

KIM L. BANGO, MD
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Mavs wrap up top spot in playoffs

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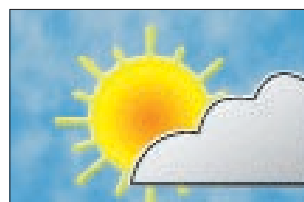
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BIG SPRING

HERALD

TUESDAY

APRIL 10, 2007



VOLUME 102, NUMBER 115

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Officials hope to reduce voter confusion

Election coordinator's office in midst of reorganizing precincts to align county and city lines

"This will not change any county commissioner precinct lines or any city council lines. No one will get a different representative as a result of this."

—Saundra Bloom, elections coordinator



By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

County election officials are in the middle of a process they hope will help streamline operations and reduce voter confusion.

Election Coordinator Saundra Bloom told Howard County commissioners during their meeting Monday that her office is in the midst of reorganizing voter precincts so that county precinct lines jibe with Big Spring city council boundaries.

When voter precinct boundaries were redrawn in 2001, the result was some overlap between city and county precincts, Bloom said. The two entities need be in line with See **PRECINCTS**, Page 3A

Judge looks to streamline judicial process

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Howard County officials will meet with an outside consultant to try to find ways to further streamline the judicial process and reduce prisoner backlog.

County Judge Mark Barr said the meeting, scheduled for 10 a.m. April 18 in the county courtroom, will involve county commissioners, representatives of the county and district attorney offices and district judge and sheriff's departments.



Barr

"I've been talking to Carl Griffith, of Carl Griffith and Associates. They've been helping Midland County with their overcrowding problem," Barr said. "They will evaluate the court system here and suggest ways to make it more effective. I'm not criticizing how anyone's doing their job. I just want to see if we can do it better."

Barr said Griffith, a former county judge and sheriff, comes very well recommended.

"The goal is to streamline our operations a little," Barr said.

"Maybe they can give us a few pointers on how to do our jobs better. I know I could use some help."



David Houston of Midland fills bags with kettle corn, a popular sweet and salty snack, during a previous Stanton Old Sorehead Trade Days. The event, which is held three times each year, will once again get under way April 14-15.

Trade Days promises lots of food, wares and smiles

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

STANTON — Who would think an old sorehead could be so much fun?

That's exactly what the people in Stanton are banking on, and what

started out as 97 vendors and minimal facilities back in the spring of 1993 has turned into a West Texas institution, as the people of Stanton gear up once again for the annual Old Sorehead Trade Days, set for Saturday and

Sunday.

More than 500 booths are expected to line the streets of Stanton during the two-day shop-a-rama, with the city's population of 2,500 expected to grow

See **STANTON**, Page 3A

SWCID students air complaints, little resolved

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Student services and the quality of cafeteria food were the major topics of conversations between protesting students and SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf officials during a two-hour meeting at the school Monday evening.

SWCID students first began protesting conditions at the school last week and have been airing their grievances over a variety of issues during that time.

While little was definitely decided, the meeting did give both sides an opportunity to air their opinions, said Dr. Cheryl Sparks, president of Howard College, which oversees SWCID operations.

"Basically, the meeting gave the students the opportunity to express their concerns — and we listened to those concerns," Sparks said.

At the top of the students' list is displeasure over Dean of Students Edward Tagge. The protesting students want Tagge fired, although college officials are not prepared to meet that demand yet.

Tagge, who is deaf, was named Dean of Students

"I believe the college and the students have the same goal in mind — to provide the best educational opportunity for these students we can. And we must find a way to work together for that to happen."



Dr. Sparks, HC president

at SWCID in November 2004. Prior to that, he was a counselor at the school.

"This is a personnel issue and it's something we can't address in public," Sparks said last week. "I understand that the students are asking questions, but it's also a situation where the employee has rights, also."

Students also want a deaf provost to head the school after Dr. Ron Brasel retires effective Aug. 31. While not addressing the students' demands, Sparks said col-

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BSHS one act play set for final performance

□ 'Rosencrantz' slated at 7 p.m. Thursday in the high school auditorium. Admission is \$2.

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

The Big Spring High School Drama Department will hold a final public performance of its One Act Play contest entry when it stages "Rosencrantz and

Guildestern Are Dead at 7 p.m. Thursday in the high school auditorium.

This will mark the final performance of the play, which advanced to the area round of University Interscholastic League competition.

Admission is \$2, BSHS Drama Instructor Tracie Lindsey said.

Only two schools — Denton Ryan and Canyon Randall — advanced out of the area competition, which was held

Saturday at Texas Tech University.

Lindsey said technical issues and a strange surrounding hurt her charges' efforts.

"I thought they did a really good job," she said. "We had some technical difficulties working with Tech's light-board ... which hurt us. And their stage was huge, which really hurt our timing, but they did a really good job, considering."

"It's just that there were six

really good plays there Saturday."

Cody Carnes and Jason Worthington were named to the all-star cast, while Nick Ross received honorable mention recognition.

For more information on Thursday's performance, contact the high school at 264-3641.

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

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Sports

BIG SPRING HERALD

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

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Tuesday, April 10, 2007

IN BRIEF

Lady Steers slate senior recognition

The annual "Meet the Lady Steers" event has been scheduled for Saturday at the Lady Steer Softball Complex when Big Spring takes on Lubbock Estacado.

Big Spring's 2007 softball seniors — Heather Witt, Amber Sides, Cortney Heinis, Brenna Phernetton, Bridgette Rodriguez, Desiree Yanez, Briana Valles and Monica Rocha — will be honored.

Lady Steers Booster Club officials invited the public to join them for food, fun, games and prizes. Festivities start at 11:30 a.m. and the game will begin at noon.

Lady Steers Boosters to meet Monday

There will be a public meeting of the Big Spring Lady Steers Booster Club at 6 p.m. Monday in the BSHS Athletic Training Center.

Club officials noted this will be an important meeting regarding nominations for 2007-2008 school year and the upcoming spring banquet slated for May 5.

If you or know someone who would like to hold an office, please be present or contact Carrie Fox 267-6428 or Leslie Whitten 816-6764.

KBSB schedules golf tournament

The Keep Big Spring Beautiful Golf Tournament has been scheduled for Saturday, April 21, at the Big Spring Country Club.

Play will get under way with 9 a.m. tee times.

Entry fees for the four-person scramble are \$60 per player.

Contact the Big Spring Country Club to sign up.

Immediately following play, prizes will be awarded to first-, second- and third-place teams, longest drive man and woman and closest to the pin man and woman.

Chances for new golf shoes will be available at the sign-up table or contact a member of Keep Big Spring Beautiful at 263.9332.

Hot dogs, chips and drink will be served. All proceeds go to Keep Big Spring Beautiful.

Howard to host Region V tourney

Howard College's Foundation Field will be site for the NJCAA Region V Softball Tournament to be held May 5-6.

The top four teams from the WJCAC will qualify for double elimination tournament play, with the winner advancing to the NJCAA National Tournament in Plant City, Fla., May 17-19.

Cancer scramble set for April 28-29

The 2007 Cancer Scramble has been scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, April 28-29, at the Big Spring Country Club.

Players can form their own teams for the 4-person scramble or be assigned to a team. The field will be flighted by first round scores.

Longhorns, NBA wait on Durant's decision

By JIM VERTUNO
AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN — His belly and his trophy case full, Kevin Durant has completed his banquet circuit to collect his numerous awards as the best player in college basketball.

Now the Texas Longhorns — and the NBA — await the freshman's decision whether to play another college season or turn professional.

Monday night's team banquet had been considered a potential announcement date, considering LaMarcus Aldridge used it last year to announce he was entering the draft.

Durant and his family did not talk to reporters after the banquet, but coach Rick Barnes said he expects Durant will make an announcement soon. "I think he'll make a quick decision," Barnes said, noting that Durant's family would remain in town

with him for another day or so.

Barnes said Durant has not yet told him what he'll do.

"He's made history. No one's done what he did this year. He swept every major award as a freshman. It's a year we may not ever see again by anybody. It's remarkable," Barnes said.

Durant still has plenty of time to think about his decision. Players have until April 29 to declare for the NBA draft, which takes place June 28 in New York.

"Right now, I don't even know," the 6-foot-9 swingman, a sure bet to be one of the first players picked should he decide to go pro, said Saturday in Los Angeles when he picked up the John R. Wooden Award.

"I'm just enjoying the moment, having fun," Durant said. "When the time comes, I'll make the right decision."

Durant has been dogged by

See DURANT, Page 2B

Mavs clinch top playoff spot

By JAIME ARON
AP Sports Writer

DALLAS — Prop up your feet, Dirk Nowitzki and Jerry Stackhouse. The Dallas Mavericks have clinched the NBA's best record with five games to go.

Nowitzki and Stackhouse were Dallas' leading scorers in a 96-86 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers on Monday night that sealed the top seed this postseason, then coach Avery Johnson announced right away that they wouldn't be joining the club on a road trip to Minnesota.

"I told them if I see them on the plane, I'll fine them," Johnson said.

It makes sense. With home-court guaranteed in every round of the playoffs, one less round-trip flight and one less game is far more important in the Mavericks' big-picture goal of getting back to the NBA finals and this time winning the title they let slip away last summer.

"We didn't come into the season trying to be No. 1 (seeded), we came into the season trying to finish the year with a win," Johnson said. "If we continue to pay attention to details, and don't skip a step, and don't make too much of ourselves, we have a chance of really kicking it into another gear. There's still another level for us to go."

Nowitzki scored 12 of his 26 points in a row during the third quarter, and Stackhouse scored 18 off the bench in what might've been a preview of a first-round playoff series.

Well, sort of. The Clippers, who fell to 37-39, were without Sam Cassell and Tim Thomas, both of whom likely will be back if the team makes the playoffs.

"We tried everythingg



MCT photo/Jeffery Washington/Fort Worth Star-Telegram
Dirk Nowitzki of the Dallas Mavericks drives against Elton Brand of the Los Angeles Clippers in the Mavericks' 96-86 win at the American Airlines Center in Dallas Monday.

we could do and we did it well some of the time, but we didn't do it enough," coach Mike Dunleavy said.

"Defensively, I thought in the first half we did a great job on Nowitzki, but in the second half we didn't do as good. ... We didn't get good enough help on him at times."

In other games, it was: Denver 115, the Los Angeles Lakers 111; Golden State 126, Utah 102; Houston 95, Seattle 90; San Antonio 112, Portland 96; Toronto 111,

Minnesota 100; Orlando 117, Milwaukee 94; and Detroit 91, New York 83.

