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BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY

MARCH 31, 2009

VOLUME 104, NUMBER 101

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Herald file photo

Competitive dancing will be a highlight for this year's powwow, scheduled Saturday and Sunday at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Tickets are $5 each at the coliseum door. Children are admitted free. The Powwow Committee is looking for volunteers to help with the event.

Powwow and how!

Annual gathering set at coliseum Saturday, Sunday

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

It's powwow time in the Crossroads area, as the fifth annual Big Spring Powwow prepares to get under way Saturday at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Featuring an array of arts and disciplines from the Native American people, the powwow also marks a time for competitive dancers to show off their moves and compete for top honors, according to Connie Lesser, who serves as secretary for the committee that holds the annual event

"This year's powwow is a contest powwow," said Lesser. "That means there will be competitive dancing going on during certain parts of the event."

See **POWWOW**, Page 3

Voter registration deadline nears

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Area residents planning to vote in this year's school board and city elections will have to move quick if they aren't already registered, as the April 9 deadline for voters to register or change their address looms on the horizon.

Saundra Bloom, Howard County elections administrator, said her office is getting ready for the May contests, and suggested area voters do the same by checking their voter readiness.

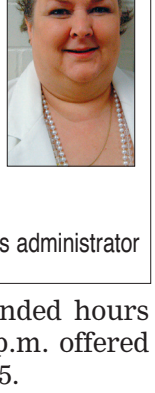
"April 9 is the last day to submit a voter application or a change of address on your current registration for the May 9 city and school board elections," said Bloom. "For voters in the city of Big Spring and within the Big Spring Independent School District, you may vote in this election if you are in city Districts 2, 4 or 6, or Big Spring ISD District 2. Only voters residing in these areas may participate.

"Voters in the city of Coahoma will be able to participate if they live within the city limits or if they reside within the Coahoma Independent School District. These voters will also be going to the polls May 9."

Bloom said voters who are unsure of their status can find out with a quick phone call.

"If you are unsure of your district, it's listed on your voter registration card," said Bloom. "Your city and school districts are identified in boxes on the right of the card. If you're still unsure, you can contact us at the elections office at 264-2273."

> ***"If you are unsure of your district, it's listed on your voter registration card. Your city and school districts are identified in boxes on the right of the card. If you're still unsure, you can contact us at the elections office at 264-2273."***
>
> —Saundra Bloom, elections administrator



Early voting is set to begin April 27 at the Howard County Courthouse. Early voting hours are set for 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., with extended hours of 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. offered April 30 and May 5.

"We always try to offer extended hours during early voting because it's hard for many people to get to the polls when they have to work from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.," said Bloom. "This way they have the opportunity to come in before or after work and cast their ballot early."

Bloom said branch voting will also take place at the Coahoma Community Center May 4 and 5 for voters in the Coahoma districts.

There will be two locations for voters to cast their ballots on election day, according to Bloom, with Big Spring and Big Spring ISD voters expected to go to the polls at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum foyer and Coahoma and CISD balloters set to cast their votes at the Coahoma Community Center.

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

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www.bigspringherald.com

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

FDA: Avoid pistachios amid salmonella scare

GARANCE BURKE
Associated Press Writer

FRESNO, Calif. — Federal food officials are warning people not to eat any food containing pistachios because of possible contamination by salmonella, in another food scare sure to rattle consumers already upset by the contamination of peanuts with the same bacteria.

The Food and Drug Administration said central California-based Setton Pistachio of Terra Bella Inc., the nation's second-largest pistachio processor, was voluntarily recalling more than 2 million pounds of its roasted nuts shipped since last fall.

"Our advice to consumers is that they avoid eating pistachio products, and that they hold onto those products," said Dr. David Acheson, assistant commissioner for food safety. "The number of products that are going to be recalled over the coming days will grow, simply because these pistachio nuts have then been repackaged into consumer-level containers."

Two people called the FDA complaining of gastrointestinal illness that could be associated with the nuts, but the link hasn't been confirmed, Acheson said. Still, the plant decided to shut down late last week, officials said.

The recalled nuts are a small frac-

See **PISTACHIOS**, Page 3

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Obituaries

C.R. (Speck) Franklin



Funeral services for C.R. (Speck) Franklin, 74, of Levelland will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, March 31, 2009, at First Baptist Church in Levelland with Dr. Brian Hill, Minister of Education, and the Rev. Joe Stewart, pastor of First Baptist Church in Littlefield, officiating. Burial will be in the City of Levelland Cemetery under direction of George Price Funeral Home in Levelland. He died Friday, March 27, 2009, at Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock.

Speck was born July 4, 1934, in Big Spring to Charles and Catherine Hull Franklin. He moved to Levelland in 1980 from Fort Worth. He graduated from Big Spring High School in 1952 and Ranger Junior College in 1955. He played softball for the Cosden Oil Company in Big Spring and was an avid golfer.

He married Kay Franklin April 5, 1984, in El Paso. Speck was a member of First Baptist Church in Levelland and was a member of Levelland Country Club, where he had served as director and president.

Following his retirement from Baker-Petrolite in 1993, he went to work for Butch's Rathole and Trucking and for Floserve of Hastings, Neb. He was preceded in death by a son, Steve Franklin, in 1982; a brother, Bill Franklin; and a sister, Lenore Knapp.

Survivors include his wife, Kay Franklin of Levelland; his sons, Eric Franklin and his wife, Cyndy, of Fort Worth and Tony Franklin and his wife, Sally, of San Antonio; and four grandchildren, Sean, Shea, Devin and Deren.

To leave online condolences, please go to www.mem.com

Paid obituary

Rita Barnett



Rita Barnett, 87, died Sunday, March 29, 2009, at her residence. Memorial Services will be held at 4 p.m. Wednesday, April 1, 2009, at Myers & Smith Chapel.

She was born June 16, 1921, in Baton Rouge, La., to Clara and Edmond Blanchard. She moved to Big Spring in 1992, where she worked for four years for the Texas Department of Human Services. She also worked in the Howard County Auditors Office and the Senior Citizens Center. She was a Catholic.

She is survived by two daughters, Donna B. Lasater and husband, Dean, of Big Spring, and Holly D. Lambert and husband, Werner, of Grand Prairie; four grandchildren; five great grandchildren; two nieces and a number of great nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two husbands, H.M. Pilcher and David Franklin Barnett; one brother, Edmond "Pee Wee" Blanchard; and one sister, Jeannie Fairchild.

The family suggests memorials to Christ's Community Church, 1008 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring 79720; Compass Hospice, 1003 E. FM 700, Big Spring 79720; or the America Heart Association, P.O. Box 15186, Austin 78761.

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

Harold Pitts

Harold Pitts, 76, of Big Spring died Monday, March 30, 2009, in a local nursing home. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Cheryl L. Bell Darst



Cheryl L. Bell Darst, 60, of Big Spring died Sunday, March 29, 2009, in an Odessa hospital. Graveside funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, April 2, 2009, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park with the Rev. Calvary Callender, pastor of the First Church of the Nazarene, officiating. The family will receive friends from 7:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

She was born June 8, 1948, in Big Spring and married Billy Worth Darst Nov. 19, 1978, in Denison, Okla. He preceded her in death Jan. 1, 2000.

Cheryl grew up in Big Spring and graduated from Big Spring High School. She attended Texas Tech University. She worked as an office manager in the healthcare field and had worked at the VA Medical Center for the past nine months. She was a member of the First Church of the Nazarene.

Survivors include two sons and daughters-in-law, Roy and Tiffany Ashley of Dallas, and Jeremy and Angela Darst of London, Ky.; her mother, Violet Bell of Big Spring; a sister, Sharon Krail of New Orleans, La.; and six grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by her father, Clarence Bell.

The family suggests memorials be made to the American Diabetes Association, 3001 N. Big Spring, Midland 79705.

Police blotter

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

• ROBERTO BALTAZAR, 35, of 3610 Hamilton, was arrested Monday on a capias warrant for no driver's license.

• ROBERT SANCHEZ, 44, of 423 Westover Rd., was arrested Monday on a charge of public intoxication.

• THEFT OF SERVICE was reported in the 1700 block of Third Street.

• CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported:
in the 300 block of Ninth Street.
in the 1900 block of Wasson.

• BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 1900 block of 25th Street.

• ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported:
in the 800 block of FM 700.
in the 1400 block of Bluebird.
in the 1900 block of Wasson.

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 50 inmates at the time of this report.

• MICHAEL WAYNE BALES, 52, was arrested Monday by DPS on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• LEVI PATRICK CARTER, 30, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of criminal mischief – impairing public communication/supply.

• SERENA LYN HOLDRIDGE, 36, was arrested Monday by DPS on charges of driving while intoxicated – third or more offense and possession/delivery of drug parapernalia.

• CHANCE RAY LANG, 22, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of resisting arrest, search or transportation.

• ZZIE LEE MENDEZ, 20, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on charges of unlawfully carrying a weapon, unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon and unauthorized use of a vehicle.

• JOSEPH RAY OLIVAS, 18, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of evading arrest/detention with a vehicle.

• MAURICIO TORRES, 35, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of theft by check, and theft – more than $20, less than $500 (two counts).

Take Note

• Yvette Villarreal has been named the Hangar 25 Air Museum Veteran of the Month. Villarreal served in the U.S. Navy as an engineman during operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield. During her time in uniform, she served aboard the USN Chavenet Tags 29, USS Arcadia, USS Safeguard, USS Rushmore and the USS Land. A reception in her honor will be held at 6 p.m. today in the Hangar 25 Museum's Briefing Room. For more information, call 264-1999.

Your Local Weather

Wed 4/1	Thu 4/2	Fri 4/3
81/47	69/43	82/53
Mostly sunny skies. High 81F. Winds SW at 20 to 30 mph.	Windy with clouds giving way to sun.	Mainly sunny. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the low 50s.

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Bulletin Board

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

TODAY

• Alzheimer's Association, the Greater West Texas Chapter meets at 2 p.m. in the Howard County Library conference room, 500 S. Main.

• VFW Post 2013 meets at 7 p.m. in the VFW Hall, 500 Driver Road.

• Gospel Singing in the Kentwood Activity Center at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

• The Howard County Sheriff's Posse meets at 7 p.m. at the Sheriff's Posse building on the Andrews Highway. For more information, call Bert Sheppard at 263-4483 or Rose Armstead at 263-2769.

• Order of the Eastern Star No. 67 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

WEDNESDAY

• Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

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

• Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

• Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.

• Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge at 703 W. Third.

Fire/EMS

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

• MEDICAL was reported in the 5200 block of Sterling. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 2000 block of Goliad. Service refused.

• TRAUMA was reported in the 2600 block of N. Anderson Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

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

• MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of Birdwell Lane. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 600 block of Linda Lane. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of Birdwell Lane. One person was transported to SMMC.

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

Lottery

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 21-24-28-30. Bonus Ball: 25.

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

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 2-7-14-19-25.
Number matching five of five: 1. Prize: $23,598.
Winning ticket purchased in San Antonio.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 8-2-1-9. Sum It Up: 20.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 2-0-0. Sum It Up: 2.

Support Groups

TUESDAY

• Grief share, sponsored by Home Hospice and the First Presbyterian Church, Seventh and Runnels (north end door), meets at 6 p.m.. Drop-ins are welcome. For more information, contact Sherry Hodnett at 264-7599.

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

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY

• RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at (432) 517-9207 for more information.

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

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

USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6811

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News in brief

Obama team applies cold analysis to automakers, tells them to do more or else

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama's extraordinary auto industry intervention is assertive and coldly pragmatic, with a dose of caution and a sentimental nod to the automobile's place in the American psyche.

Obama's curt rejection of General Motors' and Chrysler's restructuring plans and his abrupt move to muscle out GM's CEO set the stage for a major realignment of the U.S. auto industry. He bluntly raised the prospect of a "prepackaged bankruptcy" that would reorganize the companies quickly under court protection.

But Obama did not upend Detroit in one single swoop. He gave each company a second chance at a federal bailout — 60 days for GM and 30 for Chrysler — though it was evident that from now on little would remain the same.

"We've reached the end of that road," Obama declared Monday.

The administration's analysis of the viability of the two auto giants was merciless and remarkably specific in its critique of their business practices. It said GM's underperforming dealers were a drag on the company and its car of the future, the plug-in Chevrolet Volt, held promise but was too expensive. As for Chrysler, the president said it could only survive with an international partner, the Italian carmaker Fiat SpA.

