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H BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY

JANUARY 27, 2009



VOLUME 104, NUMBER 48

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Bailout ... Obama seeks Republican help

By LIZ SIDOTI

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama is making good on his promise to hear from Republicans as he pushes for swift passage and bipartisan backing of his massive \$825 billion plan intended to jerk the country out of recession.

The unanswered question: whether the new Democratic president will actually listen to GOP concerns about the amount of spending and the tax approach — and modify his proposal accordingly.

With the economy worsening, Obama was making his first trip to Capitol Hill since his swearing-in last week for two private afternoon sessions Tuesday with House and Senate Republicans.

“The goal is to seek their input. He wants to hear their ideas,” White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said. “If there are good ideas — and I think he assumes there will be — we will look at those ideas.”

“I think the president is genuinely serious about this,” Gibbs added.

The presidential spokesman would not, however, reveal what concessions Obama may be willing to make, if any, to demonstrate his seriousness about working across the aisle and securing GOP support. Gibbs, however, noted that there already are tax provisions in the measure, mostly small business cuts, that are direct GOP suggestions to Obama and his economic team.

“We don’t have pride of authorship. We understand that this is a process of give and take to produce what the president believes is the strongest plan to get the economy going again,” Gibbs said.

Meanwhile, Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell blamed Democrats for the hold-up.

“We’re anxious to help him,” the Kentucky Republican said of Obama Tuesday morning. “Frankly, the biggest problem is with his own party, the Democratic Party,

Neugebauer’s reaction

“This week, Speaker Pelosi and the Democratic leaders are finalizing a plan to spend \$825 billion dollars of taxpayer money on an “economic stimulus” bill that will neither create jobs nor stimulate our economy,” said U.S. Rep. Randy Neugebauer.



Neugebauer

“Rather than allowing all hardworking families and businesses to keep more of what they earn, create new jobs or revitalize our economy, Speaker Pelosi is changing the federal government’s spending priorities and moving forward with an ineffective spending package and targeted tax relief that picks winners and losers.

“In my opinion, \$825 billion of your tax dollars is a lot of money to waste on programs and projects like more digital TV coupons, new cars for the federal government and repairs to the National Mall. In fact, the proposed total cost of this one piece of legislation will amount to as much as the annual discretionary budget for the entire federal government. Not only would this bill spend more on programs that already have unspent money in the bank, but \$137 billion would be used to create 32 new federal programs.

“I continue to believe the hardworking folks of the 19th District know far better how to spend their money than the federal government does. Excessive borrowing, spending and debt resulted in many of the problems the government, individuals and businesses now face. More of the same is not the solution for improving our economy.”

See **BAILOUT**, Page 3



HERALD photo/Bill McClellan

Winter weather Monday night and this morning gave everything that “frosty” appearance. Unfortunately, the ice led to a number of traffic accidents, including one fatality north of Big Spring on State Highway 350.

One dead in morning rollover

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Icy weather may have contributed to a traffic accident that claimed the life of a female motorist early this morning, according to local law enforcement officials.

Tammie Atkinson, 59, of Big Spring was pronounced dead at the scene of a one-vehicle crash approximately a half-mile from the Big Spring city limits on State Highway 350 shortly after 5:40 a.m. this morning, according to Department of Public Safety Sgt. Thomas Moore.

“The trooper investigating the crash determined the cause was unsafe speed on an icy roadway,” said Moore.

See **FATAL**, Page 3

County, city pact delayed Hold up shouldn’t be long, officials say

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

An inter-local agreement between the Howard County Sheriff’s Office and the Big Spring Police Department could make it easier for local law enforcement officers to nab narcotics offenders, but the idea will have to be put on hold, at least for a little while.

That’s the message Sheriff Stan Parker delivered to county commissioners Monday morning, as the future of the agreement hinges on the



Parker

Big Spring City Council at this time.

“We don’t actually have the agreement yet. The city council has to approve the agreement, and they should be doing that Feb. 10,” said Parker. “What the agreement does is allow the police department to use their narcotics officers to work out in the county with our guys. Everything that’s done would be done through

our office.

“We’ve seen a large spread of activity in the county and we don’t have the resources available. The city is willing to move with some of their operations in the county, and it’s at no expense to us at all. However, it will definitely benefit us greatly.”

Parker said the agreement, as he understands it, will allow narcotics officers with the BSPD to work through the Sheriff’s Office when their

See **FACT**, Page 3

Health Center non-profit status backlogged; county to cover funds

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

No end in sight. That’s the phrase Ann Farley, director of the proposed County Health Center project, used to describe the ongoing wait for the Internal Revenue Service to grant the center a non-profit status, an essential ingredient for the project to receive state funding.

“The Texas Department of State Health Services has grant money available every year, and this fiscal year it’s been about \$5 million they can use to help federally qual-

ified health centers or centers that are trying to become centers,” said Farley. “When I last spoke with you, we talked about filing for \$16,400 under the health center. However, as you know, our non-profit status application is backlogged and we’re in a long waiting line. We can’t even anticipate when we’ll be able to get it.

“Meanwhile, this grant money is available on a first come, first serve basis. I’m asking if the commissioners court will consider allowing me to use the Howard Coun-

ty entity as the filing source to obtain this \$16,400 grant. Where we have an expenditure, the county would spend it out of the general fund and the state would reimburse you, and from what I understand from Jackie (Olson, county auditor), it happens fairly quickly.”

Farley said using the county’s existing non-profit designation could actually make the development of funding of the center easier over the coming years.

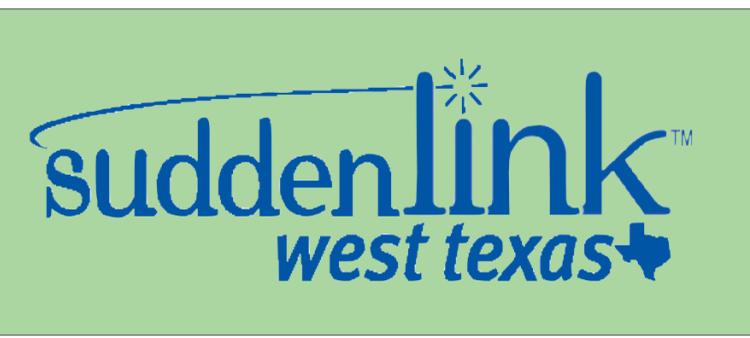
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Obituaries

Beatrice Banks



Beatrice Banks, 70, of Big Spring died Thursday, Jan. 22, 2009, at Medical Center Hospital in Odessa. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 29, 2009, at First Baptist Church.

She was born Oct. 5, 1938, in Tomball. She moved to Big Spring from Dayton in 1961.

She married Holston Banks Nov. 10, 1961. She was employed by Marie Hall for 28 years, retiring in 2008. She was a member of Shiloh House of Praise.

She is survived by her husband: Holston Banks Sr. of Big Spring; four sons: Clifford Detiege of San Antonio, Tyrone Banks of Odessa, and Holston Banks Jr. and Timothy Banks, both of big Spring; three daughters: Bernedette Valentine of Big Spring, Priscilla Smith of Temple, and Belinda Scott of Round Rock; three sisters: Juanita Williams of LaPorte, Mary Jones of Baytown, and Geneva Briggs of Dayton; five brothers: Roy Detiege, Earnest Detiege, Sidney Detiege, and Joseph "Shorty" Detiege, all of Dayton, and Clifton Detiege of Brady; 30 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersand-smith.com

Ruby Haggard

Ruby Haggard, 82, of Stanton, died Monday, Jan. 26, 2009, in a local hospital. Her services are pending with Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton.

Police blotter

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

- **BRENDA MENDEZ**, 26, of 1904 E. 25th St., was arrested Monday on a Nolan County warrant and a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **BENJAMIN ISAAC MUNOZ**, 28, of 1603 Vines, was arrested Monday on a charge of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.
- **THEFT** was reported:
 - in the 400 block of Fourth Street.
 - in the 1300 block of Gregg Street.
 - in the 300 block of Owens.
- **POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA – TWO OUNCES OR LESS** was reported in the 500 block of 15th Street.
- **POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA – TWO OUNCES OR LESS IN A DRUG FREE ZONE** was reported in the 200 block of Airbase Road.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported:
 - in the 4200 block of Muir.
 - in the 1100 block of 15th Street.
- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 400 block of Ryon.
- **BURGLARY OF A BUILDING** was reported in the 400 block of Fourth Street.
- **ASSAULT BY CONTACT** was reported in the 1900 block of N. Highway 87.

Sheriff

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. No arrests were reported for the 24-hour period.

Take Note

• Big Spring High School Class of 2010 will meet at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 29, in the high school library to discuss the prom. For more information, contact Denise Carrillo at 816-1685.

• The Howard County Pachyderm Club will meet Thursday, Jan. 29, at noon at the Big Spring Country Club off Driver Road. Lunch may be purchased for a nominal fee. Come and join us. Contact Melanie Gambrell for more information at (432) 267-7387.

• 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.

• Bring joy and kindness to others by becoming a Compass Hospice volunteer. Help those at the end of life's journey. Make a difference in someone's life. Call 263-5999 to begin your journey.

