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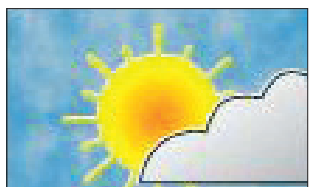


VOLUME 104, NUMBER 147

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FRIDAY

MAY 22, 2009



50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Angry veterans

Group unhappy with local VAMC, takes complaints to Neubegauer's office

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

A group of West Texas veterans met with Lisa Brooks, director of Congressman Randy Neugebauer's Big Spring office, Thursday morning to discuss complaints regarding the VA Medical Center — complaints hospital officials say have already been addressed. "We're here because of the care we've received and the disregard (that has been shown) for our opinions as far as our medical care is con-



Marsh

cerned from Daniel Marsh (Big Spring VA Medical Center director) and Dr. (All-E) Naqvi," said Bill Murray, District 1 and Chapter Commander for the DAV (Disabled American Veterans). "We're also asking the congressman to look into the dismissal of Dr. Patrick Cole, who was a

Murray

C&P (compensation and pension) examiner at the Big Spring VA Hospital. We're being ignored to a point of agitation in trying to communicate with Mr. Marsh about



HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins

Members of Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) met with Lisa Brooks, the local representative for Congressman Randy Neugebauer's office, Thursday morning to discuss a number of grievances they have with the Big Spring VA Medical Center. From left, clockwise, is Lee Smith, Michael Dyess, Jimmy House, Albert Harris, Sam Robison and Bill Murray, State of Texas District 1 commander and chapter commander for the DAV.

some of the things that are going on at the hospital.

"He's (Marsh) failed to listen to our complaints. It's a total failure to communicate," he added. "We need to be heard

on these types of issues. It's like they have placed themselves on a pedestal as a god, and they aren't going to listen to anybody about anything. Together, we have about 18

counties, and the veterans of those counties feel the VA Medical Center here in Big Spring just isn't giving us See **ANGRY**, Page 3A



HERALD file photo
Hundreds of motorcyclists are expected to converge at the Big Spring Vietnam Memorial site Monday as part of the Ride to Remember.

Big Spring Memorial to host annual tribute

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Hundreds of motorcycles will make their way into Big Spring Monday morning, as bikers participating in the annual Ride to Remember will meet at the Big Spring Vietnam Memorial to pay tribute to this nation's fallen heroes.

Jerry Groves, spokesperson for the Big Spring Vietnam Memorial Committee, said this year's Memorial Day program will be considerably smaller than last year, but size isn't necessarily the measure of the committee's or the motorcyclists'



Groves

appreciation. "Last year's Memorial Day service was huge, mainly because of the unveiling of a new monument," said Groves. "This year's ceremony should be considerably shorter. I don't expect it to last more than an hour."

The service is to begin at 11 a.m., according to Groves.

"The riders are expected to leave the Permian Basin Memorial — lo-

See **TRIBUTE**, Page 3A

Clean-up planned at Comanche Trail Park

By **ALEX NEWSOM**
Herald Intern

Everything is starting to come together for Comanche Trail Park.

Organization of a clean-up effort — plus completion of work to refurbish and expand the fire-damaged Kids' Zone — will take place Saturday. Volunteers are needed for the



Simmons

clean up, which is being organized by Keep Big Spring Beautiful. According to organizers, the clean-up will begin at 9 a.m. and work on Kids' Zone should be finished sometime that evening.

"We thought it would be nice to get the park cleaned up along with the rebuilding of the Kids' Zone.

"I think the two should go hand in hand because we hope to have a lot of new visitors," said Pat Simmons, founder of Keep Big Spring Beautiful," she added.

The southwestern corner of

Kids' Zone has been closed to the public since it was vandalized by fire in December. In the months since, various groups, organizations and in-

dividuals have donated funds for its repair and expansion. Work on the playground began Monday.

Those volunteering to help

clean up the park should meet at the first pavilion past the Kids' Zone on Golf Course

See **TRASH**, Page 3A

Also at the park Saturday...

The Crusaders are coming to town

Special to the Herald

The Kingdom of Levant is planning to invade Big Spring, congregating at the Old Settlers Pavilion in Comanche Trail Park from 10 a.m. until dark Saturday.

The group is devoted to the research and dissemination of the arts, sciences and history of the Kingdom of Jerusalem (1099 AD

to 1291 AD).

"We study the details of the era in order to understand the bigger picture of those historic events that shaped the world we live in today," said Bruce Stewart of Abilene, group president and a historian.

The crusades had a large impact on Eu-

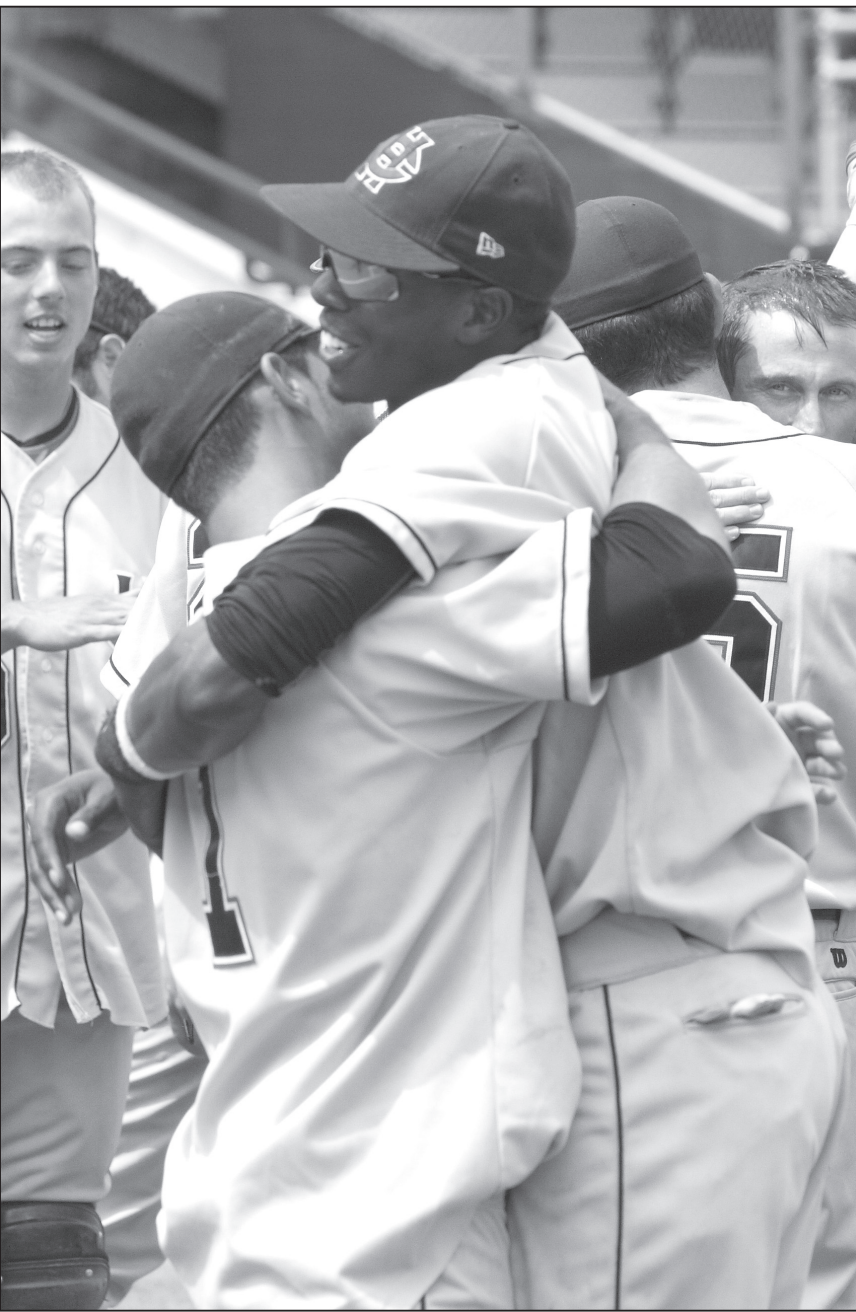
See **LEVANT**, Page 3A



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Hawks still aren't satisfied



By **JONATHAN HULL**
Sports Editor

The 2009 version of the Howard College Hawks is already down in the history books as one of the most prolific college baseball teams ever.

That's not enough. "The goal since day one was to win a national championship," said Howard Head Coach Britt Smith. "We're here and now our record is once again 0-0."

The Hawks begin play in the Division I Junior College World Series in Grand Junction, Colo., at 10 a.m. Saturday, when they meet Western Nevada College (45-12)

in the opening round.

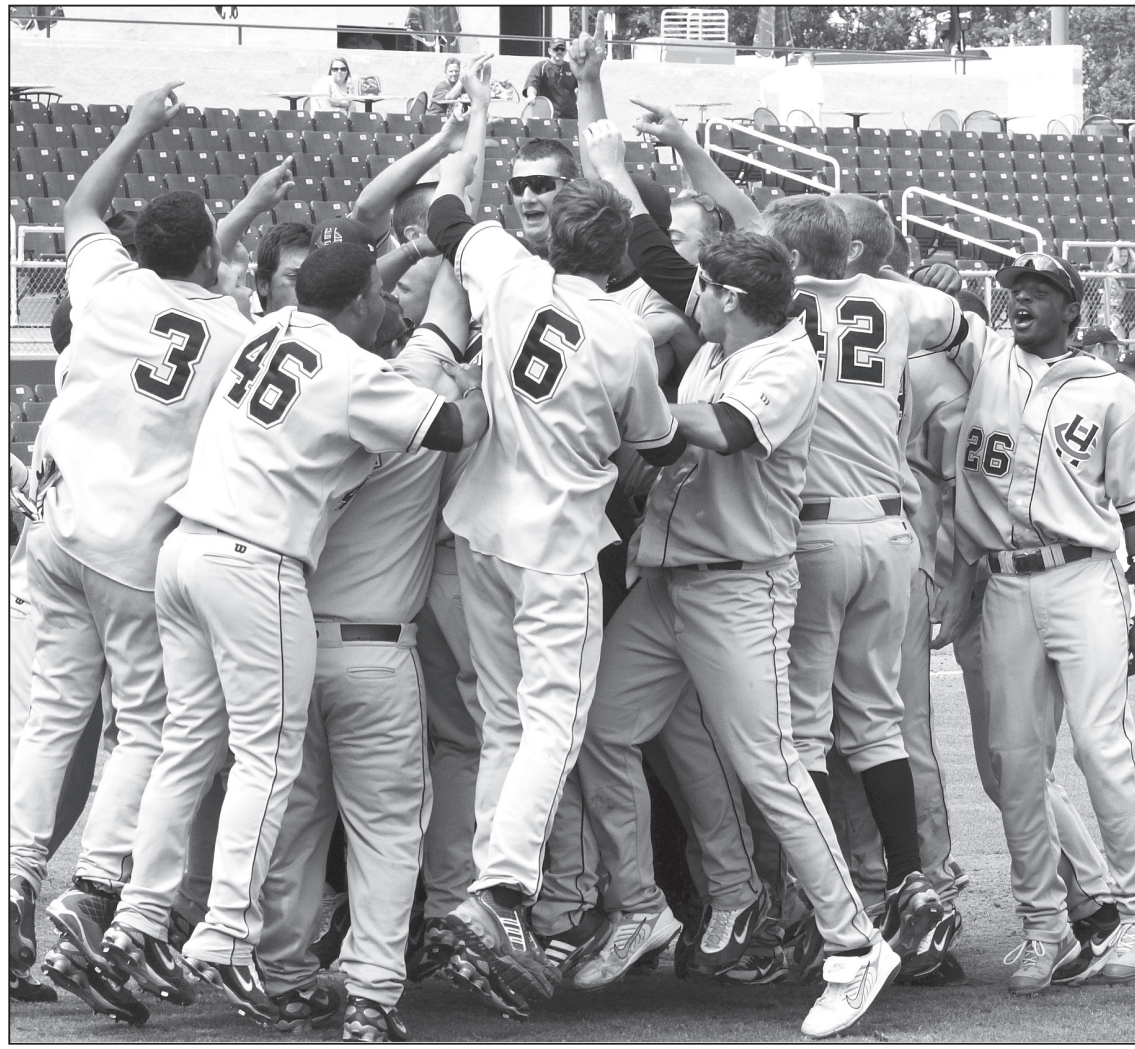
The No. 1-ranked Hawks finished the regular season 58-1, winning a Western Region College Athletic Conference title and a Region V championship along the way.

