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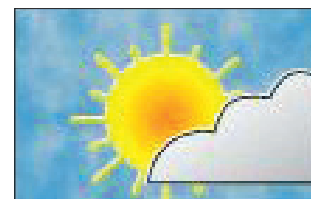


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BIG SPRING HERALD

MONDAY

APRIL 13, 2009



VOLUME 104, NUMBER 113

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Candidates forum set for April 21

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

Big Spring and Coahoma residents will get the chance to meet their candidates for the May election, as the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce prepares to hold a candidate forum Tuesday, April 21.

The forum, which is slated for 6:15 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Community

Center, will give candidates a chance to discuss their political platforms and meet with prospective voters, according to Debbye ValVerde, executive director for the local Chamber of Commerce.

"This year we are inviting Big Spring and Coahoma candidates running for city council, school board and mayoral races," said ValVerde. "The format for the event will be in-

formal. Candidates will be given five minutes to introduce themselves and make a few comments about their campaign platform and their plans for their term in office. The remaining part of the evening will be spent visiting and talking personally to the attendees. Candidates will be allowed to bring campaign material and hand-outs."

Local voters will have plenty to

choose from during the May 9 election, with several municipal and school board seats up for grabs.

The District 2 seat on the Big Spring City Council will feature incumbent Councilman Manuel Ramirez Jr., who will be taking on challengers Terena Rustman and Raul Marquez. Ramirez won't be the only incumbent

See **FORUM**, Page 3

Arson probed in fire

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

A structure fire late Sunday night in the 1600 block of Canary is being investigated as arson, according to local fire officials, as a fire ripped through the home causing extensive damage.

According to Big Spring Fire Marshall Carl Condray, the fire was reported at 12:26 a.m. Monday and the first fire engines arrived on the scene by 12:32 a.m.

"The last fire engine arrived on the scene at approximately 12:32 a.m., and firefighters had the fire under control by 12:35 a.m.," said Condray. "So they were able to get it under control fairly quickly. They remained on the scene until just before 1:30 a.m."

"The damage to the home was extensive. Structurally, I believe it's still sound, but it will have to be completely gutted to be fixed, and I doubt the owner of the home plans to do so. There was extensive fire damage to the living room

See **FIRE**, Page 3



HERALD photos
 Steve Reagan

Children dash after treats, in the photo above, during the fifth annual Easter egg hunt at the Big Spring VA Medical Center Saturday morning. The Easter Bunny also was on hand and refreshments were served afterward. In photo at right, Veronica Roberts helps out her daughter Jaysena during the First Church of the Nazarene-sponsored Easter egg hunt at Comanche Trail Park Saturday morning. The event also featured food and amusement rides for the hundreds of children who attended.

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Extended Weigh-In Date

FINAL DAY - TODAY

at the YMCA • 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm



Obituaries

Paula 'Paubla' Olague

Our beloved mother and grandmother, Paula "Paubla" Olague, 75, of Big Spring went home to be with the Lord on Easter Sunday, April 12, 2009, in the Hospice House of Odessa. Funeral mass will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 14, 2009, at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Big Spring with the Rev. Bernard Gully officiating. Interment will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park in Big Spring. Rosary services will be held in the Nalley-Pickle and Welch Rosewood Chapel on Monday evening at 7.

Paubla was born June 18, 1933, in Big Spring. A lifelong resident of Big Spring, she was known for her tortillas. She had a large family and loved playing dominoes with them.

Survivors include six sons, Jose Ortega Jr. and wife, Irma L., Sammy Ortega and wife, Irma D., Raymond Ortega Sr. of Dallas, Rudy Ortega Sr. and wife, Maria, Carlos Ortega and fiancée, Marzina Hennis, of Glendale, Ariz., and Albert Ortega; one daughter, Mary Puga and husband, Jeronimo; daughter-in-law, Frances Ortega of Avondale, Ariz.; 30 grandchildren; and 49 great-grandchildren.

Paubla was preceded in death by three brothers, Diego, Tomas and Manuel Olague Jr.; three sisters, Francisca Yanez, Jovita Villareal and Irene Alarcon; one son, Johnny Ortega; and one daughter, Dorothy Ortega.

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

Paid obituary

Sarah Celeste Smith

Sarah Celeste Smith, 26, of Big Spring, affectionately known as "Sugar Bear" by her dad, passed away Friday, April 10, 2009, at Shannon Hospital in San Angelo. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel

with Rick Cunningham, Minister of 14th and Main Church of Christ, officiating. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 2 p.m. until 3 p.m. Sunday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Sarah was born July 8, 1982, in Snyder. The family moved to Big Spring in 1985, and she grew up and lived most of her life in Big Spring, graduating from Big Spring High School in 2000. She was an honor student and involved in many activities in high school and was president of National Honor Society and also President of her Senior class.

She attended Howard College and received her LVN license in 2004, then attended Midland College and earned her RN license in 2006. She had worked as an Emergency Room nurse at Harris Methodist Hospital in Fort Worth as well at University Medical Center Hospital in Lubbock.

She longed to work as an Emergency Room travel nurse and followed her dream to Sacramento, Calif. Sarah was currently employed at the Big Spring State Hospital. She had lived in Austin, Fort Worth, Dallas, Lubbock, Midland and Sacramento, Calif. before returning home in March 2009.

Sarah was baptized into Christ at the Cedar Ridge Church of Christ in Big Spring at age 15. Sarah was God's precious gift to her family, always having a smile, a kind word of encouragement and brought joy and laughter to their world. The world was a better place by having Sarah travel through. Books, reading and education were also one of her passions. She will be deeply missed by her family and friends.

Sarah is survived by her parents: Charles and Sharon Smith; sister and best friend: Sunni Davidson and her husband, Jason; and the light of Sarah's world, her niece and nephew: Haleyna and Gage Davidson, all of Big Spring. She is also survived by her grandparents: James and Nell Busby of Alto; her uncle and aunt: Dan and Ann Smith of Rock Springs, Wyo.; and numerous other family members.

Some of the happiest times to remember are her senior year at BSHS and her working at Red Mesa. The family would like to say thank you to all her loyal friends who stuck by her in the good times and bad, and the staff and Cindy McGuire of Red Mesa, who she absolutely adored.

Sarah Celeste means "heavenly princess" and she will always live in our hearts forevermore. She now resides with her Heavenly Father in the most glorious destination of all.

The family suggests memorials to the Christian Relief Fund, P. O. Box 19670, Amarillo 79114.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersand-smith.com.

Paid obituary

Bradley Shane Collins

Bradley Shane Collins, 2-month-old son of Jessie and Jolisa Collins, of Big Spring died Saturday, April 11, 2009, in a Lubbock hospital. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 9 a.m. Saturday and 7 a.m. today:

- OSCAR HERNANDEZ, 48, of 1010 N. Runnels, was arrested Saturday on a warrant for a parole violation and charge of failure to identify as a fugitive from justice - giving false information and theft.

- DENNIS RAY ADAMS, 54, of 502 Ave. E, was arrested Saturday on a charge of public intoxication.

- MARIO OVALLE, 35, of 1408 Tucson, was arrested Sunday on three local warrants.

- RAFAEL LOPEZ, 64, of 508.5 Father Delaney, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.

- THEFT was reported:
 - in the 2000 block of Gregg Street.
 - in the 900 block of Willia.
 - in the 400 block of Birdwell Lane.
 - in the 2300 block of Wasson.
 - in the 1200 block of 11th Street.

- FAILURE TO IDENTIFY AS A FUGITIVE FROM JUSTICE - GIVING FALSE INFORMATION was reported in the 2000 block of Gregg Street.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 1100 block of Bell.

- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 3300 block of Cornell.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 1300 block of Blackmon.

- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the 1900 block of Highway 87.
- AGGRAVATED ASSAULT was reported in the 200 block of Marcy.

Sheriff

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

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 46 inmates at the time of this report.

- KYLE LEE BROWNFIELD, 18, was transferred to the County Jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.

- MATTHEW DANIEL CANTU, 27, was transferred to the County Jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid - enhanced.

- JOAQUIN DUENEZ, 37, was arrested Thursday by DPS on a charge of failure to identify - giving false information.

- UBALDO DUENEZ, 26, was arrested Sunday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated - open container.

- GENETTIA ANN HUGHES, 39, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of theft of service.

- JUAN MALDANADO, 27, was arrested Sunday by DPS on a charge of public intoxication.

- CODY JAMES NALL, 25, was transferred to the County Jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.

- MARIO ROBERT OVALLE, 36, was arrested Sunday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

- LASARA HEREDIA RENTERIA, 53, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on a charge of failure to stop and render aid.

- CHARLES SMITH, 52, was transferred to the County Jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid - enhanced.

- STEVEN URIBE, 33, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a charge of assault causing bodily injury.

- CHRISTOPHER LEE VALENCIA, 26, was transferred to the County Jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of theft.

- RONALD CRAIG WESTBROOK, 56, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction.

- MARIA DEJESUS ZUNIGA, 36, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of theft by check.

- ALVARADO ZUNIGA, 21, was arrested Sunday by DPS on a charge of public intoxication.

Fire/EMS

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

- TRAUMA was reported in the 2300 block of Wasson. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 4100 block of Muir. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 3300 block of Cornell. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 4300 block of Ratliff. One person was transported to SMMC.

- STRUCTURE FIRE was reported in the 1600 block of Canary.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of Caronay. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of S. Scurry. One person was transported to SMMC.




- MEDICAL was reported in the 1300 block of Mesa. Service refused.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 6500 block of Ratliff. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of Birdwell Lane. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 300 block of S. Main. One person was transported to SMMC.

Your Local Weather

Tue 4/14	Wed 4/15	Thu 4/16
 78/54 Mostly sunny skies. High 78F. Winds S at 15 to 25 mph.	 80/55 Windy with a mix of sun and clouds.	 82/49 Isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the upper 40s.
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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

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

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

- Coahoma Lions Club meets at 6 p.m. in the Coahoma Community Center at 306 North Ave.

- The Concerned Citizens Council meets at 7 p.m. at the Howard County Library. For more information, call 264-6116.

- Archeology Society for Howard and Borden counties meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library Community Room in the basement. Call 270-2615 for more information.

- Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

- Big Spring Society of the Order of Beacieants meets at 6:30 p.m. for a meal with meeting that begins at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

- Big Spring Commandry meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

- The Christian Motorcyclists Association meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Dragon Restaurant, 1300 S. Gregg. Everyone is welcome. Call 263-3869 for more information.

TUESDAY

- Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.

- The Big Spring chapter of the American Cancer Society meets at Home Hospice, located at 111 E. Seventh St. at noon. Lunch is provided. For more information, contact Sherry Hodnett at 264-7599.

