

Tax aide program in full swing now

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

While death and taxes may be the only true certainties in American life, one group of Howard County volunteers is making the taxes slightly less complicated.

The annual AARP Tax-Aide program is in full swing now, according to program coordinator Gloria Hopkins, and while the April deadline to file federal income tax

returns may seem far in the future, she and her staff will be hard at it every Monday until then.

"We are completing tax forms at the Senior Center from 8 a.m. until noon Monday, and will continue each Monday at those same times through April 9," said Hopkins.

"For those who are homebound and can't get to the center with their tax informa-

tion, if they will call us, we'll be happy to pick up the information and get the taxes ready."

Hopkins said the program is a necessity for many area residents who can't afford to have their taxes prepared by a professional, and the heart and soul of the operation is its volunteers.

"AARP volunteers explain many special tax credits and deductions and how people

may claim them on their tax returns," she said. "These volunteers help people complete their returns, right down to any refunds that may be due them."

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

"The AARP program pro-

See **TAXES**, Page 3A

Gem dandy!

Prospector's club show set this weekend

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

It'll be rockhound heaven at the Howard County Fairbarns this weekend.

That will be the site for the 38th Annual Big Spring Prospector's Club Gem and Mineral Show, which will be held from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Saturday and from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is free.

If you're a lapidarist — that's the technical term for a rockhound — or you just enjoy watching enthusiasts at work, you'll enjoy the show, Club Secretary Lola Lamb said.

"We'll have quite a few demonstrations," she said. "We'll have people showing how to make arrowheads and spears as well as demonstrations on wire-wrapping, cabochons, faceting and bead making."

"We usually have 50 to 60 display cases of things people make from gems and rocks, and people always seem to enjoy those," Lamb said. "And the working demonstrations usually draw a good crowd. People like to see how these things are made."

But the show will involve more than just the crafting of items.

See **GEMS**, Page 3A

Twisters take 20 lives in Midwest

By **STEPHEN MAJORS**
Associated Press Writer

ENTERPRISE, Ala. (AP) — A violent storm system that ripped apart an Alabama high school as students hunkered inside later tore through Georgia, hitting a hospital and raising the death toll to at least 20 across the Midwest and Southeast.

Eight students were killed when a tornado struck Enterprise High School, blowing out the walls and collapsing part of the roof, Mayor Kenneth Boswell said Friday. They were all in

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Amy Todd helps rummage through what's left of David and Claudia Matthes' home after Wednesday night's storm in Centerville, Kan., Tuesday. Violent storms Wednesday ripped across Alabama and Georgia, raising the death toll to at least 20 across the Midwest.

MCT photo/Mike Ransdell

Annual Friends of Scouting fund drive under way here

By **BILL MCCLELLAN**
News Editor

Think of it as an insurance policy of sorts. If the youth in our community are presented with strong moral values, a sense of family and the appreciation of helping others, it makes sense that our entire community will grow in the same directions.

If that appeals to you, you'll want to consider helping the 650 or so young men in our area who are a part of Scouting.

"There are three primary ways we influence our youth —

character building, physical and mental fitness and citizenship training," said Hays Stripling, financial chairman for Friends of Scouting, which is holding its annual fund-raiser.

"Continuing this program prepares young men to live up to and fulfill

their Scout oath, which says 'On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout law; to help other people at all times; to

keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight."

According to Stripling, there are about 650 Scouts, 200 Scout leaders and 44 units in the

Food collection will be held Saturday

Between 40 and 50 area Boy Scouts will hit the streets Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. to collect canned goods for the group's annual food drive.

The food drive calls for area residents to place canned goods and non-perishable food items in plastic grocery bags outside their homes.

Food items can also be brought to the collection point at the east entrance to the Wal-Mart Supercenter.

immediate area. The Scouts receive some funding from the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County, but it isn't enough.

"We are asking for supporters

to continue to render financial help. We need these funds to continue the work in the Big Spring area," explained Hays.

The Scouts participate in a number of community activities, including the annual Scouting For Food drive, which helps replenish food stocks for the Salvation Army and Isaiah 58.

The fund drive will continue through March 31, said Stripling.

Donations can be sent to Stripling at 613 Edwards in Big Spring, or to the Boy Scout Center at 610 Scurry.

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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.

VETERAN OF THE MONTH

Vietnam veteran Vicki Scott has been named Hangar 25 Air Museum Veteran of the Month for March.

A reception in her honor will be held Thursday, March 8, at 6 p.m. in the museum's Briefing Room.

Scott served in the Women's Army Corp/U.S. Army from 1974-1978. She is a life member of the Disabled American Veterans, Vietnam Veterans of America and is on the executive board of the Vietnam Memorial Committee of Big Spring.

Everyone is encouraged to attend the reception.

For more information, call 264-1999.

A FISHY TALE

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — An Australian woman was sentenced Friday to nine months of community service for smuggling fish from Asia in her dress.

Sharon Naismith, 45, was caught in June 2005 at the airport in the southern city of Melbourne after customs officers heard "flipping" noises coming from her clothes and conducted a search, Australian Customs said.

In a specially made apron under her dress, they found 15 plastic bags filled with water and fish: one rare Asian arowana that customs said was worth tens of thousands of dollars, and 14 catfish.

CHOIR HERE TONIGHT

The internationally acclaimed African Children's Choir will be performing at Baptist Temple in Big Spring.

The public is invited to the concert, set for 7 p.m. tonight.

There is no admission fee. A love offering will be taken.

Since its inception in 1984, the purpose of the African Children's Choir has been to bring hope and joy and the love of God to people and communities throughout the world, shining the spotlight on the millions of children of Africa living in conditions of extreme poverty, war or AIDS.

For more information, contact Baptist Temple at 267-8287.

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Obituaries

Doris Othelle 'Mutt' Nichols



Doris Othelle "Mutt" Nichols, 86, of McKinney, formerly of Big Spring, died Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2007, in a McKinney nursing home. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 3, 2007, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Wes Massey, pastor of First Baptist Church of Coahoma, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

She was born July 27, 1920, in Hood County and married Houston Monroe Nichols Sept. 2, 1936, in Big Spring.

Othelle had resided in McKinney since February 2002 and had lived many years in Howard County.

Survivors include her husband, Houston M. Nichols of McKinney; her sons, Douglas Nichols and wife, Shirley and Max Nichols and wife, Jan of Big Spring; her daughter, Sandra Nichols Allen and husband, Jerry of Fairview; seven grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; three brothers, Marlin Roberson, Ancil Roberson and wife, Ouida and Daniel Roberson; and one sister, Andaleen Canen and husband, Paul.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to the Alzheimer's Association, P.O. Box 3389, Midland 79702.

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

Margaret Rogers Morgan

Margaret Rogers Morgan, 83, of Midland passed away on Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2007, in Midland. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, March 5, 2007, at the St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Midland with the Rev. Richard Edwards and the Rev. Larry Bailey officiating. Interment will follow at Resthaven Memorial Park in Midland.

She was born Jan. 15, 1924, in Wellington, Kan. to Clyde Cleveland York and Hazel A. Albright York. She married E.G. "Pat" Rogers in 1943 in San Antonio, and they moved to Midland in 1959 from Sweetwater. He preceded her in death Dec. 31, 1982. She married Harlan Morgan on March 23, 1985, in Midland. She was a member of St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Midland. She was a homemaker.

Survivors include her husband, Harlan Morgan of Midland, formerly of Big Spring; one daughter, Julie B. Bodnar of Atlanta, Ga.; two sons, David Y. Rogers of Midland and Mark C. Rogers of Birmingham, Ala.; two stepdaughters, Janice King of Midland and Carol Sledge of Houston; eight grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and two step-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and one sister, Mary Beth Hadorn.

Memorials may be sent to St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 3011 West Kansas, Midland 79701 or charity of your choice.

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

Take Note

• **IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH** will have Stations of the Cross Friday at 6 p.m. A Fish Fry in the church hall. Plates are \$5 per adults and \$2.50 per child.

• **BIG SPRING SYMPHONY CHORUS REHEARSALS HAVE BEGUN** at the first United Methodist Church upstairs choral rehearsal room. The rehearsals are for the April 21 concert and will feature spiritual music and Mozart.

• **MY WAY, A MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO FRANK SINATRA**, will be held at Howard College's Hall Center for the Arts at 7:30 p.m. March 5-7.

• **CHRIST COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP IS COLLECTING INFANT CAR SEATS AND CARRIERS.** These are given to new mothers who cannot afford them.

To donate your old or new car seats and carriers, call Karen Allen at 263-3517 or leave a message at Christ Community Fellowship, 263-love. All donations are appreciated.

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

• **NEW LIFE MINISTRIES** Church of God In Christ is holding a soup kitchen every second and fourth Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 204 N.W. 10th. The meal is free. Call 264-0771 for more information.

Police blotter

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

- **PAULA SUE BAKER**, 47, transient, was arrested Thursday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **KEVIN PATRICK THOMAS**, 18, of 1401 N. Highway 87, was arrested Thursday on a charge of disorderly conduct - language.
- **JUAN JESUS VIASAN**, 50, of 604 Abrams, was arrested Thursday on a local warrant and a charge of assault - family violence.
- **JOYCE PEARSON**, 40, of 2506 Hunter, was arrested Thursday on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **VIOLATION OF A PROTECTIVE ORDER** was reported in the 1300 block of Stanford.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 800 block of 11th Place.
- **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 600 block of Abrams.

Sheriff's report

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

- Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 48 inmates at the time of this report.
- **SCHEMICKIA MARIE CROSBY**, 24, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on charges of bondsman off bond for failure to identify as a fugitive from justice and harrasment, and possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- **LEROY COLEMAN**, 18, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal mischief.
- **ROBERT PAUL LOWE**, 36, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on charges of bondsman off bond for sexual assault of a child, failure to appear on sexual assault of a child, bail jumping and felony failure to appear.
- **BONNIE JANE KLAASSEN**, 47, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.
- **JOEL BRENT HOWARD**, 45, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while intoxicated - third or more offense.
- **JAMES EVERETTE ROBERTS**, 38, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.

Fire/EMS

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

- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 100 block of Douglas. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to the VAMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1300 block of Nolan. One person was transported to SMMC.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Thursday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 8-15-16-20-31.
Number matching five of five: 1.
Prize per winner: \$32,715.
Winning tickets sold in: San Antonio.
Next Cash 5 drawing: Friday night.

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Thursday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 5-7-23-29. Bonus Ball: 13.
Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 2.
Winning tickets sold in: Houston and Pleasanton.
Prize per winner: \$112,500.
Estimated jackpot for Monday night drawing: \$200,000.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Thursday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 1-8-4

Weather

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s. Northwest winds 10 to 20 mph.
Saturday...Partly cloudy. Cooler. Highs in the lower 50s. North winds 15 to 20 mph.
Saturday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 20s. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph in the evening becoming light and variable.
Sunday...Sunny. Highs in the lower 60s. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph.
Sunday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 30s.
Monday...Sunny. Highs in the upper 60s.
Monday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 30s.
Tuesday...Sunny. Highs in the lower 70s.
Tuesday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 40s.
Wednesday...Sunny. Highs in the lower 70s.
Wednesday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 40s.
Thursday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 70s.

Bulletin Board

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

TODAY

- Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church will have Stations of the Cross at 6 p.m. A Fish Fry will follow in the church hall. Plates are \$5 per adults and \$2.50 per child.
- Spring City Senior Citizens country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. featuring Monroe Casey and the Prowlers. All area seniors are invited.

SATURDAY

- Third annual Big Spring Bass Club Fish Fry, 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third St. Plates, \$6 each, will include bass and catfish, french fries, hush puppies and cole slaw. To-go plates will be available.

