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County jail completed

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By THOMAS JENKINS

VOLUME 104, NUMBER 120

Staff Writer

After several years of bickering between government officials, a failed bond election and numerous roadblocks, the new Howard County Jail is complete.

That's the message County

Judge Mark Barr and officials from the Fort Worth based architecture firm Southwest Architects delivered to several hundred people gathered outside the new facility Monday morning for a ribbon cutting.

The facility, which was See JAIL, Page 3

funded by more than \$11.5 million in voter-approved bond money, will replace the existing jail, which is currently located in the Howard County Courthouse. With 96 beds and a new,

"I'm relieved, and I'm glad. It's quite an investment for the county. I really appreciate the commissioners. We all came together on this, and we all had to give and take some. But we did it, and we got it done, and this will be a very efficient place."



State signs off on lockup

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

The last time Adan Munoz, executive director of the Texas Commission on Jail Stan-

dards, visited Big Spring, it was with an order to close the County Jail because it failed to meet a slew of standards and guidelines.



again made the trip to the Crossroads area, but with a much happier message.

"One of the functions of the Texas Commission on Jail Standards is to issue an official certificate of occupancy for this jail to be occupied," said Munoz, motioning toward the new \$11.57 million County Jail in the background. "When the judge (County Judge Mark Barr) cut the ribbon, he knows it's not ready until I give him this letter. I have a letter for both the judge and the sher-

Munoz said the jail situation in Howard County, which began several years ago when the Commission on Jail Standards failed the old jail facility — located in the County Courthouse — for failing to meet the state's minimum requirements, has truly come full circle with the completion of the new facility.

"I came to Howard County a couple of years ago, when we had the hearing on why the its top students — and one jail facility was closed down

See STATE, Page 3





HERALD photos/Thomas Jenkins

Howard County Judge Mark Barr, left, joined by commissioners Gary Simer, Jimmie Long, Jerry Kilgore, Emma **Brown, local pastor Mona** Lou Tonn and Adan Munoz, executive director of the **Texas Jail Commission,** discusses the new county jail during an open house Monday morning. Below, Local officials and dignitaries file through the front door of the new Howard County Law **Enforcement Center while at** left, they get a sneak peek. A second open house for the general public is planned from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sat-





Howard College to honor top students

Awards convocation planned for 7 p.m. today at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum

By STEVE REAGAN Staff Writer

Howard College will honor

top teacher — at the annual awards convocation set for 7 p.m. today in Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Students will be recognized

for their achievements in a variety of areas, including academics, leadership and citizenship, said Susie Teeters, administrative assistant to HC Vice President Javier

The top honor to be presented tonight is the President's Award, given to the college student who excels in several areas of college life, Teeters

"This is an award that the faculty and staff vote on, with College President (Dr. Cheryl) Sparks having the final say," Teeters said. "It is presented to the student who is an 'overcomer' - who's really excelled the entire time

they've been here."

American Legion The Award will be presented to a male and female student who have shown "outstandleadership, character and citizenship qualities during their time here," Teeters said. Those students also are lege employees, she added.

selected by a vote from col-Also to be presented is the All-USA Academic Award, given to the top students from Phi Beta Kappa, the college's

academic honors fraternity.

Other awards include the

educator of the year — the top HC teacher as selected by a vote of the student body and the Outstanding Workforce Education Student.

College students will also be recognized for their participation in various college activities. In all, about 300 students will be recognized at tonight's event, Teeters said.

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

Contact Staff Writer Steve



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BIG SPRING HERALD Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Take Note

- A Forsan Rabies Clinic sponsored by Western Hills Animal Clinic will be held from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. Sunday at the Forsan Fire Station. Costs are \$8 rabies; \$14 K-9 distemper/parvo; \$20 feline CVR-C
- 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 on Runnels. Donations can also be made by calling (431) 213-4091.
- •American Legion Post 506 will hold its fifth annual Fajita Cook Off Saturday at 3208 W. Highway 80. Entry is \$10 for beef or chicken (three pounds each). Cooking begins at 9 a.m., judging at 11 a.m. and serving at noon. Winners will be announced at 2 p.m. Plates will be available for \$8 each. Various other activities will be going on, including a plant/ cake walk. Call 263-2084 for more information.
- •The Salvation Army has funding for Texas military personnel who have served or are currently serving in Iraq or Afghanistan and their families. Apply at the Salvation Army, 511 W. Fifth St. These funds were granted by the TRIAD Fund of Permian Basin Area Foundation.
- · We are currently seeking Class of 1999 classmates from Big Spring High School. Our 10-year reunion will be Sept. 18-19. Please send your mailing information to bshs1999@gmail.com to receive information on the reunion or contact Jennifer Davidson at (432) 213-0257.
- The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce and Big Spring Convention & Visitors Bureau will be hosting a Meet the Candidate Forum today 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.
- A fund-raiser featuring dinner, drinks, a dance and a silent auction will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. May 23 in the Garden City Community Center. Tickets are \$100 per couple or \$50 each and may be purchased by calling Kristin Schwartz at 354-2698 or 270-0544 or Shana Kirkland at 354-2331 or 213-4198. Funds raised will allow the Texas Hooter Honeys to walk in the Susan G. Komen 3-Day, 60-Mile Breast Cancer Walk.
- The Big Spring High School Class of 1989 is looking for members to attend a 20-year reunion in September. Contact Christy Alexander Brown at (972) 567-8037 or Irma Moreno Garcia at (432) 816-5321 with your updated information.
- Mobile Meals needs volunteers. If you can donate one hour per week to our organization delivering meals between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m., you will be helping the senior citizens of Big Spring. Contact Macaria Cantu at 263-4016
- The Family History Center (genealogy library) of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be open from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesdays. If you need assistance in searching out your ancestors, bring all the information you have about your family and we will be happy to assist you. For more information, contact R.A. McKay at (432) 553-8127.
- Big Spring resident Velma Campbell was on vacation in Arizona when she had a massive stroke. She has since been transported to a hospital in Lubbock. She has many friends and is an avid bowler. If anyone would like to help, a savings account has been set up at Wells Fargo. The savings account number is 9662778118.
- Coahoma alumni will hold an all school, all classes reunion Saturday, Aug. 1 at the Coahoma school building. Individual classes are encouraged to plan their class get-togethers Friday night or Saturday night. Contact Patti Meets at pmeeks@basin-net. net or (432) 267-6688 with updates. More information will be shared as the reunion planning progresses.

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Police blotter

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

- THEFT was reported:
- in the 2300 block of Wasson.
- in the 1100 block of Lamesa.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 600 block of Steakley.
- · ASSAULT CAUSING BODILY INJURY was reported in the 1000 block of Third Street.

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. GERALDO DELGADO, 33, was arrested Monday

- by the HCSO on a charge of assault Class C. JERRY DON DUFFER, 21, was arrested Monday
- by the HCSO on a charge of parole revocation. • LEONA ANN JOHNSON, 36, was transferred to
- the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 900 block of Moun-

Support Groups

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-
- •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.

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

THURSDAY

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

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

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.



BIG SPRING ART ASSOCIATION

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

Public Viewing Sat. May 2, 3-5 pm M-F May 4-8 8-5 daily Sat May 9 11 am - 5 pm

Drop off - Fri May 1, 10 am- 4 pm Judging - Sat May 2, 11 am - 1 pm Patron Viewing 1-3 pm Call 263-4033 for details

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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 Pick up artwork Sat May 9 5 pm.

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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

- Big Spring Band Boosters meets at 5:30 p.m. in the high school band hall. All band parents are invited to attend.
- Howard County Master Gardeners meet at 5:30 p.m. in the basement of the county courthouse. The public is invited.
- Big Spring Art Association meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library. All working artists and those interested in art are invited to attend.
- p.m. at 221 Main.

• Order of the Eastern Star No. 67 meets at 7:30

WEDNESDAY

93/60

Sunny skies. Hot. High

93F. Winds SSW at 10

to 20 mph.

- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room.
- 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.
- Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club. • Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m.
- in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.

- 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.
- League of United Latin American Citizens LU-LAC Chapter 4791 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. The public is invited.

- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.
- · AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restau-
- Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night: Winning numbers drawn: 8-10-11-15-2 Number matching five of five: 0. Prize: \$0.

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday

Winning numbers drawn: 12 - 14 - 24 - 31. Bonus Ball: 21.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Monday

Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball:

night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 6 - 1 - 1 - 3. Sum It Up: 11.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 2 - 9 - 1. Sum It Up: 12..



