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Wow! It's time for Powwow

Weekend activity to honor Native American culture

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

A celebration of Native American culture will be on display Saturday and Sunday during the Big Spring Powwow at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. The public is invited.

"The Powwow is a social event and there is no Native American religion involved; there will be no medicine men and no ceremonies," said Randy McKinney, Powwow

committee treasurer. Powwow is a wonderful experience; the drum alone will lift your heart and make your feet want to dance.

"Dancing has always been a big part of the Native American culture, as it has in many cultures. Most people think of war dances or rain dances. However, Native Americans dance for many reasons - a good hunt or harvest, marriage or childbirth, or just for the fun

"A for days."

The event gets under way at 10 a.m. Saturday with gourd dancing, followed by the grand entry, where all the dancers

" The drum hosts are responsible for keeping the event flowing without interruptions, and the names indicate what type of music and songs the hosts perform," said Connie Lesser, secretary for the Powwow committee. "The Southern Drum host of it. These dances would last this year is Otter Trail from See POWWOW, Page 3A

Oklahoma. The Northern Drum host is Eagle Point Singer from Austin.

"The Southern Drum host plays music that is low in pitch and slow, while the Northern Drum host will provide music that is fast-paced with a high pitch."

Arena director will be Fabian Galvan of Lubbock and the emcee will be Tim Harjo of Ada, Okla. The head female

Schedule of Events

Saturday

10 a.m. Gourd Dancing 11 a.m. Grand Entry **Contest Dancing** 5 p.m. Dinner Break 6:30 p.m. Gourd Dancing 7 p.m. Grand Entry Contest Dancing 10 p.m. Close

Sunday 9:30 a.m. Christian Worship

5 p.m. Closing

Tax Aide help

continues at

Senior Center

Service 11 a.m. Gourd Dancing 12 a.m. Grand Entry Contest Dancing

Whiz kid

BSHS's Weber earns spot in international fair

Special to the HERALD

Hannah Weber, a Big Spring High School freshman, has qualified to compete at the 2007 Intel International Science Fair and Engineering Fair.

Weber is the first student from Big Spring to qualify for competition at the International Science Fair. Her project, "The Enzyme Effect on Anaerobic Decomposition," won the top prize at the Regional Science Fair, held at the University of Texas of the Permian Basin in Odessa.

Her project studied the effect of commercially available enzymes on the efficiency of septic systems. Weber also won a \$12,000 scholarship to UTPB and was awarded the United States Air Force

See WEBER, Page 3A



Big Spring High School student Hannah Weber holds her trophy while posing with University of Texas of the Permian Basin President W. David Watts. Weber has qualified to compete at the 2007 Intel International Science Fair and Engineering Fair.

Staff Writer

ing their federal taxes will have four more chances to utilize the AARP sponsored Tax-Aide, as the tax season officially comes to a close on April 15. The annual AARP Tax-

By THOMAS JENKINS

Area residents who

need assistance with fil-

Aide program is in full swing now, according to coordinator program Gloria Hopkins, and while the deadline to file income federal returns may seem far in the future, she and her staff will be hard at it every Monday until then.

"We are doing taxes at See TAXES, Page 3A

a.m. until noon on Monday, and will continue each Monday at those same times through April 9," said Hopkins. "For those that are homebound and can't get to the center with their tax information, if they will call us, we'll be happy to pick up the information and get the taxes ready.'

the Senior Center from 8

Hopkins said the volunteer-based program is designed to help people that might not otherwise be able to file a tax return.

"The AARP program provides free federal tax

Rep. Heflin appointed to national committee

Special to the HERALD

State Representative Joe Heflin was appointed to a two-year term on the Agriculture, Environment and Energy Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures by Texas House Speaker Tom Craddick this

The Environment

Agriculture, and Energy



state and federal agriculture and rural development legislation as well as natural resources, energy, and electric utilities legislation. Among other

things,

Agriculture, Environment and Energy Committee seeks to ensure that

Committee reviews are sensitive to how proposed laws and regulations impact rural areas and their surrounding communities.

> Recent issues before the committee have included the farm bill, water allocation, rural health care, education and telecommunications, as well as energy efficiency and renewable energy.

"My service on this commit-

Congress and federal agencies tee will allow me to present the concerns of my constituents on a national level, helping to shape policy across the nation and in all 50 states," Heflin said. "The more information policy makers have when they make laws, the better those

> laws will be." He will be serving on one of only 11 NCSL standing committees, representing his constituents and Texas by helping

to develop policy statements on federal-state issues currently facing all legislative bodies.

NCSL is a bipartisan organization that serves the legislators and staffs of the nation's 50 states, providing research, technical assistance and opportunities for policymakers to exchange ideas on the most pressing state issues. Heflin represents Texas

House District 85.

INDEX Classified

Features

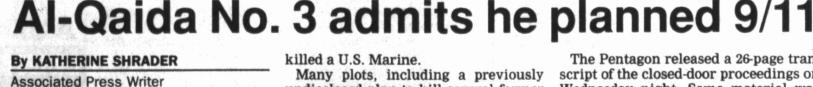
Obituaries Opinion

Find us online at: www.bigspringherald.com

To reach us:

Sports

Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 7 p.m. weekdays and noon Sunday.



WASHINGTON (AP) — Khalid Sheikh Mohammed cemented his position as al-Qaida's most ambitious operational planner when he confessed in a U.S. military tribunal to planning and supporting 31 terrorist attacks, topped by 9/11, that killed thousands of innocent victims since the early 1990s.

The gruesome attacks range from the suicide hijackings of Sept. 11, 2001 which killed nearly 3,000 - to a 2002 shooting on an island off Kuwait that killed a U.S. Marine.

Many plots, including a previously undisclosed plan to kill several former U.S. presidents, were never carried out or were foiled by international counterterror authorities.

"I was responsible for the 9/11 operation from A to Z," Mohammed said in a statement read Saturday during a Combatant Status Review Tribunal at U.S. detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Mohammed's confession was read by a member of the U.S. military who is serving as his personal representative.

The Pentagon released a 26-page transcript of the closed-door proceedings on Wednesday night. Some material was

Mohammed, known as KSM among government officials, was last seen haggard after his capture in March 2003, when he was photographed in a dingy white T-shirt with an over-stretched neck. He disappeared for more than three years into a secret detention system run by the CIA.

In his first public statements since his

See TERRORIST, Page 3A



Camelot Bridal The Difference Is Choice

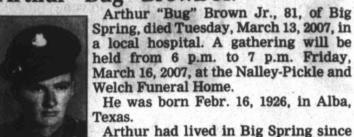


New Store Hours:

Tues-Sat. ~ 10 am - 6 pm **Closed Mondays**

Obituaries

Arthur "Bug" Brown Jr.



Arthur had lived in Big Spring since 1976. He had worked for LTV and was chosen Man of the Year in 1960. He was

an independent real estate broker and had worked at Wal-Mart as a door greeter. He served in the United States Army during World War II and was a highly decorated solider with several awards, including the "V" Device Bronze Star. Arthur was a Mason and a Christian.

Survivors include one daughter and son-in-law, Pam and James Rinehart of Midland; one sister, Valla Williams of The Colony; five grandchildren; several great grandchildren; one nephew; and one niece.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two

The family suggests memorials be made to Home Hospice of Big Spring, 111 E. Seventh St., Suite A, Big

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

Doris Laverne Hendrix



Doris Laverne Hendrix, 76, of Shoreacres, formerly of Big Spring, died March 13, 2007. Visitation will be held Thursday, March 15, 2007, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., at Rosewood Funeral Home in Pasadena. Services will be conducted at 10 a.m., Friday, March 16, 2007, at Rosewood Funeral Chapel. Interment will follow at Forest Park East Cemetery.

Doris is survived by her husband, Billy Max Hendrix; daughters Sharon Sikes and husband Ray, Diana Gotcher and husband Jack, and Debra Hicks and husband Ben; son Gary Hendrix; siblings Melba Newberry and Ray Dean; eight grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Take Note

- IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH will have Stations of the Cross Friday at 6 p.m. A fish fry will follow in the church hall. Plates are \$5 per adults and \$2.50 per child.
- BIG SPRING SYMPHONY CHORUS REHEARSALS HAVE BEGUN at the first United Methodist Church upstairs choral rehearsal room. The rehearals are for the April 21 concert and will feature spiritual music and Mozart.
- CHRIST COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP IS COL-LECTING INFANT CAR SEATS AND CARRIERS. These are given to new mothers who cannot afford them. To donate your old or new car seats and carriers, call Karen Allen at 263-3517 or leave a message at Christ Community Fellowship, 263-love. All donations are appreciated.
- JIMMY FISHER AND CALCULUS have booked the Big Spring Memorial Auditorium for 8 p.m. Saturday, March 24. The band plays a variety of music, including rock and blues. Tickets will be \$20 each.
- · ROAD TO RECOVERY, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volunteer, or to request a ride for treatment, call Nancy Koger at 267-7809.
- NEW LIFE MINISTRIES Church of God In Christ is holding a soup kitchen every second and fourth Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 204 N.W. 10th. The meal is free. Call 264-0771 for more information.
- THE PET PATROL helps locate lost pets and owners of found pets. To volunteer or for more information, call Melanie Gambrell at 267-PETS (7387).
- ODYSSEY HOSPICE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS to work in the office and perform patient services. For more information or to volunteer, call 263-5999.
- THE MOBILE MEALS PROGRAM that delivers meals to the elderly and homebound needs volunteers to deliver meals. If you can spare one hour per week to deliver eight or 10 meals, you are needed. About 85 to 90 meals are prepared, packaged and delivered to recipients within the city limits of Big Spring.