Howard won its first 57 games, setting the mark for the most consecutive wins at any level of college baseball.

Still, the Hawks aren't satisfied and the focus is now on the opponent at hand.

"Western Nevada is very similar to us. They hit well and have some pitchers with

See **HAWKS**, Page 2B



HERALD photos/Tony Claxton
Above, Howard College's Runey Davis (right) is bear hugged by Monk Kreder following the team's victory over Temple May 14 at the Region V Tournament in Fort Worth. To the right, the Hawks celebrate advancing to the Division I Junior College World Series which begins at 10 a.m. Saturday in Grand Junction, Colo.

4 Steers sign letters of intent

By **JONATHAN HULL**
Sports Editor

Big Spring's Steers baseball team made the postseason for the first time since the early part of the decade this past season, and four of the players received the fruits of their labors Thursday afternoon.

Rance Terry, Kaegan Hunt, Jon Benavides and Jeremy Solis all signed letters of intent to play collegiate baseball. Terry inked with Lubbock Christian University, while Hunt, Benavides and Solis committed to University of the Southwest in Hobbs, N.M.

"This is a big step for this program, just like getting to the playoffs was a big step this year," said Steers Head Coach Burt Otto. "We've got four guys who were part of the foundation of this program leaving, but they're going to the next level. It shows what kind of work has been put in here and that we know what

we're doing with the direction the program is now going."

Terry played catcher for the Steers for the past three seasons and it was his ability behind the plate that Otto feels drew the most attention from LCU.

"I think it was Rance's defensive abilities that drew LCU to him," he said. "He's got soft hands behind the plate and receives the ball well. He's good at blocking pitches in the dirt. He consistently keeps everything in front of him. He's also got adequate arm strength."

The Steers are going to be stocking University of the Southwest with plenty of talent for next year's squad. The importance of the three players signing with the school was indicated by the presence of Head Coach Michael Galvan at the official signing.

See **STEERS**, Page 2B



BSSH Journalism photo/Alicia Bess

Four Big Spring Steers baseball players signed letters of intent to play at the collegiate level Thursday afternoon at the Athletic Training Center. Rance Terry (sitting left) signed with Lubbock Christian University, while (sitting from right) Kaegan Hunt, Jeremy Solis and Jon Benavides committed to the University of the Southwest. Also pictured are Big Spring Baseball Coach Burt Otto (standing left) and University of the Southwest Coach Michael Galvan.

Sports in brief

Upcoming high school softball and baseball playoff dates

Coahoma's baseball and softball teams and Forsan's softball squad are all that remain in the postseason. Here's a look at the upcoming playoff matchups.

Coahoma

• Bulldogs baseball will face the No. 1 team in the state in the regional quarterfinals. Holliday is 20-1 and has been atop the state poll for a majority of the season. Game 1 of the best-of-three was played Thursday at Driggers Field in Abilene. No result for that game was available at press time. Game 2 will be played at the same location at 4 p.m. Friday. A third game, if needed, occurs 30 minutes after.

• Bulldogettes softball advances to face Kermit in the regional semifinals. The Bulldogettes are currently ranked No. 8 in the state. The best-of-three series is taking place at MUGS softball complex in Midland. Game 1 is at 7 p.m. Friday with Game 2 set for 1 p.m. Saturday. A third game, if needed, takes place 30 minutes after Game 2.

Forsan

• Lady Buffs softball meets No. 2 Albany in the regional semifinals. This is the second time in the four-year history of the softball program Forsan has advanced to this stage of the postseason. Game 1 of the best-of-three series with Albany is set for 5:30 p.m. Friday at Abilene Christian University.

Game 2 is at 2:30 p.m. Saturday with a third game, if needed, taking place 30 minutes after.

Big Spring ISD announces sports skills camps

The Big Spring High School Athletic Department will host a variety of sports skills camps during the summer. Call Kay Cook at the Athletic Training Center with any questions at 264-3662.

Camp of Champs

Camp of Champs is a weight conditioning program geared to helping increase strength, quickness, speed and agility.

The program begins June 1 and continues through June 18 at the Athletic Training Center. There are two different sessions for different age groups.

Third through fifth graders attend from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., while sixth and seventh graders work out 11 a.m. to noon.

The camp is held Monday through Thursday during the allotted dates.

Cost is \$25 with an optional \$10 T-shirt fee.

Steers Basketball Skills Camp

The Big Spring Steers boys basketball coaching staff, headed up by Marcus Morris, will be leading a skills camp June 1-3 at the Big Spring Junior High gyms.

Second through fifth graders will work out from

9 a.m. to noon in the east gym, while sixth through eighth graders man the west gym also from 9 a.m. to noon.

Cost is \$25 with an optional \$10 T-shirt fee.

Lady Steers Softball Skills Camp

Lady Steers Coach John Sparks is hosting a Softball Skills Camp June 1-3 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. each day at Lady Steer Park.

The camp is for girls entering third through eighth grades.

Cost is \$25 with an optional \$10 T-shirt fee.

Steers Baseball Skills Camp

Big Spring Steers Head Coach Burt Otto will host a baseball skills camp beginning June 8 and ending June 11 at Steer Park for first through eighth graders.

Cost is \$25 with an optional T-shirt fee of \$10.

Lady Steers Basketball Skills Camp

Lady Steers Head Coach Mike Warren will lend his skills in teaching a basketball camp for girls entering second through eighth grade June 22-25.

The camp will be split into two age groups. Second through fifth graders participate from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. each day at Steer Gym, while sixth through eighth graders take the court every day from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$25 with an optional \$10 T-shirt fee.

Obituaries

Jacqueline 'Jackie' Ervin

Jacqueline "Jackie" Ervin, 59, of Big Spring died Thursday, May 21, 2009, at her residence. Graveside services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday at Trinity Memorial Park Peace Chapel with the Rev. Joel Miller officiating. The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. until 6 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Jackie was born Feb. 15, 1950, in Bakersfield, Calif., to Effie and Jasper Williams. She married Phillip Ervin April 6, 1982, in Coahoma. Jackie was a lifetime resident of Howard County. She owned P.J.'s Resale Shop on Main Street for 16 years. Jackie also owned an arts and crafts business and made custom earrings. She loved auctions. Jackie was a member of the Church of Christ.

Jackie is survived by her husband, Phillip Ervin of Big Spring; one son, Coby Williams and wife Margie of Big Spring; one brother, Marshal Williams and wife Debbie of Navasto; four grandchildren, Hunter Williams, Kip Williams, Jake Williams and Jacqueline Belew, all of Big Spring.

In addition to her parents, Jackie was preceded in death by one son, David Belew, and one sister, Darla Roddie.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com

Paid obituary

Troy V. Nix

Troy V. Nix, 66, of Stanton died Wednesday, May 20, 2009, at his residence. Graveside funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 23, 2009, at the Evergreen Cemetery Chapel with the Rev. Doug Shelley, chaplain with Crossroads Hospice, officiating.

The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

He was born March 9, 1943, in Lamesa and married Renee Roper March 25, 2000, in Las Vegas, Nev.

Troy grew up and attended school in Ackerly. He farmed in Martin County for many years and worked as a service lineman for Cap Rock Energy for 29 years, retiring in 1996. Troy was a handy man and took pride in building homes and barns. He enjoyed spending time with his family, especially teaching his grandchildren various activities such as how to drive a tractor.

Survivors include wife, Renee Nix of Stanton; two sons, Troy Linn Nix of Odessa and Freddie Nix and wife Heather of Stanton; one daughter, Karen Nix of Stanton; and four grandchildren, Tamara Kay Nix, Nathan Joshua Nix and Jordilee Nix, all of Stanton, and Robin Linn Nix of Big Spring.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Fred and Sue Foster Nix.

The family suggests memorials to Crossroads Hospice, 421 S. Main St., Big Spring 79720 or The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Pancreatic Cancer Research, P.O. Box 4486, Houston 77210-4486.

Arrangements are under the direction of Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com

Paid obituary

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.

Ressie Dempsey Priddy

Ressie Dempsey Priddy, 86, of Henderson died Tuesday, May 19, 2009, at her residence. Graveside funeral services will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday, May 23, 2009, at Mt. Olive Memorial Park in Big Spring with the Rev. Mark Lindsey, pastor of First Baptist Church, officiating.

She was born Dec. 9, 1922, in Coleman and married J.D. Dempsey in 1941. He preceded her in death in 1978. She then married Virgil Lowell Priddy in 1980 and he preceded her in death in 1997. She had been a resident of Howard County, off and on, since 1926 and was a homemaker.

Survivors include a daughter and son-in-law, Vickie and David Hajovsky of Canyon Lake; a step daughter, Carla Young of Waurika, Okla.; one brother, Marshall Wiswell of Stephenville; three grandsons, Gabriel A. Meruelo II, David W. Hajovsky Jr. and Daniel B. Hajovsky; and three great grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by one son, Craig Dempsey; one daughter, Linda Knox; and three sisters.

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

Paid obituary

F.T. 'Tommy' Carstensen

F.T. "Tommy" Carstensen, 71, of Garden City died Thursday, May 21, 2009, at his residence. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Wilma Billie Dillon

Wilma Billie Dillon, 94, of Big Spring died Friday, May 22, 2009, at Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Police blotter

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

- DANIEL DELEON, 36, of Martindale, was arrested Thursday on a charge of criminal mischief.
- ISAIAH MATTHEW JAMES, 20, of 1210 Lindberg, was arrested Thursday on a charge of graffiti.
- DEAN PAUL CAMDEN, 19, of 3215 Cornell, was arrested Thursday on a charge of burglary of a habitation.
- WELDON BRYANT DANIELS, 45, of 1708 W. Third St., was arrested Thursday on three local warrants.
- THEFT was reported:
 - in the 2900 block of W. Highway 80.
 - in the 2300 block of Wasson.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 2500 block of March.

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 75 inmates at the time of this report.

- DEAN PAUL CAMDEN, 19, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on charges of burglary of a habitation (four counts).
- MISTY DAWN CLAYTON, 28, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on charges of failure to appear and expired driver's license.
- WELDON BRYANT DANIELS, 45, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on charges of failure to maintain financial responsibility (two counts) and displaying an expired motor vehicle inspection certificate.
- ISAIAH MATTHEW JAMES, 20, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of graffiti.
- AMANDA LYNN MORROW, 30, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction.




Take Note

A reception for retiring Coahoma Independent School District employees will be held from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 27, in the Coahoma Community Center. Everyone is invited.

The Big Spring High School class of 1979 is seeking classmates to attend our 30-year reunion Sept. 18-19. Please contact Debbye Salazar ValVerde at debbyeval@bigspringchamber.com or Cheryl Carter Joy at joycheryl79@hotmail.com with any contact information, be it an e-mail address or physical address.

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.

Your Local Weather

Sat 5/23	Sun 5/24	Mon 5/25
 75/58 Variable clouds with thunderstorms, especially in the morning.	 82/60 Slight chance of a thunderstorm.	 91/61 Plenty of sun. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the low 60s.
<small>©2009 American Profile Hometown Content Service</small>		

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

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

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.

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

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

TUESDAY

Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.

The Powwow Committee of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church annex, 809 Scurry, or the fellowship hall at 810 Scurry. Call Robert Downing at 263-3255 for information.

WEDNESDAY

Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room.

Free blood pressure screenings from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Salvation Army, 811 W. Fifth St., provided by InHome Care.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 4000 block of Piper Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- GRASS FIRE was reported in the 1400 block of Martin Luther king Blvd.

Lottery

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Thursday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 18 - 20 - 22 - 24. Bonus Ball: 29.

Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 0. Prize: \$525,000

Results of the Cash 5 drawing xxxday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 7 - 9 - 11 - 34 - 35.

Number matching five of five: 0. Prize: \$0

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Thursday night by the Texas Lottery, in order:

6 - 9 - 4 - 3. Sum It Up: 22

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn day Thursday night by the Texas Lottery, in order:

9 - 1 - 5. Sum It Up: 15

BIG SPRING HERALD

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The Big Spring Herald is a member of The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Texas Press Association, West Texas Press Association, Texas Daily Newspaper Association, The Associated Press.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas.

USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6811
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2009 JUCO BASEBALL TOURNAMENT BRACKET

May 23 Saturday May 24 Sunday May 25 Monday May 26 Tuesday May 27 Wednesday May 28 Thursday May 29 Friday May 30 Saturday

Howard College

GAME 1 Winner game 1

Western Nevada College

GAME 2 Winner game 2

Iowa Western CC

GAME 10 Winner game 10

Shelton State CC
Cowley County CC

GAME 3 Winner game 3

Seminole State College

GAME 15 Winner game 15

Santa Fe College

GAME 9 Winner game 9

GAME 4 Winner game 4

Middle Georgia College

GAME 13 Winner game 13

Spartanburg Methodist College

GAME 7 Winner game 7

San Jacinto College - North

Loser game 1

GAME 5 Winner game 5

Loser game 2

GAME 8 Winner game 8

Loser game 3

GAME 12 Winner game 12

GAME 6 Winner game 6

Loser game 4

Loser game 7

GAME 11 Winner game 11

Loser game 9

GAME 14 Winner game 14

Loser game 13

GAME 16 Winner game 16

Loser game 15

GAME TIMES

#1 9:00 A.M.	#8 10:00 A.M.	#15 7:30 P.M.
#2 12:00 NOON	#9 2:00 P.M.	#16 3:00 P.M.
#3 3:00 P.M.	#10 7:30 P.M.	#17 7:30 P.M.
#4 7:30 P.M.	#11 11:00 A.M.	#18 7:30 P.M.
#5 10:00 A.M.	#12 3:00 P.M.	#19 7:30 P.M.
#6 2:00 P.M.	#13 7:30 P.M.	All times are MST.
#7 7:30 P.M.	#14 3:00 P.M.	



NOTE: If there are three teams remaining at Game 18, the team with the most games played shall receive a bye to Game 19. If there is a tie for most games played, a coin toss will be used to determine the bye.

All games except game #19 will have the run rule.
10 runs after 5 complete innings
8 runs after 7 complete innings.
All games are scheduled for 9 innings.

su | do | ku

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

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

HAWKS

Continued from Page 1B

some pretty nice statistics,” said Smith. “They play good defense and aren’t going to make a lot of mistakes in the field. We’ve been told the best two teams in the tournament are playing in the first game and that’s us and Western Nevada.”

As a team, the Wildcats have a batting average of .297 with 38 home runs and 334 runs scored in 57 games. They’re led at the plate by Lance Ray, who is batting .366 with 10 home runs and 47 RBI.

The Wildcats pitching staff has an overall ERA of 2.96 with nine pitchers allowing less than four runs per nine innings. Their top starter is Jordan Lewis, who is 11-2 on the season with a 1.97 ERA. Lewis has struck out 80 batters while walking just 26 in 87 innings pitched.

There’s one catch to these stats put up by Western Nevada. The Wildcats play in a conference where they use only wooden bats. They’ll be using aluminum at the World Series.

“I think it helps and hurts them,” said Smith of the Wildcats switch from wood to metal bats in the national tournament. “It’s probably going to benefit their hitters, but I think it will be a detriment to their pitchers. Those guys have never been hit hard like they will be with metal bats. It’s going to be a tough adjustment.”

The Hawks ended the regular season with the best team batting average in the nation, hitting .441, more than 40 points higher than any other team.

The lowest batting average amongst their everyday players — Runey Davis (.380) — is better than Western Nevada’s top aver-

age. Will Calhoun leads the nation with a .527 average.

The Hawks also have 91 home runs on the year. Monk Kreder leads with 18. Miles Hamblin is in second with 16.

Howard has scored 610 runs in 59 games. Bryan Johns has accounted for a majority of those scores, crossing the plate 78 times, while recording 76 RBI.

As a pitching staff, the Hawks have a 3.13 batting average. Zach Neal, who will start against Western Nevada, is the ace with 12 wins on the year. Neal has a 3.45 ERA with 87 strikeouts, while allowing just seven walks in 74.2 innings pitched.

“Zach has been our ace. He been everything we could ask for out of a No. 1 guy,” said Smith. “He’ll get the ball against Western Nevada. He doesn’t have the best velocity or the best breaking stuff on the team, but he hits his spots consistently and is our most complete pitcher as far as holding runners and fielding his position. We feel comfortable with him on the mound.”

Howard has two other prime starters, both hailing from New Jersey. Left-handers Dylan Cacciola and Anthony Collazo have been the 2-3 guys in the rotation for the Hawks all season.

Cacciola (10-0) has a 3.43 ERA with 88 strikeouts. Collazo’s gives up 3.76 runs per nine innings and leads the nation in strikeouts per inning pitched. He leads the Hawks with 93 Ks on the year.

The Hawks did face some drama at the end of the season when they finally met defeat at the hands of the Temple College Leopards in the finals of the Region V Tournament in Fort Worth.

Temple knocked off Howard, 8-2, ending the record-setting 57-game win streak. The Leopards forced one more game in the dou-

ble-elimination tournament to decide who would advance to the World Series.

In a 10-inning thriller, the Hawks tied the game, 3-3, on a solo home run by Joe Leftridge in the top of the ninth. They then answered the call defensively in the bottom of the frame.

With the bases full of Leopards and one out, Calhoun, who was on the mound, forced Temple pinch-hitter Pedro Maldonado to hit a chopper to Nick Popescu at third base. Popescu retired one at home with a throw to Hamblin, who then turned two with a toss to Kreder at first, forcing extra innings.

With two outs, Andrew Collazo singled to center, then scored on a double by Davis, giving the Hawks the 4-3 advantage.

Calhoun pitched a 1-2-3 inning in the bottom of the 10th to seal the victory and the berth into the World Series.

“We learned what we’re capable of when our backs are against the wall,” said Smith. “Temple is as good as any team we’ll face here. We’re better off after having those last two games go the way they did.”

Howard remains the favorite to win it all, but Smith said getting a victory in the first game and staying in the winner’s bracket is the most important factor to the World Series.

“Winning the first game is vital because it’s great for confidence,” said Smith. “Opening with a win can go a long way through the rest of the tournament. I still don’t think anyone can beat us if we’re playing our best baseball. The problem is doing that. It’s not often that all three phases of the game — hitting, pitching and fielding — are working for any team. We’ve got the pieces to win it all, though, and we’re going to find out if those pieces can come together.”

said Otto. “He’s tall and Galvan is confident they can put some weight on him in the offseason. He’s got a lot of upside because he has a baseball body. If he can put some muscle on, there’s no telling how good he could be.”

Solis is another underdog-type, but has been committed to attending University of the Southwest longer than his teammates.

Otto says Galvan’s interest in Solis was simple.

“When you’ve made three errors in the past three years at third base, then there’s a big appeal,” said Otto. “Jeremy is a good contact hitter and he’s got some pop. He’s tenacious on defense, though. If he’s got to stop the ball with his face, then he will. Coach Galvan said he loved that toughness.”

STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

Otto says he kept constant communication with Galvan, selling Hunt, Solis and Benavides to him.

“I don’t want to brag, but it was a lot of effort by me to get University of the Southwest down here and interested in these guys,” said Otto. “I sent out over 100 e-mails or made phone calls to several schools. UTPB and Texas A&M International also showed interest, but University of the Southwest stepped up. The kids made a visit and went to a game. They got to sit in the dug-out and meet the coach. That probably clinched it for them.”

Hunt led the Steers in batting

average this season, hitting around .500, while manning second base. He doesn’t look the part of a prototypical athlete, which Otto says kept other squads from pursuing him.

“UTPB took a look at Kaegan, but I think all they did was look,” he said. “Kaegan is short and UTPB didn’t consider him much because of that. I think that’s what appealed Coach Galvan to Kaegan, though. He told me he likes the underdog-type of player. I told him he’s going to love this kid.”

Benavides on the other hand passes the eye test with his height, which made Galvan interested in his potential, according to Otto.

“I think they’re look at Jon as a pitcher or maybe an infielder. The appeal for him is his size,”



By Steve Becker

Bidding Quiz

You are South, and the bidding has gone:

North	East	South	West
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	?	

What would you bid now with each of the following four hands?

- ♠QJ9632 ♥A8 ♦94 ♣A73
- ♠KJ863 ♥762 ♦5 ♣Q1074
- ♠AJ87 ♥95 ♦Q106 ♣KJ92
- ♠KJ943 ♥AK ♦Q732 ♣64

1. **Three spades.** Game is likely, despite partner’s minimum rebid of one notrump. With your 11 high-card points and reasonably good six-card suit, you should therefore jump to three spades (forcing) to be sure of getting to game.

Partner should have either two or three spades — he is unlikely to rebid one notrump with a singleton — so you can feel fairly confident of at least some spade support. You plan to pass if he bids either three notrump or four spades.

2. **Two clubs.** The most you can expect to make after partner’s one-notrump rebid is a partscore. The two-club bid (not forcing) is designed to find the best partscore contract. You should feel more secure about making two clubs (if

partner passes) or two spades (if he shows a preference for spades) than one notrump. Hands with singletons usually don’t play well in notrump.

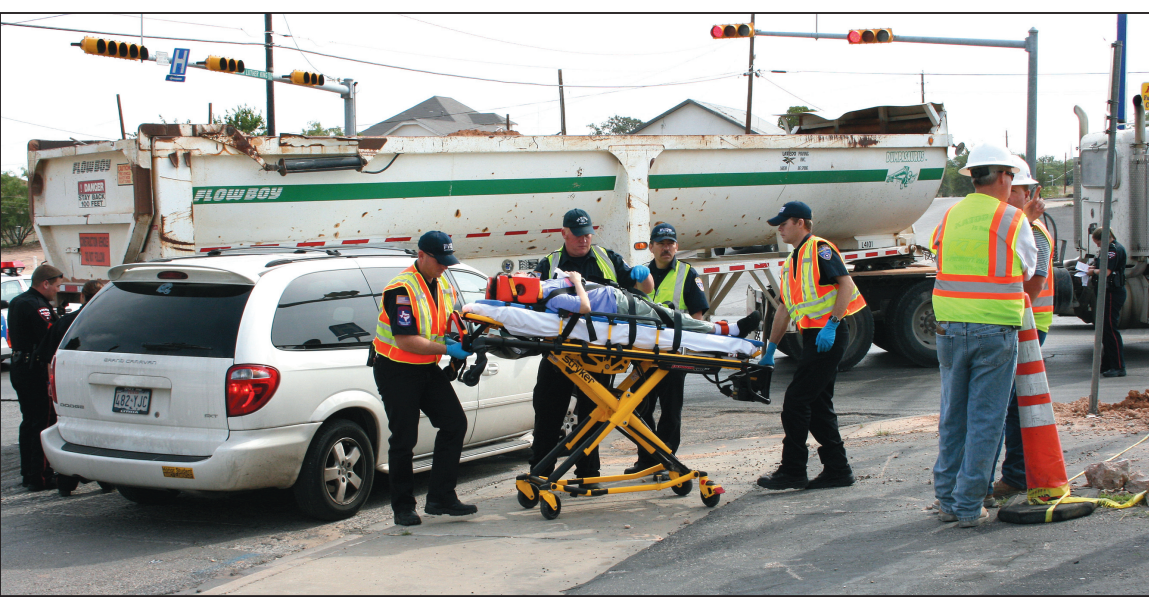
3. **Two notrump.** Obviously you can’t bid two clubs with this hand, and also with the preceding hand, because partner wouldn’t know whether you were simply aiming for a partscore or trying to get to game. You’re very close to the game zone, but you don’t quite have the values to bid it unilaterally.