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News in Brief

Bill to expand AmeriCorps

WASHINGTON (AP) — The AmeriCorps program started by President Bill Clinton will triple in size over the next eight years, and tens of thousands of other Americans will soon see new opportunities to give back to their communities.

It's all part of a \$5.7 billion national service bill President Barack Obama is scheduled to sign Tuesday to foster and fulfill people's desire to make a difference, such as by mentoring children, cleaning up parks or building and weatherizing homes for the poor. Bolstering voluntary public service programs has

been a priority of Obama, who credits his work as a community organizer in his early 20s for giving him direction in life. The White House said Monday that the president

their communities and work together to tackle the nation's tough challenges." Obama is set to visit the SEED School of Washing-

"will call on people across the country to serve

ton, a public boarding school that serves inner-city students facing problems in both the classroom and

STATE

Continued from Page 1

by the commission. It's not an easy thing to do, because I realize it takes up taxpayers' dollars, but it's also an investment in the community in which you serve and live," said Munoz to the crowd gathered outside the new jail's doors. "Judge Barr and the commissioners Howard County have taken on a burden to try to realize the necessity for such a facility to go up because the facility you have in the courthouse is probably one of the most dangerous and liable situations you

can encounter.

"When I was a sheriff in South Texas, that's the exact same jail I had, and my first day I walked in as sheriff I shuddered because there was so much liability. Not only am I here to congratulate the commissioners for taking this initiative and making the citizens of Howard County proud, I'm here to tell you sincerely, each one of vou has an investment in this facility because each one of you pays taxes. This is your facility."

Munoz said the new facility not only meets the commission's minimum requirements, it at home, for the signing ceremony.

Geithner faces bailout questions WASHINGTON (AP) — Treasury Secretary Tim-

othy Geithner faces a slew of questions about his plans to shore up banks while a watchdog agency warns that Obama administration initiatives could increasingly expose taxpayers to losses.

Geithner is scheduled to testify Tuesday before the Congressional Oversight Panel for the government's \$700 billion financial rescue program. Meanwhile, the rescue program's special inspec-

tor general concluded in a 250-page quarterly report to Congress that a private-public partnership designed to rid financial institutions of their "toxic assets" is tilted in favor of private investors and creates "potential unfairness to the taxpayer." The government's effort to stabilize the financial

sector and unclog the credit markets has come under heavy scrutiny. Treasury officials say the Obama administration has been holding participants more accountable. Geithner sent key members of Congress six-page letters last week spelling

surpasses them.

"This is a state of the art facility you have here. You've had some good cooperation from your county officials and your architects, from your sheriff and this is something for you to be proud of," he said. "If you've ever been in the old jail, you'll understand the difference is day and night. This facility srengthens the ability of law enforcement officers to do their jobs better, because now if they need to arrest someone, by God they have a place to put

Munoz said he hopes people understand the Jail Commission not only watches after the rights and privileges of the inmates incarcerated at county-run facilities, but also of the men and women who brave the conditions to run the jail, day in and day out.

"I came on board in September of 2006 as executive director of the Texas Commission on Jail Standards, and I hope people understand our agency is not necessarily the word of evil," said Munoz. "I think it's important for people to understand what we do is try to keep jails throughout the state of Texas in compliance to out his department's measures.

Still, Inspector General Neil Barofksy, using blunt language, offered a series of recommendations to protect the public and took the Treasury to task for not implementing previous advice.

Suspect in Craigslist slaying may be linked to other crimes, police say BOSTON (AP) — The man accused of fatally shoot-

ing a woman who placed an ad on Craigslist was someone who was "preving on people in a vulnerable position," the police commissioner said. Police on Monday arrested Philip Markoff, 22, of Quincy, in the woman's death last week at a luxury

hotel. Markoff is to be arraigned Tuesday morning in Boston Municipal Court on charges of murder and unlawful possession of a firearm. Markoff is charged with killing Julissa Brisman,

26, who was found dead April 14 at the Boston Marriott Copley Place. The New York City woman advertised massage services on Craigslist and had a massage table set up in the room where she was shot Tuesday, police said.

better benefit the people that are kept there.

"But it's also important to understand that the facility you are getting ready to open here is also important because of the people who work at the jail facility. While it's important the inmates are given their rights and privileges required by law, you also have individuals who work in this jail who give up their time and are threatened on a dailv basis.

"I've been in law enforcement for almost 39 years in different capacities, and the one job I've never done is be a detention officer

or jailer, and those are the people I can most appreciate right now, as I go around doing my daily work with the commission. The folks who work inside this jail have to put up with abuse, getting cussed at and being threatened. So I think it's important people understand this facility is an investment in the future of Howard County."

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

JAIL

Continued from Page 1

state-of-the-art design and electronics, the jail is something project architect Heffelfinger said he and his firm are immensely proud of.

"I think it's awesome, I really do. I'm very proud of it," said Heffelfinger. "We had a great commissioner's court to work with, a great judge, a great sheriff's staff. It was awesome we were able to transition between two sheriffs and how everyone came together. These projects are not the easiest to deal with, but everyone worked hard to get it done. There are probably some little things we'll have to address in the next 30 days or so, but they'll be occupying it, and that's what's important."

Heffelfinger, who, along with jail staff members and other officials with Southwest Architects, provided tours to the local officials and dignitaries gathered at the facility Monday morning, said he hopes the new facility will

have a long and healthy

life in Big Spring. "The life cycle of every building is based on the maintenance, and what we're doing is trying to set them up to succeed," said Heffelfinger. "We have some very critical listings and spreadsheets the sheriff and his staff will maintain throughout the life of this project. That way we hope, in essence, to

"The materials in the jail, you just can't beat them. It's block brick, and they should last at least 50 years. Now, the old jail at 50 years was pretty questionable the last 30 years, but my point is I believe the materials used in the new facility — concrete and steel — they don't

maintain it longer.

go away. You're going to deal with mechanical systems in 15 years, and that's just the nature of the beast. But good maintenance procedures will prolong it.

"I'm not going to say it will last forever, because that would be a lie. Appraisers today look at the life cycle of a building as 40 years, and I'd like to think although we master-planned this one for 20 years, it will live 20 years beyond that."

Barr, who took over as County Judge amidst a new facility will also for the trial or hearing.' squabbling commissioners court deadlocked over the size and location of the jail, said the completion of the project comes as a great relief to him and other local offi-

"I'm relieved, and I'm glad," said Barr. "It's quite an investment for the county. I really appreciate the commissioners. We all came together on this, and we all had to give and take some. But we did it, and we got it done, and this will be a very efficient place."

Barr said it's unclear

exactly when the first inmates will be moved to the new facility, as staff training continues.

"The staff at the sheriff's office and the jailers are having to go through a lot of training because it's a totally new facility," said Barr. "It's very different from the old jail and it flows a lot different. Some of the staff is going to have to get used to it, and that's why we have them going through the training."

mark the first time in many years the jail isn't housed alongside the sheriff's office, something Barr said he and other county officials don't see as a problem.

"I don't see that it will (be a problem). We

placed things in this jail so we don't have to move the inmates very much," said Barr. "We're going to have video magistration, so the justices of the peace, myself and district judge - if he so chooses - can magistrate them right from our own offices. That will really cut down on the number of inmates that have to be moved. The only time inmates will actually be moved is if they are going from Moving the jail to the here to the courthouse

The facility, which was constructed by Glen Rose-based Dinosaur Valley Construction, is located at 3611 W. Highway 80. The building features 39,925 square feet and is designed to house

96 inmates with the ability to add 16 beds without a building expansion, and a pre-designed future addition that would expand the facility to 144 beds. An open house for

the public is slated for Saturday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

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

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Time: 11:00 a.m.- 7:30 p.m.

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School District may register for the

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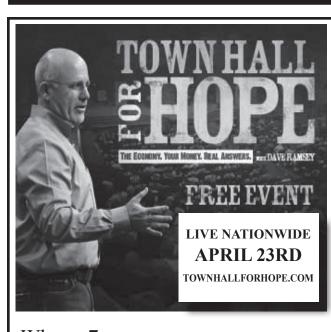
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- First United Methodist Church 400 Scurry, 267-6304
- Forsan Baptist Church 201 W. St., Forsan, 457-2342

Required Documentation: Birth Certificate

- Immunization Records
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Dept. of State Health Services will be on site administering FREE immunizations to KG students from 1:30 to 7:30 p.m.

