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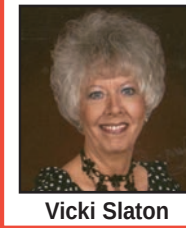
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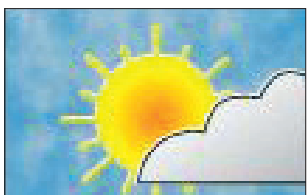
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THURSDAY

MARCH 11, 2010



VOLUME 105, NUMBER 81

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# Wilson convictions affirmed on appeal

**By THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

A 49-year-old transient convicted of kidnapping and aggravated kidnapping in the 2007 abduction of a pair of Big Spring children had his conviction affirmed by the 11<sup>th</sup> District Court of Appeals last week.

Tracy Lynn Wilson, a transient at the time of his arrest, was found guilty April 15, 2008, on charges of kidnapping with intent to commit sexual assault, a first-degree felony,



Wilkerson

and kidnapping, a third-degree felony, following less than an hour of deliberation from the jury, comprised of nine women and three men.

The memorandum opinions were issued by Justice Rick Strange from a panel including Chief Justice Jim Wright and Justice Terry McCall, upholding the conviction.

According to Howard County

District Attorney Hardy Wilkerson, the pair of appeals touched on two main issues: lesser included offenses and legally sufficient evidence in the case.

“Reading the opinions issued by the justices, those appear to be the focus of the appeals,” said Wilkerson. “However, it was a good trial with solid rulings, and the justices’ opinion reflected that.”

Wilson was arrested in October of 2007 and charged with kidnapping and aggravated kidnapping after

police officials say he allegedly took two children from in front of a home in the 1300 block of Tucson to an old motor home parked at a shop in the 1600 block of E. Third Street.

Wilson requested his sentencing be decided by 118th District Court Judge Robert H. Moore III instead of by a jury, receiving a 20-year sentence for the aggravated kidnapping and a 10-year sentence for the kidnapping charge.

See **APPEALS**, Page 3

## Coahoma trustees set to OK voc-tech courses

**By STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

COAHOMA — School trustees here are expected to give their approval to an agreement that will significantly increase the number of and type of vocational courses offered to Coahoma students when the school board meets at 7 p.m. tonight in the administration building.

Trustees will consider signing on to a shared agreement with Howard College and the other school districts in Howard County that would broaden the scope of career and technology courses offered to Coahoma students.

Currently, CISD offers a variety of vocational courses, including industrial arts,

See **CISD**, Page 3

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## MARCY ELEMENTARY MUSICAL



Courtesy photo

**Brenda Dunlap, principal at Marcy Elementary, plays Herb The Gardener in the kindergarten musical. The musical was titled “How Does Your Garden Grow?”**

## Only half of area’s school board elections have contested races

**By STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

The slates are set for upcoming school board races in the area.

Only one person declared for an area board race Monday, the final day to file for the elections.

Of the six area school elections, only three will feature contested races — Big Spring, Coahoma and Sands. The other three school districts — Forsan, Stanton and Howard College — had only incumbents file for the races. Those boards will likely cancel the May 8 election and declare the incumbents the winners of new terms.

Craig Ferguson, a firefighter/paramedic with the Big Spring Fire Department, became the last person to file when he announced for the Coahoma Independent School District board of trustee election. He, along with Brandon Atkins, Ashley Niblett, Michael Brooks and Mike Blizzard, will vie for two at-large seats to be decided in May.

Incumbents Sissy Franklin and James White both declined to seek new terms, Superintendent’s Secretary Judy Dobbs said.

Big Spring has three trustee seats up for election this year, but only one has attracted multiple candidates so far — District 5, where Jeremy Blount, recent-

ly retired from the U.S. Army, Chad Wash, owner of CWOC Inc., and Michelle Hamby, a registered nurse at Big Spring State Hospital, have filed, said Sandra Waggoner, chief financial officer for the district.

Incumbents Jeff Brorman (District 6) and Phil Furqueron (District 7) have filed for re-election but have not yet drawn any challengers, Waggoner said.

The most crowded race has developed in Ackerly, where seven candidates are vying for two at-large seats on the Sands CISD board. Incumbent Michelle Zant has been joined by challengers Nate

See **BOARDS**, Page 3



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Obituaries

Vivian Grantham

Vivian Grantham, 82, of Big Spring died Wednesday, March 10, 2010, in a local hospital. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Take Note

• Marj Carpenter will autograph copies of her new book, “Get Your Foot Out of the Durn Petunias: Stories From My Life,” from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. today in Heritage Museum. Call 267-8255 for more information.

• Coahoma ISD will release students at 12:30 p.m. Friday. CISD staff will be attending professional development that afternoon.

• The Big Spring Kiwanis Club’s annual Pancake Supper will be held from 4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Friday in the Howard College Student Union Building. Tickets for the all-you-can-eat meal are \$5 and can be purchased at the door. For more information, contact Club President Ann Duncan at 263-4887.

• The Howard County Youth Horseman Club will host a Buckle Blowout Playday on March 13. Books open at 9 a.m. and the playday starts at 10 a.m. Cost is \$15 per event, \$25 for breakaway. Belt buckles will be awarded for high point in each age group and breast collars will go to second-place finishers in each age group. Contact Diane Hofacket at 267-8041 or Lester Jourdon at 816-9533 for more information.

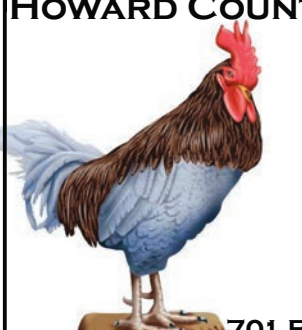
• The American Red Cross will offer a Red Cross Babysitter’s Training Courses during Spring Break on March 13 and 19 at the Red Cross office, 9601 Wright Dr. in Midland. Babysitter’s training is for youth ages 11-15 and introduces the role and skills of being a babysitter. Course includes training in child and infant CPR and first aid. Course cost is \$35 per person. Participants will need a brown bag lunch. Class size is limited. Call (432) 563-2267 for more information or registration.

• Cornell Corrections Relay For Life team, Team Lockout, will host a shrimp boil at 11:30 a.m. March 19. The event will be held at the Building 35 Warehouse, 1701 Apron Drive in front of Western Container. Eat in or carry out. Large dishes are \$15; small dishes are \$10.

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

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

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



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201181

Police blotter

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

- AARON LANGFORD, 28, of 2506 Gunter, was arrested Wednesday on charges of possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.
- JOHN LOPEZ, 22, of 1425 E. Sixth St., was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of marijuana.
- GREGORY MCDANIEL, 40, of Hagerman, N.M., was arrested Thursday on two local warrants.
- THEFT was reported in the 1100 block of Third Street.
- POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA – TWO OUNCES OR LESS was reported in the 500 block of Birdwell Lane.
- POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA was reported in the 500 block of Birdwell Lane.
- INJURY TO A CHILD – CRIMINAL NEGLIGENCE was reported in the 1900 block of Winston. Police officials refused to comment or release any information regarding the incident.
- BURGLARY OF A BUILDING was reported in the 900 block of Lancaster.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 1800 block of 15<sup>th</sup> Street.

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 55 inmates at the time of this report.

- LINDA ANN FOSTER, 32, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance.
- GREGORY ALLAN MCDANIEL, 40, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on municipal warrants for theft and failure to appear.

Fire/EMS

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

- TRAUMA was reported in the 1500 block of Nolan. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2900 block of E. Interstate Highway 20. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 400 block of N. First Street in Coahoma. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2000 block of Rickabaugh Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

Support Groups

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

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

MONDAY

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



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**Saturday, March 27, 2010  
8:00 PM**

**Dorothy Garrett Coliseum**  
Howard College Campus, Big Spring

**Tickets**  
Adults \$30, Seniors \$15, Students \$10  
Get your tickets early!

LOCATIONS: KBST Radio, Blum’s Jewelers, Faye’s Flowers, Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Big Spring Herald, Heritage Museum, Western Banks.

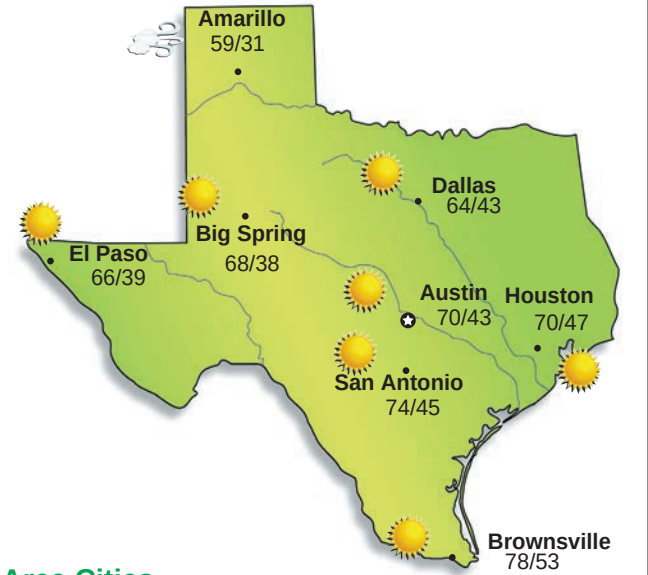


Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

| Fri<br>3/12                                                                                                                                                     | Sat<br>3/13                                                                                                                                                             | Sun<br>3/14                                                                                                                                                         | Mon<br>3/15                                                                                                                                                              | Tue<br>3/16                                                                                                                                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <br><b>68/38</b><br>A mainly sunny sky. High 68F. Winds WNW at 10 to 20 mph. | <br><b>72/44</b><br>Abundant sunshine. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the mid 40s. | <br><b>74/42</b><br>Plenty of sun. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the low 40s. | <br><b>54/42</b><br>Windy with showers. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the low 40s. | <br><b>57/36</b><br>Chance of showers. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the mid 30s. |
| <b>Sunrise:</b> 7:00 AM<br><b>Sunset:</b> 6:52 PM                                                                                                               | <b>Sunrise:</b> 6:59 AM<br><b>Sunset:</b> 6:53 PM                                                                                                                       | <b>Sunrise:</b> 6:57 AM<br><b>Sunset:</b> 6:53 PM                                                                                                                   | <b>Sunrise:</b> 6:56 AM<br><b>Sunset:</b> 6:54 PM                                                                                                                        | <b>Sunrise:</b> 6:55 AM<br><b>Sunset:</b> 6:55 PM                                                                                                                         |

