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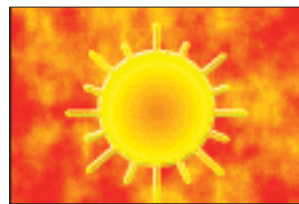
Florida's Gators
win NCAA
Division I
Championship

United
Country

BIG SPRING

HERALD

TUESDAY
APRIL 3, 2007



VOLUME 102, NUMBER 110

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

BSHS excels in district contest

*Wins UIL meet;
33 local students
advance to region*

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Big Spring High School was clearly the class of the field at last weekend's District 4-4A Academic Meet.

BSHS amassed a whopping 690 points to post its best showing in years at the meet, which was held at Howard College.

Big Spring's total was more than 350 points better than runner-up Frenship High School, BSHS Academic Director Leland Mallett said.

Mallett said 33 students — the most in recent memory — earned a spot in the Regional University Interscholastic League Academic

Meet, scheduled for April 13 and 14 at Angelo State University in San Angelo.

"Our students did a spectacular job Friday," Mallett said. "This is the most students we've taken to the regional meet in years. We've won the region meet in the past with fewer students, so I'm hoping for another win and to advance a lot of them to state."

Top point-earners for Big Spring were Nathan Booth with 37 points in journalism and current events, Shilo Rawls with 30 points in computer science and literary criticism, Colin Hunnicutt with 29 points in journal-

ism. See **ACADEMIC**, Page 3A



Big Spring High School seniors Nathan Booth and Casey Moore high-five after Journalism Advisor Leland Mallett tells them they placed third and second, respectively in editorial writing at the University Interscholastic League contest here. The Big Spring team swept the journalism competition with 156 points.

Courtesy photo

One-Act bound for area

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

The Big Spring High School Theater Department is in a most agreeable rut.

For the fourth year in a row, the BSHS thespians advanced past the district level of competition when they staged one of the top two productions during District One-Act Play competition at the local high school auditorium.

Big Spring and Frenship advanced and

See **ONE-ACT**, Page 3A



Lindsey



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

Local resident Paschal Odom helps sort through the items gathered during the recent citywide e-waste collections. The items, which contain potentially hazardous material such as lead, will be recycled.

Relay volunteers realize cancer touches everyone

Special to the HERALD

"Tell those people to keep at it. That amount can provide a lab and the salaries of three researchers to find a cure."

That was the comment made by a cancer researcher to local Relay For Life committee member Ellen Purcell in a conversation on an airplane.

During routine talk among strangers, the man had asked if Purcell had ever heard of Relay For Life. He told her that he had recently learned that a community of 200,000 in Oregon had raised \$600,000 last year. Purcell, co-chair of survivors for the Howard-Glascock Relay For Life, quietly but proudly told him that our two-county population of between 25,000 and 40,000 had



Purcell



Griffin

raised almost \$300,000.

The researcher wondered what prompted so many people in towns and

cities all over the country to work so hard to raise money for the cause that is his livelihood. Purcell could give him the answer: cancer has touched the lives of all of them. She works on the local planning committee all year because a co-worker, Allen McGee, had a daughter undergoing treatment, her dad has sur-

See **RELAY**, Page 3A

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www.bigspringherald.com

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

MASTER THE MOUNTAIN

Master the Mountain Fun Run/Walk is set to get under way at 9 a.m. April 14 at Big Spring State Park.

Entry fee is \$15 — \$18 after Thursday — to walk or run, and includes a T-shirt. There are 5K and 10K races, which wind around the 200-foot bluff at Scenic Mountain.

Registration forms are available at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce or www.pbunningclub.tripod.com. Click on calendar and "Master the Mountain." Late registration will be held at 8 a.m. at the state park on the day of the races. For more information, call Ron Alton at (432) 263-4931.

'SPRING CLEAN' SLATED

The Third Annual "Spring Clean Community-Wide Flea Market" is set for 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 21, at the Big Spring Mall parking lot.

Keep Big Spring Beautiful invites everyone to be involved -- all clubs, organizations, churches, businesses and individuals. Pick up an application for booth space at the Mall office or the Chamber of Commerce, 215 W. Third. Prices for the 10x10 booth spaces are \$25, 12x12 spaces are \$45 and 24x12 spaces are \$65. Call 263-8235 or 263-7641 for more information. Mail applications and checks to: Keep Big Spring Beautiful, P.O. Box 1350, Big Spring 79721.

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

Mark your calendar for the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours event slated for April 12.

"A Showcase of Airpark businesses" will be hosted by the McMahon-Wrinkle Airport and Industrial Park.

The reception is set from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the air terminal, 3200 Rickabaugh Drive West.

There will be door prizes and refreshments. Merchants others are invited to bring their business cards for exchange.

Business After Hours is a program specifically designed to encourage networking and showcase sponsors. There is no charge to attend.

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Sports

BIG SPRING HERALD

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

Page 1B
Tuesday, April 3, 2007

IN BRIEF

Big Spring High athletics update

Kenzie Hunt threw four innings of no hit softball Monday night as the Big Spring Lady Steers defeated Estacado (12-0) in Lubbock and improved to 2-1 in district competition.

Hunt struck out 10 batters on the night.

The Lady Steers' offense came alive in the third inning for three runs and then exploded for five more in the fourth and fifth inning. Brenna Phernetton led the team by going 2-for-4 and picking up three RBI's on the night.

Desiree Yanez came in to slam the door as she struck out two batters in the final inning. BSHS ended the game with 16 hits.

The Lady Steers will take the field tonight as they host Lakeview at the Big Spring Softball Complex. First pitch is scheduled for 4 p.m.

The Big Spring baseball team will return to action as they host

Relay for Life Volleyball Tourney

Saturday, April 7 there will be a volleyball tournament at the Goliad Gym for Relay for Life.

Registration will start at 10 a.m. and the first game will be played at 11 a.m.

Cost is \$5 per player and each team will consist of three boys and three girls.

The tournament is open to all age groups.

Willis signs with Dallas Mavericks

The Dallas Mavericks signed 44-year-old center Kevin Willis to a 10-day contract Monday, making him the oldest active player in the NBA.

Willis has played 20 seasons with seven teams, most recently Atlanta for 29 games in 2004-05. He didn't play last season.

Willis, born Sept. 6, 1962, is the oldest player in team history and the second-oldest in league history. He has career averages of 12.2 points and 8.4 rebounds and is the active leader in games played at 1,419.

Willis practiced with the Mavericks on Monday in Phoenix and will make the trip to Sacramento for Tuesday's game.

Starting center Erick Dampier is injured.

Cowboys to host Colts and Texans

The Dallas Cowboys will open the pre-season at home against Super Bowl champion Indianapolis.

The Cowboys' first training camp under coach Wade Phillips will be in San Antonio, where the team trained for two years before spending the past three years in Southern California.

Gators take another bite out of Ohio State

Florida repeats as champion

By **EDDIE PELLIS**

AP National Writer

ATLANTA — With the confetti still falling, some fans in the Florida section were already thinking ahead.

"One more year," they chanted. "One more year."

Nothing wrong with dreaming, right? In a way, though, the Gators lived out their dream this season.

They took a chomp out of NCAA history Monday night, defeating Ohio State 84-75 for the second straight national championship that was their goal from the time they decided to put off the NBA and come back to college.

It was the first repeat since Duke in 1991-92 and the first ever with the same starting five. It was a difficult task on several different levels — a success that will clearly put these Gators (35-5) on the list of the best teams ever.

"People can say what they want, but at the end of the day, the Gator boys have two championships in a row — back to back," forward Joakim Noah said.

Al Horford had 18 points and 12 rebounds, Taurean Green had 16 points and Greg Oden's 25 points and 12 rebounds weren't enough for Ohio State (35-4) to stop the Gators (35-5) from completing their rare repeat.

"These guys turned their backs on millions and they came back for a reason," athletic director



Florida's Marreese Speights (34) celebrates a 84-75 victory over Ohio State in the NCAA Men's Basketball Championship game at the Georgia Dome, Monday night.

Jeremy Foley said. "This is the reason. They played all season with a target on their back. It was hard to do. This is quite an exclamation point."

Another one. This win completes a 2007

championship-game sweep of the Buckeyes in the two biggest college sports — men's hoops and football. Florida, a 41-14 winner in the football title game in January, remains the only program in history to hold both

championships at the same time. "I've said it a thousand times — once you think you've got it all figured out, you get in trouble," Foley said. "We're just

See **GATORS**, Page 2B

Rangers drop opener to Angels

By **KEN PETERS**

AP Sports Writer

ANAHEIM, Calif. — John Lackey threw a ton of pitches, allowed a bunch of baserunners — and got out of plenty of trouble.

"It was a grind. I did just enough to get it done," Lackey said after allowing one unearned run over his five innings of the Los Angeles Angels' season-opening 4-1 victory over the Texas Rangers on Monday night.

Lackey (1-0) threw 96 pitches, walked four and gave up four hits — including Ian Kinsler's homer after catcher Mike Napoli dropped Kinsler's foul pop for an error. The right-hander struck out five and stranded runners on third base four times.

"He made the pitches when he needed to," Los Angeles manager Mike Scioscia said.

The Angels' victory spoiled Ron Washington's major league managerial debut. The Rangers squandered a string of opportunities, going 0-for-8 with runners in scoring position.

"Leaving runners out there is always a key to a loss," Washington said. "But many of those opportunities were with two outs, and two-out knocks are not easy to get."

"So if we can keep getting them out there like we did tonight, I'll take our chances. And if we keep getting pitching like we did tonight, I know we're going to be fine."

A longtime Oakland coach, Washington took the Texas job over the winter after Buck Showalter was fired.

Former Chicago Cubs slugger Sammy Sosa, back after taking a year

See **RANGERS**, Page 2B



MCT photo/Khampha Bouaphanh/Fort Worth Star-Telegram Texas Rangers' Ian Kinsler hits a single in the third inning against the Los Angeles Angels on opening day. The Rangers lost 4-1.

Astros lose in 10th; Lidge fails

By **KRISTIE RIEKEN**

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — Brad Lidge got sympathy from his teammates — even the pitcher who gave up the game-winning homer.

Lidge blew the save by allowing a homer in the ninth inning of the Pittsburgh Pirates 4-2 10-inning win over the Houston Astros. With Lidge's recent history, few will remember that it was Chad Qualls who surrendered the go-ahead two-run shot to Jason Bay in the 10th.

"I felt bad," Qualls said when asked about Lidge. "It wasn't the way that we all had it pictured ... my heart went out (to him) there a little bit today."

Lidge has been dogged

See **ASTROS**, Page 2B

Opening day around the National League

By the Associated Press

Ben Sheets was in mid-season form, breezing through one batter after another in a spectacular opening-day performance for the Milwaukee Brewers.

"Sheets was tough," Los Angeles Dodgers manager Grady Little said. "We were thinking all through the game we'd be able to get to him if we got him into the stretch — but it never happened."

