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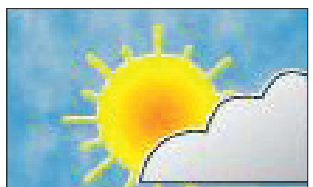


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H BIG SPRING HERALD

WEDNESDAY

APRIL 29, 2009



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Health officials prepared for swine flu

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

The current outbreak of swine flu, which has killed a child in Texas and possibly hundreds in Mexico, has not yet reached Howard County, but health officials are pre-

paring for the possibility. Officials with the Centers for Disease Control confirmed today that a 23-month-old child succumbed to swine flu in Houston, the first confirmed death in the United States. At least seven people

in Mexico have died from the flu, while another 152 deaths are suspected cases. Overall, there were 66 confirmed cases of swine flu in the United States as of this

See **FLU**, Page 3A

"We are refining our flu procedures and distributing educational information to patients. There are all kinds of procedures in place to help deal with this."

—George Parsley, SMMC CEO



3 more jailed for burglaries

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Officials with the Big Spring Police Department announced Tuesday three more arrests have been made in connection with the recent rash of burglaries reported in the Big Spring and Howard County area.

Tony Sanchez, 20, Fabian Hilario, 17, and Larry Valles, 19, all of Big Spring, were arrested and charged with burglary of a habitation, according to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the BSPD.



"Further investigation into this string of residential burglaries in Big Spring and Howard County resulted in three more arrests," said Everett. "They were arrested by investigators with the BSPD and the Howard County Sheriff's Office. All are from Big Spring, and all are currently confined to the county jail. The investigation is ongoing, and could result in even more arrests."

Also arrested earlier this week on similar charges were Orlando Sanchez, 24, and Dean Camden, 19, both of Big Spring, along

See **ROBBERIES**, Page 3A



HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins

Crews with local contractor Price Construction work on the city road reconstruction project under overcast skies Wednesday morning. The multi-million dollar project has forced several sections of Scurry and Main streets to be closed over the past few weeks.

'Free Fridays' finished?

Overcrowding a major concern, council told

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Conditions at the Municipal Swimming Pool caused by last year's Free Fridays could spell disaster, officials with the Big Spring YMCA warned city council members Tuesday night.

The Big Spring City Council — which approved approximate-

ly \$45,000 in repairs at the city pool to help bring it within ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) requirements — received more bad news in relation to the facility from YMCA Aquatics Director Kenneth Nelson, who warned several existing policies for the pool could prove disastrous.

"One of the most important things you need is to be able to see

the bottom of the pool," Nelson told the council. "I've heard horror stories of what can happen if you don't, and trust me, it's not pretty."

Nelson told the council the Free Fridays — a program implemented last summer to waive entrance fees on Fridays — was pushing the

See **FRIDAYS**, Page 3A

Second Eastertide concert Thursday

Special to the Herald

The second of the annual Easter-tide Offerings concerts sponsored by St. Mary's Episcopal Church will be held Thursday at 12:05 p.m.

Guest musicians will be the Tardy Bells Handbell Choir under the direction of Susan Dawes; Darryl

Knapp, organ and piano; Gloria Steelman, flute and violin; Scott McLaughlin, guitar; and singers Joyce Bradley, Susan Dawes, Joseph Dawes and Josh Pike.

The program will open with an arrangement of "This Is My Father's

See **EASTERTIDE**, Page 3A

Man arrested for deadly conduct

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

A Big Spring man was arrested during the early morning hours Tuesday and charged with deadly conduct after police officials say he fired at a home on S. Nolan Street on three different occasions.

Jorge Louis Gomez, 18, was arrested

shortly after 4 a.m. and charged with deadly conduct — discharge of a firearm, according to Big Spring Police Department officials.

"The first report came in at approximately 3:18 a.m.," said Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with

See **SHOTS**, Page 3A

City OKs \$90,000 for ADA shortfalls

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

The Big Spring City Council approved approximately \$90,000 in renovations to both City Hall and the Municipal Swimming Pool Tuesday

night in an effort to address some of the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) shortfalls at the facilities.

The projects — which are part of the city's ADA Transition Plan to correct areas with local streets and city

owned buildings that fail to comply with federal regulations — could possibly cost less, according to Assistant City Manager Todd Darden, with current estimates taking a rather conservative stance. "As we started working on

our transition plan, we determined City Hall offered about five service points. As you know, with the street bond project, we're working on getting the sidewalks and the ramps to get them to the doors. However, we need

funding to work on the doors and get them automated. What we're asking is you allow us to spend up to approximately \$40,000 on ADA issues within the structure.

See **ADA**, Page 3A

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Blazers survive, beat Houston, 88-77

ANNE M. PETERSON

AP Sports Writer

PORTLAND, Ore. — Brandon Roy was so sick he could barely make it through shootaround.

"I felt pretty lousy," he said.

Luckily for the Portland Trail Blazers, their All-Star guard didn't play that way.

Roy had an IV before Game 5, then went out and scored 25 points to help the Trail Blazers stave off elimination with an 88-77 victory over the Houston Rockets on Tuesday night. LaMarcus Aldridge also had 25.

The Rockets, who have not advanced out of the first round of the playoffs in six tries since 1997, hold a 3-2 advantage in the series going into Thursday night's game back in Houston.

Roy, a two-time All-Star, missed practice on Monday because of flu-like symptoms, while Aldridge didn't practice because of a sore right elbow. Both started Tuesday night.

"I've been involved in games when I didn't feel well and played well. Some nights when guys come in under the weather they play their best games. And Brandon had one of those best

games tonight," Blazers coach Nate McMillan said. "He came out, took an IV before the game, and played like a champion."

Luis Scola led the Rockets with 21 points. Yao Ming had 15 points and 12 rebounds.

Houston trailed until the fourth quarter, when Yao and Von Wafer hit consecutive jumpers to put the Rockets ahead 68-64. The Blazers tied it at 68, then Greg Oden had another two free throws to give the Blazers

See **ROCKETS**, Page 2B

Cruz' hit in 8th lifts Texas, 5-4

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON — For the Oakland Athletics, it was a loss multiplied.

Nomar Garciaparra and Mark Ellis appear headed to the disabled list with calf injuries sustained in Oakland's 5-4 loss to the Texas Rangers on Tuesday night. Also forced to the A's bench was rookie left-hander Brett Anderson with a blistered finger and reliever Santiago Casilla with a sore ankle.

"This was the weirdest game. Very strange," said Ellis, who was hurt running out a leadoff grounder in the third, an inning after Garciaparra also got hurt leading off.

"A rough night. Not only the loss, but losing four guys," said Bobby Crosby, who went 2-for-3 after initially replacing Garciaparra at third base and moving over to second when Ellis was hurt.

Nelson Cruz hit a tiebreaking single in the eighth to make up for a costly error, and the Rangers (10-10) won for the fourth time in five games to get back to .500 for the first time since the opening weekend of the season.

Hank Blalock reached on a two-base error in the eighth when his sharp grounder went under the glove of first baseman Jason Giambi into the right-field corner. Cruz followed with a single to left off Michael Wuertz (1-1), who took over after Casilla left one pitch into the eighth.

"We don't mind physical errors. It happens," Rangers third baseman Michael Young said. "A tight spot in the game, we love looking up and seeing (Cruz) come to the plate."

And making up for the error in the fifth, when the game was tied 1-all before Cruz put his glove down in right to field Orlando Cabrera's grounder and the ball instead scooted past the wall. Ryan Sweeney scored from first and Cabrera went to third. Giambi then followed with a slow roller for an RBI infield single.

Garciaparra said he felt his calf tighten running down the line. Ellis felt a pop as he left the batter's box and didn't even run all the way to first base before getting help from a trainer to get back to the dugout.

"I don't know what's in our water today," Garciaparra said.

A's third baseman Eric Chavez, who has played only three of the past 12 games, tested his sore right elbow with a pregame infield session and batting practice. Instead of possibly going to the DL, Chavez may be back in two or three games.

"We will be more patient with him due to the circumstances tonight," manager Bob Geren said.

See **RANGERS**, Page 2B

Dallas ousts Spurs

Mavs advance in postseason with 106-93 victory

By PAUL J. WEBER

Associated Press Writer

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Jason Terry galloped onto the one big shot and Josh Howard skipped along the sideline after another. For what the Dallas Mavericks were about to pull off, they might as well have danced.

For the first time since 2006, the Mavericks are moving past the first round.

And for the first time since 2000, the San Antonio Spurs are not.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 31 points in his first breakout game of a lopsided series, and the Mavericks won a playoff series for the first time in three years by eliminating the Spurs in five games with a 106-93 victory on Tuesday night.

Besides closing another chapter between the Texas rivals, this series seemed to signal more: that the Mavericks are much better than their No. 6 seed might suggest, and whether the Spurs are slipping into a new stage after winning four NBA titles in the past decade.



AP photo/Eric Gay

Dallas Mavericks forward Dirk Nowitzki (left) shoots over San Antonio Spurs defender Matt Bonner (15) during Game 5 of a first-round Western Conference NBA playoff series in San Antonio Tuesday. The Mavs eliminated the Spurs with a 106-93 victory.

See **MAVS**, Page 3B

Rangers OF Hamilton sits out 3rd straight game with injury

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON — Josh Hamilton has a strained muscle in his left rib cage, and the Texas Rangers are hoping he can avoid the disabled list and get better with medication and a few more days of rest.

Hamilton was out of the starting lineup for the third straight game Tuesday night and described

himself as being in "extreme pain" before being examined by team physician Dr. Keith Meister.

Rangers general manager Jon Daniels said the doctor determined that Hamilton had a muscle strain.

"It's not believed to be structural," Daniels said. "Typically, the doctor feels like about 48 hours or so when you can tell how quickly a patient responds to (medication). So we'll take it day by day, see how he's doing and how the team's doing and what our

roster needs are."

The All-Star center fielder got hurt when he ran into the outfield wall in Toronto a week ago. His elbow folded into the left side of his body and his rib cage while he was feeling for a wall.

"Extreme pain, no matter what I do," Hamilton said in the clubhouse before the start of a three-game series against Oakland. "Just standing here,

See **HAMILTON**, Page 2B

Sports in brief

Crossroads high school baseball and softball postseason schedule

All six baseball and softball teams in Howard County have qualified for the postseason.

Here's a schedule of games for each school:

Big Spring

- Lady Steers softball vs. Canyon Randall in Class 4A bi-district best-of-three playoff series. Game 1 is at 6:30 p.m. Friday at Monterey High School in Lubbock. Game 2 is at noon Saturday at Monterey with a third game, if necessary, taking place 30 minutes after the completion of the second.
- Steers baseball faces San Angelo Lake View to determine which team receives the third seed out of District 4-4A at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in Snyder.

Coahoma

- Bulldogettes softball has received a first-round bye in the postseason and will play the winner of Clyde and Henrietta in the area round sometime next week.

- Bulldogs baseball faces Grape Creek in a seedling game to determine the No. 1 seed out of District 7-2A at 7 p.m. Thursday in Abilene.

Forsan

- Lady Buffs softball received a bye in the first round and play in the area round sometime next week.
- Buffs baseball begins its playoff run in two weeks against a team to be named.

Forsan High School Sports Banquet scheduled for Monday, May 11

Forsan High School will hold its annual sports banquet at 7 p.m. Monday, May 11, at the Dora Roberts Community Center.

Tickets for parents and guests at \$10 apiece and must be purchased at the high school office by May 8.

BSHS Spring Sports Banquet set for Monday

The Big Spring High School Spring Sports banquet is set for 6 p.m. Monday in the high school's cafeteria.

Tickets are \$12 and can be purchased at the door or from Kay Cook at the Athletic Training Center.

Free adult tennis league starting at Figure 7

Ted Oleson, City of Big Spring tennis pro, is beginning and free adult tennis league on Sundays from 3-5 p.m.

To be eligible, players must be at least 18 years old and out of high school.

Tennis balls and ice cold water will be provided each day. Players must bring their own rackets.

For more information, check out www.bigspringtennis.com

Obituaries

'Eadie' Neta Edelle Falkner

"Eadie" Neta Edelle Falkner, 92, of Big Spring died Monday, April 27, 2009, in a local nursing home. Graveside funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, April 30, 2009, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park with Rick Cunningham, minister of 14th and Main Church of Christ, officiating. The family will receive friends from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home. She was born Dec. 7, 1916, in Coahoma and married Avery Falkner July 3, 1937, in Big Spring. He preceded her in death Nov. 4, 1997.