Texas At A Glance



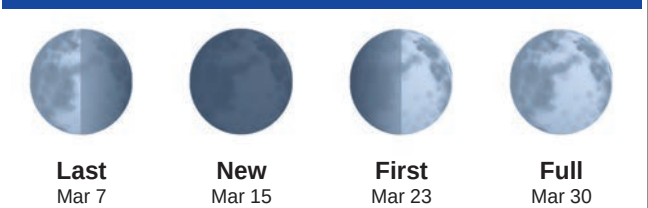
Area Cities

| City           | Hi | Lo | Cond.     | City            | Hi | Lo | Cond.     |
|----------------|----|----|-----------|-----------------|----|----|-----------|
| Abilene        | 67 | 39 | sunny     | Kingsville      | 78 | 49 | sunny     |
| Amarillo       | 59 | 31 | windy     | Livingston      | 68 | 41 | sunny     |
| Austin         | 70 | 43 | sunny     | Longview        | 61 | 42 | mst sunny |
| Beaumont       | 69 | 46 | sunny     | Lubbock         | 64 | 33 | sunny     |
| Brownsville    | 78 | 53 | sunny     | Lufkin          | 68 | 43 | sunny     |
| Brownwood      | 69 | 42 | sunny     | Midland         | 70 | 42 | sunny     |
| Corpus Christi | 74 | 50 | sunny     | Raymondville    | 79 | 49 | sunny     |
| Corsicana      | 62 | 42 | sunny     | Rosenberg       | 70 | 46 | sunny     |
| Dallas         | 64 | 43 | sunny     | San Antonio     | 74 | 45 | sunny     |
| Del Rio        | 75 | 44 | sunny     | San Marcos      | 71 | 43 | sunny     |
| El Paso        | 66 | 39 | sunny     | Sulphur Springs | 58 | 43 | mst sunny |
| Fort Stockton  | 70 | 40 | sunny     | Sweetwater      | 69 | 39 | sunny     |
| Gainesville    | 61 | 39 | mst sunny | Tyler           | 61 | 42 | mst sunny |
| Greenville     | 59 | 40 | mst sunny | Weatherford     | 64 | 40 | sunny     |
| Houston        | 70 | 47 | sunny     | Wichita Falls   | 63 | 39 | windy     |

National Cities

| City        | Hi | Lo | Cond.     | City           | Hi | Lo | Cond. |
|-------------|----|----|-----------|----------------|----|----|-------|
| Atlanta     | 62 | 44 | t-storm   | Minneapolis    | 47 | 39 | rain  |
| Boston      | 49 | 37 | cloudy    | New York       | 47 | 44 | rain  |
| Chicago     | 52 | 41 | rain      | Phoenix        | 69 | 47 | sunny |
| Dallas      | 64 | 43 | sunny     | San Francisco  | 58 | 43 | rain  |
| Denver      | 52 | 31 | sunny     | Seattle        | 53 | 37 | rain  |
| Houston     | 70 | 47 | sunny     | St. Louis      | 54 | 40 | rain  |
| Los Angeles | 67 | 51 | mst sunny | Washington, DC | 57 | 53 | rain  |
| Miami       | 81 | 67 | t-storm   |                |    |    |       |

Moon Phases



UV Index

| Fri<br>3/12 | Sat<br>3/13 | Sun<br>3/14 | Mon<br>3/15 | Tue<br>3/16 |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>7</b>    | <b>7</b>    | <b>7</b>    | <b>5</b>    | <b>5</b>    |
| High        | High        | High        | Moderate    | Moderate    |

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

0  11

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 36-42-47-48-52-54.  
Number matching six of six: 0.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 4-7-10-23-29.  
Number matching five of five: 0.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 6-2-2-6. Sum It Up: 16.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 0-1-8. Sum It Up: 9.

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## Texas News Briefs:

### Austin man condemned for 2003 killing of woman

AUSTIN (AP) — An Austin man has been sentenced to death for the 2003 stabbing death of a friend of a woman he had dated in an attack witnessed by the victim’s son.

The Austin American-Statesman reports a Travis County jury deliberated for about three hours before returning a death sentence Wednesday for 37-year-old Milton Gobert.

Last week, jurors convicted Gobert of capital murder in the stabbing death of 37-year-old Mel Cotton. Gobert had claimed self defense.

Cotton’s now-11-year-old son, whom prosecutors say was stabbed several times by Gobert, had testified that he saw his mother being attacked at their home.

Prosecutors say Gobert killed Cotton because she helped his ex-girlfriend move out of his apartment. A voice mail to his ex-girlfriend, played in court, had Gobert saying some of his things were taken during the move.

### Indiana man that killed two set to die in Texas

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — An Indiana man condemned for killing a San Antonio sheriff’s officer as part of a month-long cross-country crime spree that also left another man slain is headed for the Texas death chamber.

Thirty-one-year-old Joshua Maxwell was convicted of the fatal shooting of Bexar County Sheriff’s Sgt. Rudy Lopes, who was off duty when he was robbed and gunned down almost 10 years ago. His body was dumped behind a shopping mall, then Maxwell and a girlfriend fled to California where they were arrested in Lopes’

stolen pickup following a police chase through downtown San Francisco.

Maxwell, set for execution tonight, would be the fourth Texas prisoner executed this year.

### Builder offers to buy homes hit by landslide

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The builder of a San Antonio development partially evacuated after a landslide in January has offered to buy back 27 homes.

Spokeswoman Valerie Dolenga said Wednesday that Dallas-based Centex Homes is offering to buy back the homes because homeowners will likely need to remain evacuated for six more months. The homeowners had to leave Jan. 24 when a landslide began and a retaining wall split.

Centex, which is owned by Bloomfield Hills, Mich.-based Pulte Homes Inc., said once it has approval from city officials, it will build a new \$5 million retaining wall to prevent future landslides. Construction will take six months.

Dolenga said because the evacuated homeowners will not be able to return until the work is complete, they are being offered a buy out and help relocating.

On Wednesday, about 80 homeowners held a news conference on the top of the street where the slope collapsed. Signs being held up included ones reading “Pulte Talk to Us” and “Watch for Falling Home Values.”

Resident Dell Hammett was not among those who had to evacuate their homes, but said she’s concerned about her property value, cracks in her walls and other signs of foundation movement.

“We’ve worked all our lives for nothing,” she told the San Antonio Express-News.

Carlos Pena has gotten a buyback

offer, but he said that doesn’t address the stress his family has suffered.

“It’s not enough,” he said.

### Off-duty trooper apparently shot himself

ITALY, Texas (AP) — Authorities say that it appears that an off-duty state trooper who was shot at the home of another off-duty trooper shot himself.

Texas Department of Public Safety spokeswoman Lisa Block had no other details on the incident and said Wednesday that the Texas Rangers continue to investigate.

She says that Trooper Clint Shoemaker, who was shot Tuesday, remained in stable condition Wednesday after undergoing surgery at a Dallas hospital.

Block has said that the preliminary investigation indicates that the other trooper was not involved in the shooting at the home in the North Texas town of Italy.

### Houston jury convicts man accused of threats

HOUSTON (AP) — A federal jury in Houston convicted a Mississippi man accused of threatening the FBI, CIA and Justice Department.

Jeff Henry Williamson, 45, of Jackson, was found guilty Wednesday of sending a threatening communication in interstate commerce.

U.S. Attorney Jose Angel Moreno says Williamson — warned earlier not to threaten government employees — sent an e-mail in June 2008 from the Houston public library to the U.S. Attorney’s Houston office threatening to blow up FBI headquarters, CIA headquarters and the Justice Department.

Moreno says Williamson also threatened FBI agents in a message sent

from a Nevada library.

Williamson, arrested in July 2008 outside FBI headquarters in Washington, D.C., faces up to five years in prison.

### Pair with cartel ties convicted in drug case

EL PASO (AP) — A federal jury has convicted two men federal prosecutors say have ties to Mexico’s Sinaloa drug cartel on charges of conspiracy to smuggle marijuana into the U.S.

Fernando Ontiveros Arumbula, 40, was convicted in El Paso federal court Wednesday of conspiracy to distribute and import more than 1,000 kilograms of marijuana. He was also convicted of possession with intent to distribute more than 100 kilograms.

Manuel Chavez Betancourt, 19, faced the same charges, but was only convicted on conspiracy to distribute and was acquitted of the rest.

Prosecutors say witnesses testified Ontiveros was a high level lieutenant in the cartel that is fighting the Juarez cartel for control of drug routes in the Mexican city across from El Paso. Chavez was described as a low level member.

Both are set for sentencing in June.

### West Texas deputy shot while serving warrant

PECOS (AP) — Authorities say a Reeves County sheriff’s deputy was in stable condition after being shot as he served a warrant. The suspect later died following a standoff with law enforcement.

Reeves County Sheriff Andy Gomez says that after Deputy Jerry Millan was shot while trying to serve a warrant at a trailer park in Pecos. The suspect then fled to a park where he was in a standoff with authorities for several hours.

## CISD

Continued from Page 1

family consumer science, agriculture, accounting and technology courses, Superintendent Randy Brown said.

By pooling resources with Howard College, Big Spring and Forsan,

however, Coahoma will be able to offer its students even more vocational training, including courses in welding, cosmetology, sign language interpreter, wind energy and certified nursing assistant at the college and building trades classes at Big Spring High School.

“This will definitely be a step in the right

direction,” Brown said. “This agreement will help us do some things we couldn’t necessarily do by ourselves.”

Vocational courses used to be standard at just about all Texas school districts before state officials began stressing academic improvement in recent years.

However, the

pendulum has begun swinging back in the opposite direction, as educators realize the value of teaching students trades, Brown said.

“What we want to do is to help prepare our students for life after high school,” he said. “If they want to go to college, we want to prepare them for that ...

but if they want to enter the workforce, we want to be able to prepare them for that, as well.”

Also tonight, Coahoma trustees will consider renewal of contracts for all professional employees for the coming school year.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at [reporter@bigspringherald.com](mailto:reporter@bigspringherald.com)

e-mail at [reporter@bigspringherald.com](mailto:reporter@bigspringherald.com)

**MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL**  
24th & Johnson 267-8288  
Richard Schroeder, 60, died Sunday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.  
Fern Lewis, 78, died Monday. Funeral Services were at 2 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

## BOARDS

Continued from Page 1

Avey, Jody Howard, Blayne Archuleta, Nelda Saldivar-Franco, Matt Snell and Michael

Wigington on the ballot, Superintendent Wayne Blount said.

In other area races:

- Forsan ISD — Incumbents Tom Bill Kuykendall and Chris Evans have filed for re-election. No challengers have filed for the at-

large posts.

- Stanton ISD — Incumbents Daniel Ramos (District 1) and Darren Patrick (District 5) have filed election papers, said Superintendent David Carr.
- Howard College —

Incumbent trustees Murray Murphy (District 2), Larry McLellan (District 3 unexpired term) and Maxwell Barr (District 4 unexpired term) and Michael Flores (District 1) have filed election papers, Executive

Assistant Julie Bailey said.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at [reporter@bigspringherald.com](mailto:reporter@bigspringherald.com)

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## APPEALS

Continued from Page 1

Wilkerson said he wasn’t surprised to the see Wilson’s legal representation file the

appeal.

