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BIG SPRING

# HERALD

TUESDAY  
FEBRUARY 12, 2008



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 63

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## Wooing the voters

Forum gives public chance to meet the candidates

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

With just five minutes each to explain their platforms, local political hopefuls took to the stage at Big Spring Junior High School Monday night for a chance to reach out to area voters.

The candidate forum, sponsored by the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce's Government Affairs Committee, focused first on the race for Howard County Attorney, with incumbent Democratic candidate Mike Thomas taking the podium.

"I feel like I'm uniquely qualified to be your county attorney," said Thomas, who has served in the office for approximately 11

### Heflin, opponent Castro make stop in Big Spring

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

While the majority of the focus for the candidate forum hosted by the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Monday night was local politics, the last 10 minutes gave a pair of state candidates a chance to speak their mind.

Incumbent District 85 years and said he'd like to serve for another nine. "My undergraduate degree in college was in accounting. The county attorney

State Representative Joe Heflin (D-Crosbyton) and Republican challenger Isaac Castro took the stage during the forum to discuss a number of issues.

According to Heflin, much of his campaign is surrounding the promises

See **STOP**, Page 7A

to your views. I believe I have the experience and expertise to be your county attorney."

Thomas' opponent, Republican candidate Joshua Hamby, said his decision to run for the office came in the wake of the county jail debacle more than three years ago, convincing him it was time for a changing of the guard.

"I made up my mind three or four years ago over the new jail business," Hamby told the audience. "It forced me to pay attention to what was going on. I had a different take on some of the issues

See **FORUM**, Page 3A



Byrd Chase Jimenez Kight



Lesser A. Lopez C. Lopez

## The best they can bee

District spell-off set Wednesday afternoon

By **STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

Seven Big Spring Independent School District students will compete in the annual districtwide Spelling Bee Wednesday afternoon.

The bee will be held at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Big Spring Junior High School cafeteria-auditorium, according to Junior High School Librarian Robin Ritchey, coordinator of the event.

This marks the fifth year the district bee will be sponsored by the local school district, Ritchey said.

Moderating the event will be Elissa Medina-Bancroft, high school English teacher. School district officials Carie Dunnam, Donna Amonett and Peggy Skiles will serve as judges. Contestants will face a zero-tolerance policy

See **BEE**, Page 6A



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

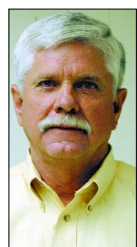
Howard County commissioners go over bids for asbestos abatement of a trio of buildings at the site destined for a new county jail facility during Monday's meeting.

## County gives go-ahead to asbestos removal

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners gave the go-ahead Monday to have a trio of buildings located on the site of the future jail facility abated for asbestos and demolished, moving forward with the \$11.57 million project.

Commissioners approved a \$39,352 bid for asbestos abate-



Simer

ment from Asbestos Removal Inc. which, when combined with consulting fees, will total approximately \$56,000 for the removal of the three buildings located in the 3600 and 3700 blocks of Highway

80. Commissioner Gary Simer expressed concern the expense — which was not a budgeted part of the project but will be covered using contingency funds — might put the county in a money crunch later. But according to project architect Jeff Heffelfinger, that's not the case.

"I feel very comfortable we can move ahead with the demolition of these buildings without getting in a bind," Heffelfinger told the court. "I feel very comfortable with the prices right now and the truth is I wouldn't have brought this to you like this if I were worried."

Heffelfinger said structural

problems with one of the buildings will actually help save the county money.

"I went in and looked at one of the buildings along with officials with the city and it's in such bad condition, they decided to condemn it," said Heffelfinger. "What that means

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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.

## State hospital volunteers want to call you sweetheart

By **VALERIE AVERY**  
Special to the Herald

Big Spring State Hospital volunteers are busy assembling valentines for those you want to remember on Valentine's Day. Whether it's your sweetheart, teacher, neighbor, co-worker, family member or a shut-in, the volunteers have just the right gift at a great price. They'll deliver it with a smile come Valentine's Day.



Christie-Morgan

Chair Kathy Sheppard and Max Ann Bowlin have spent the past month working diligently alongside numerous volunteers to see that products are designed, packed and ready for delivery.

"Everything is going good, however, we especially need help Feb. 14 to make deliveries in the community,"

Sheppard said. "This is my first year, but I understand that being a delivery person is just the most fun. Everyone is glad to see you, and you feel as if you've done something nice."

"While we limit our delivery area, my routine area is Coahoma," volunteer Shirley Bodin said. "It may be cold outside on the 14th, but my heart will be warm as I see the smiles on young and older faces when they see

that they've been remembered on Valentine's Day."

People enjoy volunteering for the valentine fund-raiser so much that they sometimes take a vacation day from work to help out, Community Relations Director Billie Christie-Morgan said. "Without the help of delivery volunteers like Jeannie Knocke and Laura McEwen, the delivery

See **VALENTINE**, Page 3A

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# Sports

**BIG  
SPRING HERALD**

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

Page 1B  
Tuesday, February 12, 2008

## IN BRIEF

### Crossroads high school varsity sports calendar TODAY

Grady girls basketball vs. Southland at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum, 8 p.m.

Sands girls basketball vs. Ropes at Lamesa Junior High School, 7 p.m.

Also being played at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum: Borden County vs. Sterling City, 6 p.m.

Big Spring softball vs. Odessa Permian, 4 p.m.

Coahoma boys basketball vs. Stamford, 7:30 p.m.

### FRIDAY

Big Spring softball at Lubbock Cooper, 4 p.m.

### MONDAY

Big Spring baseball at San Angelo Central, 4 p.m.

Coahoma baseball vs. Kermit, 6 p.m.

### TUESDAY

Big Spring softball vs. Midland Lee, 5:30 p.m.

Forsan softball vs. Grape Creek, 4 p.m.

Coahoma softball vs. Midland High, 7 p.m.

### FEB. 21

Big Spring softball, Forsan softball and Coahoma softball at West Texas Classic in Midland in tournament play through Feb. 23.

Coahoma baseball at Sonora Tournament through Feb. 23.

### Big Spring Girls Softball registration held every Saturday

The Big Spring Girls Softball Association begins registration for the 2008 youth softball season Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Mall across from Merle Norman. Girls ages 4 to 14 as of Jan. 1 are eligible to play.

Subsequent signup dates will be Feb. 23 and March 1.

Fee is \$45 with a \$5 discount for a second child.

Anyone with questions can call Luci Ramirez at 466-3670 or Rodney Jones at 213-3750.

### Big Spring Country Club schedules 4-person scramble

The Big Spring Country Club has scheduled a 4-person scramble for Feb. 23-24.

Entry fee is \$75 per player, plus golf cart fees, and includes a barbecue lunch on the course both days. Private carts are welcome.

Practice rounds are available Friday. The Field will be flighted by first-round score and the number of flights will be determined by the number of entries.

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

# Hawk women win in double overtime

By JONATHAN HULL

Herald Sports Editor

Howard College's women's basketball team came very close to experiencing a bad case of déjà vu in its 76-66 double-overtime win over Western Texas College's Lady Westerners Monday night at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

In the two squads' previous meeting Jan. 10, Western Texas trailed by 2 with 14 seconds left to play. The Lady Westerners' Iesha Everline grabbed an offensive rebound off of an initial WTC miss and laid it in as time expired, sending the game to overtime. Western Texas scored the first five points in the extra frame, securing a 52-48 victory.

A similar end to regulation occurred Monday. With 7.5 seconds left, Howard's Monica Jones made one of two free throws, putting the Hawks up 53-51. Western Texas quickly inbounded the ball and missed its initial chance to tie the game, but Trikeyia East grabbed the offensive rebound and hit a runner in the lane, tying the game at 53.

However, the similarities between the two games ended there. It was Howard's turn to overcome a small deficit with just seconds remaining in the first overtime period.

Candace Lambert worked her way to the free throw line twice in the final 25 seconds of the extra frame, connecting on three of four foul shots and tying the game up at 58. Lambert had a chance

to win it at the charity stripe on her last two attempts with three seconds left to play, but the first of her two shots rattled in and out.

A Western Texas half-court prayer wasn't answered, sending the game into a second overtime period.

Howard's Monica Jones pushed her team to a victory in the second extra frame, combining with Aqueelah Watkins to score the first six points of the period. After Watkins scored in the low post to open the five-minute quarter, Jones stole a pass on Western Texas' first two offensive possessions and converted for two easy layups.

With four minutes remaining and Howard leading 64-58, Western Texas finally got on the board in the period, but the score was immediately answered by Jones again. This time the sophomore forward grabbed an offensive rebound, dribbled it out behind the arch and then drove to the rim for another layup.

In all, Jones equaled Western Texas' eight-point output as Howard scored 18 in the second overtime for the 10-point victory.

"Give credit to Western Texas. They battled," Howard Head Coach Earl Diddle said. "They found a way to get back in the ball game. I knew it'd be a hard fought game because it was such a big game for Western, but it was obviously a big game for us, too."

Howard held an 11-point



HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull

Howard College Hawks forward Monica Jones (20) dribbles past a Western Texas defender in the Hawks' 76-66 double-overtime victory Monday night at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Jones had 26 points and 16 rebounds in a win that clinches a spot in the Region V Tournament for Howard.

lead, 30-19, at halftime, but Western Texas chiseled away at the deficit. The Lady Westerners used a 13-2 run, pulling

within striking distance, 48-47, with 2:18 remaining. Howard missed eight free throws during that stretch, providing some

assistance to the theatrics that ended regulation.

See **HAWKS**, Page 2B

# Howard rallies past Western Texas, 63-57

By JONATHAN HULL

Herald Sports Editor

One win away.

That's how close Howard College's Hawks are to clinching a return trip to the NJCAA Region V Tournament after defeating the Western Texas College Westerners, 63-57, Monday night at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

There was a huge contrast between Howard's previous meeting with Western Texas Jan. 10 in Snyder and Monday's contest.

