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Task force jails 21

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Most are arrested on cocaine-related charges

By THOMAS JENKINS

VOLUME 104, NUMBER 132

Staff Writer

Nearly two dozen local residents found themselves in jail Sunday — most on cocainerelated charges — as the Big Spring Police Department Nar-

cotics Task Force — along with several other agencies — executed a number of warrants.

According to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer for the BSPD, the investigation began months ago and isn't

"These warrants were executed by the BSPD Narcotics unit, along with assistance from the BSPD Criminal Investigations Division, Howard County Sheriff's Office and the Drug Enforcement Administration, said Everett. "The investiga-

tion has been ongoing for the past several months and more arrests will follow." Among those arrested as the

result of Sunday's roundup · Aaron Barnes, 20, delivery

of cocaine (second-degree felo-

· Jose Cantu, 27, delivery of cocaine (first-degree felony)

• Juan Cantu, 47, delivery of cocaine (state jail felony) and delivery of cocaine (first-de-

See **WARRANTS**, Page 3



Howard County election clerks Jo Mayhall, left, Suzanne Markwell and Joanne Sayles prepare for early voters Tuesday afternoon on the third floor of the County Courthouse. The voter turnout thus far has been extremely weak, according to election officials, with early voting ending today at 7 p.m.

Early voting ends today

Polls open until 7 p.m. in Big Spring and Coahoma

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Early voting in this year's city and school board elections ends tonight at 7 p.m., as local election officials prepare to complete balloting Saturday. According to Saundra Bloom, How-

ard County elections administrator, her office will wrap up early voting which is being held on the third floor of the county courthouse — at 7 p.m. "This is the last day for early vot-

ing, and the hours have been extended from the normal 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. hours to 7 a.m. until 7 p.m., so we're really hoping voters will take advantage of it," said Bloom. "A lot of people simply can't get away from work to cast their ballot during the day, so this gives them a chance to beat the lines on election day, which is Saturday."

There seems to be some question just how long lines will be at the polls Saturday, with early voting totals a

rather sketchy indicator. "Early voting has been pretty slow this year," said Bloom. "We've seen ly hard to say what's going to happen

On the ballot

Big Spring City Council District 2: Manuel Ramirez Jr. (I), Raul

Marquez and Terena Rustman District 4: Gloria McDonald (I), John Huck Huckabee and Joyce Crooker District 6: Steve Campbell, Terry Hansen and Bahola B. Deleon

Coahoma City Council

Two at-large seats: Elmer F. Lindsey, Ray

Lee, Ronnie Dodson and Jay D. Holt Mayor: Linda Luce, Warren Wallace **Big Spring ISD Board of Trustees**

District 2: Maria V. Padilla (I) and Edwin

Coahoma ISD Board of Trustees Three at-large seats: Alan Wright (I), Kirk Allen (I), Brian Moore, and Jody Reid (I).

Sands CISD Board of Trustees Three at-large seats: Amy Parker (I). Tommy Staggs (I), Wes Hughes, Nate Avey,

Matt Snell, Rick Timmins and Bill Barnes. around 3 to 4 percent of the registered voters in each race come in and vote

early, which is really low. So it's real-

on election day. Either everyone will wait until then and we'll be swamped, or we'll see the same sort of numbers trickle in as we've seen with early vot-In addition to the extended hours

today at the courthouse, Bloom said there will be branch voting held at the Coahoma Community Center, also from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. In this year's election, the District

2 seat on the Big Spring City Council features incumbent Councilman Manuel Ramirez Jr., who is taking on challengers Terena Rustman and Raul Marquez. Ramirez isn't the only incumbent defending a seat on the Big Spring Council, as District 4 Councilwoman Gloria McDonad is taking on challengers Joyce Crooker and John Huck Huckabee. The District 6 seat, which is current-

ly held by Greg Biddison, who decided no to run for re-election, is also up for grabs. The contest has drawn three candidates, as local residents Terry

See **VOTE**, Page 3

50th

Nursing program sets celebration Wednesday night

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

A half-century of nursing service will

be celebrated Wednesday. The Howard College Licensed Vocation Nursing program will hold its 50th anniversary celebration from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. at the Hall Center for the Arts

on the HC campus. Three of the four directors in the program's history will speak during the reception, which will also give program

See NURSING, Page 3

Coahoma offers pre-registration for kindergarten

Special to the Herald

COAHOMA — Coahoma Elementary School is offering parents the opportunity to pre-register children for kindergarten May 12 through May 14.

To be eligible for the kindergarten program a child must be five years of age on or before Sept. 1, 2009. The district provides full-day kindergarten from 7:55 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Officials ask parents of prospective

See COAHOMA, Page 3



To reach us: Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If

you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 6 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. Sunday.



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Obituaries

H. P. Gent

H. P. Gent, 83, of Big Spring, died Monday, May 4, 2009, in a local nursing home. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, May 6, 2009, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Doug Shelley, pastor of Eastside Baptist Church, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial

He was born Nov. 21, 1925, in Vernon and married Vera Briscoe Sept. 14, 1964, in Big Spring. She preceded him in death Jan. 17, 1990.

H.P. came to Big Spring in 1928 with his family. He had worked for Union Pacific for 41 years as a conductor/brakeman. He was a Baptist. He was a member of the VFW and served his country in the United States Navy during World War II in the

Survivors include one son and daughter-in-law, Pat and Donna Gent of Corsicana; three granddaughters; two great-grandchildren; one brother, Bill Gent of Big Spring; and one sister, Margie Cole-

He was also preceded in death by one brother and

The family suggests memorials be made to Crossroads Hospice, P.O. Box 587 Big Spring 79721.

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

Police blotter

following activity between 7 a.m. Monday and 7 • TAMMY HERNANDEZ, 27, of 1403 Stanford, was

The Big Spring Police Department reported the

arrested Monday on 14 local warrants.

- JOHNNY LARA, 20, of 1011 Scurry, was arrested Monday on a charge of manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance.
- FELIX JARAMILLO, 30, of 1906 Johnson, was arrested Monday on a charge of failure to identify giving false information.
- LONNELL LOTT, 48, of 2911 W. Highway 80 Apt. 153, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- THEFT was reported in the 2300 block of Was-
- POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA was reported in the 200 block of Marcy.
- POSSESSION OF A DANGEROUS DRUG was reported in the 200 block of Marcy.
- POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE was reported in the 1500 block of Sycamore.
- FAILURE TO IDENTIFY GIVING FALSE IN-FORMATION was reported in the 1000 block of
- EVADING ARREST/DETENTION WITH A VE-HICLE was reported in the 700 block of 13th Street.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 1300 block of Tucson.
- BURGLARY OF A BUILDING was reported in the 1300 block of Runnels.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported:
- in the 1900 block of N. Highway 87. in the 1300 block of Tucson.
- AGGRAVATED ASSAULT was reported in the 2500 block of Merrily.

Take Note

- •The Salvation Army has funding for Texas military personnel who have served or are currently serving in Iraq or Afghanistan and their families. Apply at the Salvation Army, 511 W. Fifth St. These funds were granted by the TRIAD Fund of Permian Basin Area Foundation.
- We are currently seeking Class of 1999 classmates from Big Spring High School. Our 10-year reunion will be Sept. 18-19. Please send your mailing information to bshs1999@gmail.com to receive information on the reunion or contact Jennifer Davidson at (432) 213-0257.
- The Big Spring High School Class of 1989 is looking for members to attend a 20-year reunion in September. Contact Christy Alexander Brown at (972) 567-8037 or Irma Moreno Garcia at (432) 816-5321 with your updated information.
- · Mobile Meals needs volunteers. If you can donate one hour per week to our organization delivering meals between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m., you will be helping the senior citizens of Big Spring. Contact Macaria Cantu at 263-4016
- The Family History Center (genealogy library) of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be open from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesdays. If you need assistance in searching out your ancestors, bring all the information you have about your family and we will be happy to assist you. For more information, contact R.A. McKay at (432) 553-8127.

