

Sports

BIG SPRING HERALD

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

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Thursday, April 10, 2008

IN BRIEF

Crossroads high school varsity sports calendar

FRIDAY
Big Spring baseball at Plainview, 6:30 p.m.
Forsan baseball vs. Winters, 4:30 p.m.
Forsan softball at Eldorado, 5 p.m.
Coahoma baseball vs. Stamford, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY
Big Spring softball vs. Wolfforth Frenship, 1 p.m.
Coahoma softball vs. Stamford, 2 p.m.

TUESDAY
Big Spring softball vs. San Angelo Lake View, 4 p.m.
Forsan baseball at Eldorado, 4:30 p.m.
Coahoma baseball at Clyde, 4:30 p.m.
Forsan softball vs. Menard, 5 p.m.
Coahoma softball vs. Midland High, 6:30 p.m.

Big Spring Teenage League holding sign-ups and tryouts

The Big Spring Teenage League is holding sign-ups and tryouts Saturday, April 19, at the Roy Anderson Complex for interested players ages 13-15.

This is the final chance to sign up. Registration fee is \$90 and a copy of the child's birth certificate is required.

Tryouts begin at 3 p.m. and players that registered early do not have to be present until then.

Call Carey Burchett at 213-2706 for additional information.

Dodgeball tourney benefiting Relay for Life scheduled

The Yellow Dogs will be hosting a dodgeball tournament in the Big Spring Junior High gymnasium Saturday, April 19, with all proceeds benefiting Relay for Life.

Registration is at 10 a.m. on the day of the tourney and costs \$5 a person. Teams should be comprised of four boys and four girls.

First game will be played at 11 a.m. A concession stand will be available.

Country club hosting 2008 Cancer Scramble April 26-27

The Big Spring Country Club along with several local sponsors are hosting the 2008 Cancer Scramble Golf Tournament April 26-27 with all proceeds from the event benefiting the American Cancer Society and Relay for Life.

The tourney's setup is a four-person scramble. Entrants can either make their own team or be assigned to one. The field will be flighted by first-round score.

Entry fee is \$75 per player plus a \$20 cart fee, however, private carts are welcome.

Prizes will be given to first, second and third-place teams in the form of BSCC Pro Shop gift certificates.

Call the BSCC to enter at 267-5354.

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Moving on up: Hawks ranked No. 2



HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull
Howard College Hawks center fielder Cameron Monger makes contact in action from earlier this season. Monger is one of several Hawks to be ranked among the nations' leaders in batting statistics.

Howard sets new standard with highest ranking in program history

By **JONATHAN HULL**
Herald Sports Editor

It seems Howard College's baseball team reaches a new milestone on a weekly basis.

After winning three of four against El Paso Community College last weekend and improving their season record to 36-4, Howard achieved the highest ranking in school history when the new RINGOR National Junior College Athletic Association Division I baseball poll was released Wednesday, moving up one spot from No. 3 to No. 2. The Hawks received 107 points in the poll, including two first-place votes, and were behind top-ranked Pensacola Junior College by a mere three points.

"It's a nice honor, but it doesn't really mean much right now," Howard Head Coach Britt Smith said. "Being No. 2 or even No. 1 isn't our goal. Our goal is to win the World Series. If anything, this puts a bigger target on us. We have to show up to play now and can't be taking any games off. We're going to get everyone's best game for the rest of the season."

Smith noted the biggest impact made by the high ranking is on the recruiting front.

"In a normal season, I get about 10-15 e-mails a day from baseball players wanting to come play for us," he noted. "This season I'm getting 30-35 a day. It's really amazing how many kids are just

looking on the internet and are picking us as a place to play because of our ranking. It's impossible to answer all of them. We'd need a full-time staff of five people just to do it."

Howard has been very well-known for its tenacity at the plate, but have also added a strong pitching staff to this season's team. The Hawks' ace has been Colt Simon, who is currently tied for the national lead in wins with 10. More impressive is the fact Simon doesn't have a recorded loss to blemish his record.

Simon has struck out 51 batters in 50 innings of work and holds a 2.68 ERA, ranking him 26th nationally.

Howard is still a dangerous offensive force, too. The Hawks led the nation in batting average, batting .439 as a team.

Sophomore shortstop Tyler Ladendorf leads the team and the nation with a .550 batting average. Ladendorf has been drafted in the 34th round of the past two Major League Baseball amateur drafts. He's also tied for ninth nationally with 51 RBIs.

Ladendorf isn't the only Hawks' hitter to rank among the nation's leaders in batting average. Three other Hawks also populate the country's top 25 in batting average. First baseman Matt Curry is hitting .458, ranking him 25th, but is currently fourth in the nation and also leads the

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Coahoma's Sheppard signs with MC

By **JONATHAN HULL**

Herald Sports Editor

COAHOMA — It's not often that the Crossroads' area can witness a 6 foot, 4 inch girls' basketball player at the high school level.

The region had that opportunity this season with Coahoma's Heather Sheppard. Sheppard was one of the key cogs in the Bulldogettes' success in the 2007-2008 season. She was a first-team selection in District 5-2A. She led the team in rebounding and blocked shots, while finishing second in scoring.

Sheppard's size alone made her a top prospect for area junior colleges with Midland College and Howard College stepping to forefront in the recruiting process. However, Sheppard ended the race for her services for the next two years Wednesday, when she inked a letter of intent with Midland College, officially making her a Lady Chaparral.

"I liked the campus and coach," Sheppard said. "It's further away from home, but not really that far. I liked Midland better than Howard because of

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HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull
Coahoma's Heather Sheppard (seated in center) looks over a letter of intent to play basketball at Midland College beginning next fall with her mother Julie Harwood (right), her brother Cody Sheppard (standing) and Coahoma girls' basketball coach Chris Sumrall (left).

Suns heat up late, blow out Spurs, 97-79

The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — It may or may not have been a playoff preview, but the Phoenix Suns played — and talked — as if their game against the San Antonio Spurs was taking place during the postseason.

Amare Stoudemire led six Suns players in the double digits on the way to a 96-79 victory over the defending champions on Wednesday night.

"Anytime you come here it's a good win," Steve Nash said. "But we're also still fighting for seeding. It gives us another possibility as far as seeding goes."

The Suns won their second game in a row on the second night of a back-to-back and remained in sixth place in the Western Conference.

Shaquille O'Neal had eight of

his 16 points in the decisive fourth quarter and grabbed nine rebounds for Phoenix. Nash scored 12 points — including eight in the fourth quarter — and had 10 assists.

O'Neal was back after missing Tuesday's game with a right hip contusion.

"I played through everything," O'Neal said. "I told them that if they play me single coverage, let me make them pay. I'm still the baddest 36-year-old ever created."

O'Neal said he took it as an insult that the Spurs didn't double him late.

Tim Duncan scored 23 points and had 10 rebounds for the Spurs, who have now lost seven at home this season, and Tony Parker added 20 points.

The two teams continue to jockey for seeding in the West, but

Wednesday's result didn't change their positioning. San Antonio remained in second place behind New Orleans.

Though they're four seeds apart, just a half-game separates the Spurs and Suns, who could match up with any number of teams in the first round — including each other. The two had a physical and testy second-round series last year that San Antonio won in six games on its way to the title.

On Wednesday, Stoudemire started down that road again, this time during the regular season.

Spurs forward Bruce Bowen ran into Stoudemire in the fourth quarter, upsetting the Suns center.

"Bruce came elbow first. Elbowed me right in my rib

cage," Stoudemire said. "You know, definitely wasn't a basketball play on his part and I reacted. I definitely didn't appreciate it. So, I let him know about it."

Bowen didn't talk postgame. During last year's playoff series, Stoudemire called the Spurs a "dirty team" and singled out Bowen in particular.

Up by four points with a quarter to play, O'Neal and Nash helped Phoenix pull away in the fourth, spearheading a decisive 13-0 run to go up by 19 points — 92-73 — with 3:52 to go. Not long after, Spurs coach Gregg Popovich cleared his bench.

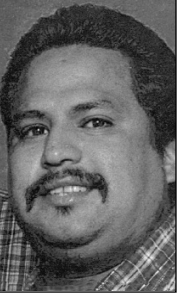
Phoenix outscored San Antonio 24-11 in the fourth.

"Defense was solid. The offense just couldn't sustain — miss

See **NBA**, Page 2B

Obituaries

Patrick Rios



Patrick Rios, 37, of Big Spring, died Monday, April 7, 2008. A vigil service will be held at 7 p.m. Friday, April 11, 2008, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 12, 2008, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with Father Bernard Gully officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

He was born March 15, 1971, in Big Spring.

Patrick attended Big Spring High School and had worked at the Big Spring Herald and for Frazier Industries. He attended St. Thomas Catholic Church.

Survivors include his parents, Luis and Erlinda Rios of Big Spring; four sons, Patrick Rios Jr. of Midland, Sean Michael Rios, Christopher Rios and Zachary Rios, all of Big Spring; four daughters, Brittnee Rios and Brandi Rios, both of Midland, Monica Rios of El Paso and Patricia Rios of Big Spring; four brothers, Luis Rios Jr., Jacob Rios, Theodore "Teddy" Rios and Tim "T.J." Rios all of Big Spring; one sister, Nancy Vega of Big Spring; and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

The family suggests memorials to Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 508 N. Aylford St., Big Spring 79720.

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

Take Note

- The Class of 2009 will be having a prom meeting at 6:30 p.m. today in the Big Spring High School Library. All juniors and their parents are encouraged to attend. For information, call Carrie Fox at 816-9687 or Karen Martin at 213-1388.

- "I Remember Mama," Forsan High School's one-act play, will be presented to the public at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the school auditorium. Everyone is invited.

- A fund-raising dinner will be held at Shiloh House of Praise, 301 E. Second St., beginning at 9:30 a.m. Saturday. Plates will be \$7. Call 264-7959 for more information.

- Mobile Meals needs volunteers to deliver meals Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. The organization delivers approximately 70 meals each day and needs drivers to donate just one hour per week. Mobile Meals also needs back-up volunteers to fill in when regular drivers can't make it. For more information, contact Macaria Cantu at 263-4016.

- American Red Cross Lifeguarding and CPR classes will be held in two sessions this year. The second session is set for April 14-19. Cost will be \$125. Those interested can sign up with Coach Randall Shaw at rshaw3535@hotmail.com or at the Big Spring YMCA. Times of the class will be given at the time of registration. Spots are limited and fees must be paid at registration. Individuals who register must be present for all classes. After the first day of class, no refunds will be given.

