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BIG SPRING

HERALD

WEDNESDAY

MARCH 12, 2008



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 89

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Police: Shooting gang related

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

A shooting believed to be gang related that sent a local 19-year-old man to the hospital Tuesday afternoon is being investigated by the Big Spring Police Department.

According to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information offi-

cer with the BSPD, officers responded to a report of shots fired in the 1300 block of Utah in Big Spring's west side at 1:47 p.m.

"Officers arrived on the scene to find Edward Lopez, 19, had been wounded. Lopez had a wound behind his ear and one on his shoulder. He was trans-

ported to the emergency room at Scenic Mountain Medical Center, where he was treated for non life-threatening injuries," said Everett.

According to Everett, Lopez and another male subject were sitting in a vehicle near the residence when a second vehicle stopped in front of the home.

"A subject in the second vehicle fired at least three rounds from a 12 gauge shotgun," said Everett. "The rounds struck Lopez, as well as the vehicle he was in. The other occupant of the vehicle was not injured."

Everett said officers investigating the shooting have received information the inci-

dent was gang related, and a suspect is being sought for questioning.

The motive for the shooting is still under investigation at this time, according to Everett.

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

Proposed school to get study by board

Architect, property to be discussed by BSISD trustees

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Although the fate of Big Spring Independent School District's plans to build new facilities won't be decided until May, trustees will address some issues pertaining to new construction when they hold their monthly meeting at 5:15 p.m. Thursday in the high school board room.

The BSISD school board will discuss two items pertaining to facility construction during the meeting — the hiring of an architect to oversee the project and the purchase of property.

Final action is not likely on either topic until after voters decide whether to approve a \$34 million construction bond May 10, but Superintendent Michael Downes said trustees want to begin taking steps in that direction in hopes of saving money in the long run.

"If the bond passes, we definitely want to move

See **BSISD**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
Siemens Account Executive Chad Nobles updates the Big Spring City Council concerning the ongoing energy conservation project designed to save the city more than \$5 million during the next 15 years.

Conservation program in place for city

Expected to save \$5.6 million over 15 years

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Start the meters running.

That's the message delivered to the Big Spring City Council Tuesday night by Siemens Account Executive Chad Nobles, who announced all of the elements of the energy conservation program approved by the council more than a year ago are in place and ready to go.

"We've met with the staff and gone over the verifications process, and we just want to give you an update on what you can expect," said Nobles. "The project was accepted and all the data was set in place at the end of February, with the first verification period starting March 1, and it will be one year from that date that we'll bring all of the data back to you."

"So you actually won't hear from us until about June of next year. At that time, you'll see a full doc-

"Obviously the project was just finalized and accepted, so we don't have a lot of data at this point, but what we've seen in some utility bill samples from a month to month basis has been good."

ument from us and we'll review all of that with staff, and that's when we true-up the savings. Other than that, we just want to say thanks for the project. Everything is going smoothly."

According to officials with Siemens, the program is expected to save the city more than \$5.6 million over the next 15 years through improvements to various aspects

See **CITY**, Page 3A

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Find us online at:
www.bigspringherald.com

To reach us:
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 7 p.m. weekdays and noon Sunday.

ISD races: Some contested, most not

Coahoma and Forsan to hold elections in May; Big Spring ISD won't

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

It was either feast or famine when it came to filings for area school board races this year.

Two school districts — Coahoma and Forsan — will have a figurative crowded house full of candidates,

while none others will feature contested races.

A flurry of last-minute candidacies on the last day of filing Monday left seven candidates vying for three spots on the Coahoma school district board of trustees.

Incumbents Mike Blissard and Dale Coates will be

joined by Power Resources technician Patric Robinson and First Bank of West Texas official Lori Martinez in the race for two at-large seats on the board.

Also, Kirk Allen, Cindy Fowler and James Sanders will run for the one-year unexpired term of former

trustee John Wayne Metcalf. Allen is a railroad conductor, Fowler is a retired educator and Sanders is employed by a local correctional facility, CISD Administration Secretary Judy Dobbs said.

See **ELECTIONS**, Page 3A



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Sports

**BIG
SPRING HERALD**

Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call Jonathan Hull at 263-7331, Ext. 237. Email results to: sports@bigspringherald.com

Page 1B
Wednesday, March 12, 2008

IN BRIEF

Crossroads high school varsity sports calendar

THURS. - SAT.

Big Spring softball at San Marcos Tournament.

Big Spring baseball at Greenwood Tournament.

Forsan softball at Sonora, 6 p.m.

Coahoma baseball at Haskell, 4:30 p.m.

Coahoma softball at Haskell, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY

Forsan baseball at Colorado City, 6:30 p.m.

Forsan softball at Winters, 5 p.m.

Coahoma softball vs. Hawley, 7 p.m.

Coahoma baseball vs. Hawley, 7 p.m.

MARCH 17

Coahoma softball vs. Merkel, 7 p.m.

MARCH 18

Big Spring softball vs. Fort Stockton, Noon.

Coahoma baseball at Stamford, 4:30 p.m.

Coahoma softball at Stamford, 7 p.m.

MARCH 20

Big Spring baseball vs. Chickasha, Okla. 1 p.m.

Big Spring softball at Hobbs, N.M., TBA

Coahoma baseball vs. Merkel, 7 p.m.

MARCH 21

Big Spring softball at Brownwood, TBA

Forsan baseball at Morton Tournament through March 22.

Howard College's softball/baseball weekly calendar

Howard College's baseball team plays McLennan Community College Saturday in a doubleheader in Waco. The Hawks follow with a single game against McMurry University's junior varsity Monday.

The softball team continues conference play Friday and Saturday, playing a doubleheader against Odessa College each day. First pitch is scheduled for 1 p.m. each day.

The Hawk women currently hold first place in the Western Junior College Athletic Conference with a 9-1 record. Their only loss came to Midland Feb. 13.

Big Spring Country Club hosting 3-person scramble

The Big Spring Country Club is hosting a 3-person scramble April 5 and 6 with a 1 p.m. shotgun start on both days.

Entry fee is \$60 per player plus a golf cart, however, private carts are welcome.

Entry includes a barbecue lunch on the course for the first day of the tournament.

The field will be flighted by first-round score and the number of flights will be determined by the number of entries.

An optional cash players pool will be available.

Call the Pro Shop at 267-5354 for more information.

Big Spring beats Panthers in extra innings

Herald Staff Report

FORT STOCKTON — After losing four of their last five games, the Big Spring Steers baseball team was in need of a jump start offensively.

They got it Tuesday night in Fort Stockton.

The Steers scored five runs in the top of the eighth inning, then Matt Ritchey struck out three batters, giving Big Spring a 9-4 extra-innings victory over Fort Stockton's Panthers.

"We were pretty excited," Steers Head Coach Burt Otto said. "We've been adding to our own problems, stranding run-

ners in scoring position a lot lately. It's nice to get a win like this one."

Big Spring trailed 4-2 heading into the sixth inning, but pushed two runs across the plate to tie the contest. Rance Terry led off the frame getting hit by a pitch and stole second base. Terry advanced to third on a passed ball and Martin Yanez joined him on the basepaths, drawing a walk. After Yanez stole second, Lance Gross knocked both runners home with a deep fly ball to right field.

In the extra frame, Terry once again started things off with a

single that Fort Stockton's center fielder couldn't handle, allowing him to advance to second. He later scored on a passed ball. With no outs, Big Spring scored on two consecutive first and third run down plays. John Benivides capped the scoring with a 2-run double to center, scoring Cade Hollandsworth and Ritchey.

Benivides started the game and pitched seven innings, allowing four runs, three earned, on eight hits. Ritchey took over in the extra frame and walked the first batter he faced on four pitches. He found his command after

that, though, and struck out the next three batters to earn the win.

Benivides was also 2-for-5 at the plate with three RBIs. Gross was 2-for-5 with two RBIs and a triple. Hollandsworth finished 3-for-5 and scored two runs.

Big Spring came into the game troubled with leaving runners in scoring position. The Steers went 1-3 in the Snyder Tournament over the weekend with their only victory coming over Borger in the opening game, 13-6.

 See **STEERS**, Page 2B

Greenwood edges Lady Steers, 3-2

By JONATHAN HULL

Herald Sports Editor

GREENWOOD — Big Spring's Lady Steers drew first blood, but the Greenwood Rangerettes had the last laugh.

The Lady Steers witnessed a one-run advantage turn into a one-run deficit Tuesday afternoon in non-district softball action in Greenwood, falling to the Rangerettes, 3-2.

"It was a tough battle," Lady Steers Head Coach Jennifer Reyes said. "We're doing better than what we have been, so I'm proud of them."

Big Spring grabbed the early lead in the top of the second inning after freshman second baseman Valerie Ross worked her way around the bags and eventually scored on a fielder's choice ball hit by pitcher Kelly Sage.

Sage surrendered her first run of the afternoon in the bottom of the third. Lacy Newsom led off the inning for Greenwood with a single to left field and scored two batters later when Linsey Hays belted a double to center. However, Sage shut down the Greenwood charge, forcing the next two batters into pop ups.

The Lady Steers could've been taken completely out of the game in the bottom of the fifth. The Rangerettes twice loaded the bases, but managed only two runs.

Greenwood's No. 9 hitter Selena Roman opened the inning with a single and quickly moved to third after Hays doubled down the first-base line. A fielding error on a pop up loaded the bases with no outs. Roman scored when Amber Garduro hit a fielder's choice ball to Big Spring shortstop Desiree Yanez, who retired the runner headed to

third.

The bases reloaded after a bloop single to left field by clean-up hitter Amanda Dublin. Sage struck out the next batter for the second out of the frame, but surrendered another run after walking Britt Kujowski. However, with two outs and the bases still juiced, Sage forced Krista Eklund to hit a grounder to Yanez for the final out, leaving Big Spring down 3-1.

With only three outs remaining, the Lady Steers made a run at tying the game, but stranded the game-tying runner at second in the final inning. Madea Torres — running for Ross — scored the Lady Steers' run with Sage picking up her second RBI on another fielder's choice ball.

Ross drew a walk with one out and Torres filled in for her on the basepaths. Linzee Yarbar bunted to move the runner over, but Hays, who took over the pitching circle for Greenwood in the fifth inning, threw the ball into right field attempting to throw Yarbar out, allowing Torres to move to third and Yarbar to second.

Sage hit a grounder to short-stop, pushing Torres across the plate. However, with two outs, Hays struck out the final batter, sealing the 3-2 win for Greenwood.

Hays picked up the win, pitching three innings while allowing one unearned run and no hits.

Sage went the distance for Big Spring, giving up three runs, all earned, on eight hits and one walk. She struck out five Greenwood batters.

Ross and Yanez recorded Big Spring's only two hits of the game and Sage knocked in both runs.

 See **BSHS**, Page 2B


HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull

Big Spring Lady Steers hurler Kelly Sage pitches to a Greenwood Rangerettes' batter in the Lady Steers 3-2 loss Tuesday in Greenwood. Sage struck out five in the loss.

Bulldogs slam Haskell, win big, 27-2

Herald Staff Report

HASKELL — It's not hard to win in baseball when your opponents assists you by beaming 14 of your batters.

Coahoma's Bulldogs received that much assistance and more from the Haskell Indians Tuesday in a decisive 27-2 victory. Haskell also walked three batters and committed four fielding errors.

"Haskell booted the ball and their pitchers really struggled," Bulldogs Head Coach Brad Harman said. "We've got some kids that got hit more than once tonight in the same spot, so there's some soreness there."

Still, Coahoma managed to get three more hits at the plate than batters hit by pitch.

"I kept stressing for us to not let up," Harman said. "We've had a tough time, letting teams come back after we had them down. I've told the guys to do everything possible to make themselves better. Everyone kept their focus and composure despite

having a number of batters hit by pitches. Everyone went up to the plate looking to hit the ball. When they threw strikes, we hit it."

Coahoma jumped out early, scoring nine runs in the top of the first inning. Both of Haskell's runs came in the bottom of the second on two passed balls.

Most encouraging for Harman, though, was Coahoma's performance in the field.

"We're 15 games into the season and this is our first errorless game," he said. "Our defense has been a worry for us this season, but we played a very good game in the field today."

Hart (3-0) pitched four innings, surrendering two runs, both unearned, on four hits and one walk, while recording eight strikeouts.

M.J. Castillo led Coahoma with four RBIs on 2-for-3 hitting. Casey Kilpatrick was 4-for-6

 See **BULLDOGS**, Page 2B


HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler

Coahoma's Corey Roberts gets a base hit in action from earlier this season. Roberts and the Bulldogs won their second district game of the season Tuesday, pounding Haskell's Indians, 27-2, in Haskell.

Obituaries

Raymond Catano



Raymond Catano, 58, of Big Spring, died Sunday, March 9, 2008, in a Lubbock hospital. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, March 14, 2008, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Pastor Henry Zambrano, officiating. Interment will follow at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

He was born Nov. 15, 1949, in Big Spring and married Frances Bullard on June 27, 1980, in Adelanto, Calif.

Raymond spent most of his life in California and has been a resident of Big Spring for the last 2-1/2 years.

Survivors include his wife, Frances Catano of Big Spring; four daughters and sons-in-law, Melissa and Brian Dunn of Auburndale, Fla., Theresa and Daniel Schlier of Beloit, Wisc., Sunshine and Benjamin Loustaunau of Kingman, Ariz., and Andrea and Roy Hernandez of Big Spring; one son, William Smith of Big Spring; six sisters; three brothers; and 18 grandchildren.