DEBRA

SAUNDERS

EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

> **Ron Midkiff** Publisher

John A. Moseley

Managing Editor

Bill McClellan News Editor

Our View

Tonight's forum a great chance meet candidates

ust what are the people who represent us on city councils and school boards thinking? What do they believe in? What do the people running against them think and what do they believe in? Well, Howard County residents will get the chance to get some answers tonight, as the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce holds 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 elec-

This year, chamber officials have invited Big Spring and Coahoma candidates running for city council, school board and mayoral races to take

Debbye ValVerde, executive director of the local Chamber of Commerce, says the format for the event will be informal, and 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 rest 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," ValVerde

Two seats came up for election this year in the Big Spring Independent School District. District 4 incumbent Tony Kennedy failed to draw an opponent, but one race will be contested. District 2 incumbent Trustee Maria Padilla is opposed by local resident Edwin Ware.

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-tohead with incumbents Jody Reid, Alan Wright and Kirk Allen for a seat on the board.

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

The District 2 seat on the Big Spring City Council will feature incumbent Councilman Manuel mas" and quit, but Ramirez Jr., who will be taking on challengers Ter-

ena 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. And the the other race, the District 6 seat, Terry Hansen, Steven Campbell and Bahola DeLeon are seeking the post.

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

There's a lot on the line in these elections, and most of us are unlikely to get a better chance to get to know the candidates and what they stand for. So take a couple of hours this evening and become better informed about the people who'll be representing you.

We'll see you there.

How to contact us

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinons. 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

Amen

- · 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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson May we focus our energies in a positive Republican heads on sticks

epublican politicians are afraid of their base. Very afraid. Press folks have categorized the April 15 TEA parties — TEA for "Taxed Enough Already" — as anti-President Barack Obama,

anti-government and even "anti-CNN." But it is GOP leaders who are scared senseless (for want of a better word) by the protests. Conservative

blogger Michelle Malkin posted reports about Republicans who were booed at TEA parties — including a video of Rep. Gresham Barrett, R-S.C., ad-

dressing protesters. Barrett told them, "I respect you." He also said he had introduced friendly legislation. Folks didn't care. Many in the crowd booed or told Barrett, "Go home." Anti-taxers are going after

Republicans, not Democrats. Los Angeles radio talk show hosts John and Ken have gone after the handful of Republicans who voted for a state budget that included tax increases. For their troubles, some of those Repubs got their heads on sticks posted on "The John & Ken Show's" GOP officials are so afraid of

becoming talk show pariahs that

the Executive Committee of the California Republican Party voted to oppose all six ballot measures, propositions 1A to 1F, on the May 19 special-election ballot. That's an amazing decision, considering that the cash-poor California GOP gave \$650,000 to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's political action committee, which is supporting all six measures. Not only that: Republicans came up with propositions 1D, 1E and 1F.

Mike Spence, head of the state GOP's initiatives committee, told the Sacramento Bee that the party decided to oppose all six measures to avoid diluting the "no" message. Hmm. That sure seems to suggest that party solons think their voters are too stupid to vote "no" on some but "yes" on others.

Or could it be that the GOP opposes all six measures because John and Ken oppose all six measures?

California Republican Party spokesman Hector Barajas noted that some talk show hosts and bloggers have "used legislators as hostages."

Hostages? That says GOP pols are afraid of the base.

"Wouldn't you be afraid?" another operative, who did not want to be named, told me. She added that despite the vocal protesters, many GOP voters have a different goal; they want government to work better. But a top staffer to a conserva-

tive GOP U.S. senator told me he believes that "Republicans need to be afraid." When the GOP was in charge, he added, "we didn't do what we said we'd do" — and now politicians must pay the

GOP state Sen. Abel Maldonado — a John and Ken head-on-a-stick victim — put it another way. He noted that GOP lawmakers were good at saying "no taxes, no taxes, no taxes" when they should have been say ing "no taxes, no borrowing, no spending."

A minority of no-tax Republicans and a majority of big-spending Democrats appeased their bases by jointly overspending without raising taxes. Anti-tax types didn't really get vocal until Sacramento could not borrow anymore.

I've received many e-mails from TEA party supporters telling me they are angry about the spendfest in Washington. Who isn't? But you have to go after the big spending first.

In a way, this is like Iraq. Once American boots hit the ground, there was no easy exit.

And once the Bush and Obama administrations, with the help of Congress, threw well more than \$1 trillion at the economy, someone would have to pick up the tab.

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Peace through weakness

bserving the Obama administration's approach so far to the war on terror is somewhat reminiscent, if you'll accept the crude analogy, of watching Panamanian boxing legend Roberto Duran's

rematch against American boxing legend Sugar Ray Leonard. Duran was within his rights to say "no it didn't keep him from losing.

But here the analogy breaks down. While Duran could avoid further Leonard blows by quit-

ting, a nation under attack by a warring force cannot prevent further attacks against itself simply by declaring an end to hostilities.

Obama administration appears to be doing in the war on terror, most recently with its outrageously reckless public release of classified Justice Department memos on the legality of CIA interrogation techniques used on enemy prisoners. Democrats ceaselessly com-

plained about the Bush administration's allegedly misguided approach to the war, contending it was too broad (Bush should have focused almost exclusively on al-Qaida in Afghanistan), that cy, and his treatment of enemy prisoners was inhumane.

many ways, was the bad guy, the was brutalizing and torturing

David

LIMBAUGH

Yet that's precisely what the

he engaged in cowboy diploma-Deny it if you choose, but the

gravamen of these complaints was that the United States, in aggressor nation that attacked Iraq without provocation or justification, was inflicting gratuitous "collateral damage" on Iraq and its people, and routinely — and as a matter of policy enemy prisoners in Iraq, Guan-

tanamo Bay and everywhere else our heartless authorities could get their hands on them.

During the campaign, then-

presidential candidate Barack Obama embraced these themes wholesale, saying we'd alienated other nations with our unilateralism, stirred up the Arab street against us, and become a virtual terrorist recruitment factory.

Democrats even argued, straight-faced, that our "torture" of terrorist detainees could imperil Americans POWs, as if their beheadings were responses to our slapping. They said we could change all that by reversing course and extending a hand of friendship, peace and cooperation to other nations, particularly those of the Muslim world.

The unmistakable corollary of these complaints against United States policy was that if we'd just quit being so arrogant toward the rest of the world and mean to our enemies, er, criminal defendants, we could bring this war to an end.

Or, at least, we could diminish the terrorists' resolve by removing apparently legitimate complaints they have against us and retarding their recruiting

It really does sound fantastic and silly that anyone could really believe that the United States has brought terrorist wrath upon itself by doing anything other than, perhaps, nobly allying with Israel.

It's even more ludicrous to entertain seriously the notion that if we'd just start being nicer, we could improve our international image and make ourselves safer, especially when you consider that being nicer entails lowering our guard and playing into the enemy's hands on a number of

But this is precisely the kind of silliness that is driving Obama's foreign policy. From the get-go, Obama has been apologizing to the world for the "arrogance" and brutality of the United States; bowing before, kissing and warmly accepting Americabashing books from foreign kings and dictators; flirting with nuclear disarmament while rogue nations rush, undeterred, to join the nuclear club; con-

templating serious defense budget cuts across the board, which could jeopardize essential weapons systems; insisting that we cashier war terminology by substituting "overseas contingency operations" for "war on terror" and "man-caused disasters" for "terrorist attacks"; and now releasing internal CIA memos detailing enhanced interrogation techniques, which have demonstrably prevented attacks and saved lives.

Obama pretended to agonize over his decision to release the memos over the objections of his own intelligence officials, but there is no excuse for the damage it will do to our national security by neutralizing the future use of these procedures and inviting "the kind of institutional timidity and fear of recrimination that weakened our intelligence gathering in the past," in the words of former Attorney General Michael Mukasey and ex-CIA Director Michael Hayden. Making it worse, we got nothing in return except for Obama's selective nod to "transparency," as if it's prudent to be transparent with classified intelligence involving our national security.

It is axiomatic that ideas have consequences, a theme being played out by the Obama administration's turning a blind eye to the magnitude of terrorist evil and seeing a rough moral equivalence between beheadings by terrorists and aggressive American interrogation techniques to extract lifesaving information from terrorists.