In such cases you invite partner to go on to game if he has a little extra. Here, two notrump serves that purpose ideally. It allows partner to pass if he has a bare minimum, and to carry on to three notrump with a maximum for his first two bids.

4. **Three diamonds.** Since you have an opening bid facing an opening bid, you must get to game, but since you can’t be sure of the best contract at this point, you should consult partner by making a forcing jump to three diamonds. You plan to pass three notrump if partner bids it; to carry on to four spades if partner next bids three spades, indicating three-card support; or to continue to five diamonds if partner bids four of that suit.

Tomorrow: Mission impossible?

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HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins

A traffic accident at the intersection of Martin Luther King Blvd. and Gregg Street sent a local woman to the emergency room at Scenic Mountain Medical Center Friday morning. According to witnesses at the scene, the tractor trailer — owned by Laredo Paving of Big Spring — was attempting to make a wide right turn when the driver of a white Dodge Grand Caravan tried to enter the intersection, causing the rear wheels of the truck's trailer to strike the driver's side of the van. The woman driving the van was not seriously injured in the accident, according to officials at the scene.

ANGRY

Continued from Page 1A

the care we deserve.”

Murray said Cole was one of many VA physicians performing the exams, which determine how much compensation veterans receive for their service-related injuries.

“This is the livelihood of the veteran once he’s injured and faced with the VA system,” said Murray. “He has to go through all of these doctors who have to make sure the injury is the result of a service-related claim. Once it goes through the C&P doctor, it has to go before a rating board in Waco, then they assign you a percentage rate (of disability), and that determines how much you are compensated.

“During the last year-and-a-half, there’s been at least one doctor who has given our veterans the kind of care they like. He was thorough and a person that cared

about the veteran’s side of it. He looked at the X-rays and the tests, and his bedside manner made you very comfortable. And for no reason we can find, he’s been fired. And this is after they have had all sorts of allegations against employees... and they just move those people somewhere else. However, they have one small problem and they fire this doctor, who really cares about the vets. It’s a disgrace.”

Murray claims Marsh and his staff have refused to listen to him or any of the area veterans associations that have expressed outrage at Cole being dismissed.

“We tried to talk to the administration about it, and they believe the veteran doesn’t have anything to say about it,” said Murray. “Not about the veterans’ care or the physicians they have and how they treat you. They say it’s completely internal. We don’t see that as an internal matter. We see it as care for the veteran and we’re

all very upset by this. We try to talk to them about this, and they just ignore us.

“We’re asking for intervention from our congressman and the folks at the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for them to step in and hear us out. We want them to look at the behavior of the people at the Big Spring VA Medical Center during the past two years, because we feel it’s deplorable. There are physicians assistants and glorified nurses at the bottom of the list, and they think they’re doing a good job. However, the veterans out here don’t agree.”

According to Marsh, Cole was not fired.

“Dr. Cole was a temporary appointment,” said Marsh. “His contract was coming up for review and we decided not to renew it. So, no, we didn’t fire Dr. Cole.”

Marsh declined to go into the specific reasons Cole’s contract was not renewed.

“This is an internal personnel matter, so I

can’t comment on that,” said Marsh.

Despite Murray’s claims, Marsh said his office maintains an open office policy.

“I spoke to Mr. Murray last week on a conference call, and when we hung up he seemed satisfied, so I’m not sure where these accusations are coming from,” said Marsh. “I certainly don’t see it to be the case. I was never notified that Mr. Murray was going to be in town today. If I had, I would have been happy to sit down with him and discuss the matter. However, I can’t discuss internal personnel matters with them.”

As for the service area veterans are receiving with their C&P claims, Marsh said he and his staff stand solidly behind their records.

“On average, we have C&P claims processed in 17 days,” said Marsh. “The national average, however, is 30 days. So I feel like we are providing the best quality care to our veterans, which is first and foremost.”

TRIBUTE

Continued from Page 1A

ated at Midland International Airport — at 10 a.m.,” he said. “They should begin arriving in Big Spring at 10:45 a.m., so we’re hoping to start the ceremony at 11 a.m.”

Groves said motorists who

find themselves on the road near the Vietnam Memorial Monday morning need to look out for the cyclists.

“Motorists need to be extremely careful if they are in the area,” he said. “The riders will be coming into Big Spring on W. Highway 80, then make their way down FM 700, turning at the old National Guard Armory toward

the memorial. Please watch out for these guys and be mindful of your driving. We would hate for there to be an accident on such a special day.”

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

TRASH

Continued from Page 1A

Road, accessible from Wasson Road, where they can pick up their bags and assignments. Simmons estimates 25 people will be needed to get everything finished by noon, though anyone who would like to work later is welcome to do so.

A picnic of chips and sandwich-

es will be served at noon, Simmons said.

Simmons scheduled the clean up, not only because of Kids’ Zone, but to be a part of the Great American Cleanup — the nation’s largest community improvement program sponsored by Keep America Beautiful. According to Simmons, “It’s a clean-up throughout the states from March 1 through May 31.”

This is all part of Keep Big Spring Beautiful’s plans for the

park. Families, businesses, organizations or scouts have claimed each of the five pavilions to take care of. Simmons encourages others to volunteer to adopt a spot to keep it clean.

“There is so much that can be done. It was such a beautiful place,” Simmons said of the park, “and with a little work it can be again.”

For more information, contact Simmons at 263-4607.

LEVANT

Continued from Page 1A

rope and England as the returning Knights and other pilgrims brought back knowledge learned from the Saracens, said Stewart. This knowledge led to the end of the Dark Ages and the renaissance of science and learning in Western Europe.

The Kingdom of Levant, through research,

tries to establish the methods used in every aspect of the life of the middle and upper classes of the time. Creating a “persona” of a person who might have lived at that time and place, and recreating the activities of that person allows for a better understanding of the pivotal events, Stewart said.

Some of the activities that will be recreated at Saturday’s event are sword fighting, archery,

knife, axe and spear throwing, medieval weaving and sewing, other crafts, dance and music and court ceremonies.

The Kingdom of Levant is a non-profit educational group with affiliates in Abilene, San Angelo and Big Spring.

For more information on the group or their activities, visit www.geocities.com/kingdomlevant/

The public is welcome to come and observe the activities and try their hand at some of the crafts.

Sands grads to get dipolmas tonight

Herald Staff Report

Sands High School principal Zeldia Bilbo has announced the valedictorian and salutatorian for the 2009 graduating class.

Logan Gaskins has been named valedictorian with GPA of 98.8. Logan is the son of Van and Chris Gaskins of Knott. He plans to attend Texas A&M University with a major in agribusiness and ag economics.

Richard Lucio has been named salutatorian with a GPA of 98.3. He is the son of Lisa and Sam Rodriguez of Ackerly. Richard plans to attend Texas Tech University and major in architecture.

Also graduating with honors are Tamara Nichols, daughter of Terry and Dorothy Nichols of Ackerly; Brittnei Blagrave,

daughter of Stan and Carla Blagrave of Ackerly; David Martinez, son of Venancio and Dora Martinez of Ackerly; Miranda Gutierrez, daughter of Pete and Emma Gutierrez of Ackerly; Kayla Franco, daughter of Daniel and Nelda Franco of Ackerly; William Carson, son of Douglas and Katricia Carson of Ackerly; C.D. Karns, son of Cary Karns of Big Spring; Melissa DeLeon, daughter of Mario and Rita DeLeon; and Mason Parker, son of Steve and Amy Parker.

Also graduating are Ethan Zant, son of Scott and Michelle Zant; Pancho Mendez, son of Adam and Sandra Hernandez; and Valinda Saldivar, daughter of Daniel and Nelda Franco.

Graduation ceremonies will take place at 8 p.m. Friday in the new auditorium of Sands

Murray said he and other members of the DAV and Texas Veterans Commission are planning to take their complaints to a most unusual place if something can not be worked out: The sidewalk in front of the Big Spring VA Medical Center.

“We have about 100 people ready to picket in front of the Big Spring VA Hospital,” he said. “We’ll get the permit to do so, and one way or another, they will listen to what we have to say.”

Brooks said she has passed the information on to Neugebauer and his Washington staff, and is currently trying to arrange a meeting between the veterans and officials with the VA.

“There were a lot of different issues brought up, but I felt like these men needed to be heard. There’s absolutely no reason to ignore them,” said Brooks. “We’re trying to facilitate a

meeting between these veterans and Director Marsh. That way they can sit down, face to face, and discuss their concerns.”

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

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Jane Ray, 79, died Wednesday. Memorial Services were at 10 a.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel.
Jacqueline "Jackie" Ervin, 59, died Thursday. Graveside services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Trinity Memorial Park Peace Chapel. The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. until 6 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.
Wilma B. Dillon, 94, died Friday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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THE COLORADO River Municipal Water District, regional raw water supplier for the Permian Basin, is accepting applications for following position in the Big Spring Area. **Electrician** - Trouble shoot, service, and maintain pump control panels, electric motors up to 3000 hp, power distribution systems, electrical sub-stations, submersible motors, and commercial and residential wiring. Intermediate level position, basic understanding of electronics/electricity needed. CRMWD is an equal opportunity employer. Benefits include health insurance, retirement

Help Wanted

plans, and sick, vacation and holiday leave. Applications are required and are available at the District's office, 400 E. 24TH Street, Big Spring, Texas 79720, by calling (432) 267-6341 or crmwd.org

THE COLORADO River Municipal Water District, regional raw water supplier for the Permian Basin, is accepting applications for following positions. **Central Control Operator-** Responsible for monitoring water flows, pressures, and tank levels using SCADA system. Perform administrative support including recording readings, monitoring phones, and basic data entry. Basic computer skills including Excel needed. This position involves shift work. CRMWD is an equal opportunity employer. Benefits include health insurance, retirement plans, and sick, vacation and holiday leave. Applications are required and are available at the District's office, 400 E. 24TH Street, Big Spring, Texas 79720, by calling (432) 267-6341 or crmwd.org

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEW

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:

- The volunteers from the community and city of Big Spring employees, who have been working diligently to rebuild the Kids' Zone facility at Comanche Trail Park.

- Charles and Carolyn Thompson, who live at 6811 Midway Road, on being recognized for having the May Yard of the Month by the Howard County Master Gardeners.

- All those who turned out for Tuesday's send off of the Howard College Hawks baseball team, which will begin play Saturday in the NJCAA's Division I Junior College World Series in Grand Junction, Colo.

- All those who turned out Saturday, braving the heavy rains, to join the hundreds of motorcyclists that stopped by the Big Spring Vietnam Memorial during the Run for the Wall. The riders are headed to Washington, D.C., where they'll participate in the annual Rolling Thunder Memorial Day observance.

- All those who took part in the Howard-Glasscock Relay for Life. Although thunderstorms which raked the area forced officials to end the event after less than three hours, the Relay raised a record \$205,000.

- Daniel Budke, who represented Big Spring High School at the Texas Visual Arts Scholastic Exhibit and received a certificate from the Big Spring ISD Board of Trustees during its meeting Thursday.

- Lou Hill, Loma Jean Wynn, Ruth Manuel, Linda Sliger, Glenda Brown, Betty Daly, Mozelle Osborne and Dorothy Stovall, who were recognized for service milestones during the Scenic Mountain Medical Center Volunteer Program's 2009 Award Banquet.

- Logan Gaskins and Richard Lucio, who have been named the valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, at Sands High School.

- Jonathan Moore, a Big Spring native and computer networking and systems administration student at Texas State Technical College in Waco, who won a silver medal in the job interview category at the state SkillsUSA competition in San Antonio.

- James Bowen and Ariel Johnson, who have been named the valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, at Big Spring High School.

- Anna "Katherine" Froman and Krystle Renee Hobson, who have been named the valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, at Borden County High School.

- Brooke Halfmann and Lauren Wheeler, who have been named the valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, at Garden City High School.

- Megan Conley and Ashley Martin, who have been named the valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, at Coahoma High School.