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

Opal A. Whiteside



Opal A. Whiteside, 87, of Big Spring, formerly of Rankin, died Monday, March 10, 2008, in a local hospital. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, March 14, 2008, at the First United Methodist Church of Rankin with the Rev. Jennifer Kelley, pastor, officiating. Interment will be Monday, March 17, 2008, at 1 p.m. at Evergreen Home Cemetery in Beatrice, Neb.

She was born October 10, 1920, in Plymouth, Neb., and married Kenneth Howard Whiteside on May 11, 1941, in Beatrice. He preceded her in death on March 17, 1988.

She was a member of First United Methodist Church in Rankin, the Garden Club, a program for the needy and had served as secretary to the Women's Society for years. Opal had been an Avon representative in Rankin for 50 years.

Survivors include three sons, Kirk Whiteside and wife, Jean of Novato, Calif., Keith Whiteside and wife Debbie of Big Spring, and Larry Whiteside of Durango, Colo.; one sister, Darlene Rehm and husband Dale of Plymouth, Neb.; two brothers, Wayne Meirath of Raytown, Mo., and Donald Meirath of Grand Island, Neb.; nine grandchildren; and seven great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; one sister, Judith Meirath; and two brothers, Marvin Meirath and Reiferd Meirath.

The family requests no flowers; memorials may be made to the First United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 512, Rankin 79778.

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

Ronald E. 'Mutt' Moore



Ronald E. "Mutt" Moore, 86, of Big Spring, died Monday, March 10, 2008, in a local hospital. Graveside funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, March 13, 2008, at the Trinity Memorial Park Peace Chapel with Jim Ollerton officiating.

He was born April 2, 1921, in Coleman and married Blanche Lawson Moore on July 26, 1947, in Big Spring.

Mr. Moore worked in the CCC Camp in Lamesa prior to his service in World War II and then worked as a sheet metal mechanic at Webb Air Force Base until his retirement in 1969. He was a musician who played guitar and saxophone in country and western groups from the 1940s-1980s.

He had served in the United States Navy in the South Pacific on the Stephen Potter, a fletcher class destroyer and received nine battle Stars. He was of the Christain faith.

Survivors include his wife, Blanche Lawson Moore of Big Spring; two daughters, Tonia Moore Ollerton and husband Jim of Uvalde and Cynthia Kay of San Angelo; one son, Jerry Dale Moore of Big Spring; and eight grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by one sister and three brothers.

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

Kyle Yater

Kyle Yater, 39, died Tuesday, March 11, 2008, in a Lubbock hospital. His services are pending with Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton.

Patricia Ann Joplin

Patricia Ann Joplin, 82, of Big Spring died Tuesday, March 11, 2008, in Midland. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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Police blotter

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

- **RICKY BOB YANEZ**, 22, of 1605 Lincoln, was arrested Monday on five local capias warrants and four local warrants.

- **SHERRIE THOMPSON**, 23, of 2409 Brumley, was arrested Tuesday on a Howard County warrant and charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of a dangerous drug.

- **LAZMINDA VILLAREAL**, 32, of 1602 Sycamore, was arrested Tuesday on a local capias warrant.

- **JOSEPHINE SANTANA**, 47, of 1509 Austin, was arrested Tuesday on charges of resisting arrest, possession of drug paraphernalia and hindering an officer.

- **ALVIN LOUIS**, 41, of 3509 E. Interstate Highway 20, was arrested Tuesday on four local warrants.

- **BILLY JOHN LAMAR**, 31, of 4302 S. Highway 87, was arrested Tuesday on charges of evading arrest, possession of a controlled substance and a Burnet County warrant.

- **ADRIAN YANEZ**, 19, of 1508 Sycamore, was arrested Tuesday on three local capias warrants and a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.

- **OSCAR MADRID**, 26, of 1511 Princeton, was arrested Wednesday on seven local capias warrants and a charge of possession of a controlled substance.

- **DENA COKER**, 50, of 6103 E. Midway Road, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.

- **THEFT** was reported:

- in the 3300 block of FM 700.

- in the 1800 block of FM 700.

- in the 2300 block of Wasson.

- in the 400 block of Birdwell Lane.

- **POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA** was reported in the 700 block of 13th Street.

- **POSSESSION OF A DANGEROUS DRUG** was reported in the 700 block of 13th Street.

- **POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE** was reported in the 1500 block of Gregg Street.

- **EVADING ARREST/DETENTION** was reported in the 1500 block of Gregg Street.

- **AGGRAVATED ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON** was reported in the 1300 block of Utah.

Sheriff's report

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 38 inmates at the time of this report.

- **DICKIE DWAYNE DODSON**, 31, was arrested Tuesday by DPS on a charge of bond forfeiture - theft by check.

- **JENNIFER THURMAN**, 36, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of theft.

- **CURTIS PAUL THURMAN**, 43, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of theft.

- **MONIKA SUE KENNEMUR**, 40, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of theft.

- **CHRISTOPHER ALLAN ACRE**, 26, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of criminal mischief.

- **ERNEST LEE CHANCE**, 52, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on charges of driving while license suspended/invalid with a previous conviction and possession of a controlled substance.

- **DIANNA ANN PEREZ**, 31, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of tampering with government records/insurance document.

Weather

Tonight...Decreasing clouds. Lows in the mid 40s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.

Thursday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 80s. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.

Thursday night...Decreasing clouds. Lows in the mid 40s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Friday...Mostly sunny. Windy. Patchy blowing dust. Highs in the upper 80s. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph increasing to west around 30 mph with gusts to around 45 mph in the afternoon.

Friday night...Mostly clear. Windy. Lows in the mid 40s.

Saturday...Mostly sunny. Not as warm. Highs in the mid 70s.

Saturday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 40s.

Sunday...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 70s.

Sunday night...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 40s.

Monday...Mostly cloudy. Cooler. Highs in the mid 60s.

Monday night...Partly cloudy. Windy. Lows in the upper 30s.

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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
• Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.

THURSDAY

- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.

- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-6479.

- Friends of the Library meets at noon in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.

- Big Spring Main Street meets at noon in the Railroad Museum located at Second and Main streets.

- League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. For more information, contact John Ybarra at 264-1628. The public is invited.

- American Legion Auxiliary meets at 6 p.m. at 3203 W. Highway 80.

- The Prospector's Club meets at 7:30 p.m. at 606 E. Third St. The public is invited to these meetings. For more information contact Lola Lamb at 263-3340.

- Neighbors and Newcomers Club meets. New members are welcome. Call 263-2005 for more information.

FRIDAY

- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281.

- AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.

- Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.

- Dance at the Senior Center, 1901 Simler, from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Fire/EMS

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

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2600 block of E. 25th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1300 block of Utah. One person was transported to SMMC.

- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 2000 block of W. Seventh Street. Service refused.

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 500 block of W. 17th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 200 block of Veterans Blvd. One person was transported to SMMC.

- **TRAUMA** was reported in the area of the Alon Refinery. One person was transported to SMMC.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 36-14-20-1-6.

Number matching five of five: 0.

...

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Tuesday afternoon by the Texas Lottery, in order: 9-2-5-5. Sum It Up: 21.

...

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 5-4-4. Sum It Up: 13.

Support Groups

WEDNESDAY

- **RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy**, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at 264-1213 for more information.

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Looking for Cinderella

A sign in the stands said what Jim Larranaga and his Patriots wouldn't.

"George Mason," it read, "is this year's George Mason."

Not so fast.

"I saw it, of course, and that was neat," Larranaga said over the phone Tuesday afternoon. "But ..."

But he's not sure he wants to burden any team, especially his own, with those kind of expectations.

What happened to George Mason in the NCAA tournament in 2006 hadn't happened in more than a quarter-century. No school outside the power conferences had so much as stuck a toe across the threshold of the Final Four since 1979. But when the tournament selection committee cracked the door open for a few mid-majors two years ago, the Patriots slipped in with a controversial at-large bid as a No. 11 seed, then proceeded to blow up every office pool in America by taking down Michigan State, North Carolina and Connecticut before losing to eventual champion Florida in the semi-final round.

"So now everybody that isn't too busy trying to figure out whether their own team is off the bubble," Larranaga chuckled softly, "is going to spend the next week or so trying to pick the next George Mason."

Some 15 hours earlier, Larranaga and the Patriots booked their return trip to the NCAA's by beating William & Mary in the Colonial Athletic Association championship game and locking up the league's automatic bid. He hadn't slept a wink since.

He gave his staff some preliminary scouting assignments, gave his team the day off, then handled

two dozen interviews and planned to watch at least one game — the low-wattage Horizon, Summit and Sun Belt leagues all had finals on tap — before going to bed.

Wednesday was already filled up with recruiting visits. As if anyone needed reminding, that's how George Mason became "George Mason" in the first place.

A handful of high school players dominate the recruiting news, and none of them are on Larranaga's itinerary. Those kids still choose the big programs — they just don't stay as long. It's the ones who used to sit behind them waiting for their chance who are likely to find Larranaga and other enterprising coaches from the mid-majors sitting across from them in their living rooms.

They stay together and play together, often for all four years of eligibility, and every so often, the mix is special. George Mason relied on the talent of experience of two senior guards with NBA skills — though not quite the size — for that magical run in 2006. The Patriots have two starters left from that team — 6-foot-4 Folarin Campbell and 6-11 Will Thomas, an inside-outside combination that Larranaga calls "our Magic Johnson" and "our Bill Russell" — and a handful of upperclassmen who were along for the ride.

"People forget it's always been that way, that with the exception of top-10 talents like Carmelo Anthony, Kevin Durant and Greg Oden, most kids stick around for four years," Larranaga said.

What's changed, however, is this: with fewer scholarships, more TV exposure for midlevel programs and more attention paid to high school and summer league games, the talent and experience gap has been closing fast.

When the NCAA selection committee began handing out bracket spots to the George Masons of college basketball instead of second-tier teams from the power conference, they weren't counting on a

revolution to make them look smart, just an evolution.

But committee members aren't kidding themselves, either. They know the final rungs of the tournament ladder belong to the big guys. As the field narrows, the gaps in talent, pedigree, budget and NBA alums only grows wider. That's what makes this week special. It's a chance for the low- and mid-majors to stage their own championship week, to get stories like George Mason, Drake, Cornell and Siena out there before the power conference championships kick into high gear.

"It's tremendous exposure and a chance for coaches, players, fans and even some towns to celebrate what they've accomplished. But let's be honest, most of us are going to have a hard time topping what we did this week," Larranaga said.

Just in case, though, he's already got his staff pointing toward Selection Sunday. He figures George Mason will be seeded between Nos. 12-14 and assigned each assistant a power conference to begin scouting, since he thinks that's where most of the 3, 4 and 5 seeds will be drawn from.

So who will be this year's George Mason?

"If you're talking about someone coming in as a No. 11 seed, being the underdog in every game and getting to the Final Four, that's an almost-impossible pick. But if you want a mid-major who could surprise people, there's Butler, Gonzaga, South Alabama, VCU — they all qualify."

Pressed for just one team, Larranaga finally settled on Davidson College, where he once worked as an assistant and the coach, Bob McKillop, is a good pal.

"They're going to be a hard out for anyone in the tournament," he said. "Just like we were."

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at jlitke@ap.org



JIM
LITKE

Mackey mashes to 2nd straight Iditarod title

By RACHEL D'ORO

Associated Press Writer

NOME, Alaska — Lance Mackey won his second consecutive Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race on Wednesday morning, completing the 1,100-mile journey in just under nine and a half days.

The 37-year-old throat cancer survivor and 11 dogs crossed the finish line under Nome's burlled arch at 2:46 a.m. ADT Wednesday.

He yelled "Yeah, baby!" as he drove his team down Nome's Front Street. Fans mobbed him along the final 10 blocks, whooping and cheering and slapping his hand while chanting his name.

"I'm not much to brag very often, but damn, I'm going to this time," said

Mackey, from Fairbanks, whose father and brother are past Iditarod winners. "I don't know exactly how to explain it. I'm just blessed with an incredible dog team."

In its 36th running, the Iditarod commemorates a run by sled dogs in 1925 to deliver lifesaving diphtheria serum to Nome.

Mackey's win was a repeat of his 2007 feat, when he became the first musher to win back-to-back runs in the 1,000-mile Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Race and the Iditarod. Last month, he won his fourth straight Yukon Quest and headed into the Iditarod, aiming for another double win.

Mackey used many of the same dogs that com-

peted in those races in the trek across some of Alaska's harshest terrain.

At the Nome finish line, his family greeted him and he took congratulatory phone calls from his father, Dick Mackey, and Gov. Sarah Palin.

Palin told Mackey: "You're a hero, and truly an inspiration to all of us."

For much of the race Mackey tussled for the lead with four-time winner Jeff King, who closely tailed him from checkpoint to checkpoint. He also struggled with dogs stricken with diarrhea and slowed by unseasonably warm weather that marked much of the trail.

But Mackey's team was in better health in White Mountain, where mush-

ers are required to take an eight-hour break before heading up the icy Bering Sea coast for the 77-mile homestretch to Nome.

"They're the best dogs, hands-down," Mackey said after leaving the chute Wednesday.

Mackey's dogs also quarreled on the trail. He had to drop Hobo — a leader Mackey called the speed and driving force of the team — who was badly injured in an ongoing rivalry with Larry, another leader considered the brains of the pack.

King, a 51-year-old musher from Denali Park, ran most of the trail with a full team of 16 dogs that looked remarkably fresh

See IDITAROD, Page 4B

BSHS

Continued from Page 1B

However, it was one of the Lady Steers' cleaner games in terms of defense, committing two errors.

