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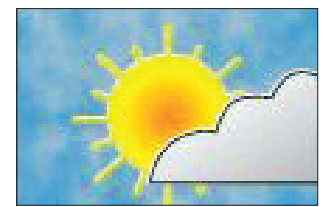
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BIG SPRING HERALD

THURSDAY

APRIL 16, 2009



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Citizens hold a Tea Party

70 attend protest against U.S. government policies

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

More than 200 years ago, a group of Americans protested their government's taxation policy in an event that became known as the Boston Tea Party.

On Thursday came the sequel. As part of a nation-wide event, about 70 local residents gathered at the Howard County Courthouse Wednesday for a "Tea Party" to protest what they described as an overly intrusive federal government.

Upset with recent actions by President Obama and the Democratic-controlled Congress, conservatives across the nation held Tea Parties across the nation to voice their displeasure with the policies.

Wednesday's rallies used the dreaded April 15 — the U.S. deadline to file income taxes — as a hook to vent about government spending and corporate bailouts in an homage to the Boston Tea Party.

The tea parties were promoted by FreedomWorks, a conservative nonprofit advocacy group based in Washington and led by former Republican House Majority Leader Dick Armey of Texas, who is now a lobbyist.

See **PARTY**, Page 3



HERALD photos/Steve Reagan
Clockwise, from top: Dwain Fox addresses the crowd during a "Tea Party" held on the Howard County Courthouse lawn Wednesday; Liz Watson holds a placard protesting federal economic policy; an upside-down U.S. flag symbolizes the crowd's distress against the state of the federal government.

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Candidates to get chance to speak out at Tuesday forum

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Area residents will get the chance to educate themselves on the various candidates and issues riding on this year's municipal and school district elections Tuesday, as the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce prepares to hold a candidate forum.

Set for 6:15 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Community Center, the forum is an excellent chance to get to know the candidates heading into the May 9 election, according to Chamber officials.

"This year we are inviting Big Spring and Coahoma candidates running for city council, school board and mayoral races," said Debbye ValVerde, executive director of the local Chamber of Commerce. "The format for the event will be informal. Candidates will be given five minutes to introduce themselves and make a few comments about their campaign platform and their plans for their

What: Chamber of Commerce-sponsored candidate forum.
Where: Dora Roberts Civic Center, 100 Whipkey Drive.
When: 6:15 p.m. Tuesday.

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 handouts, so this is really an excellent chance to find out where they stand on the issues that are important to each of us."

Two seats came up for election this year in the Big Spring Independent School District.

See **FORUM**, Page 3

Fugitive arrested

Ohio police catch, extradite sexual assault suspect

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Nearly two years after being indicted on charges of indecency with a child and aggravated sexual assault of a child, a 36-year-old Big Spring man is behind bars after being arrested in Ohio.

Anthony Thomas Yates was taken into custody by the Howard County Sheriff's Office today during the early

See **ARREST**, Page 3



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Obituaries

Kenneth W. Greenhill

Kenneth Wayne Greenhill, 61, of La Pine, Ore., died Friday, April 10, 2009, at his residence. He was born Jan. 1, 1948, in Big Spring.

Services will be held in Portland, Ore., at the Willamette National Cemetery at 10:30 a.m. Friday, April 17, 2009, with full military honors. There will be a reception to follow at the VFW, 3405 SE 87th, in Portland, Ore.

He served in the U.S. Army for six years. He moved to Oregon in 1972 and was a certified safety professional for Associated General Contractors. He was an ordained minister.

Survivors include his wife, Sue, of La Pine, Ore.; a son, Dennis Greenhill of Portland, Ore.; and four daughters, Karalyn Castagnola, Darci Greenhill and Kara Greenhill, all of Portland, Ore., and Kimberly Wood of Seattle, Wash.; a brother, James Greenhill of Big Spring; six sisters, Karen Greenhill, Cathy Perez and Karla Chavarria, all of Big Spring, Aneta Moore of Fort Myers, Fla., Nelda Davis of Ben Wheeler, Texas, and Glenda Kimbler of Danville, W.Va.; eight grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Leon and Ruby Pope Greenhill of Big Spring; and an infant son, Kenneth Greenhill Jr.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations in memory of Ken to the American Cancer Society or the Howard-Glasscock Relay for Life. A memorial service will be held in Big Spring at a later date.

Christian Adam Espinoza

Christian Adam Espinoza, infant son of Jorge and Maria (Kristi) Espinoza of St. Lawrence passed away March 24, 2009, at the Odessa Regional Medical Center.

A memorial mass will be held at 8 p.m. Saturday, April 18, 2009, at the St. Lawrence Catholic Church with Father Francis officiating.

Christian Adam is survived by his parents, Jorge and Maria (Kristi) Espinoza of Garden City; a sister, Vallory Ranae Espinoza of Garden City; maternal grandparents, Genaro and Janie Martinez, also of Garden City; paternal grandparents, Gilbert and Olivia Espinoza of Del Rio; and numerous aunts and uncles.

Funeral services under the direction of Shaffer-Nichols Funeral Home.

Police blotter

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

- RUBEN JUAREZ JR., 23, of 800 W. Marcy, was arrested Wednesday on charges of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less in a drug free zone and possession of a dangerous drug.
- SARAH GRACE PETERSON, 23, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of burglary of a habitation with intent to commit other felony.
- MICAH PEARSON, 23, of 1106 W. Third St., was arrested Wednesday on a warrant for harassment.
- ROBERT RUBEN SANCHEZ, 44, of 423 Westover Rd., was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE was reported in the 1100 block of Scurry.
- THEFT was reported in the 400 block of Birdwell Lane.
- POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE was reported in the 600 block of Steakley.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 4200 block of Dixon.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION WITH INTENT TO COMMIT OTHER FELONY was reported in the 100 block of Lockhart.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 2500 block of Hunter.

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 51 inmates at the time of this report.

- RONNIE LEAL, 19, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.
- TONI MARTINEZ, 24, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of criminal mischief (three counts).
- CHAD ALLEN MUSGROVE, 41, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of violation of parole.
- ANTHONY THOMAS YATES, 36, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on charges of indecency with a child – sexual contact (two counts), aggravated sexual assault of a child and issuance of a bad check.

Take Note

• Pre-registration for students who will be attending pre-K and kindergarten classes at Elbow Elementary will be held from 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. this week at the school, located at 5001 Nichols Rd. Parents will need to bring their child's birth certificate, social security card, immunization record and proof of residence. Parents enrolling their child in pre-K classes must provide proof of income. For more information, call 398-5444.

• American Legion Post 506 will hold a fish fry from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday at 3203 W. Highway 80. Plates are \$10 each. Meals will be delivered from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. by calling 263-2084. Carry-outs will be available. Everyone is welcome.




• A retirement ceremony for Coahoma Mayor Bill Read will be from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday in the Signal Mountain room at the First Bank of West Texas' Coahoma office. The public is invited.

• A benefit account has been established at Woodforest National Bank (Account 1652331339) for John Allison and Jacoby Rivera, who lost their belongings in a residential fire Friday on Runnels. Donations can also be made by calling (431) 213-4091.

• The Fraternal Order of Eagles No. 3188 American Legion Post 506 will be sponsoring a fund-raiser for Lee Karwedsky, a young boy with Muscular Dystrophy who is confined to a wheelchair, in hopes of raising enough money to purchase a handicap-accessible van. Homemade chopped barbecue sandwich plates, complete with trimmings, will be available Saturday for \$7 per plate from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. at 703 W. Third St. There will be games and a dance beginning at 8 p.m. featuring the Hill Country Pickers. For more information, contact Vonda Wrye at 816-1261.

• The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce and Big Spring Convention & Visitors Bureau will be hosting a Meet the Candidate Forum, Tuesday, April 21, at 6:15 p.m. at the Dora Roberts Community Center. Invited are Big Spring and Coahoma candidates running for city council, school board and mayor. The format will be informal. Candidates will be given five minutes to introduce themselves and make a few comments about their campaign platform, etc. 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 handouts. For more information, contact Debbye ValVerde, executive director for the Chamber of Commerce, at 263-7641.

Your Local Weather

Fri 4/17	Sat 4/18	Sun 4/19
		
73/42	76/44	73/41
Some clouds in the morning will give way to mainly sunny skies for the aite.	Sunshine. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the mid 40s.	Sunshine. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the low 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

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

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

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

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2300 block of Gregg Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1800 block of E. FM 700. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2600 block of Alsbrook. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 39-37-31-41-16-17.
Number matching six of six: 0.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 30-5-18-17-21.
Number matching five of five: 1. Prize: \$24,606
Winning ticket purchased in: Big Wells.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 4-0-5-2. Sum It Up: 11.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 0-6-6. Sum It Up: 12.

Support Groups

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

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

MONDAY

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

• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad, in the dining hall on the east side of the building. Weigh-in starts at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting begins at 6 p.m. There is a different program each week. For more information, call 213-1342 or 263-6819.

TUESDAY

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

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

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

• Al-Anon, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.