MONDAY

- Keep Big Spring Beautiful meets at noon in the Cactus Room at Howard College.
- District Committee Lone Star of Big Spring meets at noon at 610 Scurry.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets at 5:30 p.m. in the First Christian Church of Big Spring, 911 Goliad. A different program is offered every week. Enter through the south side door off 10th Street. Call 263-2786 for more information.
- Evening Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. at The Event Center, 1607 E. Third St.
- Howard County ARC meets at 806 E. Third in the Bingo Hall. Call 264-0674 for more information.
- The Big Spring Cruisers club meeting at 7 p.m. in the Texas RV Park meeting room.
- Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.
- Big Spring Chapter No. 178 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

TUESDAY

- Coahoma Senior Citizen luncheon is set for 11 a.m. in the Coahoma Community Center.
- Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- 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 2018 meets at 7 p.m. in the VFW Hall, 500 Dryer 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.

Support Groups

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY

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

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John A. Moseley Managing Editor... Ext. 230
Rick Nunez Advertising Manager... Ext. 229
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Texas couple arrested for illegally taking Mexican baby

MONTERREY, Mexico (AP) — A Texas couple was arrested in Monterrey after inquiring about a visa at the U.S. Consulate here for a 2-week-old baby boy they said was given to them, police said Thursday.

Sergio Velez, 42, and Tomasa Ibarra, 39, both of San Antonio, were arrested outside the U.S. Consulate Wednesday, Monterrey police said in a news release.

Velez, a U.S. citizen, and Ibarra, a legal U.S. resident, told police a 21-year-old woman they met in the northern state of San Luis Potosi, where Ibarra is from, offered them the baby in December.

The couple were being investigated for trying to legally register the child as their own, a minor offense that allows for their release on bail, said state investigator David Cubillas.

Cubillas said whether the couple bought the child is also being investigated but that so far no one had filed a complaint.

Todd Huizinga, a spokesman for the U.S. Consulate

in Monterrey, wouldn't comment on the case because of U.S. privacy laws.

Man given death sentence again in murder-for-hire plot

HOUSTON (AP) — A man previously sentenced to death in a murder-for-hire plot was given another death sentence by a jury Thursday.

Howard Paul Guidry was convicted in 1997 as the triggerman and sentenced to death for the 1994 murder-for-hire slaying of Farah Fratta. Her death was masterminded by her husband, former Missouri City public safety officer Robert Fratta.

In 2004, a federal judge ruled Guidry deserved a new trial because he was tricked into making a confession when sheriff's deputies lied to him and said his attorney had given him permission to talk.

The jury in his retrial convicted Guidry again last week on a capital murder charge. The same jury deliberated for about two hours Thursday before sentencing him to death.

Prosecutors told jurors Guidry would be a continuing threat to society if allowed to live.

Defense attorney Tyrone Moncrieff asked jurors to sentence Guidry, 30, to life in prison, saying he would suffer plenty because of the guilt he would feel while incarcerated.

Robert Fratta and the man he enlisted to hire Guidry, Joseph Prystash, are on death row for their roles in the killing.

Man charged with aggravated assault in Tyler hospital shooting

TYLER (AP) — A man who shot his wife multiple times outside the East Texas hospital where she works and also wounded a bystander has been charged with two counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, police said Thursday.

Bond was set at \$1.25 million for Richard Lynn White, 43, who remained in Smith County Jail on Thursday, said Tyler police spokesman Don Martin.

The woman remained in critical condition Thursday.

STORMS

Continued from Page 1A

one wing of the school that took a direct hit, he said.

"It was in a split second that we sat down and started to cover ourselves before the storm hit," said 17-year-old Kira Simpson, who lost four friends to the storm. "Glass was breaking. It was loud."

"It's like a bad dream. I have to keep reminding myself that it actually happened."

As the massive storm system swept into Georgia, another tornado apparently touched down near the Sumter Regional Hospital in Americus, 117 miles south of Atlanta, killing at least two people and injuring an undetermined number of others, said Buzz Weiss of the Georgia Emergency Management Agency. At least 42 patients were evacuated to Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital in Albany,

Putney spokeswoman Jackie Ryan said.

Six more people were killed in the town of Newton, Ga., and several homes were destroyed, Fire Chief Andy Belinc said early Friday.

The burst of tornadoes was part of a larger line of thunderstorms and snowstorms that stretched from Minnesota to the Gulf Coast. Authorities blamed tornadoes for the deaths of a 7-year-old girl in Missouri, 10 people in Alabama and nine in Georgia, and twisters also damaged homes in Kansas.

Early Friday, the storm was pelting the Carolinas with heavy rain, causing power outages, street flooding, and a tornado warning was posted through late morning for the North Carolina coast.

In South Carolina, the Coast Guard prepared to search for six people on a small boat who sent a distress call during the storm saying they were taking on water off the

coast. The strong wind made it difficult to get a helicopter up Friday morning to search, Petty Officer 1st Class Donnie Brzuska.

At Enterprise High School, officials had been watching the storm Thursday as it swept through southern Missouri and headed into Alabama. The students were preparing to leave for the day when the sirens started up and the lights went out.

Teacher Grannison Wagstaff was with them.

"I said 'Here it comes. Hit the deck,'" he told CBS's "The Early Show" Friday. "I turned around and I could actually see the tornado coming toward me."

As the students scrambled for shelter, a section of roof and a wall near 17-year-old senior Erin Garcia collapsed on her classmates.

"I was just sitting there praying the whole time," Erin said. "It sounded like a bunch of people try-

ing to beat the wall down. People didn't know where to go. They were trying to lead us out of the building."

"I kept seeing people with blood on their faces."

Outside, debris from the school was strewn around the neighborhood, where cars were flipped or tossed atop each other.

The mayor said officials had yet to determine where students in the school of about 2,000 would attend classes for the rest of the year. He appeared drained as his staff and National Guard crews tried to assess the damage at dawn and search the torn-up neighborhoods for more victims.

"You take it methodically," Boswell said. "You prioritize, and you move on."

At least one other person was killed in Enterprise.

Another died across the state in rural Millers Ferry.

Child's condition said critical

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

A 7-year-old Midland girl remains in critical but stable condition at a San Angelo hospital following a pedestrian vehicle accident Monday afternoon.

Taylor Miller, who was in the process of moving from California to Midland at the time of the accident, is recovering from head, face and leg wounds following an accident at the Interstate Highway 20 rest stop near mile marker 191.

According to Department of Public Safety Trooper Thomas Moore, the accident occurred at approximately 3 p.m. Monday, as the girl's family — traveling in two vehicles — stopped at the facility.

"The family was traveling in two vehicles, with one parked on either side of the roadway at the rest stop," said Moore. "One of the adults crossed the road and the little girl tried to follow."

Moore said the girl was struck by a Ford F250 driven by Theodore Thomas, 44, of Sweetwater. She was later airlifted to Shannon Children's Hospital in San Angelo.

"No criminal charges were filed as a result of the accident," said Moore. "It's just one of those sad cases where it's an accident."

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

TAXES

Continued from Page 1A

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

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

"AARP has decided not to file any returns if the taxpayer is listed as married but filing separate-

ly," she added. "We also have to physically see the Social Security cards for everyone listed in the tax return. In the past, the taxpayer could just provide us the number, but we're being required to actually see the card this year."

The Senior Center is located at 1901 Simler Drive on the McMahan-Wrinkle Airpark. For more information on the

program and volunteering, contact Hopkins at 267-6733.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232.

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MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
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Lorenzo "Larry" Martinez, 47, died Wednesday. Funeral Services were at 11:00 AM Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

GEMS

Continued from Page 1A

Vendors from across Texas and New Mexico — and even one from Alabama — will have their wares for sale at the event, Lamb said.

"The theme for this year's show is 'Rocks: A Lapidarist's Dream,'" Lamb said. "The shows always give me an appreciation what Mother Nature created, and what

can be made from an ordinary piece of rock."

Lamb said club officials are hopeful that the show draws its traditional attendance of about 1,500 people.

"If we get that many, we'll be happy," she said. "It depends on what the weather does."

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

We salute:

Each week, the Herald salutes individuals and groups from our community and area who have been recognized for special achievements or accomplishments. We recognize these special people for working to help make our region a better place to live, work and play

This week we salute:

- The local chapter of the American Heart Association on another successful gala at the Big Spring Country Club.

- Hats off, too, to the Relay For Life team at the Big Spring State Hospital on their annual Relay Rascal Razzmatazz.

- Mayor Russ McEwen, for reminding us how much good has been going here for the past year, during his State of the City Address.

- Crossroads area Scouts, who have announced they will be collecting food for local food banks from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. Set non-perishable food items in front of your house for pickup or bring them by the Wal-Mart Supercenter.

- Howard College trustees on their decision to go ahead and put a \$21.6 million bond before the voters to help replace buildings and equipment, some of which is more than 50 years old.

- Garden City High School girl's basketball team on advancing to the state Class 1A tournament in Austin. Way to go, Lady Kats! Also, to the GCHS boy's team, which opens play tonight in the regional tournament in Fort Worth.

- Vietnam veteran Vicki Scott, who has been selected as the Hangar 25 Air Museum Veteran of the Month for March. Congratulations, Vicki!

Is there an individual or organization in our community that you feel should be saluted? If so, please send us their name and why you think they should be recognized. We must have your name and telephone number and you must provide it in writing.

HOW TO CONTACT US

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

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

LETTER POLICIES

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we hand personal problems over to You, Lord, instead of smashing the situation into smithereens.

Amen

The critic gets criticized

This week's cup of Jehovah Java comes with the idea of what it takes to get a fight started and it doesn't take much. These days it's either war or rumor of war, just as Jesus said it would be. So sit back and let this highly caffeinated Christian say a word about the intent of the confessions in these columns.

My Dad's Bigger Than Yours

When William Wallace was headed out onto the battlefield, his friend asked him where he was going? "I'm going to pick a fight," he replied. He didn't come there to look at the enemy, he came there to actually engage and accomplish something. He was the real deal and so should we be.

I am not here to pick a fight but I am here to be the real deal. Since my "ideal" doesn't go along with that of others, sometimes I can peg a person's "cringe meter." That's not what I want to do but just like coffee, a strong dose has its side effects.

My column is read by a lot of people in a bunch of different cities these days, including the hometown flagship here in Joshua.

Because I am out there giving my opinions and views, I run the risk of ruffling the feathers of good and bad people alike.

All God's Fault

It's by design that I stir up trouble and rave on coffee... God's design. My name really is Brewer and brother Webster defines a "brewer" as one that brews or a troublemaker.

I don't like confrontation and friction but I have found that you're going to get a lot of it when you go against the grain and dare to be different; in other words



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authentic, genuine and real.

Post Cards From Hell

For about a year now, I have begun to acquire a steady pouring of written response to what I write. Some of it encouragement and appreciation, but a lot of it is what I fondly call "hate mail." There is not a week that goes by that I don't get something from one camp or the other and I really enjoy reading both.

Some of my hate mail comes from sources you would imagine, such as people that have an absolute agenda against anything Christian. I have had two actual death threats in the past four years that are related to "Fresh from the Brewer" and amazingly, both of them were from women.

My Christian response is: "No weapon formed against me shall prosper."

My Texan response is that there are some tough females at Open Door Ministries, and they will beat you down like a red-headed stepchild.

The Art of War

Other such mail is from church folk who get their religious drawers in a wad because there is not a stained glass attached to my column.

Others are from ministerial arm-chair quarterbacks that have no relevant ministry of their own, nor the guts to actually apply action to their faith, so they make a ministry out of trying to tear down others.

They call themselves "Watchers on the Wall."

I call them Humpty Dumpty wannabes.

Playing It Safe

I believe that the way of Jesus Christ is as Erwin McManus puts it, "a barbaric and dangerous way."