"This was a cleaner game for us defensively," Reyes said. "We had a big team meeting and we're having to work together as a group to overcome our fielding and hitting problems. We have a lot of different and new personalities on the team this year, so we need to get to know each other better to communicate more effectively in the field. But I'll take this game. It's a loss, but I'll take the way we played today."

The Lady Steers (5-16) start tournament play in San Marcos Friday in a bracket that Reyes says will be more challenging than any other Big Spring has participated in this season.

"This tournament could be harder than Killeen,"

she said. "They'll have more ranked teams in San Marcos. The girls know it's not going to be a cake walk. They're going to be coming to beat us."

"All it takes is a base hit here and a base hit there to win games," Reyes continued. "I want these girls to see they can compete with these top teams."

Notes: Big Spring's junior varsity softball team lost in a similar fashion to the varsity. The JV led 3-2 going into the final inning and committed two errors, allowing Greenwood to score two runs for the 4-3 win. The JV plays at Lubbock Coronado Friday.

Big Spring 010 000 1—2 2 2
Greenwood 001 020 x—3 8 2
W - Linsey Hays. L - Kelly Sage.
2B: BSHS - Valerie Ross; GHS - Hays 2, Amber Garduro. RBI: BSHS - Sage 2; GHS - Hays, Garduro.

Contact Sports Editor Jonathan Hull by calling 263-7331, ext. 237, or by e-mailing him at sports@bigspringherald.com.

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

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BULLDOGS

Continued from Page 1B

with a double and three RBIs. P.J. Daylong went 2-for-2 with two doubles and two RBIs. Daylong also closed the game on the mound, pitching the fifth inning. Donnie Garcia and Jake Owens also knocked in two runs. Coahoma came into its

second district game after going 1-2 in a tournament in Llano over the weekend. The Bulldogs lost the Andrews 10-5 to open bracket play and then fell to Class 4A Beeville 6-3. However, their final game gave the Bulldogs a very sweet feeling, according to Harman.

Coahoma defeated Blanco's Panthers, 9-7, Saturday, avenging last season's playoff loss.

Coahoma led the entire game, scoring eight runs in the first inning. However, Blanco did make a run at the Bulldogs, but couldn't quite overtake them.

"The kids were excited to beat Blanco," Harman said. "It felt good to beat them. It probably made the trip down here worth it for the players."

Coahoma continues district play Friday, hosting

Hawley at 7 p.m.

Coahoma 915 2(10)—27 17 0

Haskell 020 00—2 4 4

W - Chance Hart (3-0). L - Cody Frierson.

2B: CHS - P.J. Daylong 2, Casey Kilpatrick, Josh Paniagua. 3B: CHS - Donnie Garcia. RBI: CHS - M.J. Castillo 4, Kilpatrick 3, Daylong 2, Corey Roberts 2, Jake Owens 2.



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Dodson receives probated sentence

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

A Big Spring business owner pleaded guilty to manslaughter charges in a Midland court last week for his part in the death of a 23-year-old employee who was killed in a car crash in May 2007.

William Hollis Dodson, 43, owner and operator of Paradigm Physical Therapy — which maintains offices in Big Spring and other surrounding cities — was sentenced to 10 years probation and four months in jail in the death of Paul Roy Rice, 23, of Midland, a professional rodeo cowboy and employee of Dodson's company.

Dodson was arrested at the scene of a one-vehicle rollover — which happened May 12, 2007, in the 1700 block of West County Road 48 in Midland County — and charged with intoxicated manslaughter.

"Dodson was traveling west on West County Road 48 at the time of the accident, which was approximately 10 p.m.," said Department of Public Safety Sgt. Lee Sneed. "He was traveling over the speed limit when he hit a dip in the road. Dodson is believed to have been intoxicated, which along with the high rate of speed and the dip caused him to lose control of the car — a black 2004 Lexus — which went through a metal fence and rolled over, coming to rest on its roof."

Sneed said Rice was pronounced dead at the scene, while Dodson was treated for minor injuries at Midland Memorial Hospital and later arrested.

Dodson, who was indicted for manslaughter in February, was ordered by 385th District Court Judge Robin Malone Darr to also perform 500 hours of community service and pay a \$10,000 fine.

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

News briefs

Man tells jurors he killed 3 in Tarrant County

FORT WORTH (AP) — A man convicted of capital murder told jurors deciding his fate Tuesday that he killed three people and he didn't care whether he lived or died.

"I am as undecided as you are," Christopher Chubasco Wilkins, 39, told the jurors. "You've got a job to do. You tell the judge 'Get a rope' or not. ... Look, it is no big deal. It is no big deal."

The jurors, who convicted Wilkins last week of killing Willie Freeman and Mike Silva on Oct. 27, 2005, returned a death sentence for him after about 90 minutes of deliberation.

Several of the jurors cried as the judge announced their verdict, the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* reported in its online edition. Wilkins mouthed the words "It is OK. It is OK" to them.

As he took the stand to testify, Wilkins told jurors that he killed Freeman out of revenge over a drug deal. He said Silva was in the wrong place at the wrong time. He also said he killed Gilbert Vallejo because he made him mad. Vallejo died outside a bar during a dispute about a pay phone on Oct. 26, 2005.

Wilkins told jurors he had wanted to plead guilty and go straight to the penalty phase but that his attorneys objected. He said he hadn't wanted his family to be called to testify on his behalf about his childhood.

Doctor shoots other doctor before killing self, authorities say

HOUSTON (AP) — Montgomery County authorities believe a doctor shot and wounded another doctor before killing himself.

Dr. Brian Turley, 41, shot and killed himself Sunday night after telling a friend that he had shot a man coming out of his estranged wife's house near Lake Conroe, authorities said.

Dr. Matthew John Glaser, 41, told authorities that Turley had shot him. Glaser was in critical condition Tuesday at Memorial Hermann Hospital in Houston, sheriff's Lt. J.E. Sclider said.

The shootings occurred within about a half hour of each other Sunday night.

Sclider declined comment on the relationship between the doctors and Turley's estranged wife or the possible motive because of the ongoing investigation, the Houston Chronicle reported in its online edition Tuesday.

Turley was a radiologist. Glaser is a radiologist as well with a private practice in Conroe.

Glaser told authorities that Turley fired several shots at him.

He was struck in the left chest area.

Turley's friend said the radiologist shot himself in the head after she wouldn't give him her car keys.

BSISD

Continued from Page 1A

forward as quickly as possible," Downes said. "With construction costs increasing almost daily, time wasted now converts to lost dollars."

On the architect front, the firm of Parkhill, Smith and Cooper appears to be the front-runner for the

job. It has assisted the school district on numerous projects in the past, as well as conducting a facility survey for the district in 2007.

Downes said trustees will discuss the value of staying with PSC as opposed to searching for some other firm to handle facility planning.

Also Thursday, trustees will discuss options for purchasing property

which will be the home for the bond issue's centerpiece — a new elementary campus.

Downes declined to identify the specific property trustees are considering.

In other business Thursday, trustees will consider:

- Policy updates.
- Bids for three half-ton pickups and three three-quarter-ton pickups.
- A waiver request for

student attendance from the Texas Education Agency.

- Teacher employment recommendations for the 2008-2009 school year.

- Other personnel matters.

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

CITY

Continued from Page 1A

of operations, including more efficient lighting systems, plumbing, heating and air conditioning.

If the improvements fail to meet the level of savings established by Siemens and agreed to by the council, however, Nobles said the company will cut the municipality a check for the difference.

"The project has been completely implemented and accepted by the city as of Feb. 29," said Nobles. "All the water meters, along with the heating and air conditioning and the energy man-

agement system, have been installed. We're required by the law to do a measurement and verification process, which has been discussed with the city. So we will come back annually and report to them (the city) what the savings are, and if we have any shortfall checks, we'll make up the difference. Our guarantee is the energy savings — as well as the accuracy of the water meters — will come true."

While the data-gathering is only in its initial stages, Nobles said the city appears to be on track to meet projected savings.

"Right now we're seeing some pretty good initial

results," said Nobles. "Obviously the project was just finalized and accepted, so we don't have a lot of data at this point, but what we've seen in some utility bill samples from a month to month basis has been good. We believe everything is going to go as planned or better."

Also during Tuesday's meeting, the council approved:

- Final reading of a zoning change for 100 E. 18th Street from single family-2 to neighborhood services to accommodate an interior decorator business, a project being coordinated by Terry Blackshear.
- Final reading of a zon-

ing change for 1515 E. FM 700 and 1513 E. FM 700, changing them from an office designation to heavy commercial. The measure passed with only Mayor Russ McEwen voting against it.

- An agreement with Rick E. Boiles to continue as caretaker of Moss Creek Lake.

- First reading of an ordinance approving a preliminary/final plat of Gerald Lee Harris Jr. Subdivision, located in the NE/4 of Section 26, Block 33, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey.

- A master equipment rental agreement with a purchase option with Warren Cat for four backhoes and one extend-a-

hoe.

- Minutes from the Jan. 23, 2008, meeting of the board of directors for Moore Development.

- Final reading of a resolution approving the city's investment policy and approval of late homestead exemptions for January 2008.

The council also adjourned into executive session during the meeting to consult with the city attorney concerning pending litigation related

to claims and contract negotiations with Cornell Corrections Inc. No action was taken on either item.

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

ELECTIONS

Continued from Page 1A

The Forsan ISD race will feature five candidates vying for three at-large seats.

Beckie Wash is the only incumbent seeking re-election and she will be joined on the ballot by Timary Rosenbaum, an employee at CDR Properties, Tim Ballard, a USPS letter carrier, Courtney Ballard, a truck driver, and firefighter Glenn Graves.

Other trustee elections

in the area will have incumbents unopposed for re-election. Those districts include:

- Big Spring ISD — Incumbents Irene Galan (District 1) and Alan Partee (District 3) will earn new three-year terms.

- Howard College — Dr. Charles Warren, John Freeman and Marie Ethridge are unopposed in their quest for new six-year terms.

- Stanton ISD — New three-year terms are expected for incumbents Valerie Smith (District 3), Todd Smith (District 4) and Reggie Franklin (District 7).

- Sands CISD — Incumbents Robin Barraza and Martin Nichols are unopposed for re-election to their at-large positions.

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Patricia Joplin, 82, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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Bryant leads Lakers back atop conference

By The Associated Press

Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers walked off the court with the best record in the Western Conference.

They're hoping they can still do that when they return from their rugged four-game road trip.

"It's going to be a tough one," Bryant said. "Those teams are great teams. In the East, you have a couple gimme games. In the West, you don't get those."

The Lakers (45-19) will play in New Orleans on Friday night, followed by games at Houston, Dallas and Utah.

The four teams have a cumulative record of 168-86 — including 101-26 at home.

"I told them basically we aren't going to beat any of those teams if we play like we have played the last two or three games," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said.

Bryant scored 10 of his 34 points in the final 8 minutes, Lamar Odom added 20 points and nine rebounds, and the Lakers beat the Toronto Raptors 117-108 on Tuesday night for their 18th win in 22 games.

"It's time to have some fun and play some of the top teams in the NBA,"

forward Luke Walton said of the trip. "There's going to be hostile environments, every possession is going to be crucial. That's a lot of fun for a player."

In other NBA games, it was: Phoenix 132, Memphis 111; Washington 105, Milwaukee 97; Indiana 114, Seattle 107; Chicago 108, Utah 96; and Portland 103, Minnesota 96.

At Los Angeles, the Lakers were 15-of-32 from 3-point range for season highs in both categories. Bryant also had seven rebounds and seven assists for the Pacific Division-leading Lakers, who lead the San Antonio Spurs by a half-game in the Western Conference.

"We did an OK job defensively," Bryant said. "The first half is always an adjustment to get used to these type of teams the way they play. I think in the second half we did a much better job."

T.J. Ford scored all but four of his 28 points in the second half for the Raptors (34-29), who lost for the fifth time in seven games.

Suns 132, Grizzlies 111

At Phoenix, Amare Stoudemire had 29 points and 13 rebounds in 30

minutes, and the Suns beat the Memphis Grizzlies for the eighth straight time.

Shooting guard Raja Bell added 20 points, including 18 in the third quarter, for the Suns, who won consecutive games for the first time since former all-star Shaquille O'Neal joined the lineup 11 games ago.

Small forward Rudy Gay led the Grizzlies with 20.

Wizards 105, Bucks 97

At Washington, Antawn Jamison scored 23 points, rookie Nick Young had a career-high 22 and the Wizards rallied in the fourth quarter.

Michael Redd scored 26 points, Andrew Bogut had 23, and Charlie Villanueva had 24 points and matched a season high with 16 rebounds for the Bucks, who lost for the sixth time in seven games.

Pacers 114, SuperSonics 107

Mike Dunleavy scored 32 points and the Indiana Pacers snapped a three-game losing streak to send Seattle to its fifth straight loss.

Rookie Kevin Durant scored 27 points and reserve Nick Collison

added 15 points and eight rebounds for the visiting Sonics.

Bulls 108, Jazz 96

At Chicago, Drew Gooden tied a season high with 24 points, sBen Gordon added 19, and the Bulls snapped the Utah Jazz's five-game winning streak.

Gordon hit several key 3-pointers, including two late in the third and one midway through the fourth after the Jazz pulled within 10.

That was enough to offset strong performances by Utah's Mehmet Okur (22 points, 18 rebounds) and all-star point guard Deron Williams (20 points, 10 assists).

Trail Blazers 103, Timberwolves 96

At Minneapolis, the Blazers' point guard Brandon Roy had 27 points and nine assists, playing biggest during a game-deciding 12-2 run in the fourth quarter to lift Portland.

Al Jefferson scored 12 of his 20 points in the fourth and point guard Rashad McCants had 18 for Minnesota.

STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

Big Spring then lost to the host Snyder Tigers, 10-4, and to Seminole, 15-8, and Perryton, 10-2. The Steers stranded runners in scoring position in six innings against Perryton. That was a trait that carried over in the first five innings of Tuesday's match up with Fort Stockton.

"We stranded runners in scoring position in the first five innings against Fort Stockton," Otto said. "We couldn't get runners across the plate."

Fort Stockton will get its chance for revenge in a week as the Panthers visit Big Spring Tuesday in the Steers' first home game of the season. Meanwhile, the Steers play in the Greenwood Tournament starting Thursday.

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Now You See It, Now You Don't

South dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH		EAST	
♠ A 7 5		♠ J 4	
♥ 8 4		♥ Q J 10 9 7	
♦ J 9 7 2		♦ Q 10 5 3	
♣ A Q 10 6		♣ J 3	
WEST		SOUTH	
♠ Q 9 6 2		♠ K 10 8 3	
♥ —		♥ A K 6 5 3 2	
♦ A K 8 6 4		♦ —	
♣ K 9 8 2		♣ 7 5 4	

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♥ Dble Redble Pass
Pass 2 ♦ Dble Pass
2 ♥ Pass 2 NT Pass
3 ♥ Pass 4 ♥ Dble
Opening lead — king of diamonds.

The practice of counting your losers in a suit contract is not always the best way to assess your prospects. The general rule is for declarer to count his winners whenever he plays in a notrump contract, and his losers when he is in a suit contract. But exceptional situations arise where declarer is better advised to reverse the usual procedure.

If all four hands of today's deal

are examined, it would appear that South must lose three trump tricks, a club trick and either one or two spade tricks. Nevertheless, with proper play, declarer can bring in 10 tricks!

South ruffs the opening diamond lead and cashes the ace of trumps, disclosing the foul trump distribution. The situation looks bleak indeed, but declarer sets out to do the best he can with the limited resources he has.

A club to the queen is followed by a diamond ruff, a club to the ace and another diamond ruff. Declarer then crosses to the ace of spades and ruffs dummy's last diamond before cashing the king of spades.

South has made no extraordinary plays, but his mission is already accomplished. He has won the ace of hearts, the A-K of spades and A-Q of clubs, and has also ruffed all four of dummy's diamonds to bring him to nine tricks. The king of hearts still in his hand constitutes trick number 10.

After South takes the first 10 tricks, he still has two losing spades and a losing club. West has the high cards to capture them all, but East is forced to trump them with his Q-J-10 of hearts. The defenders' six apparent winners are thus telescoped into just three tricks.

Bridge is sometimes a very strange game.

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ALON ENERGY REFINERY EXPLOSION

The Pinkerton Law Firm, PLLC recently resolved over 150 personal injury claims related to the BP explosion that occurred in Texas City, Texas, with clients recovering extraordinary monetary awards and/or settlements. The Pinkerton Law Firm, PLLC has the experience and track record to prosecute your claim to the maximum extent possible under the law.

If you were there, you may have a claim for physical and/or emotional injuries. Time is of the essence to preserve your claim.

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

SkyWarn class a chance to get ready for storms

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Few adages could be more correct, nor could they apply to more situations in our lives. And that means we should keep it in mind these days with spring — and the prospect of stormy weather — right around the corner.

Spring is when our area traditionally experiences a great deal of the severe weather — things like hail storms and tornadoes. While there's no way to prevent such storms, there is a way to learn more about them and to be prepared.

That's why the National Weather Service will conduct a SkyWarn class in Big Spring Thursday night in an effort to have area residents ready to face potentially violent weather.

Slated for 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. in the Big Spring City Council Chambers, located at 307 E. Fourth Street, the class will be an excellent way to check preparedness at the beginning of the severe weather season.

According to NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist Pat Vesper, the class will include information on tracking and classifying storms and various weather conditions, but it's not limited to emergency management officials and storm chasers.

"It has a lot to offer everyone," said Vesper. "We offer a lot of information on safety during storms and bad weather the average person can use to protect themselves and their families."

SkyWarn classes' main focus is safety and cover the most common severe weather situations for the Howard County area in hopes of preparing area residents for worst case scenarios.

"It's really a lot of good information for people to have," said Big Spring Police Department Lt. Chamness. "It gives people a basic knowledge of what severe weather is like in our area. Since we're getting ready to head into the severe weather season, which begins in March and lasts until October, this is really important information to have."

We couldn't agree more, and that's why we encourage local residents to make the most of Thursday night's opportunity to become better informed.

What's more, there's no charge for the classes and the public is definitely welcome to attend, according to Chamness.

Sounds like good use of a couple of hours to us.

How To CONTACT Us

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions. In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

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

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- Limit your letter 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 Your genuineness show through us, Lord.

Amen

'Los Presendentes' assault each other; then embrace

In the end, they embraced each other, just like many boxers do moments after bloodying each other's faces. But I can't think of a boxing match that was more exciting than the face-to-face, blow-by-blow encounter between several Latin American presidents at the Rio Group summit in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, last week.

Forget the Spanish soap operas! This was much more dramatic.

On one side, you had Colombian President Alvaro Uribe, a U.S. ally, waving papers that he said revealed that Ecuadorian President Rafael Correa has close ties with leftist, drug-trafficking terrorists in Colombia.

On the other side, Correa vehemently charged that Colombia violated Ecuador's sovereignty when Colombian soldiers raided a rebel camp of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and killed 24 rebels inside Ecuador two weeks ago.

The leaders of two countries at the brink of war, surrounded by the presidents of most of the Latin American nations, were throwing verbal punches at each other. And they were landing some good ones. Correa implied that Uribe is a liar. Uribe implied that Correa is a communist.

"How difficult it is to believe one who ..." Correa said as Uribe interrupted.

"Don't apply to me the cynicism of those who feel nostalgia for communism," Uribe told Correa. Uribe charged that Correa's presidential campaign was backed by the Colombian guerrillas.

"Don't come (to us) with fallacies; don't come with cynicism," Correa told Uribe later. "It's not your neighbors who are responsible for your problems; it's you. It's Colombia, and we are the victims, not the victimizers. ... Your insolence is doing more harm to the Ecuadorian people than your murderous bombs."

Escalation seemed like the only possible outcome, especially because also sitting across from Uribe were other members of the Latin American axis of evil:

Nicaragua's Daniel Ortega, Bolivia's Evo Morales and Venezuela's Hugo Chavez. And they all were throwing jabs at Uribe.

After all, the documents Uribe was quoting were obtained from the computer of a rebel leader killed by Colombian troops during the raid into Ecuador, and they also implicated Chavez. Prior to the Santo Domingo summit, the Colombian government already had charged that, according to the documents, Chavez recently gave \$300 million to the Colombian rebels. Uribe already had threatened to take Chavez to the International Criminal Court and charge him with "sponsoring genocide." Ecuador, Venezuela and Nicaragua already had broken diplomatic relations with Colombia. Chavez and Correa already had sent troops to the Venezuelan and Ecuadorian borders with Colombia.

And then, there they were, face to face, with several other Latin American presidents trying to play the role of referees.

And no one but Uribe came to the defense of Colombia — not even other democracies that are supposed to be friends with Colombia and the United States. Even Argentina's new "president," Cristina Kirchner, poorly trying to act presidential while pandering to the leftists in the summit, tried to lecture Uribe on Colombia's need to follow the rule of law.

But Uribe, the only true U.S. ally left in South America, responded to each of their snipes, lies and insults with remarkable patience and presidential posture.

He told Chavez that, unlike Venezuela, Colombia doesn't intervene in the politics of neighboring countries.

He lectured Ortega on "the difference between the insurgencies that combat dictatorships and armed groups, financed by drug-trafficking, that obstruct democracy. That's why we call (the FARC) a terrorist movement."

Uribe said the FARC made a transition long ago from a movement driven by ideology to one that is motivated by money and mercenary greed. "We would have to look at the FARC's cocaine business," he said. Uribe noted that the Colombian rebels never

really wanted peace. "They say they want to be in politics, but they keep shooting," Uribe said.

Although Ortega had suggested the creation of a peace commission to negotiate between the FARC and the Colombian government, Uribe said many peace agreements have been tried already and always have been broken by the rebels. But he said Colombians are pained when they hear Ortega paying tribute to FARC leader Manuel Marulanda. "You would help us make peace much more easily if you would break that brotherhood you claim you have with him," Uribe told Ortega. "It's just that he has given us too many deaths and too many kidnappings."

Like the true leader that he is, Uribe took responsibility and apologized for the Colombian raid into Ecuador. But he also argued that, just like the territorial sovereignty of Ecuador needs to be respected, so does the sovereignty of the Colombian people — implying that foreign governments should not be supporting or giving safe harbor to terrorists in Colombia. He told Kirchner that, because she is "such a distinguished jurist," she should help Colombia by making sure international law recognizes that neither territorial sovereignty nor the security of a people can be violated.

Answering charges by Latin American leftists that Uribe is a puppet of American imperialism, Uribe responded: "Take it out of your heads that this is an imperialist project," he said at the summit. "This is an autonomous project of the Colombian people, born out of rebellion against 40 years of terrorist oppression."

In the end, it was Chavez, apparently fearful of the evidence Uribe was taking to the International Criminal Court, who called for calm. Correa said he was willing to accept Uribe's apology, and the president of Colombia — articulate, principled, backed by even the opposition in his country — walked out with his head held high.

The United States may not have many good amigos left in Latin America, but we have one in Colombia we can be proud of.

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State Representative

Friendship in the Fourth Estate

A funny thing is about to happen to Barack Obama. No matter how much he thinks he's ready for it, he isn't. No matter how many people warn him, he'll be surprised. And hurt. And angry.

His friends in the press are about to turn on him.

They may not even know it yet, but they will.

They can't help themselves. They've been caught fawning, made fun of for favoritism, become the subject of their own scrutiny.

Which means they won't be able to resist.

There's an old parable about a scorpion that asks a frog to carry him across the lake. The frog is afraid of being stung. The scorpion assures him not to worry, that if he stings the frog, they'll both drown. Of course, halfway across, that's exactly what he does. "But why?" the frog asks, as both face death. The scorpion's answer: I can't help it. It's my nature.

It's the press's nature to turn on those they most adore. The bigger the buildup, the bigger the let-down. Watch the balloon fill with air. Watch them start pricking

holes. Watch the balloon lose air. Wait to see if there's still a balloon at all in the end.

Mark my words. It's about to begin.

This is not, as conservatives like to believe, an ideological thing. The press may be liberal, in the sense that most of them vote that way and are almost certainly voting for Obama. But they are simultaneously drawn to and repulsed by their own desire for attention, their own importance, their role as makers, cheerleaders and faithless friends.

The press had plenty of reason to feel burnt by the Clintons, having fallen for him once, big time, only to find themselves, in their book, manipulated and misled. That is not, I should add, how the Clintons saw it. They saw it as the press turning on them, which was also true. That is no doubt how Barack Obama will also see it, and he will, to a certain extent, be right.

Here it comes: Is Barack pro-Israel enough? Is he tough enough? Is he substantive enough? What about his past? What about those votes in the Illinois Senate? What exactly has he accomplished?

And, most important of all, has he been getting a free ride? It's not that these questions

shouldn't be asked. They should. But they should be asked throughout the process, not, as is about to happen, in an avalanche, a storm of scrutiny, a blizzard of second-guessing from the very gushers who were, only a few short weeks ago, so busy guzzling Kool-Aid that they didn't even look to see what it was made of.

The barrage may not come in time to change the outcome of the Democratic contests next week, or of the nomination fight. In this upside-down world, it would be fitting were the intense scrutiny that should mark the hardest fought primary contest in decades to begin only after it was effectively over. Stranger things have happened. I haven't counted Hillary out yet. Too many have made that mistake already in this season to jump that gun.

But one thing I do know after nearly 30 years in politics: The press (and I guess that is my crowd now, though I will probably always feel more comfortable with a staff pin than a press dog tag) can be many things to a candidate. They can be pals, fans, drinking buddies, confidantes and cronies. But friends? True, loyal friends? Never.

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Cruz's 10th-inning homer lifts Rangers over Chicago

The Associated Press

SURPRISE, Ariz. — Gavin Floyd returned to the mound Tuesday and tossed four solid innings for the Chicago White Sox during a 7-5 loss to the Texas Rangers in 10 innings.

Nelson Cruz hit a two-run homer with two outs in the 10th off Matt Anderson. Cruz also had an RBI on a groundout in a three-run eighth that tied the score at 5.

Floyd, penciled in as the team's No. 5 starter, hadn't pitched since March 1 because of the flu. He gave up two runs and three hits, including solo home runs to Josh Hamilton and Ben Broussard in the second. Hamilton went 3-for-3 and is hitting .522 with two homers and a Cactus League-leading 11 RBIs.

"I was really weak when I was sick," Floyd said. "My body ached and I couldn't really do much. The past few days I've felt pretty good except for the throat. I've worked all offseason to try to build up to spring training and my strength was

still there.

"You don't plan on getting sick. Those days off kind of threw me off course a little bit, but I was happy to go out there and get that rhythm and attack the hitters," he added. "I don't think I skipped a beat. I feel real good and I'll just keep on building."

Though Floyd might have a spot in the rotation, he isn't taking it for granted.

"I felt there was an urgency for myself just to get back," he said. "I don't want to miss too much time. It's a confidence builder. It's not guaranteed. I treat it like any other spring training, try to battle for a spot."

Floyd had a 7.07 ERA in his first four starts last season and a 3.41 mark in his final six starts.