Sheets gave up an early home run to Jeff Kent, then retired his next 22 batters in a two-hitter Monday that led the Brewers to a 7-1 victory. He pitched the first opening-day complete game of two hits or fewer in 15 years, according to the



MCT photo/Benny Sieu/Milwaukee/KRT Brewers' Ben Sheets pitches a complete game 2-hitter on opening day against the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Elias Sports Bureau. The last to do it had been Tom Glavine with a two-hitter for Atlanta against

Houston in 1992. Cincinnati's Adam Dunn and Atlanta's Edgar Renteria had their bats in



MCT photo/Jerry Lodriguss Braves' Edgar Renteria rounds the bases after hitting an opening day home run.

full swing on opening day, each hitting two home runs in victories. Dunn homered in his

first two at-bats, and Aaron Harang allowed two runs in victories. See **ROUNDUP**, Page 2B

Obituaries

John Nelson Ramey



John Nelson Ramey, 78, of Big Spring, died Saturday, March 31, 2007, at his residence. Family and friends are invited to attend a vigil services at 7 p.m. Tuesday April 3, 2007, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 4, 2007, at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church with Father Richard Regan officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

He was born on Jan. 9, 1929, in Linden, Tenn., to John Leslie Ramey and Gladys Vivian Whitwell Ramey. He married Patricia Lucile Smith on Nov. 20, 1954, in Washington D.C.

He served in the U.S. Air Force for 30 years and retired as chief master sergeant. He served in both the Korean War and Vietnam conflict as well as several other hotspots around the world. He served in duty stations which included Washington D.C., Illinois, New Jersey, Michigan, New Mexico, Texas, France and the Panama Canal Zone. He was stationed in Big Spring in 1969 and after various other assignments, retired in Big Spring in 1980.

He worked for the city of Big Spring for 13 years as a maintenance supervisor at the McMahon Wrinkle Air Park. He was a member of the VFW Lodge 8930 and American Legion Post 586 in Big Spring. He was a communicant of Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church.

Survivors include his wife, Pat Ramey of Big Spring; son, Bill Ramey of Portsmouth, R.I.; daughter Pam Ramey of Abilene; daughter and son-in-law, Peggy and Rodney Faulkner of Berlin Center, Ohio; and son Michael Ramey of Plano; brother and sister-in-law, Billy Whit and Sue Ramey of Linden Tenn.; sister and brother-in-law, Mildred and Philip Hutson of Linden Tenn.; grandchildren, Kim Ramey, Cody Pennington and Frankie Pennington Jr. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Memorials may be sent to Home Hospice, 111 East Seventh Street, Big Spring 79720.

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

Paid obituary

Iona G. Bruccini



Iona G. Bruccini, 84, of Big Spring, died Monday, April 2, 2007, at her residence. Mrs. Bruccini will lie in state Tuesday, April 3, 2007, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at Wintz Funeral Home Chapel, in Hartington, Neb. Interment will be at Wynot Cemetery in Wynot, Neb.

She was born Jan. 6, 1923, in Bristow, Neb.

Iona was the daughter of Andrew and Emma Anderson, and was raised in rural northeastern Nebraska. She had lived in Wynot, Neb., and then in Whittier, Calif., until coming to Big Spring in 1977. She had worked for more than 21 years at Wal-Mart, where she was still employed at the time of her death. She was a Lutheran.

Survivors include two daughters and sons-in-law, Gay and Pete Rosenbaum of Big Spring, and Linda and James Norton of Fresno, Calif.; two grandsons; and five great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by one great grandchild; her parents; two brothers, Axel C. Anderson and Hans M. (Pete) Anderson; three sisters, Ethel R. McClellan, Thelma M. Burrus and Bonnie L. Olsen.

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

Geronimo 'Lupe' Gonzales

Geronimo "Lupe" Gonzales, 77, died Monday, April 2, 2007, at his residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Vernon Parks

Vernon Parks, 88, of Big Spring died Tuesday, April 3, 2007, at Hospice House in Odessa. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 7-24-30-34-37.
Number matching five of five: none.
Next Cash 5 drawing: Tuesday night.

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 2-20-24-28. Bonus Ball: 11.
Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: none.

Estimated jackpot for Thursday night drawing: \$225,000.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 0-5-9

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Police blotter

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

- **GEORGE KOSTELAZ**, 47, of 4000 W. Highway 80, was arrested Monday on charges of criminal trespass and criminal mischief.
- **DONNIE HALE**, 40, of 1214 Hale, was arrested Monday on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **LISA ARENIVAZ**, 39, of 2603 Ent, was arrested Monday on two local capias warrants, two local citations and a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **GILBERT MUNOZ**, 20, of 1902 Mittel, was arrested Monday on five local warrants.
- **JULIO MENDEZ-CORREA**, 28, of Mexico, was arrested Monday and held for immigration.
- **CORY WILSON**, 20, of 111 Lindsey Road, was arrested Monday on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **JAMES JENNINGS**, 53, transient, was arrested Monday on a charge of solicitation by a pedestrian.
- **FABIAN FLORES-ROMERO**, age not provided, of Mexico, was arrested Monday and held for immigration.
- **ROSALIO TRINIDAD-MARQUEZ**, age not provided, of Mexico, was arrested Monday and held for immigration.
- **LEOPOLDO TRINIDAD**, age not provided, of Mexico, was arrested Monday and held for immigration.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 1800 block of Lancaster.
- **CRIMINAL TRESPASS** was reported in the 400 block of Edwards.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 400 block of Fourth Street.
- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported:
 - in the 800 block of FM 700.
 - in the 600 block of 15th Street.
- **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported:
 - in the 1500 block of Avion.
 - in the 400 block of Edwards.

Sheriff's report

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 53 inmates at the time of this report.

- **DANIEL JESUS LEMON**, 38, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.
- **FABIAN FLORES-ROMERO**, 24, was arrested Monday by DPS on charges of no driver's license and no liability insurance.
- **ALLEN JOE DARDEN**, 41, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of bondsman off bond for fictitious/counterfeit inspection/insurance document, bondsman off bond for failure to identify - giving false information and burglary of a habitation.
- **CLAY GRANT**, 21, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license suspended.
- **DANA RACHELLE LOCKHART**, 23, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for driving while intoxicated.
- **BRYAN HEATH PEARSON**, 20, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of minor in possession of an alcoholic beverage.
- **WESLEY ALLEN EDMONDSON**, 19, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of no driver's license.

Take Note

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

• **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.

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

BIG SPRING HERALD
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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**
- League of Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 6 p.m. in the board room of the YMCA. For more information, contact Jennifer Patton at 714-4185 or 263-6351 or 816-6962.
 - Texas Motorcycle Rights Association meets at 7 p.m. in the Spanish Inn. The public is invited. Call 268-6421 for more information.
 - VFW Post 2013 meets at 7 p.m. in the VFW Hall, 500 Driver Road.
 - Sheriff's Posse meets at 7 p.m. in the clubhouse on the Andrews Highway.
 - Alzheimer's Association, the Greater West Texas Chapter meets at 2 p.m. in the Howard County Library conference room, 500 S. Main.
 - Gospel Singing in the Kentwood Activity Center at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.
 - Order of the Eastern Star No. 67 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

- WEDNESDAY**
- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
 - Senior Circle meets at 10:30 a.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.
 - Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
 - Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.
 - 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.
 - Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-6479.

Fire/EMS

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

- **MEDICAL** was reported near the intersection of McDonald and S. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1000 block of E. 15th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 2300 block of Wasson. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1500 block of 11th Place. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **GAS LEAK** was reported in the 3500 block of Gail Highway.

Weather

Tonight...Increasing clouds. Cooler. Lows in the upper 40s. Northeast winds around 15 mph.

Wednesday...Mostly cloudy. Much cooler. Highs around 60. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.

Wednesday night...Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Lows in the mid 40s. East winds around 10 mph.

Thursday...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 60s. Southeast Winds 10 to 15 mph.

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

Friday...Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 60s.

Friday night...Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 40s. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Saturday...Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 60s. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Saturday night...Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Lows in the upper 40s. Chance of showers 20 percent.

Sunday...Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Highs in the lower 60s.

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

Monday...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 70s.

**EASTER WISHES
WE WISH EVERYONE
A JOYOUS EASTER WEEKEND**

These financial institutions will observe the following hours Friday, April 6th.

- Wells Fargo Bank, NA**
Open
- Citizens Federal Credit Union**
Open
- Big Spring Educational Employees Federal Credit Union**
Closed
- First Bank of West Texas**
Open
- State National Bank**
Open
- Big Spring Banking Center**
Open
- Electric Utilities Credit Union**
Closed
- Big Spring Government Employees Federal Credit Union**
Open

GATORS

Continued from 1B

enjoying tonight.”

The future is more unsettled. It's doubtful Noah, Horford or Corey Brewer, all juniors, will return next year.

Meanwhile, Billy Donovan did nothing to quash speculation that he might leave Florida for a possible job offer from Kentucky.

“I'm going to enjoy this moment right now,” Donovan said. “All that stuff will be addressed, but now isn't the time to address it.”

He earned every bit of his \$1.7 million this year, and that number figures to go up next year no matter where he works. He had to keep everyone motivated and focused — at first when things seemed too easy, then later when the Gators lost three of four toward the end of the regular season.

They finished with a 10-game winning streak and haven't lost a postseason game in 18 tries, counting sweeps of the Southeastern Conference tournaments the last two years.

“We went out not only as champions, but we did it twice,” senior Chris Richard said. “We rewrote history again. We broke every single record for our team this year. We did a great job and had a lot of fun doing it.”

All season — including in the 86-60 victory over Ohio State in December — the Gators have morphed into whatever kind of team they needed to be to win, and this one was no different.

Stopping Oden figured to be the key, but really it was more complex than that. The 7-foot freshman, who may be one-year-and-done with the NBA beckoning, stayed out of foul trouble and played 38 minutes — just what the Buckeyes figured they needed to have a chance.

But he couldn't do this on his own. Donovan stuck Horford, Richard, Noah and 6-10 freshman Marreese Speights on the big fella.

“They had four bodies running in at me,” Oden said. “Chris Richard, I swear he plays on the football team.”

Meanwhile, Ivan Harris was the only

Buckeye to make a 3-pointer over the first 39-plus minutes of the game, and he finished 2-for-8. Mike Conley Jr. finished with 20 points for Ohio State, but lots of them came late after the Buckeyes were playing big-time catch-up.

That led to a lot of 3-for-2 tradeoffs, with Florida getting the better end of the deal. The Gators went 10-for-18 from 3-point range and did lots of little things that kept Ohio State in comeback mode.

How frustrating it must have been for the Buckeyes to watch Oden block shot after shot — four in all — only to see the Gators grab the rebound and feed it back out to Lee Humphrey for a 3.

That happened twice in the second half, both times when an Oden block looked like it might spark Ohio State, which kept the game in reach but couldn't get the deficit below six.

“I thought we fought about as hard as we could,” Ohio State coach Thad Matta said. “We just couldn't turn the corner on them, which is what teams like that do to you.”

Green finished 3-for-3 from 3-point range and Humphrey was his usual killer self, going 4-for-7 and scoring 14 points. Florida's versatility showed most in the first half when those two and Corey Brewer (13 points) hit back-to-back-to-back 3s to push Florida's lead to double digits.

