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# H BIG SPRING HERALD

**WEDNESDAY**  
**MARCH 17, 2010**  
  
**50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY**

VOLUME 105, NUMBER 86 COPYRIGHT 2009

## Paul Williams to join in symphony finale

**Special to the Herald**  
 Celebrated entertainer and song writer Paul Williams will join the Big Spring Symphony Orchestra in a "Symphony Pops Extravaganza" in the fourth and final concert of

the 2009-2010 concert season March 27. Music lovers and musicians alike will "Move On" to the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum on the Howard College campus to culminate the season. The concert will begin at 8 p.m.

Williams is the composer of such lasting hits as "Rainy Days and Mondays" and "We've Only Just Begun," made famous by the Carpenters, "Just an Old Fashioned Love Song," performed by Three Dog Night, and "Ever-

green," sung by Barbara Streisand. Williams will also perform the debut performance with the Symphony Orchestra of one of his newest songs, "It May Not Be Today." Dr. Keith Graumann, music director and conductor of the

Big Spring Symphony, said he is thrilled that Williams will be performing with the symphony in Big Spring. "I have been trying to secure an engagement with See **FINALE**, Page 3A

## Public invited to comment on feral hogs

AUSTIN — State Rep. Joe Heflin has announced he will meet with the Texas House Committee on Agriculture and Livestock concerning the feral hog population and its impact on agriculture and livestock operations. Concerned citizens are invited to attend and present testimony at the meeting, set for 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 24, at the State Capitol.



Heflin

"Feral hogs are an expensive and time-consuming problem for our farmers and ranchers," said Heflin. "Fortunately, House Speaker Joe Straus has recognized that we need to address the issue and has asked our committee to work on ways to solve the problem when the Legislature convenes again in January." At the March 24 meeting, the committee will hear invited and public testimony on efforts to manage the feral hog population and to mitigate

See **HOGS**, Page 3A



HERALD file photo

Howard College's Jae Crowder dunks the basketball during a recent game. The Hawks began play at the National Junior College Athletic Association Men's National Tournament today. See related story and photo, Page 1B.

## Regional News

- *Martin County Library to host book signing ... Page 6A*
- *Dana Cooper to perform Saturday in Sweetwater... Page 6A*
- *Conference, Food Soiree planned in Midland ... Page 6A*

## Chaplain Jimenez named Hangar 25 Veteran of Month

Hangar 25 Air Museum has announced that Scott Jimenez has been named Veteran of the Month for March. Jimenez served in the United States Marine Corp during Desert Shield/Desert Storm. He also served in the U.S. Navy as a chaplain. He is a chaplain with the Big Spring VA Medical Center. A reception in his honor will be held in the Hangar 25 Briefing Room at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 25. Refreshments will be served. The public is invited. For more information, call (432) 264-1999.



Jimenez

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## Group: Set aside section of Southwest for jaguars

Area would include New Mexico, Arizona, Southern California and West Texas

**SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN**  
 Associated Press Writer  
 ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Environmentalists are asking the federal government to set aside an area of the Southwest more than half the size of California to help protect the endangered jaguar. The area proposed as critical habitat by the Center for Biological Diversity would represent one of the largest swaths of land set aside for any single species, spanning more than 53 million acres across New Mexico, Arizona, Southern California and West

Texas. "As an animal at the top of the food chain, jaguars roam over vast distances and we need to think beyond individual animals and instead plan for managing a recovered population," the center's Michael Robinson said Tuesday. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is evaluating what the elusive cats need to survive and areas in the Southwest where they would have the best chance. The agency has acknowledged "physical and biological features" in

the region that can be used by jaguars. The largest cats native to the Western hemisphere, jaguars live primarily in Mexico, Central and South America. They once inhabited an extensive area that spanned California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas and Louisiana, but there have been only rare glimpses of the animals along U.S.-Mexico border in recent years. Jaguars were spotted in 1996 near the Arizona-New Mexico border and again in 2006. Most recently, a snare captured a jaguar last year in

southern Arizona. That cat was eventually euthanized after falling ill, sparking criticism over jaguar recovery efforts. The Fish and Wildlife Service decided this year to set aside critical habitat for the jaguar based on information from the last three years, but indications show that amount of land will be far less than what environmentalists want, given that the southwestern United States represents only a fraction of See **JAGUARS**, Page 3A

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# Texas looking for new start in Big Dance

Associated Press

AUSTIN — With his team reeling as it heads into the NCAA tournament, Texas coach Rick Barnes sounds like a gardener trying to coax life out of a dying plant. “Sometimes you keep watering it and watering it and hope that it sprouts,” Barnes said. Then again, sometimes it drowns. Texas isn’t dead yet,

but it’s a long, long way from being the team that was once considered a favorite to win the national championship. Everything looked great when Texas was 17-0. But after earning the first No. 1 ranking in school history back on Jan. 11, Texas lost nine of its next 16 games and was given the No. 8 seed in the East Region. The Longhorns (24-9) play No. 9 Wake Forest (19-10)

on Thursday night in New Orleans. Despite two months of struggles, Barnes and his players are trying to sound optimistic about the tournament. “It’s been difficult at times, but they have never wavered pulling for each other,” Barnes said. “The point is, we’re part of 65 teams right now that are still playing. We all start out 0-0 and even our players

have seen enough of this to know that anything can happen on any given night.” Senior guard Justin Mason noted that every team faces the same challenge: win six in a row to win the national championship. “It’s a new season for every team,” Mason said. The old one started so well for Texas. Texas was 15-0 when it

hit No. 1 and then won its first two games on top. At the time, the players seemed to understand the ranking was nice but might not last. Senior forward Dexter Pittman said it was more important to get a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament. “If you would have asked me who the No. 1 team was in the second week of January last year, I couldn’t tell you. But I do know who won

the national championship,” Barnes said at the time. Then the spiral started. Texas tumbled further down the rankings every week. On March 1, they became just the fifth team in the history of the AP rankings to fall all the way out after reaching No. 1. The problems are everywhere. See **TEXAS**, Page 2B

## Hawks ready for hardwood in Hutch

BY JOE ZIGTEMA  
Sports Editor

HUTCHINSON, Kan. — It’s been a waiting game for the Howard Hawks in Kansas so far, but they’ll hit the court at 1 p.m. today with a vengeance against an underdog team that surprised everyone by making the national tournament. Playing the last game of a first round that started Tuesday in Hutchinson, Marki Adams said his Hawks are ready to get on the floor. “We’re anxious,” he said. “To have to sit around the hotel all day and watch games and play the last game (Wednesday), we hope we come ready to play and not get too excited.”

The Hawks enter the national tournament as the team to beat, having knocked off No. 1 Midland and coming from a region that has won the championship two out of the last three years. “With our ranking and recent success coming out of this region, there are a lot of teams looking forward to playing us,” Adams said. “We have a target on our back and we want to make sure we don’t overlook anybody.”

The Hawks aren’t overlooking Southeastern Illinois, Adams said, because it’s a team that has gotten hot at the right time. “They are a team that has won a lot of close games, and they’re one of the hottest teams at the national tournament,” Adams said. “They have good sophomore leadership and they’re very well-coached, and if you look at their last three or four games, they have a lot of



Howard College's Josh Watkins, right, shoots the ball during a recent contest. The Hawks opened play at the National Junior College Athletic Conference national basketball tournament in

character.” Southeastern beat ranked teams John A. Logan and Wabash Valley to advance out of region 15 to the tournament as the No. 5 seed. Mamadou Seck leads the Falcons, averaging 15 points and almost 10 rebounds per game. Isaac McClure aver-

ages 13 points and six rebounds and William Kirksey averages 12 and six boards. “They have three inside players that are versatile and block shots, and contest shots in the paint,” Adams said. “One of

See **HAWKS**, Page 2B

## Hunt, Lady Steers win over Bulldogettes 8-4 with big innings late

Herald Staff Report

COAHOMA — Kenzie Hunt and the Big Spring Lady Steers presented their case as best team in Howard County Tuesday night with an 8-4 win over the Coahoma Bulldogettes and Heather Newton at Coahoma High School. In a game that was moved to Coahoma from Big Spring due to wet weather, the Lady Steers scored seven runs in the last three innings to come back over the Bulldogettes, led by three hits and two RBI from senior Linzee Yarbar that knocked in Carbor Riebe twice. Big Spring also took advantage of seven defensive miscues by the Bulldogettes as they chased Heather Newton in the seventh inning, who went 6 2/3, giving up 10 hits and seven runs, five earned. She struck out 11 and walked three. Hunt, meanwhile, allowed three earned runs as she went the distance for the win, yielding 11 hits and striking out seven without issuing a walk. Linzee Yarbar was a home run short of a cycle as the Lady Steers snapped Coahoma’s

(14-6) winning streak at nine, including a streak of five straight with Newton in the circle. Freshman Logan Yarbar collected two hits, including an RBI hit that knocked in her sister in the first inning, and Valerie Ross also notched an RBI. Newton went 3-for-4 at the plate and scored once. Jordan Martin knocked in Kylie Gee and Jennifer Castilaw with a 2-RBI single hit in the fourth, the only multi-run inning for the Bulldogettes. Castilaw hit a double and triple in the contest. The result sets up a split between the three area teams — Forsan beat Big Spring in the inaugural Big Spring Tournament, and Coahoma beat Forsan on Saturday. Coahoma opens district play with Jim Ned on the road next Tuesday. Big Spring’s district 4-4A opener is Friday at home against Frenship. Junior varsity starts at 4:30, followed by varsity at 6:30 p.m.

Big Spring 8, Coahoma 4  
BS 100 022 3 -- 7 11 3  
CHS 001 200 1 -- 4 10 7  
Newton, Dunn and Castilaw.  
Hunt and Lo. Yarbar. W. Hunt.  
L. Newton. 3B- Castilaw, Li.  
Yarbar. 2B- Castilaw, Ross,  
Riebe, Li. Yarbar

## Nelson Cruz rewarding Rangers for their patience, and his too

Associated Press

SURPRISE, Ariz. — The success Nelson Cruz had in his first full season for the Texas Rangers was evident by the outfielder’s selection to the All-Star team and Home Run Derby last summer. More telling of the emerging slugger’s growth was what he told the organization’s younger players in the Dominican Republic this winter after Rangers officials asked a few big leaguers to share their expe-

riences. “He told the guys the ability to get an opportunity is about talent, your ability to succeed is about your mental approach and your mental strength,” general manager Jon Daniels said. “To hear that from Nellie talking to all these young kids, it really stood out to me how much he’s matured, how much he’s learned.” Cruz certainly spoke from experience. Two years ago, Cruz didn’t even make the

Rangers’ roster out of spring training. No other team claimed him off waivers, and he was sent outright to Triple-A Oklahoma. Through his 10th professional season, Cruz responded with an MVP season in the Pacific Coast League, hitting .342 with 37 home runs, 99 RBIs and 24 stolen bases in 103 games for the RedHawks. When he rejoined the Rangers for the final six weeks of that 2008 season, he was finally

able to translate his success onto the big-league level. He hit .330 with seven homers and 26 RBIs in 31 games. Cruz’s 33 home runs last season were the most ever by a Rangers player in his first full season, and he was third in the American League with one homer every 14 at-bats. He made it to the final round of the Home Run Derby, where he was runner-up to Prince Fielder. After hitting .260 with 20 stolen bases in 128

games to become only the fifth Texas player with a 30-homer/20-steal season, Cruz is without question the starting right fielder. He likely will hit sixth in a Rangers lineup that added Vladimir Guerrero in the cleanup spot and switched Ian Kinsler from leading off to hitting fifth. “I appreciate the patience (the Rangers) have and I always thank God for the opportunity,” Cruz said. “When you have bad years, you go back and keep

working harder and everything is coming through now.” The Rangers acquired Cruz with Carlos Lee from Milwaukee in July 2006. Lee left as a free agent at the end of that season. Cruz made his first opening day roster in 2007, struggled early and went back to Oklahoma, where he hit .352 with 15 homers and 45 RBIs in 44 games. He hit only .235 with nine homers in 96

See **CRUZ**, 2B

## 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 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.



## Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity Tuesday:

- SALVADOR PEREZ, 38, 1405 Lancaster No. 2, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- COREY LEE HARRIS, 29, 2911 W. Highway 80 No. 232, was arrested on a charge of possession of marijuana and possession of a controlled substance.
- DANIEL ERNEST WRIGHT, 54, Odessa, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- DEBRA LOPEZ, 31, 502 Goliad, was arrested on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.
- MARIO SLAZAR, 20, 502 Goliad, was arrested on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.
- BONNIE JANE KLAASSEN, 50, 1500 Sycamore, was arrested on a Midland County warrant.
- NICOLE TATTEN, 29, Massachusetts, was arrested on a local warrant.
- BURGLARY OF A BUILDING was reported in the 600 block of Goliad.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 500 block of Goliad.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 200 block of FM 700.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 800 block of FM 700.
- POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA was reported in the 500 block of Goliad.
- THEFT was reported in the 1900 block of FM 700.