In the first game, Howard scored the first nine points and pushed that lead to 28-7 by the 10-minute mark of the first half. The Hawks carried a 46-26 lead at halftime and the Westerners never responded.

However, it was Howard that was forced to respond Monday.

The Westerners held a 27-23 advantage at intermission and opened the second half with a 7-0 run, extending their lead to 34-23 with 18:10 remaining in the game.

Howard's response was loud and clear, though, as the Hawks turned up their defensive intensity, instigating a 15-4 run that tied the game at 38 with 11:41 left to play.

With the score tied at 46, the Hawks found one last run to seal the game. They finished an 8-0 run at 5:18 mark, grabbing a 54-46 advantage they'd never surrender.

"I think we rebounded a lot better in the second half," Adams said. "We learned our lesson in the first. I give our guys a lot of credit. It's hard to come from behind and battle that adversity. There's no one in particular that stood out more than anyone else. I thought our team effort was really good. I give a lot of credit to our defense and we executed a lot better in the second half."

Howard outrebounded the Westerners 24-15 in the second

half and 44-38 in the game. The Hawks also shot 50 percent from the floor as a team in the final 20 minutes, while holding Western to less than 35 percent for the game.

Sean Watson scored 19 of his game-high 24 points in the second half.

Corey Allmond shot 50 percent from the field in scoring 15 points.

Corteze Isaac led the Hawks with seven rebounds and finished the game with 10 points.

One of the reasons Howard had a more difficult time in this meeting compared to the first, according to Hawks Head Coach Mark Adams, was the team's inability to get into a fast break offense.

"Western is big and strong and they like to play to their strength," Adams said. "We don't like to get into slugfests like that, but that's what this turned into. We don't have a lot of depth inside so they gave us some problems. It just wasn't the type of game we like to play."

Western Texas was led by Derek Williams' 19 points. Williams' ability to penetrate the lane bothered the Hawks' defense throughout the second half. Jermydrell Bruton complimented Williams with 11 points and Chris Ajayi had a game-high 10 rebounds.

The Hawks (20-6, 9-3) host New Mexico Military Institute (6-17, 1-9) Thursday at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

A victory for Howard clinches a trip to Belton for the Region V Tournament scheduled for March 6-9.

"We're not there yet, but we're definitely getting close," commented Adams.

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



HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull

Howard College's Sean Watson pushes the ball up the court in the Hawks' 63-57 victory over Western Texas College Monday at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Watson led all scorers with 24 points.



Obituaries

Correction

Elva Olague



Elva Olague, 78, of Big Spring died Sunday, Feb. 10, 2008, in Regency Hospital of Odessa. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2008, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with the Rev. James Plagens officiating. Burial will be at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

Elva was born July 20, 1929, in Marfa to Magdalena and Felix Rubio Sr.

She was a lifetime resident of Big Spring. Elva married Diego N. Olague Jan. 23, 1949, in Big Spring. He preceded her in death on June 28, 2006. In addition to being a homemaker, she also worked as a housekeeper and worked at Parkhill Terrace Apartments. She was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

Elva is survived by three sons, Diego Olague Jr. and his wife, Norma, of Edinburg and Orlando Olague and his wife, Priscilla, and Arthur Olague and his wife, Cruz, all of Big Spring; nine grandchildren, Lisa Salinas and her husband, Robert, Suzanne Olague, John Olague and Diego Olague, all of Edinburg, Tessa Olague and her husband, Gary Watkins, and Adrian Olague, all of Big Spring; Orlando Olague Jr. and his wife, Jessica, of Arlington, Arthur Olague Jr. and his wife, Heather, of Oxford, Miss., and Aaron Olague and his wife, Nikki, of Odessa; 14 great-grandchildren, Aaron Michael Olague, Shawn Marcus Olague, Jazmyn Salinas, Darian Salinas, Nathan Salinas, Rihanna Machelle Olague, Gabriella Olague, Bella Grace Olague, Eli Estaban Olague, Maddison Michelle Olague, Justin Blake Olague, Gary Dean Watkins, Kaeman Watkins and Brinly Brooke Watkins; four brothers, Ismael Rubio and Raul Rubio and his wife, Sara, all of Big Spring, Felix Rubio Jr. and his wife, Petra, and Domingo Rubio and his wife, Minnie, all of Denver, Colo.; four sisters, Esperanza Rodriguez and her husband, Charlie, Viola Lopez and Lydia Herrera, all of Big Spring, and Connie Valdez of Dallas; and a sister-in-law, Cruz Rubio of Big Spring.

In addition to her parents and husband, Elva was preceded in death by two brothers, Francisco "Chico" Rubio Sr. and Benito Rubio Sr. and his wife, Josephine.

Pallbearers will be John Anthony Olague, Diego Sebastian Olague, Arthur Olague Jr., Aaron Olague, Adrian Olague, Justin Blake Olague and Orlando Olague Jr. Honorary pallbearers will be Nathan Salinas, Gary Watkins Jr., Aaron Michael Olague, Shawn Marcus Olague, Mark McKiski, Ismael Rubio and Ben Rubio Jr.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersandsmith.com](http://www.myersandsmith.com).

*Paid obituary*

Catalina Lomas



Catalina Lomas, 87, of Big Spring died Sunday, Feb. 10, 2008, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2008, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with Deacon Johnny Arguello officiating. Burial will be at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

She was born Nov. 25, 1920, in El Paso to Jesusita and Jose Gonzales. She lived most of her life in Howard County. She was a homemaker and a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

She is survived by two sons, Jose Lomas and Chavelo G. Lomas, both of Big Spring; two daughters, Janie Charles and her husband, Jesse, of Katy and Hope O'Campo and her husband, Lee, of Houston; one brother, Manuel Gonzales and his wife, Eva, of Big Spring; one sister, Isabel Mata and her husband, Jose, of Big Spring; 15 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandson.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Luciano S. Lomas, in 1981; one daughter, Rosita Lomas; one son, Luciano Lomas Jr.; and one grandson, Tony Lomas.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [myersandsmith.com](http://myersandsmith.com).

Lucy Bonner

Lucy Bonner, 80, of Big Spring died Sunday, Feb. 10, 2008, in an Odessa hospital. Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 14, 2008, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends at the funeral home Wednesday from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Survivors include her husband, Wayne Bonner of Big Spring; one daughter and son-in-law, Gwynn and Dennis Jump of Denton; one son, Greg C. Bonner of Boulder Creek, Calif.; one sister, Mary Ruble of San Antonio; one daughter-in-law, Sabrina Bonner of Mineral Wells; and four grandchildren.

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

Rena McDowell

Rena McDowell, 62, of Big Spring died Monday, Feb. 11, 2008, at her residence. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Jose C. Gutierrez



Rosary for Jose C. Gutierrez, 89, of Lubbock will be held at 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10, 2008, at Calvillo Funeral Home Chapel. Funeral mass was held at 10 a.m. Monday, Feb. 11, at St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church with the Rev. Jim O'Connor officiating. Burial was at Resthaven Cemetery under the direction of Calvillo Funeral Home.

Mr. Gutierrez died Friday, Feb. 8, 2008. He was born on July 17, 1918, in Marfa to the late Salome and Manuela Gutierrez. He married Maria Rosales in 1940 in Big Spring. He had farmed in and around Ropesville for many years before retiring. He moved to Lubbock in 1997, coming from Ropesville. He was a Catholic. He is preceded in death by two brothers, Jesus Gutierrez and Manuel Gutierrez, and three sisters, Margarita Heredia, Carlotta Rodriguez and Barbarita Garcia.

Survivors include his wife, Maria Gutierrez of Lubbock; four sons, Manuel Gutierrez and wife, Lidia, of Shallowater, Paul Gutierrez and wife, Eva, of Lubbock, John Gutierrez and wife, Christy, of Lubbock and Joe Gutierrez of Littlefield; six daughters, Lorraine and husband, Jose Santos, of Lubbock, Elena Gutierrez of Tennessee, and Eva Gutierrez, Elidia Cavazos, Susana Gutierrez and Victoria Ovalle, all of Lubbock, two brothers, Silverio Gutierrez and Alfredo Gutierrez, both of Big Spring; four sisters, Josefita Uranga, Maria Gonzales and Lupe Brito, all of Big Spring; Elisa G. Brito of Lovington, N.M.; 34 grandchildren; 48 great-grandchildren; and 26 great-great-grandchildren.

Police blotter

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

- **THOMAS BRADBERRY**, 40, of 2705 Ann, was arrested Monday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- **DAVID MCGRUDER**, 60, of 1202 E. Third Street Apt. 17, was arrested Monday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- **CECIL SHERMAN**, 42, of 1403 Oil Mill Road, was arrested Monday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- **ALMUS HILL**, 64, of 200 N.W. Second Street, was arrested Monday on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **BETTY MUNIZ**, 42, of 406 S. Lancaster, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **DARREN HEFFINGTON**, 38, of 1412 W. Third Street, was arrested Tuesday on six local warrants.
- **JAMES BROWN**, 45, of 1222 W. Third Street, was arrested Tuesday on a local warrant.
- **WELDON DANIELS**, 43, of 910 W. Fourth Street Apt. 2, was arrested Tuesday on 10 local warrants and a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- **FRAUDULENT USE/POSSESSION OF IDENTIFYING INFORMATION** was reported in the 400 block of Fourth Street.
- **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported in the 400 block of Fourth Street.
- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 500 block of Goliad.
- **ASSAULT BY CONTACT** was reported in the 2700 block of Cindy.

