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# H BIG SPRING HERALD

**FRIDAY**

**MAY 8, 2009**



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## PD: Shooting witnesses mum 21-year-old victim not seriously injured, officers say

**By THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer  
An early morning shooting sent a local woman to the emergency room Thursday, according to officials with the Big Spring Police

Department, but details surrounding the incident are sketchy. Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the BSPD, said the shooting was reported by officials with the Scenic Mountain

Medical Center emergency room when a 21-year-old woman arrived at the facility seeking treatment for a gunshot wound to the hand. See **GUNSHOT**, Page 3A

## Foster leaving refinery

*Accepts key position with BP Carson City, CA*

Special to the Herald

David Foster, who has guided the Big Spring Refinery for the past two years, is leaving the facility, officials with refinery owner Alon USA announced today. Foster will become director of operations at the British Petroleum Carson City, Calif. operation, it was announced.



Foster

"David has served the Big Spring Refinery well and we wish him and (his wife) Nancy the very best in California," Joe Conciene, Alon USA senior vice president for refining, said in a statement.

Foster arrived in Big Spring in April 2007. He succeeded Conciene, who had served here five years, as refinery manager. Probably the most noted accomplishment during that time was helping oversee the rebuilding of the refinery after the catastrophic February 2008 explosion. He and his wife were very

See **FOSTER**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

The abandoned Big Spring Senior Care Center, 901 Goliad, has been the scene of several fires during the past year. Two more fires this week, both believed to have been set, have officials looking for ways to secure the area from arsonists.

## Abandoned nursing home scorched by fire ... again

**By STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

An abandoned nursing home complex has become something of a fire magnet the past few years, officials said.

For about the fifth time in the past 12 months — and the second time in two days — fire department personnel were called out to 901 Goliad, the location of the old Big Spring Senior Care Center to douse a fire. In both cases, officials believe the fires were set.

Late Wednesday, firefighters were called to the complex to battle a small fire that started in the old kitchen

**"We're going to increase patrol activity in the area and we are going to aggressively prosecute any offenders."**



—Carl Condray, fire marshal

area. That fire was doused quickly, Big Spring Fire Department Chief Brian Jensen said.

Thursday afternoon, a grass fire See **FIRE**, Page 3A

# Vote

*Elections spread through Crossroads all day Saturday*

Herald Staff Report

Citizens throughout the Crossroads area will be going to the polls Saturday to vote in city and school board elections.

In Big Spring, voters will be electing three city council members and one school trustee. Coahoma residents will go to the ballot box to determine two council members, a mayor and to fill three school board seats.

A key election is being held in Ackerly to determine three Sands school board members while voters in Stanton will be electing a trustee as well.

- 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

- Big Spring ISD Board of Trustees**  
District 2: Maria V. Padilla (I) and Edwin Ware  
Voters in the Big Spring elections will cast their ballots at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m.

- Coahoma City Council**  
Two at-large seats: Elmer F. Lindsey, Ray Lee, Ronnie Dodson and Jay D. Holt  
Mayor: Linda Luce, Warren Wallace

- Coahoma ISD Board of Trustees**  
Three at-large seats: Alan Wright (I), Kirk Allen (I), Brian Moore, and Jody Reid (I)  
Voters in the Coahoma elections will cast their ballots at the Coahoma Community Center from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m.

- 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  
Voters in this election will cast their ballots at the district's business office, located at 101 First St. in Ackerly, from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m.

- Stanton ISD Board of Trustees**  
District 6 seat: James "Pinky" Jones (I), Daniel Koonce  
Voters in this election will cast their ballots at the Martin County Elections Office, located at 110 W. School in Stanton, from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m.

## Prayer needed more than ever, crowd told

**By STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

Never underestimate the power of prayer.

That was the message delivered to hundreds of local residents who jammed First

United Methodist Church's Garrett Hall for the local observance of the annual National Day of Prayer.

Speakers during the event, which included Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen, the Rev. Randy Cotton and businessman Everett Bender, exhorted the audience to make prayer a daily part of their lives.

"For as long as I can rem-

See **PRAYER**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

A large crowd attended the annual National Day of Prayer event, which was held locally at First United Methodist's Garrett Hall Thursday afternoon.



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## Mavericks out of answers, down 0-2 to Nuggets

**JAIME ARON**

AP Sports Writer

DALLAS — Jason Terry is the Dallas Mavericks' mood-lifter, the guy who pumps up teammates and fans every chance he gets.

Yet after enduring a second straight pounding in Denver, Terry couldn't even fake being positive.

"Not tonight," he said, declining to be interviewed. "I don't have anything tonight."

The Mavericks went into this second-round series convinced they could hang with the Nuggets, point-

ing to three narrow losses in the regular season as proof of how close they were. Besides, they proudly noted, they were on their best roll of the season, having blown through the San Antonio Spurs in five games.

So far, Denver has toyed with Dallas. Long, strong and athletic throughout their roster, the Nuggets have made the Mavericks look like a club team they're warming up against on their way to the conference finals.

Both games have played out the same: Dallas playing well early, Denver grabbing control in the sec-

ond quarter, things tightening up around the start of the fourth quarter. Then Carmelo Anthony and the Nuggets kick into an extra gear just as the Mavericks start wearing out, the gap between the teams exposed in a series of defensive stops that turn into electrifying baskets.

Denver is up 2-0 in the series and 6-0 for the season. For Dallas to advance, Dirk Nowitzki and friends must win four of the next five. Game 3 is Saturday in Dallas.

Returning home should help the Mavs, especially since they've won 17

of the last 18 at their arena. Of course, the Nuggets were the lone outsiders to win there.

"Do we need a perfect game?" point guard Jason Kidd said. "We've had some collapses in the fourth quarter twice now and they capitalized. ... I think we do get rattled, but the big thing is we've got to take care of the ball."

The Mavericks cut down their turnovers in Game 2 and were more physical than in the opener. But the

See **MAVS**, Page 3B



HERALD photos/Tony Claxton

Howard College Hawks right-hander Zach Neal (above) and left-hander Dylan Cacciola (right) have delivered a vital 1-2 punch on the mound for the Hawks in 2009. The two pitchers are combined 20-0 and have pitched five complete games apiece as the first-day starters during four-game series this season.

## Neal, Cacciola provide HC with vital 1-2 punch

**By JONATHAN HULL**

Sports Editor

For more than three months, a bull's eye has been painted on the chest of the Howard College Hawks.

It's only reasonable, considering the Hawks have been ranked No. 1 in the nation since the beginning of the 2009 season.

Several teams have come in upset-minded, but none have succeeded as the Hawks finished the regular season, 54-0.

Particularly, any squad coming in thinking it could catch the Hawks off guard during the first day of a four-game series had to reconsider that philoso-

phy.

Behind the one-two punch of pitchers Zach Neal and Dylan Cacciola the Hawks have thwarted any attempts of an early upset in any series this season, even when the Howard bats weren't able to muster a large amount of runs.

Both guys transferred into Howard this season from other colleges, however, Cacciola's trip was around 1,000 miles longer.

Cacciola made the move to Howard after spending a season at Brookdale Community College in Lincroft, N.J. He's in good company, though, as three

See **HAWKS**, Page 3B



## Sports in brief

### High school baseball and softball postseason schedule

Interscholastic play has been cleared to resume and local high school baseball and softball teams have reset their postseason schedules.

#### Big Spring

• Lady Steers softball plays Canyon Randall in a Class 4A bi-district playoff series beginning at 5 p.m. Monday at Lubbock High School. Game 2 will be played at 5 p.m. Tuesday at the same location with a third game set, if needed, to occur 30 minutes following the completion of the second contest.

• Steers baseball faces San Angelo Lake View in a game that will decide the third seed out of District 4-4A at noon Saturday 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. Monday in Abilene.

### Coahoma All-Sports

#### Banquet taking place today

Coahoma High School will be honoring all athletes who have participated in sports during the 2008-2009 school year at 7 p.m. Friday in the elementary school's cafeteria.

Tickets are \$8 and can be bought at the door.

### Forsan High School Sports

#### Banquet scheduled for Monday

Forsan High School will hold its annual sports

banquet at 7 p.m. Monday at the Dora Roberts Community Center.

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

### Lady Steer Booster Club meeting Monday at ATC

The Big Spring Lady Steer Booster Club is meeting at 5:30 p.m. Monday at the Athletic Training Center.

Officers for the 2009-2010 school year will be elected, so all parents of any female athlete of the junior high or high school are highly encouraged to attend.

### Coahoma ISD sets aside day for athlete physicals

Physicals for all incoming seventh, ninth and 11th graders who plan on playing any sport at Coahoma next year will be given May 14 at the elementary gymnasium.

Cost is \$25 and can be paid in cash or check.

### CGA holding monthly tournament May 17

The Big Spring Chicano Golf Association is holding its monthly tournament at Comanche Trail Park May 17.

Cost to play is \$20 per person and participants must be registered by 9:30 a.m.

The tourney will be played in a two-man format with the first six holes being played as a draw, the second six will be selective drive and the final six are played as individual low ball.

For more information, contact Billy Pineda at 213-4943.

### Free adult tennis league starting at Figure 7

Ted Oleson, City of Big Spring tennis pro, is beginning a 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](http://www.bigspringtennis.com) for more info.

### Comanche Trail Ladies Golf Association weekly report

In the Comanche Trail Ladies Golf Association's weekly playday Monday, the team of Patsy Sharpnack, Gus Leonardi, Dee Jenkins and Shirley Long took first place, shooting 1-under.

In second was Debra Lusk, Daury Cockrell, Betty Murphy and Sue Russell.

In couples play Thursday, the team of Sherrill and Betty Lou Farmer, Glenadine Williams, Debra Lusk and Linda DeWaters won with a 5-under.

After a tiebreaker, second place went to Jerry Roach and Annie Ward, and Chick and Carol Madry with a 3-under. That foursome topped Cliff and Sue Balzer and John and Gus Leonardi, who settled for third.

## Obituaries

### Gary Shelton Jones



Gary Shelton Jones, 64, of Big Spring died Wednesday, May 6, 2009, at Hospice House of Odessa. Funeral services will be at 3 p.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

He was born Aug. 22, 1944, in Big Spring to Beatrice and Walter Jones. He lived most of his life in Big Spring. He graduated from Big Spring High School in 1961. He received his business degree from Texas Tech. He was employed with AMACO in Andrews, El Toro Co. in Odessa and Citi Services in Midland. He was a Protestant.

He also had worked at flower shops in Lubbock, Midland and Big Spring.