Horford had a monster game, bodying up with the 7-foot Oden on defense and more than holding his own on the other end.

Clearly, another year in college has helped this 6-10 junior, who now looks every bit like a lottery pick.

Noah, on the other hand, probably sacrificed the most. He might have been the top pick had he left last season, but the presence of Oden and Texas' Kevin Durant, to say nothing of Noah's dwindling stats, have pushed him down.

He finished with eight points and three rebounds in this one, but big individual numbers were never the point with the Gators this year.

They came back for the championship and anything less would have felt hollow.

But there will be no regrets. Instead, they've triggered a nice little debate about the best programs of all time.

ASTROS

Continued from 1B

by questions about his mind-set since Albert Pujols' home run in the 2005 NL championship series. He says he's over it, but didn't help his case last season when he blew six saves and finished with a 5.28 ERA.

“It's not a nightmare,” Lidge said. “Honestly, the guy hit a good pitch tonight. I felt good out there and it's an unfortunate result. The reality is ... I still feel confident. So I'm not going to worry about tonight.”

Bay's hit off Qualls came with two outs on a 0-2 pitch and landed in the Crawford Boxes in left field and disappointed a Minute Maid Park-record crowd of 43,803 that included former president George H. W. Bush.

“We got great pitching,” Pirates manager Jim Tracy said. “And something that has eluded us all year last year showed up here on the first day (and) that is some big at-bats at the right time.”

The game went to extra innings after Lidge gave up a solo homer to Xavier Nady in the ninth that tied it at 2.

Lidge struck out Adam LaRoche, before Ronny Paulino grounded out. Then came Nady's homer on Lidge's first pitch into the left-field porch, prompting the boos that dogged him last season.

Jose Bautista then lined a double into the left-field corner and the crowd booed again.

“Not good,” Astros manager Phil Garner said of

Lidge's performance. “The good news is he didn't let them go any farther. He did throw the ball good to the first couple of batters, then threw a pitch that was not a bad pitch, but it was not a good pitch to throw to Nady. He needed to be a little better with the location.”

With Qualls (0-1) pitching in the 10th, television shots showed Lidge sitting alone and stone-faced, rubbing on his goatee in the dugout.

“After the season he had last year and the struggles that he had, we all wanted him to come out to a hot start and just show the city and all the fans that he's the Brad of old,” Qualls said.

Lidge said he wasn't really bothered by the boos.

“It's really just a matter of being out there and not getting the job done. I don't feel good because of that,” he said. “If the fans are booing they're booing, but we need to give them something to cheer about.”

Matt Capps (1-0) pitched the ninth for the win, while Salomon Torres, who went 12-for-12 in save chances last year, pitched the 10th for the save.

Despite allowing one run and five hits in 7 2-3 innings, Roy Oswalt failed to get the 99th win of his career in his fifth straight opening day start. Toronto's Roy Halladay also started his fifth straight opener Monday to tie Oswalt for the longest active streak in the majors.

The Houston ace didn't give up a run until a

home run by Nate McLouth, that hit just over the yellow line on the wall in left-center, in the eighth inning.

The Astros gave Carlos Lee a six-year, \$100 million contract in an effort to amp up an offense that ranked last in the National League last season. On Monday, Lee went 0-for-4 and Houston's only scoring came from a player who wasn't selected as a starter until Saturday, after winning a spring training competition with Jason Lane.

Luke Scott's two-run homer to center field came in the fifth inning.

Pittsburgh starter Zach Duke, made his first opening day start just three hours from his hometown of Clifton, Texas. The lefty allowed eight hits and two runs with one walk in seven innings. Duke pitched a perfect first inning to escape the opening inning woes that plagued him last season when he gave up 31 runs with a 7.94 ERA.

“Other than the home run Scott hit, that was the way I wanted to throw,” Duke said. “They did get some things off a few pitches, but I let my defense work for me.”

Craig Biggio, who entered the game just 70 hits away from 3,000, added one to the total Monday with a single in the eighth inning.

Oswalt is tied with J.R. Richard, Mike Scott and Shane Reynolds for most consecutive opening day starts in franchise history.

RANGERS

Continued from 1B

off, went 0-for-3 for the Rangers, struck out once and did not hit a ball out of the infield.

Asked about being back, Sosa said, “I have another opportunity, and the reason why I'm here is that I still can play.”

Sosa said Lackey “pitched me great.”

“I saw so many pitches tonight, but the guy didn't make any mistakes,” Sosa said. “I was fighting and battling, but I got nothing to hit.”

Gary Matthews Jr., signed to a five-year, \$50 million deal by Los Angeles after having a career season last year with the Rangers, made a leaping catch in center to end a Texas threat in the top of the first inning, then scored the Angels' first run in their half of the inning.

Scot Shields and Justin Speier combined for three scoreless innings for Los Angeles, and Francisco

Rodriguez — whose franchise-record 47 saves led the majors last year — pitched a perfect ninth to earn the save.

“That's kind of the way we draw it up; have the starter hold them to one and we come out and do our job,” Shields said.

Kevin Millwood (0-1) allowed three runs on five hits and two walks. He struck out five.

The 38-year-old Sosa, fifth on the career list with 588 home runs and the only player to have three 60-homer seasons, signed with the Rangers after sitting out 2006 to, he said, “recharge my battery.” He hit .221 with 14 homers and 45 RBIs in 102 games for Baltimore in 2005.

Matthews made a leaping grab of Mark Teixeira's drive high on the fence in center for the third out with a runner on third, with the sellout crowd roaring its approval. Then, leading off the game for the Angels, he walked and scored on Vladimir Guerrero's double.

But in the third, Matthews dropped Michael Young's routine fly to right-center for a two-base error, and there was scattered booing.

Casey Kotchman, limited to 29 games last season because of fatigue from mononucleosis, led off the second inning with a homer — the same number he totaled in 2006.

“I'm healthy now. It's just great and I feel privileged to be here,” he said.

The Angels added runs on Maicer Izturis' RBI single in the fifth, and Shea Hillenbrand's run-scoring single in the eighth.

When Rangers CF Kenny Lofton stole second in the first inning, it was the 600th of his career. He ranks 17th on the career list behind George Davis, who had 616 steals.

ROUNDUP

Continued from 1B

only an unearned run and six hits in seven innings as the Reds beat the Cubs 5-1 in Lou Piniella's debut as Chicago's manager.

“I felt good all spring,” Dunn said. “I felt good today. I hope I feel good for 161 more games.”

Renteria twice failed to execute a sacrifice in the 10th, then hit a two-run homer off Ryan Madson to lead the Braves past Philadelphia 5-3.

“I'm a bunting guy,” Renteria said. “I'll try and move the guy to second every time. That's my game. Sometimes you hit the ball good and the ball goes out.”

In other NL games, it was: Florida 9, Washington 2; and Arizona 8, Colorado 6.

At Milwaukee, Sheets' stomach was in knots when he took the mound.

“Opening day,” Sheets said. “I've got a sumo wrestler wrestling in my belly. I was nervous.”

After Kent's homer wiped away the nerves and emotion, Sheets (1-0) delivered one of the most dominant performances by a pitcher in recent opening-day history.

“Once he got me, I think that helped me kind of settle down,” Sheets said.

That's for sure. Sheets threw his 12th complete

game in 167 starts, and said the shoulder problems that hounded him last year didn't bother him at all in spring training.

Dodgers starter Derek Lowe (0-1) gave up six runs and walked five in four innings.

Reds 5, Cubs 1
At Cincinnati, Dunn hit a two-run homer in the first inning off Carlos Zambrano (0-1), a liner into the seats in right field. The next time up, Dunn hit the first pitch deep into the seats in right-center.

It was his second two-homer game on opening day — he also did it against the Mets in 2005 — and gave him a club-record five homers in opening games.

It was a glum day all around for the Cubs, who learned before the game that the Tribune Co. plans to sell the team at the end of the season.

Braves 5, Phillies 3
At Philadelphia, Renteria's solo shot off starter Brett Myers with

two outs in the eighth inning tied it at 3.

John Smoltz went six innings, Bob Wickman (1-0) pitched out of a jam in the ninth and Chad Paronto tossed a scoreless 10th for the save. Brian McCann also homered for the Braves.

Jimmy Rollins hit a solo home run for the Phillies.

Marlins 9, Nationals 2
At Washington, Miguel Cabrera homered into the upper deck off John Patterson (0-1) and drove in four runs to back Dontrelle Willis.

Florida's Fredi Gonzalez (Cuba) and Washington's Manny Acta (Dominican Republic) were the first pair of managers born outside the United States to make their major league debuts in the same game, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Willis (1-0) allowed one earned run and seven hits in six innings, leaving after 100 pitches.

Diamondbacks 8, Rockies 6
At Denver, Eric Byrnes lined a two-run single off

LaTroy Hawkins (0-1) in the eighth and Arizona snapped a four-game losing streak on opening day.

Byrnes' bases-loaded single made a winner of right-hander Juan Cruz (1-0), who struck out the only batter he faced.

Jose Valverde gave up a leadoff double to Todd Helton in the ninth, but struck out Matt Holliday, Brad Hawpe and rookie Troy Tulowitzki for the save.

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TYC to release more than 550 inmates

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas' troubled juvenile prison system plans to release more than 550 inmates who have completed their minimum sentences and haven't caused any trouble behind bars, officials announced Monday.

The inmates will be released in the coming week, as soon as agency officials are able to line up the services they will need in the community, including parole supervision and counseling, Texas Youth Commission spokesman Jim Hurley said.

The move is part of a top-to-bottom investigation of agency policies amid burgeoning allegations that inmates were sexually and physically abused and employees who knew about the problems did nothing to stop them.

The system incarcerates about 4,700 offenders ages 10 to 21 who are considered the most dangerous, incorrigible or chronic.

Warrant issued for Shaver in shooting outside bar, attorney says

AUSTIN (AP) — Police have issued arrest warrants for country singer Billy Joe Shaver after he shot and wounded a man outside a Texas bar, his attorney said. After Shaver left a bar in Lorena on Saturday night, a drunk, aggressive stranger with a knife followed him into the parking lot, said Shaver's attorney, Joseph A. Turner of Austin. Shaver shot him in self-defense, Turner said.

Police in Lorena — about 80 miles north of Austin — issued arrest warrants late Monday on charges of aggravated assault and possessing a firearm in a prohibited place, Turner said.

Shaver attempted to surrender to Austin police Monday night but was not arrested because the police did not have a record of the warrants, said Turner, who accompanied Shaver.

Lorena authorities could not be reached for comment early Tuesday.

Three Mexican citizens arrested in Texas with drugs, cash, guns

SAN JUAN (AP) — Agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives have arrested three Mexican citizens they said had guns, ammunition, drugs and more than \$600,000 in cash, authorities announced Monday.

Luis Estrada, 28, Miguel Cantu, 21, and Gabriel Juarez, 53, face federal charges of illegal possession of firearms and ammunition, authorities said.