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Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 70 inmates at the time of this report.

- TERESA PIERCE, 44, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance.
- AMBER RENEE RAMIREZ, 26, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on charges of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less, possession of a controlled substance, tampering with or fabricating physical evidence and failure to identify as a fugitive from justice – giving false information.
- CLARA RAMIREZ RANGEL, 34, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while license invalid. • RENE RODRIGUEZ, 21, was transferred to the
- county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of delivery of marijuana. ROBERT WILLIAM SEAMSTER, 18, was trans-
- ferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana – two ounces or RICHARD SIMMONS, 33, was transferred to the
- county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less. ANN MARIE THOMPSON, 39, was transferred
- to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance. JASON THREATS, 31, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on charges of man-
- drug free zone and theft. JOE VALENCIA, 25, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance.

ufacture/delivery of a controlled substance in a

- TRISTAN MARCEL WARD, 17, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon.
- WILLIAM OTTO WARNER, 33, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of making a false report to a police officer or law enforcement em-
- CINTHIA ANN YBARRA, 46, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance.
- CINTHIA ANN YBARRA, 46, was arrested Friday on charges of making a false report to a police officer or law enforcement employee and accident involving damage to a vehicle.
- CINDY RENAE ALEXANDER, 30, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of making a false report to a police officer or law enforcement em-
- STEVEN JOHN ALVAREZ, 44, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a local warrant.
- KYLE LEE BROWNFIELD, 18, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a local warrant.
- DENISE DEANDA, 37, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a local warrant.
- ABEL YHARTE GOMEZ, 24, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a local warrant. • TAMMY HERNANDEZ, 27, was transferred to
- the county jail Monday by the BSPD on 14 local war-• FELIX LEE JARAMILLO, 30, was arrested Tues-
- day by the HCSO on a charge of failure to identify giving false information. · JOHNNY LARA, 20, was transferred to the coun-
- ty jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of manufac- 10. ture/delivery of a controlled substance. • LONNELL LOTT, was transferred to the county
- jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of public in- CYNTHIA JEAN WHITE, 44, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a local war-

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported near the 174 mile marker of Interstate Highway 20. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2500 block of Gunther. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC. • MEDICAL was reported in the 1000 block of Lan-
- caster. One person was transported to SMMC. • MEDICAL was reported in the 12500 block of W. County Road 35. One person was transported to
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2100 block of Gregg Street. Service refused.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported in the 200 block of W. Marcy. One person was transported to SMMC.

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BIG SPRING HERALD Tuesday, May 5, 2009

low 60s.

Bulletin Board

per 60s.

the Herald news room at 263-7331 or email editor@bigspringherald.com

If you have items for the Bulletin board, contact

TODAY

- Alzheimer's Association, the Greater West Texas Chapter meets at 2 p.m. in the Howard County Library conference room, 500 S. Main.
- VFW Post 2013 meets at 7 p.m. in the VFW Hall, 500 Driver Road.
- Gospel Singing in the Kentwood Activity Center at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.
- The Howard County Sheriff's Posse meets at 7 p.m. at the Sheriff's Posse building on the Andrews Highway. For more information, call Bert Sheppard at 263-4483 or Rose Armstead at 263-
- Order of the Eastern Star No. 67 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

WEDNESDAY

- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Free blood pressure screenings from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Salvation Army, 811 W. Fifth St., provided by InHome Care.
- Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell • Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the
- Big Spring Country Club. • Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie meets at 7 p.m.
- in the Eagles Lodge at 703 W. Third.

THURSDAY

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

Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard

- College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. • 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 Genealogy Society of Big Spring meets at 7
- p.m. in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.
- Big Spring Masonic Lodge No. 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

Lottery

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday

Winning numbers drawn: 13-30-32-35. Bonus Ball: Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 1.

Prize: \$225,000 Winning ticket purchased in: Haskell.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 14-20-30-33-37. Number matching five of five: 0.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 6-4-1. Sum It Up: 11.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 2-4-3-0. Sum It Up: 9.



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Continued from Page 1

gree felony)

- Margaret Clanton, 34, three counts of delivery of cocaine (second-degree fel-
- George Gander, 44, delivery of cocaine (first-degree
- Garland Green Jr., 53, three counts of delivery of cocaine (state jail felony)
- Edrion Houston, 19, delivery of cocaine (seconddegree felony)
- Howard Johnson, 24, delivery of cocaine (thirddegree felony)
- Roy Johnson, 66, delivery
- of cocaine (state jail felony) • Manuel Lozano, 36, delivery of a simulated con-
- felony) • Edward Madron, 29, delivery of cocaine (seconddegree felony)

trolled substance (state jail

 Angela Morrow, 55, possession of marijuana (misdemeanor Class B)

- Karissa Mitchell, 23, delivery of cocaine (state jail
- Teresa Pierce, 44, delivery of hydrocodone (state jail felony)
- Rene Rodriguez, 21, delivery of marijuana (state
- Richard Simmons, 33, delivery of cocaine (firstdegree felony) · Jason Threats, 31, deliv-
- ery of cocaine (first-degree felony) and theft (misdemeanor Class B)
- Ann Thompson, 39, delivery of cocaine (state jail
- · Joe Valencia, 25, delivery of cocaine (second-degree felony)
- Cinthia Ybarra, 46, delivery of cocaine (seconddegree felony)

Everett said another arrest was made later in the day, with at least two suspects having connections to a street gang.

"Also Sunday, the Narcotics Unit executed a search warrant for 805 Lorilla that netted two firearms, a bullet-proof vest and ammunition," said Everett. "Tristan Ward, 17, and (Edrion) Houston were arrested and charged with felon in possession of a firearm and body armor. Both Houston and Ward are known associates of the criminal street gang Texas Born Hustlers."

Everett said many of the first-degree felony charges – which could result in a sentence of five to 99 years to life in prison — were due to enhancements related to the location of the drug trafficking.

"The majority of the firstdegree felony charges are the result of the enhancement of the charge due to the delivery being conducted in a drug free zone," said Everett. "The majority of the delivery of cocaine charges were for the sales of crack cocaine."

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

Mexico City gets some of its bustle back after swine flu shutdown

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Traffic is picking up again, cafes are reopening and cleanup crews are getting universities ready to resume classes. Mexico City has some of its customary bustle back, and the president promises life is returning to normal after a five-day shutdown to contain the spread of swine flu.

Mexico still called off Cinco de Mayo celebrations Tuesday, including the biggest one of all — a re-enactment of the May 5, 1862, victory over French troops in the central state of Puebla. And health experts warned that Mexico and the rest of the world needed to remain on guard against the virus.

Saying the outbreak is waning in Mexico, the epicenter of an illness that has sickened hundreds around the world, President Felipe Calderon announced it was nearly time to reopen businesses. Universities and high schools will open their doors Thursday,

and younger schoolchildren are to report back to school May 11.

"The school schedule will resume with the guarantee that our educational institutions are in adequate hygienic condition,"

Obama's education secretary to seek input on No Child Left Behind law

Calderon said.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Education Secretary Arne Duncan is a man on a mission: to hear what teachers, students and parents in at least 15 states think about No Child Left Behind, the controversial education law championed by former President George W.

Duncan is visiting schools in West Virginia Tuesday, the first stop in the first steps toward reviewing and reforming the pro-

NURSING

Continued from Page 1

alumna the chance to renew old acquaintanc-

"Mostly, it'll be just visiting and looking at old photographs," said Margaret Davidson, current director of the program. "It's just a celebration of the college's LVN department."

The Howard College Vocational Nursing Program started in October

1958 with 18 students and one instructor, registered nurse Johnnie Amos. The program was a 2,000 clock hour certificate program with no college credit. Local hospitals participating in the students' training were Malone & Hogan Foundation, Howard County Foundation Hospital (Hall-Bennett) and Cowper Clinic & Hospital.

Because of increased demand for trained nurses, the college began offering two classes a year in 1966.