- The First Christian Church youth group Meet at the Spring, which was named a winner of the 2009 Off-Campus Youth Groups Award from Keep Texas Beautiful.

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we make You our claim to fame, Lord.
Amen

Committees: Last thing you need

Define a non-Biblical hell for Troy Brewer and it would look something like a board meeting. A board which is supposed to be a noun is actually more of a verb to me and spelled bored. Really that's a false statement because a verb implies action and church boards are not famous for having a sense of urgency.

I hate having to go through a committee. I just can't stand boards and having to listen to people who love to hear themselves talk about things and hammer a little piece of wood on a table. Blah, blah, blah is all I hear over the twisting noise of grass growing outside as everyone makes sure they voice their opinion under rule of governing procedure. I start praying for the rapture and hoping the boards in America will be left behind.

There are things that make sense in a board room environment that don't make sense anywhere else. Completely sane people will suddenly feel like a responsible move is not to move at all before they do a \$20,000 study on a \$500 project.

Churches throughout America are ruined by elder boards and tend to be more deacon possessed than full of the Spirit. The Brewer begins to rage out at people that love process and title more than achieving victory or accomplishing vision.

GET A MOVE ON

The word for a pack of lions is called a pride and I think this word fits a lot of church governments. Pride goes before the fall and if you want a major downgrade in effectiveness, turn it over to most church boards. There you will find a prideful group with a religious reason why you shouldn't reach the

world for Jesus.

Do you know what you call a pack of buzzards?

A committee.

I am not making that up and it's a perfect illustration of what happens to most ministries. A group of old buzzards hang over something that died long time ago when they ought to be making something else happen.

Somebody once asked me if running ministries through a church board was Biblical. I said yes. There is an excellent example in the book of Numbers, chapter 13, where Moses formed a committee of twelve to spy out the Promised Land. True to form, they came back with a long list of reasons why they couldn't do what God had told them to do. So God sent them all into a desert instead of his promises until they weeded out all of the board members. What should have taken a week, ended up taking 40 years — typical church board decision and you can find it in the Bible.

THE I IN TEAM WORK

Instead of having boards ruled by procedure, power and title, what we need are teams of people held accountable for action and results. John Maxwell says, "One is too small a number to achieve greatness." He is exactly right.

We need teams of advancing people who have initiative and won't even let paint dry on their watch.

Never let bean counters run a ministry! That's why so many churches are all about money and not about people because the governing board feels like their first responsibility is financial.

Feeding the poor, taking care of widows, loving on old people and doing youth ministry is in fact a money pit and there is no financial reason to do such thing

It's not about the money, it's about Kingdom Purpose.

Obviously there are some church board members and leaders who believe this but we

need to confront and weed out left lane leaders. People who have been put into position to accelerate but drive so slow none of the rest of us can pass. If your leaders do not have initiative then the angry peasants in the congregation should rise up with challenging pitchforks and encouraging torches. Sometimes we need leadership to sound less like Charlton Heston and more like Larry the Cable Guy. "Get 'er done!"

GET THE LEAD OUT

When it comes to taking initiative, there are really only four kinds of people:

1. People who do the right thing without being told.
2. People who do the right thing when they are told.
3. People who do the right thing when told more than once.
4. People who never do the right thing, no matter what.

Anyone who wants to be a world changer needs to become the first kind of person.

Believe it or not, you don't need mass approval to live your dream. Get up and take on hell with a water pistol. Your ability to accomplish vision and to get things done, whether it's an evangelical mission or a marketplace pursuit, is entirely up to your own personal character. God has given you the grace to go forward.

Focus on the benefits of completing a task and trash whatever it is that is holding you back. Quit putting things off. Procrastination is the fertilizer that makes difficulties grow. Make up your mind and make a difference or get the heck out of the fast lane so the rest of us can go.

Proverbs 13:12

Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but when the desire is fulfilled, it is a tree of life.

The Rev. Troy Brewer welcomes your comments. He can be reached through his website at www.FreshFromTheBrewer.com

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• **BARACK OBAMA**
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Washington, D.C. 20500

• **KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON**
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• **JOHN CORNYN**
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Phone: 202-224-2934

• **RANDY NEUGEBAUER**
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Murphy's Law definitely looms

Years ago, a mayor scurried around the city, reaching hither and yon points with precision-like scheduling. An aura of a "man in charge" fairly glowed as he performed mayoral duties.

A morning ceremonial high-light seemed ever so simple. He was to press the button to activate the wrecking ball. It was a really big wrecking ball, suspended from a giant crane. It was to swing across the street and take out a sizeable hole in an old building destined for demolition to make space for the community's first real sky-scraper.

Such an easy chore, it seemed to "hizoner," could as easily have been handled by a kindergarten.

His "I'm so glad to be here" smile changed quickly to draconian horror after he pressed the button. Somehow, the crane guy misunderstood the assignment, and the unstoppable wrecking ball was pointed toward the wrong building.

The mayor's button-pressing took out much of the third floor of what a few seconds earlier was the city's nicest building.

Somewhere, Shakespeare — the guy who waxed with clarity about slips 'tween cups and lips — was smiling.

This story comes to mind at graduation season, when school superintendents and college presidents pray diligently to be delivered from unforeseen predicaments that could blow cannon-sized holes through their "in charge" images.

Some are praying quietly for deliverance at this very moment, realizing that they are at the mercy of others — like the guy who set up the wrecking ball to take down the wrong building.

If commencement exercises are held indoors, there may not be enough seats, the air-conditioning may fail, stage curtains may fall at the wrong time, microphones may go silent, or the graduate who lives at the board president's home winces as the name's mispronounced. Ceremonies planned outdoors may be marred by the spring's only measurable rain and winds may drown out pithy comments delivered by speakers.

The list of calamity possibilities is much longer, but suffice it to say that Murphy's Law will reign.

I've been privileged to participate in a few hundred commencement exercises during the past half-century. Some have celebrated "graduation" from kindergarten to first grade, some have been in juvenile prisons and many have been for college graduates.

My first commencement address, around 1960, was for the three high school graduates of London, Texas.

One of them was valedictorian, another was salutatorian and the other didn't have a speaking part. I hear that he bragged later about being "in the top three" of the class.

One of the most unusual occurred in May of 1968, the opening year for Tarrant County Junior College in Fort Worth. It wasn't even on the calendar!

College officials expected the first graduation exercises to be held a full year later. It had not occurred to them that transfers from other institutions might complete requirements in 1968. One young man did, and at mid-semester inquired about commencement details.

Dr. Joe B. Rushing, the school's first chancellor, quickly put together a make-shift commencement program.

He donned academic regalia and ordered a robe for the honoree. Pomp and Circumstance poured from the sound system

and the prospective graduate marched into the Student Center.

Dr. Rushing made brief remarks, presented the diploma and then joined the graduate for a soft drink as others played pool and ping pong nearby. All the while, newspaper, radio and TV folks gave wide coverage to the "commencement for one."

At some commencement exercises of higher education institutions, honorary doctorates are conferred. Some of them are "hooks" to entice high-profile speakers for the events, and others recognize major donors and/or distinguished lives.

A few years ago, a friend who heads a large organization overheard some of his subordinates kidding an associate who was to receive an honorary doctorate.

"Hey, cut out the joking about the honorary doctorate," my friend warned. "Almost anyone can get an earned one."

I'll make commencement remarks a few times this spring and I've never felt less confident in making optimum use of my 20 minutes.

Maybe I'll talk about optimists, who view glasses as being half full; or pessimists, who see them as being half empty; or realists, who contend that they are twice as big as they need to be.

Certainly I will mention the importance of learning from tomatoes, encouraging strongest consideration of green ones. "As long as they're green, they grow; when they think they're ripe, they start to get rotten," I'll suggest.

Mostly, though, I will try to remember one teacher's observation: "There's no such thing as a bad short speech."

Dr. Don Newbury is a speaker and writer living in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Send inquiries and comments to newbury@speakerdoc.com. Phone: 817-447-3872. Web site: www.speakerdoc.com



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Church News

Chapel of Faith

You are invited to attend worship services each Sunday beginning at 10:30 a.m. at the Chapel of Faith, an inter-denominational church. Services are informal and if you come a little bit early, you can join in a time of visitation and fellowship.

Chapel of Faith is located at the corner of East 14th and Goliad streets. Pastor is the Rev. Joel Miller and associate pastor is the Rev. Scott Willis.

Remember God loves you and all you have to do is let Him know you accept that love.

Please attend the church of your choice Sunday.

First United Methodist

Memorial Day weekend First Methodist will celebrate the lives of two separate groups who have gone before us; those who gave their lives in service to our country and those Howard County Methodists who have gone to their heavenly reward this past year.

In our services of worship at 8:30 a.m. and 10:50 a.m. we will have patriotic music, recognize those who served in the armed forces as well as those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. Our senior pastor, the Rev. Sharon Wiese's sermon will be titled "When God Leads the Nation."

At 6 p.m., members of Coahoma's Baker's Chapel and North Birdwell Methodist churches will join us at First Methodist to remember those members who have died since last Memorial Day. A reception will be held in Garrett Hall following the service.

Congratulations go to the group of young men who have completed their studies and will be confirmed into full church membership at the morning service on Sunday. Thanks to pastor Sharon and children's director Joyce Willis for their dedication to this class.

The church offices will be closed Monday in observance of Memorial Day. Regular activities will resume Tuesday. Make note of the new office hours, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Mark your calendars for our "Farewell to the Brue Crew" Sunday, June 7. There will be a reception following the late service in honor of Jill Brue, Benjamin, Jacob, Ryan, Micah and Meagan as they prepare for their move to Amarillo. They have brought great joy to our lives and we will forever hold them in our hearts.

And on June 12 we welcome back to Big Spring and First Methodist "Spirit Wind," the Northwest Texas Conference youth choir. It will be performing in the evening of that Friday before continuing on their tour.

Check our Web site www.fumcbs.com for all the activities at Fourth and Scurry where families grow in Christ.

First Church of the Nazarene

New and exciting things are happening at First Church of the Nazarene. We invite you to come and hear anointed, vision-oriented messages each Sunday morning.

As always, if you have any questions, call at 267-7015 or e-mail us at church@nazfamily.org.

Summer is right around the corner and FCN is busy planning summer opportunities for all ages. Don't miss out on our exciting, one-day VBS, Water Works! Park, June 20. This is also our Discipleship Junction summer theme; you can catch the wave of excitement each Sunday.

Classes and activities for all ages keep Wednesdays and Sundays fun and uplifting. There is a place for everyone, from newborn to mature adult, to experience God's love; so come check us out.

Adult opportunities include Sunday morning fellowship time with coffee and doughnuts at 9:30. Worship is at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary. Wednesday evening classes begin at 6:30 p.m. with your choice of studies, including "Highway to Holiness" or a look through the book of John.

Opportunities for children include Sunday morning activities for children age 4 through the sixth grade in Discipleship Junction at 10. Wednesday evening is Caravan, a midweek scouting ministry for children Pre-K through fourth grade and Busy Bees News Gang for fifth and sixth grades, which includes producing a monthly church newsletter.

Are you true to yourself?

Have you ever thought about what you really believe and stand for? Has it ever occurred to you to take a deep look inside your heart and take inventory of what might be there? If not, you are not alone.



JERRIE STOCKS

A recent poll conducted by a Christian organization revealed that a staggering 69 percent of Christians said they had not. A large percentage said they had never even given any thought to it.

The poll asked 10 simple questions. No names, phone numbers, or addresses were required.

The questions asked were:

- 1) Are you a practicing Christian?
- 2) Do you ever lie?
- 3) Do you return the overage when too much change is given to you?
- 4) Do you gossip about others, even those you call your friends?
- 5) Do you judge others before you know the full story?
- 6) Do you, or have you ever done something for the wrong motive?
- 7) Do you cheat on your time card at work?
- 8) Are you jealous

of others? 9) Are you a role model to your family and co-workers? 10) Do you use profanity?