Eadie was a member of 14th and Main Church of Christ, where she served as secretary for 28 years. She was also a member of the Lion's Auxiliary and the Eagle Forum.

Survivors include three sons, Avery Falkner Jr. and wife, Pat, of Calabasas, Calif., John Falkner and wife, Deborah, of Lubbock, and Riley Falkner and wife, Jan, of Big Spring; two sisters, Maxine Coleman and Natalie Peurifoy, both of Big Spring; five grandchildren, Elizabeth Falkner of San Francisco, Calif., Jason Falkner and Ryan Falkner, both of Los Angeles, Calif., Jaime Kemper and husband, Shane, and Brandon Falkner and fiancée, Lyndsey Allen, all of Big Spring; and one great granddaughter, Kaylee Kemper of Big Spring.

She was also preceded in death by her parents, Sam and Stella Smith.

The family suggests memorials be made to the 14th and Main Church of Christ Building Fund, 1401 Main, Big Spring 79720.

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

Paid obituary

Barney Killcrease

Barney Killcrease, 43, of Big Spring died Monday, April 27, 2009, in a local hospital. Memorial services will be held at a later date.

He was born Feb. 12, 1966, in Bay Minette, Ala.

Survivors include his mother, Lucy McElreath of Big Spring; his father, Robert Earl Killcrease of Bay Minette, Ala.; one son, Billy Hutcheson of Big Spring; one brother and two sisters.

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

Margery McCormick

Margery McCormick, 90, of Big Spring died Tuesday, April 28, 2009, in a Midland nursing home. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Police blotter

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

- RANDY HERNANDEZ, 22, of 1306 Stanford, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.
- JORGE GOMEZ, 18, of 1002 N. Main St. Apt. 63, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of deadly conduct – discharge of a firearm.
- KENNETH SUGGS, 47, of 1405.5 Settles, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of criminal mischief – impairing/interrupting public service.
- THEFT was reported in the 1700 block of Wasson.
- TERRORISTIC THREAT was reported in the 2600 block of Cindy.
- DEADLY CONDUCT – DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM was reported:
 - in the 500 block of Ninth Street.
 - in the 600 block of Nolan.
- ASSAULT CAUSING BODILY INJURY was reported:
 - in the 1000 block of Main Street.
 - in the 600 block of Nolan.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the 1000 block of Main Street.
- AGGRAVATED ASSAULT was reported in the 300 block of Sixth Street.

Sheriff




An arrest report was not available in time for press.

Fire/EMS

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

- TRAUMA was reported in the 600 block of S. Plain. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the area of Rice Road and Highway 250. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 800 block of W. Marcy. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2600 block of Lynn. Service refused.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1600 block of Avion. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 100 block of N.W. Third Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2900 block of W. Highway 80. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1400 block of E. Sixth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

Your Local Weather

| Thu 4/30 | Fri 5/1 | Sat 5/2 |
|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |
| 89/63 | 91/57 | 77/56 |
| Some clouds in the morning will give way to mainly sunny skies for the after. | Windy with plenty of sun. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the upper 50s. | A few thunderstorms possible. |

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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

THURSDAY

- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.
- 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.

FRIDAY

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

MONDAY

- Keep Big Spring Beautiful meets at noon in the Cactus Room at Howard College.
- District Committee Lone Star of Big Spring meets at noon at 610 Scurry.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 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.
- Evening Lions Club meets at 6:45 p.m. at Dragon China Buffet.
- Howard County ARC meets at 806 E. Third in the Bingo Hall. Call 264-0674 for more information.
- The Big Spring Cruisers club meeting at 7 p.m. in the Texas RV Park meeting room.

Lottery

There has been another rollover in the grand prize for the multistate Mega Millions lottery – to \$220 million.

The rollover occurred because no player matched all the winning numbers from Tuesday night's \$181 million drawing.

The next Mega Millions drawing will be Friday night.

The winning numbers from Tuesday night's drawing were: 15, 20, 24, 36, and 44. The Mega Ball number was six.

The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Tuesday by the Texas Lottery: 29-22-24-6-13.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 3-8-4-7. Sum It Up: 22.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 8-3-2. Sum It Up: 13.

Support Groups

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

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

MONDAY

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

- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 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.

Take Note

- Kids for Life, an American Cancer Society Relay for Life fund-raising team, will hold a garage sale Saturday from 8 a.m. until they run out of things to sell at 2514 Cindy in Kentwood. For more information, Amanda Gillespie at 213-5455, Michelle Fryar at 935-4006 or Lori Kirby at 935-6431.

- 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.

- 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 bsbs1999@gmail.com to receive information on the reunion or contact Jennifer Davidson at (432) 213-0257.

- 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

BIG SPRING ART ASSOCIATION

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

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

Artist's reception 3-5 pm Sat May 9

All area artists welcome. No limit for entries.

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

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

Pick up artwork Sat May 9 5 pm.



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Bengals sign Longhorns WR Cosby

CINCINNATI (AP) — Texas receiver Quan Cosby has agreed to terms with the Cincinnati Bengals after going undrafted over the weekend. The 5-foot-8 receiver is expected to be in Cincinnati on Friday for the start of the Bengals rookie mini-camp. He could sign a deal then. Cosby started 13 games at split end last season and caught 92 passes for

1,123 yards. His size and age worked against him in the draft. The 26-year-old receiver spent four years playing minor league baseball before moving on to play football at Texas. He was featured over the weekend on ESPN watching the draft comedian with Bill Cosby, who is a friend but not a relative.

Astros win 11th straight in Cincinnati

CINCINNATI (AP) — Wandy Rodriguez allowed one run in seven innings and Ivan Rodriguez homered and doubled Tuesday night, helping the Astros extend their three-year winning streak at Great American Ball Park with an 8-3 victory over the Cincinnati Reds.

The Astros have won their last 11 games in Cincinnati, a streak that started late in the 2007 season and is the longest current run of dominance in the majors. Houston is 32-15-1 at the hitter-friendly ballpark that opened in 2003. It's not only their hitters who like it. "Every time we play here, we play great," Wandy Rodriguez said.

RANGERS

Continued from Page 1B

Kevin Millwood (2-2) scattered 10 hits over eight innings, allowing four runs — two earned — with five strikeouts. Millwood appeared to be hurt in the sixth, but only had a busted fingernail. "He needed a manicure," manager Ron Washington said. Frank Francisco worked a perfect ninth for his sixth save in six chances, and 23rd consecutive

scoreless appearance.

Sweeney led off the seventh with his first homer to tie it at 4 after Texas had gotten three runs in the sixth after Anderson left.

Blalock had an RBI single with two outs in the first, then Anderson faced the minimum 13 batters through the fifth inning — thanks to a double play.

Marlon Byrd reached leading off the sixth on a grounder through shortstop Orlando Cabrera's legs for an error.

Anderson then had a 2-0 count on Young when a team trainer was summoned to the mound and the rookie then left with him.

Reliever Andrew Bailey threw six consecutive

balls, walking Young and then Andruw Jones. After Blalock's foul popout, Cruz drew a bases-loaded walk and Jarrod Saltalamacchia hit a two-run single.

Anderson struck out five, all on called third strikes. Only one of the three runs against him were earned.

Notes: Geren shuffled his rotation, moving RHP Trevor Cahill from Wednesday to Saturday and LHP Josh Outman, who had been in the bullpen, from Saturday to Wednesday. ... Texas RHP Josh Rupe, designated for assignment April 18, cleared waivers and has been sent to extended spring training before going to Triple-A Oklahoma to be in that rotation.

HAMILTON

Continued from Page 1B

it hurts. Taking deep breaths. Running, throwing, hitting, everything hurts."

Hamilton wasn't in the starting lineup at Toronto on Wednesday, the day after slamming into the wall, but appeared in that game as a pinch-hitter. The left-handed slugger started Thursday, Friday and Saturday. He left in the fifth inning Saturday and pinch-hit again Sunday but didn't play Monday after trying to take bat-

ting practice.

"I probably need to rest it and let it heal," Hamilton said. "I battled through the last four or five days, did everything I could to help it and pain tolerance-wise to get through it. ... If I'm out there, I'm not going to play not to get hurt. I'm going to play full out."

Daniels said Hamilton talked to Meister and team trainer Jamie Reed about what he needed to do.

"His thought was if we could wait a little bit, he'd like to do that," Daniels said. "Right now, we've got a little time. We're going to play with it."

The Rangers faced Oakland rookie Brett Anderson on Tuesday, the first

of five left-handers Texas was scheduled to face during the six-game homestand.

"That's part of the thought process ... although Josh is not a guy you're platooning," Daniels said.

Marlon Byrd started in center field Tuesday night. Andruw Jones, the 10-time Gold Glove center fielder with Atlanta, started in left.

Texas manager Ron Washington expects Byrd to be the center fielder when Hamilton is out.

"I think Marlon, right now, is best for that," Washington said. "Marlon has been playing center field for us the past three years and I think he had been doing a great job. ... This is

my call. I don't have any explanation otherwise."

Jones, a five-time All-Star for Atlanta who hit only .158 with three home runs last season in his only year with the Los Angeles Dodgers, made the Rangers' roster after coming to spring training on a minor league deal.

Going into Tuesday night's game, Jones was hitting .370 with two home runs and five RBI in nine games. Byrd was hitting .351 with two homers and 13 RBI.

Hamilton, who led the AL with 130 RBIs while playing 156 games last season, was hitting .242 with two homers and 10 RBI in 66 at-bats.

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Was \$11,995 NOW \$10,995</p> <p>2005 Lincoln Towncar Signature - White w/Tan Leather, One Owner, Like New, Super Nice Car, Only 46,000 Miles. Was \$17,995 NOW \$16,995</p> <p>2004 Chev. Malibu LS - Silver, w/Gray Cloth, One Owner, Like New, Very Nice, Must See, Only 55,000 Miles. Was \$9,995 NOW \$8,995</p> <p>2003 Ford Focus ZTS - Green w/Gray Cloth, All Power, Nice Car, Well Kept. Was \$6,995 NOW \$5,995</p> <p>2002 Buick Century Custom - Silver w/Gray Cloth, All Power, Nice Car, One Owner. Was \$6,995 NOW \$5,995</p> <p>2000 Mercury Grand Marquis LS - Gold, w/Tan Leather, Well kept, Nice One Owner, Low Miles. Was \$7,995 NOW \$6,995</p> <p>★★★ SUV'S ★★★</p> <p>2008 Ford Escape XLT - Vista Blue, w/Gray Cloth, Ford Program Unit, Only 18,000 Miles. Was \$19,995 NOW \$16,995</p> <p>2006 Nissan Pathfinder LE - Black, w/Tan Leather, All Power, One Owner, Like New, Only 27,000 Miles. Was \$25,995 NOW \$24,995</p> <p>2006 Nissan Xterra SE - White w/Gray Cloth, All Power, One Owner, Only 19,000 Miles. Was \$19,995 NOW \$17,995</p> <p>2005 Chevrolet Tahoe 4X2 LS - White, w/Gray Cloth, One Owner, Like New, Loaded, Only 53,000 Miles. Was \$19,995 NOW \$15,995</p> <p>2005 Ford Escape XLT - Silver, w/Gray Cloth, One Owner, Great On Gas, Like New, Only 63,000 Miles. Was \$12,995 NOW \$10,995</p> <p>2005 GMC Yukon 4X2 SLT - White w/GTan Leather, Loaded, All Power, One Owner. Was \$19,995 NOW \$16,995</p> <p>2005 Ford Explorer Sport Trac XLT - Red, w/Gray Cloth, All Power, One Owner, Like New, Low Miles. Was \$18,995 NOW \$16,995</p> <p>2004 Nissan Xterra XE - Red, w/Gray Cloth, All Power, Nice First Car, One Owner, Only 67,000 Miles. Was \$13,995 NOW \$11,995</p> <p>2004 Honda CRV LX 4X4 - White w/Tan Leather, Loaded, All Power, One Owner. Was \$13,995 NOW \$10,995</p> <p>2004 Chevrolet Tahoe LT 4X2 - Gray, w/Gray Cloth, All Power, One Owner, Only 60,000 Miles. Was \$20,995 NOW \$17,995</p> <p>2004 Nissan Xterra SE - Silver, w/Gray Cloth, All Power, One Owner, Nice SUV, Only 52,000 Miles. Was \$16,995 NOW \$13,995</p> <p>2004 Buick Ranier V8 CXI - Silver w/Gray Leather, Loaded, DVD Player, Moonroof, 51,000 Miles. Was \$15,995 NOW \$14,995</p> <p>2003 Lincoln Navigator 4X2 - Silver, w/Gray Leather, Loaded, One Owner, Like New, 78,000 MILES. Was \$22,995 NOW \$19,995</p> <p>2003 Nissan Xterra SE - Blue, w/Gray Cloth, One Owner, Like New. Was \$14,995 NOW \$11,995</p> |
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ROBBERIES

Continued from Page 1A

with a 15-year-old hispanic male suspect, also from Big Spring. All three have been charged with burglary of a habitation, according to Everett.

