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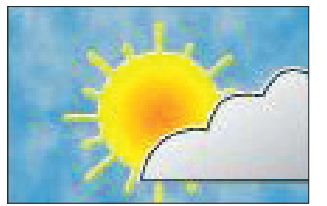
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# H BIG SPRING HERALD

**THURSDAY**

**JANUARY 22, 2009**



VOLUME 104, NUMBER 44

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

## Coming soon: Chamber Banquet

*Heritage to New Horizons set Feb. 5*

By **STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

Preparations are in full swing for this year's Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Banquet, scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Feb. 5 at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

The banquet, which is themed, "Heritage to New Horizons," will have plenty of the familiar and just a touch of new, said Nancy Newell, executive assistant to Chamber Executive Director Debbye ValVerde.

The familiar will be the highlight of each banquet, the naming of the chamber's man and woman of the year. Hayes Stripling Jr.



Newell

and Janice Bond were the recipients of the awards at last year's banquet.

A new feature this year will be a silent auction conducted by State Rep. Joe Heflin and Bob Price of Price Construction. Items are still being reserved for the auction, but Newell said travel packages and memorabilia items will be featured.

Tickets for the banquet are \$25 apiece and can be purchased at

See **BANQUET**, Page 3



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Jonathan Byrd receives a hug from his grandmother, Bettye Davis, after winning the Big Spring Independent School District Spelling Bee Wednesday afternoon. Byrd, representing Kentwood Elementary, outlasted Moss Elementary champion Kaitlyn Matthews for the crown.

## Kentwood student wins district spelling match

By **STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

Jonathan Byrd combined spelling prowess with a pinch of luck to grab top honors at Wednesday's Big Spring Independent School District Spelling Bee.

Byrd, a fourth-grader at Kentwood Elementary, outlasted Moss Elementary representative Kaitlyn Matthews for the title and will now represent Big Spring in the regional spelling bee next month in Midland.

Matthews and Byrd were the only two contestants still standing after four rounds, then the two engaged in a 13-round battle that was sometimes short on art, but never in drama.

On more than one occasion, Byrd and Matthews missed words, only to have their opponent miss as well, continuing the bee for another round.

Finally, in the 17<sup>th</sup> round, Matthews

See **BEE**, Page 3



Courtesy photo

The Cassatt String Quartet — clockwise from top, Michiko Oshima, Nicole Johnson, Jennifer Leshnowar and Muneko Otani — will be holding a week-long program on chamber music at various educational campuses in Odessa. The classes are open to all teachers and students in the Permian Basin area.

## Chamber music residency program begins next week

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

Chamber music, anyone? That's exactly the question students and teachers in the Permian Basin will be asking the week of Jan. 25, as the New York based

Cassatt String Quartet prepares to hold "Cassatt in the Basin," an annual mini-residency program designed to give area students the opportunity to study

See **CHAMBER**, Page 3

## Clinton takes charge at State Department

By **ANNE FLAHERTY**  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Hillary Rodham Clinton assumed her role as secretary of State on Thursday with a pledge to State Department employees that they would be at the leading edge of improving U.S. foreign relations.

"This is a new era," she declared at a welcoming ceremony where hundreds of department employees applauded and cheered as she arrived

for her first day of work.

"There are three legs to the stool of American foreign policy: defense, diplomacy and development, and we are responsible for two of the three legs," said the former New York senator and one-time first lady. "And we will make clear as we go forward that diplomacy and development are essential tools in achieving the long-term objectives of the United States."

Clinton's mandate from President

Barack Obama is to step up diplomatic efforts and restore the nation's tattered image abroad.

Her appointment, confirmed by the Senate and sealed in a private ceremony in her Senate office on Wednesday, came as Obama moved quickly in his first day in office to shore up a team of seasoned advisers and take the nation's foreign policy in a new direction.

See **CLINTON**, Page 3

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## Obituaries

### Sue Kerr



Sue Kerr, 58, of Sand Springs died Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2009, at her residence. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 23, 2009, at Coahoma Cemetery with the Rev. Jim Binnix, pastor of Midway Baptist Church, officiating.

She was born Nov. 9, 1950, in Lamesa to Opal and Robert Oaks. She grew up in Ackerly and lived most of her life in Howard County.

She married Larry Kerr June 19, 1994, in Lovington, N.M. She was a homemaker and a Baptist.

She is survived by her husband, Larry Kerr of Sand Springs; one son, Jimmy Smith and wife Kerry of Bremerton, Wash.; one daughter, Jennifer Estes of Dublin; one sister, Judy Childress and husband Jimmy of Toledo Bend; two brothers, Ronnie Oaks and wife Paula of San Angelo, and Ricky Oaks and wife Charlotte of New Braunfels; and four grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by one brother, Larry Oaks.

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

## Take Note

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

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

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

Scenic Mountain Medical Center's Relay for Life team is selling cookbooks to raise funds for the American Cancer Society. The cookbooks can be purchased at the PBX operator's booth for \$10 apiece. For more information, contact Beverly Grant at 268-4952.

HATS (Hope After The Sadness), an American Cancer Society Resource Room is available at First Methodist Church. This center provides information and valuable resources for those affected by cancer. This HATS ministry, established in memory of the late Rev. Dr Shane Brue, maintains a room with free hats, wigs and head coverings available for check-out by those dealing with hair loss due to cancer treatment. Other services and resources are also available. Contact the "Hat Lady," Marci Lykken at 267-2915.

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 (877) 277-1618, the High Plains American Cancer Group Report Center. Anyone wishing to volunteer to drive in this program should call Sherry Hodnett, president of the Big Spring ACS Board, at 264-7599 at her office at Home Hospice.

## Police blotter

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

- **TAMMY HERNANDEZ**, 26, of 508 S. Abrams, was arrested Wednesday on 12 local warrants.
- **CURTIS EDWARD MOSBY**, 31, of 1007 N. Gregg St., was arrested Wednesday on a charge of hindering the discharge of an officer's official duties.
- **BELINDA GAIL SCOTT**, 35, of 1106 N.W. Seventh St., was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance in a drug free zone.
- **JAMES ANTHONY FRANCO**, 25, of 1319 Tucson, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- **WILLIAM THOM**, 25, of 305 E. Fifth St., was arrested Wednesday on a Scurry County warrant.
- **THEFT** was reported:
  - in the 1300 block of Fourth Street.
  - in the 1800 block of Gregg Street.
- **POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE IN A DRUG FREE ZONE** was reported in the 700 block of Father Delaney.
- **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported:
  - in the 1200 block of Gregg Street.
  - in the 500 block of 17<sup>th</sup> Street.
- **ASSAULT CAUSING BODILY INJURY - FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 1200 block of Madison.
- **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 1000 block of Gregg Street.
- **ASSAULT BY CONTACT** was reported in the 1900 block of Highway 87.

## Sheriff

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 52 inmates at the time of this report.
- **KANIEL MATTHEW MIRAMONTES**, 23, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana — more than four ounces, less than five pounds.
- **RYAN EVERETT MORGAN**, 24, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of evading arrest/detention.
- **DUSTY DAWN NALLEY**, 30, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal trespass.
- **SHELBY LYNN TISSUE**, 25, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana — more than four ounces, less than five pounds.
- **CHRISTOPHER JAMES MAULT**, 20, was arrested Wednesday by DPS on a charge of evading arrest or detention with a vehicle.
- **NICOLE MARIE MCCracken**, 21, was arrested Thursday by DPS on a charge of no driver's license.

## Fire/EMS

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

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 3300 block of W. Highway 80. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2000 block of Gregg Street. Service refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2400 block of Gregg Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 3600 block of Connally. Service refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1900 block of 25<sup>th</sup> Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 800 block of E. 15<sup>th</sup> Street. Service refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 800 block of Ryan Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 500 block of W. 17<sup>th</sup> Street. Service refused.

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## Your Local Weather

Fri 1/23	Sat 1/24	Sun 1/25
<b>80/33</b>	<b>54/39</b>	<b>70/45</b>
Partly cloudy. Very warm. High around 80F. Winds WSW at 15 to 25 mph.	Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the upper 30s.	Sunny. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the mid 40s.

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## Bulletin Board

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

### TODAY

- Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association meets at 5:30 p.m. in the Big Spring City Council Chambers, 307 E. Fourth.
- League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. The public is invited.
- American Legion Post 506 meets at 6 p.m. Call 263-2084 for more information.
- Rackley-Swords 379, Vietnam Veterans of America meets at 7 p.m. in the Sparenburg Building, 309 S. Main St.
- Big Spring Masonic Lodge No. 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

### FRIDAY

- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.
- AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
- Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Dance at the Senior Center, 1901 Simler, from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

### SATURDAY

- Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.

### MONDAY

- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 213-1342 or 263-6819.
- The Concerned Citizens Council meets at 7 p.m. at the Howard County Library. For more information, call 264-6116.
- Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

## Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 40-20-33-43-25-6.  
Number matching six of six: 0.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night:  
Winning numbers drawn: 7-18-2-10-30.  
Number matching five of five: 1. Prize: \$23,569.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 6-5-9-0. Sum It Up: 20.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 0-6-0. Sum It Up: 6.



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## MINUTES OF COUNTY FINANCES TREASURER'S REPORT

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY FINANCES IN THE HANDS OF TERESA THOMAS TREASURER OF HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS.

COMMISSIONER'S COURT HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS IN REGULAR SESSION JANUARY TERM 2009  
IN ACCORDANCE with Section 114.026, Local Government Code, we, the undersigned constituting the entire Commissioners Court of said County, certify that on the 12th day of January, 2009 at the Regular term of Court, we compared and examined the monthly report of TERESA THOMAS, Treasurer of Howard County, Texas, for December 2008, and finding the same correct, entered an order in the Minutes approving said Report, which states total cash and other assets on hand as \$11,813,234.37.

Mark Barr, County Judge  
Emma Brown, Commissioner Pct. 1  
Jerry Kilgore, Commissioner Pct. 2  
Jimmie Long, Commissioner Pct. 3  
Gary Simer, Commissioner Pct. 4

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME, by Mark Barr, County Judge, and County Commissioners of said Howard County, each respectively, on this the 12th day of January, 2009.  
Attest: Donna Wright, County Clerk

FILED FOR RECORD THIS 12TH DAY OF January, 2009, and recorded on the 12th day of January, A.D. 2009.