“Pretty much any case that yields jail time ends up in an appeal at some point,” said Wilkerson. “So, when this one was submitted to the court of appeals I wasn’t surprised at all. Almost

every jury verdict will be appealed. I didn’t find the justices’ opinion surprising either. In the 13 years that I’ve been in this office, I’ve never had a single case overturned on appeal.”

Wilson was

represented by Midland attorney Wayne Frost.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at [citydesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:citydesk@bigspringherald.com)

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**John Edward**  
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He has captivated audiences worldwide. On his internationally distributed talk shows, Crossing Over with John Edward and John Edward Cross Country, he uses his unique abilities to connect people with loved ones who have passed on. Deeply compelling, often startling and occasionally humorous...don't miss this intimate evening with John Edward.  
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**AN ENCOURAGING WORD**  
  
By Eddy Pitchford

What do jigsaw puzzles, baseball teams and recipes have in common? *They need to have all the ingredients.* Assembling a jigsaw puzzle is confusing when some pieces are missing. Playing a baseball game is discouraging if some positions are unfilled. Cooking a dinner is frustrating if some ingredients are left out.

Jesus spoke about a shepherd, whose flock was missing one sheep. Having an almost-complete flock was not good enough. In the words of Jesus, "...Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?" (Luke 15:4).

Many Christians are missing some ingredients. They may have faith yet lack patience. They may be kind but have no enthusiasm. They may have the correct doctrine but show no respect to other people.

What about you? Are you missing from the flock? What is missing in your life?

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# EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

**Ron Midkiff**  
Publisher

**John A. Moseley**  
Managing Editor

**Bill McClellan**  
News Editor

## OUR VIEW

# Help make L-L-S Easter egg hunt another success

Easter is rapidly approaching, and the annual community Easter egg hunt at Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday, April 3, on the facility's grounds at 1809 N. U.S. Highway 87.

This will be the seventh consecutive year for the Veterans Home to conduct the egg hunt, which has grown by leaps and bounds with each observance.

The event will attract thousands of children, their parents and veterans, according to Sandy Martinez, the home's activities director, who noted last year's hunt drew more than 3,000 people.

During the first year's hunt, veterans home employees hid 10,000 eggs and doubled that the next year. The event has grown exponentially since that time. Therefore, a year ago approximately 50,000 plastic eggs stuffed with candy and coupons donated by local merchants were available.

Just stuffing that many eggs is clearly a monumental task, but the home's residents have been helped by a number of volunteer groups, including the ladies of the local Red Hat Society, in past years.

Along with the traditional egg hunt on the grounds of the veterans home, there are also plans to have other activities.

“We were able to have many games, drawings and the Easter Bunny even made an appearance last year,” Martinez noted. “Compass Hospice made 1,000 hamburgers and hot dogs for participants and it was just a great event for both the community and our residents.”

So Martinez is now putting out the call for help in holding this year's Easter egg hunt.

“We would appreciate candy, no chocolate please, monetary donations or anything anyone would wish to give,” she explained.

We always encourage our readers to take their children and grandchildren out for the hunt and we'll again be doing so.

Today, however, we ask for anyone who can to heed Martinez's request with a donation.

There's no question that both the staff and residents at the Veterans home will be appreciative.

Furthermore, we're willing to bet you'll be thanking yourself in the long run.

## HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

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

## 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 improve our life permanently, Lord, by walking with You.

Amen

# The best-laid plans ... often stink

There's an old saying: Men plan, God laughs. I believe this is a warning against the folly of relying too much on plans, although I haven't ruled out the possibility that it merely means God has an over-sized sense of humor.

It's a saying I give a lot of credence to, especially since so many of my plans tend to head south soon after inception. I don't want to go into too many details, but rest assured the list is long, sad and, in some cases, downright pathetic.

This is not to say that plans are entirely useless. We should all plan for the proverbial rainy day, and preparing for important life milestones such as marriage, children, retirement and even death is a sensible approach, to say the least.

(You know there's a “however” coming, don't you?)

However (I'm nothing if not consistent), it would be equally wise and prudent not to put too much hope into said plans, unless you're ready to hear the Almighty snickering in your general direction.

Which brings us to my income tax refund.

Like millions of Americans, I received a refund on my federal taxes this year. This is not the first time this has happened and hopefully, it won't be the last. And, like millions of Americans, I made plans on how that refund would be put to use.

For starters, I was going to give a well-needed boost to my savings, then catch up on a

few bills. Some quick figuring showed me I could do both and still have enough left over to at least make a sizable down payment on that big screen TV I've always wanted.

That was the plan.

Cue heavenly laughter.

I received my refund in prompt order a few weeks ago and proceeded to put my plan into motion. First on my list was to drive to Midland and check out TV prices.

Before I hit the road, however, I decided the truck needed an oil change. Sensible precaution, no?

The first inkling of trouble came while I was waiting for the oil-changing folks to finish their work. One of them told me that my oil was looking especially sludge-like and it would be a good idea to flush the block.

Now, I'm not automotive whiz, but even I know motor oil should never be sludge-like, so I told them to go ahead.

This good man then came back a few minutes later with a sample of my radiator water. Again, I'm no expert mechanic, but I don't believe red water in your radiator should ever be considered a good thing.

Flush the radiator, I told him.

Now, between the various flushings being performed on my truck, I could discern a certain flushing sound coming from my wallet, but I still held fast to my dream of a big screen TV ... all I needed to do was refine my plans a bit.

Guffaws could be heard coming from the clouds.

So after the oil change, various flushes and assorted other work done on my truck, it was time to pay up and drive home.

One small problem, however.

The truck wouldn't start. Wouldn't even turn over. Not

even after continuous pleading and/or “descriptive phrases” on my part.

“Where's that laughing coming from?” I thought.

We managed to push-start my truck and I got it home without further incident. And there it sat for a few days until the good people at the repair shop could get to it.

The problem, the mechanics told me, was that the neutral safety switch on my truck had gone kablooeey.

Actually, “kablooeey” is a technical term used by mechanics to indicate a problem that will put a significant dent in one's pocketbook.

By this time, not only was God laughing, but several angels were also joining in for good measure.

Long story short: After paying for car repairs and everything else, my once-sizable tax refund had shrunk considerably. No big screen TV for me.

But that's OK, I figured. At least I'll be able to salt some money away in savings.

That cheery thought lasted until I got home and discovered that the lights wouldn't come on.

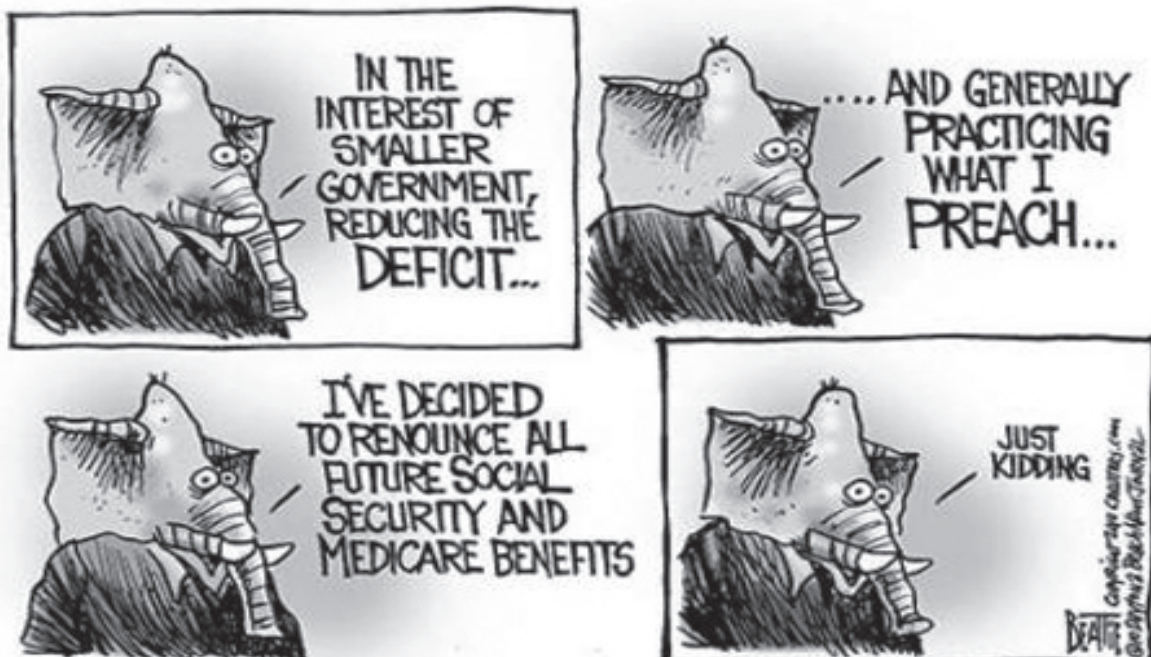
I had forgotten to pay my electric bill.

To conclude this sad tale, suffice it to say that, not only did I not get the big screen TV of my dreams, but all my other plans for my refund had gone down the toilet as well.

But all was not lost. I did have enough money remaining to buy myself a gift.

Trust me, it was the best Dr. Pepper I ever drank.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com



# And the winner is...

Like most Americans, I haven't seen “The Hurt Locker,” but I was still rooting for Kathryn Bigelow to claim the Best Director statue. This is, after all, 2010 — a little late in the day for “first women,” particularly in an industry that depends on women as much as men to buy tickets. If you believe the media accounts, another glass ceiling has now been broken. Were it only so simple.

Of course, it's important to have “first women” — whether as Best Director or on the ticket or maybe even some day in the Oval Office. But what's really important is to have second and third and fifth women — to get to the point where it's just not a big deal. On that score, Hollywood isn't even close.

The Oscars this year were run by men: two men producing, two men hosting. What else is new? Bigelow made her name doing action and adventure movies, beating the boys at their own game. Nothing wrong with that, except that it's not a path many women can — or want — to follow. When I ask my pals who the next three Kathryn Bigelows will be, they look at me blankly.

A few weeks ago, the Hollywood studios settled a longstanding suit brought on behalf of

older television writers (older is over 40) who, for the most part, can't get arrested in this town. These are successful writers, with many credits to their names. But gray hair is simply not acceptable in a town obsessed with youth.

Last time I checked, a good many people over 40 were watching television, but they weren't watching shows written by people their age. The settlement was good news for the lawyers who brought the suit, but as one of my friends (a 40-something woman) explained to me, for writers, it meant that if they filled out an extremely long form, they might get a few thousand dollars. What they won't get is a job.