In their first opportunity to wrap up the top spot, the Mavericks never trailed by more than a basket. They started pulling away in the final minutes of the first half, going up by seven at the break, then scored the first six points of the third quarter. Nowitzki's flurry followed, keeping Dallas comfortably ahead.

The Clippers got within nine points with about 2 minutes left. The shot

clock nearly ran out on Dallas' next possession, but Josh Howard stepped back and nailed a 3-pointer with 1:41 left and the Mavericks pulled away for their franchise-record-extending 64th victory — and the first No. 1 seed in club history.

"It's good we got that taken care of," said Howard, who scored 16 points.

Devin Harris scored 14 and Devean George had 11 for Dallas. The bad news for the Mavs was that center Erick

Dampier left in the opening minutes with a sprained right shoulder. Johnson said Dampier was scheduled to have an MRI Tuesday, but was still expected to make the trip to Minnesota.

Corey Maggette led Los Angeles with 24 points and Elton Brand scored 20. Jason Hart had 14 points and eight assists.

The Mavericks won the season series against the Clippers 2-1, with Los Angeles' win coming on

See NBA, Page 2B

Rangers prove versatile in 8-4 win over Rays

By STEPHEN HAWKINS
AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON — While the Texas Rangers have long been known for their slugging ways, rookie manager Ron Washington has stressed having a versatile offense with clutch hitting.

His team is starting to get the message. "We knew all the while that we were capable of doing the things that we are starting to do," Washington said. "It's starting to come together."

Ian Kinsler went 4-for-4 and drove home the tiebreaking run in the big inning for the Rangers in their 8-4 victory over the Tampa Bay Devil Rays on Monday night.

Kinsler's RBI single in the sixth put the Rangers ahead 3-2 and started a six-run outburst with two outs. He was the first of six straight batters that reached against two Tampa Bay relievers who didn't record an out.

"You've got to get your two-out

hits if you want to be a winning club. Everybody in this room knows it," said Kinsler, whose first career four-hit game included a two-out RBI double in the fourth that tied the game. "It's something we definitely needed."

Edwin Jackson (0-1), the No. 5 starter for Tampa Bay making his season debut, gave up four runs and eight hits, the last two hits coming after the right-hander got Mark Teixeira and Sammy Sosa out to start the sixth.

Reliever Shawn Camp then allowed Kinsler's third hit and an RBI single to Chris Stewart, who got his first major league hit and RBI. Ruddy Lugo took over and didn't retire any of the four batters he faced, giving up a two-run single to Frank Catalanotto and a two-run double to Michael Young.

"I just need to keep talking to these guys, keep them in the right frame of mind and keep

See RANGERS, Page 2B



MCT photo/Brian Lawdermilk/Fort Worth Star-Telegram
Tampa Bay's B.J. Upton misses a throw, allowing the Texas Rangers' Hank Bialock (9) to slide safely into second base Monday night. The Rangers defeated the Devil Rays, 8-4, at the Rangers Ballpark in Arlington.

Obituaries

Teofilo 'Telly' Montanez



Teofilo "Telly" Montanez, 84, of Big Spring, died on Sunday, April 8, 2007, in a Lubbock hospital. Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 11, 2007, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, April 12, 2007, at the St. Thomas Catholic Church with Father James Plagens, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

He was born April 28, 1922, in Shafter and married Maria Inez Salgado in August of 1946 in Big Spring. She preceded him in death Jan. 16, 1990.

Mr. Montanez was a lifetime resident of Big Spring where he had worked at Medical Arts Clinic for 30 years and then for Fiberglass Systems for eight years, retiring in 1988. He had also worked as a TV repairman throughout his life and that is how he got his nickname, "Telly."

He was a member of St. Thomas Catholic Church and had served in the United States Army Corps during World War II.

Survivors include three daughters, Rosie Montanez of Dallas, Julia Hartman and husband Doug of Big Spring and Manuela Camarillo and husband Cele of Altus, Okla.; four sons, Benjamin Montanez and wife Virginia of Taylor, Carlos Montanez of Big Spring, Ismael Montanez of Dallas and David Montanez and wife Alma of Altus, Okla.; four sisters, Mercy Yanez of Big Spring, Eva Morua of Oxnard, Calif., Lucy Garcia of Camarillo, Calif. and Shelia Vasquez of Oceanside, Calif.; 17 grandchildren and 25 great grandchildren.

He was also preceded in death by three sons, Gilbert, Rolando and Martin Montanez; one daughter, Theresa Bihl; two sisters, Manuela Bustillos and Aurora Morua; one brother, Ray Montanez; and a great-grandson.

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

Beatrice Geraldine Roberson

Beatrice Geraldine Roberson, 84, of Big Spring died Friday, April 6, 2007, in a local nursing home. Funeral services were at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Lucas Funeral Home in Hurst. Burial was at Bluebonnet Hills Memorial Park in Colleyville.

She was born May 30, 1922. She graduated from Woodville High School in 1940, and then she moved to Wichita, Kan., where she worked for Boeing Aircraft. She later moved to Fort Worth and worked at GD-Lockheed, where she met her husband, Everett. They married in 1945 and lived most of their lives in Fort Worth.

She is survived by her son, Bubba Roberson and his wife Joan of Woodstock, Ga.; four grandchildren; one sister, Jackie Kirschner of Fort Worth; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by sons James Dennis Roberson, who died as an infant; and E.C. Roberson.

Naomia Ann 'Tiny' Rushing

Naomia Ann "Tiny" Rushing, 66, of Big Spring, died Monday, April 9, 2007, at a local hospital. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Hazel Baker

Hazel Baker, 63, died Tuesday, April 10, 2007, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

James R. 'Randy' Grant

James R. "Randy" Grant, 64, of Big Spring died Monday, April 9, 2007, at Midland Memorial Hospital. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Support Groups

TUESDAY

• The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) support group meets from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main. Anyone who has a mental illness or has a friend or family with mental illness is invited to participate. Call Felicia Talley at 268-3835 for more information.

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

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

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.

• Dual Recovery Anonymous (DRA), 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Howard County Library Basement Community Room. DRA is a 12-step meeting for those who have a desire to stop drinking and/or using drugs and also have a mental or emotional illness.

All meetings are non-smoking and coffee is not available but members can bring their own coffee or non-alcoholic beverage. For more information, call Deidra F. at (432) 816-3033. Leave a message if you get voice mail.

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Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 8 a.m. Monday and 8 a.m. today:

- **ASSAULT/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 400 block of Lancaster.
- **ASSAULT** was reported in the 1900 block of N. Highway 87.
- **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported in the 1800 block of FM 700.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 1400 block of Wood.
- **TERESA CHRISTON**, 44, 1316 Sycamore, was arrested on two local warrants and three capias pro fine warrants.

Sheriff's report

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity between 8 a.m. Monday and 8 a.m. today:

- **ERNESTO RODRIQUEZ**, 31, was arrested by DPS troopers on a motion to revoke probation for driving while intoxicated/second offense and a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **JASON HUBER MERWORTH**, 28, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **JUANITA MARIA MARES**, 19, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of theft.
- **AKACIA RODRIQUEZ**, 18, was arrested on charges of no driver's license and no insurance.
- **JACOB S. MARTINEZ**, 19, was arrested on a charge of allowing an unlicensed driver to operate a motor vehicle.
- **RICAHRD ANTHONY LOPEZ**, 20, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of theft.
- **RUBEN CISNEROS**, 31, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on charges of failure to appear and driving while license invalid and a bondsman off bond warrant for driving while license invalid.
- **BRANDY LEE HUBBARD**, 18, was arrested on a charge of possession of marijuana.
- **MITCHELL RAY COVINGTON**, 43, was arrested on a charge of possession/delivery of drug paraphernalia.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service reported the following activity between 8 a.m. Monday and 8 a.m. today:

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of Highway 87. One person was transported to VAMC.
- **PUBLIC SERVICE** was reported in the 1000 block of N. Main. Service was refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 300 block of W. Third. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported south of Big Spring on Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 100 block of Colorado. Service was refused.

Take Note

• **CROSS STITCHERS ARE NEEDED** to stitch a square for the annual Howard County Fair quilt. The quilt theme this year is "Animals of Texas." Stitchers may pick up a pattern kit, containing everything they will need to finish the square, from the Posey Cotton Office, 601 Scurry. Squares need to be completed within the next several weeks to allow time to piece the quilt together and get it quilted. Funds raised through tickets sold on the quilt go to pay the expenses associated with the Howard County Fair. The fair will be Sept. 26-29.

• **A MEDICAL EXPENSE FUND** has been set up at State National Bank for Phyllis Jones, who will undergo a bone marrow transplant in Dallas on April 8. Phyllis has worked at Elrod's for the past three years. Her husband, Jerry, works at Higginbotham-Bartlett. Your prayers and financial support are appreciated by the family.

• **ALL CREATURES SANCTUARY AND RESCUE** has an account set up with Big Spring Salvage at 3608 N. Highway 87 for all types of metals and aluminum cans. See John Kimberly, manager or Cruz Rodriguez, metal specialist, to make your donations. Please tell them that your donations are for All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue. The sanctuary is also still taking weight circles off of all Purina Brand Dog Foods. Send your Purina Weight Circles to A.C.S. & R. at P.O. Box 871, Coahoma 79511. All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue has an account also set up with Howard County Feed and Supply at 701 E. Second St. For donations of coastal or grass hay for a rescue horse.

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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

• The Powwow Committee of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church annex, 809 Scurry, or the fellowship hall at 810 Scurry. Call Robert Downing at 263-3255 for information.

WEDNESDAY

- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Senior Circle meets at 10:30 a.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.
- Senior Circle meets at 11 a.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center classroom for Stretch and Tone. Call 268-4721.
- Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.
- 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.
- 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 or Doyle and Virginia McClain at 263-8407.
- Neighbors and Newcomers Club meets. New members are welcome. Call 263-2005 for more information.
- Staked Plains Lodge No. 598 meets at 6:30 p.m. at 221 Main. Meal served. Meeting at 7 p.m.

FRIDAY

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

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 9-10-18-19-32
Number matching five of five: none.
Next Cash 5 drawing: Tuesday night.

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 3-5-6-7. Bonus Ball: 7
Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: none.
Estimated jackpot for Thursday night drawing: \$375,000.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 7-9-5

Weather

Tonight...Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 50s. Northwest winds 15 to 20 mph shifting to the north 10 to 15 mph after midnight.

