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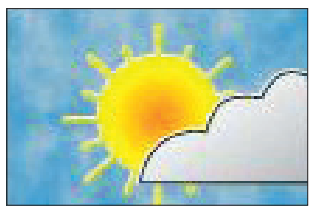
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# H BIG SPRING HERALD

**TUESDAY**  
MARCH 16, 2010



VOLUME 105, NUMBER 85

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## City calls lawsuit 'frivolous'

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

Officials with the city of Big Spring described the recent lawsuit filed against the municipality by the Concerned Citizens Council as an attempt to "sneak the obviously invalid (rollback tax) petition through on a technicality" in a response filed in 118<sup>th</sup> District Court this week.



Sjoegren

The lawsuit — which was filed on behalf of the Concerned Citizens Council with local residents Shannon Thomason, Steve Campbell, Thomas Tafuro, John Huckabee, Joe Hernandez and Mary Musik named as plaintiffs — alleges an emergency meeting of the Big Spring City Council held Jan. 7 violated the act.

During the meeting, the Big Spring City Council declared a rollback tax petition submitted

See **SUIT**, Page 3



HERALD photo/Ron Midkiff

These trees in bloom seem to be a sure sign that a change in season is near. Officially, the first day of spring will be Saturday.

## Army drops bayonets in training revamp

By **SUSANNE M. SCHAFER**  
Associated Press Writer

FORT JACKSON, S.C. — At 5 a.m. on the Army's largest training base, soldiers grunt through the kinds of stretches, body twists and bent-leg raises that might be seen in an "ab blaster" class at a suburban gym.

Adapting to battlefield experience in Afghanistan and Iraq, the Army is revamping its basic training regimen for the first time in three decades by nixing five-mile runs and

bayonet drills in favor of zig-zag sprints and honing core muscles.

Trainers hope the switch will better prepare soldiers physically for the pace of combat, with its sudden dashes and rolling gun battles. They also want to toughen recruits who are often more familiar with Facebook than fistfights.

The exercises are part of the first major overhaul in Army basic fitness training since men and women began training together in 1980, said

**"I'm not training long-distance runners. I'm training warriors."**

—Frank Palhoska, head of the Army's Fitness School at Fort Jackson

Frank Palhoska, head of the Army's Fitness School at Fort Jackson, which has worked several years on overhauling the service's fitness regime.

The new plan is being ex-

panded this month at the Army's four other basic training installations — Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., Fort Sill, Okla., Fort Benning, Ga., and Fort Knox, Ky.

"We don't run five miles in combat, but you run across the street every day," Palhoska said, adding, "I'm not training long-distance runners. I'm training warriors" who must shuttle back and forth across a back alley.

Drill sergeants with combat experience in the current wars are credited with urging

the Army to change training, in particular to build up core muscle strength to walk patrols with heavy packs and body armor or to haul a buddy out of a burning vehicle.

One of those experienced drill sergeants is 1st Sgt. Michael Todd, a veteran of seven deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan.

On a recent training day Todd was spinning recruits around to give them the feel of rolling out of a tumbled

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Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 6 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. Sunday.



HERALD file photo

The Big Spring Powwow is scheduled April 17-18 at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

## Sponsors, volunteers sought for 'bigger,' 'better' Powwow

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

Officials with the Big Spring Powwow group are shooting for a "bigger and better" show this year, as the local committee continues to line up dancers, vendors and other entertainment for the annual event.

Slated for April 17-18 at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum — located on the Howard College campus — this year's powwow will be a step above past years if committee treasurer Connie Lesser has anything to say about it.

"When we sat down and started planning the 2010

**What:** Big Spring Powwow

**Where:** Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

**When:** April 17-18.

**Contact:** Connie Lesser at 264-8203.

powwow, one of the things we were shooting for was to make it bigger and better than ever," said Lesser. "Right now, most of the plans are in place and we're just trying to take care of the last minute things in the month leading up to the event. And, from where we stand now, I really

feel like this year's powwow is going to be bigger and better."

While most of the planning is in place, according to Lesser, there are still a few things the committee is in need of to make sure the event goes off without a hitch.

"Donations and sponsors are what keep the powwow going each year," said Lesser. "It costs anywhere from \$8,000 to \$10,000 to put it on each year, so donations are always a huge help, even if it's just a few dollars here and there. Our local businesses, who help sponsor the event,

See **POWWOW**, Page 3

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# Obituaries

## Richard Ray Burrow

Richard Ray Burrow, 71, of Big Spring, died Sunday, March 14, 2010, in an Odessa hospital. Graveside funeral services will be held at 11 a.m., Wednesday, March 17, 2010, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park with Mona Lue Tonn officiating.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 16, 2010, at the funeral home.

He was born Jan. 5, 1939, in Callahan County and married Betty Sue Montgomery Jan. 31, 1958, in Howard County. She preceded him in death May 8, 2001.

Richard came to Big Spring in the early 1950s. He worked for Clyde McMahon Concrete for 16 years and then owned and operated Burrow Concrete for many years until retiring. He enjoyed fishing and hunting and spending time with his family.

Survivors include one son and daughter-in-law, Mike and Shelley Burrow of Big Spring; one daughter, Tammy Schrecengost of Big Spring; three grandchildren, Ethan Schrecengost and wife, Glenda of Odessa, Kristen Lasater and husband Joe and Magen Williamson and husband Michael all of Big Spring; and five great-grandchildren, McKenzie Schrecengost, Austin Lasater, Cayson Schrecengost, Cayden Schrecengost and Caston Williamson.

He was also preceded in death by his father, Julius Burrow; his mother, Trudy Juanice Carter; one son, Richard G. Burrow; and a brother, Troy Burrow.

The family suggests memorials be made to Heritage Museum, 510 Scurry, Big Spring 79720.

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

*Paid obituary*

## M.E. 'Eddie' Simer

M. E. "Eddie" Simer, 77, of Big Spring, died Sunday, March 14, 2010, at his residence. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday, March 17, 2010, at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. Joel Miller officiating. Burial will be at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Eddie was born June 6, 1932 in Bonham to Ethel Nipp Simer and Marion Mitchell Simer. He lived in Borden County from 1955 until 1979, then moved to Howard County. Eddie had been a contract pumper and also raised exotic birds. He was a veteran, a Methodist and served as a county commissioner in Borden County for eight years.

He is survived by his wife, Ellen of Big Spring; two sons, Gary Simer and his wife, Judy of Big Spring, and Larry Simer and his wife, Patsy Rich Simer of Stanton; two daughters, Donna Miller and her husband, Paul and Becky Overby and her partner, Ami Byrd, all of Big Spring; a brother, Billy Simer and his wife, Peggy of Bonham; 11 grandchildren: Michael Simer, Michelle Simer, Brittany Simer, Amber Simer, Randi McHenry, Ricki James, Rodney Robertson, Gary Eugene Simer, Rachel Overby, Sara Overby and Hannah Overby; and 10 great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, Eddie was preceded in death by several brothers and sisters.

The family suggests memorials to Home Hospice, 111 East 7th St., Ste. A., Big Spring 79720 or Chapel Of Faith, 501 E. 14th St., Big Spring 79720.

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

*Paid obituary*

# Police blotter

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

- BRIAN GARZA, 27, of 1202 E. 15<sup>th</sup> St., was arrested Monday on a Gonzales County warrant.
- GENNY MONTEZ, 24, of Stanton, was arrested Monday on a charge of forgery.
- JENNY JUAREZ, 25, of 1010 N.W. Second St., was arrested Monday on a charge of forgery.
- THEFT was reported: In the 200 block of FM 700. In the 1200 block of 11<sup>th</sup> Place. In the 1100 block of Lamesa.
- FORGERY was reported in the 1800 block of Gregg Street.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 1500 block of Scurry.
- BURGLARY OF A BUILDING was reported in the 400 block of 10<sup>th</sup> Street.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the 1900 block of N. Highway 87.

# Sheriff

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

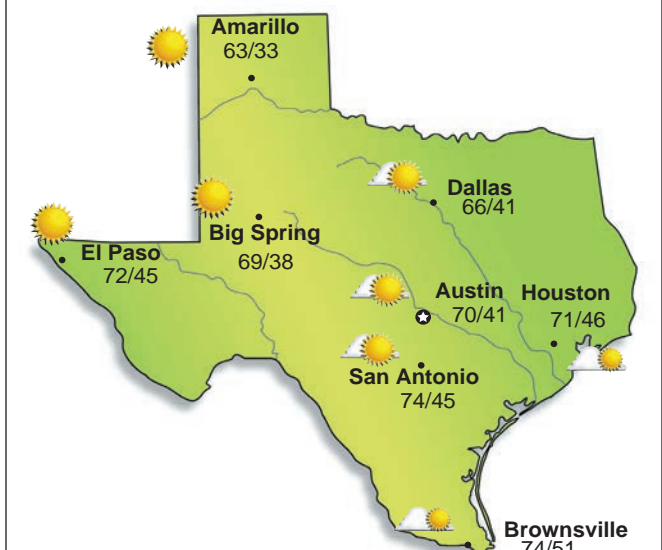
- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 56 inmates at the time of this report.
- RICKY JAY EDWARDS JR., 25, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for driving while intoxicated.
- JOSEPH RAY BACA, 24, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for possession of marijuana — two ounces or less and a charge of violating a driver's license restriction.
- JENNY JUAREZ, 25, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of forgery of a financial instrument.
- GENNY ANN MONTEZ, 24, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of forgery of a financial instrument.
- BRIAN MICHAEL GARZA, 27, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of forgery.

# Today's Weather

## Local 5-Day Forecast

Wed 3/17	Thu 3/18	Fri 3/19	Sat 3/20	Sun 3/21
<b>69/38</b> Sunny skies. High 69F. Winds WNW at 10 to 15 mph.	<b>71/46</b> A few clouds. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the mid 40s.	<b>76/38</b> Mainly sunny. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the upper 30s.	<b>58/33</b> More sun than clouds. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the low 30s.	<b>66/39</b> Plenty of sun. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the upper 30s.
<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:54 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 7:55 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:52 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 7:56 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:51 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 7:57 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:50 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 7:58 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:48 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 7:58 PM

# Texas At A Glance



## Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	67	38	mst sunny	Kingsville	77	49	mst sunny
Amarillo	63	33	sunny	Livingston	69	40	pt sunny
Austin	70	41	mst sunny	Longview	65	41	mst sunny
Beaumont	69	44	pt sunny	Lubbock	68	35	sunny
Brownsville	74	51	pt sunny	Lufkin	69	41	mst sunny
Brownwood	70	41	mst sunny	Midland	73	42	sunny
Corpus Christi	73	52	mst sunny	Raymondville	75	49	pt sunny
Corsicana	65	40	mst sunny	Rosenberg	71	45	pt sunny
Dallas	66	41	mst sunny	San Antonio	74	45	mst sunny
Del Rio	76	46	sunny	San Marcos	71	42	mst sunny
El Paso	72	45	sunny	Sulphur Springs	62	41	pt sunny
Fort Stockton	75	43	sunny	Sweetwater	69	38	mst sunny
Gainesville	63	37	mst sunny	Tyler	64	40	mst sunny
Greenville	62	38	mst sunny	Weatherford	66	37	mst sunny
Houston	71	46	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	64	36	mst sunny

## National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	54	41	rain	Minneapolis	57	36	pt sunny
Boston	58	40	sunny	New York	62	44	sunny
Chicago	58	38	mst sunny	Phoenix	81	54	pt sunny
Dallas	66	41	mst sunny	San Francisco	69	48	pt sunny
Denver	66	40	mst sunny	Seattle	52	35	pt sunny
Houston	71	46	pt sunny	St. Louis	62	40	pt sunny

# Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 800 block of Timothy Lane. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2300 block of Marshall. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2300 block of Grace. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported in the 3600 block of E. 11<sup>th</sup> St. Service refused.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 2300 block of Gatesville. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 5700 block of Cedar Road. Service refused.

