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Local warrant roundup pulls in \$100,000

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

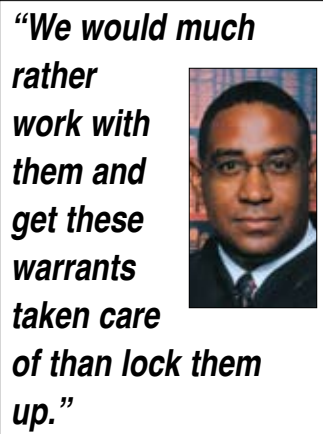
Local Law enforcement officials say they managed to clear more than 550 warrants and collect more than \$100,000 in fines during this year's statewide warrant round-up, which ended in late February.

Municipal Judge Timothy Green said his office — working in conjunction with the Big Spring Police Department and the Howard County Sheriff's Office — participated in the annual event in an effort to help clear longstanding warrants from the city and county roles.

The effort included letters sent out to those who had warrants urging them to contact the court and take care of their fines and charges, and, according to Green, the only thing more valuable than the fines and resources freed-up by the effort was the information gathered in the process.

"Working with the statewide roundup, they are very stringent about what the letters must say and the wording," Green said. "However, we were able to play around

with some of it and see what is most effective. Some of the strangest things have the most impact. For example, there was a collection company handling some of the letters and they used colored paper for theirs. They got a much better reaction. You wouldn't think colored paper would make that big of a difference in a situation like this, but it did.



"We would much rather work with them and get these warrants taken care of than lock them up."

—Timothy Green, municipal judge

"Overall, the roundup was a big improvement over last year. We weren't able to participate like we wanted to last year, so we had to kind of play from the sidelines. We collected about \$70,000 last year. This year, however, we not only brought in more money and cleared more warrants, I felt like the educational value was really high for everyone involved. We all learned a lot."

While being arrested and hauled in for warrants is never a pleasant experience, Green said many of the violators who came in voluntarily learned an important lesson.

"They found out if they came in and saw their charge through the entire process, it didn't take nearly as long as most of them thought," Green said. "We would

See **WARRANTS**, Page 3



HERALD file photo
Kiwanis Club member Floyd Green carries a pan of sausage during the club's 2011 pancake supper. This year's event will be from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Friday at the Howard College Cafeteria. Tickets, available at the door, are \$6 each.

Kiwanians to flip some flapjacks here Friday

By **AMANDA MORENO**
Staff Writer

The Kiwanis Club of Big Spring will host its annual pancake supper from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Friday in the Howard College Cafeteria.

"This is a long-standing tradition. We have people who remember having their grandparents take them and they have taken their children and grandchildren," pancake supper co-chair Ann Duncan said.

Money raised during the event will be used through-



out the year by the local Kiwanis group to help fund its service projects. The projects involve the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club and the Westside Community Day-

care Center. Tickets can be purchased in advance or at the door Friday. Each ticket is \$6 and is good for all you can eat pancakes.

"This is something people look forward to each year and it's something we want to keep going as long as we can," Duncan said.

To purchase tickets in advance, contact Duncan at 432-466-4887.

Contact Amanda Moreno at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at life@bigspringherald.com

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Drug free environment idea behind March trash pick up

By **AMANDA MORENO**
Staff Writer

A vision of a drug free environment at local schools is the drive behind the third annual



Trash Drugs. The Rev. Ken McIntosh had the idea to combat two of Big Spring's biggest problems — trash and drugs — three years ago and through that vision, the effort he started has continued to grow.



"Some people think I'm crazy, but I have a vision of a drug free school and hopefully we can get there," McIn-

tosh said. In years past, McIntosh would make his way through Big Spring and pick up trash three days during Spring Break, but this year he has found some helpers and will pick up trash for three weeks instead. Students in the Big Spring High School Interact Club will be helping McIntosh in his battle.

"This all started a few years back when I heard they had canceled the drug education program they had in schools.

I was attacking one problem while raising money to attack another problem," McIntosh said.

Starting March 17 and ending Easter weekend, appointments can be made for McIntosh and the students to go by and pick up trash from a designated property for a donation.

"All this money will be used at the sixth grade level next year since there won't be an

See **TRASH**, Page 3

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Sammie Estelle Cox Meeks



Sammie Estelle Cox Meeks, born Nov. 27, 1939, went to be with her beloved Lord and Savior Saturday, March 3, 2012, after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

Services will be held at 4 p.m. Saturday, March 10, 2012, at Nalley-Pickle and Welch Funeral Home with Brother Ken McMeans, pastor of College Baptist Church, officiating. Burial will follow at Trinity Memorial Park in Big Spring.

Mrs. Meeks was born in Rochester, Texas, and grew up in Borger, Texas. She moved to Big Spring in 1956 and graduated from Big Spring High School in 1958. She had a passion for the Lord, her family, people and children. She was a beloved wife, mother and grandmother.

Estelle enjoyed working with numbers in any fashion. She worked at Cooks and Dunlap's Department stores and retired from Cornell Corrections in 2008. Mrs. Meeks then began volunteering at Moss Elementary School, where she joyfully impacted the lives of many teachers and children in the Big Spring community.

She also enjoyed cooking, ceramic work and took great pride and joy in her children and grandchildren. Estelle was a founding member of the Christmas Club in Big Spring and loved her Pay Day Friday Group. Whether someone knew Estelle as "Mrs. Meeks" at school or "Granny" at home, she brought joy and love to those around her and was an awesome person to know.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert "Buddy" Meeks; her parents, Robert Herbert Andy and Ethlene (Hogg) Cox; and two sisters, Cathlene Williams and Johnnie Thompkins.

Survivors include two daughters, Tamra Elizabeth Gray and husband Tim of Artesia, N.M., and Tracy Diane Watson and husband Michael of Big Spring; one son, Tony Allen Meeks of Big Spring; one sister, Carylon Miller of Abilene; 11 grandchildren, Jonathan Watson and wife Brandy, Jason Watson and wife Christi, Dylan Watson, Toni Bracy, Kandel Gray, Olivia Gray, Samantha Gray, Baylor Gray, Brecklie Gray, Dison Gray and Kassie Gray; one great-grandchild, Reagan Waldrip; and one niece, Cathy Ann Bullock.

Serving as pallbearers will be Vern Bloodworth, David Gillette, Justin McKenzie, Tommy Meeks, Larry Redding and Eddie Word. Honorary pallbearers will be Jonathan Watson, Jason Watson, Dylan Watson and Baylor Gray.

The family suggests memorials be made to the American Cancer Society, c/o Carolyn Brooks, P.O. Box 2121, Big Spring, Texas 79721-2121.

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

Paid obituary

Obituaries

Toni Barron Choate



Toni Barron Choate of Midland, Texas, passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family, March 3, 2012, at the age of 73. She was a lifelong resident of Big Spring before moving to Midland in 2005. Services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 10, 2012, at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1001 Goliad, Big Spring. The Rev. Barbara Kirk-Norris of St. Mary's, Fr. Tom Finne of Christ Church of

Midland and the Rev. Katie Churchwell of Washington, D.C., will officiate. A reception will immediately follow the service in the Parish Hall until 4 p.m.

Toni was born to Tony and Billie Barron on Nov. 27, 1938, in Lamesa, Texas. She married Wade Choate on Jan. 17, 1959, in Big Spring and they had been married 53 years.

A graduate of Big Spring High School in 1957, she was a player on the State Champion Big Spring High School 1955-1956 volleyball team. Toni and her classmates reunited and reminisced annually across the United States. In addition to owning and operating The Accent Shoppe, Toni served as the First Lady of Big Spring from 1972-1980 and was selected "Coming Home Queen" at BSHS in 1987.

She was active with many boards and charities, including the Heritage Museum, Malone Hogan Hospital Volunteer "Pink Ladies," Garden Club, Hyperion and the founding board of Canterbury Retirement Home.

Toni devoted her time to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Toni and her husband, Wade, owned and operated Choate Company Inc., a petroleum land service company, for 30 years in Big Spring and Midland. They were members of St. Mary's Episcopal Church before moving to Midland, where they are members of Christ Church of Midland.

Toni is survived by her husband, Wade Choate, former Mayor of Big Spring; son, Kyle Choate of Midland; son-in-law, Kyle Cook of Stanton; four grandchildren, Ragan and husband Justin Outlaw of Midland, Justin and Casie Darden of Big Spring, Kevin Cook and Cayla Cook, both of Stanton; five great-grandchildren, Brannon Dae Darden and Bryleigh Darden of Big Spring, Hunter Wade Outlaw and Kade Westly Outlaw of Midland and Wheeler Cook of Stanton; and one brother, Jerry Barron and wife Carlene of Seabrook, Texas.

She was preceded in death by her parents; daughter, Melody Ann Cook; and granddaughter-in-law, Erin Cook.

Pallbearers are Todd Gibson, Taylor Sell and Chris Ragan of Midland; Gary Griffin of Odessa; Tommy Churchwell, Robert H. Moore III and Henry de la Rosa of Big Spring; and Adrian de la Rosa and Henry de la Rosa Jr. of Austin. Honorary pallbearers are the BSHS class of '57.

The family suggests memorials to The Heritage Museum of Big Spring, 510 Scurry St., Big Spring, TX 79720; Midland Hospice, P.O. Box 2621, Midland, TX 79702; the American Cancer Society; or your favorite charity.

Visitation will be at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home in Big Spring on Friday, March 9, 2012, from 5 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.

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

Paid obituary

Ioma Shaw



Ioma Shaw, 82, of Big Spring died Monday, March 5, 2012, in a Midland hospital. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, March 9, 2012, at the 14th and Main Church of Christ with Rick Cunningham officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. Thursday, March 8, 2012, at the funeral

home.

Ioma was born to Tom and Leona Tatum on Dec. 20, 1929, in Sweetwater, Texas. She graduated as valedictorian of Grapevine High School in 1947. She married Vernon P. Heard on May 22, 1950, in Fort Worth.