Sheriff's report

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 46 inmates at the time of this report.
- **HEATHER MCNEW**, 32, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of possession of a dangerous drug.
  - **JOHNNY LARRY MERRICK**, 62, was arrested Monday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated - third or more offense.
  - **MICHAEL MARTINEZ**, 23, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for consumption of alcohol by a minor - third or more offense.
  - **DOLORES VICTORIA RIVERA**, 25, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a warrant for theft.
  - **JOHN ANTHONY GALAVIZ**, 28, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of burglary of a vehicle.
  - **DAVID ARGUELLO JR.**, 26, was arrested Monday

In the Feb. 7, 2008, edition of the *Big Spring Herald*, the following individuals were reported as having been arrested and transported to the Howard County Jail:

- **Juan Jose Acuna Jr.**, 24, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of resisting arrest, search or transportation.
- **David Anthony Juarez**, 21, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of unlawful restraint.
- **Jacob Ray Savage**, 20, was arrested Wednesday by DPS on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- **Jeneane Nichol Richard**, 21, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of harassment.
- **Jack Milton Broughton**, 53, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on charges of theft (two counts).
- **Sheila Ray Richardson**, 42, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of theft of service by check - more than \$500 less than \$1,500.
- **Quincy Lamar Henry**, 18, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on charges of failure to identify - giving false information, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of a controlled substance.
- **Darrell Scott Shultz**, 24, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on charges of possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

This information was provided to the *Herald* incorrectly by the HCSO, instead reflecting arrests made and reported Jan. 6 - Jan. 7. The *Herald* apologizes for any inconveniences this may have caused. The report should have read as follows:

- **LARRY GUTIERREZ**, 34, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- **DANIEL FREDRICK HEMBREE**, 40, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of violation of parole - blue warrant.
- **VICTOR MANUEL DEHOYOS**, 27, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid.
- **KELLY DAWN FORSHEE**, 39, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- **ALEJANDRO RAMIREZ**, 58, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated - third or more offense.
- **VINCENT EARL PARRAMORE**, 41, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of theft.
- **JAMIE LEE ATKINSON**, 39, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for theft, judgment/sentence for unlawfully carrying a weapon, judgment/sentence for terroristic threats of a family/household, a motion to revoke probation for harassment (two counts), a motion to revoke probation for terroristic threats, a motion to revoke probation for criminal trespass of a habitation and capias pro fines for criminal trespass.
- **BALINDA TURNER GONZALEZ**, 30, was arrested Wednesday by DPS on charges of disregarding a stop sign, no liability insurance and failure to control speed.
- **RAMIRO VELAZQUEZ BANUELOS**, 35, was arrested Wednesday by DPS on a charge of probation violation - theft of service.
- **LESLIE MARIE SMITHWICK**, 23, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana - more than two ounces less than four ounces.
- **AMANDA LYNN PERRYMAN**, 40, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on charges of bondsman off bond for possession of a controlled substance, possession of a controlled substance - meth with a motion to proceed with adjudication of guilt.

by the HCSO on charges of bondsman off bond for driving while license invalid and bail jumping/failure to appear.

- **DAVID ARNULFO GARZA**, 44, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of failure to appear - driving while intoxicated (third or more offense) and violation of a protective order.
- **GARY MONTEL STEPHENSON**, 46, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid - enhanced.
- **KENNATH MICHAEL MCPHERSON**, 17, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less and Texas Youth Commission parole violation.
- **CINDY RENAE ALEXANDER**, 29, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of delivery of a controlled substance, making a false report to a police officer and theft.

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# Longhorns hand Jayhawks second loss

By JIM VERTUNO  
AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN — As basketball's traditional rivalries go, Texas-Kansas still has a way to go to be considered among the nation's best.

It would be very difficult, however, to find two teams who have played more exciting games the last few years. Monday night was just the latest installment of what has quickly become the Big 12's marquee matchup.

Damion James scored 12 points and grabbed 13 rebounds in the second half, giving No. 11 Texas the muscle it needed to bang with the bigger Jayhawks under the basket, lifting the Longhorns to a 72-69 win.

James finished with 14 points after playing only three minutes of the first half with foul trouble. Connor Atchley, who surprised No. 3 Kansas by hitting four 3-pointers, led Texas (20-4, 7-2) with 16 points and A.J. Abrams added 14 points.

"Seeing my team fight without me, it was hard because if it's a fight, I want to be out there," James said.

Darrell Arthur scored 22 to lead the Jayhawks (23-2, 8-2), who lost for just the second time in 33 regular season games dating back to last season.

Texas and Kansas have played some of the most exciting league games in recent years — their two

meetings last year decided the Big regular season and tournament titles — and Monday night was no different.

This one wasn't as high scoring as when these teams usually get together, but it lived up to its expectations in terms of big plays and big shots.

"I liked last year's outcome better," Kansas coach Bill Self said. "It's a game in our mind that we circle."

Texas even rolled out some football mojo to fire up the sellout crowd: Vince Young, the quarterback of the 2005 national championship team sat a few seats down from iconic coach Darrell Royal. Aaron Ross, a rookie safety with the Super Bowl champion New York Giants, was introduced to the crowd before the game and sat next to Mack Brown.

"We all could feel it. The crowd was there early in our shoot-around. I think that really helped us out," Texas guard Justin Mason said. Mason chipped in nine points and eight rebounds.

On the court, the Longhorns and Jayhawks bulled their way through a game dominated by the Jayhawks' physical front line and Texas' 3-point shooters.

Texas led most of the first half, its best weapon coming in the form of the lanky 6-foot-10 Atchley, who stepped out for his 3-pointers and had three

big blocks on defense. "It's a lot easier to make it when you dare him to shoot it," Self said of the Kansas defense that left Atchley open. "It surprises anybody when you go 4-4 from 3s."

Kansas kept throwing bodies at the basket, wearing down Texas with dunks and outrebounded the Longhorns 23-13 in the first half. The Jayhawks trailed until Brandon Rush tied it with a long 3-pointer and followed it with a layup. Consecutive baskets by Arthur helped put Kansas up 42-38 at halftime.

The fun was just getting started.

The Jayhawks started taking quick shots and the rail-thin Atchley, turning his shooting touch into a power game, twice went up for two-handed dunks.

James, who picked up two quick fouls in the first four minutes of the game, was a force in the second, grabbing two quick rebounds and hitting a 3-pointer as Texas regained the lead 50-48.

"He came out in the second half real hot," Arthur said. "He came out extra aggressive because he had to sit on the bench so long."

With James in the game, that rebounding edge Kansas enjoyed completely disappeared. Texas outrebounded Kansas 23-12 in the second half.

The teams were tied or

traded the lead four times over the next six minutes before Abrams dropped in a soft floater. D.J. Augustin, who missed his first nine attempts, then dribbled through three defenders to beat the shot clock with a layup and a 62-57 Texas lead with 5:30 to play.

Augustin stripped Sherrod Collins on Kansas' ensuing possession and Mason's putback put Texas up by seven.

Everything went right for Texas to close it out: James soared over Arthur to slam home a rebound to make it 66-61 and stellar defensive play down the stretch won it.

The Longhorns led 67-64 when the Jayhawks set up Rush in the left corner for a 3-pointer. Abrams, who at 5-11 is seven inches shorter than rush, leaped to deflect the shot with 50 seconds left.

"He got some separation and I tried to contest it. I got three good fingers on it," Abrams said.

Kansas got within two on Mario Chalmers' 3-pointer with 32 seconds left and had one last chance to tie after Augustin missed a free throw with 8 seconds left. Chalmers' final desperation shot from the left wing bounced off the rim after the final buzzer.

"It was a bad possession because we had something we wanted to run and we took the ball to the wrong side and it killed the play," Self said.



AP photo/Harry Cabluck  
Texas forward Damion James slams in an offensive rebound during the second half against Kansas Monday in Austin. James scored 12 points and grabbed 13 rebounds in the second half, helping Texas win 72-69.

## HAWKS

Continued from Page 1B

Jones ended with a double-double, totaling 26 points and 16 rebounds along with seven steals.

"Monica got us going in the second overtime," Diddle said.

"We turned the heat up defensively and got some easy baskets. We ended the overtime period with more energy than we started with. That's a good thing."

East led Western Texas with 15 points and 15 rebounds, including nine offensive boards. Marah Guzman chipped in 14 points and Sirena

Medrano and Sharena Wilson each added 13.

Jotosha McDonald hit for 17 points and led the team with four assists. Danielle Cota made seven of the 10 field goals for 14 points and Lambert finished with 11 points and eight rebounds.

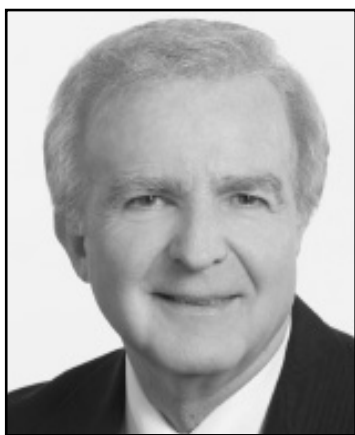
The victory clinches a spot in the NJCAA Region V tourna-

ment for Howard. It will be the Hawks first trip to regionals since 1999.

"It's a great goal," Diddle said. "After where we started three years ago, to be in the regional tournament is really big. We're concentrating on trying to be the best team we can. That's our ultimate goal." The Howard women (22-5, 8-3)

won't return to action until Monday, when they travel to Hobbs, N.M., to battle New Mexico Junior College (3-21, 1-8).

Contact Sports Editor Jonathan Hull by calling 263-7331, ext. 237, or by e-mailing him at [sports@bigspringherald.com](mailto:sports@bigspringherald.com).

