also of Austin; eight grandchildren, Todd Maroney, Jana Fariss and husband, Monty, Aubin Pope, Seth Williamson, Julie Williamson, Jayne Powers and husband, Jordan, Jayme Severson and husband, Jeff, and Brooke Adair. They also had eight great-grandchildren.

Joyce is also survived by three sisters, Jimmie Hopper of Stanton, Shirley Dorn of Colorado City and Patsy DeRouen of Nederland. She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother Lewis (Choppy) Rees of Westbrook.

Funeral services will be held Friday, March 20, 2009, at 2 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Snyder.

The family requests in lieu of flowers donations be made to Martha Ann Woman's Club, 1600 Martha Ann Blvd., Snyder 79549; or First United Methodist Church, 2700 College Ave., Snyder 79549.

Paid obituary

Wayne Drewery

Wayne Drewery, 63, of Coahoma died Thursday, March 19, 2009, at his residence. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Contact
the Herald
at 263-7331

Police blotter

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

- WILLIAM THOM, 25, of 305 E. Fifth St., was arrested Thursday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- DERRICK WAYNE JONES, 27, of 2721 29th St., was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance – more than 200 grams, less than 400 grams.
- LESLIE LUCINAN LIMONES, 26, of 305 E. Fifth St., was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance – more than four grams, less than 200 grams.
- THEFT was reported in the 5700 block of Interstate Highway 20.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported: in the 1600 block of Owens.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 1900 block of Highway 87.
- BURGLARY OF A BUILDING was reported in the 1400 block of Sixth Street.
- BURGLARY OF A BUILDING was reported in the 1000 block of Fourth Street.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported: in the 1400 block of Sixth Street.
- in the 1100 block of Goliad.
- in the 1100 block of 12th Street.

Sheriff

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 53 inmates at the time of this report.
- RONALD ELLISON, 42, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.
- RICKY BOB YANEZ, 23, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of possession of a dangerous drug, possession of marijuana – two ounces or less and resisting arrest, search or transportation.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 800 block of E, 14th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 400 block of N. Moss Lake Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 6000 block of E. Midway Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of Highway 350. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1100 block of E. 11th Place. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of Yucca. One person was transported to SMMC.

Take Note

- American Legion Post 506, located at 3203 W. Highway 80, will be holding a fish fry from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday. Plates are \$10 each. Delivery is available from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. by calling 263-2084. Everyone is welcome.

- Schwan's food distributors will hold a fund-raiser for the March of Dimes from 1 p.m. until 7 p.m. March 25 at the Big Spring Mall. A percentage of proceeds from all food orders received during the drive will go to the March of Dimes' "Miracle of the Moment" drive. For more information, contact Cherly Shults at 213-2112 or Louis at (505) 220-3963.

- 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

- Scenic Mountain Medical Center's Relay for Life team is selling cookbooks to raise funds for the American Cancer Society. The cookbooks can be purchased at the PBX operator's booth for \$10 apiece. For more information, contact Beverly Grant at 268-4952.

Your Local Weather

Fri 3/20	Sat 3/21	Sun 3/22
 78/51 Sunshine along with some cloudy intervals. High 78F.	 72/54 Partly cloudy, chance of a thunderstorm.	 74/54 Slight chance of a thunderstorm.

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Bulletin Board

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

TODAY

- 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.
- Raclely-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.

MONDAY

- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 213-1342 or 263-6819.
- The Concerned Citizens Council meets at 7 p.m. at the Howard County Library. For more information, call 264-6116.
- Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

TUESDAY

- Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.
- The Powwow Committee of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church annex, 809 Scurry, or the fellowship hall at 810 Scurry. Call Robert Downing at 263-3255 for information.

WEDNESDAY

- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 4-24-20-34-15-22.
Number matching six of six: 0.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 7-6-32-9-18.
Number matching five of five: 0.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order:

2-4-0-3. Sum It Up: 9

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order:

4-2-3. Sum It Up: 9

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News in Brief

Top U.S. lawyer signals shift in marijuana policy

WASHINGTON (AP) — The top U.S. lawyer signaled a change on medical marijuana policy Wednesday, saying federal agents will target marijuana distributors only when they violate both federal and state law.

That would be a departure from the Bush administration, which targeted medical marijuana dispensaries in California even if they complied with that state's law. California law permits the sale of marijuana for medical purposes, though it still is against federal law.

"The policy is to go after those people who violate both federal and state law," Attorney General Eric Holder said in a question-and-answer session with reporters at the Justice Department.

Medical marijuana advocates in California welcomed the news, but said they still worried about the pending cases of those already in court on drug charges.

Holder did not spell out exactly who no longer would face the prospect of raids by the Drug Enforcement Administration. But he was quick to add that law enforcement officers will target anyone who tries to "use medical marijuana laws as a shield" for other illegal activity.

"Given the limited resources that we have, our focus will be on people, organizations that are growing, cultivating substantial amounts of marijuana and doing so in a way that's inconsistent with federal and state law," the attorney general said.

House sets vote Thursday on taxing employee bonuses at AIG, other companies with big bailouts

WASHINGTON (AP) — Venting their outrage, lawmakers are preparing to slap heavy taxes on employee bonuses at insurance giant AIG and at other companies that have received large bailout packages from the government.

The House was scheduled to vote Thursday on a bill that would levy a 90 percent tax on bonuses paid

to employees with family incomes above \$250,000 at companies that have received at least \$5 billion in government bailout money.

"We figured that the local and state governments would take care of the other 10 percent," said Rep. Charles Rangel of New York, chairman of the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee.

Rangel said the bill would apply to mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, among others, while excluding community banks and other smaller companies that have received less bailout money.

House Democratic leaders unveiled the bill as the head of embattled American International Group Inc., which has received \$182 billion in bailout money, testified about \$165 million in bonuses paid out in the past week to about 400 employees in its Financial Products unit.

Schwarzenegger helps Obama parry GOP critics and tout stimulus bill for roads, jobs, teachers

LOS ANGELES (AP) — President Barack Obama is playing a bit of divide and conquer this week, pitting his Republican critics in Washington against GOP governors and mayors eager for the federal money that his hard-fought stimulus plan will bring.

Next on the list of Republican notables to embrace the president is California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who was to join Obama at a town hall meeting Thursday in Los Angeles.

Congress recently enacted Obama's \$787 billion stimulus bill without a single House Republican's vote, and with only three GOP senators' votes.

Republican governors have had mixed reactions to the massive measure. Some hardline conservatives, such as Mark Sanford of South Carolina, have rejected portions of the economic bounty.

Other GOP governors, including Charlie Crist of Florida, have welcomed Obama and the stimulus money. Schwarzenegger is casting his lot with that group.

Kellogg CEO urges Congress to strengthen food safety system following salmonella outbreak

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's not just consumer groups anymore that say the U.S. food safety system is broken.

The head of Kellogg Co., the world's largest cereal maker, planned to urge Congress on Thursday to revamp how the government polices his industry. Kellogg lost \$70 million in the recent salmonella outbreak, after it had to recall millions of packages of peanut butter crackers and cookies.

Chief executive David Mackay wants food safety placed under a new leader in the Health and Human Services Department. He also called for new requirements that all food companies have written safety plans, annual federal inspections of facilities that make high-risk foods and other reforms.

A copy of his statement, to be delivered before a House Energy and Commerce subcommittee, was obtained in advance by The Associated Press.

Mackay's strong call for major changes could boost President Barack Obama's efforts to overhaul the system.

Fed launches \$1.2 trillion effort to revive economy

WASHINGTON (AP) — With the country sinking deeper into recession, the Federal Reserve launched a bold \$1.2 trillion effort Wednesday to lower rates on mortgages and other consumer debt, spur spending and revive the economy.

To do so, the Fed will spend up to \$300 billion to buy long-term government bonds and an additional \$750 billion in mortgage-backed securities guaranteed by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke and his colleagues wrapped a two-day meeting by leaving a key short-term bank lending rate at a record low of between zero and 0.25 percent. Economists predict the Fed will hold the rate in that zone for the rest of this year and for most — if not all — of next year.

ROUNDUP

Continued from Page 1

itself happened, we recognized some needed changes in the way he handle these citations and warrants," said Green. "It's led us to revamp the way we do things. Part of the classes I took in preparation for the roundup was one presented by a (money) collector, and he

explained the closer to the initial offense we can get people in, the better.

"In the past, someone who received a citation would have 10 days to contact municipal court to make arrangements. We're now putting a much larger emphasis on that 11th day. We have a warrant officer contact them, and if that doesn't work, we have a court administrator contact them next. The idea

is to get them in here and get their ticket taken care of as quickly as possible."

For lawbreakers who decide to ignore the court's efforts to collect on fines, Green said it's only a matter of time before there is a knock on their door.

"If these revamped policies fail to get them in here and get their tickets taken care of, there's always the chance one of the officers participating in

these roundups will knock on their door," said Green. "I suppose they will wish they hadn't waited at that point."

Anyone with questions regarding citations and warrants can contact Big Spring Municipal Court at 264-2531.

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

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HOOPS

Continued from Page 1

The six teams who will participate are the Big Spring Heat, Sweetwater Red Rattlers, Ballinger Longhorns, Snyder Wildkat, Seminole and Brownfield Pink Panthers, and the Monahans and Pecos Warriors.

The Big Spring Heat have been practicing all winter to prepare for the competition, Smith said. "They wear their black and orange colors very proudly and are always extremely competitive."

Score is kept of each contest, and each team wins a trophy and each participant is awarded a medal at the end of competition, Smith said.

"We have live tournament action with music and an announcer announces each player when they score a basket or make a great defensive stop."

"We started out patterning this after the Final Four competition held each March by the NCAA," Smith said. "The people we serve and our employees really enjoy this day."

Tip-off is set for 9 a.m. with games continuing throughout the day.

Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen will open tournament play with the reading of a proclamation declaring March as Mental Retardation Month in Howard County.