Commentators who believe Obama only released the "torture memos" to appease his bloodthirsty, Bush-hating, leftist base, which would be bad enough, are missing the point that Obama shares his base's beliefs. Obama is commander in chief, and his guiding foreign policy doctrine is "peace through weakness."

David Limbaugh is a writer, author and attorney.

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direction, Lord, with You.

Bird Poop:

Woman's call, game warden save baby owl

the other end of the phone was frantic. "You have to stop him! He's moving out and taking that young hawk

with him." Afraid that a young man would leave her apartment complex before

McCasland someone could stop

him, she had called us in desperation. Quickly explaining

ВЕВЕ

that we were in rehab, not law enforcement, I was interrupted. "You know who to call?" she asked. After reassuring her that I would find the game warden, she hung up.

Since the officer did not answer at home, I called the sheriff's office. Within minutes our phone rang and a familiar voice asked, "What's going on?" Even with the little information I had, it was enough for the game warden. From some-

where out in the county he promised to get there in five minutes. "What's that apartment number?" he asked again. "One eleven, 111," I answered.

Hours passed and the phone was silent. Since the woman had said it was a young hawk, we prepared a small carrier. One disturbing thought kept coming to mind. It was the wrong time of year. Our winter hawks had departed for northern pleasures, and the summer birds had not yet arrived. Year round residents were known to delay their families until small mammals were in abundance.

When the warden finally called, he advised, "You've never had a hawk like this one. I'm on my way." Not knowing what to expect, we were even more puzzled when he stepped from his truck. In his large, weathered hands was a faded red cloth often seen for wiping dip sticks. Cuddled inside was a rolled-up ball of down and bare skin.

As the infant raised its wobbly head, Art and I realized it wasn't a hawk, but a baby



From a few ounces, these baby great horned owls will have an adult weight of three pounds. They will develop widely separated ear tufts, or "horns," and powerful feet that may grab almost any prey their size or smaller.

to his car, he placed a cardboard box on the front seat beside him. At that moment, the officer appeared at the driver's side and motioned for him to lower the window.

"Going somewhere?" caused the tenant to reply, "Moving." Asking to see what was in the box, the officer was told he had bought an owl. "Any more of them?" was the warden's next question. "One, but the guy said he was going to keep it."

Amazingly, the man could not recall the

of his imminent move.

"How old do you think it is?" asked the game warden. "Twelve to 14 days." The game warden and we were well aware of the January and early February courtships of great horned owls. Their displays and screams could not be ignored. In our hands was the creation of a new family member from those amorous desires.

Settled into a warm and cozy man-made nest, the youngster slept while I thawed and minced a small

a tawny and gray with mottling of pale buff, black and white. Even when immature and as an adult, nature would cloak the owl in an appearance similar to old tree bark.

Although its eyes were open, the owl's focus was limited. Often it would miss a mousey morsel only to swallow it greedily when offered a second chance. From bluish, milky orbs to large, bright yellow eyes was a transformation to be enjoyed.

Knowing the downy chick in the cup of our

become an aggressive denizen of the night sky. It would even hunt during the day if its offspring required more and more of nature's larder.

The ultimate monetary fines and the people involved would never be ours to know. Although the missing sibling and its outcome were troubling, that one of the young could be raised and released had to be enough.

Bebe McCasland is federally and state licensed to rehabilitate wild birds.

Parent's Corner:

Life's simple when we learn to get along

was watching an old episode of "The Cosv Show" the other evening and got to wondering where

are the family values that we used to see in shows such as this and

"Leave It to Beaver" and "Father Knows Best?" The creators of these shows did

a good job instilling family characteristics such as loving, nurturing relationships; financial stability; and positive connections to people. Researchers have found these to be fundamental for successful children and

DARRELL

RYAN

youth. Our family teaches us how to function in the world. It provides love and warmth to all of its members. A strong family gives its members the support they need to make it through life's toughest spots.

Strong families have open lines of communication, where all family members feel heard and respected.

A good way to strengthen our family is for each of us to increase our listening skills. Until we can hear each other, we cannot build strong

relationships. I have learned that if we use "I" messages, instead of "you" messages, we can be clearer about our own thoughts and feelings. They increase the chances that

our message will be heard and decrease the chances that a conflict will begin.

We should use phrases such as: "I don't like all this fighting. It upsets me to see the two of you not getting along." Rather than "What's wrong with the two of you? You're making me crazy! Can't you ever get along?"

Everyone in the family should talk with "I" messages as much a possible. We are much more likely to resolve problems when the focus is on behaviors and how those behaviors are affecting us or the family.

"You" messages should be discouraged because they often lead to bad feelings and increased conflicts. "You" messages seldom resolve the problem.

Strong families allow all family members,

From Steaks To

Mood May

Croissant Sandwiches

Whatever Your

no matter how young or small, to talk about their thoughts and feelings. This does not mean that members are not respectful of one another, but rather that feelings and ideas are respected. Everyone should be expected to express themselves in appropriate ways.

When people feel heard and respected, they feel better about themselves, are more open to solving problems and are more likely to allow others to express themselves.

Give your child opportunities to earn vour trust. Let them do small tasks around the house and praise them for doing it on their own. Show your child that you can be trusted. Children need to know that they can count on what their parents say.

Follow through with the things you promise to do. Allow people in your family to make amends. We all make mistakes. Let's teach our children to forgive as we forgive others. Holding on to past

hurts often only hurts us. Teach everyone how to say "I'm sorry."

Taking responsibility for our behaviors is important and helps to develop trust.

Let's build each other up rather than tearing

each other down. As the old farmer once said, "Life is simpler when you plow around the

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

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Wacky Facts

 Both blimps and zeppelins work by being lighter than air. Unlike a blimp, a zeppelin has a metal skeleton.

• The spire on the top of the Empire State Building was designed as a docking mast for zeppelins.

 Frenchman Henri Giffard flew the first dirigible (steerable balloon), or blimp, in 1852. — mentalfloss.com



Chatter Box

"A full-grown manatee, which can weigh more than 1,000 pounds, looks like the result of a genetic experiment involving a walrus and the Goodyear Blimp.'

Humor columnist Dave Barry



BY CLAIRE EPTING

TimeforKids.com

Chances are you've gotten a glimpse of the Goodyear blimp at one point or another. More than 60 million Americans see the giant blimp flying overhead each year. The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company operates the famous aircraft. The blimp can be seen floating above a variety of important events, from the Academy Awards to the Olympics. Look carefully, and you might even spot it in the background of a movie scene.

Rides on the blimp are not offered to the public. Seats are reserved for Goodyear guests and members of the press. Recently, I had the opportunity to go on a spin. We lifted off from the Goodyear Blimp air base in Carson, Calif.

BACKGROUND ON THE BLIMP

The first Goodyear Blimp was introduced to the world in 1925. In the beginning, the airships were used to advertise the tire company. During World War II, many of the Goodyear airships helped give the U.S. Navy an extra eye in the sky. The blimps would warn naval fleets of possible enemy submarines that were rising from under the ocean. Today, the blimps are often used to film overhead views of sporting events for TV.

Up close, the ship is huge. It measures 192 feet long, 50 feet wide and about 60 feet high. The aircraft is filled with helium, which makes it float. The "skin" of the massive balloon is as thick as a trampoline. However, the blimp is so light that even a gentle breeze can make it rock back and forth. Up to six passengers can fit on board, plus the pilot. The blimps last about seven to eight years before they need replacing.

The air base in Carson has been in operation for 40 years. The blimp housed there is called the Spirit of America. There are two more Goodyear air bases in the United States. One is in Akron, Ohio. The other is in Pompano Beach, Fla.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Our guide for the day was Senior Pilot Kristen Davis. Davis has been with Goodyear for a year and a half. She is the youngest and only female pilot at the base, and has been a pilot for about seven years.

From her experiences, Davis says that flying a blimp and flying a plane are equally challenging. "The blimp is harder to land, while planes require more focus to fly," she explained. Davis has covered many events while on the job. She says her favorite was floating over the X Games.

Climbing into the blimp is a unique experience. The airship never stops moving. As you get on board, it feels like getting on a boat. There are no seat belts. Once you sit down, the ropes that hold down the craft are released. Then, you're off! Take-off happens fast, and it is very steep. Outside the window, the crew quickly become like toy figures that get smaller by the second. The engines roar loudly, and soon, the blimp is cruising smoothly at 1,000 to 1,500 feet in the air.