Age discrimination combines with sex discrimination to create a particularly bleak picture for women.

If you haven't made it by 40, you don't. But then, if you haven't had your kids by 40, you probably don't do that, either.

It's not that different in other professions, except that in Hollywood, the rules tend to be harsher, and no one's even embarrassed by the blatant discrimination. “It's the audience,” the older white men who run studios and agencies tell me all the time in explaining why no one hires women over 40. That's what the airlines used to say, too, trying to justify their policies of only hiring young women as flight attendants: Passengers prefer pretty girls.

It's also what I used to hear

from law firms, in the bad old days, when they'd explain to me that there was only one slot for a woman — nothing personal — because most of their clients felt more comfortable with male lawyers. Of course, as it turned out, what passengers really want is to arrive safely; what clients really want is the best lawyer; what viewers really want is good entertainment. Catering to stereotypes and biases is hardly a justification for discrimination.

And then there are the women who suffer from “only woman in the room” syndrome, the women who run shows and could fill their writers' rooms with whoever they want — and fill them with young white men.

I've always believed that the point of breaking a glass ceiling is to clear up the shards so other women can get through without being bruised. But I am constantly disappointed by the number of women my age who think they somehow are more “special” if they remain the only woman in the room.

Imagine a man thinking that way?

Ridiculous.

The real test of Hollywood was not whether Kathryn Bigelow would win on Sunday, but how many women will be nominated next year, and how long it will take to go from “first woman” to “no big deal.”

I'm not holding my breath.

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**Dear Annie:** I've been married to "Mitch" for seven years, and we have a 4-year-old son. Mitch provides well for us, and everyone at his job thinks he's the best. Unfortunately, we see a different side of him at home. Mitch is diabetic. Sometimes he doesn't take care of himself. When he hasn't slept enough or eaten enough, he behaves like a mean, bratty child. We were recently invited to his parents' home for dinner, and he announced that he wasn't going to eat anything. On the drive home, he took a nap, and when he woke up, he had no memory of the way he had acted. I've noticed that a lot of his



KATHY MITCHELL  
MARCY SUGAR

adolescent behavior takes place when we are with his family. He treats them horribly and never apologizes.

Venus, with her new Aries attitude, opposes Big Daddy Jupiter in the partnership realm of Libra, causing tension, if not eventful feuding in some close relationships. This doesn't have to be a negative occurrence, though. Disagreement could add excitement and interest to relationships that were in danger of becoming a bore.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). You won't do anyone a favor by running away from your dream. The greater good will be served as you go for the thing you want. Your desires are woven into the best intentions of the universe.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). A pragmatic line of questioning will help you get, and stay, organized. Is your time adding up? Do your daily tasks help you fulfill your weekly priorities? Have you set some realistic goals?

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). You feel an easy kinship with most of the people you meet and will have an affinity for those who are as creative and whimsical as you are. The conversations you'll have today will sizzle, crackle and pop.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). You are doing what you haven't done before. Your interactions might be stressful, but it's a good kind of stress. You're still learning, but very soon you'll be great at this.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). You being you usually includes some kind of daring adventure. To risk comes so naturally to you that you are not even aware you are doing it. Those around you are completely amazed by your bravery.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Sometimes you wonder whether people are capable of making a

decision without you. Friends will consult you about the minutiae of their lives and ask you to weigh in. You might be flattered by their deference to your judgment.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll be a trendsetter. People will follow you because you are on the cutting edge. Little do they know, the next cool thing may very well be as low-key and old-fashioned as knitting or sending postcards.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You will be a magnet for exciting and intriguing circumstances. Those with something unusual to offer will be inexplicably drawn to you. You'll have an encounter with a person of mystery.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Strengthen the friendship between you and you. Find quiet time to relate to yourself. When you enjoy your solitude, you are enjoying one of life's simplest, purest pleasures.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Before you make the purchase or plan the activity, get expert advice. You don't have to follow it. But at least you'll know the full range of what's available to you.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It will be easy to find people to help you. Right now, you can afford to be a bit choosy. Accept only highly qualified assistance and the efforts of those who put their heart into their service.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll be in the middle of a task and realize you're nervous. Maybe your hands are even shaking! You would not have predicted that you would have this reaction. But it's proof that you're stretching yourself.

**T O D A Y ' S BIRTHDAY** (March 11). You're older, but the best part of your life is yet to come. You move quickly toward a professional goal. You'll make connections in April and make them work for you in May. A June trip is romantic.

Mitch even saw a counselor who pointed this out to him, so he quit going. A year ago, Mitch tried another counselor, who told him he was perfectly fine and maybe we should try marriage counseling. We did, but it didn't help.

I feel as if I am married to a preschooler. If Mitch doesn't get his way, there's a fight. He resents my family, so I've stopped spending time with them in order to avoid conflict. I feel trapped. I would leave, but I cannot support my son on my income alone. I no longer enjoy being with Mitch and am thankful when his job takes him out of town for several days. Any advice?

— Frustrated

**Dear Frustrated:** Some of this is Mitch's refusal to regulate his blood sugar levels. But that is a conscious choice on his part and gives him an excuse to be rude and inconsiderate. Please try counseling again, and ask Mitch to come with you. If he refuses, go without him.

**Dear Annie:** I am a 57-year-old lady, getting married for the second time.

Is it appropriate for a woman my age to wear an ivory wedding gown as long as it is not too extravagant? No veil or train. It would be a long, suit-type style.

The second question is about wedding gifts. We have

two full households and don't need anything. Can we say "no gifts required" or "gift cards appreciated" so our guests don't waste their money? I wouldn't put it on the invitation, but rather in an attached card.

Finally, do you have a recommended source of wedding etiquette for second marriages? — New Bride

**Dear Bride:** Yes, to the first question. A long, suit-type, off-white gown without a veil or train would be perfect. No, to the second. It is inappropriate to put anything in the invitation envelope about gifts. Spread the word to a close friend or relative, and let them notify guests.

## Tomorrow's Horoscope

Lifestyle upgrades in August pave the way for personal developments in September. November brings a windfall. Sagittarius and Cancer people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 5, 22, 10 and 41.

**ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS:** "I have been officially diagnosed with OCD, that is to say "obsessive Cullen disorder." I'm sure you've heard about peo-

ple like me who can't get enough of the Cullens! I was wondering what sign Edward Cullen is, and would we be compatible? I'm a Scorpio."

I assume you're referring to the fictional family of vampires in Stephenie Meyer's "Twilight" series, and I believe Edward's birthday is June 20, 1901, which would make him a Gemini. Gemini is the

sign of communication. And although Bella might not agree that Edward is a good communicator (when he thinks he's saying too much, she thinks he's not saying enough), he does make his feelings known through his loyal and even noble actions. His moon is in dramatic Leo, the sign of a generous heart. And his Mercury and Venus in Cancer makes him

extremely compatible with your Scorpio sun sign. Scorpions like you are ruled by Pluto, the dwarf planet named for the ancient god of the netherworld. Scorpio individuals are fascinated by the mysterious and not easily scared off by the prospect of danger, making you a wonderful candidate to befriend a vampire.

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# Town & Country

*Minivan king keeps adding new features to popular people mover*

Twenty-five years ago Chrysler introduced the world to the minivan, literally creating a new segment overnight sending nearly every automaker scrambling to come up with its own model.

In the late 1980s and much of the 1990s, minivans dominated sales.

With more than 25 years of minivan development, 65 segment "first," 40 available safety features and a segment leading 25 mpg highway fuel economy, the Chrysler Town & Country, still remains king of the minivan hill.

For the 2010 model year, Chrysler continues to up the ante by adding more innovation, more luxury while also improving fuel economy.

With the ability to seat up to seven passengers, it really is a shame to call the Town &

Country a minivan. It's more like a small luxury condo on wheels.

Granted, my test vehicle this week was the top of the line trim level loaded with all the bells and whistles. Still, this is a full-blown luxury car. It has everything but a bathroom, sink and chauffeur.

Ten years ago, when all three of our kids were small and still at home, I would have loved to have this vehicle. I really would have loved to have this vehicle during all the

roads trips to visit family living across the country. I'm still haunted by the "he touched me" tension headache moments from the backseat followed by my "don't make me stop the car" declaration, and a "this time I mean it" added for good measure.

Heck, I would have loved to have this car for the everyday carpool trips to and from



The 2010 Chrysler Town & Country minivan

school. There's so much to do, all those "he touched me" and "she looked at me" moments could have been avoided.

From the power side sliding doors to the Swivel 'n Go second-row seats that swivel 180 degrees to face the third row (complete with table for playing games, doing homework or eating) to the world class rear seat entertainment system, the kids would have been too busy to be bored.

Let me add something about the entertainment system. It's not just a couple of monitors that play DVDs and video games. It also has Sirius Backseat TV that plays television programs from several of the popular children's channels.

Like I said, it's like a small luxury condo on wheels.

For the 2010 model year, the Town & Country is available in three trim levels — LX, Touring and Limited.

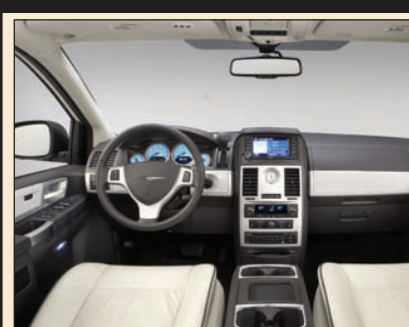
Consumers have the option of three available engines (that are really peppy) and two automatic transmissions.

With a base price starting around \$25,000, the Town & Country also comes with more than 40 safety and security features, with new features including active front head restraints, rear obstacle detection display and blind-spot monitoring system that alerts the driver if another vehicle is traveling in your blind spot on either side of the car.

For consumers in the market for a minivan, the Town & Country is an absolute must for the test drive list. There's a reason it's been the segment leader for the past 25 years.

*Neal White has been covering the automotive industry for more than 20 years and is affiliated with the Texas Auto Writers Association.*

## THE NUTS AND BOLTS



**MODEL:**  
2010 Chrysler Town & Country 7-seat minivan  
Front-wheel drive  
**Trim packages:**  
LX, Touring, Limited  
**PRICE RANGE:**  
\$25,000-\$36,000  
**ENGINE:**  
3.3-L V6 (175 hp/205 T)  
3.8-L V6 (197 hp/230 T)  
4.0-L V6 (251 hp/259 T)  
**TRANSMISSION:**  
4-speed automatic  
6-speed automatic  
**EPA:** 17/16/17 mpg city,

24/23/25 mpg highway (3.3/3.8/4.0)

**FUEL:** Regular unleaded

**SUSPENSION:** Independent MacPherson struts, coil over gas-charged shocks, stabilizer bar with isolated suspension cradle (front); twist-beam axle with coil springs, track

bar, gas-charged shocks, self-leveling shocks included in trailer tow group (rear).