State Rep. Joe Heflin (D) Crosbyton will welcome the anticipated crowd of more than 700

athletes, coaches, cheerleaders and fans with words of encouragement.

"Rep. Heflin has been extremely supportive of our center and we could think of no one better to welcome us to a day of competition," Smith said.

The Howard College cheerleaders and the Howard College Hawks and the Big Spring Steers' drum line will provide entertainment and encouragement to the athletes throughout the day.

"We really want to encourage the people of Howard County to come out and support the play-

ers from their community," Smith said. "We present an annual spirit award and the more active fans wearing the team colors of black and orange help the athletes and help them to perform."

Other activities scheduled during the tournament include free throw shooting contests, dribbling and passing exhibitions and cheerleading contests.

The tournament is sponsored by West Texas Centers for MHMR, Howard County Arc, Howard College, Professional Pharmacy, KBST Radio and by many other businesses, organiza-

tions and people from the counties served by West Texas Centers for MHMR.

Howard County Vo-Tech and MR is located at 501 Birdwell Lane, Suite 2 in Big Spring. The phone number is (432) 263-9700; toll-free (888) 831-6618.

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AN ENCOURAGING WORD

By Eddy Pitchford

March Madness has arrived! Commentators, spectators, guessers and agitators sit back and watch the NCAA basketball tournament. Expectations, talent, coaching and consistency are scrutinized and analyzed as the competition is narrowed down. Pretenders and contenders are sifted to the sweet sixteen, final four and the eventual champion.
Consider the following scripture as life's final four: "And as it is appointed for omen to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation." (Hebrews 9:27-28).
When life is analyzed and scrutinized, what truths remain? Death, judgment, Christ's sacrifice and Christ's return.

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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

Bill McClellan
News Editor

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

OUR VIEW

A short walk in the park will go a long way

Want to be part of something entirely new? Well, you'll have an opportunity in the very near future when the National Kidney Foundation Serving West Texas holds the first ever Kidney Walk at Comanche Trail Park on Saturday, April 4.

Kidney Foundation officials say they expect a field of nearly 200 people to take part in the inaugural event and help raise funds, as well as raise awareness of kidney disease.

Registration for the walk begins at 9 a.m. the day of the event at the Old Settlers Pavilion at the park and the walk begins at 10 a.m.

So what's so important about the Kidney Walk?

Well, consider that more than 26 million Americans have chronic kidney disease — many of them right here in Howard County and numerous others living throughout the Permian Basin.

What's worse, millions of other Americans are at risk of developing chronic kidney diseases and don't even know it, according to Cheyan Jackson, the Kidney Foundation's regional marketing director, who will also serve as the walk's director.

And remember, we're discussing chronic kidney disease — not something that you can take care of with a dose of medicine, but something that can alter your lifestyle or even end your life.

So it's important that events like the Kidney Walk are held, because funds raised from the event will help support public and professional education, kidney health screenings and research grants.

To learn more about the inaugural Kidney Walk in Big Spring, contact Jackson at 806-799-7753 or go to the Website at www.kidneywalk.org.

And make plans to be among those taking a walk in the park on April 4.

Something tells us you'll be glad you did.

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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- 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

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The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.

- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.

- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

We can receive heavenly miracles, Lord, when we come to You.

Amen

Serving, protecting returning vets

When President Barack Obama was sworn in as the 44th president of the United States of America he inherited a global economic crisis and two wars. Yet, one of the most important policy issues that the president will have to address is — the return of our military veterans.

During his campaign, President Obama spoke of his opposition to the war in Iraq, and the importance of reallocating resources to Afghanistan. Managing those resources will be difficult, but developing a plan to support hundreds of thousands of American servicemen and women will be just as difficult.

Since 2001, America has sent more than 1.5 million troops into Afghanistan and Iraq. The daily process of carrying out military operations, staying alive, staying connected to loved ones, is stressful both to the troops and to their families.

Over the past six years, thousands of military veterans have returned from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Sadly, 4,000 have returned in coffins, and tens of thousands returned with injuries and scars (mental and physical) that will affect them for the rest of their lives. Their return in the midst of high unemployment, foreclosures and instability in financial markets will factor greatly into their re-entry to civilian life.

The affects of war can be mentally debilitating, and what we don't hear or discuss enough is the accounts of men and women who return home seemingly normal, but in fact unknowingly

have severe mental effects resulting from their tours of duty. These individuals carry with them the memories of constant explosions, lost comrades and comrades left behind to fight — memories that can trigger severe mood swings, bouts of depression, and even memory loss.

The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA), which regularly partners with the Veterans Administration, reports that more than 35 percent of Afghanistan and Iraq veterans treated at the Veterans Administration have been diagnosed with some type of mental disorder. This number does not take into account those individuals who have not sought care.

Undetected, post traumatic stress syndrome will greatly affect the lives of these returning veterans, and their families. For these reasons, the mental health of our veterans must be one of the highest priorities for the Obama administration. It's important that not only our returning troops receive treatment but also their families who for months at a time have been without their loved ones and upon their return must adapt to having them back in their lives on a daily basis.

When we look at the challenges of returning servicemen who served in Vietnam, we find that more than 30 years later many are still struggling to assimilate. Their return coincided with an increase in homelessness, unemployment, drug and alcohol addiction. We now understand that their experiences may have impacted these numbers. The post-Vietnam experience provides us with a vivid understanding of what happens when we don't prepare to welcome and return our military veterans into civilian life.

This is why it is important that our policymakers and elected of-

ficials look at ways to assist our troops and their families with employment, education, training and access to quality healthcare to facilitate their transition back to civilian life. Some areas they should look strongly at include establishing and strengthening programs that will:

- Address and eliminate socioeconomic factors to barriers in care for returning American service men and women;
- Increase mental health funding for returning troops through Medicare and Medicaid;
- Increase funding for education training, colleges and universities for American servicemen and women;
- Increase funding for families of returning servicemen and women to seek mental health counseling; and
- Ensure that disability benefits are available to military veterans and their families.

Whether we opposed or were in favor of the wars, it should not affect the way we treat our veterans. They will have to grapple with: finding employment, foreclosures, and assimilating back into family life. These struggles alone will be frustrating for those who constantly lived under the stress of war.

Not having the adequate support for our troops, and their families, will affect all of us.

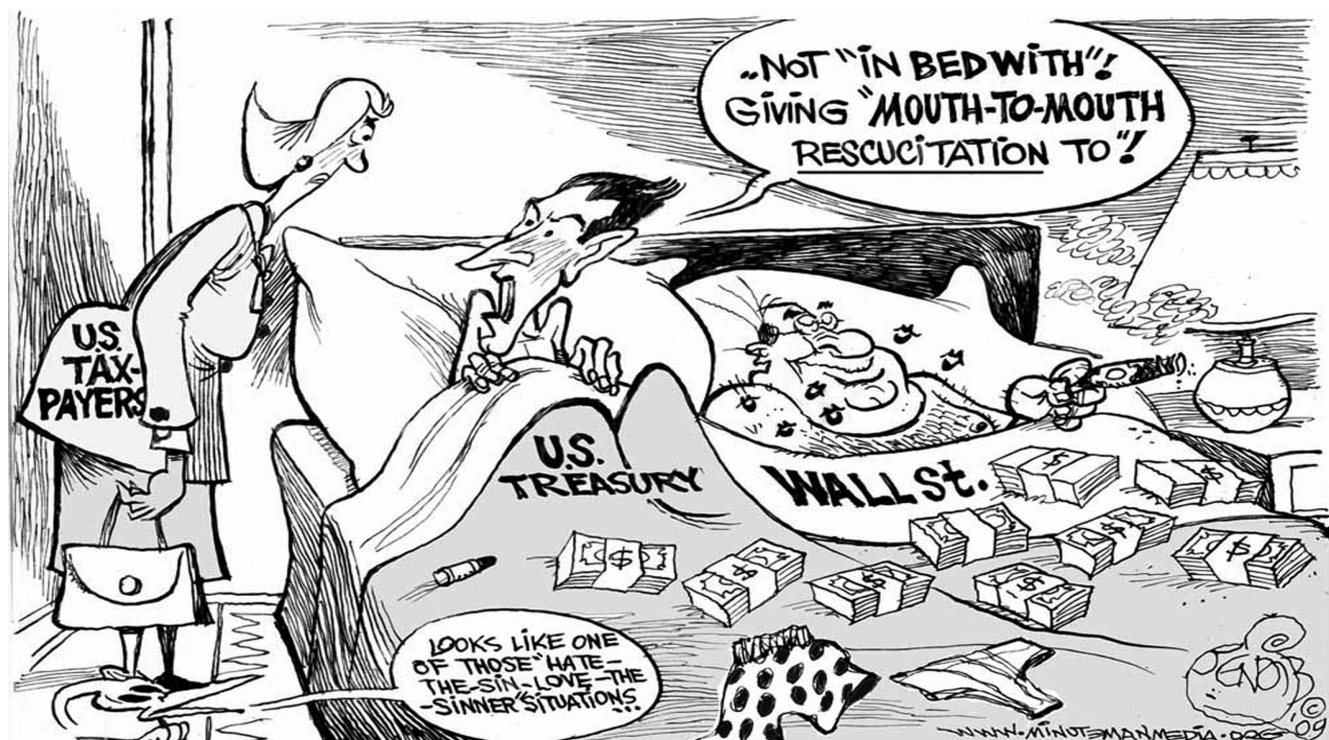
Just as it has been the responsibility of the troops to serve in our military, it is now the responsibility of each American to protect and support our veterans as they return.

It should be a priority to alleviate challenges that may prevent them from making the adjustment from chaos of war to the normalcy of civilian life.

Atiba Madyun is division director for National Black Caucus of State Legislators and the managing editor for the Legislator.



ATIBA
MADYUN



America: No respect for jobs

You could tell last summer that our state's economy was in trouble. On its monthly labor report the usual trite little statement from the governor was missing, the one telling how jobs had increased yet again and that once more God was in Her heaven. You see it happened that in July jobs first went down, so the governor stayed away and let the Labor Department be the bearer of such bad tidings. We haven't heard from her since.