If we, as believers, do not carefully watch over our relationship with God, if we do not inventory our hearts, who will? How many Christians do you know who guard their conduct, and consider their relationship with Christ to be of supreme value? How many of us are careless about the way we present ourselves as representatives of Jesus Christ? Are we even aware that there may be weeds of unforgiveness, anger, or jealousy that need to be uprooted and forgiven? That is what this poll was all about.

The Song of Solomon 3:15 says, "Catch us the foxes, the little foxes that spoil the vines, for our vines have tender grapes." The little foxes are the things that are often referred to as "little sins." These are the things that will render our lives ineffective. They will stop our prayers from being answered, hinder our relationships with others, and wreak havoc in our homes and finances, so we must be cautious to keep the little foxes at bay.

Even though the world may wink and laugh at what they call small offenses, as the 10 mentioned here, be assured that God does not take any

sin lightly. There are no "little white lies" or "small sins." The consequences of sin may vary according to their severity, but in His eyes, sin is sin.

Some months ago, I watched a few minutes of a popular talk show. The host asked the audience if there was ever a time when lying was permissible. She randomly selected three people from the audience to give their opinion and I was shocked when all three agreed that there were certain times when lying would be permissible. However, one lady sitting in the back stood up unannounced and opposed their answers, saying, "There is never a time when it is right to lie." She went on to say, "For every lie told, there will likely be occasions to lie again. It is a deadly habit that can take root in a person's life and they can become so accustomed to lying that they are become unaware of its evil."

Recently while compiling this column, I spoke to a very fine Christian gentleman and asked, "If someone came to you and told you about a situation that they felt was unfair to them, perpetrated by another person, would you take that persons' story as law and gospel, or would you wait until you had heard the story from both

sides before making your decision?"

Without hesitation, he said, "I would need to know the story from both sides before I could make a decision based on honesty, not bias, even if the person was my friend." He went on to say, "That's why when two people go to court, the jury listens to both sides of the story before announcing their verdict."

Many fail to realize that the Christian life is a straight and narrow pathway. Matthew 7:13-14 says, "Enter by the narrow gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many that go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it." Jesus spoke these words to His disciples to motivate them to live according to the truth in their hearts, rather than by an external code of ethics. He wanted their actions to proceed from their new life in Christ.

1st Peter 1:15-16 says, "But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy.'"

God bless

Send your comments to jjstocks1@suddenlink.net

Infants through 3 years old are lovingly cared for in our nursery/toddler classroom on Sundays and Wednesdays.

Youth, seventh through 12th grades, enjoy Bible study, fun and fellowship in Youth Explosion Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. with Pastor Cal.

Hispanic services are Sunday evenings at 5:30; Casa de Restrauracion is led by Pastor Felix Torres.

First Presbyterian, Big Spring

The Lectionary Bible study met at 5:17 p.m. Wednesday this week, with choir practice and youth group at 6 p.m.

The youth of our church will conduct the worship service Memorial Sunday. During the worship service we will recognize all of our graduates.

Tuesday, the Presbyterian Women will celebrate the Birthday Offering and install new officers in the church library at 2 p.m.

Paula Farquhar is in charge of refreshments for "Take Ten" Sunday.

The lectionary for the seventh Sunday of Easter is Acts 1:15-17; 21-26; Psalm 1:1; I John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19. The choir will present "Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise," a hymn setting by Charles Wesley, and "Let the People Praise," by Buryl Red.

First Presbyterian, Coahoma

The friendly folks at First Presbyterian Church, Coahoma invite anyone 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.

Sunday, June 7, everyone from our congregation who is interested (and others are welcome as well) will leave Coahoma after worship, eat lunch en route, and go to Post to attend the 3 p.m. performance of "Magdalene" at the Ragtown Gospel Theater. For more information about the theater, call (1-877) 724-8696, or to make reservations to attend with our group, call 267-7809.

A Bible study group, led by Tom, meets every Wednesday at 5:17 p.m. in the church library at First Presbyterian Church in Big Spring to study the week's lectionary. Everyone is welcome.

Congratulations to all of our graduates.

Dan Miracle, recent graduate of

Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, will be preaching for us June 21 and June 28.

The lectionary for the seventh Sunday of Easter is Acts 1:15-17; Psalm 1:1; I John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19.

Baptist Temple

This Sunday our sermon will be titled "God is Bigger than my Economy" from Exodus 15-17. There has been a spirit of fear in our world in

See CHURCH, Page 7A

2009
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

There's no such thing as quiet joy these days. Hoots and hollers come from the even the unlikelyst of sources and with little prompting.

The sun is on a raucous fun spree in the first degrees of Gemini, and the moon charges though Taurus with the grace of a bull in a china shop, though the only thing breaking is the facade of seriousness.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The way to bring your heart and head into union is simply to act. Take another leap. You won't be jumping the gun. The time has come for you to let go of fear and go for it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You will sit at a table where words like "enlightenment" and "miraculous" are the meat of conversation. Your potential for understanding the sacred is unlimited. You listen with your whole being.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Acknowledge, if only to yourself, that you have a weak spot. That you are able to do this only proves your strength. Knowing where you need to work on yourself is an advantage — a necessary building block for growth.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Stress can be habit forming. Consciously create peace and tranquility. Enjoy the reclamation of your space. When everything has calmed down, you'll suddenly see the way to your next Shangri-La.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There is one call you must make today: Call back your power. Feel it in your core. Nothing outside you is more important than what is inside you. Just whistle for it and will it return.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You are an inventive genius capable of

creating something useful and beautiful from virtually nothing. Utilize this talent. The tools you need will be offered to you by a Libra or Gemini.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your passion inspires others, even those who don't share your subject of interest. It's not the topic that matters anyhow; it's your intensity level. Whatever revs you up, do that.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You may prefer that others behave in a certain way, but you wisely choose not to show it. Instead, you project a philosophy of "live and let live." This attitude of nonchalance makes magical things happen.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Trudging through swampy emotions is wearying. No need to go so deeply into the muck and mire when in quest of solid footing. Walk the sunlit hillsides.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You should not expect yourself to deliver at top capacity all of the time. Your body and mind need care and maintenance. Take a long break. Breathe deeply and rejuvenate your spirit.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The whole world seems to want to open up to you. People tell you much more than you wanted to know, and this will entertain you. You'll learn of colorful pasts and secret intentions. Maybe you should write a book!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Go where you feel amazing chemistry and you'll have a marvelous experience. And if the chemistry is not quite amazing, keep moving because there are people out there who will really jive with you.

WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST: **ARIES:** You need a confidence boost. When you get away from your loved ones, you relearn who you are. **TAURUS:** Pay attention to what other people need and want. If you don't know, make a guess. But do not wait for them to tell you — by then, it's too late. **GEMINI:**

You are simply irresistible and will have your choice of delightful options this weekend. **CANCER:** Splurge on image, as you'll be out and about, telling people who you are by your demeanor and dress. **LEO:** You build a mystery around you. Getting to know you is a treat. **VIRGO:** The people in your life will try on new roles and need your support along the way. **LIBRA:** You're a networker, though you're not trying to be. Everyone's interested in what you're up to. **SCORPIO:** Simple actions bond you with your loved ones. Uphold your rituals. **SAGITTARIUS:** You'll find out what someone wishes — it involves you in a surprising way. **CAPRICORN:** You'll be making new friendships, which is wonderful for the relationships you already have. **AQUARIUS:** Explore which beliefs you share with another person — it's a bonding conversation. **PISCES:** Criticism is a form of control. Try not to serve it or take from anyone for the next 48 hours.

COUPLE OF THE WEEKEND: Gemini and Aries have an interest in each other this weekend. Each is at the top of his or her game and will be loose, confident and comfortable with each other almost to the point of being cavalier. This attitude produces interesting sparks and these two might even feud, though it's more like a friendly competition than a serious argument. At any moment, the tension could turn to romance.

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*Sin is no longer your master, for you
are no longer subject to the law,
which enslaves you to sin.
Instead, you are free by God's grace.*

Romans 6: 14

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

Philippians 4:13

Those who trust God's action in
them find that God's spirit is in
them - living and breathing God!

Romans 8:6 - The Message

"Perfect love expels all fear"
(1 John 4:18)

Couldn't you use some fear
expulsion?



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by the Spirit.
Now you are trying to make it
complete by your own power?
That is foolish.

(Galatians 3:5)

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part to live in peace with
everyone, as much as possible?"
(Romans 12:18)

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of God's marvelous love. And may you
have the power to understand, as all God's
people should, how wide, how long, how
high, and how deep his love really is.

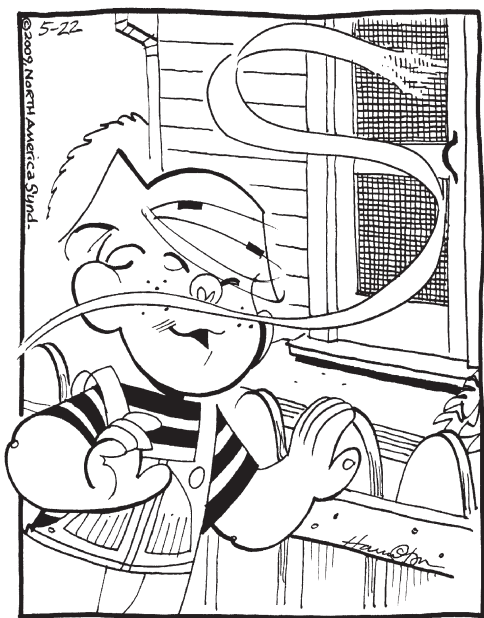
Ephesians 3:17-18

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

Ephesians 1:11

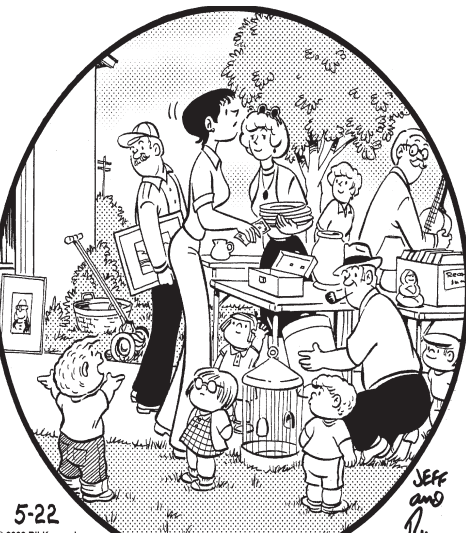
	WFAA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5:PM	News ABC	News ABC	Locura	Lopez	News CBS	Noticias	News NBC	Friends	In Touch-Dr	BBC Business	Cash Cab	Constan-tine, Shia LaBeouf	CSI: NY	Bones	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas	Regional	SportsCenter
6:PM	News ABC	Jeopardy!	Tontas Cielo	Two Men	News CBS	12 Cora-zones	News NBC	Seinfeld	Sprna	News-Lehrer	Made	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order		Montana	College	NFL Live	
7:PM	Entertain	Fortune	Wife Swap	Two Men	Entertain	Ghost Whis-perer	Don't Forget	Millionaire	Howie Do	Howie Do	Fam. Guy	Update	Wash Wk NOW	MythBusters	Movie: Outbreak, Morgan Freeman	Montana	College	College
8:PM	Supernanny	Supernanny	Mañana es	House	Flashpoint	El Rostro de Analia	Dateline NBC	Movie: What Women Want, Marisa Tomei	Light of the Southwest	Bill Moyers Journal	MythBusters	Movie: Reign of Fire	Pregame	NBA Basket-ball: Eastern Conf. Final	Movie: ATL, Mykelti Williams	Phineas	College	College
9:PM	20/20	20/20	Rosa	TMZ	NUMB3RS	Sin Senos	El Cartel	Church	Charlie Rose	MythBusters	Movie: Reign of Fire	Jesse	Inside the NBA	Movie: Bar-bershop	Montana	College	SportsCenter	
10:PM	News Nightline	News Nightline	Impacto	Raymond	News	Noticias	News	Church	Charlie Rose	MythBusters	Movie: Reign of Fire	Jesse	Inside the NBA	Movie: Bar-bershop	Wizards	College	SportsCenter	
11:PM	Insider	Jimmy Kim-mel Live	Desmadru-gados	Late Late Show	Late Late Show	Decisiones de Famosos	Late Night-Jim	Sex & Sanchez	Smiley	MythBusters	Movie: Dracu-la, Donald Pleasence	MAN	Movie: Flumbe in the Bronx	Movie: ATL, Mykelti Williams	Wizards	College	SportsCenter	
12:AM	News	Axis	Madre	Faith	Insider	Pagado	News	Movie: Sister Act	Best of Light of the Southwest	Everest: Limit	Movie: Dracu-la, Donald Pleasence	MAN	Movie: Flumbe in the Bronx	Movie: ATL, Mykelti Williams	Wizards	College	SportsCenter	
1:AM	Paid	Paid	Güereja	Consumer	Paid	Paid	Paid								Emper	College	SportsCenter	

DENNIS THE MENACE



"M-M-M. IT SMELLS LIKE THE WILSONS' KITCHEN IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"This is a neat party we're havin', Mommy! Is everybody staying for lunch?"