- Cross stitchers are needed to complete one or more blocks of this year's Howard County Fair quilt. All supplies are provided. Blocks may be picked up from Posey Cotton Office, 601 Scurry, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon. For information, call 263-1267 or 263-4980. This year's quilt theme is "Wildflowers of Texas." All proceeds from the sale of tickets for the quilt are used to defray the expenses of the Fair. The quilt will be awarded the last night of the fair.

- Pediatric flu vaccinations for children ages 6 months to 35 months are now available at the Texas Department of State Health Services clinic in College Park Shopping Center. Cost is \$10, although no one will be turned away for inability to pay. For more information, call 263-9775.

- Road to Recovery, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volunteer, or to request a ride for treatment, call Nancy Koger at 267-7809.

- St. Mary's and friends of St. Mary's are holding a lap blanket drive to place approximately 400 lap blankets in the hands of every nursing home patient in Big Spring. Blankets can be taken to the church office, 1001 Goliad, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday through Friday or call Connie Fowler at 267-2713.

- A beginning crochet class is being held at 6 p.m. Wednesday in the church's Parish Hall.

- Join Nurses' Hospice of Big Spring volunteer program and become an "Angel" or "Teen Angel" in someone's life today. Come by 1008 E. Third St. or call (432) 517-4073 to register.

- Bring joy and kindness to others by becoming a Compass Hospice volunteer. Help those at the end of life's journey. Make a difference in someone's life. Call 263-5999 to begin your journey.

Crab Grass Preventer
Plus
Lawn Food
available at
Howard County Feed & Supply
701 E. 2nd St. 267-6411

Police blotter

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

Note — An activity report was not available at press time due to computer problems at the BSPD.

- **JOSHUA YANEZ**, 19, of 1002 N. Main Street, was arrested Wednesday on charges of possession of marijuana, robbery and unlawfully carrying a weapon.

- **EDWARD LOPEZ**, 19, of 411 N. Scurry, was arrested Wednesday on charges of robbery and public intoxication.

- **RAMIRO MARQUEZ**, 18, of 501 S. Abrams, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.

Sheriff's report

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 41 inmates at the time of this report.

- **ROBERT ERIC GARCIA**, 25, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of deadly conduct/discharge of a firearm.

- **ANGELA ANN MCGEE**, 25, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of delivery of a controlled substance.

- **DINA JOYCE WILKINSON**, 32, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for theft of service.

- **SHANE ALLEN KNOWLTON**, 21, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on charges of arson, evading arrest/detention and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

- **SHANNON FEE**, 48, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on charges of theft by check and failure to appear - fraudulent use/possession of identifying information.

Fire/EMS

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

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1100 block of W. Sixth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 400 block of State Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2900 block of Oasis Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

Support Groups

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

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

MONDAY

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

- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 213-1342 or 263-6819.

TUESDAY

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

- Life Recovery, a non-denominational Christian group of recovering alcoholics and addicts, meets at 7 p.m. at the St. Paul Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall.

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

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

WEDNESDAY

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

Bulletin Board

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

TODAY

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

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

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

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

FRIDAY

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

- AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
- Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.

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

SATURDAY

- Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.

MONDAY

- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 213-1342 or 263-6819.

- Big Spring Band Boosters meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Big Spring High School band hall.

- Coahoma Lions Club meets at 6 p.m. in the Coahoma Community Center at 306 North Ave.
- The Christian Motorcyclists Association meets at 7 p.m. at TravelCenters of America truck stop.

- The Concerned Citizens Council meets at 7 p.m. at the Dorothy Lamb meeting room in the Howard County Library. For more information, call 264-6116.

- Archeology Society for Howard and Borden counties meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library Community Room in the basement. Call 270-2615 for more information.

- Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

- Big Spring Society of the Order of Beacieants meets at 6:30 p.m. for a meal with meeting that begins at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

- Big Spring Commandry meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

Weather

Tonight...Mostly clear. Windy...Colder. Lows in the upper 30s. West winds 20 to 30 mph becoming north-west around 10 mph after midnight.

Friday...Sunny. Highs in the upper 60s. Northwest winds around 10 mph.

Friday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s. North winds 10 to 15 mph.

Saturday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s. North winds around 15 mph.

Saturday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s.

Sunday...Mostly sunny. Highs around 70.

Sunday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 40s.

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

Monday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 40s.

Tuesday...Partly cloudy. Highs around 80.

Tuesday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 50s.

Wednesday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 80s.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 5-7-14-24-29-30. Number matching six of six: 0.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 14-17-2-7-6.

Number matching five of five: 1. Prize per winner: \$23,579.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 5-1-4-3. Sum It Up: 13.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 2-3-2. Sum It Up: 7.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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Big Sky, Big Heart, Big Spring

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TEXASTONE QUARRIES SUPPORTS RELAY FOR LIFE!



TexasStone Rockers were top fundraisers in 2007 for the Howard-Glasscock County Relay for Life. So come see us on Saturday, April 12, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., for our Stone and Scrap Sale, all proceeds go to AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY.

Call for Details 432-354-2569.

NBA

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after miss. A lot of that falls on me. I got a lot of shots in the fourth quarter, what I felt were good looks. They just didn't go down for me," said Duncan, who was 1-of-5 from the field in the fourth quarter.

Last week in a 90-64 loss

against Utah, the Spurs scored 26 in the second half and nine in the fourth quarter.

They beat Portland 72-65 on Sunday.

"It's turned into a concern because that's three games we really struggled offensively," Manu Ginobili said. "We didn't score more than 80 this weekend. The main concern is offensively. We're

just not sharp enough. We're not making shots. We're playing too slow. So we've got to work on that."

Leandro Barbosa scored 14 for the Suns, Boris Diaw had 11 and Raja Bell 10.

Michael Finley added 10 points for San Antonio.

The Spurs jumped out to an early lead off of the Suns' poor shooting, but

Phoenix fought back in the second quarter, taking a brief lead during an 8-0 run highlighted by Nash's first score of the game and six straight points from Stoudemire, who hit his second of back-to-back dunks over Duncan off a no-look pass from Nash.

After three quarters the Suns had improved their shooting to better than 50

percent and while Nash still wasn't scoring, he was dishing the ball left and right to find openings for teammates.

Diaw's dunk — off a pass from Nash — put the Suns up 67-66 with 2:20 to go in the third and was part of Phoenix's 11-2 run to close the quarter and

take a 72-68 margin with 12 minutes to go.

The Suns — the league's top 3-point shooters — also started hitting from beyond the arc. They had two 3s as part of the third-quarter closing burst and Barbosa opened the final period with his second 3 of the night.

SHEPPARD

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that."

It wasn't just Sheppard's size that drew the appeal of Midland College's women's basketball coach Ron Jones. Jones also saw a player with the ability to develop into something special.

"I think Heather has a lot of potential. I heard some things about her during the season and decided to come watch her. I liked her footwork and her hands and I think she's going to surprise a lot of people next year," Jones said. "Freshmen

improve a lot when they first come out of high school and I think she's just scratched the surface on her abilities. If she works hard, then she can develop into a really nice player for us."

Playing time can sometimes be hard to come by for freshmen at any level, especially on a team coming off a fifth-place finish at the 2008 National Junior College Athletic Association Women's Basketball Tournament. However, Jones insinuates that Sheppard will have the opportunity to pick up several minutes on the court during her first season, considering the Lady Chaps graduated

three of their top posts, including Tori Slusher, who was an all-conference and all-regional player.

"If you've ever watched us play, we rotate a lot of people, so she could see some playing time," Jones said. "We expect her to be a tough defender and we're going to work to make her the best basketball player we can. We lost three sophomore posts, so we're looking for Heather to come in and contribute right away."

Sheppard also sees attending Midland College as a springboard for both her higher educational and athletic careers.

"It's a good way to pay

for education and it makes it more fun," Sheppard said. "It's a good start for me. It gets me started on my studies and in basketball. It all starts from here."

"All of our players in 14 years have had opportunities at four-year schools," Jones added. "We're going to continue to develop her skills and there should be some great opportunities at a four-year university."

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

HAWKS

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Hawks with 67 RBIs. He's second on the team with 14 home runs.

Curry trails only cleanup hitter Travis Sample in homers on the club. Sample has clobbered 15 balls over the outfield fence this season, tying him for fourth nationally. Sample sits in seventh with a .504 batting average.

Center fielder Cameron Monger bats ninth in the

Howard lineup, but not because he's a liability at the plate. Instead, it's to make certain the Hawks have a runner on base when the top of the order comes to the plate.

Monger is tied for 19th in the nation with a .462 batting average and is ranked fourth with seven triples this season.

The Hawks continue their pursuit of a conference championship

Friday, when they play the first of two weekend doubleheaders Friday against Odessa College in Odessa. The Wranglers will then visit Howard College at Jack Barber Field Saturday to wrap up the four-game series.

"Odessa is always very competitive and they'll be ready to play," Smith said. "They have two of the best left-handed pitchers in the conference so

we're going to have our work cut out for us offensively. If we can just go out and continue to play the way we have been, then there's no reason to feel like we can't win all four games."

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Sylvia Strikes a Telling Blow

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ A Q 5 2
♥ 7 3
♦ 10 6 4 3
♣ A K 7
WEST
♠ 4 3
♥ K Q J 8 6 4
♦ J 7 5
♣ 8 3
EAST
♠ J 10 9 8 7
♥ 5 2
♦ A
♣ Q J 6 5 2
SOUTH
♠ K 6
♥ A 10 9
♦ K Q 9 8 2
♣ 10 9 4

The bidding:
South West North East
1♦ 1♥ 1♠ Pass
1NT Pass 3NT Pass
Opening lead — king of hearts.

When Sylvia first joined the club, she created a tremendous stir. All of us had met our share of bad players, but Sylvia was something different. We thought we had seen mistakes of every type at the bridge table, but it remained for Sylvia to show us what a hollow existence we had led. However, Sylvia had a saving grace. Every once in a while, she would conjure up a bizarre bid or play that would work like a charm. I was kibitzing her one day when she held the East hand in today's deal. In an effort to probe the work-

ings of her mind, I had made it a practice to sit behind her when I cut out. I thought that if I could fathom her style, I might get better results both with and against her.

Her partner led the K-Q of hearts, which held, and then another heart. I was busy trying to guess whether Sylvia would discard a spade or a club, and also which card she would select. I hadn't completed my thoughts when all of a sudden she discarded the ace of diamonds!

An extraordinary sight now greeted my eyes. I had never before seen all the colors of the spectrum appear on a human face, but there they were, first on South's face, then on West's.

There was not much more to the play. After Sylvia showed out on the first round of diamonds, there was no way South could come to nine tricks, and he finished down one. At the end, declarer seemed to be trying to say something, but no words came out. He had been struck speechless.