## Take Note

- The city of Big Spring will close Goliad Street from 11<sup>th</sup> Place to 12<sup>th</sup> Street until March 22 in order to facilitate roadway repairs. For more information, contact Assistant City Manager Todd Darden at 264-2501.

- The Howard County Democratic Party will hold its precinct meeting at 7 p.m. Saturday on the third floor of the county courthouse. For more information, call 466-3073.

- The Cornerstone Covenant Youth Group will have a fund raiser at 5 p.m. Monday, March 22, at the Pizza Inn. Proceeds will help our youth ministries attend our annual trip to church camp in the Huntsville area. The youth of our town are future leaders of tomorrow.

- Cornell Corrections Relay For Life team, Team Lockout, will host a shrimp boil at 11:30 a.m. Saturday. The event will be held at the Building 35 Warehouse, 1701 Apron Drive in front of Western Container. Eat in or carry out. Large dishes are \$15; small dishes are \$10.

- An account has been established at Cosden Federal Credit Union for Faye McGee of Big Spring to help defray the cost of medical bills and treatment. She is in ICU at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Contact CFCU at 400 E. Marcy in Big Spring, account 762989 or call Cosden at 264-2600 or toll free 800 725-2673.

- Home Hospice is looking for adult volunteers and junior volunteers. New training time will be at 9 a.m. April 17 at the Hospice office, 111 E. Seventh St. Call Sherry Hodnett at 264-7599 for more information.

- A Dinner Theatre is slated for March 27 at KoKopelli's to benefit the Big Spring Educational Science Trip, aka the Big Spring UFO'S. The meal will consist of brisket, pinto beans, potato salad, Texas toast, lemonade, water or tea. Price is \$10 a person or \$18 per couple. Purchase tickets from Medicine Center Pharmacy; ask for Monika. A silent auction will be held as well.

- A fund has been established at Wood Forest National Bank for Jeffery Cate (Bubba). He is a lifetime resident of Big Spring and is employed at B&E Roustabout. He was in a car accident New Year's Eve and is still in a hospital in Lubbock. He had surgery to remove his spleen and has several broken bones, including one in his neck. He has also suffered some memory loss due to a bruise on one side of his brain. He has three small boys.

## Sheriff

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity Tuesday (note — officials reported 64 prisoners in the county jail):

- LARRY WAYNE HOBBS, 25, began serving judgment on assault causing bodily injury.
- CATHIE OLEAN PEREZ, 42, was arrested by deputies on charges of speeding and no safety seat for child passenger.
- ARMANDO GARCIA, 25, was arrested by deputies on a charge of assault Class C/family violence and two Andrews County warrants.
- COREY LEE HARRIS, 29, was arrested by deputies on warrants for bail jumping, failure to appear and bondsman off bond.
- NICOLE FAITH TATTEN, 29, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a warrant for assault.
- MARIO ILDEFONSO SALAZAR, 20, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.
- BONNIE JANE KLAASSEN, 50, was arrested on a Midland county warrant for violation of probation for theft under \$500.
- SANTOS MENDOZA JR., 47, began serving sentence for delivery of a controlled substance.
- CHRIS RUIZ, 40, was arrested by deputies on a charge of theft under \$1,500.
- PHILLIP MENDOZA JR., 41, began serving sentence for delivery of a controlled substance.
- DEBRA LOPEZ, 31, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a capias warrant for public intoxication and a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.
- DANIEL ERNEST WRIGHT, 54, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- SALVADOR GUTIERREZ PEREZ, 38, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of public intoxication.

## Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service reported the following activity Tuesday:

- MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of W. FM 700. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.

## Support Groups

### THURSDAY

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

### FRIDAY

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

### SATURDAY

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

### SUNDAY

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

### MONDAY

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

- Diabetes Support Group meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third St. Call 267-3806 for information.

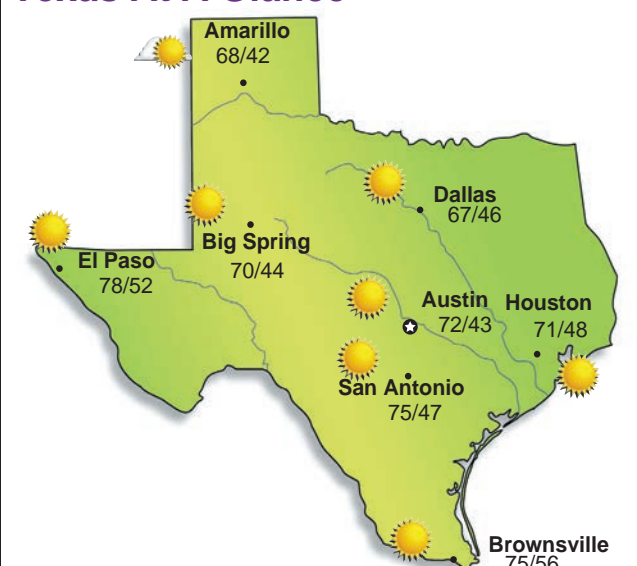
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the First Christian Church.

## Today's Weather

### Local 5-Day Forecast

Thu 3/18	Fri 3/19	Sat 3/20	Sun 3/21	Mon 3/22
<b>70/44</b> Mainly sunny. High around 70F. Winds SE at 5 to 10 mph.	<b>76/36</b> Windy with plenty of sun. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the mid 30s.	<b>53/28</b> Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the upper 20s.	<b>64/36</b> Abundant sunshine. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the mid 30s.	<b>71/44</b> Mostly sunny. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the mid 40s.
Sunrise: 7:52 AM Sunset: 7:56 PM	Sunrise: 7:51 AM Sunset: 7:57 PM	Sunrise: 7:50 AM Sunset: 7:58 PM	Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 7:58 PM	Sunrise: 7:47 AM Sunset: 7:59 PM

## Texas At A Glance



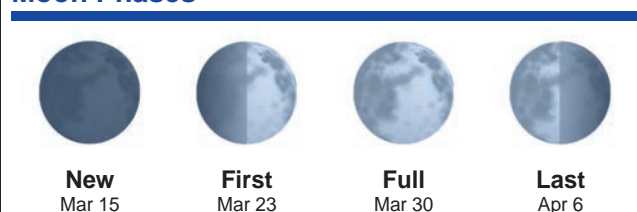
### Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	68	46	sunny	Kingsville	77	54	sunny
Amarillo	68	42	mst sunny	Livingston	70	41	sunny
Austin	72	43	sunny	Longview	67	44	sunny
Beaumont	71	47	sunny	Lubbock	70	42	mst sunny
Brownsville	75	56	sunny	Lufkin	71	44	sunny
Brownwood	72	47	sunny	Midland	73	49	sunny
Corpus Christi	73	55	sunny	Raymondville	78	54	sunny
Corsicana	66	44	sunny	Rosenberg	71	47	sunny
Dallas	67	46	sunny	San Antonio	75	47	sunny
Del Rio	78	51	sunny	San Marcos	73	43	sunny
El Paso	78	52	sunny	Sulphur Springs	65	46	sunny
Fort Stockton	76	48	sunny	Sweetwater	70	46	sunny
Gainesville	65	44	sunny	Tyler	66	44	sunny
Greenville	64	42	sunny	Weatherford	66	44	sunny
Houston	71	48	sunny	Wichita Falls	66	45	sunny

### National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	64	41	cloudy	Minneapolis	60	36	pt sunny
Boston	63	41	mst sunny	New York	65	48	mst sunny
Chicago	63	43	mst sunny	Phoenix	80	53	sunny
Dallas	67	46	sunny	San Francisco	70	47	sunny
Denver	65	32	cloudy	Seattle	56	35	sunny
Houston	71	48	sunny	St. Louis	65	42	sunny
Los Angeles	75	53	sunny	Washington, DC	70	48	sunny
Miami	73	53	rain				

### Moon Phases



### UV Index

Thu 3/18	Fri 3/19	Sat 3/20	Sun 3/21	Mon 3/22
8	8	8	8	8
Very High	Very High	Very High	Very High	Very High

The UV Index is measured on a 0 - 11 number scale, 0 with a higher UV Index showing the need for greater skin protection.

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## Lottery

The winning numbers in Tuesday evening's drawing of the Georgia Lottery's "MEGA Millions" game were: 03-22-48-52-56, Mega Ball: 13.

The winning numbers in Tuesday evening's drawing of the Texas Lottery's "Cash 5" game were: 04-08-11-31-32.

The winning numbers in Tuesday evening's drawing of the Texas Lottery's "Daily 4 Night" game were: 2-5-7-0.

The winning numbers in Tuesday evening's drawing of the Texas Lottery's "Pick 3 Night" game were: 3-6-5.

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# Tech opens NIT with win over Seton Hall

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — John Roberson scored 22 points and Darko Cohadarevic recovered from a first-half low blow to score 12 points, leading Texas Tech to an easy 87-69 victory over Seton Hall in the first round of the National Invitation Tournament Tuesday night.

Texas Tech (18-15) advances to face the winner of the Arizona State-Jacksonville game.

It was the 10th straight loss in the NIT for the Pirates (19-13), who have not won a game in the tourney since 1956.

Texas Tech took control of

the game right after Seton Hall forward Herb Pope was ejected for delivering a blow to the groin of Cohadarevic, who remained on the floor for several minutes.

After Pope's ejection with 14:17 left in the first half, the Red Raiders scored 13 straight points to take a 23-10 lead. D'walyne Roberts (12 points, 11 rebounds) and Robert Lewandowski had four points each during that stretch.

Cohadarevic returned and scored six points in the first half, leading Texas Tech to a 45-32 lead at halftime.

"My kids wanted this bad,"

Texas Tech coach Pat Knight said. "We had a tough stretch at the end of the season, but we kept on talking about the NIT. It's an honor for us to be here. I'm happy our kids got a taste of the postseason."

The Red Raiders gradually increased the lead in the second half, leading 72-49 with seven minutes left.

Roberson admitted that Texas Tech changed its approach after Pope's departure.

"We had to change our game plan because Pope was one of their focal points," Roberson said.

Texas Tech also received 13 points from Mike Singletary.

"We wanted to attack the rim and not settle for jump shots," Singletary said. "Once he (Pope) was gone, it was our turn to get to the paint, get easy shots and second-chance shots."

Seton Hall head coach Bobby Gonzalez said that it was tough to overcome the loss of Pope.

"We really didn't have any way to win without Herb Pope," Gonzalez said. "He's an irreplaceable guy, the heart and soul of this team. When he got thrown out of

the game, we lost a lot of fire, juice and energy."

Neither Knight nor Gonzalez said they saw the play, but Gonzalez said that he spoke with the officials who told him Pope delivered the low blow intentionally.

"He must have deserved to go out, because you can't do what they said he did," Gonzalez said. "It took a lot of wind out of our sails."

Jeff Robinson paced the Pirates with 23 points while Jordan Theodore added 13 for Seton Hall. Eugene Harvey added 12 points in his final game for Seton Hall.

## Silva pitches four shutout innings as Cubs top Texas

MESA, Ariz. (AP) — Carlos Silva is telling everyone — including his mother — that he is back to being an effective major league pitcher.

"I talk to my mother before and after (every) game, and the message I sent to her said: 'The way that I feel today, I don't feel for a long, long time. Today, I feel like it was me,'" said Silva, whose four shutout innings Tuesday led the Chicago Cubs to a 4-1 victory over the Texas Rangers.

When the Cubs wanted to send Milton Bradley to Seattle, Silva was the high-priced underachiever the Mariners insisted Chicago take in the deal.

The Cubs hoped he'd pitch as he did during his four seasons in Minnesota and not his two years in Seattle — where at 5-18 with a 7.01 ERA, Silva was one of the worst starters in baseball.

After getting pounded in his first spring outing, he has pitched seven straight scoreless innings. Silva, who has two years and \$25 million left on his contract, was especially strong Tuesday, limiting Texas to two hits and striking out three.

"You can't throw the ball better than he did today," manager Lou Piniella said. "Boy, he made it look relatively easy."

Now Silva is closing in on a spot in the Cubs' rotation.

"I'm very competitive. I want to make the rotation. But the only thing I want to do is help this team," Silva said. "Deep inside, I want

to say I feel good about the way I pitch."

One Texas pitcher, C.J. Wilson, also came out of Tuesday's game feeling good.

After allowing one run and three hits and striking out five in four innings, the 29-year-old left-hander seemed almost a lock for a spot in the Rangers' rotation.

"Well, he's looking great," manager Ron Washington said. "You can't take anything away from what he's done. We just haven't gotten to the point yet where we're ready to make an announcement."

Wilson, who pitched the fifth through eighth innings, began the eighth by giving up Tyler Colvin's single and Xavier Nady's double. Wilson stranded both runners by retiring the next three hitters on easy grounders.

"I just got (ticked) off," he said. "I told myself, 'I'm not going to let them score.'"

An inning earlier, he gave up Jeff Baker's homer. The other three Chicago runs came in the third off starter Neftali Feliz, a 21-year-old righty who is a longshot to make the rotation.

Nady had a two-run double off Feliz and Marlon Byrd followed with an RBI single.

There were 23 strikeouts in the game, 12 by Texas batters. Chris Davis, whose .538 average entering the game was the highest in spring exhibitions among all qualifiers, struck out three times.