• All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue has an account set up with Big Spring Salvage at 3608 N. Hwy. 87 for all types of metals and aluminum cans. Please tell them that your donations are for All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue. All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue is also still taking weight circles off of all Purina brand dog foods. Send your Purina Weight Circles, to A.C.S. & R. at P.O. 871, Coahoma 79511. All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue is still accepting old and used cell phones and ink jet cartridges, for drop off locations in Big Spring and Coahoma, Call Melanie at 267-7387.

• Christ Community Fellowship is collecting infant car seats and carriers. These are given to new mothers who cannot afford them. To donate your old or new car seats and carriers, call Karen Allen at 263-3517 or leave a message at Christ Community Fellowship, 263-love. All donations are appreciated.

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

• The Pet Patrol helps locate lost pets and owners of found pets. To volunteer or for more information, call Melanie Gambrell at 267-PETS (7387).

• Legal Aid of Northwest Texas is accepting appointments from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month. Individuals seeking legal advice for matters concerning family law, divorce, custody and child support issues, social security cases, employment and housing may contact the office to schedule an appointment. Criminal cases are not accepted. Anyone recently served with legal documents should call the office immediately at 800-926-5630 or 432-686-0647.

• Big Spring and surrounding counties are in critical need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected. For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 263-9669.

Your Local Weather

Wed 1/28	Thu 1/29	Fri 1/30
 61/27	 58/27	 62/32
Abundant sunshine. Warmer. High 61F. Winds WSW at 10 to 20 mph.	Sunny. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the upper 20s.	Mainly sunny. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the low 30s.

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Bulletin Board

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

TODAY

• The Powwow Committee of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church annex, 809 Scurry, or the fellowship hall at 810 Scurry. Call Robert Downing at 263-3255 for information.

WEDNESDAY

• Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room.
• Free blood pressure screenings from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Salvation Army, 811 W. Fifth St., provided by InHome Care.
• Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
• Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.
• Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.

THURSDAY

• Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
• Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.
• 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.

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.

Fire/EMS

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

• **TRAUMA** was reported in the 2900 block of W. Seventh Street. Service refused.
• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 4100 block of Wasson. One person was transported to SMMC.
• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2900 block of W. Highway 80. One person was transported to SMMC.
• **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported near the intersection of Highway 87 and Gardendale. One person was transported to SMMC.
• **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported approximately 16 miles north on Highway 87. Service refused.
• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 500 block of Johnson. One person was transported to SMMC.
• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1200 block of Derrick Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

Support Groups

TUESDAY

• Grief share, sponsored by Home Hospice and the First Presbyterian Church, Seventh and Runnels (north end door), meets at 6 p.m.. Drop-ins are welcome. For more information, contact Sherry Hodne3tt at 264-7599.

• The Path, faith-based addiction recovery, meets at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Tabernacle Ministries, 1209 Wright St. Tuesday, Jan. 6,

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Courtesy photo

A group of interested citizens, civic leaders and senior citizens gathered Monday for a ribbon-cutting ceremony on the site of the proposed Martin County Senior Citizens building. Shown holding the ribbon are Charlie Pinkerton (left), president of the Senior Citizens Council and (right) Daniel Armstrong, pastor of the Methodist church. Preparing to cut the ribbon is Sally Poteet, director of the senior center.

Stanton breaks ground on senior center

New facility will be quadruple the size of the present building

Herald Staff Report

Martin County residents broke ground Monday on a new senior center in Stanton.

The facility will have slightly more than 6,000 square feet and will cost an estimated \$500,000. The site for the building is on a one-half block property belong-

ing to the Martin County Senior Citizens Foundation. It is located just across the street southeast from the courthouse. The present senior center is in the old T&P Depot building. Though the Depot building has great historical value, it is only about one-fourth the size of the new building and has been outgrown.

The senior center delivers some 25 noon meals each weekday to home-bound seniors in Stanton and has a similar number at the Depot. It is estimated the new building will be finished in six months.

The new facility will allow other programs to be offered to seniors and the community.

PACT

Continued from Page 1

investigations lead outside the city limits.

“Everything will be under our direction. It’s not a situation where we open the door and they (the narcotics officers) go do what they want,” said Parker. “Everything will come through our office. Our investigators will be working with them on these cases. That’s my understanding of the agreement. We haven’t actually seen it yet, but Josh (Hamby, county attorney) has been working with the city attorney on it. Until they approve it, we simply don’t have it to present to the commissioners court.”

Parker said the agreement would streamline

the investigation process, something that would benefit everyone in Howard County.

“It’s a situation where the chief (of police, Lonnie Smith) and I sat down and discussed the problems,” said Parker. “A lot of the things the city is working on drifts out into the county, and without some type of agreement to go out and pursue that, it makes it very difficult. It’s something that has expanded, and the city realizes a lot of their investigations lead out into the county, and we’re more than happy to allow them to do that because it benefits everyone.”

County Attorney Hamby said there are still some issues of liability in the agreement that have to be hammered out between himself and City Attorney Lin-

da Sjogren, but progress is being made.

“I don’t believe there has been any discussion yet as to how long the agreement would be good for,” said Hamby. “That’s something we’ll have to put in it, maybe making it good for a year so we can renew it annually, or however we want to do it.

“There are also some liability issues we’re looking at right now. The county would be liable for anything the narcotics officers did while they were working in the county, so we’re still looking at that. It’s an issue we’ll have to address.”

Also during the meeting, Parker discussed the possible change of two HCSO employees currently working part-time to full-time. One would be a dispatcher,

while the other would be a bonding clerk, a position that could see considerably more activity when the newly built county jail opens later this year.

“We would certainly like to look at it, if it’s feasible. There are benefits to this,” said Parker. “We’re getting ready to go into this bigger facility, and when you get into your bonding clerks, we’re going to be working them more because we’re going to have more inmates. Their job is going to actually increase, and we can dual-train our dispatchers to be jail-certified, and that gives us another person in the facility number-wise.”

Parker said his office is having considerable difficulty in hiring and keeping employees in the two part-time posi-

FATAL

Continued from Page 1

“The vehicle went into a side skid and slammed into a culvert and rolled a couple of times. She was pronounced dead at the scene.”

Moore said Atkinson, who was driving a 2007 Chevrolet Cobalt at the time of the wreck, was not wearing her seat-belt.

Howard County Sheriff Stan Parker confirmed icy roads could have played a role in the accident.

“The weather could have certainly contributed to the accident. We’ve seen a lot of ice on the roads in the eastern and northern portions of the county this morning,” said Parker. “We’ve been called to four other accidents this morning as well, but fortunately there haven’t been any serious injuries reported as a result of them.”

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

BAILOUT

Continued from Page 1

which seems to be drifting away from what he said he wanted, which is a package that is at least 40 percent tax cuts and earmark free.”

“We think the country needs a stimulus,” McConnell said on NBC’s “Today” show. But he also said that he believes most people do not believe it will be accomplished through projects like “fixing up the mall.”

Republican leaders sent Obama a letter last week requesting he talk with them about the stimulus. Tuesday’s meetings follow a bipartisan, bicameral White House gathering last week with congressional leaders on the economy.

Under the Obama team’s watchful eye, the Democratic-controlled House and the Senate are in the midst of modifying the package that melds new government spending with a series of tax cuts. It seems to grow with every turn as it wends its way through Congress, and it’s likely to be the largest single piece of legislation ever, once it ends up on Obama’s desk. He wants it ready to sign by mid-February.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Teddy Molina, Jr., 55, died Saturday, Jan. 24, 2009, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Funeral Mass will be at 1 p.m. Tuesday at St. Thomas Catholic Church with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Beatrice Banks, 70, of Big Spring died Thursday, Jan. 22, 2009, at Medical Center Hospital in Odessa. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at First Baptist Church.

Johnanna Crow, 78, of Lubbock, formerly of Big Spring died Sunday, Jan. 25, 2009, in Lubbock. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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CENTER

Continued from Page 1

“If we do it this way, it might even simplify some of the county’s bookkeeping, if we would go ahead and proceed with this grant under Howard County,” said Farley.

The county decided in 2008 to move forward with the formation of a County Health Center in 2008 after receiving an \$80,000-plus grant from the federal government to begin the effort.

County Judge Mark Barr agreed, saying the wait for non-profit status for the project could throw up road blocks in the meantime.

“What it all amounts to is they (TDSHS) don’t reimburse you until you’ve spent the money,” said Barr. “And that’s pretty much the size of it. And if you all remember, we talked about this last week, and at first we thought we were going to use

the Health Care Center as the name. However, if we do that it kind of fouls up our non-profit status under the county’s non-profit number. It could lengthen the process.

“So what we’re doing is giving permission to the Health Center to use our general fund up to \$16,400. And whenever Ann (Farley) spends this money, then Jackie submits it (to the state), and they reimburse us.”

The court voted unanimously to allow the

Health Center project to use the county’s existing non-profit designation to secure the \$16,400 grant.

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

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EDITORIAL

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

-FIRST AMENDMENT

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the Editorial Board of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OTHER VIEWS

Our veterans deserve better from the VA

Bad news keeps coming from the offices of the Veterans Affairs Department. Many veterans and their families have endured ill treatment from the VA for a long time. Incidents and problems have been widely reported, usually followed by a volley of promises to fix the problems. Those promises don't necessarily become reality.