President leaves for Europe with busy agenda, 5 countries on schedule

WASHINGTON (AP) — In his first presidential trip across the Atlantic, Barack Obama hopes to convince European allies that his young administration can improve the global economy and the United States' image.

Obama's eight-day, five-country trip begins early Tuesday, sending him to meet with European leaders who split with the United States over the war in Iraq and the treatment of suspected terrorists at Guantanamo Bay under President George W. Bush.

First up: a summit of the world's economic powers in London to address the global financial meltdown that has defined the first two months of Obama's administration.

"The president and America are going to listen in London, as well as to lead," White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said.

Pakistani Taliban chief claims responsibility for police academy attack

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan (AP) — The commander of the Pakistani Taliban claimed responsibility Tuesday for a deadly assault on a Pakistani police academy and said the group was planning a terrorist attack on the U.S. capital.

Baitullah Mehsud, who has a $5 million bounty on his head from the U.S., said Monday's attack outside the eastern city of Lahore was in retaliation for U.S. missile strikes against militants along the Afghan border.

"Soon we will launch an attack in Washington that will amaze everyone in the world," Mehsud told The Associated Press by phone. He provided no details.

Mehsud and other Pakistani Taliban militants are believed to be based in the country's lawless areas near the border with Afghanistan, where they have stepped up their attacks throughout Pakistan.

International migration group fears about 300 drowned off the coast of Libya

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP) — Vessels carrying hundreds of migrants capsized off the coast of Libya in separate incidents over the last two days and more than 300 people were believed to have drowned, an international migration group said Tuesday.

The International Organization for Migration said Libyan officials reported between one and three ships had sunk in Libyan waters Monday and Sunday.

The group confirmed the information with diplomatic sources, spokesman Jean-Philippe Chauzy said.

He said strong winds could have caused the vessels to capsize.

IOM believes the migrants were trying to cross from North Africa to Italy in search of a better life in Europe.

According to the group's figures, some 33,000 people crossed from North Africa to the Italian island of Lampedusa alone in 2008.

Many of the boats are not seaworthy and deadly accidents are frequent.

Clinton says diplomacy, defense and development key to Afghanistan's future

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Diplomacy must be packaged with military action and civilian development to rescue Afghanistan, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said Tuesday.

Clinton spoke as more than 70 nations gathered to reinvigorate international efforts to stabilize Afghanistan and Pakistan's lawless western border region.

The hastily convened one-day conference in this Dutch city brings together all the countries bordering Afghanistan, including Iran, and all nations contributing troops to the NATO-led international force fighting Taliban insurgents.

It will be opened by U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

Preparing to take power in Israel, new premier playing up his pragmatic side

JERUSALEM (AP) — During the election campaign, Benjamin Netanyahu dismissed peace talks with the Palestinians, supported expanding West Bank settlements and warned that concessions only embolden Israel's enemies.

But preparing to become Israel's prime minister Tuesday, Netanyahu adopted a more conciliatory tone, reflecting the same pragmatic streak that in the past allowed him to navigate complex domestic and global politics.

He has embraced peace negotiations since being tapped as the country's leader after the Feb. 10 elections.

He also says Israel should not rule Palestinians, although he has remained vague on the details and never said the words "Palestinian state."

POWWOW

Continued from Page 1

The event — which is slated for the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum from 11 a.m. until 10 p.m. Saturday, and from 9:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. Sunday — will feature an array of talented Native American artists, according to Lesser.

The Southern Drum host this year is Robert Tehauno of Lawton, Okla., according to Lesser. The Northern Drum host is Northern Vibe of Jemez Pueblo, N.M.

"The drum hosts are responsible for keeping the event flowing without interruptions, and the names indicate what type of music and songs the hosts perform," Lesser said. "The Southern Drum host plays music that is low in pitch and slow, while the Northern Drum host will provide music that is fast-paced with a high pitch."

Arena director is Fabian Galvan of Lubbock and emcee for the event is Tim Harjo of Ada, Okla. The Head Female Dancer is Charlotte McCurtain of Indiahoma, Okla., and the Head Male Dancer will be Terry Pecos of Albuquerque, N.M.

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

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

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

Vendors offering many different wares will also be available and a food drive is scheduled with all donated canned goods given to local food banks.

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

Lesser said the Powwow Committee is currently looking for volunteers.

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

The event will kick off Saturday with gourd dancing at 11 a.m. and grand entry set for noon. Following grand entry, contest dancing will continue until a dinner break at 5 p.m., with a second round of gourd dancing at 6:30 p.m. and a second grand entry at 7 p.m., with the event shutting down for the night at 10 p.m.

Sunday, the event begins with a special Christian worship service at 9:30 a.m. in the arena, followed by gourd dancing and the grand entry.

Admission is $5 and children under 12 are free.

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

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

PISTACHIOS

Continued from Page 1

tion of the 55 million pounds of pistachios that the company's plant processed last year and an even smaller portion of the 278 million pounds produced in the state in the 2008 season, according to the Fresno-based Administrative Committee for Pistachios.

California is the second-largest producer of pistachios in the world.

According to the company's Web site, Setton Pistachio is in the corporate family of Commack, N.Y.-based Setton International Foods Inc. The company sells nuts, dried fruit, edible seeds, chocolate and yogurt-coated candies.

The FDA learned about the problem last Tuesday, when Kraft Foods Inc. notified the agency that routine product testing had detected salmonella in roasted pistachios. Kraft and the Georgia Nut Co. recalled their Back to Nature Nantucket Blend trail mix the next day.

The FDA contacted Setton Pistachio and California health officials shortly afterward, in what Acheson called a "proactive move."

By Friday, Cincinnati-based grocery operator Kroger Co. recalled one of its lines of bagged pistachios because of possible salmonella contamination, saying the California plant also supplied its nuts. Those nuts were sold in 31 states.

Fabia D'Arienzo, a spokeswoman for Tulare County-based Setton Pistachio, said the company was only recalling certain bulk roasted in-shell and roasted shelled pistachios that were shipped on or after September 1.

Because Setton Pistachio shipped bags of nuts weighing up to 2,000 pounds to 36 wholesalers across the country, it will take weeks to figure out how many products could be affected, said Jeff Farrar, chief of the Food and Drug Branch of the California Department of Public Health.

"It will be safe to assume based on the volume that this will be an ingredient in a lot of different products, and that may possibly include things like ice cream and cake mixes," Farrar said. "The firm is already turning around trucks in transit to bring those back to the facility."

Salmonella, the most common cause of foodborne illness, causes diarrhea, fever and cramping. Most people recover, but the infection can be life-threatening for children, the elderly and people with weakened immune systems.

Roasting is supposed to kill the bacteria in nuts. But problems can occur if the roasting is not done correctly or if roasted nuts are recontaminated. That can happen if mice, rats or birds get into the facility.

The national peanut salmonella outbreak was blamed on a Georgia company under federal investigation for flouting safety procedures and knowingly shipping contaminated peanuts.

That outbreak is still ongoing. More than 690 people in 46 states have gotten sick. Nearly 3,900 products made with peanut ingredients from Peanut Corp. of America have been recalled.

California public health authorities have taken hundreds of samples at Setton's processing facility, but lab results have not yet determined whether salmonella was found at the plant, Farrar said. The food companies' own tests of the contaminated products isolated four different types of salmonella, but none were the same strain as the one found in the peanuts, Acheson said.

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Rita Barnett, 87, died Sunday. Memorial Services will be at 4 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

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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.

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OUR VIEW

Powwow will again be fun and unique

One doesn't have to "go tribal" to celebrate his or her Native American heritage — something a great many of us can boast. Instead, we can celebrate that distinct culture by taking part in this weekend's fifth annual Big Spring Powwow at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

And you don't even have to have any Native American ancestry to enjoy the activities.

The powwow will get under way at 11 a.m. Saturday with gourd dancing, followed by the grand entry when all of the event's dancers will enter the coliseum floor.

It's important to note that this year's powwow is a contest powwow — meaning competitive dancing is scheduled for certain parts of the weekend event.

Simply put, however, the powwow is a celebration — a social event, if you will — conducted in the manner Native Americans have always used to celebrate.

"The powwow is a social event and there is no Native American religion involved; there will be no medicine men and no ceremonies," explained Randy McKinney, who serves as treasurer of the powwow's organizing committee. "A powwow is a wonderful experience; the drum alone will lift your heart and make your feet want to dance.

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

But one doesn't have to be dancing to enjoy the powwow's activities. Those interested in attending merely as spectators will have an opportunity to experience unique sights and sounds that are only displayed once a year in Big Spring — colorful costumes, the drum beats and the various dances displayed by the performers.

And Sunday, the event will begin with a special Christian worship service at 9:30 a.m. in the arena. Following that service, gourd dancing and the grand entry are scheduled.

Admission to the event is $5 and children under 12 are free.

For more information about the powwow, contact Connie Lesser at 264-8203.

We encourage readers to make the Big Spring Powwow a part of their activities this weekend. It's clearly an affordable entertainment opportunity — one that is singularly unique in our community.

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we grab any opportunity we can to say a silent prayer to You, Lord.

Amen

Mother Nature come out now

Democratic presidents must be very cautious not to appear liberal. As we have lately seen, it's imperative that cabinet appointees to the big jobs — Defense, Justice, Treasury, and State — not give any semblance of rocking the boat. There are nonetheless a few posts where real change is OK without risking a revolt of the pundits. One of these is the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Thus while our global wars may proceed, while our war criminals may walk, while bankers collude and diplomats connive, polluters could be in trouble. Unlike these others, they're acceptable targets.



WILLIAM A. COLLINS

In that vein, the new EPA secretary is plainly a toughie, which is bleak news for carmakers, agri-cartels, coal moguls, power plants, clear cutters, truckers, trawlers, lawn mowers, air conditioners, plastic makers, pharmaceutical manufacturers and a thousand other cavalier public poisoners. With new enemies in the White House, they must now lean on Congress to cover their flanks. All too often, that's been more than sufficient.

Still, for us citizens the omens look good. The EPA already has the go-ahead to regulate CO2 as a pollutant. You can run pretty far with that one. And a dozen greenish states can now set their own stern auto emissions standards. That's probably enough to force compliance in the rest of the country as well. Electricity generation seems certain to upgrade too, and King Coal may soon be facing regicide. The energy secretary however, is a nuke guy, so don't turn in your Geiger counter just yet.

The biggest losers so far are coal-fired power plants. Legislation has long required them to do heavy smoke clean up if they expand or otherwise modernize. But the Bush administrators had been generous in giving them waivers, so the polluters were saving themselves a bundle. Sorry guys, the party's over. Of course, this new enforcement regimen in turn gives a big boost to natural gas. Invest now.

Trickier to deal with is water. No smokestacks to spot. How do you measure the fertilizer, pesticide and manure that each farm leaches into neighboring waterways? That's a challenge for even the most dedicated scientists. Easier to spot but fraught with politics are the "lagoons." The Tennessee Valley Authority has just kindly demonstrated what can happen to the ones storing coal sludge, and North Carolina is awash with tales of escaped animal waste from their pig factories. Toughening rules for those pools would seem an early priority.

But then what about all those individual farms? Biologists already report that just offshore from the Mississippi delta is an 8,000-square-mile dead zone, created by runoff from as far away as Minnesota. Shrimp boats ain't a comin' no mo'. And Chesapeake Bay is close behind, in case you were wondering where all the blue crabs had gone. Neither is Long Island Sound any longer much fit for lobsters. There though, the manure doesn't come from livestock.

Part of the problem is our zooming population. We can put billions into sewage plants but they keep getting overwhelmed. Likewise, we may eventually catch up with the worst slaughterhouse lagoons, but our ceaseless growing demand for burgers, nuggets, and bacon means that we simply can't find enough natural disposal sites for all that waste. Now, with newly emancipated leadership, the Environmental Protection Agency is even contemplating sewage treatment for pigs. Canada geese may be next.

Rampant population growth also encroaches on our national parks and forests. Rangers still haven't gotten the snowmobiles out of Yellowstone nor the loggers out of the wilderness. Further, regulators may be friendlier to nature now, but their budget isn't. To make real progress, the Democrats will likely have to hold on until the economy turns.

But at least it is finally safe for Mother Nature to come out of the closet.

Appointees no longer face discipline for pleading her case. Whistleblowers may at last be somewhat protected. It's not a waste of time now to lobby for good stuff. No, there may not yet be much change in White House policy toward war, empire, spying or greed, so let's at least celebrate the potential improvements in the environment while we can.

Columnist William A. Collins is a former state representative and a former mayor of Norwalk, Conn.