## Rivera pitches out of jam to lead Yanks past Houston, 4-1

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Manager Joe Girardi started his potential regular lineup, closer Mariano Rivera worked out of a bases-load jam in his first appearance and the New York Yankees beat a Houston Astros split squad 4-1 on Tuesday night.

Nick Johnson hit second, Robinson Cano fifth and Curtis Granderson was in the seventh spot of the Yankees' batting order. Johnson and Granderson started spring training as the candidates to bat behind leadoff hitter Derek Jeter.

"Obviously, the on-base percentage is outstanding," Girardi said Johnson. "He knows how to hit. He takes his walks. Has deep counts."

Rivera needed 27 pitches to pitch a scoreless fifth, giving up one hit, one walk and striking out one. The 40-year old, who has taken a slower approach at spring training the past few years, got an inning-ending grounder from Jason Michaels to end the Astros scoring

threat.

"Actually it's good because you're out there throwing your pitches, working," Rivera said. "You need to throw to build (arm) strength. I'm happy with how I'm feeling."

Mark Teixeira hit a solo homer for the Yankees, while Nick Swisher had a run-scoring double.

Houston starter Brian Moehler gave up three runs and six hits in three innings. Hunter Pence had an RBI double.

Phil Hughes, bidding for New York's fifth starter spot, allowed three hits in four shutout innings out of the bullpen.

Joba Chamberlain is facing an important test in his attempt to win the Yankees' last rotation spot in Wednesday's game with Philadelphia. The right-hander has 27.00 ERA over his first two outings.

"You've got to pitch," Girardi said. "Pick it up. You want to see him execute pitches. Do the things you have to do to be successful."

Girardi expects to have the fifth starter selected by March 25-26.

Teixeira and Alex Rodriguez were in New York's third and fourth lineup spots, respectively. Jorge Posada was sixth, with Swisher and Brett Gardner placed in the final two slots.

"It's nice to put them all together for the first time," Girardi said. "We haven't done it all spring."

Girardi has lined up CC Sabathia, A.J. Burnett and Andy Pettitte to pitch the regular-season opening series at Boston, which begins on April 4.

Burnett struggled with his control against the Astros, throwing just 33 of 66 pitches for strikes over 2 1-3 innings.

NOTES: Singer Paul Simon threw out the ceremonial first pitch. ... Rivera expects to pitch again on Friday. ... Rodriguez had nothing new to report regarding his pending interview with federal investigators who are conducting a probe into a Canadian doctor accused of selling an unapproved drug.

## HAWKS

Continued from Page 1B

our keys is to control them and not let them loose."

In preparing for Southeastern Illinois, Adams said he sees a lot of similarities to the Hawks.

"They are pretty deliberate like we are," he said. "We have similar styles, and I think it depends on who is the most aggressive and who plays with some toughness and gets some shots to go in."

Jae Crowder and Josh Watkins have been the

main source of offense all season for the No. 2 Hawks — they both ranked in the top five in the WJCAC in scoring — but Adams said his team might have to count some unusual suspect, such as Joe Bright, who came up with 16 points in the win over Midland, or LaMont Austin, who has proven he can light up the scoreboard.

"Their coach is pretty crafty, they play a real aggressive 2-3 zone and they're a physical half-court team," Adams said. "They're not going to make it easy for us."

## TEXAS

Continued from Page 1B

everywhere.

Poor free throw shooting (last in the Big 12) cost them in close games. Erratic guard play hurt them in others. Two guards, Varez Ward and Dogus Balbay, were lost for the season with injuries. Pittman, a 6-foot-10, 290-pound forward who was a force when Texas was undefeated, saw his game drop off dramatically after Christmas.

Barnes himself has seemed inconsistent

## CRUZ

Continued from Page 1B

with nine homers in 96 games for the Rangers, then by the end of the following spring was available for any team that wanted him.

This spring, the 29-year-old Cruz knows he can concentrate on getting ready for the season without worry-

ing about what might happen.

"Definitely, it's everything different" Cruz said. "I'm more comfortable now."

Manager Ron Washington has noticed how much more focused and relaxed Cruz is this spring.

"He's been workmanlike in the way he's been going about his business," Washington

and a team-high six assists in a season-ending loss to Baylor, Brown played three minutes in a win over Iowa State in the Big 12 tournament. When Texas played Baylor again, another loss, Brown played 16 minutes.

The only constant has been senior forward Damion James, an all-Big 12 selection averaging 18 points and 10.4 rebounds per game. He is the career rebounds leader in the Big 12.

James flirted with going to the NBA after his junior season then

said. "He's been a breath of fresh air. He's been very loud out there, something Nellie don't do, he's usually quiet. He's having fun, cracking jokes, enjoying himself. That's the state we need him in. We know what his ability is."

Cruz hit his first homer of the spring Monday night. He hit .417 (10 for 24) with three

decided to stay for one more year, taking aim at Texas' first Final Four since 2003.

It will take four wins to get there, six to win it all. The Longhorns haven't won three in a row since Jan. 9-16.

Even if they get by Wake Forest, a likely game against No. 1 seed Kentucky awaits on Saturday.

"I have at least 40 more minutes of college basketball left, so I am just happy to be in that situation and be able to play," James said. "Anyone can win it."

doubles and seven RBIs through his first nine spring training games.

"More than the numbers or anything else, I'm really impressed with his focus and how calm he is this spring. Talent has never been a question," Daniels said. "The ability is undeniable. It was just a matter of finding that consistent level. We saw signs of that last year."

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# News briefs

## Texas mom watching children's play stabbed in back

STEPHENVILLE (AP) — Authorities say a mother watching her two young children play in a north Texas city park was approached from behind by a man who stabbed her in the back and quickly walked away.

Stephenville police Chief Roy Halsell said the alleged attack on 28-year-old Brandi Janell Todd of Morgan Mill on Sunday afternoon in Stephenville City Park was apparently unprovoked. He says several witnesses followed a suspect from the park, and one pointed him out walking near the park.

Michael Allen Howard of Stephenville is in the Erath County Jail with bond set at \$750,000, charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

A Harris Methodist Fort Worth hospital spokeswoman lists Todd in serious condition Tuesday.

In a jail interview, the 42-year-old suspect tells the Stephenville Empire-Tribune that he's been a mental hospital patient for 20 years.

## Identities made on two who died in Texas tour bus crash

CAMPBELLTON (AP) — A woman from the Dallas area and a man from South Texas died when a tour bus bound for Mexico wrecked near Campbellton.

The Department of Public Safety on Wednesday identified the fatalities as 62-year-old Christina Lozano Campos of Lewisville and 27-year-old Efrain Cominquez-Valenzuela of Brownsville.

DPS spokeswoman Tela Mange says both were dead at the scene Tuesday.

The other 40 people on the bus were taken to San Antonio-area hospitals.

A spokeswoman for University Hospital said six victims were still hospitalized Wednesday. Julie Wylie says five were stable and one was critical.

Calls from The Associated Press about other injured riders, transported to Wilford Hall Medical Center, Brooke Army Medical Center and South Texas Regional Medical Center, were not immediately returned Wednesday.

The Americanos USA bus had left San Antonio and was headed for Matamoros, Mexico.

## Fatal TABC shooting ruled justified

AUSTIN (AP) — An internal review indicates two Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission agents who fatally shot an Austin man were justified in using deadly force.

The Austin American-Statesman reported Wednesday that the review found the agents were acting within their authority in the Aug. 16 shooting.

Attorneys for Joe Cronin and John Altum say both returned to regular duty this week.

Steven Edward Lunt was shot when investigators say he tried to run over the agents with his pickup. The 25-year-old Lunt later died of his injuries.

Officials have said Lunt's blood alcohol level was above the legal limit for driving.

A grand jury in November declined to indict the agents.

## \$100 million punitive verdict against British Petroleum set aside

HOUSTON (AP) — A \$100 million jury award against BP PLC over a 2007 refinery leak at its Texas City plant has been rejected.

A federal judge in Houston on Tuesday set aside the punitive judgment of \$10 million apiece for 10 contract workers who said they were injured.

U.S. District Judge Kenneth M. Hoyt agreed with the jury's finding that London-based BP was responsible for the leak, but found no intent to cause harm.

Actual damages awarded per worker range from about \$6,000 to more than \$244,000.

The release happened at the same refinery where a 2005 explosion killed 15 people and injured 170.

BP spokesman Scott Dean said the company agrees with the judge's decision to set aside punitive damages.

## \$25 per vehicle to watch Texas Stadium implosion

IRVING (AP) — The famed ex-home of the Dallas Cowboys is a shell of its former self.

Literally.

Most of the interior of hole-in-the-roof Texas Stadium in Irving has been gutted in preparation for the April 11 implosion.

Mayor Herbert Gears said Tuesday that it's a sad time to know the stadium is coming down, but he calls it a "momentous occasion" that marks a change in the community.

Fans who want to get within viewing distance of the controlled explosion can do so cheaper than what some Cowboys game-day parking passes cost.

The city of Irving plans to donate the \$25 fee per vehicle, to watch the once state-of-the-art venue come tumbling down, to charity.

## Mother of missing Arizona baby expected in court today

PHOENIX (AP) — The mother of an Arizona baby who's been missing for nearly three months is expected to be in court Wednesday.

Elizabeth Johnson had refused to leave her cell for a court hearing last week, but Judge Timothy Ryan ordered deputies to "use any means necessary" to get her to Wednesday's hearing.

The 23-year-old Johnson is being held in Maricopa County jail in connection with her son Gabriel's disappearance.

Gabriel was 8 months old when he was last seen in late December in San Antonio, and police don't know whether he's alive.

Police say Johnson drove the boy to San Antonio from Tempe, stayed about a week, then took a bus to Florida without him. She was arrested Dec. 30 in Florida.

## Lake Charles to vote whether to dock World War II-era ship

LAKE CHARLES, La. (AP) — The Lake Charles City Council has scheduled a vote Wednesday on whether to give a permanent berth to the USS Orleck, a World War II-era destroyer.

The Army Corps of Engineers and Lake Charles voters would have to approve a lakefront site.

Supporters plan to bring the ship temporarily whether or not the city approves an agreement with the ship's supporters.

It's to be towed on Friday from Orange, Texas, to a Calcasieu River spot where a Lake Charles businessman will let it stay free.

After 37 years in the U.S. Navy, the Orleck was given to the Turkish Navy. In 2000, it was towed from Turkey to Orange to be refurbished as a war museum.

Ron Williams of the Orleck's Louisiana chapter says it costs \$10,000 a month to dock it in Orange.

## USAF officer to be buried 38 years after war death

WASHINGTON (AP) — The remains of a U.S. Air Force officer will be returned to Texas for burial later this month, 38 years after his aircraft was shot down over Laos.

Maj. Curtis Daniel Miller of Palacios, Texas, was part of a 14-man crew aboard an AC-130A Spectre gunship flying an armed reconnaissance mission over southern Laos during the Vietnam War. On March 29, 1972, a surface-to-air missile shot the aircraft out of the sky, and days of search and rescue efforts failed to locate Miller's remains.

In 1986, a joint U.S.-Laotian search team surveyed and excavated the crash site and recovered human remains. The team returned to excavate further in 2005-06 and found more remains, including those identified later as Miller's. Miller will be buried with full military honors March 29 at the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery.

# FINALE

Continued from Page 1A

Paul Williams for several years. I have admired his songwriting since the early years, when during my high school and college days I was a fan of the Carpenters and Three Dog Night. I still have some of Paul's early albums recorded on LP records," said

Graumann. "I am deeply honored that the Big Spring Symphony will be performing the orchestral debut of his new song."

Familiar Paul Williams songs to be performed include: "Old Fashioned Love Song," "I won't Last a Day Without You," "Rainy Days and Mondays," "Evergreen," "You & Me Against the World," "Love Boat," "Rainbow Connection," "Let Me Be the One," "Old Souls" and "Loneliness."

Concert sponsors are Howard College, the Dora Roberts Foundation, Lucy Knox, Area-Wide Phonebook and the Big Spring Convention and Visitor's Bureau.

Tickets are available at KBST Radio, Western Banks, Faye's Flowers, Blum's Jewelers, the Heritage Museum, Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce and the Big Spring Herald. Prices for the March 27 concert are \$30 adult, \$20 senior, and \$10 stu-

dent. There is no reserve seating, but one may expect close-to-stage seating on the floor of the coliseum. Children under the age of 5 are not expected to enjoy this concert.

For further information, contact any of the ticket outlets or the Big Spring Symphony Office at 264-7223 or visit [www.paulwilliamsconnection.com](http://www.paulwilliamsconnection.com) or [www.bigspringsymphony.com](http://www.bigspringsymphony.com)

# HOGS

Continued from Page 1A

the damage they cause to livestock and agriculture operations. Public testimony will be limited to five minutes per wit-

ness. Alternatively, Heflin said, constituents may write to him or call his office with their concerns, comments and suggestions.

Rep. Heflin represents Texas House District 85, including Borden, Crosby, Fisher,

Floyd, Garza, Glasscock, Hale, Howard, Jones, Kent, Lynn, Irion, Reagan, Sterling, Stonewall, and Terry Counties. He may be reached at his Capitol Office in Austin, 512-463-0604, at his District Office in Crosbyton, 806-675-0017, or in Big Spring, at 432-213-2897.