He is survived by two sisters, Beverlyn Jones of Big Spring and Norma Patterson and her husband Pat of Midland; two brothers, Walter "Amos" Jones and his wife Mary of Corpus Christi and Isaac "Butch" Jones and his wife Peggy of Brenham; a brother-in-law, Lon Baucum; and a number of nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by three sisters, Jacqueline "Bitsy" Martin, Janelle "Gay" Hart and Iris "Irna" Baucum.

The family suggests memorials to Hospice House of Odessa, 903 N. Sam Houston, Odessa 79761, or Home Hospice, 111 E. Seventh St., Ste. A, Big Spring 79720.

The family will be at 609 Washington Blvd.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersand-smith.com](http://www.myersand-smith.com)

### Ron Simonek

Ron Simonek, 53, of Big Spring died Thursday, May 7, 2009, at his residence. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

## Take Note

- The Big Spring Art Association will close its Area Art Show with a reception and awards ceremony from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday at Marie Hall Center for the Arts on the Howard College campus. There are 146 works from 40 artists on display for public viewing. Most of the works are for sale.

- Parents who were unable to attend the Big Spring Independent School District kindergarten registration April 23 may register their students for the 2009-10 school year from 9 a.m. until noon on the following three Friday, May 8, May 15, or May 22. Parents will need to go to the elementary campus in their attendance area and should have a birth certificate, Social Security card, and immunization records for the student as well as current proof of residence (i.e. utility bill). Students must be 5 years old by Sept. 1 to be eligible for Kindergarten. Parents may call the Transportation Department at 264-4108 if they are unsure which elementary campus their student should attend.

- A spaghetti supper to benefit Moss Elementary employee Sherra Harrell and her husband Trey will be held from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 20 at the school cafeteria. Carry-out and delivery only. Plates are \$5 include spaghetti, salad, bread and dessert. Please order by May 18 by calling 264-4148 or by e-mail at [rbelew@bsisd.esc18.net](mailto:rbelew@bsisd.esc18.net). Trey has been ill and unable to work. The benefit is to help raise funds to pay for medical expenses and other bills. An account has been established at State National Bank. Ask to donate to the "Trey and Sherra Harrell Fund."

- 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 [bshs1999@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## Police blotter

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

No activity or arrests were reported during this period, according to BSPD officials.

## 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.

- ISABEL CALDERON, 35, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on four local warrants and a charge of theft by check.

- ERNEST CLARK, 68, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

- SARAH NICOLE DUNLAP, 24, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation.

- JOE AGUILAR TORRES, 27, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a charge of aggravated kidnapping — release of victim to a safe place.

- JOSEPH KYLE TOUDOUZE, 22, was arrested Thursday by DPS on charges of driving while license invalid and burglary of a vehicle.

## Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 8400 block of the Interstate Highway 20 S. Service Road. Service refused.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.

- TRAUMA was reported in the 700 block of E. 13<sup>th</sup> Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

- TRAUMA was reported in the 1000 block of Highland. One person was transported to SMMC.

- RUBBISH FIRE was reported in the 800 block of Owens.

- STRUCTURE FIRE was reported in the 900 block of S. Goliad.

## Support Groups

### CHANGING DATES

- The local NATIONAL Alliance on Mental Illness group meets every two weeks in the basement of the Howard County Library. For dates and times, contact Ramona Blassingane at 263-9748.

### SUNDAY

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

### MONDAY

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

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

### TUESDAY

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

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

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

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

### 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.

## Your Local Weather

Sat 5/9	Sun 5/10	Mon 5/11
<b>66/50</b>	<b>81/57</b>	<b>73/61</b>
Cloudy skies. High 66F. Winds NNE at 20 to 30 mph.	Clouds giving way to sun. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the upper 50s.	Partly cloudy with a stray thunderstorm.

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## Bulletin Board

If you have items for the Bulletin board, contact the Herald news room at 263-7331 or email editor@bigspringherald.com

### TODAY

- Dance at the Senior Center, 1901 Simler, from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

### SATURDAY

- Big Spring Cruisers cruise Gregg Street and at the Sonic Drive-In beginning at 6:30 p.m.

- Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.

- Big Spring Squares. Call 263-6305 for more information.

### MONDAY

- 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Lottery

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Thursday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 20-30-31-21. Bonus Ball: 6.

Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 0.

### Results of the Cash 5 drawing Thursday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 9-25-29-31-33.

Number matching five of five: 1. Prize: \$24,948

Winning ticket purchased in: Dallas.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Thursday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 8-7-1. Sum It Up: 16.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Thursday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 8-7-1. Sum It Up: 16.



## Boys & Girls Club

is now accepting registration

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264-0455

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# Ramirez suspension sends shocks through Mannywood

By **JOE RESNICK**

For The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Now that the Los Angeles Dodgers won't have Manny Ramirez at their disposal for the rest of his 50-game drug suspension, they plan to keep grinding it out as though nothing had happened. That may be easier said than done, despite his teammates' bravado.

"This is a team. This is not the 'Los Angeles Mannys,'" said injured first baseman Doug Mientkiewicz, who played with Ramirez on Boston's 2004 World Series team.

"We're a really good team here, and Manny's a big part of our team. But as far as the team goes, this is a tremendous opportunity for us to prove to people that we're not just Manny and 24 other guys."

Mannywood was rocked Thursday when the All-Star outfielder was suspended by commissioner Bud Selig for using a banned drug. In the first game of his suspension, the Dodgers scored six runs in the first inning and ended up losing 11-9 to the Washington Nationals — ending their modern-day major league record 13-0 home start.

Manager Joe Torre and general manager Ned Colletti learned the news during an early morning phone call from team owner Frank McCourt. Torre talked to Ramirez during the day by phone, then spoke to the team during a closed-door meeting before batting practice about how they're going to adjust.

"The mood was sad in the clubhouse," Torre said. "You can't have

someone who's as much of an impact player and personality as Manny is missing without it affecting people.

"He feels very badly. Right now he's trying to gather his thoughts," Torre added. "The worst thing I think a person can be is a disappointment to somebody else, and Manny feels like a disappointment. As tough as it is for us, it's pretty tough for Manny, too. I know he's the one that did the wrong thing and nobody is trying to cover that up, but it's still something that I know he's sorry about."

A few months ago, when contract negotiations were deadlocked with the dreadlocked slugger, catcher Russell Martin boldly insisted the team could win without him if he decided not to re-sign with the defending NL West champions.

Now, the Dodgers will get a chance to prove it.

"Do I still think we can win without him? I think he makes us a better team when he's with us, but without him we still have a good team and we're still capable of winning us some ball games," Martin said Thursday. "He's one of the best hitters of all time, so it's definitely going to be tough. But what can you do?"

Ramirez is batting .348 with six home runs and 20 RBIs through the first 27 games of the season.

"Manny's not in our lineup, so we can't be concerned about Manny right now," third base coach Larry Bowa said. "There are 25 guys on the roster, and that's what we're worried about right now. Hopefully when Manny comes back, we're still playing good

baseball and he can contribute. But we've got some good players here. He hasn't won all 21 games by himself."

Seven players from the 1959 Dodgers were on hand Thursday night for a pregame ceremony to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their World Series title. But all the talk naturally centered on guy who wasn't born until 1972.

"Hey, players know the consequences. You make the wrong decisions, you've got to pay," Bowa said. "I'm turned off by players who try to test the system. It just doesn't make any sense. When a guy makes a decision like that, he has to live by it. There's too many people you can go to for advice, like the team doctor or the trainer. And if you have any kind of doubt at all, you've got to go to them."

The Dodgers lead San Francisco by 5 1-2 games, with the Giants coming into Dodger Stadium Friday night to begin a three-game series. Ramirez is eligible to return July 3 at San Diego, and the goal is build that margin instead of just treading water.

"It's not like an injury, where we're playing a guessing game wondering when he's going to be coming back. We know we're getting him back on a certain date," said right fielder Andre Ethier, who started in Ramirez's No. 3 spot in the order against Washington.

"But we're not going to be looking forward to that date and saying if we just hold on until then, we'll be all right. We're going to keep going out there charging ahead and playing the

game the way we've been doing the last couple of weeks here. We have enough depth, talent and confidence to keep moving on here."

Juan Pierre, who's been stuck on the bench ever since the Dodgers got Ramirez at the non-waiver trade deadline last July, will be the regular left fielder in his absence. But he isn't enjoying the circumstances surrounding his chance to play regularly again.

Even before the first pitch of the game, Ramirez suspension had a noticeable effect at the concession stands at Chavez Ravine on Wednesday night. The Manny-style dreadlock hats that had been on sale had been pulled, along with the rest of the Manny-related memorabilia. More than one vendor said they were instructed not to sell anything related to Ramirez until further notice.

Ramirez ranks 17th all-time with 533 home runs. His carefree attitude made him popular with many local fans, and there was evidence all over the city how much the image-conscious Dodgers were marketing him.

At the corner of Figueroa Street and 8th Street, for example, is an above-ground parking garage with a gigantic sign, big as life, with "MANNYWOOD" covering one entire side of the structure.

"You can't change what's happened," Mientkiewicz said. "But it doesn't change the way I feel about him as a person, as a teammate and as a player. We're a family in here, and one of our family members is not with us."

## MAVS

Continued from Page 1B

result was the same. Now, with three days off before Game 3, Dallas coach Rick Carlisle has plenty of time to find other areas of emphasis.

Better yet for the Mavs, forward Josh Howard has several days to heal the right ankle sprain sustained in Game 1 and that limited him to a few early minutes in Game 2.

"We'll just see how Mother Nature treats us here," Carlisle said. "He's been taking injections and doing everything else, whether it's his wrist or his ankle or his good ankle. If he

can play, he'll play. I know that because that's what he's done all year for us."

Howard is the most Nuggets-like player in Dallas' rotation. Without him, the Mavs are left with Nowitzki, Terry ... and not much else. No other player is averaging 10 points this series. Kidd has offset 11 assists with 10 turnovers and the role players who came through against San Antonio hardly have been a factor.

The Nuggets, meanwhile, have five guys averaging at least 10 points. Nene set a career playoff high with 24 points in the opener, then topped it in Game 2. Chauncey Billups is averaging only 12 points, but his backup Anthony Carter is chipping in 8 more,

making it 20 per game from the point guards.

Denver is 6-1 this postseason, with every win by at least 12 points and the loss by two. It's impressive to everyone but the Nuggets, who see room for improvement.

"It's unbelievable to say that, but we do have a window where we can get better," Billups said Wednesday. "Sometimes we play really hard but not really smart. But I think that comes with experience."

Denver coach George Karl notes that all his club has done against Dallas is protect home court. He's falling back on the old line about things changing once someone wins on the road.

"I'm not thinking this is as overbalanced and out of sync as (the scores indicate)," he said.