They moved to Big Spring in 1956 from Midland and owned Colonial Beauty Shop for many years. Vernon preceded her in death in June of 1973. She then married Verl D. Shaw on Aug. 7, 1976, in Midland. They lived in the Knott community for 20 years and moved to Big Spring in 1997.

She was a member of 14th and Main Church of Christ.

Survivors include her husband, Verl D. Shaw of Big Spring; five children, Marsha McHan and husband Mark of Abilene, Brenda Keith and husband Lynn of Arlington, Dero Shaw and wife Jeanine of Knott, Angela Gillespie and husband Tony of Knott and Sherree Denny and husband LeRoy of Midland; 12 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren; three nephews and two nieces.

She was also preceded in death by one brother and two sisters.

The family suggests memorials be made to a favorite charity.

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

Paid obituary

See Page 3 for more Obituaries and Police Blotter

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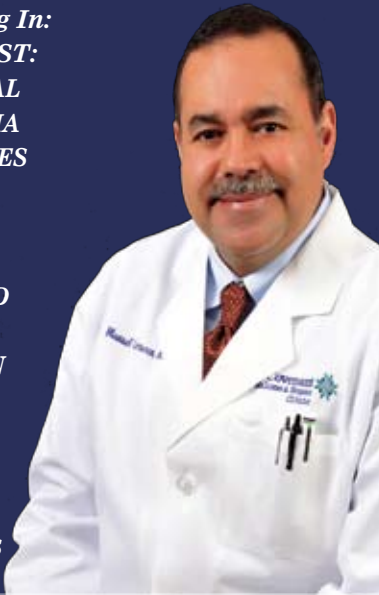
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- 1/3 cup thin sliced shallots
- 3 H-E-B Ready Fresh Go! Garlic Cloves, chopped
- 1 Tablespoon fresh chopped oregano or 1 1/2 tsp. dried oregano
- 1 1/2 Tablespoons H-E-B Olive Oil
- salt & fresh cracked pepper
- 1 lb. Alaska Sockeye Salmon Fillets

Cook Time: 45 minutes
Makes: 4 servings

1. Heat the oven to 400°F. Spray a 9 x 13-inch baking dish with no-stick spray and set aside.
2. Combine tomatoes, shallots, garlic, oregano and olive oil in prepared baking dish. Season with salt and pepper, and roast on center oven rack 25 minutes.
3. Remove from oven and arrange salmon skin-side down over tomatoes. Brush with olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Roast on center oven rack 15 minutes or until salmon flakes easily with a fork.
4. Use a large spatula to serve each fillet and top each with roasted tomatoes.

Take Note

• Benefit for the oldest Harley shop in Texas, Walker family, to be held March 17 at Xiled Clubhouse. There will be food, fun and games with special auction. Gates open at noon and charge is \$10 at the door. Call 432-270-1212.

• An account has been established at American State Bank to help de-

fray medical expense for Brad "Ghost" Ugstad, a local resident who was severely injured in a motorcycle accident.

• Mobile Meals is in need of volunteer delivery drivers. If you can donate one hour per week to help deliver meals to the elderly, call Macaria Cantu at 263-4016.

TRASH

Continued from Page 1

intermediate school," McIntosh said.

The goal for this year, according to McIntosh, is \$2,500. All funds will be provided to the school where the faculty and staff will determine the proper way to put the funds to use in a drug education program.

"I just raise the money and give them the resources to provide the education," he said. "The faculty knows what programs work and I trust that they will put it to

use where it needs to be in a program that works like they have been doing."

For those wanting to make an appointment in support of the Trash Drugs program, call KBST at 267-6391 or McIntosh directly at 817-521-4060. When calling, leave your name and address to be cleaned and a phone number so an appointment can be set up.

Contact Staff Writer Amanda Moreno at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at life@bigspringherald.com

WARRANTS

Continued from Page 1

much rather work with them and get these warrants taken care of than lock them up."

Green said he and his office are already turning an eye toward next year's roundup and are hopeful to make the effort biannual, but that's something that will have to come with time.

"We have to take our time and learn what

works and what doesn't. A big part of what makes the statewide roundup successful is advertising and word of mouth across the state," Green said. "However, we are learning immensely with each state roundup and we hope to be able to hold one locally in between at some point. We just have to wait until the time is right."

In the meantime, Green urges area residents not to wait until the next roundup to take care of warrants.

"It's a lot easier to just come down here and take care of them than to get locked up. It's faster and not nearly as embarrassing," Green said.

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

Police blotter

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

- JOHN JAY FLORES, 40, of 1207 Frazier, was arrested Wednesday on a warrant from another agency.
- TIFFANY ELDER, 30, of 2600 Langley, was arrested Wednesday on warrants for failure to maintain financial responsibility, failure to obtain Texas driver's license within 90 days and no driver's license - when unlicensed.
- PAMMY SUE PUGA, 46, of 1411 Settles, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of theft - shoplifting.
- STEPHANIE CRYSTAL FRISBY, 26, of 625 McEwen, was arrested Wednesday on a warrant from another agency.
- ANDREW JOHN ROSENBERG, 40, of 303 E. Eighth St., was arrested Thursday on a charge of public intoxication.
- JUAN ANTONIO SALAZAR, 18, of 1604 E. 11th Place, was arrested Thursday on a charge consumption of alcohol by a minor.
- RANDY LYNN MCCUTCHAN, 41, of 220 Brooks, was arrested Wednesday on a warrant for driving while intoxicated - blood alcohol more than .15.
- ESPERANZA GARZA, 42, of 601 N.W. Fifth St., was arrested Wednesday on warrants for driving while license suspended/invalid - no insurance and bail jumping - failure to appear.
- CHRISTOPHER CLINT ENRIQUEZ, 29, of 4914 Wasson, was arrested Wednesday on four warrants from other agencies.
- CLAYTON DOW BIRMELIN, 25, of Lubbock, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- CHANCE ALLEN PERRYMAN, 27, of 225 Brooks Rd., was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- ANDREW WAYNE ARMSTRONG, 39, of 608 Aylesford, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- ASSAULT was reported in the 3000 block of W. Highway 80.
- THEFT was reported in the 200 block of W. FM 700.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 800 block of Highland Drive.

Sheriff

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

- Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 67 inmates at the time of this report.
- ESPERANZA GARZA, 42, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on judgment/sentence for driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension and bail jumping - failure to appear.
 - RANDY LYNN MCCUTCHAN, 41, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence (probated) for driving while intoxicated.
 - CHRISTOPHER CLINT ENRIQUEZ, 29, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on municipal warrants for no driver's license, failure to control speed and violation of promise to appear (two counts).
 - JOHN JAY FLORES, 40, was booked into the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on an Ector County warrant for failure to appear - theft by check.
 - TIFFANY ANN ELDER, 30, was booked into the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on municipal capias warrants for failure to maintain Texas driver's license, failure to maintain financial responsibility and no driver's license.
 - PAMMY SUE PUGA, 46, was booked into the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of theft - more than \$50 and less than \$500.
 - STEPHANIE FRISBY, 26, was booked into the

county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of no driver's license.

- ANDREW WAYNE ARMSTRONG, 39, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less and municipal capias warrants for weedy lot - first offense (two counts).
- CLAYTON DOW BIRMELIN, 25, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- ANDREW JOHN ROSENBERG, 40, was booked into the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- CHANCE ALLEN PERRYMAN, 27, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 900 block of Goliad. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 100 block of Highland Cove. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1500 block of Wood. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 3200 block of E. 11th Place. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of E. 17th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2000 block of W. 16th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 3000 block of W. Highway 80. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 800 block of Andre. One person was transported to SMMC.

Obituaries

Mickie 'Sue' Haynes



Mickie "Sue" Haynes, 66, of Big Spring died Tuesday, March 6, 2012, in a local hospital. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, March 9, 2012, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Joey Bacon officiating.

The family will receive friends following the service.

Sue was born May 9, 1945, in Big Spring and married Larry "Catfish" Haynes on Sept. 3, 2003, in Big Spring. He preceded her in death Nov. 7, 2006.

She was a lifelong resident of Big Spring and worked at Lou's Cafe, retiring after 32 years.

Survivors include two daughters, Tonya Krause and husband Donnie Moore of Big Spring and Connie Hogg and husband Randall of Odessa; five grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; one brother, Jack Minchew of San Angelo; and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, D.C. and Bertha Ann Minchew; two brothers, Eldridge Minchew and Bill Minchew; and two sisters, Joy Reasonover and Vera Louise Lang.

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

Bruce Thomas

Bruce Thomas, 63, of Big Spring died Monday, March 5, 2012, at Midland Memorial Hospital. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
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Bruce Thomas, 63, died Monday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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AN ENCOURAGING WORD

By Eddy Pitchford

Life is full of choices. Some are merely matters of preference: What to eat for breakfast? What television show to watch? What basketball team to cheer for?

Some choices are more consequential: How fast should I drive? Should I follow my doctor's advice? Should I replace the frayed electrical cord?

Some choices have eternal consequences: Will I be baptized into Christ? Will I choose to pray? Will I study the Bible? Will I praise God? Will I make choices that are holy and pure?

"Choose for yourselves whom you will serve...But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." (Joshua 24:15).

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Bill McClellan Managing Editor	Ron Midkiff Publisher	Steve Reagan Staff Writer
Amanda Moreno Staff Writer	Thomas Jenkins Staff Writer	

OUR VIEWS

Spring has sprung the kids out of school

Shades of green are slowly starting to appear. Easter is creeping closer and the weather is finally changing. All the signs are pointing to ... Spring is coming!

The first day of spring doesn't officially hit until March 20, but that isn't going to stop the kids of the Crossroads from taking advantage of their spring break.

Starting Monday Forsan, Coahoma and Big Spring students will get to take a break from classes.

The school buildings will be empty and weather permitting, the playgrounds will be full and children will be running around outside emitting all that cooped up energy.

The kids will be enjoying the time off, but the community needs to remember there will be an influx of children during the day time and it's important to keep the kid's safety in mind.

Keep a watchful eye when driving down residential streets. Kids will be outside and playing and in a heartbeat could end up running in the streets after a ball. As always, be watchful and aware of all surroundings.