# JAGUARS

Continued from Page 1A

the jaguar's current range.

"Just because we've seen a couple of jaguars doesn't mean that's suitable habitat for a viable population. It's at the edge of the species' range, and that's the worst place in the world to try to understand the life history characteristics of an animal," said Paul Krausman, a biologist and professor at the University of Montana.

The other hurdle is the sheer magnitude of the group's proposal, which includes more than 27 million acres in Arizona and another 26 million in New Mexico, or nearly 83,000 square

miles. Caren Cowan, executive director of the New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association, said designating such a large swath of critical habitat would have wide-ranging implications for land managers and would serve as "another nail in the coffin" of the region's rural livelihoods.

The Fish and Wildlife Service said it will review the Center for Biological Diversity's proposal along with other comments received on jaguar habitat. The agency plans to have a draft proposal ready early next year.

"We're going to concentrate on the fact that the jaguar barely occurs in the U.S. and so

the amount of habitat that is truly critical to its recovery is going to be much smaller than it would be for a wide-spread species such as a spotted owl or a lynx," said Steve Spangle, field supervisor of the agency's ecological services office in Arizona.

Large areas of critical habitat are not unheard of. The agency has designated about 39,000 square miles in six northern states for the Canada lynx, 13,000 square miles for the Mexican spotted owl and 9,600 square miles in California, Nevada, Arizona and Utah for the desert tortoise.

A proposal is also pending to set aside more than 200,000 square miles for the polar bear,

but most of that is sea ice.

Robinson said the areas outlined in the center's proposal were chosen based on a review of several models and maps assessing potential jaguar habitat in the Southwest. The areas would provide a protected avenue for the cats to travel northward from Mexico, he said.

"This would enhance the northern jaguar population's chance of survival and recovery by conserving habitat that could potentially support dozens if not hundreds of jaguars,"

Robinson said.

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**ANSWERS**

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# EDITORIAL

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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Publisher

**John A. Moseley**  
Managing Editor

**Bill McClellan**  
News Editor

## OUR VIEW

# Rattlesnake roundup is a 'must see'

Rattlesnakes may make some people's skin crawl, but for members of Big Spring Chapter of the American Business Club (AMBUCS), they play a pivotal role in the group's ability to offer scholarships for students training to become therapists.

What's more, they'll bring a fair number of visitors to Big Spring each year when the AMBUCS stage their annual Rattlesnake Roundup at the Howard County Fairbarns.

The 46th annual Big Spring Rattlesnake Roundup will be held Saturday and Sunday, March 27-28, but snake hunters from throughout the region will begin weighing in their snakes the afternoon before.

Hunters usually continue arriving with new catches throughout the event, which officially begins with a 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. session Saturday with handling demonstrations; educational exhibits featuring the Western diamondback rattlesnake; a thrills show featuring snake handlers; venom milking demonstrations; and snake races.

The roundup continues at noon on Sunday and continues through 6 p.m. that day.

During both days of the roundup, visitors will be attracted to an arts and crafts show in the nearby Dora Roberts Building and an outdoor flea market nearby.

Tickets for the roundup are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children between the ages of 4 and 11.

While it's 10 days away, it should be noted that will be a particularly busy weekend here in Big Spring, so we encourage you to consider making the rattlesnake roundup at least a part of your plans.

Funds from the roundup help a couple of AMBUCS causes — one is for the organization's scholarship fund for therapists; the other for the purchase of AmTrykes, which are therapeutic tricycles for children with disabilities.

It will most certainly be a weekend of thrills, chills, food and fun — all for very worthwhile causes.

We'll see you there.

## HOW TO CONTACT US

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## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we reach for extraordinary, Lord, by reaching for You.

Amen

# Toyota: Japan's General Motors

When I was a lad, growing up in the shadow of the Ford Rouge plant in Detroit, Japan was known for the manufacture of junky products — cheap knickknacks and toys that broke in your hand.

With World War II, Japanese products disappeared, leaving some of us to wonder why it was taking so long to beat an enemy who couldn't even make decent toys.

After the war, Japanese products came trickling back into the country and the image persisted. We still considered them junk. We compared the first little Honda hatchback to a tin can, which it was compared to the giant-finned boats our car companies were turning out.

But slowly, surely, Japanese products began invading our markets in greater numbers and slowly, surely, we were forced to admit that they were good.

SONY established itself as the state-of-the-art television maker. Nikon became the iconic camera-maker. Japan's auto manufacturers — Honda, Datsun (now Nissan), Toyota—began to rival the Germans as producers of high-quality, precision machines. The Americans were left to bring up the rear (unless you counted the Italians and French, which no one did).

Of the Japanese car companies, Toyota became the leader. They were kind of clunky-looking — the Japanese didn't do

style — but they became known as a brand that was reliable, efficient, and durable.

Unfortunately, this trend coincided with the embrace of "planned obsolescence" by our auto industry, GM especially.

The idea was to build a car that would last only a few years, so that customers would have to get rid of it and buy another. GM solidified its position as the largest car company in the world on this premise.

But the Japanese continued marching to their drummer and the tune being played was: "If you build a better four-door sedan with an automatic transmission that works, the world will come to your door."

When gasoline prices began to rise, the Japanese cars began to overtake even the most popular Ford and GM models, and eventually Toyota became the world's largest car company, replacing a badly wounded GM, which then needed rescue by the United States government even to stay alive.

Everything was coming up roses for Toyota until...well, until we found out what dethroning GM had cost the company: its soul.

Toyota didn't just overtake GM, it became GM: a company for which quality was a secondary consideration to sales.

It seems that hardly a day goes by without yet another announcement of a recall of a Toyota model. They're not trivial recalls either. They involve brakes, steering, and that mysterious malfunction that sends cars surging away at high speeds while the driver stomps helplessly on the brake.

(Word on the street is that suicide bombers are refusing to use Toyotas on missions. They're too dangerous.)

And after each recall a Toyota official, looking like an inscrutable deer in the headlights, appears before the cameras to apologize. When Akio Toyoda (grandson of the company's founder and its CEO) testified before Congress, he looked glum.

To borrow from Oscar Wilde, you'd have to have a heart of stone not to laugh.

The German word "schadenfreude," the joy felt at another's misfortune, doesn't put a scratch on the feelings of an old Detroit boy at Toyota's nosedive. (So I remember Pearl Harbor, shoot me.)

That dive comes at a particularly good time for Detroit automakers because they've finally gotten the word and they're making good cars — reliable, safe, efficient cars — much like Toyota used to make.

Ford in particular has a full line of vehicles that are so good that you would think they were made in Japan.

It could signal the rebirth of our car industry, without which no industrial rebirth of our nation can take place.

Global warming? Mass transit? Very important, but like it or not, we are a nation of cars and will continue to be for the foreseeable future, whether the cars are American, Japanese, or Chinese.

Better if they're American cars, made by Americans.

*Minuteman Media columnist Donald Kaul lives in Ann Arbor, Mich.*



# A story waiting to be heard

Are you a good listener? I've always been told that good communication begins with good listening. And I've often wondered how many misunderstandings and conflicts could have been avoided by better listening.

Undoubtedly, there's a story behind every headline and every picture — a tale and a testimony on every street corner and in every home.

And there's a story behind every story.

We each have a narrative that is part of humanity's novel.

Are we sharing our anecdotes and are we listening to others share theirs?

We need to share our lessons, our successes and our failures. And we need to share our dreams and hopes as well as our fears and worries. We're not walking this journey called life alone.

We find this out as we talk with our fellow travelers.

Of course, our first we need to want to listen to our fellow travelers tell their stories. Then we need to learn how to listen — which I think is rather different from mere hearing.

We can hear that our neighbor is talking to us, but does he have our full attention? Do we sin-

cerely "lend an ear" and listen carefully to what is being shared with us? Do we genuinely want to understand his perspective and experience?

Or do we have assumptions about what our neighbor's point of view is before he ever shares it? While our neighbor speaks, are we giving our watch an occasional glance or thinking about what else we need to do that day? Are we constantly tempted to chime in and add our two cents worth?

If you can plead guilty to any of these questions — like me — then I suggest our listening skills may need a good overhaul.

In thinking about a Biblical example of good listening, the first to come to mind was Mary. This Mary was sister to Martha who invited Jesus into her home to speak to those who came to hear him. While Martha was very busy attending to preparations for her guests, the Bible says Mary "sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word." (Luke 10:38-42)

Martha even complained to Jesus that her sister was doing nothing but sitting there listening to him speak.

I can only imagine what it might have been like to listen to Jesus. And I can relate to Mary's inability to do nothing else but hang on to his every word. She was completely present in that moment — taking it all in. Now that's what I call giving 100% of your attention!

And that, my friends, is surely an example of good listening!

Imagine what could be learned if we truly saw the world through the eyes of others.

We've not walked in the shoes of those around us and there really isn't a way for us to understand their perspective and experience without the sincere desire to want to know and to listen.

Surely good listening opens our understanding about others and enhances our capacity for empathy. And good listening would probably help us better respect our differences and find what we have in common as well.

I suspect more agreements could be accomplished more efficiently and effectively if listening was improved by both parties involved.

When understanding is lacking, ignorance becomes the breeding ground for fear, hatred and prejudices. If good listening could result in improved understanding, then surely we could all think and act more clearly, reasonably and responsibly.

There are many stories waiting to be heard. As you and I listen — really listen — to these stories, we'll find the key to more harmonious relationships in families, in government, and among the nations of our world.

Annette Bridges is a freelance writer who lives in North Texas. Her columns are published weekly by numerous websites and newspapers. E-mail her at annettebridges@gmail.com





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# News in brief

## Intelligence officials say suspected U.S. missile strikes kill 9 militants

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Suspected U.S. drones fired missiles at vehicles and hit a militant hide-out in a tribal region of northwestern Pakistan on Wednesday, killing at least nine insurgents, two officials said.

In the first attack, the drones fired four missiles at a vehicle and flattened a nearby house near Miran Shah, the main town in the North Waziristan tribal region, killing six militants, an army and an intelligence official said.

About 50 minutes later, drones fired three more missiles at a vehicle in Madakhel town, about 25 miles (40 kilometers) west of Miran Shah, killing three insurgents, the officials said on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

Other militants were also wounded in the two strikes, they said.

The U.S. has stepped up attacks in Pakistan's tribal regions since December, when a suicide bomber killed seven CIA employees in neighboring Afghanistan. The latest attack came a day after a U.S. missile strike destroyed a militant facility in the same region, killing nine suspects.

## Senate parliamentarian is rock star during Senate fight over Obama's health care overhaul

WASHINGTON (AP) — When Congress battles over thorny bills, parliamentarian Alan Frumin has been known to sleep in his office — on call 24/7 as the Senate's Solomon, divining the answers.

Frumin's ability to review long-standing rules and centuries of precedent to resolve Senate questions makes the mustachioed parliamentarian something of a Washington rock star these days. As much as any elected official, Frumin, 63, holds decisive power over whether the Democrats' rewrite of the health care system survives or sinks.

"You're our new celebrity," Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., recently teased the bespectacled Frumin on the Senate floor.

It's fame in true Washington fashion as Frumin, an unelected Senate staffer who won't do interviews, wields outsized influence over the fate of President Barack Obama's signature domestic issue, the health care overhaul. That's every senator's dream, without the fundraising and vote-seeking chores that mark their daily elective lives.

But the parliamentarian's job can sound like a nightmare, too, especially with the stakes as high as they are on health care.

## Thai protesters hurl own blood at PM's house after targeting government headquarters

BANGKOK (AP) — Red-shirted protesters hurled plastic bags filled with their own blood into the residential compound of Thailand's prime minister Wednesday, hoping their shock tactics will bring down his government.

Several thousand later gathered in front of the U.S. Embassy, saying they wanted to tell the international community that their government was illegitimate. A protest leader, Jatuporn Prompan, went into the embassy compound, where he said he talked with U.S. diplomats.

Riot police first blocked all approaches to Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva's walled compound. But after negotiations, three dozen demonstrators were allowed to squeeze through the police cordon carrying about six 1.3-gallon (5-liter) plastic jugs filled with frothy blood over their heads.

They splattered blood across Abhisit's front gate and poured some of it into plastic bags that they hurled at the home, leaving the walls, roof and grounds smeared with red.

A heavy afternoon downpour ended as the blood spilling finished, leaving dark red puddles in the street that a white-suited medical cleanup team quickly hosed away. Some climbed on the prime minister's tile roof to remove the empty, blood-soaked bags.

## American terror suspects living in average U.S. communities

WASHINGTON (AP) — One was a drywall contractor and father, another a petite woman who cared for the elderly, another a U.S. military officer. The most alarming thing about a string of recently arrested terror suspects is that they are all Americans.

Over the past week, a Pennsylvania woman, accused in a plot to kill a Swedish cartoonist, and a radicalized New Jersey man held by authorities in Yemen have become the latest cases among more than a dozen Americans captured or identified by the U.S. government and its allies over the past two years for actively supporting jihad, or holy war.

