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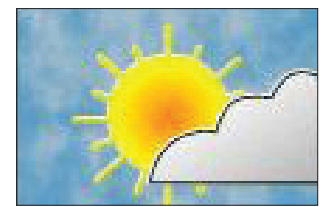
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H BIG SPRING HERALD

THURSDAY

APRIL 2, 2009



VOLUME 104, NUMBER 104

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Wildfire numbers steady, damage less

Method of response helps keep blazes more manageable, volunteer chief says

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer
The number of grass fires the Howard County Volunteer Fire Department has responded to since Jan. 1 is keeping pace with last year's rash of blazes, but according to officials, the amount of



Sullivan

damage caused is much lower. According to VFD Chief Tommy Sullivan, he and his firefighters have responded to 87 fires since the new year,

close to the 91 fires covered by the crews this time in 2008. However, thanks to a change in the way the department responds to fires, Sullivan said the amount of damage caused is only a fraction of what accumulated last year. "We're on a Level 1 response

right now, which means all volunteer firefighters respond to every call, no matter which district the fire is in," said Sullivan. "In years past we would respond with the firefighters in the same district as the fire, and then call others in as they were needed.

"Right now, we're averaging nine fire units on the scene within 15 minutes of the call. Granted, it's taken quite a toll on the firefighters, but it's helped us keep the damage caused by the wildfires See **FIRE**, Page 3A



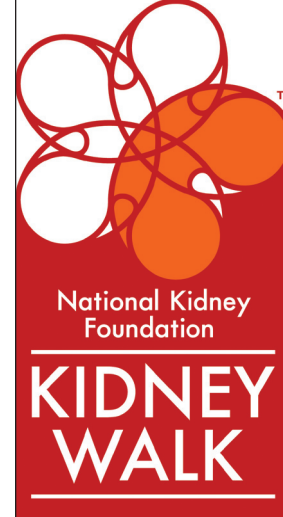
HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins

High winds that swept through the Crossroads area Wednesday night ripped a portion of the roof off at Harris Lumber Ace Hardware, depositing the wreckage precariously in the store's front parking lot.

Kidney Walk to benefit area patients

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Local residents are being asked to put on their walking shoes to fight kidney disease. Big Spring's first-ever Kidney Walk will be held Saturday at the Old Settlers Pavilion at Comanche Trail Park. Registration is set for 9 a.m. and the walk — which gives participants a choice between a one-mile or a two-mile course — will begin at 10 a.m. Event coordinators said the walk should take about an hour and a half and be completed around 11:30 a.m. Free drinks and goody bags will be provided, but will be limited. According to Cheyan Jackson, regional walk and marketing director for West Texas, upwards of 100 walkers are expected.



See **WALK**, Page 3A

PD officer terminated for actions

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

An officer with the Big Spring Police Department who was allegedly involved in a bar fight in early March had his employment terminated, according to city officials. Justin Terrazas, 25, who had been

an officer with the BSPD since December 2006, had his employment terminated recently following the alleged fight, which took place at the Bar By The Spring March 3. "Mr. Terrazas' employment with the BSPD has been terminated," explained City Attorney Linda


Sjogren. "Following his termination, he had a five-day period in which he could file an appeal, but my records show no such appeal was filed." Sjogren declined to comment on See **OFFICER**, Page 3A

Senate adopts \$182 billion budget

APRIL CASTRO
Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN — The Texas Senate on Wednesday voted to adopt a \$182.2 billion state budget for the next two years, including \$11 billion in federal stimulus spending. The Senate voted 26-5 to adopt the two-year budget, the most important bill lawmakers will consider during the five-month legislative session. Using the federal rescue money, senators were able to craft a spending plan that would not dip into a projected \$9 billion balance in the state's Rainy Day Fund. Still, officials cautioned that economic conditions could worsen before the budget can become law. "Sales tax collections are slowing down faster than what we thought," said Sen. Steve Ogden, who was the lead Senate budget writer. "I would argue that ... the most prudent thing we can do in the state right now is to hold on to that Rainy Day Fund, make

"While other states are facing huge deficits, Senate Bill 1 invests in our state's future by increasing funding for education, higher education, job training programs and transportation."



—Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst

available state revenue and spending needs. "While other states are facing huge deficits, Senate Bill 1 invests in our state's future by increasing funding for education, higher education, job training programs and transportation," said Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, who presides over the Senate. "This budget also uses federal stimulus funds responsibly by working to ensure they will not result in ongoing costs to the state, while allowing us to leave the Rainy Day Fund untouched so it can be used to balance the budget in 2011." Counting all funds, the plan spends about \$53 billion on public education, which makes up the largest portion of spending, based on current school finance law and projected student enrollment growth. But the bill also sets aside \$1.9 billion, contingent on the Legislature adopting a new school finance See **BUDGET**, Page 3A

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Rangers make room for Jones, cut Catalanotto

SURPRISE, Ariz. (AP) — The Texas Rangers cleared the way for Andruw Jones to make their opening-roster by releasing Frank Catalanotto on Wednesday. Jones, who won 10 consecutive Gold Gloves as Atlanta's center fielder, recovered from a slow start and is batting .293 with three home runs and six RBIs in 58 at-bats this spring. The move gives Jones the team's final roster spot as a fifth outfielder and a right-handed designated hitter.

"From an organizational standpoint, we feel that he's made progress to that point where we want to let it play out during the season," general manager Jon Daniels said.

See **JONES**, Page 2B

Texas keeps Benson, too

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP) — Right-hander Kris Benson has made the Texas Rangers' starting rotation after not pitching in

See **BENSON**, Page 2B



AP photo/Jeff Chiu

Texas Rangers outfielder Andruw Jones hits a solo home run off of San Francisco's Matt Cain in the fourth inning of their spring training game in Scottsdale, Ariz., Monday. Jones was kept on the Rangers' opening day roster after showing consistent power during the spring.

Heat falter late, hand Mavs win

DALLAS (AP) — With a few seconds left and the Miami Heat down only one point, Dwyane Wade saw teammate Mario Chalmers snatch a rebound and asked for the ball.

He would've settled for a timeout.

Instead, the rookie raced down the court and charged into Dallas forward Josh Howard with 2.3 seconds left. The Mavericks padded the lead with a free throw in the final ticks to pull out a 98-96 victory Wednesday night in a game that often was as intense as the 2006 NBA finals matchup between these clubs.

Dallas trailed by 11 late in the third quarter, but surged ahead early in the fourth quarter on a 3-pointer by Dirk Nowitzki. The lead changed hands 10 more times after that, with the Mavs going up for good on a scooping shot by Nowitzki that was ruled in because of goaltending. A series of bad possessions ruined it for Miami, with Chalmers' goof the final blow.

"He tried to bait me to go to his right and I just stayed with him and beat him to the spot," Howard said. "He ran over me and I got the call."

Nowitzki scored 30 points and Howard had 20 points, eight rebounds, three steals, two blocks and two assists in his second game since missing 11 straight with an ankle problem. On the game-saving play, he landed on his left wrist, which also has bothered him this season, but later laughed about it as he slipped a gaudy piece of jewelry over it.

"This watch is making it feel a

See **MAVS**, Page 2B

HC softball splits with WTC



HERALD file photo/Jonathan Hull

Howard College's Kristy Leal throws a runner out in softball action from Feb. 13, 2008. Leal and the Hawks split a doubleheader with Western Texas College Wednesday, falling in Game 1, 4-2, then winning the second contest, 2-1. Howard hosts Frank Phillips College in a doubleheader April 10 at Foundation Field.

Cop who stopped Texans' Moats resigns

DALLAS (AP) — The police officer who pulled out his gun and threatened an NFL player with jail instead of allowing him inside a hospital where his mother-in-law was dying resigned Wednesday.

Officer Robert Powell had been placed on paid leave pending an investigation of the March 18 incident.

"I made this decision in the hope that my resignation will allow the Dallas Police Department, my fellow officers and the citizens of Dallas to better reflect on this experience, learn from the mistakes made, and move forward," Powell said.

See **MOATS**, Page 2B

Nash leads Suns past Rockets

PHOENIX (AP) — A spirited victory over the Houston Rockets may be too little, too late for the Phoenix Suns.

Steve Nash had 25 points and 17 assists — with just one turnover — and the Suns held on for a 114-109 victory on Wednesday night.

"That was about as aggressive as I've seen Steve offensively," Suns coach Alvin Gentry said, "and we really needed that. I think he understood that."

But the Suns failed to gain any ground against Dallas for the eighth and final playoff spot in the West because the Mavericks beat Miami 98-96.

Grant Hill had 23 points, Shaquille O'Neal 22 and Jason Richardson 18 as the Suns won their season-best sixth straight at home.

Phoenix snapped a three-game losing streak overall to remain four games behind Dallas with just seven to play.

"We're not eliminated yet," Richardson said. "We're going to continue to play and we still believe we have a chance."

Gentry called it Game 1 of an eight-game season.

"We're 1-0 in our season," he said. "We're trying to become the first team to go undefeated in the season. Whatever Dallas does is what Dallas does. It doesn't matter to us."

Phoenix plays at Dallas on Sunday.

"We had a great performance from a lot of guys," Nash said. "We wanted it, we worked hard for it and we deserved it tonight — a lot more spirit about us than Sunday in Sacramento."

Ron Artest scored 28 for the Rockets, who dropped to fourth

See **ROCKETS**, Page 2B

Sports in brief

Results from Coahoma Invitational golf tournament

The following are results for the Coahoma Invitational golf tournament:

Boys team standings

1. Colorado City A - 326: Nathan McCright 79, Nick Hart 83, Tyler Hammond 80, Michael Mauldin 84, Ashton Raschke 99.
2. Jim Ned A - 334: Jace Avery 79, Colton Black 77, Ben Avery 89, Hayden Holson 89, Luke Taylor 96.
3. Garden City - 338: Marcus Cook 78, Hayden Halfmann 85, Brian Hirt 85, Levi Schaefer 90, Brett Chudej 97.
4. Wall - 344: Garrett Smith 76, Jacob Daughtrey 90, Will Henderson 93, Kolton Sonnenburg 85, Blake Hartman 93.
5. Ballinger A - 361: Chantz Curry 84, Adam Studer 89, Rhyen Ehlers 92, Payton Williams 96, Joshua Cabrera 102.
6. Coahoma - 368: Mikeger Mendoza 85, Reagen Reid 91, Matt Taylor 94, Lane Douglass 98, Jered Ringear 101.
7. Colorado City B - 369: Kyle Lemons 94, Kirk Leverton 87, Matt Neff 88, Tyler Higgins 100, J.C. Johnson 109.
8. Ballinger B - 377: Jacob Mallory 89, Joseph Castillo 88, Zac Coit 89, D.J. Dismore 111, Taylor Coit 119.
9. Jim Ned B - 402: Austin Adams 93, Chase McKissick 97, Jake Cronk 106, Sam Bush 106.
10. Loreine - Carlton Johnson 103, Jacob Sanchez 97, Mario Lopez 113, Joel Bradley 137, Dylan Archer-Paulhet 137.

Individual medalists: Jake Young, Wall 88; Dusty Salmon, Coahoma 103; Turner Bickford, Wall 105; Ryan Nealy, Ballinger 130.

Girls team standings

1. Wall - 324: Kendra Whitley 71, Maury McCormick 79, Neely

- Goree 87, Kaitlan Benham 87, Madelyn Smith 91.
 2. Garden City - 385: Britini Cook 83, Kat Halfmann 91, Katelyn Hoelscher 103, Rachel Hirt 108, Brooke Halfmann 109.
 3. Jim Ned A - 396: Tessa Castille 93, Melissa Mayes 94, Haley Hargrove 101, Tasha Dougherty 108, Rainie Grimes 112.
 4. Ballinger A - 441: Taylor Gray 101, Paige Mattingley 111, Valerie Albarado 112, Katherine Esquivel 117, Chelsea Skinner 119.
 5. Jim Ned B - 463: Paige Roark 111, Carina Wigge 111, Lela Harris 117, Hannah Coffman 124, Hailey Wolf 125.
 6. Ballinger B - 490: Kelci Zentner 118, Paige Sanders 119, Madelyn Tounget 124, Jennifer Fischer 129.
- Individual medalists: Kalea Hubbard, Colorado City 104; Hayli McCullough, Coahoma 112; Bridget Morgan, Jim Ned 114; Jade Cannon, Colorado City 115; Morgan Maddox, Colorado City 118; Lauren Weir, Jim Ned 128; Rebecca Mince, Coahoma 137.

Notification from BSISD Athletic Dept. on athletes needing physicals

The Big Spring ISD Athletic Department is only accepting physical forms with the revised date of Jan. 6, 2009, as per UIL requirements.