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

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Judge rules 2 TYC firings were improper

AUSTIN (AP) — A federal judge has ruled that the Texas Youth Commission improperly terminated two longtime employees in the aftermath of the agency's sexual abuse scandal, a decision that one attorney says could affect hundreds of workers.

District Judge Orlando Garcia in San Antonio said in a ruling earlier this month that the TYC erred when it forced Patricia Logterman and Corinne Alvarez-Sanders to resign or be terminated in mid-2007.

Garcia's ruling also said a 2007 reform measure that allowed the TYC to fire any employee at will was unconstitutional, because it was applied retroactively to workers who were hired as "for cause" employees.

"TYC is going to have to re-evaluate its employment relationship with probably hundreds of workers," Dan Hargrove, an attorney for

Logterman and Alvarez-Sanders, said in Wednesday's online edition of *The Dallas Morning News*.

"If employees were forced to resign, they're entitled to their job back with the state of Texas," Hargrove added.

Logterman and Alvarez-Sanders, who were administrators in the commission's headquarters in Austin, were kicked out as part of an agency house-cleaning after the scandal.

A trial still must be held to determine if they will get their jobs back or be awarded damages.

TYC officials said they could not comment because of motions pending before they judge.

But they said the personnel moves taken in 2007 were to "correct the mismanagement" that sent the agency into crisis.

"Difficult decisions were made in an effort to strengthen the agency, improve its leadership, and make

it more responsive to the expectations of our state's leadership and Texas taxpayers," spokesman Jim Hurley said.

The newspaper reported that its review of TYC personnel records showed at least 150 people were fired in the months immediately after the abuse scandal broke. Forty of those employees resigned instead of being terminated. Hundreds of others left the agency, but it was unclear whether they were fired or left voluntarily.

"I'm just realizing how monumental this ruling is, what a tremendous bearing it has on our case," said Alvarez-Sanders. "I'm excited to be vindicated."

Hurley said all employees fired by the agency were given termination hearings, as required by policy.

Those who resigned didn't have termination hearings.

Muzzel loaders set Rendezvous

Special to the Herald

Howard County Muzzel loaders is staging its Spring Rendezvous this weekend near Vealmoor.

The group promotes history and muzzel loading competition in a primitive setting with an emphasis on family.

The public is invited to come learn about this experience. The site is located approximately four miles east of Vealmoor, then north off Ranch Road 1785. Camp fees are \$10 per person plus \$2. Walk-ins are \$5 each plus \$2.

Special shoots are held Friday night, and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. Fees are \$1 and \$2. Patch, round ball only. No pyrodex.

Primitive dress is preferred. First-timers will be given some leeway.

No pets are allowed. Bring your own wood and water.

For more information, call Connie Key, founder, at 267-6697; Mike Webb, booshway, at 264-0024; or Mark Foster at 263-5661.

ARREST

Continued from Page 1

morning hours after being arrested and extradited by law enforcement officials in Ohio.

Yates is charged with two counts of indecency with a

child — sexual contact, a second-degree felony, two counts of aggravated sexual assault of a child, a first-degree felony, and contempt of court for failure to appear on a charge of issuance of a bad check.

According to HCSO chief Deputy Mark Hall, Yates has been on the run for some time now.

"The offenses allegedly

occurred in February 2005," said Hall. "Shortly after that, he fled to Ohio. After that, it was just a matter of him slipping up and being taken into custody by law enforcement in Ohio. Once they had him, he waived extradition and arrived at the (Howard) County Jail early this morning."

Hall said Yates is accused of

sexually assaulting a 6-year-old female at his home, located in the southern part of Howard County.

"He was known to the victim, who was 6 years old at the time of the offense, but not related to her," said Hall. "The incident allegedly occurred in his home. An indictment was delivered by a Howard County grand jury

May 24, 2007, but he was long gone by that time."

Hall said Yates was still in the custody of the county jail and had not bonded out at press time.

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

FORUM

Continued from Page 1

District 4 incumbent Tony Kennedy failed to draw an opponent in the May 9 contest. However, District 2 trustee Maria Padilla, who is running for re-election, will have to face off against local resident Edwin Ware, in the only contested race in the Big Spring school district.

In Coahoma, there are three at-large seats up

for election this year, with four political hopefuls vying for the opportunity. Brian Moore, the lone challenger in the contest, will be going head-to-head with incumbents Jody Reid, Alan Wright and Kirk Allen for a seat on the board.

Sands Consolidated Independent School District will also be holding a race during the May election, also with three at-large trustee seats up for grabs. Incumbents Amy Parker

and Tommy Staggs will compete with challengers Wes Hughes, Nate Avey, Matt Snell, Rick Timmins and Bill Barnes for one of the three seats.

In addition to the school board races, there are also several municipal contests to be decided.

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 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 coun-

cil 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.

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

PARTY

Continued from Page 1

Organizers said the movement developed organically through online social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter and through exposure on Fox News and promotion from conservative pundits and bloggers.

While FreedomWorks

insisted the rallies were nonpartisan, they have been seized on by many prominent Republicans who view them as a promising way for the party to reclaim its momentum against President Barack Obama's administration and other Democrats.

Locally, the event drew a vocal crowd to the courthouse square. Carrying placards and singing patriotic tunes,

the group let their displeasure with the government's economic policy be known.

"For far too long, we have stood by and let the government do as it pleases," said Dwain Fox, the main speaker at the event. "We the people are the ultimate power in this country and we've forgotten that."

While most of Fox's address centered on

conservative economic themes — lower taxes, less government intrusion in business — it also contained a stab against immigration reform.

"How ludicrous is it in the post 9-11 world that we won't secure our own borders?" he asked the crowd.

But mainly, Fox said, citizens need to become more involved in government.

"It's time for us citizens to assert our God-given rights," he said. "My prayer is that we ... wake up and hold our elected officials more responsible."

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

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

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311 North Second Street, Coahoma, Texas

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Brother Kell's topics will include:

Sunday Bible Class (9:30 a.m.)
Sunday Morning Worship (10:20 a.m.)
Sunday Evening Worship (6:00 p.m.)

Jesus, the Son of God
Jesus, the Teacher
Jesus, the Soul Winner

Monday Evening (7:00 p.m.)
Tuesday Evening (7:00 p.m.)
Wednesday Evening (7:00 p.m.)

Jesus, the Uplifted Savior
Jesus, the Conqueror of Death
Jesus, the Judge of All Men

Please come and bring a friend!
Call 394-4277 for more information

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

YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

April is national Child Abuse Prevention month. Most child abuse happens in a child's home, with a smaller amount occurring in the organizations, schools or communities the child interacts with.

A study in 2000 showed 879,000 children were victims of child maltreatment.

Child abuse can take many forms: 63 percent of cases were neglect, in which an adult fails to adequately provide for various needs, including physical, emotional or educational needs.

Physical abuse accounted for 19 percent of the study's findings — physical aggression directed at a child by an adult and also the transmission of toxins (drugs and alcohol) to a child through their mother in-utero.

Ten percent of abuse is sexual abuse, which is any sexual act between an adult and a child, including penetration, fondling, exposure to adult sexuality and violations of privacy.

Psychological abuse, also known as emotional abuse, which can involve belittling or shaming a child, inappropriate or extreme punishment and the withholding of affection, accounts for eight percent of abuse found in the study.

When adults feel frustration with little ones, they should:

- Take a deep breath. Take a few more. Remember, you are the adult.
- Close your eyes and imagine you are hearing that your child is about to hear or receive the same punishment.
- Put the child in a "time out" chair for a number of minutes. The rule is one minute per child's age.
- Put yourself in a "time out" chair. Are you really angry at the child or is it at something or someone else?
- Press your lips together and count to 20.
- Call a friend to talk about it. Or call the child abuse prevention hotline at 1-800-4ACHILD.
- If someone can watch the children, go for a walk.
- Take a hot bath or splash cold water on your face.
- Turn on some music and sing along if you want.
- Remember, think before you act.

CHRISTINE EVERETT
BIG SPRING

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

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

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

It is time to rise and shine with You, Lord.
Amen

Obama could disarm them

He rules a country from the left, yet he doesn't have any need to be totalitarian. He has been called a socialist, yet he doesn't jail his political opponents, censor critical media, or try to amend the Constitution to prolong his time in power.

Just by being himself, our new liberal American president could disarm the Latin American left.

When President Barack Obama goes south of the border this week, he has a unique opportunity to change the course of Latin American history. Just by being himself, he could steer Latin America back from its recent decline toward totalitarian socialism. The revival of the old Latin American caudillos, now rebranded as leftists, could come to a screeching halt if Obama plays his cards well.

First in Mexico and then in Trinidad and Tobago, where he will participate in the Summit of the Americas with 33 other leaders this weekend, Obama undoubtedly will begin a new chapter in the history of U.S. relations with Latin America and the English-speaking Caribbean.

The question now is this: What kind of a chapter does Obama want to write? Will he tell Latin Americans to seek freedom and democracy above everything else? Or will he end up agreeing to sing "Kumbaya" with people who should be tried for crimes against humanity? Will he embrace dictators and ignore

their atrocities, as a group of Democratic lawmakers did in Cuba last week, or will he tell Latin Americans that any kind of caudillo, from the left or from the right, should be a thing of the past?