Some, according to prosecutors, were inspired by the U.S. involvement in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. Others, like the accused Pennsylvania woman, wanted to avenge what they considered an insult to the Prophet Mohammed. Many traveled overseas to get terrorist training. Some used home computers to foment plots.

There is no evidence that these cases are connected in any way. But they underscore the new reality that there is a threat from violent Islamic extremism from within the U.S. It is difficult to say whether the uptick in cases is because law enforcement has gotten better at catching suspects or if there are simply more to catch.

Most of the cases ended with suspects captured before they could act on their plans. But some were nearly ready to spring to action, like Queens resident Najibullah Zazi, 24, who pleaded guilty in February as the leader of a plot to bomb the New York subway system.

## Fiji cyclone damage is overwhelming, prime minister says, as troops start relief operations in islands

SUVA, Fiji (AP) — The South Pacific island nation of Fiji has suffered overwhelming damage from a powerful cyclone that battered its shores for more than three days, the prime minister said Wednesday as relief operations were launched in the country's northern regions.

Fiji sent naval patrol boats laden with supplies and support staff sailing for the northern islands that bore the full brunt of the storm, while Australian and New Zealand air force planes began airlifting emergency supplies to the island group and carrying out surveillance over affected northern areas.

Only one death has been reported, but the full extent of the damage has yet to be determined because communications to the hardest hit areas were cut off for days.

"It is evident that wherever (Cyclone) Tomas has struck, the damage has been overwhelming," Commodore Frank Bainimarama, Fiji's prime minister and military chief, said Wednesday as the first reports began to roll in.

Cyclone Tomas, packing winds of up to 130 mph (205 kph) at its center and gusts of up to 175 mph (280 kph), started hitting Fiji late Friday. It blasted through the northern Lau and Lomaiviti island groups and the northern coast of the second biggest island, Vanua Levu, before losing strength.

## 70 million Irish at home, abroad cheer St. Patrick's Day

DUBLIN (AP) — Much of the world is turning green Wednesday for St. Patrick's Day, the annual celebration of all hues of Irishness.

Half a million people were forecast to line the 3-kilometer (2-mile) route of the flagship Dublin parade, which is exploring the theme "The Extraordinary World." It is a nod to Ireland's increasing multiculturalism — as well as the past two centuries' global spread of the Irish.

This year Ireland also is pushing itself especially hard as a tourist destination as the country faces its worst recession since the Great Depression, with double-digit unemployment and net emigration for the first time in 15 years.

St. Patrick's Day is Ireland's first major tourist event of the year, packing hotels and pubs with visitors seeking an all-night party. Ireland's weeklong festival gets bigger each year, with more than 100 parades Wednesday in cities, towns and villages across the island of 6 million.

## Plane makes landing on S.C. beach, killing jogger

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C. (AP) — The kit-built single-engine plane had turned into a glider, almost silently trying to make an emergency landing along a stretch of beach. Pharmaceutical salesman Robert Gary Jones, ear buds in, listening to his iPod while jogging neither saw nor heard it and was struck from behind Monday evening and killed instantly.

"There's no noise," said aviation expert Mary Schiavo, a former inspector general for the National Transportation Safety Board. "So the jogger, with his ear buds in, and the plane without an engine, you're basically a stealth aircraft. Who would expect to look up?"

The 38-year-old Jones, whose mother said he was serious about nutrition and exercise, especially jogging, was on a business trip to Hilton Head for GlaxoSmithKline.



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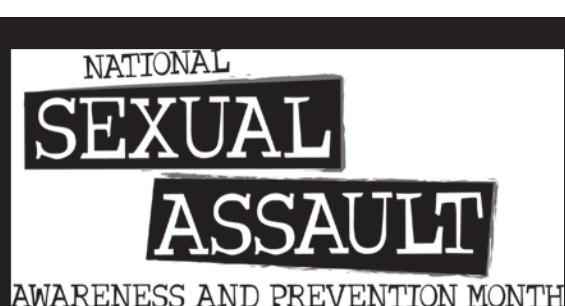

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Here's the math. According to the U.S. Department of Justice's National Crime Victimization Survey — the country's largest and most reliable crime study — there were 248,300 sexual assaults in 2007 (the most recent date available.) Help is available through the National Sexual Assault Hotline at 800.656.HOPE, and online at [www.rainn.org](http://www.rainn.org), or locally at Victim Services 432-263-3312 24/7 [www.vsofbigspring.com](http://www.vsofbigspring.com)

*"It was our last hurrah before graduation, the last time we would be together as a group. Good Times! How did I end up alone? How can I explain to my parents I will not be going to college but facing up to 20 years for Sexual Assault? This was not suppose to happen I had a scholarship."*

RAINN's Top 10 Spring Break Tips Include

1. **Get to know your surroundings** before you go out and learn a well-lit route back to your hotel or rental property.
2. **Always carry emergency cash** and keep phone numbers for local cab companies handy.
3. **Form a buddy system** with close friends and agree on a secret "butt in" signal for uncomfortable situations.
4. **Trust your instincts.** If you feel unsafe in any situation, go with your gut.
5. **Avoid being alone** or isolated with someone you don't know and trust.
6. **Don't accept drinks** from people you don't know or trust.
7. **Never leave your drink unattended**, and if you do lose sight of it, get a new one.
8. **Always watch your drink** being prepared.
9. **Try to buy drinks in bottles**, which are harder to tamper with than cups or glasses.
10. **Avoid putting music headphones in both ears** so that you can be more aware of your surroundings, especially if you are walking alone.

Sexual assault is a crime of motive and opportunity. Unfortunately, there is no surefire way to prevent an attack. If you or someone you know is a victim of sexual assault, please know that the assault is not your fault and that you are not alone. Help is available through the National Sexual Assault Hotline at 800.656.HOPE, and online at [www.rainn.org](http://www.rainn.org), or locally at Victim Services 432-263-3312 24/7 [www.vsofbigspring.com](http://www.vsofbigspring.com)

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For more information go to www.mybigspring.com or call (432)264-2346

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# Dana Cooper brings one-man show to Sweetwater Saturday

Special to the Herald

SWEETWATER — Nashville recording artist Dana Cooper will be performing at JavaJax Coffee House – Live Music Venue in Sweetwater on Saturday, March 20.

Currently on tour in Texas, his performances will include venues in San Antonio at Scenic Loop Café on March 19, JavaJax in Sweetwater on March 20, Austin's Cactus Café on March 25, Dosey Does in Houston on March 26 and Opening Bell Coffee in Dallas on March 27 before heading to the east coast.

Cooper has had an amazing career spanning over four decades. His wide vocal range and poetic lyrics have helped him to create a strong following around the globe. He tours almost constantly.

"It's a way of life. I'm on the road at least two-thirds of the year with 180 to 200 gigs per year average," he says. "A lot of tours are predominantly house concerts."

Cooper hails out of the heartland of America, having played his music in Kansas City clubs by the age of 16. He left behind a college art scholarship to tour the country, ultimately landing in Los Angeles. His self-titled debut solo album featuring players



photo credit: ©2010 paul@schatzkins.com

**Dana Cooper will perform at Sweetwater's JavaJax Coffee House Saturday night. Cooper, who has been performing for four decades, will take the stage at 8 p.m. A dinner will be held at 7. Advance tickets to both are \$20.**

Russ Kunkel, Leland Sklar and Jim Horn, was released in 1973 on Elektra Records.

Over the years Cooper has released many independent solo albums, including Nashville Music Award's Best Pop Album nominee, 'Miracle Mile' (1997). Dana was also picked by Performing Songwriter Magazine

as one of the top 12 DIY recordings for the year. Cooper's CD, "Harry Truman Built A Road" (2001), was named one of the best records of 2002 by The Tennessean in Nashville and was again chosen as one of the top 12 DIY recordings for that year.

From screenrave.com, March 8, Bob Scruggs

writes: First let me say "I watched him in a live one-man show with a harmonica around his neck and a guitar hanging at his side." Cooper was performing in Pensacola, Fla., at The Greater Gulf Coast Arts Festival in 2009. "He stood alone on stage with only the two instruments to keep him company. And I thought This could be interesting. Then he began to play, one track gave way to another and soon the crowd was as happy to see this as I was. Phenomenal is the only word that came to mind. I honestly felt that other people on stage (such as a drummer, backup guitarists, or any other instrument) could have done nothing to improve his performance, which is to say 'Wow, the dude can kick it!'"

Cooper's performance at JavaJax will begin at 8 p.m., following a 7 p.m. dinner. Advance reservations for the dinner and show are \$20; show only \$15. At-the-door cost will be \$25 for dinner and show and \$18 for the show only. For reservations or information, visit JavaJax in downtown Sweetwater at 325 Oak street (7:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday) or call (325) 933-4382.

For more about Cooper and to listen to his music, visit danacoop-

# Foods Soiree, Conference set in Midland

Special to the Herald

In earlier times, families and neighborhoods in West Texas grew and marketed fresh vegetables and meats before contemporary supermarkets became a fixture.

Currently, as our nation struggles with a doubling of the rate of childhood obesity and other nutrition-related health problems over the past 20 years, a burgeoning local foods movement is gaining legions of new supporters.

The public will have a chance to meet local growers and find resources and ideas for building our local food systems, at the Midland-Odessa Local Foods Soiree and Conference on March 29 and 30. The events are sponsored by Ogallala Commons, Midland Downtown Farmers Market, Sibley Nature Center, Texas Impact and West Texas Food Bank. Those who attend will find ideas on how local foods can promote health and wellness, and can explore ways to make local foods available to all communities of people. In addition, there will be workshops, resources, and networking opportunities.

A Local Foods Evening Soiree will be held Monday, March 29 from

7-9 p.m. at Sibley Nature Center, located at 1307 E. Wadley. The Soiree will offer a sampling of local and regional foods prepared by Fleur de Lis Catering in Midland. Walking tours of the Sibley Nature Center will also be available. Burr Williams, director of the Sibley Center, will give a presentation at 8 p.m. titled, "The Llano Estacado: A History of Sustainance."

The following day, March 30, the Midland-Odessa Local Foods Conference will begin at 8:30 a.m. at the Fischer Community Room at Atmos Energy, 2304 Loop 40 near the Midland International Airport. Susan Leibrock of the Sustainable Food Center in Austin, will lead off the program with her presentation, "What is Local Food?"

Next, a trio of short presentations on success local food outreach actions will be given, providing ideas of what could work in the Midland-Odessa area. Rounding out the morning, Rob Borowski of Texas Impact will speak on "Health and Food: Why Making Local Food Accessible is Paramount to Texas." Small group processing and feedback session, a

See **FOODS**, Page 8A

# Friends of Martin County Library to embrace oil field

By **BUD LINDSEY**

Special to the Herald

STANTON — The Friends of the Martin County Library will host a "gathering" of oil patch story tellers at 6 p.m. April 1.

Johnnye Montgomery, an author from Midland, will be at the gathering with her book, "Oil Patch Stories and Other Lies -- Tales I Heard at my Tool Pusher's Knee."

Montgomery will be assisted by Eddie Mee and Red Roberts from Midland. Both of these men are closely associated with the oil business in the Permian Basin and are contributors to the contents of the book, sharing with the readers stories of their experiences. Mee was

one of the "movers and shakers," promoting the publishing of the book though he now a seller of financial securities. Like Roberts and many others, he started his career in the oil business by working for a service company such as the Cardinal Chemical, Western Company or the Haliburton Company in the early 1950s. Roberts was in the drilling business, with a company he called "Rod Rick Corporation."

Montgomery, a long time resident of the Permian Basin, once worked for Milchem, a mud company, a division of the Baker Company, selling their mud services in West Texas and southeast New Mexico.

On the dust cover

of the 215 page, hard-cover book, Montgomery writes, "Inside the pages of this collection of oil field stories, you'll meet men of honor and scoundrels, people who started with nothing but a dream and found wealth beyond all imagining."

The book was a three-year effort by Montgomery and some 45 contributors who kindly shared some of their experiences in the "oil patch." It is an insightful look at the oil business as those interviewed were

somehow involved in all aspects of the oil patch: drillers, truck drivers, land men, geologists and independent operators.

Of interest to citizens of the Permian Basin is T.O. Midkiff's contribution about the Midkiff oil boom of the early 1950s. He tells of the bustling community once called Hadacol. The name "Hadacol" was derived from the fellow Hadacol Dougherry, who sold ice cold pop to the oil field workers, setting up shop along the side

of the road. The name Hadacol was changed to Midkiff when the community applied for a post office. After the oil fever died down and the population had greatly decreased, Midkiff purchased the Methodist Church in Midkiff and states in Montgomery's book, "So if anybody wants a church, for short term or long term, it's available. You've got to sweep it out first."

Montgomery has included a glossary of oil patch terms by the late R.S. "Dick" Guenther in

her book to help those not familiar with the oil business to understand them. They include "rat hole," "BPOD," "deadman" and many others that are exclusive terms to the oil patch.

The book will be available for purchase and signing by Montgomery at the meeting. A portion of the price of "Oil Patch Stories and Other Lies" will benefit the Friends of the MC Library.