All other forms will not be accepted, so parents need to be sure they have the correct form filled out when taking their child for a physical.

Physicals are required for all incoming seventh, ninth and 11th grade students and are due in the athletic trainer's office before the first day of practice of any sport.

No plans have been made to have mass physicals, so it is the parents' responsibility to take their child to a doctor of their choice.

Golf tournament to benefit KBSB set for April 18

The fifth annual Keep Big Spring Beautiful Golf Tournament has been scheduled for April 18 at the Big Spring Country Club.

The tourney will be played in a four-person scramble format with an entry fee of \$65 per player. Tee time is 8:30 a.m.

Any individual or company can sponsor a hole for \$100. For more information on sponsorship, contact Verna Davis at 267-8003 or 425-2325.

BSCC hosting 3-person scramble this weekend

The Big Spring Country Club is hosting a 3-person scramble tournament Saturday and Sunday 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 Saturday and practice rounds Friday.

Field will be flighted by first round score with the number of flights determined by entries.

Call the Pro Shop at 267-5354 for more info.

Obituaries

LaVerne Powell

LaVerne Powell, 84, of Big Spring died Wednesday, April 1, 2009, in a local hospital. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 4, 2009, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Dr. Randy Cotton, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, and the Rev. Joey Bacon, associate pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

She was born July 15, 1924, in Hamlin and married Billie Powell June 16, 1946, in Sweetwater.

LaVerne attended school in Noodle and Sylvester. She was employed for 35 years by Southwestern Bell Telephone in Sweetwater, Big Spring and Midland, retiring from the Midland office. A lifetime Baptist, LaVerne was a member of Trinity Baptist Church.

Survivors include her husband, Billie Powell of Big Spring; two daughters, Shelia Stockwell and husband T.C., and Sherry Roman and husband David, all of Big Spring; two granddaughters, Keri Sanchez and husband Joe of Pflugerville, and Amy Nunn and husband Paul of Marble Falls; two grandsons, Gregg Roman and wife Jessica and Blaine Roman, all of Big Spring; five great-granddaughters, Brianna Sanchez, Jaci Sanchez, Addison Nunn, Lyssa Roman and Aaralyn Roman; two great-grandsons, Joey Sanchez and Gavin Nunn; three sisters, Billy Jean Dooly of Deer Park, Ada Earle Collins and husband Dave, and Aletta Allred and husband Delbert, all of Abilene; and a number of nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Grady and Georgia Cook; two brothers, Waymon Cook and Grover Cook; one granddaughter, Julie Ann Stockwell; and one brother-in-law, Johnce Dooly.

The family suggests memorials be made to the Trinity Baptist Church Building Fund, 810 E. 11th Place, Big Spring 79720; or to the American Lung Association, 4141 Pinnacle, Suite 212, El Paso 79902.

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

Geraldine Hodnett

Geraldine Hodnett, 45, of Big Spring died Tuesday, March 31, 2009, at her residence. Graveside funeral services will be held at 3 p.m. Friday, April 3, 2009, at the Coahoma Cemetery with the Rev. Ken McMeans, pastor of College Baptist Church, officiating.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

She was born June 6, 1963, in Big Spring and married Jody Hodnett Dec. 28, 1984, in Big Spring.

Geraldine was a lifetime resident of Howard County. She graduated from Coahoma High School. She worked as an in-home aide and was a member of College Baptist Church.

Survivors include her husband, Jody Hodnett of Big Spring; four daughters, Rebecca Hodnett and Madison Sandell, both of Big Spring, Chrissy Ward of Colorado City and Paige Sandell of Fort Worth; two sons, A.J. Hodnett and Logan Sandell, both of Big Spring; her mother, Jeanette Duffer of Big Spring; one brother and sister-in-law, Lester and Jessica Duffer of Big Spring; two sisters and brothers-in-law, Joyce and Bobby Pearson, and Terrie and Jay Billingsley, all of Big Spring; her maternal grandmother, Irene Edwards of Colorado City; her paternal grandmother, Sybil Duffer of Big Spring; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her father, Lester Duffer; and her two grandfathers.

The family suggests memorials be made to Home Hospice, 111 E. Seventh St., Suite A, Big Spring 79720.

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

Take Note

• Immaculate Heart of Mary will hold its sixth annual fish fry at 6 p.m. Friday in the campus cafeteria. Cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children 12 and under. Everyone is welcome.

• The Big Spring High School Class of 1989 is looking for members to attend a 20-year reunion in September. Contact Christy Alexander Brown at (972) 567-8037 or Irma Moreno Garcia at (432) 816-5321 with your updated information.

• 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

• The Family History Center (genealogy library) of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be open from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesdays. If you need assistance in searching out your ancestors, bring all the information you have about your family and we will be happy to assist you. For more information, contact R.A. McKay at (432) 553-8127.

Police blotter

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

- COREY HOFFPAUIR, 32, of 207 E. Eighth St., was arrested Wednesday on a charge of burglary of a building.
- ANNA MARIA HOFFPAUIR, 27, of 207 E. Ninth St., was arrested Wednesday on a charge of burglary of a building.
- RAYMOND SHEPARD, 44, of Hobbs, N.M., was arrested Wednesday on a blue warrant.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 200 block of Third Street.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the 1900 block of Martin Luther King Blvd.

Sheriff

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 48 inmates at the time of this report.
- VINCENT DOIS HAGGARD, 20, was arrested Wednesday on a motion to revoke probation for possession of marijuana – two ounces or less in a drug free zone.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Lamesa. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2500 block of Langley. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. Service refused.
- GAS LEAK was reported in the 700 block of E. 16th Street.
- AUTOMOBILE FIRE was reported in the 100 block of N.E. Eighth Street.

Support Groups

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

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

MONDAY

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

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

TUESDAY

- Grief share, sponsored by Home Hospice and the First Presbyterian Church, Seventh and Runnels (north end door), meets at 6 p.m.. Drop-ins are welcome. For more information, contact Sherry Hodnett at 264-7599.

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

- Celebrate Recovery, a 12-Step program, meets from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Salvation Army, 308 Ayford.

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






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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

- League of United Latin American Citizens LU-LAC Chapter 4791 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. The public is invited.
- Genealogy Society of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.
- 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 St. Mary's Episcopal Church. 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 Cruisers cruise Gregg Street and at the Sonic Drive-In beginning at 6:30 p.m.
- Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.
- Big Spring Squares. Call 263-6305 for more information.

MONDAY

- Keep Big Spring Beautiful meets at noon in the Cactus Room at Howard College.
- District Committee Lone Star of Big Spring meets at noon at 610 Scurry.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 begins at 5 p.m. with weigh-in at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 213-1342 or 263-6819.
- Evening Lions Club meets at 6:45 p.m. at Dragon China Buffet.
- Howard County ARC meets at 806 E. Third in the Bingo Hall. Call 264-0674 for more information.
- The Big Spring Cruisers club meeting at 7 p.m. in the Texas RV Park meeting room.
- Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.
- Big Spring Chapter No. 178 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

TUESDAY

- Coahoma Senior Citizen luncheon is set for 11 a.m. in the Coahoma Community Center.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 14-12-41-21-51-40.
Number matching six of six: 0.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 21-12-8-7-6.
Number matching five of five: 1. Prize: \$22,628
Winning ticket purchased in: Garland.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 5-5-8-5. Sum It Up: 23.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 8-7-3. Sum It Up: 18.

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Publisher... Ext. 250

Managing Editor... Ext. 230

Advertising Manager... Ext. 229

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MAVS

Continued from Page 1B

lot better," Howard said, smiling.
Miami coach Erik Spoelstra — a rookie, just like Chalmers — blamed himself for not calling the timeout. Chalmers said he thought he just wanted to make a quick move to the basket.
The Mavericks beat the Heat for the 10th straight time, although that's only the regular season. Miami climbed from an 0-2 deficit to win the next four and claim the '06 title.
Dallas hasn't won a playoff series since, going out in the first round both times. The Mavs own the eighth seed in the West right now but are hoping to move up. This was their second straight win and improved them to 10-1 at home since the All-Star break. This also was the start of four of five games at home.

What they like most, however, is seeing Howard back.
"That makes us whole," Jason Terry said.
Miami is fifth in the East — and slipping. The Heat lost for the fourth time in five games. It's also a third straight road loss, with this starting a run of four-of-five on the road.
"We've got to keep fighting," Wade said. "We knew we'd be struggling at times. Everybody wants to jump over the hurdle but you've got to walk before you run."
Chalmers scored 18 points and Michael Beasley 17. Daequan Cook scored 13 and Jermaine O'Neal had 12, although he shot 4-of-15.
In the final 2:35, Beasley missed a pair of free throws and a jumper, and Chalmers missed a layup. Beasley redeemed himself by making a pair of free throws to put Miami within 97-96 with 33 seconds left.

ROCKETS

Continued from Page 1B

in the crowded scramble for playoff positioning in the West, a game behind No. 2 Denver and a half-game behind San Antonio. Yao Ming, in a rugged matchup with O'Neal, had 20 points and 14 rebounds.
"I wouldn't call it physical," O'Neal said. "It's just two big trees leaning on each other and going at it."
Shane Battier added 18 points for Houston.
The Suns led by as many as 13 in the first half and were up 67-56 at the break.
Artest scored 10 in a 15-3 surge that gave the Rockets a 77-73 lead on his 19-footer with 6:20 left in

the third quarter. Neither team led by more than three the rest of the quarter and it was 88-all entering the fourth.
Houston outscored the Suns 8-1 to start the final quarter to go up 96-91 on consecutive jumpers by Von Wafer.
Phoenix rallied with a 15-0 run to go up 104-96 on Nash's two free throws 4:17 from the finish. Jared Dudley and Matt Barnes sank 3s, both with assists from Nash, during the outburst.
Artest banked in 3 to cut it to 106-101, then Nash sank a 3 seconds later to make it 109-101. O'Neal and Barnes each missed a pair of free throws to allow Houston to cut it to 111-109 on Wafer's driving layup with 21 seconds to go. But Barnes made two free throws with 18 left to clinch it.

MOATS

Continued from Page 1B

said in a statement issued through his attorneys.
He had stopped Houston Texans running back Ryan Moats' SUV outside Baylor Regional Medical Center in suburban Plano after the vehicle rolled through a red light.
The officer pulled out his gun and threatened Moats with jail as the player and his family pleaded to be allowed to go inside the hospital. Powell continued writing Moats a ticket and lecturing him even after a

fellow officer confirmed that Moats' mother-in-law was dying.
"I can screw you over," Powell, 25, can be heard saying on the video. "I'd rather not do that. Your attitude will dictate everything that happens."
Jonetta Collinsworth, 45, died of breast cancer before Powell allowed Moats to go inside the hospital.
Powell issued an apology, which Moats' agent, Jordan Woy, said Moats and his wife have accepted.
Dallas-Fort Worth television station KTVT reported that a planned meeting between Powell and the Moatses would not happen. Powell's attorney Bob Gorsky, told the television station that they were told the in-person apology would have to be made pub-

licly and with the media present. He said they felt those terms were unacceptable.
Woy said in an e-mail Wednesday to The Associated Press that there would be no meeting.
Powell had said he wanted the meeting with the couple to "personally express my deep regret, sympathy, and to apologize for my poor judgment and unprofessional conduct." He also said he wanted to apologize to his fellow officers.
Dallas police said in a statement Wednesday that Powell "resigned under his own accord." Because he resigned while under investigation, he won't be eligible for rehire with the department, police said. An inter-

nal investigation into Powell's actions will continue, police said.
According to video from a dashboard camera inside the officer's vehicle, Moats' wife, Tamishia Moats, and another woman disregarded Powell's order to get back inside their vehicle, and they rushed into the hospital. After Powell yelled at Tamishia Moats to stay in the SUV, she said, "Excuse me, my mom is dying — do you understand?"
Moats, 26, explained that he had waited until there was no traffic before continuing through the red light.
When Powell asked for proof of insurance, Moats grew more agitated and told the officer to go find it.

BENSON

Continued from Page 1B

the majors since 2006.
General manager Jon Daniels said Wednesday that Benson will be a starter, a move that pushes right-hander Scott Feldman to the bullpen. Benson, 2-0 with a 4.76 ERA in five spring games, will likely be the No. 3 starter behind Kevin Millwood and Vicente Padilla.
The 34-year-old Benson, the No. 1 overall pick by Pittsburgh in 1996, missed 2007 after surgery to repair a torn right rotator cuff. He was 1-4 with a 5.52 ERA in 11 starts last year for Lehigh Valley, Philadelphia's Triple-A team, before the Phillies released him Aug. 30.