On this day, the aircraft headed toward the city of Long Beach, Calif., along the Pacific Ocean. It was amazing to watch the tiny cars below. The freeway looked like a huge asphalt snake, bending around and leading far into the distance. We were over Long Beach Harbor when I got a big surprise. Davis asked if I wanted to fly the blimp! I was stunned, but I still climbed into the pilot's seat. The controls were simple. Davis taught me how to move the blimp left and right by using the foot pedals. The big wooden wheel to my right moved it up and down. In no time, I was guiding us around the sky.

GOOD NIGHT, AND GOODYEAR

Soon, I climbed back into my own seat and peered out the window. The factories and oil wells on the ground looked like miniatures. The setting sun cast a pink glow on the scene below. After an hour, it was time to land. Davis pulled a series of levers and pushed some buttons on the control panel. We began our descent. Landing is just as quick as takeoff, and also as steep! Ours was the last ride of the day. We carefully climbed out and watched the blimp crew tie up the ship for the night.

It was an unforgettable experience.

Special thanks to Bob Urhausen, Kristen Davis and the crew at the Goodyear airship base in Carson, Calif.

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This

Tidy things up with this colorful collection of hooks and pegs. Try these clever ideas for storing a variety of belongings, such as toys, clothes, pet leashes and garden tools. (Find printable patterns for all the craft foam shapes for these projects at familyfun.com/magzine.)

SPECIALTY HOOKS

- 1. UMBRELLA HANDLE: A craft foam umbrella shape decorated with self-adhesive craft foam dots and a J hook are all you need to make this handy holder.
- 2. KING OF THE WARDROBE: Attached to the back of a door, this friendly feline is perfect for hanging up a bathrobe. Just cut out craft foam pieces for the lion's head, mane and eyes (the pupils are drawn on with permanent marker) and glue them together. Position a double wardrobe hook for the lion's mouth and top it with a foam nose before having an adult screw the whole assembly to the door.
- **3. LEASH KEEPER:** For this hook, simply cut out a black craft foam silhouette of a sitting cat and



KEEP-TRACK RACK

handy for storing collections of garden tools, necklaces, headbands and more. Here's a super-simple way to

1. For each peg, cut out a pair of flower shapes, one slightly larger than the other (ours measure about $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide and $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide). Use a craft knife to make an asterisk-shaped cut in the center of each.

2. Fit the shapes, larger one first, over the peg and push them down to the base.



NIFTY KNOBS

The critters in this lineup each have a nose for organizing — their wooden-knob snouts are just right for hanging sacks of toys and bookbags.

- **1.** For the backing, prime and paint a 1-by-8 pine board (ours was 27 inches long). Use acrylic paint to color wooden knobs for the animal noses. We chose a 1¹/₂-inch-wide knob for the pig and 1¹/₄-inch ones for the dog and bear.
- **2.** Glue together craft foam pieces for the animals' heads and draw on details with a permanent marker.
- 3. To fasten the animals to the board, have an adult predrill a screw hole where each knob nose will go. Thread the knob screws through from the back and push the heads down over them (snipping an "x" in the foam first will make this easier). Screw on the knobs. Have an adult fasten the board to the wall. — FamilyFun magazine

Help!

What to do when you can't decide

DEAR AMERICAN GIRL: I have trouble making decisions. My parents get mad sometimes if I don't choose quickly.

— Bad Decision Maker

■ If you parents are pressuring you to make decisions, ask them to give you a minute to think so you don't get overwhelmed. It's good to spend lots of time thinking about a decision that will have a big impact. But you can practice making small decisions more quickly. When you get

stuck deciding on something unimportant, go with your first impulse and see what happens. Don't worry — if you decide you don't like your decision, you'll know to pick something else next time.

DEAR AMERICAN GIRL: I have a friend who's very negative about herself and everything around her. It seems like she hates everything. What can I do?

■ Did your friend used to be more upbeat? If so, tell her you miss the "old her" and nicely encourage her to talk to a counselor or other trusted adult. You can try

to get her to look at things in a more positive way like you do, but you may not be able to change her point of view. Whatever happens, don't let her

change your optimistic outlook.

Visit "Fun for Girls" at americangirlmagazine.com to get or give advice.

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APRIL WORD SEARCE

Can you find these words that have something to do with the month of April?

APRIL FOOLS CLOUDS **PASSOVER** ARBOR DAY DAFFODIL EARTH DAY BIRDS



Page 7 Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Bulldogettes lose in 11 to Wall

Herald Staff Report

WALL — Losing a district game had only happened once in the history of the Coahoma Bulldogettes softball pro-

Make that twice.

The Wall Lady Eagles accomplished what only one team had succeeded at doing before, handing the Bulldogettes their second district loss in program

history, 1-0, Monday at Wall, clinching a share of the District 7-2A title.

The Bulldogettes other district loss came in 2007 to longtime rival Hawley. The defeat is the first of the 7-2A season for Coahoma (23-9, 9-1) and places the Bulldogettes into a tie atop the division with Wall (24-8, 9-1). Coahoma defeated Wall, 1-0, earlier this season with Newton pitching a no-hitter.

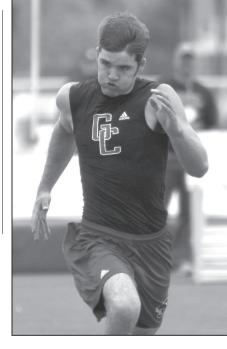
The game was a complete pitchers'

duel between Coahoma's Heather Newton and Wall's Shannon Carrico and it took 11 innings to decide.

Neither pitcher surrendered an extra base hit or a walk and struck out a combined 30 batters — Newton had 16, Carrico had 14.

Carrico allowed just one hit to Coahoma — a single by Kalea Neff.

See **COAHOMA**, Page 12



Courtesy photo/James Schwartz Garden City's Jake Schwartz races to a first-place finish in the 200-meter dash at an area meet in Trent. Schwartz, who qualified for regionals in three events, was one of five GC athletes to advance to the Region II meet.

5 GC athletes make regionals

Herald Staff Report

TRENT — Five athletes from Garden City qualified for the Region II Meet in Abilene May

Highlighting the group was senior Jake Schwartz, who claimed area titles in three different events — the high jump, 100 meters and 200 meters.

The only other Bearkat qualifying on the boys side was Marcus Foster, who placed third in the triple jump.

Schwartz's younger sister Morgan is a regional qualifier in the triple jump — an event she placed third in.

Paige Niehues advanced to regionals in two events after placing third in the 200 meters and claiming silver in the 400 meters.

Vikki Garza was the final Lady Bearkat to qualify, taking second in the 3,200-meter run. The Lady 'Kats also qualified their 1,600meter relay team.

Boys team totals

(Top four qualify for regionals.)

1. Knox City, 60. 2. Water Valley, 58. 3 Sterling City, 53. 4 (tie). Highland and Newcastle, 52. 6. Garden City, 46. 7. Bryson, 34. 8. Aspermont. 33.

Discus — 1. Garrett Blair, Robert Lee, 111-6. 2. Stetson Nesbit, Robert Lee, 109. 3. Zac Burwick Blackwell 108-7 4 Grant Michaels Woodson, 107-5.

See GC, Page 12

Harlem Starz take BSHS coaches to school



Courtesy photo/Alicia Bess

Big Spring High School Swim Coach Kenneth Nelson (right) attempts to steal the ball from Mr. Leap — a player for the Harlem Starz at Steer Gym Monday. The Starz were in town to help raise money for the Big Spring High School girls basketball program. All the proceeds made from their game with the BSHS coaches went to fund a summer basketball camp. The Starz defeated the BSHS coaches, 69-64, although the coaches were spotted 17 points at

Parker leads Spurs in Game 2 rout of Mavs

PAUL J. WEBER

Associated Press Writer

SAN ANTONIO — Tony Parker wasn't about to let the Dallas Mavericks leave San Antonio with two wins.

Parker walked off the court with 38 points, a comfortable lead and a roaring Spurs crowd cheering him back to the bench with a Game 2 victory minutes away.

Unlike the first game, Dallas was unable to pester Parker and the Spurs breezed to a 105-84 blowout over the Mavericks on Monday night. It evened the series and handed Dallas one of the worst losses in

the history of the playoff rivalry. "You want to make sure I'm in attack mode every single play," Parker said. "Even if it's not to score, to penetrate for my teammates or make great cuts."