If you can volunteer, please call 263-4016 before 3 p.m.

 BIG SPRING AND SURROUNDING COUNTIES are in critical need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected. For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 263-9669.

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Police blotter

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

- · FREDDIE LEE WILLIAMS JR., 33, of 1401 N. Highway 87, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of assault with intent to cause bodily injury - family vio-
- · CHARLIE EVERRETT RYERSON, 61, transient, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- · JOSHUA MIER, 24, of 624 Ridgelea, was arrested Wednesday on charges of theft, possession of marijuana and possession of a controlled substance.
- · LARRY DON MARTIN, 46, transient, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- THEFT was reported: - in the 2700 block of Gregg Street.
- in the 1700 block of FM 700.
- in the 1200 block of 11th Place.
- POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE was reported in the 2700 block of Gregg Street.
- POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA TWO OUNCES OR LESS was reported in the 2700 block of Gregg
- FAILURE TO IDENTIFY GIVING FALSE INFORMATION was reported in the 500 block of Westover Road. TRESPASS
- CRIMINAL HABITATION/SHELTER CENTER was reported in the 1000 block of Main Street. · CRIMINAL TRESPASS was reported in the 900
- block of Goliad. · CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 1400
- block of Highway 87. BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in
- the 2900 block of Highway 80. ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 400 block of Edwards.
- ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO CAUSE BODILY INJURY/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 1400 block of Highway 87.

Sheriff's report

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

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail

reported having 54 inmates at the time of this report. · JACQUELYN RAY BROWN, 25, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for driving while license invalid.

· ABEL MORELION, 41, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of failure to identify and a motion to revoke probation for contempt of court - disobedience of a court order. YCIDRO VILLAREAL JR., 39, was arrested

Wednesday by DPS on charges of no driver's license, violation of a promise to appear and driving while license invalid. MELISSA VELASQUEZ URANGA, 42, was arrest-

ed Wednesday by the HCSO on charges of bondsman off bond for assault/family violence and bondsman off bond for disorderly conduct - vulgar language. ARMSTRONG, 28,

Wednesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for credit card abuse. · PAUL VIERA JR., 20, was transferred to the coun-

ty jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of theft. · DONALD RAY ALSBAUGH, 46, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a charge of bondsman off bond for driving while license suspended.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department and Emergency

Medical Services reported the following activity: · TRAUMA was reported in the 1400 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.

 MEDICAL was reported near the 191 mile marker of Interstate Highway 20. One person was transported to SMMC. MEDICAL was reported in the 1400 block of N.

Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC. MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of Sunset

Blvd. One person was transported to SMMC.

Weather

Tonight...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 40s. Northeast winds 15 to 25 mph.

Friday...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Cooler. Highs in the lower 60s. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph shifting to the southeast around 10 mph in the afternoon.

Friday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the upper 40s. Southeast winds around 10 mph.

Saturday...Partly cloudy. Warmer. Highs in the mid 70s. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

Saturday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the lower

Sunday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 70s. Sunday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the mid 50s. Monday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 70s. Monday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the mid 50s.

Tuesday...Partly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the lower 70s. Tuesday night...Partly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms in the evening. Lows in the lower 50s.

The Quick Way to Payday We'll cash your personal check in minutes, deposit it on your next y, up to 14 days, give you the money you need, the long ice you want and the discount you deservel ments For Service: 1) Valid Picture ID 2) Verification Of Incom 5) Most Recent Checking Account St

Bulletin Board

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

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

THURSDAY

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

- · Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-
- Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association meets at 5:30 p.m. in the RSVP office at 501 Runnels. · American Legion Post 506 meets at 6 p.m. Call 263-2084 for more information.
- · Rackley-Swords 379, Vietnam Veterans of America meets at 7 p.m. in the Sparenburg Building,
- Big Spring Masonic Lodge No. 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

 Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until about 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. 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 in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

 Spring City Senior Citizens Center country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. featuring Monroe Casey and the Prowlers. All area seniors are invited.

SATURDAY

 American Legion Post 506 Fish Fry, 3203 W. Highway 80. Delivery is 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; serving is noon to 3 p.m. Plates are \$8 each. Call 263-2084 to

· Big Spring Shrine Club meets at 6:30 p.m. at Goliad and First streets for a meal with a meeting to follow.

• Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third. Big Spring Squares. Call 267-7043 or 263-6305 for more information.

MONDAY

· The Big Spring-Howard County Retired Teacher's Association meets in the Cactus Room at Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. · Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at

5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third, for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392 8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758. Take Off Pounds Sensibby (TOPS) No. TX 1756

meets at 5:30 p.m. in the First Christian Church of Big Spring, 911 Goliad. A different program is offered every week. Enter through the south side door off 10th Street. Call 263-2786 for more information. Evening Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. at the

Event Center, 1607 E. Third St. DAV and Auxiliary Chapter 47 meets at 6:30 p.m. at 610 Abrams St.

Lottery

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 3-26-27-29-35-37. Number matching six of six: 0.

AUSTIN (AP) - Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 7-10-12-18-22. Number matching five of five: 1.

Prize per winner: \$27,567.

Winning tickets sold in: Dallas.

AUSTIN (AP) - The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 2-2-9

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BIG SPRIN Thursday

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2 volunteer police, 2 others die in Greenwich Village shootouts

NEW YORK (AP) - A gunman rampaged through a strip of restaurants and bars in a trendy Manhattan neighborhood, killing a pizzeria employee and two unarmed volunteer police officers before other officers shot him to death, the mayor said.

Gunman David Gavin had a fake beard, two guns and 100 rounds of ammunition, Mayor Michael Bloomberg said early Thursday.

"Tonight was a horrible night for the New York Police Department and for our city," he said. "Two men who volunteered their time to make our city the safest big city in America lost their lives helping to keep it exactly that way."

The shooting began around 9 p.m. Wednesday, the mayor said. Gavin, 32, went into a Greenwich Village pizzeria, asked for a menu and then shot an employee 15 times in the back before fleeing, Bloomberg said. Police identified the employee as Alfredo Romaro,

Nicholas Todd Pekearo and Eugene Marshalik, two of the city's nearly 4,500 auxiliary police officers, responded to the shooting and approached Gavin, who crossed the street and fired at them.

Jury votes for death penalty for killer of Jessica Lunsford in Fla.

MIAMI (AP) — A jury decided Wednesday that a convicted sex offender should get the death penalty for the kidnapping, rape and murder of 9-year-old Jessica Lunsford, who was buried alive in trash bags just yards from her home.

The jury, on a 10-2 vote, brushed aside pleas for mercy and a life sentence from defense lawyers based on claims that John Evander Couey, 48, is mentally retarded and suffers from chronic mental illness. Jurors deliberated for about one hour.

The final decision on Couey's fate will be made by Circuit Judge Richard Howard, who is not bound by the jury's recommendation but is required to give it "great weight."

POWWOW

Continued from Page 1A

dancer is Nicole Shultz of Norman, Okla.

According to committee members, the public is encouraged to attend the Powwow. Newcomers, however, are asked to follow a few simple do's and don'ts.

Standard Powwow etiquette includes:

· Don't call a dancer's regalia a "costume" — Much thought and effort goes into the making of dancer's outfits. Often, pieces of the regalia are family heirlooms. Feathers, in particular, are considered sacred and highly valued items.

 Don't touch a dancer's outfit without permission Many of the items worn

may be very fragile or valuable, and many outfits may cost in excess of \$4,000.

· Pointing with the fingers is considered bad manners by some Native American tribes.

· Use courtesy when photographing - The master of ceremonies will let you know when it is unacceptable to take photographs, but taking pictures during dance competition is usually OK.

· Do not enter the dance area after it has been blessed — At the beginning of the Powwow festivities, the dance area, or arbor, is blessed. Walking or running into the arbor after that time is prohibit-

 Stand during the grand entry - The MC will announce the beginning of the grand entry and ask everyone to stand. Visitors should remain standing through the flag song and invocation.

Vendors offering many different wares will be at the Powwow and a food drive is scheduled with all donated canned goods given to local food banks.

Sunday, the event begins with a special Christian worship service at 9:30 a.m. in the arena, followed by gourd dancing and the grand entry.

Admission Powwow is \$2. Children under 12 are admitted free. For more information about the Powwow, con-

tact Lesser at 264-8203.

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

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Certificate of Achievement for an outstanding science fair project.

The 58th Annual International Science will be held in Albuquerque, N.M. in May. The International Science

founded in 1950 and is the world's largest student science competition. The International Science Fair brings together nearly 1,500 students from more than 40 nations to compete for scholarships, tuition grants, internships, scientific field trips and the grand prize — a

and Engineering Fair was More than \$1 million in awards will be granted at the International Science Fair.

In addition to the competition, students will have the opportunity to network with each other, attend cultural activities such as a symphony performance and meet with professional scientists. Some of the highlights are a business

where Weber will exchange pins representing Big Spring and Howard County with students from around the world. The students will also have the opportunity to visit with at least 10 Nobel Science Laureates.

card and hat pin exchange,

Weber has participated in the local, regional and state science fairs for the last four years. She has advanced to ExxonMobil Texas Science and Engineering Fair every year she has participated. She is involved in 4H, BSA Venturing, BSHS journalism assistant business manager and is on the high school swimming team.

TAXES

Continued from Page 1A

preparation assistance to people who cannot afford professional tax help, such as seniors, people with disabilities, those that don't speak English and people with low-to-moderate income," said Hopkins. "People need to be sure to bring all of

the pertinent information with them, including a tax booklet if one was received through the mail, W-2 forms and 1099 forms. They also need to bring any forms that show their 2006 earnings and their 2005 tax returns. We also need a social security card for every person named on the return and a photo ID for the person filing.