Of course, had Sylvia made any other discard at trick three, South would have finished with an over-trick after crossing to dummy and leading a diamond toward his hand. And, to make matters even worse for South, had he been shrewd enough to take the second heart lead, Sylvia would have been denied the chance for her spectacular discard, and the same 10 tricks would have accrued.

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BRIEFS

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Amigos Washer Club holding tournament April 12 at La Vadera

The Amigos Washer Club is holding a washer tournament at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at the La Vadera Club.

Registration deadline is at 1 p.m. and cost is \$20 per team.

First-, second- and third-place trophies will be awarded plus a cash prize.

For more information, contact Larry Lara at 264-6060 or Richard Villa at 268-9590.

Crossroads of West Texas Golf Classic scheduled

The Big Spring Chamber of Commerce and ATMOS Energy are sponsoring the Crossroads of West Texas Golf Classic to be held at the Big Spring Country Club May 17-18.

The tournament is limited to the first 100 paid teams with a two-man scramble format being used.

A handicap is required and the tourney will be pre-flighted by a tournament committee and local golf pro.

Entry fee is \$180 per team. All entries are to be paid in advance. The fee includes access to the ATMOS Energy hospitality tent, free beverages, a barbecue lunch for both days, an afternoon shootout on May 16 and a golf goodie bag.

Call the country club's pro shop at 267-5354 or the Chamber of Commerce at 263-7641 for more information.

Call Sports Editor Jonathan Hull at 263-7331, ext. 237, to submit a sports brief or e-mail him at sports@bigspringherald.com.



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- One 2007 Altima S
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Desert Storm
- Four 2008 Titans
3 Crew Cabs - 1 King Cab
- Four 2008 Frontiers
3 King Cabs - 1 Crew Cab
- Five 2008 Altimas
2 Coups 3.5's 3 4 Drs. 2.5's
- Two 2008 Pathfinders
- One 2008 Quest
Black
- Three 2008 Armadas
- Five 2008 Versas
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Silver
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Announcements

CONCEALED HANDGUN CLASS SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2008
CONTACT TOMMY SCOTT, (432)394-4492.

Business Opportunity

WANTED: RETIRED man wanting to work 20hrs a week as maintenance man. Call James Padgett (806)549-2366. Background check will be required.

Cemetery Lots

CEMETERY LOTS for Sale Trinity Memorial Park, Garden of Lebanon. Space 2 & 3 lot 260. \$1600 each. Call 432-263-1159.

CEMETERY LOTS. Payout plans available. No interest or carrying charges. \$10.00 down. The Little Red Barn across from Mt. Olive Cemetery. 432-264-7722.

SAVE \$\$\$\$\$ on monuments/markers. We deliver to all cemeteries. Little Red Barn across from Mt. Olive Cemetery. Mt Olive Monuments. 432-264-7722.

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Garage Sales

18X21 FOOT Carports \$695.00 plus tax installed on your lot. Other sized available. Bargain Barn, 508 West 3rd.

CARPORT SALE: 205 Becker Road (Sand Springs) on the south side, Saturday 8-? Lots of glass ware, girls- women's & men's clothes and lots of misc. items.

CARPORT SALE: 2200 Carl Friday Noon-? & Saturday 8-11. Table/chairs, metal desks, knick-knacks, children's clothes, plus-size clothes, toys, etc...

GARAGE SALE: Saturday 9-2, 1704 Morrison. Stove, freezer, lawn & garden, mini fridge, plumbing supplies, Hoshizahi Ice side-by-side refrigerator, furniture, Lg. P.A. speakers w/horn, poker table w/chips.

GARAGE SALE. 1801 Alabama. Friday 12am-5pm & Saturday 8am-? All size men, women's, kids clothes and shoes. Knick-knacks, glassware, antiques. Lots more.

Garage Sales

ESTATE SALE
by Joseph and Team
1405 E. 18th St.
(Big Spring)
Friday 9:00am-3:00pm
Saturday 9:00am-12:00pm
Fenton Royal Grafton, Homer Laughlin, Glassware, 3 sewing machines, 3 bedroom sets, deco dressers, sofas, recliners, lamp tables, TV's fridge, washer/dryer, dishwasher, oreck vacuum, Christmas, Windberg prints, lots, and lots of tools, yard equipment, ornamental iron, and the usual household misc.

GARAGE SALE, 2004 Morrison, Friday & Saturday 8-Noon. Women's clothing, bed, knick-knacks and lots of misc. items.

GARAGE SALE: Fri. & Sat. 8:00-?, 1508 East 17th. Tools, antiques, bunkbed, coke items, books, clothes, and misc. items.

GARAGE SALE: Saturday 8am-12pm, 702 Belvedere Road. Bed Frame, Table, lots of Miscellaneous.

GARAGE SALE: Saturday 9-?, Barbecue plates \$7.00, 301 East Second Street (Shiloh House of Praise).

MULTI FAMILY Highland South Garage Sale: 803 & 809 Highland Drive, Friday & Saturday 8:00-1:00. Too much to list. No Early Sales Please.

Help Wanted

EXPERIENCED PAINTER for trucks and heavy equipment. Salary DOE, Health Insurance, and 401k plan. Apply at Price Construction, 2701 N. HWY 350, Big Spring, TX 79720 or fax resume to 432-236-6012. EOE.



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Contact:
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310 Nolan Street
Big Spring, TX 79720
(432)264-2346
Fax: (432)264-2387
For more details go to www.ci.big-spring.tx.us
EOE

\$9.00/HR. CHILDCARE POSITION. Apply Jack & Jill, 1708 Nolan.

AFTERNOON STAFF- 5:30p.m.-12:00a.m., \$9.00 DOE. Apply at Jack & Jill, 1708 Nolan.

COAHOMA ISD is accepting applications for two positions: Lead Custodian and Groundskeeper. Applications are available at the Administration Office, 600 N Main, Coahoma. Applications will be accepted until positions are filled. Coahoma ISD is an equal opportunity employer.

CONSTRUCTION MANAGER/Foreman. We are looking for Wind Farm help, experience preferred, filling all positions. Please call 901-270-1204 or fax resume to dbradley@barnhartcrane.com

Help Wanted

BLUE SKY Services is looking for a Journeyman Electrician. If interested please call 432-580-7332.

CDL DRIVERS and Equipment Operators needed. Good Pay, Insurance, and lots of hours. Job located in the Coahoma, Texas area. Must have dependable transportation and pass a drug test. Apply in person at 9400 South Service Road I-20, Coahoma, TX.

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Help Wanted

ASSISTANT MAINTENANCE TECH needed at Cimarron Place. Own tools a plus. Company benefits included. Apply in person, 4136 E. 52nd St, Odessa. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE.

BLUE SKY Services is looking for an Experienced Backhoe Operator for the Big Spring area. If interested please call 432-580-7332.

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Incumbent serves as a general dental practitioner responsible for diagnosis and treatment of difficult dental problems in a correctional environment. Provides comprehensive dental care to the inmate population, who may have behavior and communication problems. Assists in the coordination the dental program, providing input regarding proposed modifications to operating procedures. Incumbent is required to meet suitability as well as qualification requirements to be selected for this position. Applications and more information can be obtained from www.usajob.opm.gov. Questions regarding this position can be directed to Michael Cross, Employee Services Manager, mcross@bop.gov, (432) 466-2402, or Aramis Martinez, Health Services Administrator, axmartinez@bop.gov, 432-466-2438. The BOP is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Pharmacist
The incumbent serves as the Chief Pharmacist at a Federal Bureau of Prisons' correctional facility and has responsibility for complete pharmacy services at the institution clinic. He/she is responsible for all aspects of pharmacy operations including dispensing, pharmaceutical care, clinical and community relations, and accreditation compliance. Incumbent is required to meet suitability as well as qualification requirements to be selected for this position. Applications and more information can be obtained from www.usajob.opm.gov. Questions regarding this position can be directed to Michael Cross, Employee Services Manager, mcross@bop.gov, (432) 466-2402, or Aramis Martinez, Health Services Administrator, axmartinez@bop.gov, 432-466-2438. The BOP is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Coastal Transport is now seeking individuals to deliver petroleum product in and around surrounding areas of Big Spring. Must be 23 years of age, have a Class A license with Tanker and Haz-Mat endorsements with 1 year tractor/trailer experience. Please contact Russell @ 1-888-527-7221 for more information.

DUNCAN DISPOSAL - Now hiring a driver for the Coahoma area. Need at least a Class B CDL. Experience Preferred for a driver's position. Must be able to pass mandatory DOT and corporate drug testing requirements. No phone calls please. The job includes 40+ hours weekly Mon-Fri., with some Sat. mornings. An hourly rate with benefits package is available. Equal Opportunity Employer. Please Call Arthur 432-770-3966.



EXPERIENCED TRUCK Technician own tools required, A/C experience preferred. Full benefit and unlimited income potential. Apply at Travel Centers of America Shop 704 West I-20 or fax resume to 432-267-4262.

Food Service - Great People - Real Opportunities SUPERVISORS

3-Day Work Week with Full Time Pay in Big Spring, TX!
Compass Group, the world's largest contract food service company, is now hiring several motivated individuals for our food service operation @ the Big Spring Correctional Complex. Great career opportunity, wages for qualified food service people start @ \$12.50. after 6 months, \$14.50. Outstanding company. Paid benefits, paid training, supplied uniforms. Unlimited advancement in a global company. Food service background not required. Must pass drug test, background check & have a clean or repairable credit record.
Opportunity is a call away!
432-263-2366
EOE & AA Employer M/F/D/V

HONEST HARDWORKING lawn and office maintenance person. 5 flexible hours per week. Equipment on site. Character references required. Great for a student. Call 432-263-5217.

IMMEDIATE OPENING for part-time Laundry attendant. Work 7 days- 7 days off. Must have own car. Apply 1208 Gregg Street or 208 11th Place.

REGIS HAIR Salon Big Spring Marketplace, now hiring a full time Hair Stylist. Benefits include guaranteed wage or commission whichever is greater. Incentive program, 401K, stock purchase plan, medical insurance, and advanced training. All tool supplies furnished except shears. Call now for an opportunity to join our team ask for Diane Arsiaga, 432-263-1111.

Help Wanted

APPLY NOW

INTERGRACARE HOME
Health has a great opportunity for a Director of Nurses: We are an established, reputable & successful home health company that has been in business for 15 years. We will soon be opening a parent location in Big Spring, and have a unique opportunity to start a location from the ground floor up! Position includes a competitive base salary & benefits package plus a \$25,000 bonus for achieving goals. To apply, please send your resume along with salary requirements to the attention of Angela Carter, HR Manager
resumes@txhmng.com
or fax it to (817)310-4990.