It's illegal for undocumented immigrants to possess guns and ammunition. Cantu and Estrada were in the United States illegally. Juarez had a border crosser card that authorized him to be in the country but did not permit him to possess weapons, bureau spokeswoman Franceska Perot said in a statement.

The men were arrested Saturday by San Juan police and ATF agents who found them with six guns, 2,000 rounds of ammunition, \$640,000 in cash and a small amount of cocaine.

They are in the custody of U.S. Marshals. No bond hearing has been set and the men do not have attorneys yet, Perot said.

ONE-ACT

Continued from Page 1A

will next perform at the University Interscholastic League Area competition, scheduled for Friday in the Allen Theater on the campus of Texas Tech University in Lubbock.

BSHS staged a one-act version of "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead," a comedy which Tracie Lindsey, director of the high school theater

group, described as "Hamlet from the point of view of two insignificant characters."

The two "insignificant characters" — the titular Rosencrantz and Guildenstern — were portrayed by Nick Ross and Cody Carnes, respectively, and their efforts won them a place on the district all-star cast, Lindsey said.

Joining them was Jason Worthington, who portrays the leader of an acting troupe in the play.

Thad Loftis received honorable mention recognition.

The top two schools at Lubbock Friday advance to regional competition for a chance to perform in the state UIL one-act play event next month in Austin.

Lindsey feels her troupers have a good chance to advance to state competition.

"They were amazing," Lindsey said. "I think this is a state-level quality show ... This is a group

with a lot of really strong seniors. They've been very strong this year."

BSHS will perform fifth Friday, which means the group will take the stage around 5 p.m. Lindsey warned those planning to attend that Allen Theater will charge \$10 admission and no babies or small children will be admitted.

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

ACADEMIC

Continued from Page 1A

ism and current events and James Bowen with 27 points in journalism.

BSHS results from the district UIL meet including regional qualifiers in bold:

- Feature writing — Nathan Booth, first; Andrew Lewis, second; Pete Covarrubias, fourth; and Colin Hunnicutt, sixth.

- Editorial writing — Colin Hunnicutt, first; Casey Moore, second; Nathan Booth, third.

- Headline writing — Taylor Parks, first; James Bowen, second; and Colin Hunnicutt, third.

- Journalism team — Big Spring, first.

- Accounting — Ericka Tapia, second Natalie Lozano, fifth; Christopher Salazar, seventh.

- Accounting team — Big Spring, second (regional alternate).

- Calculator Applications — Matthew Callison, third; Brandon Kinard, sixth; Manuel Gonzales, seventh; Sarah Armentrout, eighth.

- Calculator Applications team — Big Spring, second (regional alternate).

- Computer Applica-

tions — Malle Carrasco, first; Ainhhan Nghiem, fourth.

- Computer Science — Shilo Rawls, first; Apollo Dunlap, second; Sarah Amentrout, third; Michael Day, fourth (alternate).

- Computer Science team: Big Spring, first.

- Cross Exam Debate: — Maurice Africh, Malle Carrasco, first; Pete Covarrubias, Amber Simer, second; Brittainy Horton, Andrew Lewis, third (alternate); Carlita Green, Jennifer Vincent, fourth.

- Current Issues — Nathan Booth, first; Andrew Lewis, second; Pete Covarrubias, fourth; Colin Hunnicutt, sixth.

- Current Issues team: Big Spring, first.

- Informative Speaking — Bianca Mireles, first; Blake Roach, second; Pete Covarrubias, third.

- Lincoln Douglas Debate — Cecilia Barrera, first; Rebecca Douglas, second; Blake Roach, third; Bianca Mireles, fourth.

- Literary Criticism — Shilo Rawls, first; Geoffrey Treece, second; Christina Hernandez, fifth; Eric Pope, sixth.

- Literary Criticism team — Big Spring, first.

- Mathematics — Matthew Callison, first; Kade

Parker, third; Loveita Raymond, sixth; Ainhhan Nghiem, seventh.

- Mathematics team — Big Spring, first.

- Number Sense — Kade Parker, first; Brandon Kinard, second; Manuel Gonzales, fifth; Sarah Amentrout, eighth.

- Number Sense team — Big Spring, first.

- Persuasive Speaking — Maurica Africh, first; Cecilia Barrera, third; Andrew Lewis, sixth.

- Poetry Interpretation — Carlita Green, third; Samantha Diaz, fifth; Erika Batten, sixth.

- Prose Interpretation — Maurice Africh, third; Amanda Lopez, sixth.

- Ready Writing — Brady Phillips, first; Marshall Van Pelt, second; Jessica Stone, sixth.

- Science — Jessica Stone, seventh.

- Science team — Big Spring, fourth.

- Social Studies — Jessica Stone, second; Oralia Holland, eighth.

- Social Studies team — Big Spring, second (regional alternate).

- Speech team — Big Spring, first.

- Spelling and Vocabulary — Carlita Green, seventh.

- Spelling and Vocabulary team — Big Spring, second (regional alternate).

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Vera E. Lackey, 93, died Sunday. Funeral services will be at 2:00 PM Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 5:00 until 7:00 PM Tuesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Geronimo "Lupe" Gonzales, 77, died Monday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Vernon Parks, 88, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

RELAY

Continued from Page 1A

vived both lung and kidney cancer, and her mom is a breast cancer survivor. In addition, a close friend, whom her children thought of as PawPaw, died of pancreatic cancer.

At a recent regional planning meeting, event chairmen were told that one goal for Relay was to have at least 10 members on each local planning committee. Howard and Vicki Stewart, the Howard-Glasscock Co-chairs, asked, "Are 65

members enough?" While neither of the Stewarts has had cancer, they have been touched by it in friends and co-workers.

Most of the members of the planning committee have had cancer or had it in their family. Their experiences furnish an answer to the man's question. Diane Wood, treasurer, knows the benefit that an experimental drug provided when her husband was stricken. Sandy Griffin, treasurer co-chair, is ready to assume the treasurer's job because of her mother who "after being told she had three to five years, survived cancer and died 20 years later of old age." Georgia Torres, lap count-

ing co-chair with her daughter Letitia Baucham and tireless team captain of the Yellow Dogs team, survived cervical cancer with the determination to fight and help others.

Other members of the committee work because they have lost a loved one. Lawanda Hamm's daughter Tawanna Bailey, who fell victim in 1991, is her incentive to lead the Tawanna's Troopers team and serve as on-site fund raising chair. She was formerly survivorship chair and Road to Recovery coordinator. Nancy Koger now co-ordinates the Road to Recovery program, offering rides to treatment in

Midland, in honor of a sister lost to lymphoma and a mother-in-law to lung cancer. Patti Meeks, survivorship co-chair, works in respect for her mother, who died of colon cancer at age 39.

The Relay For Life group is the most inclusive club in town. As Meeks observed, "We didn't join just because it is a good cause; we are personally devoted and want everyone to be a part of the effort."

They celebrate the survivors and dedicate their time to those who have lost the fight.

The 2007 Howard-Glasscock Relay For Life is Friday and Saturday, May 18-19 at Blankenship Field.

Bank robber to be sentenced June 11

AMARILLO (AP) — A man pleaded guilty Monday to one count of armed bank robbery and faces a maximum 25 years in prison, prosecutors said.

Keith Anthony Williams, 40, will be sentenced June 11, the U.S. attorney's office said.

Court documents show Williams was blamed for at least four bank robberies in May, June, August and September.

Then Williams on Oct. 11 entered Amarillo National Bank and attempted to rob an elderly woman as she sought to make a deposit, prosecutors said.

She resisted. A male customer tried to help the woman and he ended up fighting with Williams.

The suspect used a pistol to strike the man, then fled in a stolen car, authorities said.



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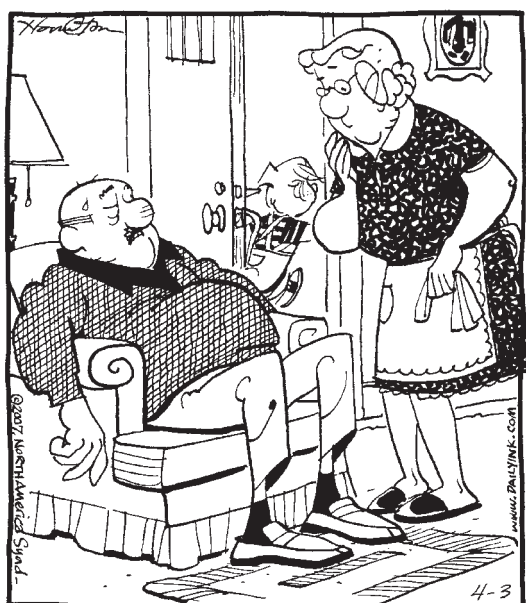
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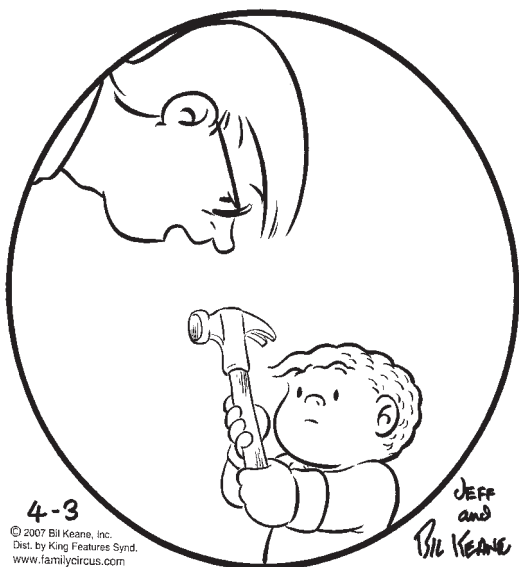
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6:PM	News (CC) Entertainment	News Wheel-Fortune	Duelo de Pasiones	King of the Hill The Simpsons	News Entertainment	Dame Chocolate	News Be a Millionaire	Raymond Raymond	Dr. Young John Hagee	News-Lehrer	Deadliest Catch Special		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live (CC) College Hill	Phil of Future Zack & Cody	NBA Stories U.S. Poker	NCAA Basket- ball Special	Stargate SG-1 (CC)
7:PM	George Lopez According-Jim	George Lopez According-Jim	La Fea Mas Bella	American Idol (CC)	NCIS (CC)	Marina	Dateline NBC (CC)	Raymond Raymond	Update/Israel Booker	Nova (CC) (DVS)	Deadliest Catch Special	Movie: Mister Roberts (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Movie: Next Friday (CC)	Movie: Quints (CC)	Championship Women's	College Basketball:	Stargate SG-1 (CC)
8:PM	Dancing With the Stars	Dancing With the Stars	Destilando Amor	House (CC)	The Unit (CC)	Zorro - La Es- pada y la Rosa	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Sex and-City Sex and-City	Light of the Southwest	Frontline (CC) (DVS)	Deadliest Catch		UFC Unleashed	The Closer (CC)		That's-Raven	College Basketball:	College Basketball:	Stargate SG-1 (CC)
9:PM	Boston Legal (CC)	Boston Legal (CC)	Nuestra Belleza Latina	Becker (CC) Friends (CC)	CSI: Miami Friends (CC)	Decisiones	Law & Order: Sex and-City	Friends (CC) Friends (CC)		Independent	Rogue	Movie:	Bullrun	The Closer (CC)	College Hill Run's House	Life Derek Phil of Future	NCAA Final -- Teams TBA	NCAA Final -- Teams TBA	ECW
10:PM	News (CC) Nightline	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticiero Univ	70s Show Raymond	News Late Show-	Noticias 12 Corazones	News Tonight Show	Sex and-City Sex and-City	The Hour of Healing	Lens (CC) Crown-Contn	Deadliest Catch Special	Operation Petticoat	Bullrun	Cold Case (CC)	Jamie Foxx Jamie Foxx	Zack & Cody That's-Raven	NBA Coast-to- Coast (CC)	SportsCenter SportsCenter	Grindhouse Movie: The
11:PM	The Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	La Hora de la Risa	King of the Hill Malcolm-Mid.	Letterman Late Late	¡Al Rojo Vivo!	Late Night: SVU	Movie: The Wood (CC)	Joe McGee Biblical Israel	Sign Off	Deadliest Catch Special		UFC 69 Countdown	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	In Living Color In Living Color	Phil of Future Kim Possible	NASCAR Now U.S. Poker	NBA Fastbreak Baseball	Last Starfighter
12:AM	Live (CC) News (CC)	Extra (CC) Basco	El Privilegio de Amar	My Wife-Kids	Show The Insider	Pagado	Conan O'Brien Apex		Update/Israel J.R. Church		Deadliest Catch	Movie: Mister Roberts (CC)	Star Trek: Voyager	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Comicview (CC)	Proud Family Sister, Sister	Championship U.S. Poker	SportsCenter (CC)	Twilight Zone