"During the past several months there have been numerous residential burglaries in the city and in Howard County," said Everett. "Investigators with the police department joined investigators with the Howard County Sheriff's Office to investigate these offenses.

"Investigators feel like the suspects could be involved in as many as 30 residential burglaries," said Everett.

In the meantime, however, Everett encouraged area residents that have been pilfered by the alleged burglars to be patient.

"As we recover the property, we'll be contacting the owners and victims," he said.

Anyone with information regarding these or other crimes is encouraged to contact Big Spring Area Crimestoppers at 263-TIPS (8477) or the BSPD at 264-2550.

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

Oil up, gas prices flat before driving season

NEW YORK (AP) — Oil prices rose Wednesday even though the government reported that the United States is consuming less than it has in years and inventories are bloated with the most surplus crude in nearly 19 years.

Benchmark crude for June delivery rose up 83 cents to \$50.75 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

In London, Brent prices rose 96 cents to \$50.95 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange.

The Energy Information Administration said that crude inventories rose by 4.1 million barrels for the week ended April 24, or 1.1 percent, to 374.7 million barrels. Analysts had expected a boost of 1.8 million barrels, according to a survey by Platts, the energy infor-

mation arm of McGraw-Hill Cos.

U.S. inventories are now holding the most oil since Aug. 31, 1990, according to EIA data. Government data also show that U.S. consumption of petroleum is down to 18.4 million barrels a day, the lowest since May 28, 1999.

The growing stocks have helped keep pump prices relatively flat, a welcome sign a month before Memorial Day.

FLU

Continued from Page 1A

morning, CDC officials said.

Fortunately, no cases have been reported to date in Howard County.

Swine flu is a respiratory disease of pigs that occur in persons with direct exposure to pigs (e.g. children near pigs at a fair or workers in the swine industry). In addition, there have been documented cases of persons spreading swine flu to others.

The symptoms of swine flu in people are similar to the symptoms of regular human seasonal influenza and include fever, lethargy, lack of appetite and coughing.

Some people with swine flu also have reported runny nose, sore throat, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

George Parsley, chief executive officer for Scenic Mountain Medical Center, said his facility is prepared in case any local cases surface.

"We are refining our flu procedures and distributing educational information to patients," Parsley said. "There are all kinds of procedures in place to help deal with this."

According to an Associated Press report, common seasonal flu kills at least 250,000 annually across the globe, numbers that dwarf casualties reported from swine flu.

What is different about swine flu, however, is that

no vaccine has been developed to prevent it, although there are various antiviral medications licensed to treat the illness, officials said.

Parsley said the illness is having a greater effect psychologically, rather than physically, on the general populace and he sought to reassure people jittery over possibly contracting swine flu.

"I don't think there's anything particularly scary about the swine flu," he said. "I wouldn't think it's necessarily any more scary than any other flu situation ... It just happens to be happening in an unlikely time in the flu cycle."

Despite the lack of vaccine, Parsley said there are some simple precautions

people can take to ward off the illness.

"We call it the '3 C's' — Clean, Cover and Contain," he said. "Clean your hands, cover your mouth when you cough and contain the spread of germs by staying away from sick people ... We use these simple precautions all the time and they are probably the most important thing you can do to stop the spread of germs of any kind."

Parsley said persons who develop flu-like symptoms need to contact their doctor or healthcare provider immediately.

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

FRIDAYS

Continued from Page 1A

facility into an unsafe position.

"There are too many people in the pool at one time, and there just aren't enough lifeguards. You want to maintain a 15 to 1 ratio of lifeguards to swimmers, and we just don't have enough," said Nelson.

"We also have problems when we have to ask people to stand

outside the gate so we don't break any codes by having too many people inside at once. They curse and spit at the lifeguards. And that's not to mention what happens when you get that many people in the pool at once. Conduct just goes right out the window."

Nelson also expressed concerns about the lack of a pool house — which will have to be shut down during the season because it fails to meet ADA requirements — when someone is injured.

The existing pool house has to be closed due to failure to meet ADA requirements. He and YMCA Program Director Rosie Franklin asked the council to consider canceling Free Fridays during the coming summer, a possibility McEwen said the council will look at in May.

Last summer the Big Spring City Council voted unanimously to waive all admission fees on Fridays during the facility's summer-long run after a request from the local

Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club left the city scrambling for a way to accommodate all non-profit organizations and low income families.

Concerns raised during previous council meetings regarding elevated costs at the facility due to the expected increase of participation thanks to the free Fridays failed to become a problem last season, according to reports from city officials toward the end of the 2008 summer.

Also during the meeting,

the council approved local resident Rodney Bomar to fill the seat on the Big Spring Economic Development Corporation's Board of Directors, which was recently vacated by Frank Parker, who moved from Big Spring. Bomar is the chief financial officer for Robinson Drilling's oil and gas drilling operations.

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

ADA

Continued from Page 1A

"I feel like the numbers will be better than this. The engineer's numbers were pretty conservative, but that's about the amount he anticipated it would take to get us in the building and get those service areas accessible."

The city found itself in hot water with federal agencies several months ago when a lawsuit was filed against the municipality for failing to meet ADA requirements at several locations, including the swimming pool, City Hall and the Municipal Auditorium, which was shut down

shortly after.

Darden told the council funding for the swimming pool would be vital if the city wanted to open the facility in time for the summer months.

"If you look at the swimming pool, you have about the same amount of money with the new handicapped parking area and restrooms," said Darden. "So it's about the same for both facilities."

The budgetary amendment necessary to secure the funding hit a nerve with Councilman Greg Biddison.

"How many times have we amended the budget already?" asked Biddison with a grin. "Does it have to be done this year?"

Mayor Russ McEwen addressed Biddison's concerns the amendment could be nixed and funding for the project could come from next year's budget.

"The problem is, if we're going to open the pool, we have to be ADA compliant," said McEwen. "So what it gets down to is if we don't amend the budget, we don't have the money to spend for the pool. We're already pretty well tight. I thought the same thing when I first heard about it. However, this is one (amendment) where the federal government is saying what we have to do. We can choose, as a council, not to fund the portion that is for the pool and not open the

pool."

City Attorney Linda Sjogren said there wasn't any way around the federal requirements, and if the city planned to keep City Hall and the swimming pool open to the public, the work would have to be done.

"Yes, it does. It needs to be done immediately," said Sjogren. "We have the compliance and the lawsuit pending, and these are several of the areas (in question). City Hall is the primary service point, and it's the main building. We're getting the sidewalks done already as part of the bond project, but the door needs to be taken care of. It's pretty urgent."

McEwen said he believes if the ADA problems and funding needed to correct them were prioritized, he felt City Hall would be at the top of the list because of its central use in most city services.

"If we were going to prioritize this, City Hall would be number one," said McEwen. "We need it, there's no doubt."

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EASTERTIDE

Continued from Page 1A

World" for handbells and organ, and will close with a festive arrangement of "We Sing the Mighty Power of God" for vocal-

ists, bells, piano, flute and guitar. Other selections on the program include "Amazing Grace" and "What Wondrous Love Is This" along with a variety of vocal and instrumental selections.

Thursday's concert is being given to benefit the Northside

Community Center. There is no admission charge, and a free lunch sponsored by the Episcopal Church Women of St. Mary's follows immediately after the program in the Parish Hall.

St. Mary's is located at 10th and Goliad in Big Spring.

SHOTS

Continued from Page 1A

the BSPD. "Someone reported shots had been fired at a residence in the 600 block of Nolan. Officers couldn't find any damage to the home, but were advised the shooter was possibly driving a red Honda vehicle.

"A second call reporting shots fired at the same location was received by the PD at 3:40 a.m. This time the officers discovered the house had been struck at least two times by fire from a small caliber firearm. No injuries were reported during either call."

Everett said officers decided to stay in the same area to see if the shooter would return for a third time.

"At approximately 4:05 a.m. the officers heard a single shot and saw a red vehicle traveling north in the 600 block of Nolan," said Everett. "The officers stopped the vehicle and found two guns, along

with ammunition. At that time, the officers arrested Gomez."

Everett said the shooting doesn't appear to be gang-related.

"Both of the weapons recovered were .22 caliber, which is pretty small," said Everett. "The shooting appears to be retaliation from a fight earlier in the evening, and doesn't appear

to be gang-related."

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MAVS

Continued from Page 1B

“(We) went through a lot this year, a very turbulent year,” Mavericks coach Rick Carlisle said. “Injuries. Ups, downs, emotional stuff, and we really stuck together. We came together at the right time.”

The Mavericks advance to the Western Conference semifinals to play either Denver or New Orleans. The Nuggets lead that series 3-1 and can finish off the Hornets on Wednesday at Denver.

Tim Duncan scored 30 and Tony Parker had 26 but again got little help — the story of the series for the two-dimensional Spurs. Predictions that the Spurs were doomed while Manu Ginobili sat out the playoffs with a bum ankle appeared largely validated, as San Antonio never got anyone to step up in his absence.

For Duncan, it's the first time in his career he couldn't lead the Spurs past

the opening round.

“They had more firepower than us. They played better than us,” said Duncan, who never played in San Antonio's first-round loss in 2000 because of a knee injury. “However you want to put it, obviously they were the better team this year. That's all you can say.”

Getting to the West semifinals is a dramatic turn for the Mavericks, who were a borderline playoff team as late as March and got a public lashing from owner Mark Cuban after a listless loss to woeful Oklahoma City. Dallas pulled together to win seven of nine entering the playoffs, and has now won 11 of its last 14.

The Mavericks can also stick this to their Interstate 35 rivals: only twice in the Duncan era have the Spurs been eliminated on their home court, and both have come courtesy of Dallas.

Howard rang in his 29th birthday with 17 points, and may have permission from Carlisle to celebrate this time. Howard enraged former coach Avery Johnson last year when he didn't cancel his birthday plans

despite a blistering Mavs playoff defeat, but the party may be on coach Carlisle after this series win.

“I think (Howard) probably is our MVP of the series,” Carlisle said. “He played great. He was there for us — a lot of big plays that didn't necessarily lead to scores.”

Howard's biggest gift to the Mavs: a momentum-changing 3-pointer with 4:20 left in the third, which he celebrated by skipping down the sideline and razzing the crowd. When Jason Kidd hit another 3-pointer at the buzzer in the third, his teammates jumped from their seats and spilled onto the floor.

They could sense the victory, and the Mavs put it away in the fourth having never trailed. Terry finished with 19 points and Nowitzki finally emerged after four relatively pedestrian games.

“The big key for me was I got into a good rhythm right away,” Nowitzki said. “Made some shots, had some good looks right away, and that usually helps get the confidence up and I was able to carry through.”

The Spurs, meanwhile, end their season the same way it started: plenty of Parker and Duncan, but not much else. After combining for 75 percent of San Antonio's points in a Game 4 loss, the duo were again the only Spurs in double figures.

San Antonio lumbers into the off-season facing questions about where its team, the NBA's winningest over the last decade, goes from here. Along with the flourishes of another Southwest Division title and 10th consecutive season with 50-plus wins, there was also the ignominy of scoring the fewest points in Spurs playoffs history in a blowout Game 3 loss.

The Big Three will be back next year for the Spurs, piloting what is now a championship drought by their standards: San Antonio has been a denied an NBA finals trip the past two seasons, its longest lapse since the gap between their 1999 and 2003 titles.

“The Mavs beat the Spurs,” coach Gregg Popovich said. “They're the best team, and that's that.”

ROCKETS

Continued from Page 1B

back the lead.