LICENSED PLUMBERS and apprentices, helpers, and HVAC technicians, apprentices, helpers. Doing commercial work in Midland and Big Spring. Insurance and retirement. Good wages, growing company looking for long term employees. Call (432)699-7747.

LOCAL 20+ Year Construction Company seeking experienced help. General residential and light commercial repairs, remodeling, painting interior and exterior experience. Pay D.O.E. Call 432-267-2296.

LOCAL COMPANY needs Full time Teller. Must be dependable and have a High School or GED diploma. Please send resume to c/o P.O. Box 1431/179, Big Spring, TX 79721-1431.

MAINTENANCE PERSON needed full time. Must have own basic tools, be able to be on call on rotating weeks/weekends, be able to pass criminal background check and drug test. Please apply in person at Barcelona Apartments between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

MAINTENANCE TECH needed, Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm. Experience preferred but not required. Must pass criminal and credit check. Fax resume to 432-264-1761 or call 432-264-1735. EOE

MATURE CHRISTIAN person to work with Pre-K students. M-F, full-time. Apply in person at New Hope Christian School, 118 Cedar Road.

NEEDED L.V.N. for very busy adult practice willing to be trained for multiple procedures and treatments done in clinical setting. Please send resume c/o P.O. Box 1431/177, Big Spring, TX 79721-1431.

NEIGHBORS CONVENIENCE Store now hiring cooks, cashiers, stockers. All Shifts. Apply at 3315 E. FM 700.



NOW HIRING Tech. Trainee @ Travel Centers of America Shop, 704 West I-20 or fax resume to 432-267-4262.

OILFIELD ELECTRICAL construction and maintenance company located in Midland, Texas is seeking a Supervisor for Oilfield electrical work. Will meet with customers, estimate jobs, and oversee installation. Must have a current Master or Journeyman Electrician's License. Salary is DOE. Please fax resume and salary requirements to (432)684-7607.

OPENING FOR Administrative Assistant for Canterbury. Desired skills include: Work, Excel, Publisher, reception skills and organizational skills. Salary DOE, Benefit package available, send resume to 1700 Lancaster Street.

OWN A Computer? Put it to work! Up to 1,500 to 7,500 a month. PT/FT. Free Info! www.reviveyourretirement.com

WAITRESS WANTED Full or Part Time. Must be 21. Come by Martha's Hideaway, 503 North Birdwell Lane. No Phone Calls Please.

Help Wanted

PARKPLACE RETIREMENT
Living is seeking an evening Resident Clerk. This position is shift work from 4:30pm to 12:30am; week ends required (guaranteed 40 hours a week). Duties include facilitating activities, light housekeeping, assisting in during meal times, etc. Must be able to multitask and be active. Apply in person at 501 W. 17th Street.

PARKVIEW NURSING & REHABILITATION

Now hiring for the following positions:
* Housekeeper
* Dietary Aide
Please apply in person at 3200 Parkway Rd.

PART-TIME: THE National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (A Fair Opportunity Employer) needs survey interviewers in Martin, Midland and Howard counties. Applicants must have a valid driver's license and access to a pick-up truck or automobile. Starting pay is \$9.35 per hour including training time, plus 50.5 cents per mile for travel. A farm background is desirable, but not essential. If you are interested, please contact:
Joe Rowe
HCR 74 Box 89
Fort Davis, Texas 79734
432-426-3089
432-249-0300

PIZZA INN
EARN \$12-\$14 PER HOUR DELIVERING PIZZA'S. \$100 HIRING BONUS. MUST BE 18YRS. OLD WITH CLEAN DRIVING RECORD. ALSO TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT POSITIONS. APPLY IN PERSON AT 1702 GREGG. NO PHONE CALLS.

P.H.I.C. - John Deere Dealer of Big Spring, TX in need of Service Technicians. Pay is based on exp. Fax resume: Attn: Justin Parker, Serv., Mngr. (432)267-2757 or call (432)263-8344 Benefits Include: Health Ins., 401K; Pd. Vacation.

PORTER HENDERSON Implement Co. is looking for a full and part time parts clerk. Farming knowledge a plus. Must have a valid driver's license. Apply in person at 3011 N. Hwy. 87.

RELEASE OF Information Clerk in Big Spring area. Experience in a Medical Records Department or Doctor's Office a must. Fax resume to 417-777-8459 or call 800-873-1831.

SECURITY OFFICERS Needed to Guard Federal Inmates in Local Hospitals. Must be able to pass State and Federal background checks and credit check requirements. Full and part-time positions available. Starting pay \$12.50 per hr. Apply at Workforce Center in Big Spring or call 432-520-1573.

WHITTEN INN now hiring the following positions: **Housekeepers, Maintenance, Desk Clerks. Apply in person, on I-20 next to TA Truck Stop.**

WOODFOREST NATIONAL Bank is now hiring for Assistant Branch Manager at our Big Spring location. Please apply online at www.woodforest.com. EOE m/f/v/d

YOUTH DIRECTOR needed for small Christian Church. Must be a positive role model and able to get along well with parents. Must be good at organizing events for youth and at giving reports to the board. Please contact First Christian Church at 432-517-4821.

Items for Sale

2 TWIN Mattress sets and box springs. Both new. \$95.00 each. Will separate. Call 432-664-8980.

BRAND NAME queen pillow-top mattress set. New in plastic. Factory warranty. \$145, 432-664-8980.

FULL SIZE mattress set. New in plastic. \$115.00 Call 432-664-8980.

GE SIDE-BY-SIDE refrigerator (black) and 16 foot fiberglass boat including motor w/trailer. Call 432-264-9900.

KING QUILTED Pillowtop mattress set. New in plastic with warranty. \$250.00, Call 432-664-8980.

QUEEN ORTHOPEDIC mattress set. Factory sealed with warranty. "New" \$130.00. Call 432-664-8980.

TEMPUR-PUDIC TYPE memory foam mattress set. New in plastic. Retail \$1800 Must sell for \$550. Call 432-664-8980.

Lost and Found

LOST BLACK long-haired cat found by the VA Medical Center. Call 432-935-3164.

LOST SMALL Dog: Blonde Terrier/Chihuahua Mix. Please call if found: 432-466-4230.

Miscellaneous

\$460 NEW 5pc Microfiber Livingroom Set. Stain Resistant, Factory Warranty. List \$1499....
CHERRY DINING table, chairs, china cabinet, mirror finish, ALL NEW. \$700. 806-549-3110.

100% LEATHER 5pc. Livingroom Set. Lifetime warranty. Never used, in Crates. Retail \$2999, \$620.....
CHERRY DINING table & chairs. Deep, mirror finish, Boxed. List \$600 Take \$225. 806-549-3110.

1999 JAYCO Designer Camper, 37' with 3 slides, fiberglass. \$19,500.00. Call (432)263-6948 for more information.

2000 28 FT overall Fleetwood Prowler RV, low mileage, large slide out, clean interior, queen size bed, large storage unit, build in radio and CD player, TV included. Will deliver from San Angelo. Call 325-944-3840.

2000 DUTCHMAN Supreme, 5th wheel, 2 slide outs, queen bed w/queen sleeper sofa, 31 foot 6 inches. Price \$16,000.00. Call 432-213-4332.

2007 42FT. Fifth Wheel. 2 Bdr, 4 slides, 2 AC, Washer and Dryer, will consider smaller RV trade, \$38,000.00 OBO. Call 806-544-5347.

BIG RECLINER, Sofa, and loveseat, BRAND NEW, list #3330, sell \$990.....
BEAUTIFUL CHERRY solid wood sleighbed with new mattress set. \$350. 806-549-3110.

CAKES: Wedding, Anniversaries, Quinceanarios. Arches, Candelabras and florals. FREE DELIVERY. Limited Birthday Cakes. Call Grishams (432)267-8191.

LONE STAR STORAGE
Located on I-20,
10 min. from Big Spring.
Regular units
COMING SOON
RV Covered Parking
432-394-4499

ROUND BALES- Coastal \$55.00. Call (432)213-4332.

SELECT NUMBER air mattress set, two controls, pick comfort level, brand new, valid warranty. List \$2990. Sell \$880.....
BEAUTIFUL EXPRESSO 6 pc contemporary bedroom set & comforter set, must see, \$595. 806-549-3110.

STRUCTURAL PIPE: 2-3/8- \$30. per joint, 2-7/8- \$36. per joint and 4-1/2, 7 ft. corner post- \$40.. Call (432)459-2565 or 270-4698.

Pets

3 male Miniature Dachshunds. They have had their 1st shots. They are 7 weeks old, and are sweet and adorable. Please call 432-268-7564, or 806-543-3432 for more information.

FREE TO good home Australian Shepherd, approx. 3 yrs. old. Call 432-517-4010 leave message.

Real Estate for Rent

\$480/MO! BUY a 3 bed, 2 bath! 5% dn, 20 yrs, 8% apr! For listings 800-544-6258 x F086.

3 BDRM house for rent, month-month, fully furnished, will accept company invoice for rent, includes utilities, home furnishings and weekly maid service. 400-600/person depending on terms. 303-815-3993 eve or leave message.

3 BEDROOM, 2 bath, garage \$850 month. Water Paid. New Carpet & tile. (Rent or Sale). 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, Plus Den. \$750 month. Both First & last, deposit. Please do not ask me to show if you do not have the move-in. 432-264-3976. Travel Trailer slip for rent.

625 MCEWEN 3 bdrm, 1 bath, CH/A. \$625. month, \$450. deposit. Call (432)263-3375 or 816-6992.

FURNISHED SPACIOUS 1-Bedroom Duplex. Quite neighbor. Downtown. Near Post Office. Central Air, big closet. Non Smoking or pets. Good credit report required. \$300.00- One person. Utilities by tenant. McDonald (432)270-0707.

Real Estate for Rent

QUITE NEIGHBORHOOD: 710 Johnson. 1 bedroom/ 1 bath house, CH/A, Appliances provided including washer/dryer. Utility paid by Renter. \$400mo/ \$400 deposit. Covered Parking in back. Prefer no pets/ smoking. Credit check required. Call 432-213-1496 if interested.

RETAIL BUILDING on Gregg Street. High traffic area with parking in front & back. 2200 sq. feet. \$400.00 Per month with 1 year lease. Please contact Lucy 432-263-5000.

THE OFFICE Building, 710 Gregg Street, for lease, excellent space for a medical doctor or lab available, also have individual offices starting @ \$250. per month with bills paid. Call (432)770-5656 or (432)517-0038. Broker/ Owner.