DENNIS THE MENACE



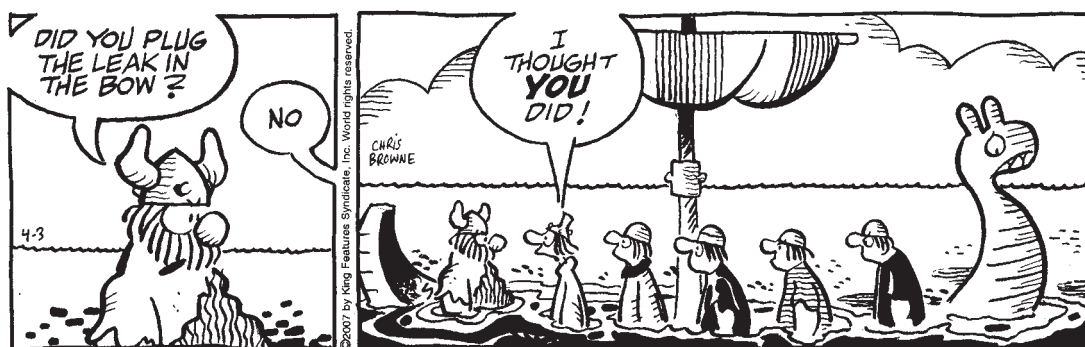
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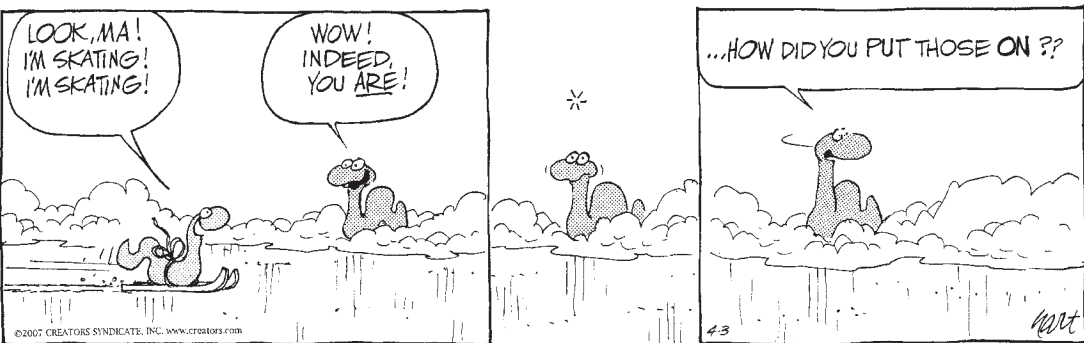
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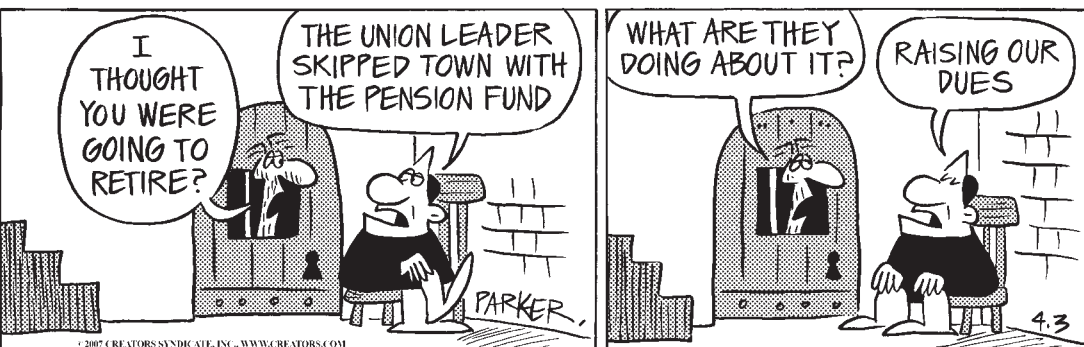
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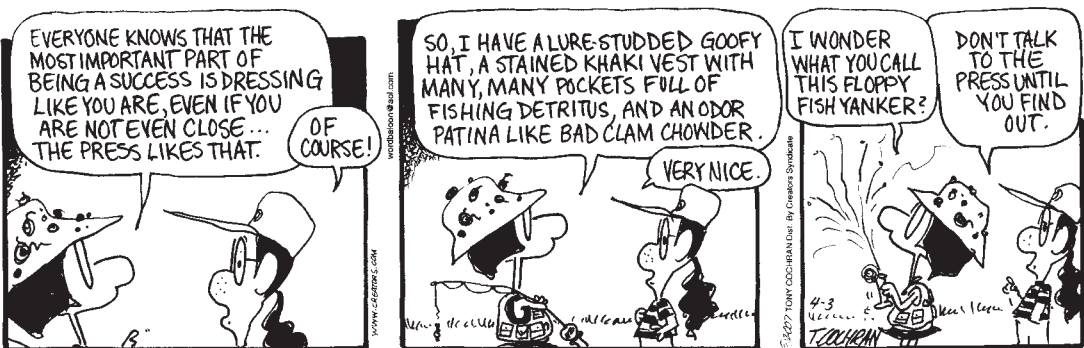
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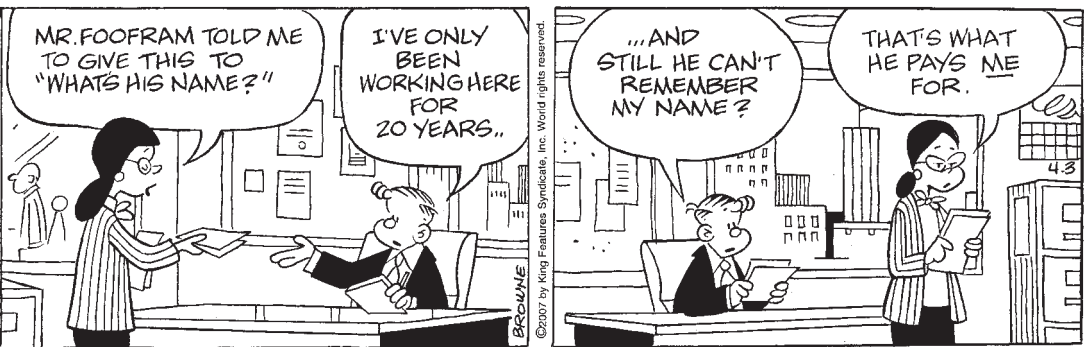
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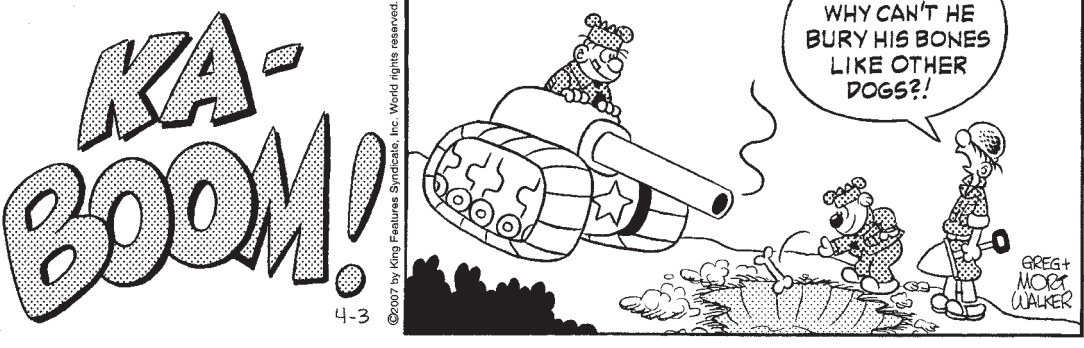
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This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, April 3, the 93rd day of 2007. There are 272 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 3, 1860, the legendary Pony Express began service between St. Joseph, Mo., and Sacramento, Calif.

In 1865, Union forces occupied the Confederate capital of Richmond, Va.

In 1882, outlaw Jesse James was shot to death in St. Joseph, Mo., by Robert Ford, a member of James' gang.

In 1936, Bruno Hauptmann was electrocuted in Trenton, N.J., for the kidnap-murder of the Lindbergh child.

In 1946, Lt. Gen. Masaharu Homma, the Japanese commander responsible for the Bataan Death March, was executed outside Manila, Philippines.

In 1948, President Truman signed the Marshall Plan,

designed to help European allies rebuild after World War II and resist Communism.

In 1968, the day before he was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn., civil rights leader the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his famous "mountaintop" speech to a rally of striking sanitation workers.

In 1968, North Vietnam agreed to meet with U.S. representatives to set up preliminary peace talks.

In 1974, deadly tornadoes struck wide parts of the South and Midwest before jumping across the border into Canada; more than 300 fatalities resulted.

In 1982, Britain dispatched a naval task force to the south Atlantic to reclaim the disputed Falkland Islands from Argentina.

In 1996, an Air Force jetliner carrying Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and American business executives crashed in Croatia, killing all 35 people aboard.

Today's Birthdays: Actress-singer Doris Day is 83. Actress Miyoshi Umeki is 78. Former German

Chancellor Helmut Kohl is 77. Jazz musician Jimmy McGriff is 71. Actor William Gaunt is 70. Actor Eric Braeden is 66. Actress Marsha Mason is 65. Singer Wayne Newton is 65. Singer Billy Joe Royal is 65. Singer Tony Orlando is 63. Comedy writer Pat Proft is 60. Singer Richard Thompson is 58. Country musician Curtis Stone (Highway 101) is 57. Rock musician Mick Mars (Motley Crue) is 51. Actor Alec Baldwin is 49. Actor David Hyde Pierce is 48. Comedian-actor Eddie Murphy is 46. Rock singer-musician Mike Ness (Social Distortion) is 45. Rock singer Sebastian Bach is 39.