HAGAR



YOU'RE STILL ANGRY WITH ME, AREN'T YOU, HELGA? OH, I JUST KINDA HAVE THAT FEELING...

BC



CURLS... I THINK I KNOW HOW TO GET RID OF THAT TATTOO. BUT, IT'S SO UTTERLY FEAR INDUCING, I DARE NOT SPEAK IT ALOUD. WHISPER. TAKE A BATH?

WIZARD OF ID



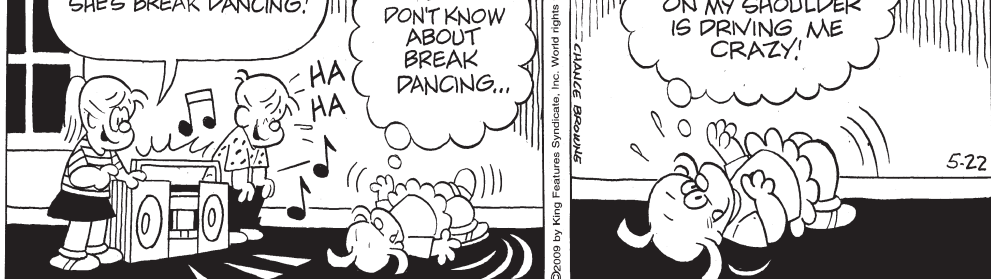
HOW OLD ARE YOU, PINOCCHIO? GEE, I DON'T KNOW. HE'S TWELVE. HAPPY BIRTHDAY. HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT? I COUNTED THE RINGS.

AGNES



FINALLY!! I AM NORMAL! I FIT INTO THE WORLD! YEAH? IF I WERE A FOOT, THE WORLD WOULD BE A SENSIBLE SHOE! YOU'RE STILL WEIRD. YOU BIG BUNIONS OF CYNICISM RUIN EVERYTHING!

HI AND LOIS



LOOK AT TRIxie! SHE'S BREAK DANCING! I DON'T KNOW ABOUT BREAK DANCING... BUT THIS ITCH ON MY SHOULDER IS DRIVING ME CRAZY!

THE OTHER COAST



WHAT'S WITH THE FANCY WATER BOTTLE, VICKY? THAT'S NOT JUST WATER, THAT'S "AQUA COLOSSUS," FROM THE COLOSSUS MINERAL WATER COMPANY, SITUATED IN THE ITALIAN ALPS. "BOTTLED UNDER LICENSE IN NORTH AMERICA BY A GUY IN HIS BASEMENT IN SUBURBAN DETROIT." BUT THE LABEL IS PRINTED IN ITALY.

SNUFFY SMITH



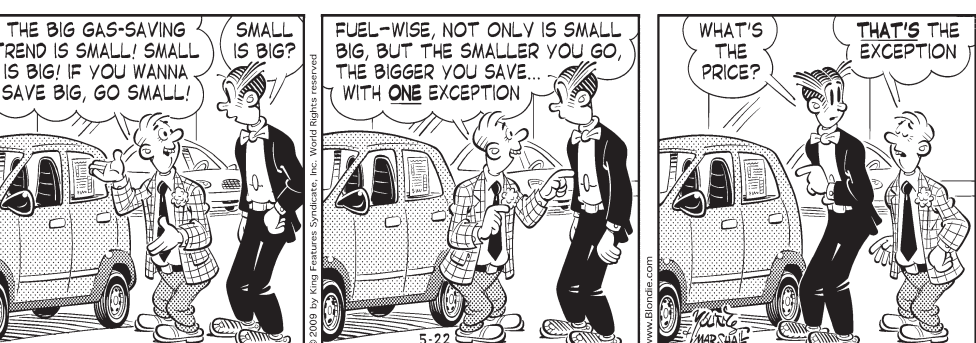
JUGHAID, CAN YOU TELL ME TH' DIFFERENCE 'TWEEN A VERB AN' A ADVERB? YOU BET, MIZ PRUNELLY!! JEST TWO LI'L LETTERS!! GRAMMAR LESSON.

BETLE BAILEY



WOW! I'VE NEVER HEARD THIS ONE BEFORE. WHAT IS IT? MOST PEOPLE HAVE A HEART MURMUR. YOURS IS SCREAMING AND CURSING!

BLONDIE



THE BIG GAS-SAVING TREND IS SMALL! SMALL IS BIG! IF YOU WANNA SAVE BIG, GO SMALL! SMALL IS BIG? FUEL-WISE, NOT ONLY IS SMALL BIG, BUT THE SMALLER YOU GO, THE BIGGER YOU SAVE... WITH ONE EXCEPTION. WHAT'S THE PRICE? THAT'S THE EXCEPTION.

This Date In History

Today is Friday, May 22, the 142nd day of 2009. There are 223 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 22, 1969, the lunar module of Apollo 10, with Thomas P. Stafford and Eugene Cernan aboard, flew to within nine miles of the moon's surface in a dress rehearsal for the first lunar landing.

On this date:

In 1813, composer Richard Wagner was born in Leipzig, Germany.

In 1859, author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the creator of Sherlock Holmes, was born in Edinburgh, Scotland.

In 1868, a major train robbery took place near Marshfield, Ind., as members of the Reno gang made off with \$96,000 in loot.

In 1907, actor-director Laurence Olivier was born in Dorking, Surrey, England.

In 1939, the foreign ministers of Germany and Italy, Joachim von Ribbentrop and Galeazzo Ciano, signed a "Pact of Steel" committing the two countries to a military alliance.

In 1947, the Truman Doctrine was enacted as Congress appropriated military and economic aid for Greece and Turkey.

In 1968, the nuclear-powered submarine USS Scorpion, with 99 men aboard, sank in the Atlantic Ocean. (The remains of the sub were later found on the ocean floor 400 miles southwest of the Azores.)

In 1972, President Richard Nixon began a visit to the Soviet Union, during which he and Kremlin leaders signed the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. The island nation of Ceylon became the republic of Sri Lanka.

In 1979, Canadians voted in parliamentary elections that put the Progressive Conservatives in power, ending the 11-year tenure of Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau.

In 1992, after a reign lasting nearly 30 years, Johnny Carson hosted NBC's "Tonight Show" for the last time.

Today's Birthdays: Movie reviewer Judith Crist is 87. Singer Charles Aznavour is 85.

Actor Michael Constantine is 82. Conductor Peter Nero is 75. Actor-director Richard Benjamin is 71. Actor Frank Converse is 71. Actor Michael Sarrazin is 69. Former CNN anchor Bernard Shaw is 69. Actress Barbara Parkins is 67. Songwriter Bernie Taupin is 59. Actor-producer Al Corley is 53. Singer Morrissey is 50. Actress Ann Cusack is 48. Country musician Dana Williams (Diamond Rio) is 48. Rock musician Jesse Valenzuela is 47. R&B singer Johnny Gill (New Edition) is 43. Rock musician Dan Roberts (Crash Test Dummies) is 42. Actress Brooke Smith is 42. Model Naomi Campbell is 39. Actress Anna Belknap is 37.

Answer to previous puzzle

EPIC	MCJOB	ASIS
LODE	OZONE	NEST
BEEN	PASTA	NCAA
AMATEUR	HOUR	OAK
	RAPS	FRANCE
OSCAR	CLOSED	
DOALL	CHAR	CHAS
ELL	SCRIPTS	AUK
SOLD	HAMS	HINDI
	INTIME	PUNDIR
DETAIL	SINS	
EVA	MINUTE	STEAK
BIDS	DINER	OBOE
UTAH	OLDER	RANG
GAYE	GEODE	EYES

Newsday Crossword

MIND THEM by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 Public image
 - 4 Solder together
 - 9 Done in
 - 14 Green org.
 - 15 Generic pooch
 - 16 Pool requirement
 - 17 Sharp stuff
 - 20 Brought to bear
 - 21 Except if
 - 22 Vega's constellation
 - 23 Persona non
 - 25 Ma's need
 - 28 Shaver
 - 29 Barely open
 - 33 What elle means
 - 36 Role for Arnold
 - 38 "Crazy" singer
 - 39 Hodgepodes
 - 42 Nautical starter
 - 43 Put to 000
 - 44 Burning
 - 45 Asian cuisine
 - 46 Org. with a noted journal
 - 47 Biden's state: Abbr.
 - 49 Bank on
 - 51 Really dry
 - 55 Like some Senators
 - 58 Navigational route
 - 61 The Manning brothers, for two
 - 64 Folder's words
 - 65 In the know
 - 66 Cartoon sound
 - 67 Helps oneself to
- DOWN**
- 1 Fight off
 - 2 Bond former
 - 3 KP tool
 - 4 Really dry
 - 5 Weapon in Clue
 - 6 Burning
 - 7 Meditative sect
 - 8 Bard's preposition
 - 9 PR gimmick
 - 10 Second-generation boxer
 - 11 Qualified
 - 12 Woes
 - 13 Costner role
 - 18 Curmudgeon
 - 19 College area
 - 23 Stare down
 - 24 Sorts
 - 26 ___ Rios, Jamaica
 - 27 "Holy smoke!"
 - 30 Noted hill climber
 - 31 Not behind
 - 32 Score
 - 33 symbol
 - 33 Petty clash
 - 34 Hodgepodge
 - 35 Wonder Woman character
 - 37 Standards
 - 38 Nice to look at
 - 40 Review
 - 41 Math notation
 - 46 Sainly glow
 - 48 In ___ land (dreaming)
 - 50 Doesn't just beat
 - 52 Really moved
 - 53 Comic-strip finisher
 - 54 Cubicle furniture
 - 55 Barbecue gadget
 - 56 First name in household humor
 - 57 Corner
 - 58 Brown the surface of
 - 59 Slips
 - 60 Help in mischief
 - 62 Unrefined
 - 63 Low heart

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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61						62	63					
64						65					66	
67						68						69

PARSON TO PERSON

Time to take another look at the Bible

A couple of volcanoes have erupted in the past few months and volcanoes always get me thinking. Seeing that I am an evangelical theologian, I believe that there really was a flood in the days of Noah. I believe that this flood was worldwide and I really believe that only eight people survived in an ark made of gopher wood. No, I have no idea what gopher wood is.

One of the areas of the Bible that enthralls me is the first 25 chapters of Genesis. So much happens in that portion of Scripture, including the creation of the universe, the creation of mankind, the spiritual and moral corruption of mankind and, of course, the flood.

What do volcanoes and the flood in Noah's day have to do with one another you might ask? And especially for some of you more pragmatic people out there, what does it have to do with this modern age we live in today? Well, give me a few moments of your time.

Scientists for years now, up until very recently — say the last 30 years — thought that carbon dating was the ultimate baseline for measuring how old rocks and fossils were. When the scientific technique first came out, we were hearing about bones found that were millions of years old and it led to the conclusion that the earth was many hundreds of millions of years old.

Darwin's theory of evolution was plugged into the mix and we had whole text books coming out in the early and middle and late 1970s teaching that man had evolved from the primordial ooze over eons. The Bible was wrong; fanciful at best and insidious at worst. Science and geography was right — the carbon dating proved it.