Wednesday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 70s. East winds 10 to 15 mph.

Wednesday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 50s. Southeast winds 10 to 20 mph.

Thursday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 80s. South winds 15 to 20 mph.

Thursday night...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 50s.

Friday...Sunny...Windy. Not as warm. Highs in the mid 70s.

Friday night...Partly cloudy. Windy...Colder. Lows in the upper 30s.

Saturday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 60s.

Saturday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 30s.

Sunday...Sunny. Highs in the mid 70s.

Sunday night...Mostly clear. Not as cool. Lows in the upper 40s.

Monday...Sunny. Highs in the upper 70s.

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

Published afternoons Mon. thru Fri. and Sunday mornings, except Christmas Day. All materials copyrighted.

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

USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6811
BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: \$8.65 monthly; \$93.42 yearly (includes 10% discount). MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$12.50 monthly Howard & Martin Counties; \$13.25 elsewhere.

NBA

Continued from Page 1B

Nov. 8, during Dallas' 0-4 start to the season.

A 12-game winning streak followed, and the Mavs have been atop the league pretty much ever since, setting various NBA and franchise records along the way. They could still tie the second-most wins in league history, but would have to go 5-0 the rest of the way in games that are now otherwise meaningless.

Nowitzki and Stackhouse will play again Friday night at home against Utah. Other regulars will get that game off, Johnson said.

Dallas finishes with five games in eight days. The last two are back-to-back on the West Coast and

there's no telling what kind of lineup the Mavericks will have in those games.

Howard and Stackhouse returned after sitting out the previous game, Howard because of a sprained ankle and Stackhouse merely for rest. His legs sure looked fresh went he flew to the rim and shoveled in a lob pass with one hand while being fouled from behind.

Nuggets 115, Lakers 111

Carmelo Anthony scored 33 points, including three free throws in the final 9 seconds to help host Denver get its season-high sixth straight win.

Kobe Bryant scored 23 points, nine below his league-leading average, and missed 21 of his 30 shots, including a 3-point-

er that would have tied it with 2.7 seconds left.

Marcus Camby cradled the rebound and drew the foul. He made one free throw and Anthony swiped the long inbounds to seal Denver's win. Allen Iverson added 24 points for the Nuggets, who moved 1 1/2 games ahead of the Lakers for sixth place in the conference.

Warriors 126, Jazz 102

Stephen Jackson scored 28 points, Baron Davis had 19 and long-suffering Golden State climbed into the playoff picture with a victory.

Monta Ellis and Matt Barnes scored 16 points apiece for the Warriors (38-40), whose eighth victory in nine home games put them in eighth place in the Western

Conference by a winning percentage of .0004 over the Los Angeles Clippers (37-39).

Rockets 95, SuperSonics 90

Tracy McGrady and Yao Ming combined for 58 points, and visiting Houston ignored any distraction from the absence of teammate Bonzi Wells.

McGrady scored 21 of his 27 points in the first half, and Yao had 15 of his 31 in the third quarter. Yao finished 11-for-11 at the free-throw line, and grabbed seven rebounds.

Houston didn't show any affects from the unknown absence of backup guard Bonzi Wells, who didn't join the team for its morning walkthrough and wasn't at the arena Monday night. Before the game, coach Jeff Van Gundy

said he hadn't talked to Wells and his concern was that Wells was OK.

Spurs 112, Trail Blazers 96

Tony Parker scored 30 points to help host San Antonio beat Portland.

The Spurs trail idle Phoenix by two games for the second seed in the Western Conference playoffs. Each team has five games remaining.

Jarrett Jack and Jamaal Magloire each scored 19 points to lead the Trail Blazers, who shot 51 percent from the field.

Magic 117, Bucks 94

At Milwaukee, Hedo Turkoglu scored 25 points to help Orlando match its best shooting performance of the season.

It was the second straight victory for the

Magic, who are trying to hold onto the eighth and final playoff spot in the East.

Orlando shot 62.5 percent from the field, the best shooting performance allowed by Milwaukee all season. Orlando also shot 62.5 percent in a Feb. 2 victory over New Jersey.

Pistons 91, Knicks 83

Chauncey Billups scored 22 points, and visiting Detroit moved to the verge of clinching the top seed in the East.

Richard Hamilton added 19 points, including a pair of baskets in a late spurt that let the lethargic Pistons pull out the win and lower their magic number to one for clinching the home-court advantage throughout the East playoffs.

RANGERS

Continued from Page 1B

throwing them out there," Tampa Bay manager Joe Maddon said of his relievers. "That's who we've got, that's who we'll work with."

Gary Glover finally got the Devil Rays out of the jam, needing only one pitch to get Sosa to fly out to short center field.

Brandon McCarthy (1-1) allowed two runs and five hits over six innings in his first home start for Texas since being traded from the White Sox this winter for top pitching prospect John Danks, who made Chicago's starting rotation this spring. McCarthy struck out five and walked two.

When McCarthy threw his last pitch, the game was tied. It was 8-2 before Kameron Loe threw his first pitch in relief.

"Usually you do a lot of hoping and it usually never happens. But that time it did, the bats were just waiting to explode," McCarthy said.

"He was great," Young said of McCarthy. "Early in the game, we weren't really getting much going. Mac kept throwing zeros. That allowed us to keep being patient to keep waiting for our big inning to kick in. Fortunately it happened."

The Rangers had just eight two-out hits in their first six games. They had eight against the Devil Rays, six of them coming in the sixth inning.

Nelson Cruz reached base four times with three singles and a walk for the Rangers, who set a season high with 15 hits.

Carl Crawford homered for Tampa Bay, a two-run drive in the seventh for his second of the year.

Tampa Bay rookies Delmon Young and Akinori Iwamura have hit in all six games, and helped lead 2-0 in the opener of a seven-game trip to Texas and Minnesota — places where the Devil Rays didn't win any games last season.

Ty Wigginton led off Tampa Bay's second with a single on a high pop to right that Cruz let drop in front of him. Young then doubled off the left-field wall before a two-run

single by Iwamura, whose only RBI the first five games came on a solo homer.

The Rangers got even in the fourth when Michael Young had a leadoff single and stole second base. Hank Blalock had a two-out single for his first RBI this season and scored on

the double by Kinsler, a shot down the line that third baseman Iwamura got a glove on but couldn't handle.

Notes: Crawford scored his 401st career run, passing Aubrey Huff as Tampa Bay's career leader. ... A throwing error by Stewart on

Iwamura's stolen base in the second was the first error by Texas in 35 innings — almost four full games. The Rangers had five errors in their first two games. ... Stewart was the last player on Texas' 25-man roster to get into a game this season.

DURANT

Continued from Page 1B

questions about his future since before he played even his first college game. Although an NBA rule change forced top high school players to spend at least a year on campus, Durant says he always planned to go to school. He's still only 18.

"Being in college has helped me out a lot," Durant said Saturday. "I was always going to come to college. We don't look at ourselves as freshmen — we look at ourselves as basketball players."

Despite the constant questions, Durant has not hinted which way he's leaning. And on the court, he turned in one of the most brilliant freshman

seasons in history.

He averaged 25.8 points and 11.1 rebounds — one of three players in the country to average more than 20 points and 10 rebounds. He led Texas, which started four freshmen, to a third-place finish in the Big 12 and to the second round of the NCAA tournament, where the Longhorns lost to Southern California.

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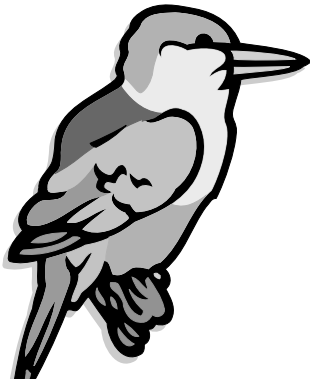
TAR



I'M AFRAID TO FLY

Lot's of people say this, but this story is not about a person. It is about a little bird who lived a very long time ago.

He was a chick-a-dee. His name was Charley. Charley Chick-a-dee. Have you ever seen a chick-a-dee? I'll bet you have. After you wake up tomorrow morning, look in your encyclopedia, or dictionary, and see if you can find a picture of a chick-a-dee. Then, try to remember if you have ever seen one. Look up in the trees around where you live. Look in the bushes. Try to find a chick-a-dee. Promise me you will try!



Back to the story.

Charley was afraid to fly. He was afraid of high places. He was afraid that he would fall and hurt himself. But this never happens to birds, does it? Charley didn't know that. But, he would soon find out.

When Charley was just a little chick-a-dee, and his chick-a-dee mother would go shopping, she would ask him to go along. But Charley would never go. Chick-a-dee Mom would always fly to the mall. Are you laughing because I said that the Chick-a-dee Mom went to the mall? You didn't know that birds have shopping malls just like we do, did you? They do in bedtime stories! And this mall

always had big, fat, juicy worms for sale. Both Charley and his mom, and his whole family just loved juicy worms for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. But Charley was afraid to fly. He would tell his mom that he would walk, instead. Now, it takes a little bird a very long time to walk anywhere. By the time he would get to the mall, all the good worms would already be gone.

By the time he walked anywhere, especially to play with his friends, it would be too late and he would have to turn right



around and start walking back home, and was always late for dinner. He never got to play with his friends at all. And all of the good worms would already be gone. Poor little Charley Chick-a-dee.

He felt so sorry for himself. He was ashamed to tell any of his friends that he was afraid to fly. He would watch them flying high in the sky, and doing backflips, and nose-diving, and curl-e-cues, and loop-de-loops, and wish he could do that, too. Tears soon filled his eyes. Seeing a little bird cry is heartbreaking. Have you ever seen a little bird cry? They really never do,

except in this story. Birds are always so happy. We'll make Charley happy, too!

His eyes were full of tears and he couldn't see the storm coming. It was a terrible storm. It had lots of rain. And wind! All of the other little birds had seen the storm coming and had taken shelter from the winds. But not Charley! The strong winds came and blew Charley away. Higher and higher. He was very high now and could barely see his home near the ground. What could he do? He didn't want to fall. He had to fly! He did fly! And the more he flew, the more he loved it. As he landed so softly on the ground, he wondered why he had always been so afraid. After all, this is what birds are supposed to do.

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From then on, little Charley Chick-a-dee was always the first one to wake up and fly each morning. The first thing he would do is go to the mall where all of the big, fat, juicy worms were for sale and pick out the very best one. Have you ever heard the old saying, "The early bird gets the worm?" That's because of Charley!

His little bird belly is full. He is tired from all the flying he did today and he is sleepy. He is about to tell all of us, "Good Night!"