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Answer to previous puzzle

SCAN	EARL	CARAT
TERI	ALOE	ALOHA
ALOT	CAMS	RECAP
BLUECHIP	STOCK	
LIASSO	EEL	ELL
ERE	LAGGED	STEP
	AORTA	BITES
	DOWNCOM	FORTER
	PULLS	EERIE
	ENDS	RESEED
	REF	TAM
	LOWGAS	MILEAGE
	ATARI	IWON
	ROMAN	LAND
	KEELS	STAY
		SEER

Newsday Crossword

FEET FIRST by Sally R. Stein
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| ACROSS | 61 | sanctum | 10 | Scattered about | 37 | Emulate Monet | |
| 1 | Minor argument | 62 | Israeli airline | 11 | Combine, as resources | 38 | Something very funny |
| 5 | Clark of <i>Gone With the Wind</i> | 63 | Antlered animal | 12 | Nonwritten exam | 39 | Gifted, as a performer |
| 10 | Parking place | 64 | Boutique, for example | 13 | Ruckus | 44 | One in the Navy |
| 14 | Leaning Tower city | 65 | Farmer's place, in a kid's song | 21 | Ben, to Jerry Stiller | 45 | On land, as a 44 Down |
| 15 | Regulations | | | 22 | Stop | 46 | Spelling contest |
| 16 | Matador's opponent | DOWN | | 24 | Local food shop | 48 | More frosty |
| 17 | Prefix meaning "opposed to" | 1 | Reach across | 25 | Throws out a fishing line | 49 | Corrosive chemical |
| 18 | Was annoying to | 2 | colada | 26 | Without any help | 50 | All through |
| 19 | Freeway or turnpike | 3 | Italian wine region | 27 | Door fasteners | 51 | Tiny bit |
| 20 | Settles once and for all | 4 | Follow too closely on the 19 Across | 28 | Deals with adversity | 52 | Colloquial contraction |
| 22 | Large stringed instrument | 5 | High-rated, as milk | 29 | British noble title | 53 | Nevada city |
| 23 | Travels | 6 | Assembly-line products | 30 | Committed larceny | 54 | Author Stanley Gardner |
| 24 | Lawn condensation | 7 | Erupted | 31 | Coins in Madrid | 55 | Brunch or breakfast |
| 25 | Beach-club building | 8 | Low in fat | 32 | Bowling-lane button | 56 | Holler |
| 28 | Scouring powder | 9 | Superlative suffix | 34 | lowa crop | 58 | for Evidence (Grafton book) |
| 33 | Frequently | | | | | | |
| 34 | Puts in the fridge | | | | | | |
| 35 | Wed. preceder | | | | | | |
| 36 | One-person-business owners | | | | | | |
| 40 | Explosive letters | | | | | | |
| 41 | Ventilated | | | | | | |
| 42 | Hand-cream ingredient | | | | | | |
| 43 | Legislative meetings | | | | | | |
| 45 | Most qualified | | | | | | |
| 47 | Hill-building insect | | | | | | |
| 48 | Phrase of understanding | | | | | | |
| 49 | Allow inside | | | | | | |
| 52 | Most difficult foe | | | | | | |
| 57 | Spiral shape | | | | | | |
| 58 | "... had a farm, _" | | | | | | |
| 59 | Maple or mahogany | | | | | | |
| 60 | Division word | | | | | | |

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BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

Under the Libra moon you'll find you can simultaneously



HOLIDAY MATHIS

hold more than one point of view, and in fact it's easier to hold two. Finding middle ground is uplifting, even as we scramble to maintain our own power in the space between. If yesterday was about making a point, today is about letting it go.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The path of least resistance may look attractive to you, but for some mysterious reason it's the path least taken. Consider that relationships aren't supposed to be so hard!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Have faith that the matter you're concerned about will be solved. Your wildest thoughts can travel faster than the speed of light. If there's an answer anywhere in the universe, they can get to it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There are infinite joys in the world — but where? If you're stuck on how to get back to the carnival ride that is your life, take a walk down memory lane. Ö See? You know how to be happy! Now do it again!

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The chasm that's developed between your professional and personal life could use more than a bridge — it needs a full-

blown travel agent. A vacation will help you get back to center and integrate these two areas.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). With creativity, sometimes it helps to shrink a thing down to size; other times blowing something up to oversized proportions works. Today, blow everything out of proportion, and watch it come back together in a new way.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Just when you think you've reached your bottom line, you discover that what matters most is your compassion for yourself and another. You care more tenderly and deeply than you thought you could.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It's the perfect day to do your favorite thing: Roll up your sleeves, and work on your significant relationships. Rather than focus on what's missing, think about all you have. It's wonderful, really.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Ominous unknowns populate the landscape, making you feel like a child in a fairy tale. But let a little more light in, and you'll see those tall things in the distance aren't scary trolls, but strong green trees.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Go ahead — let your mind run away with itself. As long as it doesn't take anyone hostage, it's cool. Remember not to believe everything you think. You're far too smart for that.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). A tempting love offer resembles the apple

on the Tree of Paradise. It looks delicious, but you're no fool. Let the apple fall. What you release with full awareness later comes back to you as exactly what you want.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). If you're landlocked, you dream of an enticing travel destination. If abroad, you long to return home. Of course, you're exactly in the spot you need to be. How could it be otherwise?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It happens all the time — people go from relative obscurity to fame overnight. While your transformation isn't quite so dramatic, suddenly everyone wants to be in your business.

ASTROLOGICAL TOPIC: Wild Women (Part 1): You know one, everybody does. Perhaps you are one. Do wild women have different stars than tame ones? Heavens no! Within each person's chart is the potential to be outrageous, domestic, risqué or reasonable. (Come back tomorrow, and we'll look at the astrology behind some famous wild women.) What is that indefinable je ne sais quois that distinguishes her from the herd and turns her into a leader of the pack? She's willing to risk ridicule for ridiculousness, she's crazy for courage, and she won't take no for an answer. And she's irrepressibly creative. To anyone who insists they're not creative, phooey! If you've filled a blank page with your own words or trans-

formed raw ingredients like flour and butter into a cake, you're creative. Getting dressed in the morning is a creative act — from infinite combinations, you can pull together an original outfit. Then you're a trendsetter, a signature of a truly wild woman. When fashion designers Coco Chanel and Betsey Johnson started designing their own clothes, it was because they didn't have anything to wear. Tap into your inner wild child today by putting your needs first — yes, before the laundry/taxes/car repairs are done.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: David Blaine walks the line between illusion and reality. Danger is the quintessential piece of an Aries' makeup. Blaine's stunts showcase his penchant for physical extremes, as his submersion in a ball of isotonic fluid in Lincoln Square (for seven days!) proves. How does he do it? David's Mars, the planet of risk, contacts Pluto, the planet of death-defying endurance. But let's not forget — it's magic!

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

Dear Annie: I'm a second-semester college student who is having a horrible time transitioning back to school. Since classes started up again, I've called home every night, sobbing and miserable.

I had a wonderful first semester and can't figure out why I'm so unhappy now. All I want to do is go home. I miss my parents incredibly, and all the friends I met here last semester aren't nearly as nice as I thought they were.

I spend every day feeling more and more alone. I've lost motivation to do anything. I can't enjoy my classes and don't even have fun practicing with my rugby team, something I used to love. I stopped going to parties and never feel like doing much. Everything feels so empty. I talked to the school counselor once and also went home for a weekend, which helped a little bit, but now I'm right back where I started.

I'm considering becoming a commuter student, because I just can't stand feeling this way anymore. Do you have any advice? — Homesick and Lonely

Dear Homesick: It's not unusual for college students who are living away from home for the first time to experience some depression. Please go back to the school counselor today and ask for more help. Also, phone your parents and discuss this with them, and on your next trip home, consider the possibility of seeing a therapist. If, after a couple of weeks, you don't feel more capable of handling the distance, it might be wise to become a commuter student to finish out the semester. You can always give campus living another try next



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

year. Dear Annie: My 20th wedding anniversary is approaching, and I have a dilemma. When my wife and I first married, our priorities were to buy a home and raise a family. She never asked for an engagement ring, but she certainly deserves the finest I can get.

In past years, I've given her diamond earrings and a matching necklace. If left to my own devices, I would likely purchase a matching ring.

I would like to surprise her, but is it better to let her pick out her own ring? I know that even if she hated the one I selected, she'd never let me know. — Torn in Tulsa, Okla.

Dear Torn: This is one of those purchases where it's best if you know what your wife would like. You can ask her sisters or friends if she's ever expressed an interest in a particular style, you can take her window-shopping past jewelry stores, innocently discussing her likes and dislikes until you get a sense of what she wants, or you can try something more playful. Perhaps give her a huge plastic ring and present it to her with a note saying it's a stand-in for the real thing that you will buy when she is at your side to select it. We think

she'll be thrilled either way.

Dear Annie: I am an 18-year-old male who, like "Sweating in the Palms," suffered from palmar hydrosis and medication alone was not enough. It affected my social life to the point where I avoided contact. When I ran out of options, I underwent surgery. It was virtually pain-free, and I was out with my friends the same day. Ever since, I've had only minimal sweating and my social life has been great. I strongly suggest anyone afflicted with excessive sweating talk to their dermatologist about surgery. — R.H. in Florida

Dear R.H.: Several readers said the surgery was a godsend. For referrals and more information on hyperhidrosis, contact the International Hyperhidrosis Society (sweathelp.org). Suite 1160, 520 Walnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19106. Here's one more:

Dear Annie: I am a dermatologist in downtown Chicago. Excessive sweating can be a problem of great magnitude affecting not only social relations, but the ability to work. The latest and best therapy is Botox. These injections will eliminate sweating for six months or more, and sometimes are covered by insurance. — J.B. Pinski, M.D.

Happy Passover to all our Jewish readers.

Dear Annie: My younger sister, "Tara," has basically cut off all ties with our family, because she has somehow convinced herself that my brother and I committed unforgivable acts toward her when she was a child.

I never did the things I was accused of, but I can't speak for my brother. He's always had a problem with the truth, even

when there are no consequences to speak of. Due to previous incidents with women and his lack of social graces, I can easily believe that he did something to my sister.

Tara would never agree to get counseling. I'm sure she would rather just go her own way and forget about us, and if it weren't for her daughter, most of us would be tempted to let her. But I love my niece and would like to restore some kind of family harmony.

I am more than willing to help Tara in any way I can, but I'm really tired of being blamed for someone else's misdeeds. So, how do we get to the truth? — Not Guilty

Dear Not Guilty: You may never find it. For your sister, the truth is less important than her perception of it. A reputable therapist could help her come to terms with this, but since she won't consider therapy, you may not be able to reach her. Write Tara a letter and express your sympathy for her suffering, ask what you can do to help, and tell her you love her. If she doesn't respond, the best you can hope for is that time will make her reconsider.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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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.