Now, in a report released Friday, the Government Accountability Office says VA is lowballing budget estimates it gives to Congress to keep its spending down. While that might be a nice sentiment, it does little more than endanger health care for veterans.

According to an Associated Press story, the report shows that the VA failed to account for tens of thousands of patients and understated costs by millions of dollars when it came to the rehabilitation of veterans in nursing homes, community centers and hospices.

America's engagement in a couple of wars has created a desperate need for vets' care, and the rehabilitative area is a huge part of that. Veterans have made huge sacrifices for their country and deserve no less than the best care. Sadly, it appears that the VA has been playing political and budgetary games that put the vets last in consideration rather than first.

Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., said, "The problems at the VA have been caused by years of mismanagement and putting the bottom line above the needs of our veterans. While we won't fix everything overnight, Secretary (Eric) Shinseki has pledged honesty and accurate accounting which are key to realistic budgets and providing the services our veterans have earned."

When the VA figures out its primary duty is taking care of people, not paperwork, that will be a good first step. Our veterans deserve better.

THE TIMES
EL PASO

HOW TO CONTACT US

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A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

With you, Lord, we can have better business sense.

Amen

How to stabilize our economy

Everyone now understands that the economy is broken. While many name the mortgage and credit-default-swap crises as culprits, they are only the most recent indicators of an economy with fatal design flaws.

Our economy has long been based on what economist Herman Daly calls "uneconomic growth" where increases in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) come at an expense in resources and well-being that is worth more than the goods and services provided.

When GDP growth exacerbates social and environmental problems — from sweatshop labor to manufacturing toxic chemicals — every dollar of GDP growth reduces well being for people and the planet, and we're all worse off.

Our fatally flawed economy creates economic injustice, poverty, and environmental crises. It doesn't have to be that way. We can create a green economy: one that serves people and the planet and offers antidotes to the current breakdown.

Here are six green-economy solutions to today's economic mess:

1. **Green Energy, Green Jobs:** A crucial starting place to rejuvenate our economy is to focus on energy. It's time to call in the superheroes of the green energy revolution — energy efficiency, solar and wind power, and plug-in hybrids — and put their synergies to work with rapid, large-scale deployment. This is a powerful way to jumpstart the economy, spur job creation (with jobs that can't be outsourced),

declare energy independence, and claim victory over the climate crisis.

2. **Clean Energy Victory Bonds:** How are we going to pay for this green energy revolution? We at Green America propose Clean Energy Victory Bonds. Modeled after victory bonds in World War II, Americans would buy these bonds from the federal government to invest in large-scale deployment of green energy projects, with particular emphasis in low-income communities hardest hit by the broken economy. These would be long-term bonds, paying an annual interest rate, based in part on the energy and energy savings that the bonds generate. During World War II, 85 million Americans bought over \$185 billion in bonds — that would be almost \$2 trillion in today's dollars.

3. **Reduce, Reuse, Rethink:** Living lightly on the Earth, saving resources and money, and sharing (jobs, property, ideas, and opportunities) are crucial principles for restructuring our economy. This economic breakdown is, in part, due to living beyond our means — as a nation and as individuals. With the enormous national and consumer debt weighing us down, we won't be able to spend our way out of this economic problem. Ultimately, we need an economy that's not dependent on unsustainable growth and consumerism. So it's time to rethink our over-consumptive lifestyles, and turn to the principles of elegant simplicity, such as planting gardens, conserving energy, and working cooperatively with our neighbors to share resources and build resilient communities.

4. **Go Green and Local:** When we do buy, it is essential that those purchases benefit the green and local economy — so that every dollar helps solve social and environmental prob-

lems, not create them. Our spending choices matter. We can support our local communities by moving dollars away from conventional agribusiness and big-box stores and toward supporting local workers, businesses and organic farmers.

5. **Community Investing:** All over the country, community-investing banks, credit unions, and loan funds that serve hard-hit communities are strong, while the biggest banks required bailouts. The basic principles of community investing keep such institutions strong: Lenders and borrowers know each other. Lenders invest in the success of their borrowers — with training and technical assistance along with loans. And the people who provide the capital to the lenders expect reasonable, not speculative, returns. If all banks followed these principles, the economy wouldn't be in the mess it's in today.

6. **Shareowner Activism:** When you own stock, you have the right and responsibility to advise management to clean up its act. Had General Motors listened to shareholders warning that relying on SUVs would be its downfall, it would have invested in greener technologies, and would not have needed a bailout. Had CitiGroup listened to its shareowners, it would have avoided the faulty mortgage practices that brought it to its knees. Engaged shareowners are key to reforming conventional companies for the transition to this new economy — the green economy that we are building together.

It's time to move from greed to green.

Alisa Gravitz is director of Co-op America, a nonprofit consumer organization advocating socially and environmentally responsible purchasing and investing.

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Stimulus should spring from ground up

President Barack Obama and congressional leaders want to see an economic stimulus package passed soon.

If the specifics of the package are in line with election rhetoric, the package could include significant investments in "green infrastructure" to stimulate job growth and reduce dependence on foreign oil. The whole package could include everything from an extension of jobless benefits to money for cities to make public buildings more energy efficient. But it cannot leave out the public water systems that national leaders have long taken for granted. Our economic prosperity as a country depends upon reliable water delivery and sewage treatment.

Over a century ago, the consolidation of smaller privately held water companies into larger municipal systems in the United States dramatically boosted people's health and standard of living, which helped spur a period of rapid economic growth and prosperity. Even today these operations are among the best in the world, though the value national leaders have placed on them has diminished markedly over time.

Today our public water systems are facing a \$22 billion annual shortfall between what they require and what they are allocated.

This is part of a trend that cit-

ies and towns have been resisting for the last three decades. In 1978, federal funding covered 78 percent of the cost for new water infrastructure. By 2007, it covered only 3 percent. That's a paltry 3 percent, despite the fact that government spending on public water systems actually pays huge dividends for a struggling economy.

A recent study prepared for the U.S. Conference of Mayors that examined more than 310 sources including economic studies, academic journals, and government reports finds that:

- \$1 of water and sewer infrastructure investment increases Gross Domestic Product in the long term by \$6.35;
- Each additional \$1 of revenue to local government for providing water and sewer services increases revenue to all industries by \$2.62 in that year;
- Adding one new job in the local public water and sewer sector creates 3.68 jobs in the national economy to support that job.

What's more, the jobs created in the public sector are green-collar. They ensure our water supply is safe. They are high-quality, career track jobs that provide stable employment and fuel economic development. And ongoing innovation in this sector will ensure that our water systems are greener and more sustainable in the long term.

Additionally, public investment in protecting land around source water can yield long-term savings for taxpayers. The U.S. Conference of Mayors finds that protecting one hectare of a wetland for source water can save more than \$4,000 in avoided

treatment costs and yield an additional \$10,000 in other ecosystem services. In some cities, direct investment in public water infrastructure has been accompanied by strong messages to the public that they needn't waste their hard-earned dollars on bottled water at all — which is often derived from the same source as tap water.

Not only is bottled water already less regulated than tap, but in the United States, manufacturing the plastic for the bottles puts more than 2.5 million tons of carbon dioxide into the air annually, not including the energy used for driving the bottles around. Also, 38 billion plastic water bottles wind up in landfills or on roadsides as litter each year, which can cost cities up to \$70 million in clean-up and disposal fees.

As cities across the United States save hundreds of thousands of dollars by cutting spending on bottled water, resources are freed up for more beneficial uses, including re-investment in public water systems. These are the backbone of our country's infrastructure, public health and economic prosperity — it's time we start nurturing them.

Now, while many folks are still smarting from a bailout that appeared to put the lofty interests of Big Business before those of everyday Americans, our leaders have the opportunity to ensure that this next stimulus package wells from the ground up...literally.

Kelle Louaillier is executive director, Corporate Accountability International.



ALISA
GRAVITZ



KELLE
LOUAILLIER

Local basketball schedule changes

Due to inclement weather some schedule changes have been made to tonight's local basketball matchups across the Crossroads' area. These were correct as of press time.

Big Spring's games vs. Plainview have been cancelled and rescheduled for a later date this week.

Coahoma's games at Tuscola Jim Ned have been cancelled and rescheduled for 5 p.m. Wednesday.

Forsan at Stanton has been cancelled and scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Friday.

Sands at Grady and Garden City at Robert Lee are scheduled to occur as planned as of press time.

Hawks pull away late from NMMI HC heads into important matchup with MC with win

Herald Staff Report

ROSWELL, N.M. — It wasn't a pretty 17-point victory, but a win is a win.

Howard College's men's basketball team got back on the winning track Monday, fending off a feisty New Mexico Military Institute squad for a 65-48 victory.

Neither team could muster any sort of consistent offense in the first half as Howard took a 20-11 lead into the break.

The Hawks came out on fire from the locker rooms, though, with Ricardo Zanini leading the early charge. Zanini scored nine points in the first 3 1/2 minutes of the second half to help Howard pull out to a 14-point advantage, 27-13.