"We thought he was going to be a little weaker," White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen said. "He went through a tough week with the flu. He came out and pitched strong. This kid could turn around and be a heck of a

pitcher. It's up to him to grab it, keep it going and keep doing what he's doing now. He needs to maintain the confidence about pitching at the big league level."

White Sox center fielder and leadoff batter Jerry Owens, who had not played since March 4 because of a groin injury, also returned and went 1-for-3.

"I think it's behind me physically, but it's the mental part that we're trying to get over now," Owens said. "When I have to react to the ball off the bat, there were a couple of balls I was able to get to. I didn't think about it. I made the play, and threw the ball in and then I'm thinking, maybe it's a little sore. That helps me to know the strength is there, the flexibility is there. It's a matter of forgetting about it and playing."

While the White Sox are getting players back, the Rangers keep losing starting pitchers. Vicente Padilla left after 3 2-3 innings with a pulled muscle in his backside, although it is not considered serious.

Right-hander Kevin Millwood, scheduled to start the March 31 opener, has yet to appear in a spring training game because of a right hamstring injury. Brandon McCarthy, another Texas starter, is out four to eight weeks with a forearm strain.

Padilla gave up a two-run homer to Brian Anderson in the second.

Beckett unlikely to play in season opener

The Boston Red Sox sound as though they're preparing to start the season in Tokyo without Josh Beckett. The Los Angeles Dodgers sent one manager to China and replaced him with feisty fill-in Tommy Lasorda.

Time is running out on Beckett's slim chance of traveling to Japan to pitch in Boston's first two regular-season games. The Red Sox ace who led the majors with 20 wins last year has yet to pitch in a regular exhibition game, and his back injury might keep

him from doing that.

Plus, sitting on a plane for the long flight to the Far East next Wednesday wouldn't be very comfortable.

"The one thing we're not going to do is send him over there to pitch three innings and hurt his back," manager Terry Francona said Tuesday.

The Red Sox have two exhibition games against Japanese teams before facing the Oakland Athletics in games that count March 25 and 26.

Beckett hasn't been able to stretch since he felt back spasms while throwing his first warmup pitch before Saturday's game against Florida, Francona said. The right-hander threw a total of six warmup pitches and left before the game started. Tests showed the injury was muscular.

"I don't think we know (for sure) yet" whether Beckett will pitch in Japan, ESPN.com quoted Francona as saying. "But we're certainly not going to rush him back to pitch a game March 24 if he's not ready."

IDITAROD

Continued from Page 2B

and alert as the race progressed.

King finally dropped two dogs Tuesday at the checkpoint in White Mountain. When he crossed the finish line at 4:05 a.m., a grinning Mackey was there to shake his hand.

"It was tough competition, but an easy race," King said at the burled arch.

Running an equally competitive race for third place were Ramey Smyth of Willow, Ken Anderson of Fairbanks, Martin Buser of Big Lake and Hans Gatt, a three-time

Yukon Quest winner from Whitehorse, Yukon.

Twelve mushers have scratched since the start of the Iditarod and one has been withdrawn. The latest out of the race was 43-year-old Steve Madsen of Cougar, Wash., who scratched Tuesday in Galena, citing concern for the health of his 11-dog team. Counting Mackey and King, 82 mushers were in the running.

Two dogs have died in this year's race, including a 3-year-old female struck by a snowmobile.

Organizers this year introduced a new tracking system that let fans follow online the real-time progress of 18 top mushers. Officials hope to

expand the system to all participants in future races. Mackey and King each carried one of the devices.

The modern-day Iditarod trail crosses frozen rivers, dense woods and two mountain ranges, then goes along the dangerous sea ice up the Bering Sea shore.

Mushers compete for a

piece of an \$875,000 purse, to be paid out among the top 30 finishers to reach Nome. Mackey gets \$69,000 and a new truck worth \$45,000 for winning.

Mackey said before the race started that the prize money is important so he doesn't have "to get a real job."

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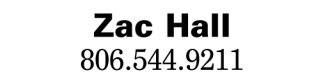
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS
Venus enters Pisces today, all awash in a divine glow. Our imaginations connect minds to hearts. Piecing together images, visions, and mental and spiritual aspirations, can we attract peace, love and harmony — if not a perfect partner? Well, we're definitely made more attractive for trying. Maybe white light is the new black.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There's tension between you and a loved one. But you begin to understand one another after the sparks fly. So be patient. You will each find your way back to middle ground.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Shrewd strategies are needed to compete in



HOLIDAY
MATHIS

today's environment. Know your opponent. Even when you think you're winning, don't let up on your game. Stay alert.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Say what you mean, and mean what you say. You've been tiptoeing around an issue that requires deliberate stomping. Determine the point you want to make, and hit it home.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You can definitely think of times when you've been more in tune with yourself. But awkwardness is a natural stage in growth. And growth is what you're here to do. Embrace each weird little change.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Now is the time to stand up to the seemingly overpowering authority figure. Set your boundaries, and simply refuse to take it any more. When you do, you find out that the monster is a mouse.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your heart attracts

what's right for you. Trust its strange logic. When you do, the short-term decisions will make long term sense. Tonight, you share a special connection with other Virgos.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). When your personal life is sorted out, you feel inspired to make a public statement about it. After all, why keep your joy private? Hilarious conversations are featured tonight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Get into the music of the day — it's all around you. Your fresh point of view is like a new melody that adds tension, excitement and intrigue to the tune we are all making together.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). When you can't do it all and you have to choose, yours is not a hard choice to make. Your relationships are the most important thing to you, and they will come before all else.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Don't ponder

your next move. Let your body and intuition show you where to go. Tonight, everyone is feeling social. Get out and make some new friends.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You are happiest when being playful and working at your own leisurely pace. Give yourself a break! It's actually more productive than trying to drive yourself like a slave.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Sometimes when you talk, your energy escapes through your mouth. It's time to be discreet. Besides, you attract new friends and business associates who are intrigued by what they don't know about you.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm a Cancer, and I've always had close Virgo women friendships. I feel if I told a Virgo that I needed her help, even if she were across the country, she'd hop on a plane. Why are those Virgos so great?"

If there's one sign that every woman absolutely

must have in her pantheon of girlfriends, it's Virgo. Gal-pal relationships are her forte. She's conscientious. She's dependable. She remembers all the big and little things about you — that you've never had the chicken pox, the age you were when your parents got divorced, and that you dated a "Dave" for five minutes. And when you think you've bored her to death with a story or one of your issues, she's eager to hear more — she's genuinely interested.

You're especially glad she's your friend when it's time to celebrate you. She does it right. Her love is a very specific kind of attention, and she can make you feel rich for having it. You can show her you care by returning some of the very specific attention she lavishes on you. Love is in the details. (For more on astrology and friendship, read my book "Rock Your Stars: Your Astrological Guide to Getting it All.")

CELEBRITY PROFILES: A year wiser? If Thora Birch does appear older and wiser than her years, it's because she's a "been there, done that" Pisces sun sign. Measuring Pisces' maturity by the years spent on this planet is a non-sequitur — you're better off simply accepting that Pisceans are ageless ingenues. This birthday year, Thora is recognized by colleagues and fans for her offbeat style and intelligent voice.

Holiday Mathis is the author of "Rock Your Stars." If you would like to write to her, 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. © 2008 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

Annie's Mailbox ®: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: My doctor recently told me I need to get rid of the stress in my life or I'm likely to have a stroke. My blood pressure is through the roof. At the age of 59, I've decided getting rid of stress means I need a divorce, but I don't want to hurt my husband of 25 years.

My husband does not have a clue. If I tell him, he will either become irate or not believe me. He and his family members are all bipolar. They get along with each other, but as hard as I have tried all these years, they will not let me in. They live out of state, and when I call his mother, every time I ask, "How are you?" she replies, "Why do you want to know?" My husband makes sure I send them all Christmas and birthday cards, but they never reciprocate. His mother calls only when she needs money, and she will accept only money from us. All other presents are returned.

Maybe it's my age, but I just don't want to try anymore. If my husband had stood up for me even once when his mother was hurtful, it would be different, but he is and always will be afraid of her. The medicine my husband used to take did wonders for him, but he doesn't care enough about my health to get back on it. I know I'll feel better if I get out of this family, and I have to leave before it's too late to enjoy any kind of life. I just dread getting started. What should I do? — Florida

Dear Florida: Living with someone who is bipolar can be difficult and exhausting, especially if he refuses to seek treatment. You can find support and suggestions through the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (dbsalliance.org) at 1-800-826-3632 or the Family-to-Family classes at the National Alliance on Mental Illness (nami.org) at 1-800-950-NAMI (1-800-950-6264). If you still can't find a way to make the



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

situation less stressful, please talk to a counselor who will help you choose the right words to tell your husband. In the meantime, exercise can help with both the stress and the high blood pressure.

Dear Annie: One of my co-workers talks incessantly. As if that weren't enough, she brought a radio to work and when she isn't talking, she's singing. Radios are permitted in our office. The supervisors don't do anything about the constant chatter, so it's no use complaining to them about the music. We were doing our best to cope with the talking, but the singing is sending us right over the edge. How can we get her to stop? — Waterbury, Conn.

Dear Waterbury: Have you asked her? Some people don't realize how irritating their little habits can be. It also

sounds as if your co-worker may possibly have Asperger's, obsessive-compulsive disorder, ADHD or something similar that prevents her from keeping still. Perhaps if you make her aware that the constant singing is inappropriate, she will try to keep it to a minimum. If not, bring your own radio or desk fan, or plug yourself into a set of headphones.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Knowing We Did the Right Thing," who donated her daughter's organs but heard nothing from the recipients.

My sister was an organ donor. I wrote to all the recipients soon after the transplant. Over a year later, I got an answer back from the heart recipient, as well as the lung recipient. I am now in contact with the heart recipient via e-mail. However, I only heard once from the lung recipient and never heard anything at all from two other recipients.

I agree it can make people uncomfortable to know they are here because someone else isn't. In your heart, you know you did something wonderful and you just keep that going. I have a dear friend who received a kidney, and I will ask her if she sent a letter. I am quite confident the recipients are thankful every day, but don't know how to handle it. — J.B.

Dear Annie: My husband and I are at the end of our rope. Our 38-year-old son is a habitual liar. He constantly tells anyone who will listen that he is an engineer. He did go to vocational school, but never got an engineering degree and is currently without a job. He gives the impression that he is a Gulf War veteran, but he was released from the U.S. Army during basic training because he could not perform the physical tests. He never served in Desert Storm.

We are afraid he could be charged with impersonating a veteran, or that his continuous lies will catch up with him and cause even more strain on our family. Is there a liars anonymous organization? — Just Sick in the Midwest

Dear Midwest: Is your son willing to admit he lies? Many compulsive liars want help, and if so, you might be able to convince your son to see a psychologist who can work with him on this behavior. Otherwise, sadly, there is not much you can do about someone who does not see the harm in such prevarications. There is no specific support group for families of liars, but there are various chat rooms and bulletin boards on the Internet that deal with compulsive liars, and at the very least, those may provide the comfort of knowing

you are not alone.

Dear Annie: My 11-year-old son, "Matt," and his very good friend, "Sam," were born three days apart. His mother and I have had a double birthday party for them the past several years and invite the whole grade. The invitations clearly say it is "Matt and Sam's birthday party."

Two years ago, one of the guests handed me a card addressed to "Sam" and nothing else. I thought it was odd she didn't acknowledge my son. Last year, it happened again. Her child brought a gift for Sam, but not Matt. This really bothers me. It's not the gift, it's the principle. It seems so rude that I do not want to invite this boy to future double parties. I assume it's not the boy's fault, but rather his parents'. What should I do? — Tammy

Dear Tammy: Either the parents believe only one gift or card is necessary, or they consider Sam to be their child's friend, but not Matt. (If that's the case, you might ask yourself why.) Still, it is rude to attend a birthday party for two children and acknowledge only one. It's possible the parents are in financial straits and can only afford one gift per party, but that does not mean one birthday boy should be ignored. It means purchasing two less expensive gifts or two cards. Ask Sam's mother

if she will speak to the parents and see if there is a problem.

Dear Annie: This is in response to "Falling Out of Love," who is contemplating leaving her husband because his pain meds are having a negative effect on their marriage.

I currently have two herniated discs in my neck, which are inoperable. I, too, spend a good part of every day in a narcotic fog. Chronic pain is pervasive, affecting everything. We are faced with the challenge of keeping our pain at a tolerable level while still maintaining some quality of life. I had to give up several things I enjoyed doing because I can't stay focused. I am fortunate that my partner is supportive, but it took time for him to understand.