\$50,000 college scholarship.

any returns if the taxpayer is listed as married but filing separately," she added. "We also have to physically see the social security cards for everyone listed in the tax return. In the past, the taxpayer could just provide us the number, but we're being required to actually see the card this year."

Hopkins said the program is a "AARP has decided not to file necessity for many area resi-

dents who can't afford to have refunds that may be due them." their taxes prepared by a professional, and the heart and at 1901 Simler Drive on the soul of the operation is its volunteers.

"AARP volunteers explain many special tax credits and deductions and how people may claim them on their tax returns," she said. "These volunteers help people complete *e-mail*

She is the daughter of Franklin and Molly Weber. The Senior Center is located McMahan-Wrinkle Airpark.

For more information on the

program, contact Hopkins at

267-6733.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by their returns, right down to any citydesk@bigspringherald.com

TERRORIST

Continued from Page 1A

capture, his radical ideology and self-confidence through. He expressed regret for taking the lives of children and said Islam doesn't give a "green light" to killing.

Yet he finds room for exceptions. "The language of the war is victims," he said.

In laying out his role in 31 attacks, his words drew al-Qaida closer to plots of the early 1990s than the group has previously been linked, including the 1993 World Trade Center truck bombing in which six people died.

Six people with links to global terror networks were convicted in federal court and sentenced to life in prison for that attack.

Mohammed made clear that al-Qaida wanted to down a second trans-Atlantic aircraft during would-be shoe bomber Richard Reid's operation.

And he confessed to the

beheading of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl in a section of the statement that excised from the public The document, Associated Press has Pearl learned. was abducted in January 2002 while Pakistan researching a story on militancy. Islamic Mohammed has long been a suspect in the slaying, which was captured on video.

Bush President that announced Mohammed and 13 other alleged terror operatives had been moved from secret CIA prisons to the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay last



Khalid Sheikh Mohammed

year. They are considered the 14 most significant captures since 9/11.

The military began the hearings last Friday to determine whether the 14 should be declared "enemy combatants" who can be held indefinitely and prosecuted by military tribunals.

If the 14 are declared enemy combatants, as take to close the proceedexpected, the military would then draft and file charges against them. The detainees would be tried under the new military commissions law signed by Bush in

October. The military barred reporters or other independent observers from the sessions for the 14

1 Person | 2 Person

\$15,450

operatives and is limiting the information it provides about them, arguing that it wants to prevent the disclosure of sensitive information.

Legal experts have criticized the U.S. decision, and The Associated Press filed a letter of protest, arguing that it would be "an unconstitutional misings in their entirety."

The transcripts refer to a claim by Mohammed that he was tortured by the CIA, although he said he was not under duress at Guantanamo when he confessed to his role in the attacks. The CIA has said its interrogation practices are legal, and it does not use torture.

APPLICATION NOTICE

HOUSING RECONSTRUCTION (REPLACEMENT) PROGRAM

The City of Forsan HOME Program provides help to eligible homeowners within the city limits for

home reconstruction (replacement) with a five year deferred forgivable loan. A program information

sheet is available from Forsan City Hall. Applications will be taken March 21, 2007, at 9:00 A.M. at

Forsan City Hall, 106 East Main Street. Applications will only be taken this one-day unless there is

further notice. If you cannot attend the intake, please call Pam or Maeva at (888) 424-7270 or (512)

INCOME LIMITS BY FAMILY SIZE

2) Homeownership: Warranty deed or other proof. NO CONTRACT FOR DEED. 3) Tax receipts

Disabled persons access assistance available

An affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Program

verifying ALL property taxes paid 4) Proof of Occupancy: driver's license or photo I.D.
5) Verification of disability if applicable. 6) Social Security Card for all household members.

\$23,850

6 Person

\$25,650

3 Person 4 Person 5 Person

\$22,100

420-0303 to make other arrangements. Please bring the following.

\$19,900

1) Proof of 6 months income or SS letter.

\$17,700

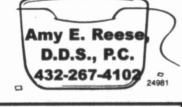
Kenneth Roth, executive director of Human Rights Watch, questioned the legality of the closed-door sessions and whether the confession was actually the result of torture.

"We won't know that unless there is an independent hearing," he said. "We need to know if this purported confession would be enough to convict him at a fair trial or would it have to be suppressed as the fruit of torture?"

In listing the 28 attacks he planned and another three he supported, Mohammed said he tried to kill international leaders including Pope John Paul II, President Clinton and Pakistani President

Pervez Musharraf. He said he planned the 2002 bombing of a Kenya beach resort frequented by Israelis and the failed missile attack on an Israeli passenger jet after it took off from Mombasa.

He also said he was responsible for the bomb-



7 Person

\$27,400

8 Person

\$29,150

Indonesia. In 2002, 202 nightclubs there were bombed. Other plots he said he

responsible for included planned attacks against the Sears Tower in Chicago, the Empire State Building and New Panama Canal, and Big Heathrow Ben and

Airport in London —

none of which happened.

The Pentagon also released transcripts of the hearings of Abu Faraj al-Libi and Ramzi Binalshibh. Both refused to attended the hearings. although al-Libi submit-

CINEMARK the Best Seat In Town 27179 CINEMA 4 & 1801 East FM 700 (432) 263-2232 ADULT HATTMEE BEFORE APRI \$4.00 / ADULT \$4.00 / CHILD/SR \$4.00 WILD BOSS (PG-13) 2:00 4:50 7:40 10:30 SHEST BIBES (PG-13) 1:40 4:30 7:20 10:10 HORBIT (PG-13) 1:50 4:40 7:30 10:20 VALID 3/12/07 THRU 3/15/07

ing of a nightclub in Bali, ted a statement claiming that the hearings are were killed when two unfair and that he will not attend unless it is corrected.

"The detainee is in a lose-lose situation," he said.

Al-Libi, whose name means he is a Libyan, reportedly masterminded York Stock Exchange in two bombings 11 days New York City, the apart in Pakistan in December 2003 that targeted Musharraf for his support of the U.S.-led war on terror.

> Binalshibh, a Yemeni, is suspected of helping Mohammed with the 9/11 attack plan on New York City and Washington and is also linked to a foiled plot to crash aircraft into London's Heathrow Airport. His hearing was conducted in his absence.



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ENCOURAGING WORD

Hands can tell a life story. The presence of callouses testifies of hard work. Scars speak of hurt and pain. Ring fingers can proclaim a message of commitment.

Hands are used to hold a crying baby. They stay busy cleaning a house or working on a keyboard. They express love to a sweetheart or compassion to a hurting friend. They can be folded in prayer.

The hands of Jesus and Thomas communicate a message of love and faith that has been handed down to us today. "Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." (John 20:27)

WE ARE FAMILY "A loving family that exalts Jesus Christ"

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SERVICES: Sunday Class......9:30 AM Sunday Worship......10:20 AM Sunday Worship......6:00 PM Wednesday Class.....7:00 PM

DAVID

"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.

Publisher

John A. Moseley Managing Editor Bill McClellar **News Editor**

OUR VIEWS

Tuesday vote: Girls in Texas deserve better

cometimes one has to wonder just what our state legislators are thinking. That's particularly true in the case of Tuesday's vote in the Texas House of Representatives in which that body approved a bill - by a 119-21 margin -that would keep the human papillomavirus vaccine off the list of required shots for school attendance, tentatively circumventing Gov. Riok Perry's executive order.

Let us all remember that this vaccine protects girls against strains of HPV, a sexually transmitted virus that causes most cases of cervical cancer.

The measure still needs final approval in the House and approval in the Senate. And while it's also possible that Perry will veto the legislation, the 119 voters that approved the bill are way more than enough to override a veto.

Perry's order asked Health and Human Services Executive Commissioner Albert Hawkins to adopt rules to vaccinate all girls entering the sixth-grade as of September 2008. Parents could refuse the shots for

A spokeswoman for Perry estimated only 25 percent of young women in Texas would get the vaccine if it is not required.

"Governor Perry's executive order on HPV would help to protect 95 percent of young women in Texas against the strains of HPV that cause cervical cancer," said spokeswoman Krista Moody. "The goverbelieves we should protect as many young women as possible - rich and poor, insured and uninsured — while maintaining parents' rights to opt their daughter out of receiving the vaccine."

While we have rarely found agreement with Perry during his tenure in office, this time we believe he's making perfect sense.

The same cannot be said for the House.

Republican Rep. Dennis Bonnen of Angleton, lead author of the bill said it "will not take away the option for a single girl or a single family in this state to choose to vaccinate a child. It simply says a family must make that choice, not a state government."

Where, we wonder, would we be today if lawmakers had said the same thing about smallpox or polio vaccinations?

Perry has for some time acknowledged weeks the Legislature has the authority to supersede his mandate, while insisting a requirement for the vaccine is good public policy that will save young women's

His critics argue the vaccine, called Gardasil, which was approved by the Food and Drug Administration last year, is too new and its effects need to be further studied before mandating it for Texas schoolgirls.

Cervical cancer can usually be prevented if precancerous cervical lesions are found by a Pap test and removed. Doctors recommend women get Pap tests once a year, but about half of the women in the U.S. who develop cervical cancer have never had a Pap test.

So, while the New Mexico legislature passes progressive legislation for require the HPV vaccine for girls in our neighboring state, lawmakers in Austin seem willing to stick their heads in the sand.

Texas' girls deserve better.