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

WEDNESDAY

- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

- Free blood pressure screenings from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Salvation Army, 811 W. Fifth St., provided by InHome Care.

- Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

- Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.

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

THURSDAY

- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.

- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

- Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association meets at 5:30 p.m. in the Big Spring City Council Chambers, 307 E. Fourth.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Saturday night: Winning numbers drawn: 21-36-28-3-14. Number matching five of five: None.

•••
The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Saturday night, in order: 3-1-6-2. Sum It Up: 12.

•••
The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday night, in order:

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BIG SPRING ART ASSOCIATION

Area Art Show -- Howard College
Marie Hall Performing Arts Center

Public Viewing Drop off - Fri May 1, 10 am - 4 pm
Sat. May 2, 3-5 pm Judging - Sat May 2, 11 am - 1 pm
M-F May 4-8 8-5 daily Patron Viewing 1-3 pm
Sat May 9 11 am - 5 pm Call 263-4033 for details

Artist's reception 3-5 pm Sat May 9

All area artists welcome. No limit for entries.

Entry fee \$8 each, \$6 for BSAA members

Prizes: \$200 - 100 - 75 - 50 and max. 6 honorable mentions at \$30

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Texas News Briefs:

Bicyclist injured in crash of fire trucks dies two weeks following accident

HOUSTON (AP) — A bicyclist crushed beneath a Houston Fire Department ladder truck in an accident involving two fire trucks last month has died. Leigh Boone, who died Saturday afternoon at Memorial Hermann Hospital, had been in critical condition for two weeks with serious injuries. A 40-ton ladder truck toppled and crushed her bike on March 30.

Authorities found the ladder truck driver, Warren Ducote, at fault for the crash that injured 11 people. They say he ran a red light. A police official told the Houston Chronicle on Saturday it was too early to tell whether Ducote will face criminal charges.

Both fire trucks were en route to what firefighters thought was a fire but turned out to be a Houston public works crew smoke-testing sewer lines.

Ducote ran a red light while headed north on Dunlavy and was broad-sided by a pumper truck westbound on Westheimer. Investigators said the pumper truck had a green light.

Boone, 29, worked as an executive assistant at the Houston Center for Photography. She graduated from the University of Texas with a degree in theater arts.

Sheriff's deputy, driver injured in wreck resulting from Hidalgo County chase

EDINBURG (AP) — A Hidalgo County sheriff's deputy and a motorist he was chasing were injured Sunday after their vehicles collided.

The Texas Department of Public Safety is investigating the Sunday afternoon crash.

DPS Trooper Johnny Hernandez said in Sunday's online edition of The Monitor that the driver of the car being pursued by the deputy suffered a collapsed lung. Hernandez said the driver was in intensive care at a McAllen hospital and the deputy was treated and released.

The vehicles collided east of Edinburg.

Longview ISD teacher suspended for marking student's arm with message

LONGVIEW (AP) — An East Texas teacher has been suspended with pay after allegedly using a permanent marker to write on a student's arm.

Longview Independent School District spokesman Brian Bowman says Juliandra Harris taught second grade at Ware Elementary.

Bowman told the Longview News-Journal that the investigation would resume Monday.

Harris was suspended April 8, one day after the

message was seen on a student's arm. Details on the words were not released.

Bowman said such forms of discipline are "not productive."

Harris did not immediately return an e-mail for comment Monday from The Associated Press. There was no phone directory listing for a Juliandra Harris in the Longview area.

KLTV-TV reports a different student, Demeetria Wilson, said Harris also wrote a message on her arm as a reminder to "bring folder to school."

IDs on 2 dead Houston firefighters

HOUSTON (AP) — A veteran firefighter and a rookie who had served in Iraq died in a Houston house fire.

The Houston Fire Department identified the victims as 50-year-old Capt. James Harlow of Pasadena and 29-year-old probationary firefighter Damien Hobbs, who grew up in Alvin.

Harlow had worked for the department since August 1979. Hobbs graduated from firefighter training in March.

A news release from the department said the cause of the house fire, reported early Sunday, is under investigation.

Hobbs returned from a 14-month tour of duty in Iraq in July 2007. His sister, Janice DeShazer, said Hobbs was in the reserves with the Texas Air National Guard at Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base in Houston.

Irving ISD says data stolen on employees

IRVING (AP) — Identity thieves using the names and Social Security numbers of Irving Independent School District employees have made thousands of dollars in purchases, school officials say.

One woman has been accused of fraudulent use or possession of identifying information and two charges of credit card abuse. A second person linked to the theft case has been arrested but no charges have yet been filed in the Irving case, authorities said.

At least 64 of the 3,400 teachers and other employees whose names were on the old benefits report that somehow ended up in the trash have said they are identity theft victims. The school district mailed letters to current and former employees about the breach, but 472 of the letters were returned as undeliverable.

Pat Lamb, district security director, said the employees at risk of being on the list worked for the district in the 2000-01 school year and had payroll deductions for benefits.

Cynthia Will, a former teacher, pleaded for help from the school board last week. More than \$25,000 was charged in her name, including a \$4,000 dia-

mond ring.

Dawn Bizzell, who has taught in the district since 1996, said district officials acted too slowly. An employee advisory wasn't posted until Jan. 26. Bizzell said she learned she was an identity theft victim on Nov. 28 and police told her of the district connection on Dec. 3.

Sharon Denise Seeley, 39, was arrested Jan. 16 at Irving Mall. Police said she tried to establish credit using a fake Texas ID with the name of an Irving elementary school teacher. She also allegedly had the personal information of 12 victims connected to the district.

A second person arrested in a motel had a notebook full of personal information and identification that didn't belong to him, authorities said. No charges in the Irving case have been filed.

Several vehicles set on fire in Tyler

TYLER (AP) — Investigators in Tyler say seven cars were set on fire at several locations early Easter morning.

The first call came in around 4:30 a.m. A fire in a Chevy Cobalt also damaged a car sitting next to it in the driveway of a home. The house's garage also sustained damage.

Other sites included an apartment complex, where three cars were set on fire.

Authorities say they have not uncovered a link between the victims of the arsons and don't know how many suspects may have been involved. At least some of the cars were unlocked.

All seven cars were taken to a police impound lot where investigators say they will search them for more clues.

Bill: Workers to pay for use of state cars

AUSTIN (AP) — A bill that has already passed unanimously through a Texas House committee would require government employees who drive state-owned cars to reimburse taxpayers for their personal use.

The bill, which would exempt law-enforcement officials who respond to emergency calls, would make employees pay back the state when they use the car for personal errands or on their commutes.

"Most Texans have to pay for their own personal trips and errands, to get back and forth to work," said state Rep. Terri Hodge, D-Dallas, who filed the bill. "State employees should, too. The taxpayers should not be footing that bill."

Hodge's bill would require employees with take-home state cars to keep detailed mileage logs and to reimburse the state for any "personal use mileage accumulated on the vehicle."

About 1,300 state employees at 95 state agencies commute to work in state-owned cars.

Texas is king, but Iowa breezes past California

By DIRK LAMMERS

AP Energy Writer

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. — Texas continues to blow away the competition, but Iowa can now generate more wind power than California, according to a new industry report to be released Monday.

The Lone Star state's 7,118 megawatts dwarfs Iowa's 2,791 megawatts and California's 2,517 megawatts, but wind power has grown into a key part of the energy infrastructure in Minnesota and Iowa, where each state generates more than 7 percent of their electricity from turbines, the American

Wind Energy Association study said.

States are trying to lure wind energy companies and the jobs that come with them, especially with new federal requirements that will require more power from alternative sources in coming years.

While jobs in the wind industry jumped by 70 percent to 85,000 last year, the association's chief executive warned that more must be done to prevent the industry from stalling.

"We need the right policies in place for our industry to maintain its momentum," said Denise Bode in a release.

The passage of a national Renewable Electricity Standard that would require utilities to generate a quarter of their electricity from renewable energy by 2025 is vital to long-term growth, said Bode.

Global investment in alternative energy was cut in half during the first quarter of 2009, according to one study. Billions in investments have vanished with the recession.

Shares in wind, solar and geothermal companies took a pummeling from investors this year. Investments in companies devoted solely to clean energy fell to

about \$100 million from \$2.1 billion, according to New Energy Finance, an industry-research firm.

Still, 2008 was a big year for the industry.

U.S. wind farms, with a combined capacity of 25,300 megawatts at the end of last year, should be able to generate some 73 billion kilowatt hours of power in 2009, enough to serve nearly 7 million homes, the association said.

The association estimates that 10 new manufacturing facilities started up in 2008, while 17 were expanded and 30 new plants were announced.

Indiana added its first utility-scale wind project. Michigan, Utah, New Hampshire and Wisconsin grew at the fastest clip.

Still, big wind power states added the most capacity by far, led by Texas with 2671.3 new megawatts and Iowa with 1599.8 megawatts. Minnesota, Kansas and New York added between 400 and 455 megawatts each.

FPL Group Inc. subsidiary NextEra Energy Resources continues to dominate the landscape with ownership of about 25 percent of the total installed U.S. wind projects, totaling 6,290

megawatts. Iberdrola Renewables, MidAmerican Energy and Horizon-Energia de Portugal combine for the next 25 percent.

GE Energy installed the most turbines in 2008, accounting for 43 percent of new capacity. Vestas, 13 percent; and Siemens and Suzlon, 9 percent each.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
24th & Johnson 267-8288
Sarah Celeste Smith, 26, died Friday. Funeral Services will be at 2:00 PM Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

FIRE

Continued from Page 1

area, and there was smoke damage through-

out."

Condray said the fire appears to be an act of arson, possibly to cover up another crime.

"It appears the home was burglarized prior to

the fire," said Condray. "Right now it looks like arson. The home was occupied, but the people were just lucky enough not to be home at the time."

Condray said no injuries were reported as a result of the fire.

He also said the blaze is still under investigation by local law enforcement officials.

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

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

FORUM

Continued from Page 1

defending a seat on the Big Spring Council, as District 4 Councilwoman Gloria McDonad will take on challengers Joyce Crooker and John Huck Huckabee.

The final race on the Big Spring Council will be for the District 6 seat, which is currently held by Greg Biddison, who

has decided no to run for re-election. However, the contest has drawn plenty of candidates, as local residents Terry Hansen, Steven Campbell and Bahola DeLeon have filed their candidacy.

The city of Coahoma has three seats — all three are at-large — up for election in May.

Seats held by incumbents David Elmore, Ricky Stone and Mayor Bill Read, are up for

grabs. According to city officials, Coahoma residents Jay Holt and Ray Lee have filed to run for a pair of the council seats, while Warren Wallace and Linda Luce have filed to run for

mayor. All three incumbents did not run for re-election.