NMMI did cut Howard's lead down to single digits twice, but couldn't get within striking distance.

Howard was led by Zanini and Joshua Watkins, who scored 11 points apiece. NMMI received a stellar per-

formance from Eric Stewart, who hit the scoresheet for 27.

Howard hosts No. 4 Midland College at 7:30 p.m. Thursday. Midland remained undefeated in WJAC play Monday with an 88-60 win over Frank Phillips College.

The Hawks lost to the Chaparrals, 74-66, in the conference opener for both teams Dec. 3, 2008. Midland led by as many as 24 points in the second

See **HAWKS**, Page 6

Super arrivals

Cards, Steelers land in Tampa Monday

By **BARRY WILNER**

AP Football Writer

TAMPA, Fla. — The pilot of their airplane stuck a team, flying the cockpit window as the Arizona Cardinals landed in a place few could have imagined.

Ever.

A team whose fans haven't gotten ground since the start of a stunning postseason run in early January, arrived in the Super Bowl city Monday. With many players videotaping the proceedings — the walk across the tarmac, the bus ride to the team hotel, the first onslaught of media — it was clear that just being here meant something to a franchise long considered an NFL doormat.

"It's a great moment," said safety Adrian Wilson, the longest-tenured Cardinal. "To be here, to go through all the teams, to go through all the players, it's big for the whole organization. It's big for the players who are here right now."

"You never know the type of team you have and you never know the circumstances. This team and this group of guys who you have right now, I think we are special."

Not that the Steelers, seeking an unprecedented sixth Super Bowl title, don't have a special feeling about their surroundings. Even though a huge chunk of them have been this route before, the cameras were out, the smiles were wide, and the warm sun was welcoming.



AP photo/Ross D. Franklin

Arizona Cardinals quarterback Kurt Warner smiles as the team arrives at the Tampa International Airport for Super Bowl XLIII Monday in Tampa, Fla. Both the Cardinals and Steelers landed in Tampa and now enter a week-long media blitz, leading up to the game which will be played at 5 p.m. Sunday.

BCS busters never more?

Mountain West Conference making push for auto BCS bid

McLEAN, Va. — The Mountain West Conference is pushing for an automatic annual entry into the Bowl Championship Series' postseason lineup, USA Today reported Monday.

The newspaper said presidents and chancellors of the league's nine schools, along with commissioner Craig Thompson, will press for a meeting with BCS coordinator John Swofford, to discuss an automatic berth into the BCS.

"I would not be optimistic," Thompson said. "As I explained to them (the Mountain West presidents), it's a series of legal contracts among 11 conferences, four bowls, two TV partners with yet another TV partner coming in. I would not see much of a relaxation."

Conference champion Utah finished second in the AP Top 25, earning 16 of 65 first-place votes after it finished an undefeated season by beating Alabama 31-17 in the Sugar Bowl.

But the Utes had to force their way in to the four big-money games, which also include the Fiesta, Orange and Rose Bowls.

Only champions of the six BCS conferences — the ACC, Big East, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-10 and SEC automatically qualify.

Two other successful Mountain West teams this season, TCU (11-2) and BYU (10-3), had to settle for lesser bowls.

TCU beat then-undefeated Boise State in the Poinsettia Bowl and BYU lost to Arizona in the Las Vegas Bowl.

Utah was the first team from one of the five non-BCS leagues to qualify for the BCS a second time.

The Utes beat Big East champion Pittsburgh 35-7 in the Fiesta Bowl after an undefeated 2004 season.

See **SUPER BOWL**, Page 6



AP Photo/Kathy Willens

Houston Rockets forward Luis Scola (4) runs up against resistance from New York Knicks center David Lee (42) in the fourth quarter of an NBA game at Madison Square Garden in New York, Monday. The Knicks defeated the Rockets 104-98.

Knicks thwart Rockets

NEW YORK (AP) — Anyone who comes off the Knicks bench seems to be scoring these days.

Wilson Chandler was removed from the starting lineup after his recent struggles and responded with 18 points in a 104-98 win over the Houston Rockets on Monday night. Fellow reserve Nate Robinson continued his strong play to lead New York with 19 points.

Chandler's 3-pointer with more than two minutes left gave the Knicks the lead for good at 97-96.

The Knicks' reserves scored at least 50 points for the fourth straight game.

"Wil really responded today," coach Mike D'Antoni said. "You knew he would. He's played real well all year."

New York had been 0-21 in games in which it trailed after three quarters.

"For once we started the fourth quarter down and we won the game," D'Antoni said. "That's a baby step."

The Rockets were playing without center Yao Ming (sore right knee) for the second straight game. Yao went

out just as Tracy McGrady and Ron Artest were returning from injuries of their own.

Artest (right ankle) had 24 points in Sunday's win at Detroit, but struggled to 4-of-19 shooting against the Knicks. McGrady (left knee) had 20 points with more than five minutes left in the game then missed his last five shots.

Chandler often faced the assignment of guarding McGrady. He had been replaced by Al Harrington in the starting lineup after averaging just 3.3 points on 25 percent shooting over his previous three games. He was 6-of-10 rebound and added seven rebounds and three assists.

Houston led 89-80 with less than eight minutes left when the Knicks went on a 14-5 run to tie the game.

Robinson scored nine points during the spurt. He's averaging 20.3 points over his last four games, bouncing back from a slump in which he averaged 9.7 during the previous 11.

See **ROCKETS**, Page 6

Duke finally back at No. 1

By **JIM O'CONNELL**

AP Basketball Writer

Duke returned to the top of The Associated Press' college basketball poll Monday, a place the Blue Devils have been very familiar with in recent years.

The Blue Devils (18-1) moved up one spot to No. 1, their first appearance there since the final poll of 2005-06. They were ranked on top for at least one week in every season from 1997-98 to 2003-04 and only UCLA's 134 weeks at No. 1 beats Duke's 111 in the 59-year history of the poll.

"When you have a chance to be voted No. 1 at any time it is an honor you don't take lightly," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said Monday. "It is not something you try to keep winning but you try to keep improving. I think it goes with the territory we've been in for awhile."

Duke received 62 first-place votes and 1,789 points from the 72-member national media panel to easily outdistance Connecticut (18-1), which was No. 1 on six ballots and had 1,694 points, 47 more

See **TOP 25**, Page 7

Roddick advances after Djokovic quits at Aussie

MELBOURNE (AP) — Novak Djokovic's hopes for a second straight Australian Open title ended under a broiling sun against Andy Roddick on Tuesday.

With ice packs and massages failing to provide relief, third-ranked Djokovic became increasingly woozy and was forced to retire while trailing 6-7 (3), 6-4, 6-2, 2-1, allowing the seventh-seeded Roddick to move into the semifinals.

The 26-year-old American will face second-ranked Roger Federer, now within two victories of a record-tying 14th Grand Slam after routing No. 8 Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina 6-3, 6-0, 6-0. Federer, with a 15-2 record against Roddick, ran off the last 13 games.

"Playing Andy is always nice," the 27-year-old Federer said. "We've had some big matches over the years and it's always a pleasure to play against him because he brings energy to the court with his serve and his character. It's nice to play somebody my age. Everyone's so young now."

Djokovic said he was cramping and sore, and "didn't really have time to recover" from his previous match, which ended at 2:26 a.m. Monday.

"Conditions were extreme today. It did affect more on me than him, as you could see," Djokovic said of temperatures that reached 95 degrees. "But, you know, that was the situation. I just have to cope with it. Really tried my best, but sometimes you



AP Photo/Andrew Brownbill

Andy Roddick of the United States makes a return to Serbia's Novak Djokovic on his way to winning his men's singles match at the Australian Open Tennis Championship in Melbourne, Australia, Tuesday.

can't fight against your own body."

Roddick, meanwhile, looked as fit as ever. After losing 15 pounds with a tough offseason workout regimen under new coach Larry Stefanki, he was quicker and his backhand stronger. The match left little doubt about the American's stamina on another

sweltering day with not a cloud in the sky.

"It's rewarding to come out on a day like today, when it's pretty hot, and feel pretty good. That's what you do the work for," Roddick said.

While the crowd in the night match was definitely pro-Federer, with

Swiss flags abounding, it began backing the increasingly dispirited del Potro. But nothing could stop Federer, who won 51 of the last 65 points and finished with 38 winners to a mere nine unforced errors.

Everything was working for Federer, and his mix of speeds and spins was masterful. One service game in the first set summed it up — ace, backhand winner, forehand winner, volley winner, all in less than two minutes. As he served for the second set, a fan shouted: "You're perfect, Roger!"

Not quite, but very, very good. "For me, it's a fabulous effort," he said. "I'm delighted and hope I can keep it up."

Del Potro called it a bad day that showed he needs to improve to compete against the best.

"I can't do nothing in the match," del Potro said. "He play like No. 1 of the world."

The heat was slowly rising but wasn't a major issue in the opening match, when Vera Zvonareva ran off 11 straight games in a 6-3, 6-0 win over 2007 Wimbledon finalist Marion Bartoli of France to reach the semifinals for the first time in 25 majors.