# Lottery

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 9-12-13-23. Bonus Ball: 30.  
Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 0.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:  
Winning numbers drawn: 1-6-20-29-32.  
Number matching five of five: 0.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 2-7-4-7. Sum It Up: 20.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 4-2-9. Sum It Up: 15.

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**SUIT**

Continued from Page 1A

to the city in December as invalid. To be successful, the petition would have needed approximately 1,200 names. However, the final copy submitted to the city contained just one name, that of Thomason, who described the filing as a "token."

According to the city's motion filed by City Attorney Linda Sjogren Friday, the relief the CCC is asking for in the case — which amounts to holding a rollback election despite the lack of a valid petition — is a moot point for several different reasons.

"The plaintiff's (CCC) action in filing the rollback petition was frivolous and intended solely to disrupt and waste the time of city officials and employees," Sjogren said in the response. "Plaintiffs are now trying, through this lawsuit, to force an election that would be costly to the taxpayers of Big Spring on the basis of a rollback petition containing one signature when over 1,000 signatures were required to trigger a rollback election."

"Plaintiffs do not have clean hands in this matter because they are trying to force their will and unnecessary elec-

tion costs on the other citizens of Big Spring in order to achieve, through a technicality, what they were unable to legitimately achieve by obtaining the requisite number of signatures to call the rollback election."

According to Sjogren, the emergency meeting was made necessary because the city had recently run into a problem with its certified taxable values, submitted to the municipality by the Howard County Appraisal District in late July.

"On Nov. 18, 2009, the Howard County Tax Appraisal Office notified the city it had made an error in the certified appraised values in excess of \$9 million, and there were a significant number of new filed exemptions that brought the reduction in certified appraised values to approximately \$11 million less than what was certified at the time the city adopted its tax rate," Sjogren stated in the response. "This created concern and uncertainty as to whether it was prudent, or possibly a legal requirement, that the city go through the entire tax rate setting procedure again to establish the accurate effective and rollback tax rates."

"Staff also knew at this time that plaintiffs (CCC) were circulat-

ing a rollback petition based on the previously published effective and rollback tax rates. This presented additional questions regarding what effect it would have on the petition if the council elected to recalculate rates."

After studying the tax rate situation, which Sjogren described as "unprecedented" in the response, the city staff was faced with a dilemma. The only council meeting scheduled for December was Dec. 8, held 10 days before the CCC submitted its "token" petition containing just one signature, and the next scheduled meeting was set for Jan. 12, beyond the 20-day period in which the city was required to declare the petition either valid or invalid.

"Plaintiffs presented a frivolous 'token' petition with one signature, knowing they had not met the requisite level of community participation required in the Tax Code, and obviously knowing the filing would require review and processing time by the city staff and action at a council meeting," said Sjogren. "Plaintiffs (CCC) filed the rollback petition late on a Friday afternoon the week before Christmas, starting the 20-day period at a time when it included three city holidays and six weekend days and

when there was no city council meeting scheduled during the 20 days period. In addition, and unknown to the plaintiffs, some key staff members were out sick during that time and the city attorney (Sjogren) was involved with other litigation deadlines."

According to Sjogren, the combination of timing issues and research made necessary by the tax rate questions qualify as unforeseeable, one of the key requirements in the Texas Open Meetings Act to hold an emergency meeting.

Sjogren also stated that despite the abrupt calling of the emergency meeting — slightly more than six hours of notice were given prior to the Jan. 7 meeting — the proceedings were well attended by both media outlets and members of the CCC.

"The plaintiffs did not suffer any real harm due to the emergency meeting," Sjogren said in the response. "Several of the plaintiffs and members of the CCC were in attendance at the meeting, so they clearly received notice of the meeting despite the shortened notice under the emergency meeting provisions. At least two television stations and the Big Spring Herald were present and covering the meeting. The meeting was also broadcast on Channel 17.

"Even with the additional notice that would have been provided if the defendant (the city of Big Spring) had been able to hold a non-emergency special meeting, the plaintiff's rollback petition would have still been invalid on its face. Their only grievance is that they were not able to sneak the obviously invalid petition through on a technicality."

According to information provided by the city, were a rollback election held and successful, the tax refund to taxpayers would have been minimal.

"A taxpayer owning a \$100,000 home with a homestead exemption would receive a refund of approximately \$4.32 for the year," Sjogren states. "A taxpayer owning an average home in Big Spring of approximately \$41,118 with a homestead exemption would receive a refund of approximately \$1.78 for the year."

Regardless of whether the district court finds the CCC's claim the Open Meetings Act was violated valid or not, Sjogren said there is no way to legally remedy the situation with a rollback election because there is no way to hold it within the time constraints contained in state laws.

"The Plaintiff's attorneys clearly did not perform due diligence

prior to the filing of this cause of action," Sjogren responded. "If they had done so they would not have waited until it was already too late for the defendant (city of Big Spring) to comply with the requested relief, causing defendant and its taxpayers to incur additional costs in defending this lawsuit. The alternative is that the plaintiff's attorney knew it was too late for the defendant to act, but filed their original petition anyway to make a point. Either scenario is an unacceptable use of the judicial system."

Sjogren said she hopes the court will hold a hearing on the matter soon.

"Our hope is the judge sees that it would be impossible for us to hold a rollback election at this point and throws the entire thing out," said Sjogren. "We feel we met the requirements of the Open Meetings Act, and the CCC obviously disagrees with that. Of course, that's their right."

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

**ARMY**

Continued from Page 1

Humvee. Then he tossed on the ground pugil sticks made of plastic pipe and foam, forcing trainees to crawl for their weapons before they pounded away on each other.

"They have to understand hand-to-hand combat, to use something other than their weapon, a piece of wood, a knife, anything they can pick up," Todd said.

The new training also uses "more calisthenics to build core body power, strength and agility," Palhoska said in an office bedecked with 60-year-old black and white photos of World War II-era mass exercise drills. Over the 10 weeks of basic, a strict schedule of exercises is done on a varied sequence of days so muscles rest, recover and strengthen.

Another aim is to toughen recruits from a more obese and sedentary generation, train-

ers said.

Many recruits didn't have physical education in elementary, middle or high school and therefore tend to lack bone and muscle strength. When they ditch diets replete with soda and fast food for healthier meals and physical training, they drop excess weight and build stronger muscles and denser bones, Palhoska said.

Lt. Gen. Mark Hertling of the Army's Training and Doctrine Command,

the three-star general in charge of revamping all aspects initial training, said his overall goal is to drop outmoded drills and focus on what soldiers need today and in the future.

Bayonet drills had continued for decades, even though soldiers no longer carry the blades on their automatic rifles. Hertling ordered the drills dropped.

"We have to make the training relevant to the conditions on the modern battlefield,"

Hertling said during a visit to Fort Jackson in January.

The general said the current generation has computer skills and a knowledge base vital to a modern fighting force. He foresees soldiers using specially equipped cell phones to retrieve information on the battlefield to help repair a truck or carry out an emergency lifesaving medical technique.

But they need to learn how to fight.

**POWWOW**

Continued from Page 1

are also a huge part of what we do. We'll be taking business sponsors right up until about a week before the powwow, so it's not too late to show your support for this great event."

Lesser said another commodity to the annual Big Spring Powwow is volunteers, who play a huge role in making sure the two-day event runs smoothly.

"We need volunteers to help us run some of the minor parts of the powwow," said Lesser. "Things like helping to run the front desk and some of the contests, and monitor some of the different stations. It's a lot of fun, and it gives people a chance to get a birds-eye view of what goes on during the powwow."

Arena director is Fabian Galvan of Lubbock and emcee for the event is Tim Harjo of Ada, Okla., both of whom are returning after participating in last year's powwow.

"It's always a help to be able to bring folks back from the previous year. They already have a feel for how things are run, and that can be a tremendous help," said Lesser. "But don't think you're going to show up at the powwow and just see the same people, year after year. We work hard to bring in new people each year, as well. We want the event to feel fresh and fun for everyone."

According to committee treasurer Randy McKinney, the powwow is not a religious event, but will lift the spirits of those in attendance.

"The powwow is a social event and there is

no Native American religion involved; there will be no medicine men and no ceremonies," said McKinney. "A powwow is a wonderful experience; the drum alone will lift your heart and make your feet want to dance."

"Dancing has always been a big part of the Native American culture, as it has in many cultures. Most people think of war dances or rain dances. However, Native Americans dance for many reasons — a good hunt or harvest, marriage or childbirth, or just for the fun of it. These dances would last for days."

Vendors offering many different wares will also be available and

a food drive is scheduled with all donated canned goods given to local food banks.

"The vendors will be selling all kinds of Native American wares, from jewelry and art to food, like the traditional fry bread," said Lesser. "There will also be a silent auction, so it should be a lot of fun for everyone in the family."

For more information about the powwow, contact Lesser at 264-8203, or visit the Powwow Committee's Web site at www.powwowbig-spring.com.

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

**MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL**  
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 JoAnn Turner, 75, died Saturday. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday at First Baptist Church, with interment to follow at the Garden City cemetery.  
 M. E. "Eddie" Simer, 77, died Sunday. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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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  
 BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: \$8.85 monthly; \$95.58 yearly (includes 10% discount). MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$14.58 monthly Howard; \$18.33 elsewhere.

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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

# It's time to get Health Fair 2010 booths lined up

It has often been noted that nothing is as important as one's health. Adages on the subject abound. And for good reason, because almost anything else pales in comparison.

Unfortunately, far too many of us fall woefully short of being conscientious when it comes to making sure we're in good health.

We're too busy, we believe, to schedule a doctor's appointment for a check up. Worse still, in some cases we ignore symptoms of potentially life-threatening conditions.

That's why it's important that we all make plans to take advantage of free health screenings that will be offered on Saturday, April 10, at Health Fair 2010.

Doors to Howard College's Dorothy Garrett Coliseum will be open from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. that day and there will be numerous booths supplying free screenings and information.

The theme for this year's fair — the 28th annual event — is "Wild About Good Health." Booth spaces are now available. The 10x10 booths are \$80 if paid for by March 19, or \$100 if paid March 20 through the deadline of April 2.

Corporate sponsors for this year's fair include the Big Spring Air Evac Lifeteam, Alon USA-Big Spring Refinery, All District Screen Printing, the *Big Spring Herald*, Caring Hearts Home Health, Cornell Companies, Crossroads Hospice, Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, H-E-B, KBST/KBTS, KBYG, Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home, Parkview Nursing & Rehab / Parkplace Retirement Living, Scenic Mountain Medical Center, Warren Chiropractic/Big Spring Physical Therapy and the West Texas VA Health Care Systems.