Then again, Karl also realizes how close he and the Nuggets are to reaching the conference finals; just winning their remaining home games would get Denver there for the first time since 1985. Karl last made it in 1993, while coaching Seattle.

"This is a stage where coaches get excited," he said. "It's easy. It's the best basketball, it's the best players, it's the best referees. Every night is a challenge. To have as much success as we've had, there's a reward to that. The reward is having a bigger challenge. The bigger challenge is going to start on Saturday afternoon."

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Paul Kennemur

# News Briefs

## Layoffs may be easing but employers in no mood to hire as they cope with recession

WASHINGTON (AP) — Employers are letting up a bit on the mass layoffs they resorted to earlier this year to cope with the recession, but the unemployment rate is climbing because many businesses remain wary of hiring given all the economic and financial uncertainties.

The Labor Department on Friday is slated to release a report expected to show that a net total of 620,000 jobs were lost in April. If analysts are correct, the figure — while still big — would be an improvement from March's 663,000 job losses and mark the fewest reductions since November.

The deepest job cuts of the recession, which started in December 2007 and is now the longest since World War II, came in January: 741,000 jobs vanished then, the most since the fall of 1949.

With few places for the out-of-work to land, the unemployment rate is expected to jump to 8.9 percent, from 8.5 percent in March. If that happens, it would mark the highest jobless rate since the fall of 1983, when the country was recovering from a severe recession that drove unemployment past 10 percent.

## Ill. ex-cop Drew Peterson, suspect in 4th wife's disappearance, indicted in 3rd wife's death

LOCKPORT, Ill. (AP) — Drew Peterson, the former police sergeant who went on a high-profile media blitz after his fourth wife's disappearance more than a year and a half ago, will make his first court

appearance in the drowning death of an ex-wife found dead in an empty bathtub in 2004.

Peterson, 55, was scheduled to be arraigned Friday on charges of first-degree murder in the death of his third wife, Kathleen Savio.

He was arrested during an evening traffic stop Thursday near his Bolingbrook home and was held on \$20 million bond, Illinois State Police Capt. Carl Dobrich said.

"We are very confident in our case," Will County State's Attorney James Glasgow said.

Savio's body was found in a dry bathtub, hair soaked in blood from a head wound, just before the couple's divorce settlement was finalized. Her death originally was ruled an accidental drowning but authorities later said it was a homicide staged to look like an accident.

The indictment alleges that "Peterson on or about Feb. 29, 2004 ... caused Kathleen Savio to inhale fluid," causing her death.

Savio's family has long voiced suspicions, saying she feared Peterson and told relatives if she died it would not be an accident. Their fears resurfaced after the October 2007 disappearance of Stacy Peterson, then 23.

## Suspect in killing of Conn. college student surrenders, ending fears of Virginia Tech repeat

MIDDLETOWN, Conn. (AP) — For two days, Wesleyan University feared becoming another Virginia Tech as police conducted a nationwide manhunt for a man accused of stalking and killing one student and threatening to kill more.

But the crisis came to an abrupt end late Thurs-

day just 10 miles from campus after suspect Stephen P. Morgan saw his photo in a newspaper and asked a convenience store clerk to call police.

Officers found him standing peacefully outside a Cumberland Farms store in south Meriden. They took him to the ground, then walked inside to tell the startled clerk that Morgan was the man wanted for the killing of 21-year-old Johanna Justin-Jinich at a campus bookstore in Middletown.

"I got nervous and I started crying," Sonia Rodriguez said. "I just got very, very scared."

Morgan, 29, was expected to be in court in Middletown on Friday morning for an arraignment, his first appearance before a judge to answer for Justin-Jinich's death. His bond is set at \$10 million.

Justin-Jinich was shot several times early Wednesday afternoon while she worked in the bookstore cafe.

## Pakistani jets bomb Taliban-held area, residents flee as U.N. warns refugees could reach 500,000

MINGORA, Pakistan (AP) — Pakistani jets screamed over a Taliban-controlled town Friday and bombed suspected militant positions as hundreds of thousands fled in terror and other trapped residents appealed for a pause in the fighting so they could escape.

The U.N. said half a million people have either already left the northwestern Swat Valley area, are on the move or are trying to flee the bombings that followed strong U.S. pressure on nuclear-armed Pakistan to fight back against militants advancing toward the capital as a now-defunct peace deal crumbled.

## GUNSHOT

Continued from Page 1A

"Officers responded to the call at 2:18 a.m.," said Everett. "The victim was a 21-year-old female who had suffered a non-life threatening gunshot wound to the hand. The shoot-

ing is believed to have happened somewhere on San Jacinto, but we don't have an exact location at this time."

Everett said medical officials are required to call law enforcement anytime a patient is seen for what they believe to be a gunshot wound. No arrests have been made,

according to law enforcement officials.

"We believe the shooting happened during the course of a party somewhere in that area," said Everett. "However, witnesses have been less than cooperative, so we're still trying to piece together the details."

Witnesses have been unable — or unwilling — to provide police officials with a description of the shooter or the events leading up to the discharge of the gun, believed to be a 9 mm handgun, according to Everett.

The shooting is not believed to be gang re-

lated, Everett added.

"Anyone who has information regarding this shooting can contact Big Spring Area Crimestoppers at 263-TIPS or the PD at 264-2550. You may remain anonymous, and Crimestoppers will pay rewards up to \$1,000 for information leading to an arrest and convic-

tion."

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

## FIRE

Continued from Page 1A

that started close to the complex spread to the attic area of one of the buildings. BSGD crews were on the scene for about three hours fighting the blaze, Jensen said.

No injuries were reported.

The building complex, next door to First Christian Church and close to the local high school, junior high and YMCA, has been abandoned for several years and is believed to be an attractive hangout for transients or mischievous youth.

"There's high vegetation around (the complex) and people can get in and out without being

seen," Jensen said. "Apparently, some people think it's a good place to hang out ... and there's a lot of debris out there (to fuel fires)."

Fire Marshal Carl Condray is just one several city officials exasperated with the situation at the abandoned complex.

"We've been plagued with fires there the past

few years," he said. "The major problem is that it's virtually impossible to secure."

Condray noted that officials will do what they can to discourage suspicious activity in the area.

"We're going to start dealing with the situation," he said. "We're going to increase patrol activity in the area and

we are going to aggressively prosecute any offenders."

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

## FOSTER

Continued from Page 1A

active in the community — Nancy Foster was serving as executive director of the local United Way organization.

Jimmy Crosby, Alon vice president for refining-Paramount, has been named to replace Foster, Conciencie announced.

"In his tree years at Paramount, Jimmy has set our West Coast operations on a solid foundations with a trajectory for success," Conciencie noted in his statement. "Prior to that, Jimmy served Alon USA in different supply, business development and engineering positions in Dallas and Big Spring."

Until Crosby formally takes over the reins at Big Spring, Rod-

dy Caffey will serve as interim refinery manager. Caffey is currently general manager of turnarounds and reliability for Alon and was previously maintenance manager at the Big Spring facility.

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

## PRAYER

Continued from Page 1A

ember, I was taught the value of prayer," said Cotton, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church. "And it's never been needed more than it is now."

"In my 40 years as a pastor, I'm more burdened by the state of our country than at any other time," Cotton added. "Immorality is being celebrated as morality, good is considered evil and evil is considered good. And at this time, when Christianity should be standing up at the forefront, church attendance is declining ... Statistics show that 3,500 people a day are leaving their churches across this country."

It is a situation that must be corrected, Cotton warned.

"We can either stick our heads in the sand and hope for the best, or we can be realistic if we're going to return this country to God's favor."

And prayer is the tool that can bring that about, he added — but it is a tool that needs to be used of-

ten to be most effective.

"Too often, we treat prayer like it's a bottle of aspirin — we take it down when we need it and we put it back up when we don't," Cotton said. "It is wonderful that we have a national day of prayer ... but I truly believe that we need 365 national days of prayer every year."

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

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<b>Ghosts of Girlfriends Past (PG-13)</b> Fri.: 4:30 7:30 9:50 Sat.: 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:50	<b>X-Men Origins: Wolverine (PG-13)</b> Fri.: 4:10 7:10 10:10 Sat.: 1:10 4:10 7:10 10:10

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**HAWKS**

Continued from Page 1B

Other players — Jonathan Castillo and cousins Anthony and Andrew Collazo — also hail from Jersey.

“I knew it was a great program,” said Cacciola. “I heard a lot of different things from different people and I knew some of these guys down here from Jersey. I felt it’d be a great place for me.

“It’s been a little different down here. It’s changed me a lot,” the left-hander added. “I wouldn’t change it for anything. I love being here. It’s a great spot. I’m just soaking in the whole experience.”

Cacciola is 9-0 this season, routinely pitching the second game of each series. He’s got a 3.43 ERA and is second on the team with 82 strikeouts, while walking just 19 batters. Opponents are batting just .226 against him this season.

“When Dylan came here, we thought he was going to be something special,” said Howard Head Coach Britt Smith. “He’s been great. He throws a lot of pitches, so it’s tough to get comfortable as a coach when he’s on the mound. It seems like he’s getting into a full count against every batter. He doesn’t walk a lot of guys, though. He’s thrown some big games on the road, too. Generally, teams throw their top two guys in Game 1 and Game 3. Dylan is better than a lot of team’s No. 1s and he’s definitely better than everyone’s No. 2s we’ve seen this year.”

Neal made the move from NCAA Division I Sam Houston State, despite being in the starting rotation last season.

“I was the Sunday starter for Sam Houston State last year. I transferred out during the summer,” said Neal. “I liked the program there, but the school wasn’t really for me. I didn’t fit in well there. I made a call to (Howard pitching coach) Jack Giese and signed a couple weeks later.”

Giese was pivotal in bringing in Neal as he’s worked with the right-hander since he was 17-years-old.

“I knew I wanted to go JUCO, but I also knew I’d probably only go to Howard because of Jack,” said Neal. “Once I left Sam Houston and got my release, I knew I was going to Howard. There really wasn’t any other consideration.”

Neal has thrived as the Hawks’ Game 1 starter, amassing an 11-0 record to lead the team in wins. He’s got a 3.45 ERA and has struck out 72 batters. The most impressive statistic Neal has posted is the mere six walks he has allowed in 60 innings pitched.

“We knew Zach was a high-level pitcher. He may not have the 90-plus mile an hour fast ball like some of these other guys, but he’s a great pitcher,”

said Smith. “He throw strikes and hits spots routinely. You know what you’re going to get out of him every time he’s out there. He’s a known factor. He’s been fantastic and nothing short of our expectations.”

There are a couple of common traits shared by Neal and Cacciola other than being the Hawks’ first two starters in every series this season.