The program was expanded again in 1979 to include an accelerated associate degree (registered program. This nurse) accelerated program accommodated currently licensed vocational nurses who desired to become professional nurses, Davidson said.

1990. To make transition from LVN to ADN easier, there was a major curriculum change in the VN program, changing it from a 12-month clock hour certificate program

More changes came in

with no college credit to a 12-month college credit course, Davidson noted.

The nursing instructors now had the students for nine months, while Anatomy and Physiology, Nutrition, Life Span Growth and Development and Microbiology were taught by other college faculty.

"It's a very rigorous program," Davidson said. "We basically tell the students, 'We own you for nine months. Tell your families you'll get back to them later."

Close to 1,000 students have received nursing degrees at Howard during the program's history. Davidson said that, as of May 2008, the Big Spring campus' vocational nursing program has 934 students who have passed the State Board of Nurses exam, with an overall pass-rate average from 1959 to 2008 of 97.2 percent.

With increased demand has come increased salary. In 1960, vocational nurses received an average wage of \$1.30 an hour,

a figure that now ranges from \$13 to \$18 an hour, Davidson said.

For more information on the program, contact Davidson at 264-5067.

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

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COAHOMA

Continued from Page 1

kindergarten students to call the school office at 394-4323 to schedule a testing/registration appointment teacher. While the teachers are visiting and testing the child, the office will help parents fill out registration forms and copy your documents.

If parents do not register their children this month, they will have to wait until August, officials said.

To register, parents must provide the school with the following items: • A state certified copy

of the child's birth cer-

tificate which can be ob-

tained from the Howard

County Courthouse or

Continued from Page 1

vying for the seat.

Hansen, Steven Campbell

and Bahola DeLeon are

The city of Coahoma

has three seats — all three

are at-large — up for elec-

tion. Seats held by in-

cumbents David Elmore,

Ricky Stone and Mayor

Bill Read are up for elec-

tion. According to city of-

ficials, Jay Holt, Ray Lee,

Ronnie Dodson and Elmer

F. Lindsey are running for the two council seats,

while Warren Wallace

and Linda Luce are seek-

ing the mayor's post. All

three incumbents did not run for re-election.

There are several seats

on local school boards

hanging in the balance,

Two seats came up for

election this year in the

Big Spring Independent School District. District

4 incumbent Tony Kenne-

dy failed to draw an oppo-

nent in the May 9 contest.

However, District 2 trust-

ee Maria Padilla, who is running for re-election,

is facing off against local

resident Edwin Ware in

the only contested race

in the Big Spring school

In Coahoma, there are

district.

VOTE

in. A hospital issue certificate of birth is not a legal document. An updated, valid im-

state the child was born

- munization record (shot record).
- · A social security card for each child.
- Legal guardian's state driver's license or state issued identification card.
- Proof of residency (See information below).

If parents do not have a student attending Coahoma schools at this time, please go by the school district's Administration Office to get a Proof of Residency Form. Parents are asked to provide one of the following items: Receipts for tax or utility bill/deposit; deed /mortgage/lease papers; or a notarized letter confirming residency

three at-large seats up for

election this year, with

four political hopefuls vy-

ing for the opportunity. Brian Moore, the lone

challenger in the contest,

is going head-to-head with

incumbents Jody Reid,

Alan Wright and Kirk

Allen for a seat on the

Independent School Dis-

trict is also holding a race

during the May election,

also with three at-large

trustee seats up for grabs.

Incumbents Amy Parker

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Consolidated

board.

Sands

when living with another household. Students currently en-

rolled in the district's pre-kindergarten gram are automatically registered for kindergar-

New information sheets will be sent home on the first day of school. The student's permanent folder, which contains the student's birth certificate and immunization record will be moved to the next grade level. Therefore, there is no need for parents of current pre-kindergarteners to attend the kindergarten registration May 12-14, officials said.

Please call the school if you have a pre-kindergarten student and we will get you on the registration list.

We will have the new

and Tommy Staggs are

competing with chal-

lengers Wes Hughes,

Nate Avey, Matt Snell,

Rick Timmins and Bill

Barnes for one of the

For more information

Contact Staff Writer

Thomas Jenkins at 263-

7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail

at citydesk@bigspringh-

1701 Lancaster

Big Spring, TX 79720

on the election, contact

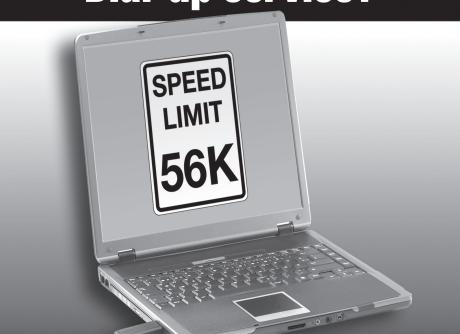
Bloom's office at 264-

three seats.

erald.com

Federal Forms in over the summer and give you a call when they come in. For additional information regarding registration, please contact the elementary school at 394-

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DITORIAL

"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."

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

> **Ron Midkiff** Publisher

John A. Moseley Managing Editor

Bill McClellan News Editor

Our View

Take advantage of last chance for early voting

his is absolutely your last chance. Early voting for Saturday's municipal and school district elections ends at 7 p.m. today, and we're going to make one last effort to encourage readers to cast their ballots early.

Polls will be open at the Howard County Courthouse for Big Spring voters until 7 tonight. Coahoma voters get the same last chance and can vote until 7 p.m. at the Coahoma Community Center.

We're always noting that there are plenty of reasons for voting early, not the least of which is the unpredictability of our West Texas weather.

Another reason to cast your ballot today is human nature. The fact is, the longer we put things off, the less likely we are to ever get them accomplished. Too many other things come up and suddenly we find ourselves out of time — that's especially true when it comes to Saturdays.

There are a plethora of key races on the ballot this time around — three spots on the Big Spring City Council, three more on the Coahoma City Council, one contested seat on the Big Spring Independent School District Board of Trustees, three seats on the Coahoma school board and three seats on the Sands CISD board.

Needless to say, these are decisions which will impact our lives for some time to come. So, we hope you have taken time to study the candidates and issues.

And as we are always reminding our readers, if you don't bother to go vote — either during early voting or on election day you really have no right to complain about the decisions made by your representa-

How to contact us

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

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

LETTER POLICIES

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Because of You, Lord, our lives are blessed. Amen

Unbiased and out of business

hy are most newspaper reporters and editors liberal? I've been working in the business for more than 20 years, and I can't give a quick, definitive answer to the question. But I do think a con-

tributing factor is that editors, like other managers, tend to hire and reward staffers who think as they do. They see their positions as neutral, which is human nature and is reinforced by the fact that the folks in the desks around them vote the same way they



SAUNDERS

When they read about complaints of media bias, editors write the criticism off because they see reporters every day trying to cover stories fairly and succeeding. They fail to notice that their shared ideology limits what they see as stories. Which is why, I believe, that

Fox News Channel ratings are so high. As the New York Times reported, CNN reached 271,000 viewers aged 25 to 54 in prime time in April, less than half of Fox News' 668,000. In the first quarter of 2009. Fox News beat CNN and MSNBC combined in the Nielsen ratings. Liberals mock the news net-

work's "fair and balanced" slogan. But if you read your average newspaper, then tune into Fox News or listen to conservative talk radio, it evens out. People hungry for a conservative outlook in print aren't going to find it in the news or features pages. Liberal newspapers helped build conservative

I should note that there's a world of difference between Fox during the day and Fox after dark. Primetime programs feature conservative hosts trading on their opinions, while Fox daytime features straight reportage.

The network's full-tilt promotion of the TEA (Taxed Enough Already) party protests on April 15, alas, undercut the whole network's credibility as reporters covered events at which Fox News biggies like Sean Hannity and Glenn Beck were star speakers. Not fair. Not balanced.

CNN execs have responded to the success of Fox News by noting that their own audience numbers and profits are up.

They also argue that their brand is purer because, as CNN president Jon Klein told the New York Times, "There are several networks that reside in the cable news category, but only one that reliably delivers the news unbiased."