For the children, even though the week is a break from school, don't forget to keep safety tips at the forefront of your mind. It's important to remember to let parents know where you are at all times and be watchful for dangers that may appear.

School will resume for the Crossroads area March 19. At the same time, little league will be starting up practices.

The events of the spring are upon us and the year is moving right along.

The best thing to do is enjoy the weather before it changes again and be ever watchful of the children in the community.

For those taking vacations, enjoy the time away, make memories and hopefully return refreshed after the week is over.

Here is to an enjoyable spring break for all.

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

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- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

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A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

With You, Lord, there are endless possibilities.

Amen

Iraq decided to take it personally

Iraq is a gift that keeps on giving. We kicked out their murderous dictator for them, helped them institute democracy, poured hundreds of millions of dollars into their recovery, and tried our best to interrupt their civil war. Then we left — or at least our combat troops did.

You would think they'd be grateful, wouldn't you? I'm not talking about an end-of-World-War-II scene with young women throwing flowers at our soldiers as they departed. Not necessarily.

But maybe a thank you would be appropriate. A salute or two wouldn't hurt. What do we get instead? Snarls. Insults. Cries of "Don't let the door hit you on the way out" (which is terrifying in Arabic).

Now word comes that we're being forced to cut our planned diplomatic presence in post-war Iraq by some 50 percent and counting. It turns out that the Iraqis don't want us there.

After all we did for them. Why, just the bombing of their cities alone would have cost them billions if they'd had to do it themselves.

Admittedly, it's a very large presence that we envisioned. There are some 16,000 at our embassy compound there now, 2,000 of them diplomats. To house them, the United States

built a grandiose \$750-million palace on a 104-acre campus in the Green Zone.

That didn't go down too well with the Iraqis. As one Iraqi lawmaker told The New York Times:

"The U.S. had something on their mind when they made it so big. Perhaps they want to run the Middle East from Iraq, and their embassy will be a base for them here."

In any case the Iraqi government isn't making it easy for us. They've been delaying our supply convoys at the border, making it difficult to get food to our employees. Why, the Times says that supplies at the dining hall ran so low the other day that they had to ration the chicken wings.

Then there are those anonymous gunmen who keep shooting at Americans randomly.

Our security personnel — often bearded, tattooed contractors — resemble the bad guys in a Brad Pitt movie and act that way. In 2007, remember, 17 Iraqi civilians were gunned down by private contractors, an incident Iraqis seemed to take personally (even though we apologized nicely).

It reminds me a little of the early days of Iran's regime. I was in Washington when Iranian students stormed our embassy in Tehran and took the staff hostage.

It was an intolerable insult and all patriotic Americans were pretty incensed about it. But were the Iranian students studying in this country contrite? Not

on your life.

When we let the deposed Shah of Iran into United States to receive treatment for the disease that would soon kill him, Iranian exchange students took to the streets and marched to the White House, shouting (as nearly as any of us on the sidewalk could make out) "The Shah is a peanut butter."

I leaned over to a colleague and said: "Are they saying the Shah is a peanut butter?"

"That's what I heard," he replied.

We were outraged. These people were in the country at our sufferance (and perhaps even with our aid) and they had the nerve to march on our streets.

I found myself waving a fist at them (one finger at a time) and yelling obscenities. So much for journalistic objectivity.

But the passage of years has convinced me that those students had justice on their side. The Shah actually was a peanut butter, as were Saddam Hussein, Muammar Gaddafi, Hosni Mubarak, and all the other brigands we supported at the expense of their people.

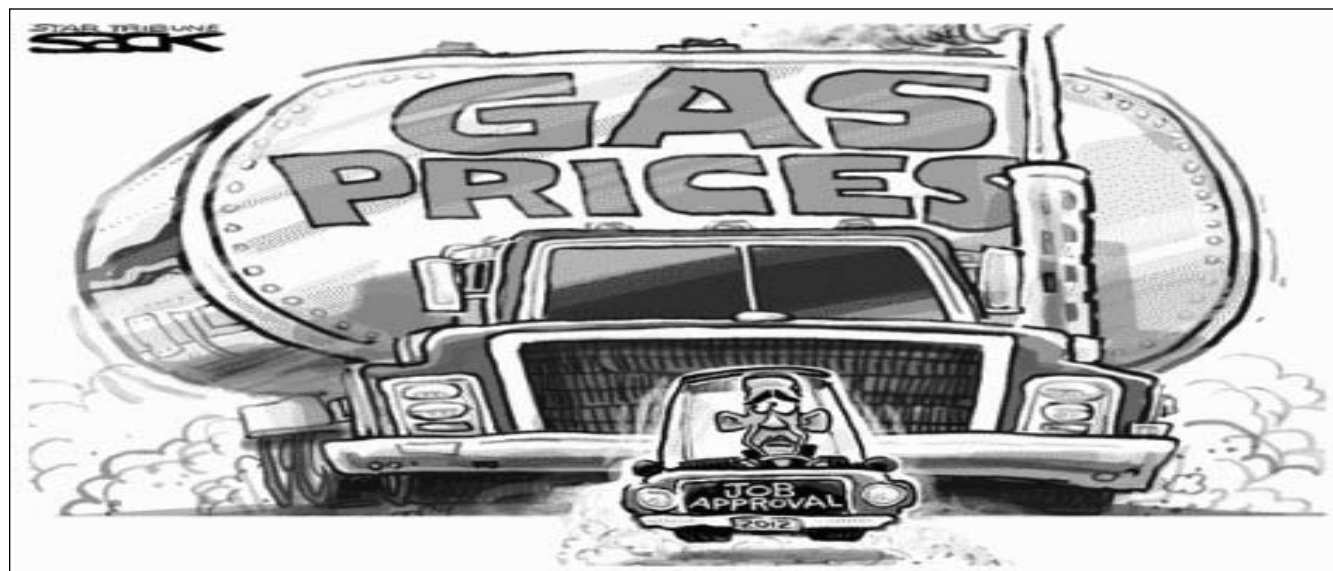
The Times says that we're not merely cutting the Iraq embassy staff. We're abandoning our \$500-million program to train Iraqi police (for the semi-hilarious reason that it's too risky for our police advisers to leave the embassy compound).

Mission accomplished all right.

OtherWords columnist Donald Kaul lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan. otherwords.org



DONALD KAUL



Another lesson from my son

Oh the lessons I have learned from my five year old, I mean six year old, as of Monday.

Each year, without fail, my charming son finds a way to teach me a lesson that smacks me upside the head and makes me realize just how blind I have been.

Mind you, every day he seems to say or do something that amazes me and shows me just how much I have yet to learn (sometimes re-learn).

But it seems to be without fail, since the day he was born there is one major lesson each year that he teaches me which forces me to open my eyes.

Each time it happens I am left wondering how a small child can teach me some of the biggest lessons I will probably ever learn in my life.

This year, only a few days before his birthday, he taught me about having courage, being strong and brave.

In an unexpected turn of events, which just goes to show life changes in an instant, a weekend full of preparation for an upcoming birthday party turned into a weekend in the hospital.

As a mother I know I am supposed to be strong, composed and not freak out, but when it comes to my baby (Yes, even though he is 6 years old now and he says he is not a baby, he will always be my baby) and any form of danger or unexplained circumstances I get worried. No, let me rephrase that, I get terrified.

I am one that needs answers. I need to have some sort of control and being told that my son needs

to be admitted to the hospital and tests have to be done before more can be known, well ... that rips any and all control away and leaves me with no answers. Not a good situation.

In front of my son, I was as strong and as tough as I could be, but inside and any chance I had to slip out of his sight I was breaking down.

Anyone who knows me knows hospitals are not my thing and needles, IVs and blood just don't sit well with me. However, my son showed me no matter how unpleasant the situation may be there is always a way to find courage to make it through and the bravery to face the pain.

Despite not feeling well and almost all strength drained from him at this point, my son knew that being in the hospital was going to lead to him getting better. Any one who has ever had an IV put in knows the pain that can accompany the insertion. Well, my son showed just how brave he was as they placed the IV and he didn't shed a tear. (Mom, on the other hand, didn't make it out so well.)

Once all the poking and prodding was over with, we settled in for our weekend stay. It was a rollercoaster of a ride for sure, with still no answers provided in the end.

Throughout the stay he was limited to where he could go and for him, laying in bed isn't the prime situation. Then again, my son proved to me just how "grown up" he is and made the best of the situation. He focused on the positive — which is something I should do more often — and made the best of being in the hospital.

He found joy in the little things. When the IV would beep he was

quick to jump and push the button to let the nurses know 'It's beeping again.' I would love to have seen the nurses faces each time he came across the speaker.

He also found joy in the fact that he had visitors in the hospital and people were thinking about him. Even though once he got out he wondered why everyone was asking if he was okay.

Of course, even though the nurses didn't let him sleep through the night, he loved the fact that he had so many people coming in and asking if he needed anything, bringing him food and checking on him constantly.

In the end, he ended up being okay (which I am so thankful for) no real answer was ever discovered, but that really isn't what matters.

What matters is that in one weekend of being in the hospital my son taught me to be thankful and enjoy the little things even in the worse situations. To always see the silver lining may not be the easiest task, but there is no reason to see anything other than the bright side.

Another valuable lesson I learned is that true friends will be there when it really matters and help you every step of the way. I always find it amazing just how many friends I am blessed with. There is no way I can extend the gratitude required for all the help, support and prayers received over the whole ordeal, but to each and every one — each act meant the world to me and I know it was through the help we were able to make it through.

Contact Staff Writer Amanda Moreno by email at life@bigspringherald.com or by calling the office at 432-263-7331 ext. 234.



AMANDA MORENO

News in brief

2 children found living in abandoned bus

SPLENDORA, Texas (AP) — Two children who were found living in a stench-filled abandoned school bus near Houston, its windows blocked and the lot around it covered in trash, are in the custody of Texas child welfare workers, officials said Thursday.

A postal worker discovered the children, ages 11 and 5, at the bus in Splendora about 10 a.m. Wednesday, officials said. Their parents are believed to be in prison for embezzling money from Hurricane Ike victims in 2008. The children are not enrolled at local schools.