Real Estate for Sale

3BDR-2BATH WITH Carport, \$59,500 owner will finance with reasonable down payment. \$495.00 monthly, Call 512-940-5200 or 432-631-8100.



5607 MURPHY- 3 Bedroom, 3 bath country home, Coahoma Schools. Large open floor plan, \$144,900.00. Call Pam @ The Real Estate Company, 432-661-9712.

603 SOUTH 2nd in Coahoma. 2 Bedroom, 1 bath brick. Fenced, attached carport. \$47,500.00. Call (432)263-6948 for more information.

900 ACRES 1.5 miles of Colorado River, Highly improved. Saba County. Beautiful Ranch. \$5,500,000.00. Call 903-326-4851, 903-872-2022 or 325-623-5651.

BEAUTIFUL VICTORIAN Home. 3 Bdrm, 1-1/2 bath, wrap around porch, wooden deck, house sits on 2 lots, big back yard. 2101 Runnels. \$100K. Call 432-816-2525.

BY OWNER 30 acres, Tubbs addition. 6500 Kyle. Forsan ISD. Almost new 3/2/2, brick. Many Extras. \$215,000.00. Call 432-213-4203 or 405-613-5680 for appointment.

BY OWNER Lovely 3/2/2, large laundry room & living room w/fireplace, fenced backyard, fruit trees, underground sprinkler system. 2705 Coronado. \$137,500.00. Call 432-213-4203 or 405-613-5680 for appointment.

BY OWNER: 1307 College Ave., 3 Bdrm, 1 bath. Call 432-816-5353 leave message.

EXCELLENT CONDITION. Great floor plan. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. 1760 sq. feet. \$123,500.00. 4121 Theo St.. Call 432-263-3135, 432-413-8656.

FORECLOSURE 3 bdrm. Only \$24,900! Must see! For listings 800-544-6258 ext. F906.

NEW REMODEL- Rock Home & 23.9 acres of Pasture & Trees, 8 miles NE of Big Spring, 3 Bdrm, 1.5 bath, 40x60 Metal Barn, Horse Barn, \$159,900. Brokers Welcome. 325-725-9693 Jeremy.

OWNER FINANCE. Lg 3 Bdrm, 1 bath, 709 Johnson. Low Down, Easy Terms. Call 325-277-4923.

OWNER FINANCED Houses for Sale. 510 State, 1609 Canary, 1114 Mulberry and 603 Circle. Easy Terms. Call Reagan at 432-634-6818.

WE BUY HOUSES and LAND. Any Condition. Tax Liens No Problem. Call (512)940-5200, 432-631-8100.

Vehicles

1995 MITSUBISHI Eclipse \$600 OBO! Runs great! For listings 800-544-1092 xN237.

MUST SELL this week! 2006 38 ft. Franklin travel trailer. 4 slide outs, triple axle, fully self-contained, washer, dryer, two AC and more. \$23,000, or best offer. Can deliver. Call (512)317-6163.

Legals

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
The Big Spring Independent School District shall receive sealed bid proposals until 4:00 P.M., April 28, 2008, on the following:

Boys Basketball Supplies
Girls Basketball Supplies
Swimming Supplies

Specifications and bid documents may be secured from the school district's Business Office located at 708 East 11th Place, Big Spring, Texas 79720-4648, phone number (432)264-3620. Bids will be publicly open and read immediately following the deadline for receiving the bids in the Business Office of the Big Spring Independent School District. Bidders are invited to be present at the bid opening. Bids received after the opening date and time will be returned unopened. Bids will be presented for consideration to the Board of Trustees on May 8, 2008 at 5:15 P.M. at their regularly scheduled board meeting. The Big Spring Independent School District reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. #5736 April 3 & 10, 2008

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR COMMERCIAL DISPOSAL WELL PERMIT IN A NON PRODUCTIVE FORMATION

Endeavor Energy Resources L.P., 110 N. Mariefeld, Ste. 200 Midland, TX 79701 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a COMMERCIAL DISPOSAL WELL PERMIT to dispose of produced salt water or other oil and gas waste by well injection into a porous formation not productive of oil or gas. The applicant proposes to dispose of oil and gas waste into the San Andres & Clearfork Formation, Allar Lease, Well Number 1D. The proposed injection well is located 12 Miles West of Big Spring, Texas in the Lou Ann (Fusselman) Field, in Howard County, Texas. Fluid waste will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 3360 to 6600 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512/463-6792).

Public Notice

Forsan ISD
Notice of Election
TO THE REGISTERED VOTERS OF THE FORSAN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
An election is hereby ordered to be held on May 10, 2008, for the purpose of:

Electing (3) three trustees
Location of polling places: Forsan Elbow Elementary School and Forsan Junior/Senior High School.
Early voting by personal appearance will be conducted each week-day at Howard County Courthouse between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM beginning on April 28, 2008, and ending on May 6, 2008.
Applications for ballot by mail shall be mailed to: Sandra Bloom, P.O. Box 1069, Big Spring, Texas 79720. Applications for ballot by mail must be received no later than the close by business on May 2, 2008.

Additional early voting will be held as follows:
Location
Howard County Courthouse
Howard County Courthouse
Date
April 28, 2008
May 1, 2008
Hours
8:00 AM to 8:00 PM
8:00 AM to 8:00 PM
Issued this 10th day of April, 2008.
Forsan Independent School District
Orden de Eleccion

Por la presente se ordena que se llevara a cabo una eleccion el 10 de mayo del 2008 con el proposito de:

Elegir (3) fideicomisarios
Locaciones de votar: Forsan Elbow Elementary School y Forsan Junior/Senior High School.
Se puede votar en persona cada dia laboral en Howard County Courthouse entre las horas de la manana y 5:00 de la tarde, empezando el 28 de abril del 2008 y terminando el 6 de mayo del 2008.
Las solicitudes para boletas de correo que se votaran se debe enviar a: Sandra Bloom, P.O. Box 1069, Big Spring, Texas, 79720. Las solicitudes para boletas de correo deberan recibirse antes el fin de las horas de negocio el 2 de mayo del 2008.
La votacion adelantada ademas se llevara a cabo de tal manera:
Sitio
Howard County Courthouse
Howard County Courthouse
Fecha
28 de abril del 2008
1 de mayo del 2008
Horas
8:00 de la manana-8:00 de la tarde
8:00 de la manana-8:00 de la tarde
Emilitada este dia 10 de abril del 2008.
#5751 April 10, 2008

ATTENTION
THE BIG SPRING HERALD APPRECIATES YOUR BUSINESS

Here are some helpful tips and information that will help you when placing your ad. After your ad has been published the first day we suggest you check the ad for mistakes and if errors have been made we will gladly correct the ad and run it again for you at no additional charge. If your ad is inadvertently not printed advance payment will cheerfully be refunded and the newspaper's liability will be for only the amount received for publication of the advertisement. We reserve the right to edit or reject any ad for publication that does not meet our standards of acceptance.



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1988 which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination."
This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

BARCELONA APARTMENTS
\$299 MOVE IN SPECIAL + APPLICATION & SECURITY DEP.
ALL BILLS PAID
538 Westover 263-1252
Housing Assistance Accepted

GUNMAN

Continued from Page 1A

the last few months the level of violence has escalated. There are no easy answers.”

Since the beginning of the year, BSPD has reported approximately 25 instances of deadly conduct/discharge of a firearm, including approximately 14 during March, three in February and six in January.

Four of those reports came from the 700 block of Lorilla, while two more have originated from the 2300 block of Grace.

Others locations reporting the same charge since the beginning of 2008 include the 300 block of 10th Street, 3600 and 4200 blocks of Hamilton, 900 block of 16th Street, 800 block of Cherry, 700 block of Goliad, 4200 block of Theo, 1800 block of Winston, 2500 block of Albrook, 1000 block of Main Street, 3200 block of Eighth Street, 2500 block of Dow, 1400 block of Princeton, 1200 block of Settles, and the 1000 block of Birdwell Lane.

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

Taxpayer group honors Neugebauer

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congressman Randy Neugebauer has been recognized for his pro-taxpayer voting record in 2007 by the National Taxpayers Union (NTU). The nonpartisan citizen group made up of 362,000 members announced today that Neugebauer was one of only a few dozen lawmakers in the House and Senate to win the 2007 “Taxpayers’ Friend Award.”

“While many Members of Congress talked about reducing the size of government last year, Congressman Randy Neugebauer, the Representative of the 19th Congressional District of

Texas, backed up his words by his votes,” NTU President Duane Parde said. “This award proves that Congressman Neugebauer is a staunch ally we can count on in our battle to restore fiscal responsibility to Washington.”

The award is presented to those members who achieve an “A” grade in NTU’s annual Rating of Congress. The rating, which is based on every roll call vote affecting fiscal policy, assigns a “Taxpayer Score” to each member of Congress who indicates his or her support for reducing or controlling federal spending, taxes, debt and regula-

tion. For 2007, a total of 427 House votes were analyzed.

When notified of his selection, Neugebauer commented, “It is a true honor to be recognized by such a prestigious group that never strays from their devotion to smaller government and reducing the high tax burden placed upon American citizens. I have promised my constituents I will be fiscally responsible and fight to ensure they keep more of their hard earned money because I know they are far more capable than government bureaucrats of spending it wisely. I am honored to accept this award and promise to

continue my fight in Congress for fiscal responsibility. I will work to reduce taxes, including eliminating the death tax once and for all and keeping the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts permanent, and continue to work with my colleagues to cut wasteful federal spending, being better stewards of the taxpayers’ money.”

“Congressman Neugebauer’s pro-taxpayer score of 85 percent was one of the best in the entire House,” Parde said. “By consistently voting to reduce federal spending, taxes, and debt, he has led by example in the fight to ease the burden on taxpayers everywhere.”

WEATHER

Continued from Page 1A

a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in San Angelo.

Paramedics were dispatched throughout the city, but San Angelo police didn’t have a number of injured.

Hours earlier, two apparent tornados also moved through another section of West Texas, sending three people to a hospital, destroying hangars and other buildings at a town’s airport and knocking out power.

National Weather Service staff planned to survey the areas later Thursday to confirm if tornados touched down.

Police in the Stephens County city of Breckenridge said they have reports of a few minor injuries, but didn’t have a full count Wednesday night. Robbie Dewberry, administrator at Stephens

Memorial Hospital, said the three were being treated in the hospital emergency room.

The hospital was on emergency back-up power. No damage was reported at the facility, Dewberry said.

Power lines were down and at least five homes were destroyed in Breckenridge, police said.

Another tornado apparently touched down in Palo Pinto County between Graford and Oran, said Jennifer Dunn, a National Weather Service meteorologist. Officials reported roofs were blown off a few homes and trees were down in Oran.