Then came the eruption of Mount St. Helens in 1980. If you were alive and over the age of five at the time you can remember the ash falling from the sky for months. It was the biggest volcanic eruption in the lower 48 states since 1915 and the aftermath gave scientist years of field work as they got to handle fresh rocks that came from the deepest bowels of the earth.

Silence reigned in the geological world for 20 years as the data from Mount St. Helens was analyzed and digested. The textbooks and more importantly, the information in the text books did not change throughout the 1980s and 1990s — the theory of evolution was taught as fact because we knew that rocks were millions of years old. Evolution counted on geology and geology was affirmed by what everybody forgot was just a theory. The theory of evolution cannot be proved or disproved by the scientific method — there is just no way to faithfully reproduce it, no matter how large the laboratory.

When the findings finally came out about the studies done on Mount St. Helens, scientists got even quieter. Carbon dating "proved" that the changes to the volcano had taken more than one million years to "evolve." Since most of the volcanologists that were involved in the study had flown in from around the world to watch and be an eye witness to the eruption, carbon dating techniques were put on the scrap heap of history.

What gets me is that all of the data from every "discovery" that used carbon dating as their proof that something was so old should have been scrapped and the textbooks should have been rewritten. Sadly, lacking a better "scientific" model for the world origins and age, we have ended up teaching our children as fact what has been proven to be a theory riddled with provable faults.

One of the faults of carbon dating is that the results are skewed badly when water is involved. Enter the flood of Noah. What is not told or taught to our children in most of our schools is that most all of the cultures in the world have as part of their "lore" a flood account. In fact, missionaries and cultural scientists have been for years discovering and making first contact with lost tribes only to be told that tribe's flood tradition.

While the stories differ, they all have a couple of points that are the same. Mankind became wicked, a flood came upon all the earth — only a few survived to repopulate the world.

Consider this: Mount Ararat is the place where the ark came to rest, according to Genesis 8. There is a mountain in Turkey that is called by this name — it has always been called by the name of Ararat since time out of mind. The literal translation of Ararat is "the Mountain of Noah." I think it is time to take another look at the Bible.

Matt Price is a minister, author and columnist. E-mail him at theparsonperson@yahoo.com

E-mail Church News and Club News to newsdesk@bigspringherald.com

CHURCH

Continued from Page 5A

recent months over the recession we are in. This economy is something that did not catch God off-guard, and he will see us through it. It also isn't the first time that his people have been in fear and in need. This Sunday we will see just how God provided for his people when they were wandering through the desert with nothing.

After the service, we will be having a workday to finish up our youth room and study library. We encourage our people who want to stay and help to bring a sack lunch and a change of clothes. We will work that afternoon until our cook-out that evening. Our cook-out will start at 4 p.m. Bring something to put on the grill and a side dish. We will eat at 6 p.m.

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

We have Sunday school classes for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Sunday. Our worship services are at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday. We also have activities for all ages Wednesdays from 7-8 p.m.

We are located at 400 E. 11th Place. For more information, call us at 267-8287 or check us out on the Web at btcbig-spring.org.

Birdwell Lane Baptist

If you are seeking a Church home where there is plain Bible preaching, quartet singing and a very friendly atmosphere, then come and be our honored guest. We are located at 1512 Birdwell Lane. Sunday services are 10:55 a.m. and 5 p.m. There is a nursery for your little ones, and if a ride is needed, call 264-9924 or 267-7157. Children's church is during the morning service for ages 4-12. There are Sunday school classes for ages Pre-K through adult.

We wish everyone a very happy and safe holiday weekend and we remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

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

St. Mary's Episcopal

Everyone is invited to attend worship services at St. Mary's this Sunday. Holy Communion will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. Sunday school is over for the summer and will resume in September.

The church office will be closed Monday in honor of Memorial Day.

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 us.

For more information about St. Mary's Episco-

pal Church, call 267-8201 or visit our Web site at www.stmarysbst.org. St. Mary's is located at 1001 S. Goliad.

First Baptist, Big Spring

To those veterans who served their country and God so proudly: Thank you for your sacrifices to keep our freedoms free. First Baptist Church will be honoring our country and our veterans this Sunday on the eve of Memorial Day during our 10:50 a.m. service. Our choir will be singing several patriotic selections, and our pastor, the Rev. Mark Lindsey, will bring the sermon, "Bought with Blood." Come be a part of this meaningful service.

May 31 at 6 p.m., our organist and pianist, Beth Spence and Betty Downey, will be presenting a concert in the sanctuary and share some favorite duets that they do so well. Week after week, the congregation of First Baptist Church is blessed by their talent. Come and share the blessing with us. We'll have a reception in our north foyer following the service.

School is almost out and the summer activities for our children have been planned. Vacation Bible School, Mother's Day Out, Summerama, Wacky Wednesdays are a part of the fun things planned for our kids. Along with the fun, each activity will bring a message of God's love to the kids on their level of understanding.

First Baptist Church invites you to come and worship with us.

Holy Trinity Catholic Parish

Holy Trinity Catholic Parish celebrates all graduates. All those who are graduating from high school or higher education are invited to attend Sunday's 9:30 a.m. mass at Immaculate Heart of Mary at 1009 Hern.

There will be a special blessing and gift for all graduates. A reception for the graduates and family will follow in the church hall.

North Birdwell Lane United Methodist

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

a.m. This week's adult lesson will be led by Ben Boadle and is titled "New Life in the Home," taken from Ephesians 5:21-31.

Bible study is held the first and third Wednesday of the month and United Methodist Women meet the second and fourth Wednesdays. Both are held at the church.

Beginning with the June ordering dates, Lone Star cards will be accepted for Angel Food Ministries, the non-qualifying, grocery relief program sponsored locally by North Birdwell Lane United Methodist Church. Orders paid for with a Lone Star card will only be accepted at the church, located at 2702 N. Birdwell. The May delivery date is the 30th.

We welcome all who wish to work for the Lord in a mission-minded church. For more information, call 267-2203 or 263-2536. Leave a message if there is no answer.

Alive in Christ Lutheran, LCMS

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

Pastor Bob Boyce will be delivering the message from the pulpit this Sunday. Angela

Newton is our organist. This week's acolyte will be Analyssa Rodriguez. Our elders for this week are Darren Byrd and Richard von Hassell.

The liturgy will be read by Dolline Budke. The readings for this week include: Acts 1:12-26, Psalm 1:1, John 5:9-15, and John 17:11b-19.

There will be another executive board meeting May 27 at 7 p.m. at the church. In fact, the executive board plans on meeting the next several Wednesday evenings. On June 3, the insurance agent will make a presentation on insurance coverage. June 10, Steve Minsch will meet with the congregation and members at 7 p.m.

Sunday, Steve Block will be here to address our church members.

Sunday, May 31, there will be another congregational meeting/voters' assembly after church. The LWML will provide a simple lunch. Please mark your calendars for these very important discussions.

June 20, the Big Spring Film Society is planning on showing the movie "Jaws" on the banks of the Comanche Trail Park. Our youth will be helping with the concessions.

If you have not yet done the pastoral survey, either complete

See **CHURCH**, Page 8A

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CHURCH

Continued from Page 7A

one of the paper surveys or log on at txdistmmf.org\0413. This input is essential to our future planning.

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. They will look great on your car windshield or your windows at home.

The information class has begun. The class is meeting Wednesday evenings at 6 p.m. Martin Luther, the history of our church, baptism, sacraments and other topics will be discussed. Feel free to join at this time.

The Board of Education met May 17. Plans for VBS are being made. Tentative schedule for VBS is the first part of August.

Just searching for an old bumbershoot

It has been so long since I used my bumbershoot that I can't even remember where it is or what it looked like. I think it was black and had a plastic handle, and it seems like I may have seen it in the top of a closet or in the trunk of my car. Wherever it was, it was in a safe place so that it wouldn't get wet in case of rain.

Actually, I had never even heard of a bumbershoot until near the end of my teaching career. A story about a little boy who had an umbrella and a grandfather who had a bum-

bershoot was published in a first-grade textbook. My 6-year-old students were fascinated with the word, and I tucked it away somewhere in my memory.

While I have never claimed to be a history buff, I think bumbershoots may have become so dated that they had to be reinvented as umbrellas. They may have gone completely out of style when the haberdashers closed and the mercantile stores went out of business.

Although I don't recall ever hearing the word "bumbershoot" roll off anyone's tongue in a conversation, I was surprised to see it in print recently. In an effort to restore a few antiquated English words into usage, the Reader's Digest included the ear-

pricking word in their Word Power feature. I was delighted to see at least one word on the page that I recognized. It was almost like meeting an old friend in an unexpected place.

In the Scripture, Jesus promised His disciples that they would have a similar experience of more significance: "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, he will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you" (John 14:26 NASB).

When we place ourselves under the protection of God's umbrella, we can be assured that He will bring encouraging words to our minds at the exact time we need to remember them.



BONNIE
WHEAT

Club News

TOPS Club TX 21

Leader Laura Sickles called the TOPS club to order Monday evening by calling for the TOPS cheer. It was answered by 11 TOPS and 2 KOPS. Frank Sickles led the TOPS pledge and Laura Sickles led the KOPS pledge. The welcome song was sung by all members.

Business began with Carol Smith reading the minutes of the previous meeting, which were approved by the membership. Announcements informed members that weight recorder Hughetta Roberts will have surgery one week from Tuesday. Then some long overdue awards were presented. For 2007, Dennis Stapel was awarded for a 10-pound loss. Ethel Cassady was awarded for being at goal or below goal for 2008. Laura Sickles was awarded the KOPS on the Spot award for her participation at a recent KOPS meeting.

The next business item was a motion for the club to pay the KOPS registration dues for their KOPS Honor Society membership. It was voted on and passed.

Roll call was then given and the Club registered a 15-pound loss, and Linda Stapel was the best loser for this week with a loss of 3.75 pounds. Olnee Menges was awarded for best loser for May with a loss of 6.5 pounds.

The final business was a discussion on the Big Spring TOPS TX 21 sponsoring the KOPS Honor Society meeting the second Saturday in February. It was voted on and passed.

The program was then presented by Mary Churchwell, and a discussion was held about members' personal methods of controlling our diets thereby helping to control our weight.

The Happy Birthday Song was then sung by all members for Raymond Churchwell.

For more information about TOPS and how it helps us control our weight problems, please call Frank Sickles at 213-1342 or Olnee Menges at 263-6819. All visitors are welcome. We meet Monday evenings 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at First Christian Church Fellowship Hall located at 10th and Goliad. We hope you come see us.

Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: My adult daughter's behavior is causing a great deal of emotional pain in my family. "Carole" has a violent temper that makes everyone -- even her sweet-tempered husband -- cower in fear. About six months ago, our entire family attended a large party she and her husband were giving. The morning after, Carole got into a raging, swearing screaming match with her father, which left him in tears. Since then, there has been no contact between them.



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

Carole has tried to manipulate me into being on her side in this argument, but I work hard to

stay neutral. A few days ago, I received a long e-mail from her saying she has been waiting six months for some sign from her father that he wants her in his life. I forwarded the e-mail to my husband, thinking maybe this was the opening he's been hoping for. He picked up the phone and called her. As soon as she heard his voice, she went into yet another rant about how he has ruined her life and then slammed down the phone. He was devastated.

My first loyalty is to my husband. I know I should try to keep in touch with Carole, even though her behavior is totally unacceptable. But sometimes I'd like to walk away and never deal with her again. I've suggested counseling, but she refuses, always saying the problem is with the other person, not herself. Can you suggest a way for me to get through this mess? -- Carole's Mother

Dear Mother: Carole sounds like a handful, and we'd guess she has some mental health issues. If your husband wants to re-establish contact, he should write Carole a letter -- not to rehash the argument or chastise her, but to simply say he loves her and hopes they can be closer. All future communication should be kept superficial and brief. Carole is a ticking bomb, and until she admits she needs help, it serves no purpose to set her off.

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