For more information on the forum, contact ValVerde at (432) 263-7641.

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TEXASTONE QUARRIES SUPPORTS RELAY FOR LIFE!

TEXASTONE QUARRIES

TexasStone Rockers were top fund-raisers in 2008 for the Howard-Glasscock County Relay for Life. So come see us on Saturday, April 18, 2009 from 9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m., for our Stone and Scrap Sale, all proceeds go to the AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY.
Call for Details 432-354-2569.

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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

OTHER VIEWS

Government's privatization to mercifully end

The state Health and Human Service Commission's latest adventure in government privatization will mercifully end May 31, when it terminates its contract with UnitedHealth's Evercare program.

The program, which sought to coordinate care for more than 74,000 elderly and disabled North Texas Medicaid clients, produced more than 1,300 complaints and was assessed more than \$1 million in fines by the state for inadequate staffing and other bureaucratic sins in its first 11 months.

State Sen. Bob Deuell, R-Greenville, filed SB 2417 in mid-March to repeal the integrated-care management program. In theory, program case managers coordinate care for Medicaid beneficiaries to maintain independent living by minimizing institutionalized care and, of course, save the state money.

Dr. Robert Gunby Jr., then-president-elect of the Texas Medical Association, hailed the program in 2005 as "what managed care is supposed to be. It creates a medical home, monitors best practices, seamlessly shortens hospital stays, improves health care for Medicaid clients and allows patients to stay in their communities."

This failed miserably under Evercare. The contractor and state officials blamed each other, but it does not change the fact that local vulnerable residents were ill-served.

Deuell's bill would allow the state to attempt integrated-care management under a different contractor or try another model of care. On June 1, local Medicaid clients will receive services through existing Medicaid programs and traditional fee-for-service.

The outsourcing scenario is familiar. The state contracted with Bermuda-based Accenture Ltd. in 2005 for more than \$898 million to handle enrollment in a number of state services such as Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Plan, food stamps and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families. One-stop shopping, they called it, designed to save \$646 million over five years.

The state pulled the plug in 2007 after computer glitches and bureaucratic snafus that would make any state government hang its head in shame. Texas newspapers had a field day reporting on Accenture's comedy of errors. For example, the company misprinted a fax number on its forms, resulting in CHIP applications going to a warehouse in Seattle rather than Health and Human Services in Austin.

But there is no humor in the fact that eligible Texans were denied basic human needs and health care because of incompetence. State workers have been rehired and are still working to repair the damage, which included more than 200,000 children falling off CHIP rolls because of shorter enrollment periods and red tape.

Gov. Rick Perry and the Texas Legislature have been enthusiastic advocates of outsourcing government functions. Faced with skyrocketing health care costs, lawmakers seem compelled to naively buy into the argument that the private sector can always deliver services more efficiently and effectively. So far, overwhelming evidence suggests otherwise.

It is one thing to use contractors to pick up trash. It is quite another to cavalierly entrust health and welfare services to those insulated from political repercussions. Lives are at stake.

THE STAR-TELEGRAM
FORT WORTH

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we be more occupied with blessings,
Lord, than we are with business.

Amen

Think forward on energy future

At the turn of the 20th Century, the idea of manned flight was not only a pipe dream, but disproven by so-called experts. Within a generation, the airplane would transform modern warfare and modern transportation. Over the course of the last two centuries, we have seen cars replace horses, electricity replace candlelight and landlines replace the telegram, only later to compete with wireless phones. And with the arrival of the Internet, communications has been revolutionized.



PAUL
SADLER

Those of us involved in the energy sector think there is something fundamental that can be learned from all of these technological innovations: the investments we make in public infrastructure should be based on the technologies of tomorrow, and not merely the advances that have been made today. In other words, policy-makers must continue to think forward, beyond the constraints posed by today's technology.

When it comes to tax, transmission and regulatory policy related to energy and electricity, it is tempting to think about tomorrow's electricity grid based on the viability of today's resources. That would be a costly mistake. Just as the splitting of the atom changed the complexion of weapons systems overnight, the capability to store electricity will instantly transform how we generate electricity.

Today there are a lot of smart minds seeking to "crack the code" when it comes to the storage of energy.

They all tell us it is not a question of "if," but "when." When

it does happen, will we have a power grid that is ready for it, or will we spend tens of billions of dollars to catch up to the new reality?

Energy storage will change the way we generate energy because renewable sources like wind are currently variable. This simply means wind turbines provide power intermittently based on when the wind blows. But while critics claim this is an inherent limitation on wind's reliability, it really is not. Today wind represents eight percent of our energy capacity, but because of a lack of transmission lines wind only supplies four percent of our power. And studies have shown that the grid can receive as much as 20 percent of its electricity from wind with minimal disruption.

However, the day energy can be stored and released when needed is the day when energy generation will be truly transformed. Energy storage will change the way our electric grid is operated, allowing us to reach the total potential of renewable resources and benefit all generation sources by making our grid more reliable. Developers of wind energy won't have to engage any longer in debates about the reliability of their commodity. It will instantly be recognized not as just a clean alternative, but one of the only abundant resources we have that will never run dry (along with its cousin, solar.)

Today we are at a critical crossroads. On one hand, Texas has been blessed with both rich wind resources, and policy-makers willing to harvest our wind potential. As we sit here today, we have almost three times as much developed wind energy capacity as any state. Last year we added more wind capacity than California has over the last 25 years. Simply astounding. On the other hand, if we don't add needed transmission capacity, our growth will slow to a crawl

because it doesn't make sense to generate power if you can't get it to where people need it. The current transmission system is nearly tapped out when it comes to wind development. We need new lines.

Fortunately, lawmakers authorized the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to develop a plan for Competitive Renewable Energy Zones (CREZ). If built out as currently planned, CREZ will add another 11,553 wind-generated megawatts to the system — more than double what we have today. All well and good right? Yes, except there seems to be a growing sentiment that maybe we are moving too fast on CREZ transmission, or maybe wind developers need greater restrictions than any other energy source when it comes to siting regulations.

That's why representatives of more than 30 wind companies recently converged on the Capitol on "Wind Energy Day" as declared by Gov. Perry. There is ample reason to praise lawmakers for visionary tax, transmission and siting policies that have made Texas the envy of the nation. But there is also reason for concern, especially if Texas relaxes on building transmission lines, or puts up regulatory hurdles to the development of this clean resource.

When you consider the day is coming when we will be able to store wind-generated electricity, and even further down the road the day is coming when we will run out of fossil fuels, the wise course is to craft energy policy that reflects tomorrow's energy realities.

We hope Texas will continue to think forward.

Paul Sadler is the executive director of The Wind Coalition, a wind energy advocacy organization with more than 30 members seeking to grow our wind potential in the South Central United States.



Moderate Taliban is an oxymoron

In my book "moderate Taliban" ranks right up there with "organic Vienna sausage" as an oxymoron.

But, the president mentioned reaching out to the so-called moderate militias in Afghanistan a couple of weeks ago in talking about how to quell the violence and fix the mess Bush left him with.

Obama recently fleshed out his blueprint for gaining a peace when he announced plans to send 4,000 more American troops and a few billion more dollars through a supplemental appropriation.

Women's groups, both in the U.S. and Afghanistan, want to make sure any shifts in policy don't further harm women and girls. Despite Bush administration claims to the contrary, females have been set back -- way back -- since 2001. Most are once again in the burqa, and girls are being attacked with acid for the crime of going to school. Women are often deprived of food, and have been kicked out

of bread lines by the Taliban.

Dr. Sima Samar, chairperson of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, has been making the rounds on Capitol Hill to sound the alarm. "I do not believe there are any moderate Taliban," she said Friday at a news conference sponsored by the Feminist Majority Foundation. "The U.S. must not provide support for those who have terrorized women and girls and violated their rights."

Pointing out that women's rights are human rights and not subject to so-called cultural norms, Feminist Majority Foundation President Eleanor Smeal called for increased attention to health and education, and expressed strong hopes that the Obama administration will attend to the plight of women.

Afghanistan has ratified the universal women's human rights treaty known as CEDAW (the U.S. has not), and the Afghan constitution has basic protections for women. The challenge is bringing culture and practice, still under the grip of Taliban oppression, in line with the law.

Smeal announced a new campaign, chaired by Mavis Leno and supported by women's groups and prominent leaders

around the world, to insure that Afghan women will not fall victim to any new alliance of strange bedfellows. With a Secretary of State who is unapologetically pro-woman and women in the Senate and House on their side, the campaign has allies on both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue. Congressional hearings led by Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA) on what is to be done for women have been promised.

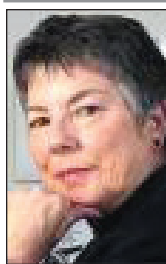
Due to a scheduling snafu, the women's news conference was taking place at the same time the president was announcing his plan for breaking the hold of the extremists. To his credit, he indicated that women and girls will not be forgotten in the new push, and he's no longer using the term "moderate Taliban."

But beyond that, there were no specifics on how to protect women. Good thing the girls were speaking up on the other side of town, because good ol' Ross Perot taught us the devil is in the details.

It couldn't be truer for the future of women in Afghanistan.

Martha Burk is director of the Corporate Accountability Project for the National Council of Women's Organizations.

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MARTHA
BURK

Studied sleep can lead to restful nights, productive days

More than 40 million Americans experience chronic sleep disorders and more than 20 million others have occasional sleep problems. Sleep disorders describe a variety of problems and conditions that prevent restful sleep. Stemming from a variety of sources, sleep disorders are sometimes hard to diagnose and treat. Sleep labs help doctors with these hard-to-diagnose cases by allowing them to watch how their patients sleep in a controlled environment located within a hospital or clinic. Sleep labs are especially helpful in diagnosing disorders such as sleep apnea, hypoapnea, insomnia, and narcolepsy, all of which have common and broad symptoms.

For example, sleep apnea is a serious sleeping disorder



HEATH WHITE, CRT

that occurs when a person stops breathing for 10 seconds or longer during sleep. It can be mild, moderate or severe; depending on the number of times in an hour the breathing stops (apnea) or becomes very slow (hypopnea). Some people with sleep apnea complain that they wake up with a sore and/or dry throat. On occasion, they may wake up with a choking or gasping sensation and sometimes seem to wake themselves up with their own snoring.

The symptoms of sleep apnea include:

- loud snoring;
- feeling sleepy throughout the day;
- tossing and turning during the night;
- waking up with constant headaches;
- feeling irritated and unrested; and/or insomnia.