Travis Outlaw and Roy padded it with a pair of 3-pointers to make it 77-68 with 5:21 to go. After Roy added a running jumper, the Rose Garden fans were on their feet, with one fan raising a sign that read “Bring down the Rockets!”

Aaron Brooks hit a running jumper to close the Rockets to 80-75, but it was as close as Houston would come.

“Obviously, our worst game of the series,” Yao said. “Hopefully, next game, execution will result in our best game.”

Portland went on a 17-4 run in the first quarter, taking a 23-13 lead on Aldridge's 18-footer. But Houston's Scola hit seven of nine shots from the floor and ended the quarter with 15 points, and the Rockets cut the deficit to 29-26 to start the second quarter.

The Blazers built a 46-36 lead late in the first half, but the Rockets closed within 48-43 on Yao's dunk. Roy finished out the half with a driving layup to give Portland a 50-43 lead.

Aldridge handed off to Joel Przybilla for a dunk to put the Blazers ahead 56-45. Houston answered with a 12-2 run, capped by Yao's jumper, to close to within 58-57.

Brooks' pull-up 3-pointer tied it at 60 and Houston finally pulled ahead on Yao's turnaround jumper that made it 66-64 early in fourth.

Roy said he finally found the “bounce” to his step in the fourth quarter. He had nine points in the first half, when the Blazers turned to Aldridge, who had 15.

“I think they noticed I wasn't feeling well, so I think they took it into their own hands,” Roy said about his teammates.

The Blazers had not been to the playoffs since 2003. Portland surprisingly clinched the Western Conference's fourth seed and home-court advantage.

The Rockets won the opener at the Rose Garden, but dropped Game 2 before returning to Houston for the next two games, both victories.

The Blazers kept it close in Game 4, but made crucial mistakes in the final two minutes for an 89-88 Rockets' win. Yao had 21 points and 12 rebounds.

Yao got off to a slow start back in Portland — he didn't even attempt a shot in the first quarter.

“I felt good when we were ahead four points,” Yao said. “But we fouled too much too early in the

fourth quarter and it left us in a bad situation in the penalty. Foul trouble killed us.”

The Rockets went to the free-throw line just 10 times in the game and made eight attempts. But coach Rick Adelman, earlier in the day fined \$25,000 for criticizing the officiating during the playoffs, kept his silence.

Portland made 16 of 23 free-throw attempts.

Notes: McMillan also was fined \$25,000 by the NBA on Tuesday for comments made about officiating during the playoff series. Asked for his reaction, McMillan said: “My mother's gone but she gave me great advice as a player: ‘Shut your mouth and do your job.’” Adelman said he had no com-

ment. Boston coach Doc Rivers also was fined over comments about officials during the playoffs. ... McMillan tinkered with his lineup a bit in the second half, starting rookie Rudy Fernandez rather than rookie Nicolas Batum.

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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

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♥ J 3 2
♦ K 10 9 2
♣ K J 4

SOUTH
♠ A K Q
♥ A Q 7 4
♦ Q 8 7 5
♣ 7 5

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 3 NT All Pass
Opening lead — three of spades.

There is a play in bridge called the Deschepelles Coup. Its fancy name may scare the everyday player half to death, but the fear is groundless, as this relatively rare play is not difficult to execute.

Indeed, it's so simple that about all that's required is the courage and acumen to take a particular card out of one's hand and place it faceup on the table. Once the plunge is taken, nature takes care of the rest.

To illustrate how the coup operates, consider East's defense against three notrump on today's deal. Declarer took East's jack of spades with the queen and led a club to dummy's queen, losing to the king. East now carefully studied dummy's imposing clubs, which would produce five tricks after the jack was forced out. He also took note of the fact that the ace of diamonds was dummy's sole entry to cash the five club tricks after they became established.


It was clear to East that if he made a routine spade return, dummy would eventually yield a total of six tricks — a number that would almost surely make three notrump impregnable.

East therefore returned the king of diamonds, a play that automatically reduced the total number of dummy's winners from six to two. Lopping off four of declarer's tricks in one fell swoop eventually proved to be more than South could withstand.

South struggled awhile but could find no way to avoid going down two. However, had East returned a spade instead of the diamond king at trick three, declarer would have made four notrump. The Deschepelles Coup proved to be just what the doctor ordered.

Tomorrow: Turning defeat into victory.
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In Sunday's
Big Spring Herald



United by loss

Since 1928, a national organization called Gold Star Mothers has been a source of support, friendship and help for moms whose children have died while serving in the U.S. military. Plus, mowing “green,” and mexican casserole.

American Profile

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ON THE BIG 1400 - KBYG

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

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Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEW

Really downsizing pre-trial bonding program good idea

Howard County commissioners' decision Monday morning that they would basically do away the pre-trial bonding system director's full-time position to create a full-time position in the Sheriff's Office was not surprising.

Needs have changed.

Nor was it any surprise the County Judge Mark Barr announced that the program and full-time director had served their purpose.

"This program, which was implemented before I came into office, was designed to alleviate overcrowding in the jail," said County Judge Mark Barr, ducking any criticism. "With the completion of our new 96-bed jail, the need for a full-time position in that office just isn't there anymore. So the commissioners and I voted to shift that position over to the Sheriff's Office.

"Mike Welling, who has headed up that office since it was created, will have his position shifted over to the Sheriff's Office, so he can take care of the pre-trial bonding, but he can also serve papers for the HCSO."

The county developed the bonding program in June 2006, shortly after the county came under fire by the Texas Jail Commission for overcrowding and failure to meet state requirements. The program was lauded as a success, keeping the number of inmates down considerably.

Did it? Guess it depends on what one's priorities are.

The program did keep the head count in the jail as low as possible, but that doesn't necessarily mean it was a success.

The result of the program was that those who habitually break the law were given a message that the county was doing everything it could to keep people from going to jail.

Why pay the fine ... or those probation fees ... Howard County isn't going to put you in jail, now are they? That's not what anyone said publicly, but it was definitely the message we as a community sent to those who break the law.

Of course, now the program will be operated differently. The county isn't killing the program totally, but obviously will be using it more sparingly in the future.

So, now that we're no longer in between the proverbial "rock and a hard place," there's no need to do our best to put criminals back on the streets.

Let's hope we as a community can be a little more progressive in the future and not put ourselves in such a predicament. After all, isn't that what we're always asking our children to do — learn from your mistakes?

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

May we clear out the deadwood of our past, Lord, and trust in our future with You.

Amen

ALIPAC using age-old tactic

Hurricane Hugo. The name may mean little to those of us out here in West Texas, but for the state of South Carolina, where I grew up, it still causes people to become quiet and reflective.

And for good reason, as the Category 5 hurricane destroyed much of the state's East Coast, killed more than 100 people and left nearly 100,000 people homeless. The city where I lived, Sumter, was nearly two hours inland and looked much like a battlefield once the winds and rains died down.

And while the lives and homes lost certainly stick in my memory, it was the men and women who tried to use the storm to take advantage of the hard working people of the area, selling them necessities for life at incredibly inflated prices, that outraged me most.

One of the hardest commodities to come by during the two-week period we were without electricity was gasoline. It could power the chainsaws and other tools necessary to clear away trees and make the roads passable, not to mention powering the vehicles and generators that we had come to count on so dearly.

However, the gas they sold at \$10 a gallon did little to sooth the spanking these businesses received from the government when the rumors of price gouging turned into state and federal matters. And while the fines had a major impact on their business, and God only knows if many of them are still open, I feel little compassion for them. There are few things as opportunistic or shameful as taking advantage of your fellow man when tragedy strikes.

I only mention this because of the recent outbreak of swine flu in neighboring Mexico and the way the Americans for Legal Immigration PAC (ALIPAC) is trying to use it as a tool of fear to accomplish its xenophobic

agenda.

Never heard of ALIPAC? That's not a surprise, considering it's just another political action committee attempting to leverage our government into meeting its demands, and the array of PACs is just as diverse as the issues they champion.

This wasn't my first run in with ALIPAC and its outspoken — that's a gentle euphemism, in case you're wondering — leader, William Gheen. About a year ago I asked Gheen to remove my Big Spring Herald e-mail address from the ALIPAC mailing list, and was immediately admonished and dismissed as just another liberal newspaper flunky and told just how "wrong" I was for not wanting to receive their press releases.

What Gheen wouldn't, and couldn't understand, however, was ALIPAC's e-mails were one of only a few I thought I could put a stop to in an effort to un-gum my e-mail's inbox.

Gheen and his group are asking the federal government to close its southern borders to what they call "non-essential traffic" and deploy military troops to prevent Mexican citizens from crossing into the U.S. illegally. They've steadily attacked President Barack Obama and Director of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano, calling the White House's reaction to the outbreak "inadequate and weak."

Simply put, Gheen and his cronies are attempting an ancient, yet very effective ploy: Use fear and disinformation to further their own causes, all the while professing the strong-arm tactics are necessary to protect the American people from some enemy.

For the Nazis, it was all about protecting people from those of Jewish descent. In fact, all we need to do is go back to the days of Christopher Columbus and the slaughter of the Native American people to understand just how effective these tactics are. Take something gruesome and horrible, dress it up in a cute bunny suit and call it Manifest Destiny.

Blankets, anyone?



THOMAS JENKINS

Secure borders necessary for Texas

More than 1,200 miles of international border snakes along the Rio Grande

through Texas, giving our state the distinction of holding more international boundary than all other states on the Mexican border combined. While this position grants Texas unmatched access to the economic benefits of international commerce and has deeply enriched our state's culture and heritage, our shared border also leaves us particularly vulnerable to the challenges associated with illegal immigration and Mexican drug trafficking organizations.

On a typical day, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials arrest 73 criminals at ports of entry, seize 7,621 pounds of narcotics, and apprehend roughly 2,796 individuals who have illegally entered the U.S. Compounding these challenges are the increasingly brazen and sophisticated threats from Mexican drug trafficking organizations. Mexican drug gangs have extended their operations into all areas of Texas and the nation. They control most of the U.S. drug market and have established ties with street gangs in American cities, including Atlanta, Chicago and New York. And as crime and violence surge along the Mexican border, Texas communities are on the front lines of this escalating threat.

More must be done at every level of government to secure our borders and ensure the continued safety and prosperity of communities in Texas and across the nation. This can only be accomplished through a

balanced strategy that includes expansive and well-trained border patrol forces, substantial infrastructure and adequate resources for local law enforcement officials. This has been an important legislative priority for me, and our efforts on this front have improved exponentially over the past 15 years. But we must continue to emphasize border security to keep up with mounting challenges.

In 1993, when I first arrived in the Senate, I was alarmed to learn that there were fewer than 3,600 Border Patrol agents assigned to the entire southern boundary of the U.S. For the next several years, I worked with my colleagues in the Senate to strengthen these forces, and, by 2000, the number of agents defending the southern border reached 8,580. We have worked to match the growing pressures on the border by continuing to expand the presence of border patrol agents. With the most recent addition of 2,200 agents this year, we have raised the total number of agents assigned to the southern border to more than 17,600. This represents an increase of nearly 500 percent since I began to serve in the Senate.

Our agents along the border are most effective when they have the resources and equipment they need to do their jobs. This year, Congress increased funding for CBP over \$10.5 billion, including \$875 million for border security fencing, infrastructure and technology. We have also worked to increase funding for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) investigators, and detention officers. Additionally, \$1 billion has been dedicated to removing deportable criminal aliens, and we have increased our capacity to detain up to 33,400 individuals daily.

As well as providing for fed-

eral law enforcement activities, we must also support the important efforts led by state and local law enforcement agencies in southern border states. I recently secured resources to aid local law enforcement in their struggle to combat criminal narcotics activity stemming from the border.

The defense provided by well-equipped border forces must be bolstered by infrastructure, which can provide an additional deterrent to breaking the law by entering our country illegally. I have consistently supported legislation to require and to fund the construction of 700 miles of fencing along the southern border. Although most of the fence is now constructed, I recently supported an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2010 Budget to ensure that future appropriations bills will fully fund construction of the remaining portions of the fence.

To help address the problem of violence in Mexico and along the border, I am a strong proponent of specialized initiatives, like Project Gunrunner, that target criminal arms smuggling organizations who are directing the illegal flow of weapons from the U.S. into the hands of the cartels in Mexico. I have cosponsored this initiative with Senator Jeff Bingaman from New Mexico.

