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Steers pick up
their second
district win.

Page 1B



Vicki Slaton



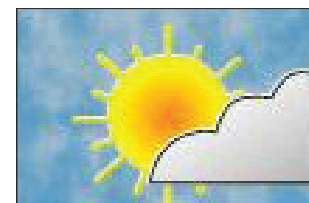
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APRIL 1, 2009



BIG SPRING HERALD

VOLUME 104, NUMBER 102

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Officials wait to rule on boy's death

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Law enforcement officials in Martin County say they are waiting on autopsy results before ruling the Sunday shooting death of a 15-year-old boy an accident.

Martin County Sheriff John Woodward said there have been no "red flags" raised in the course of his office's investigation into the Sunday

afternoon shooting that took place at a farm located approximately 10 miles north of Stanton.

"We just want to make sure we cover all of our bases before we declare this an accidental shooting," said Woodward. "The autopsy is being conducted in Lubbock. We've notified Victim Services, Child Protective Services and all of the other appropriate agencies, but there have been no red flags raised during the course of our inves-

tigation. As it stands right now, it appears to be an accidental shooting."

According to Woodward, he and other law enforcement officials responded to the home shortly after 1 p.m.

"Upon arrival we found two juvenile subjects," said Woodward. "One was a 15-year-old white male that was deceased. The second was a 13-year-old juvenile who was related to the victim. The 13-year-old suffered no injuries, and no charges have been filed

against him at this time."

Woodward declined to release the names of the juveniles.

"We're not releasing that information right now, both because they are juveniles and because of the impact this has already had on their family," said Woodward. "County Chaplain Chris Tyler has been working with the family since we responded to the

See SHOOTING, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

E.D. Hattenbach looks over a small field of bluebonnets growing near his house on E. 15th Street Tuesday afternoon. Hattenbach said the bluebonnets — Texas' state flower — have gradually increased in number the past few years.

Trash-off is slated Saturday

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Sometimes, helping improve a community starts with something as innocuous as a trash bag.

That's the message Keep Big Spring Beautiful is spreading in advance of the 13th annual Big Spring Trash-off, which will be held throughout the area Saturday morning.

More than 300 volunteers are expected to fan out across Big Spring, picking up trash and helping to beautify the community.

The event, held in conjunction with Keep Texas Beautiful's annual state-wide trash-off, attracted 341 volunteers last year, a number Pat Simmons of Keep Big Spring Beautiful hopes to equal or exceed this year.

"People can clean their own

See TRASH-OFF, Page 3A

Obama tries to rally world to cope with downturn in economic summit

JENNIFER LOVEN

AP White House Correspondent

LONDON — On the eve of a global economic summit, President Barack Obama promised world leaders he would listen, not lecture, as they seek a common fix to the financial crisis. "We can only meet this challenge together," he said Wednesday as the U.S. and Russia spoke on the summit sidelines about nuclear warhead reduction.

Obama, stepping on the world stage for the first time as president, aimed to shore up both America's economy and its reputation across the globe. He met with British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, and a session with the Chinese leadership was in the offing.

Thousands of protesters converged on central London to rally against the Group of 20 economic summit, which opens with a working dinner Wednes-

day night and continues throughout Thursday.

The White House confirmed that Obama and Medvedev would announce new talks to limit the number of nuclear warheads, the first major negotiations in years over what Obama called the "gravest threat to humanity."

Speaking directly to anxious families back home, Obama sought to restore consumer confidence and encourage people to think about spending now to help their future.

"Basing decisions around fear is not the right way to go," he said. "We are going to get through this difficult time."

The president also disputed criticism that the United States was feuding with other nations about the need to pump more money into economic stimulus policies.

"I am absolutely confident that this meeting will reflect enormous consensus about the need to work in concert to

deal with these problems," Obama said.

Obama prodded nations to spur growth and work together on regulatory reform, and not fall into the kind of protectionism and other mistakes that helped fuel the Great Depression.

"That is a mistake that we cannot afford to repeat," Obama said during a news conference with Brown, the British leader.

Brown, too, sought to play up consensus. "We are within a few hours, I think, of agreeing on a global plan for economic recovery and reform," he said.

Regarding Russia, White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said both the U.S. and Russia want to reduce the number of nuclear warheads but the leaders have not settled on a specific goal. The talks would be the first major arms control negotiations since 1997.

"Both sides of the Atlantic understand

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Next Weigh-In Date

April 6-10

at the YMCA • 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm





HERALD file photo/Jonathan Hull

Big Spring's Kaegan Hunt gets a hit in baseball action from April 1, 2008 at Steer Park. Hunt had two RBI in the Steers' 5-2 over the San Angelo Lake View Chiefs Tuesday.

Steers pick up second 4-4A win, 5-2, over Lake View

By JONATHAN HULL
Sports Editor

District 4-4A's surprise baseball team went back to work Tuesday night with another key victory.

The Big Spring Steers (7-11, 2-1) defeated the San Angelo Lake View Chiefs, 5-2, claiming their second win of the district season. Big Spring hadn't earned a win in 4-4A in two years before this season and now the Steers find themselves in second place in the league's standings.

"I think this team is just starting to realize what they can do," said Big Spring Head Coach Burt Otto. "We're starting to realize we're pretty good. That's something we talked about after the

tournament in Greenwood. We didn't play well in those two games we played there. I had to step back a little because I was pressing and I think the kids saw I was pressing, too. I just knew the talent we had and it just wasn't coming forth.

"We talked about this being a good team," Otto continued. "We were just a couple of key plays from being a good team. Since then, we've won four of our last five games. We played well against Frenship in the game we lost, other than just one inning."

The Steers gave up two runs in the second inning on two passed

See **STEERS**, Page 4B

16 straight for Bulldogettes

Herald Staff Report

COLORADO CITY — Make it 16 straight for the Coahoma Bulldogettes softball team.

The Bulldogettes used the mercy rule for a second consecutive game, routing Colorado City, 12-1, in District 7-2A action Tuesday.

Heather Newton once again picked up the win for the Bulldogettes to improve her record to 14-1.

Coahoma led just 2-0 after the third inning, but blew up for seven runs in the top of the fifth for a 9-0 advantage.

The Bulldogettes added three more in the sixth for a 12-0 advantage. On the verge of being run-riddled, Colorado City attempted to rally, but managed just one run in the bottom of the sixth.

Newton struck out 14 batters as she gave up one earned run on two hits and a walk. She also had a double, triple and three RBI at the plate.

Breanna Conner had a home run and three RBI.

The Bulldogettes routed Colorado City after doing the same to Ballinger Saturday to the tune of 13-3.

Newton was almost just as dominant in that game, striking out 12 batters and allowing three runs — one earned — on six hits.

Conner also homered, hitting a solo shot over the fence. Jennifer Castilaw knocked in four runs. Newton, Joanna Gonzales and Shelbi Paige each had two RBI apiece.

The Bulldogettes (18-8, 4-0) host Wall at 7 p.m. Friday.

Coahoma 002 073-12 12 1
Colorado 000 001-1 2 2

Heather Newton and Berkley Iden. Arispe and Rodriguez. W - Newton (14-1). L - Arispe. 2B: Coa - Berkley Iden, Newton. 3B: Coa - Newton. HR: Coa - Breanna Conner. RBI: Coa - Newton 3, Conner 3, Iden, Joanna Gonzales, Minnie Goodblanket; CC - Espinoza.

Ballinger 003 000-3 6 3
Coahoma 302 503-13 13 1

Frierson and Parker. Heather Newton and Berkley Iden. W - Newton (13-1). L - Frierson. 2B: Coa - Joanna Gonzales, Jennifer Castilaw, Kalea Neff. HR: Coa - Breanna Conner. RBI: Ballinger 2, Frierson; Coa - Castilaw 4, Newton 2, Gonzales 2, Shelbi Paige 2, Conner, Neff.

Lady Steers heartbroken

Big Spring falls in 7th to Cooper, 1-0

By JONATHAN HULL

Sports Editor

Heartbreaking losses are hard to take, but it can be even worse when a team might have played its best game of the season and still came up short.

The Big Spring Lady Steers softball team fell to 1-3 in the District 4-4A season Tuesday, following a loss to Abilene Cooper, 1-0, at Lady Steer Park.

The Lady Cougars were able to get a run in with two outs in the seventh inning to claim the win. However, the Lady Steers were not short on their chances to score, stranding seven runners on base in scoring position.

"It just got away from us. The girls played great and put all their effort into the game," said Big Spring Head Coach John Sparks. "They played their hearts out and I'm very proud of them.

"All the runners left on base tonight tells the story for us," Sparks added. "We've got to get hits when we're getting on base.

SEE **LADY STEERS**, Page 4B



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Big Spring Lady Steers pitcher Kenzie Hunt winds up in a District 4-4A softball game against Abilene Cooper Tuesday at Lady Steer Park. Hunt struck out nine batters in a 1-0 loss to Cooper.



AP photo/Frank Franklin II

San Diego State's Kyle Spain (15) fights for control of the ball with Baylor's Darren Kent (45) during the first half of the NIT semifinal Tuesday in New York. The Bears won 76-62 and will meet Penn State in the finals Thursday.

Dynamic senior class leads Bears to NIT finals

DAVE SKRETTA

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK — Curtis Jerrells tries not to think about where the Baylor program was when he arrived, the struggles it had endured, the perception of it around the country.

He'd much prefer to think about where he'll leave it.

Jerrells scored 25 points and LaceDarius Dunn had 23 as a remarkable senior class carried the Bears into the NIT championship game, 76-62 over San Diego State on Tuesday night.

Fellow senior Kevin Rogers added 14 points for Baylor (24-14), which has won seven of its last eight games and matched the 1947-48 team that lost in the national championship game for the second-most wins in school history.

"I can almost say I'd rather be here, coming to New York, playing for a championship, than to make it to the NCAA tournament and maybe lose right away," said Jerrells, whose team will play Penn State in

See **BAYLOR**, Page 3B

Kentucky makes splash

Wildcats tab Memphis Calipari for \$31 million

WILL GRAVES

AP Sports Writer

LEXINGTON, Ky. — John Calipari told the Kentucky faithful that he is "humbled and excited" to lead such a "storied program" Wednesday when he was introduced as the Wildcats' basketball coach.