For those who have trouble sleeping or experience sleep disorders, a doctor may recommend observation by a specialist in a sleep lab to see

how patients sleep and how their bodies function during sleep.

This is more effective in determining the cause and type of sleep disorder than relying on patients' reports of their symptoms. Sleep labs determine, in a controlled environment, the problem or problems preventing patients from having a full night's sleep.

Some of the most common tests run in sleep labs are the polysomnogram, the multiple sleep latency test, and the multiple wake test, all of which can diagnose a wide variety of sleep disorders.

A polysomnogram, for example, records several body functions during sleep: brain activity, eye movement, heart rate, breathing rate, and body muscle movements.

Seeing how these different systems function helps sleep researchers and doctors analyze and diagnose sleep problems or disorders. The multiple sleep latency test measures the amount of time

necessary to fall asleep and the body's movements during sleep. This test can determine the reason a patient takes a significant amount of time to fall asleep on a regular basis. The multiple wake test determines if and how well a person can stay awake during normal waking hours.

If a patient's persistent sleep problem has a significant impact during waking hours, this test can help determine how they can stay awake better. Sufferers of narcolepsy, for instance, might find the results of a multiple wake test useful.

If you are experiencing trouble staying awake, falling asleep or staying asleep, a sleep lab might be your best option to determine your individual problem. Speak with your doctor about scheduling a sleep study to help diagnose and learn how to treat your sleep disorder.

In February 2009, the new Scenic Mountain Sleep Center began performing sleep

studies to assist physicians in diagnosing sleep difficulties right here in Big Spring.

To learn more, visit our Sleep Center booth at the 2009 Big Spring Health Fair, sponsored by the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Saturday, April 18 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum on the Howard College Campus. Women of all ages are invited to attend the April Healthy Woman program that same day, "Sleep — It's Not Just About Beauty." Participants will enjoy a delicious, cold buffet lunch and learn why a good night's sleep is crucial to your health and well-being. While there is no charge to attend, seating for this interactive event and luncheon is limited, so reservations are required. For more details or to RSVP, log on to www.smmccares.com or call Kim Howell at 268-4842 or Anita Cline at 268-4721.

Heath White, CRT, is director of sleep medicine for Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

Nutrition Wise: Probiotics can be beneficial

Q: Are probiotics really helpful in treating constipation?

A: In some people probiotics do seem to help, especially when constipation is part of a condition known as Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS), but they are far from universally effective. Evidence is growing that probiotics — live active cultures of health-promoting bacteria — may offer a variety of health benefits. The most consistent benefits suggest that probiotics may help control diarrhea following antibiotic treatment.

Some studies show probiotics may help in dealing with inflammatory bowel diseases, like ulcerative



KAREN COLLINS MS, RD, CDN

colitis and Crohn's, and play a role in reducing risk of colon cancer. There are many variables that reflect on how probiotics influence a person's condition. Different types of probiotic bacteria clearly have different effects.

Individuals will almost surely respond differently to the same probiotic bacteria, depending in part on the kinds of bacteria already living in their digestive tract and in their overall diet. For example, probiotic bacteria might multiply and produce beneficial results more quickly if there is enough dietary fiber on which the bacteria can "feed." Eating a high-fiber diet, drinking plenty of fluids and getting regular physical activity are all factors that may help probiotics be more effective in overcoming constipation.

Q: What is tahini and is it healthy?

A: Tahini is a mixture of toasted sesame seeds and olive oil, pureed to a consistency like peanut butter. It is especially common in Middle Eastern cuisine, where tahini is a key ingredient in hummus (a purée made with chickpeas, garlic and lemon juice) and baba ghanoush (a purée made with eggplant, garlic and lemon juice). Nutritionally, it also has a lot in common with peanut butter: almost 80 percent of its calories come from fat, but little of it is saturated fat (the kind that raises blood cholesterol).

So while it is a healthy choice, just be mindful that tahini is concentrated in calories, with about 170 in a two-tablespoon serving and enjoy it in small amounts.

A healthier spin on chicken salad

Enjoy a wonderful fresh chicken salad without the added fat (and attendant guilt) of mayonnaise. This week's recipe features the nutritional value of chicken, tomatoes, and beans and the flavor of oregano, olives and capers.

The venerable chicken was domesticated in what is now Vietnam about 10,000 years ago. Today it is one of the most common and widespread domestic animal with a worldwide population of approximately 24 billion birds. It has a neutral flavor that tends to take on the seasonings used in a recipe. Hence, the expression "tastes like chicken," so commonly used to describe other food.

Chickens are an affordable, nutritionally rich meat source and, when paired with ingredients like oregano and lemon juice, they take on a pleasing flavor. The addition of capers creates another layer of taste and texture.

Capers are a flavor enhancer that have been part of Mediterranean cuisine for thousands of years. Long ago, they were used as informal currency among merchants traveling the ancient trade routes. Capers are actually immature buds picked from a small bush. They are traditionally sun-dried and brined in vinegar. (If the blossoms are not harvested, they will often turn into berries that look somewhat like olives.) For this recipe, they impart an intense, somewhat salty flavor. Many chefs recommend placing them

in a small strainer and rinsing them under running water before adding them to the recipe. This reduces the salt, but still maintains the flavor.

The cherry tomatoes provide another layer of texture and fresh taste with a subtle measure of sweetness. Remember, as with all tomatoes, avoid storing them in the refrigerator. These tomatoes, which are actually a berry, will retain their flavor and texture qualities if stored at room temperature. Once they are fully ripe, you should use them within three days.

The olive oil acts to provide just the right measure of "binding" and moisture to the salad. Adding green beans provides both nutritional benefits and color to the dish. Often referred



to as French or string beans, they are actually the unripe fruit of many types of beans. In the U.S., they have been bred especially for fleshiness and sweetness. They are loaded with a host of vitamins.

This recipe is easy to make and produces

a nutritious, versatile and flavorful dish that makes an excellent leftover, which can be served for lunch or a light meal the following day.

Tasty Mayo-Free Chicken Salad
• 3/4 pound baked or

grilled chicken breasts
• 2 Tbsp. extra virgin olive oil
• 1 tsp. dried oregano
• Juice of 1/2 a lemon
• 1 2.2-ounce can (1/2 cup) black olives, pitted and roughly chopped
• 1 Tbsp. tiny capers, well-rinsed and drained
• 10 cherry tomatoes,

halved
• Salt and pepper to taste
• 1 cup thin green beans, cooked, drained, and cooled
• Romaine lettuce leaves, for serving bed (whole wheat pita bread for sandwiches optional)
• 2 Tbsp. chopped parsley

Cut chicken into bite-sized pieces. Place in a bowl and combine with oil, oregano and lemon juice. Let stand for about 1 hour.

Toss the chicken mix with olives, capers, tomatoes and green beans. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Arrange the salad on the romaine leaves. Sprinkle with parsley and serve. This recipe would also work on whole-wheat pita bread. Makes 4 servings.



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Cabrera wins Masters via sudden death playoff

By **PAUL NEWBERRY**
AP National Writer

AUGUSTA, Ga. — There were so many ways this most thrilling of Masters could have ended.

What if Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelton had carried their duel into a playoff? Now that would have turned Augusta National upside down.

Or how about Kenny Perry, the ultimate grinder, winning his first major at an age when most players are prepping for the senior tour? Boy, that

would have been something.

Instead, it was a burly man from Argentina who crafted an ending no one could have envisioned. Down at the 10th green, long after Woods and Mickelton had headed for exits and dragged many of the patrons with them, Angel Cabrera barely beat the setting sun with a gimme of a putt as Perry looked on helplessly.

OK, it wasn't Hollywood. But Cabrera sure earned it. When his swing got loose and pro-

duced two straight bogeys on the front side, he hung in there. When he faced a two-stroke deficit with two holes to play, he didn't give up. And, most impressively, when his first tee shot of the sudden-death playoff hole, he never lost hope.

"I only had a spot like this big" — meaning tiny — "and only trees, so I've got to put it through there, that's it," Cabrera said, a translator relaying his words. "Easy as that."

Cabrera somehow hooked his ball around one tree and past several more, getting it back to the fairway. Then he knocked it up on the green, 8 feet behind the hole, and made the putt to save a remarkable par. Perry messed up his approach and had to settle for par, too. The third member of the playoff, Chad Campbell, missed his 6-footer and the race was down to two.

See **MASTERS**, Page 8

Inge leads Tigers past Texas, 6-4

DETROIT (AP) — Brandon Inge was sure glad when Kevin Millwood homered and hit a two-run single in a six-run eighth inning, helping the Detroit Tigers rally for a 6-4 victory over the Texas Rangers.

Millwood threw seven shutout innings before handing a 4-0 lead over to C.J. Wilson, who failed to make it out of the eighth.

Carlos Guillen also had a two-run double for Detroit, which swept the three-game series. Placido Polanco went 3-for-4 with an RBI and Miguel Cabrera had two hits.

Brandon Lyon (1-1) threw two perfect innings and Fernando Rodney got three outs for his second save in as many days.

Detroit relievers have pitched seven innings in the last two games without allowing a baserunner.

Josh Hamilton and Ian Kinsler hit two-run homers for Texas, which began the season by sweeping a three-game series at home against Cleveland. Millwood allowed just four hits and struck out six.

Wilson (0-1) entered to pitch the eighth and Inge greeted him with his 100th career homer.



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Howard College's Joe Leftridge triples in the first game of a WJAC doubleheader against New Mexico Junior College Saturday at Jack Barber Field. The Hawks improved to 40-0 as they swept NMJC, 4-1 and 15-4.

40-0

Hawks sweep NMJC to remain undefeated

By **JONATHAN HULL**

Sports Editor

Forty straight.

That's how many consecutive baseball games the Howard College Hawks have opened the 2009 season winning.

The No. 1 ranked team in the land improved to 40-0 Saturday, sweeping a pair of Western Junior College Athletic Association games from New Mexico Junior College, 4-1 and 15-4, at Jack Barber Field.

However, despite being swept, NMJC provided the Hawks with their biggest challenge in a four-game series this season.

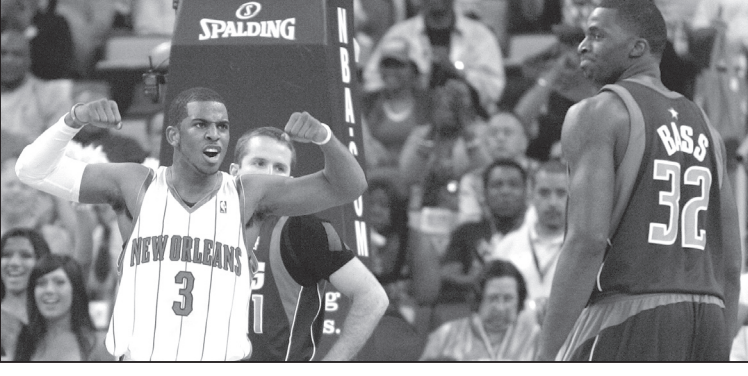
"It's a big rivalry. New Mexico played really well at their place on Friday," said Howard Head Coach Britt Smith. "We battled. It was tough to play on the road there and offense didn't come easily."