I think when God calls us he calls us to go out on a limb into risky, hazardous and vulnerable places.

When we play it safe, we give up

relevance and I am authentically afraid of spinning my wheels.

I am not the lobster in the tank that just wants to blend. The passion within me wants to color outside of the lines to make a significant difference. I don't want to bury my coin as Jesus illustrated, I want to use it for all it is worth and to me that means not trying to be like everybody else.

So in trying to be funny and interesting to read for Christians and non-Christians alike, I run the risk of being called "an uneducated idiot not fit for print."

In encouraging people to give their lives and hearts to Jesus Christ, I risk being called, "a typical right wing evangelical that preys on the stupid with the fairy tale notion of everlasting life."

In not being churchy and using pop culture, I risk being called, "another pathetic example of worldliness in modern Christianity."

I have been called all of those things and much worse, but for me, it's proof that I am following the Lord into "all the world."

It's barbaric, it's powerful, it's authentic and real but it is not safe, easy or religious foo-foo. We just have to be thick skinned enough to boldly be who God has called us to be long enough for God to get good mileage out of His investment in us.

So in the words of John the Revelator, I end this column like he summed up the Bible, "May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all, Amen."

I really mean that for those that love me and those that don't. To my critics and writers of hate mail, the words of the prophet Flo from Mel's dinner come to mind when I say, "Kiss my grits."

And that to me is funny.

Troy Brewer welcomes your comments by e-mail at FFTB@OpenDoorMinistries.org or by phone at 817-297-6911.

ADDRESSES

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President
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U.S. Representative
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JOE HEFLIN
State Representative

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Austin, 78768
Phone: (512) 463-0604

KEL SELIGER
State Senator
Texas 31st District
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Minimum wage good for business

The minimum wage is headed for a raise — back to the 1950s. That's right, even after rising from \$5.15 now to \$7.25 in 2009, the federal minimum wage will still be lower than it was in 1956, when it was \$7.41 in today's dollars. The minimum wage was enacted in 1938 through the Fair Labor Standards Act, designed to eliminate "labor conditions detrimental to the maintenance of the minimum standard of living necessary for health, efficiency and general well-being of workers."

It was never meant to be the minimum level that the nation's worst employers want to pay. That would be as absurd as setting environmental policies to accommodate the worst polluters. Business lobbyists, who'd abolish the minimum wage if they could, have held it hostage for ten years — the longest period ever without a raise. Now they want to collect a ransom of tax breaks to let it go.

Since its last raise in 1997, the minimum wage has fallen 20 percent, adjusted for inflation, while domestic corporate profits are up 74 percent, retail profits are up 55 percent, and business has reaped \$312 billion in tax breaks. "I'm sick of all the talk about business needing tax relief as compensation for a higher minimum wage," says Steve Zorn, managing partner of Castle Village Farm of Florida. "We don't need relief. Workers are the ones who need relief. We've gotten plenty of tax breaks for business and certainly don't need to pile more onto minimum wage legislation that won't hurt business to begin with."

Minimum wage critics pre-

dictably forecast dire consequences with every raise, and are just as predictably wrong. After the last federal hikes in 1996 and 1997, the nation experienced dramatically stronger job growth, and lower inflation and poverty rates. States that have raised their minimum wages above \$5.15 have had better employment and small business trends than states that have not. Minimum wage raises aren't put under mattresses — or in offshore tax havens. They are recycled back into the economy.

"Overall most low-wage workers pump every dollar of their paychecks directly into the local economy by spending their money in their neighborhood stores, local pharmacies and corner markets," notes Dan Gardner, commissioner of Labor and Industries for Oregon, which has the nation's second-highest minimum at \$7.80.

"Higher wages benefit business by increasing consumer purchasing power, reducing costly employee turnover, raising productivity, and improving product quality, customer satisfaction and company reputation," says a statement supporting higher minimum wage. It was signed by the CEOs of Costco, the U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce, Small Business Majority, the Eileen Fisher apparel company and more than 500 business owners across the nation — from the Four Seasons Restaurant in New York City and Dixie Rod & Custom in Alabama to the Mercury Cafe in Colorado and Broetje Orchards in Washington. And from Candle Enterprises in Minnesota and Vintage Vinyl in Missouri to North Georgia Woodworks and Small Biz Survival in Oklahoma.

"Trying to save money by short-changing my employees would be like skimping on ingredients," explains statement signer Kirsten

Poole, co-owner of Kirsten's Cafe and Dish Caterers in Silver Spring, MD. "I'd lose more than I saved because of declining quality, service, reputation and customer base. You can't build a healthy business or a healthy economy on a miserly minimum wage."

U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce CEO Margot Dorfman says, "When businesses don't pay a living wage, all society pays. We pay through poverty and needless disease, disability and death from inadequate health care. We pay as women struggle to put food on the table. We pay as businesses and communities suffer economic decline."

Successful businesses like Kirsten's Cafe and Seventh Generation, the nation's leading brand of non-toxic household products, know that miserly wages are toxic to our families, communities and economy.

If employers can't stay in business without keeping their employees in poverty, there's something wrong with their business models.

Even at \$7.25 an hour, the minimum wage would still be two bucks short of the \$9.27 value it had in 1968, nearly four decades ago.

As the business owners' statement says, "We cannot build a strong 21st century economy when more and more hardworking Americans struggle to make ends meet."

Holly Sklar is senior policy advisor for Business for Shared Prosperity (www.businessforsharedprosperity.org) and co-author of "A Just Minimum Wage: Good for Workers, Business and Our Future." She can be e-mailed at hsklar@aol.com

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News in brief

Al-Qaida linked Sunni group claims it kidnapped 18 Iraqi government workers

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — An al-Qaida-linked Sunni group claimed Friday that it kidnapped 18 government workers and soldiers in retaliation for the alleged rape of a Sunni woman by members of the Shiite-dominated police force.

The claim by the Islamic State of Iraq was posted Friday on a Web site, accompanied by nine pictures showing up to 18 men. Seven were wearing Iraqi military uniforms, and all had their hands tied behind their backs.

"This blessed operation is a response to crimes carried out by those infidels in their fight against the Sunnis," the statement said. "The latest of the crimes committed by these traitors was to rape our sister in religion."

The statement, the authenticity of which couldn't be independently verified, said the kidnap victims were all employees of the Ministry of Interior, which is Shiite-led.

The group did not specify when the kidnapping took place, but Brig. Gen. Abdul-Karim Khalaf, an Interior Ministry spokesman, said 10 policemen were abducted Thursday morning while heading home for leave.

Cheney: Hasty U.S. pullout from Iraq could spread Muslim militants to Afghanistan

WASHINGTON (AP) — A quick withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq could allow victorious Muslim extremists to fan out into other countries, with some militants going to Afghanistan to fight alongside a resurgent Taliban, Vice President Dick Cheney says.

The vice president, just back from a trip that included unannounced stops in Afghanistan and Pakistan, addressed a conservative conference Thursday night where he sharply criticized efforts by some Democrats to restrict funds for President Bush's troop buildup in Iraq or to place restrictions on their deployment.

While noting that the House already had passed a nonbinding resolution voicing opposition to Bush's Iraq policy, Cheney said that "very soon both houses of Congress will have to vote on a piece of legislation that is binding."

The legislation would, among other things, help pay for the additional 21,500 troops Bush is sending to Iraq.

"I sincerely hope the discussion this time will be about winning in Iraq, not about posturing on Capitol Hill. Anyone can say they support the troops, and we should take them at their word. But the proof will come when it's time to provide the money and the support," Cheney said. "We expect the House and the Senate to meet those needs on time and in full."

S. Korea delays aid to N. Korea pending nuclear disarmament progress

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea on Friday refused to fully resume aid shipments to North Korea until the communist regime follows through on its agreement with the U.S. and four other countries to start scrapping its nuclear weapons program.

North Korea reluctantly agreed to put off the aid issue until late April, after the deadline for the communist regime to shut down its main nuclear reactor under the Feb. 13 disarmament deal. Previously, the North demanded more talks this month.

The nuclear pact cleared the way for this week's negotiations between the two Koreas, the first high-level talks in months. Aid was the key sticking point, delaying Friday's closing session by five hours.

South Korea, one of the North's main aid sources, halted rice and fertilizer shipments after the North test-fired a barrage of missiles last July. North Korea's Oct. 9 underground nuclear test further strained rela-

tions. The provocations were the most serious challenge yet to South Korea's "sunshine" policy of engagement with its longtime foe. The policy has been criticized as helping to prop up the North's totalitarian regime without requiring reforms or disarmament.

Former Taliban defense minister arrested in Pakistan, intelligence officials say

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Pakistani security forces captured the former Taliban defense minister, Pakistani intelligence officials said Friday, in what would be the highest-ranking leader from the Afghan insurgency to be arrested since it lost power in 2001.

There was no immediate official confirmation from the Pakistani government about the arrest of Mullah Obaidullah Akhund, regarded as one of the two top deputies of Taliban supreme leader Mullah Omar. A Taliban spokesman dismissed the report as a "rumor."

Akhund was nabbed with four other suspects in a raid on a home in the southwestern city of Quetta on Monday, three intelligence officials said on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to journalists.

The arrests came amid growing international pressure on Pakistan to crackdown on Taliban militants and coincided with a visit to Islamabad on Monday by Vice President Dick Cheney.

During his visit, Cheney had expressed concern to President Gen. Pervez Musharraf over al-Qaida regrouping inside Pakistan's tribal regions and an expected Taliban spring offensive in neighboring Afghanistan.

Rice, South Korean foreign minister to meet on North Korean nuclear disarmament accord

WASHINGTON (AP) — South Korea's foreign minister scheduled meetings with senior U.S. officials about joint efforts to push North Korea to live up to its promise to begin scrapping its nuclear weapons.

Foreign Minister Song Min-soon was to meet Friday with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and with President Bush's national security adviser, Stephen Hadley. He also scheduled a speech at a Washington think tank.

Song's visit to the United States comes at a crucial moment in North Korean disarmament efforts. The North said in a Feb. 13 accord that it would close its main nuclear reactor within 60 days, in exchange for aid. A much larger shipment of aid — about \$250 million worth — would follow once the North had declared all its nuclear programs and begun to disable them.

The U.S. also agreed to resolve financial restrictions it placed on a Macau bank — accused of complicity in counterfeiting and money laundering by North Korea — to pave the way for the disarmament-for-aid deal.

Conservatives in Washington criticized the agreement as rewarding bad North Korean behavior and predicted it would fail. Meanwhile, diplomats from South Korea, the United States, Japan, Russia and China are working to make sure North Korea abides by its word.

Independent commission criticizes treatment of National Guard, Reserves

WASHINGTON (AP) — The National Guard and Reserves don't get enough money or equipment and are left out of important planning for national emergencies, an independent panel concluded Thursday, long after the Iraq war and Hurricane Katrina exposed serious stresses on the services.

The report from the Commission on the National Guard and Reserves compounds earlier criticism of

the Bush administration's response to the devastating hurricane that struck the Gulf Coast in August 2005. The administration also is still struggling to better manage the reserves nearly four years into the Iraq war.

The 151-page report found a significant lack of communication between reserve officials and other military leaders, the Homeland Security Department and U.S. Northern Command, which is responsible for the military's defense of the U.S. homeland.

Calling those failures unacceptable, panel Chairman Arnold Punaro said in an interview that federal agencies must get past their turf battles to better protect the public.

"This is unacceptable. The American people would find it unacceptable," said Punaro, a retired Marine Corps general. "These are not problems that have just cropped up in the last two years or five years. These are issues that have been pretty much ignored and glossed over for decades."

Prosecutors break up what they call one of the biggest Wall Street insider-trading rings

NEW YORK (AP) — The defendants included husband-and-wife lawyers, registered representatives, compliance personnel and hedge fund portfolio managers who improperly relied on hundreds of tips during five years of illegal trading.