And though Calipari cautioned the Kentucky faithful that he was not the "grand poobah" or the "emperor", he received a king's ransom to leave Memphis.

Before the press conference Kentucky's athletics board approved an eight-year, \$31.65 million contract that will make Calipari the highest paid coach in the nation. Athletic director Mitch Barnhart defended the salary, saying that

See **KENTUCKY**, Page 3B

Sports in brief

Notification from BSISD Athletic Dept. on athletes needing physicals

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

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

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

No plans have been made to have mass physicals, so it is the parents' responsibility to take their

child to a doctor of their choice.

Golf tournament to benefit KBSB set for April 18

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

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

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

BSCC hosting 3-person scramble this weekend

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

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

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

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

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

Obituaries

Edgar 'Ed' Mack Payne

Edgar "Ed" Mack Payne, 56, of Big Spring died Monday, March 23, 2009, at his residence after a brief battle with cancer. A memorial service in celebration of his life will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 4, 2009, at 102 Young St..

He was born June 22, 1952, in Borger to Oleta and Samuel Payne and grew up in Big Spring. He married Cindy Beth Bingham April 26, 1997.

He worked most of his life in the oilfield. He was a Methodist.

He is survived by his wife, Cindy, of Big Spring; a step-son, Jay Bingham and his wife, Crystal, and children of Hobbs, N.M.; one brother, Paul Payne and his wife, Linda, and children of Liberal, Kan.; and one cousin.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

The family suggests memorials to Home Hospice, 111 E. Seventh, Suite A, Big Spring 79720. Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersand-smith.com.

Geraldine Hodnett

Geraldine Hodnett, 45, of Big Spring died Tuesday, March 31, 2009, at her residence. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Laverne Powell

Laverne Powell, 84, of Big Spring died Wednesday, April 1, 2009, in a local hospital. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Take Note

- The Big Spring High School Class of 1989 is looking for members to attend a 20-year reunion in September. Contact Christy Alexander Brown at (972) 567-8037 or Irma Moreno Garcia at (432) 816-5321 with your updated information.

- Mobile Meals needs volunteers. If you can donate one hour per week to our organization delivering meals between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m., you will be helping the senior citizens of Big Spring. Contact Macaria Cantu at 263-4016

- The Family History Center (genealogy library) of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be open from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesdays. If you need assistance in searching out your ancestors, bring all the information you have about your family and we will be happy to assist you. For more information, contact R.A. McKay at (432) 553-8127.

- Big Spring resident Velma Campbell was on vacation in Arizona when she had a massive stroke. She has since been transported to a hospital in Lubbock. She has many friends and is an avid bowler. If anyone would like to help, a savings account has been set up at Wells Fargo. The savings account number is 9662778118.

- Coahoma alumni will hold an all school, all classes reunion Saturday, Aug. 1 at the Coahoma school building. Individual classes are encouraged to plan their class get-togethers Friday night or Saturday night. This year's reunion theme will highlight sports and former coaches Bernie Hagins and Norman Roberts will be honored, along with all former athletes and coaches at Coahoma ISD. Funds will be raised for the Coahoma Scholarship Fund as well. The Coahoma Alumni Association is trying to update its e-mail and mailing address lists and asks that you contact Patti Meets at pmeeks@basin-net.net or (432) 267-6688 with updates. More information will be shared as the reunion planning progresses.

- The mission of CASA of West Texas is to promote and support quality volunteers who speak for the best interest of abused and neglect children in court in an effort to find each child a safe, nurturing and permanent home. CASA currently has 10 active volunteers to serve the 55 plus children of Howard County in foster care. A class is forming in Howard County and 20 volunteers are needed. For more information call (432) 683-1114.

- West Texas Opportunities Inc., through a Job Access Reverse Commute project with the Texas Department of Transportation offers transportation to employment in Midland, on a limited schedule, Monday through Friday each week. This fixed route currently leaves Big Spring at 7 a.m. and makes a stop at the EZ Rider bus connection in downtown Midland. The route leaves Midland for the return to Big Spring at 4:15 p.m. As a promotional introduction, no fare is charged. Beginning April 1, the daily fare will be from \$3 to \$8, round-trip, depending on the number of passengers using the service. For more information, call Victor Enriquez at West Texas Opportunities, (800) 245-9028.

- The Permian Basin Foundation has awarded West Texas Opportunities Inc. \$130,000 through the Texas Resources for Iraq Afghanistan Deployment fund. WTO will assist current and former military personnel serving in Iraq or Afghanistan and their families. Funding will serve Howard, Martin, Andrews, Borden, Dawson, Ector, Fisher, Gaines, Glasscock, Midland, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry and Upton counties. For more information, contact Diana Martinez or Debbie Wilson at 110 Johnson in Big Spring or call (432) 267-9536.

Police blotter

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

Note: An arrest report for the corresponding time was not available because police officials said no arrests were made.

- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 1100 block of Third Street.
- BURGLARY OF A BUILDING was reported in the 200 block of Seventh Street.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the 1100 block of Stanford.
- ASSAULT CAUSING SERIOUS BODILY INJURY was reported in the 1200 block of Lancaster.

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 49 inmates at the time of this report.

- LACY NICOLE MCKEE, 23, was arrested Tuesday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- BRANDON JOE ROBINSON, 23, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of evading arrest/detention with a vehicle.
- IRMALINDA MORIN YANEZ, 36, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid — enhanced.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 2400 block of Allendale. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 800 block of Rosemont. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of Father Delaney. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1200 block of Lancaster. Two people were transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2100 block of Grace. One person was transported to SMMC.
- GRASS FIRE was reported in the 2400 block of Cindy.

Support Groups

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

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

MONDAY




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

- 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

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

Your Local Weather

Thu 4/2	Fri 4/3	Sat 4/4
 70/40 Sunny and windy. High around 70F. Winds NW at 20 to 30 mph.	 82/53 Mainly sunny and windy. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the low 50s.	 81/48 Windy with plenty of sun. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the upper 40s.

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Bulletin Board

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

TODAY

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

THURSDAY

- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant, 16th and Gregg.
- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. The public is invited.
- Genealogy Society of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.
- Big Spring Masonic Lodge No. 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

FRIDAY

- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until about 3 p.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.
- 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

- Big Spring Cruisers cruise Gregg Street and at the Sonic Drive-In beginning at 6:30 p.m.
- Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.
- Big Spring Squares. Call 263-6305 for more information.

MONDAY

- Keep Big Spring Beautiful meets at noon in the Cactus Room at Howard College.
- District Committee Lone Star of Big Spring meets at noon at 610 Scurry.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 begins at 5 p.m. with weigh-in 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.
- Evening Lions Club meets at 6:45 p.m. at Dragon China Buffet.

Lottery

There has been another rollover in the jackpot for the multistate Mega Millions lottery — to \$54 million.

The rollover occurred because no player matched all the winning numbers from Tuesday night's \$43 million drawing.

The winning numbers from Tuesday night's drawing were: 14, 39, 47, 48 and 53. The Mega Ball number was 29.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 12-2-29-13-1. Number matching five of five: 0.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 5-5-6-8. Sum It Up: 24.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 6-5-2. Sum It Up: 13.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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Howard's return sparks Mavs over T-Wolves

By JON KRAWCZYNSKI

AP Sports Writer
MINNEAPOLIS — Josh Howard has this whole come-back-from-injury thing down cold.

Howard had 14 points and six rebounds in 22 minutes in his return from an 11-game absence, Dirk Nowitzki had 23 points and 12 boards, and the Dallas Mavericks beat the short-handed Minnesota Timberwolves 108-88 on Tuesday night.

Howard has missed a total of 28 games due to various injuries this season, and each time he has returned seemingly without missing a beat.

"The two or three times when he's come back from injury situations this year, it just has a real positive spiritual effect on our team," coach Rick Carlisle said. "Our guys get juiced up. He gave us a lift tonight."

Jason Terry scored 21 points and Jason Kidd had eight points and 13 assists for the Mavericks, who shrugged off a blowout loss at Cleveland on Sunday and moved four games ahead of the Phoenix Suns for the eighth and final playoff spot in the West.

Kevin Love had 23 points and 12 rebounds for the Timberwolves, who played their second straight game without Randy Foye and Craig Smith. It was the rookie's 25th double-double, which is one more than the former MVP Nowitzki has.



AP photo/Jim Mone

Minnesota Timberwolves guard Ryan Gomes, left, tries to reach the ball as Dallas Mavericks forward Dirk Nowitzki drives in the first quarter of an NBA game Tuesday in Minneapolis. The Mavs won 108-88.

With Foye out because of a hip injury and Al Jefferson on the bench with a torn ACL, the Timberwolves were without their two leading scorers and didn't have the firepower to keep up with Dallas.

"We miss those guys," Love said.

"We've been undermanned most of the year."

This was the first meeting between these teams since the Mavericks erased a 29-point, third-quarter deficit to beat the Timberwolves 107-100 on Dec. 30 in Dallas.

The roles were reversed on Tuesday night, with the Mavericks racing out to a 20-point lead in the second quarter behind Kidd's savvy distribution. The veteran point guard had 11 assists in the first half, setting up easy bucket after easy bucket for the Mavs, who shot 54 percent in the first two quarters.

The Wolves, meanwhile, reverted to their poor-shooting selves after one of their best offensive performances of the season against the Nets on Sunday. The Wolves shot 66 percent for most of the first three quarters and finished with a percentage of 51 percent in a 108-99 victory.

But the team with the worst shooting percentage in the league this season shot 31 percent to fall behind 50-30 midway through the second period.

"We had some good open looks that you can live with, but you've got to knock some of them down," Minnesota coach Kevin McHale said.

The Wolves got within 10 points a few times in the third period, but Howard turned them back with jump shots each time and Minnesota wilted down the stretch.