United Blood Services will have its mobile unit on hand, and the partial list of screenings available include: blood pressure, cholesterol, glucose, PSAs and weight. Fluoride treatment for children will also be available.

Another service available will be fingerprinting and photos for children and senior adults.

We encourage everyone — from our community's healthcare professionals to the average man, woman or child on the street — to make plans to be involved that weekend and pay a little attention to healthy living.

It just might be the best and most important fun you've ever had.

## HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

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

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- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Your words, Lord, are precious resources for our life.

Amen

# WASPs finally get their gold

This March, as our nation celebrates Women's History Month, a special group of women gathered in Washington, filling the massive Emancipation Hall of the new Capitol Visitors Center to receive long overdue recognition for their pioneering service to our nation during World War II.

These inspiring heroines were the first women to fly military aircraft and blazed a trail in the sky that opened the door for today's women military pilots.

In a moving ceremony, the 300 surviving members of the WASP received the highest civilian honor Congress can give — the Congressional Gold Medal — in front of the largest crowd to ever attend an event inside the Capitol.

These exceptional women did not receive the recognition they deserved during World War II and not even for decades later.

But on this beautiful day in our nation's capital, in front of their families, members of Congress and the servicemen and women who have followed in their patriotic footsteps, they finally heard the words they have waited so long to hear: "On behalf of a grateful nation, thank you for your service."



KAY  
BAILEY  
HUTCHISON

All these women volunteered to serve their country in wartime.

They paid their own way to Texas, where they trained at Avenger Field in Sweetwater. When the war ended and the WASP program was unceremoniously ended, they had to pay their own way back home.

Of the more than 1,000 WASPs, 38 were killed in the line of duty. They were not allowed to have the American flag draped on their coffins.

Their families had to pay for all their burial expenses and the WASP would often have to take up collections from among their own ranks to help the families of their fallen comrades pay for transporting them home.

The women were recruited to fly non-combat missions to free male pilots for combat.

Throughout World War II, these courageous women flew more than 60 million miles around the world, in every type of aircraft and on every type of mission flown by male pilots, except direct combat missions.

The WASP flight-tested bombers and fighters; ferried equipment and personnel; flew radar tracking missions; trained male cadets; and towed targets — freeing male pilots for combat deployment overseas.

The WASP pilots were never commissioned; they were never afforded active duty status; and they were not granted veteran status until 1977 — more than 30

years after they had served this nation. Despite their patriotic impact, the WASP were never formally recognized by Congress for their wartime military service — until now.

To right this wrong and to acknowledge our nation's debt to these great women patriots, I introduced legislation to honor the WASP with the Congressional Gold Medal and the bill passed Congress in record time.

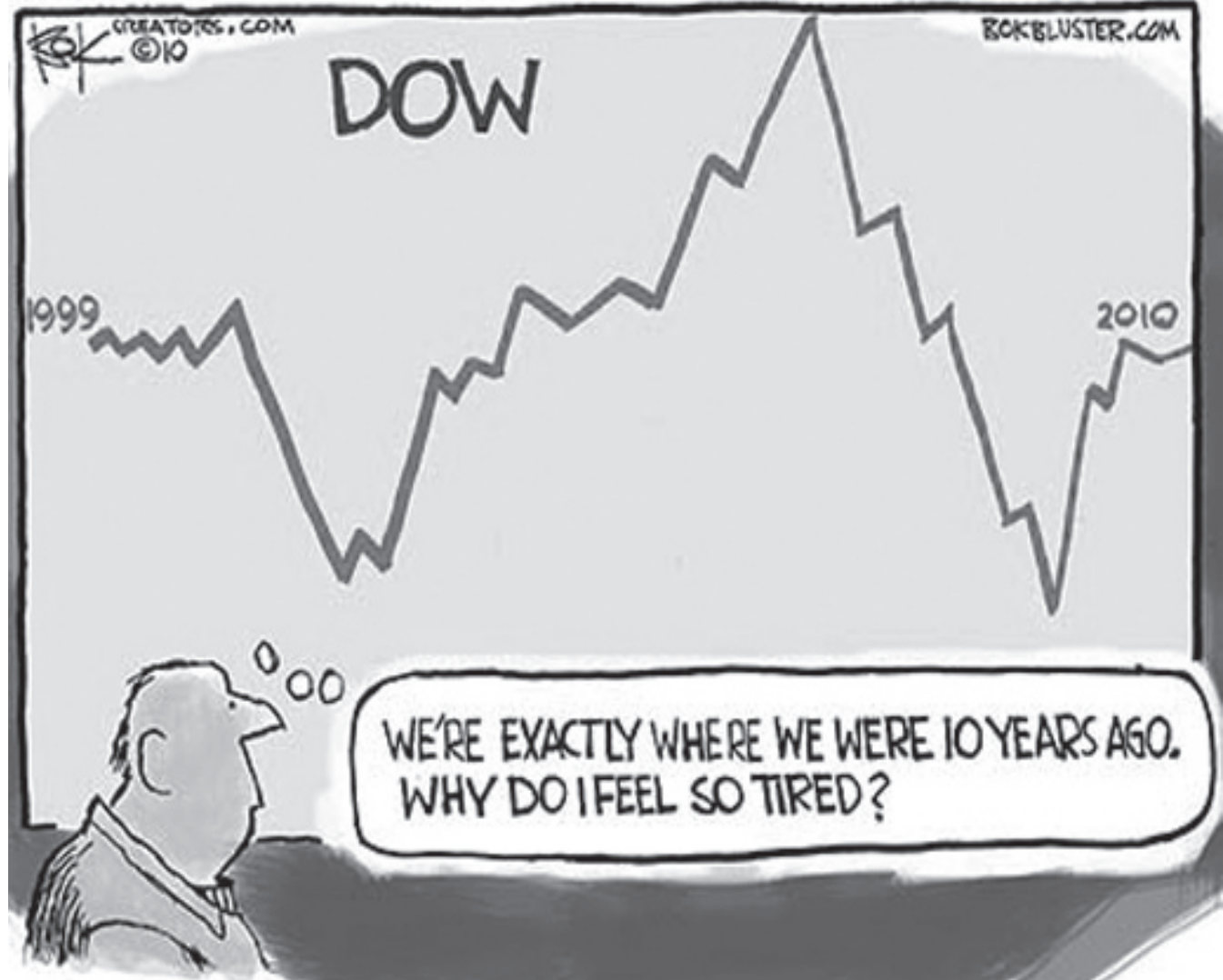
I wrote about the WASP in my book, *American Heroines: The Spirited Women Who Shaped Our Country*.

Thanks to the fearlessness of the WASP, women today serve as pilots in every branch of the military and fly every type of aircraft, from combat fighter aircraft to the space shuttle.

The Congressional Gold Medal was our nation's "Thank You" to these members of the "Greatest Generation" who answered the call of duty when their country needed them.

Just as the Tuskegee Airmen and the Navajo Code Talkers had to wait years to receive the recognition of their service to our nation, the WASP will now be remembered by generations to come for the tremendous contribution they made to America's victory in World War II.

*Kay Bailey Hutchison is the senior U.S. Senator from Texas and is the ranking member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.*



# The 'Meta Four' superheroes

What has happened to our superheroes of the past? Superman, who was faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive and able to leap tall buildings in a single bound — oh, and he could fly, too — went all loopy over Lois Lane in the '80s. He totally lost my respect when he slept with her in the snow cave. She didn't deserve him.

We still have some superheroes that have powers that relate to strength and speed or other physical attributes, but I always wondered where the heroes were that overthrow their opponents with brains instead of brawn: Heroes that could be role models for the math whiz or the English geek?

I am an English geek. Who are my heroes?

Today I am introducing the Meta Four; superheroes for the progressive wordsmith.

First, we have the Incredible Simile, who can take the likeness (or "as-ness") of any form; like a shape-shifter. Oh, there he is now!

His sidekick is Miss Personification who makes inanimate objects sit up and take notice.

Then we have The Period who

sounds like she could really kick butt on certain days of the month. In reality, though, the only thing she can do is stop the nefarious Run-On-Sentence. Run-On-Sentence has been known to destroy entire paragraphs by reciting endless monologues. I don't know what we'd do without The Period to fight for us.

Captain Coordinating Conjunction can join two unrelated thoughts!

Amazing! At my best, I struggle to put two related thoughts together. Since we are all friends, I can tell you that his alter ego is Andor Butt. With a name like that, it's easy to see why he chose to fight bad guys. He and Run-On-Sentence grew up together and were best friends until Coordinating Conjunction met The Period.

With his Subordinate Conjunction, who can turn into a preposition at the drop of a capital letter, the Captain battles for truth, justice and the Andor Buttian way.

The fourth member of the Meta Four is Professor X-clamation. He doesn't have true superpowers, per se, but he uses his powerful voice to interject at precisely the right moments. You'll notice that he interjected twice while I was yammering about Captain Coordinating Conjunction. Many people don't know that Professor X-clamation is the mastermind behind Batman's "Biff! Pow!" strategy in the old

series.

Together, our superheroes and their sidekicks will rid the world of grammatical errors. Of course, so much evil abounds in Sentence City that there will always be miscreants making trouble for the humble residents.

For example, Double Negative. Twice as powerful as the Single Negative, he doesn't have the ability to not confuse our heroes with his mind-numbing whining. Single Negative is his twin brother and, incidentally, is one of the good guys.

The wicked Misspeller is a bumbling sorceress who causes havoc in Sentence City by changing street signs that lead people to the Parkway instead of the Parkway. She is easily defeated by a spell checker, but sometimes her methods are diabolically sneaky and need to be quashed by our Meta Four.

And, of course, Dangling Participle used to wander in dark alleys, but he's now doing hard time for indecent exposure.

Although, we, as citizens of Sentence City, have word processors and spell checkers to fight against the day to day obstruction of grammatical clarity, in the fight for proper English, we have no better friends than the Meta Four.

*Laura Snyder is a nationally syndicated columnist, author and speaker. You can e-mail her at lsnyder@lauraonlife.com Or visit her website www.lauraonlife.com*

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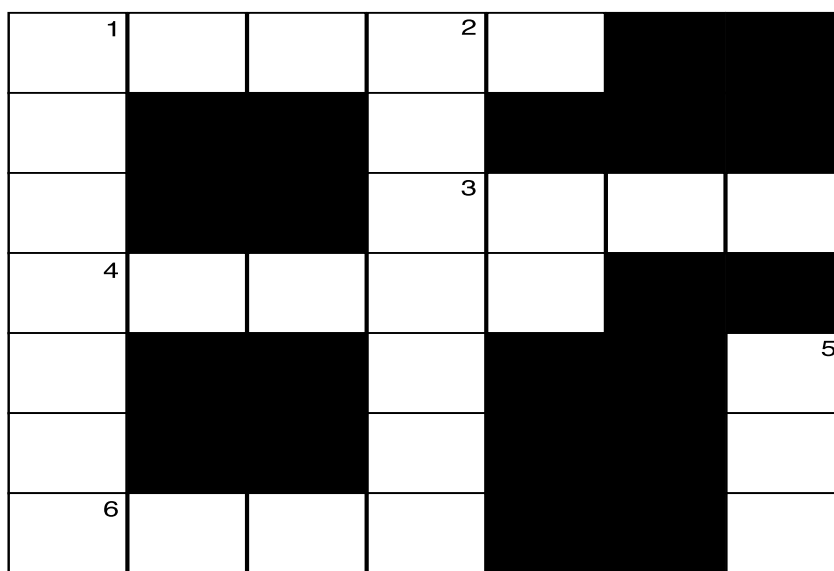
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Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1. Relating to Ireland
- 3. Pleasant
- 4. Sound of amusement
- 6. \_\_\_ dong, bell sound

DOWN

- 1. Country in Europe
- 2. Vocal music
- 5. Enjoyable

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1521: FERDINAND MAGELLAN REACHED THE PHILIPPINES.
- 1850: "THE SCARLET LETTER" BY NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE WAS PUBLISHED.
- 1985: U.S. JOURNALIST TERRY ANDERSON WAS ABDUCTED IN BEIRUT. HE WAS KEPT 2,454 DAYS.