Don't rip every bonus recipient

As the chief executive responsible for the success of my company, I chose to forgo a cash bonus this year in order to protect our immediate cash flow. With the economy being very uncertain, it seemed more important to protect my long-term interests and those of my store than to enhance my short-term bank account.



DANIEL KLINE

Since I have overall responsibility for the health of the operation, that decision made sense and I believe that keeping that money in the bank now will mean more cash for me in the future.

Had I been a salesperson or a marketing executive who earned a bonus by meeting specific revenue criteria, I would have been less charitable.

Before we damn every person at AIG who received a bonus and punish them with confiscatory taxes, we should at least consider who got bonuses and why. Some of the folks who got bonuses are robbing the taxpayers who saved them and others who took bonuses were simply getting paid for meeting their goals.

Should AIG not pay bonuses to salespeople who managed to meet their quotas in these difficult times at a company whose name does not exactly inspire confidence? Maybe AIG would turn around if it drives away all its successful employees in the interest of not looking bad to the public?

Simply painting all bonuses with a broad brush and declaring them "bad" makes little sense. Even bankrupt companies often pay retention bonuses as a way to protect value and keep people from jumping off a sinking ship that may be righted.

Most people will never make six figures in a year, let alone get a six figure bonus. That makes it really easy to get the public angry about people getting large bonuses at companies receiving government bailout funds.

Of course, the people who got companies like AIG into trouble should not reward themselves with bonuses for failure. Any executives or management at a business that takes bailout money should not take a bonus simply because executives at public companies have a responsibility to put their shareholders above themselves.

That does not mean, however, that all bonuses are wrong and that people should be outraged over AIG's actions. If the company was "too big to fail," and it really required a taxpayer bailout, than we actually have to allow the company to operate.

The bonus brouhaha simply makes it even more obvious that governments should not stop businesses from failing. The public, and most certainly Congress and the president, have no ability to run a business and should leave that to the open market.

If AIG had gone out of business, as it deserved to, than nobody there would have been paid a bonus. Once the U.S. government stopped that from happening, the company had not only the right, but the obligation, to make its contractually mandated bonus payments.

Governments should not bail out failing companies and then counsel those companies to ignore contractual obligations. AIG was, and probably is, a badly run company full of executives out for themselves.

Still, that does not mean we should punish the people there who actually earned the money they received.

Daniel B. Kline's work appears in more 100 papers weekly. He can be reached by e-mail at dan@notastep.com.

Bird Poop:

Rescued raven given new life at Abilene Zoo



Bebe McCasland

During the day, the drizzle had started to freeze on the tree limbs outside her office. Since she drove in daily from the northern part of the county, she decided to leave early. The narrow, two lane road was free of ice, but the tall left-over weeds and grasses from another season were becoming an ethereal wonderland. Ahead, the sparkling, crystal beads and icicles were in sudden contrast to a black object on the edge of the asphalt.

Slowing her vehicle, then stopping, the woman thought it might be a crow. Because this rural road had no shoulders, the bird was in imminent danger of being hit by a passing motorist. Hampering its efforts to leave the pavement, the dense growth formed a barrier with no escape.

As she opened her car door, winter's last fling convinced her to hurry. Approaching the bird, she noticed an awkward limp as it moved in desperation. Evidently, it also chose not to fly. Certain that she would not leave it there, she slipped out of her coat and threw it over the bird. As she brought her hands against the body beneath, a loud "craaak" protested this intrusion. Determined, she raised coat, bird, and its continuing racket and rushed to her car.

Glad to be out of the penetrating cold wind, she laid the coat on the passenger seat. After securing every button, she tucked the bottom underneath. The open collar would allow air. With one hand, she could keep the bird inside. With her other hand, she managed to turn her car around and drive back to town.

Unwrapping her find at the vet clinic, she realized this bird was much larger than a crow. After examining it, her veterinarian said that although the right wing and foot were sore, there were no breaks. However, he noticed while the bird's left eye was normal, the other eye had sustained an injury that caused loss of eyesight. From the woman's descriptions of the bird's reactions to her, he could understand why it did not try to take flight.

When the phone rang, the woman stressed her doubts as to the bird's identification. After telling her it probably was a raven, I was relieved to hear that she was willing to meet us in Stanton. Both of us could get back to our homes before the weather worsened.

Taking the bird from her coat, we knew it was a raven. Carefully ruffling the neck feathers, we exposed their white base. Under normal conditions, this contrasting color would only be seen if rearranged by preening or the wind. "You have a white-necked raven. In the latest bird books, you'll find it as a Chihuahuan raven. They're one and the same."

Thanking her for taking it to her vet, we told her other birds had come to us with lack of sight due to head trauma. With doses of anti-inflammatory drugs, sometimes vision would return as the swelling decreased. Her veterinarian had probably seen evidence of the severity of the raven's injury.

Once home, a large carrier with a log roost seemed quite acceptable to our visitor. Since ravens graciously accept edible trash, insects, carrion, small rodents, road kill, and fruit, we knew we could accommodate its appetite.

As we watched its hunger satisfied, we also enjoyed the light striking its glossy feathers. At times, its bluish and greenish black hues appeared almost metallic. Nearly everything about the bird was black, even the bristles that extended half-way down its beak. Only the irises of its eyes were a dark brown.

Soon the raven eagerly awaited the next feeding or changing of carriers. Its one eye watched our every move and considered it entertaining. At times, it seemed to be listening to our every word. After a week of continued wind and threats of sleet, the weather cleared. It was time to get our friend to the wildlife center in Lubbock.

During the drive north, we knew the bird's lack of vision would deny its release. The volunteers at South Plains were eager to evaluate it, and placed it with other ravens that were recovering. With their veterinarians confirming the previous diagnosis, calls looking for a home for the raven were made.

Then good news arrived. The raven would have a permanent place at the Abilene Zoo. Although the bird could not participate in strong and sometimes playful flight, or experience the mid-air displays of courtship, it would never again have to search though garbage dumps or scavenge roadsides for its next meal.

Its days of freedom over open country, and in the company of large flocks, were being traded for a new environment. Although it would never again scrape together a nest of sticks, twigs, scraps and bits of wire, the raven would be provided with constant companionship and the admiring smiles of children and their parents. Its road to retirement was guaranteed.

Bebe McCasland is federally and state licensed to rehabilitate wild birds.



Courtesy photo

Frequenting western Texas, the Chihuahuan raven is often mistaken for a vulture as it soars with a three and a half foot wingspan on rising thermals. Gregarious by nature, the bird travels in large flocks that prefer scrubby, open grasslands hosting mesquite and cactus.

Obama's aunt becomes symbol in immigration debate

By DENISE LAVOIE
Associated Press

BOSTON — Barack Obama's Kenyan aunt lost her bid for asylum more than four years ago, and a judge ordered her deported. Instead, Zeituni Onyango stayed, living for years in public housing.

Now, in a case that puts the president in a tough position both personally and politically, Onyango's request is being reconsidered under a little-used provision in U.S. immigration rules that allows denied asylum claims to be reheard if applicants can show that something has changed to make them eligible.

Such as the ascension of her nephew to the presidency of the world's most powerful country.

"If she goes back to Kenya, she is going to be much more in the limelight, and that, in and of itself, could put her at a greater risk. The chances of her going back and keeping a low profile are gone at this point," said Boston immigration attorney Ilana Greenstein.

Onyango, 56, the half-sister of Obama's late father, moved to the United States in 2000. Her first bid for asylum was rejected, and an immigration judge ordered her deported in 2004; she continues to live in public housing in Boston.

In December, a judge agreed to suspend the deportation order and reopen her case. An initial hearing is scheduled Wednesday in U.S. Immigration Court in Boston.

Obama has said repeatedly that he didn't know his aunt was living in the United States illegally and believes that laws covering the situation should be followed. If she wins asylum, he could look soft on immigration enforcement. If she loses, he could face criticism from immigrant advocacy groups.

The White House says Obama is staying out of it.

"The President believes that the case should run its ordinary course, and neither he nor his representatives have had any involvement," spokesman Ben LaBolt said last week.

Over the past decade, relatively few Kenyans have sought asylum in the United States: 223 in fiscal year 2007 — compared with 7,934 asylum requests from China and 10,522 from El Salvador — and only 50 Kenyans that year were granted asylum. From 1998 through 2007, about 20 percent of Kenyans who applied were granted asylum, according to an Associated Press review of immigration records.

People who seek asylum must show that they face persecution in their homeland on the basis of religion, race, nationality, political opinion or membership in a social group.

Onyango's reasons for seeking asylum have not been made public, and her immigration hearing will be closed at her lawyer's request.

Kenya has been fractured by violence in recent years. In 2008, more than 1,000 people were killed in the East African nation following a disputed presidential poll, which saw a Luo candidate, Raila Odinga, declared loser to President Mwai Kibaki, a Kikuyu, the largest tribe in Kenya.

Since Kenya gained independence from Britain in 1963, periodic tensions have arisen among the Luos — Onyango's tribe — and some of Kenya's other tribes.

J. Patrick Kelly, an international law professor at Widener University, said the United States views Kenya as fairly stable. The country acts as a regional diplomatic and economic hub and hosts the only headquarters for a United Nations agency outside the West, the U.N. Environment Program.

Onyango could improve her chances of winning asylum if she can argue successfully that some in the Kenyan government may perceive — because of her relationship with Obama — "that she may have some level of political power and be able to transfer that power" to her tribe, Kelly said.

Onyango's lawyer, Margaret Wong, may also argue that she needs to stay in the United States for medical reasons.



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KIDNEWS

Wacky Facts

■ Passover begins at sundown on April 8 and lasts eight days. The observance commemorates the freedom of the Israelites from Egypt. The exodus, lead by a shepherd named Moses, is said to have happened approximately 3,000 years ago.

— happypassover.net

Laugh Lines

Why did the farmer have to separate the chickens from the turkeys?

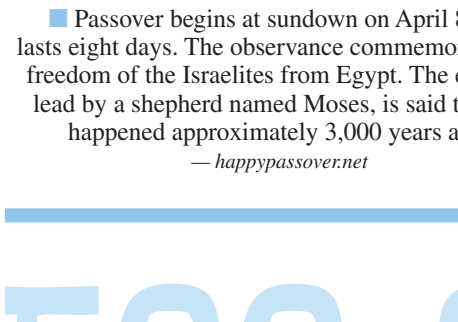
He sensed fowl play!

How can you tell the pig is a failure as the Easter Bunny?

By the egg on its face!

EGG-SPECiALLY CuTE PaPER EGG DiORAMA











PHOTOS BY ED JUDICE/ FAMILYFUN MAGAZINE

Create a papier-mâché version of a panoramic sugar egg with a springtime scene tucked inside.

1. Cut the tissue paper and white paper into 1½- to 2-inch squares. Inflate the balloon to the size you'd like your finished egg to be (ours is about 7 inches tall), then knot it. Cover your work area with newspaper. Either suspend the balloon over your work surface (we hung ours with string from a ceiling hook) or set the balloon on an upside-down jar lid while you work. In a small bowl, stir the flour and water together to make papier-mâché paste. Working with one square at a time, dip the tissue paper into the paste and smooth it onto the balloon. Cover the entire balloon, making sure the squares overlap slightly. This will be the inner wall of the egg.

2. Using the same dip-and-smooth method, add two layers of white paper squares on top of the tissue paper, then add a final layer of tissue paper.

3. When the egg is completely dry, use a pencil to mark a window opening on the side, then cut it out with scissors. If you managed to avoid popping the balloon up to this point, pop it now and discard it.

4. Next, decorate the window. Dip tissue paper squares into the paste, crumple them into balls, and put them around the edge.

5. Tie the ribbon into a bow, tuck the knot into the hole left by the knot of the balloon, and secure the ribbon on the inside with tape. Decorate the egg's interior: we used paper grass, a small plastic egg and a feathery chick.

Display the egg on an upsidedown jar lid.

YOU WILL NEED

- Colored tissue paper
- White paper
- Balloon
- Newspaper
- String
- Jar lid
- Small bowl
- ¼ cup white flour
- ½ cup water
- Ribbon (we used a 20-inch length)
- Tape
- Items for the interior (available at craft stores)

— Idea by Becky Fortney, FamilyFun magazine

In The News

A few words with illustrator Kadir Nelson

Kadir Nelson started drawing when he was just 3 years old. After going to college at Pratt Institute, Nelson went to work as an illustrator. He is known for his work about African-American history. One of his most recent books, **"We Are the Ship,"** about Negro League baseball, received great reviews and was awarded the Coretta Scott King Award. "We Are the Ship" is the first book that the illustrator has written.