Red Cross spokeswoman Anita Foster says no injuries were reported from the high winds and heavy rain in the Dallas-Fort Worth areas. Two shelters were set up for residents who may need them, she said.

One hangar at Addison Airport, in the Dallas area, lost part of its roof.



AP Photo/Tony Pilkington

Jeremy Dickey of Breckenridge tries to turn off the water to his house after it was struck by an apparent tornado Wednesday evening. Dickey wasn’t home at the time, but his wife, Tina, and two children, ages 4 years and 8 months, hid in an interior closet he had reinforced as a shelter. They were not injured, but the house was moved 10 feet off of its foundation. Breckenridge police said they have reports of a few minor injuries, but didn’t have a full count. Power lines were down and at least five homes were destroyed, police said.

SHOOTING

Continued from Page 1A

with a shotgun,” said Everett. “The officer fired, killing the suspect.

The officer has been placed on administrative leave, which is standard procedure in a shooting situation.”

Because the shooting involved a police officer, the investigation is being

conducted by the Texas Ranger’s office out of Lubbock.

Officials with the Ranger’s office declined to comment on the investigation, saying their office will not be releasing

any information to the media regarding the shooting.

Everett declined to comment on the investigation, saying its currently out of the BSPD’s hands.

“I don’t have anything

to report because it’s not our investigation,” said Everett. “Until we get the results from the Rangers, there’s really nothing I can tell you.”

Everett said he’s not sure how long it will take

the Rangers to conclude their investigation.

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

ROBBERY

Continued from Page 1A

fled with her purse. The purse wasn’t zipped, however, and as the suspect fled the contents began falling to the ground, including her wallet, which was recovered.”

Everett said witnesses at the

scene and video footage captured by the store’s security cameras provided officers with a vehicle description and license plate number.

“Approximately 45 minutes later Officer Joel Rojo found the vehicle at Northcrest Apartments,” said Everett. “It was parked and unoccupied. The officer backed off and wait-

ed 15 to 20 minutes later two subjects entered the vehicle and began to leave. They saw officers moving toward them and pulled back in a different parking space. They were detained at that point.”

Everett said Yanez, who was allegedly driving the vehicle at the time of the arrest, and Lopez matched descriptions

provided by witnesses of the robbery.

“The passenger (Lopez) matched the suspect’s description,” said Everett. “A handgun was found in the possession of the driver (Yanez) as was marijuana. The investigation led to an apartment rented by the driver (Yanez). A third suspect was found inside and was also

in possession of marijuana.”

The third suspect — Marquez — was then taken into custody, according to Everett.

“All suspects remain in custody at the city jail awaiting arraignment,” said Everett.

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

REFINERY

Continued from Page 1A

are still under investigation,” Foster said. “There’s not a clear ‘smoking gun’ in this case, but as soon as we know, we will share it with you.”

The plant may have been down, but company officials have been anything but idle, bringing in a small army of workers to get the refinery back into operation.

Foster said that 800 workers — about quadruple the normal workforce — are currently on site, with even more to come

in the near future.

While about 75 percent of the refinery’s processing units were “virtually untouched” Feb. 18, major damage was reported almost everywhere else. Miles of pipes were destroyed, cooling towers were wrecked and, most importantly, the cat cracker unit, the refinery’s central refining equipment, was off-line.

“A lot of the problem came when we had to perform an abrupt shutdown (Feb. 18),” Foster said. “It’s like driving along at 65 mph, then putting your car in park ... The car may look good on the outside, but inside it will be a mess.”

Because of its importance, the cat cracker has received a lot of attention from workers.

“The heart of the cat cracker was OK. If that hadn’t been the case, we’d probably be looking at 18 months before we got it back up and running,” Foster said. “The main problem is replacing the miles and miles and miles of pipe in that area.”

Officials are set to resume limited production this week, minus the cat cracker.

“Operating without the cat cracker, we’re not going to be as productive,” Foster said. “We probably won’t be able to run more than half what

we normally do.”

Foster said the company has set mid-July as the target date to resume normal gasoline refining operations. To make up the supply shortfall between now and then, officials have contracted with other oil companies

to supply fuel to stations carrying the Fina brand.

Meanwhile, more people will be brought in to fix problems caused by the Feb. 18 fires.

“Many more hundreds of people will be here in the near future,” Foster said. “And all of them will

be dedicated to bringing this refinery back on line.”

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

Majestic Ionic Foot & Body Detox
Tuesday - 9:00-7:30
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AN ENCOURAGING WORD

 By Eddy Pitchford

The problem has been around a long time. It is seen in the lives of many different people. It transcends cultures, economics, ethnicity and political preferences. It is always close to the surface and is ready to make a grand entry. In recent months, it has appeared in political debates from both major parties.

Let me emphasize this is not a political problem but a people problem. The problem of which I speak? *The willingness to disconnect personal faith from daily life.* I do not want a politician to proselyte people into a particular religious group; I do want a politician who governs based upon Biblical character and virtue. I do want a statesman (or stateswoman) whose integrity connects belief with behavior.

Such a view of faith, life, integrity and ethics is needed for all of us - not just political candidates.

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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OUR VIEWS

Put Health Fair, fun run/walk in weekend plans

Do you know how healthy or unhealthy you are? Well, that's something every one of us ought to be interested in, and a couple of events set for this weekend are designed to do that.

We have several times in this space noted that nothing is as important than one's health. And for good reason, because anything else, with the exception of one's spiritual condition, pales in comparison.

Unfortunately, far too many of us fall woefully short of being conscientious when it comes to making sure we're in good health.

We're too busy, we too often tell ourselves, to schedule a doctor's appointment for a check up. Worse still, in some cases we ignore symptoms of potentially life-threatening conditions.

That's why it's important that we all make plans to take advantage of free health screenings that will be offered Saturday at Health Fair 2008.

Doors to Howard College's Dorothy Garrett Coliseum will be open from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday and there will be numerous booths supplying free screenings and information.

The theme for this year's fair is "A Gold Medal for Good Health."

Corporate sponsors for the fair are Air-Evac Lifeteam, Alon USA, H-E-B, KBST, KBYG, Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home, Parkplace Retirement/Parkview Nursing and Rehab, Scenic Mountain Medical Center, Warren Chiropractic Center, West Texas Centers for MHMR and West Texas VA Health Care Systems.

United Blood Services will have its mobile unit on hand, and the partial list of screenings available include: blood pressure, cholesterol, glucose, PSAs, Pulse/Ox testing and weight. Fluoride treatment for children will also be available, as well as DNA identification kits for children.

We encourage everyone — from our community's healthcare professionals to the average man, woman or child on the street — to make plans to stop by the Health Fair on Saturday and pay a little attention to healthy living.

What's more, it wouldn't be a bad idea to take part in Saturday morning's "Master the Mountain" Fun Run/Walk at the Big Spring State Park.

Put all that together, and it just might be the best and most important fun you've ever had.

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

We look at the positive, Lord, with You.

Amen

Dems' presidential magic goes poof

The Democratic primary contest has degenerated from a perceived battle between the party's highest ranked superheavyweights to a fight for survival between two badly damaged club fighters.

In its early phases the campaign featured only "Hillary, the Entitled." Her inevitability had been decreed by party powers still operating under the deluded assumption that the Clinton years inspired mostly positive images, especially those of economic prosperity.

Sure, there was Bill's baggage, but the country had rejected the Republicans' attitude toward it when it punished them in the 1998 congressional elections, right? The mainstream media instantly dubbed it a "referendum on impeachment," though an equally reasonable interpretation was that the GOP losses were in line with historical midterm election trends.

But there is no denying that Bill Clinton is the only Democrat to have held the presidency since Jimmy Carter — that's 28 years. He is the only guy that consistently stuck it to the Republicans with success, despite being politically crippled. There had to be magic with this guy — with the Clintons.

The Clintons had become the only symbol of victory for Democrats. Even Al Gore couldn't make it to the White House when he'd won — according to Democratic propaganda — the 2000 election. Nor could John Kerry dispose of this Dubyah "dunce" in 2004, even with the aid of equally entrenched Democratic myths that Bush lied about Iraqi WMD, had made himself king and had destroyed our civil liberties.

Notwithstanding the hard left's unrelenting angst over Hillary's

unforgivable support of the Iraq War Resolution, Democrats had no one else to believe in but the Clintons. So Hillary became the presumptive nominee — and was well on her way to the actual nomination until reality began to eclipse wishful thinking and rationalized perceptions.

Reality hit when Hillary exposed herself as an arrogant, duplicitous fraud by brazenly tying herself in knots in a presidential debate over the illegal immigrants driver's license issue. To his credit, Barack Obama seized the moment, which began a period when Obama dramatically transformed himself from a young neophyte to an agile, formidable competitor, mature way beyond his years.

Almost overnight the Clinton magic went up in smoke and was replaced by what seemed a much more powerful force: the wizardry of Barack. The MSM couldn't have been happier to discover a new object for their affection, a new vehicle for their aspirations. Hillary, after all, was never really magical — as her persistent negatives and unlikability demonstrated.

But this Obama guy — he could be the real deal — and besides, he is a bona fide liberal, not just another opportunistic, power-hungry pol. Or so they thought, until the other shoe dropped.

The Rev. Wright shoe didn't just drop, it kicked Obama in the gut. Granted, the MSM is already starting to say the Wright story has no legs because Hillary hasn't appeared to surge much since it surfaced. But gauging the damage to Obama based only on whether Hillary has gained ground is misleading. We won't know the extent of the injury until the general election occurs.

Also, we're experiencing a very fluid political climate. While Pastor Wright was kicking Obama, Hillary was shooting herself in the foot — again, this time

with gratuitous lies about Bosnian sniper fire.

But Wright or no Wright, sniper tale or no sniper tale, Obama's magic had to wear off eventually because Obama, like the rest of us, is human. Apart from Wright, he had simmering embers of vulnerability — his unrealistic promises to unify and heal America — waiting to be sparked into full-blown electoral disabilities.

No one as politically extreme and with such a pathetic record of matching his bipartisan rhetoric with bipartisan action can credibly make the case that he's a healer. The Wright revelations just accelerated the public's awareness that Obama is not who he says he is.

Not only that, but the whole idea that America's greatest need is an end to bipartisan competition and a cease-fire in the healthy, robust war of ideas is on par with the fantasy that a human messiah is waiting in the wings to solve all our problems. Most of these problems are policy and culture oriented and require policy and cultural solutions, not hocus-pocus.

So what at one point was a contest between two larger-than-life figures has reduced itself to a competition between two typically flawed mortals.