And don't wait by the phone. Upward employment is not likely to return at least until all the air is squished out of the housing bubble. Then, as an uptick in business requires more workers, low-skill industries will again be out there scouring the street corners for immigrants, or else seeing how much more production they can profitably ship abroad. High-skill industries are already pressing Congress for more special visas so that they can bring in additional low-paid foreign techies. Shame is not their greatest strength.

Consistent with these greed-based business techniques it is useful to recall that ever since the memorable election of 2000, median family income has actually dropped by a whole percent-

age point, more for minorities. This even in supposedly "good" times. Meanwhile prices have gone up about 25 percent. Much of this gap has to do with corporate-driven public policy at the state and national levels. Unions have also been systematically squashed, and movable jobs have been systematically moved, largely through free trade. Or more accurately, by "The Race to the Bottom," however low that takes us.

At the same time, the United States, a pretty high-tech place, has kept up its enviable tradition of increasing productivity. That means more output per worker. To Henry Ford that meant he could afford higher pay scales. To today's moguls that means they can afford higher dividends and executive salaries. This is termed "progress."

But now there is a proposed change. It appears that the Democrats in Washington have mustered sufficient majorities in both houses to pass a new labor law. It would allow workers to form a union if as many as half their number signed cards stating such a desire. This would replace the current law that calls for an actual election. These "elections" have become renowned for a level of fairness and openness approximating Zimbabwe's. Intimidation, firings, and inspired dilatory tactics have cast employers in the role of Robert Mugabe. Unfortunately anti-unionism is still the hardest kernel of Republican

ideology, so a bitter filibuster is doubtless on the horizon.

Nor is the misery of unemployment and depressed wages spread evenly across the land. While the media relish anguished tales of suffering towns where the main industry has decamped, it is less eager to deal with the 800-pound national gorilla: discrimination. As is well known, our beloved society has skillfully segregated blacks and Latinos to the fringes of mainstream employment.

Minorities consequently endure lower pay and fewer benefits, quicker layoffs, harsher supervision, drearier housing, weaker education, and all the other familiar liabilities of poverty. Thus when the bubble bursts, they get it in the neck worse than most. As always.

To give the Democrats a little credit, they did force some minor but ideologically important Buy American provisions into the Stimulus Act. No fair using taxpayer money to hire abroad, please. But that's about the extent of it. Further improvements to wages, benefits and working conditions will have to come separately from Congress, hopefully soon. Like, say, universal health care. Don't hold your breath, but we are in a crisis now, so maybe there's hope for change hidden in those storm clouds.

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



WILLIAM A.
COLLINS

PARENT'S CORNER

The right time and the right place

We have all heard the saying, "be at the right time in the right place." "Well, just a few days ago I received an extremely interesting story that goes along with this saying.

I don't know about the truth of it, but it is entertaining.

It went like this. I didn't notice the hardness of the pew where I sat as I attended the funeral of my mother who had lost her long battle with cancer. The hurt was so intense that I found it hard to breathe and I was consumed with my sorrow.

Always supportive, Mother clapped loudest at my school plays, held box of tissues while listening to my first heart-break, comforted me at my father's death, encouraged me in college, and prayed for me my entire life. She was my best friend.

When mother's illness was diagnosed, my sister had a new baby and my brother had recently married, so it fell on me, the 27-year-old middle child without entanglements, to take care of her. I counted it an honor.

As I sat in the church I realized my life stretched out before me as an empty abyss. My brother sat stoically with his face toward the cross while clutching his wife's hand. My sister sat slumped against her husband's shoulder, his arms around her as she cradled their child. All so deeply grieving, no one noticed I sat alone.

My place had been with our mother, preparing her meals, helping her walk, taking her to the doctor, seeing to her medication, reading the Bible together. Now she was gone. My work was finished, and I was alone.

I heard a door open and slam shut at the back of the church. Quick footsteps hurried along the carpeted floor. An exasperated young man looked around briefly and then sat next to me. He folded his hands and placed them on his lap. His eyes were brimming with tears. He began to sniffle.

"I'm late," he explained, though no explanation was necessary. I wondered why this person came in and sat with the family instead of on the

other side of the church. He interrupted my grieving with his tears and fidgeting. Who was this stranger anyway? After several eulogies, he leaned over and commented, "Why do they keep calling Mary by the name of Margaret?" "Margaret was her name," I whispered.

"No, that isn't correct," he insisted, as several people glanced over at us whispering, "Her name is Mary, Mary Peters." "That isn't who this is," I replied. He looked at me in a questioning gaze, "Isn't this the Lutheran church?" "No, the Lutheran church is across the street. I believe you're at the wrong funeral, sir."

The solemnest of the occasion mixed with the realization of the man's mistake bubbled up inside me and came out as laughter. I cupped my hands over my face, hoping it would be interpreted as sobs but the creaking pew gave me away. Sharp looks from other mourners only made the situation more hilarious.

I peeked at the bewildered, misguided man seated beside me and noticed that he was laughing too as he realized that it was too late for an unnoticed exit. I imagined mother laughing. At the final 'Amen,' we darted out a door and into the parking lot. "I do believe we'll be the talk of the town." He said his name was Rick and since he had missed his aunt's funeral, asked me out for a cup of coffee.

That afternoon began a lifelong journey for me with this man who attended the wrong funeral, but was in the right place. A year after our meeting, we were married at a country church where he was the assistant pastor. This time we both arrived at the same church right on time.

In my time of sorrow and in my place of loneliness, I was given love. This past June we celebrated our twenty-second wedding anniversary and whenever anyone asks us how we met, Rick tells them, "her mother and my Aunt Mary introduced us, and it's truly a match made in heaven."

Now I think that is being in the right place at the right time.

Darrell Ryan is the director of federal programs for Big Spring Independent School District.



DARRELL RYAN

Natasha Richardson mourned as a 'wonderful woman, actress'

NEW YORK (AP) — Tributes have begun to pour in from across the show business generations for Natasha Richardson, the Tony Award-winning actress who died after suffering a head injury on a ski slope.

"She was a wonderful woman and actress and treated me like I was her own," said Lindsay Lohan, who as a preteen starred with Richardson in a remake of "The Parent Trap" in 1998. "My heart goes out to her family. This is a tragic loss."



Richardson

Richardson fell during a private lesson Monday at a ski resort in Quebec. She was not wearing a helmet. The 45-year-old actress was seemingly fine afterward, but about an hour later, she complained that she didn't feel well. She was hospitalized Tuesday in Montreal and later flown to a hospital in New York.

Alan Nierob, the Los Angeles-based publicist for Richardson's husband, Liam Neeson, confirmed her death Wednesday without giving details on the cause.

There were no details on funeral arrangements.

Neeson and Richardson's sister, actress Joely Richardson, were seen leaving Lenox Hill hospital Wednesday. Actress Lauren Bacall also visited the hospital.

Yves Coderre, director of operations at the emergency services company that sent paramedics to the Mont Tremblant resort where Richardson suffered her fall, told The Globe and Mail newspaper Wednesday the paramedics who responded were told they were not needed.

"They never saw the patient," Coderre told The Globe and Mail. "So they turned around."

Coderre said another ambulance was called later to Richardson's luxury hotel. By that point, her condition had gotten worse and she was rushed to a hospital.

Richardson's career highlights included the film "Patty Hearst" and a Tony-winning performance in a stage revival of "Cabaret."

Richardson was a proper Londoner who came to love the noise of New York, an elegant blonde with large, lively eyes, a bright smile and a hearty laugh.

Jane Fonda on Wednesday recalled meeting a young Richardson on the set of "Julia," the 1977 film Fonda starred in opposite Richardson's mother, Vanessa Redgrave.

"She was a little girl but already beautiful and graceful. It didn't surprise me that she became such a talented actor," Fonda recalled on her blog. "It is hard to even imagine what it must be like for her family. My heart is heavy."

As an actress, Richardson was equally adept at passion and restraint, able to portray besieged women both confessional (Tennessee Williams' Blanche DuBois) and confined (the concubine in the futuristic horror of "The Handmaid's Tale").

Like other family members, she divided her time between stage and screen. On Broadway, she portrayed Sally Bowles in the 1998 revival of "Cabaret." She also appeared in New York in a production of Patrick Marber's "Closer" (1999) as well as the 2005 revival of Tennessee Williams' "A Streetcar Named Desire," in which she played Blanche opposite John C. Reilly's Stanley Kowalski.

She met Neeson when they made their Broadway debuts in 1993, co-starring in "Anna Christie," Eugene O'Neill's drama about a former prostitute and the sailor who falls in love with her.

The New York Times critic Frank Rich called her "astonishing" and said she "gives what may prove to be the performance of the season."

Her most notable film roles came earlier in her career. Richardson played the title character in Paul Schrader's "Patty Hearst," a 1988 biopic about the kidnapped heiress for which the actress became so immersed that even between scenes she wore a blindfold, the better to identify with her real-life counterpart.

Richardson was directed again by Schrader in a 1990 adaptation of Ian McEwan's "The Comfort of Strangers" and, also in 1990, starred

Pope tells Muslims that religion rejects violence

YAOUNDE, Cameroon (AP) — Pope Benedict XVI told Muslim leaders on Thursday that true religion rejects violence, and he held up peaceful coexistence between Christianity and Islam in Cameroon as "a beacon to other African nations."

In Cameroon's capital, a clapping, swaying crowd of 40,000 faithful from Africa's expanding, vibrant Catholic flock later welcomed him to a football stadium where he celebrated Mass.

There, he delivered a message of encouragement for Africa and expressed compassion for the children being forced by paramilitaries to fight in some countries.

To these children he said: "God loves you, he has not forgotten you."

Child soldiers, often kidnapped, have been used by rebels in eastern Congo and by Uganda's Lord's Resistance Army. An estimated 3,500 children are still with armed groups in Congo alone.