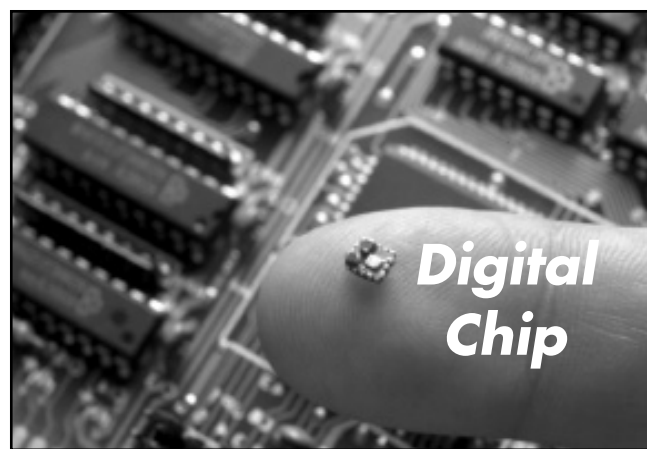


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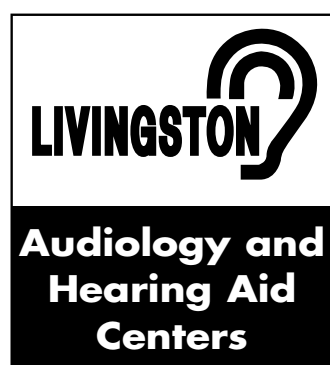
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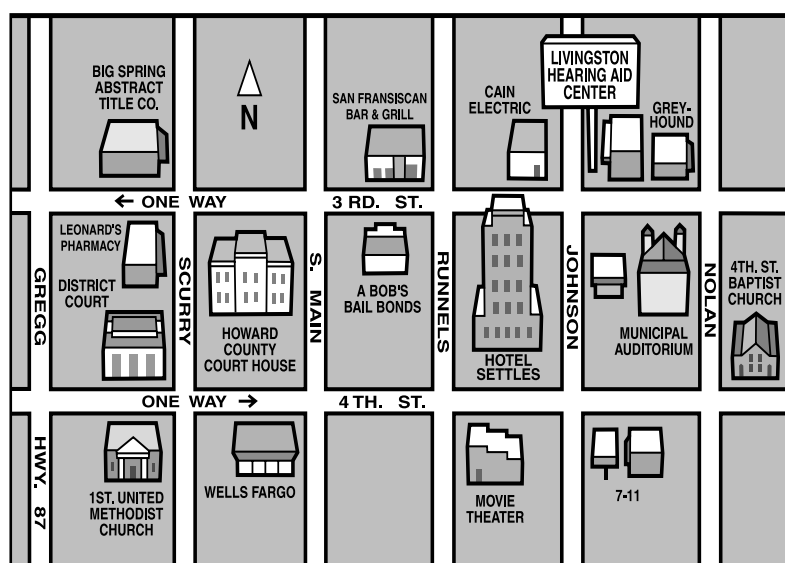
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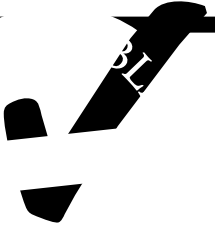


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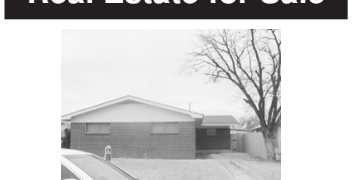
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**Tomorrow's Horoscope**

**BY HOLIDAY MATHIS**

The Taurus moon goes back to basics, gently reining us in from a million directions and moving us toward our simpler natures. A thing may be fun or exciting, but what sustains our interest and our focus is the uncomplicated bliss it brings. A life that allows us to really relax and to enjoy one another's company lies at the heart of the jewel.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). Friends tenderly play your heartstrings. A manipulation? Perhaps, but an effective one. Sooner or later, though, you have to go back to work. Make it later. Loved ones need your attention.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). You don't have to look for inspiration. It finds you — it caresses your mind while you sleep, visits you while you're driving, sneaks up on you while you're walking. Share your vision with a receptive Leo.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Some people's choices, you just don't understand. Still, you have to live with them. It takes all of the compassion you can muster in order to communicate clearly with these people, but do. There's something valuable at stake.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). It's safe to let strong emotions take over your sense of reason. Euphoric feelings motivate you to go to great lengths to please someone you're enamored with. It works.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). Tally up your treasures. Once you account for them, you'll feel much better about your growing desire to add something new to your collection. The last step is to give something away to make space for what you want to drop in.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You don't easily give up, and yet you're not sure if a current effort is really necessary. Just when you're about to throw in the towel, Capricorn gives the encouragement you need to keep going.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Loved ones have their own ideas about fun and may try to include you in something that's typically not for you. Be open-minded and you may just stumble onto a new side of yourself.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Phone calls are so interesting. You think you know your relatives well, but what you learn now makes you look at them in a whole different way. Aquarius and Virgo provide particularly scintillating information.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). No matter how motivated you normally are, today it feels hard to drag and click yourself through to 5 o'clock. Set a deadline for a project that seems difficult. The ticking clock is a motivator.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're an excellent spokesperson for anything you believe in. Presentations go well. There is discussion of a permanent, mutually beneficial collaboration.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You can see the finish line ahead — this is no time to slow down! Reach into your soul for the energy to sprint through the ribbon. A Cancer friend helps you rally through.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). You're totally unaware of your influence on others, which is overwhelmingly appealing. Tonight, handle money first so that financial issues don't get in the way of romance.

**ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS:** "I have been dating man after man, and I have yet to find anyone I am compatible with mentally and physically. Will the coming year be different for me? I am a Scorpio, born Oct. 29, 1978."

A Scorpion with prowess, you are a force for attracting what and who you want. With your Venus and Mars in your sun sign, you are as charming as you are fierce, as sensual as you are seductive. And enviably, you don't need to work as hard to win anyone's affection — yet you do. Know that a powerfully bewitching Scorpio woman can be as mesmerizing as she is threatening to the male ego, so occasionally softening your approach is the right track. Instead of diving right in, hang back and give him a chance to reveal himself to you. You need to trust your innate animal magnetism to draw him in. Harness your desire by using your formidable mental focus to visualize (specifically) the qualities and attributes of your dream man. Happily, smart Uranus in Pisces transits your Venus this March, and through most of the year, the IQ of your dates ramps up a few points, along with the sexy chemistry.

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** Aquarian moms like Sheryl Crow won't fall into any stereotypical role in life, including motherhood — she'll do the mom thing differently, making up her own rules as she goes along. Yet it's her Virgo moon, not her sun, that tells us about her motherhood style. While she's a meticulous and conscientious caregiver for Wyatt, Sheryl is nurtured by the personal growth motherhood inspires.

*Holiday Mathis is the author of "Rock Your Stars." If you would like to write to her, 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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**ANSWERS**

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

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**FORUM**

Continued from Page 1A

they faced, and I felt there were some poor decisions made. I felt I could do a better job. I think I bring a new perspective to the to the position."

Hamby also said if he is elected, he will crack down on cases of driving while intoxicated, taking a no-leniency stance.

The race for Howard County sheriff was the next to find itself in the spotlight, as Democratic candidate Pat Carter took the stage.

"The office of sheriff should stand for honesty and integrity," said Carter, a Vietnam veteran and former deputy with the sheriff's office. "We should have law and order for all. We must never forget why we want to be sheriff. Spending has to be brought under control and I'm the person that can get that done."

Leading the way for the Republican candidates for sheriff was Stan Parker, a former Big Spring Police Department officer and local business operator.

"When I chose to run for sheriff, I took a trip to Lamb County where they just got through building a jail similar to the one we're getting ready to build," said Parker. "I wanted knowledge on what to expect. The people that work for the HCSO are good people and I look forward to working with them."

"I believe in being proactive in law enforce-

ment and being involved with your neighbors. I feel we can build a productive, cost-effective sheriff's office and not waste your hard-earned money."

Gary Morgan, a veteran from Tennessee who has made Howard County his home for the past four years, was the next Republican candidate to speak.

"I run a very good life safety program at the Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez State Veterans Home," said Morgan. "I want to make sure the men and women of the sheriff's office have the best training and equipment so they can do their job. I have a \$1 million budget at the State Veterans Home and I run it very efficiently. That's very important to me. I lost a 23-year-old son over drugs and that's one of the reasons I'm running for this office."

Incumbent Sheriff Dale Walker, who recently switched from the Democratic Party to the GOP, was the next to speak and spent much of his time defending the work he's done on the sheriff's office and jail budget over his eight-year tenure.

"Our budget has increased, but I'm willing to bet yours has too," said Walker. "When I took office, one of the first things we had to do was separate out the sheriff's office and the jail budgets, which were intermingled. Since that time, however, gas prices have increased 145 percent.

"I will not compromise the safety of the citizens of Howard County or the officers who serve them. We cover 900 square miles and I feel like everyone in that area is entitled to the same services, not just those who live close to town. It's easy to sit by and say what you will do, but no other candidate has the experience that I have."

While incumbent Emma Brown, Democratic candidate for Precinct 1 on the Howard County Commissioners Court, was unable to attend the forum, her fellow Democrat and opponent this March, Yolanda Mendoza, said her platform for the race is clear.

"I'm not much at speaking, but I get my point across," Mendoza told the audience. "I will be there for the constituents, to listen and represent them. I was born and raised in Big Spring... and I like my job with the county clerk's office, but I feel like I can do more."

The lone Republican candidate for the Precinct 1 seat, Ed Ware, said this is his second shot at the political office and feels changes need to be made for the county to move forward.

"Everyone has been telling me it's time for a change," said Ware. "So I decided to step up and run again. I'm asking for your vote to help turn Howard County around."

All five candidates for the Precinct 3 seat on the commissioners court took a turn at the podium with lone Democratic candi-

date James Dick Dubose being the first to speak.

"My platform is simple. It's common sense," said Dubose, who is a Garden City High School graduate and longtime Howard County resident. "If it's not broke, don't fix it. If you can't afford it, don't buy it. I spent 30 years as a firefighter and when I retired, we could have gone anywhere. We decided to stay in Howard County because this is where I want to be. I'll be a full-time county commissioner, because that's what you are paying for."

Republican candidate Winston Paschal Odom spoke extensively of his experience as an engineer during the forum and said he feels he can best represent county citizens if elected.

"I will represent all county citizens, regardless of where they live," said Odom. "I will be a full-time employee. I would be honored to be elected."

Fellow Republican candidate Steve Gray, superintendent of the city of Big Spring's mechanical garage, said he can bring excellent managerial skills to the office.