Jason Jennings, a starter plagued by elbow problems the last two seasons, will start the season in the bullpen.
Daniels also said that left-hander Eddie Guardado, the veteran reliever who like Jennings came to spring training as a non-roster player, will be in the bullpen.
Right-handed relievers Dustin Nippert (back) and Willie Eyre (groin) likely will begin the season on the disabled list.
Former All-Star reliever Derrick Turnbow, who came to Rangers camp on a minor league deal after missing the second half of last season for Milwaukee with shoulder problems, has accepted an assignment to Triple-A and will begin the season in Oklahoma.
Benson signed a minor league deal with the Rangers a week into spring

training after working out for team scouts.
In his last major league season, Benson was 11-12 with a 4.82 ERA for Baltimore. He has a career record of 68-73 with a 4.34 ERA in 195 starts.
Manager Ron Washington had said at the start of camp that he felt the rotation was set, but Benson proved to the Rangers that he was healthy.
Having Benson allows the Rangers to move Feldman into the bullpen for middle relief, which became a bigger necessity with Nippert and Eyre ailing. Feldman, who will still start the team's Arizona finale Thursday, was 6-8 with a 5.29 ERA in 28 games (25 starts) last season.
Guardado was 3-3 with four saves and a 3.65 ERA in 55 appearances for Texas last season.
He was traded Aug. 25 to Minnesota, the team for which he was a two-time

All-Star, but returned to the Rangers in the offseason. His 860 career appearances over 16 seasons with four teams are third-most among active left-handers in the majors. He has 187 career saves, with Billy Wagner (385) the only active left-hander with more.
Notes: Benson will start Friday's exhibition game in Frisco against Kansas City, and Brandon McCarthy will start the final exhibition game Saturday in Arlington against the Royals. ... LHP Matt Harrison, the other starting pitcher, will remain in Arizona to pitch in a camp game Sunday before joining the team for the season opener at home Monday. ... LHP Derek Holland and hard-throwing RHP Neftali Feliz were both reassigned to minor league camp and will anchor the rotation at Triple-A Oklahoma.

JONES

Continued from Page 1B

manager Jon Daniels said.
Catalanotto hit .317 this spring, but he's a lefty-hitting first baseman, left fielder and DH. The Rangers already have Chris Davis at first, David Murphy in left and Hank Blalock at DH. All hit left-handed.
Texas owes Catalanotto \$4 million this year and a \$2 million buyout of a \$5 million club option for 2010. That figure could be lowered by \$800,000 if he is signed for the \$400,000 minimum this year and next.
Daniels said Jones' chances of making the roster improved dramatically when he told the club he

was willing to be a backup outfielder and part-time DH. Daniels spent most of the past two weeks trying to trade Catalanotto.
Jones' slow start this spring came after he washed out quickly with the Los Angeles Dodgers last year, hitting just .158 with three homers in 75 games after signing a \$36.2 million, two-year deal. He showed up overweight and battled knee problems all season. The Dodgers ate \$22 million to get rid of him.
"I wasn't 100 percent sure exactly what we were going to see," Daniels said. "It was clear that he had lost weight, that his knee was healthy and that he was in a good state of mind. He did not have a sense of entitlement. He really got after it to make the club."
The Rangers signed Catalanotto to a \$13.5 million, three-year deal before the 2007 season. At the time, they were desperately thin in the outfield but have since signed or traded for several players, most notably center fielder Josh Hamilton.
"Frank has been nothing but professional," Daniels said. "I honestly believe that he can help a club. I wish him luck down the line."
The Rangers decided to go with another potential comeback story Wednesday by giving the final spot in their rotation to right-hander Kris Benson,

who hasn't pitched in the majors since 2006.
Benson, who is 2-0 with a 4.76 ERA in five spring games, pushed right-hander Scott Feldman into the bullpen.
Benson, the No. 1 overall pick by Pittsburgh in 1996, missed 2007 after surgery to repair a torn right rotator cuff. He was 1-4 with a 5.52 ERA in 11 starts last year for Lehigh Valley, Philadelphia's Triple-A team, before the Phillies released him Aug. 30.
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Former All-Star reliever Derrick Turnbow, who came to Rangers camp on a minor league deal after missing the second half of last season for Milwaukee with shoulder problems, has accepted an assignment to Triple-A Oklahoma City.

Contract Bridge
By Steve Becker
Sylvia Strikes Again
North dealer. Neither side vulnerable.
NORTH: ♠A K 10 8, ♥A 10 3 2, ♦Q J 10 3 2, ♣—
WEST: ♠—, ♥8 7, ♦A K 9 8 7 6 5 4, ♣9 6 3
EAST: ♠Q J 7 2, ♥9 6 5 4, ♦—, ♣8 7 5 4 2
SOUTH: ♠9 6 5 4 3, ♥K Q J, ♦—, ♣A K Q J 10
The bidding: North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass
Pass Dble Redble
Opening lead — ace of diamonds.
It was impossible to predict what Sylvia would do at any time, since her conception of the game was completely different than anyone else's.
The bids and plays she would improvise on the spur of the moment — while to her appearing entirely logical — were a never-ending source of astonishment not only to her harried partners but also to her (usually) grateful opponents.
Despite this, Sylvia was a popular member of the club, frequently providing the members with something to talk about whenever one of her zany bids or plays worked out in her favor.
Take this deal from Sylvia's very first team-of-four match. She was East and doubled six spades, which South — well aware of Sylvia's proclivities — redoubled.
West led the ace of diamonds, and Sylvia trumped it with the jack! This extraordinary play naturally drew a gasp from the large gallery of kibitzers, but thereafter the play proceeded normally, and South went down one.
At the other table, South also got to six spades (undoubled), but made the slam. Here, too, the ace of diamonds was led, but East discarded a club on it. Declarer ruffed and led a spade, West showing out.
South's only chance now was a trump endplay, which he proceeded to execute. He took the spade ace, led a heart to the king and cashed four clubs, discarding dummy's four remaining diamonds. Next he played three more rounds of hearts ending in dummy, at which point dummy's last three cards were the K-10-8 of spades. The eight-of-spades lead then left East without recourse.
Sylvia's team thus gained 1,180 points on the deal as the result of her trumping her partner's ace!

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

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Palestinian kills Israeli teen with pickax

BAT AYIN, West Bank (AP) — A Palestinian armed with a pickax went on a rampage Thursday in this West Bank Jewish settlement, killing a 13-year-old Israeli and wounding a 7-year-old before fleeing the area.

Israeli television stations showed pictures of the dead teenager, bespectacled with long sidecurls and a large skullcap worn by observant Jews.

The attack posed an important test for new Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has promised a firm hand against militants and expressed skepticism about prospects for peace. Government spokesman Mark Regev called it a "senseless act of brutality against innocents."

Police and military forces

were looking for the attacker and television broadcasts showed bearded settlers armed with automatic rifles joining in the search.

Army forces were operating in the nearby village of Safa, searching houses and taking village residents to a central school yard. The military said all roads around the settlement of Bat Ayin were closed.

Avinoam Maymon, a 45-year-old resident, said he tried to stop the assailant after the attack and violently struggled with him for a minute or two.

"He tried to kill me. I grabbed his hand and took the ax and he escaped," he told The Associated Press. Israeli TV stations showed pictures of the red pickax lying on the ground with drops of blood

splattered on the road.

The attacker apparently entered Bat Ayin, located between Jerusalem and the southern West Bank city of Hebron, unhindered.

The settlement is home to extremist religious settlers who have refused to build a security fence around their community — standard practice in most settlements — saying it would be a sign of weakness. Maymon said the attacker fled to a neighboring "murderous village."

Police identified the dead boy as Shlomo Nativ, 13. His funeral was set for Thursday afternoon and was closed to the media at the family's request.

A murky militant group calling itself the Martyrs of Imad Mughniyeh claimed responsibility for the attack

in an e-mail sent to the AP.

The group is named for a Hezbollah mastermind killed in Syria last year in what is believed to have been an assassination by Israeli intelligence. It has claimed a number of past attacks, but Israeli defense officials believe it is likely a name used by other groups to avoid Israeli reprisals.

The e-mail said the militant group Islamic Jihad was also involved, but the group's spokesman in Gaza would not comment.

The attack will likely heighten tensions between Palestinians and Israel's new hard-line government, which has already voiced skepticism about peace negotiations in its first days in office.

"The new Israeli government will have a zero tolerance

policy toward these sorts of attacks and will refuse to accept them as routine," Regev said. "The Palestinian leadership must both in word and in deed too have a zero tolerance policy to this sort of attack to demonstrate its commitment to peace."

Netanyahu was elected to office on a campaign that criticized his predecessor's peace negotiations with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

Since then Netanyahu has said he will seek peace, but has given few details about his vision for a final agreement. He has specifically refused to endorse the idea of an independent Palestinian state — a key demand of the Palestinians and centerpiece of U.S. diplomacy in the region.

FIRE

Continued from Page 1A

down considerably compared to last year."

Sullivan and his crews responded to a blaze in the Vincent area Tuesday.

"The fire near Vincent covered 320 acres. We also responded to a fire Sunday on Moss Lake Road," said Sullivan. "That one could have been really, really bad. However, we got some help from the Forest Service, and between us we managed to keep it to only 15 acres."

Recent rains have done little to curb the spread of wildfires in the Crossroads area, according to Sullivan, and despite the arrival of April, he said there's little hope for things to slow down anytime soon.

"They always say April showers

bring May flowers. We're hoping April showers will help stave off some of these wildfires," said Sullivan with a tired laugh. "Unfortunately, the outlook, as it stands right now, isn't very good. We're right in the middle of a tinder box, and unless we get some considerable rain, things are just going to get worse."

With a burn ban currently in effect, Sullivan said it will most likely have to be extended later this month.

"The burn ban currently in effect ends the middle of this month," said Sullivan. "Unless we can get some rain and get things to green-up a little, we'll have to ask county commissioners to extend it by at least 45 days. I understand it puts a strain on many county residents, but we just don't have a choice."

Sullivan said the most important thing area residents can do to help

prevent wildfires is to abstain from burning trash.

"Please don't burn. That's the best advice I can give everyone," said Sullivan firmly. "I understand some have to for health and safety reasons, but if you can help it, don't burn."

While the burn ban places rather stringent requirements on county residents utilizing burn barrels, it is still allowed, according to Sullivan. However, the fire chief warns the consequences for not following the law — down to the letter — is nothing to laugh at.

"A \$5 fee to take your trash to the municipal landfill is pretty fair when you compare it to a \$1,000 fine for breaking the law," said Sullivan. "It's a chance that's just not worth taking."

Sullivan encouraged residents to do what they can to lessen the chance of

their home being destroyed by a wildfire.

"Keep the grass and other brush cut as low as possible, and make sure you clear things away from the area surrounding your home," he said. "Do everything you can to protect your property, because if we don't get some real moisture soon, we'll all be at risk."

In the meantime, Sullivan said he and his firefighters will do everything in their power to protect Howard County and the surrounding areas.

"Just keep us in your thoughts and prayers," said Sullivan. "We have to make it through this period. It's something we have to do. We don't really have a choice."

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

OFFICER

Continued from Page 1A

the details of the internal investigation that followed Terrazas' arrest.

Terrazas was arrested just before midnight at the bar, located on S. Highway 87 close

to the city limits, after deputies with the Howard County Sheriff's Office and officers with the BSPD responded to a report of a fight involving a police officer, according to information released by BSPD Chief Lonnie Smith shortly after the incident.

"Upon arrival, law enforce-

ment found that the officer was off-duty and intoxicated," said Smith. "Terrazas was arrested on charges of public intoxication and assault."

According to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer for the BSPD, the person Terrazas allegedly assaulted did not suffer any major inju-

ries in the altercation.

Terrazas was taken into custody by deputies and booked into the Howard County Jail, according to HCSO Chief Deputy Mark Hall.

"Records show that he (Terrazas) pleaded no contest to the charge of assault and was fined \$165, plus court fees,"

said Hall. "He also pleaded no contest to the charge of public intoxication, and was also fined \$165, along with court fees."

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

WALK

Continued from Page 1A

To register, a \$20 donation is encouraged.

"We are trying to raise money, that's what the walk is about," Jackson said. "All the money raised will stay in the West Texas area and provide services and education to those with kidney disease."

The National Kidney

Foundation Serving West Texas assists 79 counties and currently only has three walks in the area: Lubbock, Big Spring and Amarillo.

Walkers can participate as individuals or form teams. All ages are welcome to take part. Also, each person who raises \$100 will receive a free Kidney Walk T-shirt.

"We encourage all people from the community to come out.

Even if you are walking with a walker or using a wheelchair, we encourage you to still come out and take part," Jackson said.

According to Jackson, 26 million people suffer from kidney diseases and there are another 26 million who don't know they have the disease.