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BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

Mercury enters Aries, and our words ring loud and proud.

Like the old song lyric "we're free to be, you and me," strong statements potentially polarize opinions into two different camps. It feels good to talk, though.

Nothing's finer than the freedom to express, which some nations consider a right, and others still consider a privilege.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You may be elected to clean up a mess. The cards you've had up your sleeve may need a little tweaking, but the powers that be love your chutzpah. Outline your ideas first.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your self-concept is a delicate web, woven by your curiosities and your take on your life experience. Friends comple-



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ment and contribute to this dream catcher. Their belief in you carries you higher.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It's hard to reconcile one choice with another when it feels like your hand is forced. This afternoon, one good idea changes everything, including your strategy for dealing in the future.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). When you're presented with a work dilemma, your imagination sets the limit. Like the little engine that could, you can change "I don't think I can" to "I think I can."

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Giving your time or ideas away without a long-term return is crazy thinking. Shift your focus from appeasing the masses to earning money while you sleep. It may not happen overnight, but it will happen.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Any dissatisfaction you feel in your love life dissipates when you realize it's not about them, it's about you. You set the mood and tone of your relationship. Examine an old truth. You have nothing to lose.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). What you're tempted to keep to yourself will gladly act or speak out for you. Know what's in your

mind. Observe yourself. You can view your own thinking as clearly as if it were coming through a high-definition screen.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). What's functional isn't always practical, and vice versa, but the impossibility of making an idea work challenges you on multiple levels. Grab what's in front of you and make a go of it. As you progress, momentum builds.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). When you give up one thing you gain another — such as life, but at least you're never bored. Don't rush forward too quickly. A love affair could be the real deal if you let it breathe.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your ambitions are like family to you, and you coddle and feed them like an attentive mother hen. One ambitious chick yelps loudly, and one flies the coop. Keep clucking. You're doing fine.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You rarely get overemotional and moody, but today is a rare occasion. You're accepted this way, too. Emotions are a cleansing gift — part of what makes you human and loveable.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You can rationalize a

position a million times over and still wind up at the beginning. But the beginning is a good place to be, especially regarding a moneymaking idea. Partner with someone more experienced.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm a Cancer dating an Aquarius. I looked up the astrology, and everywhere I look seems to agree that Cancer and Aquarius is NOT a good match. I've been dating mine for more than six months now, and though I can see the differences, we get along very well. Have I maybe not seen all I have to see yet?"

This is a common question, so thanks for asking! Your sun sign compatibility is only one small dot in a huge body of astrological information. Human beings are far more complex than just one planetary body — remember there are nine others to choose from. Your Venus could be softly kissing your sweetie's sun, or his Mars could be heating up your sun, vroom! But for a moment, ponder the sun's POV on the relationship. Your sun in Cancer makes you extremely sensitive, romantic and ultra-responsive to your partner on an emotional level.

Your partner's Aquarius sun likes to shake things up a bit, but can be as security conscious as you, and approaches your relationship on a rational level. Differences make love juicy. Understand the differences in your personal styles, honor them, and you have the recipe for a great future together.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Joss Stone's voice sounds like honey, smooth and sweet. But it's her deep, powerful vocal range that's defined her soulful R&B style. Her Mercury is in graceful, strong Taurus, a sign noted for its great singers. She also gets jazzed about working with other artists thanks to Jupiter in Gemini. Expect this versatile lady to bring even more musical collaborations into her future work.

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

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Annie's Mailbox : Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: A few days ago, I received an anonymous letter from a woman who stated she was having an affair with my husband. She wanted me to know, because she felt if I knew he didn't love me anymore, I would leave him. She further stated not to ask him or his co-workers about the affair, as they would all deny everything.

I have been with my husband over 15 years, and he has never done anything to make me question his faithfulness. He claims he's never had any interest in anyone else and has never cheated on me. When he is not at work, I can account for his every minute. But my husband is not tied to a desk at his job, nor consistently supervised, and this woman says she sees him during the day.

My husband says someone is just being mean and spiteful, and as much as I want to believe that, there is a part of me that keeps wondering if I'm living a lie. — Dazed & Confused

Dear Dazed: An anonymous letter? Don't verify it with co-workers? This sounds like a classic crank letter to us. There are some very sick individuals who think it's funny to send anonymous letters or make late-night phone calls to women and claim the husband is having an affair. If your husband has never given you a reason to suspect him, we urge you to throw this letter in the trash and forget you ever saw it — before it causes the exact damage you want to avoid.

Dear Annie: My parents' 50th anniversary is coming soon. They haven't had the most pleasant of marriages. My father has always been disrespectful and verbally abusive to my mother and to us. He usually ruins any gatherings we have.

My father recently told me of their neighbors' 50th anniversary surprise party, and he seemed to be dropping hints. I don't want to feel guilty about not planning an anniver-



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

sary celebration. My mother has never enjoyed these events, although my father loves being the center of attention and making a big splash. I cannot afford to pay for such a celebration alone, and I assure you, I won't get any help from my siblings. However, the closer I get to the date, the more I doubt my original convictions. I don't want people to think I'm an ungrateful child, but my heart really isn't in this. Any suggestions? — Unwilling Daughter

Dear Daughter: You are not obligated to throw a big party for your parents' anniversary, regardless of their relationship. This is especially so if you cannot afford it and your mother doesn't want it. Since it is a special occasion, however, and you feel obligated to do something, take your parents out for dinner at a nice restaurant.

Dear Annie: My father was in the exact same relationship that "Loving Daughter" wrote about and actually married the nasty woman. Your answer was right. Her father has chosen the relationship with "Sherry" over his children. It is difficult to accept, but he is well aware of the choice he is making. It took me many counseling sessions to accept that fact, and it wasn't a comfort to know the truth.

My father stayed in that relationship until he died. When his wife was out of town, he would visit us, but she never knew. When he discovered he

was terminally ill, he contacted my brothers and me and apologized for what he had done. He acknowledged that the blame was not all on his wife — that he had made the decision to stay with her at our expense.

My advice to "Loving Daughter" is to seek counseling, and leave the door open in the event her father should come to his senses or his girlfriend should move on to greener pastures. — Another Loving Daughter

Dear Daughter: It's terribly sad when parents insist on being with someone who rejects their children, yet it happens often. Your advice to get counseling is good. Thanks for being the Voice of Experience.

Dear Annie: I have an older brother who is 38. "Elton" has suffered from depression for a long time. In earlier years, he got help, but now he refuses and is convinced everyone is out to get him.

My problem is, he uses the family members for his needs only. He treats my parents horribly. He lived with them for almost two years (between jobs) and wouldn't help out at all, not even cleaning his own room.

Now Elton is upset with me because I don't want to argue with him over the phone. It was about some really unimportant matter, and when I told him I wasn't interested in a fight, he slammed the phone in my ear. I can no longer deal with the hurtful things Elton does to me, and he's been abusive like this for years.

Right now, I am taking a break from my brother. My parents, however, do not like this decision. They always want me to be the one to say "Sorry," even if I don't owe him an apology. They also don't like the idea of my brother not seeing my kids. They feel this is good for him, almost like therapy.

How do I stand up for myself when everyone else bends to my brother's every wish for fear he'll

do something irrational? — Trying to Stand in Illinois

Dear Illinois: Elton sounds more than depressed. He sounds mentally ill and apparently has little control over his emotions and actions. While he should not be using your children as "therapy," it might help you and your family to understand more thoroughly what is going on so you can respond appropriately. Please contact the National Alliance on Mental Illness (nami.org) at 1-800-950-NAMI (1-800-950-6264) and ask for assistance.

Dear Annie: The husband of one of my best friends recently passed away. "Arlene" asked if I would like some of his ashes. I explained to her that I find the thought of having someone's ashes in my home not only a bit gruesome, but a constant sorrowful reminder of that person. Well, she sent them to me, anyway.

Luckily, she sent them to my office, which is where they remain, because I don't want them in my house. The package is still sitting, unopened, in the bottom drawer of one of my file cabinets. I again told Arlene that I'm not comfortable with his remains, and she said I need to "get over it."

I'm going on a cruise in the near future and thought I might scatter the ashes at sea (which was actually the deceased's request), but if I tell Arlene, she'll be insulted and upset. She wants me to HAVE them and KEEP them!

Do you have any suggestions as to how I might "dispose" of this issue? — New York

Dear N.Y.: Arlene is being selfish to insist that you cherish these ashes as much as she does, and you are under no obligation to do so. Tell Arlene you are going to honor her husband's wishes and scatter his ashes at sea. If she becomes upset, let her know the alternative is to return the ashes to her. Period.

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Police say woman solicited kidnappers on MySpace

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Bexar County authorities have accused a 20-year-old mother of using the Internet to solicit anyone willing to abduct her son from her estranged boyfriend.

Authorities said Lisa Gonzales posted a message several weeks ago on the social networking site MySpace offering \$500 for the abduction of her son.

Gonzales' ad was answered on Saturday by Rosita Ybanez, 27, and Reynaldo Galvan, 31, authorities said.

The duo arranged to meet with Gonzales at a restaurant, and on Saturday night, they snatched the 2-year-old boy from the home of his father, Vernardo "Ben" Morales, authorities said.

An arrest affidavit accused Galvan of walking into Morales' trailer home with a wooden stick and grabbing the boy from the living room floor. Minutes later, Galvan and Ybanez met Gonzales at a nearby convenience store and exchanged the boy for the money.

Investigators traced the child, who shares his father's name and is known as Junior, to Gonzales within a few hours, Bexar County sheriff's Sgt. Russell McWhorter said. Junior was uninjured except for a bruise on his thigh.

"We're all scared," Morales said Monday. He said he couldn't fathom how Gonzales could "put a price a her son's head."

Gonzales, Galvan and Ybanez were each charged with agreeing to abduct a child in exchange for compensation, a state felony. Also charged was Gonzales' aunt, Jeanette Noah, 35, whom police said drove Gonzales to the restaurant to meet the alleged kidnappers.

Gonzales, Noah and Ybanez were released after posting \$10,000 bonds, McWhorter said. Galvan remained held Monday on a \$12,000 bond because he had two outstanding warrants.

Gonzales has not applied for legal custody of Junior, according to the affidavit. A 1-year-old son shared by

Morales and Gonzales lives with the mother, police said.

Morales said he plans to seek legal custody of both children.

Construction begins on new proton therapy cancer center

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Ground was broken Monday for the nation's first private proton therapy cancer treatment center, a \$100 million facility that developers said will give thousands of patients in Oklahoma and surrounding states a new tool in the fight against cancer.