First, they share the team lead in complete games with five, and second, both pitchers give a lot of credit to Giese for their progression and success this season.

“Being here has made me a much better pitcher,” said Cacciola. “The coaching here is the best I’ve ever been around. They’ve really helped me become a better player and a better person.

“He took me to the next level as a pitcher,” added Neal. “He’s increased my velocity and my mechanics. I’m hands down a better pitcher because of him.”

Smith is also quick to credit Giese with Howard’s dominance on the mound this season. As a staff, Howard’s pitchers have a 3.13 ERA and opponents are batting a mere .221 against them.

Neither player expected this type of season when they came to Big Spring, either.

“I didn’t expect JUCO to be like this,” admitted Neal. “I expected us to be like all the other teams we play. I knew we were going to be good because I knew a lot of the players here, but this is unreal. I don’t know that I’ve had the real JUCO experience yet.

“I didn’t think for a second we’d be undefeated at this point,” added Cacciola, “but this is a lot of fun. We had a great team right away. I’ve never been on such a good team. It’s been a lot of fun to be a part of it.”

So can anyone beat this team at its best? “I don’t think so,” said Cacciola. “If we’re playing at our best, it’s not even close.”

“No one has done it yet, so I don’t think so,” added Neal.

The Hawks continue their bid to become the first team at any level to complete a season undefeated at 1 p.m. Sunday when they play their opening round game at the Region V Tournament in Fort Worth against North Central Texas College.

The pitching staff will be tested as the Hawks will have to play once a day for four days if they’re to win the tourney. It’s a goal Smith says the team is built to accomplish.

“The big thing when we talk about our team being built for the postseason centers on our pitching depth,” said Smith. “We feel really good about the fact we have the depth we do. Even if we were to lose a game, we still believe we could rally back and win in the end because of the depth that we have. We believe we have five legitimate starters on our staff. Other teams at the tournament will be hard-pressed to come close to finding that.”

**Oakland ends Rangers’ five-game win streak**

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Jack Cust was excused for missing most of Trevor Cahill’s first major league win.

While Cahill and the Athletics were in the field, Oakland’s designated hitter was in the video room. It paid off when he hit a grand slam that helped the A’s beat the Texas Rangers 9-4 Thursday.

“I know it kind of stinks but I did see some of his strikeouts,” Cust said.

Matt Holliday added a three-run shot and Bobby Crosby had three hits to help Oakland snap a four-game losing streak. Jack Hannahan doubled home a run and Kurt Suzuki added three hits in the A’s highest-scoring game this season.

“He’s got to do that to get ready for what he did,” Cahill said. “It’s what I do before a game.”

The grand slam helped Cahill (1-2) enjoy his outing even more.

“I was a little more aggressive after that,” said Cahill, who had his brother and girlfriend among the 13,702 in attendance. “A lead like that is nice and lets you relax.”

Cahill, who entered the game tied for the AL lead

for walks, did not issue a free pass while striking out four.

Brandon McCarthy (3-1) allowed seven runs on seven hits and three walks.

“For three innings I thought he threw the ball well,” Rangers’ manager Ron Washington said. “He got out there in the fourth and the two walks hurt him. He left one up to Cust and he caught it. They beat us today. They swung the bats well.”

Chris Davis homered for the Rangers, who had their five-game winning streak stopped. Marlon Byrd and Michael Young each doubled twice, and Young extended his hitting streak to 11 games.

Kris Benson pitched three innings in his first career relief appearance after 197 starts. Holliday greeted him with his fourth home run to give the A’s an 8-1 lead. Benson gave up two runs on five hits.

After Cahill gave up Davis’ solo shot in the fifth, he retired eight of his last nine batters. He never faced more than four batters in an inning and was the first Oakland starter to pitch into the seventh inning in 14 games.

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# EDITORIAL

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

**Ron Midkiff**  
Publisher

**John A. Moseley**  
Managing Editor

**Bill McClellan**  
News Editor

## OUR VIEW

# We salute:

*Each week, the Herald salutes individuals and groups from our community and area who have been recognized for special achievements or accomplishments.*

*We recognize these special people for working to help make our region a better place to live, work and play*

*This week we salute:*

- Ruth Nanny, co-chair of The Chalet Resale Shop and a member of the Volunteer Services Council Board, who was named Big Spring State Hospital's Volunteer of the Month for May.

- Members of the Fraternal Order of the Eagles, who donated \$7,000 to the Howard County Sheriff's Protective Vest Program.

- Big Spring State Hospital employees, who volunteered their day off to serve hamburgers and hotdogs to participants in Saturday's Third Annual Healthy Bodies/Healthy Minds Walk.

- Becky Otto, a teacher at Goliad Intermediate School, who received the Mirabeau B. Lamar Award, signifying her as the outstanding teacher in the Big Spring Independent School District, from the Staked Plains Masonic Lodge.

- All those who took part in Thursday's National Day of Prayer at the First United Methodist Church's Garrett Hall.

- The Hangar 25 Air Museum officials, who celebrated the facility's 10th anniversary Thursday during a come-and-go reception at the museum.

- The more than 200 Lakeview Head Start students that took part in the school's fifth annual Trike-A-Thon benefit for St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

- The Howard College Licensed Vocational Nursing program, which celebrated its 50th anniversary Wednesday during a reception at the Hall Center for the Arts.

- All those who took part in the 39th annual Big Spring Kennel Club Dog Show last Saturday and Sunday at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

- Stormi and Reba Smith, who have been selected to take part in this summer's People to People Student Ambassador Program and are now trying to raise the funds needed for them to take part in the program, which will see them traveling to several European cities.

- Chris Brooks, a student at Big Spring High School and the son of Greg and Lisa Brooks, who has been selected as Rotary Student of the Month by the Greater Big Spring Rotary Club.

- Erma Dunne, who was awarded the Humana RSVP Volunteer of the Year Award by the Big Spring RSVP during the local program's annual recognition banquet.

- Ricky James and Sue Ann Damron, who were named this year's Man and Woman of the Year during the VA Medical Center's Annual Awards Banquet.

*Is there an individual or organization in our community that you feel should be saluted? If so, please send us their name and why you think they should be recognized. We must have your name and telephone number and you must provide it in writing.*

## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we wear Your heavenly love, Lord, like a protective coat.

Amen

# Concerning a little loose change

Are you old enough to remember Edith Bunker? She was the 1970s sitcom mom on "All in the Family" played by Jean Stapleton. Faithful wife of Archie Bunker, mother of Gloria Bunker-Stivic, mother-in-law of Michael "Meathead" Stivic and grandmother of baby Joey.

One of the things Edith brought to the table of national culture was the taboo subject of menopause. It seems silly now in this day of never ending erectile dysfunction commercials, but it was not very long ago that the subject of menopause would peg everybody's cringe meter. So on national television they didn't call it menopause, I don't even think they said the "M" word. They called it the change of life.

After a visit to the doctor, Gloria explained to Archie he needed to be sensitive to the fact that Edith was going through her ordeal. Later on in the episode, a frustrated Archie yells at Edith, "When I had the hernia I didn't make you wear the truss. Now if you're gonna have a change of life, you gotta do it right now. I'm gonna give you 30 seconds!"

### THE CHANGE OF LIFE

There's a lot of change going on these days. In fact it's a completely different day than just 10 years ago. Most folks getting married are meeting on line and divorcing through legal websites.

There are more honor students in India than there are kids in America.

The Top Ten "in demand" jobs in 2010 did not even exist in 2004. There are more than 540,000 words in the English language which is five times more than

Shakespeare had in his day and China is about to be the largest English speaking country in the world.

So if you are somebody who is really afraid of change, you had better get over it or get you some heavy doses of Zanex. As much as I hate to see so many good things go, I have decided that since there is nothing I can do to stop it, change for me means transition and upgrade.

I am a sixth-generation Texan having been raised in rural Johnson County. My grandfather is my hero and I used to ride bulls. I think our World War II generation is America's greatest generation and there are lots of things about today I don't understand. With that said, if I want to be successful, and relevant I have to be willing to change. I can't set around and pout because Andy Griffith isn't on TV anymore.

Our capacity to embrace life and have dominion doesn't come from things remaining the same but through our understanding and participation in transition. I think we have to partner with God through transition and learn how to enjoy changing. Our journey though life is supposed to be progressive and God blesses pursuit.

Some people are so resistant to change and locked in on the past, they use days gone by as a filter for everything. I fight this and sometimes win, but I figure since I'm not a historian, paleontologist, archaeologist or psychoanalyst, I had better deal with my fascination of the past. The paleontologist in me knows that what you learn from dinosaurs is if you can't change, you become extinct.

### THE ART OF ADAPTATION

Several thousand years ago there was a Chinese warrior who wrote a book called The Art of War. His name was Sun Tzu. It has widely been respected for thousands of years as strategies

transferable to the marketplace and other areas.

On Page 19, he basically says we should watch our generals carefully and make sure they understand the principles of adaptation. If they try and fight in the mountains the same way they fought in the plains, get rid of them of them because they will kill your army. I say that is a valuable principle for today.

Change is here to stay so we need to get well versed in the art of adaptation. If we try and do things today the way we did 50 years ago, we won't make it.

To have an edge, you need to do more than just be open to change. You need to pursue change — and you need to do it a little bit more than other people around you. Partner with God through transition and watch Him make you victorious in this new landscape.

Anticipate change, adapt quickly, enjoy change and notice the little changes so you are better prepared for the big change that might be coming. Don't be pessimistic about anything. Be ready to change quickly, again and again and learn to love your life through the power of the Holy Spirit. Have hope and have confidence.

God is not afraid of this day, so you shouldn't be either. We are more than conquerors in all these things.

When it's cold outside you wear a coat, you have adapted to the cold. You just learned the art of adaptation. Just as the weather changes, so do things in our life; change is a must and God is in the changing business if we are willing.

Revelation 21:5

And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

*The Rev. Troy Brewer welcomes your comments. Contact him through his Website at [www.FreshFromTheBrewer.com](http://www.FreshFromTheBrewer.com)*

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# Flu bug really flying high

Dogs' barks, the saying goes, typically are worse than their bites. Not so, however, with swine flu, whose potential dangers loom to be far more ominous than a porcine's "oink."

There's never a convenient time for epidemics, or even worse, worldwide pandemics. But when such potential health catastrophes occur near the end of a school year, "havoc" seems far too tame a word to describe the disruptions. And this is true for educators and students alike.

Both groups are running short of furrows to accommodate worries embedded on troubled brows.

Looming for some educators and students are canceled and postponed events, possibly including proms, commencement exercises and "Project Graduation" events.