After announcing an executive order lifting U.S. travel restrictions for Cuban-Americans who want to visit or send remittances to their relatives back on the Caribbean island, two White House spokesmen — in English and Spanish — insisted Monday that the Obama administration now expects the Cuban government to make concessions that would lead to freedom and democracy for the Cuban people. This is crucial, and it means that President Obama may be on the right track.

It's not Washington that has to change. It's Havana!

We simply cannot lift the U.S. economic embargo against Cuba without seeing some change — fewer political prisoners, violations of human rights, and mobs of government-sponsored goons and less repression and censorship, just to get started.

Because he is considered a leftist, in Latin America, Obama may have much more credibility to speak for democratic principles than his predecessor. Let's face it: The radically leftist Latin American leadership nowadays — especially in Cuba, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Bolivia and Ecuador — doesn't know what to do with Obama. In order to promote themselves as crusaders against "Yankee imperialism," they would much prefer to have someone like George W. Bush in the White House.

And because Obama doesn't

look or act like a Yankee imperialist, they know they have a huge "problema" on their hands. How do they keep using the United States as an excuse for seeking authoritarian powers? Where is the American boogeyman now?

Yet if Obama speaks in Latin America the way he spoke in Europe, if he addresses anti-American sentiments the way he did in Strasbourg, France, many confused Latinos may begin to identify their own real boogeyman.

"There have been times where America has shown arrogance and been dismissive," Obama said. "But in Europe, there is an anti-Americanism that is at once casual but can also be insidious."

Wow! If he says something similar to that at the Summit of the Americas, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega will have to duck!

If Obama recognizes that in the past, our government has "shown arrogance and been dismissive" toward Latin America while firmly explaining that there is no need for insidious anti-Americanism, he will disarm our worst critics and go a long way toward changing the course of U.S. relations with our hemispheric neighbors.

After all, unlike the liberal Latin American demagogues who use fear and repression to stay in power, Obama is a liberal leader who doesn't need to violate his people's civil and human rights. Just by being himself, Obama could disarm them!

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Radicalizing the faith-based program

President Barack Obama's recent appointment of Harry Knox to his Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships adds another redundant nail to the coffin of the irresponsible myth that he is a bipartisan unifier.

In light of the daily outpouring of evidence, one wonders whether our "moderate" Republican Obama apologists will ever admit their error in willingly suspending their disbelief in Obama's radical leftism all because of what Michael Gerson refers to as "his moderate instincts and conciliatory temperament."

Perhaps Obama's appointment of Harold Koh as legal adviser to the State Department despite Koh's unapologetic belief that American courts should sometimes refer to foreign law in interpreting our Constitution doesn't bother you. Or even his selection of Indiana law professor Dawn Johnsen to head the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel despite her taking such positions (in a Supreme Court brief, no less) that pregnancy can be comparable to involuntary servitude.

How many in-your-face radical leftist appointments must Obama make before some realize this apparently conciliatory man is indeed a polarizing radical?

Let's just look at the Knox appointment. Former President George W. Bush originally established the faith-based program, wisely or not, to help faith-based groups participate in the public square.

Many were delighted when Obama decided to continue with the program. But with the Knox appointment and other similar ones, we have to question wheth-

er Obama is shifting the focus of the group while retaining its innocuous-sounding name. Obama has been stacking the 25-member board with like-minded leftists inclined to allocate its funds to liberal, secular causes.

Knox is the militant homosexual activist who, just last month, called Pope Benedict XVI and certain Catholic bishops "discredited leaders" for opposing same-sex marriage. He said the Knights of Columbus are "foot soldiers of a discredited army of oppression" because they supported California's Proposition 8 ballot initiative to amend the state constitution to define marriage as between a man and a woman.

When CNSNews.com questioned Knox on his attacks, he refused to back down, saying he "absolutely" stands by his criticisms. "The pope needs to start telling the truth about condom use," he added.

Knox also denounced the teachings of the apostle Paul as "not true." "Paul," said Knox, "did not have any idea of the kind of love that I feel for a partner when I am partnered. ... The straight man, the heterosexual man who got the privilege of writing the book, the educated, rich heterosexual man, Paul ... didn't think it was natural because for him it must not have been."

When appointed, Knox said the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community "will support the president in living up to his promise that government has no place in funding bigotry against any group of people."

Sounds harmless enough on its face until you understand that Knox and the LGBT community consider the failure to support the judiciary's thwarting of the people's democratic will to define marriage as heterosexual in character to be bigotry.

Are we wrong to assume that Knox and others on the council will blacklist for funding any

faith-based groups that oppose same-sex marriage? That's certainly been the MO of the LGBT community in the past, as they have systematically demonized the Boy Scouts and anyone remotely associated with them. It seems that Knox and his ilk are more likely than any faith-based groups he condemns to practice bigotry or discrimination.

If you think Obama has appointed Knox just to balance the group, then consider other members of the council, such as the Rev. Otis Moss Jr., Rabbi David Saperstein and the Rev. Jim Wallis.

Moss is the father of the Rev. Jeremiah Wright's replacement at Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, the Rev. Otis Moss III. Moss Jr. once noted that Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas "is like seeing your brother set your house on fire with laughter while your parents and brothers and sisters are in the house." And, "When we think of Jamestown, we must think of the triple holocaust that came out of Jamestown," the "African holocaust, the Native American holocaust and the African-American holocaust."

Rabbi Saperstein condemned the U.S. Supreme Court for upholding the federal ban on partial-birth abortion, saying it was an injustice to take medical decisions out of the hands of women and their doctors. He recently faulted the United States for refusing to support the United Nations' declaration affirming human rights for people based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Let's just see how long it takes before this "faith-based" council begins funneling its federal monies to leftist groups such as Planned Parenthood, whose only claim to faith is in its fidelity to the "sacrament" of abortion.

David Limbaugh is a writer, author and attorney.

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MIGUEL PEREZ



DAVID LIMBAUGH

News in brief

Crew that thwarted pirates to reunite with families

ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, Md. (AP) — A rainy morning outside the nation's capital couldn't dampen the spirits of the crew of the Maersk Alabama, who returned to the U.S. a week after their ordeal off the coast of Somalia.

After they disembarked the charter flight from Kenya early Thursday, one crewman, carrying a child toward the terminal, shouted, "I'm happy to see my family."

Another exclaimed, "God bless America."
The crewmen were greeted at Andrews Air Force Base around 1 a.m. EDT by several dozen family members who crowded onto the wet tarmac near the arriving plane, waving small flags in the unseasonably cool air. A bevy of reporters and cameras captured the scene, which included a banner adorned with yellow ribbons reading "Welcome Home Maersk Alabama" that shipping company employees erected near the runway.

Captain freed by Navy snipers arrives in Kenya to strains of 'Sweet Home Alabama'

MOMBASA, Kenya (AP) — The American sea captain held hostage for five days by Somali pirates reached land Thursday, with the U.S. destroyer that rescued him docking to the strains of "Sweet Home Alabama" hours after his crew reunited with their families back home.

Capt. Richard Phillips of the U.S.-flagged Maersk Alabama cargo ship was brought into Mombasa harbor aboard the USS Bainbridge, which blared out the Lynyrd Skynyrd hit that includes the words "I'm coming home to you." The destroyer hoisted the U.S. flag as it arrived.

Phillips, 53, of Underhill, Vermont, gave himself up as a hostage to ensure the safety of his crew. He was freed Sunday by Navy SEAL sharpshooters who killed his three captors with three single shots taken from the Bainbridge amid choppy seas.

Phillips' wife, Andrea, and two children were still home in Vermont and did not know when or where they would meet him, according to her mother, Catherine Cogio.

Obama heads to Mexico to offer solidarity in drug war

WASHINGTON (AP) — Confronting a security threat on America's doorstep, President Barack Obama is venturing into the heart of Mexico. His swift diplomatic mission is meant to show solidarity with a neighbor — and to prove that the U.S. is serious about halting the deadly flow of drugs and weapons.

During his stop in Mexico City on Thursday, Obama will emphasize cross-border cooperation and probably put a focus on clean energy, but the economic crisis and the bloody drug trade have set the tone.

Among the other touchy points are disagreement over a lapsed U.S. assault weapons ban, a standoff over cross-border trucking and immigration.

The escalating drug war in Mexico is spilling into the United States and onto Obama's lap as a foreign crisis much closer than North Korea or Afghanistan. Mexico is the main hub for cocaine and other drugs entering the U.S.; the United States is the primary source of guns used in Mexico's drug-related killings.

Mexican President Felipe Calderon's aggressive stand against drug cartels has won him the aid of the United States and the prominent political backing of Obama — never as evident as on Thursday, when the popular U.S. president is sure to stand with Calderon on his own turf and note his courage.

Expelled U.N. inspectors remove seals, cameras from reactor before leaving

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — U.N. nuclear experts ordered to leave by North Korea amid an escalat-

ing standoff over the regime's recent rocket launch departed the country Thursday.

Inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency left the main site in Yongbyon north of Pyongyang after removing seals and surveillance cameras, a diplomat close to the U.N. agency said Wednesday. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to release the information.