The open-air Mass was Benedict's first occasion as pope to be among a great crowd of faithful on the continent that is witnessing the church's

biggest growth.

In the morning meeting with 22 representatives of Cameroon's sizable Muslim minority, Benedict said religion is the basis of human civilization and he returned to one of the key themes of his papacy, saying there is no incompatibility between faith and reason.

"Genuine religion ... stands at the base of any authentically human culture," he said. "It rejects all forms of violence and totalitarianism: not only on principles of faith but also of right reason."

The pope said that "religion and reason mutually reinforce one another" and urged Catholics and Muslims to work together "to build a civilization of love."

Unlike in neighboring Nigeria, where religious strife has often broken into violence, Christians and Muslims largely coexist without problems in Cameroon, a situation that drew Benedict's praise.

"May the enthusiastic cooperation of Muslims, Catholics and other Christians in Cameroon, be a beacon to other African nations

of the enormous potential of an inter-religious commitment to peace, justice and the common good," he told the crowd.

The pope has often spoken of the need for religion to shun violence, but has refrained from pointing any finger at specific faiths since a 2006 speech delivered in Germany in which he linked Islam to violence.

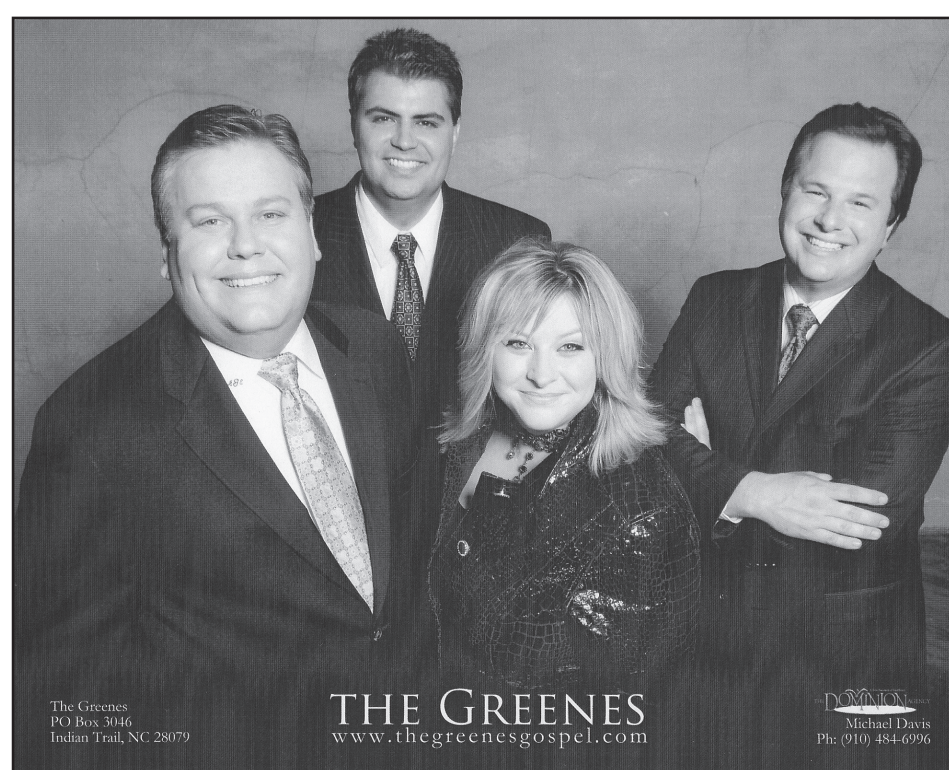
Amid angry reactions from the Islamic world, Benedict expressed regret for any offense caused by his remarks and has since met several times with Muslim leaders from various countries.

Thursday's meeting with Muslim representatives at the Apostolic Nunciature, where Benedict has been lodging on his first African pilgrimage as pope, was closed to the press.

The Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, said the atmosphere was "cordial and friendly" and that the Muslims issued a "warm greeting to the pope." Lombardi, who was at the meeting, said several of the Muslims leaders told Benedict "you are not alone."

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Baylor rallies past Georgetown in NIT, 74-72

WACO (AP) — Baylor savored its first post-season basketball win in 59 years by defeating Georgetown 74-72 in the first round of the National Invitational Tournament.

“My grandma’s not even 59 years old,” joked Kevin Rogers, one of two Baylor players scoring 20 points against the Hoyas Wednesday night.

LaceDarius Dunn also scored 20 points and Curtis Jerrells added 19 for the Bears (21-14), who claimed their first NIT win in four appear-

ances and first post-season victory since 1950.

Jerrells put Baylor ahead 74-69 with a pair of free throws with eight seconds remaining.

But DaJuan Summers hit a 3-pointer for Georgetown (16-15) with four seconds left, and Tweety Carter missed the front end of a one-and-one opportunity for the Bears.

Summers, who led the Hoyas with 19 points, grabbed the rebound and launched a shot at the buzzer that fell

short.

“I was just trying to get it close to the basket,” Summers said. “I didn’t have enough time to take a shot. It felt good, but it was short.”

Jerrells’ layup tied the game at 67 with just under five minutes remaining. He followed with a steal, and Carter’s 3-pointer gave the Bears the lead for good less than 30 seconds later.

Behind 72-69, Georgetown’s Chris Wright attempted a 3-pointer from

the left side with 11 seconds left. Jerrells partially blocked the shot and Dunn pulled down the rebound for the Bears. He nailed the clinching free throws in the final seconds.

Austin Freeman added 12 points and Justin Freeman 11 for Georgetown.

Trailing 44-34 at halftime, Baylor opened the second half on 13-2 run and took a 47-46 lead with 16½ minutes left to play. Dunn ignited the comeback with 11 points, including three 3-pointers.

Headed home

Vincennes eliminates HC from NJCAA Tournament

By JONATHAN HULL

SALINA, Kan. — Howard College was one of just 16 teams to qualify for the NJCAA Women’s Basketball National Tournament.

Unfortunately, it was a brief stay. The Hawks dropped their second game in as many days Wednesday as Vincennes University (Ind.) pulled away late for a 61-53 win, eliminating Howard from its first appearance at the national tournament since 1998.

Howard finishes the season with a 26-9 overall record that included a Region V Championship.

“We had a great year and there was plenty to be proud of,” reflected Howard coach Earl Diddle. “Of course, it’s disappointing with how it ended. We faced a lot of great basketball players here and this program gained a lot from this experience of going to the national tournament.”

Vincennes led for the better part of the affair, taking its first lead with 14:40 to play in the first half, 6-5. The Lady Trailblazers led by as many as eight points in the first 20 minutes. Howard cut the deficit to five by the break, courtesy of a 3-point play by Miesha Blackshear with 21 seconds on the clock.

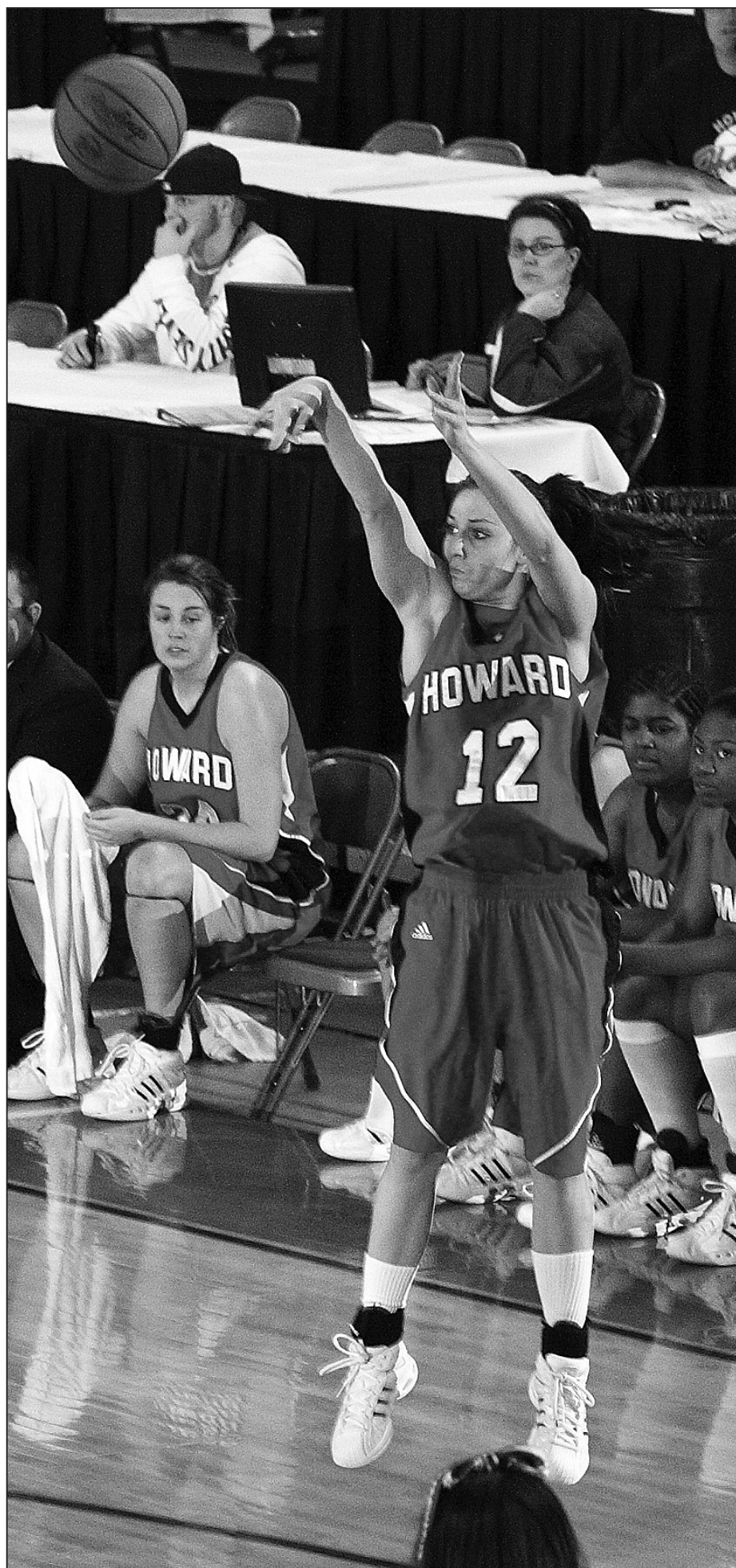
The Hawks opened the second half on an 8-2 run, tying the game at 29 at the 17:51 mark. They took their first lead since early in the first half with 14:02 to play, 32-30.