Well, not quite. It turns out CNN has its own TEA Party baggage. Covering a protest in Chicago, veteran reporter Susan Roesgen lost her cool. She interviewed a man protesting high taxes and government debt with his 2-year-old and began to argue with him: "Do you realize that you're eligible for a \$400 credit?" Roesgen asked him. And: "Did

you know that the state of Lincoln gets \$50 billion out of the stimulus (package pushed by President Obama)?" It was as if Roesgen thought she were White House Press Secretary Robert

Then she dismissed the event as "anti-government" and "anti-CNN" — and the product of the "right-wing conservative network, Fox.

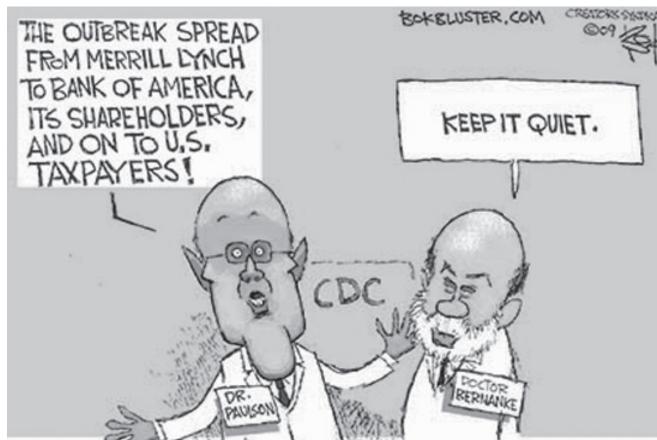
Asked about Roesgen, CNN's response: "No comment." In this space I have lamented what seems to be the advent of Design er News, that allow consumers to cull out undesirable viewpoints and information.

The irony here is that newspapers have written fawning stories about Google and Twitter and free classified ad sites as if they are all good. But when newspapers cover Fox News, they have this need to write the network off as right-wing — end of story. Nothing to learn there, right?

Clearly there is an insatiable appetite for news from a conservative perspective that the folks who run newspapers continue to overlook — except in the opinion

There are days I wonder if newspaper and network news execs cannot change by broadening their ideological diversity even to save themselves. They'll keep telling themselves that they are unbiased — up until the end.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfchronicle.com. COPYRIGHT 2009 CREATORS SYNDICATE INC.



BEGINNING OF THE PANDEMIC

Revenue from gambling addicts

ambling presents diverse facets. For some, 'maybe most, it's a wellplanned form of occasional recreation. For others it is a devastating uncontrollable addiction. For still others it seems like their only

chance, though a poor one, for financial rescue.

Gaming operators are just as fractured a lot. Media hype focuses on the glitzy Donald Trump/ Steve Wynn types, but the bulk of private operations are smaller, seedier halls in those few states that allow such wagering.



Collins

Perhaps more common now are Indian casinos whose sovereign rights on reservations have been judged to overrule state antigambling laws. Some of those venues are pretty seedy too, whereas Connecticut Indians sport two of the biggest, plushest operations in the world. But the really heavyweight

gambling promoters are neither individuals nor tribes, they are state governments. With an eye for profit that makes Trump and Wynn look like nuns, many states have set up lottery sites in every convenience store and gas station. Come to think of it, if you include bingo, nuns have done pretty well for themselves

among owners and players has made gambling remarkably awkward to regulate, especially since in many states the government gets a cut of the take. Which legislature will want to go to the wall for morality's sake by nipping its own revenue stream, or by confronting the bishop over games in the church basement? OK, Utah.

Such ambiguity has led to accommodation, and each state has made its own peace. Nevada and New Jersey live off the glorification of glitz and wager, while others treat gambling as the devil's own playground. Still others have found ideological purity in only allowing it on boats, even those tied up to the dock. God bless.

The trouble with these debates over morality, economics and theology is that they obscure the industry's one truly serious social evil. Addiction. It's instructive to learn that while numbers at casinos are down during the recession, lottery business is up. Bad times will do that. And while it's also true that casinos act as a magnet for chronic gamblers, the heartland of addiction remains the convenience store. (And if the current keno movement succeeds, it will soon be the neighborhood bar.) Casinos are often not so convenient and require special effort to reach. Lottery sites, however, abound and act like sidewalk taverns to the alcoholic. Five to six percent of Americans carry

this gambling gene, and that's a

lot of folk. But if it's hard for legislatures to grapple with addiction during good times, imagine their reluctance when overall revenue is down but the lottery is booming. If the scratch-off-game goose is laying golden eggs lickety-split, while all other income is in the tank, no sane governor is likely to rock that boat.

Which is scary because this is an addiction that destroys families and breeds immense suffering. To have it nurtured by state government seems appalling, especially when most such states are too chintzy even to beef up their addiction services budget. Conflict of interest runneth rampant.

So it is probably useful to draw a clear public policy distinction between the two main types of gambling. Casinos and bingo, while no doubt attracting their share of addicts, are primarily recreational. They ought to qualify as a legitimate public revenue source. But lotteries in their various forms clearly abet addiction. That's what they're designed to do. If we can't quite muster the courage to abolish them we should at least put an end to advertising them. As it stands right now all of us in gambling states have a black mark to carry on our escutcheons to Judgment Day.

Columnist William A. Collins is a former state representative and a former mayor of Norwalk, Conn.

Anyhow, all this diversity

Bird Poop:

An ill-fated reminder of the long ago past

t might have seemed a strange question to some. "From Arkansas?" Art asked as we headed northeast. "Yes. Two of them," I replied as we drove

through open farm and range land, then crossed a tributary of the

Colo-

rado



McCasland

River. Hardpan mingled with huge boulders to form bluffs overlooking valleys of wild flowers. April had its own understatement of beauty.

Never having been to this city before, I had asked for directions to the café. Finally reaching the railroad tracks, we entered an older, age weary part of the community. Buildings that had once been an attraction for travelers had deteriorated to a point of collapse. With boarded-up windows and doors, the neighborhood had been left as the town developed to the west and south.

At the back entrance of the eatery, open barrels for garbage stood on grease-soaked ground. After knocking on the door and hoping someone had heard me. I was soon greeted by a waitress in her mid-20s. "So glad you came," was followed by her disappearing back into the building. Reappearing with a baby blanket carefully held in her cupped hands, she offered what had been carelessly given to her.

When Art raised a corner of the wrap, we could see a pair of barred owls nestled together. "Ma'am, one of 'em died yesterday," said the waitress. "I just couldn't take his buddy away from the other one." The comfort of a sibling had sustained the remaining bird.

As I started to unwrap the owls from what appeared to be a reusable blanket, the woman encouraged me to let the birds remain inside.

After placing the owls inside our vehicle, we asked her what she knew about them. Three weeks earlier, two men had appeared at the café. Attracted to the woman, they had bragged about some owls they had found on branches near a hollow in a tree while hunting in Arkansas. The owls, too young to fly from their approach, had been easily caught. Feeling sorry for them, the waitress had talked the men into giving her the birds.

Taking ground beef from the café, she had tried to feed the owls. At first they had eaten readily, but as

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the weeks passed, their appetites lessened. Frightened about their decline, the woman had finally asked a sheriff's deputy what to do.

Having left their nest, the barred owls were a minimum of five to six weeks old when taken. These fledglings still had downy heads and had remained on surrounding limbs and branches to await their next meal. A diet of fat from hamburger patties could hardly compare to the mice, frogs, birds and fish its parents would have supplied.

owl needed immediate attention, we drove southwest to the Midland sanctuary. As the rolling countryside changed to flat land, I remembered another encounter with a barred owl.

Since the remaining

Old enough to go squirrel hunting in the thick woods of East Texas, my brother and I had been told by my father that we were to head in one direction while he hunted in another. As an adult, I now realized with the noise we would have made, Dad didn't have a chance of supplying any squirrels for dinner unless we separated.