Everyone is invited and there is no admission fee.

## Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

### An Arithmetical Process

South dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ A 9 7 2  
♥ K J 5  
♦ J 2  
♣ K Q 8 3

**WEST**  
♠ 10 5 4  
♥ Q 9 7 6 3 2  
♦ 10 5  
♣ 9 4

**EAST**  
♠ Q J 8 3  
♥ 8  
♦ A K Q 9 6 4  
♣ 6 2

**SOUTH**  
♠ K 6  
♥ A 10 4  
♦ 8 7 3  
♣ A J 10 7 5

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♠ 2 ♦  
Pass Pass 4 ♣ Pass  
5 ♣

Opening lead — ten of diamonds.

No one can be a really good card-player unless he has mastered the art of counting out a hand. By this is meant the ability to deduce the exact distribution of the unseen hands from either the bidding or what transpires during the play.

This skill is not nearly as difficult to attain as might be thought. The secret lies mostly in reconstructing the opponents' hands as the play proceeds, paying particular attention to any trick where a defender fails to follow suit.

Today's hand provides an illustration of how easy counting out a hand can be. South reaches five clubs on the bidding shown, and East wins two diamond tricks before shifting to a trump.

Declarer's only problem is to avoid losing a heart trick. All his efforts should therefore be focused on trying to determine which opponent is more likely to hold the queen.

Accordingly, after winning East's trump return, South cashes a second trump, noting that each opponent started with two clubs. He then plays the K-A of spades and ruffs a spade, both defenders again following suit.

A diamond is now ruffed, West discarding a heart. Declarer makes a mental note that East began with six diamonds and then ruffs dummy's last spade. When East follows to this trick as West discards another heart, the picture becomes complete: East started with precisely six diamonds, four spades and two clubs, so he was dealt only one heart.

The rest is merely a mop-up operation. After ruffing the last spade, declarer cashes the ace of hearts to guard against the possibility that East might have started with the singleton queen.

When the queen does not appear, a heart is led to the jack. South doesn't even have to bother to see whether the finesse succeeds — the only way it could fail would be if East was originally dealt 14 cards.

Tomorrow: The battle for trump control.

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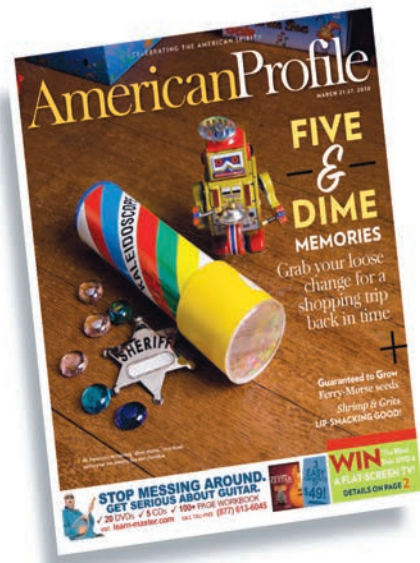
su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

In Sunday's  
Big Spring Herald



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# Why not check this out? At the library

Howard County Library will be undergoing some changes in the way we check the books in and out. Effective Friday we will begin a changeover to a new computer program. From Friday to April 1 we can only check books out. DVDs will not be available for checkout until we change to the new system. I apologize for the inconvenience, but in the interests of keeping things straight and to not make errors in who has what checked out, I think this is the best way to go. Please be patient with staff members — we aren't doing this to be mean or tacky!



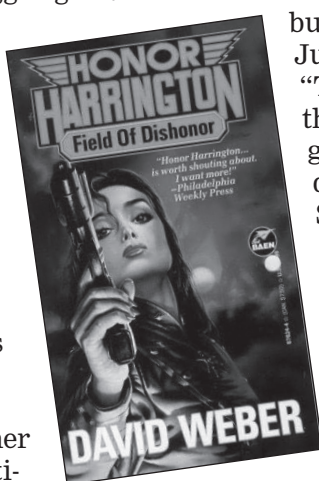
HOLLIS McCRIGHT

Here are some new books available for checkout: "Once in a Blue Moon" (F GOD E) by Eileen Goudge is about two sisters who have very different lives. Lindsay and Kerrie Ann are sisters who have known

hardship from an early age. Without guidance from their neglectful mother, their only aid came from an unlikely source, a retired exotic dancer by the name of Miss Honi Love. When the girls' mother was sent to prison, Miss Honi tried unsuccessfully to save them from being separated and sent into foster care. Thirty years later, Lindsay is still trying to reconnect with her sister. She was lucky enough to have been adopted by a loving couple. But Kerrie Ann had a very different life. Bounced from one foster home to the next, she ran away as a teenager before becoming a drug-addicted single mother. Now, newly sober, Kerrie Ann is fighting to regain custody of the little girl who was taken from her. Neither sister's expectations are met when they are finally reunited. But as the two sisters engage in the fiercest battles of their lives, they are at last drawn together despite their differences, restoring belief in the unshakable bond of family. Sue Monk Kidd, author of "The Secret Life of Bees" and "The Mermaid Chair," has

written a very different book. In "Traveling with Pomegranates" (F MON S), Sue and her daughter Ann travel together between 1999 and 2000 to Greece and France. Sue is struggling with writer's block and is wondering how to combine a swarm of bees in to a novel and Ann, a new graduate, is wondering what is she to do with her life. The intimacy of traveling gives both the where-withal to embrace their lives in their own unique ways. Marcia Muller's "Locked In" (F MUL M) is quite a departure in some respects. Sharon McCone has been shot in the head and is in a somewhat comatose state. She can hear and think, but is not able to speak or move. Hy Ripinsky, her husband and her team of investigators is determined to do two

things: find out who shot Sharon and help Sharon on her complete recovery from a traumatic head wound. You will find this book in the fiction section.



Harold Robbins is dead but his books keep coming. Junius Podrug has written "The Shroud" (F ROB H), the story of art investigator Madison Dupre's descent into ignominy. Sir Henri Lipton, supposedly dead, has come back into Madison's life with a request to go Dubai (so called Las Vegas on steroids) to take a quick look at an artifact. Said artifact is purportedly said to be from the time of Christ and was supposedly buried with Christ. Suffice it to say, nothing is as it seems. It looks like a pretty entertaining book.

For the sci-fi people, a few new ones have come in. David Weber's "Field of Dishonor" (SF WEB D); "Tuck" (SF LAW S), the third book in Stephen R. Lawhead's King Raven Trilogy (first is "Hood," then "Scarlet"); "The Ghost King" (SF SAL

A), book 3 in the Transitions series by R.A. Salvatore; and Mercedes Lackey's "Gwenhwyfar: The White Spirit" (SD LAC M).

Some new biographies are in too:

"Going Rogue" (B PAL S), by Sarah Palin; "The Young Duke: Early Life of John Wayne" (B WAY J); and "One Last Dance: Patrick Swayze" (B SWA P), by Wendy Leigh; "Goodbye Natalie Goodbye Splendour" (B WOO N), by Marti Rulli. This last book is by the captain of the boat that Wood and Wagner were on the night of her death. Book flap says that Davern has come forth because he wants to tell what really happened. We will see.

Howard County Library is open from 9 to 6, Monday through Friday and Saturday from 10 until 2. The Internet/Video room closes one-half hour before closing and on Saturdays it is closed from 12-1. The library is located at 500 S. Main St. Our phone number is 264-2260.

Hollis McCright is director of the Howard County Library.



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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: I am 28 years old and have lived with the same man for 10 years. We have two beautiful daughters, ages 8 and 4.

Last May, "Rob" and I decided to take an extended vacation. We bought an RV and spent the summer traveling and visiting family.

While I really enjoyed the sights, some aspects of our trip were truly horrid.

I frequently had to act as referee between Rob and the kids. Our older daughter had a bad attitude throughout the trip, and Rob took it personally.

What's more, we rarely made love, and several times we fought.

We're back home now, but have yet to return to any semblance of normalcy.

Rob took a temporary job in another state. At first, I was supportive, but he has begun to stay away longer and longer.

At the moment, he's home for a day or two every two weeks.

He says he wants to start a business with his brother and thinks we should move there in six months.

This puts me in a dreadful situation — away from professional contacts and a supportive family. I have no idea whether this venture with his brother will work out, and Rob hasn't bothered to look for a job closer to us.

I don't need to tell you how challenging it is to be a single parent. I am exhausted, sad, resentful and angry.

I miss Rob's help and companionship, but I'm not sure I miss him.

Should I endure the next several months and then move?

My daughters miss their father, and it would be hard on them if we split up.

It is important to keep my family together, but at what cost? — *Between a Rock in Kansas*

Dear Kansas: If you and Rob have been together for 10 years, you were both quite young when your relationship began.

Mercury enters Aries just in time to bring a jaunty fire-sign energy to this St. Patrick's Day. The festivities may be more on the rambunctious side and will be more memorable for their zesty intensity. Increase your luck by taking initiative. The fresh lunar cycle brings lucky support to those who seize control and make things happen.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your mind and body don't have to be the separate entities you think they are. Try asking your body how it feels about scenarios you usually approach from an intellectual place. Your body will give you clues and steer you right.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Maybe you're crazy. Yeah, crazy genius. Your unorthodox methods have always raised eyebrows, but you know what you're doing. A



KATHY MITCHELL  
MARCY SUGAR

After the enforced togetherness of the road trip, Rob may be rethinking his domestic situation and enjoying his "freedom."

If you believe he's going to stay in his new location whether or not his business venture succeeds, you might consider moving so the children can be closer to their father.

However, you sound unsure about the relationship and could benefit from counseling. It would be best if Rob would go with you, but if not, please go alone.

Dear Annie: My mom and dad were together for 30 years and raised four children.

Dad died suddenly at age 60 from an undetected heart problem. Mom was 52 and grieved terribly.

Four years after Dad passed away, Mom met a widower. They wanted to travel, but he felt they should get married first. After some time, she agreed.

My problem is, I have always viewed the marriage as a betrayal of my father and, to this day, have a problem accepting it.

All of these people have passed away, including my mom, who died in December. Are my feelings justified? — *Still Miss Him*

Dear Still: You can't help how you feel, justified or not.

But it was unreasonable and unfair to have expected your mother to remain alone forever in deference to your father's memory.

When children grow

up and move away, the remaining parent is left with an empty house and no one to share her life.

Please forgive your mother for wanting to recapture the happiness she once had.

Dear Annie: I am responding to "Upset in Santa Cruz" about the unexplained bruises on a young boy.

A reader suggested he could have Ehlers-Danlos syndrome. He could also have leukemia.

My sister had bruises all over her body. We thought her small dog had caused them, but later, to our dismay, we discovered she had an aggressive form of leukemia. — *Kathy in Omaha*

Dear Kathy: How terribly sad. Please know your warning will help others.

Dear Readers:  
An Irish blessing for St. Patrick's Day:

May your blessings outnumber the shamrocks that grow, and may trouble avoid you wherever you go.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, long-time editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Ste. 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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St. Patrick's Day Cooking: Save a Pint for the Kitchen



(Family Features) St. Patrick's Day celebrations are filled with dancing, green decorations, and Irish food and beer. This year, try something new and save a pint for the kitchen.

Traditional St. Paddy's Day favorites, like Irish stout and corned beef and cabbage, can be combined to make a delicious dish even better. Because beer pairs so well with beef, it's only natural to cook with beer.

"Beer adds great flavor to the corned beef brisket, and can be used in other slow-cooked or braised dishes also," says Dave Zino, executive chef for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

Braising and stewing are excellent cooking methods when preparing beef such as pot roast, brisket and beef for stew. Typically, you'll want to start by browning the meat in a bit of oil to caramelize and bring out rich beef flavors.

However, corned beef brisket does not require browning.

Braising is used with large cuts of beef that are cooked whole, like corned beef brisket. When braising, the meat is simmered slowly in 1/2 to 2 cups of liquid such as beer or water to ensure moist and fork-tender results, for about 3 to 3 1/2 hours, depending on the size of the roast.

Stewing works best with cubes of beef. When stewing, the cubed meat is simmered for about 1 3/4 hours to 2 1/4 hours in enough liquid to

cover the meat and other ingredients such as vegetables, resulting in fork-tender meat and a delicious broth.

Chef Dave also notes beer can serve as a substitute in many recipes. "Beer can also be used in place of wine in recipes and is especially good in beef stews and chilis," he says.

For mealtime inspiration and more beef cooking techniques, flavor pairings, storage guidelines and cooking tips, visit BeefItsWhatsforDinner.com.

Corned Beef with Red Currant-Mustard Sauce

Total recipe time: 6 to 10 hours  
Makes 6 to 8 servings

- 1 boneless corned beef brisket with seasoning packet (2-1/2 to 3 pounds)
- 3 ribs celery, cut into 3-inch pieces
- 2 medium onions, cut into quarters
- 2-1/2 cups water, divided
- 1 bottle (12 ounces) beer
- 1 pound green cabbage, cut into thin wedges
- 1 pound red-skinned potatoes, cut into 2-inch pieces
- 6 to 8 baby carrots, trimmed, or 4 medium carrots, cut crosswise into thirds
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted
- Chopped fresh parsley (optional)

Red Currant-Mustard Sauce

- 1 jar (12 ounces) red currant jelly
- 3 tablespoons country Dijon-style mustard

1. Place celery and onions in 4-1/2- to 5-1/2-quart slow cooker; top with corned beef brisket. Sprinkle contents of seasoning packet over brisket. Add 2 cups water and one bottle of beer. Cover; cook on HIGH 6 to 7 hours, or on LOW 9 to 10 hours, or until brisket is fork-tender. (No stirring is necessary during cooking.)