Construction of the Oklahoma ProCure Treatment Center was launched less than one week after University of Oklahoma officials announced plans to install one and possibly two proton therapy units at a proposed \$200 million Cancer Institute at OU's Health Sciences Center in Oklahoma City.

Officials at ProCure Treatment Centers, Inc., based in Bloomington, Ind., said OU's plans will not interfere with theirs and that there are more than enough cancer patients to keep both treatment facilities busy.

"Unfortunately, there is. Cancer is an insidious disease," said Hadley Ford, chief executive officer of Procure. "The OU announcement continues to show our belief that proton therapy is a valuable tool. We applaud what OU is doing."

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in Oklahoma with nearly 18,000 new cases diagnosed each year.

"The need for protons far exceeds our capacity to do it," said Dr. W.C. Goad, a radiation oncologist and a physician partner in ProCure's cancer treatment center. Goad said proton therapy units at Procure and OU will complement rather than compete with each other.

"This is very good for patients at the end of the day," Goad said.

Currently, there are only five proton

therapy treatment facilities in the nation, all located in major academic centers including the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. In 2005, only 3,000 treatment slots were available for an estimated 250,000 qualified patients.

Proton therapy is considered the most advanced form of external radiation therapy available to cancer patients. It uses a controlled beam of protons to halt the growth of cancer cells in a tumor. Nearly 50,000 cancer patients have been effectively treated for various forms of cancer using the technology.

Unusual law at center of fight over baby's life

AUSTIN (AP) — As 17-month-old Emilio Gonzales lies in a hospital, hooked up to tubes to help him breathe and eat, his mother holds him close and cherishes every movement.

Catarina Gonzales knows her baby is terminally ill and that one day she'll have to let go. But it's not yet time, she and her attorneys contend in their legal clash with hospital officials who want to stop Emilio's life-sustaining treatment.

An unusual Texas law signed by George W. Bush when he was governor lets the hospital make that life-or-death call. The latest legal dispute over the law — Emilio's case — goes to court again Tuesday, the day his life support is set to end.

"The family has made a unified decision" to keep Emilio living through artificial means, said Joshua Carden, an attorney for the Gonzales family. "The hospital is making quality of life value judgments. That's a huge source of concern."

Children's Hospital of Austin has been caring for Emilio since Dec. 28. He's believed to have Leigh's Disease, a progressive illness difficult to diagnose, according to both sides.

The boy cannot breathe on his own and must have nutrition and water pumped into him. He can't swallow or

gag or make purposeful movements, said Michael Regier, general counsel for the Seton Family of Hospitals, which encompasses the children's hospital.

Emilio's higher order brain functions are destroyed, and secretions must be vigorously suctioned from his lungs, Regier said.

"The care is very aggressive and very invasive," Regier said. Though the treatment is expensive, the hospital contends that money is not part of its decision. Emilio has health coverage through Medicaid.

Doctors and a hospital ethics panel determined the treatment is causing the boy to suffer without providing any medical benefit, Regier said.

So the hospital invoked the state law that allows it to end life-sustaining treatment in medically futile cases after a 10-day notice to the family. That deadline was voluntarily extended while the hospital and family tried to find another facility to care for Emilio, though as of Monday none had been located.

House panel recommends transfer of 18 historic sites

AUSTIN (AP) — A House committee has recommended transferring 18 historic sites from control of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to the Texas Historical Commission.

The full House is expected to take up soon the recommendation by the House Culture, Recreation and Tourism Committee. Twelve state historic sites would remain with the parks department under the bill.

They are: Acton, Caddoan Mounds, Casa Navarro, Confederate Reunion Grounds, Eisenhower Birthplace, Fannin Battleground, Fort Griffin, Fort Lancaster, Fort McKavett, Fulton Mansion, Landmark Inn, Magoffin Home, Sabine Pass Battleground, Sam Bell Maxey House, San Felipe, Starr Family Home and Varner-Hogg Plantation.

SWCID

Continued from Page 1A

lege officials hope to have a replacement named by Brasel's last day on the job.

Students also are vocally upset over the quality of food at the school cafete-

ria, with one student calling menu items "slop."

No action was taken in relation to that issue, Sparks said.

One item raised last week has been addressed, however, as the air conditioning system has been adjusted to allow cooler air into the student dormitories, Sparks said.

Sparks said it was her understanding that the students plan to continue their protest, but will not disrupt classes or other school activities.

Meanwhile, she promised that school officials will continue working with the students to resolve the differences.

"I believe the college and the students have the same goal in mind — to pro-

vide the best educational opportunity for these students we can," Sparks said. "And we must find a way to work together for that to happen."

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

STANTON

Continued from Page 1A

tremendously — overnight.

Old Sorehead Trade Days will begin at 8 a.m. Saturday and continue until 7 p.m., and resume on Sunday from noon until 5 p.m.

"Scattered around the town, a visitor may find just about anything from trash to rare collectibles," said Bud Lindsey, spokesman for the event. "We'll have antiques for sale in the Antiques on

Main store and throughout the trade days. If you can dream of it, it's most likely at Old Sorehead Trade Days."

The event will feature plenty of entertainment as well, according to Lindsey, with various groups providing music throughout the day on the county courthouse lawn.

"We'll also have plenty of rides and games for the kids," he said. "We'll have a special area set aside for all of that."

And while shopping is certainly the focus for the annual event, Lindsey

said there's more to Old Sorehead Trade Days than just hocking some wares.

"Many visitors come to the trade days just to sample the dishes the food vendors have to offer," said Lindsey. "All kinds of foods are available — curly fries, funnel cakes, turkey legs, roasted corn, seafood and Mexican food. There are all kinds of soft drinks and bottled waters in the food court areas."

Trade days will feature two "food court" areas for visitors to check out. The

first is expected to be located by the single traffic light near First National Bank and Stanton Drug, with a second area near the Stanton Community Center.

For those who aren't familiar with the streets of Stanton, Lindsey said trade days volunteers will be on duty to help direct visitors to the different areas, including parking areas for the handicapped and overflow parking. Golf carts will also be available to help get shoppers to and from their vehicles.

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

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PRECINCTS

Continued from Page 1A

each other to satisfy voter registration laws.

Bloom said there are currently 35 voter precincts in Howard County, a number that may be reduced by about 10 when her office completes the project.

Voters will feel little, if any, effect as a result of this work.

"This will not change any county commissioner precinct lines or any city council lines," Bloom said. "No one will get a different representative as a result of this."

School district lines will not be impacted, Bloom said.

"Schools are not involved at this time," she said. "But there is legislation out there that would probably force districts to follow county voter lines, so we'll see ... Right now, our major concern is the city."

The redrawing will go into effect until 2008, she added.

"This won't effect the May or November (2007) elections," Bloom said. "But we need to get this done before we mail out

voter registration cards in December."

In other business, commissioners approved:

• The purchase of a new book security system at the county library. Cost of the system is \$6,950 and will be paid for out of the library's current budget.

• The purchase of road grader at a cost of \$122,500 from ASCO of Odessa.

• The naming of Kandy McWhorter as the new Family and Consumer Science Agent for the county.

Contact Staff Writer

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Resident of the Month
Juan Martinez

Our April Resident of the Month is Mr. Juan Martinez. A resident since June 2006, born in San Luis Potosi, Mexico. He enjoyed mechanic work as a teenager. He moved to Colorado and worked in the lumber industry. His favorite scenery is the mountains of Taos, New Mexico and Colorado. He has eight wonderful children; seven daughters and one son.

We would like to congratulate Mr. Juan Martinez for being our April resident of the Month!

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EDITORIAL

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OTHER VIEWS

Barroom poker bill doesn't make sense for Texas

Given the attention paid to gambling bills introduced and considered in recent legislative sessions, it's disappointing that the first such proposal to advance as far as a committee hearing during the current session is one to allow poker games in bars. If Texas intends to go down the gambling road, this bill is not the best ride available.

Proponents of big-time casino gambling have introduced bills that would have larger impacts in terms of economic activity, increased tax revenue and more attractive outlets for the legions of Texas gamblers who travel to casinos in neighboring states and Las Vegas. Those bills represent a better way to expand gambling, and it would not be smart to also legalize poker games in neighborhood bars.

State Rep. Jose Menendez, D-San Antonio, author of the barroom poker bill, aims to provide the state with revenue from the types of games that his supporters say already take place across the state every night. A Legislative Budget Board analysis of the bill projects that it would provide the state with \$1.2 billion in revenue over the next two years.

Competing with that is a proposal from two state senators, Democrat Rodney Ellis of Houston and Republican John Carona of Dallas. They have called for a constitutional amendment allowing 12 destination resort casinos in the state, along with three additional casinos on Indian reservations and video slot machines at horse and dog racetracks.

That proposal could have an economic impact of about \$50 billion a year and could create about 118,000 direct jobs. Additional state and local tax revenue could be as much as \$4.6 billion. The casino proponents want the state to set aside \$1 billion a year from that additional tax revenue to provide college scholarships for Texas students. Horse track owners want the take from slot machines so they can increase purses and stop breeders from taking their horses to other states.

Seven of the 12 resort casinos would be in the state's largest urban areas, including at least one in Tarrant County, each with minimum land and development costs of \$400 million.

The casino proposal makes sense for Texas. The barroom poker bill does not.

THE STAR-TELEGRAM
FORT WORTH

How To CONTACT US

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

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

LETTER POLICIES

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 - 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.
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 - 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

Lord, life seems to be uncertain and out of control. The Bible tells us "Perfect love casts out fear." You alone are Perfect Love, so would You please cast out the fear we feel and replace it with confidence in Your sufficiency.

Amen

They're not the 'Flying Imams'

In November, US Airways kicked six imams off a plane bound for Phoenix from Minneapolis. According to news reports, passengers and crew had become spooked watching some of the imams pray by the gate, then after boarding, saw the imams move around the plane as they spoke in Arabic — some said the imams spoke of Saddam Hussein, which the imams deny. They said that the imams also had requested seat-belt extenders — heavy metal objects — which some feared could be used as weapons. The imams then were questioned and released without being charged.

Last month, the imams filed a lawsuit against US Airways, the airport and unnamed passengers who complained to airline personnel about the imams' behavior. The suit charges that these John Doe passengers "may have made false reports against plaintiffs solely with the intent to discriminate against them on the basis of their race, religion, ethnicity and national origin."

Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., promptly introduced an amendment to a measure to protect passengers, lest this lawsuit chill the flying public's willingness to report suspicious behavior. King's amendment has passed through the House.

Minneapolis attorney Gerry Nolting offered to represent any John Does for free. As he told me, the FAA relies on passengers to report suspicious activity to protect the flying public. Suing the

John Doe passengers, he noted, would have "a chilling effect" by signaling to passengers that if they report suspicious behavior, "you'll be the next defendant."

Meanwhile, the whole episode had some observers wondering about this post-9/11 controversy. As Zuhdi Jasser, an Arizona internist and former Navy medical officer who founded the American Islamic Forum for Democracy to serve as a "voice for liberty-minded Muslims in America in the war on terror," wrote of the "flying imam" controversy, "Was their behavior part of a pre-arranged stunt for the purpose of gathering sympathy on a false premise that Muslims in America are being 'victimized?'"

To go by the imams' complaint, the imams did nothing provocative. They simply prayed in public, then moved about the plane trying to make sure that all the men, including Marwan Sadeddin, who is blind, were comfortable. Apparently, Sadeddin and fellow Arizonan Omar Shahin requested seat-belt extensions because they're portly guys.

Ibrahim Hooper of the Council on American-Islamic Relations told me it is wrongheaded for observers to be suspicious of innocent behavior — praying or asking for a seat-belt extension — simply because a Muslim does it. "That Muslim is wearing a tie," Hooper scoffed. "He can take it off and strangle someone."

And, "Once they were seen praying, every action they took became suspicious in the eyes of some passengers." That's wrong, because Americans have the right to pray in public.

CAIR supports the suit, includ-

ing the targeting of John Doe passengers, Hooper told me, because, "If somebody believes they have been discriminated against maliciously and willfully, they have a right to challenge that discrimination." This suit, he argued, comes from the imams' desire "to clear their names."

Here's the problem: The imams are not going to clear their names by going after passengers who, rightly or wrongly, alerted airline personnel to the imams.

By so doing, the lawsuit reinforces the suspicion that the imams were acting in a deliberately provocative manner. At the very least, the imams were utterly insensitive to passengers' fears of a 9/11-like attack.

"It was not just one thing," Nolting noted. "It was a series of behaviors. I assume it was the pilot, based on the totality of the information he had, that made him conclude that he didn't want these folks on his plane."

Nolting added, "I don't know too many businesses who like to turn away paying customers." Or, as Jasser put it, "I think they were trying to make a point." That point could be to further "the victimization agenda of organizations like CAIR."

This much is clear: If CAIR and the imams want to prompt those who are suspicious of Islam to rethink their prejudices and be sensitive to the Muslim perspective, they picked a truly boneheaded way to do it.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfchronicle.com.

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Can cancer close Gravitas Gap?

The news that the Edwards campaign solicited cancer well-wishers for campaign funds shouldn't really be surprising. Why wouldn't they?

Not to be crass about it, but Mrs. Edwards' cancer has given her husband's campaign something of a boost. It's reflected in the latest polls in Iowa and New Hampshire; my guess is it's also visible in

fundraising, particularly the Internet variety. It's certainly not a strategy anyone would choose to emulate, but it makes sense in Edwards' case — not because he was an unsympathetic person, but because he had a gravitas problem. And nothing gives you gravitas faster than what John Edwards is going through now.

The spike in John Edwards' numbers isn't about his wife, perse. People feel very strongly about spouses, but they don't vote accordingly. Betty Ford couldn't save Gerald Ford any more than Barbara Bush could save the first George from Bill Clinton and the headbanded harpy who wouldn't bake cookies.

It's the candidate that counts, but his choice of partner and what that relationship says about him are potentially important to the total vote count. Teresa Heinz Kerry didn't cost her husband the nomination, which tells you it wasn't spouse popularity that determined who got the delegates. On the other hand, she certainly didn't help him in the general, and the picture of him off wind-surfing on vacation with his rich wife instead of answering the attacks against him did not

improve his image.

So, too, the political question is not what you think of the way Elizabeth Edwards is facing her challenges, but whether it changes the way people see her husband and relate to his candidacy.

Does it have an impact?

How could it not?

The recurrence of Elizabeth Edwards' cancer brought her husband's candidacy more attention than it had received since it began. It's hard to think of anything else Edwards could have done that would have landed them on "60 Minutes" with Katie — and with more people watching than he's met in three years of campaigning.

But this sort of attention comes with real risk, not so much for Elizabeth Edwards — who already faces plenty — as for her husband. The more sympathetic she is, the more vulnerable he is to being seen as the heavy.

John Edwards could have come across as an ambitious louse in this drama, the guy whose ambition won't be curtailed, even by the prospect of losing his wife. That's what plenty of people thought as soon as they heard her diagnosis and their decision, and they were prepared to be convinced. So what if they said she was the one pushing for him to stay in? What else would they say?

But that just isn't how it's playing out. Katie Couric did them a favor, in retrospect, by playing the part of the heavy in her much-watched interview, but the real stars of this show have been John and Elizabeth Edwards themselves. They've been doing exactly what they said they would: going forward with the campaign, being open and honest about her medical situation, always looking for the silver lining.

The latest is to use her story to warn women of the importance of regular mammograms, which she did not have. How could a woman as smart, insured and well-connected as Elizabeth Edwards, a senator's wife no less, with a history of late-in-life pregnancies, fertility treatment, etc., not have regular mammograms? Her husband, when asked that question, responded that his wife wasn't in the habit of putting herself first, which is probably what makes her so real to so many people. Getting a mammogram shouldn't be a function of where you put yourself in line, but for many women, unfortunately, it is.

Their decision to go forward notwithstanding Elizabeth's diagnosis invests the Edwards campaign — and the candidate in turn — with a seriousness that goes far beyond the exercise in ego that is at the core of most campaigns. If that's all that were involved here, the couple Katie Couric interviewed would have shut down the campaign in a heartbeat and gone home to spend time with each other and their children. This is a couple who lost a child. They have no illusions.

The reason they haven't gone home is because of how committed they are to electing John Edwards president. Knowing better than most just how precious family time is, they believe what they are doing is even more important. And if they believe that, how can you disagree?

Say what you will about him, but he hardly seems lacking in gravitas right now. It's a helluva way to do it, but cancer may have closed the gravitas gap for John Edwards.

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News in brief

Judge rejects Padilla motion to dismiss case over torture allegations

MIAMI (AP) — A federal judge rejected a motion by alleged al-Qaida operative Jose Padilla to dismiss terrorism charges against him over claims he was tortured in U.S. military custody.

The ruling removes one of the last major obstacles to the start of Padilla's trial next week.

U.S. District Judge Marcia Cooke stressed in a 12-page order filed late Monday that she was not passing judgment on the torture allegations. Rather, she said the effort to dismiss the case for "outrageous government conduct" was faulty on legal grounds.

Padilla's lawyers claim that during the 3 1/2 years Padilla was held as an "enemy combatant" at a Navy brig he was routinely subjected to harsh treatment and torture.

He claimed that he was forced to stand in painful stress positions, given LSD or some other drug as a "truth serum," subjected to loud noises and noxious odors, and forced to endure sleep deprivation, extreme heat and cold and harsh lights.

The Pentagon and Justice Department have repeatedly denied those claims. Officials with the brig in Charleston, S.C., said during earlier testimony before Cooke that Padilla, a 36-year-old U.S. citizen and Muslim convert, was not mistreated, though they acknowledged occasional removal of the mattress in his cell and of his copy of the Quran.

Padilla's four lawyers did not immediately respond to e-mail messages seeking comment Tuesday on the ruling. Prosecutors also did not immediately return a telephone call.

Padilla and his co-defendants, Adham Amin Hassoun and Kifah Wael Jayyousi, are scheduled for trial starting next Monday.

The three are charged with conspiracy and terrorism material support for allegedly being part of a North American support network for Islamic extremist groups worldwide. All three have pleaded not guilty and could face life in prison if convicted.

Female suicide bomber murders police recruits

BAGHDAD (AP) — A female suicide bomber wearing a black abaya detonated her explosives belt in a crowd of about 200 police recruits northeast of Baghdad on Tuesday, killing at least 14 people, police and hospital officials said.

The woman walked into the crowd at the main gate of the Muqdadiah police station, according to a police officer at the scene who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

At least 14 people were killed and 20 injured, said an official at Muqdadiah General Hospital, also on the same condition of anonymity. The death toll was expected to rise.

The police recruits had gathered at the station to eagerly await word about whether they were accepted into the police force there, the officer said.

Muqdadiah, a mostly Sunni Muslim city, lies about 60 miles northeast of Baghdad.

U.S. official tells North Korea time is running out to honor nuclear disarmament deal

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — A Bush administration official warned Tuesday that time was running out for North Korea to take initial steps toward dismantling its nuclear program, while a U.S. nuclear negotiator expressed hope that Saturday's deadline could still be met.

In an encouraging sign, the U.S. Treasury Department said authorities in the Chinese-administered region of Macau are prepared to unblock the frozen funds that North Korea says are the reason it has refused to move forward on a disarmament agreement.

The communist country struck a deal with the U.S. and four other nations in February to shut down its main nuclear reactor by Saturday in exchange for economic aid and political concessions.

If North Korea follows through with its promises, they would be the first moves the communist state has made to scale back its nuclear development since it kicked out international inspectors and in 2003 restarted its sole operating nuclear reactor.

Judge says Texas man should be exonerated

DALLAS (AP) — James Curtis Giles has spent nearly half of his life trying to prove he was not one of three men who gang-raped a woman in her apartment.

On Monday, after serving 10 years in prison and spending the next 14 years as a registered sex offender, a prosecutor told the court that Giles' arrest had been a case of mistaken identity, and a judge recommended he be exonerated.

If the appeals court approves state District Judge Robert Francis' recommendation as expected, Giles, now 53, will become the 13th Dallas County man to be exonerated since 2001 with the help of DNA evidence. It could take a few months for the appeals court to act on the judge's recommendation.

"I didn't have no idea that I would be found guilty ... but I knew that I wasn't going stop fighting," Giles said after the hearing.

About two dozen relatives — including Giles' son and infant granddaughter — packed into the courtroom, breaking into applause after Giles spoke. Then Giles, dressed in a blue suit and smiling, left the courtroom arm-in-arm with his wife, several relatives behind him. At least four other men who have been cleared through DNA in Dallas County also attended the hearing.

Despite the yearslong ordeal, Giles said he doesn't hold a grudge against the state. The judge complimented him on his positive attitude.