Donna Wright,  
County Clerk and  
Ex-Officio Clerk of the Commissioners  
Court in and for Howard County, Texas.

## BIG SPRING HERALD

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**BEE**

Continued from Page 1

missed on “diplomat” and Byrd correctly spelled “easel” and “goatee” to claim the championship.

Afterward, the emotional champion described his spelling showdown with Matthews.

“It was tough,” he said. “As it was going on, I was just thinking, ‘Is she going to miss? Is she going to get it?’ She was a very good speller.”

Proud father Darren Byrd reflected on his son’s accomplishment.

“Never in my life did I think I’d have a spelling bee champion in the family,” Byrd said. “It’s absolutely wonderful. I’m very proud of him.”

Bee Coordinator Robin Ritchey congratulated all the contestants.

“These children never cease to amaze me with the poise they show,” she said. “I was up there shaking like a leaf and I wasn’t even competing, but they showed a lot of poise.”

Byrd now advances to the Midland regional bee, to be held Feb. 28 at the Allison Fine Arts Building on the Midland College campus. The winner there advances to the Scripps-Howard National Spelling Bee, scheduled for May 24 through May 29 in Washington D.C.

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



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan  
Kaitlyn Matthews was runner-up in Wednesday’s spelling bee.

Contact the Herald at  
editor@bigspringherald.com or  
newsdesk@bigspringherald.com

**BANQUET**

Continued from Page 1

the chamber office, located at 215 W. Third, until Jan. 30. Tickets will not be available at the door, Newell said.

Jan. 30 is also the deadline for businesses to reserve tables for decorating. Cost is \$125 and also includes four banquet tickets.

Newell said the table decoration, a feature at many past banquets, is a good way for businesses to get the word out to the community.

“For those who decorate a table, it’s a great advertising value,” she said. “It doesn’t cost a lot of money and a lot of people end up seeing it.”

Guy Will Zant will provide musical entertainment, while Great Western Dining will cater the meal.

Emcees for the event will be Malinda Flenniken and Tim Knox, general manager and operation manager, respectively, for KBST Radio.

For more information, contact the chamber at 263-7641.

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

**CHAMBER**

Continued from Page 1

with artist-teachers and develop chamber music audiences of the future.

According to Lynda L.Ciolek, spokesperson for the Quartet, the program — which is sponsored by the Ector County Independent School District’s Education Foundation — continues work begun by the Cassatt String Quartet in November 2007.

“Members of the Cassatt String Quartet — Muneke Otani, violin; Jennifer Leshnower,

violin; Michiko Oshima, viola; and Nicole Johnson, cello — will instruct junior high and high school string students,” said Ciolek.

“Jan Mayfield, Odessa High School orchestra director, spearheaded this project with her colleague, Todd Berridge, Permian High School’s orchestra director.

“The Cassatt String Quartet will offer student quartet coaching, master classes in which the Quartet will hear and critique students performing their pieces. That includes demonstrations by the quartet

of proper communication, interpretation and performance technique, as well as open rehearsals and concert performances.”

Set for Sunday through Jan. 31 at various locations in Odessa, Ciolek said the program is open to all Permian Basin students and teachers.

“Teachers and students from Permian and Odessa High Schools, ECISD, MISD, Odessa College, Midland College, UTPB and other communities in the Permian Basin are welcome to attend any educational and per-

formance events,” said Ciolek. “All events are free to the public.”

Ciolek said the program will kick off Sunday with a special master program from 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. at the 2260 Mesa Building on the campus of the University of Texas at the Permian Basin (UTPB).

“Members of the Quartet will conduct a master-class with the video and audio aspects broadcast via the streaming

server on campus,” said Ciolek. “The master-class will include an interactive question and answer session for students from other campuses. It is free and open to the public.”

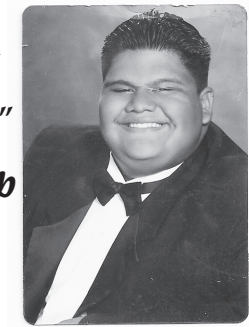
For more information on the program, contact Iris Foster at Foster\_i@utpb.edu or Jan Mayfield at Jan\_Mayfield@yahoo.com.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-

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

**MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL**

24th & Johnson 267-8288  
Sue Kerr, 58, died Tuesday. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Coahoma Cemetery.



From crawling and talking and playing with your dog “Blue” to smiling & joking at “22”

**Happy Birthday, Jacob**

We Love You,  
Mom, Brooke, Becca,  
Crystal & Sonya

**CLINTON**

Continued from Page 1

Obama prepared to name former Senate Democratic leader George J. Mitchell as Clinton’s special envoy to the Middle East, and he placed telephone calls to leaders overseas.

The new administration also drafted executive orders to close the U.S. naval prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, review military trials of terror suspects and end harsh interrogations.

Obama was to join Clinton at the State Department on Thursday, where the two were to address department employees. Obama, Clinton, Vice President Joe Biden and national security adviser James Jones were to convene a closed-door meeting beforehand.

After being confirmed 94-2 by the Senate on Wednesday, Clinton delivered letters of resignation to Vice President Joe Biden, as president of the Senate, and New York Gov. David Paterson, who will chose her replacement.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said her swift confirmation was an imperative.

“We face two wars abroad, a complex and unpredictable crisis in the Middle East, the nuclear ambitions of a volatile Iranian regime, together

with the complexities of dealing with North Korea,” he said.

While Republicans agreed that Obama should be allowed to quickly pull together his Cabinet, some remained skeptical about his plans to revamp the nation’s policies on such wartime issues as detainees.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., who challenged the Bush administration’s detainee policy in 2006 and helped write legislation governing the new court system, said he agrees that Guantanamo Bay should be closed and a new secure location found.

But “the prison is not the problem,” Graham said in a recent interview. “For all the challenges facing the nation, finding a place to put (military prisoners) is not the issue. ... Before we move them, we need to know what’s going to happen to them.”

Sen. Jim DeMint, R-S.C., said he was concerned that Obama and Clinton would reverse the U.S. policy that prohibits U.S. aid to overseas groups that offer abortions.

“I do not plan to slow up this nomination, but I do find it difficult to support a nominee who I know will pursue policies so contrary to American sovereignty and the dignity of the human person,” DeMint said, shortly before voting with Sen. David Vitter, R-La., against Clinton’s appointment.

**CORRECTION**

The Ad that ran Tuesday, Jan. 20 incorrectly listed “OPEN SUN-MON.”

Casa Blanca Restaurant is open **TUESDAY - SATURDAY**

We apologize for any inconvenience.

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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

# Join us as we pray for rain Sunday

We don't have to tell you — it's dry out there. A burn ban is in effect throughout much of the state, including Howard County.

The threat of wildfires is great.

According to Charles E. Yates, with the US-DA-ARS on Interstate 20, Big Spring received 10.75 inches of rainfall all of last year, the lowest recorded rainfall amount since 10.49 in 1964.

We're enjoying a mild winter — something you won't hear us complain about — but it also means we've received little if any moisture. And like the economy, no relief is in sight at this point.

With that in mind, area pastors and community leaders are looking to a higher power for some relief.

“Pray for Rain” rallies are nothing new to Big Spring and West Texas. Just a few years ago one of the local churches held such a rally. We recall that the event was well attended. We also recall that those prayers were, in fact, answered.

Sunday, residents of the Crossroads area are being asked again to take a knee, bow a head, and humbly seek help from a higher authority.

This time, there is no special rally, just a meaningful, collective effort. At 11 a.m., you are invited to stop what you are doing for a moment and ask your Lord to bless our land with rain — rain to grow our gardens and our crops, to fill our lakes and livestock tanks and to prevent devastating fires.

Sunday, many of us will be in church, and pray together. Others will be working, traveling or whatever. It doesn't matter.

“Pray in your own way. Pray in your own place,” suggests Jim Mills, pastor of Gateway Baptist Church and a spokesperson for the event.

The important thing is to ask for help. To say something like “Lord, we're working hard, tilling your land, doing our best to take care of what you have given us. But there are some things we can't do. We need your help. We need rain and we humbly ask you for it.”

This Sunday, consider taking a minute or two and asking your Lord to provide an abundance of rain.

We firmly believe those prayers will be answered, once again.

## 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 not lose sight of Your wisdom and judgment, Lord.

Amen

# Just how important is ‘inmigracion?’

As if politicians needed any more excuses for ignoring one of the country's most pressing issues, a new poll says immigration reform “appears to have receded in importance among Latinos.”

Immigrant rights advocates are building a new, huge movement to pressure the larger Democratic majority in Congress and the Obama administration to finally fix the nation's broken immigration system and provide a path to the legalization of the 12 million mostly Hispanic illegal immigrants already living in this country. But the nonpartisan Pew Hispanic Center says that “only” 31 percent of Latinos recently surveyed considered immigration to be “extremely important.”

That could be read by some legislators and Obama advisers as a pass for coping out. They could see it as an excuse for putting immigration on the back burner.

Of course, it would not be a valid excuse, especially considering that in the same survey, 75 percent of Latinos said the issue should be at least “very important,” and 88 percent said it should be at least an “important” priority for the Obama administration.

The way some surveys are presented (for the sake of attacking headlines) and they way we report on them (for the sake of

making headlines) can be very misleading and detrimental.

Based on the way the survey results were presented, the media made it seem as if there were no need to rush to fix our immigration problems because Latinos are now much more concerned about the dire state of the U.S. economy. One prominent newspaper actually noted that Hispanics “do not believe” immigration should be at the top of the priority list for the new administration.

Incredibly, these conclusions are based on the semantic difference between those who said immigration is “important” or “very important” and those who said it is “extremely important.”

Surely, like most Americans, Latinos are increasingly concerned about the state of the economy.

In fact, they have even more reason to worry than the average American because Latinos are among those who have been hit hardest by the mortgage crisis, the slump in construction, and the rising unemployment rate.

But to assume that they are less interested in immigration because they are worried about the economy is not only misleading but also absurd!