The bus appeared to have electricity, an air conditioning unit installed in one window and bunk beds inside for the children. But several neighbors told the Houston Chronicle that the children typically looked unkempt and could often be spotted running around at night.

"They always had dirty clothes on (and) no shoes, even in the winter," said nearby resident Gayla Payne, who said the 11-year-old girl told her daughter that she bathes twice a week.

Investigators told KTRK-TV that the children have been living in the bus since the beginning of the year.

The children told Texas Child Protective Services workers that they were home-schooled. A woman on the property — believed to be the children's great-aunt — told CPS she worked 12-hour shifts Monday through Friday but that she stayed with the children at night.

"The aunt said that she does provide meals for them during the day," Montgomery County Constable Rowdy Hayden told KTRK-TV. "Looking around the (the bus), we didn't see a lot of food readily available. One of the neighbors had told us earlier that from time to time she will bring food over for the children."

The children are in foster care pending an investigation by Child Protective Services, spokeswoman Gwen Carter said. CPS workers will appear in court Thursday to ask a judge for emergency custody of the children, she said.

Splendora is 35 miles northeast of Houston.

Jury to decide if Stanford accounts can be seized

HOUSTON (AP) — A jury is to begin deciding if federal authorities can seize \$330 million from nearly 30 accounts controlled by convicted Texas tycoon R. Allen Stanford and others.

Prosecutors allege the funds are proceeds from a massive Ponzi scheme and can be traced back to investors who lost billions.

The deliberations in Houston federal court are set to begin Thursday.

They are part of a brief criminal forfeiture proceeding that ended Wednesday. It followed Stanford's conviction Tuesday by the same jury on 13 of 14 fraud-related counts for orchestrating a scheme that took more than \$7 billion over 20 years from investors.

A sentencing date for Stanford is not expected to be set until after the jury decides on the forfeiture proceeding.

Patient says nurse's medication caused pain

LUFKIN, Texas (AP) — The former patient of an East Texas dialysis clinic employee on trial for murder says she remembers once feeling "like every bone in my body was being crushed."

The Lufkin Daily News reports that Debra Oates testified Wednesday at the trial of Kimberly Saenz. Oates says she remembers a day in April 2008 when Saenz gave her medication with painful side effects she had never experienced before.

Oates says she had a funny taste in her mouth and asked Saenz, "What did you give me?" A nurse supervisor on duty that day repeated what Oates said.

Tests later showed Oates's blood had signs of bleach poisoning.

Authorities say Saenz killed five patients by injecting bleach into their dialysis lines.

The 38-year-old could get the death penalty if convicted.

Driller agrees to halt gas flaring in W.Va. county

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — A Texas company has agreed to stop gas flaring at three wells in West Virginia by May 31 and pay a \$50,000 civil penalty to resolve violations.

Dallas-based Bluescape Resources also agreed in a recent consent order to monitor the exploration wells in Nicholas County for visible emissions and to convert the flare to a horizontal configuration.

State laws limit natural gas flaring to 30 days per year.

The Charleston Gazette reports (<http://bit.ly/wkL873>) that Bluescape Resources has been flaring gas from the wells for six months without a permit.

The Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Air Quality issued a notice of violation in October in response to citizen complaints. Bluescape said it had been told that permits weren't needed.

The company applied for a temporary permit in November.

Egyptian women take part in town hall discussion

DALLAS (AP) — Egyptian women participating in a fellowship program launched by the George W. Bush Institute will participate in a town-hall-style discussion to mark International Women's Day.

Former first lady Laura Bush will give a keynote address before the discussion Thursday. The fellowship is the signature program of the institute's women's initiative, which she chairs.

Fourteen women from Egypt are participating in the inaugural program.

Charity Wallace, who heads the women's initiative at the institute, says they plan to host at least one fellowship program a year focusing on countries affected by the "Arab Spring" of revolutionary protests.

The Bush Institute is part of the George W. Bush President Center being built on the Southern Methodist University campus, where the discussion will

be held.

Texas man executed for killing wife, her boyfriend

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — A Texas man condemned for fatally shooting his estranged wife and the neighbor who became her boyfriend denied killing them Wednesday, moments before he was put to death by lethal injection.

Strapped to the gurney inside the death chamber, Keith Thurmond declared, "I didn't kill my wife. ... I swear to God I didn't kill her."

His execution for the 2001 slayings near Houston came about an hour after the U.S. Supreme Court rejected arguments to halt the capital punishment, the third this year in Texas. The 52-year-old Thurmond was pronounced dead at 6:22 p.m. — 11 minutes after lethal drugs began flowing into his arms.

Thurmond's attorneys argued that lawyers representing him in earlier appeals were "grossly deficient" and that his execution should have been postponed until justices decide on a similar case in Arizona.

With his death nearing Wednesday, Thurmond blamed the shooting deaths on another man before telling prison officials, "Go ahead and finish it off."

As the drugs began flowing, he said, "You can taste it." He wheezed and snored before losing consciousness.

The killings occurred after sheriff's deputies showed up at Thurmond's mobile home on Sept. 25, 2001, with a court order removing his 8-year-old son and putting the boy in the care of his mother.

Thurmond became irate and stormed down the road to the mobile home where his 32-year-old wife, Sharon, was living with her new boyfriend, Guy Fernandes, 35, near Magnolia in Montgomery County, about 35 miles north of Houston.

Fernandes' father, brother and sister were among those who witnessed Thurmond's execution. They were joined by Sharon Thurmond's brother and two nieces. All stood stoically a few feet from Thurmond and declined comment after his death.

Thurmond's brother, Tom, was at Thurmond's home the day of the killings, heard gunshots and looked out the door. He saw Thurmond outside standing over his wife with a gun in his hand.

At the 2002 capital murder trial, Keith and Sharon Thurmond's son testified that he saw his father shoot his mother repeatedly in the yard behind Fernandes' mobile home.

Thurmond surrendered to police after a two-hour standoff.

Evidence showed Sharon Thurmond had been shot seven times with a .45-caliber semiautomatic handgun that was later found in Thurmond's home. The same gun was used to shoot Fernandez twice in the head. The gun's firing pin was missing and pieces of it were near the body of Fernandez, who also had been beaten in the head with the weapon.

During the punishment phase of his trial, a former girlfriend testified that Thurmond stalked and raped her after she ended their relationship. She told jurors that he cut her stuffed animal's head off and that she feared he would do the same to her.

Texas vulture study upends forensics

MICHAEL GRACZYK
Associated Press

SAN MARCOS, Texas — For more than five weeks, a woman's body lay undisturbed in a secluded Texas field. Then a frenzied flock of vultures descended on the corpse and reduced it to a skeleton within hours.

But this was not a crime scene lost to nature. It was an important scientific experiment into the way human bodies decompose, and the findings are upending assumptions about decay that have been the basis of homicide cases for decades.

Experienced investigators would normally have interpreted the absence of flesh and the condition of the bones

as evidence that the woman had been dead for six months, possibly even a year or more. Now a study of vultures at Texas State University is calling into question many of the benchmarks detectives have long relied on.

The time of death is critical in any murder case.

It's a key piece of evidence that influences the entire investigation, often shaping who becomes a suspect and ultimately who is convicted or exonerated.

"If you say someone did it and you say it was at least a year, could it have been two weeks instead?" said Michelle Hamilton, an assistant professor at the school's forensic anthropology

research facility. "It has larger implications than what we thought initially."

The vulture study, conducted on 26 acres near the south-central Texas campus, stemmed from previous studies that used dead pigs, which decompose much like humans. Scientists set up a motion-sensing camera that captured the vultures jumping up and down on the woman's body, breaking some of her ribs, which investigators could also misinterpret as trauma suffered during a beating.

Researchers are monitoring a half-dozen other corpses in various stages of decomposition, and they have a list of about 100 people

prepared to donate their bodies to the project, which the school says is the first of its kind to study vultures.

"Now that we have this facility and a group of people willing to donate themselves to science like this, we can actually kind of do what needs to be done, because pigs and humans aren't equal," Hamilton said.

The forensic center opened in 2008, as did a similar facility at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, making Texas home to two of the nation's five "body

farms."

At the farms, forensic pathologists observe the decomposition process in natural surroundings to see how corpses react to sun and shade, whether they decay differently on the surface or below ground and what sort of creatures — from large to microscopic — are involved.

Only in recent years has academic literature tried to establish formulas for death time based on stages of decomposition and environmental factors such as temperature conditions where the body was found.

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

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Hunt for missing U.S. troops to continue

WASHINGTON (AP) — Wounded in both legs and wearing a U.S. Army field coat peppered with bullet holes, 1st Lt. Robert Schmitt led a desperate U.S. hilltop assault against advancing Chinese forces in one of the bloodiest battles of the Korean War. He never returned.

The hunt for thousands of fallen American troops like Schmitt, missing from a conflict fought six decades ago, is about to resume in North Korea as tensions ease between the wartime enemies.

A decade of search operations that led to the recovery and identification of 92 troops was suspended seven years ago, with the U.S. citing worries about the security of its personnel. That ended the only cooperation between the militaries of the two nations, which formally remain at war because the 1950-53 conflict ended with a cease-fire and armistice, not a formal peace treaty.

While Washington says the renewed search for remains is a purely humanitarian endeavor, the October resumption agreement, through which North Korea receives millions of dollars in compensation, comes amid intense efforts to coax the impoverished country into nuclear concessions. That culminated last week in a commitment by the North to freeze nuclear activities and allow international nuclear inspections in exchange for food aid.

A U.S. ship already has transported equipment for the searches to North Korea, and a U.S. advance team is due to arrive this month.

Searches are expected to begin in April.

It could be months or years before the renewed searches yield more identifications among the 5,300 service members still classified as missing in action in North Korea, but they offer hope for family members. Time is catching up not just on the war's veterans, now in their 80s and 90s, but those who lost loved ones.

"We lost one generation pretty much: the parents," said Richard Downes, who leads a volunteer group representing families of Korean War MIAs. "We're losing more and more of the wives, the brothers and sisters. Are we going to let the children, nieces and nephews die too, without closure?"