2. Meanwhile, place cabbage, potatoes and carrots in 2-1/2-quart microwave-safe dish; add remaining 1/2 cup water. Cover; microwave on HIGH 15 to 18 minutes or until vegetables are tender, stirring or rearranging once. Drain; remove and discard cores from cabbage wedges. Add butter; season with salt and pepper, as desired. Toss to coat; keep warm.

3. Prepare Red Currant-Mustard Sauce. Place jelly in medium microwave-safe bowl. Cover; microwave on HIGH 1-1/2 to 2 minutes or until melted, stirring once. Whisk in mustard. Cover; microwave on HIGH 30 seconds. Stir; keep warm.

4. Remove brisket and carve diagonally across the grain into thin slices. Serve with vegetables and sauce. Garnish with parsley, if desired.

Courtesy of The Beef Checkoff

Tomorrow's Horoscope

be adored by you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You can be inspired by people you don't personally know. One who has contributed to your life in a significant way may have no idea that this is the case. And you have no idea about the one who is inspired by you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It takes a lot of concentration to have a good conversation. That's why you don't want to talk unless you are in a position to give it your all. You'll connect in a meaningful way when the timing is right.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). New people enter your scene. Which ones would you like to still know three years from now? These and more questions come to you as you ponder the sweet mysteries of your future.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There's something that is taking far longer than it should. You've been patient enough. Nothing more is going to happen until you put your foot down. Assert yourself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Being

around people who don't like each other is no fun at all. The negative vibes affect you even when you're not directly involved in their dynamic. And when you're with people who support one another, you feel energized.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're in a comfortable position with a loved one, but thankfully, it won't stay that way for long. Relationships need a bit of tension to keep things interesting, and tonight will produce an interesting twist.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 17). Your intellectual powers will be at a high this year. You are so creative — you could invent or write something that many people will buy. June gives you a chance to change lives with your compassion. Turn that nurturing care on yourself in July, and by August, you'll be ready to embark on an adventure that will transform your lifestyle. Taurus and Leo people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 1, 22, 15 and 17.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "How is

it that the third house is about communication, travel and siblings? I don't see the connection."

The natural ruler of the third house is Gemini, the sign of the twins. Gemini is ruled by the planet Mercury, which governs communication and short-distance travel. That's the quick answer, but of course, astrology always goes much deeper than that. Think back (way, way back) to when you were a toddler. Who were your first playmates? Probably your siblings, unless you were an only child. It is through our play with brothers and sisters that we often learn how to communicate.

How many times have you apologized (or said) "Apologize to your sister" or "Use your inside voice" or "Don't tell Mom." For better or for worse, our siblings were often our earliest language and sociology professors. Now, a word about travel and communication: Have you ever played that game Telephone, where you sit in a circle and whisper a message into someone's ear? By the time it

travels to the end, the message is almost always wrong. That game reminds me of my family and the way wires get easily crossed. Keep those lines up and running!

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Alternative rocker Billy Corgan collaborated with pop princess Jessica Simpson on a theme song for Simpson's reality television show, "The Price of Beauty." And though it is unclear whether there is a romance between the two music makers, Corgan's Pisces sun goes swimmingly with Simpson's Cancer sun. And Corgan has his Jupiter in Cancer, indicating that Simpson will be lucky for him.

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

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HOLIDAY MATHIS



# Students pitch in to help save town from flood

**JAMES MacPHERSON**  
Associated Press Writer  
FARGO, N.D. — Some children lugged sandbags that weighed more than they did. Determined teens showed up just after dawn with groups of friends, ready and willing to shovel. New groups of kids arrived by the busloads, all ready to join the race to protect their city from the rising Red River.

Thousands of volunteers are lending a hand this week to fill and stack sandbags to place along the river and near endangered homes as Fargo faces the threat of a severe flood after the river's expected crest Sunday. But the heart of that volunteer corps are the city's youngest citizens.

It's a job that elsewhere

might be reserved for emergency workers or at least, their parents. But here, students can be excused from class with their parents' permission and join the hundreds of adults, local workers and others who are taking on the task of filling 1 million sandbags to hold back the impending floodwaters.

"They pretty much have saved our community," said David Stark, 62, who worked beside hundreds of student volunteers Tuesday. One of the few seniors to join the effort, he had to take a break after hurting his hand and was in awe of the students' dedication.

Many of the volunteers know what they're doing may help save a

neighbor or friend. Michael Russell, 14, didn't mind missing a day of school to get dirty filling sandbags. He guessed many would end up near his own home or his friends' homes.

"I think I'm helping the city and my friends," he said.

Emilee Stevens normally can't wait more than a few minutes without itching to send a text message to a friend. This week, she didn't think about touching her cell phone as she shoveled, stacked and filled sandbags to help save her town.

"Texting would be hard to do sandbagging but it doesn't matter because all my friends are here anyway," said the 14-year-old Stevens.

The students are providing critical manpower when their community needs it most. Since March 1, volunteers have been bused in to Fargo's "Sandbag Central," an arena-size utility building normal-

ly used to house a fleet of 25 garbage trucks, said Terry Ludlum, the city's solid waste utility manager. There, with the help of machines and volunteers, up to 100,000 sandbags can be filled in a 12-hour shift. Fifty volunteers can fill about 1,000 sandbags an hour.

The volunteers are expected to meet their goal Wednesday afternoon, three days ahead of schedule and largely because of the help of the young students, Ludlum said. More than 1,000 children and teens have participated in the effort.

"We certainly would not be this far along without the help of these kids," Ludlum said.

Student volunteers are a critical part of Fargo's flood response plan, and without them, the city would be sunk. College students helped with the sandbagging effort last year when the region lived through record flooding, but

this year, they are on spring break. To fill the gap, hundreds of middle school and high school students have been enlisted to work three- to four-hour shifts for 12 hours each day.

Some children are in grade school, or not even old enough to enroll.

Tina Gianakos brought her three sons to help out. Three-year-old Carsen Gianakos brought his own plastic shovel, and kept pace with brothers Bradley, 8, and Adam, 11.

"We're helping save people's houses so the little kids don't drown," Bradley said.

Carsen was lugging a 35-pound sandbag to a pallet for loading, something that impressed Tom Kempel, a city employee who was overseeing the effort.

"That sandbag is as big as he is, probably bigger," Kempel said. "He feels like he's part of the effort, and he is."

Carsen put down his toy shovel only long

enough to take an occasional slide down a sand pile, or to watch heavy machinery that hauled the sandbags away.

"Wow!" he said, pointing to a bucket-loader that chewed into 10-foot-high piles of sand.

Ciera Watkin, a 17-year-old high school senior, said the sandbagging was hard work. Watkin and her friend, 17-year-old Alysa Lerud, were exhausted after pulling a nearly five-hour shift on Tuesday.

"This is hard and my back hurts from shoveling and everything," Watkin said. "But I'll come back."

Gov. John Hoeven said the sandbagging effort couldn't have been done without the student volunteers.

"They're moving those bags like crazy," said Hoeven, who filled a few sandbags and patted the backs of many young workers. "They are taking pride in helping their community and we are grateful."



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## FOODS

Continued from Page 6A

lunch of locally and regionally-grown foods will be catered by The Garlic Press.

After lunch, there will be a presentation on "How to Build Market Options through Farm-to-School and Farm-to-Work Programs" by Cal Brints, owner of Hi Plains Orchards in Idalou and Ann Mesaros from the Texas Department of State Health Services

in Lubbock. Next, a Practitioners Panel will take the podium to address the topic: "Growing Local Foods in the Midland-Odessa Area." The panel will include Midland farmer Stephen Porter; Matt Hanson, director of the Midland Downtown Farmers Market; Emmy Ulmschneider, a Midland teacher; and Alan Birkenfeld, a direct-marketer of pasture-finished meats, from Nazareth. A wrapup session will conclude the conference at 2:45 p.m..

Registration to attend the Evening Soiree is \$10. Admission to

the Local Foods Conference is \$35. An Early Bird Discount for the conference of \$25 is available until March 22, with a student price of \$20. Those interested are urged to register promptly, so organizers can plan accordingly. To see a complete brochure and to register online, visit <http://www.ogallalacommons.org/rebuildinglocalfoodsystems.html>. To obtain further information, contact Darryl Birkenfeld, director, Ogallala Commons, at (806) 945-2255 or [darrylb@amaonline.com](mailto:darrylb@amaonline.com).

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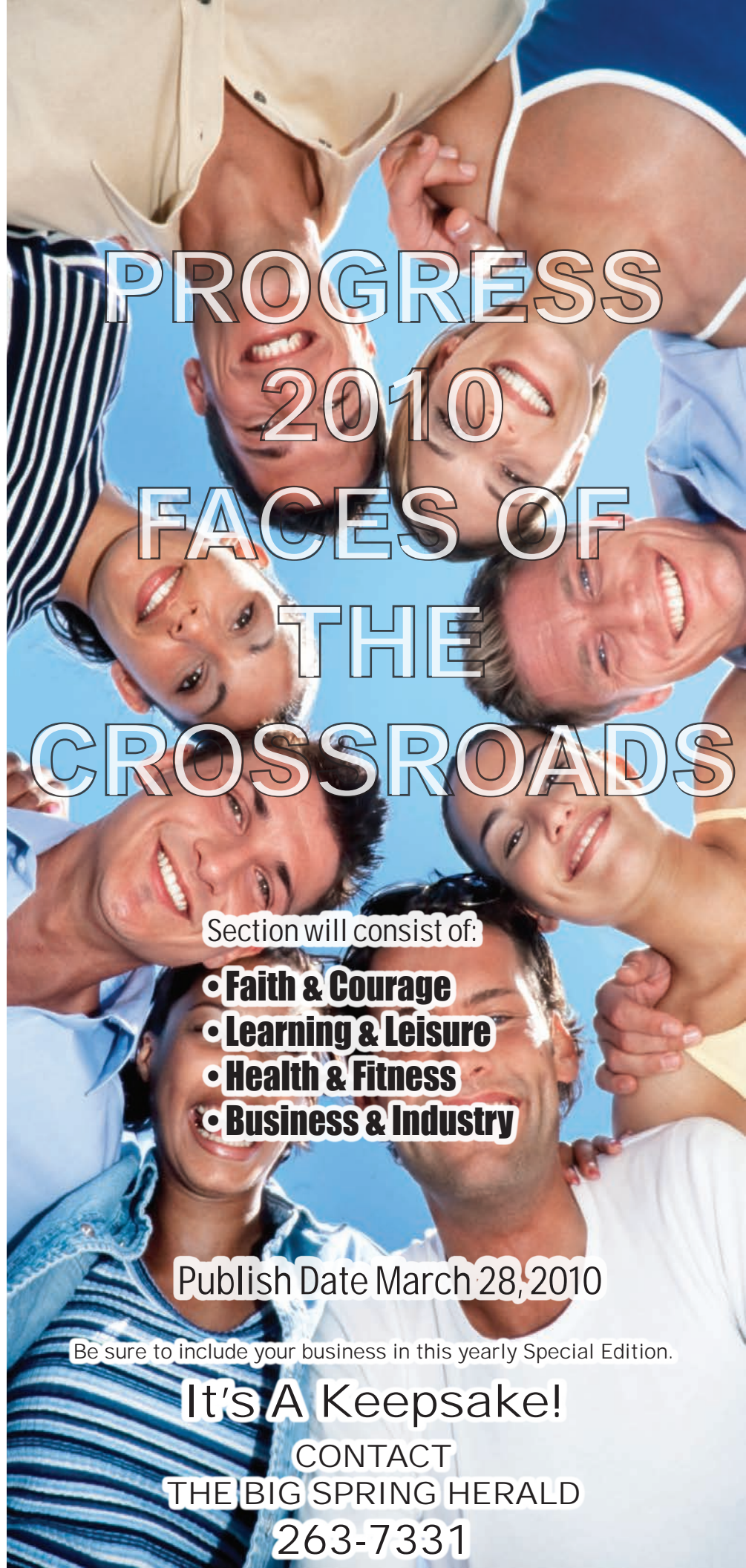
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# PROGRESS 2010 FACES OF THE CROSSROADS

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- Learning & Leisure
- Health & Fitness
- Business & Industry

Publish Date March 28, 2010

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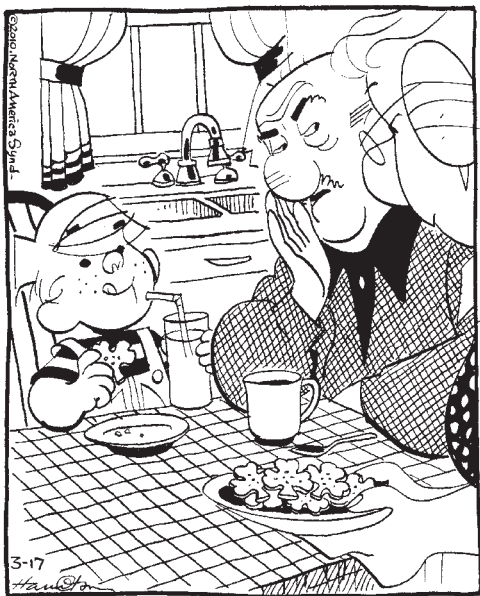
It's A Keepsake!