They arrived in Beijing on a flight Thursday from Pyongyang, but declined to speak to reporters.

Four U.S. experts monitoring the nuclear plant in Yongbyon also were preparing to depart after North Korea ordered them out, the State Department said.

The expulsions come after the Security Council unanimously condemned North Korea's April 5 rocket launch as a violation of previous resolutions barring the North from ballistic missile-related activity. The U.S., Japan and other nations have accused North Korea of using the launch to test long-range missile technology since the delivery systems for sending satellites and missiles are similar.

Foreclosures up 24 percent in first quarter as temporary halts expire

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of American households threatened with losing their homes grew 24 percent in the first three months of this year and is poised to rise further as major lenders restart foreclosures after a temporary break, according to data released Thursday.

The big unknown for the coming months, however, is President Barack Obama's plan to help up to 9 million borrowers avoid foreclosure through refinanced mortgages or modified loans. The Obama administration expects its plans to make a big dent in the foreclosure crisis. But it remains to be seen whether the lending industry will fully embrace it, despite \$75 billion in incentive payments.

The faltering economy is causing the housing crisis to spread. Nationwide, nearly 804,000 homes received at least one foreclosure-related notice from January through March, up from about 650,000 in the same time period a year earlier, according to RealtyTrac Inc., a foreclosure listing firm.

In March, more than 340,000 properties were affected, up 17 percent from February and 46 percent from a year earlier.

Foreclosures "came back with a vengeance" last month and are likely to keep rising, said Rick Sharga, RealtyTrac's senior vice president for marketing.

Republicans hope to capitalize on anti-tax sentiment expressed by tea party crowds

ATLANTA (AP) — Republicans have lost their grip on Congress and the White House, but they claim to have American anger over taxes and the economy on their side as tens of thousands turned out for anti-tax "tea parties" around the country.

Wednesday's rallies used the dreaded April 15 — the U.S. deadline to file income taxes — as a hook to vent about government spending and corporate bailouts in an homage to the Boston Tea Party.

The tea parties were promoted by FreedomWorks, a conservative nonprofit advocacy group based in Washington and led by former Republican House Majority Leader Dick Armey of Texas, who is now a lobbyist.

Organizers said the movement developed organically through online social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter and through exposure on Fox News and promotion from conservative pundits and bloggers.

While FreedomWorks insisted the rallies were nonpartisan, they have been seized on by many prominent Republicans who view them as a promising way for the party to reclaim its momentum against President Barack Obama's administration and other Democrats.

Indians start voting in national elections expected to yield coalition government

NEW DELHI (AP) — In tiny villages and sprawling concrete cities, tens of millions of Indians voted Thursday at the start of the world's largest exercise in democracy, a monthlong process expected to yield no clear winner as this Asian giant grapples with global economic malaise.

The vote is the first of five phases in which some 714 million people — more than twice the population of the United States — will be eligible to cast ballots. More than 140 million were eligible to vote Thursday.

There were scattered reports of violence by Maoist guerrillas, including five soldiers killed Thursday morning in the eastern state of Jharkhand, but officials were hoping for a strong turnout.

"People want democracy to triumph," said Tarun Gogoi, the top official in the insurgency-wracked northeastern state of Assam.

In an isolated Assamese town, set amid one of the state's most violent regions, 30-year-old home-maker Monalisa Bordoloi Chakravarty was among hundreds of people lining up Thursday morning at a neighborhood polling station.

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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

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

Contract Bridge
By Steve Becker
Malfesance in Office

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ K J 8 5
♥ 10 2
♦ A K J 5
♣ 10 5 3

WEST
♠ 10 4
♥ Q J 9 5 4
♦ 10 9 3 2
♣ Q 6

EAST
♠ 7 3 2
♥ K 8 6
♦ Q 7 6 4
♣ 8 7 4

SOUTH
♠ A Q 9 6
♥ A 7 3
♦ 8
♣ A K J 9 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1♣ Pass 1♦ Pass
1♠ Pass 3♠ Pass
6♣

Opening lead — queen of hearts.

To find a way to give yourself two chances to make a contract instead of just one is surely desirable, but it is sometimes easy to overlook the second chance.

Consider this deal where West led the queen of hearts against six spades. South took the ace, drew three rounds of trumps, cashed the ace of clubs, crossed to the ace of diamonds, led the ten of clubs and

finessed.

The ten lost to the queen, and West's heart return sunk the slam. Of course, as can be seen, if South had cashed the A-K of clubs, he would have caught the queen and made the slam.

Oddly enough, cashing the A-K of clubs after drawing three rounds of trumps is the proper play — and this is not based on a peek at the East-West cards. The way South chose to play the hand gave him only one chance to succeed — that East had the queen of clubs. But had South spurned the club finesse and cashed the A-K of clubs, he would in so doing have gained an extra chance to make the slam.

Let's suppose that the queen does not fall under the A-K. In that case, South next leads a diamond and fineses dummy's jack. If the jack wins, South deposits his two heart losers on the A-K of diamonds, concedes a club to the queen and so makes the slam.

The suggested method of play succeeds if (1) West has the queen of diamonds, or if (2) either defender was dealt the doubleton queen of clubs (a 27 percent chance). That represents a substantial improvement over the one chance that East has the queen of clubs.

Tomorrow: Test your play.
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Kinsler hits for cycle in Rangers' 19-6 win

STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer

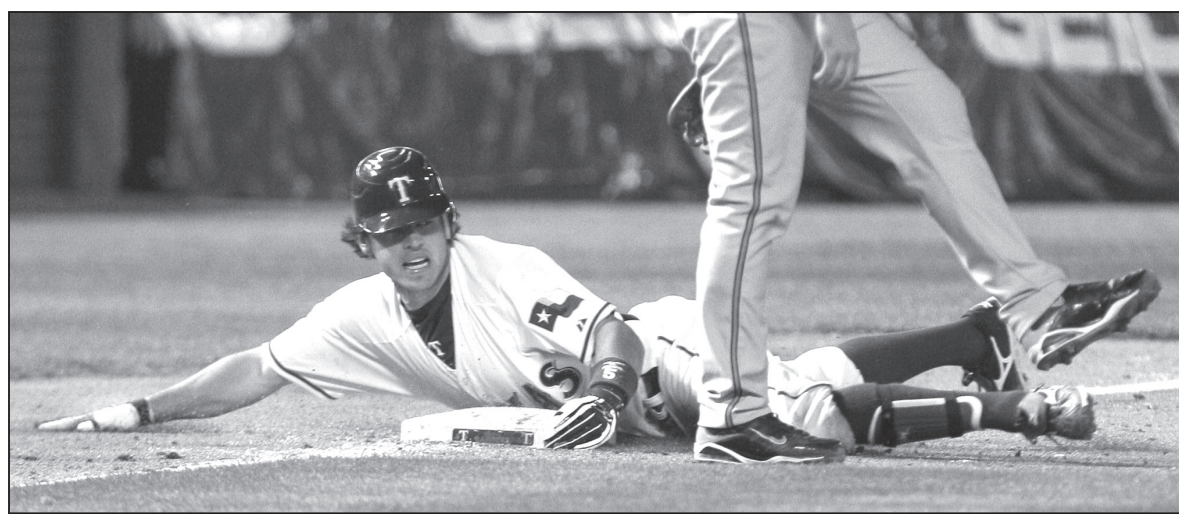
ARLINGTON — Ian Kinsler bolted out of the batter's box as soon as the ball left his bat. He knew he was headed to third base, no matter what.

The Texas Rangers had a big lead over Baltimore in the sixth, and Kinsler already had the chance to accomplish the rare feat of a cycle. It happened after he hit a long fly-

ball into the right-center field gap.

"When I hit that ball, I was just hoping for it to get over his head. Then when it got over his head, I was hoping for it to rattle around," Kinsler said. "I wasn't going to stop at second, regardless if he came up clean or not. I was going to give it a shot."

See RANGERS, Page 12



AP photo/LM Otero

Texas Rangers second baseman Ian Kinsler slides safely into third for a triple completing the hit cycle during the sixth inning of an MLB game against the Baltimore Orioles in Arlington Wednesday. The Rangers pounded the Orioles, 19-6.