Having walked the forest floor for what seemed like hours, we had seen no squirrels. They had nothing to fear from our hunting skills. As we headed back toward our meeting spot, we froze as an eerie repertoire of hoots pierced the silence. At a safe distance was a large, round-headed owl perched in a tree.

Grayish-brown in appearance, the bird had notable markings. Across its breast were brown bars, while brown stripes went down its buff-colored underside. Surrounded by gray facial disks, its enormous black eyes peered at us.

Irritated at our intrusion, it turned and took flight. With the slow beat of its broad wings, the barred owl flew, then glided silently among the branches. As it banked sharply, we noticed the tops of its wings were accented with white spots. Then it was gone.

Still alive when we

arrived at the sanctuary, the young owl was given a minimal chance for survival. From feeling of its sibling's breast bone, we could tell it had probably died from malnutrition. "Where were the men headed? Did the waitress get a name or license plate?" asked the volunteer who was visibly disturbed that the men had taken the owls.

Telling her we were fortunate to have even been called by the waitress, we added that the men left after giving her the birds. Only later would the woman learn it was a violation of federal and state laws to take, possess, or carry them across state lines.

Before heading home, we decided to check on the owl one more time. The volunteer discovered that despite our efforts, it had succumbed to the same fate as its sibling. Later, in thinking back to what we might have done to prevent the inevitable, I was grate-



A lover of dense pines, forests and swamp lands, the barred owl has no ear tufts or "horns." Found predominantly east of the prairie states and in the eastern part of Texas, the raptor has a wingspan of nearly four feet and hunts in open country and around farms.

ful that during an April day, two barred owls, displaced by human ignorance, had given back to me a memorable time in the East Texas river bottoms.



By Steve Becker

su do ku Puzzles by Pappocom

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box. Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

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

Haste Makes Waste North dealer. Declarer now did the best he Neither side vulnerable. NORTH

♥AKJ ♦ K 10 4 ♥Q 1083 The bidding: North West

Pass Opening lead — three of hearts. Fast reflexes are absolutely essential in most sports, as well as in many other endeavors. However, bridge

does not happen to be one of them. This point is exemplified by the way South played today's deal. He arrived at six spades in short order, received an opening heart lead and just as quickly won the trick with dummy's king. The king and ace of spades then revealed that he had a spade loser.

could by cashing the A-K of clubs and ace of hearts, ruffing the jack of hearts and then playing the A-K-Q of diamonds. West was then given his spade trick in the hope that he would be forced to yield a ruff-and-discard, but when he produced a club, the slam was down one. The failure to make the slam can

be traced to South's play to the first trick. Before impulsively putting up the king of hearts and then hoping for a favorable trump division, he should have given more thought to how he might avoid a club loser. He might then have realized that virtually nothing could be lost by finessing the jack of hearts at trick one.

If the jack holds, as it does actual deal, two clubs can later be discarded on the A-K of hearts, so declarer ends up losing only a spade

Not quite as easy to see — and the aspect that South overlooked in his hasty play to the first trick — is what happens if the jack of hearts loses to the queen. In that case, declarer really isn't any worse off than he was when he started. With the A-K of hearts taking care of his club loser, he can still hope to avoid a trump loser to make the slam.

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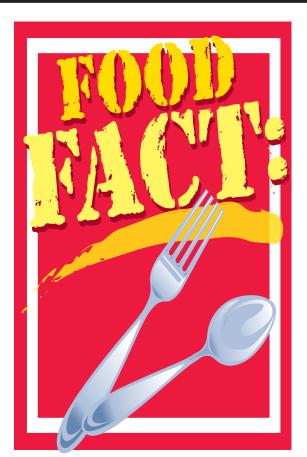
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TRUE OR FALSE?

TO BARBECUE AND TO GRILL ARE

THE SAME THING.

OPEN FLAMES.

INDIKECT HEAT. GRILLING USES A LOW,

Barbecue Word Find

Just in time for National Barbecue Month, see how many related words you can find and circle in the puzzle.

FLAME

FOOD

HEAT

MEAT

BARBECUE

BASTE

CHARCOAL

COOK

COOR								DIVIOILI			
Q	R	G	L	E	S	Z	U	0	P	C	Y
K	M	В	C	F	U	В	U	R	Y	Н	N
0	E	U	L	Y	A	T	C	N	X	A	M
0	A	Z	C	K	D	F	Q	W	V	R	F
S	В	K	E	0	В	A	S	T	E	C	0
K	E	A	0	M	0	X	В	L	M	0	0
A	R	R	R	S	I	K	E	E	I	A	D
N	S	V	Z	В	K	T	A	M	F	L	D
M	Н	R	P	L	E	Τ	M	D	A	N	E



• 1809: MARY KIES WAS THE FIRST WOMAN TO BE ISSUED A PATENT.

• 1891: CARNEGIE HALL OPENED IN NEW YORK CITY. IT WAS FORMERLY CALLED 'MUSIC HALL.'

• 1961: ALAN SHEPARD WAS THE FIRST AMERICAN MAN IN SPACE.

Barbecue Scramble

Unscramble the words to complete the sentences.

R

- 1. Different types of **O D F O** can be cooked on the grill.
- 2. In the warm weather it is popular to eat in the **RYDA**.
- 3. Keeps kids away from a barbecue L E F A M.
- 4. Shish **B** K B O A is a fun grill food.

Answers: I. Food 2. Yard 3. Flame 4. Kabob



CHARCOAL

carbon material made from wood or other organic matter



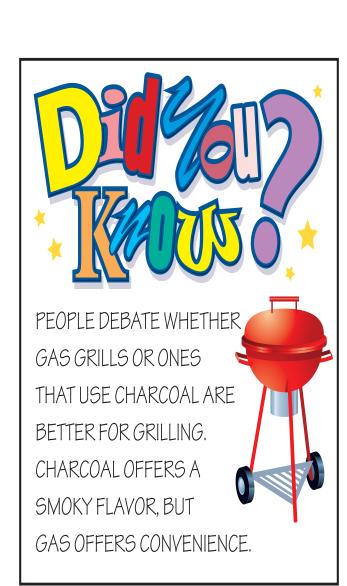
ENGLISH: Meat

SPANISH: Carne

ITALIAN: Carne

FRENCH: Viande

GERMAN: Fleisch





Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: HOT DOG

Do you have an interesting sports item or

Page 7 Tuesday May 5, 2009

Rockets steal Game 1 from Kobe, Lakers

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kobe Bryant drove on Yao Ming in the key, the two collided knee-to-knee and the big Houston Rockets center fell to the court, grabbing his right knee and grimacing in pain.

It sure didn't look good when Yao limped off the court and disappeared into the tunnel.

A few minutes later he was back, waiting at the scorer's table to return to the physical game. Although the Rockets absorbed some hits and shed

the most blood, they outmuscled the Los Angeles Lakers 100-92 in Game 1 of the Western Conference semifinals on Monday night.

Yao had 28 points and 10 rebounds, Ron Artest added 21 points and Aaron Brooks had 19 for the Rockets, who are in the second round for the first time since 1997.

Yao downplayed the injury and quick recovery, but his team didn't. Artest said he was proud of Yao.

"He didn't even make it to the train-

essence. Every second, it was killing him not to be on the bench or on the floor. He came right out. I was so proud of him. He showed so much courage and knew that we needed

After Bryant and Yao collided, Los Angeles' Pau Gasol picked up the ball for a slam dunk that pulled the Lakers to 85-79 with 4:54 left.

Yao had eight points after coming back; a jumper and six free throws.

ing room," Artest said. "Time was of He made all 10 of his free throws.

Yao said he got hit pretty hard and just needed to walk it off.

"My knee feels fine, thanks for asking," he said. "There's no need to worry about it. I just need to put ice

"Tonight I think my team had a great night," Yao added. "Everybody came out with a very active attitude. I think Ron Artest and Shane Battier did a great job guarding Kobe. Everybody played very unselfish."

Catching duo gives HC rare luxury



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Howard College's Monk Kreder homers in WJCAC action March 20 at Jack Barber Field. Kreder leads the Hawks in home runs with 17.