However, the Hawks were never able to extend any of the three times they had the lead to more than two points.

The game was tied at 38 with 10:42 to play, when Vincennes embarked on an 11-2 run, taking a 49-40 advantage with 6:05 to go. The closest Howard could get after that point was within four.

For a second consecutive game, the Hawks struggled from the floor, shooting just 30.6 percent from the floor.

“They do a good job with their 2-3



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton
Howard College guard Patricia Malouff attempts a three-point shot in consolation bracket action at the NJCAA Women’s Basketball National Tournament in Salina, Kan., Wednesday. The Hawks were eliminated from the tourney with a 61-53 loss to Vincennes University.

Dunn’s error costs USA

By STEVEN WINE

MIAMI — Team USA manager Davey Johnson was right to have reservations about playing Adam Dunn at first base.

The desperate defensive deployment backfired Wednesday night in the World Baseball Classic when Dunn made a wild throw that led to four unearned runs, and Venezuela won Group 2 by beating the Americans 10-6 to conclude second-round play in Miami.

Both teams had already qualified for the semifinals this weekend in Los Angeles. Injury-plagued Team USA is expected to make several roster moves before then.

First baseman and cleanup hitter Kevin Youkilis was ruled out for the rest of the tournament Wednesday because of mild ankle and foot injuries. The only first baseman on the list of potential roster replacements — Derrek Lee of the Chicago Cubs — has been hampered by a sore thigh.

“We really don’t have a first baseman to go to, and that creates a problem,” Johnson said. “There are not really any good options.”

Four other Americans have been sidelined by injuries since the start of round two, and there was concern in the U.S. dugout when third baseman David Wright inhaled a ball off his foot in the first inning.

Wright cracked his left big toenail and hobbled through the rest of the game, in part because the only available position player on the bench was catcher Brian McCann. X-rays were negative, and Wright said he’s certain he’ll be able to play in the semifinals.

“We’ve got to stop getting hurt,” Wright said with a smile, referring to the wave of injuries. “A lot of this from what I see is stuff that, if it’s in the middle of the season, you can play through. But obviously the teams want to take every precautionary measure to make sure you’re ready to go the first week in April.”

The WBC semifinals begin Saturday, when Venezuela will play the second-seeded team from Group 1 at Dodger Stadium. The Americans play in the other semifinal Sunday.

“I can’t wait,” Wright said. “Making it to the final four has been our goal.”

Japan joins South Korea, Venezuela and the United States in the semifinals. Japan will play Korea on Thursday night at Petco Park to determine the seedings from Group 1. The loser will play Venezuela on Saturday while the winner will play the United States on Sunday.

The Americans qualified for the semifinals for the first time by scoring three runs in the ninth inning

See **WBC**, Page 11

Yao’s 31 leads Rockets past Pistons

By CHRIS DUNCAN

HOUSTON — The Houston Rockets turned to Yao Ming and finally pulled away from the undermanned Detroit Pistons.

Yao scored 31 points — eight in the extra periods — and Ron Artest added 26 to lead the Rockets to a 106-101 double-overtime victory Wednesday night

against the Pistons, who played without injured stars Richard Hamilton (groin), Allen Iverson (back) and Rasheed Wallace (calf).

Aaron Brooks scored seven of his 14 points in the second extra period, helping the Rockets stay in third place in the Western Conference standings.

The Rockets opened the second

overtime with a 10-0 run, with Yao scoring inside to put Houston up 102-92.

“I need to be more aggressive, I guess,” Yao said. “I’ve been in this situation before. I think I need to do more for the team.”

Brooks started the decisive spurt

See **ROCKETS**, Page 12

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 variety of ATV and side-by-side vehicles.

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.texasrcr.net.

BSCC hosting 3-person scramble April 4-5

The Big Spring Country Club is hosting a 3-per-

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 with number of flights determined by entries.



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At left, then-Republican vice presidential candidate, Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, is seen with daughters Piper, right, and Willow, holding son Trig, as they arrive at a rally in Henderson, Nev. At top, Michelle Obama, wife of then-Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., appears on stage at the Democratic National Convention in Denver with daughters Sasha, 7, center, Malia, 10, while he addresses the gathering via-satellite. First lady Michelle Obama and Gov. Palin are part of a new generation of moms dubbed "momshells," the latest term used to describe a new generation of bombshell moms.

'Momshell' bombshells — not your mama's mama

By **MARTHA IRVINE**

AP National Writer
CHICAGO (AP) — There's no apron, no mom jeans or frump of any kind. These days, it's all about being a "momshell," the latest term used to describe a new generation of bombshell moms.

You can find these moms just about anywhere, in Hollywood, in the White House — probably in the house next door. And now a new reality TV show is on the hunt for the "Hottest Mom in America."

"There's never been a hotter time to be a mom," says Jessica Denay. A mother in Los Angeles, she wrote "The Hot Moms Handbook," one of a number of recent books aimed at women who proudly sport T-shirts, mugs and all kinds of paraphernalia that declare motherhood sexy.

Denay also founded the Hot Moms Club, which began as a small group of mom friends eight years ago and has since expanded to an Internet-based social network of more than

110,000.

It's tough to pin down the exact origins of momshell, which began turning up on blogs, Facebook and Twitter with more frequency last fall. The term and "yummy mummy," its equivalent in the UK and Australia, are meant as compliments, nods to moms who find time to take care of themselves while caring for their kids.

In this country, momshell has become the tasteful alternative to a more salacious nickname for hot moms, made famous in the movie "American Pie."

We'll stick to the more G-rated versions in this story, but Tina Fey used the naughtier term in her imitation of Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, who's sometimes included on the seemingly endless number of "top 10" hot mom lists online. Others include Jessica Alba, Demi Moore, Nicole Richie and, more recently, first lady Michelle Obama.

All of it is supposed to be funny and playful, even empowering.

What makes a woman

like Michelle Obama a momshell is not just that she's "a beautiful person, inside and out," but that she's also made the sacrifices of motherhood more visible, says Christine Louise Hohlbaum, a mom and author of "The Power of Slow: 101 Ways to Save Time in Our 24/7 World."

Still, some wonder if the focus on appearance has gone too far, pressuring women to not only have it all, but to try to be it all, too.

Hollywood moms seem to effortlessly drop their baby weight in a matter of weeks, while everyday moms struggle. And moms on the "Real Housewives" reality shows leave us wondering just how much of them is still real.

"Now moms are expected to be gorgeous on top of everything else? It's too much," says Elayne Rapping, a professor of American Studies at the University at Buffalo, who specializes in media and pop culture.

A mom herself with grown children, Rapping says she recently dis-

covered that some of her son's friends were her secret admirers when they were teenagers.

Hearing it now, she realizes she's supposed to be flattered in an age when Mrs. Robinson from the 1967 movie "The Graduate" has been replaced by "Stacy's Mom," the object of a teenage boy's lust in the 2003 song by Fountains of Wayne.

"But honestly," Rapping says, "there's something creepy about it."

Dr. Liesl Smith, an obstetrician-gynecologist in Dallas, also worries that the momshell trend could set up unrealistic expectations and encourage moms to compare themselves to one another instead of doing what's right for themselves.

"I have patients and friends say to me often, 'I don't know how you do all you do,'" says Smith, who works full-time at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital, is pregnant with her third child, exercises regularly and likes to cook dinner for her family most nights.

"But I have lots of help," she says, including a supportive husband, a nanny and neighbor who often lends a hand. "And in the end, I often feel like I have left something short."

Adding the need to be hot on top of it all, she says, could just tip over a mother's load.

But Denay, of the Hot Moms Club, insists that finding balance is an integral part of being a momshell.

"I'm not saying put yourself on top of the 'to do' list," says the working mom, who concedes that she feels more like a "lukewarm mom" some days. "I'm saying put yourself on the list."

For new moms, she says that might mean simply taking a shower — and working up to doing their hair and putting on a pair of stylish jeans instead of sweats, or taking a yoga class.

The idea is that a mom will gain energy and confidence that she can give back to her kids — "and that," Denay says, "is hot."

Abbie Tuller, editor in chief of Pregnancy magazine, thinks most moms will take "momshell" and other labels as a nice bit of praise, and move on.

"It doesn't mean I want catcalls when I walk down the street," says Tuller, who's based in the San Francisco Bay area. "But I'm not dead yet."

And while there is no common equivalent to "momshell" for dads, they shouldn't feel left out.

"Hot dads?" she says, chuckling. "We talk about them all the time here."