Seventh-ranked Zvonareva will meet fellow Russian Dinara Safina, who survived 11 double-faults and 36 unforced errors to beat Australia's Jelena Dokic 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 in a match

See **AUSSIE**, Page 7

ROCKETS

Continued from Page 5

Chandler had his first scoreless game of the season in Saturday's loss at Philadelphia. During the Knicks' day off Sunday, he spent a few hours in the gym.

"Coach, he's going to make a lot of

changes," Chandler said. "If he feels a certain way that things are going to make us win, he's going to make that change."

After Luis Scola scored inside to break the tie, Chandler's 3-pointer put the Knicks ahead to stay.

Scola had 16 points and 14 rebounds for Houston.

The Rockets attempted a season-high 33 3-pointers, making just 10.

"We're not playing team ball," guard Rafer Alston said. "We were very selfish tonight. They were able to capitalize on our selfishness. We have to decide whether we're going to play one-on-one or we're going to pass the ball to each other and play team ball."

Notes: The Knicks had lost eight straight to Houston. They last beat the Rockets on Nov. 18, 2004. ... Knicks

rookie Danilo Gallinari returned after sitting out one game with a sore lower back. He had four points. ... The Knicks' Tim Thomas hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer to end the first quarter. ... Rockets backup center Dikembe Mutombo pleased the crowd with his trademark finger wag in the second half after they hooted him for standing up off the bench and arguing a call.

HAWKS

Continued from Page 5

half. Howard cut the lead to 6 with 35 seconds to play, but Midland hit some free throws down the stretch to seal the win.

The women will take on Midland

first at 6 p.m. Thursday. The Lady Chaps are ranked third nationally and undefeated, coming off a 95-51 blowout victory over Frank Phillips.

Howard came closest to handing Midland its only loss of the season Dec. 3, 2008.

The Hawks led by as many as 12 in the first half, but Midland overtook them with 1:41 to play and eventually

won, 55-51.

Howard College (15-6, 4-4) 65,
New Mexico Military Institute (6-16, 1-7) 48
Howard (65)
Markeys Deans 2-5 2-4 7, Vladimir Gavranic 1-2 4-4 6, Devon Baker 2-7 1-2 6, Denzel Barnes 1-4 5-6 7, Ricardo Zanini 4-8 1-1 11, Latrail McCoy 3-4 0-0 8, Dante Menter 0-3 0-0 0, Shaad O'Garro 1-2 0-0 2, Joshua Watkins 4-5 3-5 11, Nikola Mandic 0-1 4-4 4, Demetrius Beauford 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 19-43 20-26 65.
NMMI (48)

Eric Stewart 8-15 8-11 27, Richard Wells 0-5 1-2 1, Aaron Patterson 3-8 1-2 7, Brad Rogers 1-4 3-5 5, Junior Eko 0-3 2-2 2, T.J. Jackson 0-1 0-0 0, Greg Marshall 1-2 0-0 2, Connor Williamson 0-3 0-0 0, Stefan Fields 1-1 0-2 2, Ismael Clark 1-5 0-0 2, Alpheus Joseph 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 15-48 15-24 48.

Halftime: HC 20, NMMI 11. 3-point goals: HC 7-18 (McCoy 2-3, Zanini 2-5, Deans 1-1, Baker 1-3), NMMI 3-14 (Stewart 3-6). Rebounds: HC 26 (Mandic 6), NMMI 33 (Rogers 11). Assists: HC 10 (Watkins 4), NMMI 9 (Wells 3). Total fouls: HC 22, NMMI 20. Fouled out: Deans.

SUPER BOWL

Continued from Page 5

"Are you kidding?" said wide receiver Hines Ward, the MVP of the Steelers' 2006 Super Bowl win over Seattle. "It's very nice to be in Tampa; it was snowing on our way here. They had to defrost the plane there was so much snow on the ground."

"It's the Super Bowl and it's a great event to take part in and, personally, I love the South, everything about being down in the South," said Ward, who grew up in Georgia. "Being in Florida, the weather is something. It definitely beats being back in Pittsburgh."

Ward and his teammates fully expect Tampa to resemble the Steel City by the weekend. No, not weather-wise; if that happens, rest assured the NFL won't be bringing its extravaganza back here. But in color, as in black and gold.

Quarterback Ben Roethlisberger envisions a tsunami of Terrible Towels.

"It's awesome," he said. "Every time we go to an away-city, in a way it feels like a home game because there are so many fans. We expect them to be out there and having fun."

For now, with no practice sessions until Wednesday, the players actually can have some fun, too. Not too much, of course.

Neither coach is about to clamp down on his players this early in the week. They promise to keep things reasonable and as normal as possible, so don't look for any early curfews like the ones Dick Vermeil imposed on his 1980 Eagles. Philly's players got tighter as the week wore on, even as the Oakland Raiders were partying across New Orleans.

By game time, the Eagles could barely breathe,

let alone play football, and they were routed by the loose Raiders.

"He hasn't put any handcuffs on us," James Harrison, the defensive player of the year, said, referring to coach Mike Tomlin. "We have the same freedoms as if we were staying in Pittsburgh for a week, as opposed to here."

Same thing for the Cardinals, whose coach, Ken Whisenhunt, was Pittsburgh's offensive coordinator for that fifth Super Bowl win. Whisenhunt understands the importance of sticking to the norms, even if this is more than uncharted territory for the Cardinals.

He also believes the week the Cardinals spent in the East in September, with back-to-back games in Washington and the Meadowlands, will be beneficial now. Even if Arizona lost both games.

"This is a week of distractions," he said, "and this is one distraction that is not new to us. It helps us minimize that distraction."

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.

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

A Sensational One-Act Play

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ A K 6 4
♥ 8 7 3
♦ 5 2
♣ A Q 6 5

WEST
♠ 10 3
♥ Q J 9 2
♦ J 10 9 4
♣ K 10 3

EAST
♠ Q J 9 7 2
♥ K 6 5
♦ —
♣ J 9 8 4 2

SOUTH
♠ 8 5
♥ A 10 4
♦ A K Q 8 7 6 3
♣ A 7

The bidding:
South West North East
1♦ Pass 1♠ Pass
2♦ Pass 3♣ Pass
3NT

Opening lead — queen of hearts.

One outstanding characteristic of the successful declarer is the willingness to give away a little in order to assure gaining a lot. A typical example of this principle is provided by today's deal.

It is probably true, without bothering to conduct a Gallup Poll, that most declarers would not make three notrump on this hand. The queen-of-hearts lead would most likely be allowed to hold, and two more

rounds of hearts would force South to take the ace.

At this point, most declarers would then lose the contract by cashing the ace of diamonds. Once they did this, there would be no way to recover. South could score eight tricks by taking a club finesse, but that is the best he can do.

Blithely plunking down the ace of diamonds at trick four is clearly wrong, since it does not allow for the possibility that the missing diamonds may be divided 4-0. But if declarer makes due allowance for this possibility, which is the only threat to the contract, it is not hard to find a way to guard against it.

After winning the third heart, declarer should simply lead a low diamond from his hand, deliberately conceding a trick he ordinarily would not expect to lose. West wins and cashes his fourth heart, but that is the end of the line for the defense.

The argument that there is no good reason to expect one opponent to hold all the missing diamonds is certainly valid, but carries very little weight. The goal in this deal is to make three notrump and, in so doing, score 700 points for winning the rubber. Conceding a 30-point trick guarantees this result, and it is therefore the right play.

Tomorrow: No business like show business.

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T.O. TV Yanks, Pettite agree at 5.5 million

DALLAS (AP) — Terrell Owens hopes to score with a new cable reality show.

The Dallas Cowboys' controversial wide receiver will star in his own show on VH1 this summer, giving fans a look into his life off the field.

VH1 announced Monday that the series takes place in the offseason, and T.O.'s best friends and publicists — Monique Jackson and Kita Williams — will help him re-examine his personal life.

The two will work as "matchmakers and therapists" for Owens.

Owens, who caught 69 passes for 1,052 yards and 10 touchdowns this season, was prominently featured on HBO's "Hard Knocks" that tracked the Cowboys in training camp last year.

NEW YORK (AP) — Andy Pettitte's only thought was to stay with the New York Yankees. He had no interest in returning to his hometown Houston Astros.

Still, the 36-year-old left-hander was bothered when the Yankees wanted to cut his salary from \$16 million to \$10 million.

"Heck, the bottom line is I'm a man, and I guess it does take a shot at your pride a little bit," he said. "But when you put all that aside, I wanted to play for the New York Yankees and, you know, that was the bottom line. I wanted to be there. I wanted to play in that new stadium."

After months of stalled negotiations, Pettitte and the Yankees agreed Monday to a \$5.5 million, one-year

contract. While the guaranteed money is less than half New York's original \$10 million offer, he can make an additional \$6.5 million in bonuses: \$4.5 million based on innings and \$2 million based on days on the active roster. He would earn the entire amount if he pitches 210 innings and doesn't go on the disabled list.

New York withdrew its first offer in December after agreeing to a \$180 million, eight-year deal with first baseman Mark Teixeira, a contract that, combined with agreements for pitchers CC Sabathia and A.J. Burnett, raised the Yankees' spending spree to \$423.5 million for three players.