Howard had not played since March 5 because of a sore left ankle. The team's third-leading scorer looked a little rusty at times, losing the ball off his hands on a couple of drives to the

See **MAVS**, Page 4B

Jennings puts up strong showing in Rangers' 10-3 loss to Giants

SURPRISE, Ariz. (AP) — Jason Jennings bolstered his case for a spot in the Texas Rangers' bullpen on Tuesday.

Jennings threw three strong innings in Texas' 10-3 loss to the San Francisco Giants. He gave up one run and one hit, struck out four and walked none.

"Hopefully, I proved that I can throw the last four weeks," he said. "Hopefully that will prove to them that my arm's in pretty good shape."

Jennings had been projected to start the year in the minors after an awful 2008 season. The right-hander went 0-5 with an 8.56 ERA in six April starts, then spent the rest of the year on the disabled list.

The 30-year-old has had surgery on his flexor tendon twice in the past 19 months, first in August 2007 and again in January. He has a 1.98 ERA this spring.

"I can't throw any better than I've

done," Jennings said. "At least I'm at peace with myself that I couldn't do any more. Whatever happens happens."

Rangers manager Ron Washington said decisions on the bullpen, as well as the final spot on the rotation and the last outfield spot, could come Wednesday.

"When it's not clear cut it's not clear cut," he said. "We might have something tomorrow. We might not. I

hate standing here sounding like this but there's no decision made."

Barry Zito went seven innings for the Giants, yielding three runs and six hits. He struck out two and walked none.

"I wanted to be aggressive, throw strikes and let them get themselves out," said Zito, who has allowed nine walks in 31 2-3 innings this spring. "I'm excited to get it going right now."

April Savings Begins

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 - 2004 Nissan Xterra SE - Silver, w/Gray Cloth, All Power, One Owner, Nice SUV, Only 52,000 Miles. **NOW \$13,995**
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Texas News Briefs

Two dogs fatally maul infant, injure grandmother in attack

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A 7-month-old boy died and his grandmother was injured after the woman's two dogs attacked them Tuesday at her home just west of downtown San Antonio.

Police Chief Bill McManus says the woman, whose name was not released, was about to feed her grandson, Izaiah Gregory Cox, about 7 a.m. and went to her kitchen for his bottle. She returned to find the two pit bulls attacking the baby.

The woman got a knife and stabbed one of the dogs, got the child away from them and back into his crib. Then, the dogs attacked her. McManus said she got the dogs into her backyard, where police shot and killed both.

Police said Izaiah died at University Hospital, where police say his grandmother was admitted. Her condition was not immediately known.

Remorseful note found near League City hit & run victim

LEAGUE CITY (AP) — League City police say a note expressing remorse was left near a hit and run victim whose body was found in a ditch.

Police on Tuesday said the author of the note apparently was the driver who fled the scene.

An investigator, who asked to be identified only as Detective Aldridge, told The Associated Press that no arrests have been made in the death of 34-year-old Maurice Jones.

His body was discovered Sunday morning, hours after Jones got off work at a fast-food restaurant and was walking home.

His mother, Roberta Jones, said in Tuesday's online edition of the Houston Chronicle that the note made the loss even worse.

"I am speechless," she said. "If you hit somebody's car you apologize, but when you kill a person that's a totally different story."

The Galveston County Daily News reports a medical examiner ruled Jones died from blunt force trauma.

Jones was walking home from work because his pickup truck was not running, the newspaper reported. The night he died was only the third time he had walked home.

Aldridge declined to reveal more details of the message, scribbled on paper from a spiral notebook. He said the handwritten note possibly was done by a female.

Dallas police investigate new allegations against officers

DALLAS (AP) — Two Dallas police patrol sergeants have been transferred off the streets pending the outcome of an investigation into whether officers used improper force against three suspects and a Taser on one of them.

Much of the March 20 incident in a downtown Dallas freeway interchange was captured on dash cam video and audio.

Senior police officials who reviewed the dash cam recordings told the newspaper that a Dallas police sergeant can be heard yelling as another officer uses a Taser to stun a handcuffed suspect.

"Something took place that one officer found inappropriate," said Dallas police spokesman Lt. Andy Harvey.

"An internal investigation has been initiated, as well as looking into any possible criminal violations," Harvey said.

U.S. Marshals Service arrests Dallas man in running over wife

DALLAS (AP) — A man accused of driving over his wife's friend and then escaping with his wife was arrested Tuesday afternoon by a Dallas-Fort Worth U.S. Marshals Service.

Authorities said Bobby Scott, 26, is accused of running down 38-year-old Tracy Araujo and leaving her pinned beneath his minivan on the side of a busy expressway in Dallas last week. Dallas police said he faces an aggravated robbery charge in the attack. Araujo, a mother of two, remains in a coma at Baylor University Medical Center after undergoing brain surgery.

Records show he was being held at the Dallas County Jail on Tuesday and no bond amount had been set.

Police believed Bobby Scott assaulted his wife, Misty Scott, 25, during a fight at a Dallas hotel last week and that Araujo went to the hotel to get her friend. Araujo was struck after getting out to confront Bobby Scott.

Police believed Bobby Scott had abducted his wife. However, authorities now say Misty Scott apparently went with him willingly. Law enforcement officials found the Scotts at a relative's home in Dallas. Misty Scott was not harmed and has not been charged with any crime, police said in a release.

"We took this very seriously and to find out that she's not been to see her friend and she's not concerned that we were looking for her, that's disturb-

ing," Dallas police homicide Lt. Craig Miller said in Tuesday's online edition of The Dallas Morning News.

Additional charges may be filed if authorities learn that someone knowingly helped Bobby Scott elude authorities.

Former Midland College professor sentenced in child porn case

MIDLAND (AP) — A former drama professor at Midland College was sentenced to more than 10 years in federal prison Tuesday in a child pornography case.

David Roger Allen, 56, of Midland, pleaded guilty in September to receiving child pornography over the Internet. Authorities say Allen admitted having more than 3,000 images of child porn.

"To the minors: I offer my deepest apologies. My actions which cause more pain to these people absolutely mortify me," Allen said, reading from a typed statement as he stood at the podium in the courtroom with his left wrist handcuffed to his waist, the Midland Reporter-Telegram reported. "I hope that one day I will be forgiven by my victims, but I seriously doubt I will ever forgive myself."

Relatives cried as he read from his statement, apologizing for letting them, his colleagues and students down.

U.S. District Judge Robert Junell made Allen turn and face his wife as he apologized to her.

"I am no less mortified to what I did to you than what I did to those minors. I broke my marriage vows ... For that, I am oh, so sorry," Allen said.

The U.S. Attorney's Office says in addition to the sentence of 10 years and one month, Allen will have 10 years of supervised release and was ordered to register as a sex offender.

Houston architect faces second child sexual assault charge

HOUSTON (AP) — Prosecutors have charged a Houston architect with a second count of sexual assault of a child and a charge of promotion of child pornography involving a 15-year-old prostitute.

The charges were filed Tuesday against John Dossey alleging he paid \$100 to \$200 to the prostitute several times beginning last summer and photographed her while she was naked.

Police discovered at least six nude photos of the girl, according to court records.

Donna Hawkins, a spokeswoman for the Harris County District Attorney's Office, said the office will ask that Dossey be held without bond.

OBAMA

Continued from Pg. 1A

that, as much as the constant cloud of nuclear warfare has receded, that the presence of these deadly weapons continues to be the gravest threat to humanity," Obama said.

The discussion centers on a possible replacement of the dying 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, which

limited the world's two largest nuclear arsenals. START expires Dec. 5.

Earlier Wednesday, Obama acknowledged strained relations between the two nations but says the time has come to emphasize areas where they can work together. He said the specter of nuclear weapons falling into the hands of terrorists continues to be the greatest threat against humanity.

Obama is meeting separately with Chinese

President Hu Jintao. Officials in both Russia and China have called for a new global currency to end the dollar's dominance, although it's unlikely that the idea will gain immediate traction.

Obama's talks with Hu are sure to address Beijing's concerns about the safety of its position as Washington's biggest foreign creditor, with about \$1 trillion in U.S. government debt. For the U.S., there are fears

that any Chinese flight away from those investments would erode the U.S. ability to spend more on recession-fighting.

Both meetings are being held at the U.S. ambassador's residence, with the news media only allowed into the room before the talks take place and without the ability to ask questions.

Before the summit even opened, divisions emerged among nations'

leaders.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy has expressed dissatisfaction with how the summit has been shaping up and warned he would rather risk a public dispute than accept a vague consensus or a "false compromise."

Brown said he was confident Sarkozy would still be at the dinner was complete.

In London, Obama is also meeting with Brown's main rival —

David Cameron, the leader of Britain's opposition Conservative Party. In the afternoon, the president and first lady Michelle Obama head to Buckingham Palace for an audience with Queen Elizabeth II.

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Rita Barnett, 87, died Sunday. Memorial Services will be at 4 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel.
Ed Payne, 56, died Monday. Memorial Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at 102 Young Street.

TRASH-OFF

Continued from Pg. 1A

lots or streets or we can send them to a particular area," Simmons said. "Their efforts really make a difference ... It seems like we don't have as much trash to pick up as the year before."

Simmons will be at the Chamber of Commerce office on W. Third Street from 9 a.m. until noon Friday to give out trash bags to interested persons.

Those volunteers will then join several other civic and governmental organizations in the main clean-up effort Saturday. In past years, efforts have centered on

Big Spring's main thoroughfares — Third and Fourth streets, Gregg Street and FM 700 — as well as other areas.

"We have about 13 Adopt-A-Spots throughout town and groups will be out picking up trash in those areas," Simmons said. "But people can pick up trash on different streets, lots ... wherever they want

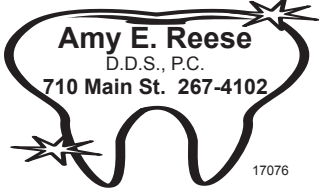
to clean."

Once their clean-up efforts are completed, volunteers will retire to the Belaski Pavilion at Comanche Trail Park for a hot dog lunch provided by the Greater Big Spring Rotary Club. Simmons asks that volunteers register with her before the event so that Rotarians will know how many people

to feed.

For more information on the Trash-off, contact Simmons at 263-4607 or 213-5444.