Yet you can bet there will be politicians who will use this study to argue that because Latinos ranked immigration as the sixth-most important issue in Pew's list of priorities — behind the economy, education, health care, national security and the environment — promises made by Democrats about reforming immigration during the first

year of the Obama administration can be at least postponed and perhaps completely ignored.

That would be a humongous mistake. Of course Latinos also are concerned about education, health care, national security and the environment — just like most Americans. In fact, in past Pew surveys, Latinos have ranked those issues above immigration.

But there are many other issues that are of unique interest to Latinos, and among those issues, you wouldn't need a poll to know that immigration would be their top priority. If the Democrats don't deliver on this issue by the 2010 elections, some may lose their jobs.

In reality, the percentage of Latinos who considered immigration “extremely important” is only 7 points lower than the percentage of Latinos (38 percent) who felt that way in another Pew survey, in December 2007.

But just for the sake of argument, let's ignore the 75 percent of Latinos who said immigration is at least “very important” and the 88 percent who said it is “important.” Let's just take that 31 percent who said immigration should be an “extremely important” issue for the Obama administration. Surely, they will hold Obama and the new Congress accountable on this issue.

Here's another way to read the same survey: Can Democrats win re-election in 2010 and 2012 if they lose “only” 31 percent of the Hispanic vote?

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# Must turn down the Kool-Aid

It's going to take real courage the next four years for Republicans to swim against the tide and oppose Barack Obama — in whom so many have placed their hopes, almost to the point of idolatry. But if Obama governs in a way that's consistent with his promises, the country's future security and prosperity will depend on spirited opposition.

It's bad enough for the liberal media to deify Obama, but it's almost unbearable for right-wing commentators and politicians to jump on this bandwagon, as well, as if Obama's personal attributes have blinded them to the policy dangers he represents.

During the Bush years, the left blamed Bush for the absence of bipartisanship, when, by any rational measure, they were the ones whose relentless vitriol made bipartisanship impossible.

Forgive the analogy, but their reversal of blame is reminiscent of a memorable scene in the movie “Animal House,” when fraternity hotshot “Otter” pressured the hapless legacy pledge, “Flounder,” into lending him his brother's car. When Otter returned the car after having demolished it, Otter chastised Flounder for entrusting the car to him. “You (screwed) up. You trusted me.”

Now, after eight years of this poison, the same specious theme from the Bush bashers has found a new application: “Republicans must work with Barack Obama and restore a spirit of collegiality to Washington,” as if they have any moral authority to be lecturing, but even more importantly, as if a spirit of collegiality will solve America's problems.

To be clear, I am not advocating that Republicans return the same mean-spirited partisanship

with which the left pummeled Bush. But conservatives must not abandon their principles in pursuit of the seductive, illusory goal of bipartisanship.

You'd think this principle too sophomoric to articulate, and so do I — almost. But have you been listening to Republican politicians and “conservative” commentators lately behaving as if their eternal salvation depends on jumping aboard a train headed in the opposite direction from everything in which they profess to believe?

Of course the right should support Obama on things they agree with him on and never oppose him gratuitously for purely partisan reasons. Indeed, they should rejoice if Obama were to morph into a free market enthusiast, national security stalwart, champion of the unborn, and protector of our borders.

But such talk is academic, as the chances of Obama being substantively Reaganesque are less than his becoming obese, which means that during the next few years, the articulation of principled conservatism could never be more important.

They must resist pressures for bipartisanship from those who will continue to use it as a weapon to intimidate principled opposition.

Perhaps a secret desire for approval from the elites and intellectuals of the Northeast Corridor explains the squishiness of so many on the right today. Or maybe they are paranoid about appearing ever so slightly racist if they fail to extol the virtues of the first black president — no disrespect intended to Bill Clinton — even if his policies are anathema to them.

But can't we acknowledge the positive aspects of America's historic strides in certain aspects of race relations without surrendering to the advancement of liberalism just because the first black president is behind it?

What our government does during the next four years —

maybe the next 100 days — could have a lasting impact on the future of America's liberty, prosperity and even solvency.

Republicans are already on seriously thin ice, having presided over an era of unprecedented spending and consistently failing to articulate conservative principles on a wide variety of issues. But what Obama has in store will make President Bush appear, in retrospect, like a libertarian.

If, for the sake of appearing to work with Obama, Republicans reduce themselves to offering merely liberal lite the next four years, we're going to have trouble recovering from the inevitable damage to which they will have contributed.

They've already ceded ground on the need for a “stimulus package,” though conservative realists understand that doing nothing would be far less destructive to our long-term financial health than throwing good money after bad under the illusion that the government mint is a panacea.

Will they have the courage to stand tough against the further socialization of our health care system and offering market reforms instead, even against the demagogic claims that they are without compassion for the “uninsured?” If not, they will be contributing not only to the permanent demise of America's health care system but also to possibly the end of America's free market tradition.

It's one thing for Obama's leftist cult followers to be oblivious as to the source of their giddiness, but it's completely unacceptable for the right to be rudderless in the face of this potential juggernaut. Lord help us and this great nation if they don't regain their moorings very soon.

David Limbaugh is a writer, author and attorney. To find out more about him, visit his Web site at [www.davidlimbaugh.com](http://www.davidlimbaugh.com).

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MIGUEL PEREZ



DAVID LIMBAUGH



# Young scientists honored at Washington

Special to the Herald

Officials at Washington Elementary wrapped up the school's annual science fair last week, with several students advancing to the regional competition in Odessa March 7.

In the physics competition, Hayley Jenkins took top honors, with second place split between Chris Martinez and Charles Hill, and third place honors going to Jaimee Prado and Nathan Viassana.

In the Earth science division Rowan Colette took first place, with Zachery Bennette coming in second place and Nicholas Glass coming in third place. Yisselle Glavan and Jordan Qualls split the top spot in environmental science, with Jaylyn Walleck taking second place, followed by Krista Starr in third place.

Israel McClinton took top honors in the behavioral science division, followed by second-

place winner Veronica Nieto and third-place winner Trisha Nieto.

In the life science division, Faith Pearson-Wyatt and Tiffany McKenzie split first-place honors, with second place going to Adalie Lopez and Brandon Chapel, while Michael Klaus took third place. In the chemistry competition, Carmen Lopez took the first-place ribbon, followed by Timmy McKenzie in second place and Melanie Glass in third place.

Several second-grade students competed in the fair, and while only third and fourth grade students were allowed to advance to regional competition, event organizers said many of the projects were certainly worthy of advancement.

In behavior science, Dylan Cervantes took first place, while Cierra Hutcherson took second place. In the physics competition, Tyler Ditto won the first-place



HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins

**These Washington Elementary students show off their first, second and third-place ribbons during an awards ceremony for the 2008-2009 school science fair Friday afternoon. Third and fourth grade students that placed third or higher will have their projects presented at the regional science fair**

ribbon, while Joseph Doll took second place and Joselyn Chagoya claimed third place.

In the chemistry com-

petition, Teagan Terrell won first place, with Laura Romero taking second place. In life sciences, Andrew Romero

took first place honors. Third and fourth grade students will present their projects during the regional science fair

in March on the campus of University of Texas at the Permian Basin in Odessa, school officials said.

## News in brief

### Man convicted of strangling stepmother set to die

LIVINGSTON (AP) — When convicted rapist Reginald Perkins was sentenced to life in prison in Ohio in 1981, authorities who suspected him of three murders in Cleveland but didn't have enough evidence to charge him figured he'd be locked up for a long time.

Just eight years later, however, he was paroled and moved to Fort Worth. Two women related to people he knew then turned up dead before a parole violation returned him to Ohio

in December 1993.

He was paroled again in February 2000 and came back to Texas. Ten months later, he was arrested in Fort Worth for strangling his 64-year-old stepmother, Gertie Perkins, whose body was found stuffed in the trunk of her Cadillac.

Perkins, 53, was set to die Thursday for his stepmother's slaying.

"He's a serial killer," said Kevin Rousseau, a Tarrant County district attorney who won a death sentence against Perkins. "People look for more complicated rationale. But the bottom line is he's a killer. He goes

through quite a bit of trouble to kill folks."

### Texas jobless fund to face \$447M deficit

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas is projected to have a \$447 million shortfall in its unemployment compensation trust fund on Oct. 1 following the temporary suspension of the unemployment replenishment tax at the behest of Gov. Rick Perry, according to offi-

cials.

The unemployment fund, which pays jobless claims, was flush with \$90 million in savings nearly a year ago when Perry temporarily halted the replenishment tax, one part of the unemployment insurance tax.

The suspended tax was reinstated this month, but officials said it won't be enough to cover the shortfall between the \$414 million the state expects to be in the fund Oct. 1 and the \$861 million it's supposed to have.

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# Serena struggles, Venus ousted at Aussie Open

By PAUL ALEXANDER

Associated Press Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia — Venus Williams squandered a match point before losing to 46th-ranked Carla Suarez Navarro on Thursday, the biggest upset so far at the Australian Open.

The 20-year-old Spaniard, who reached the French Open quarterfinals last year as a qualifier in her first Grand Slam, rallied to beat Williams 2-6, 6-3, 7-5.

"She was super consistent and

aggressive and just went for her shots," said Williams, the seven-time Grand Slam singles champion who now can only hope for a doubles crown here with sister Serena. "Probably one of her best matches she's ever played."

Usually the aggressor with her powerful shots, the sixth-seeded Williams was sluggish as she was broken while serving for the match and dropped the last five games with the crowd cheering loudly for Suarez Navarro to finish off the victory.

"I wasn't in control of the points,"

Williams said. "I'm definitely used to dictating the points a little bit more. It was kind of a pattern that wasn't the best for me."

Serena Williams also struggled and headed to the practice courts after a 6-3, 7-5 win over Argentina's Gisela Dulko, ranked 45th. Serena Williams gave her performance a "D-minus at best."

Top-ranked Rafael Nadal got high marks for a 6-2, 6-3, 6-2 win over Croatia's Roko Karanusic, and has dropped only 11 games in six sets in Melbourne. Nadal advanced to face

Germany's Tommy Haas, who beat Flavio Cipolla of Italy.

Nadal's potential semifinal opponent, fourth-ranked Andy Murray, wasn't seriously challenged in his first real test, ousting 51st-ranked Marcel Granollers of Spain 6-4, 6-2, 6-2 in 1 hour, 50 minutes.