Pettitte met in Texas with general manager Brian Cashman on Dec. 11

and told him he would be willing to accept performance bonuses. The sides kept on talking.

"It just got to the point where Randy called me and said, 'I think this is it, buddy,'" Pettitte said. "It didn't take me long to decide because I knew that was where I was going to play."

Pettitte might have been able to get a multiyear deal from another club.

"I could have made an awful lot more money than what I signed for," he said.

He joins a starting rotation that already includes Sabathia, Burnett, Chien-Ming Wang and Joba Chamberlain. Phil Hughes, Ian Kennedy and Phil Coke are available in the event of injuries or if Chamberlain shifts back to the bullpen.

AUSSIE

Continued from Page 6

with 11 service breaks. It's the second straight Grand Slam semifinal for Safina — younger sister of 2005 men's champion Marat Safin — who lost to eventual champion Serena Williams at the U.S. Open.

Djokovic's loss ended one of the tournament's most compelling stories: The former Wimbledon semifinalist was making her return to a Grand Slam after a three-year absence due to personal problems.

Safina apologized to the crowd for

beating the local favorite, who advanced through a wild-card play tournament and was ranked No. 187.

"I hope that next time you'll be behind me," she said.

Dokic was happy with her performance.

"There's nothing to be disappointed about," Dokic said. "It's been a great start to 2009. I couldn't have asked for anything more."

The Australian Open has turned into a struggle for survival: Djokovic was the fourth player to quit in mid-match in two days.

"Obviously, it's very disappointing way to finish my first Grand Slam of the year," he said. "But you have to take the best out of it and be positive.

There is still a long season in front of me."

Djokovic also retired in his quarterfinal against Rafael Nadal with a back problem at the 2006 French Open and his semifinal against the Spaniard at Wimbledon in 2007.

Roddick dropped only two points in five service games in the second set, getting the first break of the match for a 4-3 edge.

Meanwhile, Djokovic was wilting in the heat, draping towels packed with ice around his neck during changeovers. Clearly laboring, he lost his serve in the first game of the third set, double-faulting twice.

He managed to break back in the second game with a perfect lob.

Djokovic held in the next game but looked increasingly weary and shrugged toward his coach. A cold towel around his shoulders again after the game, he called for the trainer, who massaged his thighs with ice.

"I was kind of just playing my side of the court and I didn't notice until the umpire said that they had someone coming out to see him," Roddick said. "I feel bad for Novak right now. He worked so hard for this last year. To not get a fair chance to defend his title, that's too bad."

By contrast, Roddick — who grew up in Texas and Florida and has said he loves the heat — looked fresh until the end.

TOP 25

Continued from Page 5

than Pittsburgh (18-1), which had three first-place votes.

Pitt moved into the No. 1 spot three weeks ago for the first time in school history and the Panthers were replaced at the top last week by Wake Forest, which had spent a total of two weeks at the top before that.

The Demon Deacons lost to Virginia Tech on Wednesday and dropped to No. 6. Duke beat North Carolina State and Maryland last week.

"It's a long race and it's good if you're in the lead at some time," Krzyzewski said. "It's never bad, but it's a long race."

Three teams — Saint Mary's, Washington and Kentucky — moved into the rankings for the first time this season, replacing Minnesota, Notre Dame and Florida.

Oklahoma (19-1), which received one first-place vote, moved from sixth to fourth, jumping North Carolina, which was a unanimous No. 1 in the preseason poll and for the first seven weeks of the season.

With Duke, Wake Forest and North Carolina all being from the Atlantic Coast Conference, it is the fourth time one league has three teams reach No. 1 in the same season. The Southeastern Conference did it in 2002-03 (Alabama, Florida, Kentucky), while the Big Eight did it in 1989-90 (Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma) and the ACC in 1985-86 (Georgia Tech, North Carolina, Duke).

"Any level of high success, even though it's not permanent with a No. 1 ranking, it's a good benchmark," Krzyzewski said.

All but 18 of the weeks Duke has spent at No. 1 have been since Krzyzewski took over

the program in 1980.

North Carolina is third on the No. 1 list with 104 weeks.

Louisville, which won at Syracuse on Sunday, moved up two spots to seventh and was followed by Marquette, Michigan State and Xavier.

Texas was 11th and was followed by Clemson, Butler, Arizona State, Syracuse, Purdue, UCLA, Memphis, Illinois and Gonzaga.

The last five ranked teams were Villanova, Saint Mary's, Washington, Kentucky and Georgetown.

Saint Mary's (18-1) moved into the rankings on a 15-game winning streak since a loss to Texas-El Paso. The Gaels were ranked for six weeks last season. They play at Gonzaga on Thursday night in a matchup of the West Coast Conference's top teams.

"It's nice to be recognized," Saint Mary's coach Randy Bennett said Monday night. "That's what it is. It's just a recognition that these guys are doing a good job. It's good for our players. It's good for our school. It helps your program. Especially for a mid-major to get ranked, there aren't many that do. Because of last year, we're not giddy about being

ranked. ... There must be more good teams this year. It took us to 18-1 to get in the poll this year."

Washington (15-4) beat UCLA this weekend to take over first place in the Pac-10. The Huskies, who were last ranked in January 2007, have won four straight and 13 of 14 with the lone loss to California in triple overtime.

Kentucky (16-4) has won five straight and 11 of 12 with the lone loss on a 25-foot buzzer beat at Louisville. The Wildcats, who started the season with losses to VMI and North Carolina, were last ranked in the preseason poll of 2007-08.

Notre Dame (12-6) dropped out from 19th following its third straight loss, a 69-61 defeat to Connecticut which ended the Fighting Irish's 45-game home winning streak. They were ranked every week this season, reaching as high as seventh.

Minnesota (17-3) lost to Purdue last week before beating Indiana 67-63.

The Gophers, who fell out from 21st, had been ranked for the past five weeks.

Florida (17-3) followed a 70-69 last-second loss to South Carolina with a 84-69 victory over Vanderbilt but that couldn't keep the Gators

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Laugh Lines

Why don't hot dogs go out in the cold?
Because they'll freeze their buns off!

What's the hardest thing about ice skating?
The ice!

KID NEWS

Wacky Facts

One of the worst snowstorms in U.S. history happened March 11-14, 1888, just a week before the first day of spring. Much of the northeastern United States was buried in up to 4 feet of snow, with towering snowdrifts up to 30 feet high.
— *World Almanac for Kids*

Winter Wonderland

When winter's cold settles over the land, mama and papa creatures know what they must do to survive with their young: they gather pipe cleaners, foam balls and colorful pins and get to work crafting. In just minutes, a cooped-up family can assemble all manner of animal friends and magical snowmen, and bring some light to the season's darkness.
— *FamilyFun magazine*

HOW TO MAKE ALL OF THESE WOODLAND CREATURES

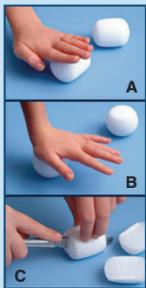
1. For each creature, cut the white pipe cleaners to the lengths indicated. Group them by length.

2. Fold or shape the pipe cleaner parts. Using the photos as a guide, bend the ears, feet and tail and, if needed, twist together the neck, legs, wings and antlers.

3. Shape and cut the Styrofoam balls. Depending on the project, you may need to roll the balls with your palm to create a barrel shape (A), flatten them (B), or slice them with a butter knife (C).

4. Assemble the creature as shown in the diagram. Simply insert the shaped pipe cleaner parts or connectors into the foam.

5. Insert the colored sewing pins to create eyes, a nose and other features. If the pins are longer than the diameter of the animal's head, insert them so their points extend into the neck.



SNOWMAN
Pipe cleaners:
(2) 1 inch
(1) 6 inches
Foam balls:
(1) 1 1/2 inches
(1) 2 inches
(1) 2 1/2 inches

SNOWSHOE HARE

Pipe cleaners:
(1) 1 inch
(2) 1 1/2 inches, feet
(5) 2 1/2 inches, back feet, ears and tail
Foam balls:
(1) 1 inch
(1) 1 1/2 inches, body



ARCTIC FOX

Pipe cleaners:
(7) 2 inches, ears, neck, snout
(4) 2 1/2 inches, folded in half
Foam balls:
(1) 7 inches, tail
(1) 1 1/2 inches
(1) 2 1/2 inches, body



REINDEER

Pipe cleaners:
(3) 2 inches, ears and tail
(4) 6 inches, folded in half, legs
(3) 3 inches, neck
antlers: (2) 1 1/2 inches
(2) 2 1/2 inches
(2) 3 inches
Foam balls:
(1) 1 inch
(1) 2 inches, body



SNOWY OWL

Pipe cleaners:
(4) 1 inch
(2) 2 inches, feet
(1) 5 inches, tail
(2) 12 inches
Foam balls:
(1) 1 inch
(1) 1 1/2 inches, body



MAMA POLAR BEAR

Pipe cleaners:
(11) 1 inch
(1) 3 inches, snout*
Foam balls:
(4) 1 inch, feet
(3) 1 1/2 inches, head and arms
(1) 2 1/2 inches, body



BABY POLAR BEAR

Pipe cleaners:
(7) 1 inch
(1) 2 1/2 inches, snout*
Foam balls:
(3) 1 inch, head and feet
(1) 1 1/2 inches, body



* For the bear snouts, spiral the length of pipe cleaner around your finger

WINTER PINE TREE

Pipe cleaner:
(1) 12 inches
Styrofoam cone:
(1) 6 inches, trim top
White tissue paper:
Approximately 3 1/2 feet of 3 inch wide tissue paper, use scissors to cut fringe the length of one side



PHOTOS BY ED JUDICE/FAMILYFUN MAGAZINE

In The News

Author Jeff Kinney is no wimp

When the first "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" book debuted in April 2007, it immediately ran up the charts to become a New York Times bestseller. Now there are three books in the series — the third book, "Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Last Straw," just hit stores.