"Chances are you know someone or you yourself are effected by kidney disease," she said. "It's a silent killer,

but it's preventable."

Another kidney walk is planned for Oct. 31, and Jackson hopes the event becomes an annual affair in Big Spring.

Terry Watson, dialysis patient and walk chairman, took on the task of setting up the walk in Big Spring.

"I had told him that certain amount of funds had to be raised and planning had to be done, and he took it upon himself to set it up and get it

done," Jackson said.

A free screening is scheduled April 18 in Midland, Jackson said.

For more information on the screening or to register for the walk, go to www.kidneywalk.org. Registration will be taken until the day before the walk. After that, participants will have to sign up the morning of the event.

"Kidney disease is very common and can be fatal," Jackson said.

"But it is preventable, so why not take precautions?"

For more information about kidney disease, visit www.kidney.org.

BUDGET

Continued from Page 1A

plan.

Democratic critics of the budget expressed concern about measures in health and human services spending, including a provision that Ogden said was intended to prohibit state money from being spent on research that destroys human embryos.

Sen. Kirk Watson, D-Austin, called the budget a "fundamentally flawed document."

"It remains far from clear that this provision won't have a direct impact on scientists and researchers at some of

the premier laboratories in the state," Watson said. "And this rider will doubtlessly damage our state's reputation for economic development and scientific discovery."

Watson, who voted against the budget, also criticized the plan for relying on the federal rescue dollars to enable "the state's worst fiscal habits without reforming them."

The budget significantly decreases funding to the Texas Youth Commission, which underwent a massive overhaul after a juvenile sex abuse scandal two years ago. The new proposal would cut spending on the juvenile agency by

\$81 million and mandates more than 700 employee cuts.

The Senate budget increases state spending by:

- \$600 million for cancer prevention and research;
- \$543 million for state schools;
- \$31 million to equip 2,500 school buses with seat belts;
- \$32.5 million to expand pre-kindergarten to 22,500 more children;
- \$27.1 million to buy and operate 450 patrol cars for the Department of Public Safety; and
- \$10 million to expand Boll Weevil eradication efforts made necessary in southeast Texas by Hurricane Ike;

The budget also prohibits the use of state dollars to purchase Microsoft Vista products.

State dollars, made up mostly of sales tax revenue and other taxes, comprise almost 48 percent of the total budget. Federal funds, including the stimulus money, make up about 36 percent of the budget.

The federal stimulus money is less than 10 percent of the total Senate budget. Another \$3.3 billion in federal stimulus money has been set aside for supplemental spending in the current budget period, which ends this summer.

The two-year budget is the one piece of legislation lawmakers

are legally required to adopt during the biennial legislative session, which convened in January and adjourns in June.



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AN ENCOURAGING WORD

By Eddy Pitchford

We like to eat! We set our schedules around designated dinner times. We know the location of restaurants. We watch cooking shows. We digest life through comfort foods. We crave sweets and then want to run aweigh from the pounding given by our scales.

What if we craved the goodness of God? What if we had such an appetite for God's word that we designated study times throughout the day? What if we cleaned out the "junk food" that desensitizes our hearts to the wonder of God's grace?

"Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that he Lord is gracious." (1 Peter 2:1-3).

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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

Don't forget to take part in Trash-Off

Spring has sprung. That means it's time for that traditional "spring cleaning" of our community known as the Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off which will be observed Saturday.

Organizers hope about 300 local volunteers or more will join the more than 180,000 across the state who will pick up an estimated two million pounds of litter from Texas roadsides and city parks.

Keep Big Spring Beautiful member Pat Simmons, the local coordinator for the event, is seeking anyone interested to come out and take part in the Trash-Off, whether they volunteer as individuals, groups or organizations.

What's more, Trash-Off organizers are encouraging all property owners to take part in the event by not only cleaning up their property, but to volunteer by helping clean up vacant lots and other areas throughout the city.

While there are 13 Adopt-A-Spots throughout the city, which will be the focus of several groups, Simmons said anyone interested in taking part can pick up trash anywhere in the community.

Plastic bags are available for participants and they can be picked up Friday from 9 a.m. to noon at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce office on W. Third Street. Volunteers may also call Simmons at 263-4607 or 213-5444, not only to register individually or as a group, but to arrange for picking up bags early.

There will be hot dogs, provided by the Greater Big Spring Rotary Club, at the Belaski Pavilion in Comanche Trail Park following the event for participants. As a result, Simmons is asking that volunteer register so that Rotarians will know how many people they'll need to feed.

We encourage anyone who can to take part in this weekend's Trash-Off. You'll not only get a sense of achievement, but you'll help make sure Big Spring is beautiful.

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

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

When we walk with You, Lord, we see the world through rose colored glasses.

Amen

Things we take for granted

I thought I knew what real pain was. I had recovered from two broken legs before I was 18 years old, had undergone several surgical procedures and years of stomach problems that make me wince just thinking about them.

However, much like most things in life, I didn't know as much as I thought I did.

Recently, I developed a bulging disc in my spine. There's really no telling how long it had been that way, just waiting for the right moment to bring me to my knees. According to WebMD, most people diagnosed with a bulging disc have them for years before any real symptoms develop, an idea that leaves me with a sinking feeling for what the future might hold.

While simply trying to stretch out my back more than three weeks ago — which had been aching for a few weeks for no particular reason — the whole thing went south in the blink of an eye. I went from cooking several wracks of ribs on the grill to lying on the floor, writhing in pain.

Of course it would have to happen on a Sunday, when most doctors — minus the emergency room physicians — are either home with their families or assaulting a golf course somewhere. And, having already gone round and round with my health insurance company regarding my last emergency room visit, which came to around \$4,000 for a bag of intravenous fluid and two Tylenols, I decided to suffer until Monday.

I mean, how long can this really last, right?

Much to my relief, a family friend who is a massage therapist took pity on me, and a few passes of the ultrasound massage machine — I'm sure there's a technical name for it, but it eludes me — and some other gadgets later, I was able to stand without nearly passing out.

And, if I were a lucky man, that would have been the end

of it. Well, I suppose I'm not as lucky as I'd like to be.

The pressure from the disc was apparently pressing on the median nerve, which travels through the shoulder, down the arm and into the hand. Believe it or not, I figured that one out by looking at medical chart long before the first doctor that diagnosed me could proudly spout it out. Yay for me, I suppose.

So, what does the pressure on this rather important nerve translate into?

First, I had no feeling in my middle or index fingers, as well as my thumb. And while this sort of numbness conjured images of dire maladies — stroke, heart attack, etc. — it was a mere annoyance aside the pain that was, and still is, running through my back and forearm.

This, of course, was enough to get me to head to the doctor's office and cough up the exorbitant co-pay my health insurance provider requires. Forced to see a doctor other than my own, we spoke for about 30 second and she sent me home with the biggest ibuprofen pills I've ever seen and a pat on the behind. Needless to say, I left the clinic feeling like maybe she didn't grasp the full nature of my excruciating predicament.

To make a long story short, I went back when my doc was in town, and have since been shuttled from one specialist to another, with the trail currently leading to a neurologist. I've endured an MRI, numerous tests, pokes and prods, all to be told that particular doctor can't help me.

Through the course of this, however, there is one shining light at the end of the tunnel, and it's not the train (I hope). I never realized how many things I took for granted in my life. I never realized how some of the simplest tasks — from brushing my own teeth and hair to cutting a piece of meat — were so very important in daily life.

As a writer and Internet junky, my right hand is my life. Whether I'm using a mouse or a keyboard, each digit has its own set of jobs, and I never realized how much I truly relied on them to make my living. Typing with

numb fingers is something of an epic challenge, and because of the pain in my forearm, I can't use my right limb to work the mouse. Luckily, I'm becoming pretty adept at mousing with my left hand. Go figure.

Buttoning a shirt is a challenge, and the cuffs on my left arm are just about impossible. Eating left handed is also a challenge, and I can't help but think this could be some sort of divine punishment for making fun of my father — who just happens to be left-handed — for so many years. Writing with a pencil or pen, well, with numb fingers and thumb is certainly a sight to see, mainly because it is so very hard to read. I bet even the best handwriting expert in the world couldn't catch me like this, and would probably profile me as a six-year-old child.

I also took so many of the people in my life for granted. Since this happened, several of my good friends have stepped in and helped out where they could. My parents, who already have more on their shoulders than they can carry, have also jumped in and assisted when possible.

My friends' mother, Mary Perez RMT, and their grandfather, Eliseo Gamboa RMT, from the Gamboa Office have been a world of help — and knowledge, having dealt with this sort of back malady many times in the past — and continue to offer their services so selflessly.

Most doctors say it takes a few months — OK, so I'm cringing again — for this problem to be corrected, even if I have to have surgery, a prospect I'm not very fond of. However, in the end I suppose all the pain and suffering is worth it. It's reminded me just how delicate the human body can be, and how we take it for granted when it's firing on all four cylinders like it's supposed to.

If I survive this ordeal, I'm making a mental note to be more thankful — on a daily basis — for my friends and family, and a body that works... at least most of the time.

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

ADDRESSES

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

• **BARACK OBAMA**
President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

• **KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON**
U.S. Senator

703 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: 202-224-5922

• **JOHN CORNYN**
U.S. Senator
517 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: 202-224-2934

• **RANDY NEUGEBAUER**
U.S. Representative
19th Cong. District

1510 Scurry
Big Spring
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A benefit for rape victims

What's Bill O'Reilly doing at a benefit for rape victims and their families? Helping them raise money. Last time I checked, that's a good thing.

I disagree with much of what Bill has to say on most subjects. I think he feels the same way about me. That's fine. But he happens to have a huge following.

Many people agree with him, respect him and might even give more money because of him to a foundation that provides financial support so that the families of rape victims can be with their loved ones during the investigation and trial of the criminal case — which is what the foundation he was supporting in Florida does. When you tell O'Reilly he's not welcome, you're also telling all the people who watch him every day that you're not so sure about them, either.

On the other hand, having him, and them, on your side can be a major help if you're trying to get something passed almost anywhere in the United States other than Berkeley and Cambridge.

So why exactly is it that we shouldn't let him help us? How is it that you get stronger by

excluding people?

I tried to ignore this one for as long as I could. Were people really angry that O'Reilly spoke at a lunch for donors to a foundation that helps pay family hotel bills so daughters, sisters and wives don't have to go through rape trials alone?

Part of the to-do has just been ratings silliness: If ratings go up by attacking the other guy, what are you going to do? Another segment on where he didn't belong. But some of the outrage is coming from people I respect, who jumped into the fray.

I've been fighting for rape victims for longer than I've been fighting with O'Reilly. I wish the movement were so strong and my certainty that we had all the answers so great that it could be afforded the luxury of exclusivity.

It can't. We don't.

Thanks to the work of many, including the foundation O'Reilly supported, women who are raped have more people to look to for help in the search for justice. But for the overwhelming majority who are raped by men they know, the trip is not fundamentally different from how it's always been. These are not cases that the criminal justice system can punish: Consent is still "he said-she said," which is not something you can determine beyond a reasonable doubt, especially not when you're dealing with people who were drunk or stoned, started the night on a

date, and are now disagreeing as to when, if at all, the date ended.

I don't believe in "blaming" the victim. I find blame a pretty useless emotion in all of this. My point is only that if the criminal justice system can't punish these cases, it's not going to be much of a deterrent, either. Are boys going to start respecting female autonomy — even when the young woman doesn't respect her own enough — and only take "yes" for an answer because they have reason to fear a rape charge by the soused woman they're making out with? Not unless she uses those exact words to explain it to him.

I have always believed that women need to learn to say "no" very clearly. Not in jest I say to them, "Don't say no, say rape." My daughter has convinced me that girls need to learn self-defense to give them the power to stand up for themselves not against armed rapists but against guys who come with an invitation. We need to teach girls to protect themselves, to stand up for themselves, not because they're to blame when they don't, but because they will pay the price.

O'Reilly and I don't agree on much, but he's not wrong to hold up a mirror for us, to focus us on what we need to teach our daughters, as well as our sons. And I would definitely take his money.

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Legislature highlights

AUSTIN (AP) — The House approved a proposed constitutional amendment Wednesday that would allow the Legislature to meet to consider overriding a gubernatorial veto, even if a legislative session has ended. The House approved the proposal 131-16.

It also must be passed by the Senate before going to the state's voters.

Rep. Gary Elkins, a Houston Republican, put forth the resolution. Lawmakers can decide to override a veto of a bill by the governor while in session. But Elkins said

many times the Legislature is already out of session and cannot consider an override. His proposal would allow lawmakers to return to Austin for a day to respond to a veto.

A previous similar proposal failed to pass in the 2007 Legislature.

SHIELD LAW

Texas journalists are closer than ever to getting legal protections against revealing confidential sources, notes and tapes in court.