Mavs rising

Dallas wins season finale, clinches 6th seed in playoffs

By JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

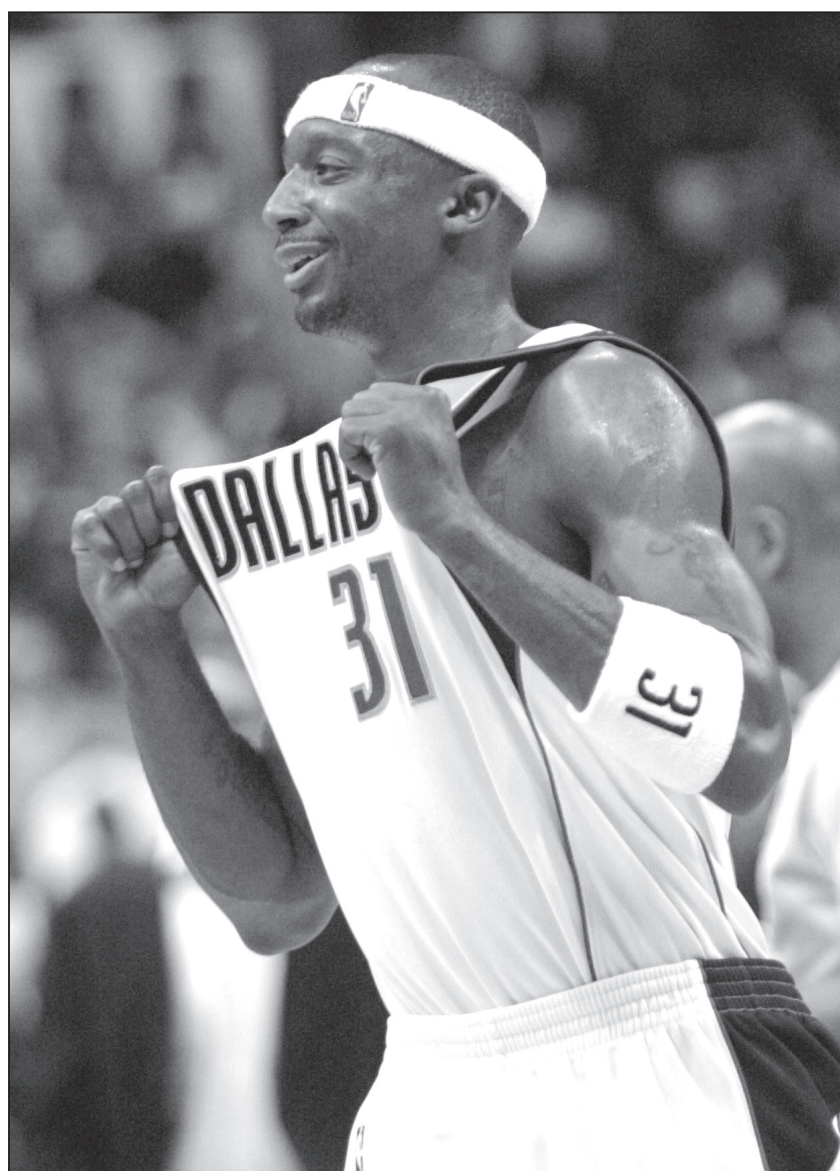
DALLAS — Yao Ming and the Houston Rockets were well on their way to a sixth straight win, their first division title in 15 years and perhaps the second seed in the Western Conference.

Then it all fell apart.

After Yao put Houston up by 14 early in the third quarter, he didn't score again, letting Jason Kidd and the Dallas Mavericks rally for a 95-84 victory Wednesday that helped mix up the conference standings.

The teams left the court not knowing where they stood, mainly because the San

See MAVS, Page 2B



AP photo/Donna McWilliam

Dallas Mavericks guard Jason Terry celebrates at the end of an NBA game against the Houston Rockets in Dallas Wednesday. The Mavericks won, 95-84, clinching the sixth seed in the Western Conference playoffs.

Finley saves Spurs from beginning playoffs on the road

PAUL J. WEBER

Associated Press Writer

SAN ANTONIO — Michael Finley didn't sneak away without a replay review this time. But there was no doubt he beat the buzzer on a 3-pointer that saved the San Antonio Spurs from starting the playoffs on the road for the first time since Tim Duncan was a rookie in 1998.

Just ask the New Orleans Hornets, who probably won't get it out of their heads anytime soon.

Finley's shot to force overtime in a 105-98 win over the spiraling Hornets on Wednesday night helped the Spurs clinch the Southwest Division and lock up the No. 3 seed in the Western Conference.

San Antonio will open the playoffs against Dallas on Saturday. The Hornets stumble into their postseason opener Sunday at Denver having lost six of eight.

On Sunday, Finley hit the game-winning 3-pointer with 1.3 seconds left at Sacramento — even though replays show he clearly didn't get it off in time. But because shot-clock violations aren't reviewable, the play stood.

Before squaring up for his dagger to New Orleans, Finley said he didn't know what was at stake.

"That shot may have been a little bit bigger than I thought it was," Finley said.

Tim Duncan had 20 points and 19 rebounds and carried the Spurs in a brilliant overtime. His final five minutes included six rebounds, two assists and a block on Hornets star Chris Paul.

The jewel came on a turnaround, one-handed baseline jumper with 41.1 seconds left that pushed the lead to seven. David West scored 34 points for the Hornets, but fumed after Duncan sank that one.

It was possibly the most commanding performance from Duncan since the All-Star break, when his aching knees started to become a constant worry. Tony Parker led

See NBA, Page 12

Longhorns swingman Damion James to test NBA draft waters

By JIM VERTUNO

AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN — Texas swingman Damion James will declare for the NBA draft but says he won't hire an agent, leaving open the possibility he could return for his senior season.

James averaged 15.4 points last season. He ranks third in Texas history in career rebounds (968) and has 37 career double-doubles.

"Ever since I started playing the game of basketball, I've dreamed of playing in the NBA," James said Wednesday in a statement released

by the school. "Once I finish up this semester strong academically, I'll have the opportunity to do workouts for different teams and see where I stand."

The draft is June 25. By not

See JAMES, Page 12

Sports in brief

Big Spring man aces No. 3 at BSCC

Gary Faulkner hit his first ever hole-in-one at the Big Spring Country Club Golf Course Sunday.

Faulkner used a 6-iron from 180 yards out to secure the ace on the third hole. The feat was witnessed by Terry Pate.

BSCGA holding monthly tourney at 10 a.m. Sunday

The Big Spring Chicano Golf Association is holding its monthly tournament at 10 a.m. Sunday 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 at 816-4223.

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.

Harlem Starz taking on Big Spring coaches Monday

In an attempt to raise money for camps for the Big Spring Lady Steers varsity girls basketball team, several Big Spring ISD coaches will be taking on the Harlem Starz at 7 p.m. Monday at Steer Gym.

Tickets cost \$7 and can be purchased at the Athletic Training Center during business hours.

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 will be awarded.

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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Tomorrow's Horoscope

It's a productive day and there are big reasons to be on your game. The Capricorn moon checks in like a boss, but not just any boss. You might be scrambling to get things in order as though the president of the company you work for was paying you a visit. This is not about looking busy. It's easier to handle things for real than it is to act competent.



HOLIDAY
MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You are nurtured by earth, air and water, but the element you need most right now is sunshine. This fiery ball in the sky stokes the fire that rages in your belly. Soak up some rays and your passion returns.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You lighten up about your work situation. Suddenly, you'll be having fun with the very same tasks that used to give you a headache. You may even find occasion to laugh until your cheeks hurt.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You need support in times of weakness and even more support in times of strength. Consider going to new sources for validation, friendship and amusement. A book or television show might work just as well as live relationships.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll be letting go of a problem. It might help you to create a ritual to acknowledge what you're doing. It could be as simple as taking a shower to wash the negativity off of your skin. You will emerge cleansed.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Give your powers of observation a workout. Dare yourself to notice at least three things about someone that you didn't notice before. As a result, you will feel happier and more connected to this person.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There will be an interesting commotion

somewhere within your family tree. You probably won't be asked for your advice on the matter and your life will run harmoniously if you don't give it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You certainly expect a lot of yourself these days. Ease up on the long list of demands you've been making on your own psyche. Perhaps you don't have to be the best at every endeavor. Give yourself points for just showing up.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your very being is a gift to others. You know this, and yet you still feel compelled to buy things and ship them to your loved ones. You do love to surprise and delight your people!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Are you too busy? It is not necessary to always be doing something and it may even be detrimental. Besides, someone is very attracted to you when you kick back and have some fun.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your public and private life will come together in unexpected ways. You might share information that you would usually classify as private and confidential. It will come as a relief to know that others have similar secrets.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll be asked to put in more time and energy than other people have been asked to contribute. Instead of resenting the unfairness of this request, know that it's only because you are strong and have more to give.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It would be nice if you didn't feel intensely obligated to a certain person. There will be an opportunity to even the score a bit. Also consider that the other person might not think you are indebted at all.

STRESS BE GONE! YOUR ASTROLOGICAL GUIDE TO CHILLING OUT: Between the high-intensity energy of the Aries sun and the current conjunction of

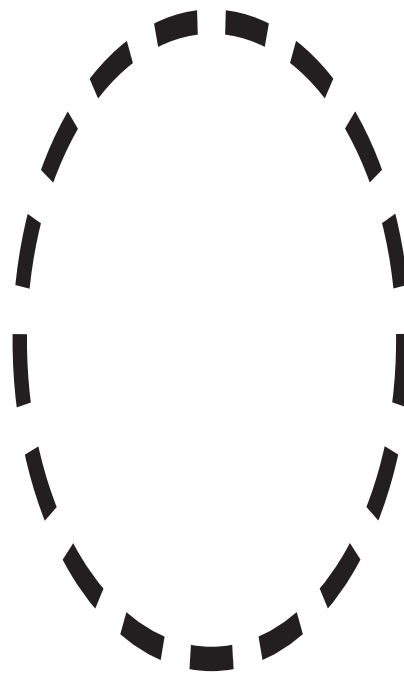
Mars and Uranus, the world can be a hectic, overwhelming environment. But not to worry; sanctuary is just a moment away when you use your sign's custom strategy for mental health. **ARIES:** Exercise is your ticket to feeling good. Almost as soon as you start to sweat, the problems roll away like water off a duck's back. Your thoughts become softer and more pleasant. Your mood lightens and you start to attract serene circumstances. **TAURUS:** As the sign of appetite you are particularly affected by the foods you eat. When you eat several small nutritious meals, you are happiest. You'll feel peaceful and in control when you plan healthful eating habits and stick to them. That said, moderation fits your personality better than too strict an approach. You benefit from allowing yourself comfort food every once in a while and letting it be a guilt-free experience. **GEMINI:** Know who your supportive core people are and call them when you feel anxious. You are ruled by the communication planet, Mercury. So connecting with someone who cares about you has extra special healing powers.