The resumed hunt, with two teams of 30 U.S. members each, will focus on two areas where more than 2,000 soldiers and Marines are recorded as missing: in Unsan County, north of the capital, Pyongyang, and farther north near the Chosin Reservoir, the area where Schmitt died.

Maj. Carie Parker, spokeswoman for the Pentagon's Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office, said North Korea would receive about \$5.7 million for the first four recovery operations through September. That is compensation for provision of services including labor, fuel, food, transportation, water and security.

"We were very excited when we heard they had agreed to go back," said Joan Morris, a niece of Schmitt from Jamestown, N.D. She said family

members have provided DNA samples and are now more hopeful his remains can be found and repatriated.

"It was my grandmother's greatest wish," she said. "She always believed Bobby would be coming back to North Dakota."

Accounting for all the missing Americans from the war has been a slow and frustrating process, complicated by that brutal conflict's most lasting legacy: the continued separation by a heavily militarized frontier of the Korean Peninsula. Recent military drills on both sides of the truce line and a threat from the North to wage a "sacred war" against the South have been a reminder of the potential for armed conflict.

The three-year war killed at least 4 million people from June 1950 to July 1953, including civilians and troops from the two Koreas, China and the United States and its allies in the name of the United Nations. More than 36,000 U.S. troops died, including more than 8,000 who were listed as missing in action on both sides of the Korean Peninsula.

Of the missing, the remains of just 192 have been recovered and identified. Some 63 of those were from boxes of remains handed over by Pyongyang between 1991 and 1994, which are still being examined.

Laboratory work also is continuing to identify many of the remains retrieved between 1996 and 2005, when the U.S. military conducted 33 searches in North Korea. Those searches were sus-

pending for what the Pentagon described as security concerns, during a tense period in ill-starred negotiations on the North's nuclear program.

To the frustration of veterans and relatives of the missing, the U.S. in 2010 rejected a North Korean offer to recover remains it had unearthed during agricultural work at several locations, linking it to progress on the nuclear negotiations.

Downes, whose airman father Lt. Hal Downes has been missing-in-action since his plane went down over North Korea in 1952, also complained the U.S. military has been slow to share information with relatives. But he says the process has picked up pace as the government looks to meet a target set by Congress: to be able, by 2015, to identify 200 MIAs from all conflicts each year.

The 1950 battle at the Chosin Reservoir in which Schmitt fought was one of the bitterest of the Korean War, after a huge Chinese force crossed the northern Korea border to repel an advance that U.S. commanders expected would win the war. Outnumbered U.S. Marines and Army soldiers were forced to beat a retreat in frigid conditions, but they inflicted heavy casualties on the communist-led side as they withdrew.

Schmitt's 31st Regimental Combat Team, 7th Infantry Division, was deployed on the eastern shore of the reservoir to replace a Marine regiment just before the Chinese attacked.

A letter to Schmitt's mother by friend and comrade Lt.

Henry Trawick recounted that on Nov. 28 at 3:30 a.m. they awoke to hearing shooting, whistles and the bugle calling. They were surrounded by thousands of Chinese forces, and completely cut off.

That night, Schmitt's company retreated. "He was shot thru both legs, but he would never lie down for long," Trawick wrote, recounting how he and Schmitt compared the dozens of bullet and shrapnel holes they now had in their field coats.

The friends fought-by-side for two more days and nights without sleep until, with their food and ammunition depleted, it was decided the regiment would make a break for it.

With trucks carrying the wounded, they tried to link up with Marines 12 miles to the south, but were blocked by Chinese forces. According to Schmitt's citation for the Distinguished Service Cross, the U.S. Army's second-highest honor, he gave his carbine to an unarmed man and, using a stick for a crutch, led an assault on a hilltop to try to clear the way.

Ultimately, the regiment had to abandon the trucks carrying the wounded and flee on foot. Of its 2,500 troops who had deployed at the reservoir, only 1,000 returned, and just 385 were able-bodied.

"He (Schmitt) stayed with the fighting group though he could barely walk. He is a very brave man," wrote Trawick. "I did not see Bob again after he went up the hill, so I can't say what happened to him."

Biggest solar storm in years headed to Earth

WASHINGTON (AP) — The largest solar storm in five years was due to arrive on Earth early Thursday, promising to shake the globe's magnetic field while expanding the Northern Lights.

The storm started with a massive solar flare earlier in the week and grew as it raced outward from the sun, expanding like a giant soap bubble, scientists said. When it strikes, the particles will be moving at 4 million mph.

"It's hitting us right

in the nose," said Joe Kunches, a scientist for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Boulder, Colo.

The massive cloud of charged particles could disrupt utility grids, airline flights, satellite networks and GPS services, especially in northern areas. But the same blast could also paint colorful auroras farther from the poles than normal.

Astronomers say the sun has been relatively quiet for some time.

And this storm, while strong, may seem fiercer because Earth has been lulled by several years of weak solar activity.

The storm is part of the sun's normal 11-year cycle, which is supposed to reach peak storminess next year.

Solar storms don't harm people, but they do disrupt technology. And during the last peak around 2002, experts learned that GPS was vulnerable to solar outbursts.

Because new technology has flourished since then, scientists could discover that some new systems are also at risk, said Jeffrey Hughes, director of the Center for Integrated Space Weather Modeling at Boston University.

A decade ago, this type

of solar storm happened a couple of times a year, Hughes said.

"This is a good-size event, but not the extreme type," said Bill Murtagh, program coordinator for the federal government's Space Weather Prediction Center.

The sun erupted Tuesday evening, and the most noticeable effects should arrive here between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. EST Thursday, according to forecasters at the space weather center. The effects could linger through Friday morning.

Center forecaster Rob Steenburgh said shortly before 5 a.m. EST Thursday that there still had been no noticeable effects on Earth or on a satellite geared to moni-

tor the storm's impact. "We haven't seen the shock arrive at the satellite yet," Steenburgh said. "We're keeping an eye on it."

The region of the sun that erupted can still send more blasts our way, Kunches said. He said another set of active sunspots is ready to aim at Earth right after this.

"This is a big sun spot group, particularly nasty," NASA solar physicist David Hathaway said. "Things are really twisted up and mixed up. It keeps flaring."

Storms like this start with sun spots, Hathaway said. Then comes an initial solar flare of subatomic particles that resemble a filament coming out of the sun. That part already hit Earth only minutes after the initial burst, bringing radio and radiation disturbances.

After that comes the coronal mass ejection, which looks like a growing bubble and takes a couple days to reach Earth. It's that ejection that could cause magnetic disruptions Thursday.

"It could give us a bit of a jolt," NASA solar physicist Alex Young said.

The storm follows an earlier, weaker solar eruption that happened

Sunday, Kunches said.

For North America, the good part of a solar storm — the one that creates more noticeable auroras or Northern Lights — will peak Thursday evening. Auroras could dip as far south as the Great Lakes states or lower, Kunches said, but a full moon will make them harder to see.


Auroras are "probably the treat we get when the sun erupts," Kunches said.

Still, the potential for problems is widespread. Solar storms have three ways they can disrupt technology on Earth: with magnetic, radio and radiation emissions. This is an unusual situation, when all three types of solar storm disruptions are likely to be strong, Kunches said. That makes it the strongest overall since December 2006.

That means "a whole host of things" could follow, he said.

North American utilities are monitoring for abnormalities on their grids and have contingency plans, said Kimberly Mielcarek, spokeswoman for the North American Electric Reliability Corporation.

In 1989, a strong solar storm knocked out the power grid in Quebec, causing 6 million people to lose power.



Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

The Moment of Truth

East dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 8 5 4
♥ J 6
♦ K Q 7 3
♣ A 10 8 5

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

EAST
♠ K Q 9
♥ K 9 4 3
♦ J 10 6 4
♣ 7 4

SOUTH
♠ A 10 6
♥ A 8 7
♦ A 8 5 2
♣ K Q 3

The bidding:
East South West North
Pass 1 NT Pass 3 NT
Opening lead — two of hearts.

Assume you're in three notrump and West leads the deuce of hearts. You play dummy's jack, hoping West has led from the K-Q, but East produces the king, and you duck. East returns the heart three, and you play low again. West wins with the ten and continues with a third heart, forcing out your ace.

You have been looking at eight sure tricks right from the start, and the ninth trick seems all but assured.

Tomorrow: Test your play.
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Indeed, with any luck at all, you'll wind up with an overtrick. But when you lead a low diamond to the queen and another back to the ace, West discards a spade, and making the contract is now far from certain.

The outcome boils down to scoring four club tricks, so you cash the K-Q of clubs and lead your last club, on which West plays the nine.

This brings you to the moment of truth. If West has the jack, you should play dummy's ten; if East has the jack, you should play the ace. Decisions of this kind are seldom a tossup; there is nearly always a reason for favoring one play over the other. This case is no exception, as there is a good clue to lean on.

It all goes back to West's opening lead. Presumably, West would have led from a five-card suit if he had one. His lead of the heart deuce indicated a four-card suit, and this was confirmed by East's return of the three, showing that he also had four hearts.

Once it is conceded that West doesn't have a five-card suit, it follows that his original distribution was 4-4-1-4 (since he showed out on the second diamond lead). Finishing the ten of clubs therefore becomes the right play.

sudoku

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.

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

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Sign of the times



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

The Howard College men's basketball team shows off a sign wishing them luck at the Region V basketball tournament, which begins today at Lubbock Christian University. The sign was made by Big Spring Junior High School art students.

Sports Calendar

TODAY

Men's basketball

Howard College vs. Weatherford College, Region V junior college tournament, 2 p.m., Rip Griffin Center, Lubbock Christian University.

Baseball

Big Spring High School Varsity Tournament (Steers vs. Monahans, 7 p.m.), Steer Park.

FRIDAY

Baseball

Big Spring High School Varsity Tournament (Steers vs. Levelland, 7 p.m.), Steer Park.