He did it all against the Mavericks, who head back to Dallas for Game 3 on Thursday night. Dallas was trying to send the Spurs to consecutive home playoff losses for the first time since 2002, but couldn't contain San Antonio's speedy point guard.

Parker had 27 points in the first half and finished 16-of-22 from the floor. It was a marked difference from Game 1, when the Mavs let Parker score 24 but made him a nonfactor in the second half, when he made just two field goals.

"First of all you have to meet the challenge," Mavs guard Jason Terry said of guarding Parker. "We had four or five different guys on him."

It still wasn't enough. Parker had 19 points in the first quarter alone,

equaling the Mavericks' total. Parker departed with about 5 minutes left in the fourth to a raucous ovation — and with the leading man out of the game, many fans headed to

the exits as Parker took his seat. Terry had 16 for Dallas, and Dirk Nowitzki and Jason Kidd had 14 points. Josh Howard scored just seven points after torching the Spurs for 25 in Game 1.

"I guess a split in San Antonio in a tough building is not bad," Nowitzki said. "But if you win the first one you always want to get the second one. You're not happy with a split

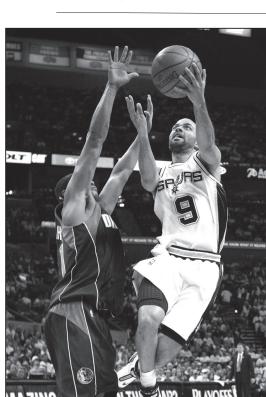
after you get the first one." Nowitzki said his left thumb needed to be taped after someone hit it. He said the same thumb was jammed several months ago and that it hurt when hit again Monday, but he was able to finish the game.

The Mavericks beat the Spurs 105-97 on Saturday night for their first road playoff victory in three years. But it was hardly rare territory for San Antonio: The Spurs have come back to win four series after losing Game 1 since 2002.

They put together a convincing response in the second game and the frustration for Dallas could be seen all the way down its bench. Mavs owner Mark Cuban punched a water cooler as San Antonio pulled away in the fourth.

The Mavericks haven't won a playoff series since 2006. Winning the

See **SPURS**, Page 12



AP Photo/Eric Gay

San Antonio guard Tony Parker (9) shoots over Dallas guard Antoine Wright during the first quarter of Game 2 of a first-round Western Conference NBA playoff game in San Antonio Monday.



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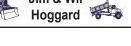
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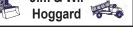
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Venus and Mars are the great lovers of our solar system — the yin and the yang, the masculine and the feminine. These two come together in the dreamy sign of Pisces now. The aspect may blow over like a

minor storm. A creative spark ignites out of the momentary excitement. Ideas take form. What was



immaterial becomes reality. ARIES

(March 21-April 19). thinking of other people for most of the day, anticipating their needs and fulfilling their wants. Then a turn of events happens this evening that inspires you to lavish your attention on yourself. You deserve

HOLIDAY

MATHIS

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll notice certain people putting on airs, which doesn't impress you. You prefer a little less hype. Your

down-to-earth approach to life will be infectious and you can change the vibes just by being you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It's not always appropriate or compassionate to lend an honest opinion. However, right now your candor is for the best. When you say what you're thinking you get others thinking that way as well. **CANCER** (June

22-July 22). A decision that affects you is still up in the air. This really could go either way. Release your attachment to the way this turns out. Everything is happening for your highest good. Take a deep breath and let it

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There is no such thing as "grunt work" right now. There is only important work that must be done, and must be done by you. You are inclined to honor each thing you do with a reverent quality of atten-

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). If you could take away the pain another

person is feeling by experiencing it yourself, you would do it in a heartbeat. But you can't. So feel good and whole. Your worry cannot help this person, but your well-being might.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You are a generally trusting person, and yet you have a funny feeling about what might happen if you give a certain person too much responsibility. Go with that gut instinct, even if it's terribly inconvenient to do so. **SCORPIO** (Oct.

24-Nov. 21). You stay even. You don't take abuse or give it. And you have a magical way of keeping others calm. You'll be given the duty of dealing with a highstrung personality, simply because you're best suited for the task. **SAGITTARIUS** (Nov.

22-Dec. 21). You'll have cause to get mad. Immediately, a battle strategy comes together in your mind. Although there are times when conflict can be invigorating, this is not one of them. In the end it's not worth fighting over.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). A creative pastime beckons your participation. If you get involved in such an endeavor, all strife and speculation melt way. You will be both at peace and vibrantly alive as you work.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You have the option of waking someone who has been sleepwalking through life. This is a risk. The person may want to stay oblivious to the facts of life. He or she might be angry with you. Only proceed if you absolutely must. (Feb.

PISCES 19-March 20). Though it seems like you don't even have enough resources to cover the basics, you will find the energy, money and time to commit to extra special efforts. The basics can wait until tomor-

ASTROLOGY 101: WHAT ARE ARIES **PEOPLE LIKE?** Aries is the firstborn sign of the zodiac, and their personalities tend to be like that of a firstborn child, regardless of

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where they fall in their own family birth order. Aries rules the head and this sign does tend to be headstrong, forthright and action oriented.

They are a fire sign and approach life with passionate intensity. They tend to have quick metabolisms and be physically strong, quick and confident. They dive into life with great gusto. As children, Aries are

often fearless, trying things that would be appropriate for much older children. They are curious and maintain their curiosity throughout life. There is an innocence, too. They may be disappointed by specific happenings, but they do not get categorically jaded.

Aries are often outgoing and usually have many interests, so it's relatively easy for them to hold their own in conversation.

They enjoy being the initiator of social connections. This is also true in their approach to other projects and pursuits. They want to stay in control of the

direction that things take. At heart, Aries is a warrior, though often a

peaceful one. Aries fights for freedom, justice and the things that constitute a

life well lived.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: First "American Idol" winner Kelly Clarkson was born under the sign that rules the voice, Taurus. So are a lot of other fantastic singers, including Barbra Streisand, who shares Clarkson's birthday. The world's finest singers usually have Taurus well represented somewhere in their natal charts even if they were not born under a

Taurus sun sign. 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 vou may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Annie's Mailbox ®:

Dear Annie: My41-year-old fiance, "Michael," recently started a new job that requires some overnight travel. Last week while out of town, a 21-yearold female co-worker asked Michael's help to put air in her tires. He got in her car and they drove together to a gas station. This week, while out of town again, he and the same coworker texted and phoned each other a few times, which I found

When I confronted him, he became defensive and said he did nothing wrong. explained it was inappropriate to be riding in a female co-worker's car and for the two of them to call each other

disturbing.

Even if it was completely innocent, there is always the possibility of an accusation of sexual harassment or that other co-workers will think negatively of

him. There are several male co-workers Michael could associate with, so I don't get why he has chosen to bond with this young girl.

And what bothers me more is that he doesn't see how inappropriate it is. He says I have blown it out of all proportion and there is nothing further to dis-

Is this just my insecurity surfacing, or do I have a legitimate concern? — Worried in Virginia

Dear Virginia: Both. The fact that a female co-worker asked a male co-worker to help her fix a tire is perfectly understandable and it's not a stretch that he would accompany her to the gas station in her

You are right that hese things can be misinterpreted and that Michael puts his job at risk if he continues to behave in a way that others believe is questionable.

However, we aren't convinced anything untoward has been going on. The "evidence" of misconduct is

pretty flimsy. Say nothing more, but keep an eye on the situation if it bothers vou.

Dear Annie: I just lost my son to alcoholism.

He was

55 years old and for five years had been progressively drinking himself to death.

totally were unaware. His multitude of friends and business associates knew he had an alcohol problem, but didn't realize the gravity of the situation and didn't think to notify me, his father.

My son was divorced, had no children and lived alone. I've since been told that I couldn't have done much unless he was willing to admit he was an alcoholic and wanted to quit. I'm a



KATHY MITCHELL Marcy Sugar

ics act and think. My friends tell me not to b l a m e myself. But who else is there? — California

California: Dear There is no blame to be had. Your son had a disease for which there is no cure, only management, but he either didn't recognize the problem, or didn't have the wherewithal to stay sober.

Even if you knew everything about alcoholism, you could not have prevented this from happening. Selfrecrimination can be part of the grieving process. Please get some short-term counseling so you can come to terms with this. Our condolences.