On the Net:
Hot Mom's Club: <http://www.hotmomclub.com/>
Yummy Mummy Club: <http://www.yummy-mummyclub.ca/>

Martha Irvine is an AP national writer. She can be reached at [mirvine\(at\)ap.org](mailto:mirvine(at)ap.org) or via <http://myspace.com/irvineap>

Tomorrow's Horoscope

It's the astrological New Year's Eve! Some of you will feel like partying like it's Dec. 31, and if it weren't for the fact that tomorrow is a workday, it might be a good idea. Tomorrow's solar transit into Aries begins a fresh astrological year. If you've faltered on some of your resolutions for 2009, use tomorrow as your new starting point.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Like a spy, you slip anonymously from one place to the next. You do your best work as you remain inconspicuous. Others let their guard down and you observe how things really are.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your own schedule and plans may lack luster compared to someone's interesting proposal. Perhaps your daily routine can wait. Go along for a ride just to see where it leads.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You just don't realize what you're working on because you're too close to it. This is bigger than you think. Your work has meaning to more people than you know. Take heart and keep going.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll be a friend to the friendless. This is a thankless job to a great extent, as those you help don't have enough relationship experience to properly appreciate you. On the other hand, loving selflessly is its own reward.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You are sensitive and impressionable. Avoid bad news. Gravitate toward uplifting stories, or better yet, tune out the world entirely. Pristine silence is necessary for your creative process.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Things have gotten



HOLIDAY MATHIS

cluttered again. You need "different" not "more." Besides, you have to give to get. Start looking around at what you might be able to unload.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You probably feel out of touch with who you are. To some degree you have lost yourself, and this is not a bad thing. What you've really lost, at least temporarily, is your ego. Your true nature shines through.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You are starting to see that the thing you wanted is going to take a lot more energy to get than you realized when you first embarked on the journey. There are more sacrifices to make, and you are ready.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Too many rigid attitudes cannot exist peacefully together. Someone has to be flexible, and it's probably you. Once you show that you are willing to compromise, others will become adaptable, too.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The weekend holds exciting possibilities and you'll be getting all revved up, making phone calls, buying tickets and planning your wardrobe. Keep your expectations reasonable and you'll have a blast.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You put yourself in potentially nerve-wracking situations because you realize that is what it takes to grow. Resolve to make others feel welcome and comfortable, and you'll find and keep your inner poise.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Life seems to push you into a schedule crunch. Keep your blood pressure normal. Don't rush around and don't yell. There's nowhere you need to be that is worth getting stressed over.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm a Sagittarius and I'm very discouraged with my career. I'm doing law right now, but I don't like it.

I guess I should be happy that I have a job. Most of the time I feel lost, like I don't know what I want. I get bitter inside when my friends do well and when they seem to be having fun with their work. I'm so unhappy at work that I feel miserable most days. What should I do?"

Sagittarius is a pretty competitive breed and people born under Sagittarius tend to compare themselves to others in order to make sure they are getting the most and best out of life. I think the pangs of jealousy you get when you observe your friends doing well might be the key to unlocking your own best career path. Start a list of things and people you are jealous of. There will be valuable information in that list.

You will probably start to see patterns and those recurring themes will point you in a new direction. The next steps will seem more obvious to you when Mars enters action-oriented Aries on April 22.

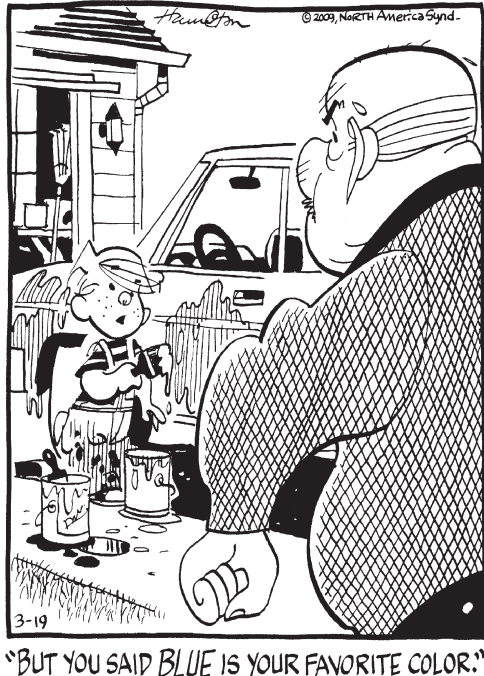
CELEBRITY PROFILES: Superstar Bruce Willis is soulful Pisces with Mercury in Pisces to turn up his creative intuition. His natal Venus in easygoing Aquarius indicates the rare ability to stay intellectual and friendly in matters of romance. This perhaps explains how he could be so close with ex-wife Demi Moore and her husband, Ashton Kutcher, that he even attended their wedding — now that's an evolved Pisces!

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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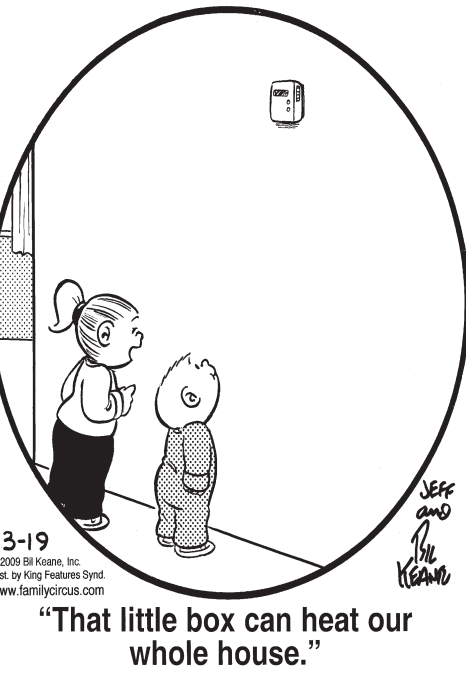
	WFAA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5 :30	News ABC	News ABC	Locura Noticiero	Lopez Lopez	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News NBC	Raymond Friends	Granger Brad	BBC Business	Cash Cab	Movie: Catwoman, Sharon Stone	CSI: NY	Bones	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Wizards of Waverly Place	Strongest	SportsCenter
6 :30	News ABC	Jeopardy!	Tontas Cielo	Two Men	College Basketball: NCAA Tour. 1st Rd.	12 Coronas	Millionaire	Seinfeld	Hagee	News-Lehrer	Made	Movie: Road House, Sam Elliott	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order		Wizards of Waverly Place	College Basketball: NIT 2nd Rd.	SpoCen
7 :30	Ugly Betty	Ugly Betty	Cuidado-Angel	Bones		Doña Barbara	Office	Friends	Israel Sprna	Texas InnerVWS	Rampage!	Movie: The Matrix Revolutions, Carrie-Anne Moss	CSI: Crime Scn	NBA Basketball: Trail Blazers at Cavaliers	Movie: Up, Up and Away	Wizards of Waverly Place	MLS Soccer: Red Bull at Sounders FC	Baseball: World Classic - Teams TBA.
8 :30	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Mañana es	Hell's Kitchen		El Rostro de Analia	Office	Friends	Light of the Southwest	Antiques Roadshow	Destroyed	Movie: An Officer and a Gentleman, Louis Gossett Jr.	TNA iMPACT!			Wizards of Waverly Place		
9 :30	(:02) Private Practice	(:02) Private Practice	Fosa	TMZ	College Basketball: NCAA Tour. 1st Rd.	Sin Senos El Cartel	ER	Movie: Without a Paddle		Pioneers Prime	Treasure Quest	Movie: Officer and a Gentleman, Louis Gossett Jr.	Ways Die	NBA Basketball: Warriors at Lakers		Wizards of Waverly Place		
10 :30	News Nightline	News Nightline	Impacto Noticiero	Raymond King-Hill		Noticias Titulares	News Tonight Show		Israel Van Impe	Charlie Rose	Made	Ways Die			Hatchett	Suite Life		
11 :30	Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live	Jimmy Kimmel Live	La Casa de la Risa	Law Order: CI	News Late Show	Decisiones de Famosos	Late Night-Jim	Sex & (12:10) Upside of Anger	Swallow	Smiley (Off Air)	Destroyed	Movie: Chicago, Richard Gere	Married... Inside the NBA		Hatchett	Life De	NASCAR	SportsCenter
12 :30	News Weekend	Weekend	Contra Mujer...	RENO 911	Late Late Show	Pagado	News	Movie: The Upside of Anger	LightWrd	LightWrd	Treasure Quest	Movie: Chicago, Richard Gere	Married... Law & Order		Wizards of Waverly Place	Replace Kim	Series of Poker	College Gmday
1 :30	Paid	Paid	Güereja	Paid	TBA	Pelicula:	Poker After Dark						Married... Law & Order		Wizards of Waverly Place	Emperor Dragon	Baseball: World Classic - Teams TBA.	SportsCenter

DENNIS THE MENACE



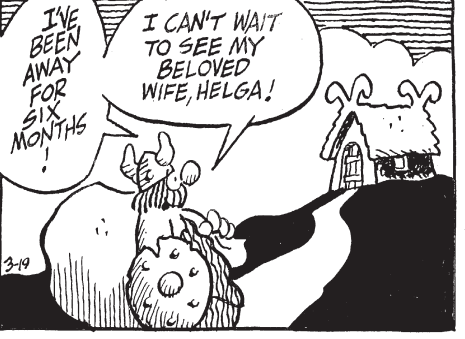
"BUT YOU SAID BLUE IS YOUR FAVORITE COLOR."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"That little box can heat our whole house."

HAGAR



HAGAR



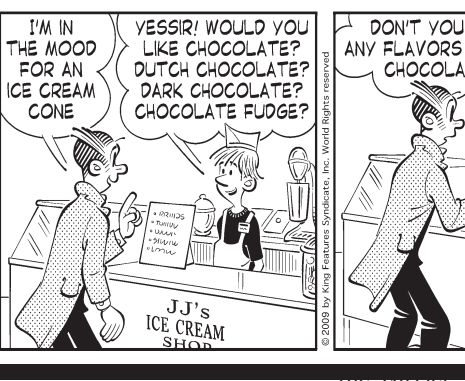
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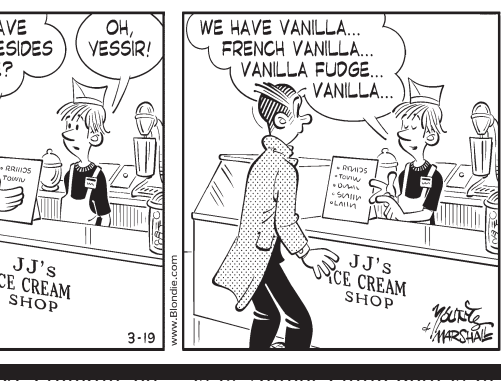
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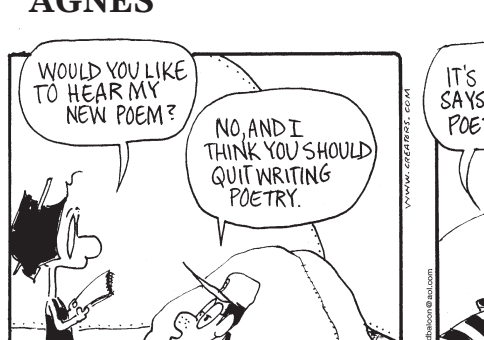
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AGNES



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HI AND LOIS



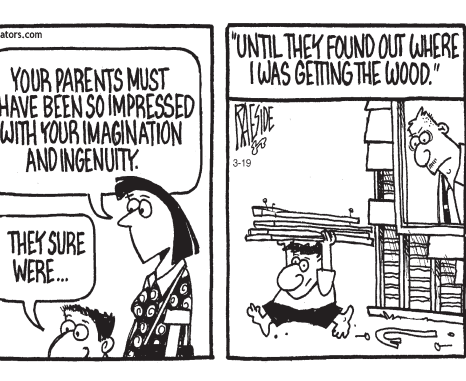
THE OTHER COAST



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Thursday, March 19, the 78th day of 2009. There are 287 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 19, 1979, the U.S. House of Representatives began televising its day-to-day business.