Superintendents, bless 'em, figured their lives couldn't become more complicated. They've shuffled schedules to provide more time for school funding issues and such.

Now, they've got to consider possibility of swine flu. Shucks, some of the administrators are also dealing with safety issues linked with, of all things, faulty light standards that teeter above athletic fields.

I've long contended that school folks may provide the primary reason for the "National Day of Prayer" being recognized in the month of May.

Why? Because administrators, teachers, students and parents of students are already praying

anyway! "Just help us make it through the year;" that's their plea.

At press time, thousands of prospective graduates were feverishly addressing invitations to their commencement exercises, wondering, of course, if the events will be held as scheduled.

They were already committed to getting invitations out early to beat the postal rate increase scheduled for May 11.

Two cents saved is two cents earned, they always say.

An even better incentive is to get 'em mailed before events are cancelled. Wow, what if the "invites" become "virtual invitations" to "virtual commencement exercises."

Prospective graduates are marking up phone books, "Googling" madly for addresses and names of relatives as far removed as fourth cousins and suddenly talking to parents about friends across the years who might enjoy seeing them cross the stage.

The point, of course, is to accrue as many gifts as possible.

Once we got an invitation addressed to "occupant." Turns out it was from a kid who once toted our groceries to the car. I think I detected an "I'll get even" smirk when I handed him his 25-cent tip.

Truth to tell, all of us are immersed in education. This is as it should be.

We should aspire to be like green tomatoes.

As long as we're green, we grow. When we think we're ripe, we start to get rotten.

Actually, Socrates was pushing this theory some 2,500 years ago. Once he asked, "Whom, then, shall I call educated?"

We don't know whether he answered the question in the next moment, hour, week, month or year, but a few words later in

history books, he provides the answer: "First, those who learn to manage well the circumstances they encounter day by day."

As prominent and admired as he was, Socrates likely had few clues about how many new circumstances would come along. Seems like multiple new circumstances are encountered under every rock.

People I've always respected most are the ones who've uttered the oft-heard expression: the one about their desire for their children to have more and better opportunities than they had.

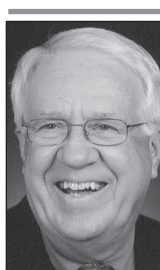
A few days ago, I met a distinguished Fort Worth executive chef for the first time. His name is Jon Bonnell. He visited our table; his remarks focused on education. He was a high school teacher before opting to attend culinary institutes in New England and New Orleans. One of his joys now is teaching in various culinary venues. Jon shares his recipes with all who ask and opens his kitchen to visits at all times.

With culinary awards stacking up, he's a quick-to-like guy. And he has a sense of humor to match. "When you visit my restaurant for the first time, you're a rookie; when you return, you are a repeat offender," he laughed. I think Socrates would have held classes at Bonnell's, pointing to Jon as "Exhibit A" as a man who has learned a bunch, wants to share his expertise with others, and is ready to take on new circumstances as they come along. This includes, of course, swine flu and falling light poles

*Dr. Dib Newbury is a speaker and writer living in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. He welcomes inquiries and comments. E-mail: [newbury@speakerdoc.com](mailto:newbury@speakerdoc.com) Phone: 817-447-3872. Web site: [www.speakerdoc.com](http://www.speakerdoc.com)*



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Romans 5:8

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Romans 6: 14

*For I can do everything with  
the help of Christ who gives me  
the strength I need.*

Philippians 4:13

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people should, how wide, how long, how  
high, and how deep his love really is.

Ephesians 3:17-18

He chose us from the beginning,  
and all things happen just  
as he decided long ago.

Ephesians 1:11



# Church News

## First United Methodist

Mother's Day service at First Methodist will be extra special this Sunday as our senior pastor, the Rev. Sharon Wiese, delivers her sermon titled "Rebekah's Gifts." The children will have special gifts for their mothers as well as all the women in the congregation.

Services of worship are at 8:30 a.m. and 10:50 a.m. Sunday school classes for all ages meet at 9:45 a.m. For a complete listing of classes for both children and adults, check out our new Web site at [www.fumcns.com](http://www.fumcns.com).

Friday, May 15, you are invited to the CDO End of Year and Graduation Program. It will be held in the sanctuary beginning at 10:30 a.m. and is guaranteed to bring a smile to your face as these little ones go through their paces. And, for those interested in enrolling children in the summer program, now is the time. Please call Loryne at 267-7511. Summer programs will be held Wednesdays and Fridays for children age six weeks to fourth grade.

It is also time to register your children for the various church camps to be held this summer. Contact Joyce Willis for the schedule for younger children and Brent Williams for older youth.

Our Relay For Life teams have done a great job of recruiting and fund raising. Hats off to members of "Hope For Amy" and "Remember Shane" for a job well done. We will be excited to hear their grand total and gratified to know that our church continues to join the fight to beat cancer.

Sunday, May 17, is our day of celebration. The Hispanic Ministry will be serving a meal in Garrett Hall after the late service. This is a benefit meal for Amy Williams and all proceeds will go into the account for her medical expenses as she continues with her chemotherapy. We will also be honoring our high school graduates that day in addition to showcasing the various ministries of our church.

Please take note of our new office hours 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day at the corner of Fourth and Scurry streets,

where families grow in Christ.

## Chapel of Faith

Chapel of Faith, an inter-denominational congregation, invites you to attend worship service Sundays at 10:30 a.m. Services are informal and you are sure to learn more about God and His love for each of us.

Messages are taken from the scriptures and give insight into how we can live for God each day. You will be welcomed by a dedicated group who love God and are always ready to share that love with others. Come a little early and enjoy a time of fellowship and refreshments.

Plans for the coming months include the community chili supper to be held June 13. Make plans now to come out and enjoy really good homemade chili. Serving will be from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m.

Chapel of Faith is located at the corner of East 14th and Goliad streets. We look forward to seeing you.

## Baptist Temple

This Sunday, our sermon will be titled "God is Bigger Than My Problems" from Exodus 5-12. Moses faced an insurmountable task of going to the most powerful man in the world and asked him to give us his post prized possession. This request did not go over well and created more problems for Moses and the people of Israel but God proved to be bigger than all of that.

We will also be recognizing our mothers and presenting them with a gift during the service. We will have no evening service so as to allow all of our people to spend time with family and loved ones.

Our weight-loss support group, SPEED (Shedding Pounds Eagerly Every Day), meets at 7 p.m. Tuesdays in the Baptist Temple fellowship hall. There is no cost and it is open to anyone interested in attending. Group members also meet at 7:15 p.m. Monday, Thursday and Friday at the VA Medical Center to walk the track.

# A hill isn't a mountain until it has to be climbed

I love mountains — real mountains — mountains that are belted by timberlines and wear snow caps all year long. When my husband, Dwayne, and I moved to Big Spring almost 20 years ago, I thought I knew all there was to know about mountains. Having spent 17 years in the Pacific Northwest, we had explored several of the Cascade peaks and marveled at their majesty and beauty.



BONNIE WHEAT

In our younger adult years, we tramped up and down the slopes of Mt. Saint Helens before the 1980 eruption. We tested our camping skills in a tent pitched on the chilly ground of the Ohanapecosh Glacier area of Mt. Rainier, the highest of the Cascade peaks. Through the years we chaperoned several youth ski trips to Mt. Hood where Dwayne amassed a repertoire of bus-driving tales.

We slept on picnic tables and feed-trough bunk beds. We trudged up hills and tromped through knee-high snow for the thrill of speeding downhill on a tube sled.

A few days after our U-Haul truck jerked to a stop in Big Spring in 1989, I started hearing fellow teachers at my new school talk about something called Scenic Mountain.

Having already scanned the skyline several times in search of a mountain, I ventured to ask where this Scenic Mountain was supposed to be. To my amusement, they pointed to a hill with some picnic tables near the hospital.

A year or so later, I tried walking up that little hill with some friends and was amazed that it was so difficult to climb. I learned a valuable lesson that day. We really can't distinguish between a mountain and a hill until we have climbed the grade ourselves. What may seem like a hill may be a mountain to the one wearing the hiking boots.

The scripture instructs us to have compassion for those who are struggling uphill: Bear one another's burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2 NASB).

Perhaps we would be less critical of others if we realized that a hill is not a mountain until we have to climb it ourselves.

We have Sunday school classes for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Sunday. Worship services are 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday. We also have activities for all ages at 7 p.m. Wednesday.

For more information, call 267-8287 or check us out on the Web at [btcbig-spring.org](http://btcbig-spring.org)

## First Presbyterian, Coahoma

The friendly folks at First Presbyterian Church, Coahoma invite any-

one to come and worship with us. We meet at 11 a.m. Sunday to share the scriptures, sing, pray and worship, led by Commissioned Lay Pastor Tom Koger.

The church session had its monthly meeting Thursday in the church social hall.

The lectionary for the fifth Sunday of Easter is Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; I John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8.

See **CHURCH NEWS**, Page 6A

# RE-ELECT CITY COUNCILMAN MANUEL RAMIREZ, JR.

Home Grown!  
Born & Raised  
In Big Spring

## District 2

Believe In  
Big Spring  
First!

- I am not a "YES" man. I've disagreed with the Mayor on various issues.
- I talk "to" my constituents - not "at" them, and have an Open-Door policy with them.
- Believe in informing citizens to the fullest, and feel they should be able to vote on certain ordinances/laws.
- Have lived in District 2 for 35 years.
- Am the only Councilman to have an Adopt-A-Highway Program.
- Strongly believe in making Downtown Big Spring flourish once again and truly believe we as a community can make it happen!



### Endorsements

I am a life-long citizen of Big Spring and live in District 2. I have been very happy with the job Manuel Ramirez has done with this side of town. He is extremely vigilant of the people's needs especially the elderly. I want to express my gratitude and fully endorse Mr. Ramirez for the running of District 2 in the City Council.

~ Tom Olague, BSHS Class of 1982

I grew up in Big Spring and graduated from Big Spring High School in the same year as Manuel. Manuel was always a determined person who worked to make a difference on behalf of whatever project he supported. I know that Manuel will continue to do a great job on the Council.

~ Laura Warren Moore, BSHS Class of 1982  
Abilene City Council - Place 6

I know Manuel Ramirez will do his very best to serve the citizens of Big Spring while serving another term on the City Council. He is an honest man looking to honestly serve. You certainly have my endorsement!

~ Merribeth Bancroft Kerr, BSHS Class of 1982

We have known Manuel for 35 years. He has the vision and dedication to bring out the best in Big Spring for all of its citizens to enjoy. We wholeheartedly endorse Manuel for City Council.