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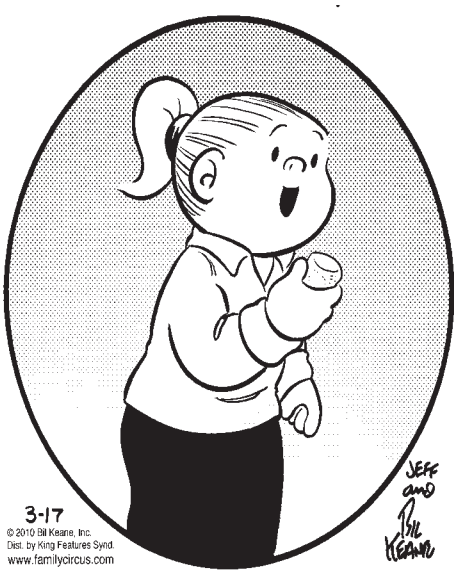
Table with 29 columns (WFAA, KMD, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLE, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN) and 29 rows (5:PM, 6:PM, 7:PM, 8:PM, 9:PM, 10:PM, 11:PM, 12:AM, 1:AM) listing various TV programs and channels.

DENNIS THE MENACE



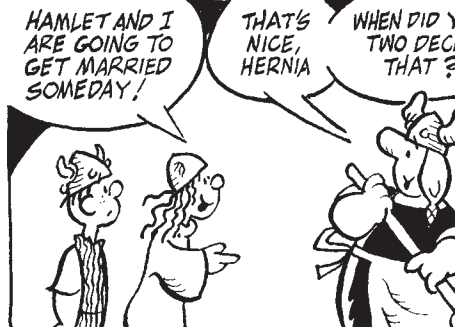
ST. PATRICK DROVE THE SNAKES OUT OF IRELAND. WE NEED A SAINT WHO COULD DRIVE THE KID OUT OF OUR HOUSE.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

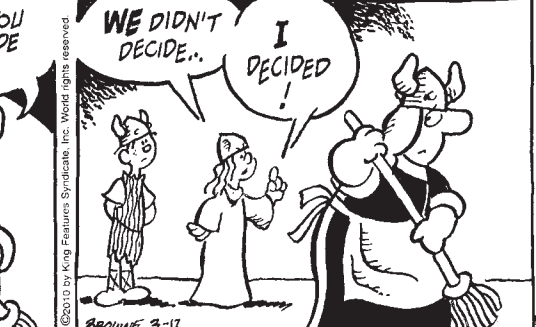


My marshmallow feels a little dry. Do we happen to have any warm chocolate milk?

HAGAR



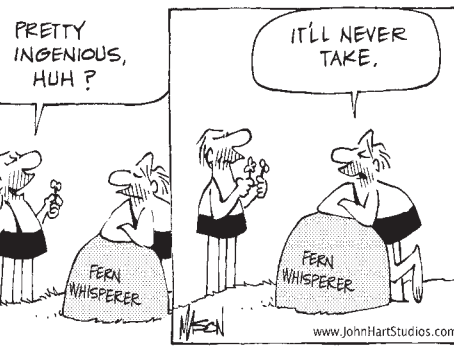
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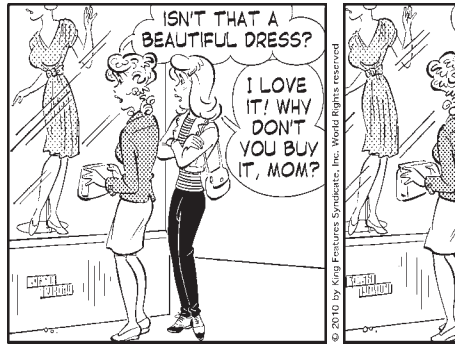
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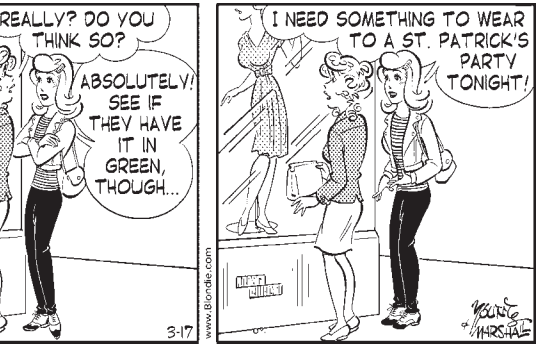
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This Date In History

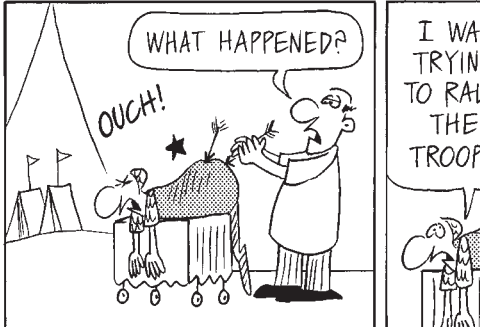
Today is Wednesday, March 17, the 76th day of 2010. There are 289 days left in the year. This is St. Patrick's Day. Today's Highlight in History: On March 17, A.D. 461 (or A.D. 493, depending on sources), St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, died in Saul. On this date: In 1776, British forces evacuated Boston during the Revolutionary War. In 1860, the Kanrin Maru became the first official Japanese ship to reach U.S. soil as it arrived in San Francisco. (The ship arrived 12 days ahead of the USS Powhatan, which was carrying a Japanese embassy delegation.) In 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt first likened crusading journalists to a man with "the muckrake in his hand" in a speech to the Gridiron Club in Washington. In 1910, the Camp Fire Girls organization was formed. (It

was formally presented to the public on this date two years later.) The U.S. National Museum, a precursor to the National Museum of Natural History, opened in Washington, D.C. In 1941, the National Gallery of Art opened in Washington, D.C. In 1950, scientists at the University of California at Berkeley announced they had created a new radioactive element, "californium." In 1960, a Northwest Orient Lockheed L-188C Electra crashed near Cannelton, Ind., killing all 63 people on board. In 1966, a U.S. midget submarine located a missing hydrogen bomb which had fallen from an American bomber into the Mediterranean off Spain. In 1970, the United States cast its first veto in the U.N. Security Council. (The U.S. killed a resolution that would have condemned Britain for failure to use force to overthrow the white-ruled government of Rhodesia.) In 1992, 29 people were killed in the truck bombing of the Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Today's Birthdays: Jazz/New

Age musician Paul Horn is 80. The former national chairwoman of the NAACP, Myrlie Evers-Williams, is 77. Rock musician Paul Kantner is 69. Singer-songwriter Jim Weatherly is 67. Singer-songwriter John Sebastian (The Lovin' Spoonful) is 66. Rock musician Harold Brown (War; Lowrider Band) is 64. Actor Patrick Duffy is 61. Actor Kurt Russell is 59. Country singer Susie Allanson is 58. Actress Lesley-Anne Down is 56. Thought for Today: "Television is a device that permits people who haven't anything to do to watch people who can't do anything." - Fred Allen, American comedian (1894-1956).

Answer to previous puzzle: A crossword grid with words like TAMES, ANEW, SCAT, ADULT, COLA, HOME, RODEO, ITLL, ARIA, CORDIAL, GLASS, BATTLE, ORELSE, EWE, SAT, SPA, NAME, LEEK, SAGAS, DIPLOMATIC, POUCH, STEIN, MAMA, LITE, ABS, PCS, SOD, STIFLE, TOWERS, CIVILSERVICE, RAIN, IDEA, CANOE, ARED, DEAN, EVADE, PASS, ENDS, REPEL.

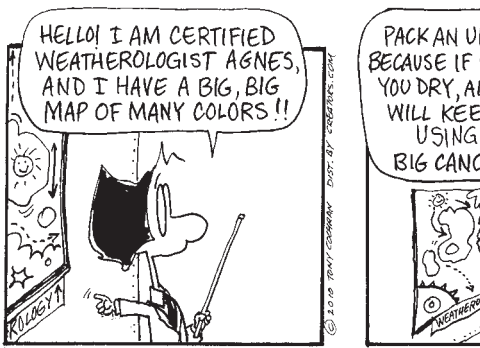
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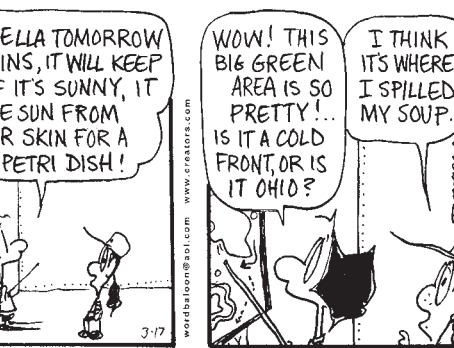
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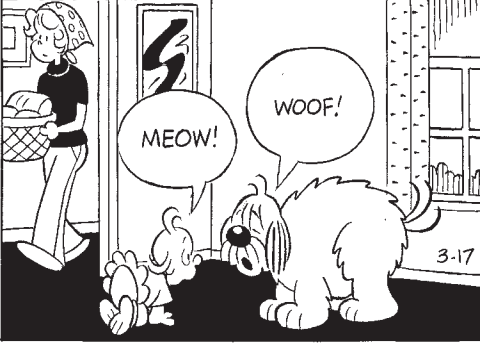
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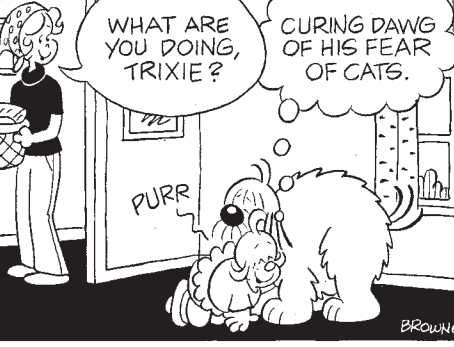
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BEETLE BAILEY



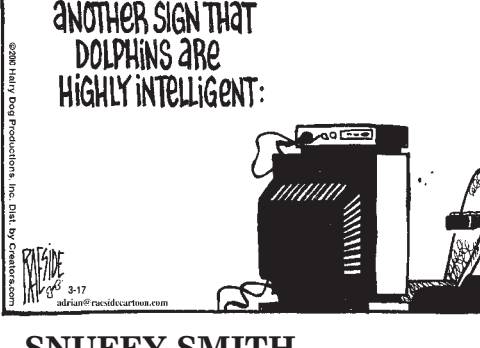
Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS: 1 Woody Allen film of '83, 6 Agent Scully of The X-Files, 10 One in charge, informally, 14 Give the slip to, 15 Frozen treats, 16 Barcelona bull, 17 Place to find chalk, 19 West German capital, 20 Vampire-chronicling author, 21 Chicago suburb, 23 Driver's navigation aid, for short, 24 Let up on, 25 Puts a hex on, 29 Double's job, 32 Visa competitor, familiarly, 33 Like a beer head, 34 Army NCO, 37 Place to find chalk, 41 NBC sketch show, 42 Deliver a keynote, say, 43 Time long past, 44 Idditarod vehicles, 45 "Toodle-oo!", 47 Radium discoverer, 50 Bard's "before", 51 A Gabor sister, 53 Ceylon, today, 58 BMW alternative, 59 Place to find chalk, 61 Nonfactor at domed stadiums, 62 Digital music player, 63 Lacking company, 64 Plod through mud, 65 On the house, 66 Fireplace tool.

CHALK TALK by Fred Piscop Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

A crossword grid with numbered squares for the Chalk Talk puzzle.

BEETLE BAILEY



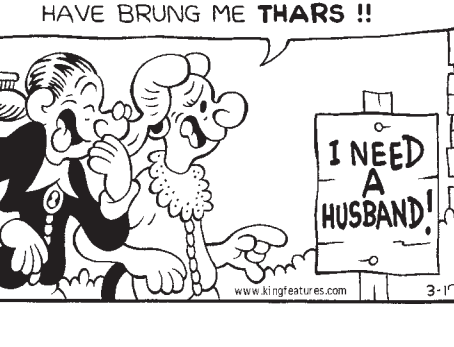
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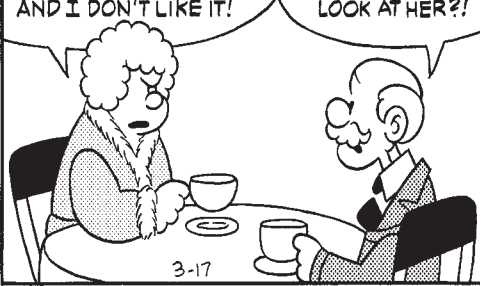
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