Investigators have broken up what they call one of the biggest Wall Street insider-trading rings since the 1980s — a sweeping, \$15 million scandal that involved power brokers at some of the nation's top financial firms and two lawyers.

In announcing the case Thursday, authorities described a criminal operation that used insiders at Morgan Stanley and Co. and UBS Securities LLC to steal valuable secrets from the companies. Prosecutors also alleged a Banc of America Securities LLC broker accepted cash kickbacks and two former representatives of Bear Stearns & Co. obtained UBS inside information.

"This conduct didn't occur in obscure boiler rooms — but rather at what are commonly considered 'top tier' Wall Street firms," said Linda Chatman Thomsen, director of the Division of Enforcement for the Securities and Exchange Commission.

She said "there is hardly a duty on Wall Street that the defendants charged today didn't breach."

After bitter custody dispute, Anna Nicole Smith's body to leave for burial in Bahamas

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — Anna Nicole Smith's body will leave for the Bahamas by private plane early Friday and the former model will be buried there hours later, said the attorney given control of her remains after weeks of legal wrangling.

But the funeral might not mean the end of the saga: her estranged mother, Virgie Arthur, will likely try to get the body out of the Bahamas, said her lawyer, Tom Pirtle. He would not give details about possible legal action.

"We are not exactly sure what shape it is going to be," Pirtle said Thursday in a telephone interview, just hours after saying Arthur had decided to drop her legal challenges in Florida courts.

On Friday, law enforcement will escort a hearse before dawn from the Broward County Medical Examiner's office to Miami International Airport for the trip to the Bahamian capital of Nassau, said Richard Milstein, the court-appointed advocate for Smith's 5-month-old daughter Dannielynn.

The funeral is to take place later Friday at the Mount Horeb Baptist Church in Nassau, and Smith is to be buried at the Lakeview Memorial Gardens.

6 killed when bus drives off highway ramp

ATLANTA (AP) — A charter bus carrying a college baseball team from Ohio plunged off a highway ramp early Friday and slammed into the pavement below, killing six people, injuring 29 and scattering sports equipment across the road, authorities said.

The bus, carrying the team from Mennonite-affiliated Bluffton University, toppled off the

Northside Drive bridge onto a pickup truck on Interstate 75 shortly before dawn, police spokesman Joe Cobb said.

"It looked to me like a big slab of concrete falling down," said truck driver Danny Lloyd, 57, of Frostburg, Md. "I didn't recognize it was a bus. I think when I saw the thing coming, I think I closed my eyes and stepped on the gas."

The impact broke his windshield, pushed his truck into the concrete and wrecked the front bumper, but Lloyd wasn't injured.

Nineteen students — three in critical condition — were being treated at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, Dr. Leon Haley said. He said all but two students were awake and talking Friday morning.

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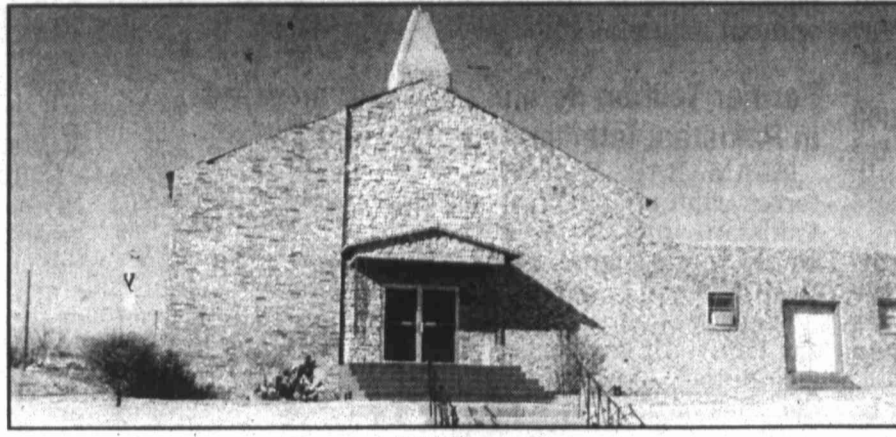
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remain: faith, hope and
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I Cor. 13:13

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East Side Baptist Church

Come be a part of our worship of the King this lord's day. Services begin at 9:45 a.m. for fellowship and teaching time, 10:45 a.m. for morning worship and 1:45 p.m. for afternoon praise and worship. We have a junior church service during morning message for 5- through 10-year-olds and nursery for 4 years and younger.

The Warren Family will be in concert March 15.

If you are looking for a friendly church where you will be welcome, come see us. We love company. The church is located at 1108 E. 6th. Call 267-1915 for more information.

North Birdwell Lane United Methodist Church

The Administrative Council and Building Committee will meet following a luncheon Sunday at 11:30 a.m. This will be a time for discussion of the Angel Food Ministry and the addition to the building brought about by the ministry. This is an open meeting and all church members are strongly encouraged to attend.

Be sure to mark your calendars for Saturday, March 17, for the Annual Free Chili Supper at North Birdwell UMC. Serving will start at 5:30 p.m. There will be lots of chili, hot dogs and desserts. In addition to the supper, there will be a craft sale and bake sale featuring items made by church members and friends. Come see what's available. The funds from the sale will go toward the expansion of the church building.

On Sunday, March 18, at 6 p.m., North Birdwell UMC will host the Area Methodist Meeting. The Rev. Eddie Williams of the Baker's Chapel AME will be the speaker. Refreshments will be served following the worship time in the fellowship hall.

As the Disciple Bible Study continues, the study of the New Testament will begin March 7. The study group meets the first and third Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. The group is led by Pastor Joel Miller.

You are invited to attend all services and activities offered at North Birdwell UMC. Regular Sunday services are at 9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. There are Sunday school classes offered for all ages at 10:30 a.m. United Methodist Women, under the leadership of Jacque Mauch, meets the second and fourth Thursday at 4:30 p.m. the church is located at 2702 North Birdwell Lane and the Rev. Joel Miller is pastor.

Friends of Unity

The Lenten season unites Christians of all disciplines. The 40 days before the celebration of

the Resurrection plus the Sundays brings forth a surge of uplifting energy. Unity Friends delight in being a part of it. Individually and collectively, the focus is on renewal and upliftment of the spiritual life.

The Rev. Jim Sims and Carol will be at the Unity Center, located in the Railroad Plaza, at 1 p.m. Sunday for a Unity Celebration Service. All are welcome.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church

World Day of Prayer is an ecumenical effort of women in 170 countries that encourages women "To become aware of the whole world and no longer live in isolation; to be enriched by the faith experience of Christians of other countries and cultures; to take up the burdens of other people and pray with and for them; to become aware of their talents and use them in the service of society."

You can follow the leadership of these women by praying and putting your prayer into action. On this day of Lenten abstinence, a Stations of The Cross service will be held at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church at 6 p.m.

The service will take us from, "Jesus anointed by the women of Bethany to prepare him for his passion," through "The women find the tomb empty." This service will be followed by a fish fry in the church hall at 7 p.m. The public is invited to enjoy a dinner of fried fish, pinto beans, potato chips, bread, dessert and tea. \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for children.

Church Women United of Big Spring

The World Day of Prayer Service will be held at Bakers Chapel located at 911 North Lancaster Saturday from 11a.m. to noon. Everyone's invited.

First Methodist Church

Dr. Shane Brue will be delivering the second in his Lenten sermon series "Cross Examinations" Sunday. This week's topic is entitled "The Reconciling Cross," scripture taken from Ephesians 2:14-19. Worship services are 8:30 a.m. and 10:50 a.m. with Sunday school classes for

all ages at 9:45 a.m.

The new pictorial church directories have arrived and are available in the church office. Be sure to get your copy; it's a great resource. Thanks to the volunteers who devoted many hours toward its completion.

During a "Special Celebration of the Ministry of the Laity" service held in Lamesa on Sunday, Feb. 25, our Bishop and District Ministry team honored our congregation with the "Caring Hands" recognition. This award recognizes the exceptional care our church has shown our new pastor and his family during his treatment for cancer. The presentation stated that the congregation has shown its love and concern in many practical ways and has continued to grow in its ministry toward one another and our community.

Once again, the youth of our church will be fielding a team for Relay For Life. Be watching for their creative fund-raising projects. Finding a cure for cancer has become even more up close and personal to our congregation this year.

Remember that we go on Daylight Saving time a bit earlier this year; mark your calendars for Sunday, March 11.

We have a place for you at First Methodist. Our church buildings are located at 4th and Scurry streets in downtown Big Spring.

First Baptist Church of Coahoma

God is moving at First Baptist Church in Coahoma. We are so very grateful to be a part of the amazing work He is doing in our fellowship and we want you to be a part of it as well.

This Sunday will see our new pastor, Wes Massey, beginning two new sermon series. Sunday morning at 11, Brother Wes will begin preaching through the book of 1 John. The series title is "Walking a Certain Path" and will be seeking to answer the question "How do you know if you're saved?" We want to invite everyone to be a part of this wonderful study of God's Word.

Sunday evening will also see a new study begin through the Old Testament book of

Malachi entitled "Satan's Seven Snares." Through this study our pastor will take God's Word and warn us of the schemes and tricks Satan uses to steal our joy, kill our service and ultimately destroy our lives. Our Sunday evening service begins at 6 and there is always enough coffee, tea and fellowship for everyone.

The First Baptist Church of Coahoma also wants you to know that we have a great Sunday school ministry caring for our friends from infants to senior adults. Every Sunday morning beginning at 9:45 our family and friends gather to fellowship and study God's Word in informal groups and again there is always enough coffee to go around. We invite you to come see for yourself the wonderful things God is doing in Coahoma.

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Worship services with Holy Communion will be at 9 a.m. Sunday school and Bible classes follow visitation at 10:15 a.m.

Lenten services will be at 6:45 p.m. Wednesday.

Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (parish workers) will meet at 10 a.m. Thursday at the Parish Hall. This weeks' project is to package lunch bags for the transients who come by for meals. This has been an ongoing project for many years. When a baby is born, the LWML places

a rose on the altar in its honor. This week's baby was Emma Jean Fernandez, born to Tiffany and Marcus Fernandez.

Ron and JoAnn Sayles are the grandparents. The Relay For Life group at our church is

taking orders for "Current" products. They plan a garage sale this month.

Operation Ongoing Support for care gifts for our chaplains to give to the military is going

See CHURCH, Page 8A

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

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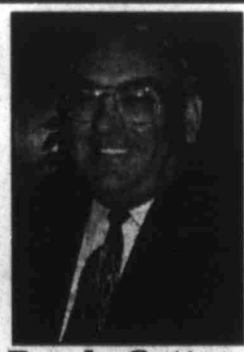
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We Love You Mom

Stevens proud to have served aboard the U.S.S. Hambleton

By HEATHER WALLACE
Special to the Herald

J.L. Stevens jokes that the only reason he was chosen as the latest Veteran of the Month by the Hangar 25 Air Museum is that he's the only World War II-era Navy veteran still around. Stevens was recently

honored as the February 2007 Veteran of the Month.

The truth of the matter is that Stevens has been an active Big Spring citizen since 1949. He has been on the Hang Glider Committee for the past five years. He provides the much needed Hamm

radio support via the Big Spring Hamm Radio Club, W5AW, for the many hang gliders who come to the community each year.

He also supports the local bicycling clubs in the same manner.

Stevens is a member of the local Disabled American Veterans.

Although one might think honor and recognition is truly deserved based on community involvement and efforts through the years, Stevens' military stipend during World War II must be recognized, too.