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 emailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Our troubles will be less, Lord, if we let You handle them.

libby: Whose fall guy is he?

e whole Scooter Libby case, from start to finish, has been based on the left's depraved obsession with substantiating the lie that President Bush and Vice President Cheney lied us into war.

Though I won't presume to substitute myself as a juror and will never downplay the actual commission of perjury, I have serious doubts that Mr. Libby lied as opposed to having an imperfect memory over matters not that critically important

LIMBAUGH because he had no motive to lie. He had no motive because the administration had nothing to hide concerning its decision to attack Iraq and particularly the yellow cake uranium flap, despite the left's endless cacophony to the contrary.

The relevant facts in this unfortunate saga are not that complicated. Most Democrats, because of overwhelming public support for the war, were politically compelled to support the Iraq war resolution. But when the war became less popular and the Democrats' antiwar base demanded accountability for the Democrats' heresy, they manufactured the fiction that the administration lied about

Enter Joseph Wilson, who was willing to put some teeth into their false claims. Wilson corroborated the Democrats' claim that Bush lied in his 2003 State of the Union address in saying, "The British government has learned that Saddam Hussein recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa." (Note that the Brits still stand by their statement.)

Wilson feigned outrage, saying he had investigated the claim himself in Niger and determined it was baseless. But the Senate Intelligence Committee and the

British Butler Report both concluded that Wilson's findings did more to substantiate, than debunk, the Saddam-Niger connection. The Senate Intelligence committee also found that Wilson lied in saying he had discredited certain forged documents, since those very documents weren't discovered until eight months after his trip to Niger. Finally, the Committee contradicted Wilson's claim that Cheney, rather than his wife, recommended him for the trip.

Since the administration had not lied about Iraqi WMD — as opposed to having properly relied on the best intelligence available to it (and Democrats) — it had nothing to cover up, but it did have the right - and duty - to protect its reputation, especially since the Democrats' false characterizations were damaging America's image in the world, something they profess to exalt above all else.

If Cheney instructed Libby to disclose that Valerie Plame was Wilson's spouse, his motive wasn't to punish Wilson by exposing his wife's highly disputed covert status. It was to impeach Wilson's credibility.

But none of this mattered to Democrats, because it didn't fit their template that "Bush lied, people died."

From the beginning, Democrats have been trying to make this case into something they knew it was not: a smoking gun against the administration. At the outset of the prosecution, Sen. Harry Reid shamelessly said, "The Libby indictment provides a window into what this is really about: how the administration manufactured and manipulated intelligence in order to sell the war in Iraq and attempted to destroy those who dared to challenge its actions. As a result of its improper conduct, a cloud now hangs over this administration." (Reid and others said virtually the same thing after the verdict.)

Special Prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald also pushed the Democrats' conspiratorial lunacy, as evidenced by his bizarre and outrageously inflammatory statement to a D.C. jury in closing argument, "There is a cloud over the vice president." Sound famil-

How could Fitzgerald possibly say that in good conscience, knowing and having known from the very beginning of the case, that Richard Armitage, not Libby, was the leaker and Armitage was no friend of the administration and even less supportive of the Iraq war?

Predictably, the liberal media has also made its best efforts to turn this trial into Bush's Watergate. Early on they were praying for and predicting that Rove would be indicted. And despite the unconscionably belated revelation that Libby was not the leaker, MSNBC reporter David Shuster stuck with the Democrat template, asking Libby, after the verdict, "Are you willing to go to jail to protect Vice President Cheney?"

Protect him from what? How many times can we repeat that Libby was neither charged nor convicted of leaking — because he didn't do it? No matter. They just continue to push the theme that "the wrong guy was convicted."

Scooter Libby is the wrong guy, all right, but there is no right guy, because there was no administration misconduct here. Libby is also the fall guy, but not for Cheney, Rove or Bush. He's the left's sacrificial lamb, an expendable human being whose criminalization is necessary to perpetuate their abominable and politically self-serving myth that Bush, Cheney and Rove lied us into war.

To find out more about David Limbaugh, please visit his Web site at www.davidlimbaugh.com. COPYRIGHT 2007 CREATORS SYNDICATE INC.



ADDRESSES

GEORGE W. BUSH President The White House Washington, D.C. 20500

· KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON U.S. Senator 703 Hart Office Building Washington, 20510 Phone: 202-224-5922

 JOHN CORNYN U.S. Senator Washington, DC 20510-4305 Phone: 202-224-2934

• RANDY NEUGEBAUER U.S. Representative 19th Cong. District 1510 Scurry Big Spring Phone: (432) 264-0722

Japan on a (California) roll

apan. It's already trounced our auto industry, now it's aiming for our hearts and minds.

Well, not really. It's aiming for our stomachs. But still — it just may win. Remember when the idea of eating raw fish sounded like eating raw liver?

Now look at you, with your eel this, and wasabi that. Japan knows how to change American culture and what do we have to parry with?

Edible balloons. Trust me: I just ate my way through the International **Restaurant Show**

and, according to a seminar on "Food Trends," the latest American invention is the mozzarella balloon.

LENORE

SKENAZY

These eerie orbs are made by warming the cheese and then somehow blowing it up, like those amazing bubbles kids used to make with special (vaguely toxic) Wham-O fluid. Drizzled with a balsamic reduction, the bladder-like balls are then deflated by the diner with a prick of the fork. Provided that the diner has not fled the restaurant, screaming.

It's hard to say who's really eager to eat an appetizer that looks straight out of "Grey's : Anatomy," but, in any event,

those balls just show how desperate we are. We're scraping the bottom of the cheese barrel. Most of the real breakthroughs were to be found in the Japanese pavilion.

For starters, there's GoGo Curry, the top curry chain in Japan, aiming to open in the States next month. The only food GoGo sells is a bowl of rice smothered in thick, lumpy, dark brown sauce. It looks so revolting you'd think we could rest easy, but my God - it tastes like a cross between curry, teriyaki and Julia Child's pan drippings. It's spectacular! And then it's topped with a helping of meat, chicken, shrimp or egg. How can the Colonel possibly compete with THAT?

So much for America's fast food advantage. But extremely slow food from Japan is coming, too. "In Japan, you're either trained as a sushi chef, a tempura chef or a kaiseki chef," according to food publicist Steven Hall. Kaiseki, he believes, is the next big thing: a meal consisting of many tiny delicacies, each served in an attractive little dish.

Tapas meets Toyota. Can't miss. And just as we've all got a fondue pot somewhere in the basement from that brief moment of Swiss cultural hegemony, so we may soon have a home tofu maker, too. Those machines are on the way, as are Japanese strawberries the size of cupcakes and Wagyu beef, which is to Kobe beef

as a Lamborghini is to a Lexus. Wagyu is so marbled that it actually looks (and tastes) like highpriced lard, And since when have Americans been able to resist fatty

In a desperate attempt to promote all-American ingenuity, homegrown purveyors were touting things like Carmi Flavors' pancake-scented coffee. "If someone wants chocolate chunk with fish, we'll make it, too," said the salesman, John Duff.

And we wonder why the dollar's dropping.

A chicken company was pushing its new dipping sauce that tastes like raspberry jelly and, unfortunately, makes dinner taste like a school lunch. And then there's Molson Coors' orange juice-flavored concoction, Blue Moon. The result is a beer that tastes great at breakfast.

I'm not sure that's what our country needs.

Whether orange beer, fatty beef or Japanese curry is going to be the next maki roll is anyone's guess. But I think we can all pretty much predict the fate of the mozzarella balloon. And American cuisine.

Lenore Skenazy is a contributing editor at the New York Sun. She can be e-mailed at lenore@lenore-

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BIG SPRIN

Thursday,

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12		Live (CC) News (CC)	Extra (CC) Mercury Media		Malcolm-Mid.	Letterman Late Late		Conan O'Brien Apex		Update/Israel Light-World			12:15 Movie: The Green	MXC The Dudesons	Inside the NBA (CC)	BET After Dark (CC)	Proud Family Sister, Sister	NIT First	College	Twilight Zone Twilight Zone

DENNIS THE MENACE



"I INVITED YOU TO PLAY ROMEO, NOT RODEO!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Shouldn't it be called 'Open SCHOOL'?"

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WITH RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS

THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY





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This Date In History

Today is Thursday, March 15, the 74th day of 2007. There are 291 days left in the year. This is Buzzard Day in Hinckley, Ohio.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 15, 44 B.C., Roman dictator Julius Caesar was assassinated by a group of nobles that included Brutus and Cassius. On this date:

In 1493, Christopher Columbus returned to Spain, concluding his first voyage to the Western Hemisphere. In 1767, the seventh presi-

dent of the United States, Andrew Jackson, was born in Waxhaw, S.C. In 1913, President Wilson held the first open presiden-

tial news conference. In 1919, the American Legion was founded, in

In 1944, during World War

raided German-held Monte Cassino. In 1977, the U.S. House of

Representatives began a 90day test to determine the feasibility of showing its sessions on television. One year ago: Saddam

Hussein, testifying for the first time in his trial, called on Iraqis to stop killing each other and instead fight U.S. troops; the judge reprimanded him for making a rambling, political speech and ordered the TV cameras switched off. Today's

Birthdays: Country singer Carl Smith is 80. Musician DJ Fontana is 76. Former astronaut Alan L. Bean is 75. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg is 74. Actor Judd Hirsch is 72. Rock musician Phil Lesh is 67. Singer Mike Love (The Beach Boys) is 66. Rock singer-musician Sly Stone is 64. Rock singermusician Howard Scott (War) is 61. Rock singer Ry Cooder is 60. Actor Craig Wasson is 53. Rock singer Dee Snider (Twisted Sister) is 52. Actress Park Overall is 50. Movie director Renny

Harlin is 48. Model Fabio is 46. Singer Sananda Maitreya (formerly Terence Trent D'Arby) is 45. Rock singer Bret Michaels (Poison) is 44. Singer Rockwell is 43. Rock singer Mark McGrath (Sugar Ray) is 39. Actress Kim Raver is 38. Actress Eva Longoria is 32. Rappermusician will.i.am (Black Eyed Peas)- is 32.Rapper Young Buck is 26. Actor Sean Biggerstaff is 24. Rock musician Ethan Mentzer is 24. Actress Caitlin Wachs is 18.