That came after Murray only had to be on court 45 minutes in Tuesday's stifling heat before Andrei Pavel retired with a back injury.

See AUSSIE, Page 11

# Another step back

## Bucks crush fickle Mavericks, 133-99

By COLIN FLY

AP Sports Writer

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Michael Redd joked it was time for Dirk Nowitzki to go through the blender.

By that point, the Mavericks were already a total mess.

Michael Redd scored 27 points, punctuated by a crossover, fadeaway jumper over Nowitzki, and Charlie Villanueva added 32 points and 10 rebounds, lifting the Bucks to a 133-99 victory over Dallas on Wednesday night.

"It was one of those nights when the basket opened up for us, and we were able to knock them down," Bucks coach Scott Skiles said. "We can't really complain about our defensive effort."

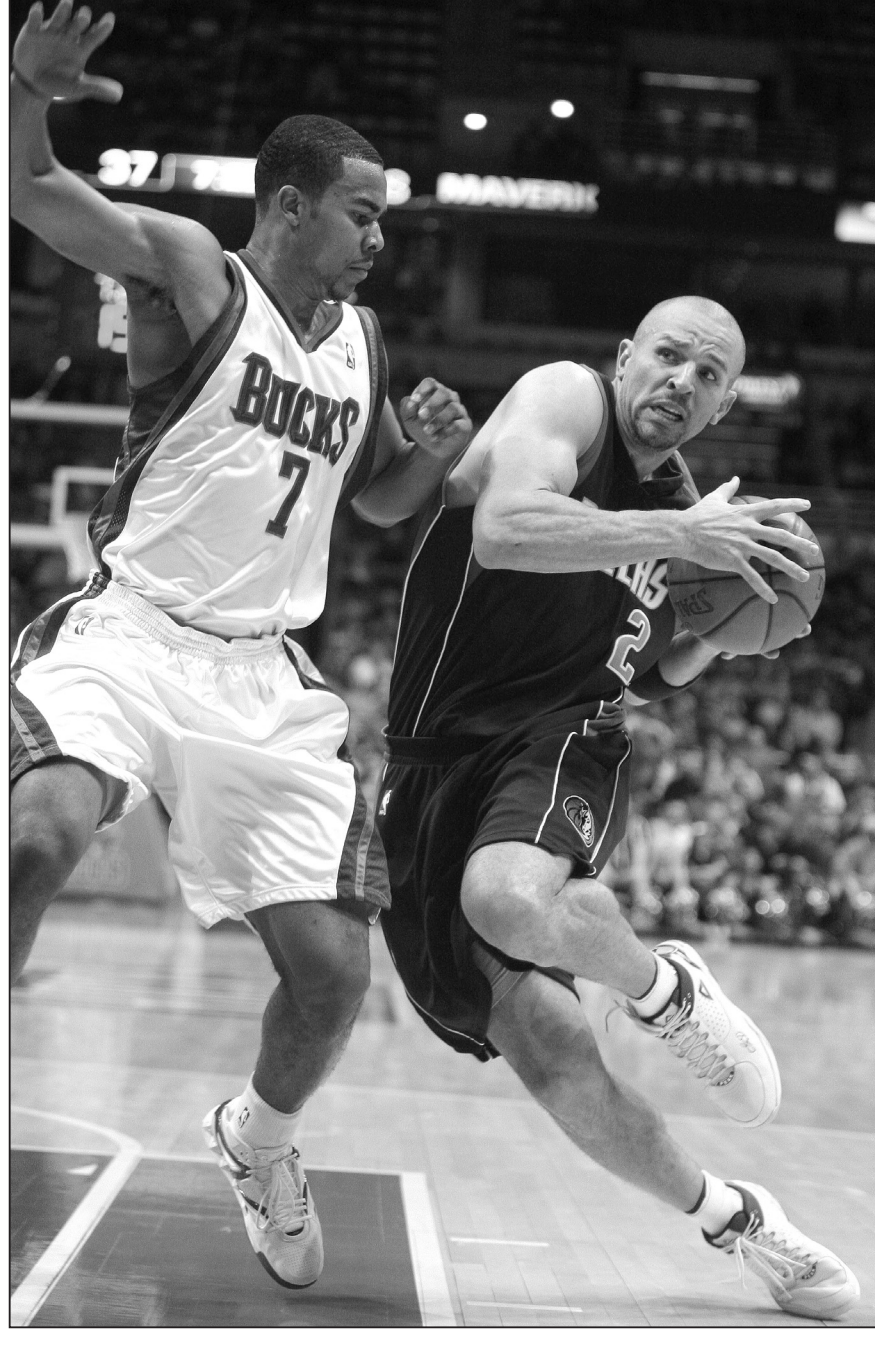
But it was the offense that helped Milwaukee snap its two-game losing skid.

After Jason Kidd hit a 3-pointer to tie it at 67 early in the third quarter, Dan Gadzuric, who started with seven straight misses, tipped in a shot and Redd began to find his stroke, hitting 3-pointers on three straight possessions to spark a 19-2 run.

Redd wasn't finished.

With Nowitzki guarding him on a switch, the veteran guard did a quick

See MAVS, Page 11



AP photo/Morry Gash

Dallas Mavericks guard Jason Kidd (2) drives past Milwaukee Bucks guard Ramon Sessions (7) during the first half of an NBA game Wednesday in Milwaukee. The Bucks crushed the Mavs, 133-99.

# Injured Ward determined to face Cards, Fitzgerald

By ALAN ROBINSON

AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH — Hines Ward is so certain his sprained knee will keep him out of the Super Bowl, he believes he could play this week if necessary.

The Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver didn't miss a game to injury all season, and he said Wednesday he's not about to miss a Super Bowl. Especially one against his former practice field acquaintance, Larry Fitzgerald.

Ward became friends with the Arizona Cardinals' All-Pro receiver when Fitzgerald played at Pitt, and the two have stayed in touch. When both teams won their conference championship games Sunday, they exchanged text messages.

"He texted me the other day and it was like, 'Let us win, you already have a ring,'" Ward said. "My response is, 'I want two rings.'"

Ward went to several Pitt games when Fitzgerald played for the Panthers in 2002-03, and he realized immediately how good the young receiver was.

"He was always asking me stuff," said Ward, who regularly bumped into Fitzgerald in the practice facility the Steelers share with Pitt. "He asks me questions to this day. He'll text me and ask me about certain defensive backs and what not. He's a great student of the game and he's got tons of talent."

Fitzgerald has set an NFL postseason record with 419 yards receiving in three games and the Super Bowl still to play.

"He's very excited to be on the biggest stage in the Super Bowl," Ward said of Fitzgerald, who predicted while in college he would play in the Super Bowl. "Hopefully we can contain him and not let him go wild."

Ward isn't the downfield threat Fitzgerald is, but he is one of the NFL's most consistent receivers and was the Super Bowl MVP three years ago when the Steelers beat Seattle.

Ward's injury — a sprained medial collateral ligament — can sideline a player for an extended period, with running back Willie Parker missing four games earlier this season. But with nearly two weeks to rest before the Feb. 1 game in Tampa, Ward is confident he will play.

"Just have to wait for the swelling to go down," Ward said. "But (I) should be ready to go. I'll be OK. It feels good, it feels better than it did yesterday."

Ward was injured during the first quarter of the AFC championship game

See WARD, Page 12

# Tom Brady: Rehab is going well

TORONTO (AP) — New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady said in an interview Wednesday that his rehabilitation from season-ending knee surgery was "going really well," but he did not offer any timetable for a return to the football field.

In some of his first public comments since being injured in the first quarter of the regular season opener in September, Brady also told Toronto sports radio station The Fan 590 that he did not think the Patriots would be hurt badly by the defections of key personnel such as offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels and Scott Pioli, the team's former vice president of player personnel.

Brady was not asked during the

interview if he expected to be ready for training camp or the start of the 2009 regular season. Nor was he asked about ongoing speculation that his recovery from surgery has been slowed by a post-operative infection in his left knee.

"It's going really well," said Brady of his rehab. "Anyone who's come back from injuries that require surgery knows it's just a process and there are some good days, some bad days and you just have to keep plugging through them."

Brady was operated on Oct. 6 in Los Angeles and confirmed on his Web site a couple of weeks later that he had a second procedure after developing an infection.

In the interview, in which Brady promoted a sports cream, the 2007

NFL MVP described himself as the Patriots "biggest cheerleader" after the injury. He said he watched every game and shared the team's disappointment in missing the playoffs with an 11-5 record.

He also noted that the Patriots defeated the NFC's representative in the Super Bowl, the Arizona Cardinals, by 40 points (47-7 on Dec. 21).

Brady said he was confident the team would make improvements in the offseason to try to get back to the playoffs, and he downplayed the departures of Pioli and McDaniels.

McDaniels was hired as coach of the Denver Broncos and Pioli

See BRADY, Page 12

# Sports in brief

## Correction on names of Sands basketball players

In Tuesday's edition of the Big Spring Herald, a report of the Sands Mustangs' boys basketball team's victory over Dawson was reported in the area roundup.

The names of two of the leading scorers were incorrectly listed as Landon Parker and Michael Gomez.

The correct names are Mason Parker, who scored 15 points in the victory, and Jesus Gomez, who added 14.

## Friday is Pack the Gym Night in Forsan

The Forsan Buffaloes and Lady Buffaloes are each off to strong starts this season and the coach-

ing staff of both squads are inviting the public out to see.

Friday's home games against McCamey are a part of Pack the Gym Night. Attendees are encouraged to wear black and white and ask to show up in mass support of the Forsan basketball teams.

Tip time for the girls is 6:30 p.m. with the boys making an approximate 8 p.m. start.

## Big Spring Little League organizational meeting Sunday

Big Spring Little League will only an organizational meeting for the upcoming season at 4 p.m. Sunday at the Parker Hydraulic building on 2109 Front St..

For more information, contact Robert Smith at 263-7331, ext. 244.

## Lady Steers softball team raising funds at Pizza Inn

The Big Spring Lady Steers softball team will be having a fundraiser today from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Pizza Inn.

The Lady Steers will be helping with service and a portion of Pizza Inn's profits during that time will go to the team.