Stevens began his military career in July 1943 by joining the U.S. Navy. At this point he was sent to San Diego for an eight-week basic training, followed by six months of gunnery school. He was assigned to the U.S.S. Hambleton, a 2,100-ton class destroyer, in March 1944. The U.S.S. Hambleton was originally commissioned Dec. 22, 1941.

"She carried a rich history long before I walked aboard, having seen two years of wartime and surviving a crippling blow by a U-Boat during a 'shakedown' procedure," said Stevens.

The Hambleton had been sent for repair work, so massive that 40 feet from the center section had to be rebuilt.

Stevens spoke of his remembrances from both the European and the Pacific Theatres of the war.

"At one point we were on sub duty, watching a D616 German sub. In a matter of minutes more than 300 shells were fired, bringing the sub up so that the crew of 63 could get out before it sank. We stopped and picked up 60 of those men, keeping them as POWs. Only three gunners died. Imagine, over 300 shells and only losing three lives," Stevens recalled.

The Hambleton also served as an escort for the armada of ships for the Normandy invasion.

"From the center of ship you could see 12 1/1 miles -- and you could see nothing but ships," said Stevens. "I have never forgotten that imagine."

That night, after the invasion, Stevens and the Hambleton had patrol duty of the outskirts of the area. Six German E Boats came in. They were credited with sinking one and damaging another.

"These two hearing aids came from that night. I was number 4 gun, and number 3 gun wasn't able to stop incoming missiles -- all six gunners were sent to sick bay," Stevens said.

Another time they were escorting the Battleship Nevada.

"Shells were falling all around us but we kept the smoke screen up for the Nevada," he said.

After the Sherbert bombardment, Stevens was sent back state-side and the Hambleton received some modifications of high speed mine sweeping gear. Stevens soon found himself in the Pacific sweeping islands for mines.

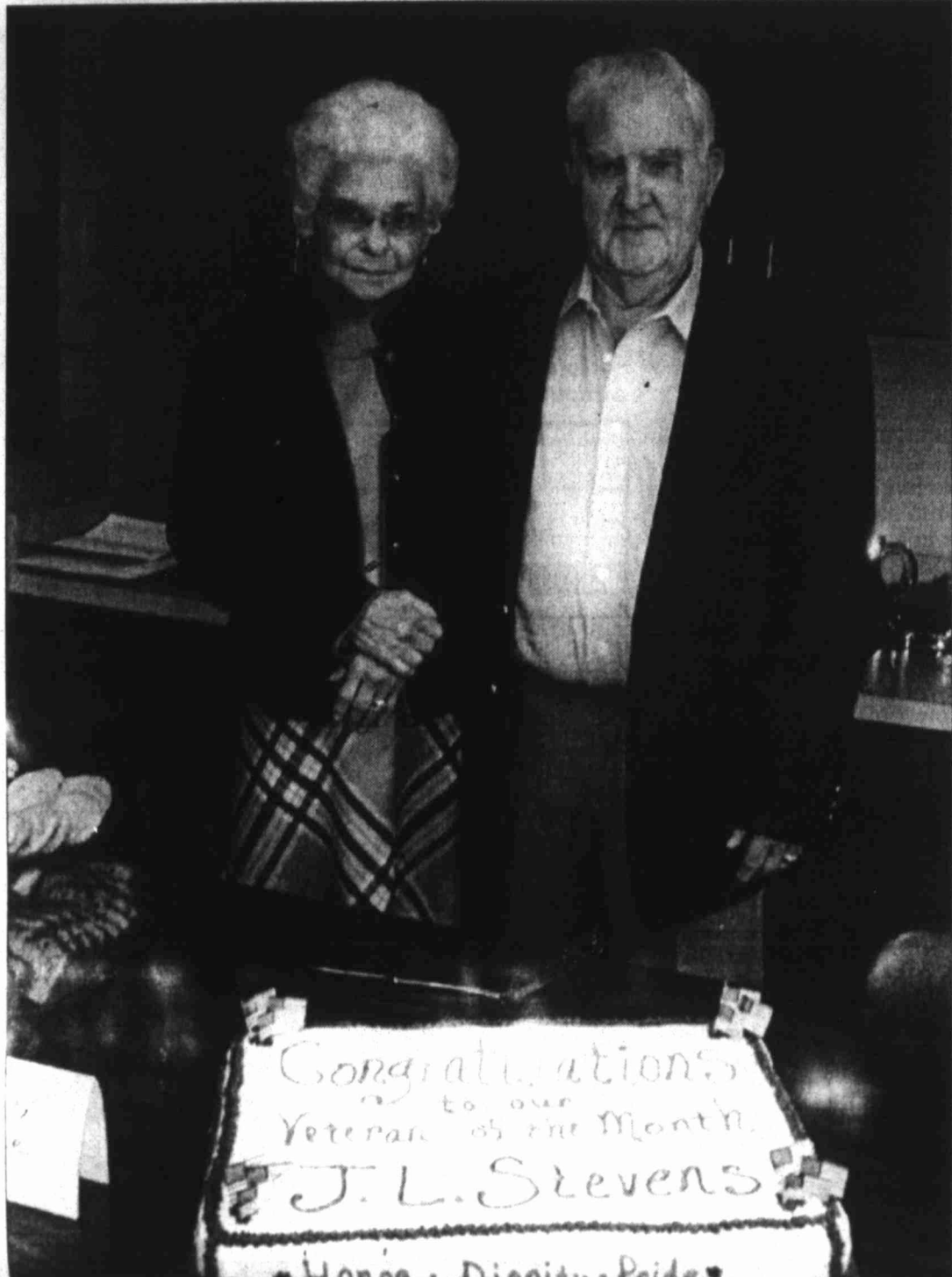
"The Japanese sent out kamakazi pilots and 11 of the 12 U.S. ships were not functional after this. The Hambleton received seven Battle Stars for its service during WWII," said Stevens.

"After I got out of the Navy, I hitched 1,100 miles home. I was home one week before I married my wife, Jean. We've been married 61 years now," said Stevens with a smile. "I have two daughters, six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren."

Of his recognition as Veteran of the Month, Stevens commented, "I am honored to be chosen among this group. Looking on this wall I am following some pretty tough footsteps."

For more information on the Hambleton visit the Department of the Navy -- Naval Historical Center on the Web.

Heather Wallace is director of the Hangar 25 Air Museum.



J.L. Stevens, Hangar 25 Air Museum Veteran of the Month for February, poses with his wife of 61 years, Jean, during a reception in his honor. Courtesy photo

CHURCH

Continued from Page 7A

strong. February care package items are small magnet backed photo holders, gel insoles for their boots, dried fruit and fruit roll-ups. Don't forget to contribute to the AT&T phone card fund so the troops can call home.

St. Paul Lutheran Church is located at 810 Scurry. Parking is on the Gregg Street side and also in front of the church as well as at the church annex across the street off Scurry Street. Please join us!

Birdwell Lane Baptist Church
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church home, come visit us at 1512 Birdwell Lane. Sunday services are at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. and a nursery is provided. Services are informal with good gospel singing, plain Bible preaching and a friendly atmosphere.

This Sunday evening services are at Canterbury South at 4 p.m. Come lift up and be a blessing to our retired seniors.

Saturday, the Junior and Senior Youth are going to the Music City Mall in Odessa and ice skate. Afterwards they will be going to Mr.

Gatti's Pizza. For further information or a ride to church call 264-9924 or 267-7157.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Everyone is invited to attend worship services at St. Mary's this Sunday. Holy communion will be celebrated at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sunday school for all ages meets at 9:30 a.m. Fr. Liggett's sermon will be "The Journey Gets Dangerous."

The Episcopal Church Women will meet Sunday at 11:30 a.m. in the library.

St. Mary's Pot-Luick Supper and Lenten Program is 6 p.m. Wednesday in the parish hall.

For more information about St. Mary's Episcopal Church call 267-8201 or visit our Web site at www.stmarysbt.org. St. Mary's is located at 1001 S. Goliad.

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Bidding Quiz

You are South, both sides vulnerable. The bidding has been:

North	East	South	West
1 ♠	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	?	Pass

What would you bid now with each of the following four hands?

- ♠KJ72 ♥QJ8 ♦AQ5 ♣J63
- ♠J8643 ♥7 ♦AK93 ♣QJ5
- ♠KQ764 ♥AJ2 ♦865 ♣82
- ♠AJ832 ♥943 ♦K74 ♣73

1. **Three notrump.** Since you have an opening bid of your own facing partner's opening bid, a game contract must be reached. The only problem is where the best game contract lies. Having already bid your spades, you now indicate your hand is suitable for notrump play also. This presents partner with the choice of passing if his hand is suitable for notrump play as well, or retreating to four spades if his hand is unsatisfactory for notrump.

A two-notrump rebid over two spades would be merely invitational and not forcing, and partner would not be obligated to bid again. You should not make a bid partner can pass when you know you have sufficient values for game.

2. **Four spades.** The value of a hand rises or falls as the bidding progresses. Thus, if partner had opened the bidding with one heart, your hand would have dropped in value initially because it is usually better to have some length in partner's best suit than shortage.

Here, however, your partner has opened in a suit in which you have a good holding, and then raised your suit. It is no exaggeration to say that your hand as a whole, with only 11 high-card points, has grown in value to the equivalent of 15 points because of the double fit in spades and clubs plus the shortness in hearts.

Game in spades should therefore be undertaken at once. There is not much point to bidding your diamonds along the way. To volunteer this information would be far more helpful to the opponents than to partner.

3. **Three spades.** Whether 10 tricks can be made depends on the strength of partner's two-spade bid, which shows 13 to 15 points. Three spades asks partner to go on to game with a maximum for his previous bids, and to pass with a minimum.

4. **Pass.** Game is very unlikely since your hand is worth only about nine points. If you were to bid three spades, which is the most you could possibly do, the contract would be in danger whenever partner passed, and would likewise be in danger if partner carried on to game.

Tomorrow: The disappearing trick.
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IN BRIEF

Garden City girls' playoff schedule

Garden City's Lady Kats (32-3) will face Kennard (28-9) tonight in Austin in a Class 1A, Division II State Semifinal.

Tip-off is set for 7 p.m. at the Frank Erwin Center.

Garden City boys' playoff schedule

Garden City's Bearkats basketball team will challenge Roby in the Class 1A, Division II Regional tournament semifinals tonight in Fort Worth.

Tip-off is set for 8 p.m. at the Wilkerson-Greines Coliseum.

Big Spring Girls Softball registration

The Big Spring Girls' Softball Association is currently conducting registration for the upcoming 2007 season.

Females from ages 4 to 14 (as of Jan. 1) are eligible to participate in the league.

Sign-ups will be held each Saturday through March 17 at the Big Spring Mall.

The registration fee is \$40 and there is a discount for the second child. This fee will cover full uniforms.

A division for boys between 4 and 6 years old will be available this season.

For more information contact Ron Shafer at 213-3747.

Lady Raiders fall to Iowa State

LUBBOCK (AP) — Megan Ronhovde scored 18 points to lead Iowa State to a 72-68 victory over Texas Tech on Thursday night.

Lyndsey Medders scored 16 for the Cyclones (22-7, 10-6 Big 12) and Toccara Ross had 10 rebounds as Iowa State got its first victory ever in Lubbock.

The Cyclones had 11 3-pointers in the game, just short of their season high of 14 3-pointers.

Tech came close to pulling ahead when LaVonda Henderson had a steal and tied the game at 66-66 with jumper with 2:29 left, but Iowa State's Nicky Wieben got a basket at 2:02. Iowa State led the rest of the game.

Alesha Robertson had a double-double with 14 points and 13 rebounds for Texas Tech (5-15, 6-10). Henderson got 19 points for Tech, her season high, and Jordan Murphree added 11.

Kristy Curry earned her fourth technical foul of the season after arguing a call with the referee.