These improvements in border protection have mitigated the flow of illegal drugs and, thus far, violence spilling over into Texas communities. But we can never declare our borders unassailable or adopt a complacent attitude toward the security of our homeland. We must vigilantly secure our borders, while working with our international partners toward the common good of our citizens.

And while ALIPAC is dead set on keeping Mexican citizens from entering the country to avoid the spread of swine flu, I've yet to hear a word from the group about keeping Americans from traveling to Mexico. Besides, many of the reported cases in America — which stands around 70 by the CDC's (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) count early this week — didn't come from immigrants crossing into the U.S., but from vacationers returning from places like Cancun.

And what about Canada and Spain? They have also reported cases of swine flu, and I dare say the flow and exchange of citizens between America and our northern neighbors is certainly considerable. Do we shut down those borders as well? Why isn't ALIPAC calling for action to be taken against these countries?

Could it be because most Canadians aren't Hispanic? Could it be because Canada isn't a country trapped in a cycle of unrest and squalor?

I'll leave that to you, the readers, to decide. But in the meantime, consider this. America was founded on the earliest principals of immigration. Columbus was an immigrant. Albert Einstein was an immigrant. Even Joseph Pulitzer was an immigrant. And, with the exception of the few Native Americans left in this country, every single one of us is the descendants of immigrants.

Does our nation's immigration policies have problems? Of course. However, once we've reached the point where we're booting people across the Rio Grande, people that came to America because it is a shining beacon of hope and a place where they can raise their children and give them a shot at a better life, who's next? Non-U.S. born Asians? Africans? Israelis?

It's a frightening picture, fueled by fear and misunderstanding.

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

It's a frightening picture, fueled by fear and misunderstanding.

Kay Bailey Hutchison is the senior U.S. Senator from Texas.

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News in brief

3 swine flu cases confirmed in Germany, WHO calls for immediate scientific review

BERLIN (AP) — Germany confirmed three cases of swine flu on Wednesday, becoming the third European country hit by the disease that has upended life in Mexico. New Zealand's swine flu total rose to 14 and the World Health Organization called for an immediate scientific review of the disease.

Germany's national disease control center, the Robert Koch Institute, said the three cases include a 22-year-old woman hospitalized in Hamburg; a man in his late 30s being treated at a hospital in Regensburg, north of Munich, and a 37-year-old woman from another southern town. All three had recently returned from Mexico.

Britain and Spain already have confirmed cases of the disease.

Swine flu is suspected of killing more than 150 people in Mexico and sickening over 2,400 there. WHO has confirmed 105 cases in seven countries, not yet including Germany. Over half of those are in the United States, but Mexico is the only country where deaths have been confirmed.

In Geneva, the U.N. health body was holding an emergency "scientific review" of the swine flu outbreak Wednesday to collect what is known about how the disease spreads, how it affects human health and how it can be treated.

Republicans warn of unchecked power by Democrats after Specter leaves the GOP

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pennsylvania Sen. Arlen Specter is a Democrat again following a decades-long turn among Republicans, a defection that has the GOP warning about the perils of unchecked power only a few years after it controlled both the White House and Congress.

"The threat to the country presented ... by this defection really relates to the issue of whether or not in the United States or America our people want the majority party to have whatever it wants without restraint, without a check or balance," Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky said Tuesday after Specter made his startling switch.

The move left Democrats with 59 votes in the Senate, and hoping that Al Franken can finally win a marathon recount in Minnesota and become their 60th. That's the number needed to overcome any Republican filibuster aimed at blocking President Barack Obama's ambitious agenda.

Even at their high point during President George W. Bush's presidency, when Republicans controlled both houses of Congress, they were well shy of 60 seats in the Senate.

But they brought the Senate to the brink of a crisis in 2005, when their leadership claimed the rules permitted them to confirm conservative judicial appointees by simple majority after they failed repeatedly to muster the strength needed to overcome Democratic filibusters.

5 French tourists killed, dozens injured in central California tour bus crash

SOLEDAD, Calif. (AP) — Luggage and bodies were left strewn around a central California highway after a bus carrying French tourists over-

turned on an overpass, killing at least five and injuring dozens.

Investigators were still trying to determine the cause of the crash Tuesday afternoon that shut down U.S. 101 for hours, but said the tour bus appeared to be the only vehicle involved.

The maroon Orion Pacific bus lay on its side after crashing into the guard rail on the two-lane southbound overpass in Soledad, about 100 miles southeast of San Francisco.

The crash ejected four passengers from the vehicle, sending one over the side of the road and onto railroad tracks 60 to 70 feet below, said California Highway Patrol spokesman Brian Wiest.

"It's a tragedy," Wiest said. "It's certainly one of the worst I've seen in a long time."

North Korea threatens nuclear, missile tests over U.N. criticism of rocket launch

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea threatened Wednesday to conduct nuclear and missile tests unless the U.N. apologizes for criticizing its April 5 rocket launch, dramatically raising its stake in the worsening standoff over its atomic programs.

Pyongyang's Foreign Ministry said in a statement the country "will be compelled to take additional self-defensive measures" unless the U.N. Security Council apologizes immediately.

"The measures will include nuclear tests and test-firings of intercontinental ballistic missiles."

North Korea is known for brinkmanship and harsh rhetoric, but it is unusual for it to threaten a nuclear test. The country conducted its first-ever atomic test blast in 2006.

The U.N. Council adopted a statement earlier this month denouncing the North's rocket launch and calling for tightening sanctions.

Pyongyang has claimed the rebuke is unfair because the liftoff was a peaceful satellite launch. But the U.S. and others believe it was a test of long-range missile technology.

Wednesday's threat came days after the North said it had begun reprocessing spent nuclear fuel rods at its Yongbyon nuclear complex — a move aimed at harvesting weapons-grade plutonium. That announcement came hours after the U.N. blacklisted three North Korean companies.

ALA: Most people in U.S. live in areas with unhealthy air-pollution levels

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Sixty percent of Americans live in areas with unhealthy air pollution levels, despite a growing green movement and more stringent laws aimed at improving air quality, the American Lung Association said in a report released Wednesday.

The public-health group ranked the pollution levels of U.S. cities and counties based on air quality measurements that state and local agencies reported to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency between 2005 and 2007.

Overall, the report found that air pollution at times reaches unhealthy levels in almost every major city and that 186.1 million people live in those areas.

The number is much higher than last year's figure of about 125 million people because recent changes to the federal ozone standard mean more

counties recognize unhealthy levels of pollution.

Health effects from air pollution include changes in lung function, coughing, heart attacks, lung cancer and premature death.

"Six out of 10 Americans right now as we speak live in areas where the air can be dirty enough to send people to the emergency room, dirty enough to shape how kids' lungs develop and even dirty enough to kill," said Janice E. Nolen, the association's assistant vice president on national policy and advocacy.

Town hall, news conference put President Obama in spotlight on 100th day in office

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House wants you to know that Wednesday is just like any other day. But for those who insist on highlighting President Barack Obama's 100th day in office, the White House will play along.

The president will mark Wednesday's milestone with two high-profile events, both designed to highlight the accomplishments of his fledgling administration.

Obama starts his day with a White House appearance with Sen. Arlen Specter, the veteran Pennsylvania Republican who is switching parties, a development the president said he was "thrilled" about.

Vice President Joe Biden, who had long encouraged his former Senate colleague to become a Democrat, also planned to attend.

Later, Obama was to hold a town hall-style meeting in Arnold, Mo., a suburb of St. Louis, where aides say he'll note discuss his first 100 days but also focus on moving his agenda forward. Obama returns to Washington in the afternoon to prepare for a prime-time news conference, his third since taking office.

Darrell West, director of governance studies at the Brookings Institution, said the White House is smart to try to take control of the message on the 100th day.

Economic decline eased in 1st quarter, raising hope recession's grip loosening

WASHINGTON (AP) — The recession's grip on the country may be letting up a bit.

The government is set to release a report Wednesday expected to show the economy shrank at a pace of 5 percent in the first three months of this year. If Wall Street analysts' forecasts are correct, the figure — while still extremely weak — would be viewed as a hopeful sign that the worst of the recession — in terms of lost economic activity — may be past.

"The recession is easing up," said John Silvia, chief economist at Wachovia. "We're probably bottoming out here in the first half of this year."

The economy in the final three months of last year logged its worst downhill slide in a quarter-century, contracting at a 6.3 percent annual rate as nervous American consumers ratcheted back spending in the face of rising unemployment, falling home values and shrinking nest eggs.

The less steep decline in economic activity anticipated by analysts in the January-March quarter is based on the expectation that shoppers at home and abroad didn't pull back quite as much at the start of this year.

First swine flu death outside of Mexico confirmed

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Mexican toddler in Texas became the first confirmed swine flu death outside of Mexico as authorities around the world struggled to contain a growing global health menace that also spread to Germany and Austria.

Giving an update on the crisis that has dominated public officials' time and caused universal anxiety, President Barack Obama said, "Every American should know that the federal government is prepared to do whatever is necessary to control this virus."

He said he wanted to extend "my thoughts and prayers" to the family of a nearly 2-year-old Mexican boy who died in Houston, the first confirmed U.S. fatality among more than five dozen infections.

Health officials in Texas said the child had traveled with his family from Mexico to Brownsville in south Texas and was brought to Houston after becoming ill and died Monday night.

"This is obviously a serious situation," and "we are closely and continuously monitoring" it, Obama said.

Meanwhile, the commandant of the Marine Corps said a Marine in southern California might have the illness and 39 Marines were being confined until tests come back. General James Conway told a Pentagon briefing an initial test indicated the sick Marine — who was

not identified — might have swine flu but his illness did not appear life-threatening.

Obama said it is the recommendation of public health officials that authorities at schools with confirmed or suspected cases of swine flu "should strongly consider temporarily closing so that we can be as safe as possible."

Obama said the federal government is "prepared to do whatever is necessary to control the impact of this virus." He noted his request for \$1.5 billion in emergency funding to ensure adequate supplies of vaccines and to help international efforts.

Germany confirmed three cases Wednesday, and Britain and Spain had reported cases earlier. New Zealand's total rose to 14.

There were also 13 cases in Canada, two in Israel, and one in Austria.

Egypt's government ordered the slaughter of all pigs in the country as a precaution, though no swine flu cases have been reported there. Egypt's overwhelmingly Muslim population does not eat pork, but farmers raise some 300,000-350,000 pigs for the Christian minority.

The disease is not spread by eating pork, and farmers were to be allowed to sell the meat from the slaughtered animals.

In the U.S., Obama said the government needs local agencies to help by looking out for

"(The federal government is) prepared to do whatever is necessary to control the impact of this virus."

U.S. President Barack Obama

any suspected flu cases.

And he advised people to take their own precautions — washing hands, staying home if they are sick, and keeping sick kids home.

The world has no vaccine to prevent infection but U.S. health officials aim to have a key ingredient for one ready in early May, the big step that vaccine manufacturers are awaiting. But even if the World Health Organization ordered up emergency vaccine supplies — and that decision hasn't been made yet — it would take at least two more months to produce the initial shots needed for human safety testing.

Dr. Richard Besser, acting head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, was asked Wednesday why the problem seems so much more severe in Mexico than in the United States.

He replied that U.S. officials "have teams on the ground, a tri-national team in Mexico, working with Canada and

Mexico, to try and understand those differences, because they can be helpful as we plan and implement our control strategies."

Cuba and Argentina banned flights to Mexico, where swine flu is suspected of killing more than 150 people and sickening well over 2,000. In a bit of good news, Mexico's health secretary, Jose Cordova, late Tuesday called the death toll there "more or less stable."

Mexico City, one of the world's largest cities, has taken drastic steps to curb the virus' spread, starting with shutting down schools and on Tuesday expanding closures to gyms and swimming pools and even telling restaurants to limit service to takeout. People who venture out tend to wear masks in hopes of protection.

The number of confirmed swine flu cases in the United States included 45 in New York, 11 in California, six in Texas, two in Kansas and one each in Indiana and Ohio, but cities and states suspected more. In New York, the city's health commissioner said "many hundreds" of schoolchildren were ill at a school where some students had confirmed cases.

Authorities sought to keep the crisis in context: Flu deaths are common around the world. In the U.S. alone, the CDC says about 36,000 people a year die of flu-related causes. The regular flu

kills just under 100 U.S. children every winter — 73 in the 2006-2007 flu season. Still, the CDC calls the new strain a combination of pig, bird and human viruses for which people may have limited natural immunity.