Howard won both games Friday, 7-1 and 6-3, but were forced to play the ninth inning for the first time this season in the second game. A 3-run homer by Caleb Nine in the sixth proved to be the difference as it placed Howard up 5-3.

"That was a big shot by Caleb," said Smith. "That hit was really what put us over the top in that second game."

After Saturday's first game, it appeared

See **HAWKS**, Page 8



AP photo/Bill Haber

New Orleans Hornets guard Chris Paul (3) flexes his muscles in front of Dallas Mavericks forward Brandon Bass (32) in an NBA game in New Orleans Sunday. The Hornets defeated the Mavericks, 102-92.

Paul guides Hornets past Mavs, 102-92

By **BRETT MARTEL**

AP Sports Writer

NEW ORLEANS — Often the smallest player on the court, Chris Paul might have looked silly flexing both arms beside his head if his all-around game wasn't so big.

Paul narrowly missed his seventh triple-double this season with 31 points, 17 assists and nine rebounds, and the New Orleans Hornets defeated the Dallas Mavericks 102-92 on

Sunday to earn a split in a key late-season home-and-home series.

Afterward, Dallas coach Rick Carlisle said his club could do little to slow Paul.

"We tried everything. We were trapping him ... pretty much the whole fourth quarter," Carlisle said. "He just found ways to either draw fouls or get the ball to other people. That's what great players do. He was great down the stretch."

Paul had 20 of his points in the second half. For the game, he shot 11-of-15 from the field — making both 3-pointers he tried — and 7-of-7 from the foul line.

"Paul was setting everybody up and he was scoring, so that's why he's one of the best point guards in the league," said Dallas' Dirk Nowitzki, who had 29 points and 14 rebounds.

See **MAVS**, Page 8

Sports in brief

BSCGA holding monthly tourney at 10 a.m. Saturday

The Big Spring Chicano Golf Association is holding its monthly tournament at 10 a.m. Saturday at the municipal golf course at Comanche Trail Park.

Entrance fee is \$20 and prizes will be awarded to the top three teams. Registration needs to take place at 9:30 a.m.

The format is a four-person selected drive.

For more information, call Pano Rodriguez

Registration and tryouts for Big Spring Pony League set

The Big Spring Pony League will have registration and baseball tryouts Saturday at Roy Anderson Complex.

Registration is from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. with tryouts

starting at 2 p.m.

Players must be within the age range of 13-15 years old.

If a child is currently 12 and turns 13 by April 30, he or she is eligible to play. A 15 year old must not turn 16 by April 30. Birth certificates are required to sign up.

Cost is \$90 per child with no fund raiser.

Anyone interested in coaching or for more information, contact Shelli Harrington at 264-6501 or e-mail her at soccermom077@yahoo.com.

Golf tournament to benefit KBSB set for Saturday

The fifth annual Keep Big Spring Beautiful Golf Tournament has been scheduled for Saturday 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.

2009 Cancer Scramble Golf Tournament April 25-26

The Big Spring Country Club is hosting a golf tournament April 25-26 with all proceeds to benefit The American Cancer Society and Relay for Life.

The format is a four-person scramble with the option to either form a team or be assigned to one.

Prizes in the form of BSCC Golf Shop gift certificates with be given to first, second and third place teams.

Entry fee is \$75 per player plus a \$22 golf cart fee, but private carts are welcome.

To enter, call the BSCC at 267-5354.

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HAWKS

Continued from Page 7

the Hawks were going to be forced into another long game to end the series.

That wasn't the case. The Howard bats came alive and several hard hit balls forced New Mexico into a hefty amount of errors. Only nine of the Hawks' 15 runs in the game were earned.

Howard wasted no time getting started as the first five batters in the lineup ended up crossing home plate.

Joe Leftridge and Bryan Johns got the rally started with back-to-back singles. Both runners scored following consecutive errors by New Mexico's first and third basemen. Miles Hamblin reached base on one of those miscues and Monk Kreder joined him via a walk.

Nick Popescu cashed in on the RBI opportunity, bringing in both Kreder and Hamblin on a double. Popescu moved up to third on a sacrifice bunt by Caleb Nine, then scored on a squeeze play courtesy of a second bunt by Andrew Collazo.

The Hawks did give up three runs in the top of the second, but matched that total in their half of the inning.

The first three batters scored for Howard. Runey Davis, who bats in the nine hole, led off the frame with a double, then scored on a single by Leftridge.

An error in the outfield allowed Leftridge to motor around to third, setting the stage for an RBI single by Johns, who leads the Hawks with 58 RBI.

Johns came around two batters later on a fielder's choice ball hit by Monk Kreder.

Another run by NMJC in the top of the third was answered by three more scores by Howard in the bottom of that frame, making the score 11-4.

Finally, Howard pitcher Blake Barnes, who replaced starter Burch Smith on the mound in the second inning, took over, shutting down NMJC over the final two innings.

"Up to that point, we had only used four pitchers in three games. We felt we still had six or seven quality arms to pitch. We weren't going to let anybody struggle. We're too deep on the mound to let someone go out there and struggle.

Barnes (6-0) picked up the win, pitching four innings and allowing two runs — both unearned — on three hits and two walks, while striking out four batters.

The Hawks' bats added four more runs in the fourth with a 2-RBI triple by Collazo highlighting the outburst.

Despite the 10-run mercy rule victory, Smith wasn't happy with the quality of play.

"I think this was the worst game we played this season," he said. "We're lucky New Mexico played worse than we did. We hit the ball well, but we made a lot of mistakes in the field. Both teams were very sloppy in that

game."

In Game 1, the Hawks got another masterful pitching performance from left-hander Anthony Collazo.

Collazo (8-0) allowed one unearned run on two hits and two walks, while striking out 11 batters over seven innings. New Mexico's only run of the game came in the top of the seventh.

"Three of his last four outings have been dominant," said Smith. "You don't see many guys from the left side with as many pitches as he has and with that much velocity. He's effectively wild in the strike zone. With two different fastballs, a show-me curve, an improved slider and a cutter he's just developed, he's got so many pitches that it's hard for batters to sit on anything. That's why he's got so many strikeouts. He's averaging about 15 Ks per nine innings."

The Hawks (40-0, 20-0) face rival Midland College (30-13, 17-7) in a four-game series Friday and Saturday. Midland currently sits third in the WJCAC standings behind Howard and Clarendon, but are coming off a four-game sweep of El Paso Community College.

"I'm sure they're going to come out ready to go. The back end of our conference is going to be the toughest part of our schedule," said Smith. "It's a situation where its good for us to have wins in the bank. We're going to have to play some really good baseball."

Still, even with a chance to finish the season undefeated, Smith says

the team is focused on one game at a time.

"The one thing I've been impressed with this team more than anything is their focus on each game," he said. "For the first time this season Friday, I heard someone talk about winning two games before we started the doubleheader. Some of the guys quickly nipped that in the butt. This team is taking one game at a time. Whatever happens, happens. They're definitely not taking anyone for granted."

The series opens with a doubleheader at Jack Barber Field at noon Friday. It concludes with a second doubleheader at 1 p.m. Saturday in Midland.

Game 1
Howard 4, New Mexico 1
NMJC 000 000 1-1 2 0
HC 102 010 x-4 9 2

Zack Breault and John Candelier. Anthony Collazo and Miles Hamblin. W - Collazo (8-0). L - Breault. 2B: HC - Monk Kreder. 3B: Bryan Johns, Joe Leftridge. RBI: HC - Johns, Hamblin, Kreder, Nick Popescu. SB: NMJC - Armando Gutierrez, Mike Mutcherson; HC - Leftridge. LOB: NMJC 2, HC 7.

Game 2
Howard 15, New Mexico 4
NMJC 031 00-4 7 6
HC 533 4x-15 14 3

Levi Saenz, Terence Stubbs (4), Gregory Downing (4) and John Candelier. Burch Smith, Blake Barnes (2) and Monk Kreder. W - Barnes (6-0). L - Saenz. 2B: HC - Nick Popescu, Runey Davis. 3B: HC - Andrew Collazo. RBI: NMJC - Ty Lain, Juan Arroyo; HC - Joe Leftridge, Bryan Johns 2, Miles Hamblin, Kreder, Popescu 2, Collazo 3, B.J. Armstrong, Davis. SB: NMJC - Arroyo 2; HC - Collazo, Tommy Vukovich, Kreder, Hamblin. LOB: NMJC 7, HC 2.

MAVS

Continued from Page 7

David West scored 31 points to help New Orleans (49-31) move a game ahead of Dallas for the sixth playoff seed in the Western Conference. Each team has two games left in the regular season.

Josh Howard added 15 points for the Mavericks, who had pulled even in the standings with New Orleans on Friday by beating the Hornets in Dallas.

In the rematch, the Mavericks led for much of the third quarter and stayed close throughout, which once again forced Paul and West each to

play more than 40 minutes while combining for nearly two-thirds of the Hornets' offense.

New Orleans' two All-Stars have been averaging more than 40 minutes for a month now, meaning they won't be all that well rested for the playoffs.

The Hornets did get help on defense with James Posey playing his second game since returning from a left elbow injury.

In the fourth quarter, Hornets coach Byron Scott went with a small lineup, putting the 6-foot-9 West at center and having the 6-foot-8 Posey guard Nowitzki.

The move paid off. Nowitzki was held to four points in the final period and could not get enough help as the Hornets outshot the Mavericks, 55.6

percent to 42.5 percent.

The Hornets led 77-73 early in the fourth quarter after Paul backed in on Jose Barea, then spun around him for a layup as he was fouled. The 6-foot Paul celebrated, to the delight of the home crowd, by clenching both fists above his shoulders as he flexed both arms.

New Orleans never trailed after that, but Dallas declined to go quietly.

Jason Kidd's 3-pointer tied it at 83 with 4:11 to go before the Hornets slowly began to pull away again on West's tough turnaround fade from the baseline. Paul then found Butler for a fast-break layup as he was fouled by Kidd, giving New Orleans a 91-86 lead.

Jason Terry, who had 13 points,

pulled Dallas to 95-92 on a driving scoop over West, but Posey salvaged a botched drive to the hoop with a pass to the corner, where Peja Stojakovic drilled a crushing 3-pointer to make it 98-92 with 1:09 left.