**TRACTION CONTROL:** Traction control with electronic stability control system.

**BRAKES:** ABS  
**LENGTH:** 202.5 inches  
**WHEELBASE:** 121.2 in.  
**WIDTH:** 76.9 inches  
**HEIGHT:** 68.9 inches  
**WEIGHT:** 4335-4621 lbs.  
**TRACK:** 65.5/64.8 (front/rear)  
**FUEL TANK:** 20 gallons  
**TIRES:** 16-, or 17-inch

# Idaho Senate OKs texting ban, joining other states

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — The Senate has a message for Idaho drivers: Put down the mobile device, quit texting and watch the road.

The chamber voted 29-5 on Wednesday to add texting-while-driving to activities banned under Idaho's inattentive driving statutes. It now goes to the House.

At least 19 other states have already made texting behind the wheel illegal, including 12 in

2009.

Sen. John McGee, a Caldwell Republican, especially wants to reach 18- to 24-year-olds he says are the most-likely to text while driving, impairing their visual, manual and cognitive abilities. He called this "thoughtful legislation that will save lives."

"Lord knows, we don't need a reduction in brain activity," McGee said. "If you're driving by at 70 mph and you're

not looking at the road, you shouldn't be doing that."

Those convicted could be punished with 90 days in jail and a \$300 fine, if his bill becomes law.

The measure isn't as far-reaching as some are mulling. Washington state, for instance, is considering banning cell phone use for licensed drivers under 18.

But it was still too

much for some Idaho lawmakers.

Sen. Denton Darrington, R-Declo, raised concern that people who fight texting charges could clog up the court system with expensive jury trials where county prosecutors were forced to hire technical experts to determine whether somebody was actually sending or receiving a text while behind the wheel.

"I'm simply telling you, that is the downside," said Darrington, who said he doesn't text and drive, but has on occasion read a text message from one of his young relatives. "It will take that process to get

the conviction in some cases. In fact, after the word spreads, in many cases."

And Sen. Curt McKenzie, R-Nampa, pointed out that texting that leads to inattentive driving is already prohibited under Idaho traffic laws and can be punished with a citation. McGee's bill would make illegal even texting activities that don't impair a motorists ability to steer his or her vehicle, McKenzie argued.

"Let's criminalize conduct that is not safe and not criminalize conduct when it is done in a safe manner," he said.

McGee conceded he would have been swayed

by these arguments during the 2009 Legislature, when a similar bill surfaced but failed to gain traction. Now, however, the southwestern Idaho Republican said research he's done in the intervening months convinced him that outlawing texting as a misdemeanor was necessary because of its pervasive, negative impacts on automobile safety.

McGee cited studies that showed texting impairs a driver's ability to react to dynamic traffic situations on par with somebody who has consumed enough booze to have a 0.8 blood alcohol level.

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## Tech opens Big 12 with win over Colorado

## Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Texas Tech coach Pat Knight urged one timeout to call his team to play better defense. They didn't, so he had to call another to get his point across.

Finally, the Red Raiders got the hint.

John Roberson scored 19 points, Nick Okorie added 18 and Texas

Tech overcame a sloppy start defensively to open the Big 12 tournament with an 82-67 victory over Colorado on Wednesday.

"Everyone who's a parent knows that with 19-to-21-year-olds, you have to constantly remind them," Knight said. "Defense isn't something that's (innate), and it's been a problem for us all sea-

son."

Shoddy defense has plagued Texas Tech (17-14) since reaching No. 16 in the polls midway through the season, and it looked like another lackluster performance was on tap against Colorado. But after the two chew-out sessions from their coach, the Red Raiders pulled it together to kick off a big first-half run and held

on to end a seven-game losing streak.

Roberson had a great all-around game, finishing with nine assists, five rebounds and four steals, while Brad Reese chipped in 16 points to help Texas Tech to a 30-9 advantage off the bench.

The victory assures the Red Raiders of a winning record and bolsters their NIT chances.

There's also a sliver of hope to earn an NCAA berth by winning the conference tournament, but Texas Tech will first have to get by top-ranked Kansas in the quarterfinals on Thursday.

"It's going to be tough," Knight said. "It's about like comparing my old man's winning record to mine. But as a college coach and college play-

er, you get a chance to play the No. 1 team and anything can happen in any given game."

Colorado (15-16) beat Texas Tech on a regular season on a three-game winning streak but became uncharacteristically careless with the ball in the rematch, turning it over 19 times. The

See **TECH**, Page 12

## Wildcats ready for state tourney

## BY JOE ZIGTEMA

Sports Editor

AUSTIN — The Grady Wildcats are the new blood at the state tournament this weekend.

Out of the four teams left, all but the Wildcats were in the same spot last year. But Grady and the 350 fans that are planning on making the trek to the Frank Erwin Center in Austin still have some noise to make when Grady takes the floor against Leggett at 2 p.m. Friday.

"We're the newcomer of the bunch, so we have to be a little bit of an underdog," Grady coach Shawn Harrison said by telephone from Austin Wednesday. "I really don't think (the players) think about it. They think they can win, and that's what they're focused on."

Grady's got a reason to think it can win. The Wildcats toppled No. 3 Ira in the region semifinals and Lipan to get to Austin, which made the trip last year.

As far as Grady has come this season, though, the Wildcats didn't win their own district — Grady dropped two games to Borden County by one point each in district play, earning the second seed. But Harrison said he was fine with that.

"We looked at it two ways," Harrison said. "First we knew the team that came out of our district last year, Sands, also made the region tournament. So the route was a little



HERALD PHOTO/Joe Zigtema

**Tyler Matthews looses a shot in the Wildcats' regional semifinal win over Ira last week in Abilene. Grady takes on Leggett in the state semifinals at the University of Texas' Frank Erwin Center at 2 p.m. Friday.**

bit easier. And second, when you lose twice by one point, we just thought it was meant to be our spot."

Against Leggett, the Wildcats defense will have to be aware of 5-foot-9 point guard Joe Johnson. Johnson

averages 21 points per game for the Pirates and 5.5 assists per game in a run-and-gun style offense.

"When he gets a rebound or an outlet, he's going to go until we stop him or make him pass it," Harrison

said. "He's the thing that makes them go. If we can control him and make him take off-balanced shots with a hand in his face, and we jump and recover on the other kids, I think

See **GRADY**, Page 12

## Horns beat Cyclones; meet Baylor today

## Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Pour fiery determination into a talented, experienced player like Damion James, and what do you get?

Texas got 28 points, 16 rebounds and an 82-75 victory over plucky Iowa State Wednesday night in the Big 12's opening round.

The Longhorns all-conference senior was unstoppable, crashing the boards and hitting timely shots every time the Cyclones seemed about to pull even.

"Before the game, I told my teammates, 'Me and Dex (Pittman), all we're promised is two more games. We're not ready to go home,'" said James. "I was really focused, especially on defense. I wasn't going to let my teammates down."

The 6-foot-7 James had three points, three rebounds and an assist during an 11-0 run that turned a one-point lead into a 12-point spread. The sixth-seeded Longhorns (24-8) play third-seeded and No. 21 Baylor, a team that beat them twice during the regular season, in the quarterfinals.

With a little under nine minutes left, LaRon Dendy hit from inside, Chris Colvin drilled a 3-pointer and Marquis Gilstrap nailed two free throws, bringing the Cyclones to within a point at 60-59.

But James respond-

ed with a 3-pointer. Gilstrap went back to the line and could have cut the lead to two points, but he missed both foul shots, and Texas got buckets from Dexter Pittman on its next two possessions and again held an eight-point advantage.

"To their credit, I think it was 60-59, we had a good, solid double-team, and Damion James hit a (3-pointer) from the top as we rotated out of it," Iowa State coach Greg McDermott said. "That's what great players are supposed to do. He misses that, and we come down and score, we get the lead and we get the momentum, and maybe it's a different story."

After Iowa State (17-17), the No. 11 seed, cut the lead to six points at 75-69, Jai Lucas hit a free throw for Texas and missed the second attempt. James grabbed the rebound, and Avery Bradley sank a pair of foul shots to put the Longhorns on top 78-69.

Gary Johnson had 15 points and 10 rebounds for Texas.

"We were attacking on offense and defense," said James. "When you're doing that, you're having fun."

The Cyclones, seeking their first Big 12 tournament victory since 2005, got 17 points from Marquis Gilstrap. Craig Brackins had 15,

See **COAHOMA**, Page 12

## New owner Greenberg: Rangers sale on track for season's start

## Associated Press

SURPRISE, Ariz. (AP) — Chuck Greenberg visited the Texas Rangers spring training complex for the first time Wednesday, and expressed confidence that the complex deal for his investment group's purchase of the team will be completed

before the season opens next month.

"Everything is going smoothly," said Greenberg, who will become the CEO and managing general partner when the deal is completed. "There are always complexities and matters that have to be solved right up to the moment of being done.

So far, nothing remarkable has happened or failed to happen. Everything is right on course and I feel great about it."

Greenberg's one-day visit was a brief reprieve from his work back in Texas trying to complete the transfer of the team from owner Tom Hicks and

his financially strapped Hicks Sports Group.

"It's a question of when and not if," said Greenberg, sporting a red Rangers jacket over his blue Rangers shirt. "We think the when will be April 1."

Texas opens April 5 at home against Toronto.

"We continue to work to getting the deal closed

and would like to have it done by opening day, as well," Bob DuPuy, baseball's chief operating officer, said in New York. "We're making some progress."

The deal is complicated by debt owed by Hicks Sports Group, which early last year defaulted on \$525 million in loans tied to the

Rangers and the NHL's Dallas Stars. Hicks said that was a deliberate move to force lenders to renegotiate terms of the deals. Hicks also is exploring a sale of the Stars, which he has owned since 1996. He bought the Rangers in 1998.

See **HOWARD**, Page 12

## Sports in brief

## Sports on tap this weekend

Check the *Herald* for results

Coahoma baseball at Greenwood tourney, 6 p.m.  
Forsan baseball, Greenwood tourney 1 p.m., 6:30 p.m.  
Forsan baseball vs. Miles, 4:30 p.m. Friday  
Lady Steer softball, San Marcos tournament  
Forsan softball at Winters, 5 p.m. Friday  
Coahoma softball vs. Forsan, 10 a.m. Saturday  
Big Spring track at Concho Relays, San Angelo  
Regional Powerlifting, Abilene  
Howard College baseball, noon Saturday, Sunday

## Big Spring Country Club holding United Way fund-raiser

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

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

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

## Softball signups under way

The Big Spring Girls Softball Association is holding signups for the upcoming 2010 season for girls ages 4-14 as of Jan. 1.

Signups will be held this Saturday at the Big Spring Mall. It is the last signup to take place.