Hamblin, Kreder make each other's job easier

By JONATHAN HULL

Sports Editor

There might not be a more underrated position to the casual fan of baseball than

No other players on a ball club are taken for granted more by those not deeply involved in the game.

The Howard College coaching staff knows the importance of having a great catcher. This is evidenced by the fact that they carry not just one, but two athletes at the position with the potential to be named All-Americans.

Monk Kreder and Miles Hamblin have split time at the position this season and make up a kev ingredient of the team's unbelievable 54-0 season.

"We don't think we have seen a catcher we have played this year that is better than either of the guys

See **HAWKS**, Page 12



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Howard College's Miles Hamblin homers in WJCAC action April 17 at Jack Barber Field. Hamblin is second on the team with 16 home runs and 73 RBI.

Rangers hold off late Mariners rally for 6-5 win

SEATTLE (AP) — Chris Davis didn't want to finish describing his first two at-bats against Felix Hernandez.

"He made me look ... ," said Davis, trailing off about his two strikeouts on six pitches.

He looked just fine in his third time

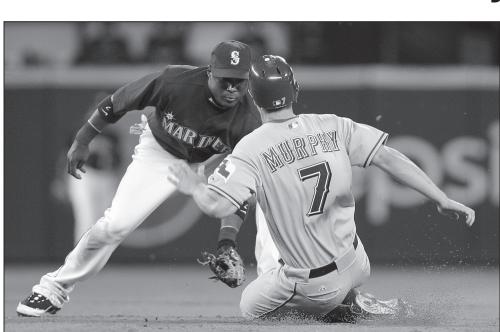
up against Seattle's ace.

Davis hit a tiebreaking two-run homer off Hernandez in the sixth inning and the Texas Rangers beat the Seattle Mariners 6-5 on Monday

Davis' drive gave Texas a 6-4 lead and sent Kevin Millwood to his first win over Seattle in his last six starts. Michael Young also hit a two-run drive off Hernandez as the Rangers increased their major league-leading home run total to 46.

"That's something (Davis) is capable of," Young said. "He's got big power and he can have a couple of atbats where the pitcher might win the battle, but you always know whenever he gets to the plate we have a chance to score some runs. He's one of those rare guys that can put runs

on the board in a hurry." Millwood (3-2), who retired the first 12 batters he faced, allowed five runs and eight hits in 7 1-3 innings. He has



AP Photo/Elaine Thompson

Seattle Mariners shortstop Yuniesky Betancourt, left puts a tag on Texas Rangers' David Murphy as Murphy attempts to steal second base in the eighth inning of their baseball game Monday in Seattle. Murphy, who walked earlier, was out.

pitched at least seven innings in each of his six starts this year and earned his first win over the Mariners since July 23, 2007, by outlasting Seattle's

"You put up six runs against that guy, you've got to win the game," Millwood said. "Besides me, I thought our game was solid all the way around."

Frank Francisco got Adrian Beltre for the final out of the eighth and worked the ninth to continue his dominant pitching.

Francisco hasn't allowed an earned run since Aug. 18 and is 8-for-8 in save chances this year, but this one was a little shaky.

Franklin Gutierrez singled with two outs and Yuniesky Betancourt walked before Ichiro Suzuki flied out to end the game. It was the fourth straight one-run game for Seattle and came a day after its 15-inning victory over Oakland.

After consecutive brilliant performances, Hernandez (4-1) finally got tagged in the fourth as the Rangers pieced together four straight hits to end his scoreless innings streak at 22. Hank Blalock zipped an RBI double past Endy Chavez in left-center field and Marlon Byrd followed with a runscoring single.

Young hit a hanging slider out in the fifth and Davis stepped up in the sixth, golfing a breaking ball into the seats in right.

"My first two at-bats, six pitches, two strikeouts. It wasn't very productive," Davis said. "I wasn't sitting on it, but I thought, 'I'm probably going to see a breaking ball here."

Sports in brief

High school baseball and softball postseason schedule Interscholastic play is due to restart May 11 and

local high school baseball and softball teams have set their postseason schedules.

Big Spring

- Lady Steers softball plays Canyon Randall in a Class 4A bi-district playoff series beginning at 7 p.m. May 14 at Monterey High School in Lubbock. Game 2 is set for 5 p.m. May 15 with a third game taking place, if necessary, 30 minutes following the completion of the second game.
- Steers baseball faces San Angelo Lake View in a

game that will decide the third seed out of District 4-4A at 7 p.m. May 14 in Snyder.

Coahoma

 Bulldogs baseball is taking on Grape Creek in a game to decide the top seed out of District 7-2A at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in Abilene.

Forsan High School Sports Banquet scheduled for 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.

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.

Visit www.bigspringtennis.com for more info.



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CEMETERY LOTS. Payout plans available. No interest or carrying charges. \$10.00 down. The Little Red Barn across from Mt. Olive Cemetery. 432-264-7722.

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SAVE \$\$\$\$\$ on monuments/ markers. We deliver to all cemeteries. Little Red Barn across from Mt. Olive Cemetery. Mt Olive Monuments. 432-264-7722.

SPECIAL SALE. Two grave spaces for the price of one. Pay-out plan available. \$50.00 Down. The Little Red Barn across from Mt. Olive Cemetery. 432-264-7722.

Help Wanted

2 NURSERY Workers needed for Sunday and Wednesday. Must be 18 yrs. old. Come By First Baptist Church in Coahoma, 201 S. Ave., Coahoma.

NEIGHBORS CONVENIENCE Store now hiring cooks, cashiers, stockers. All Shifts. Apply at 3315 E. FM 700.

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for more information.

Help Wanted

APPLIANCE REPAIR Person needed (Temp. Position) for Tanglewood Grove Apts. Come by 3304 West Hwy 80.

BIG SPRING Country Club needs Wait Staff, Day and Night Shift. QUALIFIED AND EXPERIENCED. Apply in person, Tuesday thru Friday or call 432-267-8241.

EZ PAWN, Now Hiring 2 Full time & 1 Part Time Sales and Loan Representatives. Must have High School/GED, pass background & drug test. Apply online at www.ezpawnjobs.com

HELP WANTED Immediately Seeking Primary Home Care Provider's in the Big Spring area. Call Rhonda at St. Joseph's Home Health (432)683-4663.

HIRING MANAGER for Long John Silvers in Snyder, Tx. Must relocate. Send resume to (432)267-2290 Email: or lvera@tajay.com

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Documents may be obtained from Jason Mims, Director of Business Services, Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720, (432)264-5167. Sealed proposals will be accepted through 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 12, 2009, in the Practical Arts Building, room 105A, Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720, at which time they will be read into record. Vendors are instructed that a formal opening will not occur. The college will negotiate with qualified vendors concerning the bids submitted. The final determination of bid award will be made at a future board meeting. All questions should be directed to

Jason Mims, Director of Business Services, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big TX 79720. jmims@howardcollege.edu. (432)264-5167. Howard County Junior College District reserves the

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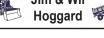
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Happy Cinco de Mayo, a celebration of liberty. The moon shifts from detail-oriented Virgo to social Libra, perfect for today's festivities. Consider your personal battle for freedom over the years. Who and what has helped

you to express yourself and choose your own way in life? Celebrate those people and resources now.



ARIES (March 21-April

19). You're proud of a loved one and you revel in this person's success as though it were yours. Beware of vicarious pleasure today, though, because it could cause you to miss your own chance to shine.