I sat down with Nelson at the Time For Kids offices in New York City. Nelson has been illustrating for 10 years and has illustrated more than 20 books so far.

TFK: "We Are the Ship" is the first book that you've written and illustrated by yourself. What was it like to do the illustrations and writing together?

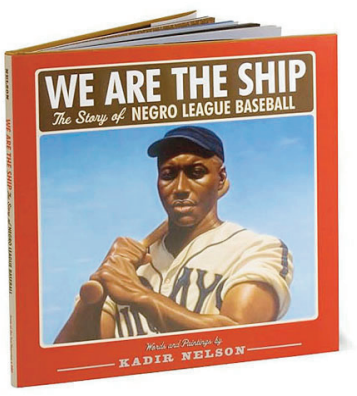
NELSON: I like it a lot more, because sometimes when you're illustrating someone else's words you feel like you're more of a hired hand, instead of having control over the entire creative process. So, if I needed to trim some of the text, or move it around, I could do that without having to consult an author.

TFK: How long did it take you to write "We Are the Ship?" And what kind of process do you go through for the writing and illustrating?

NELSON: I started working on the paintings for the book in 2000, and I started writing it shortly after that. I finished the last painting in January of 2007, so it took seven years. And, around the same time I was writing as well and refining the manuscript, so overall it took about seven and a half years to write and illustrate.

TFK: Was it interesting to research and illustrate about black history and segregation, and then about the first African-American president?

NELSON: I think that in general, I like history; whether it's history from 200 years ago, or whether it's history from 10 days ago. So, it's a thrill to illustrate anything that's history-related.



TFK: Tell me a little bit about your childhood, and how art influenced your life.

NELSON: I have a brother and two sisters, and I'm the only one who continued to really draw past childhood. I would do most of the things that kids do, and then come home and start drawing. I was very serious about it and I always knew that I wanted to be an artist. I practiced drawing every day, and I had an uncle who was an artist and art teacher who I would study with during the summer. So, he gave me a head start on other kids who liked to draw, and I just continued with it. I always wanted to get better at art, so that's why I went to college, to learn how to get better.

TFK: What are you planning to work on next?

NELSON: My next really big project is writing a book about American history. I haven't really figured out yet what exact time period, or subject it's going to be on. But, I feel that I don't know enough about American history, and I would like to learn more about it. It's like going back to school again, studying and learning about history so that I can write about it.

— Forrest Simpson

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Rips & Raves

Talking Easter-egg hunt

At first glance, these sweet-faced **Hide Em and Find Em Eggs** look like a preschool-only toy. Not so! A group of kids ages 4 to 10 tested the eggs out and all found the hide-and-seek game fun and engaging. One player turns on the electronic eggs (with a touch of a button), then hides them. The others scramble to find them. Hidden deep in laundry piles, drawers and closets, the eggs aren't easy to locate right away, but their giggles and calls of "I'm over here" help the hunters track them down. Once they find the eggs, kids can twist them open to reveal the critters hidden inside. Techno Source, $5 for one, $15 for four.

— FamilyFun magazine





PUZZLE BY LUKE TRAUTWEIN/CHARLOTTE OBSERVER/MCT

Spring training. Can you make the team?

Can you find the six differences between these two photos? Try to do it without the clues.

Clues: 1. Someone stole my helmet; 2. What's wrong with that helmet?; 3. Someone forgot their gloves; 4. Are those headbands back in style; 5. When did she change her pants; 6. Extra ball in the bucket

Viva leads HC rodeo team effort at Odessa

Special to the Herald

Howard College's rodeo team hit the arena at Odessa College over the weekend ready to take care of business.

Steer wrestler Ryan Viva showed once again why he continues to hold on to the No. 1 spot among steer wrestlers in the tough Southwest region and keeps moving forward in his trek to the College National Finals Rodeo later this year.

Viva is no stranger to short go action, making his sixth appearance in the money round this season at Odessa.

Viva turfed his first steer in 4.1 seconds to win the long-go of competition. Calvin Brevik posted a 4.9 in the long-go to join Viva in the short-go on Saturday night. Brevik was 5.2 seconds on his second steer to split second in the round and third in the average.

Viva never missed a beat as he made a blistering 4.2-second run to win the short round of competition and the average.

For the Lady Hawks, Jana Jasper qualified in the 10th position of the breakaway roping, with a 3.5-second first-round run. Jasper finished sixth in the short round with a 3.9 which left her just short of point in the average.

Kelly Murphy put points on the board in the barrel racing with a fourth-place 16.02 run in the long round. Unfortunately, a downed barrel in the short round kept her out of any chances for placement in the average.

Team ropers Calvin Brevik and KC Curtis finished fourth in the first-round action with a 6.4-second run.

The team was unable to connect in the short round, and therefore did not place in the average.

Brevik and Curtis were not alone in the short round, as teammates Codee Reynolds and JW Townsend joined them after putting together a 6.8 in the long round. Reynolds and Townsend held on to place fifth in the short round and the average.

Lonny Graham was the only Hawk to see short round action in the rough stock events. Graham marked a 77-point bull ride to win third in the long round. No one made a qualified ride in the short round.

Calvin Brevik won the All-Around Title for the weekend earning points in the team roping and steer wrestling.

The Hawk rodeo team will next see action at the Western Texas College rodeo in Snyder April 2-4. The Hawks then return home April 16-18 for the Howard College Rodeo.



Courtesy photo

Howard College's Ryan Viva is congratulated by Odessa College rodeo coordinators after receiving a belt buckle for winning the steer wrestling event Saturday.

BSHS alum being honored

Herald Staff Report

Schreiner University will honor Dr. Charles Johnson, New Mexico State University professor and former professional football star, as a Schreiner Distinguished Alumnus at a banquet April 18 during the University's annual Recall weekend.

This is the second time Schreiner has honored Dr. Johnson, who graduated in 1958; he was named to the Schreiner Athletic Hall of Honor in 2003. The Big Spring High School student came to Schreiner Institute on a football scholarship and played on the basketball and golf teams after Schreiner ended its football program in 1957.

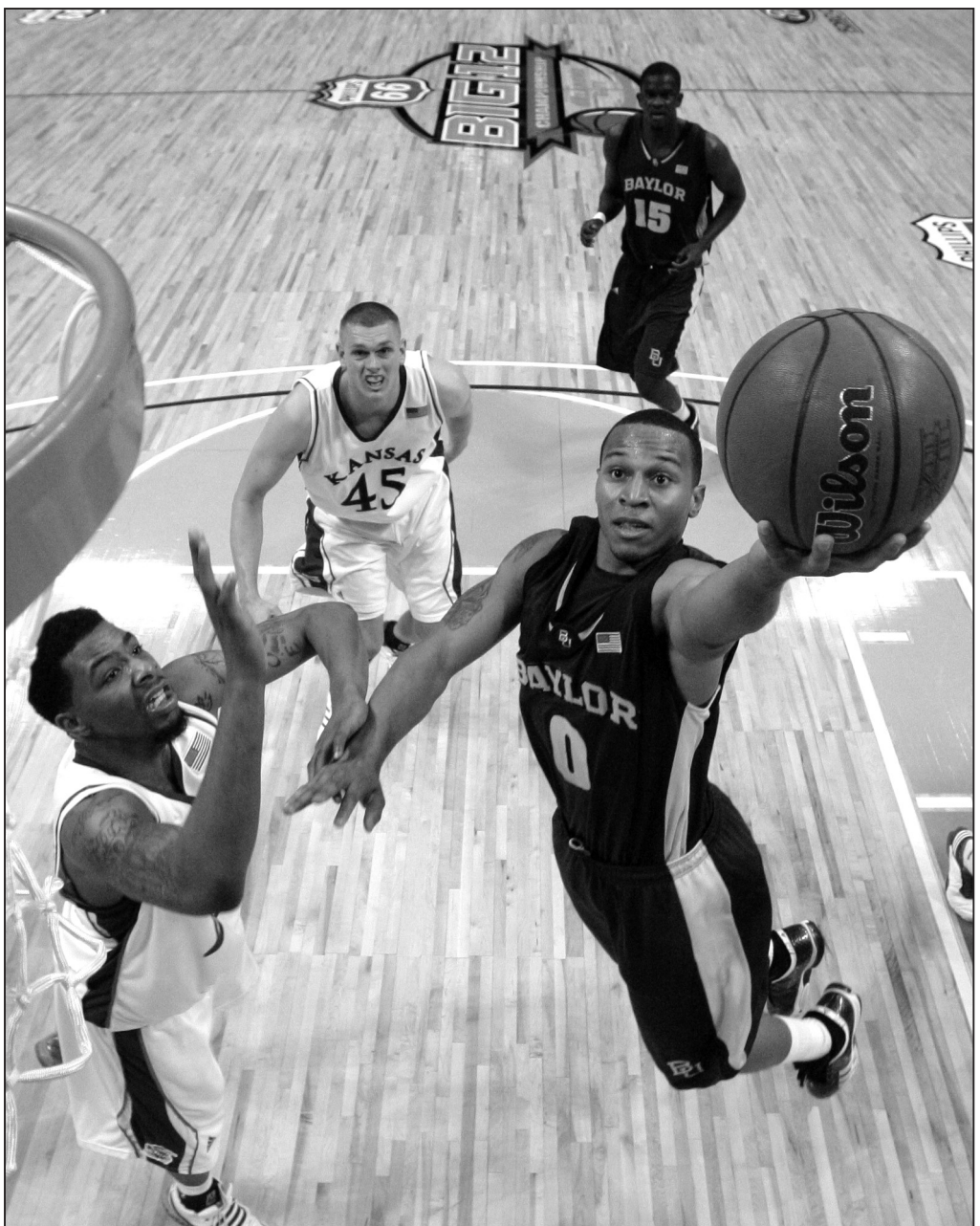
Charles Robb, who nominated Johnson as a Distinguished Alumnus, remembers their time at Schreiner. "Charley and I were roommates in old West Barracks. When you got up in the morning you had to run down an open porch to get to the shower, then you had to run back to your room and many times guys lost their towels en route.

"Our football team picked up speed when our starting quarterback got injured and Charley took over and started passing more," he added.

While still at Schreiner, New Mexico State University offered Johnson a basketball scholarship; he ended up quarterbacking the NMSU football team. The team won the Sun Bowl in 1959 and 1960 and Johnson was voted Sun Bowl Most Valuable Player both years. He had a perfect 11-0 season in 1960. Johnson went on to 15 years of success in professional football as a quarterback for the St. Louis Cardinals, Houston Oilers and Denver Broncos. However, unlike many professional athletes, he continued his education, receiving a master's and a doctor of science degree in chemical engineering from Washington University in St. Louis.

"I nominated Charley because he has proven to be an outstanding Schreiner student," Robb, Class of 1958, said. "He has led three professional football teams as a quarterback and obtained a Ph.D. at the same

See **JOHNSON**, Page 12



AP photo/Sue Ogrocki

Baylor guard Curtis Jerrells, right, takes a shot in the second half as Kansas forward Marcus Morris (22) looks on during a Big 12 Conference Tournament game in Oklahoma City March 12. Jerrells leads the Bears into the semifinals of the NIT at 6 p.m. tonight against San Diego State.

Might still exists in NIT

Notre Dame represents best, Baylor the unlikely

By DAVE SKRETTA
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK — The best indicator of how mighty the Big East was this season might not come from Detroit, where two of its teams are in the Final Four. It may be how well Notre Dame finishes in the NIT.

After all, the Irish were expected to contend for a national championship this season. Luke Harangody and Kyle McAlarney formed one of the nation's best inside-outside tandems, and there was plenty of depth and experience with three seniors in the starting five.

They didn't even finish in the top half of the league.

"I've been in the Big East nine years, and I've never seen anything like it," coach Mike Brey said. "It was off the charts."

After losing in the conference tournament to West Virginia, the NCAA tournament long ago removed from the picture, Brey stood before his guys in the locker room and said their new goal should be to return to Madison Square Garden two weeks later for the NIT title game.

They're one step away, playing Penn State in the semifinals Tuesday night. San Diego State and Baylor play in the other semifinal.

"I'm glad we don't have to play any Big East teams here," Brey said

See **NIT**, Page 12

Rangers trying to decide whether to keep Jones

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Rangers manager Ron Washington said Monday the competition between outfielders Andruw Jones and Frank Catalanotto for Texas' lone position opening may not be settled by the time the team breaks camp Thursday.

"It's a tough one to call," said Washington, adding that he has no timetable.

Texas released left-hander Jimmy Gobble from his minor league contract Monday, thinning the competition for three vacant bullpen spots.