"We run a tight ship at the garage," said Gray. "My place doesn't see turnover. I have an open work policy. I love to hear good ideas and new ideas on how to run things. I don't care about the fame or notoriety. I would see to it the people get the biggest bang for their buck."

Republican candidate

Fred Green, owner and operator of KC Steakhouse for the past 30 years, said it's time to bring some business sense to the commissioner's court.

"It's time to run the county like a business," said Green. "We need financial accountability in all county offices. We need to take care of problems when they occur, not put them off. And we need to maintain a healthy reserve fund."

Fellow Republican candidate Jimmy Long, a lifelong Howard County resident, said he's had his nose in the county's books dating back prior to 2000.

"I've been looking at budgets all the way back to '99, and these are problems that can be fixed," said Long. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. We have to take a good, strong look at the budget. And we have to maintain a balanced budget."

"If we don't make these corrections now, we'll be right back before the voters in four years asking them to approve another large bond project."

The final race to garner the spotlight Monday night was the race for Howard County Constable, Precinct 1, with incumbent Democratic candidate Bill Holden speaking first.

"I've been in law enforcement in Texas for 20 years," said Holden. "My office has not been utilized by the county in the way it should be, but

I'm hoping with the ideas of the commissioners, it can be better used. I have a big desire to serve people of the county and, given the opportunity, I will do the best I can."

Republican opponent Kneel B. Stallings, a former trooper with the Department of Public Safety, said he feels the position will allow him to serve two very special purposes in his life.

"I enjoyed working in law enforcement, but I left to spend more time with my family," said Stallings. "As constable, I feel I would be able to serve the community and still have time for my family life."

Early voting in the political primaries will begin Feb. 19 at the Howard County Courthouse.

**MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL**

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Clifton Griffin, 63, died Thursday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Delia Lopez, 76, died Friday, February 08, 2008, in Lubbock. Funeral Services will be at 2:00 PM Tuesday at St. Thomas Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Elva Olague, 78, died Sunday. Funeral Services will be at 10:00 AM Wednesday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. Vigil Services will be at 7:00 PM Tuesday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

Catalina Lomas, 87, of Big Spring died Sunday. Funeral Services will be at 2:00 PM Wednesday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. Vigil Services will be at 7:00 PM Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

**VALENTINE**

Continued from Page 1A

task would seem impossible. They know the location of every street in town."

Valentines, stuffed animals, serenades and more are available from the Big Spring State Hospital Volunteer Services Council for Valentine's Day.

"We have a large selection this year and even added many one-of-a-kind, cash-and-carry items for that special someone on your list," Sheppard said. "These are going fast and we have a limited number so come by the Community Relations Office soon."

Cash-and-carry items are available at Wells Fargo Bank, Howard College, First Bank of West Texas-Big Spring and Citizens Federal Credit Union.

JoBeth Corwin is chairing the singing telegram

volunteers. She has recruited five teams of four or five singers. These volunteers will serenade people in their homes, restaurants and places of employment for a \$20 donation.

"It's really rewarding to sing at the nursing homes and to shut-ins," singer Joe Whitten said.

Each person who receives a singing telegram is serenaded with a song and given a

heart-shaped box of candy. Song selections range from serious to romantic to humorous. A limited number of slots are available for the singing telegrams, Christie-Morgan said.

Deliveries are free or items may be viewed and picked up at the Community Relations Office.

For more information, call 268-7536, 268-7271 or 268-7533.

**CORRECTION NOTICE**

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# EDITORIAL

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-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

### Moore Board's vote on runway project is right

The Moore Development for Big Spring Inc. Board of Directors voted last week to spend an additional \$400,000 on efforts to re-pave the runway at the Big Spring Airport, bringing its total commitment to the project to \$800,000. We applaud that decision.

The additional funding was made necessary when city officials decided to increase the scope of the project, which is funded in part by the Texas Department of Transportation.

While Moore Development budgeted \$400,000 for the project more than a year ago, plans at that time called for a runway that was 7 inches deep. The total project cost at that time was \$6.26 million with TxDOT providing 90 percent of that funding, \$5.6 million.

When officials looked at the project and decided they were interested in being able to land larger planes at the airport, they realized would take an 11-inch thick runway, which would cost approximately \$800,000 more than the 7-inch thick project. City promptly agreed to fund \$400,000 of the difference and asked Moore Development to provide the remainder.

The additional four inches of concrete would allow larger aircraft — such as the 150,000-pound Boeing 737 — to land at the facility.

Moore Executive Director Terry Wegman said the increase in the depth of the runway offers a considerable economic development tool for the firm.

"When we began considering the increase in funding, we talked to a number of different officials — the governor's office, officials formerly with Boeing, an aircraft refinishing company — to see what kind of opportunities they saw in it," said Wegman. "They all agreed it would help Big Spring's marketability and could open some doors for us."

While there are no guarantees with such a project — a point Wegman made clear during the Moore Board's discussions — there is no question that improving the marketability of the McMahan-Wrinkle Airpark and Big Spring Airport is a forward-thinking move. And that is exactly what economic development groups are supposed to do — make their communities more attractive to potential industry.

We have, at times been critical of decisions made by the Moore Board, but in this instance, we believe spending another \$400,000 on this project is not only wise, but mandatory.

### 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

*When we are thoroughly challenged by everything, Lord, please help us.*

Amen

# The kiddie wing of the GOP

As Team Romney talked up the prospect of a Romney surge leading up to Super Tuesday, I envisioned my worst nightmare: A Hillary Clinton/Mitt Romney contest.

A Clinton/Romney race, no doubt, was a Democratic operative's dream, starring the easiest Republican to beat.

The Dems could have dusted off all of the 2004 campaign spots on John Kerry's flip-flops and revamped them with Romney as the wind-surfer, shifting positions on a number of issues — and I'd be stuck arguing that, flip-flopping aside, Romney would be better on Iraq.

Now, I can breathe a sigh of relief.

If Clinton wins, she'll be easier to beat than Barack Obama. Polls — for what they're worth — suggest Clinton or Obama could beat any Republican, unless there is a Clinton/McCain face-off, in which case, McCain could win. And McCain is the man to take on Clinton's support for the Iraq war, when it was popular, and her opposition to a troop surge that reduced U.S. and Iraqi casualties, when it was not.

And if Obama wins the nod, at least Clinton won't be president and the country won't have to go through four more years of the Hillary-As-Victim soap opera.

In an odd plot twist last week, conservative warrior Ann Coulter said that if McCain is the GOP nominee, she would campaign for

Clinton because Clinton is "more conservative" than McCain.

Now, McCain is not always a good conservative. Witness his sponsorship of proposed — and wrong-headed — global-warming legislation. And McCain rankled conservatives, not only by pushing for amnesty for illegal immigrants last year, but worse, by compounding that mistake when he dismissed critics as emotional and undignified.

But McCain has been solid on Iraq. He wants to make the Bush tax cuts permanent. In a culture of big spending, McCain has been righteous in his fight against legislated pork. McCain also has been a reliable anti-abortion vote. He campaigned tirelessly for George W. Bush in 2004. His lifetime American Conservative Union rating is 82 percent. Only an ignoramus would call McCain's record to the left of Hillary Clinton's.

California Republicans are not fools. Party biggies excluded independent voters in a primary that seemed rigged for Romney, but voters themselves delivered an estimated 161 out of 173 delegates to the out-funded McCain. If you go by the votes, the McCain-Over-My-Dead-Body Crowd is vocal, but tiny — despite the wrath of talk-show giants and the deluge of Mitt's millions.

When you listen to the McCain haters, you realize that they aren't angry at McCain's record or his votes, so much as they're incensed that the Arizona senator works with Democrats. Comment boards sneer at the very notion of compromise. Romney often faulted McCain for working on bills with Democrats. To the purists, elected officials are supposed to go to

Washington to not work with those on the other side of the aisle. It is as if they think U.S. senators should spend the day pointing peashooters at each other. They don't want results. They want a food fight.

This is not the conservative base; it is the kiddie wing of the Republican Party. At the end of the day, it is all about the McCain haters' precious feelings. They feel betrayed by McCain because he gets along with their real enemy (Democrats) — and that matters more to them than the welfare of U.S. troops risking their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan.

McCain adviser Steve Schmidt argued Wednesday that McCain does appeal to the conservative base and he will "unite the Republican Party" because of his strong stand against radical Islam, and support for curbing federal spending, keeping taxes low and his commitment to appoint conservative judges.

On the smart side, talk-show host Hugh Hewitt, a Romney supporter, wrote on his Townhall blog, "There are seven reasons for anyone to support the eventual (GOP) nominee no matter who it is: The war and six Supreme Court justices over the age of 68."

On the not-smart side are Republicans who threaten to become "suicide voters" — they might vote for a Democrat or not vote at all.

They are furious that their purity will not prevail — and they don't care who gets hurt.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at [dsaunders@sfchronicle.com](mailto:dsaunders@sfchronicle.com).  
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DEBRA SAUNDERS



### Stimulus package a smokescreen

Like most people I enjoy getting something for nothing. I'm not so naive, however, as to not notice that people rarely give you anything for free without some serious ulterior motives. That's why I'm more than happy to cash my tax rebate check when it shows up, but I'm pretty sure the folks in Washington wouldn't be sending me \$1,500 if they weren't trying to buy something from me.

As I see it, their incredibly amateurish plan consists of giving people free money so they won't notice that our economy has crumbled. Forget that the folks being bribed may have lost their jobs and they might be unsure as to how they're going to scrape together their next mortgage payment, they should head right out and buy a PlayStation III with their new booty.

Giving people a tax rebate may very well pump some money into the economy and create the short-term appearance of prosperity. Nothing in the stimulus package

provides any long-term answers. A check and some minor tax cuts won't bring American jobs back from overseas, won't lower the price of oil and most certainly won't fix the real estate market.

Like throwing a party on the deck as the Titanic slowly sinks into the ocean, the bipartisan stimulus package might offer some fun, but the boat is still sinking. Basically, the best economic minds from both political parties analyzed our current national economic crisis and came up with "give people some dough and they will spend us out a recession."