(April **TAURUS** 20-May 20). Flee the routine. An afternoon diversion turns out to be just brilliant — exactly what you needed to break up a comfortable rut, open your mind and bring back your innate creativity.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Someone is projecting upon you the personality that they want you to have. They want to believe that you have powerful magic. You might believe that, too — the potential is definitely there. CANCER (June

22-July 22). Your star is on the rise. Keep doing the same thing you've been doing. Avoid a person whose recent actions have been destructive. Affirm to yourself that it is safe for you to succeed.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Relationships hit a bit of friction. There's probably a piece of history that's been bothering you, but you didn't want to bring it up until today. Air your feelings. Whatever happened in tomorrow people. They the past can be mended.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You like a tidy ending where everything wraps up and everyone is content. Such an idyllic situation might be difficult to maneuver for others, but not for you. You deliver what is needed to end a scene on the right note.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your time is stretched thin. A commitment you made is taking more energy and hours than expected. It's fine with you, though. The job you volunteer for will net you more riches than the one you are paid to do.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Sometimes the truest story is the one that is hardest to believe. So extend the benefit of the doubt to those colorful characters you'll meet whose stories sound like they came right out of a soap opera!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Look at what you've already accomplished instead of looking at the huge list of unfinished tasks. You need to stay positive and not get overwhelmed. Take one thing at a time.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your discontent with a work situation is extremely important to the ultimate success of a project. Speak up about what you think could be better. Eventually, your high expectation will improve everyone's work.

PISCES (Feb. 20). You 19-March haven't connected with one of your friends in a long while, perhaps due to a disagreement. The reason you've been distant was a good one for the time, but it may not hold up under todav's reflection.

ASTROLOGY 101: WHAT IS AQUARIUS LIKE? Aquarians are are the voice of the future, fresh, youthful at any age and open to the possibilities. Ruled Uranus, they are masters of change and when life takes a twist, this sign does not usually waste time worrying, complaining or explaining.

Aquarius takes quickly to the new state of things and immediately starts finding a place, purpose and sense of equilibrium. Aquarius is quick-witted and is the sign of modern

invention. Technical prowess usually goes hand in hand with this intelligent sign.

They can work things and fix glitches and oftentimes won't even know what it is they did that was effective, their talent is so innate. Aquarians don't like to be too serious and are always up for a good laugh.

They are noted for their casual friendliness and they often have extensive networks of acquaintances. Even in

they feel that the friendship comes first and must be the basis of deeper connection. This sign has a rich inner world, too, and enjoys spending quality time immersed in their own fantasies, dreams and imagination. Music is vital to their creativity and many Aquarians are gifted musicians.

CELEBRITY **PROFILES:** Her voice has been called "magical." Grammy Awardwinning British soul singer Adele was born under the sign that rules

KATHY MITCHELL

Marcy Sugar

the throat and voice, Taurus. Many wonderfully gifted singers have Taurus energy featured prominently in their natal charts. This tenacious Taurus wrote her first record when she was 16 and gained legions of fans on the Internet before getting a

record deal. If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www. creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a post-card in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.cre-

® 2009 CREATORS SYNDICATE,

Dear Annie: I am a teenager, but in a few years, I will be away at college. I am concerned, however, because Mom has a boyfriend with a major anger problem, and he throws tantrums and

Mom has been in this relationship for a few years, and I'm afraid when I leave he will do some serious damage and I won't be there to protect her. She has been going to therapy, but it doesn't seem to be helping. I love my mother very much and want the best for her. How can I convince her to get away from this man? — *Concerned Daughter*

Dear Concerned: It is very difficult for some women to get out of an abusive relationship, and the longer they are involved, the more they believe they deserve to be treated poorly. It's good that

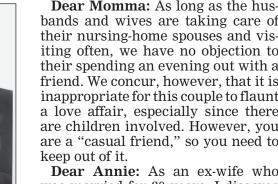
and we hope it will help her find a way out. We know you are worried about her, but you are not responsible for her choices. If you witness this man being physically abusive to your mother or if he should come after you, call the police immediately. You also can contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline (ndvh.org) at 1-800-799-SAFE

Mom is getting therapy. She obviously needs it,

(1-800-799-7233) and ask if there is anything more you can do. **Dear Annie:** Something unacceptable is happening with two different casual friends. One is a man whose wife is in a nursing home with dementia. The other is a woman whose husband is in a nursing home after a debilitating stroke. The spouses

are "dating." The man has no children and is fairly low-key with his activities. The woman, however, is like a lovesick puppy. Her children are teenagers, and they seem uncomfortable with the situation. I know she is lonely, and I feel sorry for her, but frankly, I am embarrassed to be her friend.

Another friend tried to talk to her about this, but she is too "in love" to listen to reason. I know I should MMOB and I am, but what is your opinion? Maybe I'm just playing by an old-fashioned rule book. — *Momma Do-Rite*



Dear Annie: As an ex-wife who was married for 30 years, I disagree with your response to "Just Curious," who asked if she should attend her ex-husband's funeral. You also referred to the new wife as the "stepmother."

If the new wife helped raised young

remarried, as mine were, she is simply Dad's wife. These children have a mother and she is still alive. My children refer to their father's wife as just that and call her by her first name. If she was married to this man and bore his chil-

children from the first marriage, then she is their

stepmother. But if they were grown up when Dad

dren, there is a long and serious connection, and she should be able to attend the funeral. If my exhusband dies before me, I plan to attend. Out of respect for his present wife, I will be as

inconspicuous as possible and stay in the rear of the church. But I intend to be there not only for myself, but to help my children and grandchildren through that time. — *Loving Mother*

Dear Mother: The word "stepmother" refers to the woman Dad has married, whether you like it or not. The restriction on ex-wives attending the funeral is if your presence will cause a disruption and make the widow stressed. If you are certain you can avoid that, and your children want you there, it's OK to go.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. ® 2009 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.



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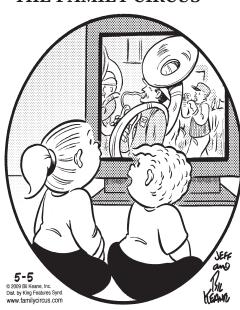
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

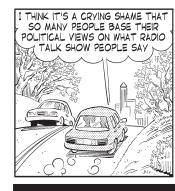


"I bet he'd be good at blowin' out birthday candles."

HAGAR



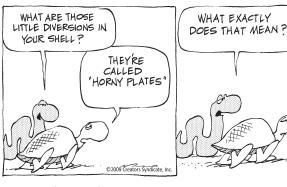
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AGNES







HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH





BEETLE BAILEY





This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, May 5, the 125th day of 2009. There are 240 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight History:

On May 5, 1961, astronaut Alan B. Shepard Jr. became America's first space traveler as he made a 15-minute suborbital flight in a capsule launched from Cape Canaveral, Fla.

On this date:

In 1818, political philosopher Karl Marx was born in

In 1821, Napoleon Bonaparte, 51, died in exile on the island of St. Helena.

In 1862, Mexican forces loyal to Benito Juarez defeated French troops sent by Napoleon III in the Battle of Puebla. In 1891, Carnegie Hall (then

named "Music Hall") had its official opening night in New York City.

In 1904, Cy Young pitched the American League's first perfect game as the Boston

Americans defeated Philadelphia Athletics 3-0. In 1925, schoolteacher John

T. Scopes was charged in Tennessee with violating a state law that prohibited teaching the theory of evolution. (Scopes was found guilty, but his conviction was later set aside.)

In 1942, during World War II, Japanese forces landed on the Philippine island Corregidor. In 1955, West Germany

became a fully sovereign state. The baseball musical "Damn Yankees" opened Broadway. In 1981, Irish Republican

Sands died at the Maze Prison in Northern Ireland in his 66th day without food. In 2000, the tightest alignment in 38 years of Mercury.

Army hunger-striker Bobby

Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, the sun and the moon — as seen from Earth — took place. Today's Birthdays: Actress

Pat Carroll is 82. AFL-CIO president John J. Sweeney is 75. Saxophonist Ace Cannon is 75. Country singer-musician Roni Stoneman is 71. Actor Michael Murphy is 71. Actor Lance Henriksen is 69. Comedianactor Michael Palin is 66. Actor John Rhys-Davies is 65. Actor Roger Rees is 65. Rock correspondent Kurt Loder is 64. Rock musician Bill Ward is 61. Actor Richard E. Grant is 52. Broadcast journalist John Miller is 51. Rock singer Ian McCulloch (Echo and the Bunnymen) is 50. NBC News anchor Brian Williams is 50. Rock musician Shawn Drover (Megadeth) is 43. TV personality Kyan Douglas is 39. Actress Tina Yothers is 36. Actor Vincent Kartheiser is 30. Singer Craig David is 28. Actress Danielle Fishel is 28. Actor Henry Cavill is 26. Soul singer Adele is 21. Rock singer Skye Sweetnam is 21. R&B singer Chris Brown is 20.