The state House of Representatives voted 146-2 on Wednesday to give initial

approval for a journalistic shield law, formally known as the Free Flow of Information Act.

Similar proposals died in each of the past two legislative sessions after strong objections from attorneys who said it would hurt prosecution of criminal cases.

San Antonio Democrat Rep. Trey Martinez Fischer has been pushing the bill through contentious debates and marathon compromise meetings with district attorneys and members of the news media.

The bill — which now has backing from both sides —

gives limited immunity, and a judge can override it.

Prosecutors had said previous versions of the bill made it too difficult to prove they needed information from reporters.

KICKAPOO DEER HUNTING

A bill to allow members of the Kickapoo Indian tribe in Eagle Pass to hunt antlerless white-tailed deer for religious purposes throughout the year won tentative approval in the House on Wednesday. Hunting would be allowed for licensed Kickapoo hunters between one-half hour

before sunrise and one-half hour after sunset.

DEJA VU

The House grew quiet for a moment with reminders of last session's attempts to oust then-Speaker Tom Craddick when Rep. Larry Taylor, R-Friendswood, asked Wednesday to be recognized for a motion to "vacate the chair."

After a pause, Taylor said he was referring to the chairman of the House Democrats, Rep. Jim Dunning of Waco.

Then, Taylor pointed out with a smile that it was April Fool's Day.

Wrong man cremated at funeral home

HOUSTON (AP) — A funeral home that handles indigent burials apparently cremated the body of a man whose family had requested a viewing and sent a woman's body to be embalmed instead, prompting an investigation.

The mix-up was discovered after a mortuary school contacted Carnes Funeral Home to ask permission to embalm a woman's body who was supposed to be cremated. Employees at the funeral home thought the woman's body had been cremated, but checked their records and realized they had sent her body to Commonwealth Institute of Funeral Service.

The funeral home had cremated the body of 91-year-old Fred Wood instead, said David Turkel, executive director of Harris County's Community Services Department, in Wednesday's online edition of the Houston Chronicle.

Turkel, who oversees indigent burials for the county, said the mistake was intolerable.

"It's beyond me how you could mix up a male and a female," Turkel said. He planned to thoroughly review the funeral home's policies and procedures.

Carnes Funeral Home spokesman Mike Millo said his company was also investigating the incident.

"An employee made a mistake, and we're very sorry for the family," Millo said.

The funeral home has made nearly \$1 million burying and cremating paupers for the county in the last three years, according to county records the newspaper obtained. Its contract is set to expire this month and county Purchasing Agent Kelly Johnson said the funeral home probably would have been awarded the new contract later this month.

But he said his office would not move forward with the new contract until Turkel finished scrutinizing Carnes' operations.

This is not the first time the funeral home has had a mix-up. Turkel said the bodies of two other paupers were switched in 2006 — they were buried in the other's grave. That mistake was fixed the same day and no families were involved.

A family member told a county bereavement counselor she did not want to talk to the news media.

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INSIDE THE BIG SPRING MALL

Mrs. Obama takes her signature style on the road



AP Photo/Alastair Grant

US first lady Michelle Obama, looks towards the media as she poses with British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, his wife Sarah, and President of the US Barack Obama, all partly obscured, on the doorstep of 10 Downing Street in London.

SAMANTHA CRITCHELL

AP Fashion Writer

Michelle Obama packed a suitcase of her favorite designers for her first overseas trip as first lady, wearing many of the same labels she's put on the fashion map — including the decidedly unstuffy J. Crew.

As she toured London Wednesday ahead of the G-20 summit and met Queen Elizabeth II, Mrs. Obama stuck with many of the labels that she wore during inauguration festivities two months ago — Jason Wu, Thakoon and Isabel Toledo — reaffirming her role as champion of unsung American fashion.

She also wore items by the better-known Michael Kors, whom she also wore for her first official portrait, and J.Crew, the brand she once said she shopped for online at night.

"She's continuing her understated glamour," said Anamaria Wilson, fashion news/features director at Harper's Bazaar. "She puts her own individual twist on things. She'll mix a print, wear a nice vivid color. ... And she's still wearing American designers, fostering American fashion, something we need to be doing right now."

The two-tone Toledo dress she wore to meet the queen had an ivory camisole top, origami-style waistband and a full tea-length black skirt. British reporters had buzzed about whether Mrs. Obama would bare her arms with the queen; she did not, covering them with a black cardigan, but later shed the sweater for the G-20 working dinner.

The look had a retro vibe — almost like the late Princess Grace of Monaco.

Otherwise, Mrs. Obama's outfits were a little more fashion-forward and carried a message of

measured cheerfulness.

She got on Air Force One wearing an ivory tulle tweed coat by Thakoon adorned with a jeweled floral brooch, a black sheath by Kors and strands of pearls. When she arrived hours later, she stepped off in a sunny chartreuse-colored silk dress with a shawl collar by Wu, wrapped in a long black Kors cardigan and a studded black belt she has worn many times before.

"When you think about the chartreuse color she wore to step off the plane, I think it was an optimistic color," said Marc Karimzadeh, designer sports-wear editor at Women's Wear Daily. "The hopeful, optimistic color really signifies what a lot of people hope this trip will be."

She toured a cancer center with Sarah Brown in a J.Crew ensemble that included a mint-green pencil skirt and beaded cardigan in champagne, paired with embossed patent leather Jimmy Choo pumps. It was a sharp visual contrast to the dark navy Britt Lintner dress, dark pantyhose and black pumps that the British prime minister's wife was wearing.

The light color helped establish a casual-yet-yet elegant tone, Karimzadeh said, while successfully keeping her from looking too stiff, which often happens in a political setting. (The J. Crew pieces are available in stores — at least for now. The retailer reports that each time Mrs. Obama wears something it sells out.)

Jenna Lyons, J.Crew's creative director, said Mrs. Obama successfully matches separates and accessories that weren't laid out as a package by designers. And the dot pattern in her skirt and the constellation pattern of the beads in her sweater is another example of the bold style that has become her "hallmark," Lyons said.

"She loves the cardigan," noted Bazaar's Wilson. "She keeps it classic, but she's not wearing a buttoned-up look either. She always keeps it modern in the confines of classic fashion."

She added, "Michelle Obama is not afraid to be individual and make a fashion statement, which is refreshing."

Not surprisingly, Lyons also thought the first lady sent the right message by wearing pieces from a mainstream source instead of all couture labels. "Considering everything that's happening in the economy and in the world, I think this is a smart and appropriate way to say to Europe, 'I shop at a place that you might shop at, a place where regular people shop.'"

Frog ponds help endangered species close to home

LINDA LOMBARDI

The Associated Press

When you hear about animals in danger of extinction, you probably picture exotic places from nature shows. But Brent Brock saw the problem closer to home when he returned to a city park pond in Topeka, Kan., that was home to thousands of frogs when he was a kid.

"It looks the same, but there are no frogs," he says. "Finally after about an hour of searching I found one lonely little bullfrog."

Amphibians are currently in crisis, and it's not just due to habitat loss.

Climate change and disease seem to be playing a role, but whatever the reason, about 46 percent of the 277 species of amphibians in the United States are at risk, according to Brock, program director for Tree Walkers International, an organization that encourages private individuals to get involved in amphibian conservation.

The bright side is that it's unlike the plight of pandas and polar bears in that you can help in a hands-on way. Because frogs and salamanders are secretive and nocturnal creatures, you may not see them — but they're out there, and probably quite nearby.

"You live closer to amphibians than you think," says David Mizejewski, author and naturalist with the National Wildlife Federation.

One way you can help is to build a pond — or if you've got one, modify it to make it more amphibian-friendly. Ornamental fish ponds are usually not well suited for amphibians, says Brock, and they may be lured away from more appropriate habitat to lay eggs, only to have them eaten by your fish.

Some simple modifications may help your existing pond work as amphibian habitat, and if you want to build one from scratch, it doesn't have to be elaborate — Brock installed one about half the size of a bathtub that cost less than \$100.

Even without a pond, your yard can provide habitat for adult amphibians, many of which are less dependent on bodies of water outside breeding season. Perhaps the most important step is to minimize your use of pesticides and other chemicals, which not only affect amphibians directly — they

absorb toxins through their delicate skin — but kill off the insects that they need for food.

In fact, helping amphibians might just mean less yard work. Minimize that chemical-laden lawn and instead plant native vegetation. And don't work so hard at cleanup; that pile of fallen woody debris is just the sort of place where you'd find amphibians in the wild.

Another way to help doesn't even require a yard: You can volunteer with Frogwatch. Participants go out after sunset to listen for frog calls, reporting data on weather and species of frogs heard. Shelly Grow of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, which recently started coordinating Frogwatch, says it's not that hard for the average person to learn to tell frog calls apart

because you'll only be dealing with a handful of species at any given time.

Frogwatch volunteers don't have to live near pristine wilderness, or even a permanent body of water. Many amphibians reproduce in temporary ponds called vernal pools that dry up after the breeding season.

"Even if you live in a densely populated urban area, probably within a mile of where you are there's a wetland where you can participate," says Mizejewski.

The data collected can help scientists track changes in frog populations, which is crucial at a time when so many species are disappearing.

On the Net:

For more information on wildlife-friendly backyards: www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife

Find lists of zoos that are holding Frogwatch training programs: <http://www.aza.org/frogwatch/>

Find amphibian pond guidelines under Operation Frog Pond at <http://www.treewalkers.org/twidocs>

Tomorrow's Horoscope

The comforting Cancer moon inspires a snugly mood. Motivation is low for doing things that involve leaving the cozy confines of home. That's not to say we won't be motivated to work at some things. The Cancer moon is a nurturing mother, urging us to clean our rooms, eat right and handle our personal business. Curl up and stay in tonight.



HOLIDAY MATHS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). A relationship is changing in obvious ways. Go lightly through the transition. This is only one of the many incarnations this relationship will have in your lifetime. Everything is shifting for the better.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Relax. Let nothing cause you undue stress, especially not mundane nuisances such as bad drivers, traffic, dropped cell phone calls or slow Internet service. Remind yourself that everything happens in perfect time.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You work comfortably within a highly structured environment. The more rules to the game, the better. You pay attention to each detail and easily find and maneuver the winning strategies.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Many will offer advice, but most of it isn't helpful. Go straight to the top. Get the ear of someone you respect. You need to bounce your ideas off of a wise person who can help you see what you need to do next.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There is no reason to put off your joy. Feel good now. Give up a struggle that's between you and you. The punishment you inflict upon

yourself is needless and helps no one. Forgive and forget.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll be out doing what you need to do and there may be a line or two to stand in. You'll be next to interesting people, though, and if you strike up a conversation, you will find out you have much in common.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're through with feeling undervalued. If someone isn't treating you right, you'll get the perfect moment to rectify the situation. It will help to call in a third party who thinks you're spectacular.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). At work, you will be tempted to go on autopilot, but this is no time to coast. Make sure your level of participation is such that you feel completely engaged in life. Others will feel this, too, and respect you for it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). One of your endeavors is much more challenging than it should be. Consider that the timing may not be quite right. Back off for a while. When it's right, it will come easily to you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). If it weren't for you, many things would go unnoticed. Bringing attention to small details adds magic to your experience and when you share your insights the enchantment extends to others.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You have the intensity, passion and ferocity in you to create your desired reality, though you may channel this in a very controlled and cool way. You are wise to watch how a game is being played before you jump in.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You've attained a level of achievement that you can be proud of, but don't rest. Start a new endeavor. Being a beginner is humbling and

absolutely necessary for your growth and development.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm a Taurus and I've met the man of my dreams — a Sagittarius. The only problem is, he doesn't seem quite as into me as I am into him. He doesn't seem to like me, but the intensity is just not the same as what I feel for him, I can just tell. Do you have any advice?"

Oh, yes! Stay in control and totally self-contained. Don't gush or let him know that you've lost your heart to him. And know who he is and what he needs. A Sagittarius man requires lots of unexpected excitement from the girl of his dreams. So don't stay on one note. Taurus gals can be stubborn.

Once they realize what works they press that button until the cows (or bulls, as the case may be) come home. But what's working will cease working if it's overdone. Change it up. Be artful. One week you're the supportive cheerleader who calls to rally him. The next week you're the mysterious goddess instead — you Greta Garbo him. Then what's next? Maybe nothing at all. Maybe something thrilling. Only you know. Keep him suspended in wonder.

C E L E B R I T Y PROFILES: Two-time Academy Award nominated actor Robert Downey Jr. is an Aries who channels his warrior energy through blockbusters like "Iron Man." When Aries stay busy, they stay on track. Downey has his natal sun, Mercury and Venus all in the passionate sign of the ram, so he's cut out to be an action hero. Also, his moon and Jupiter in Taurus foretell terrific luck in roles that involve singing.