Dunbar, Canyon, Sundown reach finals

By JIM VERTUNO

AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN — Brooklyn Pope scored 21 points and grabbed 19 rebounds to lead Fort Worth Dunbar back to the Class 4A state championship game for the second time in three years with a 59-47 win Thursday night over Marble Falls.

Pope, the top-rated junior forward in the country by some recruiting experts, led Dunbar (31-4) to the state title in 2005 as a freshman. Dunbar lost in the semifinals last seasons.

She did most of her scoring damage on free throws, shooting just 2-of-10 from the field but 17-of-24 from the line. Her free throw attempts doubled Marble Falls as a team (6 of 12) and the 17 she made tied the state tournament record set by Babers Hill's Pennee Hall (1982) and Michele Clements of Dumas (1980).

UIL girls state tournament glance

Class 5A Semifinals Friday	Class 3A Semifinals Thursday	Class 1A Division I Semifinals Thursday
Cypress Fairbanks (38-0) vs. SA Churchill (38-2), 3:30 p.m.	Crockett 72, Texarkana Liberty-Eylau 65	Lindsay 62, Martin's Mill 60, OT
Rockwall (38-0) vs. Mansfield Summit (33-5), 8:30 p.m.	Canyon 70, Llano 34	Sundown 42, Port Aransas 27
Championship 8:30 p.m. Saturday	Championship Crockett (31-6) vs. Canyon (33-2), 10 a.m. Saturday	Championship Lindsay (30-4) vs. Sundown (33-3), 8:30 a.m. Saturday
Class 4A Semifinals Thursday	Class 2A Semifinals Friday	Class 1A Division II Semifinals Friday
Dickinson 61, Frisco 59	Poth (30-5) vs. Hughes Springs (30-5), 8:30 a.m.	Calvert (27-2) vs. Nazareth (29-5), 2 p.m.
FW Dunbar 59, Marble Falls 47	Winnboro (36-1) vs. Panhandle (26-7), 10 a.m.	Garden City (32-3) vs. Kennard (28-9), 7 p.m.
Championship 3:30 p.m. Saturday	Championship 2 p.m. Saturday	Championship 7 p.m. Saturday

"I've never been on the ground more in my life," Pope said of the fouls. "My knees hurt. Tonight I had to work."

Lashandra Hill, who has signed with SMU, added 17 points for Dunbar. Kelsey Ansley scored 15

points to lead Marble Falls (32-7). Laura Lewis and Taylor Collier each hit 3-pointers and Pope score five from the free throw line to open up a 14-2 lead as Marble Falls missed its first seven shots. The Mustangs ral-

lied with a 9-2 run, sparked by Katy Cooke's 3-pointer, to crawl back into the game.

Marble Falls did a decent job defending Pope by denying her good looks at the basket with its taller lineup in the post, but couldn't stop her from getting to the line. Pope went 8 of 11 in the first half and constantly crashed the boards, recording a double-double by midway through the second quarter.

Pope showed off her defensive skills in the third, stepping in from behind to block Katie Meadors' fast break layup, then altering another breakaway layup 20 seconds later. She finished with five blocks.

Dunbar slowed the game to a crawl midway through the third while nursing a 38-22 lead. The Wildcats got the lead as high as 42-22 before a 10-0 run by Marble

See **TOURNEY**, Page 2B

Hawks' Almond happy at Howard

Ready to begin Region V action facing Temple

MIKE GRIMES

Sports Editor

Far from the distractions of Washington, D.C., freshman point guard Corey Almond is engaged in college life and focused on making his dreams come true.

The first time Howard basketball coaches heard of Almond was at a Amateur Athletic Union game in Washington, D.C.

Little did assistant coach Jason Sauter know that the young man who was named to the All Metro D.C. team was sitting right behind him.

"I was in D.C. scouting another player when an AAU coach started telling me about this player named Almond," Sauter explained. "He was telling me that if I liked the kid I was there to see that I really needed to see Almond. By sheer luck it turned out Corey was sitting right behind us. As our discussion continued Corey finally tapped the coach on the shoulder and said, 'excuse me, but are you talking about me?', and the rest is history."

As an underclassman in high school, Almond was hurt in a car wreck and injured his ankle, but returned to the court and as a senior averaged 26 points per game, made all district and led his team to the playoffs. In one game he scored 40 points, his career high.

After graduating, Corey had some tough decisions to make.

"The night I met Coach Sauter, I went home and got online to see the Howard College Web site," Almond said, thinking back to what led him to Howard College. "I liked everything I saw. Coach



Howard's Corey Almond elevates to the basket and shows he has the finger roll touch. Almond is a 6-foot-1, 180 pound freshman averaging 10.8 ppg for the Hawks. Howard will return to the hardwood Friday at 7 p.m. in Belton, when the Hawks take on No. 1 seeded Temple in the Region V Tournament.

Adams (Mark Adams — Howard head coach) had established a winning program here and I definitely wanted to be a part of a winning team. I also knew that I wanted to be the first person in my family to graduate from college — something that is still my

goal today." Upon arriving on campus, Almond knew he had made the right decision.

Almond explained that living in a small town and attending a small college meant fewer distractions.

"I'm here to further my education in the classroom and on the basketball court," Almond said. "I'm enjoying Big Spring and I think that being in a small town like this helps me stay focused

See **ALMOND**, Page 2B

Bledsoe, Horn, McCardell, Bryant given walking papers

By DAVE GOLDBERG

AP Football Writer

As expected, the Dallas Cowboys cut Drew Bledsoe on Thursday.

Bledsoe, who lost his quarterback job to Tony Romo after six turnover- and sack-plagued starts last season, was one of a number of aging players cut Thursday as teams adjusted their rosters to get more salary cap room for the free agent period

that begins Friday.

Joe Horn, one of the leaders of the New Orleans Saints during their 2005 season in Hurricane Katrina-enforced exile, also was cut.

The 35-year-old wide receiver, whose image did a 180-degree turn after Katrina forced the team from its home and left it to spend that year in Texas, was let go at his own request after he

declined to take a pay cut.

He could come back. "Joe really wanted to see where his value is around the league for his services," general manager Mickey Loomis said. "With as much as Joe has meant to the Saints and to New Orleans, we don't want to impede his desire to do so, and we have kept the door open for him to return to our team."

Among the other transactions Thursday:

Wide receiver Keenan McCardell, who turned 37 in January, was released by San Diego. He had 36 catches last year, his 15th in the NFL. San Diego also let go two troubled players: linebacker Steve Foley, who missed the season after being shot by a policeman, and safety Terrence Kiel, who pleaded guilty last month to felony and misdemeanor drug charges for shipping codeine-based cough

syrup to Texas.

San Francisco waived receiver Antonio Bryant, just one season after signing him to a lucrative four-year, free-agent contract. Bryant caught 40 passes for a team-leading 733 yards last season, but repeatedly ran afoul of coach Mike Nolan's disciplinary standards.

Bryant was arrested in November after a wild escapade in his orange Lamborghini.

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TOURNEY

Continued from Page 1B

Falls to end the quarter got the Mustangs back in the game at 42-32.

Meadors cut the deficit to six when she powered over Pope on another fast break layup, but fouled out seven seconds later. Dunbar got the lead back over 10 when Pope, who kept gobbling up rebounds, hit four free throws and Collier finished a steal with a layup to make it 54-42 with 3:13 to play.

Dickinson 61, Frisco 59

Lachandra Johnson's streaking layup with 15 seconds left lifted Dickinson to a 61-59 victory over Frisco on Thursday night in the Class 4A semifinals.

Kaylee Hawkins snagged the rebound off a Frisco miss and quickly fired a long pass to mid-court, which Johnson tracked down to run in with the go-ahead layup in a nick-and-tuck game. The teams were tied or traded leads nine times in the final six minutes.

Frisco had a last chance to tie when Shay Cooney-Williams, a rail thin but speedy point guard, weaved her way through the Dickinson defense all the way to the basket but left her layup on the front

of the rim.

The ball paused for a tantalizing second, then fell out in the final second, leaving Cooney-Williams shaking her head and clenching her fists in frustration.

Dickinson (32-5) survived a wild fourth quarter despite having its top scorer, Briana Hypolite, and top rebounder, Krystal Jefferson, foul out.

CLASS 3A Canyon 70, Llano 34

Stephani Rhoten scored 20 points and Canyon overwhelmed Llano 70-34 Thursday in the Class 3A semifinals, giving the Lady Eagles a chance to win their 13th state championship and fourth in the last five years.

Canyon shot 63 percent and led by as many as 40 midway through the fourth quarter. Rhoten was the only Lady Eagles player in double figures but Canyon (33-2) got points from 10 different players.

Defensively, Canyon forced 23 turnovers and turned them into 27 points, and held Llano to 29 percent shooting.

Canyon put on a clinic from the opening tip, racing to a 16-0 lead in the first quarter. The Lady Eagles hit 10 of their first 14 shots and outrebounded Llano 18-6 in the first

half.

Llano (28-10) missed its first eight shots and could do nothing to stop Canyon from going inside or out for points or putting back rebounds from its rare misses. Llano didn't hit a basket in the first quarter and trailed 19-2 after one.

Llano's Cassidy Rab hit consecutive 3-pointers to help spark a minor rally to pull within 20-10 but it didn't last. Steals led to easy layups. Kara Gilbert hit a 3-pointer and Jade Tinner grabbed three straight rebounds off misses before hitting the putback for a 28-11 Canyon lead.

Canyon kept stretching the lead as the minutes worn on. Nichole Gerlach's short jumper to start the fourth pushed the lead to 53-24. Llano tried using full-court pressure to force Canyon turnovers, but instead started giving up baskets in transition and fast breaks.

Crockett 72, Liberty-Eylau 65

Courtney Taylor had 18 points and 16 rebounds as Crockett survived a record day by Texarkana Liberty-Eylau's Mattilyn McIntyre for a 72-65 win Thursday in the Class 3A state semifinals.

McIntyre scored 44 points, tying for the most since the girls state tournament went to a full-

court format in 1979 and setting a Class 3A record.

A wispy senior point guard, McIntyre slashed through the Crockett defense to get to the basket, hitting 14 of 34 from the field and 15 of 15 free throws.

She tied the tournament record set in 1992 by Celeste's Shalonda Enis, who later starred in the WNBA, on her only 3-pointer in the final minute. The previous 3A record of 41 was set by the late Katrina Price for Waco La Vega in 1994.

As dynamic as McIntyre was, Crockett's balance was too much to overcome. Four Crockett players scored in double figures, led by Jasmin English with 20.

Crockett (31-6) shot 50 percent from the field.

Crockett ran to an early 14-0 lead in the first quarter before Liberty-Eylau (31-4) came back. The Lady Leopards cut the deficit in half by the end of the quarter and trailed just 31-29 at halftime.

McIntyre and Lacey Middlebrooks combined for 27 of Liberty-Eylau's 29 points in the first half.

CLASS 1A, DIV. I Sundown 42, Port Aransas 27

Megan Hodge scored 19 points and Sundown won its first state tournament game in 39 years Thursday with a 42-27 victory over Port Aransas in the Class 1A Division I semifinals.

Kayla Hefley added 14 points for Sundown (33-3), which took control by outscoring Port Aransas 14-4 in the third quarter.

Whitney Williams scored 23 for Port Aransas, but her teammates were 1-of-17 from the field.

Williams scored 14 of her team's 18 points in the first half, including seven in a row to help Port Aransas (34-6) build an 18-8 lead early in the second quarter. But the Marlins went scoreless for final seven minutes

before halftime, and Sundown closed the gap to 18-15 with two baskets from Hodge and a 3-pointer by Hefley.

Hefley hit another 3-pointer and converted a three-point play to put Sundown up 21-20 before Hodge scored eight straight points to build a 29-22 lead going into the fourth.