WHAT SAINT WAS PURPORTED TO HAVE DRIVEN SNAKES OUT OF IRELAND?

ANSWER: ST. PATRICK

New Word

GAELIC

Celtic language of Ireland and Scotland

Answers:  
 Across  
 1. Irish 3. Nice 4. Laugh 6. Ding  
 Down  
 1. Ireland 2. Singing 5. Fun

How they SAY that in...

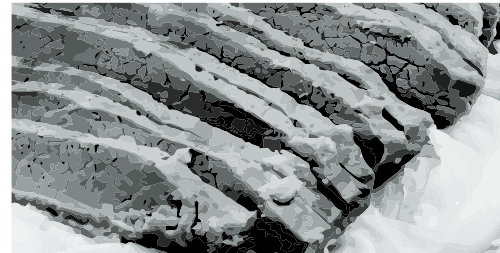
- ENGLISH:** Green
- SPANISH:** Verde
- ITALIAN:** Verde
- FRENCH:** Vert
- GERMAN:** Grün

Did you know?

THE FOUR-LEAF-CLOVER IS SUPPOSED TO BRING GOOD LUCK. IT'S ALSO KNOWN AS A SHAMROCK.



GET THE PICTURE?

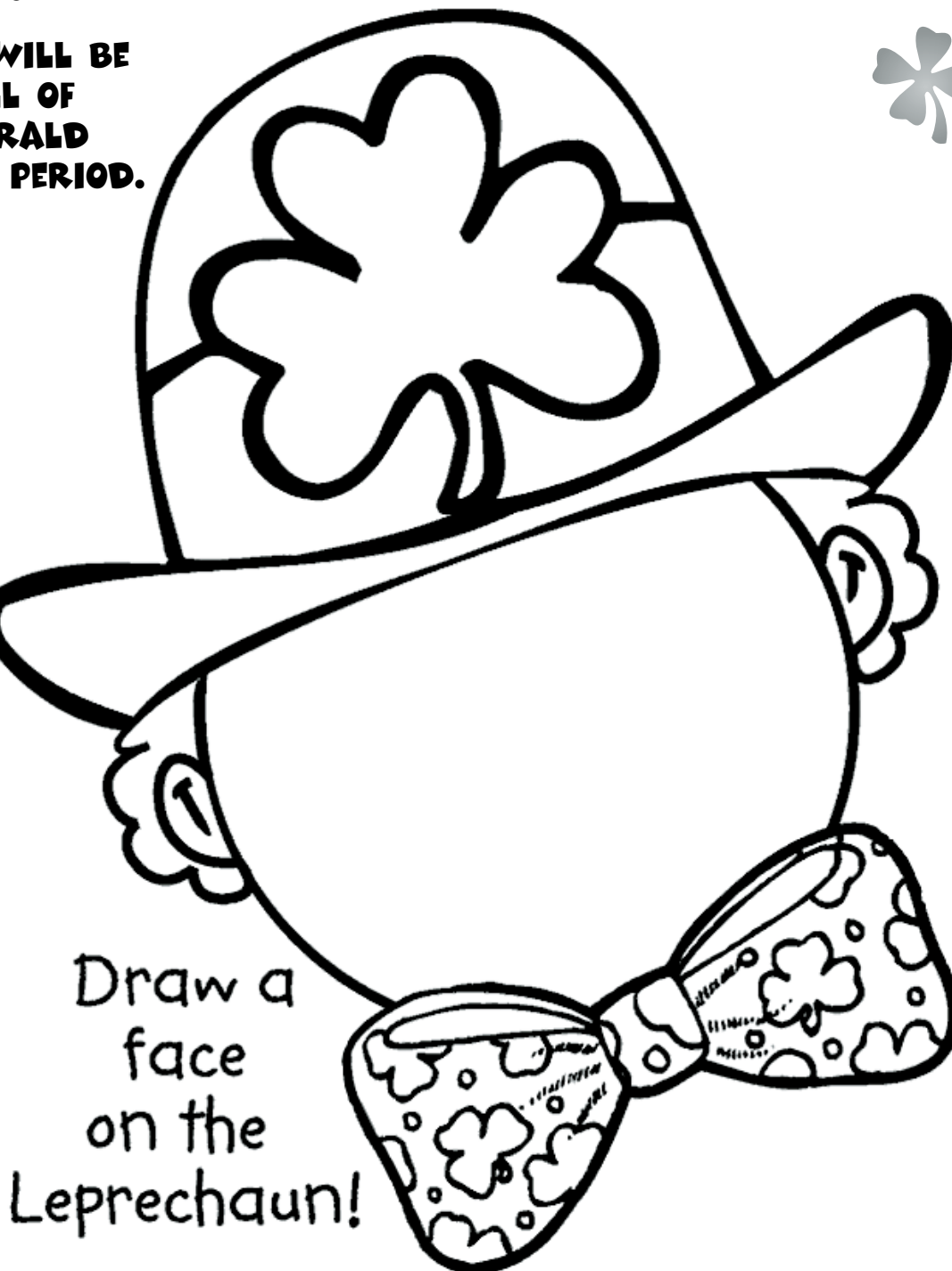


Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

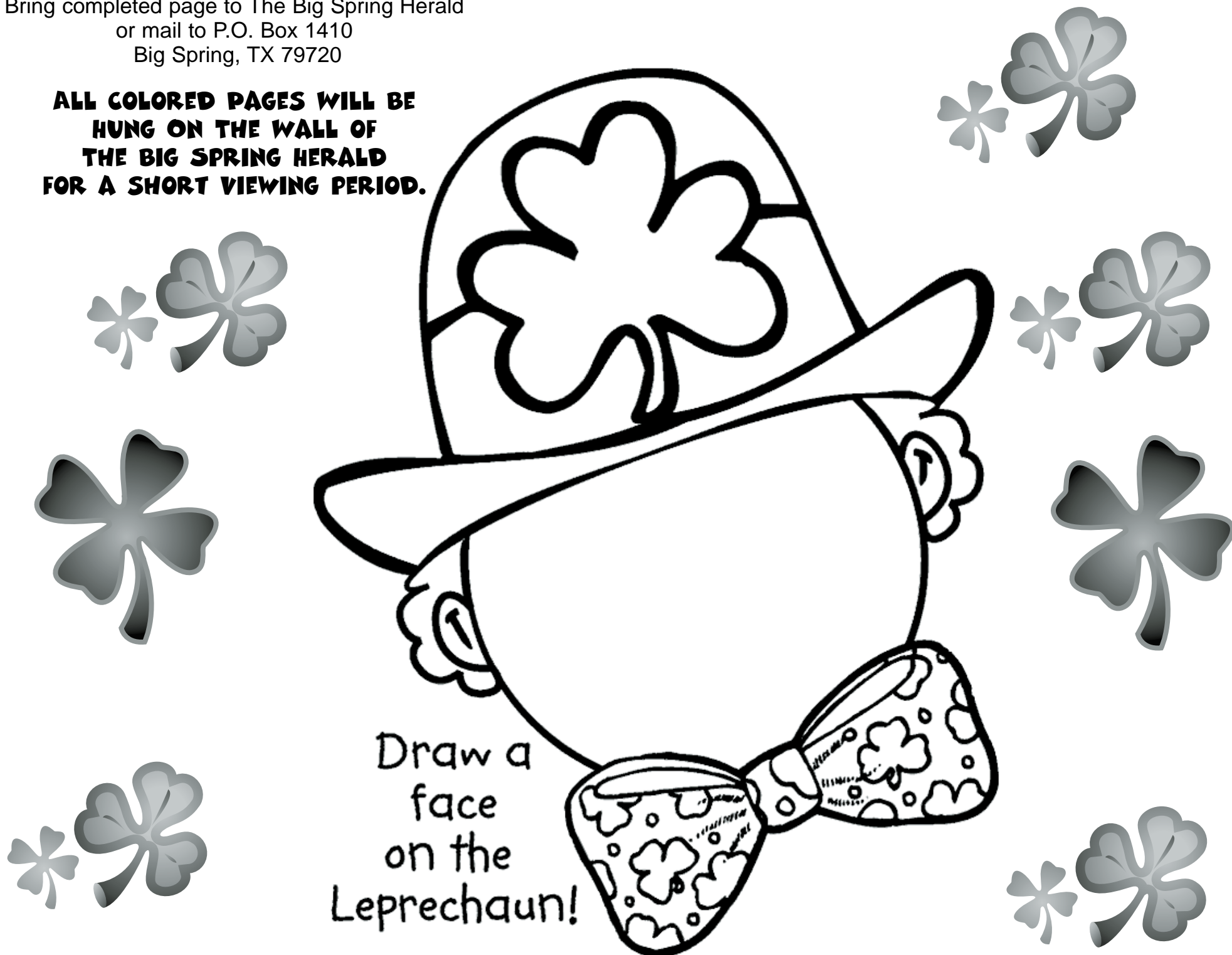
ANSWER: CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE

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## Bird Poop:

Pine siskins  
give lesson  
in civility

With blustery casualness, March winds invaded our yard. Hanging upside down and seemingly oblivious to my presence were five pine siskins. With a sixth waiting to join the hungry migrants, they accepted my hunched-over appearance.



BEBE  
MCCASLAND

Soon, lesser goldfinches arrived. Socially accepting of that species, the siskins continued to dine. Occasionally, one would defend its right to perch there, but overall, they were quite accepting of diversity.

No longer able to remain in what was becoming an uncomfortable position, I slowly stood erect. With their sharp, pointed bills extracting tiny tidbits with ease, the siskins continued gorging on Niger seeds. They were no more frightened of me than the house finches that tried at times, but failed, to hang upside down while eating.

Backing away from their festivities and moving to the porch, I watched as even more pine siskins settled down in the top of the tree. Working their way toward the feeder, they were eager to replace those that had previously dined.

Then, as if on cue, every siskin in the tree suddenly rose upward en masse. After a short flight, a fluttering of wings, and a choral "zuh-reeeee," they settled back in the oak.

Seeing these birds reminded me of the previous year. Standing at our den window, I was watching them when a sound I dreaded echoed from another room. With bird strikes lessened by hawk decals on the windows, I still cringed at even one bird being hurt by what appeared to be an innocent reflection.

As I looked out the window, I could see an unconscious, quivering bird lying on its back. Hurrying to the side of our home, I noticed the closed eyes and labored breathing of the little flier. With my hand supporting its entire length, I carefully raised a male pine siskin.