Butler finished with 13 points and Stojakovic 11.

Brandon Bass had 13 points for Dallas.

Trailing 45-44 at halftime, Dallas surged ahead by seven early in the third quarter, with Nowitzki's two jumpers highlighting an 8-0 run.

New Orleans didn't score until West's free throws with 7:13 left in the period.

Butler's 3 made it 54-50, and the Hornets slowly pulled even as West's driving scoop off the glass tied it at 69 heading into the fourth quarter.

MASTERS

Continued from Page 7

Only one more hole was needed. Perry found mud on his ball in the middle of the 10th fairway, and his shot veered left of the green. Cabrera knocked his below the hole and — for perhaps the first time all day — he was finally the one in command. Perry's chip raced past the flag, and he missed the putt coming back.

Perry didn't even get a chance to finish. Cabrera's putt stopped next to the hole. He marked it, took a quick look to make sure there was nothing on it, and calmly delivered the winning stroke on his second career major.

At Oakmont two years ago, Cabrera stared down Woods and Jim Furyk to win the U.S. Open. Now he has joined the green jacket club and wiped out any perception that his first major title was a fluke.

He wasn't the only one. From the time Woods and Mickelson stepped to the tee, sharing a firm handshake and icy stare, there was a sense this would finally be the day the Masters delivered an Augusta-like finish. Another day broke warm and sunny. The flags drooped limply atop the scoreboard. The greens were still soft and inviting after a fierce storm a couple of nights earlier.

This was finally a Sunday for some fireworks, and they were soon going off all over the course.

The main event was Woods vs. Mickelson, or so it seemed most of the day. Mickelson scored the early bogey, delivering six birdies before the turn for a record-tying 30. Woods bounced off the ropes with a 30-footer for eagle at No. 8. They both had a shot as they headed to Amen Corner, trailed by a gallery that grew to 10-deep in spots.

"It was fun," Mickelson said. "We've had some good matches in the past. I'm usually on the wrong end of it, but it was fun playing with him."

The script began to unravel at No. 12, the devilish little hole known as "Golden Bell." Mickelson pulled out a 9-iron and took a tentative swing. The ball checked up short of the flag, spun backward and didn't stop rolling until it splashed in Rae's Creek. Mickelson wound up with a double bogey, which seemed to suck all hope out of his game.

A 4-footer for eagle at No. 13 missed the cup by a good inch or two — basically an airball for someone of his caliber. His last opportunity faded away when a 5-foot birdie try slid by the cup at 17. A

bogey at the final hole left him with a 5-under 67, three shots shy of the first three-man playoff since 1987.

Woods was one stroke out of the lead after he planted his tee shot next to the flag at No. 16, producing his third birdie in four holes. But golf's greatest closer couldn't finish the comeback. His last two tee shots were both wide and outside. He slammed another shot off a tree. A bogey-bogey finish left him one stroke behind Mickelson and tied for sixth, his worst finish at Augusta since 2004.

He's now gone four years without a green jacket, the longest drought of his Masters career.

At least he has a Masters title — four of them.

Perry headed to the penultimate hole with a two-stroke lead and seemed the most unlikely guy on the course to let it slip away. He had gone 22 holes since his last bogey, and merely needed a nice, safe finish to add some green to his wardrobe.

Then, he seemed to realize just what was happening. His hands got a little sweaty, his arms a little shaky. He was caught up in the moment, and it got to him.

"I can't stop my right hand when I get a little nervous," Perry conceded. "It wants to shoot a little bit and I can't calm it down."

He knocked his second shot at 17 over the green and took bogey. He tried to calm down, kept telling himself he still had a one-stroke lead. He just had to get through one more hole to become the oldest player to capture a major, some four months older

than Julius Boros when he won the 1968 PGA Championship.

But Perry put his tee shot into a bunker. He scattered the gallery on the left with his second shot. A delicate chip left him with a 15-foot putt for the win. But it crept up short of the hole — the tentative stroke of an average golfer who choked, Perry's own brutal assessment of the miss.

"I had that putt everybody makes," he said. "Mark O'Meara has made it. Tiger made it. I knew exactly what it did, and I hit it easy. I mean, I just hit it bad."

This was Perry's second heartbreak in a major. In 1996, he squandered another lead on the 72nd hole at the PGA Championship, then lost in a playoff to Mark Brooks.

Perry knows this might be his final chance. "It just seems like when I get down to those deals, I can't seem to execute," he moaned in his Kentucky drawl. "Great players make it happen, and your average players don't. That's the way it is."

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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. Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

East dealer.
East-West vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ Q 10 9 7 5 4 2
♥ —
♦ 10 7 2
♣ A Q 5

WEST
♠ A K 8
♥ A 10 9 6
♦ K
♣ K J 8 7 2

EAST
♠ J 6 3
♥ K 8 2
♦ 8 4
♣ 10 9 6 4 3

SOUTH
♠ —
♥ Q J 7 5 4 3
♦ A Q J 9 6 5 3
♣ —

The bidding:
East South West North
Pass 1 ♦ Dble 4 ♣
Pass 5 ♦ Pass 6 ♣

The ultimate goal in bridge is to find the best answer to each problem as it arises — even if this means choosing an action that seems contrary to the general principles of the game.

For a prime example, consider the accompanying deal played in Dublin in the 1967 European team-of-four championship. The hand arose in the match between Sweden and Italy, and the bidding shown occurred at the table where the Swedes were North-South.

Oscar Bellentani, the Italian West, began by doubling South's opening diamond bid. There was nothing remarkable about the double — just

about everyone else would have done exactly the same thing.

But Bellentani's pass of five diamonds — holding 18 high-card points — seems exceptionally conservative, since many Wests would automatically have doubled the 11-trick undertaking.

Not only that, but after North bid six diamonds, followed by two passes, Bellentani passed again! It would be mighty difficult to find many other players who would have exercised similar restraint. But he realized that for his opponents to voluntarily contract for slam, they had to have freakish distribution rather than high cards.

Ordinarily, declarer would have made the slam despite West's powerful hand. For example, let's suppose West had led the king of spades, which seems the natural thing to do.

In that case, South would trump the spade and ruff three hearts in dummy, returning each time to his hand with a ruff. He would then cash the A-Q of trumps and concede a heart to West's ace to score 12 tricks.

But Bellentani, recognizing that both opponents were bidding on distribution, decided to reduce declarer's crossruff potential. Accordingly, he chose the king of diamonds as his opening lead! After this start, declarer could ruff only two hearts in dummy, and he eventually lost two heart tricks to go down one.

Tomorrow: Impetuosity goes unrewarded.

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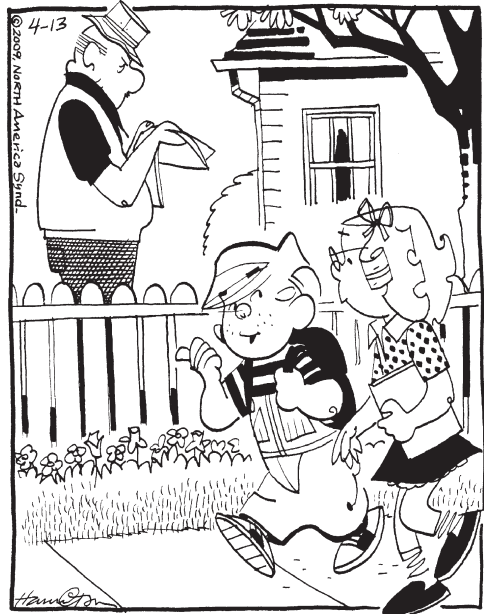
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5:PM	News ABC	News ABC	Locura	Lopez	News CBS	Noticias	News NBC	Raymond	Grohman	BBC	Cash Cab	Charles S. Dutton	CSI: NY	Bones	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Sonny	Horn	SportsCenter
6:PM	News ABC	Jeopardy!	Tontas Cielo	Lopez	News CBS	12 Cora-zones	News NBC	Friends	Granger	Business	Cash Cab	Charles S. Dutton	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order		Sonny	Interrupt	MLB Base-ball: San Di-ego Padres at New York Mets.
7:PM	Entertain	Fortune	Two Men	House	Entertain	Millionaire	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Hagee	Destroyed	Destroyed	Destroyed	Destroyed	Destroyed	Destroyed	Sonny	Football	NFL Live
8:PM	Dancing With the Stars	Dancing With the Stars	Cuidado-Angel	House	Big Bang How I Met	Doña Bar-bara	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Israel	Antiques Roadshow	Destroyed	Movie: Ocean's Twelve, Matt Damon	Ultimate Fighting Championship 70: Nations Collide	The Closer	Movie: Be Cool, Vince Vaughn	Movie: Twitches Too	NBA Coast-to-Coast	
9:PM	Surviving (02) Castle	Surviving (02) Castle	Cristina	TMZ	CSI: Miami	Sin Senos	Medium	Name	Name	Doing Da Vinci	Doing Da Vinci		Saving Grace	Harlem	Wizards	Wizards	Baseball Tonight	
10:PM	News ABC	News ABC	Impacto	Raymond	News CBS	Noticias	News NBC	Seinfeld	Israel	Charlie Rose	Destroyed	Movie: Sleeping With the Enemy	UFC 97 Countdown	Law & Order	Movie: Be Cool, Vince Vaughn	Suite Life So Raven	HS Basket-ball	SportsCenter
11:PM	Insider	Jimmy Kimmel Live	La Casa de la Risa	Law Order: CI	Late Late Show	Decisiones de	Late Night-Jim	Sex & Smiley	Sex & Smiley	Arctic Roughnecks	Arctic Roughnecks		Saving Grace		Life De	Fastbreak	NFL Live	
12:AM	News ABC	News ABC	Contra Viento	Consumer	Insider	Pagado	News	Trapped, Stuart Townsend	Light of the Southwest	Light of the Southwest	Light of the Southwest	Movie: Rudy, Charles S. Dutton	Amazing Video	Cold Case	College	Kim	Series of Poker	SportsCenter
1:AM	Paid	Paid	Mujer...	Friends	Entertain	Pagado	Poker After Dark	Empresa					Disorderly Con.	Cold Case	The Deal	Dragon	Football	

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"EVERYBODY AT CHURCH KNEW YESTERDAY WAS EASTER, 'CAUSE MR. WILSON SHOWED UP."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

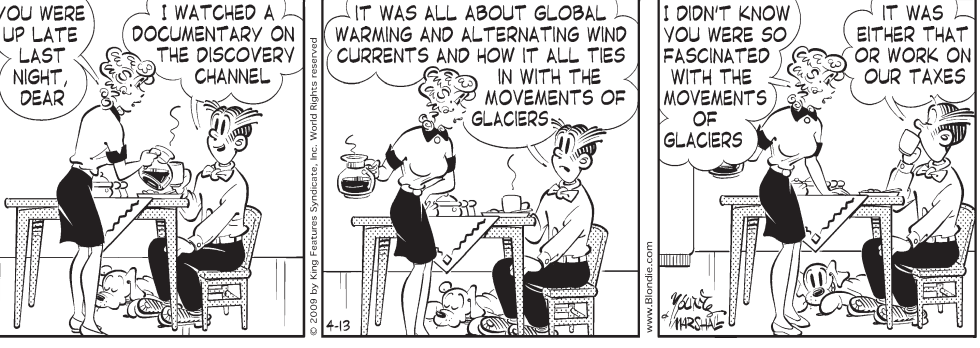


"There better still be 17 jellybeans in my basket when I get back!"