"This is not what I want to see as a judge, but I'm glad we can rectify as much as we can," Francis said.

Mistaken identifications by witnesses have been a problem in many Dallas County cases, said Barry Scheck, the co-director of the Innocence Project, a New York-based legal center that specializes in overturning wrongful convictions.

Dallas County has had so many overturned convictions in part because the county holds onto biological evidence for upward of 25 years, leaving the possibility for retesting after conviction, Innocence Project attorneys said. Many other labs often destroy samples once convictions are obtained.

Both the Dallas County District Attorney's office and Giles' Innocence

Project lawyer, Vanessa Potkin say evidence showed Giles was innocent of the 1982 gang rape of a Dallas woman.

A man who pleaded guilty to the gang rape, Stanley Bryant, implicated two other men in the crime: a James Giles and a Michael Brown. Brown was never tried and died in prison after being convicted of another gang rape.

Police eventually arrested James Curtis Giles, who lived 25 miles away and did not match the description of the attacker given by the rape victim, Potkin said. Giles was about 10 years older and had gold teeth. He also had an alibi; he and his wife told police he was asleep in bed.

Investigators ignored another man with a similar name: James Earl Giles. That Giles lived across the street from the victim and had previously been arrested with Brown on other charges, the attorneys said. He died in prison in 2000 while serving time for robbery and assault.

The victim recently acknowledged she's no longer certain of her identification. Her husband recently identified the other man, James Earl Giles, in a photo lineup, said Assistant Dallas County District Attorney Lisa Smith.

Giles plans to appear Tuesday at the state Capitol in Austin with Scheck.

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

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Solution to a Quandary

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 8 7 5 3
♥ 6
♦ A J 9 7 4
♣ K 7 2

WEST
♠ Q 10 9
♥ J 9 3
♦ 8 5 2
♣ Q 10 6 3

EAST
♠ J
♥ 10 8 7 4 2
♦ K 10 6
♣ A J 9 5

SOUTH
♠ A K 6 4 2
♥ A K Q 5
♦ Q 3
♣ 8 4

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

Opening lead — three of clubs.
One principle that just about every player becomes aware of sooner or later is that, while it is all right for a defender to lead away from an ace on opening lead against a notrump contract, it is bad policy to do so against a suit contract.

This knowledge can be just as useful to a declarer as it is to the defenders. Consider this case where West led a club and declarer, thinking that West might have the ace, played the king. East took the ace and returned a club to West's ten. South later lost a spade and a diamond and so went down one.

Declarer lost the contract on the very first play when he should have played a low club from dummy rather than the king. It is true that West might have had the ace, since there is no law to prevent a player from underleading an ace when the mood so moves him, but the club should have been ducked for an entirely different reason.

By playing low from dummy South virtually assures the contract. After East wins the trick with the jack, what can he do next?

If he cashes the ace of clubs at trick two, he establishes dummy's king. Declarer's diamond loser can later be discarded on the king, and South loses only two clubs and a spade.

And if East instead shifts to a heart at trick two, South takes the ace, draws two rounds of trumps and cashes the K-Q of hearts, discarding dummy's two remaining clubs.

He then loses a diamond finesse to East's king, but it is only the second trick for the defense. West eventually scores a trump trick, and again the contract is made.

The important point of the deal is that South should plan the play of the hand as a whole from the very outset. He should not allow himself to be sidetracked at trick one by the question of who has the ace of clubs. Which opponent has the ace is a secondary consideration. Making the contract is the first consideration.

Tomorrow: What must be must be.

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Knocked out, but not down for the count, an oriole makes his home

Head but not seen. From the tops of the trees came the melodic song. The secretive bird had once again arrived to announce the season.

Having traveled by night with other males from western Mexico, he instinctively knew the females would arrive in a week or two.

Meanwhile, the emerging buds of greasewood (creosote), beetles, ants, aphids, moths and acorn weevils tempted his palate.

With our 70- to 80-degree afternoons, grasshoppers and caterpillars would soon be a part of his diet.

He waited. Then flying through the mesquites in search of nectar, he was led to a source that would be available throughout the summer. Since I had noticed the flash of orange and black and heard the familiar call, the feeder was hung among the trees in our side yard for this most colorful of birds.

Daily, while waiting for a potential mate, he started actively defending a territory that he thought would appeal to her. She would choose the nest site and weave the long, narrow bag to house her eggs and young. He would pursue any intruder, be it mammal or bird.

Finished with breakfast and my newspaper ritual,

I glanced toward our picture window a few days later just as two orange and black streaks hit and slid horizontally across the glass. In the pursuit of another interloper, the highly colored male had darted furiously at the perceived competition. At the moment of impact, the one being chased provided a cushioning effect for the defender of the side yard.

In disbelief, I glanced toward the concrete walk below the window. Both Bullock's orioles lay still. "The females must have arrived," was my first thought. Although I had not seen them, the behavior of the male indicated nest building had begun.

Approaching the two warriors, I was saddened by such a loss. The oriole that had trespassed was limp as I placed him in a box. As I gently slid my hand under the feisty side yard fighter, I realized he had been "knocked cold" by the impact. There was a chance he might come out of it.

Hours passed as I worried. After having woven her nest with slivers of bark, weeds, grass and twine, the female would need the male's assistance in feeding and defending their young. Hidden in a pine tree, mesquite, or a cluster of mistletoe, the nest and its contents were vulnerable.

Finally, I checked on the oriole. Standing beside a dish of mealworms, he glared in my direction. Eager to tell Art that the bird had sur-

Bird Poop

vived, I left it to its privacy. The oriole would be our guest for at least another day.

Later the following afternoon, we were convinced that the Bullock's needed to be returned to the side yard. Having depleted his diet of worms, he was eager to be free. Too active a bird could easily hurt itself while frustrated by captivity.

After applying fingernail polish to the nails on one of his feet, we released the oriole. If he came to our feeder, we could easily tell that he continued to thrive.

Pale in comparison to the male's bright colors, a female oriole started coming to drink. Before enjoying her sip of nectar, she always waited until the red-toed male had finished and departed. As the weeks passed, this protocol continued.

Then the young started coming with the mother bird to sample our offering. They, too, had to wait their turn. At first, the youngsters had difficulty in finding the holes from which to drink. Finally, the secret their parents knew was learned.

During the rest of summer, we enjoyed watching this family. The crimson colored blossoms of our ocotillo, orange



Courtesy photo

The male Bullock's oriole is garnished with fiery orange cheeks, breast, and lower body, while black adorns his crown, throat, wings and the tip of his tail. In addition, large white patches highlight his wings.



Tommy Churchwell



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6:30 PM	News (CC) Entertainment	News Wheel-Fortune	Duelo de Pasiones	King of the Hill The Simpsons	News Entertainment	Dame Chocolate	News Be a Millionaire	Raymond MLB Baseball	Dr. Young John Hagee	News- Lehrer	MythBusters (CC)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgn. (CC) (DVS)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live (CC) College Hill	Phil of Future Zack & Cody	NBA Stories Who's Number	NFL Live	Stargate SG-1 (CC)
7:30 PM	George Lopez According-Jim	George Lopez According-Jim	La Fea Mas Bella	American Idol (CC)	NCIS (CC)	Marina	Dateline NBC (CC)	Washington Nationals at	Update/Israel Booker	Nova (CC) (DVS)	Deadliest Catch	Movie: Rebel Without a Cause	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgn. (CC)	Movie: The Recruit (CC)	Movie: Menace	Movie: Stitch! The Movie	17 (CC) NBA Coast-to-	SportsCenter Special: Draft	Stargate SG-1 (CC)
8:30 PM	Dancing With the Stars	Dancing With the Stars	Destilando Amor	House (CC)	The Unit (CC)	Zorro - La Es- pada y la Rosa	Law & Order: Criminal Intent (CC)	Atlanta Braves (CC)	Light of the Southwest	Frontline/ World	Deadliest Catch	Cause	UFC Unleashed		(CC)	(CC) Lilo & Stitch	Coast (CC)	U.S. Poker Championship	Stargate SG-1 (CC)
9:30 PM	Boston Legal (CC)	Boston Legal (CC)	Nuestra Belleza Latina	Becker (CC) Friends (CC)	Criminal Minds (CC)	Decisiones	Law & Order: SVU	Raymond		Independent Lens (CC)	Rogue Nature	Movie: Rebel	Bullrun	Movie: The Recruit (CC)	College Hill Run's House	Life Derek Phil of Future		Baseball Tonight	ECW
10:30 PM	News (CC) Nightline	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticiero Univ.	70s Show Raymond	News Late Show-	Noticias 12 Corazones	News Tonight Show	Sex and-City Sex and-City	The Hour of Healing	Remembered	MythBusters (CC)	Without a Cause	The Ultimate Fighter	Recruit (CC)	Jamie Foxx Jamie Foxx	Zack & Cody That's-Raven	Who's Number 12 (CC)	SportsCenter (CC)	Movie: Crimson
11:30 PM	The Insider Jimmy Kimmel	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	La Hora de la Risa	King of the Hill Malcolm-Mid.	Letterman Late Late	IAI Rojo Vivo!	Late Night-	Sex and-City Sex and-City	Joe McGee Biblical Israel	Sign Off	Deadliest Catch		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgn.		In Living Color In Living Color	Phil of Future Kim Possible	NASCAR Now U.S. Poker	NBA Fastbreak Baseball	
12:30 AM	Live (CC) News (CC)	Extra (CC) Paid Program	El Privilegio de Amar	Malcolm-Mid. My Wife-Kids	Show The Insider	Pagado	Conan O'Brien Apex	Domestic Disturbance	Update/Israel J.R. Church		Deadliest Catch	Movie: Once Upon a Time	Star Trek: Voyager	Movie: Heat (CC) (DVS)	Comicview (CC)	Proud Family Sister, Sister	Championship U.S. Poker	SportsCenter (CC)	Twilight Zone Twilight Zone

DENNIS THE MENACE



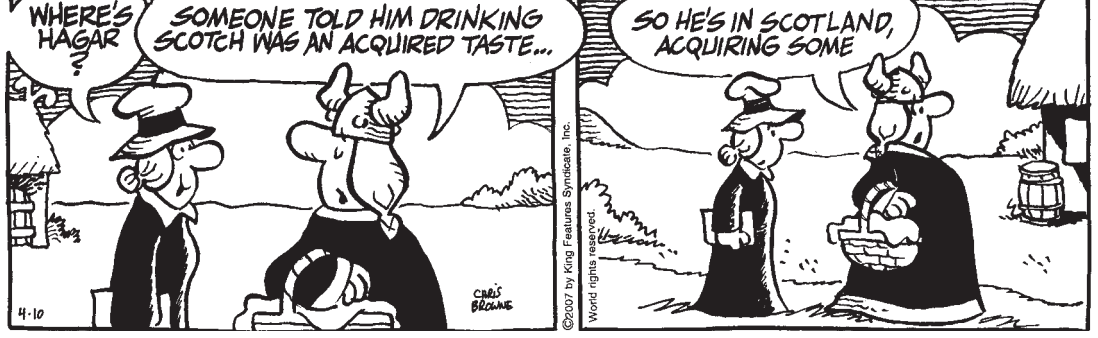
"MARGARET CAN'T DECIDE IF SHE WANTS TO BE JOSHUA BELL, OR BE MRS. JOSHUA BELL."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Grandma said when she was little the only things on the web were spiders."