Thought for Today: "Sometimes it's worse to win a fight than to lose." -Billie Holiday, American singer (1915-1959).



36 Treat with

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51 Lighten up

52 Newspaper

48 Sharp-tasting

50 Chuck-wagon

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40 Oscar-winner

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45 Superheroes'

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Newsday Crossword

FROM START TO FINISH by Norma Steinberg Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

10 Implore

11 Senior

14 Kerry's

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15 Inexpensive

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17 Motionless

devotee

25 Had a tantrum

27 General Powell

29 In the on-deck

24 Blessings

26 Dodge

22 Bar order

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23 All-you-can-eat

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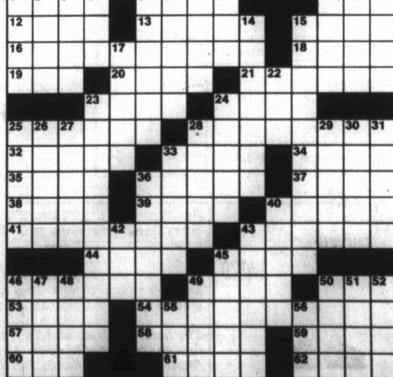
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28 Has a go at

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The 2007 Suzuki SX4

Entry-level surprises: Suzuki SX4 shows virtues beyond value

By TERRY BOX

The Dallas Morning News

Life dealt me a mean hand the other day — or so I thought.

There I was, a grayhaired, middle-aged guy slumped over the steering wheel of an odd-looking \$15,000 Suzuki sedan. What was next: a one-bedroom apartment, a stack of credit card bills and two or three ex-wives?

Then I turned the key in my 2007 SX4, and those loser stereotypes started to fade. But admit it: Older, supposedly more affluent drivers look awkward in entry-level cars. And while sometimes I felt as if I were on my way to bankruptcy court, I came to appreciate the surprising Suzuki's virtues.

For one thing, the SX4 is the lowest-priced allwheel-drive car available in the U.S. Many of us old muscleheads prefer rearwheel-drive because that's the best configuration for handling and performance - not to mention burning rubber. But if I had kids and a tight budget to contend with, I'd give this sedan a look because of the safety and stability of all-wheeldrive.

Also - and this may surprise you — Suzuki was the fastest-growing Japanese automaker in the U.S. last year. The company's car sales were up 23 percent, twice Toyota's rate.

After years of struggling, Suzuki's cars are starting to provide good value. (Anyone remember the Samurai, a favorite of Consumer Reports?)

My silver sedan had a sticker price of \$14,999, which included a 100,000mile warranty, 24-hour roadside assistance, destination charges, mats and a full tank of gas. The car also came with a 2-liter, 4cylinder engine cranking out a respectable 143 horsepower and a full complement of front, side and rear airbags.

Open one of the car's four doors, and the first thing you notice is how spacious it seems. The Suzuki is short; tall and rather ungainly, but its design permits a very use-

ful height of 63 inches. It handle as confidently as to yours. also has an enormous wraparound windshield that makes it feel kind of like a small Greyhound bus - or worse, a mini-

But don't expect a bargain-basement Subaru WRX. The SX4 is no rock-

It needs nine long seconds to get to 60 mph from a standstill. While the engine is smooth and feels pretty lively in the low and mid ranges, there's not much point in revving the SX4 past 4,000 rpm. No horses are in the barn, despite the engine's theoretical red line of 5,800 rpm.

I found the brakes to be kind of grabby, which may well have been from press-fleet abuse. But the car also recorded some longish stopping distances in a couple of magazine reviews, so there may be some relationship.

The whoa-and-go were undoubtedly affected by the car's pork. At 2,900 pounds, the SX4 is 200 pounds heavier than a Honda Civic.

But then, a Civic doesn't one else's kids in addition

the Suzuki - especially in lousy weather.

The Suzuki leans in corners like the econo-box it is. Once the car settles on a line in a corner, however, it offers lots of reassuring grip.

The ride, thanks partly to the car's weight, was very decent. (The SX4's paunch, by the way, is mostly a result of the allwheel-drive.) Fuel consumption was nothing special for a four-cylinder car - 23 mpg city, 28 highway.

Inside, it wears lots of plastic. But the dashboard was attractive and well designed, and the controls were mercifully simple. The doors even sounded good slammed.

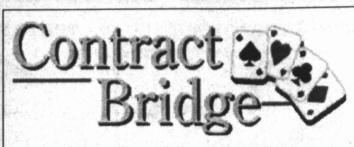
Moreover, the SX4 offers lots of features for 15 large. Besides a fourspeaker AM-FM stereo with a CD player and MP3 capability, it comes with air-conditioning, wheel, folding rear seats, power windows and locks, remote entry and roof rails - in case you

need to transport some-

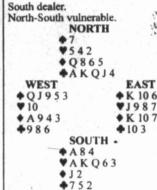
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A False Sense of Security



The bidding: West South 1 ♥ 2 ♥ North Pass

For my money, the car

needs at least 50 more

horsepower, which, of

course, would ruin its

reasonable base price.

But for your money -

and I'll bet you're more

mature and practical -

this is a quiet sedan with

a smooth engine and good

road manners.

Opening lead — queen of spades.

Assume you're in four hearts and West leads a spade. There seems to be nothing to the play, so let's say you win with the ace, ruff a spade in dummy and cash the A-K of trumps. West shows out on the second trump, and you suddenly realize you're in serious trouble.

You continue with the queen of trumps and then, trying to make the best of a bad situation, play the A-K-Q of clubs. Unfortunately, East ruffs

the third club, cashes the king of spades and continues with a spade, and you subsequently lose two diamond tricks to go down one.

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Sometime later, it dawns on you that you should have made the contract. Rather than simply assume that the missing trumps would be divided 3-2 - in which case you'd wind up with two overtricks — you should have allowed for the possibility that the trumps might be divided 4-1 (a 28 percent probability). Had you considered that, you might have seen that you could guard against a 4-1 trump break by playing the three of trumps from your hand at trick two! This seemingly ridiculous play

has much more merit to it than at first meets the eye. After the opponents win the trick, they cannot stop you from scoring the 10 tricks — four hearts, five clubs and a spade — you started with.

The outcome demonstrates once again that a declarer should always try to arrange the play to cater not only to the most likely distribution of a suit, but also to a less likely one. The chief danger in this deal is that the trumps might split 4-1 instead of 3-2, and declarer should take the necessary steps to guard against that

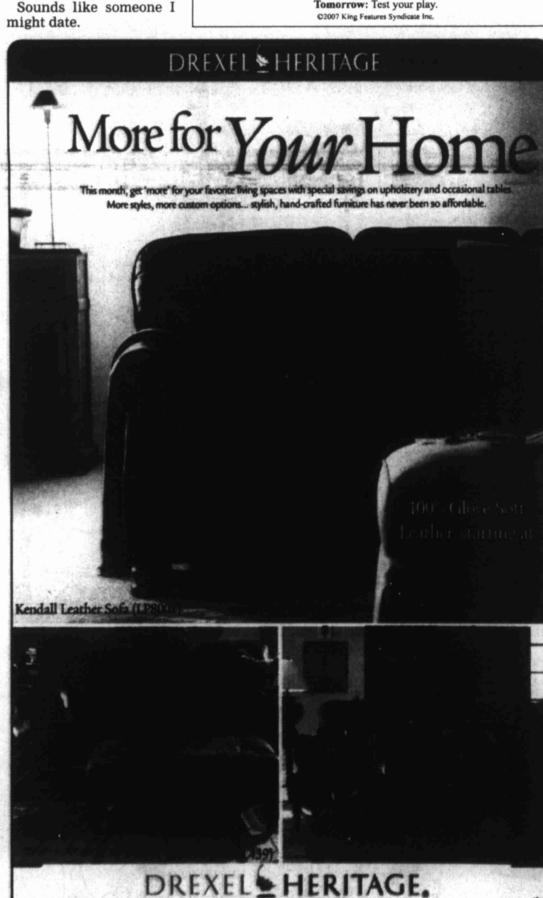
Tomorrow: Test your play

su do ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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Hands are used to hold a crying baby. They stay busy cleaning a house or working on a keyboard. They express love to a sweetheart or compassion to a hurting friend. They can be folded in prayer.

The hands of Jesus and Thomas communicate a message of love and faith that has been handed down to us today. "Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." (John 20:27)

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Tim Siegel slates Tennis Camps

Tim Siegel, the Big 12 Tennis Coach of the Year in 2005, will conducting overnight tennis camps on June 2-6 and June 17-21.

The camp is for children ages 8 to 17 and is open to players with all ability levels.

Siegel has been Director of the TTU Tennis Camps since 1993. For additional information, contact Mr. Siegel at (806) 742-3355 ext. 277.

April softball classic update

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The MidlandSoftball Association is hosting the April Classic Softball Tournament, at the Bill Williams Softball Complex in Midland, April 14-15.

USSSA Registration is required and there will be a men's and women's division.