Hence the need for a vaccine. Using samples of the flu taken from people who fell ill in Mexico and the U.S., scientists are engineering a strain that could trigger the immune system without causing illness. The hope is to get that ingredient — called a "reference strain" in vaccine jargon — to manufacturers around the second week of May, so they can begin their own laborious production work, said CDC's Dr. Ruben Donis, who is leading that effort.

Vaccine manufacturers are just beginning production for next winter's regular influenza vaccine, which protects against three human flu strains. The WHO wants them to stay with that course for now — it won't call for mass production of a swine flu vaccine unless the outbreak worsens globally. But sometimes new flu strains pop up briefly and the end of one flu season and go away only to re-emerge the next fall, and at the very least there should be a vaccine in time for next winter's flu season, Dr. Anthony Fauci, the National Institutes of Health's infectious diseases chief, said Tuesday.

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The Prudential Insurance
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Wacky Facts

- Cinco de Mayo, which means "the fifth of May," is a national holiday in Mexico, but in the United States it has become a day to celebrate Mexican culture.
- The Cinco de Mayo festival in Chandler, Ariz., is known for its Chihuahuas! There's a Chihuahua parade, race and crowning of the King and Queen Chihuahuas. — kaboose.com



KID NEWS



Chatter Box

"I don't know if I would've had the opportunity to be on 'Wizards of Waverly Place' if it weren't for my heritage. I realize everybody wants what they don't have. But at the end of the day, what you have inside is much more beautiful than what's on the outside!"

— Actress Selena Gomez,
on being a Hispanic actress, on tv.com.

Puzzle Play

Cinco de Mayo puzzle

These two kids are ready for a Cinco de Mayo celebration, which marks the victory of the Mexican army over French troops at the Battle of Puebla in 1862. Can you find five things different in these two photos?



DALLAS MORNING NEWS/MCT



ANSWERS: GREEN RIBBON IN HAIR, STITCHING ON BOY'S SLEEVE, PURPLE FLOWER ON DRESS, BOY'S THUMB MISSING

PUZZLE BY JENNIFER PRITCHARD/MCT



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FAMILYFUN MAGAZINE

EDIBLE FLAG FOR CINCO DE MAYO

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo and eat your veggies with healthy crudité's in the colors of the Mexican bandera nacional, or national flag. Arrange pea pods, jicama sticks, and red pepper strips on a platter as shown, then center a green pepper ring and the bottom of an orange pepper on top. Set out your snack with dips in the same festive colors: green guacamole, white ranch dressing, and red salsa.

A fiesta of fun

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo with these great ideas from FamilyFun magazine!

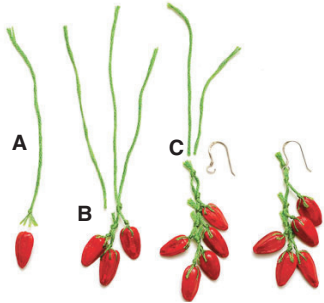
RED-HOT EARRINGS
FOR CINCO DE MAYO

Spice up your jewelry collection by turning sunflower seeds into mini Mexican ristras, strings of dried chilis said to bring good fortune.

For each pair, use a cotton swab to paint 10 unshelled sunflower seeds with red acrylic paint, then set them on waxed paper to dry. Cut green embroidery floss into ten 4-inch-long pieces. Tie a knot in each piece, about 1/4-inch from one end.

Use your finger to spread tacky glue around the wide end of a seed. Splay the short end of a piece of floss and press the threads onto the glue (A). Repeat this process with all the seeds and let the glue dry.

For each earring, knot together two strings and trim one about 1/8 inch above the knot. Tie on another string (B) and again trim one just above the knot. Continue in this manner until you have a bunch with five peppers. Trim the last strings and attach the ristra to an earring wire (C).



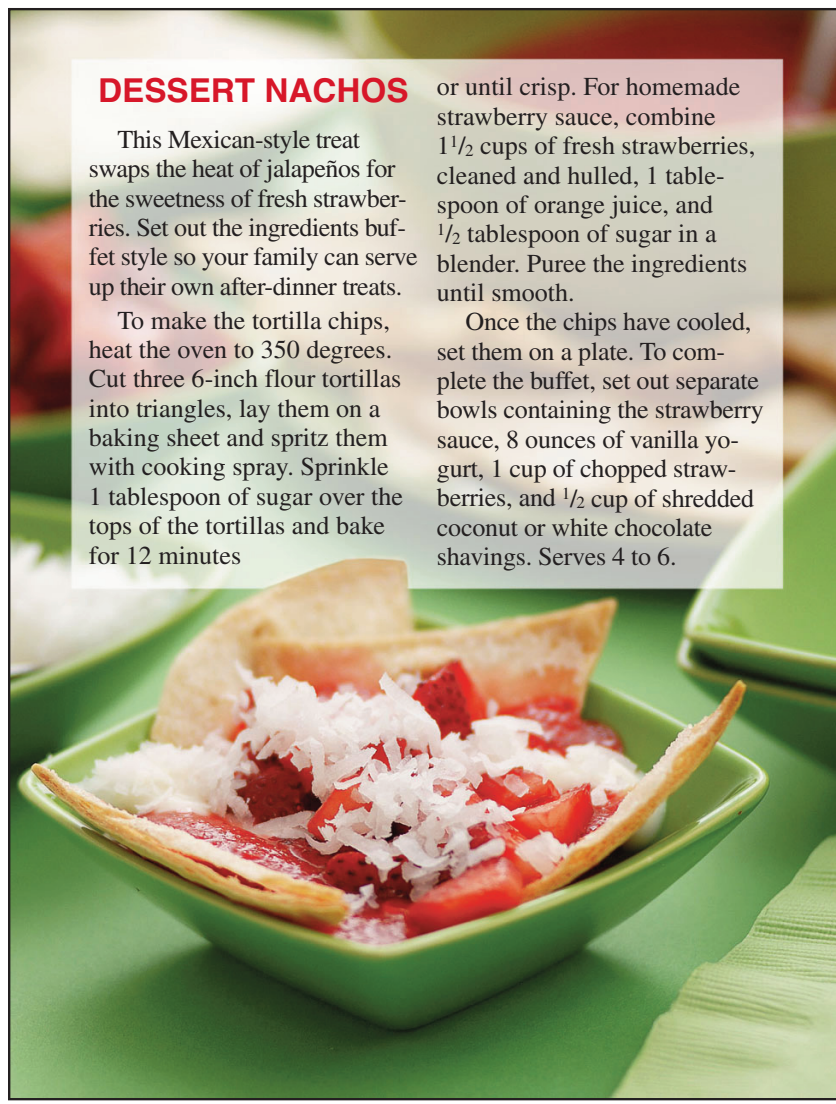
DESSERT NACHOS

This Mexican-style treat swaps the heat of jalapeños for the sweetness of fresh strawberries. Set out the ingredients buffet style so your family can serve up their own after-dinner treats.

To make the tortilla chips, heat the oven to 350 degrees. Cut three 6-inch flour tortillas into triangles, lay them on a baking sheet and spritz them with cooking spray. Sprinkle 1 tablespoon of sugar over the tops of the tortillas and bake for 12 minutes

or until crisp. For homemade strawberry sauce, combine 1 1/2 cups of fresh strawberries, cleaned and hulled, 1 tablespoon of orange juice, and 1/2 tablespoon of sugar in a blender. Puree the ingredients until smooth.

Once the chips have cooled, set them on a plate. To complete the buffet, set out separate bowls containing the strawberry sauce, 8 ounces of vanilla yogurt, 1 cup of chopped strawberries, and 1/2 cup of shredded coconut or white chocolate shavings. Serves 4 to 6.



Teachers' treasured gifts

The Scoop

Take time to honor your teacher on National Teacher Day, May 5. If you're looking for ideas on how to show your appreciation, check out these favorite gifts teachers received and still treasure.

THE CLASS RECIPE BOOK

"My class made a recipe book one year — they all contributed a favorite family dish and made them into a book. I still use it. I also loved a child's school photo in a handmade, decorated frame. One child made me a bowl on her father's pottery wheel. I have pot-pourri in it right now, 20 years later." — Billie Lewis, second-grade teacher for 28 years, Ocean City, N.J.

A CULTURAL ICON

"It's wonderful to receive gifts that represent a child's culture. One of my South American students gave me a gourd with a little folk-art nativity scene inside — it was

just beautiful, and I had never seen anything like it before." — Barbara Kiefer, associate professor at Teachers' College, New York

A PLANT CUTTING

"Parents from some cultures feel they need to give an expensive gift — I've had parents buy me a new dress, and then I had to convince them to take it back. The best gifts are simple ones, such as a cutting of a plant from home (repotted for the teacher), a bouquet of tissue-paper and pipe-cleaner flowers, or a Popsicle-stick picture frame." — Terri Rosegrant, kindergarten teacher, Glen Carlyn Elementary School, Arlington, Va.



MICHELLE HAZELWOOD/THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER/MCT

A PHOTO ALBUM

"My favorite gift is a book put together by the class, with snapshots of all the children and

their thoughts on what is special about their school and teacher. It's priceless." — Pam Stephens, director of La Canada Community Center Preschool, La Canada, Calif.

GIFT THIS, NOT THAT

You might want to skip the bath beads, perfume, wallets, handkerchiefs, desk calendars and coffee mugs. Instead, ask what your teacher would like to have for the classroom. Consider books and software that fit the class curriculum or maybe equipment such as a constellation map, terrarium or globe. Office supplies like pencils, copier paper and markers are almost always appreciated. Or better yet, give a gift card to an office supply store.

According to an online poll by the National Education Association (NEA), nearly half of all teachers responded that a simple "thank you" was all they needed to feel appreciated.

— FamilyFun magazine and Jennifer Pritchard, MCT
SOURCES: FAMILYFUN.COM, WWW.NEA.ORG

Seeing Stars

Hannah Montana's
cool new gear

What's the perfect way to gear up for "Hannah Montana: The Movie"? Hannah Montana accessories, of course!

With affordable items like Hannah Montana singing dolls (\$21.99) and Hannah Montana iPod dock and amp (\$69.99), you can sing along to your favorite songs day and night. You can even play your own with Hannah Montana acoustic guitars (\$99-\$149).

With shoes, dresses and tops, you can dress

like Hannah in items that are stylish, yet funky. The room décor ranges from bedspreads to nightstands, and everything in between. You can even get Hannah Montana personal care items for \$1, which includes nail polish, body shimmer and fragrance.

The items can be found at stores like Target, Wal-Mart, Best Buy and Toys R Us. Prices range from \$1 (lip gloss, body shimmer) to \$729 (a twin bed!).

— Maura Dieringer



Why not check this out? At the library

Some great non-fiction materials have come in. First of all, from the grand old newspaper, *The New York Times*, comes "Obama: The Historic Journey" (OVERSIZED 973.932 NEW Y). It is pulled (obviously) from the pages of that newspaper and its photographers. Filled with candid photos from the campaign and prose from the newspaper, it is fascinating to read.



HOLLIS McCRIGHT

Next come three very different books. The first one is "The Search for John F. Kennedy's PT 109" (940.545 BAL R), written by Robert D. Ballard. Published by National Geographic, Ballard is an eminent undersea explorer and this is the story of his search for PT 109. At 2:20 a.m. Aug. 2, 1943, JFK's boat is cut in half by a ship racing at 40 knots to Rabaul. Kennedy must swim for his life, sustaining a back injury that would plague him all of his life. This is an absorbing account of the war in the Pacific that many people participated in. My dad was a Navy pilot, and I remember being impressed that he could virtually dress in the dark, tying his tie in blackout conditions, inserting his officer bars in his uniform almost blindfolded. He also developed a dislike of ketchup and coffee. He would tell us that returning from flights late at night, all was left of the coffee was black sludge, and he couldn't

understand why anyone would want to drink that; and ketchup was to kill the taste of the eggs.

Next is "The Lonely Soldier: The Private War of Women Serving in Iraq" (956.704 BEN H), by Helen Benedict. Benedict tells the stories of five women who fought in Iraq between 2003 and 2006. She follows them from their childhoods to their enlistments, then takes them through their training, to war and home again, all the while setting the war's events in context.