By the time the general election campaign is in full swing, we'll see efforts by the MSM and Democrats to resurrect the Obama magic — and Obama will be quite anxious to don his magic wand again.

John McCain had better wake up from his own illusions that he can fight this election with kid gloves and no money, otherwise Obama, via political prestidigitation, will beam himself right into the White House.

David Limbaugh is a writer, author and attorney.

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We've become an 'ingrate nation'

When U.S. soldiers returned from the Vietnam War, many never got the welcome they felt they deserved. Instead of parades, many got sneers and lectures. Since the Iraq and Afghan wars began, Americans have responded much better to veterans returning from U.S. missions abroad. We throw parades. We wrap our arms around them.

Then we forget about them as they try to enter the civilian workforce, typically with less success than counterparts who have never enlisted.

A recent survey for the Department of Veterans Affairs found that 18 percent of vets recently back from tours of duty are out of work — and a quarter of those with jobs earn less than \$21,840 per year. In the first two years after leaving military service, the official unemployment rate for veterans was 9.5 percent — more than double the 4.3 percent rate for a group of demographically similar non-vets.

Ken Crawford, who tries to place veterans with jobs for the San Francisco veterans group Swords to Ploughshares, told me it is "very rare" that he places a vet in a job that pays health benefits, much less offers a 401(k) plan. Men and women whom this country recently trusted to command others and represent America abroad now are flipping burgers and delivering pizza.

"A veteran should not go from saying, 'Sir, yes, sir,' to, 'Do you

want fries with that?' or 'Would you like to supersize that order?'" Crawford added.

The problem isn't simple. Crawford believes that the military often does not develop skill sets that translate easily into the civilian job market, although the VA survey reported that many veterans have developed valuable technological skills.

There can be emotional issues — which do not all fall under the rubric of Post-traumatic Stress Disorder. Some vets have trouble adjusting from the military regimen to workplace sensibilities.

Walter L. Williams, 33, now a case manager for Swords to Ploughshares, recalls returning from tours in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait and spending 10 months on other people's couches. He had to learn how to fit himself into the routines of others — as well as establish his own routine.

PTSD has turned into a two-edged sword.

Advocates' focus on the trauma has delivered funds and programs to help shell-shocked vets.

Yet the price is that this focus has undermined the image of men and women who served their country and are perfectly capable of holding down a good job — but they have to be hired first.

Common sense would suggest that corporate human resource staffers would want to hire adults who could be counted on in the most trying of circumstances. And veterans have a history of putting a mission first.

But, Crawford suspects, corporate HR-types note the veterans' box checked off on an online application, and see damaged goods. Service in the military is seen as a negative, not a plus.

Businesses also are afraid that a newly returned vet might be called back into service. The VA survey found a 10-point drop in the percentage of employed recently returned veterans who work for private companies since 1990.

"If I were an employer and I wasn't a vet and I was misinformed, I probably wouldn't hire a vet either," said Williams. In the Bay Area, critics of the Iraq War often say that they oppose the war, but support the troops. That's not what Williams sees. He sees people who look down on those who have served in the military.

Williams is baffled at what he sees as an odd sense of entitlement. How can it be that he has served their country, yet non-vets see themselves as somehow better than he is?

And guess what: Because, according to the survey, non-vets are more likely to earn more than new vets, their sense of entitlement pays off.

Who hires veterans? In Crawford's experience, the answer is: veterans. Otherwise, hiring vets is not on the radar for many human resources departments.

Williams, who is black, recalls serving with men whom he believed to be bigots — but he knew they would have his back. And they knew they could depend on him.

For those who see the Bay Area as tolerant and embracing, Williams uttered words to think about: "The civilian world, to me, is a lot colder than the military world."

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

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In Fusion

Ford's midsize sedan proves it can stand out in the crowd

I'm a big fan of the Fusion. Since its introduction in 2005, I have felt the Fusion hit all of the top points for consumers in the midsize sedan segment.

I were one of the top pitchmen for the model. But I would never in a million years have thought to tell a 20-something hot shot they could satisfy their need for speed in a Ford Fusion.

It's stylish, nicely equipped, affordable, and economical to operate — earning high marks in every category.

Then Ford came out with the "Formula One Frank" commercial. You know the one, the guy with the cheesy mustache who's always in a hurry, driving like a maniac and waiting impatiently for the lady to cross the street at the intersection so he can zoom to his destination in his sporty Ford Fusion.

At the risk of sounding like Simon Cowell, I didn't get it.

I love the Ford Fusion, but I really thought someone at the ad agency had been reading the wrong demographic research.

What were they thinking?

I've recommended the Fusion to a lot of people. It wouldn't surprise me if

ON THE ROAD



By NEAL WHITE

Is the Fusion sporty for a midsize sedan?

Absolutely — for a midsize sedan.

Does it have a peppy engine and plenty of torque to merge quickly on a busy freeway or pass a slow moving vehicle on a nar-

row two-lane road?

Absolutely.

Does it have lots of room to comfortably seat five adults with extra room for luggage?

Again, high marks all the way around.

Is it loaded with high-tech features like a premium audio system and Ford Sync — as well as excellent active and passive safety features earning it the highest ratings in both front and side impact from the IIHS?

Check, check and check.

And before you ask the questions, it is fun to drive, it handles extremely well, rated as an Ultra Low Emissions Vehicle and it gets very respectable fuel economy



The 2008 Ford Fusion.

figures.

The Fusion is also one of the most stylish, well-constructed sedans in the midsize segment.

I have and will continue to recommend the Fusion to any consumer in the market for a midsize sedan.

But I still don't get the commercial.

This week I had the chance to drive a Fusion equipped with the 2.3-liter I-4 engine mated to a five-speed manual transmission.

I absolutely loved it. It was so much fun, I almost forgot that I was driving a midsize sedan.

Which, if I were guessing, is what the ad agency had in mind when they produced the "Formula One Frank" commercials.

I have to admit, it was pretty invigorating winding out the gears and revving through the torque curve on a lonely stretch of country road.

But I still don't get the commercials. Being in my mid-40s, I can only hope they connected with the 20-somethings they were designed to target.

Available in three trim lines (S, SE and SEL) and with a choice of two powertrains — a 3.0-liter V-6

mated to a six-speed automatic is also available — the front-wheel drive Fusion is an absolute must to add to the test drive list for those in the market for a midsize sedan. It's actually one of my top picks in the segment.

Neal White has been covering the automotive industry for more than 15 years and is affiliated with the Texas Auto Writers Association and the Midwest Automotive Media Association.

Comments may be sent to Neal at neal.white@waxahachiedaily.com.

THE NUTS AND BOLTS



MODEL:
2008 Ford Fusion
5-seat midsize sedan
Front-wheel drive
Trim packages:
S, SE, SEL
PRICE RANGE:
\$19,000-\$26,000

ENGINE:
2.3-L I-4 (160 hp/156 torque)
3.0-L V-6 (221 hp/205 torque)
TRANSMISSION:
5-speed manual
6-speed automatic
EPA: 17/20 mpg city, 25/29 mpg highway (V-6/I-4)
FUEL: Regular unleaded

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FUEL TANK: 17.5 gallons
TIRES: 16-, or 17-inch

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News in brief

Officials to expand immigration status check program

DALLAS (AP) — Federal officials plan to expand a program which checks the immigration status of jail detainees, the top Immigration and Customs Enforcement official said.

During a visit to Dallas on Wednesday, ICE assistant secretary Julie Myers said she wanted the checks to eventually happen at all the nation's jails. It would take about 3 1/2 years before the program could reach all the country's jails, Myers said.

The focus of the "Secure Communities" initiative is to remove illegal immigrants with criminal backgrounds. It will help make sure criminals who are also deportable aren't released back into the U.S., Myers said.

Under the system, fingerprints taken during booking would automatically be checked against Department of Homeland Security databases to access immigration history.

The program is similar to the one the Dallas suburb of Irving uses at its jail. It lets jailers call a 24-hour number and have ICE personnel check databases or

speaking with detainees to determine if they are legally in the country. In some places, including the Dallas County Jail, ICE has officers stationed at detention facilities to handle the process of determining deportability.

Federal and state prisons generally have access to similar screening of its detainees.

"We will be focusing on areas without 100 percent screening," Myers said.

Later on Wednesday, Myers spoke about enforcement trends at an immigration forum held by the Greater Dallas Chamber of Commerce's International Business Council.

She told attendees that ICE would like more access to data about employers who have workers with mismatched Social Security numbers.

The Social Security Administration has argued that federal tax law prevents it from divulging the information, Myers said.

"It would be great if I could get from them the top 20 works violators," she said.

However, legislative proposals to allow Homeland Security access to information from another branch of government have not passed into law, Myers said.

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Woman wins State Hopping Contest after using Thera-Gesic®

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American flight woes continue

DALLAS (AP) — American Airlines canceled more than 900 flights Thursday to fix faulty wiring in hundreds of jets, marking the third straight day of mass groundings as company executives offered profuse apologies and travel

vouchers to calm angry customers.

American, the nation's largest carrier, has now scrubbed more than 2,400 flights since Tuesday, when federal regulators warned that nearly half its planes could violate a safety regulation designed

to prevent fires.

That's more than one in three flights canceled over the last three days.

Daniel Garton, an executive vice president of American, said cancellations could extend into Friday.

A return to normal oper-

ations depends on how quickly mechanics can inspect and fix the wire bundles.

Airline spokesman Tim Wagner said late Wednesday afternoon that 60 planes had been cleared to fly, 119 were being worked on, and 121 planes had not yet

been inspected.

The fallout could be seen at airport ticket counters, where frustrated customers bickered with American employees, and on the stock market, where shares of American's parent company tumbled.