Entry fee is \$180 with a Tuesday, April 10th deadline. For more information, call Mario Gonzales at (432) 889-7625 or visit www.midlandsoftball.com



NCAA tournament for Texas men

Today, March 15 At Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Winston-Salem, N.C.

Boston College (20-11) vs. Texas Tech (21-12), 12:25

Today, March 15 At Rupp Arena in Lexington, Ky.

Louisville (23-9) vs. Stanford (18-12), 12:40

Texas A&M (25-6) vs. Pennsylvania (22-8), 30 minutes previous

Friday, March 16 At New Orleans Arena in New

Memphis (30-3) vs North Texas (23-10), 12:30 p.m.

Friday, March 16 Spokane Memorial Arena in

Texas (24-9) vs. New Mexico State (25-8), 7:25 p.m.

Friday, March 16 At The United

UNLV (28-6) vs. Georgia Tech (20-11),

Wisconsin (29-5)

Law's Aggies: From bottom to top

By JEFFREY McMURRAY

Associated Press Writer

LEXINGTON, Ky. - Even during the doldrums of a terrible freshman season, Acie Law IV remained confident Texas A&M would eventually become a basketball power.

Of course, he figured he'd be an alum by the time the Aggies blos-

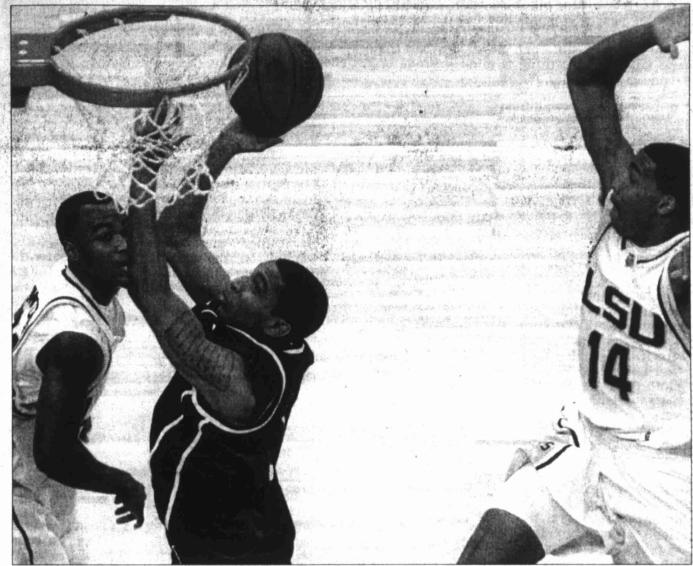
Instead, thanks in large part to Law, Texas A&M took the fast lane to success.

"I knew that this program was headed in the right direction," senior guard Wednesday, "but I could never imagine that it would happen so quickly."

Three years after that ugly debut season — the Aggies went 0-16 in the Big 12 - Law has become one of the nation's most dynamic point guards. He led the Aggies within a whisker of its first Big 12 regular-season championship and a third seed in the NCAA tournament's South region. There was even some sentiment the Aggies deserved a better seed.

But as the Aggies (25-6) prepare for their first-round matchup Thursday against 14th-seeded Pennsylvania (22-8), Law is thinking a lot more about the experiences of his junior year than his freshman one.

After all, last year as a 12th seed, Texas A&M knocked off fifth-seeded Syracuse in the opening round and nearly beat LSU, which advanced to the Final Four, in the second. The Aggies know as well as anybody that upsets not only can but do happen in March.



Texas A&M's guard Acie Law (1) drives to the basket past Louisiana State's Garrett Temple (14) and Darrel Mitchell (22) in the first half of game against LSU. the Aggles have a No. 3 seed and are ready to make some noise in the NCAA tournament this year.

a good team," Texas A&M guard Dominique Kirk said.

Before last year, the Aggies hadn't won an NCAA tournament game since 1980. Coach

"In the field now, every team is Billy Gillispie, who took over after the disastrous 2003-04 season, has helped put the traditional football power back on the basketball map.

"When you have 44,000 stu- See A&M, page 2B

dents and so many former students that really care about their school, you're going to have a

Suns shock Mavs with 2 OT victory

DALLAS - When the second overtime began in a game that already had plenty of thrills, Amare Stoudemire was ready to settle things.

So he went to the basket. Hard.

Between points and fouls that got Dallas Mavericks starters disqualified. Stoudemire's strong start got the Phoenix Suns going toward a 129-127 victory Wednesday night in a tense, thrilling game between the league's two best teams.

"He's a great finisher." marveled teammate Steve Nash. "That was quite a performance."

Stoudemire had 41 points and 10 rebounds, and Nash played like a two-time MVP down the stretch. He scored 10 points in the final minute of regulation, capped by a tying 3-pointer with 2.7

seconds left. He finished with 32 points, 16 assists and eight rebounds. Jerry Stackhouse scored

33 points, his most in three seasons with Dallas, and Dirk Nowitzki added 30 points, 16 rebounds and six assists. He had eight points and seven rebounds in the third quarter, when the Mavs turned what had been a 16-point deficit into a 15point lead going into the fourth quarter.

Phoenix rallied by opening the fourth by making eight straight shots and 10-of-12. While that set up Nash's great finish, four missed free throws by Dallas - including two by Nowitzki – were

equally important. The Mavericks remained shaky at the start of overtime, then Jason Terry scored five points in the final 48 seconds, including a long 3 over Nash with 4.5 sec

See MAVS, Page 2B



The Phoenix Suns' Shawn Marion dunks as Dallas Mavericks' Dirk Nowitzki looks on in the background during game action at the American Airlines Center in Dallas, Wednesday night. Phoenix defeated Dallas, 129-127, 20T.

NCAA bracketology basics It was not too long ago

that there were two seasons in the State of Texas football and spring

football. Not anymore, not with high-profile coaches like Bob Knight at Texas Tech, Rick Barnes at Texas and

now Billy Gillispie at Texas A&M. Football is still king in Texas, but basketball has surpassed spring foot- Mike and Grimes ball baseball as

the second love for many

sports fans across our old

Southwest Conference

plains. If you're still on

the fence or more con-

cerned with how many passes Colt McCoy and Stephen McGee are going to complete in spring games, then you're going to miss something grand this March.

The madness is sure to bring upsets galore and a Cinderella team dancing deep into the tournament, but this year you could see a couple of Texas teams, two-stepping their way into the spotlight.

Here are my picks for your brackets in the first round:

MIDWEST REGIONAL First Round

FLORIDA (1) vs. Jackson State (16) — The Gators start their run to a title defense with an easy win and head for a matchup with Ohio State - just like the football teams.

 ARIZONA (8) vs. Purdue (9) — Both teams closed the regular season well before losing quarterfinal tournament games to eventual conference champions, but the Wildcats have a more balanced offense with all five starters averaging between 16.8 and 9.5 points per game. Purdue plays in a tougher conference. I like Purdue in a close game that could go either way.

- BUTLER (5) vs. Old Dominion (12) - It's just a numbers game and nothing more. The truth here is that I have not seen either team play, but

See MARCH, page 2B



North Carolina's Reyshawn Terry (3) scores ahead of North Carolina State defenders (from left) Gavin Grant and Ben McCauley. North Carolina won the ACC and is heading to

Continued from 1B

chance," Gillispie said. "To win, you have to have really good players, and it's an advantage to be in a state that has a lot of really good

Tops among them is Law, a lefty sharpshooter from Dallas with a penchant for hitting big shots, who averages nearly 18 points and five assists.

"I'm a totally different player," Law said. "Biggest thing is mindset and my mentality. I've matured

When the pressure is highest, it's

rare that anybody but Law ends up with the ball.

"He's very patient," Penn guard Brian Grandieri said. "He'll cross you over once, pull up fast and cross you over again. His poise is unbelievable. They don't call him 'Captain Clutch' for nothing."

The Aggies have been to the tournament eight times but never beyond the second round. If they make it this time, a friendly crowd may await in San Antonio for the second weekend.

Not this weekend, though. Rupp Arena is just about 80 miles from home for sixth-seeded Louisville, which the Aggies could face next if the Cardinals get by Stanford.

Coach Glen Miller says tournament experience, a current 10-game winning streak and an earlier matchup this season against North Carolina should give his team plenty of confident.

"I don't think they'll be nervous," Miller said.

Penn boasts the Ivy League's two leading scorers, forward Mark Zoller and guard Ibrahim Jaaber. Texas A&M's players said the Quakers' ability to get the ball inside for high-percentage shots is what scares them most.

"We expect to play good basketball and represent ourselves well," he said.

MAVS

Continued from 1B

Stoudemire helped Phoenix take it from there, although it still took a missed 8-footer by Nowitzki as time expired to end Dallas' 23-game home winning streak and tighten the race for the

onds to go that the second

Conference. "This was a big game. We aren't going to try to

top seed in the Western

downplay it," Stackhouse said. "It was a little disappointing not to get the win but we'll bounce back."

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The Suns won their sixth straight and 11th in 12 games, moving them within 2 1/2 games of the Mavericks for the best record in the league.

Dallas seemed like a lock for the top spot just a few days ago, when a 17game winning streak prompted talk of 70 wins for the season.

But now the Mavs have lost two straight games.

MARCH

Continued from 1B

Butler received a No. 5 seed for a reason.

— MARYLAND (4) vs. Davidson (13) The Terrapins enjoyed a seven-game winning streak that included two victories over Duke and one over North Carolina, a team that just might win it all.

NOTRE DAME (6) vs. Winthrop (11) — As much as I would like to make everyone around the Herald happy, Notre Dame is eighth-best in the country when it comes to scoring. The Irish will avoid the upset — sorry.