Jones, who turns 32 on April 23, won 10 consecutive Gold Gloves as Atlanta's center fielder before agreeing to a $36.2 million, two-year deal with the Los Angeles Dodgers before last season. He then hit .158 with three home runs in 75 games, made the first three trips to the disabled list in his career and was released.

Jones agreed to a minor league contract in February. If added to the Rangers' big league roster, he would get a $500,000, one-year contract and the chance to earn up to $1 million in performance bonuses based on plate appearances from 340 to 620.

The five-time All-Star went deep in Texas' 7-5, 10-inning victory over San Francisco on Monday and is batting .288 with two homers and five RBIs this spring. Catalanotto is hitting .333 with one homer and six RBIs.

The Rangers may be more balanced with right-handed hitting Jones, since they start four left-handed batters and one switch hitter.

Texas has a set outfield, with All-Star slugger Josh Hamilton in center, Nelson Cruz in right and David Murphy or Marlon Byrd in left.

The Rangers have three bullpen openings behind closer Frank Francisco, Eddie Guardado, C.J. Wilson and Warner Madrigal, who has made the team, Washington said.

Derrick Turnbow, a contender for one of three vacancies, was scratched from a scheduled appearance against

See **RANGERS**, Page 12

Sports in brief

Notification from BSISD Athletic Dept. on athletes needing physicals

The Big Spring ISD Athletic Department is only accepting physical forms with the revised date of Jan. 6, 2009, as per UIL requirements.

All other forms will not be accepted, so parents need to be sure they have the correct form filled out when taking their child for a physical.

Physicals are required for all incoming seventh, ninth and 11th grade students and are due in the athletic trainer's office before the first day of practice of any sport.

No plans have been made to have mass physicals, so it is the parents' responsibility to take their child to a doctor of their choice.

Golf tournament to benefit KBSB set for April 18

The fifth annual Keep Big Spring Beautiful Golf Tournament has been scheduled for April 18 at the Big Spring Country Club.

The tourney will be played in a four-person scramble format with an entry fee of $65 per player. Tee time is 8:30 a.m.

Any individual or company can sponsor a hole for $100. For more information on sponsorship, contact Verna Davis at 267-8003 or 425-2325.

BSCC hosting 3-person scramble this weekend

The Big Spring Country Club is hosting a 3-person scramble tournament Saturday and Sunday with a 1 p.m. shotgun start both days.

Entry fee is $60 per player plus golf cart. Private carts are welcome.

Entry includes barbecue on the course Saturday and practice rounds Friday.

Field will be flighted by first round score with the number of flights determined by entries.

Call the Pro Shop at 267-5354 for more information or to enter a team.



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Please contact Russell @ 1-888-527-7221 for more information.

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HOWARD COUNTY Road & Bridge Department will accept applications from April 6, 2009 through April 18, 2009 ROLLER OPERATOR/ TRUCK DRIVER. Must have CDL Licenses. Applications may be picked up and returned from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Monday through Friday at Room 305, County Court House. All applicants will be pre-job drug tested.
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County Road Administrator.

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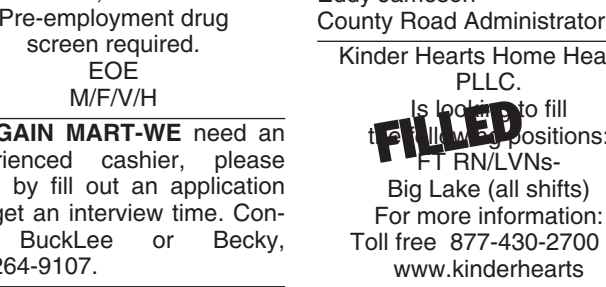
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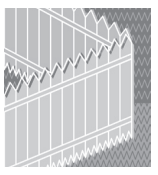
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A pilgrimage to the birthplace of Pilsner beer



AP Photo/Petr David Josek

A bartender pours a glass of beer at a restaurant in the Pilsner Urquell factory in Pilsen, Czech Republic. The faintly bitter lager first produced in the Pilsner Urquell factory more than a century ago gave rise to a style of beer that has since circled the globe. Much of today's lager-style beer, in fact, owes its flaxen color and crisp flavor to a brewing process formulated in this small metropolis in the Czech Republic's Bohemia region. Its name still reflects its origins: Pilsner, Pilsener, or sometimes just Pils.

DANIEL LOVERING
Associated Press Writer

PLZEN, Czech Republic — Order a beer at a restaurant or bar, and unless you've requested an ale, porter or stout, you'll probably be served the clear, golden brew behind our most familiar brands: Pilsner.

And this is its ancestral home.

Mugs of frothy beer served in this cobblestone-studded city southwest of Prague may resemble others the world over, but a trip to the local brewery confirms these are no ordinary suds.

The faintly bitter lager first produced in Plzen more than a century ago gave rise to a style of beer that has since circled the globe. Much of today's lager-style beer, in fact, owes its flaxen color and crisp flavor to a brewing process formulated in this small metropolis in the Czech Republic's Bohemia region. Its name still reflects its origins: Pilsner, Pilsener, or sometimes just Pils.

The beer's precise birthplace, the Pilsner Urquell brewery, stands on the city's fringes, enclosed by an ornate 19th century double archway. Its copper kettle-lined confines have changed with the times, but visitors can still see hints of the past, including a network of underground tunnels once used to store huge casks of fermenting beer.

The plant's distinctive heritage hasn't been overlooked by its current owner, London-based SABMiller, which has built a large diorama of an old-time brewery inside a sleek visitors' center also furnished with a vending machine that dispenses beer.

The Pilsner Urquell factory of today is a marvel of modern brewing, operating 24 hours a day and churning out 120,000 bottles of beer per hour. But it has its origins in a brewing tradition that stretches back to the late 1200s, when King Wenceslaus II granted brewing licenses to more than 250 city residents. But the quality of Plzen's beer was poor, according to the brewery, and in 1839 protesters dumped 36 barrels of the local brew outside the town hall to show their discontent.

That prompted the citizen brewers of Plzen to combine forces and build a modern beer-making facility, which opened in 1842, the same one that operates to this day.

A young brewmaster and reputed ruffian, Josef Groll, took the helm and began making the beer that became known as Pilsner lager, fermenting barley malt, hops and water at a low temperature, and adding yeast that collected at the bottom of the mixture.

Among the beer's defining qualities were its shimmering appearance and subtle bitterness from locally grown hops — the dried flowers of the hop plant. Other ingredients specific to the region included soft water drawn from 328-foot-deep wells and malt made from barley grown in the Czech regions of Bohemia and Moravia.

The water used in today's Pilsner Urquell, the company says, is from the same underground source used to make the original in 1842. And the strain of yeast used to convert sugar into alcohol during the fermentation process reputedly is traceable to that used in the original recipe.

The brewing of Pilsner Urquell has remained largely unchanged since Groll's time, according to a video shown to tourists at the brewery. Ground malt and water are boiled three times in copper kettles, a procedure carried out perhaps once or twice in the making of other beers. Carmelization occurs at the bottom of the kettles, producing flavorful compounds.

The concoction is boiled with hops before being fermented at a low temperature, pasteurized and packaged in bottles, cans, kegs and tanks. The total brewing time remains the same as in the days of yore, about five weeks.

Julie Johnson, editor of All About Beer magazine in Durham, N.C., noted that the beer's name, Urquell, means "the original source" in German.

"Pilsner beer is the ancestor of the kind of global international lager style that makes up 90-something percent of the beer we drink today," she said, pointing to brands such as Budweiser, Rolling Rock and St. Pauli Girl. "Those are all indebted to Pilsner."

In a nod to the beer born in Plzen, American brewers of the 19th century created "something that was much softer for the American palate," she said. "That, in turn, has swept the world."

Pilsner, and pale ales that emerged around the same time, stood out because "they were light, they were beautiful to look at," Johnson said.

The beers owed their attractive look to malt made from barley that had been heated evenly using an indirect source — then a revolutionary technique. Earlier malt may have been partly burned, producing beer with "a darker and roastier taste," she said.

The malt's consistent quality yielded exceptionally clear beer, and its emergence coincided with the spread of glassware that allowed drinkers to admire its appearance.

"So you had a beer that appealed to the eye as well as the nose and mouth," Johnson said, "and people were just struck dumb by how lovely and beautiful it was."

Pilsner Urquell's flavor, which is dry rather than fruity like an ale, comes from local ingredients such as the locally grown hops, known as Saaz hops, she added.

Visitors to the brewery can sample that flavor at the end of a guided tour that last about an hour and-a-half and ends in one of the underground cellars used to store barrels of fermenting beer in the days before refrigeration.

One guide, Katerina Sedlackova, attested to the qualities of Plzen's namesake beer, offering cups of the drink — freshly made, unpasteurized and drawn from one of a few remaining wooden barrels kept in service.

"You should know that Pilsner Urquell is very healthy," she exhorts, referring to nutrients such as vitamin B. "If you drink a cup of beer a day, you should stay healthy."

—

If You Go...

PILSNER URQUELL: http://www.pilsner-urquell.com/. Brewery: http://www.prazdroj.cz/en/ or 011-420-377-062-888.

PLZEN, CZECH REPUBLIC: Official site of Plzen: http://www.plzen.eu/en/home/index.html

BREWERY TOURS: 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. daily May-September (no 10:30 a.m. tours October-April). Tickets are about $6.50 (130 Czech Korunas). Brewery also has a restaurant and gift shop.

A separate museum at the site of a former licensed brewing house in Plzen is open daily, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., April-December (10 a.m.-5 p.m., January-March). Phone: 011-420-377-235-574. GETTING THERE: Plzen, the Czech Republic's fourth-largest city with a population of 170,000, is about 55 miles southwest of Prague. From Prague, the train takes about two hours, tickets about $10 (210 Czech Korunas). By bus, up to 90 minutes, about $4 (80 Czech Korunas).

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Speak up. The moon is in conversational Gemini, so in many cases life will provide you with the perfect ice-breaker -- it's effortless. And once you start talking, Mercury's alignment with the sun adds fuel to the connection. There is no end to the conversational fodder. Everyone will be in the mood to share, so sidle up to someone who intrigues you.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll be meeting people who want to get a sense of who you are. They might not ask the right questions so be ready to spin things in the direction you would like. Decide how you're going to tell your story.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll be working toward a long-range goal. The distance is even greater than you anticipated. You have a strong mind and the stamina to stay determined until you get there.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You really are a team player, though some of the thoughts you're having now seem to lead to the contrary. Well, you can't compromise all of the time, can you? And if you're not on your own side, who will be?

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You have powerful supporters that you don't even know about yet. Go forward as you would if you knew you had a safety net. Keep believing, even when it seems unreasonable to do so.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll be putting people to work for you. Choose those who have as much to gain as you do from the relationship. Avoid anyone who will labor because they have to, not because they want to.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You have a sense about how things will turn out. You probably know that a certain arrangement is not going to work, and yet there is still something to be gained in the experience of trying.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Not long ago you caught the beginning of a real life story unfolding. Now you'll learn what happened after you left the scene. It will be satisfying to find out the juicy details and there might even be some education in this.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You could be so wrapped up in an idealistic mission that you have lost proper perspective. Step back from the situation for a few days. And it's also enlightening to try and see the scene from the opposite point of view.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's nothing more magnetizing to you now than the person who is hard to figure out. You'll enjoy letting yourself get drawn into the mystery. Make no assumptions in this regard. If you do, they will likely be wrong.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You realize that a certain attitude or opinion you've been holding on to no longer makes sense in your life. It's like you grew out of it, but forgot to throw it away. Toss it now and lighten your load.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Stay generous and easy-going and you will serve an important function. Keep that optimistic heart, even when logic tells you otherwise. Because of this you will make a remarkable difference in someone's life.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll experience a remarkable uplift. Someone believes in you and shows you how much. This person may be someone you know or an angel working behind the scenes. Accept the gift either way.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I feel socially inadequate all of the time and I'm a Sagittarius. I thought my sign was supposed to be outgoing. I want to relate to people, but I constantly blunder. I do have friends, though. I just feel like no one understands me and that I am very alone. Why are the stars so wrong about me?"