At a meeting in New York City, author Jeff Kinney gave Time For Kids kid reporter Forrest Simpson a sneak peek inside his notebook of original drawings, notes and ideas for the next "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" books.



TFK: When did you know you wanted to be an author or cartoonist?
KINNEY: In college I decided that I wanted to be a cartoonist. I had a comic strip called Igdoof that got a lot of attention. But unfortunately I got rejection letters (from newspapers) for about three years, so I decided I was going to have to break into the business in a different way. And that's why I became an author.

TFK: How did "The Diary of a Wimpy Kid" begin?
KINNEY: It started off on funbrain.com in 2004, and I started publishing an entry a night. What happened was that I built up a big readership, and now it's been up for about four years and it has had about 70 million readers from around the world.

TFK: How long did it take you to write the first book?
KINNEY: It took me eight years to get it into a form that could be published — a long time.

TFK: Do you plan to write more books?
KINNEY: I'm going to make at least five "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" books, and hopefully seven. I think that every good creation has a life span, and that's probably about eight years.

TFK: When the first book was published, did you ever think it would be a hit?
KINNEY: I didn't even think that the book could get published, so I had no expectations. I certainly could never have imagined that it would become a hit.

TFK: Could you tell me a little bit about your third book, "Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Last Straw"?
KINNEY: The third book is about a conflict between Greg Heffley and his father. Greg's father gets tired of Greg's wimpy ways, so he decides that he is going to try to "shape him up," and he sends his son to military academy.

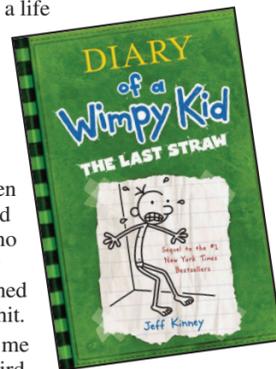
TFK: Is the main character, Greg, based on yourself as a kid?
KINNEY: A lot of Greg's stories are my stories. Greg is kind of like a distorted version of myself. The weaknesses that I had are amplified in Greg, and I think that Greg's faults are like the faults of just about anyone.

TFK: Do you have any advice for kids who might want to do what you do when they grow up?
KINNEY: Yes. If a kid wants to be a cartoonist, they should copy as many people as possible. When you copy someone else's style, it helps you understand how the artist created their drawings.

TFK: What part of the process do you like more, cartooning or writing?
KINNEY: Both are really hard. I can't really say that I always enjoy it, but I enjoy having the finished product.

— Forrest Simpson

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Help!

Appearance worries

DEAR AMERICAN GIRL: My friend and I talked about how we think long hair is better than short. Well, I wanted a change so I cut my hair short. Now I'm worried about what my friend will think. — *Scared About My Hair!*

■ You changed your mind. Guess what? You're allowed to do that! You should be proud that you think for yourself. As long as you like it, that's what matters most. If you have a hunch that your friend might make a big deal over it, you could say: "I still like long hair, but I decided to cut mine short. I was ready for a change." Leave it at that, and it will be harder for her to say something negative.

DEAR AMERICAN GIRL: I am the tallest one in my class, and I am heavier than some of my friends. When they ask me how much I weigh, I am afraid to tell them. — *Heavier*

■ There's no reason to be ashamed that you weigh more than your friends. The right weight is different for everyone, depending on height and body type. Your weight has nothing to do with how good a person you are. That said, asking someone what they weigh is always inappropriate. If your friends ask, you can say, "That's personal!" and change the subject. They should get the hint.

Visit "Fun for Girls" at americangirlmagazine.com to get or give advice. © 2009 American Girl, LLC. All rights reserved.

Try This

Shadow Play

Punxsutawney Phil may run back into his hole at the sight of his shadow, but you shouldn't shy away from yours. It can make for an amusing companion — one that might even entice you to bundle up and play outdoors on a February day.

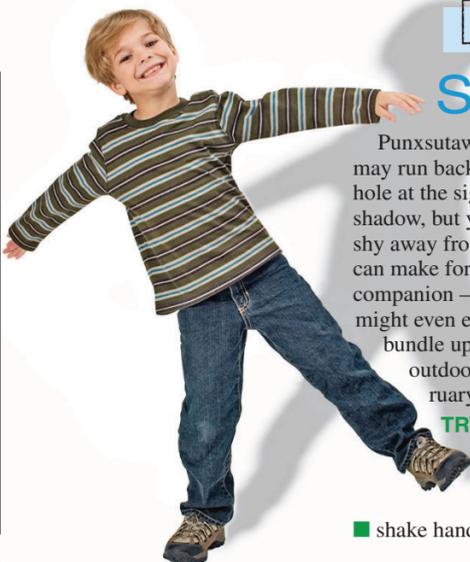
TRY THESE:

- hide from your own shadow
- shake hands with

someone else's shadow without actually touching hands

- touch someone else's shadow with your own
- make your shadow do things you can't, such as touch the top of a tree or building
- fit your shadow inside someone else's
- turn your shadow into letter shapes (b, f, k, p, t, and y are good ones to try)

— FamilyFun magazine



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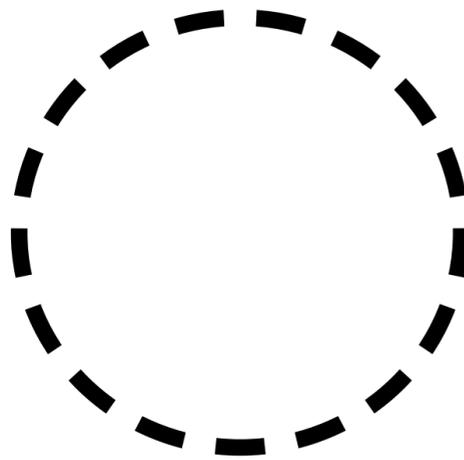
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

So far this Mercury retrograde has been pretty low key. A miscommunication here, a lost piece of mail there — nothing to write home about, and if you did the letter might not get there. Mercury sees the void-of-course moon as an opportunity to ratchet it up a notch, so take extra precautions that your messages are correctly received.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Tell yourself that you're a great catch. Tell yourself this even if you were already "caught" ages ago. Your self-esteem needs some fluffing. Once done, partners and potential partners will take new interest in you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You have a head for business and a nose for finding the deals. The money people aren't always the ones who will make you rich. Consider selling common products for common folks.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There's a reason why some turtles can live to 150 years old. Slow down. There is nothing that needs to happen in a time frame other than the way it is currently unfolding. Breathe and trust in the process of life.

CANCER (June 22-

July 22). Fear is not an enemy but a friend. It helps you avoid dangerous situations, heightens your perceptions and quickens your responses. Allow yourself fear without punishment so you'll no longer be afraid of being afraid.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It is painful to be judged harshly by someone you admire. However, you're brave enough to put yourself in line for just such an occurrence, mostly because there is also a chance of being praised, which would feel simply wonderful.

VRIGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It's easy to get lost in your own thoughts while standing in line or waiting for your transportation to move forward. However, stay alert to your environment. You're likely to be charmed by a new face.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). When others are locked in a disagreement, you can unlock them. You discover how people are similar to one another. You find the common ground that allows them to make a productive arrangement.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Bumbling behavior is demonstrated by a future friend. You may be asked a strange question in an uncomfortable way. The dear person doing the asking is intimidated but wants your camaraderie.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You experience a behavior you haven't considered for years. The person who is irritating you by pulling your hair, name calling and being generally annoying actually has a crush on you!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Stay far away from conflict. Avoid people who, as a rule, don't get along well with others. You're more sensitive than usual and need harmony in your environment in order to function at your full potential.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). When you have a need, you know whom to ask for help. You have built a network of people with varying skills and talents. Others are awed by the people you know and the casual charm with which you relate to all of them.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Lofty goals have not been realized, and it's nobody's fault. There's still a chance of reaching your ideals and a new approach will be helpful. Look for the practical

side of things and build from there.

COSMIC CAREER SPECIAL: PISCES AT WORK: Pisces does not understand how anyone can say "it's just business."

It's never just business. The very nature of business is emotional investment. That's why this product sells over that one, or why this person gets promoted, that one fired. There's no such idea as commerce without feeling.

Knowing this gives Pisces both an edge and a disadvantage. On the negative side, Pisces sensitivity makes him or her vulnerable to being hurt by interactions that other people wouldn't be bothered by.