I would suggest the wife go along to her husband's pain management appointments and talk it over with his doctor. I'm sure the husband would like to have a clearer head, and his wife should be as supportive as possible during this difficult time. Soon I will be transitioning onto a new medication that I hope will take care of the problem. I wish them luck. — Foggy in Toledo

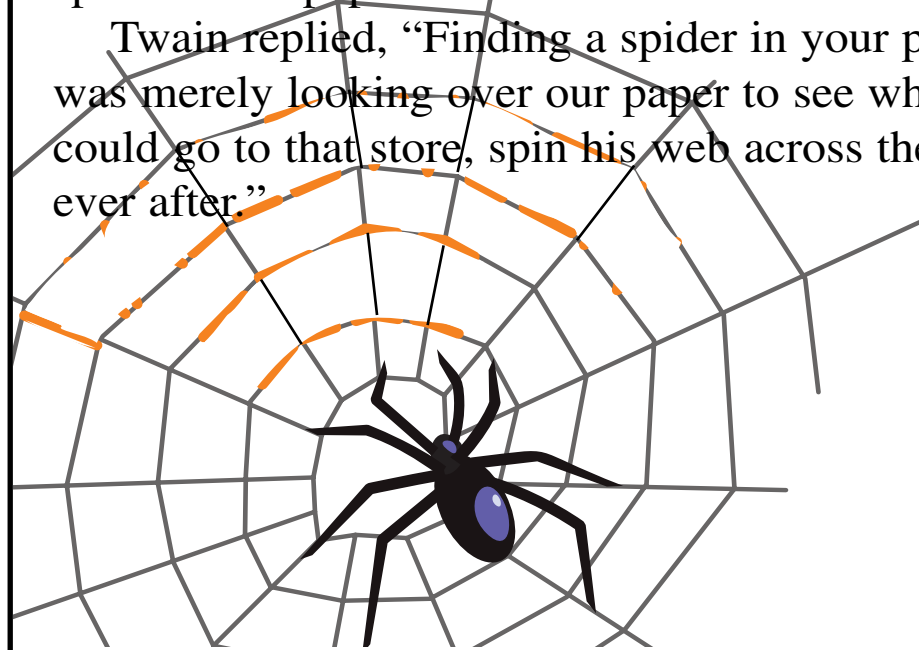
Dear Toledo: We, too, hope the new medication will provide pain relief without the narcotic haze. Thanks for showing the other side.

The Spider

During Mark Twain's days as a newspaperman, he was the editor of a small Missouri paper.

One day, he received a letter from a subscriber stating that he had found a spider in his paper and asked if this was an omen of good or bad luck.

Twain replied, "Finding a spider in your paper is neither good nor bad luck. The spider was merely looking over our paper to see which merchant was not advertising so that he could go to that store, spin his web across the door and lead a life of undisturbed peace ever after."



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ANSWERS

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Why not check this out?

At the Howard County Library

Molly Gloss's "The Hearts of Horses" lovely new novel is set in northeastern Oregon in 1917, in the twilight of the Old West when that way of life was already legendary.

The story begins, as such legends must, with a mysterious figure riding into view on a badly scarred mare. But Gloss immediately begins to transform these worn conventions. This stranger is 19-year-old Martha Lessen, the first girl anyone in these parts "had seen advertising herself as a broncobuster."

Since most of the young men who worked these farms have headed off to the war in Europe, Martha is "looking for horses that needed breaking out."

The plot doesn't move so much as accrete, in the way that Kent Haruf and Ivan Doig manage to do in their novels, full of the wisdom of well-lived ordinary lives.

Yes, the risk of dullness haunts stories like these, but when it works — the subtle rhythm of one scene after another, with touches of warmth and humor and compassion — there's something deeply satisfying about it. — *Reviewed by Ron Charles, in the Washington Post's Book World.*

I usually am able to put down a book and return

to it, but this one just kept me reading way past my bedtime. Good book.

Thrillers

• **"The Face of Death"** by Cody McFayden. This is a thriller to the nth degree, a page turner deluxe, albeit scary in a Dean Koontz kind of way. This comes to you from a person who will not read Stephen King and that ilk.

• **"The Abduction."** Mark Gimenez wrote his first book while still working for a firm of lawyers in Dallas. I remember hearing him speak at the Texas Library Association in San Antonio several years ago and that is where I became familiar with his books.

They are hard-hitting legal thrillers and every one is good. His latest takes place in Austin where a Michael Dell-like tycoon's daughter is kidnapped from a soccer game while he multi-tasks on his BlackBerry.

Fiction

• **"Last Night at the Lobster."** By Stewart O'Nan, this is more of a novella than a novel. Mr. O'Nan proves once again why he's the "bard of the working class" by exploring how the closing of one chain restaurant profoundly affects many lives.

"Last Night at the Lobster" may be a small story, dealing with the mundane details of restaurant life, but O'Nan's complex characters provide a service — an everyday feat that many American novels ignore. — *review from*

Bookmarks

• **"Gentlemen of the Road"** by Michael Chabon is set in and around Khazaria during the 1900s. It is a good adventure, well-told and fast paced.

The two gentlemen of the road are Zelikman and Amram. Zelikman is young, thin and pale. Originally from Regensburg in what is now Bavaria, Germany, Zelikman has broken with his family and wanders the trade routes of the Middle Ages looking for adventure.

Amram is older and bigger. Originally from Africa, Amram wanders the trade routes looking for his daughter who was stolen from his village. They are traveling companions and occasional con-artists living off their wits and their fighting skills. Think of it as Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid in the Caucasus Mountains of Russia.

Non-Fiction/True Crime

• **"Storming Las Vegas"** (364.155 HUD J) by John Huddy is the story of how the Las Vegas strip was robbed of millions of dollars by a Cuban, Soviet-trained commando.

• **"Never Enough"** (364.152 MCG J) is another true crime book by Joe McGinnis. Nancy Kessel was a golden girl who enjoyed the expatriate life in Hong Kong. It comes crashing down when she is accused (and convicted of) murdering her husband in their penthouse apartment.

• **"The Fighting 69th"** (356.113 FLY S) by Sean Michael Flynn is the story of a National Guard unit. Once a proud unit

composed of Irishmen, it had gradually declined to an unfit unit. It took Lt. Col. Geoffrey Slack to build it back up to a "lean, mean, fighting machine." From ground zero to the streets of Baghdad, this is the story of perseverance and pride.

More new non-fiction and biographies that are now in include Dorothy Hamill's **"A Skating Life"**; Lynne Cheney's **"Blue Skies, No Fences"** and **"Edward VI: The Lost King of England"** by Chris Skidmore.

Only four Mondays remain for Gloria Hopkins and her "posse" to prepare tax returns here at the library. March 17, 24, 31 and April 7 are the remaining dates. Hours are 8 a.m. until noon. To get to the basement, you enter at the glass door to the right of the main entrance. There is an elevator for those who need to take it down to the basement.

Howard County Library hours are 10 to 6, Monday to Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. The Internet/Video room is closed from noon until 2 p.m., Monday to Friday and it will close 12 hour before closing.

The Library is located at 500 S. Main St. Our phone number is 264-2260. The Web site is www.howard-county.lib.tx.us

Hollis McCright is director of the Howard County Library.

Research: Less than half of seniors understand basic economic concepts

Big Spring and Coahoma High Schools have been selected as two of the sites in the U.S., South America and Europe which will pilot JA Exploring Economics™.

The program is designed to teach high school students fundamental economic concepts and their effect on U.S. and global markets, the role government plays within a market economy, and how economic principles guide business decisions. The program was funded by a \$635,000 grant from MetLife Foundation.

Research indicates there is a critical need to provide students with economics course content. In a 2007 economics assessment called "The Nation's Report Card" — one of a series of National Assessments of Educational Progress (NAEP) conducted by the U.S. Department of Education — just 42 percent of 11,500 students surveyed scored at the "proficient" level when queried about market economics (including personal finance), national economics and international economics.

The 10 U.S. pilot sites include Junior Achievement chapters in the following cities: Charlotte, N.C.; Columbia, S.C.; Lancaster, Pa.; New York, Nashville, Tenn.; Providence, R.I.; Spokane Wash.; Minneapolis and Toledo, Ohio. The pro-

gram will also be piloted in Romania and Colombia.

"JA Exploring Economics will provide students with access to a subject they may not have had as an elective or required course which will help them compete in the job market and will also provide insight into how macro- and micro-economic principles affect our daily lives," said Jody Sneed, JA West Texas executive director. "Junior Achievement programs such as this one are intended to prepare students to effectively compete in the workforce and fully participate in a global economy."

The NAEP report also found that students involved in Advanced Placement Economics classes and those whose parents are well-educated scored higher on the NAEP economics exam than their peers. Junior Achievement programs can help fill the gap for students who do not have access to these resources, by teaching them important personal financial management skills, such as how to devise and adhere to a budget, the cost of credit and the importance of saving and investing for the future.

"MetLife Foundation shares Junior Achievement's commitment to preparing young people for the future," said Sibyl Jacobson, president of MetLifeFoun-

See JA, Page 6A

ALON ENERGY REFINERY EXPLOSION

INFORMAL PUBLIC MEETING

The Pinkerton Law Firm, PLLC is *hosting* an informal public meeting for individuals wanting to learn more about their rights regarding the explosion that occurred at the ALON Energy Refinery. If you were injured in any way, you need to be at this meeting. Injuries may range from physical trauma to mental anguish to property damage.

Mr. Pinkerton will speak briefly and answer any questions or concerns you may have about this incident. This will be followed by an opportunity for guests to meet one-on-one with an attorney.

IMPORTANT MEETING DETAILS

Dates:

Friday, March 14th from 1:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 15th from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

Where:

Dora Roberts Community Center

100 Whipkey (inside Comanche Trail Park-Classroom of community center)

Big Spring, Texas 79720

Notes:

Come any time during the scheduled sessions

Appointments are not necessary

Open to the public

Meet one-on-one with an attorney

Brief question and answer sessions at 1 & 4 daily

The purpose of this meeting is to provide the public a chance to gain educational insight into their legal rights regarding this incident. There is no obligation from you—it is simply an opportunity to learn about your legal rights.

The Pinkerton Law Firm, PLLC would like to take this time to *welcome* you in advance and we look forward to meeting you very soon.

CALL TODAY @ 1-866-764-0412

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Troop Salute: Lt. Col. Carl Croft, Texas farm boy living his dream

Lt. Col. Carl Croft, son of Helen and the late John Croft of Proctor, assumed command of the 163rd Fighter Squadron (The Black Snake Squadron) of the Air National Guard in September 2007. Carl may never have been in Big Spring, but our Howard County librarian, Hollis McCright, is his sister.

Carl's regular job is to fly a DC-10 for Federal Express based out of Memphis, Tennessee, while also serving as a citizen-soldier in the Air National Guard. That life was interrupted when his unit was activated for duty in Iraq. Deployed Sept. 2, 2007, Carl served with his unit in Iraq until he returned Jan. 12, 2008 to take up his normal life.

Lt. Col. Croft is a 1980 graduate of Comanche High School. He also has degrees from The University of Texas and the University of Southern California. His high school honored Carl in 2005 by adding him to their Distinguished Graduates Wall of Fame, 25 years after his graduation.

The 163rd Fighter Squadron flies Lockheed Martin F-16C+ Fighting

Falcons, usually out of Fort Wayne International Airport in Fort Wayne, Ind. In Iraq, Carl was squadron commander of his unit, which was renamed the 163rd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, a part of the 332nd Expeditionary Fighter Wing based at Balad Air Base. He commanded both the fighter aircraft and all the combat support units to maintain the aircraft and prepare them for combat operations of the squadron. This involved more than 900 officers and enlisted personnel.

In addition to his administrative duties, he also flew a F16C+ as flight leader on their missions. The job of the Black Snakes was to respond quickly to calls for support of ground commanders in contact with the enemy. The 163rd also provided constant 24-hour airborne patrol to provide on-demand close air support of coalition troops who became engaged in ground combat.

The F-16C+ of the 163rd carries the Litening II Advanced Technology targeting pod. This pod uses a combination TV/Infrared camera with a Global Positioning System (GPS) tie-in to quickly locate and identify targets and also drop laser-guided and GPS-directed bombs with a high degree of accuracy. The jet is integrated into the theater battle network, making

information from the ground commander flow very quickly for real-time use of bombs in time-critical situations. It also shows the pilot where the friendly troops are, greatly reducing the chance of accidentally bombing too close or hitting our troops. This is critical in situations where the enemy may be near and a quick identification is needed before they become intermingled and the opportunity is missed.

Croft said, "I never would have thought when I was a little boy standing out in my Daddy's fields hoeing peanuts that I could be where I am today. This is truly the greatest country in the world where a farm boy from Texas can grow up to be a combat leader of the best pilots in the world flying the best fighters in the world in battles that will set the course of history. I

See **SALUTE**, Page 7A



JA

Continued from Page 1A

dation. "We are pleased to support Junior Achievement of West Texas in offering this new educational program to local youth."

Junior Achievement currently reaches more than 7,000 students annually in Andrews, Big Spring, Lubbock, Midland, Odessa and San Angelo. This is the second year in a row for JA West Texas to serve as a pilot location for a new JA high school program. Last spring, Big Spring High School hosted the JA Business Ethics beta test.