Holding what could not have weighed more than half an ounce, I marveled at how this small finch had eluded the hazards of feeding in the same vicinity with wintering hawks. His maturity and wiles had brought him through long migrations and dangerous situations only to crash into our window. Dusky streaking accented his grayish brown feathers above, and below, his buff-colored breast and belly. Noticeable were the yellow patches on his wings and tail.

To see his conical, flesh-colored bill that so expertly withdrew each tiny thistle seed from our feeder was to appreciate nature's design. Another striking characteristic was his



Access to water is essential to wintering pine siskins. Eating seeds from conifers and weeds, they also indulge in insects and emerging spring buds. Often heard before being seen, the finch is capable of migrating to northern forests in parts of Alaska and Canada.

deeply notched tail. Since hitting a window can cause instant or delayed death, we could only hope for his recovery. Many factors, including internal injuries, had to be considered. Warm, quiet and undisturbed, the little male at least had a chance.

With the next morning's sunlight came my awakening thought. Maybe the siskin had lived through the night. Glancing out the back window, I noticed the tubular feeder already occupied by yesterday's guests.

Slowly opening the door to our utility room, I was thrilled to see the bird perched on a mesquite branch. In addition to thistle and millet seeds, we had offered crickets and mealworms to tempt

his palate. Since seeds had been scattered and there were fewer mealworms, we could tell the siskin had not only explored his container but dined as well.

After another day passed, we felt confident in releasing him. Flying into the oak, the bird soon joined his companions in their daily routine. Since the species was usually in our area from late winter to early spring, we knew only too soon we'd miss their daily visit. The siskins' interactions at the feeder with each other. Goldfinches and house finches were a lesson in civility.

*Bebe McCasland is author of The Scoop from Bird Poop. She is federally and state licensed to rehabilitate wild birds.*

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[www.bigspringherald.com](http://www.bigspringherald.com)

You deserve a factual look at . . .

### Racism in the Islamic World

How can peace prevail in the Middle East in the face of Islamic bigotry and hate? When will moderate Muslims speak out?

For years, the U.N., led by Islamic and Arab nations and their sympathizers, has accused Israel of racism and "apartheid." That is nonsense, of course. But the world consistently turns a blind eye to open, seething anti-Semitism in Islamic society.

#### What are the facts?

In one of the most astonishing propaganda coups ever, a United Nations conference on racism, which took place in Durban South Africa, declared that Zionism is racism. No wonder the U.S. and Israel walked out of the meeting, which was dominated by representatives of Islamic and Arab states and other anti-Israel forces, and whose conclusions were predictable from the outset.

The supreme irony of this conference was that it accused no other nation of racism—only Israel. In truth, Israel is perhaps the most racially and ethnically diverse and tolerant country in the world. More than half of Israel's Jewish population consists of people of color—blacks from Ethiopia and Yemen, as well as brown-skinned people from Morocco, Iran, Syria, Egypt and Israel itself. In addition, Israel's population includes more than one million Arabs, who enjoy the same civil rights as Jewish Israelis. In Israel hate speech is banned, and it is against the law to discriminate based on race or religion.

In contrast, anti-Semitism—a poisonous form of racism directed specifically against the Jewish people—is rampant in most all Islamic societies. Not only is anti-Semitism commonplace in Muslim nations, but it is propagated shamelessly by their leaders, in state-sponsored media, and by Muslim clergy.

For example, former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed declared in a speech to the Organization of Islamic Conference that, "today Jews rule the world by proxy. They get others to fight and die for them." Imagine if an American president had made a similarly sweeping and bigoted statement about blacks, Latinos or any other race—what a justifiable uproar, perhaps even an impeachment, would ensue. Yet there was no condemnation by the Muslim world of Mr. Mohamed's comments. Rather, virtually all of the conference's Muslim leaders actually voiced their approval.

In response to a terrorist attack in Saudi Arabia in May 2004, Crown Prince Abdullah declared that "Zionism is behind [these] terrorist actions in the kingdom." (Zionism is

the code word often used by Islamic anti-Semites for Jews.) Tom Lantos, the late U.S. Congressman, called the Prince's assertion "an outrage . . . blatant hypocrisy," but Islamic leaders were silent. In fact, millions of Muslims still insist that Zionists were behind the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center.

Anti-Semitism is expressed so freely and ubiquitously in most Islamic societies that no citizen can escape it. During Ramadan a few years ago, Egypt's state-controlled TV aired "Horseman Without a Horse," a program based on the notorious forgery, *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, in which Jews allegedly use the blood of non-Jews to make Passover matzot. In Iran, a TV series, "Zahra's Blue Eyes," portrays "Zionists" kidnapping Palestinian children and harvesting their organs.

Perhaps nowhere is the hatred of Jews more virulent than among the Palestinians. Most perniciously, Palestinian children are taught in school that Jews are descended from apes and pigs and that the most noble thing they can do is to kill Jews. Muslim clerics like Imam Ibrahim Madiras, an employee of the Palestinian Authority, declared in a television sermon, "Jews are a cancer" and later that, "Muslims will kill the Jews . . . [and] rejoice in Allah's victory." No surprise, then, that the 1982 doctoral dissertation of Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas makes the astounding claim that "Zionists" collaborated with the Nazis to annihilate the Jewish people in order to drive the survivors to Palestine.

Anti-Semitism and the prospects for peace. Islamic anti-Semitism permeates the Arab Middle East and creates an atmosphere in which Jews are reviled and represented as subhuman. How can the Palestinian people embrace peace with a people represented by their religious and political leaders as dehumanized, evil beings? Even more importantly, how can Israel be expected to trust a so-called peace partner who expresses abject hatred and murderous intent toward Jews on a daily basis? Yet the U.S. and many European nations continue to demand that Israel make one-sided sacrifices for peace with a people steeped in racism and committed to its destruction.

"Until Muslims reject racism in all forms, they can't expect Islam to enjoy full respect as a political and spiritual force."

Until Islamic leaders accept the integrity to relentlessly condemn anti-Semitism (and its evil twin, anti-Zionism), we can't expect Israel to accept a forced peace with the Palestinians. Likewise, until moderate Muslims reject racism in all forms, they can't expect Islam to enjoy full respect as a political and spiritual force among the world's people.

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### Parent's Corner:

## More of those old sayings

I received so many comments about a column I wrote recently concerning the origin of old "sayings" that I thought I'd follow up with a few more.

In the Middle Ages, dishes and cookware in Europe were made of dense orange clay called "pygg." When people saved coins in jars made of this clay, the jars became known as "pygg banks." When an English potter misunderstood the word, he made a bank that resembled a pig and thusly, a piggy bank.

During that same time period, when many people were unable to read or write, documents were often signed using an X. Kissing the X represented an oath to fulfill obligations specified in the document. The X and the kiss eventually became synonymous and so an X at the end of a letter will signify a kiss.

In 1825, a new type of lighting was developed to highlight performers while on stage allowing them to be in the center of attention. This cylinder of light which produced a brilliant beam was called "lime light" This is why people in the "public eye" are

said to be "in the limelight"?

In card games, it was once customary to pass an item, called a buck, from player to player to indicate whose turn it was to deal. If a player did not wish to assume the responsibility, he would "pass the buck" to the next player and thus came the saying, "passing the buck."

It used to be common for someone to try to kill an enemy by offering him a poisoned drink. To prove to a guest that a drink was safe, it became customary for a guest to pour a small amount of his drink into the glass of the host. Both men would drink it simultaneously. When a guest trusted his host, he would just touch or clink the host's glass with his own which became beginning of the clinking of glasses before drinking a toast.

Now, I trust you will spend the day on "cloud nine?"

Oh, by the way, where did that phrase originate?

Well it seems that clouds are numbered according to the altitudes they attain, with nine being the highest cloud. When someone is said to be on cloud nine, that person is floating well above worldly cares. Enjoy your cloud nine day.

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



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# Plucky whooping crane gives wildlife experts hope

ARANSAS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE (AP) — After the poisonous snakes slithered into the whooping crane family's marshy grounds and sank its fangs into the chick's neck, death seemed certain. The bird's head quickly turned red and swelled to the size of a basketball. He refused to eat for days and was too

weak to even stand. Somehow, though, he survived. And now the bird — dubbed Scarbaby — is a healthy adult whose resilience offers a speck of hope for the endangered species. Just a year after a record number of cranes died in their south Texas wintering grounds, wildlife managers embrace even the smallest

successes. "To me, it symbolizes the fight to survive," said Tom Stehn, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist. There are about 400 wild whooping cranes in the world, and biologists had feared that number would drop further this winter after last year's record 23 Texas deaths. Even

though the birds fared better than expected the cranes face many obstacles to survive as a species. They've got a 2,500-mile migration back to Canada later this month, food and water shortages could take their toll, and then there's the usual hazards of deadly power lines and encroaching development.

## Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: I'm 18 years old and still live with my family. A few months ago, my uncle moved in with us. He comes home drunk all the time. I can smell the liquor on him, and I hate it. I make sure to be in my bedroom before he walks in the front door, which often means I'm upstairs by 6 p.m.



KATHY MITCHELL  
MARCY SUGAR

I want nothing to do with him when he is drunk. He tries to hold my baby brother, but it makes the baby cry, so I have told my uncle to stay away. I want to tell him how I feel, but I'm not sure how. When my mother told him he's not welcome in the house when he's been drinking, he hit her.

What should I do? Should I ask my grandma to kick him out, or should I move into my own place? — Niece of a Drunk

Dear Niece: If your uncle is physically abusive, he should not be living with you. By all means, talk to your grandmother and your mother. If

possible, talk to your father, as well. Most likely, your mother believes she is helping your uncle, who obviously has a problem, but allowing him to terrorize you is not the way to do it.

Suggest that she contact Al-Anon (al-anon.alateen.org) at 1-888-4-AL-ANON (1-800-425-2666). If your uncle hits anyone again, call the police. And if you cannot change the situation, we urge you to move out as soon as possible.

Dear Annie: I recently began volunteering to tutor someone in the community, and I love it. However, at yesterday's session, my student gave me an envelope that contained a gift card for a fairly large amount of money.

I had previously told this student that I cannot be paid because it is volunteering, and I do not want payment. But when he handed me the envelope, it seemed awkward to refuse it. In his culture, that would be considered rude.

He told me it was a gift between friends, but I feel so bad and dishonest about accepting it that I am extremely uncomfortable. Since he cannot return the gift card, is it acceptable for me to reciprocate at some point with a gift of equal value? I cannot conscientiously log the time with him as volunteer hours with this weighing on my mind. — Sick About It

Dear Sick: Do you have a supervisor who runs the tutoring program? If so, ask

how you should handle the gift card. You might also consider using it for tutoring supplies — paper, pencils, books, etc. Under no circumstances should you get into a gift-reciprocation program, which not only might escalate into something expensive, but could give the impression that your relationship is something other than student and teacher.

Dear Annie: I would like to respond to "Louisville Lass," who complained about over-indulgence by grandparents at Christmas. I faced this situation the first year after going through a divorce. The kids spent Christmas with both sets of families and came home loaded down with gifts.