~ Brint Ryan and Dawn Estes  
BSHS Class of 1982

Mr. Manuel Ramirez has been doing a great job as City Councilman. His method of envisioning what is best for Big Spring not only for the present, but for the future as well, is what this council needs. Seeing various ideas, problems or concerns from different perspectives is also a positive asset for him and for our city as well.

~ Hijinio C. Moreno, Jr.

Mr. Manuel Ramirez is very efficient in getting things done for us. When we need something done, Mr. Ramirez takes care of it right away. He is an asset to the City of Big Spring and very much endorse him for his re-election.

~ Ro and Sally Gore

Manuel Ramirez is a proud Big Spring resident who has family, city and education at the forefront of his convictions to improve Big Spring. His passion toward West Texas is a shining beacon for many.

~ Elise Wheat Kail  
BSHS Class of 1982

I believe that Manuel Ramirez is doing a great job representing District 2 and the community as a whole. It takes dedication to be involved and to work with all the entities of Big Spring and Howard County as well. Manuel will continue to do a good service to the city of Big Spring.

Please vote for Manuel Ramirez - for the right choice.  
Thank you, Irene Galan

# VOTE MAY 9TH

I feel that I speak FOR my constituents and not TO them. As Robert Taft, brother of President William Taft once said, "If we wish to make a Democracy permanent in this country, let us abide by the fundamental principles laid down in the Constitution. Let us see that the State is the servant of the people and that the people are not servants of the State."



## CHURCH NEWS

Continued from Page 5A

First Presbyterian,  
Big Spring

We appreciated the Minute for Mission presented by Joe Don Baker from Odessa, a representative from Gideons International, last Sunday.

Congratulations to all of our youth graduating from high school and college. They will be recognized and honored on Senior Day this month.

Teaching a new unit, "The Great Dinner," for elementary age Sunday school students will be Donna Amonett, Janie Conley, Helen Glass, Jenn Patterson and Jamie Walker. The parable about God's invitation and our response to His offer of salvation will be explored using game-playing, singing, puppet-making, banner-making, and learning about breath prayers. The study will conclude with a party.

The Adult Video Class begins a new study from Faith Lessons by Ray Vander Laan called "In the Dust of the Rabbi: Becoming a Disciple." This sixth DVD in the series, which relates Biblical truth to modern society, will be led by Rip Patterson, Lucy Odom and Helen Glass.

Mother's Day cards for the NetWorkers Malaria Prevention Program are now available. Contact Jo Dell Myrick or Neva Green for your cards.

Katie Grimes is in charge of refreshments for "Take Ten" Sunday. Liturgist is Marj Carpenter.

The lectionary for the fifth Sunday of Easter is Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; I John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8. As an introit the choir will sing Henry Purcell's "Glory and Worship Are before Him." The anthem is "I Am the Vine" by McCormick and the offertory anthem "I Will Sing Glad Songs" by Gordon Young. The Rev. Bronaugh's sermon topic for this Mother's Day is "Pruning the Roses" from John 15:1-8.

## St. Mary's Episcopal

Everyone is invited to attend worship at St. Mary's Sunday. Holy communion will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. Sunday school for all ages begins at 9:30 a.m.

St. Mary's noon Holy Eucharist Service is every Wednesday in the chapel.

There will be a women's lunch and prayer group meeting after the noon service in the library. Please bring your lunch and join with us.

St. Mary's Vestry will meet at 6 p.m. Monday in the library.

For more information about St. Mary's Episcopal Church, call 267-8201 or visit our Web site at [www.stmarysbst.org](http://www.stmarysbst.org). St. Mary's is at 1001 S. Goliad.

## Salem Baptist

Salem Baptist Church welcomes you this Sunday for Sunday school at 10 a.m., morning worship at 11 a.m., and evening worship at 6 p.m.

A nursery is available for all Sunday services. Wednesday prayer meeting is held at Parkplace at 6 p.m.

Salem is pastored by Bro. Monroe Teeters and is at the corner of Salem Road and Old Colorado City Highway. For more information, call 494-4655.

## Holy Trinity Catholic Parish

This is a special welcome to all women to be honored on Mother's Day. You are cordially invited to attend the weekend services at Holy Trinity Catholic Parish for a special blessing and a gift.

Services are:

Saturday, 5 p.m. at Sacred Heart, 508 N. Aylesford.

Sunday, 7:30 a.m. at St. Thomas, 605 N. Main; 9:30 a.m. at Immaculate of Mary, 1009 Hearn; and 11:30 a.m. at Sacred Heart.

## Renew your knowledge of the Catholic faith

Interested in learning about the Catholic faith? We invite you to come and see who we are and what we believe. Come study the Bible, the Catholic Catechism, the Vatican II documents, the Papal writings and the writings of the church fathers.

Come and experience the richness of the Catholic faith. We will meet from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Mondays at the Holy Trinity Catholic Parish office, 610 S. Main. Everyone is welcome.

## Birdwell Lane Baptist

We invite you to visit with us this Sunday for Sunday school at 10 a.m., morning worship at 10:55 a.m., evening worship at 5 p.m. and choir practice at 4:30 p.m.

Children's church is during the morning worship for ages 4-12. A nursery is provided for your little ones and if you need a ride to services call 264-9924 or 267-7157.

The ladies are preparing for their mother-daughter banquet Saturday, May 16 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Come and be our honored guest.

For further information, call 267-7157 or 267-8214.

## North Birdwell Lane

## United Methodist

This Sunday, morning worship service begins at 10:30 a.m. with the evening service at 5 p.m. Pastor Chris Rodriguez will lead both services. Sunday school and fellowship for all begins at 9:30 a.m.

The adult Sunday school discussion is "New Life in Christ," taken from Ephesians 2:1-10. Bill Lovelace will be the discussion leader.

Bible study is held the first and third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. United Methodist Women meet the second and fourth Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. Both are held in the church fellowship hall.

We wish to commend the five teachers at Goliad Intermediate School for giving up a Saturday to help with the delivery and distribution of Angel Food. Hats off to you and other volunteers who are so committed to this non-qualifying food ministry.

For the children, we are now raising money for the UNICEF program.

North Birdwell Lane United Methodist Church is a congregation committed to doing the work of the Lord through mission, not only to our own community, but to needs in our world. We are located at 2702 N. Birdwell. For more information, call 267-2203 or 263-2536 and leave a message.

Alive in Christ  
Lutheran, LCMS

Our credo is "Celebrating and sharing God's love and grace in our lives."

Bob Boyce will return to the pulpit this Sunday. Angela Newton is our organist. Last Sunday, our acolyte was Alyssa Bryd and this week's acolyte will be Analyssa Rodriguez. Our elders this week are Bobby Roever and Darren Byrd. The liturgy will be read by Bobby Roever. Church begins at 9 a.m. Please join us.

Last Sunday, the congregational meeting/voters' assembly met at after church service. This important meeting included discussion of some future plans for

See CHURCH, Page 7A

E-mail your Church News to  
[newsdesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:newsdesk@bigspringherald.com)

## PARSON TO PERSON

The longest lasting  
job I've ever had

Being invited to write my column for a new newspaper is always an exciting thing for me. I would like to say hello to the people of Big Spring and Howard County — my name is Matt Price and the name of this column is Parson to Person.



MATT  
PRICE

Let me give you a brief biography of myself. Most of the details will come out in the columns that I write but let me give you some background. First off, this is a personal opinion column. The views that I espouse and write about are mine. From week to week you may find that I will mix up the subject from something on politics to sports to something about Jesus Christ. I really like to write and opine on current events.

I was born and raised in Southern California in what is known as the Inland Empire — not Hollywood. I was, however born on the campus of UCLA and so I do have a tendency to have a soft spot for the Bruins. Riverside and Orange County are — or at least was when I lived there — very conservative and I reflect that in my beliefs. For me, political correctness stops when it meets the truth and I believe that truth is not just what an individual says it is but that truth is a person and His name is Jesus.

My wife Lenore and I were both in the restaurant business (Burger King managers) when we accepted a call from a small Baptist church in Claflin, Kansas, in 2000. We accepted and started our culture shock journey. We went from what we thought was a small town in California (pop. 10,000) to a real small town in Kansas (pop. 500). The church was small and I was bi-vocational. In January 2001 I began work at the Great Bend Tribune as a general assignments reporter. Two months later I began to write Parson to Person. The column has been the longest lasting job I have ever held.

Parson to Person has now run in newspapers in Kansas, Nebraska, Florida and Missouri. I will say this in this column and then no more because I don't want to seem like I am pandering or using this column to build up the church where I am

ministering. I am the youth director/pastor at Midway Baptist Church and I have been the solo pastor of churches in Kansas, Nebraska and Missouri.

For the past four years I have also been the sports writer/editor for the Milan Standard — a weekly newspaper in Milan, Missouri. I covered three high schools that were in Sullivan County including the Newtown-Harris boy's basketball team who were the Class 1 state runner-ups this year. Pretty good for a school that only has 39 students. As you can tell, I tend to be a homer when it comes to the teams that I cover.

I am a published author of one book, "The Carpenter's Apprentice," and have written several others. My publisher went out of business and finding another is a royal pain. The "Carpenter's Apprentice" is for sale on Web sites like Amazon.com. I also have just completed my Doctor of Theology (Th.D) from Southwest Bible College and Seminary and am currently writing my thesis which will be used as a text book for a PhD. I don't expect anyone to call me Dr. Price when you see me out and about. Like my friend told me once — "Unless you can fix my broken leg, I'm not calling you doctor!" While I can pray for the leg, I don't think you want me pulling on it.

Lenore and I have five kids in all and they are all adults. Our oldest, Amanda, is married to Cliff and is in possession of our only grandchild, Natalie. They live in Arlington. Two others, Jennifer and Justin also live and work in Arlington. Ecclesia and Samaria (yes, I did that to my daughters) live in Southern California.

We have been in Big Spring for just over a week and everyone we have met has been so friendly. Truly the things that we have heard about the people of West Texas have been reported accurately. The only time we have run into rudeness was this past week when we went to get our two old vehicles registered. No, the lady at the courthouse annex was wonderful — it was the prices that were rude.

Wow, the state of Texas welcomed us in and charged us \$169 for a 1996 van and more than that for a 1998 truck. All told we were relieved of more than \$400 when you take into account the inspection fees. Ah me, the government strikes again. While the people and culture change from place to place, the government sucking up your money stays the same no matter where you go.

Matt Price is a pastor, author and columnist. E-mail him at [theparsonperson@yahoo.com](mailto:theparsonperson@yahoo.com)

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# Stretching yourself beyond the difficulties

**F**rank Lloyd Wright, a famous architect who designed many beautiful homes and other magnificent buildings, was asked toward the end of his career, "Of the many buildings you have designed, which one is your favorite?" Without a moment of hesitation, Wright answered, "My next one."