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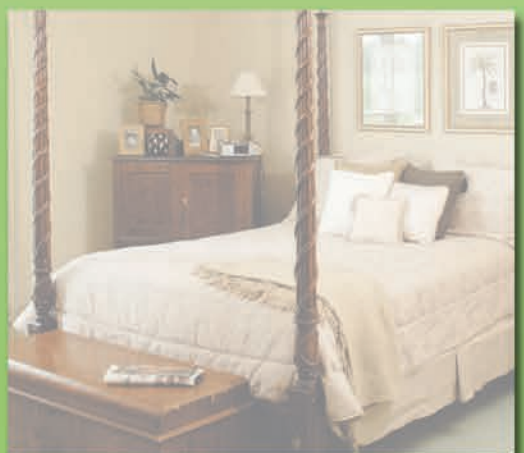
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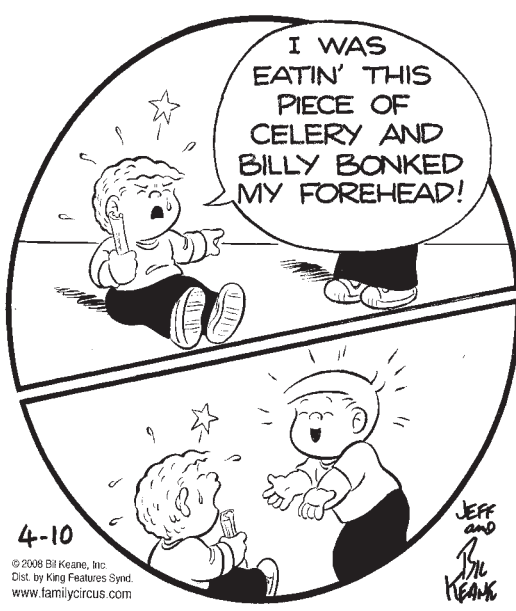
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DENNIS THE MENACE



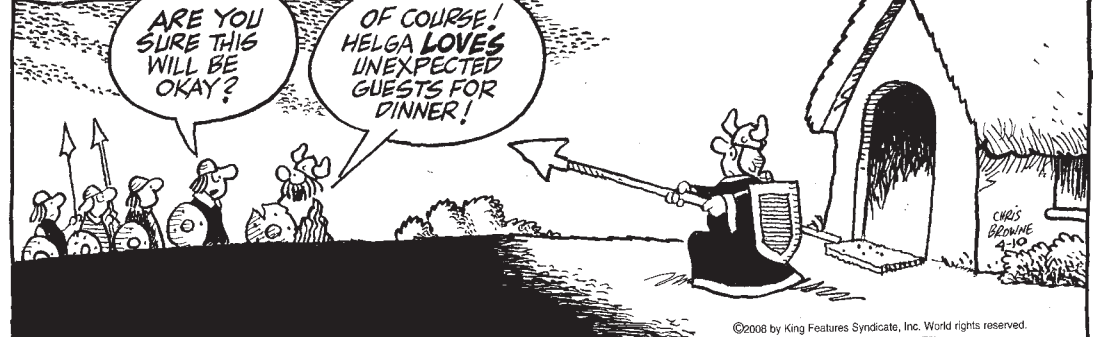
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS



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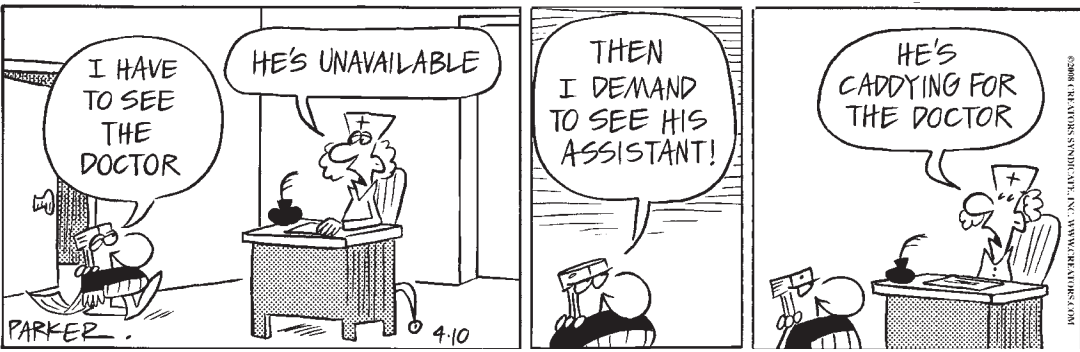
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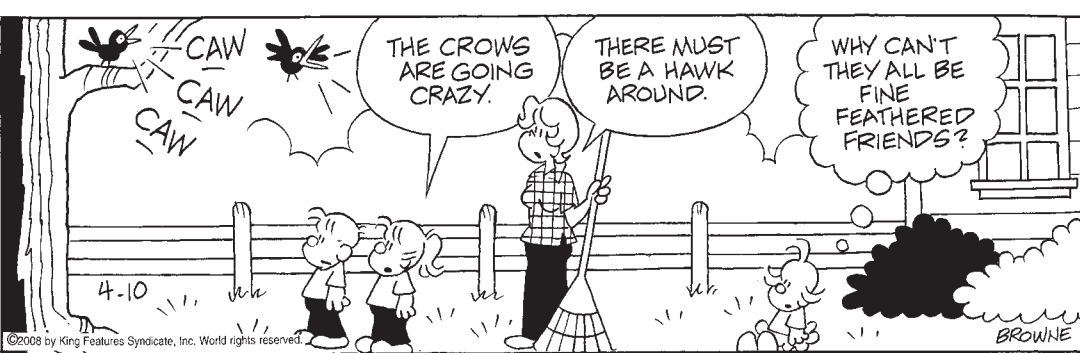
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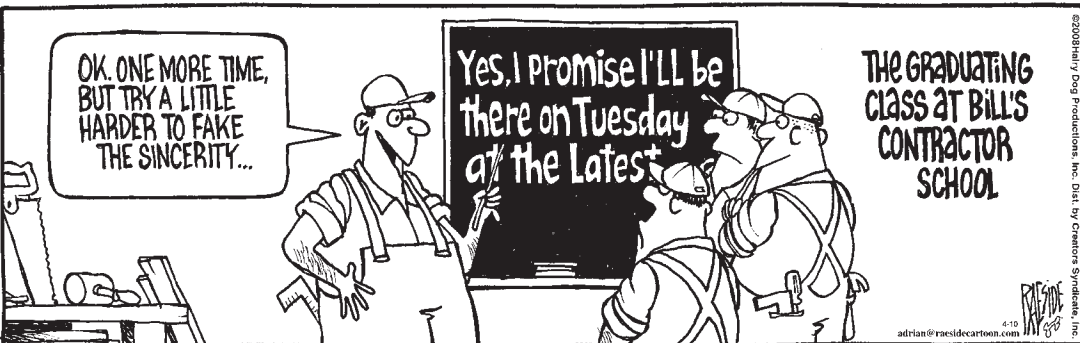
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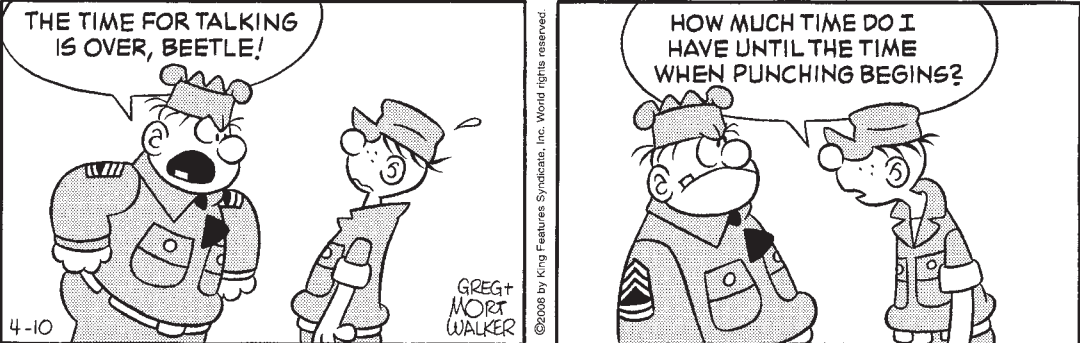
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



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This Date In History

Today is Thursday, April 10, the 101st day of 2008. 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 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 1957, John Osborne's play "The Entertainer," starring Laurence Olivier, opened in London.

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 1978, Arkady Shevchenko, a high-ranking Soviet citizen employed by the United Nations, sought political asylum in the United States.

In 1992, comedian Sam Kinison, 38, was killed in a car crash outside Needles, Calif.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Harry Morgan is 93. Actor Max von Sydow is 79. Actress Liz Sheridan is 79. Actor Omar Sharif is 76. Sportscaster John Madden is 72. Rhythm-and-blues singer Bobbie Smith (The

Spinners) is 72. Sportscaster Don Meredith is 70. Reggae artist Bunny Wailer is 61. Actor Steven Seagal is 57. Folk-pop singer Terre Roche (The Roches) is 55. Actor Peter MacNicol is 54. Rock musician Steven Gustafson (10,000 Maniacs) is 51. Singer-producer Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds is 50. Rock singer-musician Brian Setzer is 49. Rapper Afrika Bambaataa is 48. Rock singer Katrina Leskanich is 48. Actor Jeb Adams is 47. Olympic gold medal speed-skater Cathy Turner is 46. Rock musician Tim "Herb" Alexander is 43. Actor-comedian Orlando Jones is 40.

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Answer to previous puzzle: A grid of words including SPAR, TENDS, DABO, ELLE, AGNEW, ECRU, MAIL, COWCATCHER, INVESTS, AMULETS, STEAL, TYPEA, SALON, SIDLE, CAKEBATTER, MEOW, HUE, SIT, DAD, AGE, ITEM, ROADRUNNER, POLAR, HYENA, NIVEA, CRIBS, AERATOR, STERNUM, STAGE, COACH, AFRO, TONE, ADLAI, TENT, LINKS, LEARN, ERTI.

Newsday Crossword

USE YOUR HEAD by Shirley Soloway Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- 1 Hebrew beginning
6 Chichi
10 Post-marathon woe
14 Acme customer
15 Laughter syllables
16 First name in footwear
17 Hitchcock specialty
19 Maryland athlete
20 Bryan, for one
21 At the top of one's field
23 Intellectual
26 A or B, e.g.
27 Play with friends
30 December air
31 Words of denial
33 Run off together
35 Molokai neighbor
37 Little pests
40 Not fair
41 Medicine-spoon marking
42 7 Down member
43 Celebration
44 Env. contents
45 Organic polymer
46 Salute
48 Partner of hardy
50 Urgent request
51 Medicine-spoon marking
53 Puritanical one
56 Coveted trophy since 1935
58 Underwater habitat

DOWN

- 8 Almost vertical
9 Concordant
10 Memo abbr.
11 Impudence
12 "Stormy Weather" singer
13 Vacant
18 Jason's ship
22 Sands of Jima
24 Macho guys
25 Stella's Streetcar sister
27 Mutt's pal
28 Shampoo ingredient
29 Gangster's lawyer
32 CD predecessor
34 Arrainment follower
36 Ashe or Connors
38 The Supremes, for example
39 Catches some rays
41 Candid biographies
45 Book in advance
47 One of the Dow Jones Industrials
49 Elude
51 47 Down motto
52 Family car
54 USSR part
55 Roof edges
57 Holiday event
59 Is situated
60 Part of a farm
61 Mrs. Truman
64 In favor of
65 Use a pattern, maybe

Crossword grid with numbers 1-71 indicating starting positions for clues.