I decided to write a list of big items the children wanted, and each parent and set of grandparents would get to pick one. This way nobody would feel they needed to compete with anyone else. It worked beautifully and was so appreciated by everyone

that to this day, my girls do the same thing with their children. I understand the appeal of giving to a college fund, but as a grandparent now, I would really miss seeing the joy on my grandchildren's faces when they open my presents.

And if that's too much materialism, perhaps they could work alongside their grandchildren in a charitable situation, thereby instilling in them the value of helping their community. I'd bet the children would remember this long after they forgot what presents they received. — Jeannie

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to aniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Ste. 700, Los Angeles, Calif. 90045.

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## Tomorrow's Horoscope

No, the fire in your belly has nothing to do with that hot sauce you ate. Today's Aries moon is a foreshadowing of the turned-up intensity that's about to take hold. Tomorrow, Mercury enters Aries, too, and Saturday, the sun will follow suit. Those who have been lacking drive and motivation will feel it slowly start to return.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). You'll be listening to other people's stories of glory and conquest. If they give you a thrill, perhaps you are suited to a similar feat. If you enjoy hearing about it, you will probably enjoy doing it.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). A looming deadline is causing you a lot of stress right now. If you can buy more time, do. Otherwise, knock out the tasks you can get done, and put a little pressure on the people you're waiting on.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Even though there are many factors affecting your behavior right now, you take responsibility for the way you are. This lovely tendency that engenders the trust of your peers.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). Beware: There are people around you who can talk for 10 minutes straight and not say anything. You're too busy to suffer through inane conversations, and you'll make that known subtly.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). You need a hug. But your pride won't let you show it. Thankfully, someone you know has the sensitivity to see that you're off and steps in with the appropriate gesture. The day is saved.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). When the universe hands you a glass of lemonade, don't go looking for the lemon. The recent gift you've been given has mysterious origins, and you're better off leaving this mystery unsolved.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your intuition is usually spot-on, so when someone gives you the heebie-jeebies, keep a respectable distance. Don't be too quick to draw conclusions, though. It's enough just to steer clear and keep moving.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Ever the positive one, you're typically reticent to state your grievance, even when you know it's valid. So when you make your displeasure known this time, people listen. Whatever the problem, it probably won't happen again.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov.

22-Dec. 21). Some people choke on their own determination. They get so focused on a future goal that they forget life is about living. You are good at balancing the goals with the games. Today is a game day.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You are super-talented. Maybe no one will say it to your face today, but they will say it to each other. Your power to inspire is due in large part to your preference to go it alone when necessary.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You need to forget yourself for a while. You are getting so consumed with your own perceived problems that you're losing sight of the bigger picture. Go do something nice for someone just because.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). Memories of a past love keep resurfacing, disturbing your equanimity more than you would have thought. If it's possible and appropriate, consider reaching out to that person.

**T O D A Y ' S BIRTHDAY** (March 16). You exhibit great strength in many areas of your life this year.

Over the next 10 weeks, you will be physically stronger and will compete in games that engage both your mind and body. May brings sentimental moments. July is your action month. Stay ambitious and keep moving. A romantic break comes in September. Aquarius and Aries people adore you. Lucky numbers are: 8, 30, 25, 11 and 18.

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

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

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

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ANSWERS

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

## Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

### Timing Is Everything

West dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ K J 7 3  
♥ 8  
♦ K Q J 5 2  
♣ K J 8

**WEST**  
♠ A 10 9 2  
♥ J 9 6 3 2  
♦ 6  
♣ 10 6 4

**EAST**  
♠ 5 4  
♥ K 7 5 4  
♦ A 10 8 3  
♣ 9 5 2

**SOUTH**  
♠ Q 8 6  
♥ A Q 10  
♦ 9 7 4  
♣ A Q 7 3

The bidding:  
West North East South  
Pass 1♦ Pass 2NT  
Pass 3♣ Pass 3NT  
Opening lead — three of hearts.

**Notrump contracts** often feature a race between the declarer and the declarer for the establishment of tricks. That is why the opening leader usually leads his longest suit at the start of play.

**The defenders** have a built-in advantage because they get the jump on declarer in the race to develop tricks. If they have enough high cards and a sufficiently long suit, the tempo they gain on the opening lead frequently proves to be decisive. But declarer can sometimes offset this

advantage by choosing correctly which of his own long suits to play first. Here is such a case.

**West led a heart**, and South won East's king with the ace. Declarer then played a diamond to dummy's jack, taken by East with the ace. Back came a heart to South's ten and West's jack, and another low heart by West established his suit. When the opposing diamonds turned out to be divided 4-1, declarer could score only eight tricks, and he eventually finished down one.

**However**, South should have made the contract. He should not have attacked the diamonds first. Instead, he should have crossed to dummy with a club at trick two and returned a low spade.

**If East has the ace** and takes it, South has nine tricks — three spades, two hearts and four clubs. And if East doesn't go up with the ace, South wins the spade with the queen, then shifts his attention to diamonds. After forcing out the ace, he again has nine tricks — one spade, two hearts, four clubs and two diamonds, as in the actual case, he is stymied after he wins the spade queen with the ace. A heart return into the Q-10 hands South an extra trick, while any other return allows declarer to play diamonds, assuring at least 10 tricks.

Tomorrow: An arithmetical process.  
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# Big 12 sends record seven teams to Dance

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Big 12's coaches spent an entire season, even some time before it, telling anyone who'd listen this was the conference's strongest year ever.

Turns out, they were right. The Big 12 earned a conference-record seven NCAA tournament bids Sunday, including the No. 1 overall seed and two more in the top three, validating what its coaches have been saying all along. "The more the merrier,"

Oklahoma coach Travis Ford said Monday. "I know our coaches are always pleased when they see people value the product that the Big 12 schools are putting out there. To get over half your teams into the NCAA tournament is a very, very nice compliment."

Football has been the calling card for the Big 12 since it formed in 1996, the perception being that Kansas and Oklahoma State were the only teams playing real basketball.

The league has gradually changed its acumen over

the past few years as Texas, Oklahoma and Missouri joined the Jayhawks in making deep runs in the NCAA tournament.

Still, six NCAA berths was the best the Big 12 could do — seven times, including the past two seasons — feeding an inferiority complex, as if the basketball power conferences were a big brother who wouldn't let them win at anything.

Now that Kansas, Kansas State, Oklahoma State, Baylor, Missouri, Texas A&M and

Texas are in, this relatively new conference has moved up to a level usually reserved for older powerhouses like the Big East and ACC.

"As far as getting seven in this year, my response is: It's about time," Kansas State coach Frank Martin said.

Kansas, no surprise, earned the No. 1 overall seed in the tournament. The Jayhawks start Thursday in Oklahoma City, against Lehigh.

A monumental mismatch? Probably. But after that, the road gets tougher.

The Midwest regional is considered the toughest in the tournament, one potential land mine after another awaiting the top-ranked Jayhawks.

Get by Lehigh and the second round, Kansas could face Michigan State or Maryland in the regional semifinals, then could face Georgetown or one of the two teams that gave the Jayhawks their two losses, Oklahoma State or Tennessee.

Even for a team that's as deep as any in the country, one that

See **BIG 12**, Page 12

## GOOD SLIDE



HERALD PHOTO/Tony Claxton

Anthony Calhoun slides safely home with an inside-the-park home run Saturday at Jack Barber Field. The Hawks took three of four games with Seward on the weekend to improve their record to 19-5 on the season. Howard plays New Mexico Military Institute at home this weekend.

## Hawks best Seward 3-1 in series

Herald Staff Report

The No. 3 Howard Hawks are 8-2 at home after wrapping up their second 3-1 home series of the season against Seward.

Howard (19-5) split two Saturday games with the Saints, winning game one 10-1 before falling 15-10 to the Jayhawk Conference's leading team. The Hawks swept Sunday's games 17-0 and 11-7.

"What really hurt us this past week was, honestly, the ability to get out and practice defense," said Howard coach Britt Smith, whose team

committed seven errors in the series. "With the wind blowing 50 miles an hour four days in a row, there wasn't much we could do."

The Hawks are getting it done at the plate and on the base paths, as their team batting average of .377 ranks fourth in the country. Kevin Sah leads the nation with 21 stolen bases and Joe Leftridge ranks fourth with 17. Four Hawks are batting .400 or better on the season.

Howard's pitching has looked good on paper, as starter Carter Hahn is 5-0

and colleagues Josh Ezernack and Burch Smith are 4-1. Howard starters have a combined 3.03 ERA so far this year.

"We have guys with good enough stuff to win at this level," Smith said. "They have to trust the fact that they're good enough to pitch here. It's not like you're trying to come in here and get us out, you have to get the other team out."

**Howard 10, Seward 1**

Burch Smith got the win in game one, scattering seven hits and one run in five innings of work. Smith struck out

three and walked four before Reid Scoggins struck out the side in the sixth and Carlos Gonzalez worked a scoreless seventh.

The Hawks broke a 1-1 tie in the third with three runs and tacked on another four in the fifth to win 10-1 going away.

Landon Steinhagen continued to swing a hot bat at the plate for the Hawks in the four spot in the lineup, totaling three hits and two RBI on a couple of solo home runs and a triple. Tanner Toal knocked in three runs on two hits,

See **HAWKS**, Page 12

## Hawk softball splits series with Odessa

Herald Staff Report

The Howard Hawks split their doubleheader over the weekend with the Odessa Lady Wranglers, sweeping the first day at home before falling twice, 3-2 and 5-4, in the late innings at Odessa.

Howard (10-9) got wins from Alexis Bertran and Michelle Plum on Friday, taking the games 6-1 and 11-2. Beltran also hit a two-

run home run in the first inning to help her cause in the circle.

Lana Dominguez provided the offense in game two, powering out two home runs in the first and third innings. She went 3-for-3 on the day with three RBI and a walk.

The Hawks head to Arizona on Thursday to compete in the Central Arizona Tournament. They play Midland at home March 27.



HERALD PHOTO/Tony Claxton

Howard's Michelle Plum pitches Friday at Foundation Field. Plum earned the win in the game.

## Rainy weather forces area game changes

Herald Staff Report

Rainy weather has forced the cancellation of several baseball and softball games across the area.

Coahoma and Big Spring moved their softball today to Coahoma. Junior varsity starts at 4:30, varsity following.

The Steers' doubleheader at Sweetwater was canceled.

Forsan will play Eldorado at 2 p.m. in Junction and the host team following that game. The Buffs' baseball game at Loraine was canceled.

Check [www.bigspringherald.com](http://www.bigspringherald.com) for updates.

# Texas ties record with seven schools going to NCAA Tournament

Associated Press

HOUSTON — The Lone Star State will be well-represented in the NCAA tournament.

A total of seven Texas schools made the field, tying a record set by California in 2002. Houston, North Texas and Sam Houston State secured automatic

berths by winning their conference tournaments. Baylor, Texas, Texas A&M and UTEP earned at-large berths.

Texas already holds the record for most schools overall that have appeared in the tournament (23), but never had more than five in a single field.

The Cougars (19-15) are

the biggest surprise of the group, winning four straight games at the Conference USA tournament to nab the program's first berth since 1992. Houston coach Tom Penders becomes the ninth coach to lead four different schools to the NCAA tournament.

Houston is the No. 13 seed in the Midwest

Region and will face fourth-seeded Maryland (23-8) on Friday in Spokane, Wash. Penders and Maryland coach Gary Williams are dead-even in career victories, at 648 apiece.