Softball

Frank Phillips College at Howard College (DH), 1 p.m.
Big Spring at Snyder tournament, times TBA.
Coahoma at Crane, 6:30 p.m.
Forsan at Lamesa, 6:30 p.m.

Tennis

Forsan at Class 2A state team tournament, 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., Austin.

To submit a calendar item, please call 263-7331, ext. 235, or e-mail reporter@bigspringherald.com

Manning starts sorting out life as a free agent

By MICHAEL MAROT

AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — Peyton Manning is getting an early glimpse into life as a free agent.

Hours after a tearful, trying farewell news conference in Indianapolis, Manning flew back to his home in Miami and was immediately peppered with questions about his next landing spot. He'd better get used to it. The scene is likely to play out at every destination he visits until he decides where to play next season.

"I haven't thought about teams and I don't know who is interested, I really don't. This is all new to me," Manning said. "I think my agent has been getting calls at 4 o'clock today since this started. I haven't talked to him because I literally just got off the plane and am ready to start back on my training again because that's what I need to do."

If Manning is healthy, he'll be the hottest commodity to hit the open market in decades: a Super Bowl-winning

quarterback with Hall of Fame credentials.

After the Colts decided not to pick up Manning's \$28 million bonus, team owner Jim Irsay ended months of speculation by releasing the 14-year veteran and longtime face of the franchise. Indianapolis is likely to find Manning's replacement in April's draft, presumably Stanford's Andrew Luck; the Colts have the first overall pick.

For Manning, Irsay and Colts fans, it was heart-wrenching saying goodbye.

Irsay and Manning exchanged hugs, laughs and even took turns fighting back tears during a news conference at the Colts' team complex. The room is normally used for celebrations such as hiring coaches or general managers or retirements, and it's decorated with banners of the Colts' greatest players. Manning's banner is flanked by two Hall of Famers, Eric Dickerson and John Mackey.

But this was a sad occasion, filled with emotion.

"I do love it here, I love the fans and I will always enjoy having played for such a great team. I will leave the Colts with nothing but good thoughts and gratitude to Jim, the organization, my teammates, the media and especially the fans," Manning said, his voice cracking. "As I go, I go with just a few words left to say. A few words I want to address to Colts fans everywhere. Thank you very much from the bottom of my heart. I truly have enjoyed being your quarterback."

At age 35, the man who won one Super Bowl, a record four MVP awards and who helped the Colts land a new stadium and the city's first Super Bowl is starting over.

Gone will be his longtime friends and teammates and the system he perfected. Manning knew the Colts' offense so well, he could literally point out a flaw in the defense, flap his arms, bark new play calls and signal the changes to teammates — usually before

See MANNING, Page 12

Retweets: The new autograph

NANCY ARMOUR

AP National Writer

Forget standing in line for hours, hoping for a scribbled, barely legible autograph on a wrinkled piece of paper. Or jockeying for spots behind the dugout, on the off chance a signed ball or batting glove gets tossed your way.

When it comes to souvenirs from your favorite athlete, the retweet is where it's at these days.

Fans have turned Twitter into a digital version of the autograph session, asking — sometimes begging — stars from every sport for a shoutout. Oh, sure, some requests are designed to raise the profile of a charitable cause. But most fans are simply looking for a little love from their favorite athletes.

"(at)SHAQ the real superman, can I get a birthday retweet from the most dominant big man of all time?"

"It's my birthday and all I want is for (at)KingJames to tweet me!!

"(at)Donald_Driver80 I love you so much. I have a piece of your jersey, I want more. I want(need) an RT from you. See ya in a lambeau leap!!

"(at)serenawilliams please don't let me go 0-5 for (hash)serenafriday RT from my favorite female tennis player?"

"It's almost like capturing a photo of yourself with that person," said Chris Abraham, senior vice president at Social Ally, a social media firm. "For a second there, you've breached their celebrity. They've actually allowed you to come over and take a camera shot of you two together, and you can share it with all your friends."

Now, a retweet might not sound all that thrilling. You can't frame it and hang it on a wall (though you could do a screen grab and print it out), and it can't be passed down to your kids and grandkids. You can't

See RETWEETS, Page 12

In brief

Steers host baseball tourney

Steer Park will be the site of the annual Big Spring High School Varsity Baseball Tournament, which began today.

Following is the schedule of games (all games at Steer Park, unless otherwise noted):

- Today — Lamesa vs. San Angelo Lake View, 9 a.m.; Jim Ned vs. Brownfield, 10 a.m. (Howard College); Fort Stockton vs. Levelland, 11:30 a.m.; Brownfield vs. Lake View, 2 p.m.; Jim Ned vs. Levelland, 4:30 p.m.; Big Spring vs. Monahans, 7 p.m.
- Friday — Jim Ned vs. Lamesa, 9 a.m.; Lake View vs. Monahans, 11:30 a.m.; Big Spring vs. Brownfield, 2 p.m.; Fort Stockton vs. Lamesa, 4:30 p.m.; Big Spring vs. Levelland, 7 p.m.
- Saturday — Brownfield vs. Monahans, 9 a.m.; Monahans vs. Lamesa, 11:30 a.m.; Jim Ned vs. Fort Stockton, 2 p.m.; Levelland vs. Lake View, 4:30 p.m.; Big Spring vs. Fort Stockton, 7 p.m.

Grady to open tourney play Friday

The Grady Wildcats will face Graford in the University Interscholastic League Boys State Basketball Tournament semifinals Friday, according to information released by the UIL.

The Wildcats (30-5) will face Graford (27-9) in the first Class 1A, Div. II semifinal at 2 p.m. Friday at the Frank Erwin Center in Austin. Roxton (26-9) will face Calvert (25-7) in the Class 1A Div. II semifinal at 7 p.m.

Coahoma softball sign-ups Saturday

COAHOMA — Registration for the Coahoma Girls Softball League will be held Saturday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at Coahoma City Hall.

Registration fee for the league, which is open to girls ages 3-18, is \$60. For more information, contact Billy Newton at 325-207-2640 or Amy Overton at 432-816-1968.

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The full moon in Virgo suggests that this is the moment to get back to basics. The top priority is safety and health. Everything builds to that end. It's not just about sticking to secure situations and activities, getting exercise or eating foods that nurture your body, though. Your happiness is a key piece of the puzzle. Do your joy.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're careful to celebrate the big events in the lives of others, but you don't wait for big events to show people how much you care about them. You'll be on many "favorite" lists.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). A compulsive sense of urgency compels you to achieve more in less time. But is this sense of hurry really necessary?

It's not so good for your heart. Try to take things slow.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You won't be content to know that you did your best unless your best was enough to get the job done. You won't be happy until you know that you did what it took to get the job done.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It's been said that your life can't go according to plan if you have no plan. It's also been said that when you make a plan, the gods laugh. So which is it? You'll see a little of both schools of thought at work in your life.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Sometimes what you would like to do is not actually the most important thing, and that's why it never fits properly into your schedule. Trust that you always have time for what you think is truly important.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You like to be thought of as a considerate person. By

the same token, you have no interest in being taken advantage of by those who can't appreciate the thought you put into relationships.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll be making "notes to self" all day long. It will help you to write them down, or you're likely to forget. Writing helps you mentally organize yourself even if you don't save what you've written.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're onto something; you just don't know what it is quite yet. Look at what you've covered and where you're going next. Record and explore new ideas. Be patient, and allow yourself to drift.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You want to inspire others like you have been inspired by the greats. Living well is the key. Your life will be more of an inspiration than your words ever could be.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll be taking yet another chance. This

one might not be much of a risk in any way except perhaps emotionally. Better to try to do something and fail than to try to do nothing and succeed.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You have a feisty spirit, and you like to say the kind of funny things that make people wonder whether or not you're really kidding. Probably even you won't know the answer to that question.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your creativity will be strengthened by a lackadaisical attitude toward rules and structure. Later, you'll have to get with the so-called "program," but for now you're better off doing your own thing.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 8). You haven't a clue what's coming, and the surprise of that makes life interesting for you this year. A fantastic new circle of friends will celebrate your ideas and support your plans. You provide what family needs in June. September

is your time to invest deeply in your own dream. Aquarius and Sagittarius people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 21, 24, 40 and 19.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: The luminous Pisces actress Juliette Binoche, known affectionately as "La Binoche," is one of the most internationally famous actresses of her generation. Her Pisces sun, Mercury and Mars indicate remarkable imagination, talent and great powers of empathy. Venus in artistic and beauty-oriented Libra represents a tenacious spirit.

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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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: My best friend, "Maggie," and I are like sisters. We have great fun, can talk about nearly anything and have supported each other through our toughest times. Our husbands also get along well, and we often do things together.

Over the past year, Maggie has become increasingly critical of her husband, "Scott."

He is a likeable guy, but Maggie scolds and picks on him, rolls her eyes and basically treats him with contempt. Granted, Scott can be a little blunt, and his attempts at humor don't always succeed, but her responses are worse.

She will say, "You're such an idiot. Why don't you just keep your mouth shut?" Yet, the next minute, they will have their arms around each other.

We often see Maggie and Scott at parties, and it is clear that others feel embarrassed by this behavior. Maggie has never mentioned marital problems to me. In fact, she says sweet and complimentary things about Scott when it's just the two of us.

I don't want to jeopardize our terrific friendship, so how do I approach this subject? She doesn't take criticism well, no matter how gentle. — *Baffled Friend*

Dear Baffled: Some married couples fall into the habit of letting criticisms become common and public. We think Maggie might simply need a little push in the right direction. The next time she says or does something critical of Scott, you might take her aside and say, "Are you angry with Scott? You seem to dislike him so much lately." You also could give positive reinforcement when you witness affection, adding, "It's so nice to see you two getting along."

Dear Annie: I've been asked to be the maid-of-honor for a friend. I was planning to throw a bridal shower with 10 to 15 guests at my apartment. I had a nice luncheon-type party in mind.

The other day, my friend informed me that she wants to invite 65 guests and, since my

apartment is too small for that crowd, said I should host it at a local restaurant. I checked with the venue, and it is way too pricey for my budget. Even if I involve the other two bridesmaids, this will be a much bigger expense than I can afford.