That might make sense if the United States was in dire financial straits because too many people saved too much money. If we were all super cautious with our cash, perhaps it would force stores out of business, causing people to lose their jobs and send us into an economic downturn.

Americans, however, hardly understand the concepts of saving and being fiscally conservative. We spend what we make, what we might make and sometimes more than we can even imagine making. Most of us operate on the clear assumption that a rainy day will never occur and that if one were to, well, a lot of people would

get wet. We're a nation living off of our credit cards going into massive debt to buy everything from necessities to really large television sets. People have mortgages, car loans and credit card bills, but that doesn't stop them from buying furniture, electronics and taking fancy trips all due to the miracle of financing.

This mountain of debt seems manageable in a robust economy where good jobs abound and house values constantly go up. You might not make enough to cover your debt, but your income will rise and you'll have an endless supply of home equity to fund whatever foolish purchases you might make.

Unfortunately, the housing bubble has burst and the job market no longer offers riches for everyone. Our politicians don't seem interested in coming up with a plan to rebuild our economic infrastructure, they just want to buy a few more months so we won't realize how broke we are during an election cycle.

Daniel B. Kline's work appears in more than 100 papers weekly. He can be e-mailed at [dan@notastep.com](mailto:dan@notastep.com).





Courtesy photo

From the dregs of human excess at a landfill, "Old Man," the turkey vulture, enjoys his view from Ambassador's Row at the wildlife center in Lubbock. With two educational vultures as company, the red-headed scavenger has become a living warning of environmental abuses.

**Bird Poop:**

**'Old Man' forced to wait until molt**

**A**s the cool north breeze hurled bits of paper and dust toward him, the old fellow continued his aimless search for anything to sustain him. Occasionally he found some of his daily ration carelessly left among the trash. Soiled and greasy from his surroundings, he was continuously hungry and growing thinner. Over time, his feet had become sore from walking over the crushed glass and debris from better times. Alone, he didn't want to be there, but could find no way out.

Having spotted a uniformed employee, he tried not to be noticed. The equipment operator had seen the guy before, but every time someone tried to approach, the old timer awkwardly ran to keep his distance.

Determined to get him some help, the operator

decided one morning to get closer. Taking a chance, the employee used a personal vehicle and decided to chase the guy until confronting him. It took some time, turning here and there, but through maneuverability and determination, the operator cornered the derelict. Chasing him on foot, he finally forced the old fellow to stop and gasp for air. Unable to run anymore, the oldster was caught by two hands that were not going to let go.

Placed in a holding area, the old fellow stood with his head down. Locked up like a vagrant, he appeared hopeless and disoriented. He was watched by attendants as they processed others.

Then, over several days, he encountered numerous baths and free feeds. Placed with two others in a larger, more comfortable lodging, he was readily accepted by his roommates. He rested and improved.

When asked to repeat the story of the greasy turkey vulture from a landfill, I could hear an occasional chuckle from Gail Barnes, manager of the wildlife center in Lubbock.

Two days before, we had been called to an animal control facility in a large metropolitan area. Their officer had retrieved the bird from a concerned employee at the dump. Since we had often taken various species from their care,

we were asked if we wanted the vulture.

Until we removed the raptor from its cage, we had only been told it could not fly. Once we had examined it, we knew why. The vulture was a greasy, gritty, matted bundle of feathers. Its wings, tail and body were heavily laden with an oily substance. The weight of the coating on its once blackish-brown feathers would prevent any flight.

Fortunately for us, the bird had been placed head first in the container. At least with his head pointed away from me, if he decided to disgorge the contents of his crop or stomach in a defensive

See **VULTURE**, Page 6A

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**Inside Big Spring Pack and Ship**



COUNTY

Continued from Page 1A

for the county is a break in the price to demolish it, because the law allows for a slightly different method when dealing with a building that's been condemned. So we're already seeing some savings there."

Heffelfinger told the court he bid the work on two separate time tables, eventually opting for the longer course of action.

"We gave the contractors the option to bid a three-week option, which would be 10-hours a day, four days a week, as well as 12 days straight through," said Heffelfinger. "However,

because of the cost to have the monitoring equipment on-site through the weekend, it would have cost an additional \$3,500. We didn't feel like there was enough of a time crunch to justify that cost so we're looking at going with the three-week schedule."

The site was recently replatted by the court in preparation of construction of a new 96-bed, \$11.57 million jail. Construction could begin as soon as mid-March.

Also during Monday's meeting, commissioners approved the renewal of a countywide burn ban. The ban currently in effect would have ended Feb. 29, but according to Volunteer Fire Chief Tommy Sullivan, its pro-

tection is still needed.

Commissioners also considered closing a pair of roads — one in Precinct 4, in Vincent, and a second one in Precinct 2. A vote to close County Road 49, located north of FM 846, was unsuccessful, when Commissioner Emma Brown voted against the measure. To pass, the motion required unanimous approval.

Following the vote, Commissioner Bill Crooker told the court it was his understanding a public hearing was necessary before closing a county road, leading County Judge Mark Barr to call for action on the second road to be tabled until a future meeting.

BEE

Continued from Page 1A

for misspelled words — one strike, and they're out. But the rules change slightly when the bee gets to its final two competitors.

"If one (of the two) misses a word, the other one has to spell that word correctly, then another word, before he or she is declared the winner," Ritchey said.

The winner will represent Big Spring at the regional level March 1 in the McDonald-Moody Auditorium in Lubbock.

This year's contestants,

and their alternates, are:

- Big Spring Junior High — Seventh-grader Julie Jimenez, the daughter of Gloria Reese, in the champion. Seventh-grader Chris Hughes, the son of Ginger Hughes, is the alternate.

- Goliad Middle School — Sixth-grader Brianna Kight, the daughter of Janet Kight, is the champion. Fifth-grader Des'Ree Richter, the daughter of Amanda Christian, is the alternate.

- Bauer Magnet School — Fourth-grader Kiowa Lesser, the daughter of Richard and Connie Lesser, is the champion. Fourth-grader Devin

Continued on 7A

VULTURE

Continued from Page 5A

gesture, only the floor would suffer.

"The greasy mess is not coming off the way it should," was Gail's comment when she described the numerous baths in blue Dawn. Since she

thought it might have a petroleum base, we countered by saying we did not think it could be oil field related. First, it did not have the odor. In addition, even though it was a thin coating, it remained oily to the touch. The bird would probably have died if it had been a petroleum

product.

It was obvious that the vulture had not flown into the fenced landfill. Whatever was on its feathers was acquired at the site. We all agreed that the bird would have to remain at the center until having a complete molt, which would begin in spring and could con-

tinue through summer and into early fall.

"By the way, we have a name for your vulture," Gail offered. "Did you notice all of the warts around its eyes? Usually you see that in the elderly, even people," she added. "We're going to call him 'Old Man.' He's getting along with the

other two so well he may not want to leave."

Wanting to know more about the landfill, I called several residents of that city and county. Their stories were too similar to ignore.

Cooking oils and grease from restaurants were being discharged into two open pits. Wildlife could easily slide into the pits, or mistake it for water from the air.

With its keen sense of smell, the turkey vulture had probably been attracted to the landfill during its migratory journey. "Old Man"

would not have killed animals, but would have sought out the dead. Even decaying carcasses, if not buried deeply, would have emitted the aroma of a possible meal. How it had accumulated such a greasy coating that attracted dust and windblown particles only the large soaring bird knew.

The outcome of the pits would be dictated by governmental agencies.

Through Old Man's unsightly appearance, an alarm had been sounded.

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



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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](http://www.sudoku.com)

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

**Contract Bridge**

By Steve Becker

**The Art of Slam Bidding**

North dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ K Q J 6 2  
♥ A Q 9 3  
♦ A J  
♣ 6 2

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

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

**SOUTH**  
♠ 4  
♥ K 8 7 5 2  
♦ K Q 10 7  
♣ A K 9

The bidding:  
North      East      South      West  
1♠      Pass      2♥      Pass  
4♥      Pass      4NT      Pass  
5♥      Pass      6♥

Opening lead — queen of clubs.

What is it that puts a player on notice that there may be a slam? The answer to this question is certainly of much more than ordinary importance.

If a slam is made but not bid, the slam bonus — 500 or 750 points — is lost. If a slam is bid but not made, a game is lost in addition to the undertrick penalty.

Point count sometimes tells the tale. If both hands are balanced, 33 high-card points are usually needed. When distribution enters the picture, the slam can frequently be made with

fewer points — provided there are adequate side-suit controls in the form of aces, voids or singletons together with a strong trump holding. In general, a slam should be bid when there is at least an even chance of making it.

Another good guide to the possibility of a slam stems from the all-important rule that an opening bid facing an opening bid normally yields a game. Extending this principle to slam bidding, an "opening bid plus" facing an "opening bid plus" is likely to produce a slam. A "plus" is usually an extra king or ace above an opening bid. Distributional values may also be considered as pluses.

Note how South appraises today's hand after North opens the bidding with one spade and then jumps to four hearts. With a full opening bid of his own, increased greatly in value by the strong heart fit indicated by North's jump-raise, South has the requisite opening bid plus. North must also be assumed to have extra values for his leap to four hearts. Four notrump is merely a precautionary measure to make sure the opponents don't hold two aces.

The slam is made by playing the trumps carefully. The only threat to the contract is if one defender has all four trumps. If East has them, not even a doctor can help declarer, but if West has them, his trumps can be trapped by cashing the king first.