"It's not just exciting that we're here, but what it means for our future," Penders said after the pairings were

announced. "I know Gary Williams, I'm familiar with his system, I saw them play about a dozen times this year. If we play well, we'll have a chance."

Houston guard Aubrey Coleman is the nation's leading scorer (25.9 points per game), though backcourt mate Kelvin Lewis carried the

Cougars in Saturday's championship against UTEP, scoring 28 points. Penders said Coleman is nursing a thigh bruise, but should have enough time to fully recover before Friday's game.

Baylor, Texas and Texas A&M are three of seven teams from the

See **TEXAS**, Page 12

## Sports in brief

### Rag Ball tournament to benefit BSISD students

Big Spring students are putting on a rag ball baseball tournament to raise money for their trip to the World Strides "Science in Motion" festival.

The tournament will be held Friday at 8 p.m. at the Cotton Mize Ball Field at Comanche Trail Park.

Sign up early by calling 935-2371 after 6 p.m. or show up to the tournament for registration from 5-8 p.m. Cost is \$10 per person or \$75 per team.

### Watch NJCAA tournament live via Web feed

The NJCAA national tournament will be available live on the Web via NJCAA TV.

Howard plays its first game at 1 p.m. Wednesday against Southeastern Illinois. Log on to [www.njcaa.org/tv](http://www.njcaa.org/tv) to find out how to watch the game live from your computer.

Check the *Herald* for game recaps and photos from Hutchinson.

### Big Spring Country Club to hold United Way fund-raiser

Big Spring Country Club and the United Way invite the public to participate in a 3-person scramble March 27-28 at the Country Club.

Entrance fee is \$60 per player plus a cart. Private carts are welcome.

The event will begin with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. Entry includes barbecue on the course Saturday at noon and a 19th hole party on the patio.



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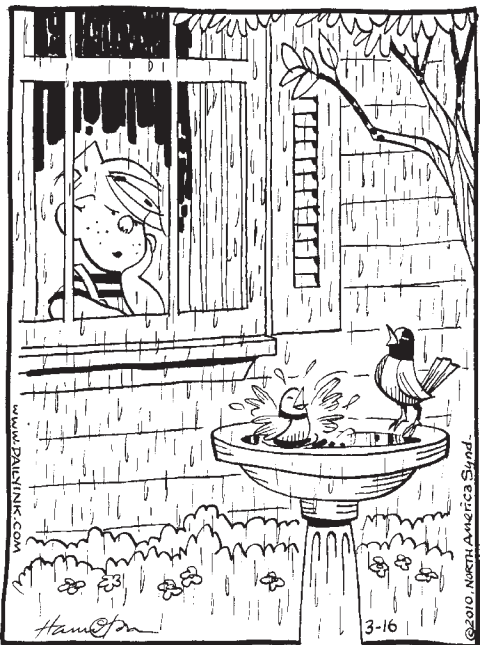
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4:PM :30	Oprah Winfrey	Oprah Winfrey	Primer Impacto (SS)	Deal-Deal Deal No	Smarter News	Maria Celeste	News Inside Ed	King Friends	Retro Sala	Fetch Cyber	Dirty Jobs		CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	Chris Chris	Montana Baseball	NASCAR Interrupt	Around Interrupt
5:PM :30	News ABC	News ABC	Locura Notic.	Lopez Lopez	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News NBC	Friends Office	Scrivner Uri Harel	World Business	Dirty Jobs	Movie: Halloween, Nancy Loomis	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas Deck	Interrupt Basket	SportsCenter
6:PM :30	News Ent	Jeopardy! Wheel	Mi Pecado (SS)	Two Men Two Men	News Ent	12 Corazonas	Millionaire	Seinfeld Program	Dr. Young Harris	PBS News-Hour	Dirty Jobs		UFC Un-leashed	Bones		Wizards Montana	College Basketball	Bracket College Basketball
7:PM :30	Lost	Lost	Hasta que el Dinero	American Idol	NCIS	Ei Clon	The Biggest Loser	Office Office	Office Office	NOVA (DVS)	Dirty Jobs	Movie: 12 Monkeys, Brad Pitt	UFC Un-leashed	Bones	Movie: Boyz N the Hood	Movie: Her Best Move		
8:PM :30	Lost	Lost	Corazon Salvaje		NCIS: Los Angeles	Perro Amor		Office Office	Office Office	Light of the Southwest	Dirty Jobs		UFC Un-leashed	Bones		College Basketball		College Basketball
9:PM :30	FlashForward	FlashForward	Aqui y Ahora	Simpsons Friends	The Good Wife	¿Dónde Está Elisa?	Parenthood	Office Office	Office Office	Independent Lens	Dirty Jobs		Blue Players	Southland	Vick Tiny-Toya	Phineas Montana		College Basketball
10:PM :30	News Nightline	News Nightline	Impacto Noticiero	Raymond TMZ	News Letterman	Noticias Decisiones	News Jay Leno	Lopez Cortes	Mark Cortes	Charlie Rose	Dirty Jobs	Movie: Escape From L.A.	Ways Die Ways Die	CSI: NY	The Mo'Nique	Wizards Deck	College Basketball	SportsCenter
11:PM :30	Insider Jimmy Kim-mel Live	Insider Jimmy Kim-mel Live	Gancho	Law & Order: SVU	Late	Decisiones	Late Night	Name Name	Ministerio-Vida	World T. Smiley	Dirty Jobs		Ways Die Ways Die	CSI: NY	Wendy Williams	Suite Life So Raven		
12:AM :30	News	News	Amar sin Limites	Paid King-Hill	Insider	Pagado	News	Sex & Brad	Sex & Church	(Off Air)	Dirty Jobs	Movie: Halloween, Nancy	Blue	Southland	Movie: Boyz N the Hood	Cory Kim	Score'rd Fastbreak	SportsCenter

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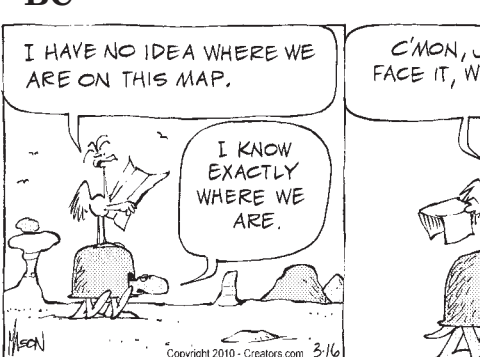
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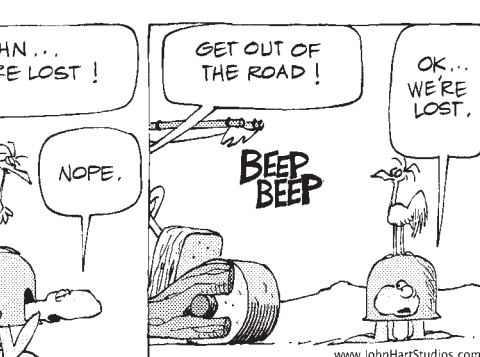
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WIZARD OF ID



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, March 16, the 75th day of 2010. There are 290 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 16, 1850, Nathaniel Hawthorne's novel "The Scarlet Letter" was first published.

On this date:

In A.D. 37, Roman emperor Tiberius died; he was succeeded by Caligula.

In 1751, James Madison, fourth president of the United States, was born in Port Conway, Va.

In 1802, President Thomas Jefferson signed a measure authorizing the establishment of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y.

In 1915, the Federal Trade Commission began operations.

In 1926, rocket science pioneer Robert H. Goddard successfully tested the first liquid-fueled rocket, in Auburn, Mass.

In 1935, Adolf Hitler decided to break the military terms set

by the Treaty of Versailles by ordering the rearming of Germany.

In 1968, during the Vietnam War, the My Lai (mee ly) Massacre of Vietnamese civilians was carried out by U.S. Army troops; estimates of the death toll vary between 347 and 504.

In 1978, Italian politician Aldo Moro was kidnapped by left-wing urban guerrillas, who later murdered him.

In 1984, William Buckley, the CIA station chief in Beirut, was kidnapped by terrorists (he was tortured by his captors and killed in 1985).

In 1985, Terry Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent for The Associated Press, was abducted in Beirut; he was released in Dec. 1991.

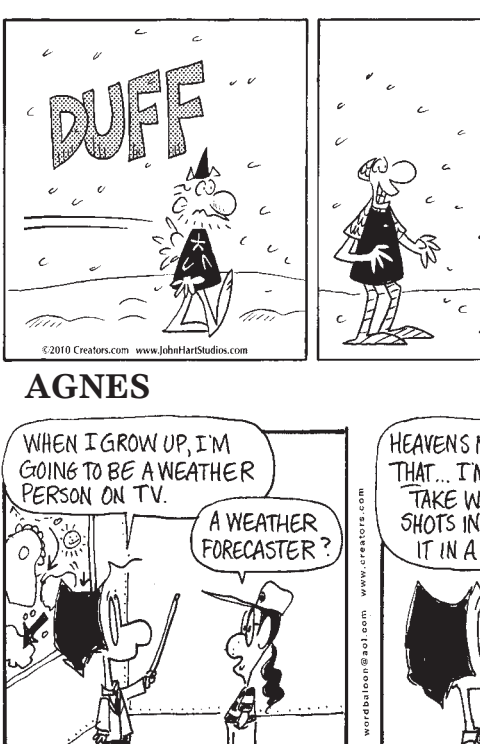
Today's Birthdays:

Comedian-director Jerry Lewis is 84. Country singer Ray Walker (The Jordanaires) is 76. Movie director Bernardo Bertolucci is 69. Game show host Chuck Woolery is 69. Singer-songwriter Jerry Jeff Walker is 68. Actor Erik Estrada is 61. Actor Victor Garber is 61. Actress Kate Nelligan is 59. Country singer Ray Benson (Asleep at the

Answer to previous puzzle

POLKA	AMPS	TABS
ONEAM	CARP	UCLA
STENO	TIER	REIN
HORSE	SENSE	KIND
BID AMENDS		
GASCAN	TODAY	
IDEA	USER	ETHIC
REEL	SEXES	RACE
LEAFY	ATOP	OVEN
MAULS ATTEST		
AUTUMN	SSE	
THIS	BULLMARKET	
TALC	OHIO	BUNCH
HULL	LUMP	ALOHA
ELSE	THEE	GETON

AGNES



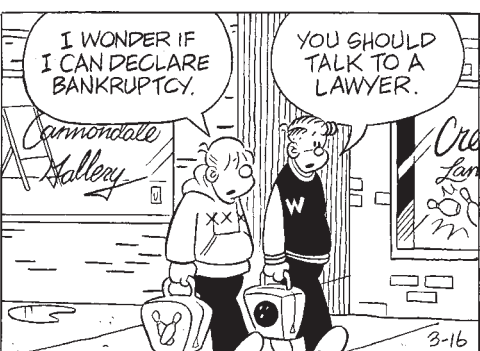
HI AND LOIS



Newsday Crossword

BE POLITE by Gail Grabowski  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