People of all signs feel inadequate at one time or another. I have a feeling that you do not, as you state, "feel socially inadequate all of the time." However, those awkward instances tend to stick in your mind. The memories are available to you to drudge up at will. You probably have more good experiences connecting with your fellow humans than bad ones, but you expect so much of yourself and are so crushed when you don't live up to those expectations that you feel you must punish yourself by focusing on the times you failed. So stop it! Focus on the times you've won friends and influenced people. You have a tremendous amount of courage at your disposal, dear Sagittarius, and you certainly have what it takes to relate, connect, love and be loved. Give up this line of reason and start believing the best about yourself.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: From Nickelodeon to the big screen, Amanda Bynes is a Aries starlet with "everygirl" appeal. Her natal sun is in youthful Aries, though communication planet Mercury and lucky Jupiter are both in the sign of old souls -- Pisces. She comes across as both fresh and wise beyond her years. This magical combination along with the solid work ethic of Venus in Taurus has served her well!

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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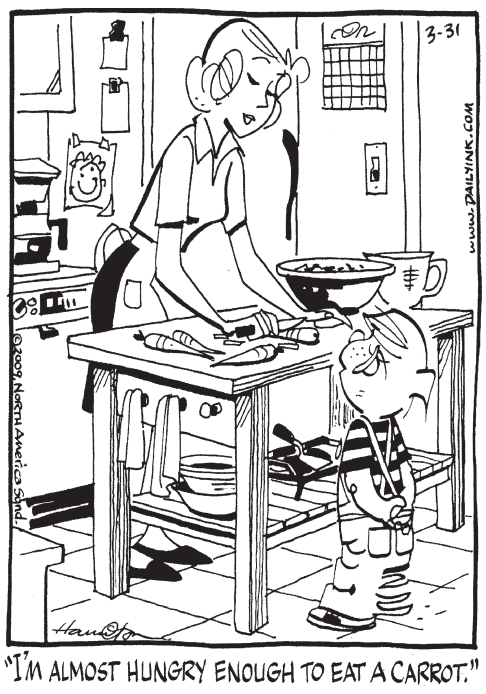
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	WFAA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5 :PM :30	News ABC	News ABC	Locura Noticiero	Lopez Lopez	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News NBC	Raymond Friends	Scrivner Uri Harel	BBC Business	Cash Cab Cash Cab		CSI: NY		106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas Phineas	Horn Interrupt	SportsCenter
6 :PM :30	News Entertain	Jeopardy! Fortune	Tontas Cielo	Two Men Two Men	News Entertain	12 Corazones	News Millionaire	Seinfeld Seinfeld	Dr. Young Hagee	News-Lehrer	Dirty Jobs		UFC Unleashed	Movie: Something's Gotta Give, Keanu Reeves	Movie: Diary of a Mad Black Woman	Suite Life Montana	College Basketball: NIT	Wm. Basketball
7 :PM :30	Jim Jim	Jim Jim	Cuidado-Ángel	American Idol	NCIS	Doña Barbara	The Biggest Loser	Fam. Guy Fam. Guy	Israel Victory	Nova (DVS)	Dirty Jobs	Movie: The Godfather, Part II, Diane Keaton	UFC Unleashed			Movie: Beethoven's 4th		
8 :PM :30	Dancing-Stars	Dancing-Stars	Mañana es	Os	The Mentalist	El Rostro de Analía		Fam. Guy Fam. Guy	Light of the Southwest	Frontline (DVS)	Dirty Jobs		Ultimate Knockouts	Trust Me		Phineas	College Basketball: NIT Semifinal -- Teams TBA.	Wm. Basketball
9 :PM :30	(:02) Cupid	(:02) Cupid	Aquí y Ahora	TMZ Raymond	(:01) Without a Trace	Sin Senos El Cartel	Law & Order: SVU	Office My Boys		Independent Lens	Wreck. Nation		DEA	Trust Me	College College	Wizards Montana		
10 :PM :30	News Nightline	News Nightline	Impacto Noticiero	Raymond King-Hill	News Late Show	Noticias Decisiones de	News Tonight Show	Office Seinfeld	Israel Cortes	PBS	Dirty Jobs		DEA	Saving Grace	Movie: Diary of a Mad Black Woman	Suite Life So Raven		SportsCenter
11 :PM :30	Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live	Jimmy Kimmel Live	La Casa de la Risa	Law Order: CI	Late Late Show	Decisiones de	Late Night-Jim	Sex & Sex &	Ministerio-Vida	Smiley Smiley	Dirty Jobs	Movie: Wild Bill, John Hurt	CSI: NY	Trust Me		Life De Cory	Baseball NASCAR	NFL Live
12 :AM :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live News	Extra Paid	Contra Viento	RENO 911 Paid	Insider	Pagado	News	Friends Romy and Michele's High School Reunion	Israel Church	(Off Air)	Wreck. Nation		Disorderly Con.	Trust Me	College	Replace Kim	Series of Poker	Gameday SportsCenter
1 :AM :30	Wall St Paid	Paid Paid	Mujer... Güereja	Friends Paid	Entertain Paid	Pagado Pagado Pelicula: Lu-	Poker After Dark		Light of the Southwest		Made Made	Movie: The	Amazing Video	Cold Case	College The Deal	Emperor Dragon	Series of Poker Boxing	SportsCenter

DENNIS THE MENACE



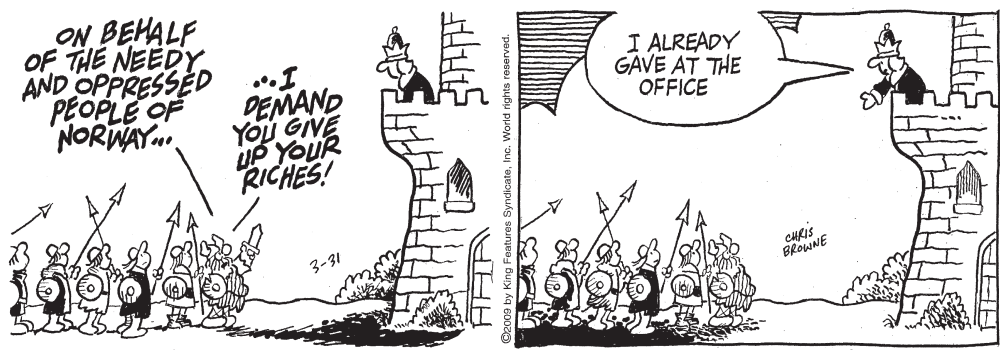
"I'M ALMOST HUNGRY ENOUGH TO EAT A CARROT."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

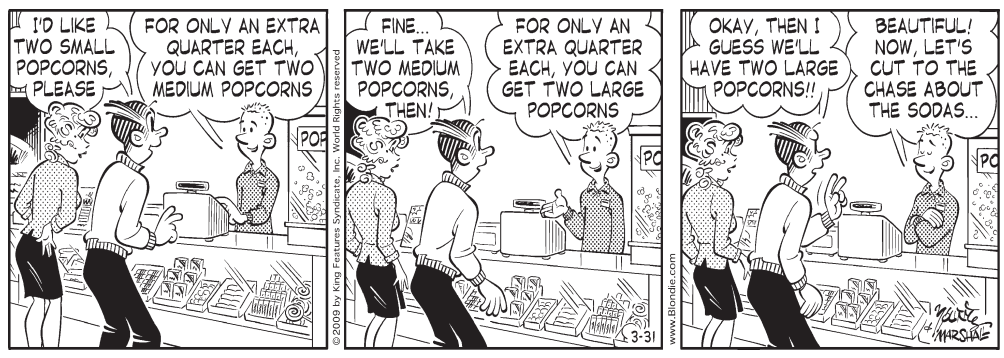


"The alphabet would be a lot easier if there weren't so many letters in it!"

HAGAR



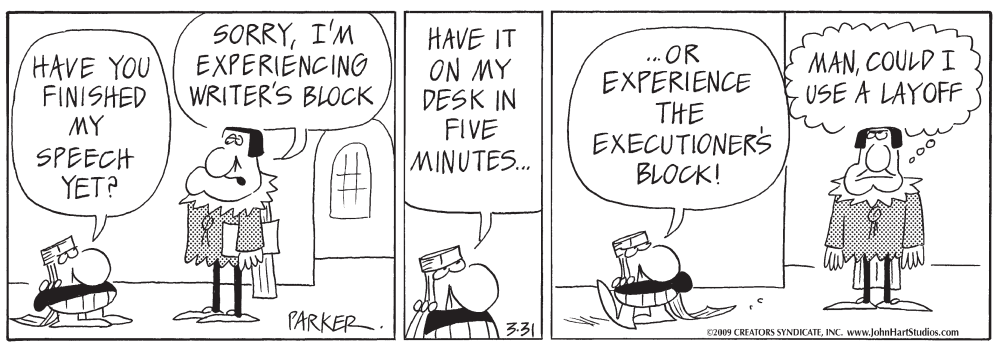
BLONDIE



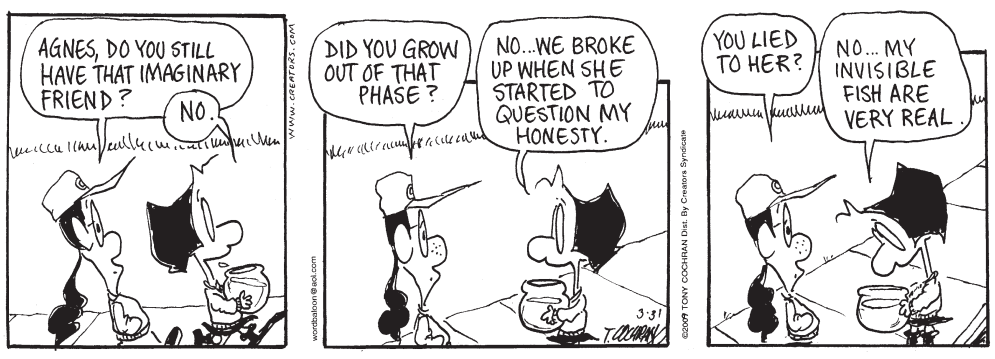
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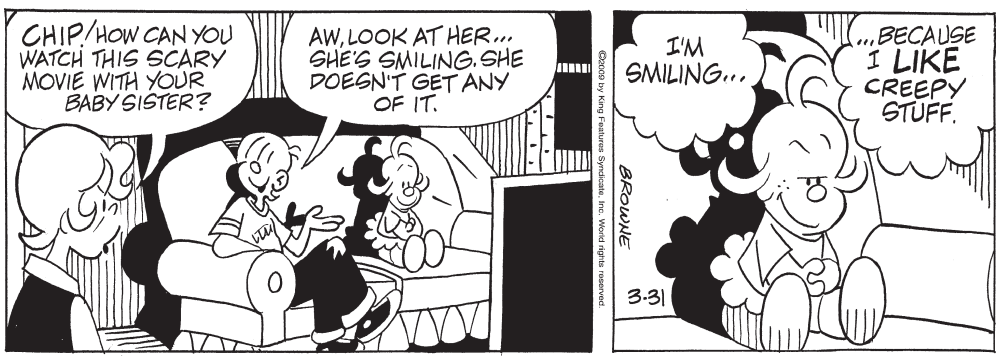
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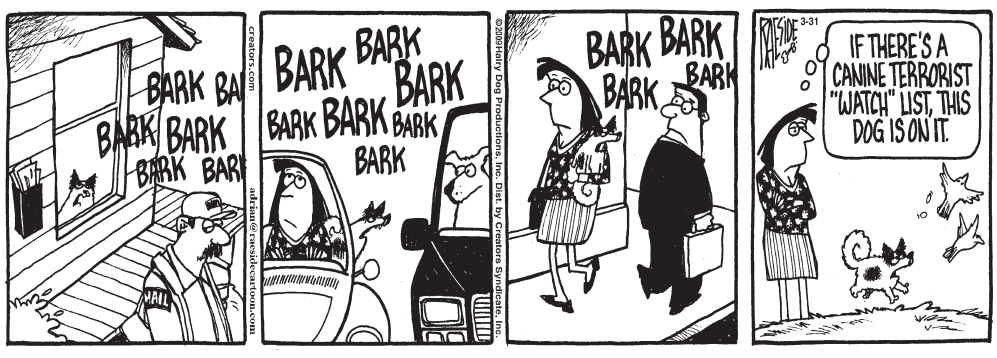
AGNES



HI AND LOIS



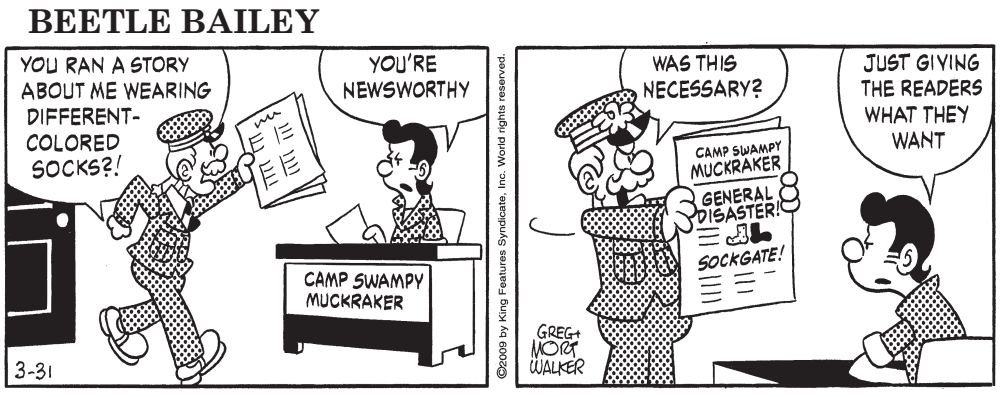
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, March 31, the 90th day of 2009. There are 275 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 31, 1968, at the conclusion of a nationally broadcast address, President Lyndon B. Johnson shocked his listeners by announcing he would not seek another term of office.