## Coahoma softball alumni needed for annual game

The 7th Annual Coahoma Softball Alumni Game has been scheduled for 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14, and will be played at the Coahoma High School field. Any former player interested in participating should call Amy Dunn at 263-2228 or 394-4323.



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Legals

SECTION 001000 INVITATION TO BID

FURNITURE, FURNISHINGS AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE HOWARD COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER BIG SPRING, TEXAS

Sealed Bids for the construction of the Furniture, Furnishings, and Equipment for the Howard County Law Enforcement Center, Big Spring, Texas, will be received at the office the Howard County Auditor, Ms. Jackie Olson until 9:30 A.M. January 30th, 2009. For regular mail, please use: PO Box 1949 Big Spring, Texas 79721. **For HAND or OVERNIGHT DELIVERY ONLY,** please use: Howard County Courthouse, 300 Main Street, Big Spring, Big Spring, Texas 79720, 432/264-2210, it is the responsibility of each bidder to ensure timely delivery of their proposal. The Howard County Auditor will open and present the bids to the Howard County Commissioners Court on January 30th, 2009 at 10:00 A.M. in the County courtroom on the second floor of the County Courthouse located 300 Main Street, Big Spring, Texas 79720.

The work to be executed as herein described and shown on the drawings entitled Furniture, Furnishings and Equipment for Howard County Law Enforcement Center Texas, consists of furnishing of all materials, labor, equipment for Appliances, Audio/ visual Systems, Storage Systems and services necessary or reasonably incidental to complete the construction of the aforementioned project on a site shown and described on the drawings. This bid opening is for furniture, fixtures and equipment only.

Interested bidders may obtain Drawings, Specifications and Bidding Documents at the office of the Architect, Southwest Architects, Inc., 4200 South Hulen, Suite 534, Fort Worth, Texas 76109 or the Howard County Auditor office at 300 Main Street, Big Spring, Texas 79720.

No bidder may withdraw his/her bid for a period of thirty (30) days following the opening of bids. The Owner reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids or portions thereof and to waive all formalities therewith.

END OF SECTION 001000

#6027 January 15 & 22, 2009

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## Ready for the digital tv switch?

**A Guide for the Digital TV Transition** (Family Features) On Feb. 18, 2009, all full-power broadcast stations will complete the transition from analog to digital broadcasting as mandated by Congress.

This means that viewers who still receive programming via over-the-air (OTA) antennas will no longer receive a picture on their television screen.

Nielsen estimates that 13 percent of the 112.8 million total television households in the nation rely on OTA television broadcasts for programming.

For Hispanics however, this is an area of added concern, as this group is most prone to be left without access to a television signal once the digital transition occurs.

Hispanics are at the top of the prone list with 17.3 percent of Latino households "Completely Unready for Digital Conversion," according to Nielsen's "Ranking of Local Markets Based on Percentage of TV Sets Currently Unprepared for Digital Conversion."

Viewers who use paid TV services, like those offered by AT&T and other providers, won't be affected by the switch. Only viewers who watch free over-the-air pro-

gramming through an antenna will need to make changes. If you have a digital TV set, you can continue to receive free over-the-air programming with the same antenna.

If you have an analog TV set and want to continue to receive programming, you have three options to consider before the switch.

### Get a Discounted Converter

Your analog TV set can receive a digital signal with an easy-to-use box. With a converter, your TV should continue to receive free programs through your current antenna. Each TV set in your house that uses an over-the-air antenna will need its own converter box. The converter box may be purchased with a government issued coupon through March 2009.

All U.S. households can request two \$40 coupons, which work like a gift card toward the purchase of a converter box. Converters are available at most electronics retail stores. Prices are estimated between \$40 and \$70.

You can apply for a coupon online at [www.dtv2009.com](http://www.dtv2009.com) or by calling 1-888-DTV-2009.

### Buy a New TV

Purchasing a digital TV set (ATSC enabled) will allow you to keep watching free over-the-

air programs without a converter.

You will still need an antenna to view free programming, even with the purchase of a new TV. Since March 2007, all new TVs sold in the U.S. are required to have digital receivers.

A retailer may still sell analog TVs, but only if they were in stock prior to March 2007. Any analog TVs for sale in stores must be identifiable to consumers by warning labels that the TVs will soon require a converter box.

If you're interested in High Definition, remember not all digital TV sets have HD capability. Check with your local electronics retailer about DTV and HDTV options.

### Choose a Paid Service

A paid subscription is not required as part of the switch to digital. But purchasing cable, satellite or AT&T Advanced TV services can give you the latest technology.

Pay TV services typically offer more channels than over-the-air service, and they also offer many other useful services and features, such as the ability to record programs on a DVR, watch videos on demand, view what's on TV in an electronic program guide, and more.

## Tomorrow's Horoscope

As if to make up for yesterday's peace, an exciting conjunction of Venus and rebellious Uranus livens things up a bit. There will be encounters of the close variety — if not physically, then spiritually.

These planets are careening through the psychic realm of Pisces and it's easier to recognize, experience and fall in love with a person's soul.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). As you confront your inner world it is OK to keep the outer world at a distance. Examine the roots of any negativity you find holding you back. Because of your spiritual reconciliation, the world becomes a much friendlier place.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). The people you once thought of as "foreign" now share your interests. Acclimate and ascend to the firmament where you will shine with other luminaries. Your dreams can come true.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Unbeknown by you, a virtual soul mate lives nearby. As hard to imagine as that may be, imagining it is exactly what you need to do in order to discover this person. Allow images of this meeting into your daydreams.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). The idea that "everything" could hinge on one thing is usually an overstatement. But today it rings true in terms of your self-image. However your feel about yourself becomes magnified. Take an inventory of your best attributes.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). You're in a unique position to fulfill the potential you see in current circumstances. Take three brisk action steps. Willpower is the magic ingredient that will ultimately bring about your success.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Do not save the best

for use in the nebulous future. This practice needs updating. Allow yourself to experience luxury now. Use your softest guest towels on your own face, for instance. You deserve it.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Maybe you were not raised with a silver spoon in your mouth, but you still exude a sense of pampered excellence right now. Show others that you have known what it's like to need. Tonight you'll make a powerful human connection.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Accepting that you are a big fish in a small pond brings to fruition the next step: a larger pond. Take the leap into that deeper, wider pool of talent. There are many "new species" for you to meet.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Upon waking, try to recall a dream. Replay it in your mind in its entirety and write it down. You are currently receiving precognitive dreams filled with information intended for your highest good.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Let go. Keeping certain issues on the down low may be causing gravity in your spirits. Unburden yourself to a trusted friend. If you do not have a confidant, it is time to make one.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There's no reason you should be rolling with the punches now. Instead, scoot on to a supportive environment. It's not enough to go where your ideas are not squelched. Go where your every whim will be celebrated.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). Your partner is really and truly in love with you. Only your doubt about that keeps the two of you from shooting for the moon. Let go of your worries and let romance rocket you to a different place.

**COSMIC CAREER SPECIAL: SAGITTARIUS AT WORK:** Sagittarius has an entirely different perspective on work than most people do.

People who go to work

merely to earn money are, as far as Sagittarius is concerned, thinking much too small. Sagittarius believes that a job — any job — is an expression of the worker's spirit.

The way one approaches a task is a statement about who he or she is. Work is a way to explore one's philosophy, chase pleasure, live out aspirations and fulfill a purpose on the planet.

That said, Sagittarius is not about to stick around in a position that has gotten stale and may switch jobs more frequently than most. With lucky Jupiter as the Sagittarian's guiding planet the prospect of finding new work — i.e., new adventure — is not too daunting. Sagittarius is likely to be that late applicant who winds up with the position, or the one who winds up with the manager's job just because he or she was showing up particularly strong the day the manager happened to quit.

Sagittarius is a quick study and also knows how to look knowledgeable and in control (even without a clue about what's going on), which counts for a lot, too.

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** Gorgeous Diane Lane has been acting since the age of 6 and was at 14 on the cover of Time Magazine as one of Hollywood's "Whiz Kids." She's a bright Aquarius with her moon in artistic Libra. These air sign influences indicate a breezy kind of career savvy. Lane has expressed interest in doing a comedy, and has also made it clear that time with her family is the utmost priority.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to [www.creators.com](http://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](http://www.creators.com).

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# Annie's Mailbox: Man feels duped by in-laws

**Dear Annie:** Two weeks ago, we were informed that my wife's brother, "Bob," and his wife, "Marcia," were splitting after eight years.

A few days after this surprise, it came to light that they had never really been married. Apparently, they never intended to make the arrangement legal. They had a ceremony in a church and swore their vows before God in what we believed was a traditional wedding.

I have no idea if the minister was aware of this charade, but my wife has now admitted that my mother-in-law knew.

I find this astonishing, as my in-laws are devout and active church members, and I cannot imagine they would condone this farce — in their own church, no less — or the embarrassment this has caused them in their small community.

The more I reflect on

this, the less I want anything to do with my wife's family.

My wife says to let it go, but by attending future family gatherings, I'd be giving tacit approval to their bad behavior. I don't want to punish my wife — it's not her fault — but for the last eight years we've been spending family time with people who were only living together as a matter of convenience. Should I tell my wife to go to these gatherings alone? — *Miffed in Maryland*

**Dear Miffed:** You feel duped, which makes you understandably angry. And we are surprised the church would permit this couple to take vows without filing the necessary legal papers.

If Bob and Marcia had simply chosen to live together, would you feel the same? They were a committed couple for eight years and didn't intend to hurt anyone. In fact, the "marriage"

may have been an effort by your mother-in-law to make others believe they were not living in sin.

Yes, your wife can go on her own to future family gatherings, but we hope you will find a way to forgive Bob. You should still register your disapproval, but he is your wife's family and avoiding him will create an estrangement only for you.

**Dear Annie:** Fourteen years ago, a good friend gave me several articles of clothing that no longer fit her. These were

expensive clothes and I appreciated everything she gave me and have worn them consistently ever since.

Recently, this friend lost a great deal of weight and has asked me to return a leather jacket. She says the other things were gifts, but she only intended to loan the jacket in case she could ever wear it again.