Lindsay 62, Martin's Mill 60

Brittany Anderle scored eight points in overtime, hitting the winning basket with 20 seconds left, to send Lindsay past defending state champion Martin's Mill 62-60 Thursday in the Class 1A Division I semifinals.

Anderle, who scored 20 points, tied the game at 54-54 with 1:43 left in regulation, and neither team scored again before overtime.

Taylor Daniel hit a 3-pointer to give Martin's Mill a 57-54 lead, but it was the Mustangs' only field goal in overtime.

ALMOND

Continued from Page 1B

on school and basketball. To me, everyone out here is so friendly. Strangers see you and they always have a smile and say hello. D.C. is just not like that and it was something I had to get used to — now that is what I love about being here."

On the court, No. 42 is the consummate team player and is averaging

10.8 points a game and shooting better than 42 percent from the beyond the 3-point line.

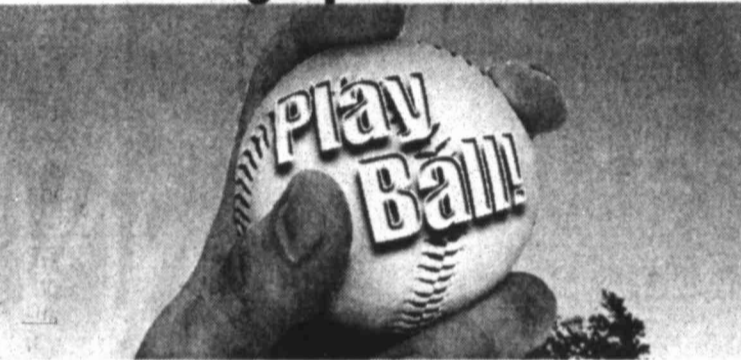
"Corey is a very likable young man," Sauter said. "His teachers all like him, he attends his classes and he should have no problem graduating and moving on to bigger and better things."

"I just want to contribute and help my teammates," Almond added. "We want to finish this season the right way and make Howard College and

everyone in Big Spring proud. We're going into the Region V tournament next week as the fourth-seeded team, but we plan on leaving there as champions and heading to the national tournament in Kansas."

Howard's Hawks open play in the NJCAA Region V tournament Friday, March 9 at 7 p.m. on the Mary Hardin-Baylor University campus in Belton, taking on No. 1 Northern Conference seed Temple.

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BIG SALE- Fri. & Sat. 9am-?
Junior female clothes, knick-knacks & more. Mens things of all kinds & more. 806 & 808 E. 14th St.

GARAGE SALE 717 Colgate Ave. Furnitures, clothes, appliances & other household items. Fri. & Sat. from 8am-?

GARAGE SALE!! Don't miss this garage sale! Lots of nice baby girl and toddler clothing. Current Woman and men's clothing... Furniture, house decor, and much much more! Must make room for new baby! 3801 Dixon St., Sunday Only: 7am-4pm.

Garage Sales

GARAGE SALE, March 3rd, at 2510 Dow Dr. on base housing, starts at 9:00 a.m.

GARAGE SALE, Sat. 8am-? 1744 Purdue. Furniture, clothes, girls clothes 0-2T, lots of misc.

GARAGE SALE. 1013 Sycamore. Fri. & Sun. From 8am-? Furniture, exercise equip, beds, dishware, table w/ chairs, clothing all sizes, kitchen ware, etc.

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

LARGE GARAGE Sale: 2210 North Hwy. 350, Saturday 9:00-? Lots and lots of clothes and misc. items.

SPRING CLEANING: 1211 Wilson Road, Sand Springs off Midway, LittleTykes, appliances, furniture, knickknacks, football, air compressor, mirrored doors, bedding, sports goals and more. Saturday 8-1.

YARD SALE, 2401 Merrily. Friday & Saturday, 9:00-5:00. Knick-knacks, collectibles, antiques, furnishings, electronics, tools, clothing & more.

YARD SALE/ bake sale. 2510 Chanute. Fri. & Sat. 9am-? Lots of baby clothes. Preemie to 6T, boys and girls.

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A PROGRESSIVE growth oriented company is seeking applicants for a turn around job in Big Spring, TX. Applicants needed:

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Please send resumes to: Fax 337-836-0899 or Email: Berthad@smicompanies.com

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Fun Valley Family Resort in South Fork, Colorado needs **STUDENTS, YOUNG ADULTS and ADULTS** for the full season or part of the 2007 season for all types of jobs: Kitchen, dining room, housekeeping, stores, maintenance, horse wrangler, office. (Salary/room or RV site/meals/activities). **ADULTS** must have their own RV for their housing. **STUDENTS & YOUNG ADULTS** live in the girls or boys dorm. For information, write Personnel Director, Fun Valley Family Resort, 6315 Westover Drive, Granbury, TX 76049.

EVENING DISHWASHER supervisor. Apply in person 2401 S. Gregg. Good pay to the right person.

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Agency offers OJT, benefit package for all full and part-time employees. Applicants may apply at Lakeview Head Start 1107 NW 7th St. Big Spring, Tx. Positions will be opened until filled. Applications available on line @ www.gopb.org. All interviews will be held at the Administration Office at 206 W. 5th in Odessa, Tx.

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Please come by or send resume to: InHome Care, Inc. 1104 Scurry, Big Spring, Tx 79720.

LOCAL MANUFACTURING facility has a need for occasional janitorial relief duties. Hours will vary. Pay rate starts at \$10/hour. Could work into a permanent position. Must pass a drug screen. Apply with application at 1211 N. Midway Road, Sid Richardson Carbon and Energy Company. For questions, call (432)263-7389, ext. 25.

Help Wanted

LOCAL MANUFACTURING facility has an opening for a Clerk Position. Skills must include proficiency in MS Word, Excel, and Window based applications. Experience in warehouse and/or parts inventory desired but not required. Must pass a drug screen. Salary will be 20-25k depending on experience. Benefits package is available. Apply with application and resume at 1211 N. Midway Road, Sid Richardson Carbon and Energy Company. For questions, call 432-263-7389, ext. 25.

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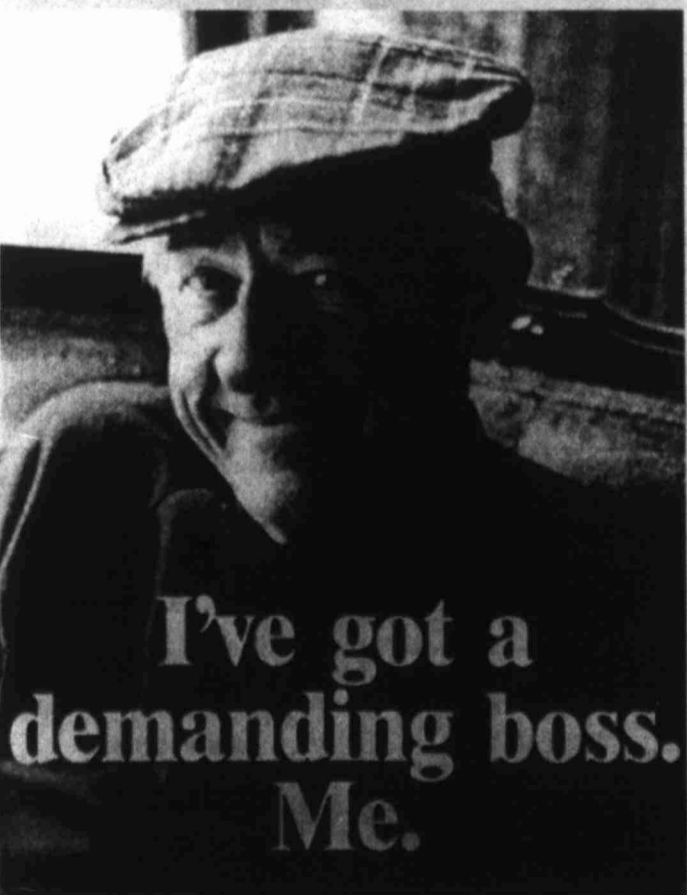
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BY HOLIDAY MATHIS
Tomorrow is the full moon and a total lunar eclipse in Virgo. So why am I mentioning it today? Because it would be such a shame to let this one go without acknowledging it — celebrating it, even — with some kind of personal ritual. Take 20 minutes to write down your wishes about simplifying, organizing and improving your life.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You don't mind being incorrect once in a while. In fact, today you'd prefer it if a loved one proved you wrong. You would even be gracefully silent as this person said, "I told you so!"

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Getting work or school life in order is easy because the only pressures on you are self-imposed. Exceptions will be made in your favor. A project gets the green light before the weekend is over.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Teamwork wins on all counts. Control-freaks alert: Squelch the urge to run the whole show.

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2000 SR5 Toyota 4 Runner SUV. \$10K. Black with gray leather. One Owner, 67,000 miles. Very Nice Condition. Call (432)213-1642.

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ANSWERS

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

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Bossiness sullies your charm. Libra and Aquarius people are your ideal helpers.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Can you be bought? Cash or other easily dispensed incentives will be dangled before you as a reward for doing what you really don't want to do. Be true to you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). When it comes to romance, you carry an innocent babe inside you no matter what age you are. You'd rather be naive than jaded. And that's why you're romantic to the point of worshipping your loved one now.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Though lately it seems that your memory has been extremely selective, each and every moment and experience of your life is internalized. If you really need to and want to remember, you will be able to.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Who cares about being cool? Your success rides on your ability to stay upbeat — and perhaps even corny. Let yourself glow with the real, loving smile in your heart.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Excellent prospects on the career front could change your financial outlook. You seem to be compensating by finding things to spend your not-yet-earned money on. Then again, you can't put fresh tea into a full teacup.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Nobody seems to mind if you slack off. You have to push yourself when others fall down on the job of motivating you. By digging down deep for

a little self-discipline, you prove yourself a leader.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The picture you paint in your mind may be unrealistic, but it sure is beautiful to behold. You could make it real just by gazing upon it. Everything in/existence was unreal at some point in history.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're inclined to indulge yourself in ways you seldom would allow yourself to enjoy. This could be costly. So what? You'll never regret treating yourself like royalty.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The stars, the facts and the popular opinion all point to the same thing: Everything will be all right. So calm down and lighten up. Lovingly and tenderly assure yourself that all is well.

WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST: ARIES: Take a break from being a two-some, and do things on your own. TAURUS: Clean your romantic plate for sweeter and more just desserts. GEMINI: Any half-completed or unclear commitments should be cleared up now.

CANCER: Romantic progress that has been hampered (by that person who's basically a pain) will now start flowing the way it's supposed to. LEO: If you don't compromise, you'll get your way, which is actually better for everyone. VIRGO: You and a loved one bond deeply when all of the gunk is out of the way. This is a "doing" matter as opposed to a "talking" matter. LIBRA: Your babe-in-the-woods inno-

cence attracts both wolves and angels — but you're wiser to the ways of love than you let on. **SCORPIO:** Relationships teach you what you're made of. **SAGITTARIUS:** Look for hot tips on the Internet or in a popular publication. **CAPRICORN:** The lengths you'll go to have fun ... doing what you thought you would never do is exciting. Take a walk on the wild side! **AQUARIUS:** Economize your social life. Throw a party and see 10 friends at once. **PISCES:** Nightlife is friendly and flirty, with numbers exchanged and promises to get together one of these days.

COUPLE OF THE WEEKEND: Aquarius and Gemini have so much in common, being two bright air signs who love to be wrapped up in a friendly conversation. The problem is that they fall more easily into an intellectual conversation or a fit of giggles than into a passionate embrace. This weekend, their passion is ignited. It's born out of respect, common interests and a little bit of jealousy due to third-party interference.