Dear Annie: I had to respond to "Just Wondering for Future Reference," who asked if menopausal women can still have a satisfying sex life. As a woman in her

mid-50s who had not been in a relationship for over eight years, I had pretty much given up on meeting a man who piqued my interest. I asked my doctor about my lack of sex drive, which had never been a problem before. Her response was.

"When you meet the right guy, it will happen." I met a guy five months ago, and my sex life has never been better. In fact, he complains that I wear him out and he's 15 years younger. Having Fun at 50-Plus

Dear Having Fun: We're glad you found someone who helped you rediscover your libido. It doesn't work for everyone, but you've given hope to the rest.

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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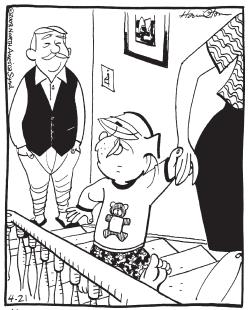
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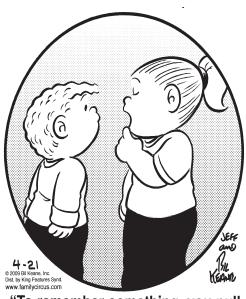
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DENNIS THE MENACE



"Mom's gonna read me to sleep, grampa, THEN YOU CAN READHER TO SLEEP.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"To remember something, you pull your eyes inside your head and look 'round till you find it."

HAGAR





IS IT BECAUSE THEIR MOTHERS SPOIL THEM?

BLONDIE







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WIZARD OF ID







This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, April 21, the 111th day of 2009. There are 254 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight History:

Five hundred years ago, on April 21, 1509, England's King Henry VII died; he was succeeded by his 17-year-old son, Henry VIII.

On this date:

In 1649, the Maryland Toleration Act, which provided for freedom of worship for all Christians, was passed by the Maryland Assembly

In 1789, John Adams was sworn in as the first vice president of the United States. In 1816, Charlotte Bronte,

author of "Jane Eyre," was born in Thornton, England.

In 1836, an army of Texans led by Sam Houston defeated the Mexicans at San Jacinto, assuring Texas independence.

In 1918, Baron Manfred von Richthofen, the German ace known as the "Red Baron," was killed in action during World War I.

In 1955, the Jerome Lawrence-Robert Lee play "Inherit the Wind," inspired by the Scopes trial of 1925, opened at the National Theatre in New York.

In 1960, Brazil inaugurated its new capital, Brasilia, transferring the seat of national government from Rio de Janeiro. In 1972, Apollo 16 astronauts

John Young and Charles Duke explored the surface of the In 1975, South Vietnamese

President Nguyen Van Thieu resigned after 10 years in office.

One year ago: President George W. Bush opened a twoday summit in New Orleans with Mexican President Felipe Calderon and Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper. Gasoline prices jumped to a record \$3.50 a gallon in the U.S. Robert Cheruiyot of Kenya won the Boston Marathon in 2 hours, 7 minutes and 46 seconds to become the fourth man to win the race four times; Dire Tune won the women's race in 2:25:25. 1970s soul singer Al Wilson died in Fontana, Calif., at age 68.

Todav's Birthdays: Britain's Queen Elizabeth II is 83. Actress-comedian-writer

22 Born, in

24 Big brass

instrument

27 Swimming-

pool site,

for short

30 Very long time

31 A Great Lake

32 Parcel (out)

keyboard

35 Money in Italy

33 Work at a

34 Deception

37 ___-voyage

party

29 A pair of

Elaine May is 77. Actor Charles Grodin is 74. Singer-musician Iggy Pop is 62. Actress Patti LuPone is 60. Actor Tony Danza is 58. Actress Andie MacDowell is 51. Rock singer Robert Smith (The Cure) is 50. Rock musician Michael Timmins (Cowboy Junkies) is 50. Rapper Michael Franti (Spearhead) is 43. Rock singer-musician Glen Hansard (The Frames) is 39. Actor James McAvoy is 30.

Thought for Today: "Modern man thinks he loses something - time — when he does not do things quickly. Yet he does not know what to do with the time he gains — except kill it." -Erich Fromm, German-American psychoanalyst and author (1900-1980).

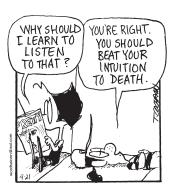
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Answer to previous puzzle

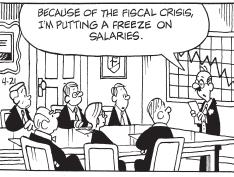








HI AND LOIS

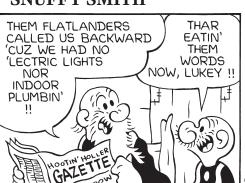




THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH





BEETLE BAILEY







Newsday Crossword

68 More crafty

70 Fill fully

test 73 Metallic rocks

71 Reaches

across

72 Grade on a

DOWN

1 Placed in

2 Fancy feather

3 Had leftovers,

6 Lotion additive

a box

maybe

4 In a way

5 Be next to

7 Go awav

8 Out of bed

9 Hollywood

productions

69 Deceitful one

- 1 Tax-form experts: Abbr.
- **5** "Ali and the Forty
- singing voice 15 Bullfight
- **16** Martini fruit
- **17** Plaintiff
- plant part
- 19 Outspoken
- 21 "For sure!"
- 23 Be a sign of

- **33** Winnie-__-
- **39** Had on
- **40** "For sure!"
- **44** Prefix for
- medic
- 45 Pester
- **50** "For
- **52** College
- housing **55** Football
- 64 Game on
- 65 Spooky
- 66 Neck of the woods

THAT'S FOR SURE by Sally R. Stein Edited by Stanley Newman

ACROSS

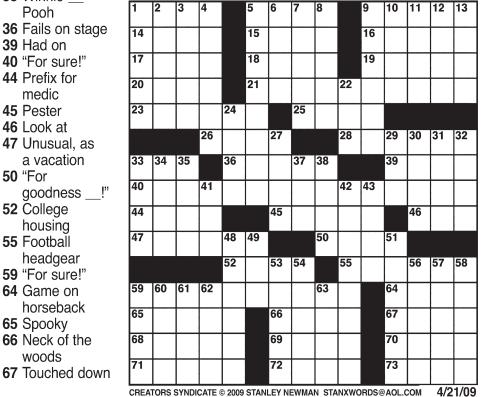
- Thieves' 9 Stately home
- 14 Female
- cheers
- 18 Underground
- 20 Give off
- 25 At no cost
- 26 Anger
- 28 High regard
- Pooh **36** Fails on stage

- 46 Look at 47 Unusual, as
- a vacation
- goodness __!"
- headgear
- **59** "For sure!"
- horseback

www.stanxwords.com 10 Very often

- **38** Solar-system 11 Pleasant centers
- 12 Roundish 41 Purring pet shape
- 42 Biblical boat 13 Depend 43 Little kid
 - 48 Goof-offs society pages **49** Dot-
 - (Internet
 - company)
 - 51 Texas city
 - 53 King's
 - domain **54** Santa
 - (ship of 1492) **56** Kind of tooth
 - **57** Upper class
 - **58** Lugs around **59** Porgy and
 - 60 Shrill cry 61 Opera solo
 - **62** Legal claim

 - 63 Close by



SPURS

Continued from Page 7

opener was a start, but they'll have to figure out another way to stop Parker in Game 3.

The Mavericks were a favorite target all season for Parker, who averaged more than 31 points and seven assists in four regular-season meetings this season.

He had 24 points in Game 1 but the Mays kept him under control by using different defenders, including the pesky Jose Barea.

The approach didn't work this

Parker fell three points of his playoff high of 41, set last year in the first round against Phoenix.

"I try to stay the same and take whatever they give me," Parker said. "Tonight in the first half they were going under the pick and roll and my outside shot was going. And

then I was able to penetrate.

Tim Duncan had 13 points and 11 rebounds, and Drew Gooden had 13 for the Spurs.

Dallas shot just 39 percent from the field. The Spurs also dominated on the glass, outrebounding Dallas 44-28.

"We talked about sustaining," Duncan said. "Obviously we had a great start to the game and got out to a lead. We understand the third and fourth quarter last game we really let off the gas. Defensively we wanted to stay solid, and I thought we did a really good job of doing that and playing more of 48 minutes."