**JERRIE STOCKS**

Mr. Wright understood the principle of forever pressing forward, never being satisfied with past successes, and we can all do the same by pressing onward and stretching ourselves past our problems.

God is a progressive God and He wants us to push ourselves beyond the difficulties of life. He never intended for our lives to be a cake walk. He didn't even provide Jesus an easy way out, but made it so that He had to stretch Himself to the point of death on the cross.

God's desire is for every generation to progress further in life than the one that came before. The hardships we face today with the economy is by no means a reason for any of us to retire from life, to call it quits, or sit down and wait for the undertaker. People have always made it through difficult times and we will make it through these. Be assured that when it is over, we can look back with a grateful heart and be glad we stretched ourselves past the problems.

No matter where we are in life, God always has more in store. It is never His desire for us to quit stretching, lose hope, or become despondent. There are always areas where we can boost ourselves to a higher level.

God never performs His greatest feats in our yesterdays. His eye is always on the tomorrows, a new sunrise, a deep breath of fresh air, even though it may all seem uphill for the moment.

Many don't realize that they have the seed of Almighty God on the inside, and His seed always produces, but we must do the raking, the hoeing and the digging in order for the seed to grow. Oftentimes it is very difficult, but perseverance always has its reward.

When God put Adam in the garden, his first assignment was to tend and take care of it. He could not just lie around all day doing nothing. God wanted Adam to stretch himself by being the caretaker of the garden.

Where you are now does not necessarily predict your future. Take the good and cher-

ish it, but glean valuable lessons from the negative. Know deep inside yourself that others do not determine your potential. Many times, our greatest blessings come from our greatest difficulties.

A number of years ago, I read a true story published in the Wall Street Journal. This couple had been married for almost 30 years when suddenly the husband went missing. Within a week of his disappearance, the wife received a notice from her bank that a number of checks were insufficient, and the banker requested that she come in for consultation. The wife learned that

her husband had taken all the money from the checking account and closed it, and cleaned out their savings, leaving her penniless. Almost a year later, there was still no word of his whereabouts.

Needless to say, she was devastated. Fortunately her home and automobile, which her husband had left for her, were paid for. At age 55 and with no money, she did the only thing she knew to do. She talked to God, asking Him for a plan for her life, and the Lord answered her prayers.

Two days later, the banker called again and asked her to come in to talk with him.

This time it was good news. He offered her a job with full benefits. Although she had never worked outside the home during her marriage, she did have two years of college.

She went to work for the bank, and was an exemplary employee. She learned quickly and never once spoke of her misfortune. Twenty-two years later, the Journal carried the story again, and now at age 77, she is still a part-time employee of the bank, and the favorite of her many customers. She said that despite the troubled times she went through, she learned she could do a lot she

had never done before by stretching her mind and body. Although the times were difficult, she said she knew she could pull herself out of the hole she was in by forcing herself to reach higher — and that she did.

So take heart and be of good cheer. God knows right where you are. He is still God and you are still His child. Hebrews 13:5-6 says, "... be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.' So we may boldly say: 'The Lord is my helper, I will not fear, for what can man do to me?'"  
God bless

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## CHURCH

Continued from Page 6A

Alive In Christ Lutheran Church.

Members of our AIC Youth Group are selling "Alive in Christ" window stickers for \$7 for the smaller size or \$10 for the larger size. The stickers include our logo with the outline of Jesus with his arms outstretched, our name and our credo. Contact any member of the youth group.

Plans for another information class are being finalized. Martin Luther, the history of our church, baptism, sacraments and other topics may be discussed.

The Board of Education will meet May 12 at 7 p.m. at church.

The next LWML meeting is May 14, at 7 p.m. at the church. Final plans for the May 17 reception for our four high school graduates will be made.

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**Discover Another World, Read!**  
You never know what you might find.

The full moon in Scorpio brings passion, mystery, tension and desire. Every relationship has a story, and those stories get a lot more interesting tonight. Take the time to look and feel your best. You'll only see the ripe opportunities if you're not self-conscious about how you're coming across. The lovely mood will carry into the weekend.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). Your muses are working overtime, so be ready to capture the ideas that pop into your head. A notebook is a must. The theme revolves around how you can ratchet up the excitement level in your life.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). You will be expected to stick to the outline, stay with the plan and do it all within the budget. Those constructs feel too restrictive to you. But if you're pampered and praised enough, you'll be likely to comply.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). You want to believe in a happy ending and it is precisely because you can't bring yourself to lose faith that such an ending will happen for you. Keep thinking about the lovely way everything is going to work out.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). Romance and melodrama will pull you in. The situation may not include you directly, but you will get a great deal of pleasure or entertainment by being peripherally involved.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). Life is never dull for you, either because crazy things happen in your world or because you're busy making crazy things happen. Take the reins today — generate the excitement instead of letting it happen to you.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You may not be sure if you can pull off a certain task, but the fact that you

want to try bodes well for your success. Chances are good that you will rise to the occasion when all eyes are on you.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You put special care into your appearance, choosing attention-getting details that tell the world you are no ordinary citizen. Indeed, you have something surprising to offer those who try to get to know you.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You can shift quickly from mood to mood. It's not because you're unstable, but because you are so in tune with the vibes that other people are sending out that you can't help but empathize to some degree.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You need more security today than usual. You want to make a move, but not a risky one. Accomplished people will offer advice. With a willing spirit, you'll embrace these suggestions.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You can't hide your emotions. How you

feel about a person colors every nuance of your interactions. If you are trying to keep it a secret that you love someone or dislike them immensely, don't be around that person today.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The way you handled a situation yesterday may be nothing like the way you will handle it today. You are changing and growing. Loved ones are riveted because they don't know what you'll do next.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). Something that held a lot of intrigue for you at one time is no longer interesting. It's possible that you've gotten all you could out of this for the time being. Seek new adventures this afternoon.

**WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST:** **ARIES:** You want to know what a loved one is thinking. Instead of asking, just guess and you'll probably be right. **TAURUS:** Your path to love is a surprising one. It's better not to have any expectations. Just let

yourself go for this fun ride. **GEMINI:** You'll be inspired to change your appearance in order to keep things fresh in your love life. **CANCER:** Someone finds your curiosity flattering! That said, be careful not to be too nosy. **LEO:** The one who laughs at your jokes has a little crush on you. **VIRGO:** You're creating the story of your love life with every decision you make. Be mindful! **LIBRA:** Your whimsical gesture reminds the one you love how unique your kind of affection really is. **SCORPIO:** You'll be inclined to share a juicy bit of personal information that you normally would keep mum. **SAGITTARIUS:** You'll meet new friends in a

professional context. Singles find love this way. **CAPRICORN:** Your friends loosen you up. Someone new notices you while you're joking around with your pals. **AQUARIUS:** Loved ones think you're so attractive while completing a domestic chore. **PISCES:** Tell people how to treat you, or show them by the way you treat yourself.

*If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com) and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail.*

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HOLIDAY MATHIS

**Tomorrow's Horoscope**

**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](http://www.sudoku.com)

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

**Contract Bridge**

By Steve Becker

**Test Your Play**

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Four Spades, and North leads the king of hearts. How would you play the hand? (Assume the trumps are divided 2-2.)

**West**  
♠ K Q J 10 4  
♥ 8 2  
♦ K 7 5  
♣ A 6 3

**East**  
♠ A 9 8 7  
♥ A 7 6 3  
♦ J 4  
♣ K 9 5

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Three Notrump. North leads the jack of hearts, South following low. How would you play the hand?

**West**  
♠ A K J 4  
♥ A K  
♦ A Q 9 2  
♣ K J 3

**East**  
♠ 6  
♥ Q 7 6 5 3  
♦ 8 5 4  
♣ A 7 4 2

1. Win the heart lead with the ace, draw trumps and play a low diamond toward dummy's J-4! This gives you about a 75 percent chance for the contract, which is much better than the 50 percent chance you'd have if you started the diamonds by leading one from dummy.

The low diamond toward the jack makes the contract whenever North was dealt the queen, which happens 50 percent of the time. He has no choice but to take the queen, and after you later force out the ace of diamonds by playing the jack, you will be able to discard a club from

dummy on the king of diamonds. Your only losers in that case would be a heart and two diamonds.

Even if South has the queen of diamonds and wins dummy's jack with it, you are still in contention. You have plenty of time later on to lead a diamond toward your K-7, and if South has the ace, you make the contract that way.

The suggested method of play fails only when South has the queen and North the ace — about a one-in-four chance — but in that case any other method of play is also virtually certain to fail.

2. Here you've got a sure thing. Cash the A-K of hearts, cross to the ace of clubs, then play the queen of hearts and discard a spade. If North turns up with either four or five hearts, play another one and let him cash his heart trick (or tricks), discarding one or two diamonds from your hand. North must then hand you trick No. 9, whether he returns a spade, a diamond or a club.

If North started with only one or two hearts — unlikely, but possible — you still have him on the hook. After cashing dummy's queen of hearts, you next lead a diamond to the nine (or queen, if South plays the ten or jack). North wins but is forced to give you your ninth trick whether he returns a spade, a diamond or a club.

Tomorrow: Fancy footwork.