Should I return it? I have spent a great deal of money over the years having the jacket cleaned and am quite resentful. What do you suggest? — *N.C.*

**Dear N.C.:** That must be a special jacket for both of you to want it so much.

You might consider

that for 14 years you've worn lovely clothes that you received for free, and now you begrudge your friend the jacket she's finally able to wear again.

You aren't obligated to give it back, but you will lose the friendship if you refuse. Is that what cleaning costs are worth? We think she's been very kind to you and this is your opportunity to return the favor. Please try.

**Dear Annie:** Your suggestion to "M.E." to create vegetarian dishes for that lazy parasite of a daughter-in-law misses the point.

That poor mother shouldn't have to cater to a younger and perfectly capable woman. Adult children who take advantage of their parents should be firmly lectured about manners, the purpose of motels and restaurants, invited for a few select meals and activities and then shown the door.

In our family, adult

children stay in a nearby motel. That way, we each have privacy. Children like hers aren't adults at all, merely spoiled kids. — *Sarasota, Fla.*

**Dear Sarasota:** If adult children can afford to stay in a nearby motel for a two-month visit, all the better. Unfortunately, not all families can manage it.

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](mailto: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](http://www.creators.com).

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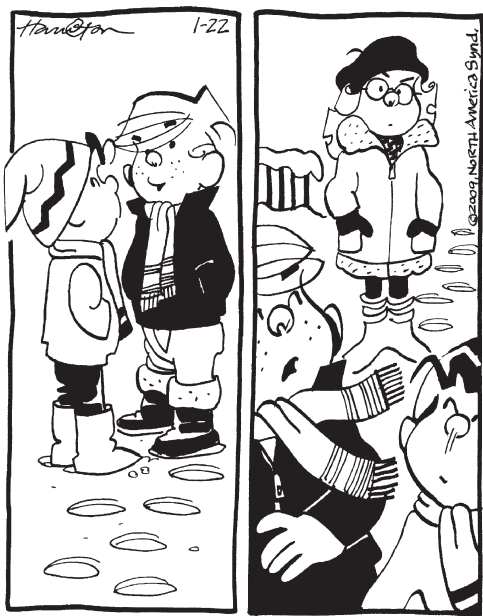


Kathy Mitchell  
Marcy Sugar



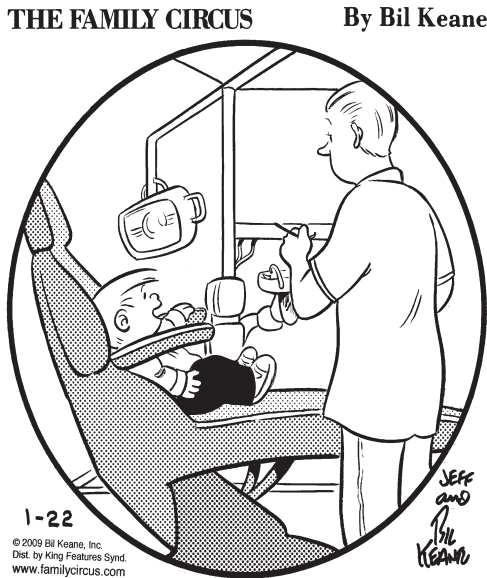
	WFAA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5 :PM :30	News ABC	News ABC	Locura Noticiero	Lopez Lopez	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News NBC	Raymond Friends	Granger Brad	BBC Business	Cash Cab Cash Cab	near, Sam Shepard	CSI: NY	Bones	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Wizards of Waverly Place		SportsCenter
6 :PM :30	News ABC	Fortune	Tontas Cielo	Two Men Two Men	News CBS	12 Cora-zones	News NBC	Seinfeld Seinfeld	Hagee	News-Lehrer	Made	CSI: Crime Scn	All-Star Pre.		Wizards of Waverly Place	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	
7 :PM :30	Ugly Betty	Ugly Betty	Cuidado-Angel	Bones	NCIS	Doña Barbara	Name Friends	Israel Friends	Texas Road Trip	HowStuff-Works	Made	Movie: The Untouchables, Robert De Niro	CSI: Crime Scn	NBA Basketball: Boston Celtics at Orlando Magic.	Movie: Waist Deep, Larenz Tate	Movie: Up, Up and Away		
8 :PM :30	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Fuego en la Sangre	Kitchen Nightmares	CSI: Crime Scn	El Rostro de Analia	Office Friends	Friends Friends	Antiques Roadshow	Destroyed Destroyed	Destroyed Destroyed	(45) Movie: Death Wish 3, Ed Lauter	TNA iMPACT!	NBA Basketball: Wizards at Lakers	American Gangster	Wizards of Waverly Place	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	Winter X-Games
9 :PM :30	(:01) Private Practice	(:01) Private Practice	Rosa Gualalu	To Be Announced	(:01) Eleven-hour	Sin Senos El Cartel	(:01) ER	Movie: The Mask, Peter Riegert	To Be Announced	Treasure Quest		(45) Movie: Two Minute Warning, Beau Bridges	Amazing Video	Hatchett	Wizards of Waverly Place	Tennis: Australian Open -- Early Round -- Day 5.	NFL Live Final	
10 :PM :30	News	News	Impacto		News	Noticias	News	Israel	Charlie Rose	Made		UFC	UFC	UFC	UFC	UFC	UFC	UFC
11 :PM :30	Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live	Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live	La Hora de la Risa	King-Hill	Late Late Show	Decisiones de Famosos	Late Night	Sex & Sex (12:10)	Swallow	Smiley	HowStuff-Works	(45) Movie: Two Minute Warning, Beau Bridges	MAN	MAN	MAN	MAN	MAN	MAN
12 :AM :30	G. Keith	Weekend	Contra Viento	RENO 911	Insider	Programa Pagado	News	Israel	LightWrd	Destroyed Destroyed	Treasure Quest	The Shield	Movie: Vegas Vacation	The Deal	Emperor Dragon	X Center	SportsCenter	
1 :AM :30	Work	Paid	Clasicos	Friends	Entertain	Pelicula: La	Poker After Dark	Minority Report	Light of the Southwest	Treasure Quest								

DENNIS THE MENACE



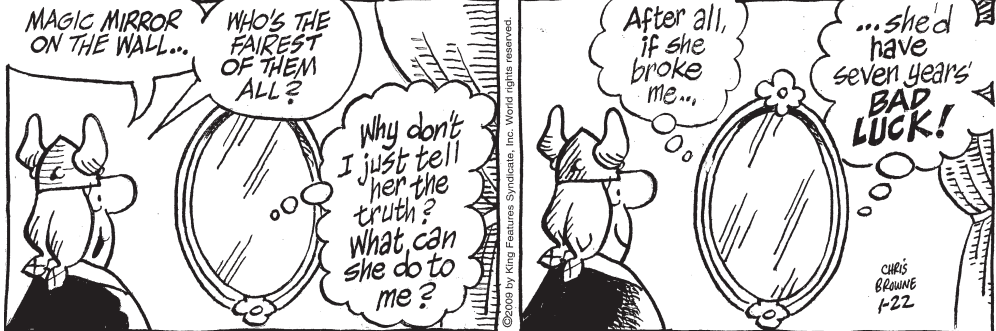
"OL' MARGRET'S OKAY IN 'HER WAY.'" "SO, LET'S GET OUT OF 'HER WAY'!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"My barber has a chair just like this cept he doesn't have anything to spit into."

HAGAR



BLONDIE



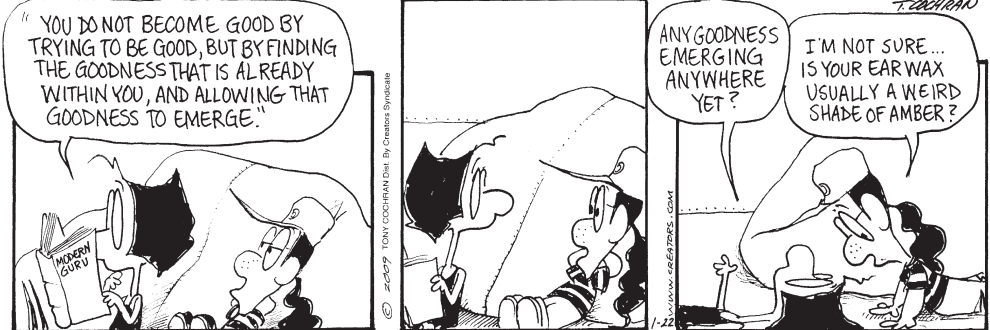
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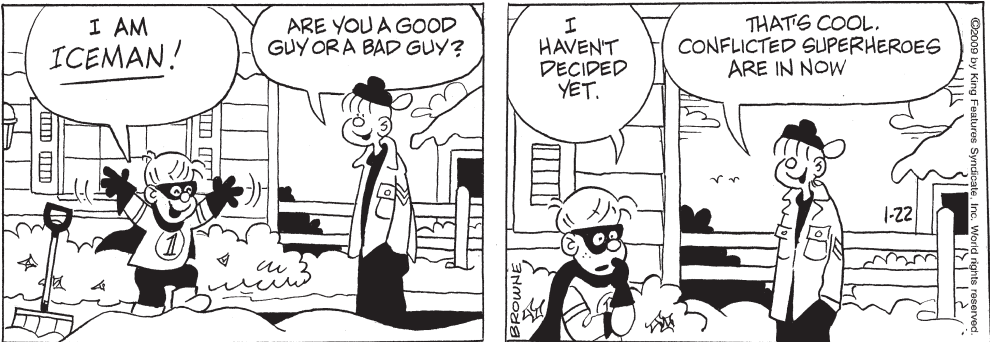
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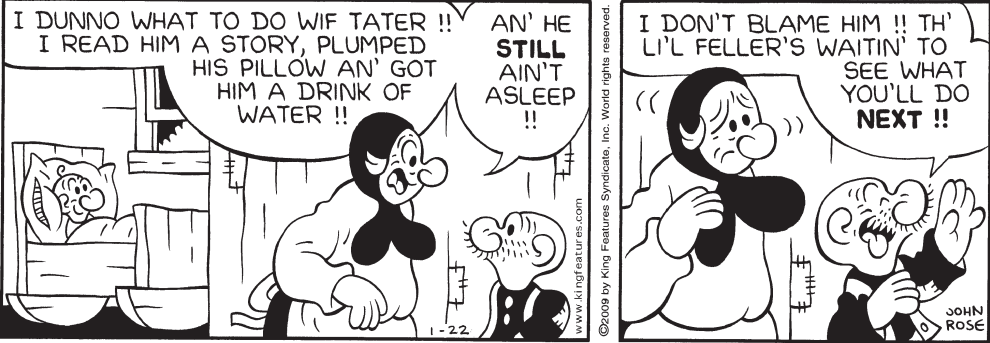
HI AND LOIS