HAGAR



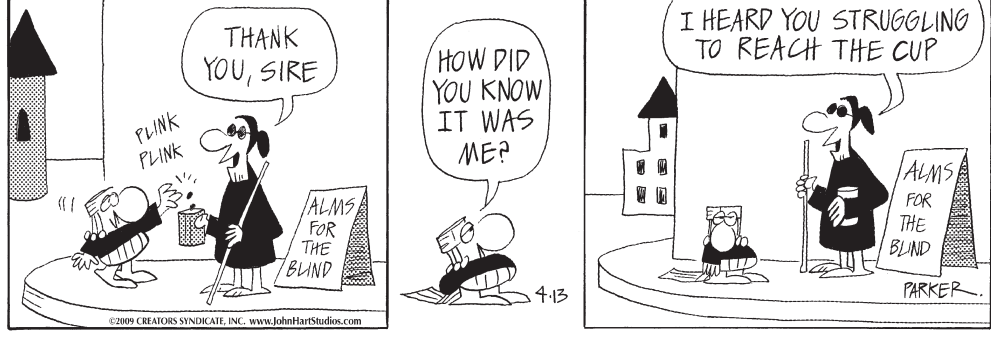
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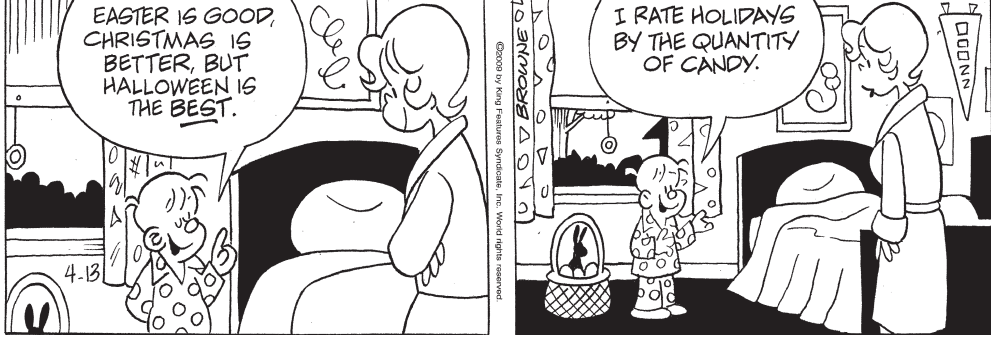
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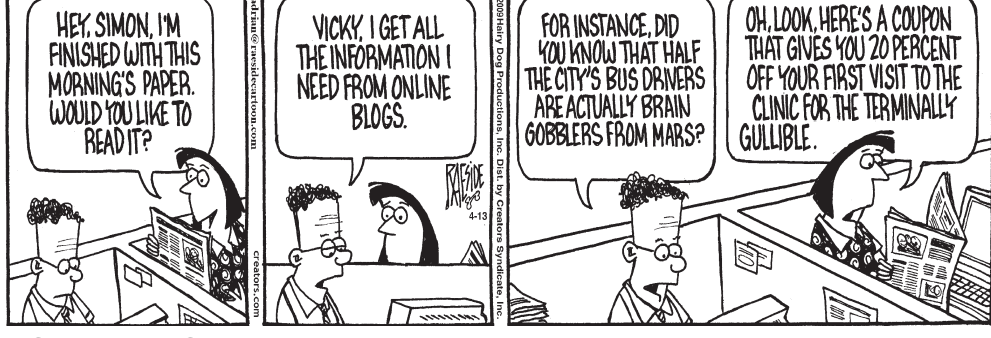
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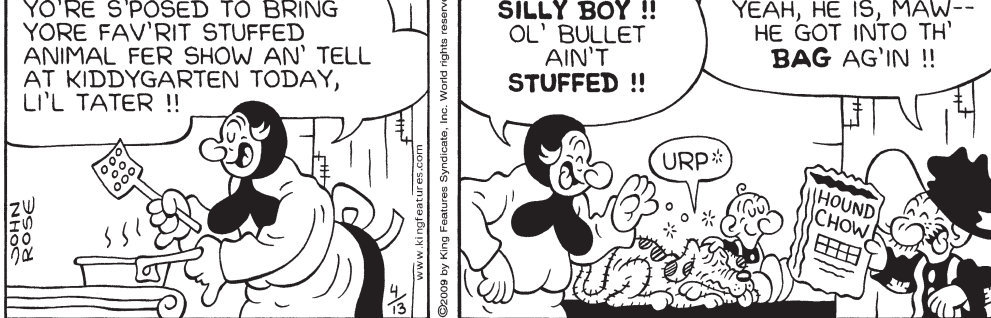
HI AND LOIS



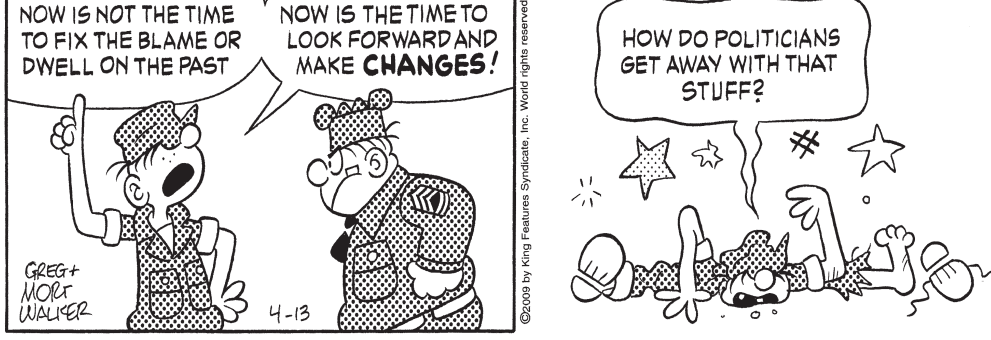
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Monday, April 13, the 103rd day of 2009. There are 262 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 13, 1743, the third president of the United States, Thomas Jefferson, was born in Shadwell, Va.

On this date:

In 1598, King Henry IV of France endorsed the Edict of Nantes, which granted rights to the Protestant Huguenots. (The edict was abrogated in 1685 by King Louis XIV, who declared France entirely Catholic again.)

In 1742, Handel's "Messiah" was first performed publicly in Dublin, Ireland.

In 1870, the Metropolitan Museum of Art was incorporated in New York. (The original museum opened in 1872.)

In 1909, author Eudora Welty was born in Jackson, Miss.

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt dedicated the Jefferson Memorial.

In 1958, American pianist Van Cliburn, 23, won the first International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow.

In 1964, Sidney Poitier became the first black performer in a leading role to win an Academy Award, for "Lilies of the Field."

In 1970, Apollo 13, four-fifths of the way to the moon, was crippled when a tank containing liquid oxygen burst. (The astronauts managed to return safely.)

In 1986, Pope John Paul II visited the Great Synagogue of Rome in the first recorded papal visit of its kind to a Jewish house of worship.

In 1992, the Great Chicago Flood took place as the city's century-old tunnel system and adjacent basements filled with water from the Chicago River.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Stanley Donen is 85. Former Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, R-Colo., is 76. Actor Lyle Waggoner is 74. Actor Edward Fox is 72. Playwright Lanford Wilson is 72. Actor Paul Sorvino is 70. Movie and TV composer Bill Conti is 67. Rock musician Jack Casady is 65. Actor Tony Dow is 64. Singer Al Green is 63. Actor Ron

Perlman is 59. Actor William Sadler is 59. Singer Peabo Bryson is 58. "Late Night with Conan O'Brien" bandleader/rock musician Max Weinberg is 58. Bluegrass singer-musician Sam Bush is 57. Rock musician Jimmy Destri is 55. Singer-musician Louis Johnson (The Brothers Johnson) is 54. Comedian Gary Kroeger is 52. Actress Sandra Santiago is 52. Rock musician Joey Mazzola (Sponge) is 48. Chess grandmaster Garry Kasparov is 46. Actress Page Hannah is 45. Actress-comedian Caroline Rhea is 45. Rock musician Lisa Umbarger is 44. Rock musician Marc Ford is 43. Reggae singer Capleton is 42. Actor Ricky Schroder is 39.

Answer to previous puzzle

WRINGS	RATCHET
HONORE	LABOHEME
LIBERIA	IGNOREIT
MOZAMBIQUE	OPTS
MENU	RON
CARP	DROPSHOTS
HEARTSORE	ALBUM
ARNIE	ACE ROOST
ROUST	DARTAGNAN
SPORTSBAR	YENS
NAE	IGER
LIMY	JANE AUSTEN
ESCAPADE	CROAKY
CLARINET	LAUDER
HANDSON	ELPASO

Newsday Crossword

WHERE YOU LIVE by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15					16				
17				18					19				
20				21					22				
23				24				25					
26				27				28					
29	30	31		32		33	34			35	36	37	
38				39						40			
41				42						43			
				44				45		46			
47	48	49				50	51			52	53	54	55
56						57				58			
59												61	
62												64	
65												67	

ACROSS

1 Sound of distress

5 Pet-protection org.

10 Make a duplicate of

14 Yes-__ question

15 Quiet periods

16 West Coast sch.

17 Penny

18 Makes level

19 Bring up, as children

20 Company newsletter

22 Conceited

23 Do __ burn (seethe)

24 Superlative ending

25 Repairs

26 Rough-__ (unfinished)

28 Join in marriage

29 Cincinnati's state

32 Contributes to the mix

35 Unhappy

38 Home-based business

41 It comes after ess

42 Couldn't remember

43 Little child

44 Prohibit

45 "Hold your horses!"