C E L E B R I T Y PROFILES: She made her screen debut in one of the biggest movies of the time, but that didn't intimidate Aries actress Emma Watson in the least. Playing Hermione Granger in the Harry Potter series, Watson has exercised her inner warrior spirit — every Aries has one! Watson was born under an adventurous Sagittarian moon, indicating a passion for traveling to different cultures and worlds.

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.

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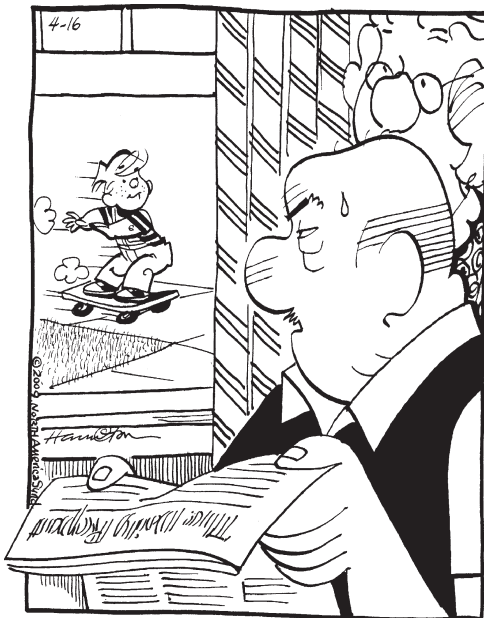
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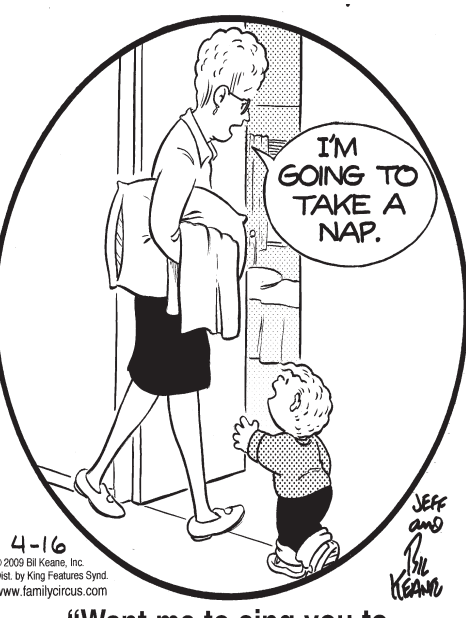
	WFAA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5:PM	News ABC	News ABC	Locura	Lopez	News CBS	Noticias	News NBC	Raymond	Granger	BBC	Cash Cab	lars More, Gian Maria Volonté	CSI: NY	Bones	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas	Horn	SportsCenter
6:30	News	Jeopardy!	Tontas Cielo	Lopez	News CBS	Noticias	News NBC	Friends	Brad	Business	Cash Cab		CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order		Phineas	Interrupt	
7:30	Entertain	Fortune	Two Men	Two Men	Entertain	Survivor: Tocantins	Name	Seinfeld	Hagee		Made		Movie: Blazing Saddles	Law & Order	Movie: Undisputed, Peter Falk	Phineas	Boxing	Football
8:PM	Mother Samantha	Mother Samantha	Cuidado-Angel	Bones	Survivor: Tocantins	Doña Barbara	Friends	Seinfeld	Israel	Old House Hr.	The Detonators	Movie: Blazing Saddles	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	Movie: Undisputed, Peter Falk	Phineas	Boxing	Baseball Tonight
9:PM	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Mañana es	Hell's Kitchen	CSI: Crime Scn	El Rostro de Analia	Office	Friends	Light of the Southwest	Antiques Roadshow	Alaska: Ext.		TNA Wrestling	Law & Order	Movie: Kill Bill: Vol. 1, Vivica A. Fox	College	Wizards	Baseball Tonight
9:30	(:02) Private Practice	(:02) Private Practice	Rosa	TMZ	(:01) Harper's	Sin Senos	Southland	Movie: My Best Friend's Wedding		Appalachia: Catch	Deadliest Catch	(:15) Movie: The Untouchables, Robert De Niro	UFC 97 Countdown	(:15) Movie: Kill Bill: Vol. 2, Michael Madsen	College	Wizards	Football	
10:PM	News	News	Impacto	Raymond	News	Noticias	News	Israel	Van Impe	Charlie Rose	The Detonators	(:45) Movie: In the Line of Fire, Rene Russo	MAN	Law & Order	College	Wizards	NFL Live	SportsCenter
11:PM	Nightline	Nightline	Noticiero	King-Hill	Late Show	Titulares	Tonight Show	Sex & Swallow	Dr.	Smiley	Alaska: Ext.		MAN	Law & Order	College	Wizards	NFL Live	SportsCenter
12:30	Insider	Jimmy Kimmel Live	La Casa de la Risa	Law Order: CI	Late Late Show	Decisiones de Famosos	Late Night-Jim	Sex & Swallow	Israel	Smiley	Alaska: Ext.		MAN	Law & Order	College	Wizards	NFL Live	SportsCenter
1:30	News	Weekend	Mujer...	Friends	Entertain	Pagado	News	News	News	News	News	News	MAN	Law & Order	College	Wizards	NFL Live	SportsCenter
2:30	News	Weekend	Mujer...	Friends	Entertain	Pagado	News	News	News	News	News	News	MAN	Law & Order	College	Wizards	NFL Live	SportsCenter

DENNIS THE MENACE



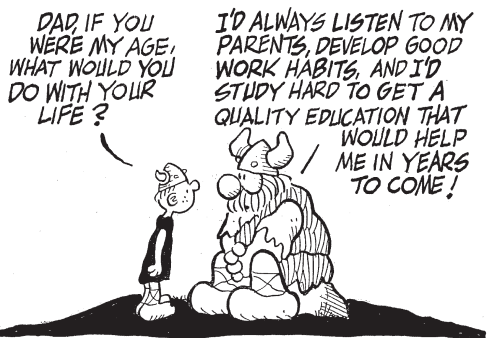
"THE ONLY ENERGY CRISIS I SEE IS DENNIS HAVING TOO MUCH OF IT!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

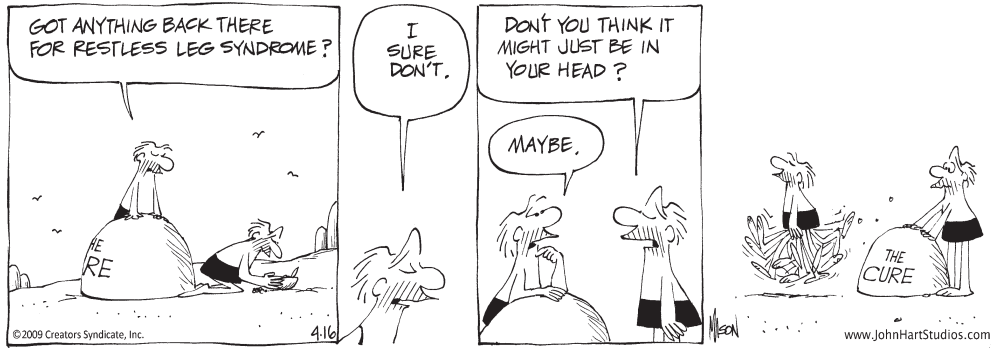


"Want me to sing you to sleep, Grandma?"