- ACROSS
- Makes docile
  - Over again
  - "Shoo!"
  - All grown up
  - Soft-drink choice
  - Residence
  - Wild West show
  - "\_ cost you!"
  - Opera solo
  - After-dinner drink holder
  - Military encounter
  - Ultimatum words
  - Lamb's mom
  - Settled on the sofa
  - Relaxing resort
  - Birth-certificate entry
  - Onion relative
  - Lengthy stories
  - Ambassador's sealed mailbag
  - Pub mug
  - Doll's cry
  - Low-cal
  - Workstation machines, for short
  - Lawn material
  - Suppress, as a yawn
  - Tall buildings
  - Government administrators' group
  - April forecast
  - Brainstorm
  - Birchbark boat

- DOWN
- Paving material
  - Commotion
  - Wet dirt
  - Vote into office
  - Tavern seats
  - Corrosive compound
  - Words of denial
  - Jazz singer Fitzgerald
  - Smack hard
  - Oil-yielding rock
  - Marine-reef material
  - Out of kilter
  - Kid around with
  - King's domain
  - Hold in one's hand
  - Relaxes, as a rule
  - Look forward to
  - City near Phoenix
  - Groups of athletes
  - Economize
  - Inventor Whitney
  - Approx. landing hour
  - Yahoo! rival
  - Pretense
  - Stage performer
  - Storage structures
  - \_ fours (crawling)
  - Desert plants
  - Next to
  - World Cup sport
  - Paper fragment
  - Pageant crown
  - Slow-climbing plants
  - Discovers
  - Use a loom
  - Biblical paradise
  - Sit down with a book
  - Movers' trucks
  - Short snooze
  - Poem of praise
  - Snakelike fish

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
14						15				16				
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51	52	53	54						55	56				
57						58	59	60						
61						62				63		64	65	66
67						68				69				
70						71				72				

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

## UConn women go for sixth perfect season

Connecticut's journey for the sixth perfect season in NCAA history will begin in Norfolk, Va.

The undefeated Huskies earned the No. 1 overall seed in the NCAA women's basketball tournament and will open against Southern at Norfolk, Va.

Ten teams have entered the NCAA tournament unbeaten; only five have emerged victorious. UConn and coach Geno Auriemma have done it three times, including last season.

Tennessee, Stanford

and Nebraska earned the other No. 1 seeds.

Stanford, the last team to beat Connecticut, earned its first No. 1 seed since 1998 in the NCAA women's basketball tournament. Tennessee earned its record 20th No. 1 seed a year after getting bounced from the tournament in the first round. And Nebraska earned its first No. 1 seed in school history after winning its first 30 games this season. The Cornhuskers lost their only game of the season in the Big 12 tournament semifinals.

## Iowa coach fired after 3 years

IOWA CITY, Iowa

(AP) — Iowa fired coach Todd Lickliter, ending a brief and disappointing tenure that included three losing seasons in a row and a parade of players leaving the once-proud program.

Athletic director Gary Barta announced the firing at a news conference in Iowa City, citing Iowa's slumping record, lagging attendance and dwindling revenue from ticket sales and contributions.

The 54-year-old Lickliter had four years left on a seven-year contract that paid him \$1.2 million a year. Barta said the Hawkeyes will pay Lickliter roughly \$2.4 million for the remainder of the con-

tract.

## Andrews filmer gets 2 1/2 years

LOS ANGELES (AP) — An Illinois insurance executive who secretly shot nude videos of ESPN reporter Erin Andrews was sentenced to 2½ years in prison after giving a tearful apology that was harshly rebuked by his victim.

Michael David Barrett pleaded guilty in December to interstate stalking after prosecutors accused him of following the reporter to at least three cities and shooting the videos through hotel peepholes.

Barrett, 48, of suburban Chicago, agreed to

a 27-month prison sentence after pleading guilty but it was up to the judge to decide how long he would actually serve.

## Beckham to play again after injury

TURKU, Finland (AP) — David Beckham's left Achilles' tendon was totally torn, and the doctor who performed the surgery said the England midfielder is expected to be out of action for about six months.

Orava also said it would be "four months to running" and another two months before playing.

Beckham's spokesman, Simon Oliveira,

said the tendon was completely repaired, and he expected the 34-year-old midfielder to play again.

The former England captain was injured in the closing minutes of AC Milan's 1-0 win over Chievo Verona on Sunday. He was on his second loan to the Italian club from Major League Soccer's Los Angeles Galaxy.

Orava said Beckham planned to spend the night at the clinic and likely will leave Finland on Tuesday. A statement from AC Milan said Beckham will remain under observation for a few days.

Beckham is married to pop singer Posh Spice.

## BIG 12

Continued from Page 8

one that spent all but four weeks at No. 1, that's a tough gauntlet.

"I do believe this is a very, very difficult region," Kansas coach Bill Self said. "But, from my standpoint, to get to where you want to go, you should have to beat good people. I'm sure no matter who

gets to Indianapolis they're going to have a tough road."

Kansas State set a school record for wins and has its highest seeding ever, No. 2 in the West. The seventh-ranked Wildcats open the NCAA tournament against North Texas in Oklahoma City on Thursday.

Baylor, No. 3 in the South and 19th in the nation, also starts on

Thursday, against Sam Houston State in New Orleans. No. 23 Texas A&M gets Utah State in Spokane, Wash., as the fifth seed in the South, and Oklahoma State faces a tough first-round matchup against Georgia Tech as the seventh seed in Milwaukee. The Aggies and Cowboys both play Friday.

The other Big 12 teams in the NCAA tourna-

ment need to make quick turnarounds.

Missouri closed out the season by losing three of its final four games, including to last-place Nebraska in the conference tournament. The Tigers open Friday in Buffalo, N.Y., against Clemson in what's likely to be the fastest game of the tournament.

Then there's Texas. The former No. 1

team in the nation, the Longhorns followed a 17-0 start with a crash, going 9-7 during the Big 12 regular season. Texas is the eighth seed in the East regional and opens against Wake Forest on Thursday in New Orleans, hoping to get one potentially momentum-changing win.

"One game, it can swing quickly," Texas coach Rick Barnes

said. "We see it all the time, teams come into that have been down and out, and they catch it and kind of ride the wave with it ... This time of year, one game here or there, one play here or there can really swing it."

After playing in the rugged Big 12, the Longhorns should be ready for it.

## HAWKS

Continued from Page 8

a home run, and Sah had two RBI as well. Nathan Burns also went deep for Howard.

"This is where we thought (Steinhagen) would be after the fall semester of his freshman year," Smith said of his designated hitter/catcher who redshirted last season. "When we recruited him, we fully envisioned him hitting right in the middle of our lineup."

Steinhagen ended the series batting .500 on

the season with three home runs, 20 RBI and 22 hits in 13 games.

"All the talent's there, he's just worked at his game so much harder this year than last year."

## Seward 15

## Howard 10

Game two at Jack Barber Field turned into a wild affair as Seward capitalized on three Hawk errors and pounded starter Josh Ezernack, who yielded eight runs on 10 hits in 4 1/3 innings in the loss. Four Howard pitchers served nine walks in the game.

Howard notched 20 hits in the contest, but five-run innings in the fifth and eighth from the Saints proved to be a deficit that Howard could not erase.

"I told the guys that's about as embarrassing a performance I've ever seen out of a team out here," Smith said. "We out-hit them, but the only thing is they didn't put guys on for free and we did."

Anthony Calhoun and Leftridge went deep in the game, and catcher Rick Stover went 4-for-4 at the plate. Steinhagen, Calhoun,

Chase Durham and Stover each knocked in two runs. Seward had five players with multiple RBI.

## Howard 17

## Seward 0

The Hawks exacted their revenge on the Saints in Sunday's opening game, taking it by a 17-0 margin in seven innings.

Howard scored 12 runs in the first two innings as they shelled Seward starter Hayden Holub, who gave up seven runs in one-plus inning of work. Jared Wagner gave up five in a third of an inning and

Jace Moore gave up five the rest of the way.

Tyler King, meanwhile, allowed one hit through six innings of work, walking one and striking out five. Tyler Snodgrass tossed a perfect seventh.

At the plate, Durham knocked in four runs on two doubles and third baseman Victor Guerra knocked in three with a double. Burns, Steinhagen, Calhoun, Durham and Marcellous Biggins all had multi-hit games.

## Howard 11, Seward 7

Howard scored four runs in the bottom of

the eighth to break a 7-7 tie and avoid the split Sunday afternoon as Scoggins earned the win in relief.

Sah went deep with a solo shot and Leftridge, Stover and Biggins each notched two RBI and two hits.

Starter Carter Hahn battled through six innings of work, allowing three earned runs, five total, and striking out seven. Scoggins allowed two runs in two innings, both earned, and Carlton Patton pitched a scoreless ninth.

## TEXAS

Continued from Page 8

Big 12 to make the field.

The Bears (25-7) are the No. 3 seed in the South Region and will play nearby Southland Conference champion Sam Houston State (25-7) on Thursday in New Orleans.

Baylor lost to Kansas State in the semifinals of the Big 12 tournament, but won seven of its last eight games in the regular season.

"I am always feeling confident, but right now I am sure that the whole team is confident," said Bears guard LaceDarius Dunn, the Big 12's second-leading scorer. "I think if we just stay together as a team we will do just fine in the tournament."

Sam Houston State swept its regular-season and tournament titles to lock up the school's second NCAA bid and first since 2003. The Bearcats won 14 of their last 16 games in the regular season — and the two losses came in overtime.

Sam Houston point guard Ashton Mitchell is from New Orleans, and his family was forced to evacuate in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

"This is something I've dreamed about for-

ever," Mitchell said. "I've got my family and so many friends that I haven't seen in a long time in New Orleans. It will be the thrill of a lifetime for me."

Texas A&M (23-9) earned the No. 5 seed in the South and will play No. 12 seeded Utah State (27-7) in a matchup of Aggies in Spokane on Friday. A&M guard Donald Sloan was the Big 12's fifth-leading scorer (18.2 points per game) and he's one of four seniors trying to

earn their 100th victory for the program.

A&M, Baylor and Sam Houston State have some added incentive to advance past this weekend — the South Regional will be played in nearby Houston, offering a potential home-court advantage.

The Longhorns (24-9) settled for the No. 8 seed in the East after stumbling badly in the second half of the season. Texas won its first 17 games and reached the No. 1 ranking, but

slipped to a tie for sixth in the final Big 12 standings.

If the Longhorns beat ninth-seeded Wake Forest (19-10) in New Orleans on Thursday, they'll likely face top-seeded Kentucky in the second round.

North Texas (24-8) won the Sun Belt tournament to return to the tournament for the second time in four years. The Mean Green is the No. 15 seed in the West and will play second-seeded Kansas State (26-

7) in Oklahoma City on Thursday.

"We are extremely excited to be headed to Oklahoma City for our opening round game," North Texas coach Johnny Jones said. "It's just a couple of hours down the road, and all of the Mean Green Nation should show up in force to help root us on."

UTEP (26-6) had to sweat out the weekend after Houston stopped the Miners' 16-game winning streak in the C-USA championship

game. The Miners, in the tournament for the first time under fourth-year coach Tony Barbee, earned the 12th seed in the West and will play fifth-seeded Butler (28-4) in San Jose, Calif. on Thursday.

"We're excited to be invited," Barbee said. "It's not a good feeling when you put your fate in someone else's hands. Now that we're in, we have to prepare ourselves for a one-and-done situation."




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