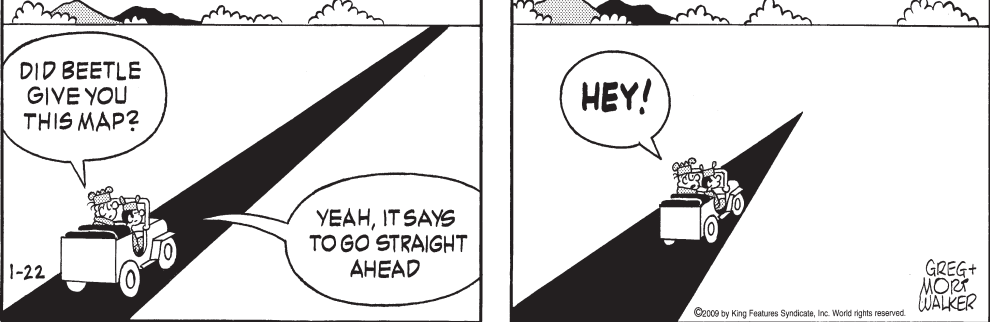
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Jan. 22, the 22nd day of 2009. There are 343 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 22, 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court, in its Roe v. Wade decision, legalized abortions using a trimester approach.

On this date: In 1901, Britain's Queen Victoria died at age 81.

In 1905 (New Style calendar), thousands of demonstrating Russian workers were fired on by Imperial army troops in St. Petersburg on what became known as "Bloody Sunday."

In 1909, actress Ann Sothern was born in Valley City, N.D.; U.N. Secretary-General U Thant was born in Pantanaw, Burma.

In 1917, President Woodrow Wilson pleaded for an end to war in Europe, calling for "peace without victory." (By April, however, America also was at war.)

In 1922, Pope Benedict XV died; he was succeeded by Pius XI.

In 1944, during World War II, Allied forces began landing at Anzio, Italy.

In 1959, 12 workers were killed in the Knox Mine Disaster in Port Griffith, Pa., when a mine became flooded with water from the Susquehanna River.

In 1973, former President Lyndon B. Johnson died at age 64.

In 1984, the Los Angeles Raiders defeated the Washington Redskins 38-9 to win Super Bowl XVIII, played at Tampa Stadium in Florida. (The game broadcast on CBS-TV featured Apple Computer's famous "1984" ad introducing the Macintosh PC.)

In 1995, Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy died at the Kennedy compound at Hyannis Port, Mass., at age 104.

Today's Birthdays: Former Sen. Birch Bayh, D-Ind., is 81. Actress Piper Laurie is 77. Actor Seymour Cassel is 74. Author Joseph Wambaugh is 72. Actor John Hurt is 69. Singer Steve Perry is 60. Country singer-musician Teddy Gentry (Alabama) is 57.

Movie director Jim Jarmusch is 56. Hockey Hall-of-Famer Mike Bossy is 52. Actress Linda Blair is 50. Actress Diane Lane is 44. Actor-rap DJ Jazzy Jeff is 44. Country singer Regina Nicks (Regina Regina) is 44. Rhythm-and-blues singer Marc Gay (Shai) is 40. Actor Gabriel Macht is 37. Actor Balthazar Getty is 34. Actor Christopher Kennedy Masterson is 29. Pop singer Willa Ford is 28. Actress Beverley Mitchell is 28. Rock singer-musician Ben Moody is 28.

Thought for Today: "Advertising has done more to cause the social unrest of the 20th century than any other single factor." — Clare Boothe Luce, American author, politician and diplomat (1903-1987).

Answer to previous puzzle

GLIB	COAT	LOMAN
RENO	ACHY	ELOPE
AMEN	STEP	ADOPT
TOTO	HEMORIN	
ANT	WET	ATESTS
	SEW	BOZO
	SHEAR	GOTO
	PEAK	PERFORMANCE
	ELSE	FIFE
	ALT	ARNO
	ROADIE	SIS
	SUMMIT	MEETING
	GAINS	SUES
	AMANA	ABLE
	PINOT	YALL

Newsday Crossword

IN THE BALLPARK by Norma Steinberg Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS
- 1 Sound like
- 4 Elevated areas
- 9 Sign of the ram
- 14 Trifle (with)
- 15 Mennonite sect
- 16 Jargon
- 17 Janitorial job?
- 20 Kukla's buddy
- 21 Kansas product
- 22 Farmer's purchase
- 23 Villains
- 26 "Big Blue"
- 29 Tunnel-drilling need
- 30 Long time follower
- 31 Great report card
- 32 Hiawatha's craft
- 33 Many a bridesmaid
- 35 Cold lemonade on a hot day?
- 38 Parts of a TV image
- 39 Like good piecrust
- 40 Scone spread
- 41 Salty, in a way
- 42 River sight
- 45 Rep.'s opponent
- 46 Ticked the ivories
- 48 Temperamental star
- 49 Unadorned
- 51 Word before panel or plexus
- 52 Morning constitutional?
- 57 '70s Superman portrayer
- 58 Part of a loaf
- 59 Part of a foot
- 60 Ababa
- 61 Under a spell
- 62 Finale
- 12 Sense of self
- 13 "Junior" in the family
- 18 Pitch in
- 19 That girl
- 23 Dice, so to speak
- 24 Beginning
- 25 Cook in hot oil
- 27 '30s heavyweight champ
- 28 Damage
- 30 Hammer's target
- 31 Pale gray
- 32 Jazz singer
- 33 Easel
- 34 Eliciting an "Ugh!"
- 35 Tick off
- 36 Declared non-taxable
- 37 Tennis great
- Nastase
- 38 Group of whales
- 41 Send into exile
- 42 Widen
- 43 Arthurian paradise
- 44 Doctored, as a deck
- 46 Sheets of stamps
- 47 Set off
- 48 Part of DJIA
- 50 Pants maker
- Strauss
- 51 Luge, e.g.
- 52 Novelist Levin
- 53 Composer
- Rorem
- 54 "You go, reject!"
- 55 Rejactor
- 56 Old pro

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
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52	53							54	55	56				
57								58						59
60								61						62



# Dunn's 33 points lead Baylor past Kansas State, 83-65

MANHATTAN, Kan. (AP) — LaceDarius Dunn was giving all the credit to the guys who got him the ball.

Dunn tied a Baylor record with nine 3-pointers Wednesday night and scored 33 points as Baylor cruised past Kansas State 83-65, leaving the Wildcats winless in four Big 12 games.

"I was really surprised," said Dunn, who reached the 30-point mark for the first time this season. "I have to give a lot of credit to our guards. They found the open spots and it was my responsibility

to knock down the shots."

Curtis Jerrells added 18 points while Quincy Acy and Kevin Rogers each had 12 for the Bears (15-3, 3-1 Big 12), who led the entire way. Acy also had nine rebounds.

Denis Clemente scored 17 points for Kansas State (11-7, 0-4), which has lost its first four conference games for the first time since the 1996-97 season.

"It's always tough to lose four in a row," said Kansas State's Darren Kent. "We're digging ourselves too big of holes that we can't get out of."

In their first 17 games, the Bears had connected on 145 shots from beyond the arc, the second most in the Big 12.

Kansas State's losing streak resembles the four straight losses the Wildcats endured late last season, and Kent, the team's lone senior, believes they can bounce back as they did in 2008, when they won their final two games en route to an NCAA tournament appearance.

See **BAYLOR**, Page 12

## MAVS

Continued from Page 6

crossover for a little space and then hit a 16-foot jumper while fading to the baseline.

"I knew I had a bigger man on me. Dirk has done it so many times to other people," said Redd, who had 16 in the quarter. "I had the advantage and had to put him in the blender a little bit and just have fun with it."

Then Redd used a pump fake to shake his defender, burying another jumper over Nowitzki. Moments later, Villanueva was left uncovered for a 3-pointer that made it 97-76 and he hesitated on his follow-through for a moment to admire his shot.

It was all fun for the Bucks after a 1-2 West Coast trip without Andrew Bogut. Bogut was out for the fourth

straight game due to back spasms, but the Bucks didn't need his physical presence or rebounding.

"I'm happy to be back home," said Villanueva, who has double-doubles in three of his past four games. "That West Coast trip was brutal to us, it was tough for us. We didn't play our best basketball but we definitely bounced back from it."

The Bucks shot 29 percent in the first quarter, but picked up the pace with 111 points over the final three quarters.

Milwaukee made a season-best 13 3-pointers and committed nine turnovers.

"The second quarter they shot 83 percent from the field. The third quarter they shot 74," Mavericks coach Rick Carlisle said. "I am just disappointed particularly in the way the second and third quarters came down. We're better than that, and we should be better than that."

Milwaukee missed eight shots over a span of 24 minutes to take a 101-85 lead heading into the fourth, but Dallas never made a run, leaving Mavericks owner Mark Cuban shaking his head just behind the bench.

"It's just embarrassing, really," Nowitzki said. "They got whatever they wanted — wide-open shots, drives, layups."

Ramon Sessions, who finished with 21 points, hit all seven of his attempts and Milwaukee shot 57.8 percent as a team.

"It's hard to lose when you're shooting like that," he said. "Any team would get frustrated."

Midway through the fourth, Carlisle took out both Kidd, who finished with 18 points, and Nowitzki, who went 7-of-16 from the field and 16-of-17 from the free-throw line to finish with 30.

The duo even walked onto the court toward the locker room before the final seconds ticked off.

"Usually you get one stop, get a bucket, get another stop and you can make a run. But it seemed like we could never get two stops in a row," said Nowitzki, who jammed his left thumb and had it taped early in the second quarter. "It's just all over the place bad."