HAGAR



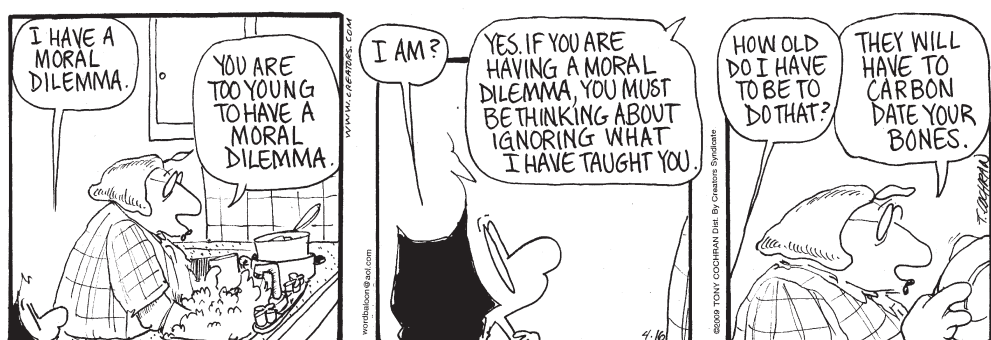
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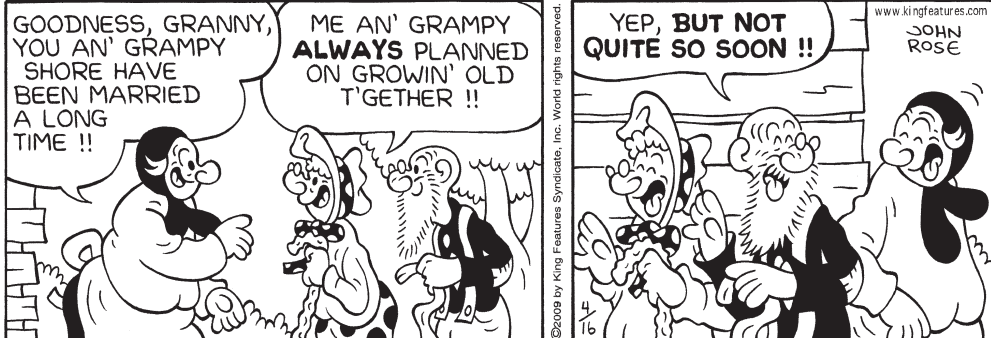
HI AND LOIS



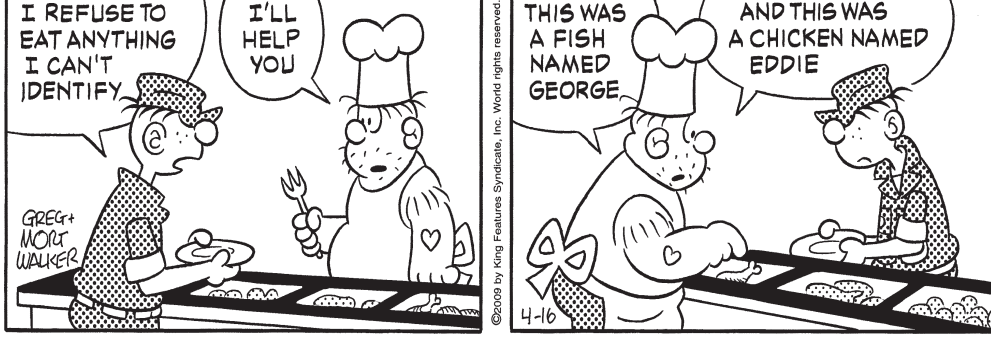
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This Date In History

Today is Thursday, April 16, the 106th day of 2009. There are 259 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 16, 1789, President-elect George Washington left Mount Vernon, Va., for his inauguration in New York.

On this date:

In 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed a bill ending slavery in the District of Columbia.

In 1879, St. Bernadette, who'd described seeing visions of the Virgin Mary at Lourdes, died in Nevers, France.

In 1912, Harriet Quimby became the first woman to fly across the English Channel.

In 1917, Vladimir Ilyich Lenin returned to Russia after years of exile.

In 1935, the radio comedy program "Fibber McGee and Molly" premiered on the NBC Blue Network.

In 1947, the French ship Grandcamp blew up at the harbor in Texas City, Texas; another ship, the High Flyer, exploded the following day. The blasts and resulting fires killed nearly 600 people.

In 1962, Walter Cronkite succeeded Douglas Edwards as anchorman of "The CBS Evening News."

In 1972, Apollo 16 blasted off on a voyage to the moon.

In 1996, Britain's Prince Andrew and his wife, Sarah, the Duchess of York, announced they were in the process of getting a divorce.

In 2007, in the deadliest shooting rampage in modern U.S. history, student Seung-Hui Cho killed 32 people on the campus of Virginia Tech before taking his own life.

One year ago: The Supreme Court upheld the most widely used method of lethal injection, allowing states to resume executions after a seven-month halt. Pope Benedict XVI was welcomed by President George W. Bush as only the second pope to visit the White House and the first in 29 years.

Today's Birthdays: Pope Benedict XVI is 82. Actor Peter Mark Richman is 82. Singer Bobby Vinton is 74. Denmark's Queen Margrethe II is 69.

Basketball Hall-of-Famer Kareem Abdul-Jabbar is 62. Singer Gerry Rafferty is 62. Football coach Bill Belichick is 57. Rock singer-turned-politician Peter Garrett is 56. Actress Ellen Barkin is 55. Rock musician Jason Scheff (Chicago) is 47. Singer Jimmy Osmond is 46. Rock singer David Pirner (Soul Asylum) is 45. Actor-comedian Martin Lawrence is 44. Actor Jon Cryer is 44. Rock musician Dan Rieser is 43. Actor Peter Billingsley is 38. Actor Lukas Haas is 33.

Thought for Today: "Chaos is the score upon which reality is written." — Henry Miller, American author (1891-1980).

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Answer to previous puzzle

ADAMS	BODE	COP
LAPEL	GORES	ABE
GREGORY	PECK	NON
AIR	GEMS	LINDEN
ENSIGN	CAMAY	
BEE	ARROWKEY	
HOSED	FREES	IRE
ALOT	TIMED	ISIN
NIL	TUNED	CASES
GOVERNED	CAM	
EVEN	LOMBARD	
DEFAME	KANE	RIO
IPO	BLUNDERBUSS	
PER	LERAY	ALBEE
SEX	EDIT	STARS

Newsday Crossword

STICKS AROUND by David W. Cromer
Edited by Stanley Newman
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ACROSS	59 Pueblo brick	9 Election surprises	35 Fly-ball path
1 Hemingway nickname	60 Service organization	10 After-work hangout	39 Objective
5 Is in a cast	62 Filling site	11 Find out (about)	44 What lightbulbs symbolize
9 Wedding-party member	63 Regarding	12 To be, to Sorkyzy	46 West Coast gridders
14 Congregation cry	64 Distribute, with "out"	13 Whole bunch	47 Assembly-line workers
15 Fall preceder	65 Gaming machines	18 Biblical king	49 Bring up
16 Michelangelo sculpture	66 It's for the birds	24 Put up	50 Hits head-on
17 End of the earth?	67 Keats or Yeats	25 Gave the cold shoulder to	51 Object of veneration
19 Devour, so to speak		26 Toga-party hosts	52 Its field is 300 yards long
20 First name in cosmetics		27 Give access to	53 Familial group
21 Just out		28 Italian love	55 Calgary cops
22 Marsh bird		29 Cave dweller	56 Spread in a tub
23 Oboist's purchase		30 Financial-page letters	57 Flugelhorn accessory
25 NL team		31 Go no further	58 Help in a heist
26 Raspberry and strawberry		32 Withstands	61 "I should say ___!"
30 Entomologist's study		33 Luges and the like	
34 Modernized			
35 Simpsons store owner			
36 Make airtight			
37 Minute particle			
38 Chocolate substitute			
40 Get cooking			
41 Water barrier			
42 First of three O's, perhaps			
43 Unfair, in a way			
45 Ms. cofounder			
47 Provide remedies for			
48 Free (of)			
49 Hitchhiked successfully			
50 Turn yellow, maybe			
53 Something hailed			
54 Potpourri feature			

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RANGERS

Continued from Page 7

Kinsler got up and slapped his hands together after sliding head-first into third without a throw for the triple to complete the fourth cycle in team history, and the Rangers went on to a 19-6 victory over the Orioles to snap a five-game losing streak Wednesday night.

Texas was already down 2-0 when Kinsler led off in the first. He hit the first pitch he saw for a double, then added a solo homer in the third and two singles in an eight-run fourth.

"Kins got us started on the first pitch and did let up all night," manager Ron Washington said. "Everybody followed suit."

Michael Young's groundout in the sixth plated Kinsler to make it 15-4. Then when Kinsler batted again in the eighth, he capped his 6-for-6 night with an RBI double and scored for the fifth time. The hits and runs matched team records.

"That was just a monster game. It's one thing to hit for the cycle, that's a once-in-a-lifetime type of game," Michael Young said. "But to add a couple of more hits to it too, it's an incredible game."

MAVS

Continued from Page 7

Antonio-New Orleans game went into overtime. Mavericks owner Mark Cuban asked for that game to be shown on the overhead scoreboard, and by the time it came on the Spurs were finishing off a win that gave them the No. 3 seed and the Southwest Division title the Rockets let slip away.

Dallas landed the No. 6 seed and a first-round matchup with San Antonio. Houston has to deal with the agony of going from the cusp of No. 2 all the way down to No. 5. The Rockets knew they were playing the Trail Blazers when the Spurs' game finished. Houston had a chance at home-court advantage in that series, but — making this night a total loss — Portland won its finale 104-76 against Denver to move up to the No. 4 seed.

"We're still in the playoffs," Houston forward Ron Artest said. "We still have a chance when the chips fall. ... We got better as the season went on and our team should get better throughout the playoffs."

NBA

Continued from Page 7

the Spurs with 29 points, and was serenaded with chants of "M-V-P!" as he sank free throws in the closing seconds to seal the unlikely win.