Are there rules when it comes to bridal shower guest lists? I don't want to hurt her feelings or lose her friendship, but combined with the expense of the dress, shoes, hair and bachelorette party, I may need to take out a loan. How can I handle this? After all, it's her wedding. — *Soon To Be Poor Maid of Honor*

Dear Maid: The bride is allowed to give you the guest list, but she must keep to the hostess's limit. When you told her you would give a shower for 15 people, she should have kept the guest list at 15. It is inconsiderate of a bride to force anyone to shell out more than they can afford for a shower. We recommend you tell her "so sorry," this isn't in your budget, and you will have to decline as

hostess, but that you would be happy to give a smaller event in your apartment for 15 guests. We don't care if it's her wedding. It doesn't entitle her to become Bridezilla.

Dear Annie: Your response to "Stuck in the Middle" was spot on. It's never too late to learn good fiscal behavior, but it's never too early, either. America's Credit Unions sponsors a public television series called "Biz Kid\$" that teaches young people the importance of good money management and business skills they can use for life. With a website of resources and a free curriculum that teachers and parents can access, "Biz Kid\$" teaches kids that being fiscally responsible can be fun. Will you tell them, Annie? — *Jamie Hammond, Executive Producer*

Dear Jamie: With pleasure. We hope our readers, young and old, will check out Biz Kid\$ at bizkids.com.

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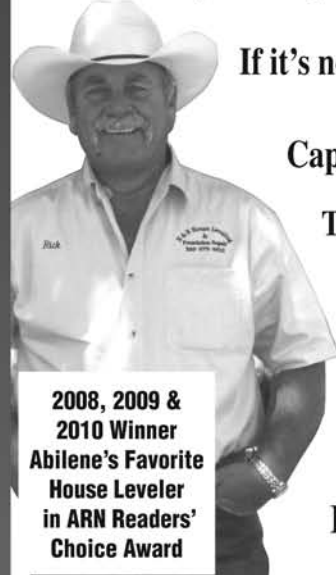
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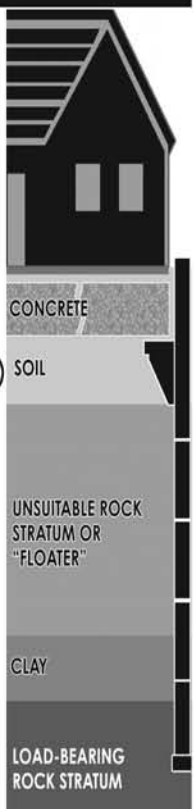
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	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWTT (14) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5:PM	News ABC	Alma Notic.	Two Men	News	Noticias	News	King	Israel	Charlie Rose	Til Death	Cash Cab	CSI: Miami	Jail	Bones	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Shake It Good		SportsCenter
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Una Familia con Suerte (SS)	Big Bang	News	Caso Cer-rado	News	Seinfeld	Dr. Wil	PBS News-Hour	Seinfeld	Secrets of the FBI	CSI: Miami	Jail	Bones		ANT Farm	College Basketball	
7:PM	Wheel Wipeout		American Idol	Big Bang	Una Maid en	30 Rock	Fam. Guy	Upd	Travel	The Vampire Diaries	Secret Service	Movie: Grease, Stockard Channing	Jail	NBA Basket-ball: Orlando Magic at Chicago Bulls.	Movie: 35 & Ticking, Kevin Hart	Shake It	College Basketball	
8:PM	Grey's Anatomy	El Talismán (SS)	The Finder	Person of Interest	Flor Salvaje (SS)	Office All Night	Big Bang		This Old House Hr	Supernatural	Armored Car		Jail		Movie: Radio Rebel		College Basketball	
9:PM	(:02) Private Practice	La Que No	Simpsons	The Mental-ist	Relaciones Peli	Awake	Big Bang		Independent Lens	Cops	Secret Service	Movie: Grease, Stockard Channing	Jail	NBA Basket-ball: Dallas Mavericks at Phoenix Suns.	Rickey Smiley: Live-Atlanta	ANT Farm	SportsCenter	
10:PM	News	Impacto	How I Met	News	Noticias	News	Conan	Dr. Diana	Charlie Rose	King	Armored Car		Jail		ANT Farm	SportCtr		
11:PM	Jimmy Kim-mel Live	Hasta-Dinero	Law Order: CI	Late	Sin Senos	Late Night	Office	Scrivner	World	South Pk	Secret Service		Jail		Wizards	NFL Live		
12:AM	Extra	Mañana-Siempre	Raymond	Insider	Decisiones (SS)	Late Night	Office	Sala	T. Smiley	Roseanne	Secret Service	Movie: Sleepless in Seattle, Bill Pullman	Jail	Inside the NBA	Rickey Smiley: Live-Atlanta	Good	E:60	SportsCenter
1:AM	Paid	La Jaula	American	Ent	Pagado	(:06) Today	Seinfeld	Light of the Southwest		ACTIVE	Secrets of the FBI		Jail	Rizzoli & Isles	ANT Farm	E:60	SportsCenter	

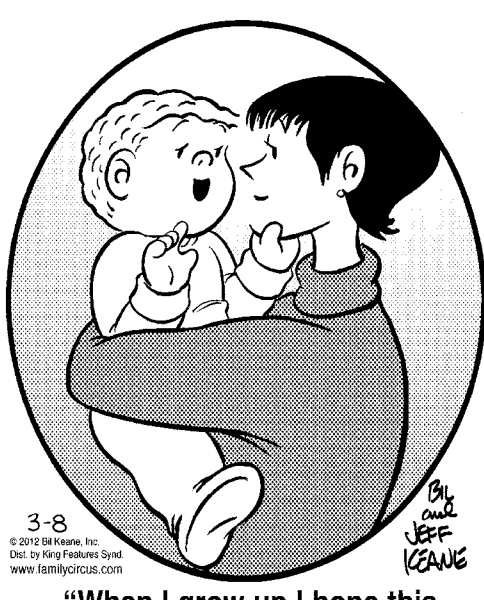
DENNIS THE MENACE



"GEORGE, ARE YOU AIMING THE REMOTE AT DENNIS?"

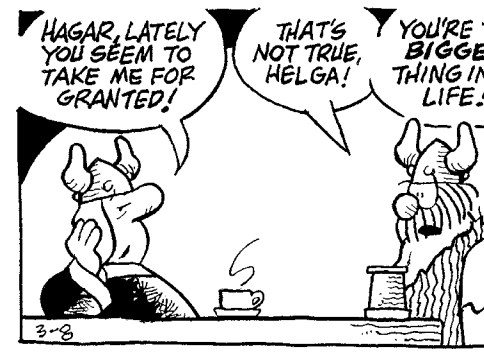
"I CAN DREAM, CAN'T I?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"When I grow up I hope this is gonna be one of our good ol' days."

HAGAR

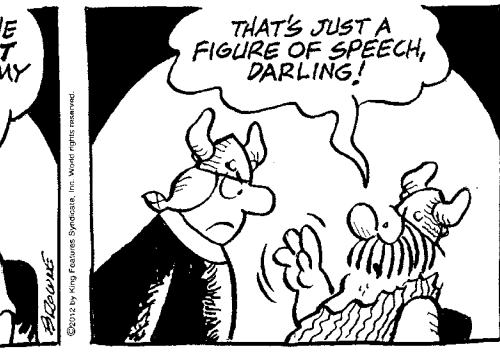


HAGAR, LATELY YOU SEEM TO TAKE ME FOR GRANTED!

THAT'S NOT TRUE, HELGA!

YOU'RE THE BIGGEST THING IN MY LIFE!

BLONDIE



HOW DID YOU DO IN THE BIG BOWLING TOURNAMENT, DEAR?

I ROLLED 9 GUTTER BALLS IN A ROW AND EVERYBODY GAVE ME A ROUGH TIME ABOUT IT!

THEY ACTUALLY ACCUSED ME OF DOING IT TO BREAK MY OWN PERSONAL GUTTER BALL RECORD OF 8 IN A ROW

ACTUALLY, THAT'S SOMETHING YOU MIGHT DO, HONEY

C'MON, AFTER ROLLING 8 LEGITIMATE GUTTER BALLS IN A ROW, WHO WOULDN'T TAKE A DIVE IN THE 9TH FRAME TO SET A NEW RECORD?

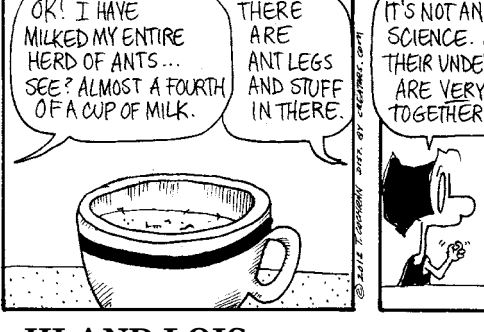
BC



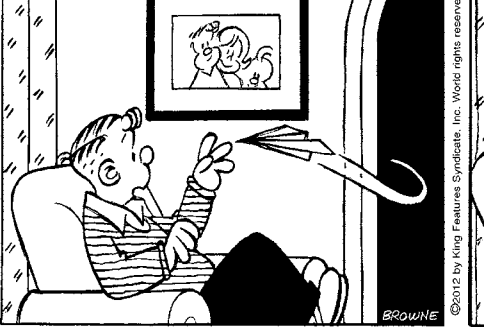
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AGNES



HI AND LOIS



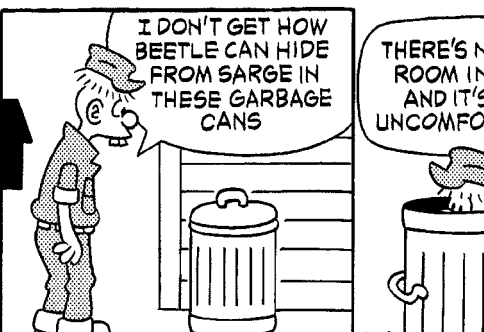
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



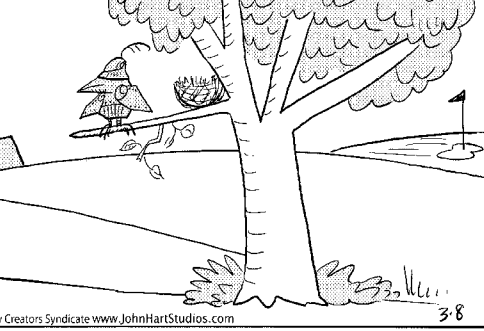
BETLE BAILEY



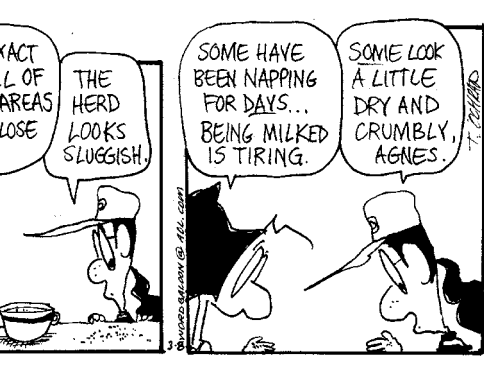
BLONDIE



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Thursday, March 8, the 68th day of 2012. There are 298 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 8, 1862, during the Civil War, the ironclad CSS Virginia rammed and sank the USS Cumberland and heavily damaged the USS Congress, both frigates, off Newport News, Va.