Registration fee is \$75, including a full uniform. Late registration after March 13 will cost \$10 extra.

For more info, contact Lucy Ramirez at 466-3670.

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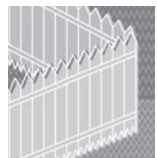
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| 5 :PM  | News ABC                  | News ABC              | Locura Notic.       | George Lopez       | News CBS         | Noticias Noticiero | News NBC         | Friends Office                    | Granger Brad           | World Business    | Cash Cab      | Sela Ward                                | CSI: Crime Scn                  | Law & Order                                     | 106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live      | Phineas Deck           |                          | SportsCenter       |
| 6 :PM  | News Ent                  | Jeopardy! Wheel       | Mi Pecado (SS)      | Two Men            | News Ent         | 12 Cora-zones      | News Millionaire | Seinfeld Seinfeld                 | Charles Program        | PBS News-Hour     | Extreme Peril |                                          | Movie: Kung Fu Hustle, Yuen Qiu | Bones                                           |                                    | Wizards Montana        | College Basketball       | College Basketball |
| 7 :PM  | Grey's Anatomy            | Grey's Anatomy        | Hasta que el Dinero | American Idol      | Survivor: Hero   | El Clon            | Commun Parks     | Movie: Mr. Deeds, Peter Gallagher | Upd Sprna              | TBA               | Extreme Peril | Movie: Jeremiah Johnson, Stefan Gierasch | TNA Wrestling                   | NBA Basketball: Chicago Bulls at Orlando Magic. | Vick Cory                          | Movie: The Incredibles | Score College Basketball | College Basketball |
| 8 :PM  | Grey's Anatomy            | Grey's Anatomy        | Corazón Salvaje     | Kitchen Nightmares | CSI: Crime Scene | Perro Amor         | Office 30 Rock   |                                   | Light of the Southwest | Antiques Roadshow | I Was Dead    |                                          |                                 |                                                 | Movie: I Do... I Did!, April Scott | Phineas Montana        |                          |                    |
| 9 :PM  | (01) Private Practice     | (01) Private Practice | Nuestra Belleza     | Simpsons Friends   | The Mentalist    | ¿Dónde Está Elisa? | The Marriage Ref | Fam. Guy                          |                        | Natural-Chickn    | Killer Germs  | Movie: Silverado, Kevin Costner          |                                 | NBA Basketball: Trail Blazers at Warriors       | The Mo'Nique                       | Wizards Deck           |                          |                    |
| 10 :PM | News Nightline            | News Nightline        | Impacto Noticiero   | Raymond TMZ        | News Letterman   | Noticias Titulares | News Jay Leno    | Lopez Tonight                     | Upd Van Impe           | Charlie Rose      | Extreme Peril |                                          | CSI: Crime Scene                | Players                                         |                                    | Suite Life             | Final                    | SportsCenter       |
| 11 :PM | Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live | Jimmy Kimmel Live     | Gancho SVU          | Law & Order: SVU   | Late Late        | ¿Dónde Está Elisa? | Late Night       | Name Sex & Sex &                  | Bill Cloud             | World             | I Was Dead    |                                          | CSI: Crime Scn                  | Inside the NBA                                  | Movie: I Do... I Did!, April Scott | So Raven               | Final                    |                    |
| 12 :AM | News                      | Paid                  | Amar sin Limites    | Paid King-Hill     | Insider          | Deci               | Pagado           | News                              | Upd                    |                   |               |                                          |                                 |                                                 |                                    | h.s. Basketball        |                          | SportsCenter       |
| 1 :AM  | Paid                      | Paid                  | Mujer... Cero       | RENO 911           | Paid             | Pagado             | Poker After Dark | Lopez Tonight                     | Light of the Southwest | Overhaulin'       |               | Movie: 100 Rifles, Burt Reynolds         | Unsolved Mysteries              | Leverage                                        |                                    | Replace Emperor        | College Basketball       | SportsCenter       |

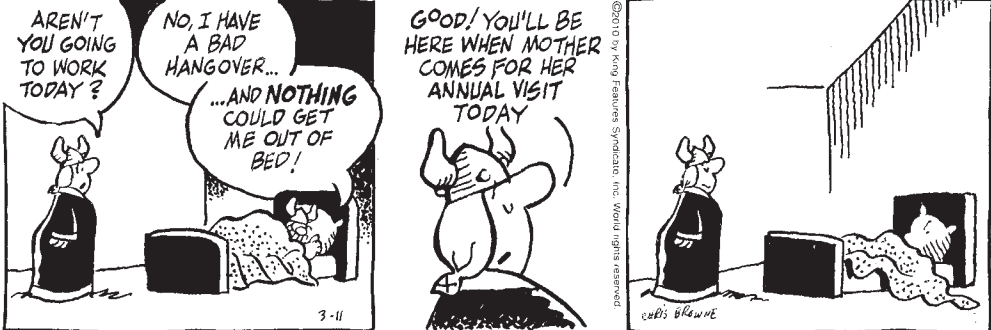
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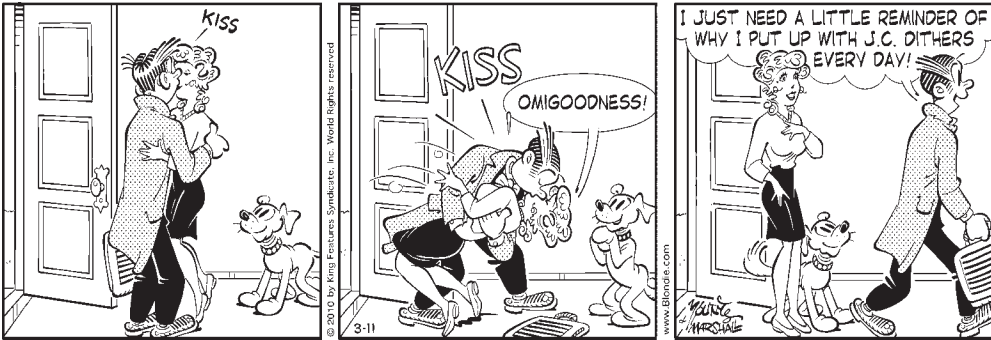
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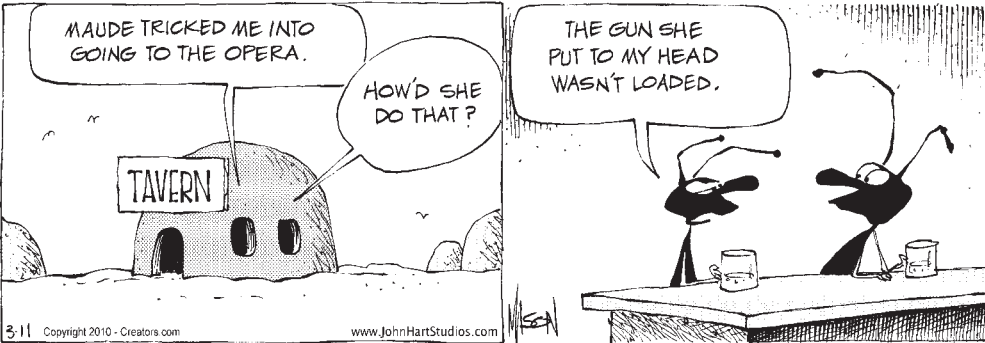
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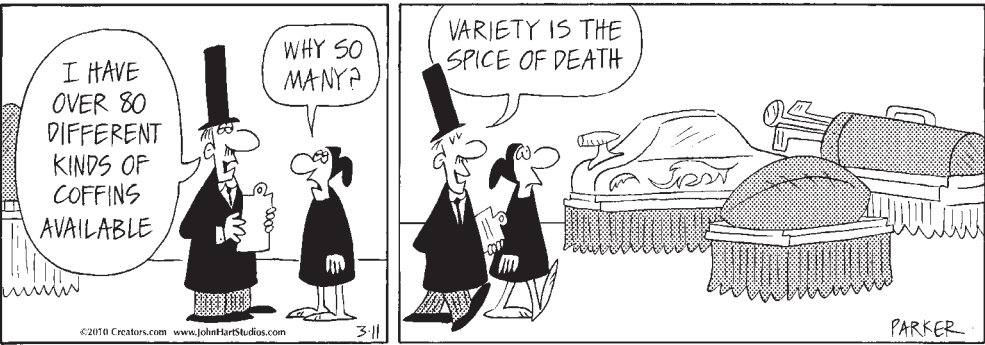
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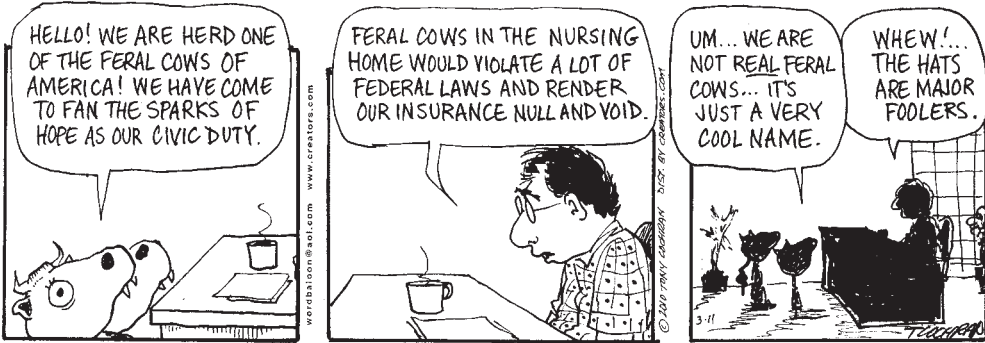
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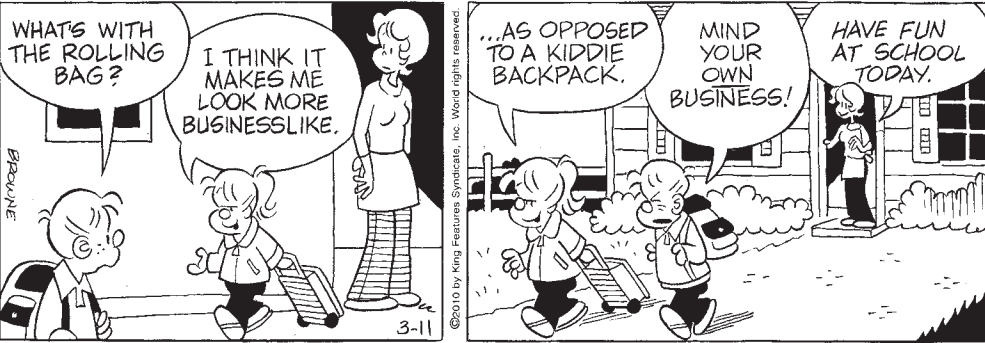
WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Thursday, March 11, the 70th day of 2010. There are 295 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 11, 1985, Mikhail S. Gorbachev was chosen to succeed the late Soviet President Konstantin U. Chernenko.