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Courtesy photo

Yvette Villarreal was honored Tuesday as Hangar 25 Air Museum's Veteran of the Month for March. Villarreal served in the United States Navy as an engineman in Desert Storm/Desert Shield. She served on the USN Chavenet Tags 29, USS Arcadia, USS Safeguard, Navspecward, USS Rushmore and USS Land.

Dialysis nurse charged with killing 5 patients

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A Texas nurse has been charged with injecting 10 patients with bleach, killing five of them, at a dialysis center where the mystery surrounding an unusual spike in deaths last April has shadowed the clinic for the past year.

Kimberly Saenz was indicted by an Angelina County grand jury this week on one count of capital murder, which includes all five patient deaths, and five counts of aggravated assault. Prosecutors say she injected patients with bleach before the Lufkin Dialysis Center abruptly closed to investigate why so many patients were dying.

Saenz, 35, worked at the clinic for eight months before being fired April 29, a day after DaVita Inc. temporarily shut down its Lufkin clinic. Saenz was arrested a month later on two counts of aggravated assault for injecting bleach into two patients, both of whom lived, but had not been charged in any deaths until late Tuesday.

Saenz was being held Wednesday at the county jail without bond. Her attorney, John Henry Tatum, hasn't returned numerous calls seeking comment, including one Wednesday, since her initial arrest last year.

Family members of several DaVita

patients who died at the clinic last April have long speculated about the nurse, and the indictments brought little surprise to them.

"I'm glad she's in jail," said Wanda Hollingsworth, whose mother died in the clinic on April 1, 2008. "I don't want her to hurt anyone else."

The indictments were first reported by The Lufkin Daily News.

DaVita, which operates about 1,300 dialysis centers nationwide, has painted Saenz as a rogue nurse and believed that she was linked to the deaths long before the indictments were handed up this week.

In a statement, DaVita said the indictments were a "painful reminder" of the deaths.

"This lone individual's alleged intentional and deceptive acts have caused incredible grief for the victims' family members, the Lufkin community and the caring teammates who work at the Lufkin Dialysis Center."

Saenz, who lived in the small neighboring town of Pollok, worked as a licensed nurse for nearly four years in Texas. After she was arrested last year, Lufkin police said two patients had witnessed Saenz draw bleach into syringes and inject them into patients.

Angel Food Ministries menu for April announced

Angel Food orders for April 25 delivery will be taken from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Saturday at North Birdwell United Methodist Church, 2702 N. Birdwell.

Orders will also be taken from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, April 10 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 11.

In addition, orders will be taken at the Big Spring Mall from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. this Saturday and Saturday, April 11.

Regular Box (\$30). 4 6-oz. New York Strip Steaks, 2 lb. Chicken Breast Stir Fry, 2 lb. Breaded Breast Fillet, 1 lb. Steak Fajita Strips, 20 oz. Supreme Pizza, 28 oz. Jumbo Beef Patties With Gravy, 1 lb. All Meat Hot Dogs, 10 oz. Individually-Wrapped Cheese, 1 lb. Mixed Vegetables, 2 lb. French Fries, 12 ct. White Corn Tortillas, 1 lb. Rice, 15 oz. Peach Halves, 6 oz. Pancake Mix, 32 oz. 2 percent Shelf Stable Milk, 1 Dozen Eggs, 1 Dessert.

Senior Box (\$28). Ten fully cooked meals with heating instructions. New Orleans Style Chicken over Savory Rice with Okra & Tomatoes and Diced Sweet Potatoes; Grilled Chicken Strips & Penne Pasta with Creamy Tomato Basil Sauce, Capri Blend Vegetables and Green Beans with Onions and Red Peppers; Beef & Bowtie Pasta with Herbed Tomato Sauce, Capri Blend Vegetables and Corn; Flame-Broiled Salisbury Steak with Brown Gravy, Sour Cream & Chive Potatoes and Mixed Vegetables; Cheesy Chicken and Broccoli Casserole with Rice, Green Beans and Squash Medley; Classic Chicken Tetrastini with Diced Carrots and Green Peas; Country Fried Steak with Cream Gravy, Red Skin Whipped Potatoes and Mixed Vegetables; Spaghetti with Meatballs, Green Beans and Cinnamon Applesauce; Chicken Parmesan with Whipped Potatoes and Capri

Blend Vegetables; Flame-Broiled Beef Patty with Onion Gravy, Sour Cream & Chive Potatoes and Capri Blend Vegetables; 10 2-pack, individually-wrapped cookies.

Allergen Free Box (\$25). Processed to eliminate the eight top serious allergens: Peanuts, Soybeans, Milk, Eggs, Fish, Crustacea, Tree Nuts and Gluten (wheat, rye and barley). 1 lb. Breaded Chicken Tenders; 1 lb. Breaded Chicken Breast Chunk (Boneless Wing); 1 lb. Breaded Chicken Nuggets; 1 lb. Breaded Chicken Patty; 1 lb. Breaded Steak Fingers

Breaded items are battered with water, white rice, brown rice, modified tapioca starch, flax seed, sugar, salt, spices, dehydrated garlic, spice extractives and oleoresin paprika. They are then breaded with white rice, brown rice, modified tapioca starch, flax seed, sugar, dextrose, salt, spices, dehydrated garlic, spice extractives and oleoresin paprika. Breading is pre-browned in Canola oil.

Seafood Box (\$35). 2 lb. Alaskan Salmon Fillets (8 x 4 oz. vacuum-pack); 2 lb. IQF Whiting Fillets (4 oz.-6 oz. fillets); 2 lb. IQF Large Shrimp (26-30 per lb.)

Special No. 1 (\$22). 2 12-oz T-Bone Steaks; 4 8-oz. Lean All Beef Ham-

burger Steaks; 1.5 lb. Boneless Pork Roast; 1 lb. Mild Italian Sausage with Cheese.

Special No. 2 (\$21). 6-8oz. Ribeye Steaks; 4 6-oz. Bacon-wrapped Pork Filets.

Special No. 3 (\$21) 2 12-oz. Kansas City Strip; 2 12-oz. Bone-in Ribeye; 4 8-oz. Thick Cut Boston Butt Chops.

Special No. 4 (\$21). 10 lbs. IQF Boneless Skinless Chicken Breasts.

Special No. 5 (\$18). 12 8-oz. Lean, All Beef Hamburger Steaks.

Special No. 6 (\$22). 3 lbs. Idaho baking Potatoes, 3 lbs. North Carolina Sweet Potatoes; 1 pkg. Wilen's Sweet Potato and Yam Seasoning; 1 Head Green Cabbage; 1 lb. Baby Whole Peeled Carrots; 2 1015 Jumbo Sweet Onions;

1 each Red, Yellow, Orange and Green Bell Peppers; 2 California Lemons; 1 Head Iceberg Lettuce; 4 Washington State Bosc Pears; 4 Washington Red Delicious Apples; 1 Golden Ripe Pineapple; 1 Sweet Cantaloupe; April Fruit & Veggie Recipe Sheet.

Special No. 7 (\$14). 2/5 Bushel Tree-ripened Valencia Oranges (approx. 40-50 per box)

For more information on this non-qualifying food program, call Madeline Boadle at 267-2203 or Bill Lovelace at 267-3241.

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Roll on in and help raise money for Cystic Fibrosis!!

In honor of Raelynn Lee & in memory of Casie Wood

Come eat Pizza and help us raise some dough!!!

At Pizza Inn

April 2, 2009

At 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm

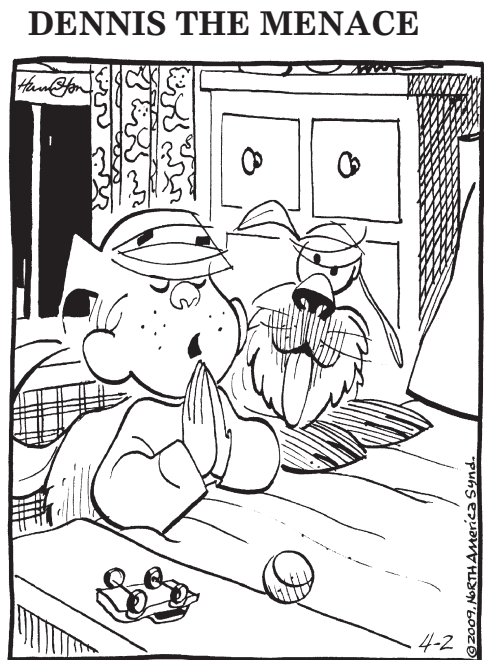
The Breathing Believers team has joined with Pizza Inn for one night to help us raise money to benefit CF.

Pizza Inn will dough-nate 10% of the night's sales* plus all tips and dough-nations!!

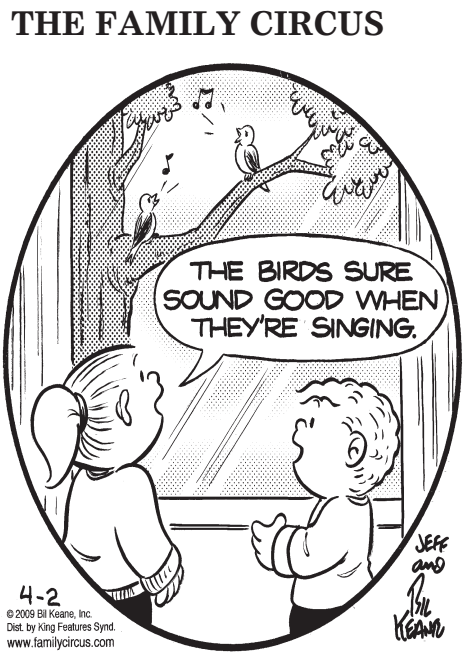
*Not including sales tax

This Ad Sponsored In Part By The Big Spring Herald

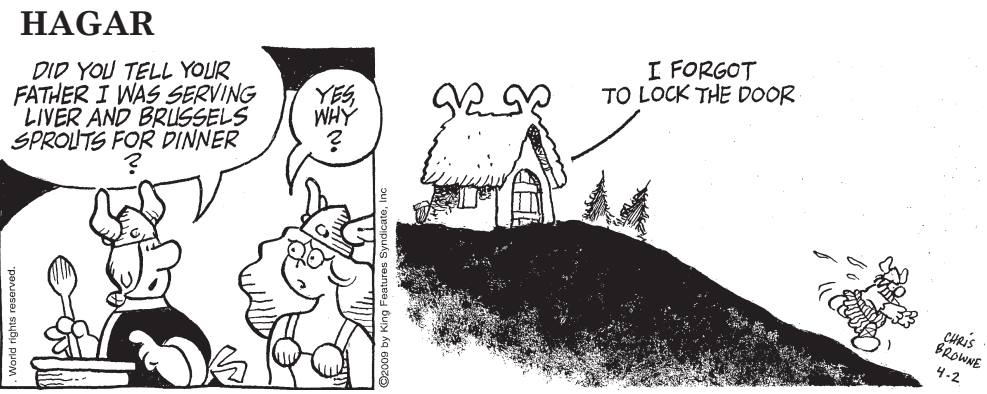
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5 :PM :30	News ABC	News ABC	Locura	Lopez	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News NBC	Raymond Friends	Granger Brad	BBC Business	Cash Cab	Jim Hutton	CSI: NY	Bones	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Wizards	Champ.	SportsCenter
6 :PM :30	News ABC	Jeopardy!	Tonitas Cielo	Two Men	News CBS	12 Corazones	News NBC	Friends Seinfeld	Sanchez Hagee	The Detonators	Cash Cab		UFC Unleashed	Law & Order	Suite Life	Baseball	College Basketball: NIT Final	
7 :PM :30	Mother Samantha	Mother Samantha	Cuidado-Angel	Bones	Entertain	Survivor: Tocantins	Doña Barbara	Friends ER	Israel Sprna	Old House Hr.	The Detonators	Movie: It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World, Milton Berle	UFC Unleashed	NBA Basketball: Cavaliers at Wizards	Movie: House Party IV, Dorian Wilson	Game	MLS Soccer: Columbus Crew at Real Salt Lake.	College Basketball: Slam Dunk & 3-Point
8 :PM :30	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Mañana es	Hell's Kitchen	CSI: Crime Scn	El Rostro de Analia	ER	Movie: Happy Gilmore, Julie Bowen	Light of the Southwest	Antiques Roadshow	Destroyed		TNA iMPACT!	NBA Basketball: Utah Jazz at Denver Nuggets.	Game	Wizards	Strongest	
9 :PM :30	(:02) Private Practice	(:02) Private Practice	Rosa	TMZ	(:01) Elev-enth Hour	Sin Senos	El Cartel	Sex & Van Impe	Israel	Charlie Rose	The Detonators	(:45) Movie: Big, Robert Loggia	The Ultimate Fighter	NBA Basketball: Utah Jazz at Denver Nuggets.	Game	Wizards	Strongest	
10 :PM :30	Nightline	Nightline	Impacto	King-Hill	News	Noticias	News	Sex & Van Impe	Israel	Charlie Rose	The Detonators	(:45) Movie: Big, Robert Loggia	The Ultimate Fighter	NBA Basketball: Utah Jazz at Denver Nuggets.	Game	Wizards	Strongest	
11 :PM :30	Insider	Jimmy Kimmel Live	La Casa de la Risa	Law Order: CI	Late Late Show	Decisiones de Famosos	Late Night-Jim	Movie: Happy Gilmore	Swallow Israel	Smiley	Destroyed		MAN	Inside the NBA	Game	Wizards	Strongest	
12 :AM :30	News	Weekend	Contra Viento	Paid	Insider	Pagado	News	Light of the Southwest	LightWrd	Smiley	Treasure Quest		MAN	Law & Order	Game	Wizards	Strongest	
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"AND RUFF SAYS 'THANKS' FOR MAKIN' ME HIS BEST FRIEND."