On this date:

In 1702, England's Queen Anne acceded to the throne upon the death of King William III.

In 1782, the Gnadenhutten (jih-NAY'-duhn-huh-tuhn) massacre took place as more than 90 Indians were slain by militiamen in Ohio in retaliation for raids carried out by other Indians.

In 1854, U.S. Commodore Matthew C. Perry made his second landing in Japan; within a month, he concluded a treaty with the Japanese.

In 1874, the 13th president of

the United States, Millard Fillmore, died in Buffalo, N.Y., at age 74.

In 1917, Russia's "February Revolution" (so called because of the Old Style calendar used by Russians at the time) began with rioting and strikes in Petrograd. The U.S. Senate voted to limit filibusters by adopting the cloture rule.

In 1930, the 27th president of the United States, William Howard Taft, died in Washington at age 72.

In 1942, Imperial Japanese forces occupied Yangon in Burma (Myanmar) during World War II.

In 1944, two days after an initial strike, U.S. heavy bombers resumed raiding Berlin during World War II.

In 1960, Democrat John F. Kennedy and Republican Richard M. Nixon won the New Hampshire presidential primary.

In 1965, the United States landed its first combat troops in South Vietnam as 3,500 Marines were brought in to defend the U.S. air base at Da Nang.

In 1971, Joe Frazier defeated Muhammad Ali by decision in what was billed as "The Fight

of the Century" at Madison Square Garden in New York. Silent film comedian Harold Lloyd died in Beverly Hills, Calif., at age 77.

In 1988, 17 soldiers were killed when two Army helicopters from Fort Campbell, Ky., collided in mid-flight.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Sue Ane (correct) Langdon is 76. Baseball player-turned-author Jim Bouton is 73. Songwriter Carole Bayer Sager is 68. Actor-director Micky Dolenz is 67. Singer-musician Randy Meisner is 66. Pop singer Peggy March is 64. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Jim Rice is 59. Singer Gary Numan is 54. NBC News anchor Lester Holt is 53.

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Answer to previous puzzle

VIEE	FADS	READY
SINK	ARIA	UNTIE
PORE	REAL	STEMS
FLOOR	MANAGER	
SALUKI	ADO	ASST
	TONI	WANTTO
BEG	GROUND	CREW
ALUMS	AOK	SEINE
BASER	RUNNER	POD
ATTAIN	SIZE	
REST	IQS	DONALD
	BOTTOM	DOLLAR
PSYAH	IDOL	NOTA
SAYALM	POSE	SIOT
APPLY	SITS	TEN

Newsday Crossword

DAYLIGHT SAVING by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| ACROSS | 69 Gain back | 10 Today rival, for short | 38 Luxury retail chain |
| 1 I, in Innsbruck | 70 Half of some couples | 11 Really bother | 40 Teeming (with) |
| 4 Israeli shrine | 71 As compared to | 12 "Yeah, right!" | 42 Kissers |
| 10 Prized possessions | 72 Slip by | 13 Fathers of foals | 45 Lose one's cool |
| 14 Drivers' org. | 73 Grasp | 19 Laura Bush, née | 47 Antique photo |
| 15 Variant compound | DOWN | 21 Archer's wood | 50 Woman in "The Raven" |
| 16 Polite request | 1 Poetic foot | 25 Campus VIP | 51 Sense of sound |
| 17 Hospital test | 2 Give a hoot | 27 "Excuse me . . ." | 52 Ready to hit |
| 18 Cooler drink | 3 Salon appliance | 28 Dietary components | 53 Urban invader |
| 20 Emerald, for one | 4 Deceive | 29 Drop | 54 Stretchy fabric |
| 22 Happen next | 5 Venomous viper | 30 Emphasize, with "on" | 58 Swashbuckling session |
| 23 Roll-call response | 6 Bent out of shape | 31 Earn | 59 Peruvian progenitor |
| 24 Profoundly | 7 Oscar role for Whitaker | 32 "Ballad of Davy Crockett" locale | 60 Resting on |
| 26 Tickles pink | 8 Cozy rooms | 36 Aeneid and Beowulf | 62 Nasty type |
| 28 Drill sergeant's command | 9 Debate participant | 37 Pool path | 63 Affectation |
| 33 Little Women sister | | | 65 Documentarian Burns |
| 34 Wooden rod | | | 66 Toys |
| 35 Loaf ends | | | |
| 39 Seating section | | | |
| 41 Untamed | | | |
| 43 Film rating org. | | | |
| 44 Small mall | | | |
| 46 Cap | | | |
| 48 Fingerprinting need | | | |
| 49 Come apart completely | | | |
| 52 Girlfriend of Garfield | | | |
| 55 Easy task | | | |
| 56 Diminutive dog | | | |
| 57 Kipling's birthplace | | | |
| 61 Batch of Brownies | | | |
| 64 Remote rural area | | | |
| 67 Vanity | | | |
| 68 It may be a lot | | | |

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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Tech falls to Oklahoma State

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Travis Ford has never been through a season quite like this one, where it seemed that just about every night out somebody else went down with a devastating injury.

It's gotten to the point where Ford and a couple of assistants were forced to practice with the Cowboys for their opening game in the Big 12 tournament Wednesday night. They simply didn't have enough bodies to put on the floor against each other.

"For these guys to continue to play as hard as they are," Ford

said, "they're fun to watch."

Especially since they're still winning.

Keiton Page scored 20 points, Brian Williams added 19 and the seventh-seeded Cowboys knocked off No. 10 seed Texas Tech 76-60 in the opening round of the Big 12 tournament.

Cezar Guerrero scored all 16 of his points in the second half for Oklahoma State (15-17), which advanced to play second-seeded No. 5 Missouri in the quarterfinals Thursday night. Markel Brown finished with 12 points as the Cowboys went 16 of 16 from

the free-throw line.

"Words really can't describe how proud I am of our basketball team," said Ford, his voice cracking after the game. "They continue to amaze me."

Jordan Tolbert had 16 points and six rebounds for Texas Tech, which matched a school record for the most losses in a single season. The 1990-91 team coached by Gerald Myers also went 8-23.

"They tried as hard as they possibly could try all year long," Red Raiders coach Billy Gillispie said.

RETWEETS

Continued from Page 7

collect retweets in a book and show it off to your friends. And no one's going to pay six figures for a retweet, as someone once did for a baseball signed by Babe Ruth.

But that's the old-school way of thinking. An autograph is going to be seen by 15, maybe 20 people. Get a retweet from Shaquille O'Neal, and you're now the coolest thing ever with the 5 million-plus people who follow the Big

Tweeter. To say nothing of the bragging rights you'll get when the folks who follow you see it.

"You can tweet that to your boys. Or if they're following you, they see it," said O'Neal, now an analyst for TNT. "You have 15 minutes of fame."

Sometimes you get even more than that.

A few weeks ago, New England Patriots wide receiver Chad Ochocinco, perhaps the most prolific athlete on Twitter, showed up on the doorstep of a follower who invited him to come over after Ochocinco tweeted that he

was driving around Miami.

When Ochocinco posted photos of their meeting, the follower's timeline was flooded with so many messages he'd need until next month's NFL draft to respond to them all.

For the last three semesters, David Gerzof Richard has given his social media and marketing class at Emerson College the assignment of making contact with a Boston-area celebrity through social media. The class picked Ochocinco last semester and, not only did he respond, he took the entire class to dinner.

MANNING

Continued from Page 7

the play clock expired. Gone, too, will be the familiar No. 18 in blue and white. Irsay promised no Colts' player would wear that number again.

Instead, Manning must learn the proper free-agent etiquette.

"I have no idea who wants me, what team wants me, how this process works. I don't know if it's like college recruiting where you go take visits," he said. "I mean, this is all so new to me. The Indianapolis Colts are the only team that I've ever played for, the only team I ever worked out for."

Workouts will almost certainly be part of the process as Manning attempts to prove he can perform like his old self after missing the entire 2011 season because of a damaged nerve that caused weakness in his right arm. He had the most recent of his multiple neck surgeries Sept. 8.

On Wednesday, Manning insisted he's closer than ever to being 100 percent though he's not completely recovered. Even Irsay acknowledged Manning is on the mend.

"I'm throwing it pretty well. I still have some progress to make, but I've come a long way," Manning said. "That's been the most fun part is being back out there on the field. I'm doing better, I continue to work hard and hope to continue making progress."

If he does, there will be plenty of suitors lining up for Manning.

Kansas City coach Romeo Crennel has already said he's interested. At the recent NFL scouting combine in Indy, Miami coach Joe Philbin didn't provide a name but certainly described a player matching Manning's profile when asked what he was looking for in a quarterback. Jets coach Rex Ryan has said his team had already looked at 10 free-agent quarterbacks, and you can bet he'll take a peek at No. 11, too.



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