On this date: In 1810, French Emperor Napoleon I was married by proxy to Archduchess Marie Louise of Austria.

In 1861, the Constitution of the Confederate States of America was adopted during a convention in Montgomery, Ala.

In 1888, the famous Blizzard of '88 began inundating the northeastern United States, resulting in some 400 deaths.

In 1930, former President and Chief Justice William Howard Taft was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

In 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Lend-

Lease Bill, providing war supplies to countries fighting the Axis.

In 1942, as Japanese forces continued to advance in the Pacific during World War II, Gen. Douglas MacArthur left the Philippines for Australia. (MacArthur, who subsequently vowed, "I shall return," kept that promise more than 2 1/2 years later.)

In 1959, the Lorraine Hansberry drama "A Raisin in the Sun" opened at New York's Ethel Barrymore Theater.

In 1965, the Reverend James J. Reeb, a white minister from Boston, died after being beaten by whites during civil rights disturbances in Selma, Ala.

In 1977, more than 130 hostages held in Washington, D.C., by Hanafi Muslims were freed after ambassadors from three Islamic nations joined the negotiations.

In 2004, 10 bombs exploded in quick succession across the commuter rail network in Madrid, Spain, killing 191 people and wounding more than 2,000 in an attack linked to al-Qaida-inspired militants.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Terence Alexander is 87. Media

mogul Rupert Murdoch is 79. ABC News correspondent Sam Donaldson is 76. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia is 74. Musician Flaco Jimenez is 71. Actress Tricia O'Neil is 65. Actor Mark Metcalf is 64. Rock singer-musician Mark Stein (Vanilla Fudge) is 63. Singer Bobby McFerrin is 60. Movie director Jerry Zucker is 60. Actress Susan Richardson is 58. Singer Nina Hagen is 55. Country singer Jimmy Fortune (The Statler Brothers) is 55. Singer Cheryl Lynn is 53. Actor Jeffrey Nordling is 48. Actress Alex Kingston is 47. Country musician David Talbot is 47. Actor Wallace Langham is 45. Actor John Barrowman is 43.

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Answer to previous puzzle

|          |          |       |
|----------|----------|-------|
| SLED     | ANTS     | SATED |
| HOP1     | COOL     | PLANE |
| AGOG     | INFO     | ELUDE |
| MIXED    | DOUBLES  |       |
| NYSE     | EDWARD   |       |
| TKO      | SEX      | EVER  |
| ASH      | ELIOT    | LOWE  |
| BLENDED  | FAMILIES |       |
| BENE     | EASEL    | DDS   |
| RENO     | TAR      | NIL   |
| STANCH   | EARS     |       |
| SHUFFLED | DECK     |       |
| JULIE    | ALAS     | ICON  |
| OMEGA    | COMP     | EURO  |
| TAINT    | TEEN     | STEW  |

Newsday Crossword

FOUR TIRES by Fred Jackson III

Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- 1 Discard
- 5 Get in touch with
- 10 Great quantity
- 14 Henri's head
- 15 Noted Old West family
- 16 Every single one
- 17 Ventilation device
- 19 Great quantity
- 20 Malicious behavior
- 21 Runs while standing still
- 22 W-4 entry: Abbr.
- 23 Aeronautics watchdog grp.
- 24 Auto pioneer
- 26 Basketball great's nickname
- 31 Postage-stamp purchase
- 34 Doc bloc
- 35 Ape lions
- 36 "Choose one of two"
- 37 Become more mature
- 39 Greek liqueur
- 40 Insincerely eloquent
- 41 End of Horner's boast
- 42 First appearance
- 43 Freedom symbol
- 47 Banded gemstone
- 48 Comparative suffix
- 49 Old jet-set jet, briefly
- 52 Muscular strength
- 55 Loyal
- 57 Insurance subject
- 58 Intellectual exodus

- 60 Comics canine
- 61 Sound from a spring
- 62 Hamlet quintet
- 63 Accouterments
- 64 Nautical nonsense
- 65 \_\_-Ball (arcade game)

DOWN

- 1 Arises (from)
- 2 Casts a spell upon
- 3 Fictional Frome
- 4 College exec
- 5 Make more waterproof
- 6 Botherers greatly
- 7 Canine comments
- 8 Reviewer of books
- 9 QVC rival
- 10 Stubborn
- 11 Viscount's superior
- 12 The highest you can go
- 13 \_\_ ed. (HS course)
- 18 Not qualified
- 21 Some badges
- 24 Worrier's words
- 25 Put pressure (on)
- 26 Surfing need
- 27 Golfer's gimme
- 28 Cash substitutes
- 29 Take it easy
- 30 Slow run
- 31 It's a long story
- 32 Ian or Celeste
- 33 Pennsylvania port

- 37 Slightly improper
- 38 Big-screen format
- 42 Had a row
- 44 Hostel environment?
- 45 Ceramic-making step
- 46 Take it easy
- 49 Hanging loose
- 50 Bridal accommodations
- 51 Verb form
- 52 Online opinion piece
- 53 Used cars
- 54 Where India is
- 55 Follow around
- 56 Bathing-suit parts
- 58 Truth-in-advertising agcy.
- 59 French monarch

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## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### A-Rod to speak to Feds soon

TAMPA, Fla. — Alex Rodriguez may soon be talking to federal authorities, and he hopes it will happen close to spring training.

Lawyers for the Yankee slugger are setting up an interview as part of an investigation into a Canadian doctor who is the focus of a cross-border drug smuggling case involving human growth hormone.

Rodriguez said the site is under discussion but he would like it near the team's spring complex in Tampa rather than in Buffalo, N.Y., where the U.S. investigation is being conducted. He expects to soon know the interview date.

Rodriguez would not indicate if he pressed his lawyers to lock in a date, but he said they have been working on it for "maybe a few days. I don't know."

Kathleen Mehlretter, acting U.S. attorney for western New York, said it is not unusual for investigators to go to those they want to interview but declined to comment on the investigation. Maureen Dempsey, an FBI spokeswoman in Buffalo, would not comment on Rodriguez's statements, citing the investigation.

### Nomar gets gift from Red Sox

FORTMYERS, Fla. (AP) — Six years after he was traded away for the final pieces of Boston's World Series puzzle, Nomar Garciaparra finally got a friendly farewell from the Red Sox.

The rookie of the year, batting champion and All-Star whose trade began a bitter back-and-forth in Boston and, for Garciaparra, an inglorious slide into irrelevance, signed a ceremonial one-day contract with the Red Sox for the purpose of retiring in the uniform of his original team.

### Marion Jones to play in WNBA

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — Disgraced Olympic sprinter Marion Jones was introduced as the newest member of the WNBA's Tulsa Shock and she offered no apologies for her steroids use or her time in federal prison. She was poised and ready for questions about her troubled past.

Her bid for a new career comes a decade after she starred at the Sydney Olympics, winning gold in the 100 meters, 200 meters and 1,600-meter relay, and bronze in the long jump and 400-meter relay. She was stripped of all five medals after admitting in 2007 that she was using performance-enhancing drugs — a designer steroid called the "clear" — at the time of the games.

Jones also spent about six months in a Texas prison for lying to fed-

eral prosecutors about doping and her role in a check-fraud scam.

The 34-year-old Jones joined the team just four days after working out for Richardson, who is also the team's general manager. She was signed to at least a one-year contract but terms were not disclosed.

Jones was the starting point guard on North Carolina's national championship team in 1994 and she was drafted by Phoenix in 2003 but never played in the WNBA.

### Henin advances in Paribas Open

INDIAN WELLS, Calif. (AP) — Justin Henin beat Magdalena Rybarikova, 6-2, 6-2, in the first round of the BNP Paribas Open.

Henin, the former No. 1 who is playing in this tournament for the first time since 2006, was the top-ranked player on the Sony Ericsson WTA Tour when she unexpectedly retired in May, 2008.

She returned to the tour in January and was runner-up at Brisbane and again at the Australian Open after withdrawing from a tournament in Sydney due to a strained muscle.

Unranked after her lengthy absence, Henin took a wild card into this \$4.5 million event and is one of six former champions in the 96-player field. However, only Henin and 2006 winner Maria Sharapova are in the bottom half of the bracket where Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark and Elena Dementieva of Russia are the top seeds.

Top-seeded Svetlana Kuznetsova is in the top half of the bracket with former champions Kim Clijsters (2003, 2005), Daniela Hantuchova (2002, 2007), Ana Ivanovic (2008) and Vera Zvonareva (2009).

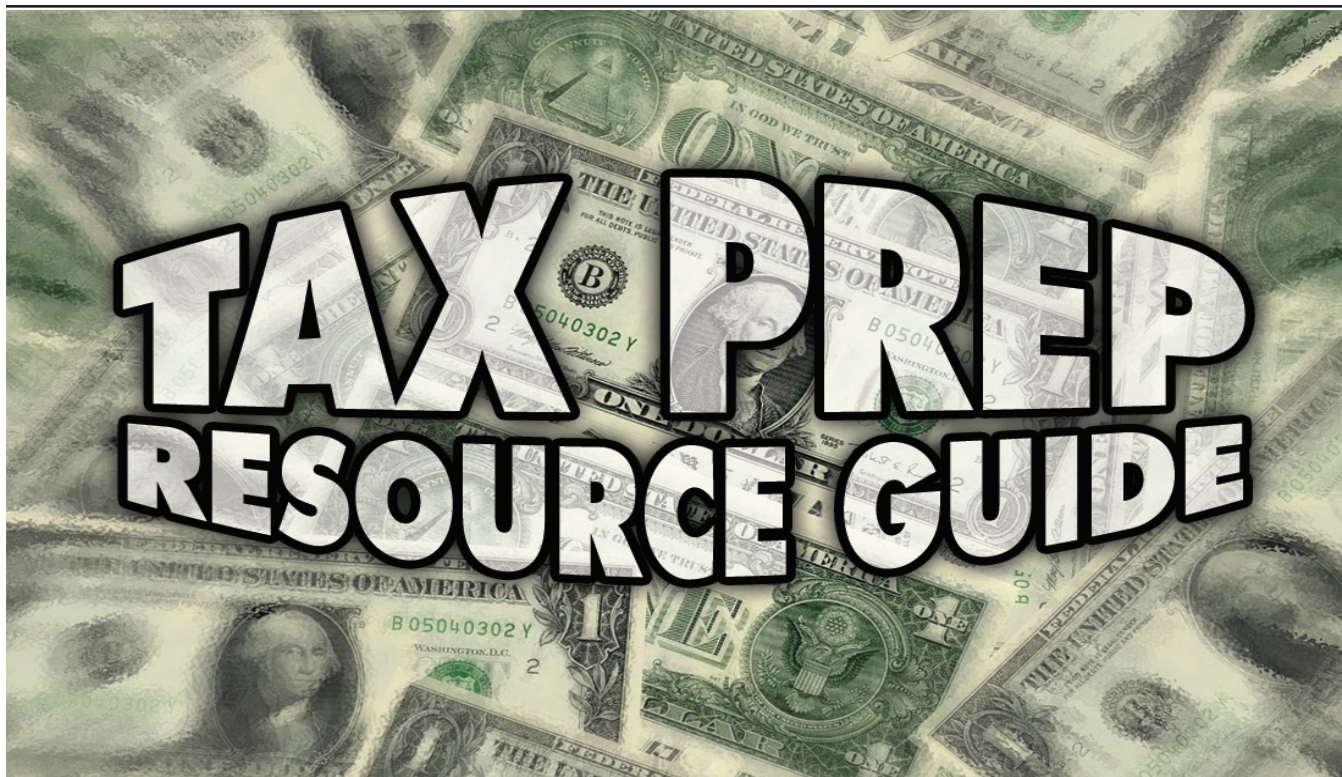
### Crosby glove, stick in hand

TORONTO (AP) — The stick and glove Sidney Crosby used to give Canada its Olympic gold medal are back where they belong.