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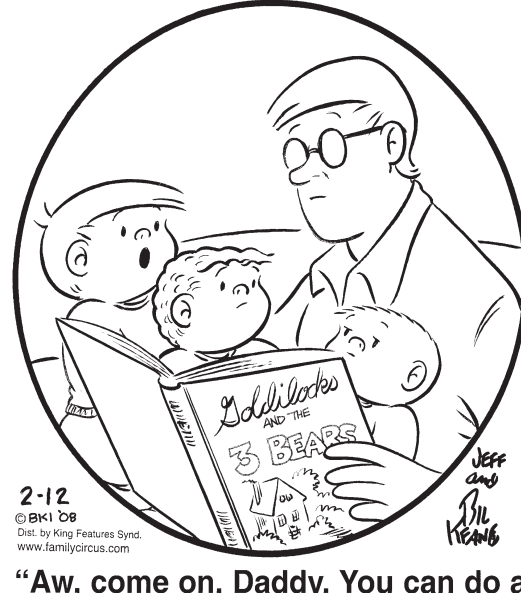
TUESDAY

	WFDA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports	SCIFI (64) Science Fic.
6:PM	News (CC) Entertainment	Jeopardy! Wheel-Fortune	Yo Amo a Juan	The Simpsons Two/Half Men (CC)	News Entertainment	12 Corazones	News Be a Millionaire	Raymond Raymond	Dr. Young John Hagee	News-Lehrer	How It's Made How It's Made		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn. (CC) (DVS)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live (CC) Access	Han, Montana Zack & Cody	NBA Coast-to- Coast (CC)	College Basketball:	Scary But True Scary But True
7:PM	Just Laughs Just Laughs	Just Laughs Just Laughs	Al Diabolo con Los Guapos	American Idol (CC)	NCIS (CC)	La Traicion	The Biggest Loser: Couples	Family Guy Family Guy	Update Israel Dr. Booker	Nova (CC) (DVS)	Dirty Jobs (CC)	Movie: The Matrix (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn. (CC) (DVS)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Movie: Boomerang	:15 Movie: Johnny	College Basketball:	Michigan State at Purdue	Scariest Places on Earth
8:PM	Accordng-Jim Carpoolers	Accordng-Jim Carpoolers	Pasion		Big Brother 9 (CC)	Victoria	(CC)	Family Guy Family Guy	Light of the Southwest	The Mormons (CC) (DVS)	Dirty Jobs		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn. (CC) (DVS)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	(CC)	Tsunami	North Carolina at Virginia	College Basketball:	Scariest Places on Earth
9:PM	Boston Legal (CC)	Boston Legal (CC)	Aqui y Ahora	TMZ (CC) Raymond	Jericho (CC)	Pecados Ajenos	Law & Order: SVU	The Office The Office			Some Assembly Required		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn. (CC) (DVS)	Bones (CC)	Top 25 Heartaches	That's Raven Life Derek	Gamenight Trick	Kentucky at Vanderbilt	ECW
10:PM	News (CC) Nightline	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticiero Univ	Two/Half Men Raymond	News Late Show-	Noticias Titulares y Mas	News Tonight Show	10 Items-Less Sex and-City	Update Israel Keith Miller	Charlie Rose (CC)	MythBusters (CC)	Movie: The Day the Earth	CSI: NY (CC)	Cold Case (CC)	Hell Date Hell Date	Zack & Cody Han, Montana	Billiards Trick	SportsCenter (CC)	Movie: Applesed
11:PM	The Insider Jimmy Kimmel	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	La Hora de la Risa	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Letterman Late Late	Decisiones	Late Night-	Sex and-City 10 Items-Less	Ministerio Nueva Vida	Tavis Smiley Tavis Smiley	Dirty Jobs (CC)	Stood Still (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn. (CC) (DVS)	Without a Trace (CC)	Jamie Foxx Jamie Foxx	Replacements Kim Possible	NASCAR Now (CC)	NFL Live Gamenight	Twilight Zone
12:AM	Live (CC) News (CC)	Live (CC) Lighthouse	Salome (SS)	Pleno 9111 George Lopez	Show The Insider	Programa	Conan O'Brien News	Puppet Up!	Update Israel J.R. Church	Sign Off	Dirty Jobs	Movie: Below (CC)	Star Trek: Voyager	Without a Trace (CC)	Movie: Boomerang	Emperor New American Drgn	Formula D Drifting (CC)	SportsCenter (CC)	Twilight Zone

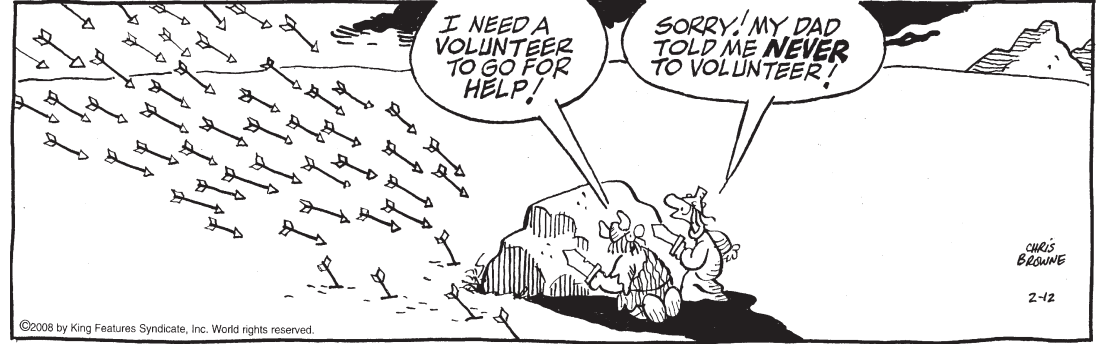
DENNIS THE MENACE



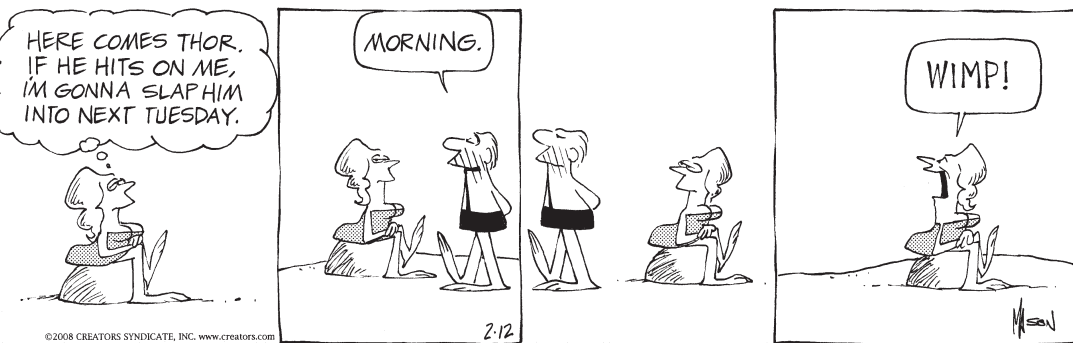
THE FAMILY CIRCUS



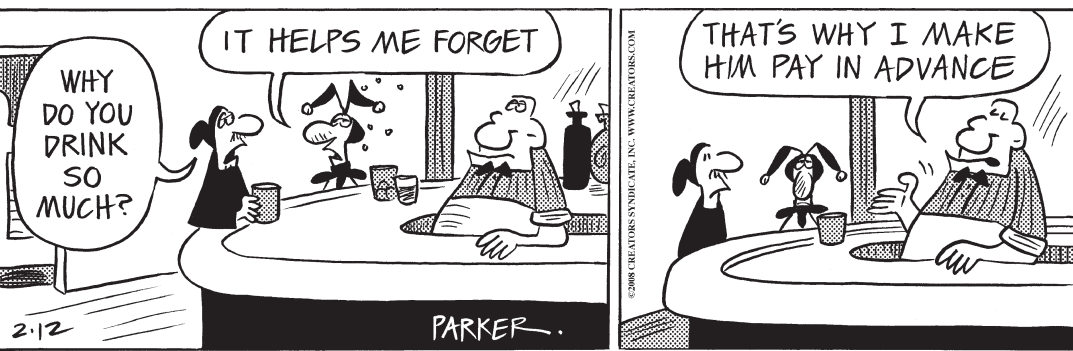
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WIZARD OF ID



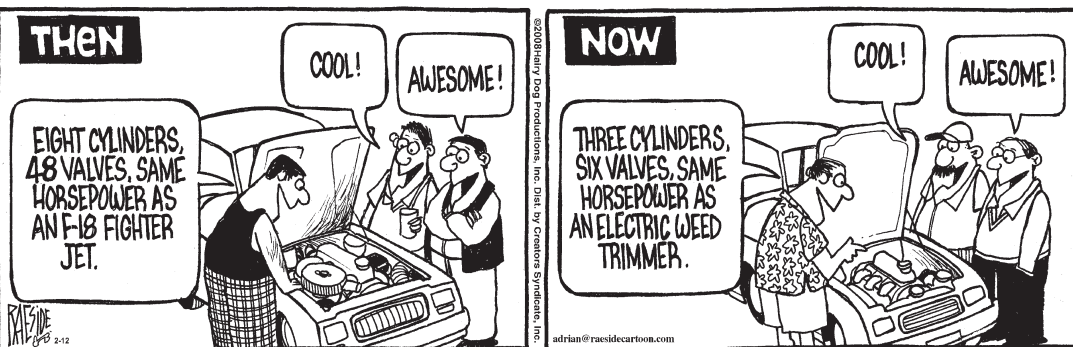
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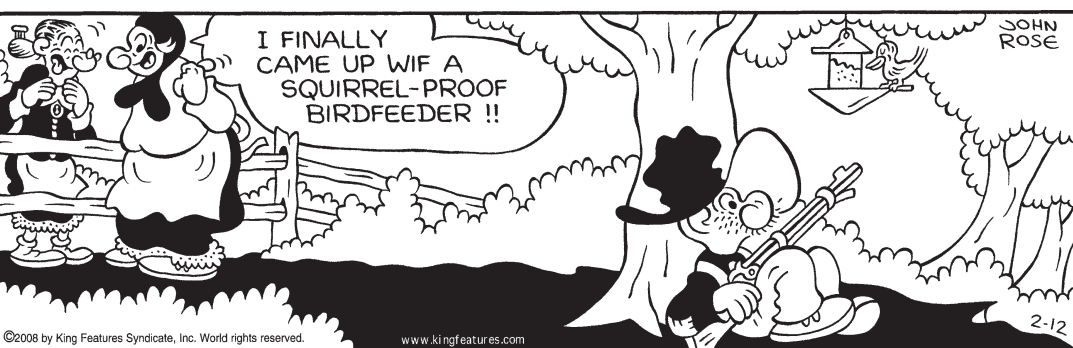
HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Feb. 12, the 43rd day of 2008. There are 323 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:**

On Feb. 12, 1809, Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president of the United States, was born in present-day Larue County, Ky.