47 Way to the attic

50 More than moist

52 Deal negotiator

56 Sandwich fish

57 Stay-at-home's restlessness

59 Moose relatives

60 Idolize

61 Foal's mother

62 1,760 yards

63 Continue a subscription

64 Betting stat

65 Went too fast

66 Secret meeting

67 Cluttered condition

DOWN

1 Cocoa/coffee combo

2 Black-and-white cookies

3 Declare void

4 Mediocre

5 Choir voice

6 Concede defeat

7 Sink stoppers

8 Soccer-shoe feature

9 Organization: Abbr.

10 Like an arc

11 Atlantic or Pacific

12 Tartan pattern

13 Knitter's materials

21 Lamb's mother

25 Diner list

27 Pioneer's vehicle

28 Side-to-side measure

29 Columbus Day mo.

30 Weeder's tool

31 Suffex meaning "resident"

33 Use a shovel

34 Winter driving quartet

35 Pig pen

36 Little Rock's state: Abbr.

37 Color Easter eggs

39 At a distance

40 Child actor's parent, perhaps

44 Not impartial

46 Bumbler

47 Originates (from)

48 Dutch bloom

49 Spot for some bracelets

50 Tot in a kiddie pool

51 Piano-key wood

53 Sidestep

54 Geeky ones

55 Lock of hair

57 Golfer's transport

58 Small salamander

CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2009 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 4/13/09

Tomorrow's Horoscope

The sun and moon are in fire signs and seem more intent than usual to meddle in human affairs. The Aries sun is a mischievous child offering up a dare and the Sagittarius moon chimes in with the necessary peer pressure to start the action. We do crave the excitement of a ridiculous challenge. Take a breath to consider the wisdom of it.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You feel like you're living your life for others.



HOLIDAY
MATHIS

Though it's neither easy nor immediately gratifying to sacrifice your time and energy this way, you can be sure that it is absolutely worthwhile.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're feeling really vibrant and the whole universe seems to support your fantastic mood. You put your whole soul into mundane tasks, like paying bills or making dinner. Consequently, your good fortune continues.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You will labor and be paid, and that all seems fair. Then you do more labor for free. That's when it seems unfair, only because you have so much fun doing it, you feel like you are the one who should be paying.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Attitude matters, and right now it's something you can't fake. There is no hiding what you really think and how you really feel. Believe it's worthwhile to communicate and relate with someone and it will be.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You will be wrapped up in your endeavors, fascinated by the problems that require solving. The one who tries to distract you goes barely noticed. You won't be shaken from this course until you come to a natural finishing point.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There won't be time allotted for the things you love to do, so you'll have to steal your moments — and while you're at it, take an hour or two. What brings you joy is so worth breaking the rules for.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You know why you are working so hard to accomplish something, and that's the only thing you need to know. The "how" works itself out. Tonight, someone waits affectionately for your return.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're looking too closely at things. You lose the pattern when you do that. In order to have a larger perspective you have to force yourself to be a bigger person, to rise above it all.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You volunteer, not because you can't say no, but because you have a good feeling

about the cause. The increasing responsibility will strengthen you. The pressure will force you to consolidate your power.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). A daring person inspires you. This person sees something in you — a vivacious renegade that's been trying to get out. You will have the perfect opportunity to let loose tonight.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There are whole worlds transpiring on the hidden side of a leaf. You may be fascinated by miniscule details of life, especially in nature, and will find your eternal soul represented in the smallest of symbols.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Some say the future isn't here yet, but you're not so sure. You have a fantasy version of tomorrow in your head that you play and repeat. This feels real and current. Things come true much the way you imagine.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: I've been getting more than the usual amount of queries on the topic of past lives lately, especially in regard to relationships.

With Venus in Pisces, people are called to experience the spiritual connection of love and consider the eternal aspect of this union. Some report a feeling upon first meeting someone that they have known the person before.

There's an instant comfort level and a feeling of intimacy that often goes deeper than personal circumstances would normally dictate. I have interviewed many psychics, mystics and truth seekers about the concept of past lives.

There is a commonly held idea that souls move through time (or the illusionary agreement we call time) in groups.

We change roles like players in a traveling theater company. In one show an actor might play the father; in the next he plays a brother, friend, sister, lover and the other players switch roles as well. In each different configuration we try to work out our karma.

Personally, I think that whether or not our soul travels work in such a way, it is crucial that we live this lifetime in the moment and try not to get caught up in the past, whether it was yesterday or 700 years ago.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Claire Danes has her sun and Mars in the headstrong sign of Aries, and she also has powerfully soulful water-sign influences running through her natal chart. Even though she was told that dropping out of acting for a few years to go to college was a bad move, she decided to attend Yale anyway. The stellar roles she's garnered upon her return just prove that Aries initiative can be so right!

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

Randy Ullom, left, winemaster of Kendall-Jackson Wine Estates raises a glass of wine and toasts critic and broadcast journalist Scott Carpenter, right, at the conclusion of their online tasting at the winery's offices in Santa Rosa, Calif. The tastings are the same as in-person sessions but instead of sitting across a restaurant table, the usual venue when Ulloms is on the road, critic and winemaker are viewing each other by videoconference.

That cab has great cam! Wine tastings go online

MICHELLE LOCKE

Associated Press Writer

BERKELEY, Calif. (AP) — As the recession continues to pinch budgets, some tech- (and cash) savvy wineries are rethinking the tradition of jetting their winemakers around the country for in-person tastings with top critics.

Instead, wineries such as California's Kendall-Jackson are embracing low-cost, eco-friendly virtual tastings via the Internet.

"We're reinventing the time-honored tradition of winemaker tastings for leaner and greener times," says Kendall-Jackson spokeswoman Caroline Shaw.

The tastings, which Kendall-Jackson launched this year, come at a time when the famously slow-moving wine industry has begun to explore in depth the new communications options surging across the Internet.

"Wineries are really starting to take notice of everything that's out there, whether it be Webcam technology or Facebook or Twitter," says Lisa Mattson, spokeswoman for St. Helena-based wine consulting firm Wilson Daniels Ltd.

For example, Wilson Daniels recently partnered with Twitter Taste Live, a Web forum for real-time wine tasting, for a tasting marking the 10th anniversary of Open That Bottle Night. A live video feed of the event showed participants on the East and West coasts sampling wines. People following along across the country could post their opinions via the Web site's live Twitter feed.

The Kendall-Jackson tastings are a little different, with winemaker and critic interacting one-on-one.

"Make sure you don't spill any wine on the keyboard," Kendall-Jackson wine master Randy Ullom joked as he started a recent session.

Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: I'm a 15-year-old girl who has been having problems with another girl for about a year. She's basically stalking me over the computer. I've received multiple threatening messages from her on MySpace. She says, "Why don't you just go and kill yourself already?" and that she is going to beat me up.

Her latest tactic: She somehow got my cell phone number and calls me from a blocked number. I've changed my phone number twice. I've reported this to the police, but they won't do anything. This girl has a record and she's not afraid to go to jail. What can I do to get her to leave me alone? — *Stalked in Inverness*

Dear Stalked: Apparently this is someone you know. Many states are now enacting laws against cyberbullying, and if this is a classmate, your school should step in. Since the girl has managed to get your cell phone number after it's been changed twice, it probably means you have a mutual friend who is giving it to her, so you might want to look into that. Talk to your parents, and let them speak to the police and the school principal. You can also contact the National Center for Victims of Crime (ncvc.org) at 1-800-FYI-CALL (1-800-394-2255).

Dear Annie: I married young and didn't consider that my mother-in-law might feel she was intruding if she invited herself over, or might think she was stepping on my toes if she offered parenting advice. She cooked different recipes than those I grew up with, and I became angry

with my husband if he mentioned that his mother "didn't make it that way." It never occurred to me to ask her out for coffee or to go shopping, and I didn't dream of getting recipes for those dishes her son liked so much. When we had kids, I never asked her to watch her grandchildren.

I'm now a mother-in-law and would love to be closer to my new daughter-in-law, but she doesn't have time for my side of the family. She was in town with my grandchild for several months while my son was overseas, and even though we volunteered repeatedly, she never let us baby-sit. We had to go to her parents' home to see the two of them.

I am so sorry I didn't make more time for my now-ex-husband's mom. I could have learned so much from her, and it wouldn't have been a betrayal of my own mother to make room for one more woman in my life. To all daughters-in-law out there, I know it can be hard and you'll grate on each other's nerves on occasion, but remember that she loves the person you married as much as you do. Give her a chance to be part of your life. — *Wishing To Be Closer*

Dear Wishing: It's too bad your life lesson had to come so late, but there is still time. Call, e-mail or write a letter to your daughter-in-law. Tell her how much she means to you as a member of your family and the mother of your grandchild. Let her know you'd like to become

The setup is pretty simple. Wine critics are shipped the bottles to be sampled, then e-mailed tasting notes. If they don't have a Webcam, the winery sends that along, too. And the winery's tech people do a test run to make sure it all works.

The tastings are the same as in-person sessions but instead of sitting across a restaurant table — the usual venue when Ullom is on the road — critic and winemaker view each other by videoconference.

Being able to meet face-to-virtual-face means the winemaker and critic can talk about the wine as they're tasting it, exploring things like the impact of growing conditions and the many other factors that go into a particular wine.

Does an e-tasting equal the romance of strolling through vineyards and sitting down to a tasting in the cellar? No. But, then again, it's not supposed to, says Shaw.

"Seeing anything first-hand makes a difference," she says. "First choice is always to host."

So far, the biggest problem has been working out technological bugs, most of which seem to be settled, she says.

Steve Heimoff, West Coast Editor for Wine Enthusiast, recently did an e-tasting and found it relaxing to sip without a trip.

"I always say if I went to every winery that invited me I would be living in my car," says Heimoff. "To be able to do something like this — it really frees up both the winemaker and the winemaker's guest. It's not as humanistic as actually being with the winemaker, but we're all pretty busy these days."

On the Net:

Kendall-Jackson: <http://www.kj.com>

closer to the woman your son loves so much. Be the mother-in-law you wish you'd had.

Dear Annie: I have a suggestion for "Frustrated in Elgin, Ore.," whose husband is debilitated by arthritis. Tell her to take a vacation to Arizona and see whether that dry climate can help him as it does thousands of others.

I know several people with severe arthritis who are now driving, swimming and walking on their own with relatively little pain. A friend from Michigan whose dog was so crippled from arthritis that the vet suggested euthanasia now lives in Tucson, where the dog runs around like a puppy. — *Arizona Vacationer from Wisconsin*

Dear Vacationer: There is no scientific evidence to bolster the contention that those who move to Arizona stop suffering from various forms of arthritis. But if it makes a person (or dog) feel better, it's OK with us.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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