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



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SHOOTING

Continued from Pg. 1A

shooting. This has been very hard on them.

"Once the autopsy is in and we're able to make a final determination as to the cause of the boy's death, we'll make a public statement that will include the boy's name, but not until then."

Woodward said the weapon involved in the shooting was a small caliber rifle.

"It's really a scary thing because so many of us have owned a rifle like this when we were younger," said Woodward. "And you never really think about something like this happening."

Contact Staff Writer

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

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Durant scores 31 as Thunder shock Spurs again

PAUL J. WEBER

Associated Press Writer

SAN ANTONIO — The Oklahoma City Thunder are tied for the fifth-fewest wins in the NBA, and two have come in the past month against the former No. 2 team in the Western Conference.

Kevin Durant scored 31 points and the Thunder beat San Antonio 96-95 on Tuesday night, their second nail-biting win over the Spurs in two weeks. The Spurs still clinched a playoff berth later Tuesday due to tiebreakers.

Like the one in Oklahoma City on March 16, this one also came down to a Spurs miss as time expired. This time it was Michael Finley's jumper clanking off the rim after the Spurs — who didn't call timeout after a Thunder miss on the other end — struggled to find an open shooter with the clock winding down. It was Oklahoma City's first road

victory over a likely playoff-bound team all season.

"I can't put a finger on it," Thunder coach Scott Brooks said.

With eight games left, the Spurs lost their slim lead in the Southwest Division and fell into a first-place tie with Houston. Denver took a half-game lead as the new No. 2 in the West with a win Tuesday over New York.

San Antonio has lost two straight and will play five of its final eight games on the road, including another one at Oklahoma City next week.

"We're really struggling right now," said Tim Duncan, who led the Spurs with 21 points. "We're going through a really bad time, and not the right time of year to do that. We have to take personal responsibility and step up and change what's happening out here."

Duncan said he should have called timeout after blocking Jeff Green's

layup attempt with 13 seconds left, calling it a "mental lapse." Coach Gregg Popovich said there should have "absolutely" been a timeout on the last play.

"We have a couple of people that need to play better," said Popovich, who didn't name the players. "Knocking down shots is really important in the NBA, and we haven't been able to do it."

Russell Westbrook had 16 points and 10 assists for the Thunder, who fought off a furious rally from the Spurs to break a three-game losing streak and win in San Antonio for the first time since 2004.

"I don't know why we play so hard" against San Antonio, Durant said. "I think we cause some matchup problems because we have Jeff Green at the 4 and he's very versatile at that position. But it's always fun playing the Spurs."

Oklahoma City, which had won just

once in the six games since beating the Spurs on March 16, built a 74-57 lead in the third before the Spurs came storming back. The Thunder's lead shrunk to 94-93 with 1:11 left on a 3-pointer by Finley, but Nenad Krstic hit a jumper to push the lead back to three.

Manu Ginobili scored 17 points in his first start since December. Finley had 14 and Tony Parker had 11 for the Spurs.

Krstic and Green each had 16 for the Thunder.

San Antonio led by as much as eight in the first quarter before the more youthful Thunder — whose starting lineup has fewer years of NBA experience combined (8) than Duncan (11) — began exhausting the Spurs.

Kyle Weaver's 3-pointer with 7:12 left in the second gave the Thunder their first lead since the opening

See **SPURS**, Page 4B

BAYLOR

Continued from Page 1B

Thursday night's title game.

When Jerrells arrived on campus as a freshman, Baylor was still reeling from the shooting death of one of its players by a teammate, and the numerous violations under former coach Dave Bliss. It may be many more years before the school shakes that ugly past, but these seniors have done their part.

The NCAA didn't allow them to play a nonconference schedule their first fall on campus, but slowly coach Scott Drew molded them into a gutsy team that could hang with anybody. They peaked with an NCAA tournament appearance last season and again reached 20 wins, thanks to a stunning run through this year's Big 12 tournament that included upsets of

Kansas and Texas.

Rather than sulk over their loss to Missouri in the conference tournament title game, they rallied to beat tradition-rich Georgetown in the NIT. Then they went on the road to beat Virginia Tech and Auburn, those seniors refusing to let their careers come to a close.

Together, they've won a school-record 64 games.

"I try not to think about that, where we came from," Jerrells said. "That was a tough time, but that's what makes us who we are. We've got a great group of guys, a great group of coaches who took a chance coming here, and we've made the best of it."

Kyle Spain scored 15 points to lead San Diego State (26-10), which long ago set a school record for wins in a season. The only No. 1 seed remaining won more games in this tournament than it had in its previous nine postseason appearances combined, but were done in by 19 turnovers.

"Jerrells in the first half and Dunn in the second half were both hot, and they did what they had to do," said San Diego State coach Steve Fisher, who 20 years ago was leading Michigan to the national championship. "We just committed way too many turnovers and we're disappointed with that, but I'm really proud of this team."

The Aztecs and their own senior-laden bunch did their best to ruin things for Baylor early, going on a 13-3 first-half run and briefly taking the lead on D.J. Gay's basket with 1:12 left. But the elusive Jerrells got free on the perimeter and was fouled, making two of three free throws to give Baylor a 35-34 lead at the break — the first time the Aztecs trailed at halftime in the NIT.

The Bears pushed the lead to 55-42 early in the second half on the strength of their 3-point shooting, with Dunn hitting three of them on five trips down floor.

San Diego State, which beat Saint Mary's and star guard Patty Mills in the quarterfinals, mounted its only rally of the second half with five straight points that cut the lead to 55-47. A few moments later, Billy White's basket off a turnover made it 57-51.

But the Bears were too athletic, too quick and playing for far too much.

Tweety Carter hit a 3-pointer to kickoff an 8-0 spurt, Jerrells finished a three-point play after slashing to the rim, and even big Josh Lomers put down a dunk to make it 72-55 with 2½ minutes left, bringing the folks wearing green and gold sprinkled throughout Madison Square Garden to their feet.

And assuring a memorable senior class one more game.

"When we brought in these seniors," Drew said, "we knew they had the capability and potential to play in games like this."

KENTUCKY

Continued from Page 1B

the university paid a premium price to get their guy, and that Calipari "can flat out coach."

"I'm a regular guy, folks," Calipari said. "I do not walk on water; I do not have a magic wand."

He might need to find a way. Kentucky fired Billy Gillispie last Friday after the went 40-27 and the Wildcats failed to make the NCAA tournament.

Calipari, 50, knows what he is getting into. He said before he made his decision, he reached out to several former Kentucky coaches.

"I talked to coach (Joe B.) Hall. I talked to Tubby Smith. I talked to Eddie Sutton. And I talked to Rick Pitino about this job. And ... none of those coaches would trade their time here for anything in the world.

"This is pretty heady stuff for me."

Calipari is 445-140 in 17 seasons, leading both Memphis and Massachusetts to the Final Four. He said he has long dreamed of coaching college basketball's winningest program.

"This was a dream I've had since we brought our team down here," Calipari said. "I believe it was 1992, we had won the Alaskan Shootout, came down here to play and I could not believe the environment. At that point I said — 'I would love to coach there some day.'"

That day has come and he has Calipari has work to do. The Wildcats have not been in the Final Four

the past 11 seasons. And Calipari cautioned Kentucky's fan base not to expect too much too soon, as he had informed Barnhart and university president Lee Todd.

"I told Dr. Todd and Mitch, if you want something to happen in a year, do not hire me," Calipari said. "That's now how I do things."

Barnhart said after firing Gillispie that he wanted to hire a coach that embraced what the Kentucky job meant, on and off the court. Calipari sounded like he understood what they meant.

"Our goals will be to make the entire commonwealth proud of this team, proud of their program, proud of their team by our work on the court and our integrity off the court," he said.

Calipari's decision to take the job didn't come easy. He spent more than a day mulling Kentucky's lucrative offer while reporters camped outside his home.

"This decision was extremely hard," Calipari said. "It wasn't coming here, this was easy. It was leaving Memphis. The support that my family and I received over the years there ... to walk away from that was very difficult."

Calipari's deal eclipses the \$3.5 million average salary of Florida's Billy Donovan and dwarfs those

of Calipari's predecessors Pitino, Smith and Gillispie.

Pitino, now the coach at rival Louisville, never made more than \$2 million a season during his remarkably successful eight-year run at Kentucky. Smith's compensation neared \$2.1 million at the end of his decade with the program and Gillispie received a base salary of \$2.3 million with another \$750,000 available in incentives.

The salary nearly triples the \$1.6 million salary of Kentucky football coach Rich Brooks, a rarity in a conference where football reigns.

Calipari has a reputation as one of the nation's best recruiters, and it's possible some of his latest recruits will follow him to Lexington. Still, the cardboard is hardly bare at Kentucky.

The Wildcats went 22-14 this year, missing the NCAA tournament for the first time since 1991 despite having two of the SEC's best players in guard Jodie Meeks and forward Patrick Patterson.

Patterson said after the season he'd likely return for his junior year, while Meeks — a second-team All-American — was going to take his time on a decision.

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

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News Editor

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

OTHER VIEWS

U.S. oil and gas production must be maintained

For environmental reasons and national security reasons, the United States must decrease its reliance on oil and gas especially foreign oil and gas.

Clean energy, domestically produced, is the way of the future.

The future, however, is not now.

Not yet, anyway.

Oil and gas currently supply nearly two-thirds of the energy consumed in the United States. You can't simply throw a switch and change the energy basis of the U.S. economy, from cars and planes to homes and factories.

The conversion to energy sources that are environmentally friendly and made in America will require years, perhaps decades. So will the technological advances necessary to make them affordable.

In the interim, maintaining a healthy domestic oil and gas industry is the best way to reduce U.S. exposure to the volatile energy market. Even the most ambitious plans to alter energy production in the United States such as the one promoted by T. Boone Pickens envision a transition period during which oil and gas remain important sources.

Unfortunately, elements of President Obama's 2010 budget proposal will substantially reduce domestic oil and gas production. The elimination of tax credits and the imposition of a new excise tax on production in the Gulf of Mexico would increase our nation's reliance on foreign sources and hurt the U.S. and especially the Texas economy.