- OREGON (3) vs. Miami, Ohio (14) -Miami enjoyed its lastsecond 3-point shot by Doug Penno that won the Mid-American Conference title game. There are no more miracles. The Ducks will advance.

- UNLV (7) vs. GEOR-GIA TECH (10) — What happened to the high scoring Runnin' Rebels? UNLV is making its first NCAA appearance since 2000 and it looks it will be one and done. Take Georgia Tech.

WISCONSIN (2) vs. A&M-Corpus Texas Christi (15)-Badgers are one of the best teams in the country and Texas A&M-CC has already had a terrific season by making the field.

WEST REGIONAL First Round

KANSAS (1) vs. Niagara (16) The Jayhawks are riding an 11-game winning streak and just knocked of the Longhorns and the best player in the country (Kevin Durant). Unlike in years, recent the Jayhawks are poised to make a tournament run.

- Kentucky (8) vs. VIL-LANOVA (9) — Upsets are always going to take place in March. A No. 9 seed over a No. 8 hardly qualifies as an upset, but I'm taking it and moving

VIRGINIA TECH (5) vs. Illinois (12) — Again, this is numbers game. The Hokies of Virginia Tech would be doubledigit favorites in football and that has to mean something. What, I have no idea, but I like VT.

SOUTHERN ILLI-NOIS (4) vs. Holy Cross (13) - Who and who? Just kidding, the Salukis of Southern Illinois have a great name and won 13 straight before losing in the Missouri Valley Conference title game. They should win easily.

- DUKE (6) vs. Virginia Commonwealth (11) -Duke may be a No. 6 seed, but there is no question that they will make it out of the first round.

PITTSBURGH (3) vs. Wright State (14) - This one is all about the conference. Pitt just lost to a very good Georgetown team in their tournament and a No. 3 seed does not

lose to a No. 14 very often.
— INDIANA (7) vs. Gonzaga (10) — Gonzaga been a Cinderella favorite for the last several years, but they are missing the offensive star they used to enjoy in March. They are

averaging 80 points a game and this one should

Indiana in a close one. - UCLA (2) vs. Weber State (15) — The Bruins have lost two may straight, but this is a nobrainer. UCLA wins big.

EAST REGIONAL First Round

 NORTH CAROLINA (1) vs. Eastern Kentucky (16) — The Tar Heels average 87.1 points per game and are a No. 1 seed. Eastern Kentucky, well Eastern they are Kentucky. North Carolina will dominate this one.

Marquette (8) vs. MICHIGAN STATE (9) -Does Michigan State coach Tom Izzo have any March magic left in his bag of tricks? I think so. at least enough to get to round two.

SOUTHERN CALI-FORNIA (5) vs. Arkansas (12) — Everyone loves Arkansas after a good showing in the South Conference Eastern Tournament and the Trojans have lost three of their last five. It would be a great upset pick if everyone was not weighing down the bandwagon. I'll take USC — they are not playing Texas in the

Rose Bowl.

- TEXAS (4) vs. New be a tussle. I'll take Mexico State (13) - The Longhorns start four freshmen, but one is the best player in the country (Durant). Horns' coach Barnes hates playing on Sunday in the Big 12 Tournament and an overtime loss to Kansas was certainly not what he hoped for, but Texas should have no problem in the first round.

 VANDERBILT (6) vs. George Washington (11) Even in football I would not care to see this one. I'll take Vandy, something I don't do in the fall.

WASHINGTON STATE (3) vs. Oral Roberts (14) — ESPN has raved about Washington State and what a run they have made. Before flipping the station the other night, I heard that No. 3 seeds make it to the final four almost as often as No. 1's. That can't be good news for Oral Roberts.

 Boston College (7) vs. TEXAS TECH (10) — The Red Raiders have the alltime winningest coach in Knight and everyone loves to see him win for the post-game press conference. Get your guns

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up, I'll take Tech in an upset and hope they can make a nice run.

GEORGETOWN (2) vs. Belmont (15) — The Georgetown Hoyas are one of the best teams in the country. This should be a sleeper for them.

SOUTH REGIONAL First Round

OHIO STATE (1) vs. Central Connecticut State (16) — Look for the Buckeyes to make it to the Elite 8.

BRINGHAM YOUNG (8) Xavier (9) — This is another toss up that has me thinking of spring football. Take BYU here, but I sure miss the light blue football uniforms.

- TENNESSEE (5) vs. Long Beach State (12) -It's said that Chris Lofton is one of the nation's best guards in the country and that he can knock down the 3-point shot with regularity. Sounds good to me. Take the Vols.

Virginia (4) vs. ALBANY (13) — This is another numbers game. There is no way that a No. 4 seed should lose to a No. 13 seed, but they call it "March Madness" for a reason. I'll take Albany in the big upset.

- LOUISVILLE (6) vs.

Stanford (11) — Louisville coach Rick Pittino could not win in the NBA with the Boston Celtics, but he should have no problem getting past Stanford.

 TEXAS A&M (3) vs. Penn (14) — Finally we get to A&M. It has been the year of the Aggies and Acie Law IV hits 51.3 percent from the field and 44.9 percent behind the arc. Not sure what he shoots when the game is on the line, but he is the real deal. With the Aggies in the South Regional, I'm expecting a very deep run that could land A&M in the final four. Don't look know, but College Station is becoming a hoops

town.

Nevada (7) vs. Creighton (10) - I have heard all week about these mid-majors. I don't understand it, but I know that on any night, anyone can get beat. That does not mean they all deserve to be in the tournament, but Nevada belongs.

MEMPHIS (2) North Texas (15) Congratulations North Texas, you made the big dance. Your reward, to be the Tigers' 23rd straight victim. Memphis owns the longest winning streak in the nation and destroyed Houston last week, looks like you're next on the menu.



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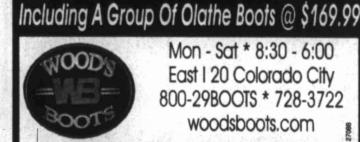
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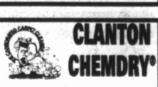
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15 Tex. AM-CC WEST FIRST ROUND SECOND ROUND March 22-25 1 Kansas 16 64th team 8 Kentucky 9 Villanova March 18 5 Va. Tech

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Oral Roberts14

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THE MARTIN County Hospital District is seeking Registered Nurses, for full-time day positions. Please contact Rance Ramsey, DON at 610 N. Saint Peter, Stanton, Texas or (432)756-3345 ext. 228.

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604 DRAKE, 3 Bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A. Stove & refrigerator furnished, fenced yard. \$475.00 month, \$200.00 deposit. Call (432)267-1543.

CONVENIENCE STORE for lease in Big Spring. Great opportunity. Call (325)658-7521.

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

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1.05 ACRE. 305 Driver Rd. Water well, great view. Forsan \$7,500.00. Call District. (432)213-2400.

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16X80 2006 Trailer House. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath. \$27,000.00. with \$3,000.00 Down. Call (432)517-0261

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BY OWNER: 2307 Brent Drive, 4 Bedroom, 2 bath, sunroom inground pool, 3 car detached garage with shop. 2181 sq. ft. \$159,000.00. Asking (432)268-9436.

BY OWNER: 603 Avondale. Ranch style 4 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage. Large family room with vaulted ceiling and fans. Wood floors and tile throughout the house. New paint inside and out. Great patio area and deck above Shop, carport, greenhouse and garden spot, sprinkler system. (432)267-6885

559-8491. LAND for Sale- 32.41 Beautiful acres near Country Club. Good water well. \$95,000.00 Call (432)816-3927

OWNER FINANCE, \$4000 down. Four to choose from. Call (432) 264-9907.

SMALL PARTIAL land for sale. 5 miles south of Big Spring & 1 1/2 miles west of Coahoma. Owner will Finance Texas Veterans. (432)263-8785

SOLITAIRE OF Big Spring has now opened a factory direct retail sales center located at 3408 East 11th Place. Come by and look at our model homes on display at factory di-Phone prices. 432-263-8605. Open Monday thru Saturday 9-6. RBI 34612

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MOBILE HOME, 2 year old doublewide, great area, car-Excellent condition! Owner transferring, priced for quick sale! Serious inquires only! Assumable Loan. (432)213-3235, (432)213-0917.

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2001 FORD Expedition. Black with leather interior, tented windows, 20 inch custom wheels, 75,000 miles. Asking \$13,000. Call (432)267-7603.

2003 DODGE Ram. 2500 Hemi Quad Cab, Short-wide-bed, 28K miles, great condition, dual exhaust with mac air induction and computer progammer. \$17,995. Call 432-935-3196.

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2006 TOYOTA Avalon. Loaded w/leather & sunroof. Black. 13,500 miles. \$26,500.00. Call (432)267-1953, 270-0348.

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Legals

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Sealed proposals addressed to Mr. John Grant, General Manager of the Colorado River Municipal Water District, will be received at the office the Colorado River Municipal Water District, P.O. Box 869, 400 E. 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas 79721, until 3:00 P.M., Thursday, April 12, 2007, for the purchase of Pump Control Valves with Hydraulic Controller Systems.

At this time and place the proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud. Any bid received after closing time will be returned unopened.

This project consists of supply and delivery of three 12-inch to 18-inch diameter Metal Seated Rotary Cone Valves and Hydraulic Control Systems. Specifications are available and may be examined without charge in the office of the Colorado River Municipal Water District, 400 E. 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas, 79720 during normal business

regarding equipment Inquiries specifications are to be directed to Cole Walker, P.E., Coordinator of Engineering Services, telephone (432)267-6341 cdw@crmwd.org

#5291 March 15, 22 & 29, 2007

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of LEE DAVES, Deceased, were issued on February 28, 2007, in Cause No. 13514, pending in the County Court of Howard County,

Texas, to: SUE HODNETT All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: SUE HODNETT 2612 Lynn Big Spring, TX 79720 DATED the 12th day of March, 2007.