Notes: Josh Howard scored 19 points for the Mavericks in his second game back after missing four in a row with an injured left wrist. ... Cuban got tossed out of a courtside seat valued at \$400 early in the game. He was sitting in one of the four seats to the left of the Dallas bench, but the ticket-holders showed up and Cuban was forced to relocate. No worries, though. He grabbed a folding chair and created a seat for himself directly behind the bench. That view would be worth \$226. ... Nowitzki hit 12 straight free throws in the game before missing his second in 2009. He's 81-of-83 since Jan. 1.

## AUSSIE

Continued from Page 6

With Scottish flags and tartan hats scattered around Rod Laver Arena on a cool Thursday night, Murray had 37 winners to 18 for Granollers.

"All the work I did is paying off," said Murray, runner-up at the U.S. Open last year. "This is probably the best I've felt coming into a Grand Slam."

Suarez Navarro, over-matched at first, broke twice in the second set as the 28-year-old Williams let a number of reachable shots fly past. She saved a match point while serving at 4-5 in the deciding set and broke in the next game, aided by Williams's double-fault.

Williams netted a forehand on match point in the next game for her 37th unforced error, and Suarez Navarro said she had little choice but to turn up the pressure.

"You must be aggressive during all the match," she said. "If not, she's going to take control of you."

Serena Williams said her victory left "lots and lots of room for improvement," but she was happy to get through without her best form.

The younger Williams sister looked to be headed to a quick victory — by the time Dulko hit her first winner, she already was down 3-0.

But the Argentine soon was matching the powerful Williams shot for shot. She saved triple set point while serving at 2-5, but Williams finished it off the next game with a pair of aces.

In the second set, Dulko — who said she wasn't sure she'd be able to play after running a high fever following a doubles match Wednesday — served at 5-3 and held six set points in a game that went to deuce 12 times. But her veteran opponent, accustomed to the pressure of Grand Slams, finally converted the seventh break point.

"She started playing unbelievable, hitting winners left and right," Williams said. "She had a couple of opportunities, but I always felt I wasn't going to lose."

Olympic champion

Elena Dementieva improved her 2009 winning streak to 12 matches by beating Iveta Benesova. The 27-year-old Dementieva reached the French Open and U.S. Open finals in 2004 but has not returned to the final of a major since.

Amelie Mauresmo, who won here and at Wimbledon in 2006, rallied to beat Britain's Elena Baltacha, while fellow Frenchwoman Virginie Razzano ousted No. 14 Patty Schnyder of Switzerland 6-3, 6-1.

Other women advancing included No. 8 Svetlana Kuznetsova of Russia, No. 12 Flavia Pennetta of Italy, No. 13 Victoria Azarenka of Belarus, No. 18 Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia, No. 21 Anabel Medina Garrigues of Spain and No. 22 Zheng Jie of China.

On the men's side, No. 9 James Blake won in straight sets for the second time, never dropping serve while beating Sebastien de Chaunac.

Four seeded Frenchmen also advanced.

Fifth-seeded Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, last year's runner-up, had a tough 6-7 (4), 7-6 (8), 7-6 (7), 6-2 win over Ivan Ljubicic of Croatia. He joined No. 6 Gilles Simon, No. 12 Gael Monfils and No. 24

Richard Gasquet in the third round.

Also winning were No. 13 Fernando Gonzalez of Chile, the 2007 runner-up, along

with No. 14 Fernando Verdasco, No. 17 Nicolas Almagro and No. 31 Jurgen Melzer.

Dudi Sela became the first Israeli man to make

the third round of a he beat Romania's major since 1994 when Victor Hanescu.



### Contract Bridge Cards Always Tell a Story

By Steve Becker

East dealer.  
Neither side vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ A J 3 2  
♥ 10 7 3  
♦ K 10 9 5 4  
♣ 6

**WEST**  
♠ Q 10 9 8 7 6 5  
♥ —  
♦ J 7 6 3  
♣ 3 2

**EAST**  
♠ K  
♥ A K Q J 8 5 2  
♦ 8 2  
♣ 10 8 4

**SOUTH**  
♠ 4  
♥ 9 6 4  
♦ A Q  
♣ A K Q J 9 7 5

The bidding:  
East South West North  
4♥ 5♣ All Pass

Opening lead — ten of spades.

assume, from East's opening four-heart bid and West's opening lead of a spade, that West does not have a heart to lead.

When South wins the spade lead with the ace and East plays the king, South can also logically conclude that East started with the singleton king or the K-Q doubleton. When declarer then ruffs a spade at trick two and East shows out, South confirms that West started with seven spades.

When declarer next draws three rounds of trumps, he learns that West started with two clubs. This enables him to conclude that West's original distribution was 7-0-4-2.

Accordingly, South cashes the ace of diamonds, then overtakes the queen with the king and leads the ten of diamonds, discarding a heart. West takes the diamond with the jack and leads the queen of spades, on which South again discards a heart.

West then has no choice but to return a spade or a diamond, allowing declarer to discard his last heart on one of dummy's established winners, so South makes five clubs. In actuality, declarer does nothing really miraculous to make the contract; he merely takes advantage of the inferences that are available from both the bidding and the subsequent play.

Tomorrow: Test your play.  
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## sudoku

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

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

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(1 Owner)  
**\$18,950**



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**\$13,950**



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# Bynum's career game, Kobe's triple-double lead Lakers past Clippers

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Andrew Bynum wore a broad grin as he sat in front of his locker. Little wonder, because he had just finished playing the game of his life. Bynum scored a career-high 42 points, Kobe Bryant had his second triple-double in three games and the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Clippers 108-97 Wednesday night. "If feels very good, to go out there and play the way I did," the 21-year-old center said. "I was able to get a lot of easy buckets." Bynum became the first Lakers player to reach 40 points other than Bryant since Shaquille O'Neal scored 48 against Boston on March 21, 2003.

Bynum shot 17-of-24 from the floor and 8-of-11 from the foul line, and added 15 rebounds and four blocked shots. "I didn't know how many (points) I had, and that's just the truth," he said. "The fans were yelling for me to get 40. And then once I got the dunk, everybody was on their feet cheering." Bynum referred to a dunk off an assist from Bryant with 57.5 seconds left. He got another dunk before the buzzer. While Bynum said he wasn't aware of his point total, Bryant certainly was, making several pointed efforts to get his young center the ball as

time wound down. While that was going on, the Clippers cut a 16-point Lakers lead to seven, but that's as close as they got. "There's nothing wrong with that," Bryant said with a smile. Regarding Bynum, Bryant said: "The more you play, the better you get. He's going to continue to progress. It's great for him. I was more pleased to see how he controlled the lane." The Lakers raised their record to a Western Conference-best 33-8 record at the halfway point of the season and earned Phil Jackson an All-Star coaching spot. He'll lead the West All-Stars on Feb. 15 in Phoenix. It's the

fourth time Jackson has been an All-Star coach and first since 2000. Bryant, playing in pain two days after dislocating his right ring finger, had 18 points, 10 rebounds and 12 assists for his 16th career triple-double. He hadn't had one since April 1, 2005, before accomplishing the feat last Friday night in a 109-103 loss to Orlando. Bryant has 45 assists in his last four games — the most in any four-game stretch in his career. "We're in a good rhythm of how teams are playing against me, how they're matching up against me," he said, adding his finger felt a lot better in this game than it did Monday.

## BAYLOR

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"Most of these guys were on the team with us last year that had a losing streak like this one, and we dug out of it," he said. "We need to keep the energy and the fire and we should be fine." Dominique Sutton scored 12 points and Kent added 11 for the Wildcats. The nine 3-pointers by Dunn raised his team-leading total to 61 and tied the single-game record set by David Hamilton in 1995. Dunn came within five points of the career-high 38 he

scored against Texas Tech last March 8. "(Dunn) is going to shoot on every possession if he can," said Baylor coach Scott Drew. "He had some good looks tonight because of our guards." The Bears were 13-for-22 from outside the arc. They came in averaging 8.5 3-pointers per game. Struggling against Baylor's zone defense, cold-shooting Kansas State had only eight points on the board with 8 minutes left in the first half. The Wildcats closed out the period on a 7-3 run but trailed 36-23 at halftime en route to their second loss in 12 home games. "Baylor's going to score points,"

said Kansas State coach Frank Martin. "That's one thing that's constant. You've just got to make sure that you take advantage of your good opportunities and we didn't do that." Dunn remained hot in the second half, reeling off 11 points in the first 9:06 of the period. The Wildcats pieced together an 8-3 run, sparked by Clemente's two free throws with 13:35 left in the game. But Dunn hit a 3-pointer with about 11 minutes remaining to extinguish the comeback attempt. "We tried to make some good runs there in the second half and they would just answer every time," said Kent. "We came out a little flat and

we tried to pick up the energy in the second half, but that's the way we need to play from the get-go." The Bears maintained a double-digit lead throughout the half and took advantage of Kansas State foul trouble, making 14 of 16 free throws in the period. Baylor grabbed 33 rebounds to Kansas State's 29, marking the first time the Wildcats have been out-rebounded in 13 games. "K-State is one of the best rebounding teams in the country," said Drew. "If they get those second chances early, then they get the momentum. It's a situation that you don't want to have on the road."

## WARD

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against Baltimore on Sunday and did not play most of the final three quarters. "I said, 'Where's Hines? He must really be hurt, because of how tough he is,' cornerback Deshea Townsend said. "Two weeks? That's too many days for him to miss a game."

Left tackle Max Starks said he played with a tear in his meniscus, not just a sprain, during the Steelers' last Super Bowl. "A sprained knee is a relative term, especially with the braces they have now, the technology," Starks said. "He might not be able to move as fast but, knowing Hines, I can't see him not playing. Maybe if somebody had a big tear, but to have a sprain and to have two weeks off, most guys can usually come back from that."

## BRADY

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general manager of the Kansas City Chiefs. "There's change every year and you have to get used to it," he said, adding that the team's ownership and head coach remain intact. "As long as we have Robert and Jonathan Kraft and as long as we

have coach (Bill) Belichick we'll be just fine," he said. Matt Cassel, Brady's backup for the previous three seasons, played well after taking over as starter and reports have indicated that the Patriots are considering placing the franchise tag on Cassel as insurance should Brady not be ready for next season. Cassel had expected struggles when he took over for Brady, having not started a game since high school, but finished the season strong.



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