On this date:

In 1809, English poet Edward FitzGerald, best known for his translation of "The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam," was born in Suffolk.

In 1880, Wabash, Ind., became the first town in the world to be illuminated by electrical lighting.

In 1889, French engineer Gustave Eiffel unfurled the French tricolor from atop the Eiffel Tower, officially marking its completion.

In 1917, the United States took possession of the Virgin Islands from Denmark.

In 1933, Congress approved, and President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed, the Emergency Conservation Work Act, which created the Civilian Conservation Corps.

In 1949, Newfoundland (now called Newfoundland and Labrador) entered confederation as Canada's 10th province.

In 1976, the New Jersey Supreme Court ruled that Karen Ann Quinlan, who was in a persistent vegetative state, could be disconnected from her respirator. (Quinlan, who remained unconscious, died in 1985.)

In 2005, Terri Schiavo, 41, died at a hospice in Pinellas Park, Fla., 13 days after her feeding tube was removed in a wrenching right-to-die dispute.

One year ago: Housing and Urban Development Secretary Alphonso Jackson announced his resignation amid the wreckage of the national housing crisis.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Peggy Rea is 88. Actor William Daniels is 82. Hockey Hall-of-Famer Gordie Howe is 81. Actor Richard Chamberlain is 75. Actress Shirley Jones is 75. Country singer-songwriter John D. Loudermilk is 75. Musician Herb Alpert is 74. Senate Judiciary Chairman Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., is 69. Actor Christopher Walken is 66. Comedian Gabe Kaplan is 64. Former Vice President Al Gore is 61. David Eisenhower is 61. Actress Rhea Perlman is 61. Actor Ed Marinaro is 59. Rock musician Angus Young (AC/DC) is 54. Actor Marc McClure is 52. Actor William McNamara is 44. Alt-country musician Bob Crawford (The Avett Brothers) is 38. Actor Ewan McGregor is 38. Rapper Tony Yayo is 31. Jazz musician Christian Scott is 26.

Thought for Today: "So often we rob tomorrow's memories by today's economies." — John Mason Brown, American critic and lecturer (1900-1969).

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Answer to previous puzzle

	S	N	A	P		Y	A	R	D		R	A	M	S
M	O	O	C	H		A	L	S	O		A	B	E	T
A	L	O	H	A		C	A	V	E		W	A	D	E
P	O	K	E	R	C	H	I	P	S			T	I	E
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R	O	T	S		E	T	A	L		E	A	T	A	T
K	N	U	C	K	L	E	S	A	N	D	W	I	C	H
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O	D	D	S		S	O	R	E		J	U	R	O	R
P	I	E	S		E	V	I	L		A	M	E	B	A
S	O	R	T		S	E	A	L		M	A	Z	E	

Newsday Crossword

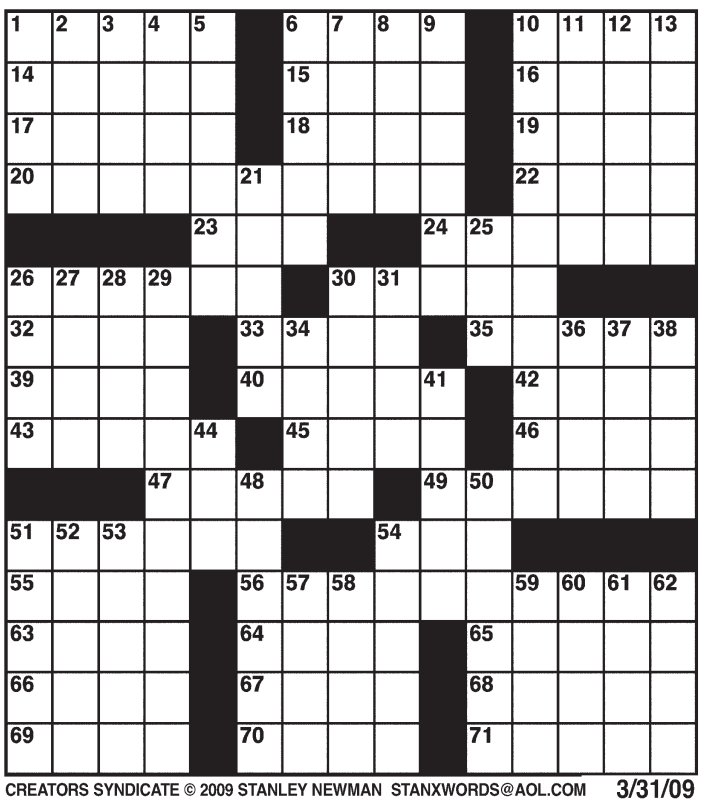
TAKE IT SLOW by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Elevator alternative
6 Window-blind part
10 Clothing
14 Wasting no words
15 Tall story
16 Flash of inspiration
17 Atlantic or Pacific
18 Molecule part
19 Movers' vehicles
20 "That awful cad!"
22 Fencing sword
23 Front-door rug
24 Overjoyed
26 File-cabinet feature
30 "Blue" wading bird
32 Capital of Italia
33 "Darn it!"
35 Becomes weary
39 Help a crook
40 Sun-related
42 Short memo
43 Chromosome components
45 Lawn tunneler
46 Walking stick
47 Highway exits
49 Iranian capital
51 Magician's word
54 Get the gold medal
55 Adore
56 Swim freestyle
63 Not up yet
64 A Great Lake
65 Sound transmission
66 Pizazz
67 Shipped off
68 Dance moves
69 Poker stake
70 Little ones
71 Double curves

DOWN

1 Store away
2 The T of MIT: Abbr.
3 Region
4 "The wolf __ the door"
5 Change the title of
6 Begin
7 Not on time
8 Lotion ingredient
9 State of mind
10 Bend just a little
11 Modify
12 Actress Zellweger
13 Founded (on)
21 Deck of 52
25 Building site
26 Pull along
27 Judge's attire
28 Prayer ender
29 Shoreline or riverbank
30 Angels' headgear
31 And others: Abbr.
34 Frolic
36 Lion's sound
37 Sicilian volcano
38 Witnessed
41 Knot again
44 Took a chair
48 Not boastful
50 Cover completely
51 Public square
52 Harbinger of spring
53 Major happening
54 Sharpens
57 Sandwich cookie
58 Subtle shade
59 Dirt-road grooves
60 Citrus drinks
61 Help with the dishes
62 Tax write-off



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Benson believes he's done enough

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Kris Benson believes he has done enough to nail down the final spot in Texas' rotation, and manager Ron Washington agrees.

"He's one of mine," Washington said when asked if Benson is one of the Rangers' five best starters. "It's more than me making the decision."

Benson pitched six strong innings and the Rangers beat the San Francisco Giants 7-5 on Monday. He gave up three runs and six hits, struck out two and walked none.

Benson, who has a 4.76 ERA in 17 innings this spring, hasn't pitched in the major leagues since 2006 after rotator cuff surgery.

"I feel like every time I step on the mound and face hitters it's an audition," said Benson, who missed the 2007 season, pitched 11 Triple-A games last year and signed a minor league deal with the Rangers in February.

"I've done everything they've asked me to do. I've built my pitch count up to 100. I've made my starts. My velocity is getting up there. I can't do much more. It's up to them."

Benson, 68-73 with a 4.34 ERA in seven major league seasons, had his fastball timed in the 89-90 mph range Monday. He threw 79 pitches in the game, then threw 20 more in the bullpen.

"We always felt he could throw the ball and pound the strike zone," Washington said.

With injuries to long relievers Dustin Nippert and Willie Eyre casting doubt on their availability to open the regular season, the Rangers may be best served by making Benson the fifth starter and using Scott Feldman, the other candidate for the rotation, in long relief.

David Murphy hit a two-run homer in the 10th inning, and Andruw Jones, Taylor Teagarden and Jeff Smoak also went deep for Texas.

Jones, competing with Frank Catalanotto for the final position spot, had two hits. Catalanotto was 1-for-4 and is hitting .333.

Juan Uribe homered twice and drove in three runs for the Giants. Fred Lewis had two hits.

Matt Cain struck out eight in seven innings for San Francisco, yielding four runs and four hits. He gave up Teagarden's three-run homer in the second inning on a pitch up-and-in.

"That wasn't even a strike," Cain said. "That was like his love zone."

Notes: Giants SS Edgar Renteria (right elbow soreness) missed his second straight game but said he was available. Texas released LHP Jimmy Gobble from his minor league contract. ... Rangers 1B Chris Davis left the game for precautionary reasons with discomfort in his left patella tendon after batting in the fourth inning.

Moats accepts officer's apology

DALLAS (AP) — An NFL player said Monday he accepts the apology offered by a Dallas police officer who stopped him with a drawn gun in a hospital parking lot while his mother-in-law was dying inside.

Houston Texans running back Ryan Moats said on ABC's "Good Morning America" that he hopes Officer Robert Powell was sincere in his apology.

Powell stopped Moats' SUV outside Baylor Regional Medical Center in suburban Plano on March 18 after the vehicle rolled through a red light. Moats' wife, Tamishia, and other relatives were also in the car.

The officer pulled out his gun and threatened Moats with jail as the player pleaded to be allowed to go inside the hospital.

Moats' mother-in-law, 45-year-old Jonetta Collinsworth, died before he got there, while Powell wrote Moats a ticket and lectured him.

"I loved Jo ... my mother-in-law. We call her Jo. She was just like my mom basically," Ryan Moats said.

Powell, who first apologized in a statement Friday through his attorneys, repeatedly said in an interview with Dallas-Fort Worth television station KTVT aired Monday night that he made mistakes in the stop.

Powell said he didn't know why he didn't allow Moats to go into the hospital once he realized what was happening.

"I should have. Again, I don't know why I didn't do that and I should have. That was my mistake," Powell told KTVT.

He also said he didn't know why he spoke to Moats the way he did.

RANGERS

Continued from Page 7

San Francisco on Monday with right knee swelling.

Turnbow, in camp on a minor league contract, can get out of his deal on Thursday if he does not make the Rangers' staff. He had 63 saves for Milwaukee from 2005-06 but has given up six runs and seven walks in nine spring innings.

"At times he's been outstanding," Washington said. "At times he has scuffled to locate the fastball. He's commanded all his off-speed pitches. Some days he's been out there, they can't hit him."

Ryan Rupe remains in the running for a bullpen spot, where injuries to Dustin Nippert and Willie Eyre have muddied the waters. Nippert hasn't pitched in a spring game since March 19 with a strained muscle, and his availability for the start of the regular season is uncertain.

Scott Feldman and Kris Benson are in the running for the final spot in the rotation, and Feldman could work out of the bullpen if Benson becomes a starter. Jason Jennings is being considered for a long reliever spot.

Benson pitched six innings against the Giants, yielding three runs and six hits.

Gobble spent nine days in Rangers camp after being released by Kansas City on March 18.

He gave up four hits and walked two in 2 1-3 spring innings with Texas.

NIT

Continued from Page 7

Monday, sounding not the least bit sarcastic. "Penn State could kick our butt, but I'm glad I don't have to see any Big East teams here."

Notre Dame (21-14) got caught in the spin cycle of one of the toughest conference schedules anyone can recall, an 18-game grind where the Irish lost seven straight, all but one of them to teams ranked in the top 20.

They didn't snap out of that funk until February, when they routed conference champ Louisville by 33.

Yes, that Louisville. The overall top seed in the NCAA tournament.

The Irish wound up playing four games against Final Four teams, including three losses to Big East standard-bearers UConn and Villanova. They played a school-record 12 games against ranked opponents, and won three times against teams ranked in the top 10.