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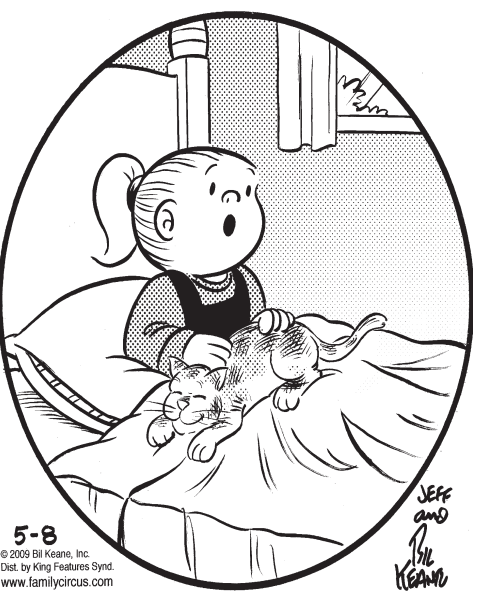
	WFAA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5:PM	News ABC	News ABC	Locura	Lopez	News CBS	Noticias NBC	News NBC	Raymond Friends	In Touch-Dr	BBC Business	Cash Cab	Trek: Nemesis, Brent Spiner	CSI: NY	Bones	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas	Horn	SportsCenter
6:PM	News ABC	Jeopardy!	Tontas Cielo	Lopez	News CBS	Noticias NBC	News NBC	Friends	Sprna	News-Lehrer	Cash Cab	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order		Suite Life	Interrupt		
7:PM	Entertain	Fortune	Two Men	Entertain	Millionaire	Seinfeld	Hagee	Update	Wash Wk NOW	Doing Da Vinci	Movie: Stripes, Warren Oates	CSI: Crime Scn	Movie: Men in Black, Linda Fiorentino	Movie: Harlem Nights, Redd Foxx	Montana	NASCAR Racing: Nationwide Series	NBA	Basketball: Conference Semifinal
8:PM	Movie: Happy Feet, Brittany Murphy	Movie: Happy Feet, Brittany Murphy	Cuidado-Ángel	Prison Break	Ghost Whisperer	Doña Barbara	Howie Do	Fam. Guy	Light of the Southwest	Bill Moyers Journal	Doing Da Vinci	Movie: Rambo: First Blood Part II	Movie: The Chronicles of Riddick	Sunday Best	Boxing: Friday Night Fights	NBA	Basketball: Conference Semifinal	
9:PM	20/20	20/20	Rosa	TMZ	NUMB3RS	Sin Senos	El Cartel	Church	Charlie Rose	Doing Da Vinci	Movie: Blazing Saddles	MAN	MAN	MAN	Movie: Harlem Nights, Redd Foxx	Wizards	NBA	Basketball: Conference Semifinal
10:PM	News	Nightline	Impacto	Raymond	News	Noticias	News	My Boys	Sex & Sanchez	Smiley	Doing Da Vinci	Movie: Motel Hell, Paul Linke	Movie: Aeon Flux, Jonny Lee Miller	Game	Kim	NBA	Basketball: Conference Semifinal	
11:PM	Insider	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Desmadrugados	Late Late Show	Late Late Show	Late Night-Jim	Update (12:10)	Movie: The Pelican Brief, Sam Shepard	Best of Light of the Southwest	Everest: Limit	(45) Movie: Backwoods, Danny Nucci	Movie: The Deal	Game	Emperor	Dragon			
12:AM	News	Axis	Madre	Faith	Insider	Pagado	Pagado	Poker After Dark										
1:AM	Paid	Marketing	Mujer...	Friends	Entertain	Pagado	Pagado	Pagado										

DENNIS THE MENACE



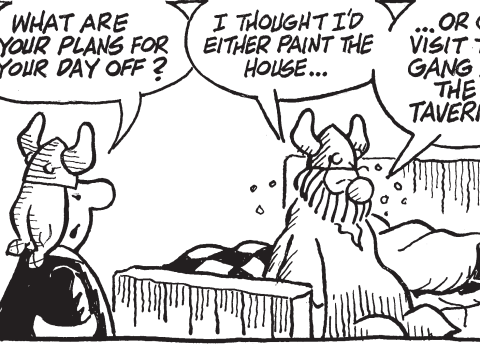
"A KITE IN A TREE MAY NOT BE AN EMERGENCY TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, BUT IT IS TO ME!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

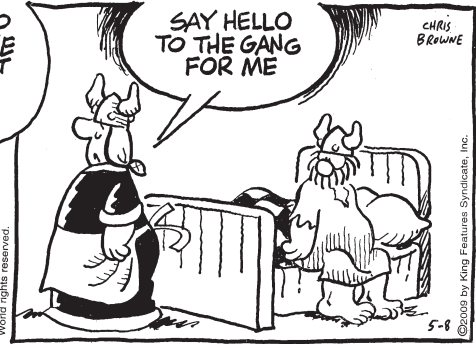


"How long do I have to sleep before a catnap becomes a people nap?"

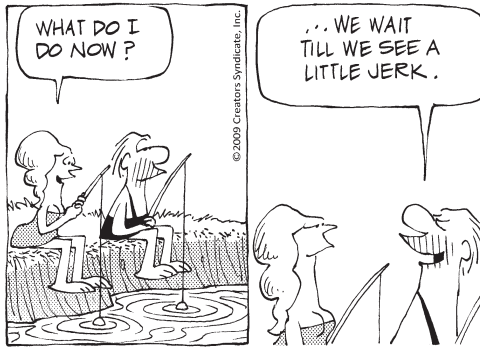
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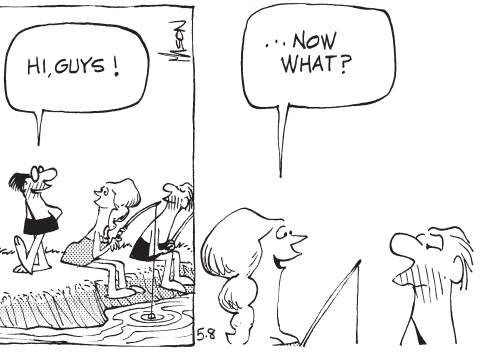
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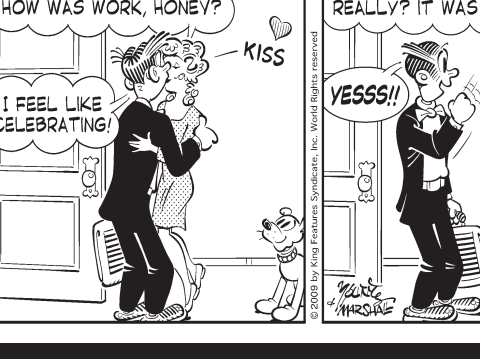
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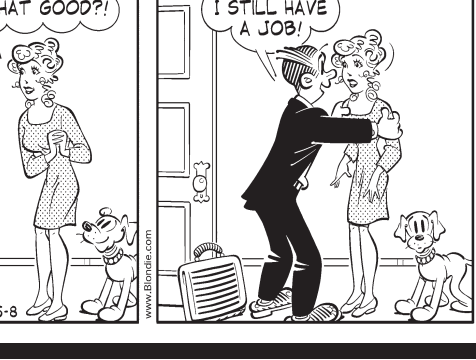
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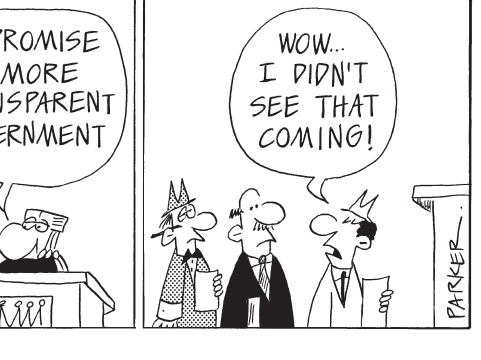
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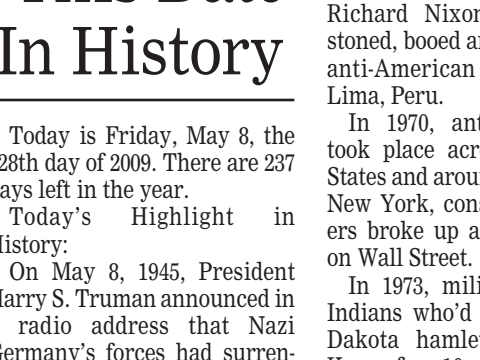
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

born in Lamar, Mo. In 1958, Vice President Richard Nixon was shoved, stoned, booed and spat upon by anti-American protesters in Lima, Peru. In 1970, anti-war protests took place across the United States and around the world; in New York, construction workers broke up a demonstration on Wall Street. In 1973, militant American Indians who'd held the South Dakota hamlet of Wounded Knee for 10 weeks surrendered. In 1978, David R. Berkowitz pleaded guilty in a Brooklyn courtroom to murder, attempted murder and assault in connection with the "Son of Sam" shootings that had terrified New Yorkers. In 1984, the Soviet Union announced it would boycott the upcoming Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles. One year ago: Silvio Berlusconi was sworn in as Italy's premier. Today's Birthdays: Comedian Don Rickles is 83. Naturalist Sir David Attenborough is 83. Singer Toni Tennille is 69. Actor James Mitchum is 68. Country singer Jack Blanchard is 67. Jazz musician Keith Jarrett is 64. Singer Philip Bailey (Earth, Wind and Fire) is 58. Rock musician Chris Frantz (Talking Heads) is 58. Rockabilly singer Billy Burnette is 56. Drummer Alex Van Halen is 56. Actor David Keith is 55. Actress Melissa Gilbert is 45. Rock musician Dave Rowntree (Blur) is 45. Country musician Del Gray is 41. Rock singer Darren Hayes is 37. Singer Enrique Iglesias is 34. Singer Ana Maria Lozano (Eden's Crush) is 31. Actress Julia Whelan (WAY-lan) is 24. Thought for Today: "Men don't change. The only thing new in the world is the history you don't know." — President Harry S. Truman (1884-1972). © 2009 The Associated Press.

NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**  
1 Wie org.  
5 Gets into shape  
10 Outback greeting  
14 Atelier inventory  
15 Doofus  
16 Lunchbox goody  
17 Piecrust feature  
19 Go bad  
20 Creator of the Marches  
21 Storied surname  
23 "For shame!"  
24 Craving  
27 Off the hook  
30 Belabored  
32 It's east of the Atl.  
33 Throb  
36 Small scurriers  
37 Confuse  
39 Holmes garb  
41 Ingmar protégée  
42 Nonstandard pronoun  
43 Behind schedule  
44 Pass over  
46 Ran  
47 Certain objet d'art  
48 Do union work  
51 Former Andorran coin  
53 "Jaywalking" interviewer  
54 Grp. with guards  
57 Smooths out  
59 Prepares to be dubbed
- DOWN**  
61 Computer choice list  
63 Waste, as one's time  
66 Hit the easy chair  
67 Any Elvis recording  
68 Demolish  
69 Bit of help  
70 Kentucky Derby bouquet  
71 "Leave it alone"
- 6** Written praise  
**7** Top  
**8** Rapper  
**9** Record player  
**10** "I'm stumped!"  
**11** Devised  
**12** Atm-kin  
**13** Over there  
**18** Italian volcano  
**22** "Cut that out!"  
**25** Teleplay coda  
**26** Of ten  
**28** Blender button  
**29** Unable to escape  
**30** Leader  
**31** Roy Rogers movie sidekick  
**33** Misbehave  
**34** Irish county  
**35** Interferes with  
**38** Therapeutic amount

Answer to previous puzzle

LEGS	TEEMS	PREZ
AQUA	HUMAN	RIDE
MULL	ERICA	APED
BALTI	MORERA	AVENS
SLY	NAP	LAD
ATLANTA	HAWKS	
GOAWOL	OATS	HIE
AXLE	AMP	YELL
LED	ASIA	SORTOF
ANAHEI	MDUCKS	
BOX	PHI	MBA
TORONTO	BLUE	JAYS
ADAM	ELAM	ANTS
LIMB	ELATE	KNEE
LESS	SOBER	EAST

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