This isn't a partisan issue. That's why a group of a dozen House Democrats, including Charlie Gonzalez, D-San Antonio, Ciro Rodriguez, D-San Antonio, and Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo, sent a letter to Budget Committee Chairman John Spratt, D-S.C., warning him about the dangers of the proposed changes.

The Obama administration's clean energy goals put the nation on the right track. Until those goals are attainable, oil and gas will remain crucial to the U.S. economy.

As long as that's the case, domestic sources are far preferable and far more reliable than foreign sources.

THE EXPRESS-NEWS
SAN ANTONIO

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

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

LETTER POLICIES

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Knowing and trusting You, Lord, is the help we need.

Amen

Whitman's prophetic letter

The letter was penned in 1883, but it could have been written today. Its message is still very current. Its words still need to be repeated.

"We Americans have yet to really learn our own antecedents," the letter noted. "Thus far, impressed by New-England writers and schoolmasters, we tacitly abandon ourselves to the notion that our United States have been fashioned from the British Islands only, and essentially form a second England only — which is a very great mistake."

The city of Santa Fe, N.M., was celebrating the 333rd anniversary of its founding by Spanish explorers, and the invited keynote speaker would have to trek there all the way from New Jersey. And so the great American poet Walt Whitman wrote a letter explaining that prior commitments would preclude him from attending.

Yet given the message in his letter, one can only imagine the amazing speech he could have delivered. And one can only wish his words still would resonate today.

"To that composite American identity of the future Spanish character will supply some of the most needed parts," Whitman wrote. "No stock shows a grander historic retrospect — grander in religiousness and loyalty, or for patriotism, courage,

decorum, gravity, and honor."

While many European and American writers spent centuries demonizing the Spanish conquistadors and their Latino descendants — and sugarcoating the atrocities of other European settlers in the New World — there was one highly respected American poet who was a unique exception.

"It is time to realize — for it is certainly true — that there will not be found any more cruelty, tyranny, superstition, &c., in the resumé of past Spanish history than in the corresponding resumé of Anglo-Norman history," Whitman wrote.

Even before Spanish and Latin American historians began to complain about the centuries-old anti-Hispanic campaign, known as "The Black Legend," Whitman was writing about it.

He didn't call it "The Black Legend." That name was coined by Spanish writer Julián Juderías in his 1914 book, "La Leyenda Negra y la Verdad Histórica (The Black Legend and the Historical Truth)." But in 1883, 31 years earlier, Whitman already had described it perfectly.

He noted that "it is time to dismiss" the distortions of history "inherited from the English writers of the past 200 years."

At a time when white Anglo-Saxon Americans had a very negative image of the Hispanic and Native Americans of the Southwest, Whitman took a courageous stand for not only Latinos but also Native Americans.

"As to our aboriginal or Indian population — the Aztec in

the South, and many a tribe in the North and West — I know it seems to be agreed that they must gradually dwindle as time rolls on, and in a few generations more leave only a reminiscence, a blank," Whitman wrote. "But I am not at all clear about that."

He questioned how America could reject the only people who were "distinctively its own" while "cheerfully accepting and using all the contributions of foreign lands."

Through his writings — especially the collection of poems he called "Leaves of Grass" — Whitman celebrated the life and culture of the United States. But in his willingness to recognize the country's diversity — and to be much more inclusive — he was way ahead of his time.

In the late 19th century, Whitman was considered an idealistic champion of the common man. His words were often prophetic.

And in the 21st century, at a time when prejudice against Latinos is still prevalent, prophetic he remains!

When he said that "we Americans have yet to really learn our own antecedents," Whitman was talking about those who still refer to Hispanics with disparaging terms, those who still commit hate crimes against Latinos, those who erroneously assume that most Latinos came here illegally, and those who are too misinformed to recognize and respect the complete ethnology of the United States.

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ADDRESSES

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President Obama: Just say 'No'

It seems pretty obvious that the last three presidents — Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama — once smoked marijuana. OK, Clinton claimed he didn't inhale. Bush refused to say whether he ever used drugs; instead, he coyly alluded to mistakes in his youth. Obama didn't play games in his memoir, "Dreams from My Father" — he wrote about using marijuana and cocaine as a kid.

The big question: If all three men nonetheless managed to become president, why can't Washington decriminalize marijuana?

Or better yet, legalize, regulate and tax it. At what the White House billed last week as an "experimental" town hall meeting with questions submitted online, the most popular questions were about marijuana. President Obama chose not to answer any such question directly. Instead, the president volunteered that "there was one question that was voted on that ranked fairly high, and that was whether legalizing marijuana would improve the economy and job creation." Then he quipped to laughter, "And I don't know what this says about the online audience."

His answer to his question: "No, I don't think that is a good strategy to grow our economy." Fair enough, legalizing marijuana isn't a strategy to improve the economy. But there are reasons to legalize marijuana, such as the 872,720 marijuana arrests made in America in 2007 — more than 775,000 were for possession, not sale or manufacture. Those

individuals who are convicted may have criminal records and may have trouble obtaining financial aid for college — even if some day they could grow up to be president.

And what can America show for its drug laws? The World Health Organization found that 42.4 percent of Americans had tried marijuana — the highest ratio of any of 17 countries surveyed. WHO researchers concluded that drug use "does not appear to be related to drug policy, as countries with more stringent policies (e.g., the United States) did not have lower levels of illegal drug use than countries with more liberal policies (e.g. the Netherlands)."

In short, drug laws don't work, but they cost the federal government alone some \$3.7 billion annually, according to Harvard economist Jeffrey A. Miron. Ess Eff's Bruce Mirken of the Marijuana Policy Project observed, "I can't say that I'm completely surprised by the way Obama dealt with it, but I wonder if he was smart to insult the online audience that played a very large role in electing him."

Insult? I don't think Obama meant to insult anyone. I think that was a well-executed political straddle — Obama winked at the pro-legalization crowd, even as he ran from the policy it so craves.

Mirken told me, "I can't help but feel that (Obama) really knows better, but just doesn't think he can go there politically now." That's the sign of a successful straddle: when the people whom you officially oppose believe you secretly sympathize with them.

In February, pollster Scott Rasmussen reported that 40 percent of Americans support legalizing marijuana, 46 percent oppose,

while 14 percent are not sure. Voters under 40 are more supportive of legalizing marijuana than older folk.

With such findings, you might expect that 4 in 10 Washington politicians support legalizing marijuana. But only a minority of politicians dares support something as modest as the Hinchey-Rohrabacher amendment to stop federal raids on medical marijuana clinics. In 2007, the House defeated the measure by a 262-165 vote in its fifth incarnation. In 2008, however, Hinchey-Rohrabacher never even made it to a House vote.

Too toxic for a presidential election year. Mirken and I agree on this: Any change in America's marijuana laws will percolate from the bottom up. Said Mirken: "This is one of those issues that when it changes, it's going to be all of a sudden, like the fall of the Soviet empire. I think we're getting close to that point, and I think that politicians will be the last to see it coming."

Or maybe the change will never come. Maybe Americans want politicians who back expensive, ineffective marijuana laws — even if the politicians ignored those laws when they were young.

Maybe some voters are willing to support laws that they believe will turn someone else's kids into criminals if it means that their kids will be less likely to stray — even if tough laws don't really dampen drug usage. Maybe anyone can grow up to be president — whether he inhaled or not — just as long as he campaigns on the promise to just say no.

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STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

balls. After that, Cade Hollandsworth calmed down on the mound and didn't allow another hit in the game.

"I'll tell you one thing about Cade — he's a great competitor," said Otto. "He didn't have his best stuff early, but once we got the lead, he was a different pitcher. He got behind and walked some batters. The thing with Cade, as a coach, you just take your antacids before the game, sit back and just see what's going to happen."

Hollandsworth allowed two runs — neither earned — on three hits and six walks, while striking out 14 batters. Eleven of those Ks came after the third inning.

He wasn't able to pitch during his junior season, but has emerged as the Steers' most reliable presence on the mound as a senior.

"Last year, my arm would hurt a lot after I'd throw," said Hollandsworth. "I've been able to let my arm rest a lot more. I got hurt my sophomore year and it's just taken some time to get better."

Big Spring took the lead in the bottom of the second, scoring three runs for a 3-2 advantage. Matt Ritchey led off the frame with a double. Rance Terry joined him on the basepaths after being hit by a pitch.

Steven Henry pushed Ritchey across the plate for Big Spring's first run of the game via a single to left. A passed ball put runners on second and third and Kaegan Hunt cashed in with a 2-RBI single to right, scoring Terry and Henry.

After leaving the bases loaded in the third, Hunt scored in the fourth after reaching on a 1-out triple to center. With two outs in the inning, Jeremy Solis brought Hunt home with a single.

Big Spring scored its final run in

the fifth. Ritchey led off the inning with a walk and eventually scored on a passed ball.

Hunt led the Steers at the plate, going 2-for-2 with a run, two walks and two RBI. He reached base in every at bat. Ritchey was 2-for-3 with two runs scored, while Solis was 2-for-4 with a RBI.

The Steers host Fort Stockton in a non-district game at 4 p.m. Saturday. They'll pick back up with district play against Abilene Cooper at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday in Abilene. Cooper (4-15, 0-2) is currently winless in district after losing to Frenship (9-12, 2-0), 14-8, Tuesday.

"Lake View beat Cooper, 7-2. We've heard they're a young team and have won just four games on the year. You can't look past anybody right now," said Otto. "I think this district is pretty even all the way through. I think we're surprising a few people cause we've been picked last. If we finish the first half of district 3-1,

then we're in pretty good shape. If we beat Cooper, we've got three teams chasing us in the district. Right now, we've got two teams chasing us and that's a great feeling to be pursued rather than being the ones trying to catch up."

"It's great. It felt like we were going to be in a slump in district forever," said Hollandsworth, who has been on the varsity for three seasons and endured the two winless district years. "We went winless in both my sophomore and junior years. Actually, we were getting run ruled. It feels great to be going out and to actually compete for once. I think we just want it more. We're putting the right people in the right positions and it's all coming together."