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

Dear Annie: I usually don't answer my husband's cell phone, but I picked it up while he was working in the garage. A woman said, "Hey, hon, how are ya?" I asked if she wanted to speak to my husband, and she slammed down the phone. I then asked my husband if he knew who she was, and he said it was a friend he sometimes helps with her tires. He is a truck driver.

I made note of the number and checked the cell phone bills. Apparently, the two of them have been talking quite a bit. He has her personal phone number, and he calls her more than he calls our home. After more questioning, he admitted this woman works in a strip club, but he says they only talk.

Does this sound like "just friends" to you? He claims the women in the strip club can't have relationships with the customers and he only goes in for coffee because the bar has the best around. Also, she's 22 and he's 52. What's your take on this?

— The Wife in the Dark
Dear Wife: He goes to a strip club for the coffee? We hope you haven't bought any bridges from him lately. Your husband has developed a relationship with this young woman that may or may not include sex, but it certainly includes more emotional intimacy than it should. Marriage counseling — with or without him.

Dear Annie: My 10-year-old son has friends over on a regular basis. The problem is, when the friends are here, they run in and out constantly. I don't mind them playing indoors, but they love to trash my son's room and never help clean up the mess. They want to play with toys that are intended to be used outdoors, and they play in every



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

room in the house instead of confining it to my son's room.

I always feed these boys lunch, but some of his friends act like they own our place. They open our refrigerator and pantry and get what they please. I have always taught my son that when he is a guest in someone's home, he is never to go into their refrigerator or pantry. That's the way my friends and I were raised. Do you have any suggestions? — Unruly Kids in Tennessee

Dear Tennessee: Your house sounds very welcoming to these boys. There is nothing wrong with setting rules, but since the parents of these children obviously have different ones, you must state what yours are and insist they be followed.

If you want the children confined to certain areas of the house, tell them. If they roam around, remind them. If they play with outdoor toys inside, take the toys away. If you want their help cleaning up, give them each a chore and supervise, making it clear (with a smile) that what isn't put away may not be available next time. Some parents don't mind the kids raiding the fridge, but if you object, say, "We don't do that here. If you're hungry, let me know, and I'll fix you something." Boys eat a

lot, so put out pretzels, carrots and sliced apples so they have plenty to nibble on. We urge you not to make too many rules or your home will become uninviting. This is one of those situations where it pays not to sweat the small stuff.

Dear Annie: I couldn't agree more that children recite the Pledge of Allegiance mostly from rote. In my first year of teaching, over 40 years ago, my bright seventh-grade class dutifully stood with hands on hearts and recited the pledge as they had been doing since kindergarten. I then asked them the meanings of the words: pledge, allegiance, republic, indivisible, liberty and justice. One student asked if liberty was like freedom, but no one had a clue what the other words meant.

I'd rather have young people say the pledge once, understand it and mean it, than mouth what to them are meaningless words every school day. — Retired Teacher

Dear Teacher: We agree that children should understand the meaning of what they recite, so they develop some feeling for it. Otherwise, it's just verbal static.

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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FRIDAY

	WFAA (2)	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KPBT (13)	DISC (20)	AMC (21)	SPIKE (22)	TNT (23)	BET (26)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)	SCIFI (30)
6	News (CC)	News Wheel-Fortune	Dueto de Pasiones	King of the Hill The Simpsons	News Entertainment	Vida de Blanco	News Be a Millionaire	Raymond Raymond	John Hagee	News-Lesher	Dirty Jobs (CC)	Movie: Misery	CSI: Crime Scene Invest.	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live (CC) Hollywood	That's Raven Zack & Cody	Karate: ISKA Karate: ISKA	NBA	Stargate SG-1 (CC)
7	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	La Fina Miss Bella	The 38th NAACP Image Awards (CC)	Ghost Whisperer	Marina	1 vs. 100 (CC)	Movie: Bandits (CC)	Update/Israel Alan Granger	Wash. Week NOW (CC)	Movie: Misery	CSI: Crime Scene Invest.	Movie: The Bourne Supremacy (CC)	Movie: The Bourne Supremacy (CC)	Movie: The Bourne Supremacy (CC)	Han Montana Cory in House	Kickboxing	NBA Basketball: Detroit Pistons at Miami Heat	Special Unit 2 (CC)
8	Wife Swap (CC)	Wife Swap (CC)	Mundo de Fieras	Becker (CC) Friends (CC)	Close to Home (CC)	Zorro - La Espada y la Rosa (CC)	Las Vegas (CC)	Light of the Southwest	Ballroom Chall	Jeopardy!	Jeopardy!	Movie: Misery	Pros vs. Joes	Supremacy (CC)	Movie: The Bourne Supremacy (CC)	Movie: The Bourne Supremacy (CC)	Boxing: Friday Night Fights	Detroit Pistons at Miami Heat	Special Unit 2 (CC)
9	20/20 (CC)	20/20 (CC)	Casos de la Vida Real	Becker (CC) Friends (CC)	NUMB3RS (CC)	Decisiones	Law & Order (CC)	40 Movie: Eraser (CC)	The Hour of Healing	Charlie Rose (CC)	Stunt Junkies	UFC 68 Countdown	Supremacy (CC)	Supremacy (CC)	Jamie Foxx Jamie Foxx	Zack & Cody That's Raven	SportsCenter (CC)	Basketball: Sacramento Kings at Los Angeles Lakers	Stargate SG-1 (CC)
10	News (CC) Nightline	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticias Univ.	70s Show Raymond	News Late Show	Not Telemundo Titulares y Mas	News Tonight Show	Eraser (CC)	The Hour of Healing	Charlie Rose (CC)	Stunt Junkies	UFC 68 Countdown	Supremacy (CC)	Supremacy (CC)	Jamie Foxx Jamie Foxx	Zack & Cody That's Raven	SportsCenter (CC)	Basketball: Sacramento Kings at Los Angeles Lakers	Stargate SG-1 (CC)
11	The Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	Inocognito	King of the Hill Malcolm-Mid.	Letterman Late Late	12 Corazones ¡Mi Ropa Viva!	Late Night	Global Force In-Crossairs	Sign Off	Dirty Jobs	Dirty Jobs	Whacked Out MXC	Whacked Out MXC	Whacked Out MXC	Whacked Out MXC	Han Montana Kim Possible	Gamernight NFL Live	NASCAR Now	John Doe (CC)
12	Live (CC) News (CC)	Extra (CC) Mercury Media	Guerra y Algo	Malcolm-Mid. My Wife-Kids	Show The Insider	Programa	Conan O'Brien Apex	12:15 Movie: Bandits (CC)	Update/Israel CCM Ministries	Lobsterman: Jeopardy!	Movie: Children	Game Head Inside the UFC	Decision (CC) (DVS)	BET After Dark (CC)	Proud Family Sister, Sister	NASCAR Now Kickboxing	SportsCenter (CC)	John Doe (CC)	

DENNIS THE MENACE



"How can I straighten my room? It's not crooked!"

BC

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Doesn't PJ look older with a mustache?"

3-2

HAGAR



BLONDIE



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Friday, March 2, the 61st day of 2007. There are 304 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On March 2, 1877, Republican Rutherford B. Hayes was declared the winner of the 1876 presidential election over Democrat Samuel J. Tilden, even though Tilden had won the popular vote.

On this date:
In 1807, Congress outlawed the importing of slaves to the United States, effective the following year.
In 1836, the Republic of Texas formally declared its independence from Mexico.
In 1899, Mount Rainier National Park in Washington state was established.
In 1917, Puerto Ricans were granted U.S. citizenship as President Wilson signed the Jones-Shafroth Act.

In 1939, Roman Catholic Cardinal Eugenio Pacelli was elected pope on his 63rd birthday; he took the name Pius XII.
In 1943, the World War II Battle of the Bismarck Sea began; U.S. and Australian warplanes were able to inflict heavy damage on a Japanese convoy.
In 1977, the U.S. House of Representatives adopted a strict code of ethics.
One year ago: President Bush and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh announced a landmark civilian nuclear cooperation deal in New Delhi. The Senate voted to renew the USA Patriot Act.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Jennifer Jones is 88. Bluegrass singer-musician Doc Watson is 84. Actor John Cullum is 77. Author Tom Wolfe is 77. Former Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev is 76. Actress Barbara Luna is 68. Actor Jon Finch is 66. Author John Irving is 65. Singer Lou Reed is 65. Actress Cassie Yates is 56. Actress Laraine Newman is 55. Sen. Russell Feingold, D-Wis., is 54. Singer Jay Osmond is 52. Pop musician John Cowshell (The Cowells) is 51. Tennis player Kevin Curren is 49. Country singer Larry Stewart (Restless Heart) is 48. Rock singer Jon Bon Jovi is 45. Actor Daniel Craig is 39. Rock musician Casey (Jimmie's Chicken Shack) is 31. Rock singer Chris Martin (Coldplay) is 30. Actress Heather McComb is 30. Actress Bryce Dallas Howard is 26. Actor Robert Iler ("The Sopranos") is 22.

Answer to previous puzzle

SLAM	RAVE	SUCKO
HULA	IVAN	EULER
ICON	GIST	ARIEL
RINGMASTERS	PLY	
EAGLE	REHAB	
ENOCH	DEANS	
MUSI	NATF	DEANS
APPT	TAIL	RAP
ROUTE	TURN	EDGY
ENDALL	PEDAL	
FRIAR	UTMOST	
PGA	CHAIN	LETTER
AORTA	CRAIG	RHEA
LEMON	EAVE	EENY
ESSES	SOYD	EROS

Newsday Crossword

NOTHING FURTHER by Doug Peterson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS
- 1 Much, informally
 - 6 Descendant
 - 11 Upper limit
 - 14 Prevaricator's admission
 - 15 Jeter's manager
 - 16 Tankard filler
 - 17 Town Car emblem?
 - 19 Badge metal
 - 20 Tennis follower
 - 21 ___ whim
 - 22 ___ boy!
 - 23 Fogg portrayer
 - 25 "Forget it!"
 - 27 Pesos near the pavement?
 - 32 Is over
 - 33 Sweet coating
 - 34 Panama, e.g.
 - 36 Actress Vardalos
 - 37 Put into service
 - 39 NBA Hall-of-Famer Unsel
 - 40 Gold, to Guillermo
 - 41 Playwright Stoppard
 - 42 Show's place
 - 44 Sitcom palomino
 - 45 Actor endorsed by Congress?
 - 49 Mediterranean feeder
 - 50 Netanyahu predecessor
 - 51 Far-ranging
 - 53 Floral necklace
 - 55 Nettles
 - 59 Lyrical tribute
 - 60 Upholstered instrument?

- DOWN
- 1 Country singer McCann
 - 2 Havana actress
 - 3 Like Albee's Alice
 - 4 Duel attendants
 - 5 Handsome youth
 - 6 RR stop
 - 7 Klink, for one
 - 8 Unyielding
 - 9 Form a union
 - 10 Prefix with classical
 - 11 Long-faced peak
 - 12 Hit the ground
 - 13 Lucy Lawless' role
 - 18 Jeans name
 - 22 LummoX
 - 24 Enter stealthily
 - 26 Till section
 - 27 Housing cost
 - 28 Leek relative
 - 29 First family
 - 30 Lollygag
 - 31 Propelled a dory
 - 35 Kerfuffle
 - 37 Gas or elec.
 - 38 Sneaker accessory
 - 43 Blue Ridge Mountains river
 - 44 Expertise
 - 46 Make a bow in
 - 47 Raised, as sheep
 - 48 Finches, perhaps
 - 51 Little wriggler
 - 52 Creative thought
 - 54 29 Down's home
 - 56 Disheveled dude
 - 57 "That's ___ ask"
 - 58 Booth payment
 - 60 American Idol music
 - 61 GPS-screen letters

BIG SPRING
VOLUME
By THO
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