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Answer to previous puzzle



SHIELD SPIES
NOONE GAUGE AUTOS SLIDE

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Holler **6** The one here
- 10 Ten of clubs.
- for one
- 14 Oklahoma city
- **15** Not at all
- difficult
- 16 Woodwind
- instrument
- **17** Large dog breed
- 20 Sunbeam
- 21 Former spouses
- 22 Raised, as barbells
- **23** IOU
- 24 "Little lamb"
- owner
- 25 Infants
- **28** File-folder parts
- **29** Barbecue residue
- 32 Wear away **33** Prison room
- **34** Competent
- **35** Large dog
- breed
- 38 Computer owner
- **39** Butterfly catchers
- 40 Assisted
- 41 Media mogul Turner
- 42 Salt Lake City's
- state 43 Says "hi" to
- 44 Small
- songbird **45** Hawaiian
- necklaces
- **46** Naval Academy
- grad 49 Vegetarian's
- bane 50 Incoming-plane stat.

EMBARKATION by Rita S. Cruz Edited by Stanley Newman

53 Large dog

- breed
 - **56** Pesky insect 57 Sedan, for
 - instance
 - **58** Major occasion
 - 59 Second-year student
 - 60 Noticed
 - **61** Mails away

DOWN

- 1 Film headliner 2 Luau dance
- 3 Skin-care name
- 4 Battleship
- letters 5 Follow advice
- **6** Doctrine **7** Bad actors

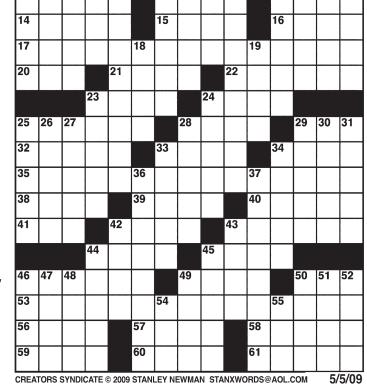
- 8 ". . . ___penny
- earned'
- 9 "Cap" or "tain." in "captain"

for short 11 Be next to

10 Well-nestled,

- **12** Learning method
- 13 House owner's
- document
- 18 Line of rotation
- 19 Ventilates
- 23 Autumn apple drink
- 24 Soda-shop
- orders 25 Doozy
- **26** Stand up
- **27** Ready to do
- something else
- 28 Saw parts
- **29** __ by
- (agree to) 30 Frozen rain
- **31** Groups of cattle
- 33 Do dusting

- www.stanxwords.com
 - 34 Zodiac ram **36** Car-radio
 - accessories **37** They're hard
 - to find
 - **42** Hankering 43 Reverse or
 - drive
 - 44 Side-to-side
 - measure 45 Allow to board
 - 46 Omelet ingredients
 - 47 Forbidden thing 48 Reaction to
 - rudeness
 - 49 Parcel (out) **50** All tied up
 - 51 Take care of
 - and crafts **54** Regret
 - **55** December
 - 24th, for instance 11 12 13 10



HAWKS

Continued from Page 7

we use behind the plate," said Howard College Head Coach Britt Smith. "To have the ability to have those guys catch two games a weekend instead of four, it has allowed those guys to stay fresh and have their legs at the plate late in the season. It's a luxury, an absolute luxury. It's been pivotal to our success."

Howard plays a fourgame series just about every weekend during the season made up of two doubleheaders one on Friday and another on Saturday.

With Hamblin and Kreder, the Hawks don't have to put an individual player behind the plate for an entire series. One of them will play catcher in the first game, while the other mans first base. In the second game of the day, they switch.

Both believe the situation has played a major role in their production this season.

"It's been an incredible transition especially for my body," said Hamblin. "Last year, I was catching almost every game and having Monk to share the load with and hitting behind me has helped a lot.

"It's a major help on your body. There's a lot of wear and tear on your body behind the plate," agreed Kreder. "I know by the fourth game in a series, you're body is just beat if you've played catcher in all four. I think in the fourth games this season, both of us are hitting the ball much better. I just feel fresh."

Both players came to Howard through different paths.

Hamblin is in his second season with the team, joining the program right out of high Meanwhile, Kreder is

a transfer from Texas Tech, who started every conference game behind the plate for the Red Raiders a year ago. However, in the long

run, it was the Howard coaching staff that ultimately made them Hawks.

"It was pretty much the coaches that got me here," said Hamblin. "I visited a couple other junior colleges, but when I came here all the other players here made me feel welcome. It just kind of clicked that this was the place for me. I've loved every moment of it here.

"It was a weird deal. Last year, I was the starter in every conference game and then they made a coaching transition," said Kreder. "Basically, I wasn't in the new coach's plan. I had a good fall, but he basically told me I was going to split time with a freshman. It was one of those things where I didn't feel like I was getting treated fairly. I thought I had won the spot in the fall. It was my draft year and I didn't feel like getting buried behind a plan that wasn't really successful.

"I found the opportunity to play every day here," he continued. "I called Coach (Jack) Giese up. I had played some summer ball for him in high school and decided to come out here and check the place out. I knew Howard was going to be a good team this year, but I didn't know it was going to be this crazy. I'm happy I'm here. That was the best decision and phone call I could have made."

While Hamblin and Kreder provide a solid foundation defensively, they also make up the heart of the batting order, posting power numbers any pitcher would fear.

"Because of what Monk and Miles have been able to do what they can behind the plate, it allows both their bats to stay in the lineup," said Smith. "I don't think there's a hitter alive who will tell you they wouldn't much rather be playing in the field and hitting than being just a designated hitter. We've got a luxury a lot of teams don't have with these two power guys hitting right in the middle. Then when you have two switch hitters sitting behind them in the lineup, teams can't situationally pitch to the middle of our lineup."

Kreder is second on the team with a .493 batting average and leads the squad with 17 home runs. He's four with 69 RBI. He also has the highest on-base percentage at .636.

Hamblin bats .448 is right behind Kreder with 16 home runs, but has more RBI with 73, which is second on the team. He's also an efficient base runner, stealing 18 of 19 bases he's attempted.

The neck-and-neck run between the two players for the home run lead has developed a bit of a friendly rivalry at the plate, but ulti-

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mately both have the bigger picture in mind.

'We've talked about it and joked around with said Hamblin. "Really we just want to go in and hit well. We've got other guys behind us who can hit as well as us. We really don't care about the stats too much, just as long as we come out with the win."

Howard begins play in Region the Tournament at 1 p.m. Sunday against North Central Texas College.

Last season, the Iawks entered the Hawks regional tourney as the favorite, ranked third nationally. However, Howard laid an egg and was the first team eliminated, losing both of its games by a large margin.

Hamblin warns against expecting the same result again.

"Our record was exceptional last year and 54-0 this year is great," said Hamblin, 'but that's behind us. It's over. We're 0-0 going into the regional tournament. It's a new season. Two losses and we're out. We don't want to do that again, obviously, and our goal is to win the tournament. Every team there is wanting to win just like us. We've got to put everything out there.

"If we play our best, nobody can beat us," said Hamblin. "If our hitting and pitching is on, I don't think there's any way someone can beat us.'

Kreder agrees and says the Hawks' ultimate goal lies beyond the regional tournament.

"It's been an awesome experience. The team chemistry is great," said Kreder. "Since I came here in January, it's been about one thing and that's to get another championship banner out there in left field."



76TH BIG SPRING COWBOY REUNION RODEO PARADE

5 p.m. — Thursday, June 18

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TYPE ENTRY (Check type)

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☐ Bicycle ☐ Tractor ■ Motorcycle

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