Lake View 020 000 0-2 3 2
Big Spring 030 110 x-5 9 0

Hill, Davidson (5), Akers (6) and Stovall. Cade Hollandsworth and Rance Terry. W - Hollandsworth. L - Hill. 2B: BS - Matt Ritchey. 3B: BS - Kaegan Hunt. RBI: BS - Hunt 2, Jeremy Solis, Steven Henry.

LADY STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

When you have seven people left stranded, it's pretty tough to win."

The Lady Steers moved players into scoring position in the first five innings of play. They left the bases loaded in the second, stranded runners on second and third in the fifth and had a single player on third in the first and fourth.

Unfortunately, Abilene Cooper pitcher Branell Falcon seemed to gain

composure with the runners in scoring position and pitched out of every tough situation the Lady Steers placed her in.

Kenzie Hunt took the loss for Big Spring in one of the best outings she's had in the pitcher's circle in the past two seasons.

"I think it's the best game Kenzie has pitched this season," said Sparks. "She pitched a wonderful game. The team left it all out on the field tonight."

Hunt gave up six hits and one walk, while striking out nine batters. Cooper struggled to catch up to her throughout the night, but finally got

to her in the seventh.

With two outs, Danni Delagarza tripped down the right field line. Afton Dutlinger followed her by blooming the first pitch she saw over the head of Big Spring third baseman Jillian Valle, allowing Delagarza to score the only run of the game.

The Lady Steers finish the first half of district play 1-3 and have an 8-12 overall record.

They start the second half of the 4-4A season at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, playing host to Plainview, who defeated the Lady Steers 11-4 in their first meeting.

"If we play this well against any-

body this week, we're going to have a chance of coming out on top," said Sparks. "Cooper is a good team. Frenship beat them just 2-0 on Saturday for their only loss of the district season. We can beat anybody in district. I truly believe that."

The Lady Steers have a non-district game against Forsan scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Friday at Lady Steer Park.

Cooper 000 000 1-1 6 2
Big Spring 000 000 0-0 4 0

Branell Falcon and Danni Delagarza. Kenzie Hunt and Jessica Womack. W - Falcon. L - Hunt. 2B: AC - Devin McCory; BS - Baylea Fox. 3B: AC - Falcon, Delagarza. RBI: AC - Afton Dutlinger. LOB: AC 6, BS 8.

sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box.

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

MAVS

Continued from Page 2B

basket. But for the most part, he showed that he should be more than ready to be a factor the Mavs as the playoffs approach.

"I think he really moved well," Nowitzki said. "That's the main thing. If a guy is coming back from an injury after a long time, you don't necessarily really look at does he make or miss his shot. You look at how he moves. How does he look out there? Is he being active? Is he confident taking off of his leg? ... He looked great to me and hopefully his foot responds the right way."

Howard scored the first eight points for Dallas

out of the break, hitting a pretty step-back jumper over Rodney Carney and two more soft jumpers without any signs of rust.

"Playing in the NBA for a couple years, you figure that out," Howard said of getting himself ready while dealing with injuries. "Just go out there and do the things you normally do."

Notes: Bench points were 49-15 in favor of Dallas. ... Former Timberwolves coach Dwane Casey, an assistant on Rick Carlisle's staff in Dallas, coached his second game at Target Center since he was fired in January 2007. ... Wolves coach Kevin McHale and Carlisle are close friends dating to their playing days in Boston. In the first quarter, McHale shouted down the sideline, "How's it going Mr. Carlisle?" The super-serious Carlisle merely looked at McHale, raised his eyebrows, and turned back toward his bench.

SPURS

Continued from Page 3B

minutes. From there, Oklahoma City went on a 10-3 run and held the Spurs without a field goal for more than five minutes to take a 51-40 lead.

Oklahoma City's lead ballooned to 17 in the third on Durant's jumper, but the Spurs rallied. Duncan answered with a layup on the other end to start a 9-2 run to end the quarter.

"The last couple of weeks have not been very good for us," Ginobili said. "We consider our-

selves an experienced and tough team, so we've got to stay together and step up now."

Joining the Thunder on the bench in street clothes was new addition Shaun Livingston, who signed a multiyear contract Tuesday after spending three weeks with their NBA Development team. The No. 4 pick out of high school in the 2004 draft, Livingston is trying to comeback from a gruesome knee injury with the Los Angeles Clippers in 2007.

Livingston will practice with the team for the first time Thursday but may not make his debut until next week. Oklahoma City has just eight games remain-

FITNESS FIRST

Best Loser Weigh In April 6-10 4:00 pm-7:00 pm YMCA

In Sunday's Big Spring Herald

American Profile

Let's go on an EGG HUNT!

For nearly 20 years, a Nebraska farm has hosted an Easter egg-hunt extravaganza.

Looking for a Bargain? Inside: Sample special bakery • Planning a yard sale • Cooking with rice

An Easter eggs-travaganza

For almost 50 years, Don and Cleo Madden have hosted an annual Easter egg hunt on their Nebraska farm. Last year's hunt included over 3,000 eggs hidden over 22 acres. Plus, planning a yard sale and cooking with rice.

American Profile

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Seek and Ye Shall Find

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A K J 2
♥ 6 3
♦ Q 10 7 6
♣ K J 3

WEST
♠ 10 7 6 3
♥ K J 8 5 4
♦ K 4
♣ 6 2

EAST
♠ Q 5 4
♥ 10 9 7 2
♦ A 3
♣ 9 8 7 4

SOUTH
♠ 9 8
♥ A Q
♦ J 9 8 5 2
♣ A Q 10 5

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♣ Pass 3 ♣ Pass
3 NT

Opening lead — five of hearts.

In some notrump contracts, declarer cannot afford to establish his long suit because by the time he does so, the opponents will have collected enough tricks to set him. In such situations, declarer must look elsewhere for the tricks he needs to get home safely.

Take this case where West leads a heart against three notrump. South wins with the queen and can count eight sure winners — two spades, two hearts and four clubs. Understandably, his natural impulse is to try to establish the diamond suit. But if he gives in to this temptation, he is headed for certain defeat, since by the time the A-K of diamonds are driven out, the defenders will have scored at least three heart tricks and two diamond tricks.

South must therefore find his ninth trick elsewhere. The only remaining source is in spades, where a simple finesse against the queen is available. If West was dealt the queen — an even-money shot — finessing the jack will succeed, and declarer's troubles will be over.

However, while this line of play raises South's chances from zero to 50 percent, it is still not the best approach. An even better plan, which improves his chances to 75 percent, is to lead the nine of spades at trick two and let it ride if West follows low.

In the actual deal, the nine forces East's queen, so the jack of spades becomes declarer's ninth trick. (If West covers the nine with the ten, dummy's jack is played, and the eight becomes the ninth trick.) If the nine happens to lose to the ten, South can finesse the jack next time.

This line of play succeeds whenever West was dealt either the ten or queen of spades, or both. Mathematically, the odds are about 3-to-1 that West has at least one of these cards. All South need do at the outset is to recognize the value of the 9-8 of spades.

Tomorrow: Sylvia strikes again.

Why not check this out? At the library

By JOHNNY SCHAFER

We have received some new reference books that could be interesting or valuable to some patrons.

One such book is the Encyclopedia of Urban Legends (REF. 398.209 BRU J). This reference work offers alphabetical entries on every aspect of urban legends, including descriptions of hundreds of individual legends, their variations and legend themes. It is said that this is one encyclopedia that can be read cover to cover.

Another book is "Facts on File Encyclopedia of Word and Phrase Origins" (REF 422.03 FAC F). This book traces the origins and developments of more than 9,000 words and phrases, including slang, proverbs, animal and plant names, place names, nicknames, historical expressions, foreign language expressions and more. An example is the word "paparazzi." Director Federico Fellini named a hyperactive photographer in his film "La dolce vita" Signore Papparazzo, after Italian slang for "mosquito." The popularity of Fellini's film led to the widespread use of the term paparazzi for relentless swarms of celebrity-chasing photographers.

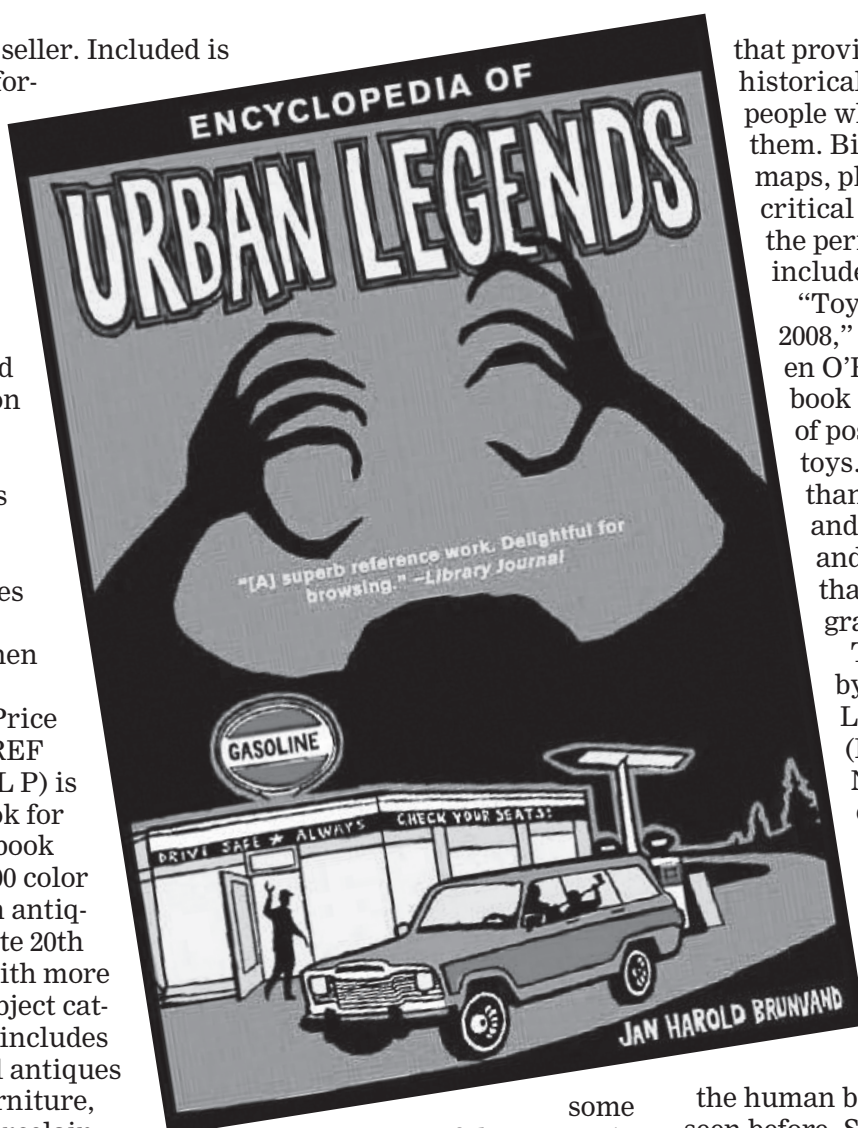
"The Official Price Guide to Collector Knives" by C. Houston Price (REF 621.932 PRI C) offers everything a person needs to know about building a knife collection and becoming an informed

buyer and seller. Included is pricing information for more than 13,000 listings, 1,500 models of collectible knives, and information on how to spot fakes and factors affecting values.