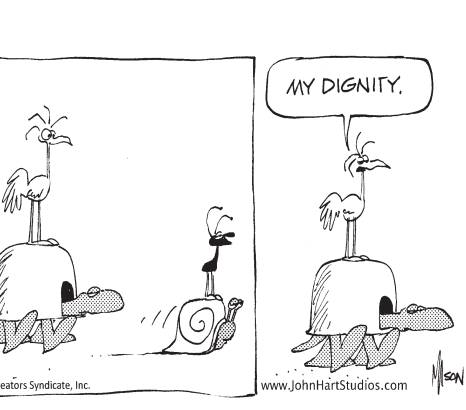
"Singing? Just sounds like they're whistling."



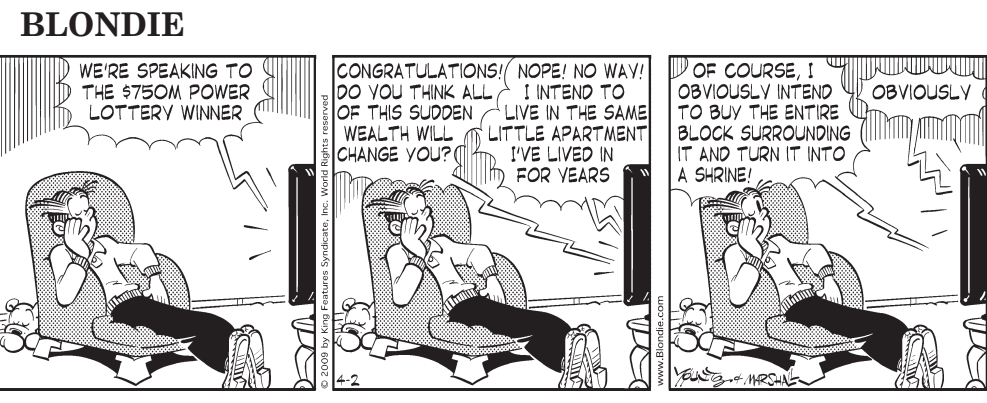
"DID YOU TELL YOUR FATHER I WAS SERVING LIVER AND BRUSSELS SPROUTS FOR DINNER?"



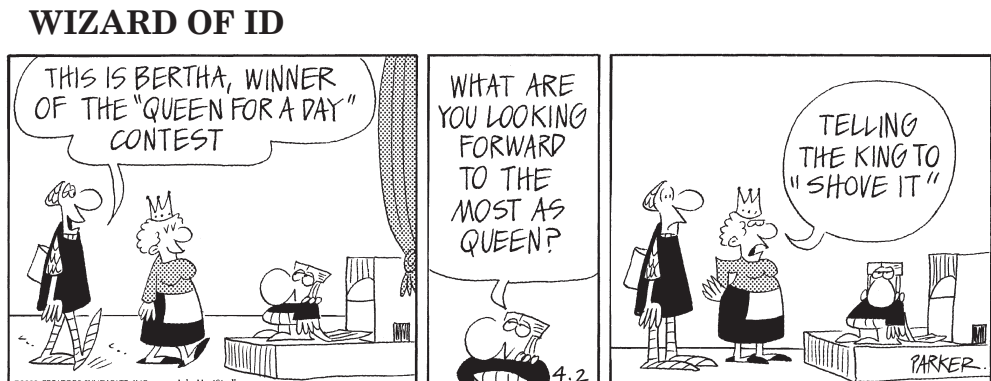
"BIRDS CAN SWALLOW THINGS WHOLE, RIGHT?"



"WE'RE SPEAKING TO THE \$750M POWER LOTTERY WINNER"



"CONGRATULATIONS! DO YOU THINK ALL OF THIS SUDDEN WEALTH WILL CHANGE YOU?"



"THIS IS BERTHA, WINNER OF THE 'QUEEN FOR A DAY' CONTEST"



"WHAT DO INVISIBLE FISH EAT?"



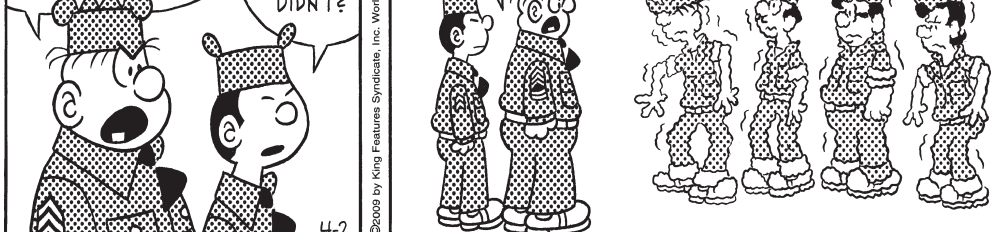
"THIS GROCERY STORE IS 'FAMILY FRIENDLY'"



"COMING UP NEXT, 'POLICE BEAT.' A GOOD COP PATROLS A BAD NEIGHBORHOOD."



"I BRUNG ALL MY D's UP TO B's THIS MARKIN' PERIOD!!"



"I TOLD THEM TO LEAVE THEIR PHONES IN THE BARRACKS!"

This Date In History

Today is Thursday, April 2, the 92nd day of 2009. There are 273 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 2, 1792, Congress passed the Coinage Act, which authorized establishment of the U.S. Mint.

On this date:

In 1513, Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de Leon landed in present-day Florida.

In 1860, the first Italian Parliament met at Turin.

In 1865, Confederate President Jefferson Davis and most of his Cabinet fled the Confederate capital of Richmond, Va., because of advancing Union forces.

In 1917, President Woodrow Wilson asked Congress to declare war against Germany, saying, "The world must be made safe for democracy." (Congress declared war four days later.)

In 1932, aviator Charles A. Lindbergh and John F. Condon went to a cemetery in the Bronx, N.Y., where Condon turned over \$50,000 to a man called "John" in exchange for Lindbergh's kidnapped son. (The child, who was not returned, was found dead the following month.)

In 1968, the influential science-fiction film "2001: A Space Odyssey," produced and directed by Stanley Kubrick, had its world premiere in Washington.

In 1974, French president Georges Pompidou died in Paris.

In 1982, several thousand troops from Argentina seized the disputed Falkland Islands, located in the south Atlantic, from Britain. (Britain seized the islands back the following June.)

In 1986, four American passengers were killed when a bomb exploded aboard a TWA jetliner en route from Rome to Athens, Greece.

In 2005, Pope John Paul II, who'd led the Roman Catholic Church for 26 years, died in his Vatican apartment at age 84.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Rita Gam is 81. Actress Sharon Acker is 74. Singer Leon Russell is 67. Jazz musician Larry Coryell is 66. Actress Linda Hunt is 64. Singer Emmylou Harris is 62. Actress Pamela Reed is 60. Rock musician Dave Robinson (The Cars) is 56. Country singer Buddy Jewell is 48. Actor Christopher Meloni is 48. Singer Keren Woodward (Bananarama) is 48. Country singer Billy Dean is 47. Actor Clark Gregg is 47. Actress Jana Marie Hupp is 45. Rock musician Greg Camp is 42. Rock musician Tony Fredianelli (Third Eye Blind) is 40. Actress Roselyn Sanchez is 36. Country singer Jill King is 34. Actor Adam Rodriguez is 34. Actor Jeremy Garrett is 33. Rock musician Jesse Carmichael (Maroon 5) is 30.

Newsday Crossword

- VEGAS VICTORIES by Shirley Soloway
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com
- ACROSS**
- 1 Fundamentals
 - 5 Dieter's dinner
 - 10 Thin nail
 - 14 Author Uris
 - 15 On one's own
 - 16 Hideaway
 - 17 The King and I heroine
 - 18 Praises
 - 19 Not quite right
 - 20 Be victorious in Vegas
 - 23 Zoo cutie
 - 24 Google oneself
 - 28 In addition
 - 29 Piggish
 - 33 "a chance!"
 - 34 Allotment
 - 35 Dress-shirt accouterment
 - 36 Be victorious in Vegas
 - 41 Elizabeth I predecessor
 - 42 10/24 celebration
 - 43 According to
 - 44 Brass player
 - 47 Chem., for one
 - 50 Admit
 - 52 Ancient South American
 - 54 Be victorious in Vegas
 - 58 Overstuffs
 - 61 Skyline sight
 - 62 Beginner's drawing class
 - 63 No longer fizzy
 - 64 Antidote source
 - 65 Coll. course
 - 66 Ukraine capital
- DOWN**
- 1 Pipeline place
 - 2 Midwestern muralist
 - 3 Lord Jim author
 - 4 Slow mover
 - 5 Merchant's come-on
 - 6 Jai
 - 7 Clumsy one
 - 8 Peace Nobel Sakharov
 - 9 Decorator's job
 - 10 Doldrums
 - 11 Like steak tartare
 - 12 Mien
 - 13 Wine word
 - 21 Demolished
 - 22 '80s track star
 - 25 Biblical preposition
 - 26 Debacle
 - 27 1-800-FLOWERS rival
 - 30 "Cool!"
 - 31 Hwy.
 - 32 Like jambalaya
 - 34 Amt.
 - 35 Mole, for one
 - 36 Ring of light
 - 37 Where Qum is
 - 38 Wheel of Fortune
 - 39 PCs burn them
 - 40 Mrs. Tom Cruise
 - 41 ___ and cheese (kid's lunch)
 - 44 Part of HRH
 - 45 Black Sea port
 - 46 Farm equipment
 - 47 Few and far between
 - 48 Swiss subdivision
 - 49 Fair way to be repaid
 - 51 Cold Case ailer
 - 53 Celtic, for example
 - 55 Soprano Te Kanawa
 - 56 Undeniable
 - 57 Does some tailoring
 - 58 SST destination
 - 59 2001 biopic
 - 60 Ginnie ___

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Obama takes on North Korea conflict, economy

LONDON (AP) — Juggling crises, President Barack Obama joined his South Korean counterpart Thursday in calling for a “stern, united” world response if North Korea goes ahead with a long-range rocket launch.

Obama and South Korean President Lee Myung-bak met on the sidelines of a 20-nation summit aimed at strengthening a global response to the sagging economy. The two leaders spent the bulk of their time on the latest flare-up with the North, already in international crosshairs over its nuclear weapons program.

Pentagon officials say that North Korea has begun final preparations for its threatened missile test, moving fuel trucks and fueling equipment to a coastal launch site. But three senior U.S. defense officials said Thursday it is unclear whether actual fueling had begun. The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to speak publicly on intelligence matters.

The intensifying crisis forced Obama, at least briefly, to pivot from his economic mission in London.

North Korea says it will send a communications satellite into orbit on a multi-stage rocket sometime from Saturday to Wednesday, but the U.S., South Korea and Japan call the plan a cover for testing long-range missile technology and a potential violation of a U.N. Security Council resolution banning ballistic activity by North Korea. Obama told Chinese President Hu Jintao on Wednesday that the U.S. would consider the launch provocative and that the U.S. would seek punishment at the United Nations in response.

The South Korean presidential office issued a statement saying that Obama and Lee had agreed to keep working on a verifiable dismantling of North Korea’s nuclear programs.

The statement added that the two agreed on the need “for a stern, united response from the international community” and to work together to make that happen.

In its own statement, the White House confirmed that



AP Photo/Matt Dunham

U.S. President Barack Obama, left, speaks with British Prime Minister Gordon Brown during the G20 Summit at the Excel Centre in London today. The objective of the London Summit is to bring the world’s biggest economies together to help restore global economic growth through enhanced international coordination.