Crosby's missing gear was on its way to the Pittsburgh Penguins star. Hockey Canada says the gear was misplaced rather than stolen, with both items ending up in the wrong place in the process of packing and shipping equipment after the Olympic final.

The stick and glove got lost in the shuffle after the frenzy of Crosby's overtime goal for a 3-2 win against the United States at the Vancouver Olympics on Feb. 28.

Crosby's stick was located in Toronto as part of a shipment heading to the International Ice Hockey Federation Hall of Fame in St. Petersburg, Russia. The stick was being sent to the IIHF in the mistaken belief that it was not the game stick.



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# Rangers fall to Mariners in Cliff Lee’s debut; 1-4-1 in Cactus play

SURPRISE, Ariz. (AP) — Cliff Lee accomplished his primary objective in his delayed spring debut, then began to work on the rest of his repertoire.

The Seattle Mariners’ prized offseason acquisition threw 36 of 46 pitches for strikes over three solid innings in a 6-3 victory over the Texas Rangers on Wednesday.

“I want to locate fastballs, that’s the No. 1 thing for me right now. So I tried to do that

more than anything,” Lee said. “I was pleased with where that was at, so I was able to use more pitches than I anticipated.”

Lee gave up a run and five singles, struck out one and walked one. The

left-hander benefited from two double plays.

So intent on locating his fastball, the 2008 AL Cy Young Award winner needed 12 pitches to finally retire leadoff hitter Pedro Borbon on a fly ball to start his outing.

Sweeney’s bases-clearing double.

C.J. Wilson, getting a chance to move from the bullpen to the Texas rotation, allowed a leadoff single to Ichiro Suzuki and a leadoff walk to Josh Wilson in the third.

## TECH

Continued from Page 7

Buffaloes jumped to an

early 10-point lead and never had an answer when the Red Raiders made their big run, all but ending their post-

season hopes.

Alec Burks had 24 points and 10 rebounds, and Cory Higgins added 18 points for Colorado.

“They came storming back, and we never recovered from their run,” Colorado coach Jeff Bzdelik said. “I told our players after the game: successful people only momentarily get discouraged. We accomplished a lot this year as a young basketball team.”

Colorado beat Texas Tech handily in the season finale on Saturday, shooting 58 percent in a 101-90 win in Boulder, Colo., to set up the fifth Big 12 tournament meeting between teams that finished the regular season against each other.

The regular-season loser won in the tournament the previous four meetings, but the trend didn’t look like it had any chance of continuing the way Texas Tech opened defensively.

Knight has compared his team’s defense to a spaghetti strainer, and the Red Raiders lived up to that description early.

Texas Tech started the game by allowing an uncontested layup by Marcus Relphorde through the gut of the defense, then another open shot under the basket. Knight called timeout and yelled “That’s what we’ve been working on all week,” and the Red Raiders promptly gave up another layup

and open 3-pointer to Higgins.

Colorado took advantage to lead by 10 early, then fumbled it away.

sure on our passes.”

Texas Tech opened the second half with an 8-0 run and didn’t let up, going up 52-37 after D’walyn Roberts’ emphatic block on Higgins started a break that led to a dunk by David Tairu. The Red Raiders staved off the rest of Colorado’s comeback attempts and now enter the quarterfinals with the hope spawned by Baylor’s run to last year’s Big 12 title game as the No. 9 seed.

“When we’re on our ‘A’ game, when we’re playing good, I feel like we can beat any team in the country,” Roberson said. “So we’re going to see what happens and try to play the same way we played today.”

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

It Looks Wrong, But It’s Right

West dealer.  
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH

♣Q3  
♥AQ842  
♦KQ65  
♠Q5

WEST

♠AKJ1072  
♥7  
♦982  
♣K94

EAST

♠9864  
♥53  
♦AJ10  
♣10863

SOUTH

♠5  
♥KJ1096  
♦743  
♠AJ72

The bidding:  
West North East South  
1♣ Dble 2♠ 4♥

Opening lead — king of spades.

Assume you’re declarer at four hearts and West leads the K-A of spades. You ruff, of course, but how do you continue?

It seems normal to draw two rounds of trumps and lead a diamond toward dummy. This allows you to make the contract if West has the ace of diamonds or, failing that, if East has the king of clubs.

But if you played the hand this way, you would eventually go down one, losing a spade, two diamonds and a club.

However, there’s a much better approach that is virtually certain to succeed. After drawing two rounds of trumps, you should lead a low club toward the Q-5 in dummy, deliberately forgoing the club finesse.

First, let’s observe the effect of this play in the actual deal. If West does not rise with the king, he never gets a club trick, and you make the contract easily. And if West does go up with the king, you play the five from dummy and later discard dummy’s 6-5 of diamonds on your A-J of clubs to get home safe and sound.

So how are you supposed to know that you should not take a club finesse in this deal? It certainly seems the natural thing to do, but there are nevertheless excellent reasons for rejecting the finesse.

You start by assuming that West has either the ace of diamonds or the king of clubs (or both) for his opening bid. Leading a low club toward the queen is therefore sure to nail down the contract. If West has the club king, you are home free and clear, as described above. And if West does not have the king, then he must have the ace of diamonds, in which case leading twice toward the K-Q-6-5 will limit you to one diamond loser.

Tomorrow: Opening lead quiz.  
©2010 King Features Syndicate Inc.

## TEXAS

Continued from Page 7

Garrett 14 and Scott Christopherson 10.

“I think some of it was that (James) outworked us,” said McDermott. “And there were other times we were right there, and he just went over the top of us. He played tonight like a man on a mission.”

After Gilstrap’s 3-pointer made it 78-72, Lucas against missed a second foul shot, and James again grabbed the rebound. He then went to the foul line and sank one shot for an 80-72 lead with 50 seconds remaining.

Texas, which started 17-0 and rose to No. 1 in the polls only to fall out of the national rankings altogether, nursed

a small lead throughout the first half, never up by more than seven but trailing only briefly by one.

James’ 3-pointer put the Longhorns up 25-19, and Pittman later made it 31-25 with a stuff. But Gilstrap’s free throw and Brackins’ bucket cut the halftime lead to 31-28.

“I really focused on my defense because I

have let my team down on defense,” said James. “I was just focusing on that, and I was going to let everything else come to me.”

James had 10 points and six rebounds in the first half. Texas hit only 4 of 16 3-point attempts, and James made three of them. He also was 7 for 8 from the line.

## RANGERS

Continued from Page 7

The SportsBusiness Journal reported, citing unnamed sources, the sale of the Rangers stalled after Major League Baseball last week informed the team’s creditors that there would be delays in responding to the lenders’ concerns about the deal.

“What’s interesting is it said that the sale is delayed again which suggests that it has already been delayed once and that just hasn’t happened,” Greenberg said. “There are some folks out there that have a little bit of self-interest

in portraying gloom and doom, none of whom are principals in the deal.”

Greenberg’s group includes Rangers president and Hall of Fame pitcher Nolan Ryan among a group of about a dozen mostly local investors. An agreement in principle to buy the team from Hicks was announced Jan. 23.

Greenberg was joined by Ray Davis of Dallas, one of the lead investors in the group, for the visit to the Arizona complex the Rangers share with the Kansas City Royals. Ryan was already at the camp.

As owner of two minor league teams, Greenberg has been a regular visitor to spring training

the past 10 years in Florida. He had never been to spring training in Arizona before Wednesday.

“I love the Rangers. I’m totally emotionally invested even if I’m not yet financially invested. Nolan and I speak every day,” Greenberg said. “I love spring training, it would be kind of ironic if the first spring training in many, many years I missed would be the spring training which we were on the verge of doing this.”

After taking in the Rangers’ game against AL West rival Seattle, Greenberg was returning to Texas.

“There’s been a lot of grinding over the last

eight or nine months, and the finish line is just ahead,” he said. “I’m just going to keep grinding until we cross it.”

Greenberg said there is work to be done by all parties to complete the deal, but that negotiations are on the right pace to be completed and “typical” for this stage in the process.

“Is everything done today where we can close tomorrow? No. But is everything moving on a pace that needs to in order to close on April 1? Yes,” Greenberg said. “We think we will get there. If for some reason we don’t, it doesn’t mean there are problems. ... It’s no reason for alarm on anyone’s part.”

## GRADY

Continued from Page 7

we’ll be OK.”

Harrison said his Wildcats will use their

size advantage — Grady has seven players over the 6-foot mark compared to just one for Leggett — to crash the offensive boards, hopefully limiting the Pirates’ running

attack.

“If you can get offensive rebounds and putbacks, that will slow any kind of running game down,” Harrison said.

Dylan Cox, averaging

15 points and seven rebounds per game, will play a big part in Grady’s chances along with Shane Teague, who averages 12.5 points per game, and sharpshooter Jacob Rodriguez, who averages nearly 11 points.

But they’ll also count on a wild bunch of Wildcat crazies.

“For a high school that has 66 kids, to get 350 people or so to come down with you is pretty good,” Harrison said. “The farther we go, the better the crowds get ... and they’re loud.”

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6 Speed, 60K  
**\$14,950**



2005 Buick Park Avenue Ultra  
65K  
**\$8,950**



2005 Toyota Corolla LE  
"2 To Choose From"  
**We Finance**



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"Strong"  
**\$14,950**



2006 F350 Lariat Powerstroke  
4X4  
**\$20,950**

210 Gregg • 263-2382

111 Gregg • 267-8787

203 Gregg • 714-4787

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ANSWERS

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