On this date:

In 1859, the opera "Faust" by Charles Gounod premiered in Paris.

In 1917, the Supreme Court, in *Wilson v. New*, upheld the eight-hour work day for railroad workers.

In 1918, Congress approved daylight saving time.

In 1920, the Senate rejected, for a second time, the Treaty of Versailles by 49 to 35, falling short of the two-thirds majority needed for approval.

In 1931, Nevada Gov. Fred B. Balzar signed a measure legalizing casino gambling.

In 1945, during World War II, 724 people were killed when a Japanese dive bomber attacked Japan; the ship, however, was saved.

Adolf Hitler issued his so-called "Nero Decree," ordering the destruction of German facilities that could fall into Allied hands.

In 1953, the Academy Awards was televised for the first time; "The Greatest Show on Earth" was named best picture of 1952.

In 1976, Buckingham Palace announced the separation of Princess Margaret and her husband, the Earl of Snowdon, after 16 years of marriage.

In 1987, televangelist Jim Bakker resigned as chairman of his PTL ministry organization amid a sex and money scandal involving Jessica Hahn, a former church secretary.

In 2003, President George W. Bush ordered the start of war against Iraq. (Because of the time difference, it was early March 20 in Iraq.)

One year ago: Death claimed science fiction writer Arthur C. Clarke at age 90 and actor Paul Scofield at age 86.

Today's Birthdays: Former White House national security adviser Brent Scowcroft is 81. Theologian Hans Kung is 84. Jazz musician Ornette Coleman

This Date In History

Actress Renee Taylor is 76. Actress-singer Phyllis Newman is 76. Actress Ursula Andress is 73. Singer Clarence "Frogman" Henry is 72. Singer Ruth Pointer (The Pointer Sisters) is 63. Actress Glenn Close is 62. Film producer Harvey Weinstein is 57. Actor Bruce Willis is 54. Rock musician Gert Bettens (K's Choice) is 39. Rapper Bun B is 36. Rock musician Zach Lind (Jimmy Eat World) is 33. Actor Craig Lamar Taylor is 20. Actor Philip Bolden is 14.

Thought for Today: "History is principally the inaccurate narration of events which ought not to have happened." — Ernest Albert Hooten, American anthropologist (1887-1954).

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Answer to previous puzzle

MALTA	JEB	CNOTE
ALEUT	EPA	DOVER
SPENT	DOS	SMEAR
THREESIXTY	IRKS	
SAYSSO	YEARN	
	TNT	KOALAS
SARA	NAGS	STAVE
TWENTYFOUR	SEVEN	
ERICH	TORI	DART
MYDEAR	ENC	
	SNAGS	GOLFER
FIRST	NINE	ONEONE
INTOW	ROD	FORTE
STARE	LOG	ANGEL
HORSE	SPY	BEERS

Newsday Crossword

WHAT'S BUGGING YOU? by David W. Cromer
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Paper Mate alternative
4 Kidney-related
9 Hang around for
14 Mess up
15 Beethoven's "Für ___"
16 Bumpy
17 Sundial numeral
18 Kids' game
20 Include, in a way
22 Swimsuit part
23 Silver source
24 Western NBAer
25 European capital
27 Lead on
30 Piece of one's mind
34 Computer key
36 Derisive sounds
38 Plus
39 Uses elbow grease
41 Pay for everyone
42 Harmonious, with "in"
43 Jai ___
44 Course choice
46 Dismissive outburst
47 Servant of a sort
49 Minuscule
51 Name meaning "pretty"
53 Cymbals kin
56 Scottish John
59 Way off

DOWN

60 Fissionable material
62 Trick football play
65 Actress Scala
66 Historian Shelby
67 Wicked one
68 The "good" cholesterol
69 Streisand role
70 Soup sample
71 Part of AT&T

7 Look for answers
8 Do not disturb
9 Obscure stuff
10 Certain frypan
11 It means "self"
12 Inventor
13 Sikorsky
14 Quaker pronoun
19 One run in
21 Novelist
25 Italian pistol
26 Historical spans
28 Kept hidden character
29 Trite humor
31 Unreliable, as a business
32 Annapolis initials
33 Scottish fishing spot

34 Kuwaiti, e.g.
35 Humdinger
37 Scale allowance
40 Place for a plant
45 Fencing phrase
48 France's "Magician of Iron"
50 Junior, for one
52 Float aimlessly
54 Pilot
55 Insignificant
56 Far from sure
57 Medicinal plant
58 Noble gas
60 Hawaiian strings
61 Monthly outlay
63 ABA member
64 Spy grp.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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69						70					71	

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WBC

Continued from Page 6

Tuesday night to beat Puerto Rico 6-5, but they failed to come up with much of an encore.

"After Tuesday night, anything was going to be a letdown," left fielder Mark DeRosa said. "That was one of the great moments in a lot of guys' careers."

The bid for another comeback fell short after Venezuela scored six runs

in the second inning with the help of Dunn's error. Johnson would prefer to keep Dunn in the outfield, but with Youkilis out, there was no better option at first base.

With runners at the corners in the second inning, Dunn charged a chopper and made a throw home that sailed 10 feet wide of the catcher. Before the inning ended, Henry Blanco hit a two-run double off Jeremy Guthrie (0-2), and Jose Lopez and Miguel Cabrera each doubled home a run.

Cabrera finished with three hits and two RBIs. Three pitchers shut

out the Americans after they cut the margin to 7-6 in the sixth inning.

"This team is doing a lot of small things to win games," Venezuela manager Luis Sojo said. "There is a different star every single day."

Team USA's pitching staff looked spring-training rusty. Seven pitchers gave up 15 hits, including a three-run homer by Max Ramirez.

"Our pitchers are still behind," Johnson said. "That's my main concern right now."

Team USA had 12 hits, including a two-run homer by DeRosa, but

stranded 11 runners.

The weather was as bad as the pitching. Rain delayed the start for more than an hour and fell during much of the game.

The conditions did little to quiet the crowd of 16,575, with Venezuela fans again chanting, pounding drums and booing Magglio Ordonez. Many Venezuelans dislike their left fielder because he supports the country's president, Hugo Chavez.

Ordonez turned the jeers to cheers when he singled during the second-inning rally.

HOWARD

Continued from page 6

matchup zone and kept us from finding any open areas," said Diddle. "The fact that they have a 6-5 player in the middle of that zone makes it that much harder to attack because they have her backing up their perimeter players. There's no secret as to why they're here. We spent too much time dribbling and passing around the arch instead of trying to penetrate."

Meanwhile, Vincennes connected on 48.8 percent of its shots. The Lady Blazers were led by Hope Elam, who has committed to play at NCAA Division I Indiana University next season. Elam posted 20 points to lead all scorers.

Ashley Buis scored 19, including three treys, while Katie Ahaus made 8 of 9 field goals for 17 points.

Howard got 14 from Patricia Malouff with Miesha Blackshear adding 12 and Chassidy Cole scoring 11.

The Hawks lose a large majority of their players to graduation, including starters Malouff, Blackshear, Rachael Driver and DeAndra Thomas. They also lose top reserves Clarissa Krum and

Danielle Cota.

The fifth starter for Howard, Cole, might be moving on as well as several NCAA Division I schools, including San Jose State, Iowa State and Texas Tech have shown interest in her.

In other words, Diddle is preparing to hit the recruiting trail hard in the next few weeks.

"We might be starting over completely depending on how much we lose," said Diddle. "We've had some great sophomores and they were a big part of building this program. Recruiting is going to be a lot easier than it was five years ago when we were in the same situation because we're coming off of an appearance at the national tournament. We'll get back. Take a day to regroup and then we'll get on the recruiting trail and start trying to work our way back to Salina."

Vincennes University 61,
Howard College 53
Howard (26-9)
Rachael Dryver 1-5 2-2 4, DeAndra Thomas 2-7 0-0 4, Miesha Blackshear 4-11 4-5 12, Patricia Malouff 5-17 2-2 14, Chassidy Cole 4-12 0-0 11, NaTalia Smith 0-2 0-0 0, Clarissa Krum 2-6 0-0 6, Danielle Cota 1-2 0-0 2. Totals 19-62 8-9 53.
Vincennes (24-9)

Hope Elam 7-15 6-8 20, MyQueshia Britton 0-1 3-4 3, Kaitlin Cochren 1-4 0-0 2, Katie Ahaus 8-9 0-0 17, Ashley Buis 5-13 6-6 19, Megan Craft 0-1 0-1 0, Bridget Buchanan 0-0 0-0 0, Ellie Kapoulitsa 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 21-43 15-19 61.