**On this date:**

In 1554, Lady Jane Grey, who'd claimed the throne of England for nine days, and her husband, Guildford Dudley, were beheaded after being condemned for high treason.

In 1818, Chile officially proclaimed its independence, more than seven years after initially renouncing Spanish rule.

In 1870, women in the Utah Territory gained the right to vote. (However, that right was taken away in 1887.)

In 1908, the first round-the-world automobile race began in New York. (It

ended in Paris the following July with the drivers of the American car, a Thomas Flyer, declared the winners over teams from Germany and Italy.)

In 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was founded.

In 1912, Pu Yi, the last emperor of China, abdicated, marking the end of the Qing Dynasty.

In 1915, the cornerstone for the Lincoln Memorial was laid in Washington, D.C., a year to the day after groundbreaking.

In 1973, Operation Homecoming began as the first release of American prisoners of war from the Vietnam conflict took place.

In 1999, the Senate acquitted President Clinton of perjury and obstruction of justice.

**Today's Birthdays:** Movie director Franco Zeffirelli is 85. Actor Louis Zorich is 84. Baseball Hall-of-Fame sportscaster Joe Garagiola is 82. Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Penn.) is 78. Basketball Hall-of-Famer Bill Russell is 74. Actor Joe Don Baker is 72.

Author Judy Blume is 70. Rock musician Ray Manzarek (The Doors) is 69. Country singer Moe Bandy is 64. Actress Maud Adams is 63. Actor Cliff DeYoung is 63. Actor Michael Ironside is 58. Rock musician Steve Hackett is 58. Rock singer Michael McDonald is 56. Actress Joanna Kerns is 55. Actor-former talk show host Arsenio Hall is 53. Actress Christine Elise is 43. Actor Josh Brolin is 40. Singer Chynna Phillips is 40. Rock musician Jim Creegan (Barenaked Ladies) is 38. Rhythm-and-blues musician Keri Lewis is 37. Actor Jesse Spencer ("House, M.D.") is 29.

**Answer to previous puzzle**

SHOO	AGREE	PITAS
LOIN	CLOWN	RINK
ABLE	TAPED	ANTI
TOYSTORES	HIKES	
TIRES	RISE	
CAMELS	TAVERNS	
ADOPT	LARGE	BET
RUN	CORES	ERE
ELK	SAUCE	HALVE
STEWARD	CULLED	
YAMS	PEARL	
CABLE	FIDDLEBOW	
ORAL	YALIE	ALOE
DIRE	ERECT	RAZE
EAST	NESTS	SHED

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Diplomatic skill
  - 5 Embarrass
  - 10 Gas-gauge reading
  - 14 House plot size, perhaps
  - 15 Aviator
  - 16 Cambodia's continent
  - 17 A/C units
  - 18 \_\_\_ and raves
  - 19 Repair
  - 20 Lincoln's presidential position
  - 22 Is employed
  - 23 Wine barrel
  - 24 Promissory note
  - 25 Diving-in-pool sound
  - 28 Chinese vehicle of old
  - 33 Get out of bed
  - 34 Bus rider's payment
  - 35 \_\_\_ Baba
  - 36 Money with Lincoln's picture
  - 40 Pt. opposite WSW
  - 41 Buddies
  - 42 Available, as some beers
  - 43 Well-prepared plan
  - 46 Wary
  - 47 Variety of rummy
  - 48 Sedan or coupe
  - 49 Of high elevation
  - 52 Lincoln's nickname
  - 57 Front-of-home grass
  - 58 Horse controllers
  - 59 Magnet metal
- DOWN**
- 1 File-folder parts
  - 2 Start of a play
  - 3 Vital point
  - 4 Precedent-setting trial
  - 5 All over again
  - 6 Order form
  - 7 "\_\_\_ it the truth?"
  - 8 Adam and Eve's youngest
  - 9 Many min.
  - 10 Very well-known owner
  - 12 Make a connection
  - 13 Young fellows
  - 21 Facilitated
  - 22 Fried-rice frypan
  - 24 Cake decorator
  - 25 Places for valuables
  - 26 Write with block letters
  - 27 "Chopped" cracker spread
  - 28 Political gathering
  - 29 Keogh alternatives
  - 30 Stops marching
  - 31 Moslem's Almighty
  - 32 Like cirrus clouds
  - 34 Something to salute
  - 37 Unobstructed
  - 38 Boxing matches
  - 39 Before you know it
  - 44 List of things to do
  - 45 Helpful hint
  - 46 Partygoers
  - 48 Sharpshooter Oakley
  - 49 Open-handed hit
  - 50 Auto for hire
  - 51 Lambs' mothers
  - 52 Barnyard cacklers
  - 53 Stops from squeaking
  - 54 Diva's solo
  - 55 Like a \_\_\_ from the blue
  - 56 Finishes up
  - 58 Regret

LINCOLN LOG by Sally R. Stein  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15							16		
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			47					48					
49	50	51				52	53				54	55	56
57						58					59		
60						61					62		
63						64					65		



**STOP**

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he made his constituents the last time his name was on the ballot.

"Promises were made, and I've worked hard to make sure those promises were kept," said Heflin. "I ran on the platform that I support public education, and I talked hard in Austin about public education. I was able to carry an amendment to the budget that only allowed the spending of public funds for public education. We need to protect our schools."

"I also worked hard on securing a 13th check for our retired teachers. What we should have done is given them a cost of living raise... but we didn't get there. However, we're going to go back and work on it again. It's hard for us to recruit new teachers if we don't treat our retired teachers with the dignity and honor they deserve."

Heflin said he also took on unfunded mandates, among many other issues, in the state's capital during his current term.

"I told you I'd go to Austin and fight against unfunded mandates for your local governments and I did that," said Heflin. "I secured \$5 million for counties for a

refund for a non-standard election that cost counties more than \$10 million. I told you I'd explore rural health care and I fought hard to assure the passage of the CHIPS bill, which is the Children's Health Insurance Program. We need to make sure our poor children are insured, that they can be taken to a doctor and don't have to wait until Saturday to go to an emergency room. Parents need to be able to get them to a doctor and get them treated quickly ... keep them in school."

"I also told you I would work hard for constituent service and I have put together a staff that excels at service... They go above and beyond. I've worked really hard to make sure my office is available to you. And I want to go back to Austin for you. There is important work to be done. I want to continue to represent you."

Heflin said he's ready to return to the trenches in Austin to protect the rights of District 85 citizens.

"I want to continue the battles for public schools. I want to fight for our communities' schools," said Heflin. "I want to make sure our community colleges are treated fairly. That is critical for our schools. I want to

fight to end standardized testing. Sen. (Kel) Seliger and I have worked on this program to end the TAKS test. We need to let our local governing bodies run our local schools. These superintendents know who a good teacher is. Let them run the schools.

"We also need to work diligently to make sure college is affordable. We regulate college tuition and it has gone out of sight. We need to make sure that all kids who want to go to college can. Education is the heart blood of our West Texas community. Without or education, we're in trouble."

Heflin's opponent decided to concentrate on his family during his five minutes, saying he felt it was more important for voters to get a better understanding of who he is as a person.

"Most of you don't know me. Most of you have probably never heard my name," said Castro. "I can talk about the issues until sunrise and I'd be glad to do that after this, but right now I'd like to talk to you about my heroes. Since you don't know me, maybe telling you about my heroes will tell you a little bit about me."

"I have two children, my son Matthew and my daughter Adrian. My son

is 20 years old and a junior at Angelo State University. My daughter is 18 and a freshman at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn. They are my pride and joy, of course."

Castro said his parents, who immigrated to the United States from Mexico, are also a big part of who he is today.

"My parents are also my heroes," said Castro. "Thank goodness, they are still with us. My father is 82 years old, and my mother is 78. They are my true heroes. They came to this country in 1960. They settled in Old Glory, Texas, where I grew up. They came as legal immigrants. They worked hard and came with nothing but their minds to think, their hearts to love and their hands to work. And that's what they did for two years. They worked hard and saved money because they left six children behind in Mexico."

"Two years later, they came for us. Six of us were born in Mexico and the second six were born in the United States. My parents raised 12 children on a farm we worked. My parents never had any education, but they believed in education. The first 10 of us are all college graduates. My brothers and sisters are

my heroes as well.

"As an attorney, I've represented cities, counties, hospitals, businesses, banks and individuals

for almost 28 years," he said. "This is a very large district of 16 counties and I'm proud to be here."

**BEE**

Continued from Page 6A

Perez, the son of Lea Tolison, is the alternate.

• Washington Elementary — Fourth-grader Anthony Lopez, son of Debra Lopez, is the champion, while fellow fourth-grader Rizpah Ellison, the daughter of Tamara Ellison, is the alternate.

• Marcy Elementary — Fourth-grader Christopher Lopez, the grandson of Jimmie Stiehl, is the champion, while fourth-grader Adrian Wilbert, son of Patrick and Azure Wilbert, is the alternate.

• Moss Elementary — Fourth-grader Bailee Chase, the daughter of Michael and Samantha Chase, is the champion. Jacob Scott, also in the fourth grade, is the alternate. He is the son of Jamie and Janet Scott.

• Kentwood Elementary — Third-grader Jonathan Byrd, the son of Darren and Amy Byrd, is the champion, while third-grader Seth Hamby, son of Josh and Michelle Hamby, is the alternate.

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