If antiques are your interest, then "Miller's Antiques Price Guide," (REF 745.107 MIL P) is a must book for you. This book covers 8,000 color items from antiquities to late 20th Century with more than 60 subject categories. It includes traditional antiques such as furniture, pottery, porcelain, glass, silver and decorative arts.

In need of legal forms? Then "The Complete Book of Legal Forms" (REF 347.735 WAR M) is here.

This book, authored by Mark Warda and James C. Ray, attorneys at law, provides more than 110 common legal forms complete with instructions and sample forms. Family legal forms, forms for estate planning, financial legal forms, personal property legal forms, real estate forms and employment forms are



some of the categories included. (We can make copies of any of the forms you need for 20 cents per page.)

"Eyewitness History: The Roaring Twenties" by Tom Streissguth (REF 9793.91 STR T) covers a period of U.S. history that began with America emerging from the shadow of World War I and drew to a close with the Black Tuesday stock market crash of Oct. 29, 1929. Included are first-hand accounts of diary entries, letters, speeches and newspaper accounts

that provide insight to historical events by the people who experienced them. Biographies, maps, photographs and critical documents of the period are also included.

"Toys and Prices 2008," edited by Karen O'Brien, is a must book for collectors of post-World War II toys. It lists more than 32,000 toys and their values and contains more than 2,000 photographs.

The book "Life" by photographer Lennart Nilsson (REF 779.961 NIL L) displays extraordinary images that encompass a full human lifespan. His photographs reveal the interior working of the human body as never seen before. Scientific essays are included.

With all the "CSI" type programs on television, The Encyclopedia of Crime Scene Investigation by Michael Newton (REF 363.252 FAC F) provides some 300 articles that describe and discuss crime-solving procedures and technologies. Historical and scientific breakthroughs are covered as well as landmark cases. Numerous categories of crime are mentioned — from murder to cyber crime, fraud, carjacking, theft and biological

weapons. Terms involved in "CSI" are explained.

The 2008 Standard Catalog of "Firearms: The Collector's Price and Reference Guide" by Dan Shideler (REF 681.407 SHI D), has more than 25,000 listings of antique, vintage and modern firearms manufactured from 1838 to 2007. Some 7,500 photos along with information on collectible firearms are provided plus actual auction results for specific guns.

Whether a beginner or a seasoned coin collector, the "2009 Standard Catalog of World Coins 1901-2000" (REF 737.4 KRA C) can be a valuable reference guide. Nearly one million current coin values are given. Key collecting elements such as mintage, composition, weights, dates and historical backgrounds are discussed.

Just a reminder: The library is located at 500 S. Main St. Our phone number is 264-2260.

The Web site is www.howard-county.lib.tx.us.

Looking ahead: The library will be closed April 10-11 for Good Friday and the Easter holiday.

You can always return material in the new book drop that the Friends of the Library graciously donated funds to purchase.

It is designed to take books on the left-hand side and movies and audio books on tape or CD on the right hand side.

Johnny Schaffer is a reference librarian for the Howard County Library.

Parent's Corner: Keys to a successful marriage

Never assume success is for someone else. Success is for everyone. Imagine every day that you can do great things. Have the courage to take the challenge, make the mistakes and move forward and always be aware that life needs its contrasts. Happiness needs sadness. Success needs failure. Goodness needs evil. Love needs hatred. Victory needs defeat. Pleasure needs pain.

To understand this concept, we must experience and accept the extremes. Because if the contrast is

lost, we lose appreciation; and when we lose appreciation, we lose the value of everything.

After a while we learn the subtle difference between holding a hand and changing a life. We also learn that love doesn't mean just taking but it also means giving, both in friendships and in marriage. Speaking of marriage, I heard an interesting story recently concerning the secret to a long marriage. A couple was celebrating their golden wedding anniversary on the beach at Padre Island. Their domestic tranquility had long been the talk of the town. People would say, "What a peaceful and loving couple."

The local newspaper reporter was inquiring as to the secret of their long and happy marriage. The hus-

band replied: "Well, it dates back to our honeymoon. We took a horse back trip down to the bottom of a large canyon. We hadn't gone too far when my wife's horse stumbled and she almost fell off. My wife looked down at the horse and quietly said, 'That's once.' We proceeded a little further and the horse stumbled again. Once more my wife quietly said, 'That's twice.' We hadn't gone a half-mile when the horse stumbled for the third time.

"My wife quietly dismounted and removed a revolver from her purse

and shot the horse dead. I shouted at her, 'What's wrong with you, woman! Why did you shoot the poor animal like that? Are you crazy?' She looked at me and quietly said, 'That's once.'

"And from that moment we have lived happily ever after."

As I heard this story I couldn't help but think how easily some things are learned! And as far as success is concerned, let's remember, success comes in cans; failure comes in cant's.

Darrell Ryan is director of federal



DARRELL RYAN

Roll on in and help raise money for Cystic Fibrosis!!

In honor of Raelynn Lee & in memory of Casie Wood

Come eat Pizza and help us raise some dough!!!

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Ceremony of Hope



**May 15-16, 2009
Blankenship Field**

On May 15 and 16, many of your friends and neighbors will run or walk on a track for 24 hours at Blankenship Field in an effort to put cancer on the run. At 10 p.m. on Friday, May 15, there will be a chance for you to participate in a candle lighting ceremony to honor special people in your life who have battled cancer or are undergoing treatment now.

Luminaries may be purchased for a donation either by filling out and returning the form below or at the event preceding the ceremony.

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Fargo more than movie's namesake

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — What defines Fargo for the rest of the United States? It has to be that accent.

When Joel and Ethan Coen released the movie "Fargo" in 1996, they crafted an indelible image of Fargoans as cheerful dimwits who speak in comically broad Scandinavian vowels ("oh yaaaa, yaaaa").

Natives are quick to point out that only the

first five minutes or so of the movie actually take place in Fargo, with the rest set in Minnesota's Twin Cities and Brainerd (guess "Brainerd" didn't have the same ring). And with the eyes of the country now fixed on Fargo as its residents labor tirelessly to hold back the surging Red River, they'd like you to know that their city of almost 100,000 is a lot more than just bar-

ren snowscapes, local yokels and perpetual natural disasters.

"We've had a number of guests who tell me they're here because North Dakota was their 50th state on the list to visit," said Karen Stoker, who in 2003 opened the trendy Hotel Donaldson in downtown Fargo, which has \$40 bison steaks on its restaurant menu, works by local artists on its walls and hosts musical performances and poetry readings.

There are a few facts that are undeniable about Fargo. People do speak in a unique regional dialect, but it's not as exaggerated as the movie. It is cold and it is very flat, which makes it more vulnerable to blizzards and floods.

But real estate is cheap, it takes about five minutes to get anywhere in town, and as the last week shows, it's the kind of place where calls for volunteers to sandbag the homes of strangers turn up dozens of people in an hour or so.

"We're all a bunch of people who aren't that many generations removed from the pioneers, so I think hospitality and helping each other out is a natural for us," Stoker said.

Fargo has experienced a resurgence in the last decade, in part because of a growth in technology companies and its colleges.

In 2000, Microsoft purchased Great Plains Software, then a burgeoning software business founded by a North Dakota native. It's now the second-biggest Microsoft campus outside of the headquarters in Redmond, Wash. Other high-tech and

innovative companies have followed, including Appareo, an aviation software firm; Cetero, which researches and develops vaccines; and NRI, a neuropsychiatric research firm that has done well-regarded studies of eating disorders.

Between them, Fargo and its sister city across the Red River, Moorhead, Minn., have three colleges — North Dakota State University, Minnesota State University-Moorhead, and Concordia College — enrolling about 20,000 students combined. NDSU recently entered Division 1, a big ego boost for the rabid local Bison fans, and made the NCAA basketball tournament this year.

Between the high-tech workers and the students, downtown Fargo has transformed from a somewhat depressing place to a thriving destination with independent restaurants, high-

end boutiques and live music venues that have hosted indie rockers such as The Hold Steady and Bon Iver.

"I have colleagues in New York and L.A. and they're always saying, 'When are you moving here?'" said Matt Charpentier, 25, who moved back from Savannah, Ga., in 2004 to start his own graphic design business. "And then they tell me how much they're struggling. I've got all the work I can handle. Why would I go there?"

In all, the Fargo-Moorhead metro area population is estimated at about 195,000 people. One thing the area still lacks, though, is diversity. The U.S. Census found Fargo was 93 percent white in 2000, although that was down from 97 percent in 1990 and city officials estimate the growth in immigrant communities has accelerated even more since then.