Halftime: VU 27, HC 22. 3-point goals: HC 7-27 (Cole 3-9, Malouff 2-10, Krum 2-6, Blackshear 0-1, Smith 0-1), VU 4-12 (Buis 3-6, Ahaus 1-1, Elam 0-3, Bratton 0-1, Craft 0-1). Total fouls: HC 15, VU 13.

Fouled out: None. Rebounds: HC 34 (Blackshear 8), VU 33 (Cochren 8). Assists: HC 10 (Malouff 3, Cole 3), VU 10 (Ahaus 3, Buchanan 3). Steals: HC 11 (Malouff 3, Cole 3), VU 9 (Elam 4). Turnovers: HC 17, VU 21. Technical fouls: HC - Coach Earl Diddle.

2-10, Krum 2-6, Blackshear 0-1, Smith 0-1), VU 4-12 (Buis 3-6, Ahaus 1-1, Elam 0-3, Bratton 0-1, Craft 0-1). Total fouls: HC 15, VU 13. Fouled out: None. Rebounds: HC 34 (Blackshear 8), VU 33 (Cochren 8). Assists: HC 10 (Malouff 3, Cole 3), VU 10 (Ahaus 3, Buchanan 3). Steals: HC 11 (Malouff 3, Cole 3), VU 9 (Elam 4). Turnovers: HC 17, VU 21. Technical fouls: HC - Coach Earl Diddle.

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



By Steve Becker

Rara Avis

North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ A Q 7 2
♥ 8 3
♦ A 10 4
♣ A 7 6 3

WEST
♠ K 10 8 5 3
♥ 10 9 4
♦ J 3
♣ K J 5

EAST
♠ J 9 6 4
♥ K Q J 7 5 2
♦ 6
♣ 10 2

SOUTH
♠ —
♥ A 6
♦ K Q 9 8 7 5 2
♣ Q 9 8 4

The bidding:
North East South West
1♣ 2♥ 3♦ 3♥
3♠ Pass 4♦ Pass
5♦ Pass 6♦

Opening lead — ten of hearts.

This deal occurred in a team contest at a recent regional tournament in Connecticut. It features a relatively rare play that enabled one of the declarers in a two-team match to bring in a slam that failed at the other table.

Both declarers reached six diamonds on essentially the same auction, East making a pre-emptive jump-overcall of two hearts that was raised to three at both tables.

At the first table, declarer took

East's jack of hearts with the ace and drew trumps ending in dummy. After discarding a heart on the ace of spades, South played the ace and another club, hoping East had the king. When West turned up with the K-J-5, the slam was down one.

At the other table, South, Warren Rosner, felt that given East's pre-emptive bid and West's raise, the chance that East held the king of clubs was not good, and that West was likely to have more clubs than East. If West held three or more clubs including the K-J-10, there was virtually no chance of making 12 tricks. But if West held the K-J-x or K-10-x, the slam could be made.

He began just as his counterpart had, winning the heart lead, drawing trumps and discarding his heart on the spade ace. But then, instead of cashing the ace of clubs, Rosner led a low club from dummy to his nine.

West won with the jack and returned a heart, ruffed by declarer, and it was here that South made his bid for fame and glory. Still assuming that West had the club king and more clubs than East, he led the queen, hoping East had started with the 10-x.

It did not matter whether West covered with the king or not. Either way, South could not lose a second club trick, and the slam was home.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.
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MEN IN BLACK

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



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Proposal made to change 'Hochuli rule' reviews

NEW YORK (AP) — The NFL will look into changing instant replay rules in hopes of avoiding a repeat of the blown call by referee Ed Hochuli that helped cost San Diego a game last season.

The competition committee will propose at the league meetings next week that when the ball comes loose when a quarterback is throwing, replay can be used to determine if it is a fumble

or an incomplete pass. Such a change would resemble the rules alteration made for down-by-contact plays two years ago.

In the final minute of a game at Denver in Week 2, Hochuli ruled a ball that slipped from Broncos quarterback Jay Cutler's grasp was an incomplete pass instead of a fumble. The ball was recovered by the Chargers and Hochuli later acknowl-

edged his decision was wrong.

Under league rules, the play was not reviewable.

"We thought when we watched the plays happen, basically it happened the same as the down-by-contact, and it should be reviewable in the same context," Rich McKay, co-chairman of the committee, said Wednesday.

Hochuli's mistake could have cost the Chargers a playoff spot.

The Broncos went on to win that September game with a touchdown and a 2-point conversion, and they built a three-game lead in the AFC West.

But San Diego rallied to win the division.

McKay said automatic replay reviews for loose balls that are out of bounds when they are recovered also will be proposed.

ROCKETS

Continued from Page 6

with a 3-pointer before Artest drove for two layups and Yao hit a mid-range turnaround.

"We did a good job of finishing up the game," said Brooks. "Yao did a good job. We got him the ball in the post at the end of the game and that was good."

Arron Afflalo scored 24 points, Rodney Stuckey added 21 points with 10 assists and Antonio McDyess grabbed 20 rebounds for the Pistons, who've lost three in a row.

"It's crazy how frustrating it is," said Stuckey. "I'm trying to be as aggressive as I can, but I just ran out of gas. We fought as hard as we could."

Afflalo sank a 3-pointer to end Detroit's drought in the second overtime and Walter Herrmann hit a free

throw to pull the Pistons within six. After Artest missed a 3, Herrmann hit a 3 for Detroit with 28 seconds to go, cutting Houston's lead to 102-99.

Brooks went 4-for-4 from the free-throw line on the Rockets' next two possessions to finally secure the victory. The Rockets have won 13 of their last 15 home games and moved a half game ahead of Denver for third place overall in the West.

"We needed to win and we won, even though we didn't play very well the whole game," said Rockets forward Luis Scola, who had 14 points. "We hung in there, we fought."

Yao scored on four straight possessions to give Houston an 82-79 lead with less than two minutes left in the fourth quarter.

The Pistons did a solid job defending Yao for most of regulation, holding Houston's center to 14 points through three quarters. Yao did not attempt a free throw until there was 3:12 left in the fourth quarter.

The Rockets finally found ways to get him the ball and Yao did the rest.

"We had to go with what was working," Brooks said. "Yao was playing unbelievable. I wanted to get him in the key, where he is most effective."

The Pistons grabbed two offensive rebounds and Stuckey hit a running

shot in the lane to cut the Rockets' lead to one. Artest missed a long jumper, and Stuckey's free throw with 56 seconds left tied the game at 82.

Scola lost the ball on a drive, and Herrmann rimmed out a 3-pointer at the buzzer to force overtime.

The Rockets built an 88-85 lead in the extra period before Stuckey sank two free throws with 1:29 left. Yao hit two free throws on Houston's next trip, but Stuckey's driving layup with 26 seconds left cut Houston's lead to 90-89.

Kyle Lowry made a free throw before Stuckey easily drove for another layup to tie it at 91. Artest missed an off-balance jumper as time expired in the first overtime.

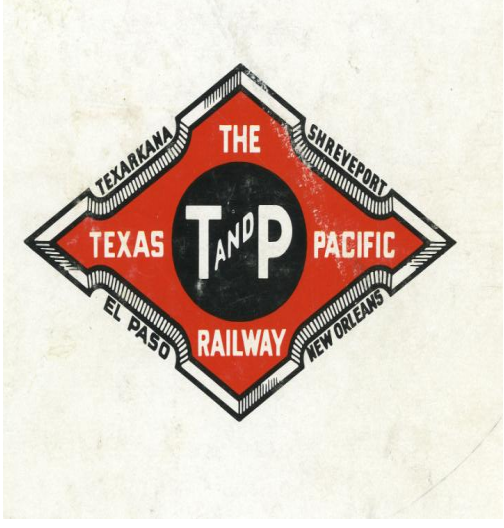
The Rockets outscored Detroit 15-10 in the second extra period.

"We fought and gave ourselves a chance," McDyess said. "But at the end, it wasn't there for us."

The Rockets led 42-38 at halftime after shooting 50 percent (20 of 40) in the first half.

Detroit shot 31 percent (14 of 45) in the first half, but stayed close by going 9-for-12 from the free-throw line. The Rockets took only two free throws in the half and went 1-for-6 from 3-point range.

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Tiger to play 1st tourney Down Under since 1998

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Tiger Woods will play at the Australian Masters in November, his first tournament appearance Down Under since 1998.

Victoria state premier John Brumby held a news conference Thursday to confirm the world's top-ranked golfer would play at the tournament at Kingston Heath, scheduled for Nov. 12-15.

Brumby predicted the visit by the world's

top golfer would earn Victoria state \$12.54 million in economic benefits, which would offset Woods' \$3 million appearance fee.

Woods has recently returned from an eight-month layoff. He had season-ending knee surgery after winning the U.S. Open last year, his 14th career major.

Stuart Appleby, among the Australians who regularly compete against Woods on the PGA Tour, said it was

a coup for golf Down Under, even in the current economic climate.

"It will be great for the game and bring out a lot of people who haven't seen him before — in person, not on a video game," Appleby told The Associated Press. "There's a lot of people hurting in Australia, and they might look negatively that one guy is paid \$3 million just to turn up. The common man won't understand the business model because the government is paying for it. They might not see the money he brings in."

But he predicted huge galleries for Woods.

"He not been down here since the Presidents Cup," Appleby said. "He's been to Asia multiple times. He's been to Europe multiple times. I think it's good that he's bringing his game to Australia."

Woods, who was not immediately available for comment, is very selective about his appearances outside of the United States.

It will be Woods' fourth tournament appearance Down Under and first since the 1998 Presidents Cup, when the U.S. lost to the International team at Royal Melbourne. Woods was 1-1 in foursomes play, 0-2 in fourball and beat Greg Norman in singles as the Americans were beaten 20 1/2 to 12 1/2.

His first visit was at the 1996 Australian Open on The Australian course in Sydney, where Woods finished tied for fifth, 12 strokes behind winner Norman.

He played in the 1997 Australian Masters at Hungtingdale in Melbourne, where he finished tied for eighth in the event.



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