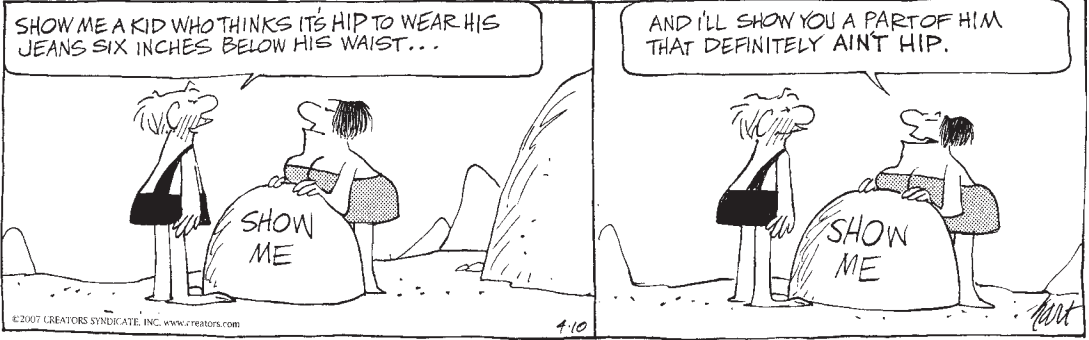
HAGAR



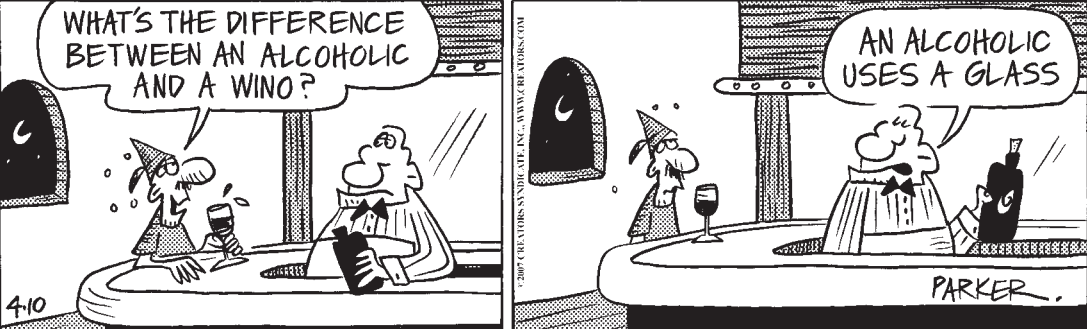
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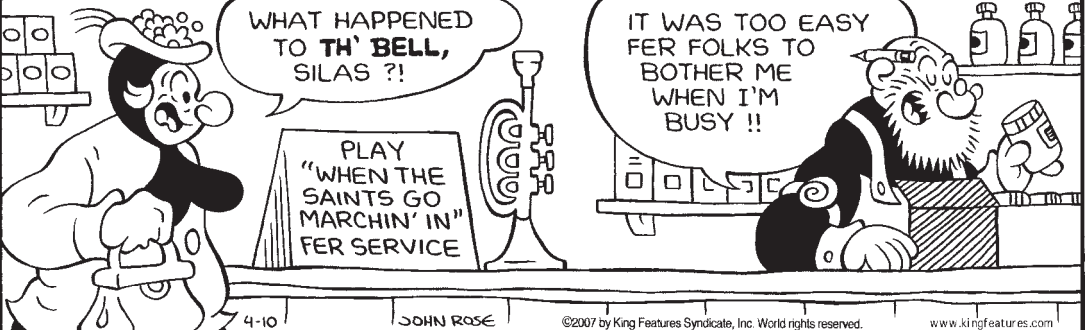
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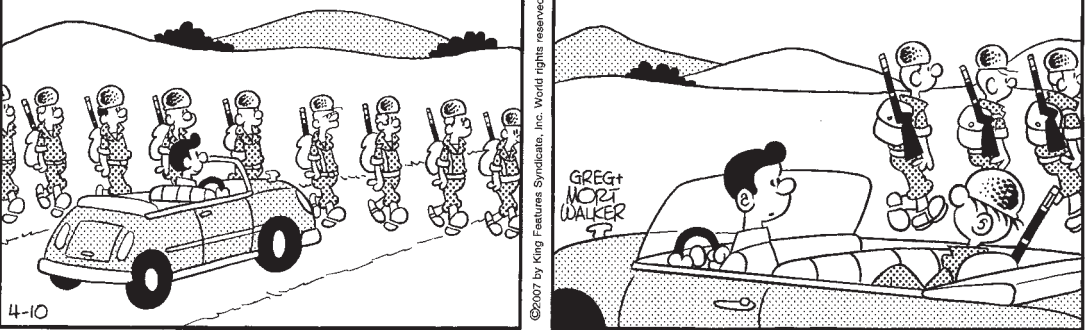
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, April 10, the 100th day of 2007. There are 265 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 10, 1912, the RMS Titanic set sail from Southampton, England, on its ill-fated maiden voyage.

On this date:

In 1790, President George Washington signed into law the first United States Patent Act.

In 1866, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was incorporated.

In 1925, the novel "The Great Gatsby," by F. Scott Fitzgerald, was first published.

In 1932, German president Paul Von Hindenburg was re-elected in a runoff, with Adolf Hitler coming in second.

In 1957, Egypt reopened the Suez Canal to all ship-

ping traffic. (The canal had been closed due to wreckage resulting from the Suez Crisis.)

In 1963, the nuclear-powered submarine USS Thresher sank during deep-diving tests off Cape Cod, Mass., in a disaster that claimed 129 lives.

In 1972, the United States and the Soviet Union joined some 70 nations in signing an agreement banning biological warfare.

In 1981, imprisoned IRA hunger striker Bobby Sands was declared the winner of a by-election to the British Parliament.

In 1998, the Northern Ireland peace talks concluded as negotiators reached a landmark settlement to end 30 years of bitter rivalries and bloody attacks.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Harry Morgan is 92. Actor Max von Sydow is 78. Actress Liz Sheridan is 78. Actor Omar Sharif is 75. Author David Halberstam is 73. Sportscaster John Madden is 71. Rhythm-and-blues singer Bobbie Smith (The Spinners) is 71. Sportscaster Don Meredith

is 69. Reggae artist Bunny Wailer is 60. Actor Steven Seagal is 56. Folk-pop singer Terre Roche (The Roches) is 54. Actor Peter MacNicol is 53. Rock musician Steven Gustafson (10,000 Maniacs) is 50. Singer-producer Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds is 49. Rock singer-musician Brian Setzer is 48. Rapper Afrika Bambaataa is 47. Rock singer Katrina Leskanich is 47. Actor Jeb Adams is 46. Olympic gold medal speedskater Cathy Turner is 45. Rock musician Tim "Herb" Alexander is 42. Actor-comedian Orlando Jones is 39. Singer Kenny Lattimore is 37. Rapper Kamaal (aka Q-Tip) is 37.

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Answer to previous puzzle

TALC	TROD	BANS
OREO	RAKE	ALIOD
REST	IDOL	DINER
EAST	BAKING	SODA
	OVER	OUTSET
TBONES	PITY	
RANGE	WANE	SNOW
ASTIR	HUN	WEIGH
PEON	KISS	HELLO
	SIZE	REDEM
ASPECT	PANE	
LEAVESPORT	DRUM	
MAVEN	ALOT	RONA
ALERT	DEAL	YOUR
SISTS	SOME	EMMY

Newsday Crossword

LAZY DAY by Gail Grabowski
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 Poisonous snake
 - 4 Discard
 - 9 Very stylish
 - 13 Make a fool of
 - 14 Investigate
 - 15 Round of applause
 - 16 Buffalo's lake
 - 17 Is the boss
 - 18 Household pests
 - 19 Hotel barroom
 - 22 "Roses — red..."
 - 23 Elevations: Abbr.
 - 24 Tornado or hurricane
 - 26 Soup server
 - 28 Spine-tingling
 - 32 Numero —
 - 33 401(k) alternative: Abbr.
 - 35 Research room
 - 36 Wineglass feature
 - 37 "I'll take what's left"
 - 41 Sound quality
 - 42 — Jima
 - 43 Heavy weight
 - 44 Overhead trains
 - 45 Blissful spots
 - 47 Engaged in battle
 - 51 Grownup
 - 53 Meat department abbr.
 - 55 Poem of praise
 - 56 "Comfort food" main course
 - 61 For guys only
 - 62 Small stream
 - 63 Border
 - 64 Solemn vow
 - 65 Throw with force
 - 66 Turn sharply
 - 67 Author Harte
 - 68 Deed holder
 - 69 Proof-of-age items, for short
 - 8 Mexican coin
 - 9 Monotonous song
 - 10 Favorite social spots
 - 11 Web surfer's medium
 - 12 Long-term S&L investments
 - 13 Window sticker
 - 20 In that place
 - 21 Place into service
 - 25 May honoree
 - 27 Not
 - 29 Pop singer — John
 - 30 College cheer
 - 31 Skeptic's remark
 - 34 Surrounded by
 - 36 Mailed out
 - 37 Kindergarten-er's award
 - 38 Protect from heat loss
 - 39 Fleecy female
 - 40 Cook in the oven
 - 41 Herbal brew
 - 45 And so on: Abbr.
 - 46 Part of a jacket
 - 48 Covered with trees
 - 49 Wise sayings
 - 50 Pertain (to)
 - 52 Far from strenuous
 - 54 Bread maker
 - 57 Canyon sound
 - 58 Sketched
 - 59 Not at all nice
 - 60 Strauss of jeans
 - 61 Weep audibly

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