Joshua Hamby State Bar No.: 24034471 306 Scurry Street P.O. Box 2199 Big Spring, Texas 79721-2199 Telephone: (432)263-8395 Facsimile: (432)263-4798 #5296 March 15, 2007.

PUBLIC NOTICE The Howard County Auditor will accept sealed bids until 10:00 A.M. on April 5, 2007 for the follow-

The purchase of one (1) new Die-sel Powered Tandem Drive Motor-

Specifications may be obtained in the Auditor's Office, 300 S. Main, Room 203, Big Spring, TX or by calling (432) 264-2210. Bids will be presented to the Commissioners' Court at 10:00 A.M. on

April 9, 2007 for their considera-The Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids. #5300 March 15 & 22, 2007

Tomorrow's Horoscope

and brilliant ways to cut work time and elongate "recess." So don't stand on the sideget the HOLIDAY Aquarian MATHIS spirit! Start

Aquarian phrases, such as, "I wonder what would happen if O" and "Can I try that?" And of course, "Wow!" ARIES (March 21-April

using :

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

livens up the atmosphere

with technological diver-

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ideas

lines,

into

The Aquarius moon

19). You hear the call of the wild and want to answer. Instead of labeling your impulses freakish, let them out. There's no reason to tame the beast. By expressing yourself, you encourage others to do the same.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It'll be hard to hide what you're feeling, but why would you want to? It's liberating to state it as it is. That doesn't exempt you from being compassionate with your opinions.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). A group field trip would be nice. Corral the gang into doing something spontaneous and fabulous! The more originality and spice you bring to the vision, the more attractive it becomes to your tribe.

before it squeals with delight. Turn up the heat, and you'll generate amazing creative output. Keep those fires steadily stoked into the evening fun.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). A relationship introduces exciting new options, but if you question the attractiveness of the offer, you may miss it altogether. The logical path is to find out what's in it for you, but follow your gut instinct. Gut wins over logic every time. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept.

You're like marathon runner. Timed intervals of activity and breaks are essential. An attitude of forbearance won't help you in the final stretch, but an enthusiastic cheer from your teammates pulls you through the finish!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It's not every day that you feel this frisky. And it's not every day that your worshippers are at your beck and call. Take advantage of this special kind of popularity. Credit your charm for all the attention.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're like an electrical appliance that sometimes shorts, causing little sparks to fly for no apparent reason. There's nothing to fix. A little friction is kind of like a reminder to "look alive!" It clears the system.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You know your words pack a punch, but it's just so hard to bite CANCER (June 22-July your impulse to speak to me, and we have a 22). You're like a hot ket- what you see. MLK Jr. great time, yet he considtle in that state right said, "The truth shall set ers us to be good friends. DICATE, INC.

you free," and it will set other people free, too!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Remember Mr. and Ms. Pacman? They were classic '80s consumers, eating energy pellets as fast as possible while outrunning ghosts. Turn around and face the ghosts. It uses up less energy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). One of your fellow Aquarians has hosted a virtual roller-disco party from India, sending out an Evite to her global friends, asking them to meet her in cyberspace. And you'll have similar genius ideas today.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The occasional mistake you make can cause you to want to hide from the world - not a bad idea. Although not always an option, solitude is the interface between mind and spirit.

ASTROLOGICAL QUES-TIONS: "I'm a Virgo, born Aug. 25, 1961. I feel as though I'm spinning my wheels and getting nowhere. I was divorced when my children were young. Since then I stayed in a 10-year relationship much longer than I should have. I had a beautiful business that I had to give up due to a troubled economy. For the past year, I've been seeing a 50-year-old Libra man, born on Oct. 12, who says he loves me. We live an hour apart. We spend almost every weekend together. He's very kind

How far away is true happiness in love and career?'

At this stage, I liken you to Dorothy in her homeland of Kansas. You have to see Oz before you realize that there is indeed "no place like home." You've created a fabulous life for yourself, but you're overly critical of yourself at the same time, and you for some reason refuse to enjoy yourself. Of course you can have more. Up the ante in all areas of your life. Take big risks, like breaking up with your sweet man in order to make him realize what he has in you.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Born under the sign of great actors, Pisces William H. Macy is a prolific, loveable and memorable character actor with over 109 screen credits. Together with feisty wife Felicity Huffman, the two give a new face to Hollywood power couples a mutually supportive, down-to-earth, family-oriented and non-publicityseeking face!

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, the Creators visit Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Annie's Mailbox •: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: Last summer, our small business of 26 years suffered a devastating flood. My wife, who had just completed chemotherapy, waded through waist-deep water in an effort to save our most valuable records and computers. We lost 13 trucks, and our offices were out of commission for six months.

Throughout this disaster, neither my brother nor sister offered to help. Not one day, not one hour. My sister, who has summers off, never lifted a finger to assist with office work, although she did write to our local newspaper, mentioning our courage in rebuilding our business and saying how proud she was. My brother used several excuses, one of which was that I didn't help him build his house. Neither did he. A professional contractor did it.

In my desperation, I fired off a series of angry phone calls to my elderly mother. I stated how dysfunctional our family was, hoping she'd help put things right. I am sorry that I left those messages on my mother's answering machine. She played them for my brother and only made things worse.

Perhaps I should not have lashed out, but several weeks had passed after the flood, and we were physically and emotionally exhausted. No one from my side of the family gave us any assistance whatsoever. Now we are ostracized from them. How did we become the bad guys? Do they just not care? — Binghamton, N.Y.

Dear Binghamton: Often, when people don't behave the way they ought to, they become defensive. We think your family members feel guilty they did not rise to the occasion, and blaming you allows them to feel better. You have to decide if you want to let them off the hook. If so, call your mother and siblings and say you are sorry there's



KATHY MITCHELL MARCY SUGAR

been a rift, you were so distraught by your personal situation that you weren't yourself, and you miss your family. Then you have to let it go, whether they deserve

your forgiveness or not.

Dear Annie: Why do doctors make appointments and then have you sit and wait? Is this the fault of the doctor or the scheduling? Every medical office should take a class on time management. Patients should be notified if a situation has caused a serious delay and should be offered the choice of staying or rescheduling.

One of my appointments was made a month in advance, and when I arrived, the waiting room was packed with patients and others had to wait outside. The doctor wasn't even going to be there for another 30 minutes. Any help? — Lady in Waiting

Dear Lady: Doctors with hospital emergencies are often delayed, and that needs to be tolerated. But you are right that sometimes appointments are simply overscheduled. When you find yourself waiting repeatedly and for long periods of time, you should let the doctor know. You also can call the doctor's office before leaving your home and find out if things are running on time. And, like any other dissatisfied customer, you can take your business elsewhere.

Dear Annie: My sympathies to the woman married to a man addicted to

Internet porn. I am in a similar situation. My husband even uses Viagra for this.

Counseling for her is a good idea, so she doesn't have to feel inadequate as there who are blaming the women in their lives, after seeing what you are doing and looking at, who would want to sleep with you? Get help before your marriage is over. My solution? I am the tech person at our house, and I've got our computer locked down pretty tight. Good luck to him trying to figure out how to unlock it. Married to a Closet Perv

Dear Married: Well, at least you've found your own way of dealing with this, but any married man who takes Viagra so he can watch porn has a serious problem.

Dear Annie: There are quite a few children on our block, ranging in age from 5 to 11. The kids are always outside playing. The problem is one little girl I'll call "Betsy." Betsy is pushy and always invites herself into the group. Most of the kids don't like to play with

On weekends, as a family, we like to go outside and play with just our children. But as soon as Betsy hears us, she comes running over and won't take "no" for an answer. I can't tell you the number of times we've had to go inside just to get away from her.

The real problem is Betsy's mother. If the kids say they can't play or don't want to include Betsy, her mother comes outside and makes the other kids feel guilty until they let Betsy in. The mom also allows Betsy to phone people multiple times within an hour and go to their homes over and over to see when the kids can play.

Many of us are bewildered and don't know what to do. We have told our children not to be mean or rude, but I don't think it's fair that they

should be forced to play with Betsy just because she lives on our street. Any suggestions other than moving? Frustrated Neighbor in Crown Point, Ind.

a woman. To the men out Dear Frustrated: Betsy has obviously learned her poor social skills from her mother. Still, when children play outside in full view, it is unreasonable and cliquish not to include other neighborhood kids. Under those circumstances, we hope your children will play with Betsy, like it or not. If Betsy intrudes when you are in your backyard, however, you should escort her home and tell her (and her mother) that this is family-only time, sorry. When she phones repeatedly, tell her she is allowed only one call per day, remind her when she calls back, and hang up. The same goes for ringing the bell. Since her mother won't teach her these things, you'll have to.

> Dear Annie: My son is 9 years old and has recently been diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder. He may also be a little bit oppositional defiant. I am trying to find the best way to help him. He is on medication, and we have been trying to get him into therapy.

> I've been reading a lot about a new procedure called neurofeedback. Is this something that really works? Is it worth the expense? - Frustrated Mom

Dear Mom: The jury is still out on neurofeedback for children. Studies have shown it can be helpful. but generally, the children who do best with it are also in a comprehensive treatment program that includes counseling, behavior modification and sometimes medication. There are also videogames that use neurofeedback to promote retraining the brain - a cheaper alternative, if you want to try them. (Check out smartbraingames .com.) Your best bet is to discuss all options with your son's doctor.

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BIG SPRING

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