"That was the old Timmy," Parker said. "Just controlling the game."

The Hornets squandered a chance to claim the No. 6 seed. Tyson Chandler returned to the starting lineup for New Orleans for the first time since March, but even at full strength, the Hornets let this one slip away.

"This is kind of what we've been dealing with over the last month and a half," West said. "The teams we've been losing to and the teams we've been playing against have a few more guys to make plays. Guys are going to

Nelson Cruz matched the AL home run lead with his fifth homer — a grand slam on reliever Radhames Liz's first pitch that gave the Rangers a 10-3 lead. That accounted for half of the eight unearned runs Texas scored in the fourth.

Marlon Byrd had went 5-for-6 with three RBIs for the Rangers, who had 19 hits. Their 19 runs are the most scored in the majors this season, and the most for them since their 30-3 victory in Baltimore on Aug. 22, 2007.

Kris Benson (1-1), who missed the last two seasons after surgery to repair a torn right rotator cuff, hadn't won since Sept. 21, 2006, when he was pitching for Baltimore against Detroit.

The right-hander allowed four runs in six innings.

"Today's game belongs to the offense," Benson said. "It was a great game all the way around. Our offense makes it easier to go out there and pitch six innings."

Cruz came only a few feet from hitting another grand slam, his flyball in the eighth hitting about halfway up the 14-foot wall in left field for a two-run double.

Baltimore, which still has won its first three series in a season for the first time in 11 years, jumped out to a 2-0 lead on consecutive RBI groundouts in the first after Benson walked

The Rockets led 76-75 with 7:21 left, but by then the Mavericks already were on a serious roll. They'd used an 18-4 burst to tie it late in the third quarter and Jason Terry had just hit a 3-pointer; Kidd would follow with another 3 that put Dallas ahead for good.

Houston scored only 14 points in the final period. Yao took just one shot in eight minutes, all while being guarded by Brandon Bass — who is 10 inches shorter and 60 pounds lighter.

"The big fella was rolling and we sort of got away from him, which is probably the dumbest thing we can do, especially when the big fella gets it rolling," Rockets forward Shane Battier said. "We started to look elsewhere and started to take long, contested jumpers, which fed into their game plan of getting out and running. They had a couple of 3s and got back in the game. After that, it was tough to slow them down."

Yao finished with 24 points, with 19 coming in the second quarter. He didn't score in the final 21 minutes, 25 seconds. His stats the rest of the way: two missed shots, four personal fouls.

"We had a ball-movement problem

have to concentrate on basketball for this next — whatever — and just makes some plays for us."

It was the 16th division title for the Spurs, but their first since 2005-06.

Paul had 26 points and 14 assists for the Hornets, and ended the regular season as the NBA's leader in assists with an 11.0 average.

Trail Blazers 104,
Nuggets 76

At Portland, Ore., Travis Outlaw scored 21 points and the Trail Blazers clinched home-court advantage in the first round.

Portland hasn't been to the postseason since 2002-03.

The Nuggets finished the regular season 54-28 and tied the franchise record for wins, set in 1987-88.

Portland has won six straight and also finished 54-28 in the Northwest Division.

leadoff hitter Brian Roberts and allowed a double to Adam Jones.

Luke Scott led off the Orioles second with a double and scored when Jones drew a bases-loaded walk for a 3-1 lead.

Only two of the nine runs allowed by Orioles starter Mark Hendrickson (1-1) were earned. The left-hander allowed seven hits and walked four in 3 2-3 innings.

"This one got away from us. I like the way we started. We just didn't pitch well enough and we didn't play well enough," manager Dave Trembley said. "Kinsler is a great player. ... It's a tremendous achievement for an All-Star player."

After Kinsler's homer, Young reached on shortstop Cesar Izturis' fielding error and scored on Hank Blalock's single that rolled under the glove of second baseman Brian Roberts. Byrd followed with an RBI double that broke the 3-3 tie and put Texas ahead to stay.

Rookie Elvis Andrus, the No. 9 hitter, drew a leadoff walk in the fourth before Kinsler singled and Young reached on Roberts' throwing error that allowed a run. There were two outs when Byrd's RBI single made it 6-3 and chased Hendrickson.

Then came Liz, recalled Wednesday after third baseman Melvin Mora and right-hander Alfredo Simon were put

and I didn't hold my post well," Yao said. "It's my problem."

Bass made it tough for Yao to catch the ball, mainly by camping out in front of him.

"He did it with his legs, his body and his heart," Dallas coach Rick Carlisle said. "I mean he really, really worked out there and made Yao work, and just our activity defensively as a team took a quantum leap when you've got a guy working like that."

Said Bass: "When you go up against a guy that big, you've got to be physical."

Kidd had 11 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds for his third triple-double of the season and 103rd of his career. Terry scored 14 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter, making his first six shots; the only one he missed was a long 3 after the outcome had been decided. Dirk Nowitzki had 30 points and 15 rebounds.

"We're as confident as we've been all season," Nowitzki said. "Hopefully we can carry it into the playoffs."

By winning five of their last six games overall, the Mavs vaulted from the No. 8 seed to No. 6.

Dallas started this season 2-7, but this final victory was No. 50 of the

on the disabled list. The right-hander gave up four runs in his one inning, including an RBI triple by Andrus.

It was the first cycle for the Rangers since Gary Matthews Jr., at Detroit on Sept. 13, 2006.

The other Texas cycles were both against Cleveland, Mark Teixeira on Aug. 17, 2004; and Oddibe McDowell on July 23, 1985.

Alfonso Soriano had the only other six-hit game for Texas, against Detroit on May 8, 2004.

"It's more special on Jackie Robinson Day," Kinsler said. "He's a guy that could do everything in the game. Hit triples, hit home runs, steal bases, drive people in, score runs. He could do everything offensively. It's just kind of a weird thing that I'm playing second base on Jackie Robinson Day and that happens."

Notes: Baltimore has won the first two games in each of its series this season, only to lose the finale. ... Jones hit a two-run homer in the ninth. ... Josh Hamilton had only two strikeouts in his 31 at-bats before Wednesday, but struck out twice. ... Rangers RHP Willie Eyre, who missed last season while recover from ligament transplant surgery in his elbow, made his season debut with two scoreless innings. ... Benson signed a minor league deal with Texas a week into spring training and made the team.

season. Terry left the court making a 5 and an 0 with his hands to celebrate the ninth straight season reaching that mark.

The Mavericks also started the season 0-4 at home, but this made them 15-1 in Dallas since the All-Star break.

"It's good to have momentum going into the playoffs," Carlisle said. "It doesn't guarantee anything but I really feel like it's good for our team to be winning heading in."

Notes: Kyle Lowry scored 15 for Houston and Artest had 10. ... Mavs swingman Josh Howard returned from a one-game rest of his sore left ankle to miss his first seven shots. He finished with 15 points. ... Nowitzki cracked 20 points for the 25th straight game. ... Houston had won two straight in Dallas. ... Only LeBron James (seven) and Chris Paul (six) had more triple-doubles this season than the 36-year-old Kidd. ... The high stakes of this game were obvious from the start. On the opening possession, Nowitzki shoved Luis Scola just for the heck of it, then Artest hooked an arm around Nowitzki to twist him out of the way and was called for a foul.

Raptors 109,
Bulls 98

At Chicago, Shawn Marion scored a season-high 34 points, Chris Bosh had 19 rebounds while scoring 21, and Toronto ended the Bulls' five-game winning streak.

The Bulls wound up with the seventh seed in the East and a first-round matchup with defending champion Boston starting Saturday.

Derrick Rose finished with 20 points and 11 assists and Ben Gordon scored 23 for Chicago.

76ers 111,
Cavaliers 110, OT

At Cleveland, the Cavs rested LeBron James and several other regulars and failed to match the all-time best home record in the NBA, falling to 39-1.

Cleveland just missed tying the 1985-86 Boston Celtics' record of 40-1.

Andre Miller scored 30 points and Andre Iguodala 24 for the Sixers, who snapped a six-game losing streak. Philadelphia earned the No. 6 spot in the East and will meet Orlando beginning Sunday.

Daniel Gibson scored 28 for the Cavaliers, the No. 1 overall seed. Cleveland will play Detroit in the first round starting Saturday.

Celtics 115,
Wizards 107

At Boston, Eddie House sank five 3-pointers in the fourth quarter and Boston won without its three top players. House had 20 points and set a single-season club record with a 44.4 percentage on 3-pointers.

Caron Butler scored a season-high 39 points, but couldn't keep the Wizards from matching their worst record for an 82-game season, 19-63, last in the East.

JAMES

Continued from Page 7

hiring an agent, James remains eligible to withdraw and return to Texas for next season if he chooses. The deadline to withdraw is June 15.

James needs to find out where he would fit in an NBA lineup. A dominant rebounder in college, he would be an undersized power forward in the NBA. Inconsistent shooting last season could raise questions about him as a perimeter player.

Texas coach Rick Barnes gave James his blessing to test the draft waters.

Texas has lost several players early to the draft in recent years, including Kevin Durant, LaMarcus Aldridge and D.J. Austin. Two weeks ago, junior forward Dexter Pittman announced he would not enter the draft.

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