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2004 Mercedes-Benz LK C240 - Gold w/Tan Leather, Woodgrain, Moonroof, Heated Seats, 6 Disc CD, Loaded, Low Miles.
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2002 Honda Accord Special Edition Coupe - White w/Gray Cloth, All Power, Moon Roof, Local Owner, Low Miles.
Was \$14,995 **NOW \$10,995**

2005 Toyota Sequoia SR5 - Silver w/Cloth, CD Player, One Owner, Nice SUV, Low Miles.
Was \$27,995 **NOW \$25,995**

2004 Honda CRV 4WD - White w/Gray Cloth, Loaded SUV, Like New, One Owner, Low Miles.
Was \$14,995 **NOW \$12,995**

★★★ **NISSANS** ★★★

2005 Nissan Altima 2.5S - White w/Gray Cloth, CD Player, All Power, Automatic, 35,000 Miles.
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2005 Nissan Altima 2.5S - Red w/Gray Cloth, All Power, One Owner, Like New, CD Player, Low Miles.
Was \$15,995 **NOW \$14,995**

2004 Nissan Maxima SL - Black w/Gray Leather, All Power, Skylight Roof, Local One Owner, Low Miles.
Was \$24,995 **NOW \$18,995**

2004 Nissan Xterra SE - Gold w/Gray Cloth, All Power, Loaded, Like New, One Owner, Low Miles.
Was \$16,995 **NOW \$15,995**

2004 Nissan Murano - White w/Tan Leather, Loaded, All Power, Very Nice, New Car Trade In.
Was \$20,995 **NOW \$19,995**

2004 Nissan Xterra SE 4X2 - Silver w/Gray Cloth, All Power, One Owner, Low Miles.
Was \$19,995 **NOW \$15,995**

★★★ **LINCOLNS AND MERCURYS** ★★★

2007 Lincoln Town Car Signature LTD - White Chocolate Tri-Coat, w/Tan Camel Leather, All Power, Power Moonroof, Audiophile AM/FM Cass/CD, Woodgrain, Only 14,000 Miles.
Was \$30,995 **NOW \$29,995**

2007 Lincoln Town Car Signature LTD - Lt. French Silk w/Tan Camel Leather, All Power, Power Moonroof, Audiophile, AM/FM/CD, Woodgrain, Only 12,000 Miles.
Was \$30,995 **NOW \$29,995**

2007 Lincoln MKZ - Black Clearcoat w/Dk. Charcoal Leather, Wood Trim Accent, Moonroof, All Power, Heated And Cooled Seats, Only 10,000 Miles.
Was \$28,995 **NOW \$27,995**

2006 Lincoln Town Car Signature - Gray w/Gray Leather, All Power, Nice Car, Wood Trim Accent, Heated Seats, One Owner, Low Miles.
Was \$24,995 **NOW \$23,995**

2004 Mercury Grand Marquis LS - Lt. Tan w/Tan Leather, One Owner, All Power, Wood Trim, Low Miles.
Was \$15,995 **NOW \$13,995**

2004 Lincoln Town Car Ultimate - White Cashmere w/Lt. Tan Leather, Very Nice Car, All Power, One Owner, New Car Trade-In. Only 32,000 Miles.
Was \$20,995 **NOW \$19,995**

2001 Lincoln Navigator 4X4 - White w/Gray Leather, Moonroof, GPS, All Power, Great SUV, Must Sell.
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★★★ **FORDS** ★★★

2007 Ford Mustang V6 Deluxe - Black w/Dark Charcoal Cloth, 5-Speed, Auto Transmission, AM/FM, CD Player, Audio Input Jack, 4-Wheel Disc Brakes, Only 17,421 Miles.
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2007 Ford Focus ZX4 SE - Cloud 9 White/Cloth, All Power, CD/MP3, Remote Keyless.
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2007 Ford Focus SE - Gray w/Gray Cloth, One Owner, All Power, Nice Car, Only 19,000 Miles.
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2006 Ford Fusion S - Oxford White, Stone Cloth, All Power, 2-3-4 Cyl., 12,000 Miles.
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2006 Ford Taurus SE - Tungsten Metallic w/Cloth, All Power, Locally Owned w/32,000 Miles.
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2004 Ford Taurus LX - Tan w/Tan Cloth, All Power, Nice Clean Car, Local Owner.
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2004 Ford Focus SE - Green w/Tan Cloth, Loaded, One Owner, Like New, Low Miles.
Was \$10,995 **NOW \$9,995**

2003 Ford Escort ZX2 - Black w/Cloth, Automatic, All Power, Great Gas Car.
Was \$9,995 **NOW \$7,995**

2003 Ford Taurus Wagon SE - Tan w/Tan Cloth, One Owner, A MUST SEE, Very Nice, All Power, 53,000 Miles.
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2007 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - Black w/Gray Cloth, All Power, Like New, Bedliner, 20,000 Miles.
Was \$24,995 **NOW \$23,995**

2007 Ford F150 4X2 Supercrew XLT - Bright Red w/Flint Cloth, Privacy Glass, CD Player, Like New, Low Miles.
Was \$24,995 **NOW \$23,995**

2007 Ford F150 4X2 Supercrew XLT 5.4L V8 - Gold w/Tan Cloth, Privacy Glass, CD Player, Bedliner, Very Nice, Only 18,000 Miles.
Was \$24,995 **NOW \$23,995**

2007 Ford Ranger XLT - Red w/Cloth Seats, All Power, Automatic, One Owner, Only 17,000 Miles.
Was \$18,995 **NOW \$17,995**

2006 Ford F250 Crew Cab King Ranch FX4 6.0 Diesel - White w/King Ranch Leather, Heated Seats, All Power, One Owner, Nice Truck, Low Miles.
Was \$32,995 **NOW \$31,995**

2006 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT 4X2 5.4L V8 - Dk Red w/Tan Cloth, One Owner, New Car Trade In, CD Player, Only 18,000 Miles.
Was \$24,995 **NOW \$23,995**

2006 Ford F250 SD 4X2 6.0L Diesel Lariat - Black w/Gray Leather, One Owner, New Truck Trade In, Nice Truck.
Was \$29,995 **NOW \$28,995**

★★★ **FORDS** ★★★

2005 F250 SD Crewcab Diesel FX4 King Ranch - Dk. Red w/King Ranch Leather, Loaded, Like New, New Truck Trade In, One Owner.
Was \$31,995 **NOW \$30,995**

2005 Ford F-150 Supercab XL 4X4 - White, V-8, Air, Automatic, Local One Owner w/60,000 Miles.
Was \$20,995 **NOW \$16,995**

2005 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - Gray w/Cloth, Local One Owner.
MSRP \$18,995 **NOW \$14,995**

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2008 Ford Escape XLT - Tungsten w/Gray Cloth, Privacy Glass, Power Seat, Fog Lamps, 3.0L V6, Only 13,000 Miles.
Was \$20,995 **NOW \$19,995**

2007 Ford F350 15 Pass. XLT 5.4 - White w/Gray Cloth, Remote Keyless, Panic Alarm, Only 20,000 Miles.
Was \$24,995 **NOW \$22,995**

2005 Ford Expedition XLT 4X4 - Silver w/Gray Leather, All Power, One Owner, Nice, Low Miles.
Was \$21,995 **NOW 20,995**

2005 Ford Explorer Sport Trac XLT - Red w/Gray Cloth, CD Player, One Owner, Nice Unit, Low Miles.
Was \$18,995 **NOW \$17,995**

2005 Ford Explorer XLT - White w/Gray Leather, Nice SUV, Loaded, All Power, Low Miles.
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2004 Ford Explorer Sport Trac XLT - Green w/Tan Cloth, All Power, One Owner, CD Player, Nice SUV.
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★★★ **CHEVROLETS** ★★★

2002 Chevrolet Cavalier - Blue w/Gray Cloth, Like New, One Owner, Only 38,000 Miles.
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2006 Chevrolet C1500 Silverado LT - White w/Gray Cloth, Nice Truck, All Power, Local One Owner, CD Player, Power Seat, Low Miles.
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2006 Chevrolet Avalanche LT 4X2 - Black w/Tan Leather, Loaded, One Owner, All Power, OnStar, Only 34,000 Miles.
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2005 Chevrolet 1500 Silverado 4X4 - White w/Gray Leather, Crew Cab, CD Player, One Owner, All Power.
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►At a glance

Family of soldier killed in mortar shell explosion sues

HILO, Hawaii (AP) — The family of a soldier killed during a live fire exercise at the Pohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island has sued the manufacturer of a mortar shell that exploded prematurely.

The blast occurred March 10, 2006, in a mortar tube while Staff Sgt. Oscar Rodriguez supervised the firing of two 81mm mortars. Rodriguez, 27, of Beeville, was hit by shrapnel and died of blood loss and a collapsed lung.

The lawsuit filed by Rodriguez's wife, Stephanie Rodriguez of Missouri, said the blast also wounded three other soldiers, Samuel Oyola-Perez, Julius Riggins and Wilfredo Dayandant. They joined in the lawsuit filed Friday.

Stephanie Rodriguez claimed the shell manufactured by Martin Marietta Aluminum Sales Inc., now named Commonwealth Aluminum Sales Corp., was defective, failed to meet company and industry standards, and was not properly inspected.

Friends says couple called son to say they planned to end lives

DALLAS (AP) — Hours before police found a former public transit official and her political analyst husband dead of an apparent murder-suicide, the couple told their college-age son they planned to end their lives, a friend of the young man said.

Dallas police say Lynn Flint Shaw, the former chairwoman of the Dallas Area Rapid Transit Board, and political analyst and blogger Rufus Shaw Jr. called their son before their deaths Monday.

The couple's son, Ian Nicholas Shaw, attends Roanoke College in Salem, Va. and works as a student employee of the sports information office. The younger Shaw had been in the gym playing basketball when his parents called, his friend Brad Moore said.

"He picked it up and began to talk quietly like he normally does with his dad. He just sat down and dropped the basketball. He said, 'Oh my God,'" said Moore, who is the college's sports information director.

"From what he was saying, his dad was telling him, 'Just make sure you graduate' and 'We love you, we just don't want to go on, we just can't go on like this any more.' That is what he was saying," Moore said. "Then his mom got on the phone and said she loved him."

After the call, Moore said his friend returned to the dorm. There, Ian Shaw and several friends prayed with the campus chaplain and a local pastor.

The younger Shaw called his grandmother and aunt and asked them to check on his parents. He also checked his e-mail and found a message from his mother, according to Moore.

"The e-mail said, 'Here is the lawyer's number, here is the administrator's number, your auntie's number. Just tell them to take care of my baby. They will take care of you. I love you so much.'"

SALUTE

Continued from Page 6A

learned most of the basics of command-integrity, hard work and persistence growing up in Comanche County. The old Texas saying really is true; if you are from Texas, you may not always know where you are going, but you always know where you are from."

Lt. Col. Croft resides in Dallas with his wife, Lara.

Hollis McCright became the librarian here in March 2001. For six years, her husband Joe McCright continued on his job in Lubbock and one or the other commuted most weekends to spend time together. Then in March 2007, Joe retired from Atmos energy as an accountant and internet technology man — and anything else they needed him to do — and moved to Big Spring. The couple bought a house on Midway Road, and so experienced the blast

from the nearby Big Spring Refinery. Repairs will soon be started on the relatively minor damage done (minor considering the nearness to the blast), but refinery insurance will pay for professionals to make the repairs.

Joe has found himself involved in a new profession that he hopes is short-lived. Hollis is a quilter and sewer. Joe is outfitting a sewing room for her use and from the groans I hear from him, it appears to be growing into quite a project. In addition to her job and her participation in the Howard County Quilters, she is also a member of the Genealogical Society of the Big Spring (sic), and of the Heritage Museum. Since March 2001, she has been a member of the Big Spring (Tuesday) Rotary Club.

Joe chairs the property committee of First Christian Church and works weekly at Isaiah 58, which provides free food and clothing to people

who have need for them. In his boyhood, he spent summers on his uncle's farm near Vincent and Big Spring was their source for groceries and other necessities.

Material for this column was taken from an interview with Hollis McCright and an article published in September 2007 in the Comanche CHIEF, his hometown newspaper.

Do you have a story about your own family members in the military? For submissions or more information, e-mail Lane Bond (lane@bondwebs.com), call him (432-263-4033), or visit his web site (www.bondwebs.com). Please leave your phone number or include it in your e-mail or letter.

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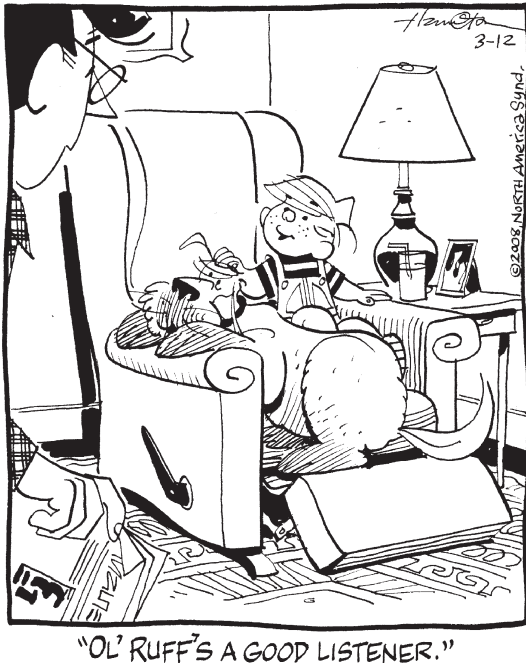
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WEDNESDAY