Makes this little 'ol NIT seem like intramurals.

"We had high hopes for the NCAAs early in the year," said McAlarney, who grew up on Staten Island. "But to get back to New York and to win a championship would be a great thing for the program. I've never won a championship like this. This is the closest I've been."

It's the closest most of the players in the tournament have been.

Penn State (25-11), one of the last teams bumped from the NCAA bubble, is playing its first postseason in three years.

San Diego State (26-9) surpassed its Division I postseason win total (two) from the past 38 years in just one week with three wins in the NIT.

Then there's Baylor (23-14), the once-downtrodden program that has overcome so much in the past four years. The Bears have never played a game in April and will be playing in New York for the first time since losing in the 1950 Final Four.

Curtis Jerrells, Kevin Rogers, Henry Dugat and Mamadou Diene are the winningest senior class in school history, even though they got to play only half their freshman season.

Baylor was still reeling from the shooting death of a player by his teammate when they arrived on campus in Waco. The NCAA penalized the program for a number of violations by not allowing the team to play a nonconference schedule their first year.

Slowly, coach Scott Drew rebuilt the program, peaking in last year's NCAA tournament.

Like every other team that ends up in the NIT, things didn't go as planned this season. Baylor lost 10 of its last 12 and was written off heading into the Big 12 tournament, where it upset Kansas and Texas before playing Missouri to the brink in the championship game.

The Bears didn't earn an NCAA tournament bid, but they earned even more respect.

"Scott Drew should be the coach of the decade for what he's done, dragging up a program that was dead in the water," said San Diego State coach Steve Fisher, who 20 years ago took over Michigan on the doorstep of the NCAA tournament and won a national championship.

"He's a lifer," Fisher added. "He probably knew as a little kid what he was going to do."

Baylor had arguably the toughest road to New York, beating Georgetown — another of those Big East teams brutalized by its conference schedule — before hitting the road to beat Virginia Tech and Auburn, the 63rd win for that foundation senior class.

One more would have them playing for the school's first NIT title.

"We're excited to be playing here, excited to play for a national tournament championship," Drew said. "This group has come a long way."

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Computing the Percentage Play

North dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

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

WEST
♠ K 7
♥ J 10 9
♦ Q 10 4
♣ 9 7 6 3 2

EAST
♠ Q 9 8 6
♥ K Q 7 3 2
♦ J 3
♣ J 8

SOUTH
♠ A J 10 5 4 2
♥ 6
♦ 8 6 5
♣ A Q 4

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
3 NT	Pass	4 ♠	

Opening lead — jack of hearts.

Dear Mr. Becker: We had a big argument about this hand where South was declarer in four spades and West led a heart. South won with dummy's ace, played a spade to the ace and then led a low spade, losing to West's king. South later lost the jack of spades to the queen and a diamond trick, but he wound up making four spades.

The argument was over whether South played the spades correctly or whether he was just lucky. Shouldn't he have finessed the ten of spades at trick two? I know he would have gone down if he had done this in the actual deal, but wouldn't that be the winning play in the long run? Sincerely yours, Constant Reader.

Well, the answer is that South was correct in the way he played the hand, not only because he succeeded, but because his approach was in accordance with the percentages.

Problems like this are susceptible to fairly simple computation. Since declarer's sole aim is to avoid the loss of more than two trump tricks, if possible, he starts out by ignoring all the spade combinations where the play of the ten or the ace is immaterial. These would include those hands where the trumps are divided 6-0, 5-1, or 3-3.

The only really pertinent hands are those where the spades are divided 4-2, with West holding the doubleton. West's doubleton can consist of K-9, K-8, K-7, K-6, Q-9, Q-8, Q-7, Q-6 (in which case the ace play is better than the ten), or it can consist of 9-8, 9-7, 9-6, 8-7, 8-6, 7-6 (in which case the ten play is better than the ace). The only other case, where West has the K-Q alone, does not matter because either play makes the contract.

As there are eight cases where playing the ace wins, and only six where playing the ten wins, it is better to play the ace and a low spade.

Tomorrow: Seek and ye shall find.

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JOHNSON

Continued from Page 7

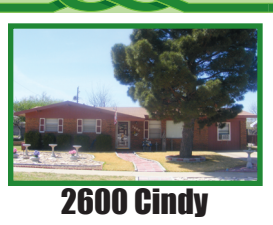
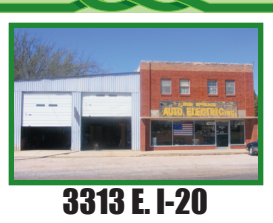
time."

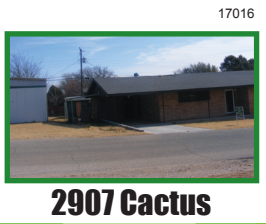
Johnson had been commissioned a 2nd lieutenant on his graduation from NMSU, and ultimately served two years on active duty with NASA, ending his military service as a captain in the U.S. Army Reserves.

After 30 years working in the private sector, Johnson returned to NMSU in 2000, where he is now in the school's Department of Chemical Engineering and an assistant to the NMSU president. He also recently served as interim head football coach for two weeks. He has served on the Athletic Council and Hall of Fame Committee at NMSU and on the Memorial Medical Center Foundation's board of trustees.

"My time at Schreiner taught me great lessons in organization and time planning," Johnson said. "Those lessons served me well in school, athletics, business and certainly now in education."

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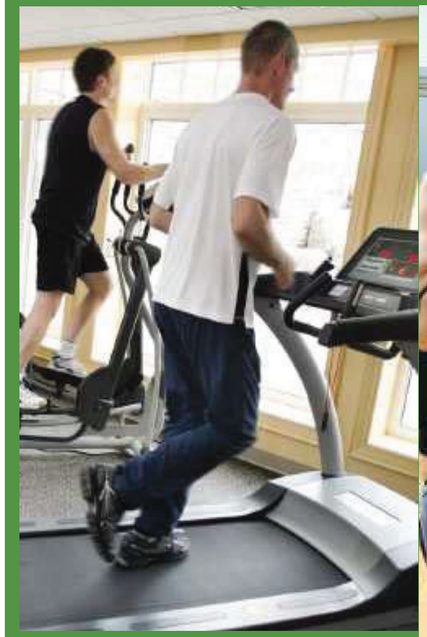
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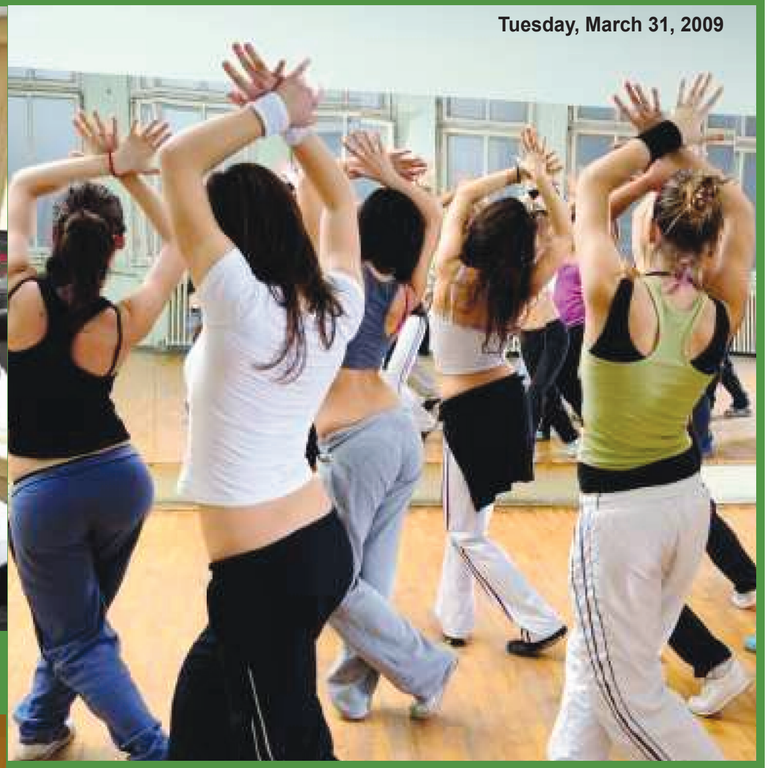
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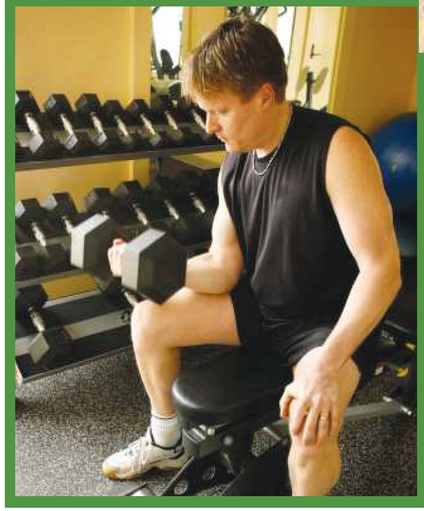
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Challenge losers getting healthy

The 2009 Best Loser Fat to Fitness Challenge, sponsored by the Herald and the Big Spring YMCA is well under way.

And that means a 188 people who made either made New Year's resolutions to lose weight, or decided to make the most of the first-ever Challenge, have taken the opportunity to get a good start on the project with a little help from their friends.

You see, we here at the Herald and the folks at the YMCA know from experience that losing weight is a little easier when you've got somebody working to lose weight along with you. It's even better when you've got a support group.

That's why this first ever Spring Challenge involves teams — four people of any sex and any age — that are taking part in the three-month event in March, April and May. Entry fees were $40 per team — $10 per team member.

The 47 teams are competing for not only some bragging rights, but some cold, hard cash — like all the entry fee money. The grand prize could be worth $500 or $1,000, it just depends on how many teams enter.

There has already been one official weigh-in at the YMCA and there will be two more — April 6-10 and May 11-15 — where the teams' progress is monitored and recognized.

Team photos were taken, before the contest began and will be again bee taken following the Challenge.

Only a team's weight loss percentage is noted, not the individual's. That way, nobody is going to be embarrassed.

Now, it's too late to get involved in this year's Challenge, but we're still encouraging readers to take part unofficially. But be sure that you make sure your doctor says it's all right to take part.

It is not necessary to join the YMCA or be a subscriber to the Herald. It's just an opportunity to be a little healthier this spring.

But it is important to remember that there is a difference between the “ideal weight” and your “happy weight.” The truth, experts say, is that you can weigh more than your ideal weight and still be healthy (not to mention happy).

If you're overweight, losing just 10 percent of your body weight is associated with a myriad of health benefits, including lowering blood pressure, blood cholesterol and blood sugar, and reducing your risk for heart disease. Not only that, experts say, but this kind of weight loss is easier to attain and maintain, setting you up for success in the long run.

Just as your body temperature is programmed to stay around 98.6 degrees, your body weight is naturally regulated to stay within a range of 10 percent-20 percent, says Thomas Wadden, PhD, director of the Center for Weight and Eating Disorders at University of Pennsylvania Medical School. This weight range is known as the "set point."

Experts recommend that you try losing 10 percent the old-fashioned way — by slowly changing eating and exercise behaviors — then maintain this new weight for a few months before trying to lose more. Not only will your body get the signal to lower its "set point," but you'll give yourself a chance to get used to new food choices, smaller portions and regular exercise.

Here are some tipsr for weight loss success:

• Eat regular meals. People who eat regular meals consume fewer calories than those who eat irregular meals.

• Use a plate, sit down and enjoy your meals. Folks who do this eat 43 percent smaller portions than those who eat out of containers or on the run.

• Get at least 30 minutes of moderate activity each day.

• How much and what you eat makes a big difference. Enjoy normal portions of foods that are high in fiber (fruits, veggies, whole grains) and rich in lean or low fat protein is the secret to feeling full.

• Think positive: Focus on the benefits of a healthier lifestyle rather than the scale.



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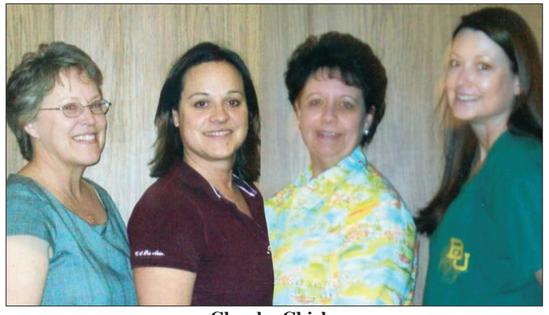
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Next Weigh-in Date

April 6-10

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4:00 pm-7:00 pm



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