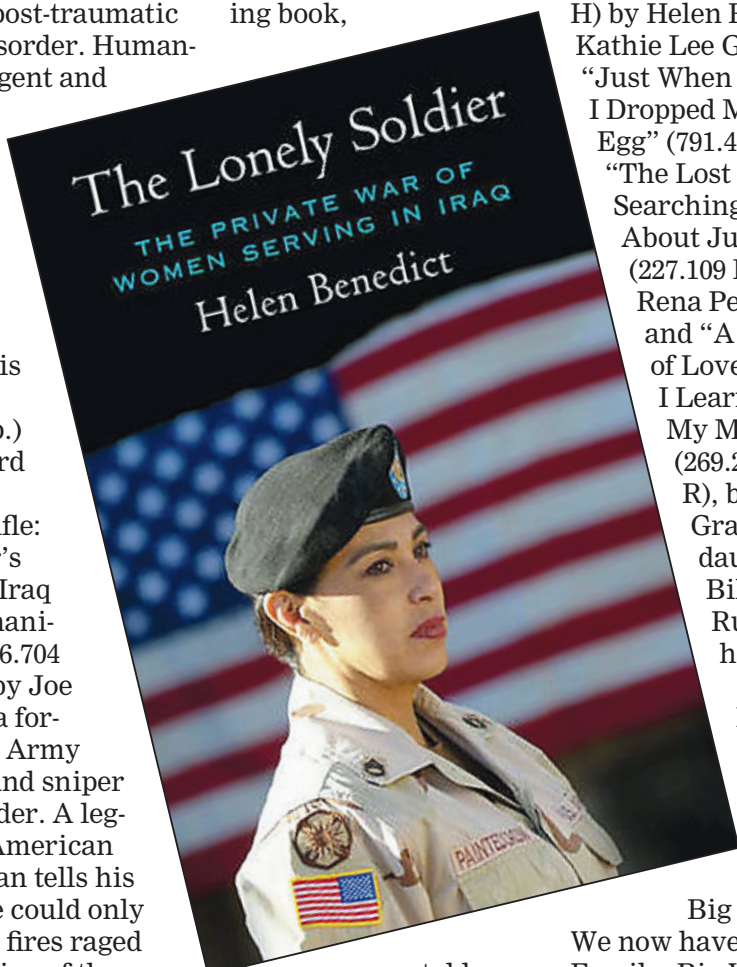
We meet Jen, white and from a working-class town in the heartland, who still shakes from her wartime traumas; Abbie, who rebelled against a household of liberal Democrats by enlisting in the National Guard; Mickiela, a Mexican American who grew up with a family entangled in L.A. gangs; Terris, an African American mother from D.C. whose childhood was torn by violence; and Eli PaintedCrow, who joined the military to follow Native American tradition and to escape a life of Faulknerian hardship.

Between these stories, Benedict weaves those of the 40 other Iraq War veterans she interviewed, illuminating the complex issues of war and misogyny, class, race, homopho-

bia and post-traumatic stress disorder. Humanizing, urgent and powerful, this book is a clarion call for change. (Review is from the book flap.)

The third book is "Long Rifle: A Sniper's Story in Iraq and Afghanistan" (956.704 LEB J), by Joe LeBleu, a former U.S. Army Ranger and sniper team leader. A legendary American marksman tells his story. He could only watch as fires raged in the ruins of the World Trade Center Sept. 11, 2001. But on that day, standing in lower Manhattan, LeBleu knew what he had to do — return to active duty. By the time he received another honorable discharge in 2005 — as a sergeant, paratrooper and sniper team leader — he had become known as "Long Rifle" for shooting an Iraqi insurgent at 1,100 meters in Fallujah. That single shot remains the farthest by any American or British sniper in Iraq. As 9/11 altered the terrain of so many lives, it shaped that of Joe LeBleu. An absorb-

ing book,



told from the point of view of a soldier.

More non-fiction: "The Last Days of the Romanovs" (947.083 RAP

H) by Helen Rappaport; Kathie Lee Gifford's, "Just When I Thought I Dropped My Last Egg" (791.450 GIF L); "The Lost Apostle: Searching for Truth About Junia" (227.109 PED R) by Rena Pederson; and "A Legacy of Love: Things I Learned From My Mother" (269.209 GRA R), by Ruth Graham, the daughter of Billy and Ruth Graham.

The Roloff Family has a show on TLC called "Little People, Big World."

We now have "Little Family, Big Values" (306.870 ROL M) collectively written by them.

It is a collection of stories from their lives, the decisions they make

and why they made them. I enjoy watching the show, and have learned a lot from them.

Our Web site is www.howard-county.lib.tx.us. Johnny is tinkering with it, and we will begin adding items to the calendar, book reviews, cool sites to visit and anything else we can think of. You can reach Johnny at the reference desk at hclref@hotmail.com.

Plans are being made for the Summer Reading Program. Donna is preparing crafts, speakers, projects and other fun things for young readers to enjoy. SRP will be held in the basement children's room each Tuesday at 10:15 a.m. during the month of June. Children who are in Pre-k to grade 6 may begin registering May 1; registration ends May 31.

Hollis McCright is director of the Howard County Library.

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| <p>2009 Ford F150 4.6 V-8, Automatic CD, Trailer Tow, Cruise Control MSRP \$22,535 Less \$4,009.70* Your Price \$18,525³⁰ STK# 2190</p> | <p>2008 Ford F250 Supercab Powerstroke Diesel XLT 6.4, Camper Pkg., Sirius Satellite, 6 Disc CD, Privacy Glass, Automatic. MSRP \$42,650 Less \$11,428.38* Your Price \$31,221⁶² STK# 1910</p> |
|--|---|

*Dealer obtains all cust. cash back and must finance thru FMCC. *Prices do not include Tax, Title and License.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week
25 years of Rebuilding Lives
 April 26 - May 2, 2009

VICTIM SERVICES OF BIG SPRING PRESENTS:

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

WHEN: APRIL 27TH, 2009 AT 4:00 P.M.

WHERE: FIRST FLOOR OF THE HOWARD COUNTY COURTHOUSE

PROCLAMATION PRESENTED BY: MAYOR RUSS McEWEN

GUEST SPEAKERS: DWAYNE AND BONNIE WHEAT AND SANDY ALLEN:

FAMILIES OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WILL PRESENT THE DEVASTATING EFFECTS OF THE CRIME COMMITTED ON THEIR FAMILY.

COMMUNITY WELCOMED AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND TO BRING HONOR TO SURVIVORS OF CRIME.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT VICTIM SERVICES OF BIG SPRING *432-263-3312*

Bob Brock
Ford Lincoln & Mercury
 500 W. 4th St. 267-7424



April 23, members of the Greater Big Spring Rotary Club presented library books to Bauer Elementary School.

Courtesy photo



Courtesy photos
At left, Grady High School University Interscholastic League students competing in the state academic meet are Eva Dyck, Editorial Writing and News Writing and Maxwell Kennady, Social Studies. At right, Grady seventh grade students who recently participated in the Duke University Talent Identification Program were, left to right, Kristen Blocker, Billy Froese and Bernadette Adkins. Bernadette qualified for the Duke Tip's State recognition ceremony to be held in early June.



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Courtesy photo

On April 17, the Greater Big Spring Rotary Club recognized Charlene Stanley of Forsan High School as the March student of the month. Pictured with Charlene are Greater Big Spring Rotary club member Amy Vidal, A.J. and Sherrie Stanley, parents, and Forsan ISD counselor Angie Huckabee.

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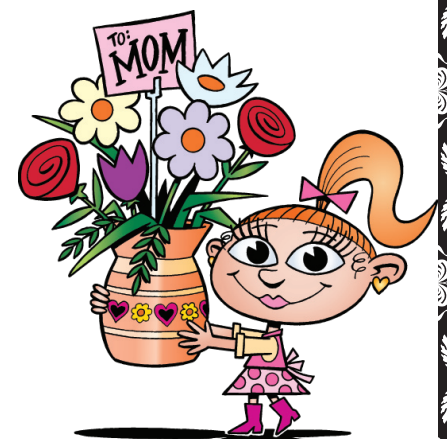
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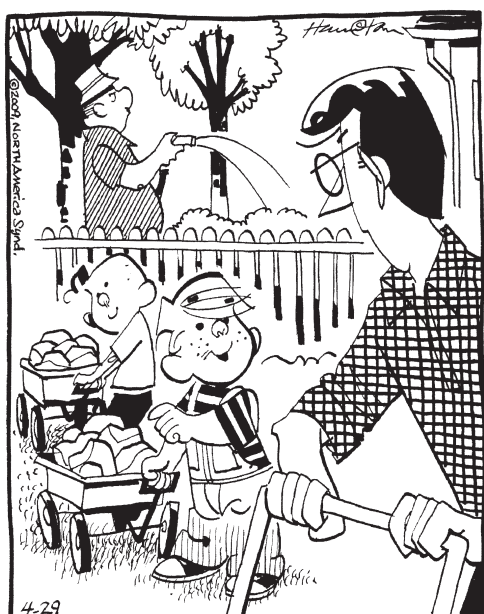


Hurry In Before May 10th 263-7331, ext. 226

176341

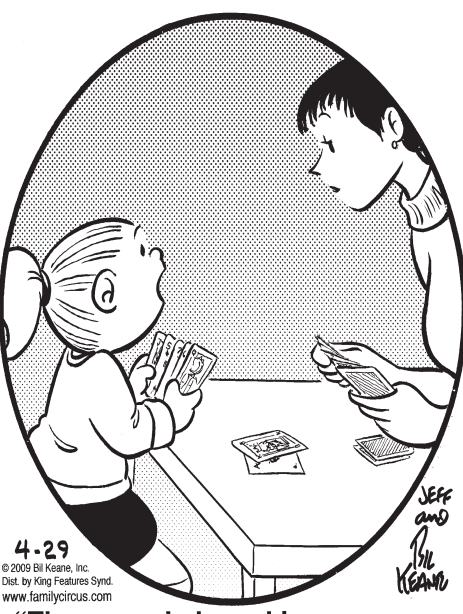
| | WFAA (2) Dallas | KMID (3) Midland | UNI (4) Spanish | KPEJ (5) Odessa | KOSA (7) Odessa | KTLE (8) Telemundo | KWES (9) Midland | WTBS (11) Atlanta | KMLM (12) Odessa | KPBT (13) Odessa | DISC (20) Discovery | AMC (21) Classics | SPIKE (22) Spike TV | TNT (23) Atlanta | BET (26) Black Ent. | DISN (27) Disney | ESPN2 (28) Sports | ESPN (29) Sports |
|-------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|---|----------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 5:PM | News | News | Locura | Lopez | News | Noticias | News | Raymond | Cortes | BBC | Cash Cab | Movie: Catwoman, Sharon Stone | CSI: NY | Bones | 106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live | Phineas | Horn | SportsCenter |
| 6:PM | News | Jeopardy! | Tontas Cielo | Lopez | CBS | Noticiero | News | Friends | Harris | Business | Cash Cab | CSI: Crime Scn | NBA Basketball: First Round -- Teams TBA. | Montana | Suite Life | Interrupt | MLB Baseball: USBC Queen's | Baseball: Teams to Be Announced. |
| 7:PM | Entertain | Fortune | Two Men | Entertain | Entertain | Millionaire | Doña Barbara | Payne | House | Secrets of the Dead | Time Warp | Movie: The Negotiator, David Morse | CSI: Crime Scn | UFC Unleashed | Movie: Never Die Alone, Michael Ealy | Phineas | PBA Bowling | |
| 8:PM | Scrub | Scrub | Cuidado-Ángel | Lie to Me | Christine | El Rostro de Analia | Law & Order: SVU | Payne | Light of the Southwest | Cry for Help | MythBusters | Legacy of War | Pitchmen | The Ultimate Fighter | Game | Wizards | Boxing | Baseball Tonight |
| 9:PM | Lost | Lost | Mañana es | American Idol | Criminal Minds | Sin Senos | Law & Order | Payne | Israel | Charlie Rose | Time Warp | Movie: Road House, Sam Elliott | Deadliest Warrior | TBA. | Movie: Never Die Alone, Michael Ealy | Suite Life | Boxing | SportsCenter |
| 10:PM | News | News | Impacto | Raymond | News | Noticiero | News | Sex & Dr. Young | Israel | Charlie Rose | Time Warp | Movie: Road House, Sam Elliott | Deadliest Warrior | TBA. | Movie: Never Die Alone, Michael Ealy | Suite Life | Boxing | SportsCenter |
| 11:PM | News | News | Impacto | Raymond | News | Noticiero | News | Sex & Dr. Young | Israel | Charlie Rose | Time Warp | Movie: Road House, Sam Elliott | Deadliest Warrior | TBA. | Movie: Never Die Alone, Michael Ealy | Suite Life | Boxing | SportsCenter |
| 12:AM | News | News | Impacto | Raymond | News | Noticiero | News | Sex & Dr. Young | Israel | Charlie Rose | Time Warp | Movie: Road House, Sam Elliott | Deadliest Warrior | TBA. | Movie: Never Die Alone, Michael Ealy | Suite Life | Boxing | SportsCenter |
| 1:AM | News | News | Impacto | Raymond | News | Noticiero | News | Sex & Dr. Young | Israel | Charlie Rose | Time Warp | Movie: Road House, Sam Elliott | Deadliest Warrior | TBA. | Movie: Never Die Alone, Michael Ealy | Suite Life | Boxing | SportsCenter |