	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	SCIFI (64) Science Fic.
6:PM :30	News (CC) Entertainment	Jeopardy! Wheel-Fortune	Yo Amo a Juan	The Simpsons Two-Half Men	News Entertainment	12 Corazones	News Be a Millionaire	Raymond Raymond	Prophesy John Hagee	News-Lehrer	How It's Made How It's Made	"	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live (CC) Access	Han, Montana Zack & Cody	College Basketball:	College Basketball:	Ghost Hunters (CC)
7:PM :30	Wife Swap (CC)	Wife Swap (CC)	Al Diablo con Los Guapos	The Moment of Truth (CC)	Big Brother: Til Death	La Traicion	Deal or No Deal (CC)	Family Guy Family Guy	Update Israel Rico Cortes	To Be Announced	Futureweapons	Movie: The Matrix (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Movie: School Daze (CC)	Movie: The Thirteenth Year	NEC Final -- Teams TBA	Big East First Round	Ghost Hunters (CC)
8:PM :30	Supernanny (CC)	Supernanny (CC)	Pasion	American Idol (CC)	Criminal Minds (CC)	Victoria	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	House-Payne House-Payne	Light of the Southwest	"	MythBusters (CC)	"	UFC Unleashed	Movie: Rush Hour 2 (CC)	"	That's-Raven Life Derek	College Basketball:	College Basketball:	Ghost Hunters (CC)
9:PM :30	Men in Trees (CC)	Men in Trees (CC)	Don Francisco Presenta	TMZ (CC) Raymond	CSI: NY (CC)	Pecados Ajenos	Law & Order (CC)	House-Payne House-Payne	"	"	Smash Lab	"	Pros vs. Joes (CC)	"	College Hill College Hill	That's-Raven Life Derek	Big Sky Final Round -- Teams TBA	Big East First Round	Destination Truth (CC)
10:PM :30	News (CC) Nightline	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticiero Univ.	Two-Half Men Raymond	News Late Show-	Noticias Titulares y Mas	"	Raymond Raymond	Update Israel Dr. Young	Charlie Rose (CC)	MythBusters (CC)	Movie: Species	UFC Unleashed	Cold Case (CC)	Malcolm-Eddie Malcolm-Eddie	Zack & Cody Han, Montana	SportsCenter Gamenight	Teams TBA SportsCenter	Ghost Hunters (CC)
11:PM :30	The Insider Jimmy Kimmel	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	La Hora de la Risa	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Letterman Late Late	Decisiones	"	Sex and-City Sex and-City	CCM Ministries Charles Scott	Tavis Smiley Tavis Smiley	Futureweapons	"	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	Without a Trace (CC)	Jamie Foxx Jamie Foxx	Replacements Kim Possible	NASCAR Now ESPN Mag.	"	Destination Truth (CC)
12:AM :30	Live (CC) News (CC)	Extra (CC) Lighthouse	Nina Amada Mia	Reno 911! George Lopez	Show The Insider	Programa	"	Conan O'Brien News	Update Israel Dell Sanchez	Sign Off	MythBusters (CC)	Movie: Shattered	Star Trek: Voyager	Without a Trace (CC)	Comicview (CC)	Emperor New American Drgn	2007 World	Gamenight NBA Fastbreak	Twilight Zone Twilight Zone

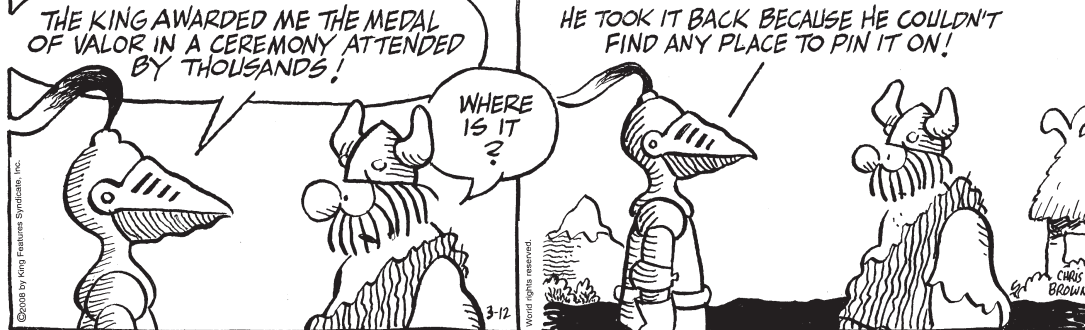
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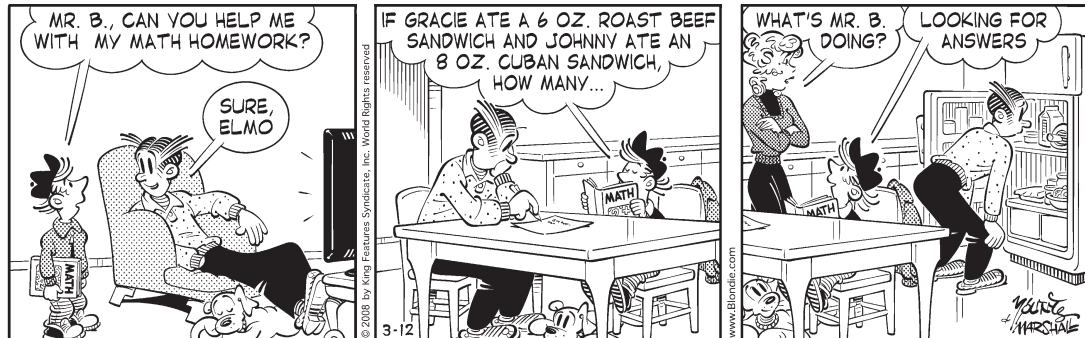
THE FAMILY CIRCUS



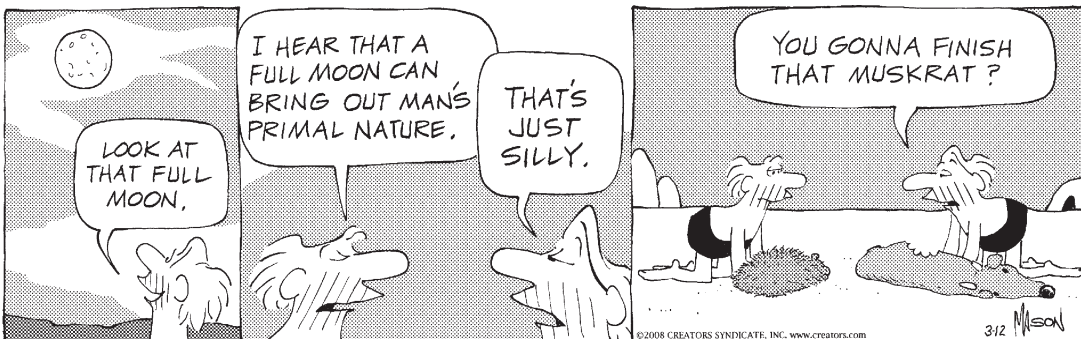
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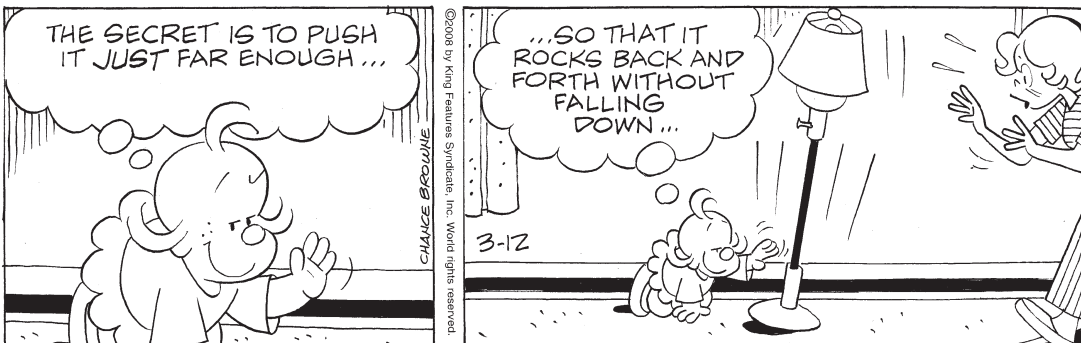
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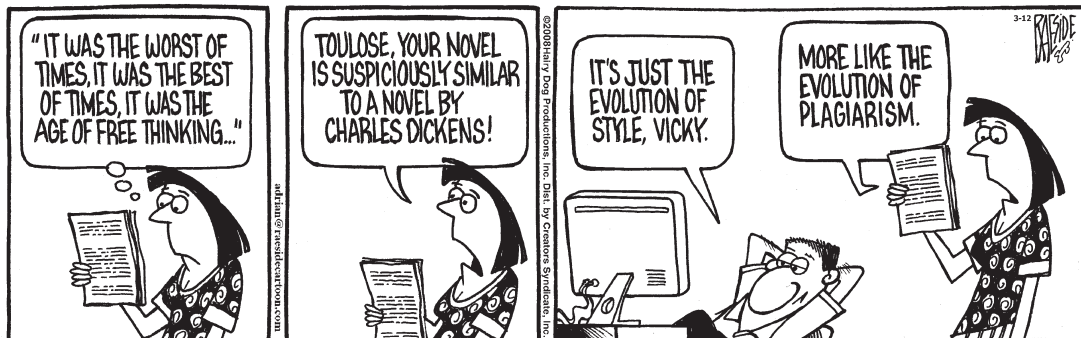
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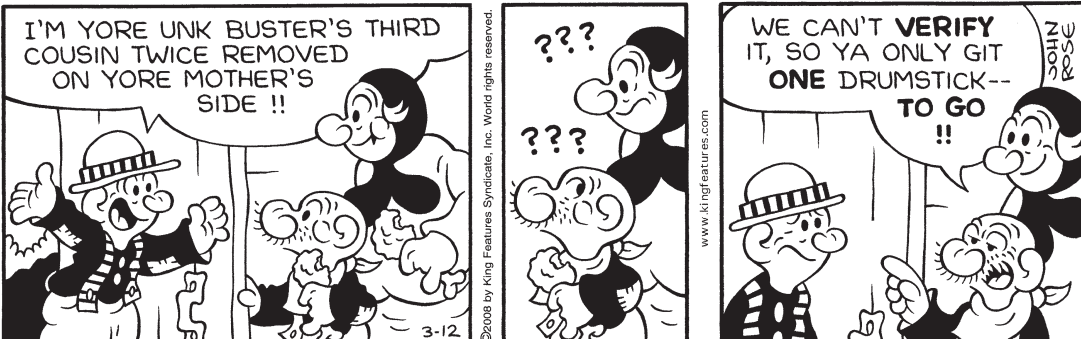
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This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, March 12, the 72nd day of 2008. There are 294 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 12, 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt delivered the first of his radio "fireside chats," telling Americans what was being done to deal with the nation's economic crisis.

On this date: In 1664, England's King Charles II granted an area of land in present-day North America known as New Netherland to his brother James, the Duke of York.

In 1857, the opera "Simon Boccanegra," by Giuseppe Verdi, premiered in Venice, Italy.

In 1864, Ulysses S. Grant became general-in-chief of the Union armies in the Civil War.

In 1912, Juliette Gordon Low founded the Girl

Guides, which later became the Girl Scouts of America.

In 1930, Indian political and spiritual leader Mohandas K. Gandhi began a 200-mile march to protest a British tax on salt.

In 1938, German troops entered Austria in what came to be known as the Anschluss.

In 1947, President Truman established what became known as the Truman Doctrine to help Greece and Turkey resist Communism.

In 1968, President Lyndon Johnson won the New Hampshire Democratic primary, but a strong second-place showing by anti-war Senator Eugene McCarthy of Minnesota played a role in Johnson's decision not to seek re-election.

In 1968, the British-ruled African island of Mauritius became an independent country within the Commonwealth of Nations.

In 1980, a Chicago jury found John Wayne Gacy Jr. guilty of the murders of 33 men and boys. (The next day, Gacy was sentenced to death; he was executed in May 1994.)

Today's Birthdays:

Playwright Edward Albee is 80. Former Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young is 76. Broadcast journalist Lloyd Dobyns is 72. Singer Al Jarreau is 68. Actress-singer Liza Minnelli is 62. Former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney is 61. Singer-songwriter James Taylor is 60. Rock singer-musician Bill Payne (Little Feat) is 59. Actor Jon Provost ("Lassie") is 58. Author Carl Hiaasen is 55. Rock musician Steve Harris (Iron Maiden) is 52. Actor Jerry Levine is 51. Singer Marlon Jackson (The Jackson Five) is 51. Actor Courtney B. Vance is 48.

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Answer to previous puzzle

SWAP	SLAB	SSTS
MILE	TACO	NOONE
ODOR	ATMS	ORGAN
GETUP	THE	COURAGE
	RUE	STY
BECAME	PFCS	WED
RAISE	ARIA	NAPA
ISTAND	CORRECTED	
DEEP	IRAS	RATED
EDS	ITEM	BRASSY
	ANT	FOO
THINK	YOUR	FEET
DODGE	EARN	AUTO
SNEER	CLAD	IRAN
EARIS	KEYS	ROLE

Newsday Crossword

RANGES by Frances Burton
Edited by Stanley Newman
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ACROSS

- 1 Computer junk mail
- 5 Heart and soul
- 9 Under-the-table payment
- 14 Cryptogram, e.g.
- 15 Racing circuit
- 16 Frequent Mastroianni costar
- 17 Sad cry
- 18 Philosopher Descartes
- 19 Linguist's concern
- 20 Like Horatio Alger stories
- 23 Victimize
- 24 President pro —
- 25 Enemy
- 28 Soda-fountain treat
- 31 Major mess
- 33 Doll's comment
- 37 Comprehensive
- 39 Gather together
- 41 — mode
- 42 Explosive liquid
- 43 Typical office hours
- 46 Overflow
- 47 Like parquet flooring
- 48 Annoying one
- 50 Modest
- 51 Cow comment
- 53 Sadness
- 58 Missile direction
- 61 First name in swashbuckling

- 64 Feathery plant
- 65 Hole in the ground
- 66 Major mess
- 67 Guitarist Clapton
- 68 Calls for
- 69 Spanish snacks
- 70 Flowing garment
- 71 Group of spies

- 7 Sari wearer
- 8 Vote into office
- 9 Very long time
- 10 Friends character
- 11 Nest-egg letters
- 12 Command to a canine
- 13 Pilot's hdg.
- 21 Male turkey
- 22 Hoist
- 25 Piccolo cousin
- 26 Off-the-wall
- 27 — salts (drugstore buy)
- 29 Do nothing
- 30 Dutch flower
- 32 Condo apartment
- 33 Frenzied
- 34 Acid in proteins

- 35 Macho
- 36 On a cruise
- 38 Cover with concrete
- 40 Incentive
- 44 Smell
- 45 Nitty-gritty
- 49 Young child
- 52 Propose
- 54 Cicero, for one
- 55 Poker term
- 56 Pig sounds
- 57 Seize violently
- 58 Part of a talk-show set
- 59 Prefix for dynamic
- 60 Baby bed
- 61 Pa. clock setting
- 62 Genetic strand
- 63 Seance sound