Notes: Mavs G Jerry Stackhouse, bothered by a foot injury all season, left San Antonio on Sunday for personal reasons. Stackhouse watched Game 1 in a suit on the bench and isn't expected to see any action in the playoffs. ... Spurs coach Gregg Popovich and Mavericks coach Rick Carlisle both groomed Cleveland's Mike Brown, who was named the NBA's coach of the year Monday.

Rangers not discussing managerial change

ARLINGTON — Rangers president Nolan Ryan and general manager Jon Daniels say there have been no discussions about a managerial change during another tough April stretch to open the 2009 season.

Texas was 3-0 for the first time since 1996, the season of its first AL West

But the Rangers have since lost seven of nine games, again raising questions

about the future of third-year manager Ron Washington.

"I think Ron's fine. I don't see anything that concerns me," Ryan said Monday, insisting that any speculation about Washington is coming from outside the organization.

"Ron's our manager," Daniels said. "I read about a lot of stuff, but there's been zero discussions to the contrary."

a 21-game win streak for the Bulldogettes.

COAHOMA

Continued from Page 7

Newton gave up four hits, including two in the bottom of the 11th inning. With two outs in the frame, Allyson Seider drove in Kelsey Johnson for the

The game was the regular season finale for both squads. The loss ended

It was unknown as of press time if a seeding game is to be played between Wall and Coahoma in order to decided where each team will be placed into Class 2A softball playoff bracket.

Coahoma Wall

000 000 000 00-0 1 2 000 000 000 01-1 4 2

Heather Newton and Berkley Iden. Shannon Carrico and Allyson Seider. W - Carrico. L - Newton (19-2). RBI: Wall - Seider.

Continued from Page 7

High jump -1. Jake Schwartz, Garden City, 6- 2. 2. Jordan

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Carter, Knox City, 6- 0. 3. Nick Richburg, Highland, 5-10.

Long jump — 1. Jonathan Stiles, Jayton, 21- 3.5. 2. Carson Alldredge, Roby, 21-1.25. 3. Justin Utley, Newcastle, 19-8.25. 4. Jeremy Eaton, Hermleigh,

Pole vault — 1. Ryan Howard,

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Highland, 12-0.2. Cade Demere, Water Valley, 11-6. 3. Riley Majors, Trent, 11-0.

1. Pecos Shot put -Bohannan, Newcastle, 44-6.5. 2. Zac Burwick, Blackwell, 44-4.5 3. Mart Hall, Rule, 42-7.25. 4. Hutchens, Jared Woodson, 42-6.75.

Alldredge, Roby, 44-0. 2. Fred Foster, Throckmorton, 40-1.25. Marcus Foster, Garden City,

1. Jake Schwartz, Garden City, 11.64. 2. Bradley Hutcheson, Trent, 11.81. 3. Jonathan Stiles, Jayton, 12.05. 4. Brennan Medford, Paint Creek. 12.14. 200 - 1. Jake Schwartz.

Garden City, 23.30. 2. Bradley Hutcheson, Trent. 23.52, 3. Brennan Medford, Paint Creek, - 1. Derrick Coleman,

Knox City, 50.49. 2. Abel Rivas, Sterling City, 50.71. 3. Sheyenne Smith, Water Valley, 51.81. 4.

Jonathan Stiles, Jayton, 53.27. 800 - 1. Abel Rivas, Sterling City, 2:06.05. 2. Dylan Benson, Benjamin, 2:08.43. 3. Josue Gallegos, Robert Lee, 2:08.48.

1600 - 1. Dillian Doss, Water

Valley, 4:51.58. 2. Cade Brown, 4:55.90. Hernandez, Hermleigh, 4:59.02. 3200 - 1. Dillian Doss, Water Valley, 10: 34.65. 2. Cade Brown, Rule, 10:45.88. 3. Gerado Munoz, Sterling City, 11:25.85.

400 relay - 1. Knox City, 45.71. 2. Bryson, 46.48. 3. Water Valley, 46.56. 4. Highland,

800 relay - 1. Newcastle, 1:35.81. 2. Aspermont, 1: 36.37. 3. Highland, 1: 38,24.

1600 relay - 1. Knox City, 3: 38.50. 2. Highland, 3:39.85. 3. Sterling City, 3:41.15. 4. Aspermont, 3:41.91.

110 hurdles - 1. Mitchell Ainsworth, Throckmorton, 16.55. 2. Michael Everett, Throckmorton, 17.09. 3. Jacob Smart, Aspermont, 18.02.

300 hurdles - 1. Jared Hutchens, Woodson, 42.31. 2. Michael Everett, Throckmorton, 42.40. 3. Hunter Hughes, Sterling City, 42.76. 4. Josue Gallegos, Robert Lee, 43.91.

Girls team totals

(Top four advance to region-

1. Guthrie 76. 2. Sterling City 71. 3. Knox City 70. 4. Water Valley 50. 5. Garden City 48. 6. Newcastle 38. 7 (tie). Trent,

Discus - 1. Kim Williams, Roby, 113-2. 2. Alicia Hernandez, Loraine, 97- 11.5. 3. Emily Harkins, Westbrook, 93-1. 4. Linsey Vallery, Robert Lee, 93. High jump — 1. Ashley Majors,

Robert Lee, 4- 10. 3. Ashton Monroe, Blackwell, 4-10. 4. Amy Daniels, Aspermont, 4-8. 1. Shaley Long jump —

Trent, 5-0. 2. Amanda Mendoza,

Shipman, Guthrie, 16-3.75. 2. Amanda Mendoza, Robert Lee, 16-2.25. 3. Camille Ward, Knox City, 15- 10. 1. Shelble Pole vault -

Hutchins, Water Valley, 80. 2. Jordan Urich, Jayton, 7-6. 3. Brianne Wilburn, Highland, 7-3. 4. Catelyn Johnston, Loraine,

Shot put - 1. Kim Williams, Roby, 41-7.75. 2. Shernice Beaver, Trent, 33-8.25. 3. Lara Williams, Roby, 32-11.5. 4. Linsey Vallery, Robert Lee, 30-9.75

Triple jump - 1. Shaley Shipman, Guthrie, 32-8.5. 2. Whitney Myrick, Sterling City, 32-6.75. 3. Morgan Schwartz, Garden City, 32- 2. 4. Ashton Jeffrey, Jayton, 32-0.5.

100 - 1. Shelby Gutierrez Knox City, 12.99. 2. Ashton Jeffrey, Jayton, 13.44. 3. Felicia Gibson, Loraine, 13.78. 4. Amanda Mendoza, Robert Lee, 1. Shelby Gutierrez,

Knox City, 26.90. 2. Ashton Jeffrey, Jayton, 27.50. 3. Paige Niehues, Garden City, 27.59.

400 - 1. Shaley Shipman, Guthrie, 1: 00.49. 2. Paige Niehues, Garden City, 1:01.88. 3. Tara Evans, Newcastle 1:04.30. 800 - 1. Katie Jones, Guthrie

2: 31.37. 2. Sofia Ramos, Bryson, 2:33.99. Talor McGuire, Sterling City, 2:35.84. 1. Ashley Havlak,

Sterling City, 6:05.64. 2. Sofia Ramos, Bryson, 5:13.62. 3. Kate Rowan, Rule, 6:13.96. 4. Taylor Throckmorton, Timmons, 6:14.42.

3200 Ashley Havlak, Sterling City, 13: 16.4. 2. Vikki Garza, Garden City, 13:39.85. 3. Abby Sandoval, Guthrie, 14: Daniels 03.89. 6. Amv Aspermont, 15:05.08.

400 relay - 1. Knox City 51.52. 2. Water Valley, 53.28. 3 Sterling City, 53.37. 5. Rule, 45.19. 6. Aspermont, 54.84. 800 relay - 1. Knox City

1:53.43. 2. Sterling City, 1: 54.85 3. Rule, 1: 56.82. 5. Aspermont 1: 58.93. 6. Robert Lee, 2:01.10. 1600 relay - 1. Guthrie, 4 19.65. 2. Newcastle, 4:26.31. 3. Garden City, 4:30.40. 5. Knox City, 4:33.65. 6. Jayton, 4:40.50

100 hurdles -Dudensing, Rule, 17.66. 2 Briana Glass, Trent, 17.91. 3. Ashley Majors, Trent, 18.16. 4. McKensie Gilmore, Aspermont, 18.47. 5. Conner Timmons, Throckmorton, 18.78. Elizabeth Foster, Throckmorton,

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