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OUR VIEWS

Amendment from Heflin was very big

Making good on a campaign promise seems rare in politics these days. However, State Rep. Joe Heflin did just that and chalked up an important victory for West Texas public schools last week when he convinced an overwhelming majority of the Texas House to prohibit any state spending on private school vouchers.

By a vote of 129-8, the House approved Heflin's amendment to the state budget bill which bans taking tax dollars from public schools and diverting them to private schools.

Heflin's promise to voters last fall that he would not support private school vouchers was what many considered the deciding factor when the Crosbyton Democrat defeated Republican candidate Jim Landtroop by a narrow margin in November's general election.

Landtroop had supported vouchers and was heavily financed by voucher advocates.

Two years ago, the House came within one vote of approving private school vouchers and many were concerned that a Landtroop win in November would have almost assured some sort of private school voucher plan being approved by the Legislature during this session.

It is estimated a statewide voucher plan would cost the public schools billions of dollars and particularly hurt cash-strapped schools in West Texas.

"I'm in Austin to be a messenger for West Texas," Heflin said following the House's vote. "Public schools are the lifeblood of our communities, and they provide our children with the best opportunity to succeed. Now, West Texans have sent a loud and clear message: 'No, to private school vouchers.'"

We couldn't agree more.

Heflin's accomplishment is particularly impressive because first-term legislators ordinarily pass few bills and rarely make significant contributions to major bills. House Bill 1, which is the proposed budget for the 2008-09 biennium, was approved with the Heflin amendment and now will be sent to the Senate before being forwarded to the governor.

It should be noted, however, that the battle over private school vouchers is not over. Anything but. The Senate could eliminate his anti-voucher amendment from its version of the state budget.

And Heflin has noted the Senate will soon be considering another bill to fund vouchers.

While the battle against the use of public money to finance private schools is far from finished, Heflin's assessment that his amendment's passage was "a heck of a start" can't be denied.

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

May we surrender our addictions and obsessions to You, Lord.

Amen

War as theater, but script changes

Strange, is it not, that military strategists speak of "theaters of war," while in the modern "theater of the absurd" playwrights regard war as the ultimate absurdity. Or consider the psychology of those immersed in war (fighters, victims) or the theater (audience). In both, the "real" or "normal" is upended. Existence is re-presented and experienced in radically new contexts. The difference is that theater audiences create reality through the "willing suspension of disbelief" and destroy that reality when the play ends. In war, someone else controls "reality" — and its end is irrevocable.



DANIEL SMITH

Such has been the fate of 3,200 U.S. troops killed in Iraq over the last four years, and 21,000 U.S. casualties who survive with debilitating injuries, and several hundred thousand civilian Iraqis who had no choice in this war.

In past centuries, kings, princes, and even popes could play at war as easily as they could watch plays about war. Some people might die, land could be lost or gained, but foreign armies rarely deposed a ruler. But the destructive power of even today's conventional weapons means the world can no longer tolerate "playing at war" — using war and the threat of war to advance an ideology, to prevent a hypothetical future challenge from coalescing, or to overthrow "evil" regimes.

Four years after the second Iraq war began on March 19, 2003, it seems clear that the Bush administration conceived this war as a

grand experiment in toppling tyranny. But the moment the first missiles and bombs struck Iraq, killing and wounding civilians, the war became less about Saddam and more about the absurd effort of a foreign power to redefine another people and their future.

On May 1, 2003, aboard a U.S. warship off San Diego, theater explicitly supplanted reality as Bush, under a banner reading, "Mission Accomplished," proclaimed that "major combat" in Iraq had ended. War as theater surfaced the same day in Kabul where then-Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld made an identical declaration regarding Afghanistan. But given all the double-talk, denials, corrections, corruption, waste, self-serving misuse of intelligence, and repetitive tactical misjudgments in both wars, it is clear that the president and his people believed they could "play war" sequentially "on the cheap" and thereby advance their agenda while avoiding accountability. The recent 30,000 strong troop "surge" is but one instance of administration efforts to control events in Iraq in defiance of the November 2006 U.S. midterm elections.

The level of ambivalence in the Pentagon is unclear. During a March 15 symposium on "Rethinking and Resourcing the 'Long War'" at the National Defense University, a senior Pentagon civilian implied there was more re-defining than re-thinking. For example, he characterized 20th Century U.S. enemies as political and economic tyrannies and 21st Century enemies as "cultural totalitarians" whose ideology is completely incompatible with the West's. Moreover, since today's enemies don't "play war"

according to our rules, America must re-organize and resource its defenses, prepare for a multi-generational struggle of competing wills, and accept the restrictive use of extreme measures to safeguard liberty when "normal" methods fail.

As a student of literature and war, I found great irony in a Pentagon official extolling extreme measures on the Ides of March, the date in 44 BCE when Julius Caesar was killed — an extraordinary measure — because some Roman senators feared he would be proclaimed emperor and destroy the Republic. Their remedy was the extraordinary step of assassination, justifying it as the only sure means of "saving the Republic" and "preserving individual rights."

Similarly, the Bush administration insists the only way to defeat powerful ideological enemies is to create the "unitary presidency" as the predominant branch of government and "trust" it to do what is right.

History and literature offer two cautions.

Seventeen years after Julius Caesar's death, Rome effectively was an empire. Augustus Caesar's reign lasted 41 years.

Four years after launching the second Iraq war, George W. Bush continues to proclaim his version of the imperium — the "unitary presidency."

Be thankful for term limits.

Col. Daniel Smith (Ret.), a West Point graduate and Vietnam veteran, is a senior fellow at the Washington-based Friends (Quaker) Committee on National Legislation.

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Hey, let's elect Susie president

On Feb. 27, another candidate joined the ranks of those running for the office of president. The candidate has a platform focused on one issue-health coverage for all children this year.

The candidate is 10-year-old Susie Flynn.

She may be young, but she knows her numbers: Congress can provide health insurance to all children in the United States for the equivalent of 16 days of military spending, 3 1/2 months of the Iraq war, or 5 1/2 months of tax cuts to the richest one percent of all Americans. More than nine million children in the United States are currently without health insurance. Susie believes that our elected officials are not doing enough to solve the problem.



MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN

"Elect Susie" is a fictional presidential political campaign of the Children's Defense Fund featuring "Susie Flynn," a 10-year-old girl who intends to make everyone in America aware of children's health needs so that they will no longer be ignored or responded to in a piecemeal fashion. Susie is also delivering an ultimatum: Find a solution now or she will take matters into her own hands by running for president.

As her campaign literature says, "Children cannot take care of themselves, and they have no power to influence change. Here's why you should use your vote to get children the health insurance they deserve:

"More than nine million children in the United States — 1 in 9 — have no health insurance coverage. Every 46 seconds, another baby is born uninsured. It costs less to provide health insurance to children than to any other group. The majority of uninsured kids live in two-parent households and almost 90 percent live in families where at least one parent works. Increases in private health insurance costs are dramatically outpacing increases in wages.

"Ensuring that children have timely, affordable access to health care is a smart economic move. For instance, enrolling uninsured kids in health coverage significantly reduces hospitalizations for preventable illnesses. The uninsured are more than five times as likely as insured children are to have gone more than two years without a doctor visit.

"What the United States spends on health care per person is more than twice the average spent in industrialized countries, yet we rank near the bottom among those nations in infant mortality rates. Existing health care programs for low-income children vary widely, with different standards for eligibility, cost sharing, and benefits

in each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Americans over 65 have access to health coverage under Medicare regardless of income, but children have no such guarantee, leaving millions of needy children without timely access to critical health and mental health services."

Visit Susie's campaign Web site, www.electsusie.com, to learn more about her campaign and how you can support it; get the facts about the more than nine million uninsured kids in the United States; read real stories of children living without coverage; and watch Susie's campaign ads and view photos of her on the campaign trail. This is a campaign all Americans should get behind. As Susie's campaign announcement says, "These children have been let down, yet the people accountable are doing too little to solve it... Under your next president, every child in America must get the health insurance he or she deserves."

Marian Wright Edelman is president of the Children's Defense Fund and its Action Council whose Leave No Child Behind mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities.

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Bird Poop:

Great horned owl nestlings found in precarious situation

“We have a problem,” came unexpectedly from city employee, Shirley Cross. “Two baby owls in a tank at the water treatment plant.” She went on to explain that the nest was about 15 to 20 feet down on the inside wall of the grinder vessel. Since the city planned to clean, repair and reuse the facility, the process would disturb the owl family. When I told her we would go out and look at the situation, she added, “It’s a heck of a place to have young.”

One of the plant workers took us to the east side of the large tank. He explained that the owls were on the other side of the wall, inside the tank, in a manhole. It was then we realized that what we saw above the ground was only part of the vessel. Below the manhole, the structure extended downward perhaps another eight feet. The top of the tank had been removed and was lying in the grass to the north.

Climbing the steel stairway to the top of the concrete struc-

ture, we saw the manhole across the tank on the east side. Inside were two great horned owl nestlings. Covered with down and emerging feathers, they stood at the opening and looked out at their environment. No trees or grasses to stimulate their vision. No birds taking flight or insects to tempt their curiosity. Instead, an empty sky above and gray, caked matter below.

Our guide pointed out to us that the gray matter on the floor of the structure was sludge. Some five to six feet deep, the dried waste was about three feet below the nest. It would not be threatening to the nestlings unless it rained, he thought. If the young owls, after leaving the nest and not ready for flight, were to land in puddles caused by a down-pour, the birds would be standing in toxic material. Methane gas was also of concern. We informed him that since young fledglings are nearly 10 to 12 weeks old before they start to fly, the twosome might be on the dangerous surface for weeks.

“Shirley, we need a crane. Please call Cathey,” was my request after realizing the inaccessibility of the nest. Thinking it would take a day



BEBE McCASLAND



Courtesy photo

While these great horned owl nestlings were safe from predators, they were in danger because of their environment. To develop the strength to gain the elevation needed to fly over the concrete wall would have required additional time exposed to their toxic world.

See **OWLS**, Page 6A

Parent’s Corner:

A positive mental attitude paramount to being a winner

It has been said that the most important characteristics of successful people are self discipline, honesty, the ability to get along with people, having a supportive partner or spouse and working harder than most people.

To be most likely to succeed you also need to know what you want and believe in the possibility; go for it 100 percent with patient persistence; develop good people

skills; choose supportive relationships and partners; and be willing to do the things that others aren’t willing to do and not only work harder, but work smarter.

By doing these things, which are totally within everyone’s power, you can greatly improve your odds of being most likely to succeed.

Don’t fall for the false statement that “opportunity strikes but once.” This statement is an incredibly disempowering thought, but it is so engrained in our consciousness that it’s difficult to ignore.

We all know people who gave up after failing at something. How many times have you

heard someone say, “It’s no use,” “My luck failed” or “No sense in trying.”

But opportunity is not a matter of chance or luck. It’s a state of mind. It’s how you look at the world.

A pessimist sees failures, problems and difficulties. An optimist learns from mistakes and sees opportunity and new possibilities everywhere. The success-minded person comes from the point of view, “whatever happens I’m going to make the most of it. I can turn any lemon into lemonade.”