DENNIS THE MENACE



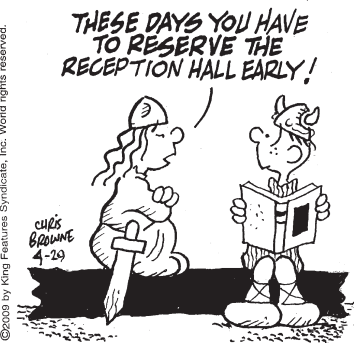
"CHECK THIS OUT, DAD. MR. WILSON SAID WE COULD HAVE ALL THE ROCKS WE WANTED."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

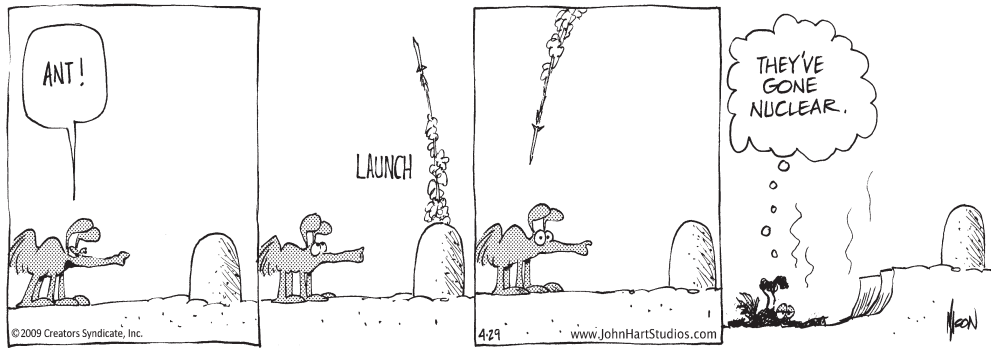


"These cards have kings, queens and jacks. Where are the jills?"

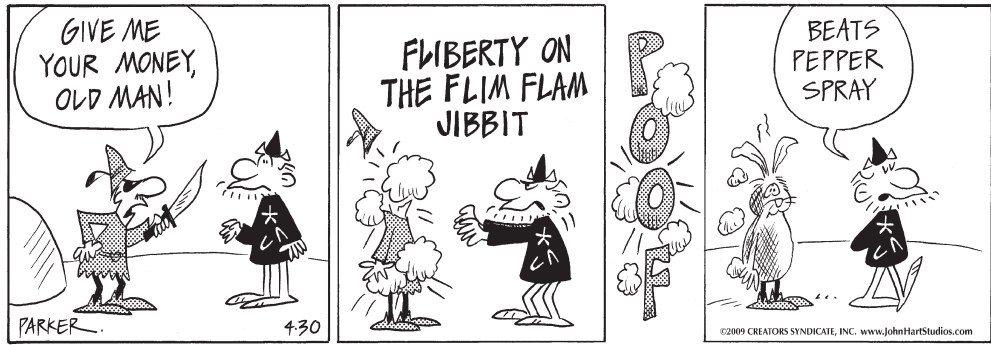
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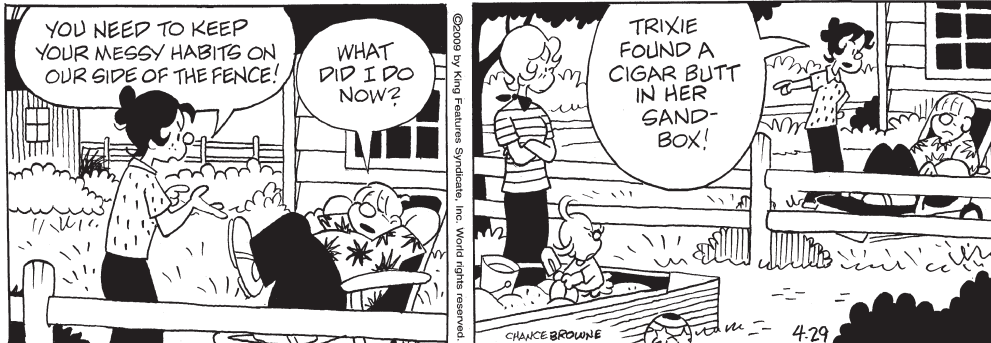
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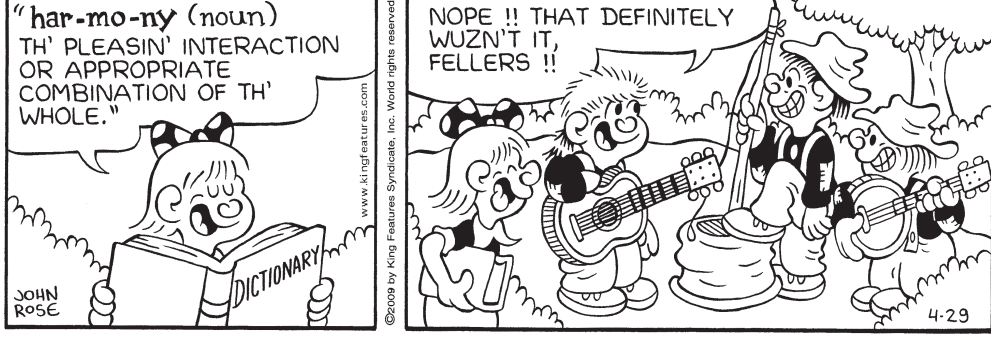
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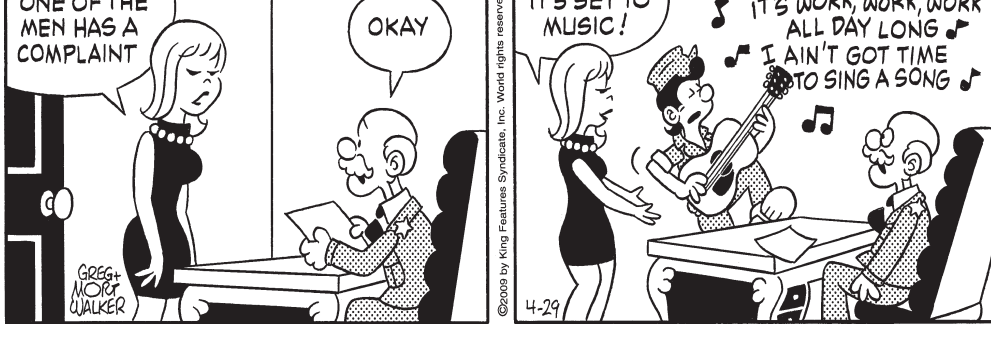
THE OTHER COAST



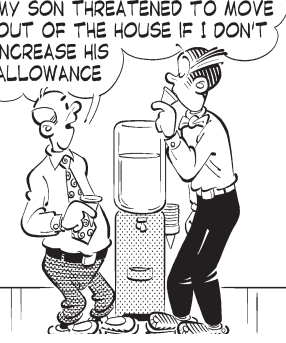
SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, April 29, the 119th day of 2009. There are 246 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 29, 1945, during World War II, American soldiers liberated the Dachau concentration camp; the same day, Adolf Hitler married Eva Braun and designated Adm. Karl Doenitz president.

On this date: In 1429, Joan of Arc entered the besieged city of Orleans to lead a French victory over the English.

In 1798, Joseph Haydn's oratorio "The Creation" was rehearsed in Vienna, Austria, before an invited audience.

In 1861, Maryland's House of Delegates voted against seceding from the Union.

In 1901, Japanese Emperor Hirohito was born in Tokyo.

In 1916, the Easter Rising in Dublin collapsed as Irish nationalists surrendered to British authorities.

In 1946, 28 former Japanese officials went on trial in Tokyo as war criminals; seven ended up being sentenced to death.

In 1968, the counterculture musical "Hair" opened on Broadway following limited engagements off-Broadway.

In 1974, President Richard M. Nixon announced he was releasing edited transcripts of some secretly made White House tape recordings related to Watergate.

In 1983, Harold Washington was sworn in as the first black mayor of Chicago.

In 1992, deadly rioting erupted in Los Angeles after a jury in Simi Valley, Calif., acquitted four Los Angeles police officers of almost all state charges in the videotaped beating of Rodney King.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Celeste Holm is 92. R&B singer Carl Gardner (The Coasters) is 81. Poet Rod McKuen is 76. Actor Keith Baxter is 76. Bluesman Otis Rush is 75. Conductor Zubin Mehta is 73. Pop singer Bob Miranda (The Happenings) is 67. Country singer Duane Allen (The Oak Ridge Boys) is 66. Singer Tommy James is 62. Movie director Phillip Noyce is 59.

Country musician Wayne Secrest (Confederate Railroad) is 59. Comedian Jerry Seinfeld is 55. Actor Leslie Jordan is 54. Actress Kate Mulgrew is 54. Actor Daniel Day-Lewis is 52. Actress Michelle Pfeiffer is 51. Actress Eve Plumb is 51. Rock musician Phil King is 49. Country singer Stephanie Bentley is 46. Singer Carnie Wilson (Wilson Phillips) is 41. Actress Uma Thurman is 39. Tennis player Andre Agassi is 39. Rapper Master P is 39. Country singer James Bonamy is 37. Gospel/R&B singer Erica Campbell (Mary Mary) is 37. Rock musician Mike Hogan (The Cranberries) is 36. Actor Tyler Labine is 31.

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Answer to previous puzzle

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | A | P | S | E | M | E | N | D | O | G | R | E |
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Newsday Crossword

WOODWORKING by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Diet-drink expression | 1 Prestigious prize |
| 6 Court statement | 2 Chicago hub |
| 10 Coll. math course | 3 Christmas candies |
| 14 Tara family name | 4 Boat in Genesis |
| 15 Sunup direction | 5 Experimenter's garb |
| 16 From (completely) | 6 Rings out |
| 17 ATM site | 7 Swimmer's assignment |
| 19 Galileo's city | 8 Upper-left key |
| 20 Bard's "before" | 9 Letter earners |
| 21 Old king of rhyme | 10 Skipper's journal |
| 22 Second of two | 11 Keep (persist) |
| 24 Landlords, e.g. | 12 Get whupped |
| 26 Wife of Zeus | 13 Corporate honcho |
| 27 Rome's Appian | 18 Gilmore Girls girl |
| 28 Squealers | 23 Sound of a bark |
| 32 Footnote abbr. | 25 Operator's post, once |
| 35 24-karat | 26 Sultan's pride |
| 36 Taboo act | 28 Accumulate, as a bill |
| 37 Tooth part | 29 "Just say ___ drugs" |
| 38 Sommelier's stock | 30 Had down pat |
| 39 Crockpot fare | 31 Female porkers |
| 40 Gator's cousin | 32 Black-and-white predator |
| 41 Homecoming returnee | 33 Cruise stop |
| 42 Does post-snowfall work | 34 Codger |
| 43 Above all others | 35 Drone aircraft's lack |
| 45 Reporter's question | 38 Heatable mattress |
| 46 Borscht veggie | 42 Sentence parts |
| 47 Guinness adjective | 44 Extra-wide |
| 51 President, at times | 45 Urban district |
| 54 Bar mitzvah dance | 47 Credit-union offerings |
| 55 Mauna | 48 Untouchable Ness |
| 56 Plane measure | 49 Super, in Hollywood-speak |
| 57 Diner freebie | 50 Already in use |
| 60 Arena section | 51 Vintners' vessels |
| | 52 Toledo's lake |
| | 53 Many an MTV viewer |
| | 54 YOU ARE |
| | 58 2008 World Series player |
| | 59 Dam-building agcy. |