Obama and Lee agreed on the need for “a unified response by the international community in the event that North Korea launches a long-range missile.”

Obama ignored a reporter’s shouted question about his concerns about the potential launch.

But as his meeting with Lee got underway, Obama said in front of reporters that South Korea is one of “America’s closest allies and greatest friends” and he lauded Lee’s leadership. Obama said the two would discuss a range of issues, including defense and “peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula.”

A senior Obama aide said

that Obama’s very friendly and complementary remarks toward Lee in public were meant as a display of his personal support for Lee’s handling of the North Korean issue. Lee has sought to drum up support from world leaders, including while in London, for punishing its neighbor if the launch goes forward and has been vilified in the North for his efforts.

The White House also announced that Lee would visit Obama in Washington on June 16.

CNN television said on its Web site that Pyongyang has started to fuel the rocket. The report, citing an unidentified senior U.S. military official,

said the move indicates final preparations for the launch.

Yet a senior U.S. defense official told The Associated Press that nothing concretely pointed to such operations being underway.

Experts say the missile can be fired about three to four days after fueling begins. The Obama officials, speaking on condition of anonymity to more fully describe the private talks, would not comment on intelligence related to the rocket.

But they said, without elaborating, that the U.S. and Japanese militaries have been consulting closely. Japan is preparing to intercept any debris and regional

powers have begun to deploy ships to monitor the launch. U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates has said that the U.S. has no interception plans.

The North has countered with its own warnings against any interception efforts — or even efforts to monitor the launch. It says its armed forces are at a high level of combat-readiness.

Lee and Obama also discussed a free trade agreement between their countries, the official said.

South Korea and the U.S. agreed in 2007 under former President George W. Bush to a free trade deal that would slash tariffs and other barriers to trade.

New jobless claims jump unexpectedly

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of people filing new jobless claims jumped unexpectedly last week, while those continuing to receive benefits hit a 10th straight record-high. Both figures show the labor market remains weak and is unlikely to recover anytime soon.

The Labor Department said Thursday that initial claims for unemployment insurance rose to a seasonally adjusted 669,000 from the previous week’s revised figure of 657,000. That total was above analysts’ expectations and the highest in more than 26 years, though the work force has grown by about half since then.

The tally of laid-off workers claiming benefits for more than a week rose 161,000 to 5.73 million, setting a record for the 10th straight week. That also was above analysts’ expectations and indicates that unemployed workers are having difficulty finding new jobs. The continuing claims data lag the initial claims by one week.

An additional 1.5 million people received benefits under an extended

unemployment compensation program approved by Congress last year. That’s as of March 14, the latest data available.

As a proportion of the work force, the number of people on the jobless benefit rolls is the highest since May 1983. The four-week moving average of jobless claims, which smooths out weekly volatility, rose to 656,750, the highest since October 1982, when the economy was emerging from a steep recession.

Employers are eliminating jobs and taking other cost-cutting measures to deal with sharp reductions in consumer

and business spending. The current recession, now in its 17th month, is the longest since World War II.

The jobless claims data come a day before the department is expected to issue another dismal monthly employment report. Economists forecast that report will show employers cut 654,000 jobs in March, while the unemployment rate increased to 8.5 percent from 8.1 percent.

Companies cut their payrolls by 651,000 jobs in February, a record third straight month of job losses above 600,000.

A private survey Wednesday said busi-

nesses cut 742,000 jobs in March. Employment at medium- and small-sized companies fell the sharpest — by a combined 614,000. The rest of the job cuts came from big firms — those with 500 or more workers — according to the report from Automatic Data Processing Inc. and Macroeconomic Advisers LLC.

More job losses were announced this week. 3M Co., the maker of Scotch tape, Post-It Notes and other products, said Tuesday it’s cutting another 1,200 jobs, or 1.5 percent of its work force, because of the global economic slump.

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News in brief

Group of 20 leaders get to work at crisis summit amid divisions over regulation

LONDON (AP) — Leaders of the world's rich and major developing countries began talks aimed at agreeing a new deal on the global economy at a crisis summit in London on Thursday, hoping to clear up divisions over how far to go with tougher financial regulation.

As President Barack Obama and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown joined other leaders at a working breakfast at the ExCel center in the city's east Docklands district, protesters began gearing up for a second day of demonstrations, gathering outside the London Stock Exchange near St. Paul's Cathedral.

Obama and Brown have expressed confidence that world leaders will come up with a strong agreement to address financial regulation, growth, and troubled banks. But French President Nicolas Sarkozy and German Chancellor Angela Merkel have refused calls for more government spending, and said the meeting must take concrete steps on tougher financial regulation.

Sarkozy has toned down his earlier threat to walk out of the conference, and Obama could be seen chatting informally with Merkel at a leaders' dinner Wednesday evening.

British Business Minister Peter Mandelson said the Group of 20 countries were in broad agreement to put more resources into the international economy through the International Monetary Fund and other international financial institutions.

House, Senate poised to adopt pared-back Obama budget

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats controlling the House and Senate are on track to give President Barack Obama a key victory by adopting slightly pared-back versions of his \$3.6 trillion budget.

Passage of the companion plans, expected Thursday, would provide the nascent administration with a symbolic boost, even though the budget blueprints provide little guidance on how to craft subsequent Obama initiatives to reshape the U.S. health care system or combat global warming.

House Democrats are pressing a plan to make it easier to use "fast-track" rules to expedite passage of health care legislation backed by Obama, even as their GOP rivals in the Senate won a key vote Wednesday emphatically rejecting such an approach on global warming.

Republicans in both chambers are putting forward alternatives that are more generous with tax cuts and stingier with spending, but none of the plans — Obama's, House and Senate Democrats', or the competing GOP outlines — would succeed in tamping down the deficit much below \$500 billion within five years.

Congressional budget resolutions are nonbinding blueprints that set the parameters for legislation to follow. Unlike budget resolutions typically advanced in the first years of a presidency, the 2010 budget plans are remarkably light on detail, offering little guidance on how to pay for a health care overhaul or an extension of Obama's signature \$400 tax credit for most workers.

Report: North Korea fueling long-range rocket for impending launch

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea has begun fueling a long-range rocket for an impending launch, a news report said Thursday, as President Barack Obama warned the liftoff would be a "provocative act" that would generate a U.N. Security Council response.

North Korea says it will send a communications satellite into orbit on a multistage rocket sometime from Saturday to Wednesday. The U.S., South Korea and Japan think the reclusive country is using the launch to test long-range missile technology; they've warned the move would violate a Security Council resolution banning the North from ballistic activity.

Regional powers have also begun to deploy ships

to monitor the launch, and Japan is preparing to intercept any debris that might fall if the launch goes awry — moves that have prompted several threats of retaliation from Pyongyang, including one Thursday.

CNN said on its Web site that Pyongyang has started to fuel the rocket. The report, citing an unidentified senior U.S. military official, said the move indicates final preparations for the launch. Experts say the missile can be fired about three to four days after fueling begins.

Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Takeo Kawamura said the U.S. and Japanese governments have not confirmed that fueling has begun. South Korea's Defense Ministry declined to comment on the report.

Supporters confident tobacco regulation bill will become law

WASHINGTON (AP) — Anti-smoking forces are predicting a long-awaited victory when the House votes on legislation that would, for the first time, allow government regulation of tobacco products.

The House scheduled a vote for Thursday morning on the legislation, which gives the Food and Drug Administration authority to regulate — but not ban — cigarettes and other tobacco products.

Action by the Senate, and President Barack Obama's signature, still would be needed before the bill could become law.

Supporters were convinced they could achieve both those steps. They said success was in sight after years of attempts to tame an industry so fundamental to America that carved tobacco leaves adorn some parts of the U.S. Capitol.

"We have come to what I hope will be an historic occasion, and that is finally doing something about the harm that tobacco does to thousands and thousands of Americans who die each year," Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., said Wednesday as lawmakers debated his Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act.

His bill wouldn't let the FDA ban nicotine or tobacco outright, but the agency would be able to regulate the contents of tobacco products, make public their ingredients, prohibit flavoring, require much larger warning labels and strictly control or prohibit marketing campaigns, especially those geared toward children.

World stock markets surge as U.S. data boost hopes of recovery

HONG KONG (AP) — World stock markets soared Thursday, with Hong Kong's benchmark vaulting more than 7 percent, as stronger-than-expected U.S. economic figures boosted confidence the world's largest economy is on the mend.

Huge gains in Asia and a strong open in Europe followed an overnight surge on Wall Street and extended last month's rebound in world equity markets amid tentative signs of stabilization in the hard-hit global economy and banking industry. It came as Group of 20 leaders met in London for a summit that aims to hammer out policies to combat the economic slump and reform the global financial system.

Nearly every sector in Asia charged higher, with carmakers like Toyota Motor Corp. and Nissan Motor Co. rallying on U.S. auto figures that were less dismal than feared. Exporters such as Sony Corp. were lifted by the weakening yen.

Investors were encouraged after U.S. car sales jumped by nearly 25 percent last month from February, beating the typical rise and underpinning hopes of a turnaround in the American auto market — critical for Asia's giant auto companies.

Once floodwaters go, question for battered areas: Will money flow fast?

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — As the Red River slowly recedes into its banks, soggy flood-fighters along its route are facing a different kind of challenge: Navigating state and federal bureaucracies for help in the recovery.

Preliminary estimates suggest tens of millions of dollars in public damages — not counting losses by homeowners and businesses. It should be enough to put Minnesota and North Dakota in line for federal disaster aid.

The financial toll will climb higher if melting from this week's heavy snowfall causes a second crest at or above record levels seen last weekend. The river's unpredictability is vexing for response teams, who are eager to get financial assistance flowing quickly but also have to tackle the disaster itself.

"We're recovering and fighting the flood at the same time," said Kris Eide, director of Minnesota's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division.

Government assessment teams are calculating damage to roads, bridges, wastewater treatment plants and other public assets. The review of private property damage is under way in North Dakota and should start in Minnesota by week's end.

Both states received assurances early on that resources they put toward holding back floodwaters would be partially reimbursed by the federal government. About \$1.2 million for North Dakota is already moving through the pipeline, said Tito Hernandez, a Federal Emergency Management Agency regional official.

Authorities seize Madoff's Palm Beach mansion, yacht, motor boat

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Authorities have swept up the leftovers of disgraced financier Bernard Madoff's opulent Palm Beach lifestyle — including a mansion and vintage yacht — but it won't go far repaying investors defrauded of billions.

Barry Golden, a spokesman for the U.S. Marshals Service, said about five marshals arrived at the 8,753-square-foot, five-bedroom mansion late Wednesday afternoon, hours after the boats were seized.

Authorities spent about three hours securing the mansion, changing the locks and conducting an inventory of the property, which Palm Beach County records show had a taxable value of \$9.3 million last year.

Golden said marshals filmed and photographed items in the house that might be removed at some point. "It's not an April Fools' joke," he said.

The mansion was unoccupied when federal authorities arrived, and the inspection took longer than expected because so many locks needed to be changed. They left around 9 p.m. after setting the alarm and posting a "no trespassing" sign on a window.

Palm Beach County property records show the Madoff mansion was purchased in 1994 under his wife Ruth's name for \$3.8 million. Golden said the estate would be "monitored and maintained" and is no longer considered Madoff's property.

Earlier in the day, Golden said Madoff's 55-foot yacht named "Bull" and a 24-foot motor boat were taken from marinas on Florida's east coast. The yacht, a 1969 Rybovich, is worth \$2.2 million.

Helicopter returning from oil platform crashes in North Sea; at least 8 dead

EDINBURGH, Scotland (AP) — Police said Thursday that 16 people were killed when a helicopter went down off Scotland's northeast coast, announcing that the search for eight people still missing was now a recovery rather than a rescue operation.

Eight bodies recovered from the sea were brought ashore Thursday morning.

"The grim reality is that the crew of 16 on board has been lost," said Colin Menzies, assistant chief constable of Grampian Police.

The Super Puma helicopter was returning to Aberdeen from a North Sea oil platform when it crashed Wednesday afternoon in calm and sunny conditions, 14 miles (22 kilometers) off Peterhead in northeast Scotland.

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Wall Street extends rally as hopes rise

NEW YORK (AP) — Wall Street is extending its rally as it grows more optimistic that the economy is on the mend.

The major indexes jumped more than 2 percent Thursday, and the Dow Jones industrials rose more than 200 points, as the world's finance leaders met in London to discuss efforts to fix the global economy.

The G-20 ministers plan to give the International Monetary Fund \$500 billion.

Bank stocks got an especially big boost when the Financial Accounting Standards Board relaxed rules forcing banks to value their assets at current prices. The change should help banks reduce losses.

And the Commerce Department revealed a large increase in factory orders.