Opportunity surrounds us all the time. It’s as prevalent as the air we breathe. All we have to do is open our eyes

and look around.

Think of opportunity as a wonderful buffet and, at any moment, you can pick and choose whatever you want. It’s only those who give up who lose.

For example, back in the 1920s a young man from Kansas City borrowed \$15,000 (a lot of money back then) and started his own business. He failed and went bankrupt, but didn’t quit. With only the clothes he was wearing he headed for California to look for another opportunity.

That young man’s name was Walt Disney and you know the rest of the story. Just remember, something

can go wrong with any plan. How successful we are at handling these obstacles is dependent on how fast we can “get over it” and “get on with it.”

When faced with a breakdown of plans, don’t get angry, frustrated, disgusted and fearful. Don’t make judgments and evaluations, offer explanations and look for someone or something to blame for the problem. None of these emotional outbursts produces positive results. They only put us in a deeper hole.

We must remember that successful people make it a point to react differently. They take

See **RYAN**, Page 6A



DARRELL RYAN



NAMES

Have you ever noticed that we all have names? What is your name? My name is Bob. My real name is Robert and Bob is just a nickname. Do you have a nickname? What is a nickname? We also have middle names. What is your middle name? I won’t tell you mine because you will laugh. It is a funny middle name. Do you have a funny middle name?

Why do we even have names? It is one way for everyone else to know

who we are. When someone such as your mother wants to tell you something, if you did not have a name, what would she say, “Hey you?” We would not like that, would we? When you wanted to tell your mother or father something, what would you say, “Hey you?” That doesn’t even sound nice, does it? Mother and Father are names, too!

Have you ever noticed that boys have boy’s names and girls have girl’s names? But, not always!

Sometimes boys and girls have the same names but we spell them differently. Can you think of some names that boys and girls share? Here are a few.

If I spelled my name B-o-b-b-y, would I be a boy or girl? If I spelled my name B-o-b-b-i-e, which would I be? If I spelled my friend’s name J-e-a-n, which one would it be? If I spelled my friend’s name G-e-n-e, would my friend be a boy or a girl?

If your friend’s name is spelled S-a-m-m-y, would

your friend be a boy or a girl? If I spelled your friend’s name S-a-m-m-i-e, would your friend be a boy or a girl? Do you know anyone named T-o-n-i? Do you know anyone named T-o-n-y. How about J-o-h-n-n-y? How about J-o-n-n-i-e?

I have another friend and my friend’s name is spelled J-a-c-k-i-e. But there are several ways to spell Jackie and some of them can be either a girl or boy’s name. Here is another way to spell Jackie.

Jacque. Do you a Jacque is a boy or a girl? Can you think of another way to spell Jackie?

Robyn is another name we can call either boys or girls. Is it spelled the same as a bird? How do you spell the bird word? Is it spelled R-o-b-i-n? They both sound the same, don’t they?

Frankie can also be a boy or a girl. J-o-e is a boy while J-o is a girl. Jaimie can be either a boy or a girl. Do you know anyone named Jaimie? How

about Jamie? Jerry? Gerry?



Names can be funny, can’t they. We all need them. It is always better to know someone’s name when you talk to them. It sure sounds better than saying, “Hey You.” But, right now, we must turn off the lights, and get to sleep. It’s getting late and I am sleepy too, so “Good Night.”

★★★

Forsan scholars run away with district UIL championship

Forsan captured the District 11-1A Academic Meet championship for the fifth straight year on Tuesday and Wednesday of last week. Fourteen students will advance to regional competition in Abilene, April 13-14, competing in 12 events.

The school won team trophies for calculator applications, mathematics, number sense and speech, and second-place team rankings in computer science, literary criticism, science and social studies.

Jon Purcell won first place in number sense and mathematics; was second in science; and



Buffalo Notes

was top biology student.

Eric Ellis was first in calculator applications, while teammates Seth Johnson and Tim Ballard finished in second and third places, respectively.

Kaleb Willey took third place in computer applications and Kassi Wash was second in computer science. Clint Lockhart placed second in informative speaking and headline writing and was sixth in prose.

Alex Newsom placed first in prose and literary criticism and was fourth in social studies. Stephanie Williams placed first in poetry and Rachael Wheeler was third in persuasive speaking.

Students advancing in team competition are Rowena Suazo and Courtney Holdampf in mathematics and number sense; Caitlin Jones in number sense; and Charlene Strickland, who placed fifth in calculator applications.

Also placing but not advancing to regional were Tara Kuykendall, fifth in features; Jessica Ballard, fourth in literary

criticism; Michael Leal, fifth in ready writing; and Tim Ballard, fifth in science.

Forsan hosted the District One Act Play contest on Thursday. Plays advancing to area competition were Miles and Irion County.

The Buff tennis teams competed in the Greenwood Tournament on March 23. In girls' singles, Tara Kuykendall placed first and Courtney Holdampf was second. Caylie Eggleston and Kaylon Stanley won the consolation championship in girls' doubles. In the boys' division,

Clay Lockhart placed third in singles; James Marlow and Justin Epley placed fourth in doubles, and Seth Johnson won the consolation singles.

Forsan defeated Winters in baseball last Friday 6-1. Evan Burton pitched a "no hitter" and struck out 12. Forsan is now 1-1 in district play and was scheduled to play Winters at Winters on Saturday.

In the Water Valley Relays held March 23, Jace Sandridge placed third in the 100 meters and fifth in the 400 meters. Skylier Sandridge placed third in the 200 meters and tied for third in the 100 meters.

An apology is owed to Charlene Stanley, who was incorrectly identified as Charlene Strickland in last week's article.

OWLS

Continued from Page 5A

or two to get the equipment, we were surprised by her return call. "How about this afternoon?"

The crane was at the plant when we arrived. Jack Cathey and crew were preparing the steel cage and cables. While we waited, one of the city's employees told of his frequently seeing one of the parents roosting nearby. With the abundant mice and rabbit population, he felt that the mother owl was finding plenty of food for her young. The sound of the crane's engine signaled an end to our conversation.

Approaching the cage, another of the plant's employees said he would get the birds. "No, I'll be handling the owls," was my answer. Telling him he was certainly capable of grabbing the birds, I added that we were now responsible. His offer was appreciated. However, in capturing the nestlings, if he inadvertently injured one, I would be held accountable and my license would be in jeopardy.

As the cage began its smooth ascent, Art and I remembered another ride provided by Cathey Construction. When birds of prey located their nests in almost impossible sites, it often required the expertise of a crane crew to get us there. This was no exception.

On board with us was Jack Cathey, who was constantly communicating with his employee in the crane's cab. Rising above the thick, concrete

wall of the vessel, we slowly descended inside toward the opening and the owls. Keeping the cage from contacting the wall was essential. If frightened, one of the nestlings might fall or jump from the nest to the sludge below.

While Cathey talked with his crewman, Art kept a hand ready so that the cage could not touch the wall. Finally, we were in front of the opening. The siblings had a typical reaction. Instead of coming towards us and danger, they remained at the back of the nest.

As Art opened the cage's gate, the nestlings snapped their bills, slightly spread their wings, and tried to threaten us away. Instinctively, they were trying to look larger and meaner than they were. "Keep me close," I cautioned, as I put one foot on the manhole pipe and leaned in to reach for the first owl. Not knowing what I would do, the fluffy creatures actually looked surprised to have something suddenly gripping their legs. As I turned toward Art with the second one, I glanced upward. Todd Darden, director of public works, was watching from the top of the vessel. He, Shirley, Cathey and the men who had found the owls, had been instrumental in making this intervention successful.

Leaving the nest site, we looked at the makeshift home. A thin layer of twigs, down from the mother, bones, rabbit fur, feathers and the remains of small birds lined the modest home. Crumbled among the debris were the remains of pellets

Darrell Ryan is director of federal programs for the Big Spring Independent School District.

cast by the parent owls and nestlings. This thin layer of bedding separated the young from the surface of the pipe. The aroma of excrement that had not made it over the side of the nest, and decaying animal matter, produced the familiar aroma of an owl's nest.

Although none of us humans, that April day, had been privy to the

noisy hooting and bowing of the courtship of their parents, we were thrilled with the retrieval of these buff colored offspring. Knowing that they would grow into the largest, most powerful of American owls was satisfaction at its utmost.

Bebe McCasland is federally and state licensed to rehabilitate wild birds.

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

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

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Contract Bridge

Precision Defense

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A J 8 5 3
♥ K Q 7 6
♦ J 8
♣ K 6

WEST
♠ 6 2
♥ 8
♦ 10 7 6 4 2
♣ J 10 9 8 3

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

SOUTH
♠ K Q 10 9 4
♥ J 10 5 4
♦ K 3
♣ A Q

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
4 ♠

Opening lead — eight of hearts.

Let's say you're East and partner leads the eight of hearts against four spades. Declarer plays the queen from dummy, which you win with your ace. What would you play next?

It is obvious you can't expect to beat the contract on high cards alone. Dummy's 14 points and your 10, added to those indicated by South's opening bid, don't leave much for partner to hold. He might have the

king of diamonds or ace of clubs, but surely not both. You therefore can't reasonably hope to stop four spades unless West's lead is a singleton.

Once you've gotten this far and realize that a heart return is mandatory, you must decide which heart to return. It might not seem important whether you lead the deuce, the three or the nine, but actually your choice is crucial. This is because you want West to lead a diamond if, as you hope, he ruffs the heart return.

At trick two, therefore, you should lead the nine of hearts, a suit-preference signal directing partner to return the higher-ranking of the two remaining side suits. (If you held the ace of clubs instead of the ace of diamonds, you would lead the deuce of hearts to direct a club return.)

When West ruffs the heart and leads a diamond to your ace, you return another heart, and West ruffs again to defeat the contract.

Without the suit-preference signal, West would have no way of knowing whether to return a diamond or a club at trick three. In the actual deal, if West returned a club, South would make the contract, losing only a heart, a heart ruff and a diamond.

Tomorrow: Second thoughts don't count.
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Jessica Paredes Director of Admissions

RYAN

Continued from Page 5A

responsibility for the results rather than becoming a victim of circumstances.

In other words, as quickly as possible, they get back in stride. If necessary, they'll even ask for directions and help. They look to see what's wrong and what they can do to get moving forward again in the right direction.

So, when things go wrong, and they will, it doesn't have to be the end of the road. We must not let it stop us. As quickly as possible, we must rise above our emotions, recommit to our plan and get back into action. We must focus our energy and attention on where we want to go and how we're going to get there.

We must remember that commitment and focus also keeps us on track when things are going right, too.

So what are we waiting for? Let's look for another opportunity!

For those people who want to win the battle over Acid Reflux Disease, we'd like to say "Bravo."



The area's only Bravo pill system is now available at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for the treatment and diagnosis of Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (also called GERD). The new Bravo pill procedure allows you to monitor your acid levels without the insertion of tubes or cameras, and without drinking unpleasant barium solution. It's as simple as wearing a pager and as easy as using a TV remote. Talk to your doctor or call 432-263-6018 for more information.



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