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The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will sell at a Trustee's Foreclosure Sale to the highest bidder or bidders for cash, at the North door of the courthouse located at 300 Main Street, Big Spring, Howard County, Texas in which county such property is situated, at 1:00p.m., or within three hours thereafter, on the first Tuesday of April, being the 7th day of April 2009. For specific information contact the FSA Farm Loan Manager, Randall V. Milloy, 107 E. Broadway, Stanton, Texas, 79782, (432)756-3308 Extension 2, or visit the website: <http://www.resales.usda.gov/>

The subject property is located approximately 15 miles North of Big Spring, TX on FM 1584. The property is on West side of road.

The USDA Farm Service Agency is an equal opportunity lender and provider. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

This April Fools' Day you may decide that you're a fool for love. Venus is retrograde in youthful Aries and moving into a squared position to powerful Pluto. When you look back on this week you may be amazed at what you thought and did in the name of romance. But for now, enjoy the playful spirit and uninhibited feeling that's afloat.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Others sense your intelligence and ask you to give a broad oversight of their situation. Your ability to see the big picture is remarkable. Share your intellectual gifts. You will benefit in strange ways when you do.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The thing that makes the most sense to you makes the least sense to the others on your team. Everyone is right. There are many ways to accomplish this goal and together you'll cover all bases.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Recent developments have your mind spinning. There's an opportunity on the table that only the quickest around will be able to take advantage of. Get your package together and go for it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You have much to be proud of. Let nothing intimidate you. Take

a lesson from your sign mate Helen Keller: "Never bend your head. Always hold it high. Look the world straight in the face."

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You have tremendous powers of perseverance so just make sure you are on a track that's worth persevering for. If you're in a losing battle, then get out and hop onto a crusade that is worthy of you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Everything will work out. Make a thorough to-do list. Otherwise these bits of information swirl around endlessly in your head, making it difficult for you to concentrate and get down to business.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). What's broken will eventually fix itself. Focus your attention instead on what's going well. You can maximize your results. Don't settle for "great" because you can have "phenomenal!"

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The rewards you are working for seem too distant. You need a few perks to remind you why you're on this path, and it would benefit everyone if you got them sooner rather than later. Treat yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There is too much on your list for one person to accomplish alone. Use the resources that are available to you. People really want to help you, so just ask. When you do, your mood gets instantly brighter.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

You feel your best when you're around people — lots of people. You're a social star. It's a fortunate time for you to book meetings, parties and events. If tickets are involved, you'll likely get the best seats available.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You simply can't afford to drain your energy on problem solving. Give that job to someone else. You will get the most pleasure and benefit from working on perfecting your strongest talent.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Worthwhile achievements don't happen by chance. Often there are many, many mistakes to pave the way for one remarkable accomplishment. Keep this in mind as you continue to venture out.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm a Leo and my hair never seems to work out. Why is that? I thought my sign was about having a thick mane of beautiful hair. My hair is a betrayal."

I keep thinking that the right stylist will change my life, but it never happens. What should I do?"

Not every Leo is born with a lustrous mane, but I've yet to find a Leo who doesn't care a great deal about their crowning tresses.

Your hair reflects your mood, attitudes and place in life. Consider that your limitations may very well be your strengths. Beauty is not about having perfect features and stellar

physical appearance on all levels, but about what you do with the package you have.

I'm a Leo, too, and consider myself to be among the "follicly challenged." In its natural state my hair is thin, flat, dull — well, that's what wigs are for. Or volumizers, hair extensions, bump-its, mousses, fun hairpins and hats ... the list goes on forever for hair help. The quest to improve your hair helps you express that vibrant personality of yours. If anyone can find fun and adventure in a hairstyle, it's you, Leo.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Aries dynamo Leona Lewis burst onto the pop music charts after winning the British reality television series "The X Factor" and signing a record contract with none other than "American Idol's" Simon Cowell.

Lewis has natal Mars, the planet of ambition, in Taurus, the sign that rules the throat. Even when her vocals are stellar she will continue to reach for and attain new levels of vocal mastery.

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

Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: As a physical education teacher, I have had the opportunity to work with a lot of students in my nine years of teaching.

In this age of video games, it seems harder and harder to motivate students to want to participate.

The good news is, our service learning initiative has begun to change that attitude in both our students and our community.

I hope you can help me share with other teachers, students, schools and communities how they can engage their students in learning even more by doing for others, starting with Earth Day in April.

And it's free! This is my

third year participating in The LEAGUE with my school. We have collected clothes and canned food, written letters to soldiers, firemen and police officers, held penny drives for local children's hospitals, and near Earth Day we take our entire student population into the local neighborhoods to help clean up after winter.

We plant flower beds and trees in various courtyards, and have sponsored a local park in honor of a fallen soldier from our community. Students in all grades can give of their time, treasure and talents.

I have seen the excitement in my students — an excitement to help other people while physically doing something to make a difference.

My school population is made up of proud children from single-family blue-collar homes with little extra money. The LEAGUE gives every child the opportunity to feel valued and valuable because of their gifts for others.

As an educator, I strive to teach my students that they are a necessary and important piece of our school community regardless of background. The LEAGUE helps me prove this to every child in terms they and their families understand.

I would encourage any teacher with a classroom or teacher-certified group (like a student council or club) to go to the site www.theleague.org to see the wonderful "Learning to Give" curriculum and ideas for engaging our students in the giving of their time, talent and treasure for others. — Rob Merchant, Break-O-Day Elementary, New Whiteland, Ind.

Dear Rob Merchant: Thanks for your letter about The LEAGUE. Earth Day involves improving our environment and communities, and activities run through the month of April.

The LEAGUE inspires kids to give of themselves and become more responsible citizens. We hope all principals, teachers and school organizations will check out the website and find ways to get involved in these worthwhile events.

Dear Annie: My two sisters live in different states. They have daughters who are getting married three weeks apart.

Since my wife and I don't have the resources to fly to both weddings, rent a car and get a hotel room plus a gift, which one do we attend?

I love my nieces equally, but attending both is more than we can afford. Any suggestions? — Torn in Toledo

Dear Toledo: Here are your options: See if there are low-cost airfares and hotels that will allow you to attend both; attend neither; attend the first one for which you receive an invitation; you and your wife could each attend one alone in a show of family loyalty.

We think you should openly discuss the problem with your sisters so they will understand your dilemma and whatever decision you make.

Dear Annie: I would like to respond to "Ringless," who was greatly disturbed that her husband didn't wear his wedding ring.

My wife and I have been married 61 years, and I've never worn a wedding band because rings cause me to develop a skin condition that requires a

trip to the dermatologist.

Both of us have been faithful and I never considered that a ring would ensure any greater love for her.

"Ringless's" husband avoids wearing a wedding band in order to pose as a single man, then she has cause for concern. Otherwise, I would tell her to drop her objections and love the guy without it. — G.

Dear Annie: My next-door neighbor, "Tillie," is in her 90s. She is able-bodied, but her mind is slowly slipping.

We had a great relationship until she allowed her nephew, his wife, their son and the son's girlfriend to move in.

Not only are these relatives rude to us and all the other neighbors, but they treat Tillie with little respect.

She's out shoveling the walk at 7 a.m. when there are four healthy adults in her home. She now lives in her basement while they have taken over the main part of the house.

We suspect they are waiting for her to die so they can keep the place. I fear these people are only with her for an inheritance. What can we as concerned neighbors do to better Tillie's situation? — Confused in Canada

Dear Confused: You can check on Tillie often, dropping by to see how she's doing, inviting her for coffee, letting those relatives know you are keeping tabs on her situation.

If you suspect there is any kind of abuse going on — physical, emotional or financial — contact the Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (cnpea.ca) or the Public Health Agency of Canada

(publichealth.gc.ca) at 130 Colonnade Rd., A.L. 6501H, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K9. (In the U.S., contact the National Center on Elder Abuse at ncea.aoa.gov.)

Dear Annie: My husband is a dedicated teacher. Since we work different hours, there are only a few evenings when we are able to be together.

My husband just made plans for a couple we know to spend the night at our house since it was the start of their school vacation week and they live out of state.

He had barely mentioned this to me and we never discussed any concrete plans. Yet he told them it was OK.

On the rare nights I'm home, my husband spends so much time on the phone with co-workers and friends, I feel left out. What message (between the lines) does that send to me when these plans are not finalized by both of us? — Concern Warranted

Dear Concern: Your husband has created his own separate social life, which is why he felt entitled to make plans without consulting you. This is partly due to your incompatible work schedules, but also because he has common ground with fellow teachers and finds their input valuable and reassuring.

When he wants to talk, he turns to them instead of you. But you can fix this if you address it directly and work on ways to improve your communication and commitment.

If you cannot do it on your own, please consider professional counseling.

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Legals

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TxDOT) CONTRACTS

Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TxDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

CONSTRUCTION/ MAINTENANCE/ BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)

Dist/Div: Abilene Contract 0005-05-101 for FLEXI-

BLE PAVEMENT REPAIR & OVERLAY in HOWARD County will be opened on April 23, 2009 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a

project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.txdot.gov and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor. NPO: 29330

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Austin, Texas 78704
Phone: 512-416-2540

Dist/Div Office(s)
Abilene District District Engineer
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Abilene, Texas 79604-0150
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Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TXDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.
#6084 April 1 & 8, 2009

Legals

ESTRAY NOTICE OF IMPOUNDMENT OF ESTRAY

On the 25th day of March, 2009 I impounded the following estray; Kind of Animal: Bovine/ Bull Breed: Black Angus Color: Black Sex: Male

Age: 2-3 years Size: Approx. 1000 lbs. Brand, Marks, Identifying Characteristics: Wavy "I" on upper right Hip and, on the 31st day of March, 2009, I filed a Notice of Estray in the Estray Book of Glasscock County, Texas. I have made a diligent search of

the register of recorded brands in Glasscock County, Texas, for the owner of said estray, and contacted local owner of exotic fowl but the search did not reveal the owner. Notice is hereby given that, if the ownership of said estray is not determined, by the 17th day of April, 2009, said estray will be sold at

public auction/ Sheriff's Sale at Big Spring Sale Barn, 521 N. Birdwell Ln., Big Spring, TX 79720. Witness my hand this 31st day of March, 2009. Keith Burnett Sheriff of Glasscock County Texas #6089 April 1 & 5, 2009