On the positive side Pisces can sum up a person's character and potential ability and know quickly who should be put in charge of what. Pisces is also able to connect with and delight in the subtle aspects of work and has a sixth sense about how to elevate the boss, colleagues and clients to the same level of enthusiasm.

Pisces' mystic sense can serve in another way, too. If ever Pisces feels lost and doesn't know which career direction to take, all he or she has to do is ask for a sign. Reading the omens is a Pisces specialty and usually a clear message will come through within only a few days of a query.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Elijah Wood has been acting since the age of 8 and appeared in films such as "Avalon" and "Radio Flyer." But it is his portrayal of everyone's favorite hobbit, Frodo Baggins, that he is best known for. Aquarian energy has a special alignment with the world of fantasy.

Some would even say that Aquarian energy bridges the dimensions between worlds where such things as dragons and wizards exist.

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

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Legals

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TxDOT) CONTRACTS

Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TxDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

CONSTRUCTION/ MAINTENANCE/ BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)
Dist/Div: Abilene
Contract 0069-01-050 for PIAN, ACP, C&G, & SDWIKS in HOWARD County will be opened on February 10, 2009 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.txdot.gov and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.
NPO: 28741
State Office

Constr./Maint. Division
200 E. Riverside Dr.
Austin, Texas 78704
Phone: 512-416-2540
Dist/Div Office(s)

Abilene District
District Engineer
4250 N. Clack
Abilene, Texas 79604-0150
Phone 325-676-6800

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TXDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.
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\$17,995

2006 Regency Conversion Van - One Owner, 14K Miles, TV, DVD, Electric Couch, All Toys.
\$19,995

2001 GMC Yukon - 83K, Local One Owner, Extra Clean.
\$12,995

2008 GMC Acadia SLT - One Trim, All Toys, Immaculate, 12K Miles
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	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	Scrivner Uri Harel	BBC Business	Cash Cab Cash Cab	House, Sam Elliott	CSI: NY	Bones	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas Phineas		SportsCenter
6 :PM :30	News Jeopardy!	Entertain Fortune	Tontas Cielo	Two Men Two Men	News Entertain	12 Cora- zones	Millionaire Seinfeld	Hagee	Dr. Young News-Lehrer	Made	Made	CSI: NY	Movie: True Lies, Tom Arnold	Movie: ATL, Mykelti Wil- liamson	Phineas Suite Life	Phineas Suite Life	NFL Live	College Basketball
7 :PM :30	Homeland- USA	Homeland- USA	Cuidado- Angel	American Idol	NCIS	Doña Bar- bara	The Biggest Loser	Fam. Guy Fam. Guy	Israel Victory	Nova (DVS)	Dirty Jobs	Movie: Wild Bill, John Hurt	CSI: NY		Movie: The Wild, James Belushi	Montana Life De	College Bas- ketball: BC at Maryland	
8 :PM :30	Scrubs	Scrubs	Fuego en la Sangre	(01) Fringe	The Mental- ist	El Rostro de Analia		Fam. Guy Fam. Guy	Light of the Southwest	Frontline/ World	Dirty Jobs	UFC Un- leashed			Wizards	Tennis: Aus- tralian Open -- Men's and Women's Quarterfinals	College Basketball: Purdue at Wisconsin.	
9 :PM :30	Primetime: You	Primetime: You	Aqui y Ahora	TMZ	(01) Without a Trace	Sin Senos El Cartel	Law & Order: SVU	Office Office		Wreck. Na- tion	Wreck. Na- tion	Movie: Ride With the Devil, Jewel	UFC Un- leashed	Leverage	Baldwin Baldwin	Wizards Life De		
10 :PM :30	News Nightline	News Nightline	Impacto Noticiero	Raymond King-Hill	News Late Show	Noticias Decisiones de	News Tonight Show	10 Items Seinfeld	Israel Cortes	Charlie Rose	Wreck. Na- tion	MAN MAN	Bones	Hatchett Hatchett	Suite Life Montana		SportsCenter	
11 :PM :30	Insider Jimmy Kim- mel Live	Insider Jimmy Kim- mel Live	La Hora de La Risa	Law Order: CI	Late Late Show	Decisiones de	Late Night King	Sex & Sex & Sex &	Ministerio- Vida	Smiley Smiley	Dirty Jobs	CSI: NY	Leverage	Movie: Holla, Michael Bergin	So Flaven Cory		NFL Live Sporcen	
12 :AM :30	News Paid	News Paid	Contra Viento	RENO 911 RENO 911	Insider Entertain	Programa Pagado	News King	King Church	Light of the Southwest	Wreck. Na- tion	Wreck. Na- tion	CSI: NY	Without a Trace	The Deal	Emperor Dragon	NFL Films Winter X-	SportsCenter	
1 :AM :30	Fore Paid	Fore Paid	Humor TMZ	TMZ	Paid	Pelicula:	Movie: Biker											

DENNIS THE MENACE



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"I wanna go to a college where the school color is pink."

HAGAR



FRIENDSHIP IS A TENUOUS PROPOSITION AT BEST—YOU COULD BE A FRIEND FOR MANY YEARS AND THEN SOMETHING HAPPENS THAT WILL MAKE YOU A FOE IN THE EYES OF YOUR FORMER FRIEND...

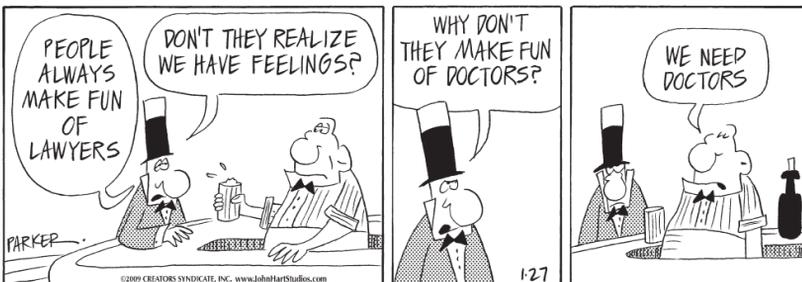


FRANKLY, I'D RATHER BE JUDGED BY SOME OTHER CRITERIA

BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 27, the 27th day of 2009. There are 338 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 27, 1967, astronauts Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom, Edward H. White and Roger B. Chaffee died in a flash fire during a test aboard their Apollo spacecraft at Cape Kennedy, Fla.

On this date:

In 1756, composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born in Salzburg, Austria.

In 1880, Thomas Edison received a patent for his electric incandescent lamp.

In 1901, opera composer Giuseppe Verdi died in Milan, Italy, at age 87.

In 1943, some 50 bombers struck Wilhelmshaven in the first all-American air raid against Germany during World War II.

In 1944, the Soviet Union announced the complete end of the deadly German siege of Leningrad, which had lasted for more than two years.

In 1945, Soviet troops liberated the Nazi concentration camps Auschwitz and Birkenau in Poland.

In 1951, an era of atomic testing in the Nevada desert began as an Air Force plane dropped a one-kiloton bomb on Frenchman Flat.

In 1967, more than 60 nations signed a treaty banning the orbiting of nuclear weapons.

In 1973, the Vietnam peace accords were signed in Paris.

In 1981, President Ronald Reagan greeted the 52 former American hostages just released by Iran at the White House.

One year ago: Former Indonesian president Suharto, whose regime killed hundreds of thousands of left-wing political opponents, died in Jakarta at age 86.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Bobby "Blue" Bland is 79. Actor James Cromwell is 69. Actor John Witherspoon is 67. Rock musician Nick Mason (Pink Floyd) is 64. Rhythm-and-blues singer Nedra Talley (The Ronettes) is 63. Ballet star Mikhail Baryshnikov is 61.

Chief U.S. Justice John Roberts is 54. Country singer Cheryl White is 54. Country singer-musician Richard Young (The Kentucky Headhunters) is 54. Actress Mimi Rogers is 53. Rock musician Janick Gers (Iron Maiden) is 52. Sportscaster and political commentator Keith Olbermann is 50. Rock singer Margo Timmins (Cowboy Junkies) is 48. Rock musician Gillian Gilbert is 48. Actress Bridget Fonda is 45. Actor Alan Cumming is 44. Country singer Tracy Lawrence is 41. Rock singer Mike Patton is 41. Rapper Tricky is 41. Rock musician Michael Kulas (James) is 40. Actor Josh Randall is 37. Country singer Kevin Denney is 33.

Answer to previous puzzle

S	A	L	A	D	S	O	R	T	W	I	D	E
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W	O	R	D	O	F	M	O	U	T	H	H	U
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F	A	N	S	E	A	V	E	U	L	T	R	A
F	L	A	K	D	Y	E	S	B	L	O	O	M

Newsday Crossword

AT STEAK by Gail Grabowski
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2009 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 1/27/09

Bird Poop: Tale of the addled woodpecker

Through the mesquites in late January was the undulating flight of a stranger to our side yard. Following an invisible road of air, its body seemed to go up and down the hills with ease. Its movements were so quick its white rump seemed to be chasing the orange-yellow hue on the back of its neck. The bird was gone by the time I could raise the binoculars for another look.



BEBE McCASLAND

The next several days, I continued to search for the visitor. If my luck held, the unknown would appear when least expected. During a lengthy weekend breakfast, Art suddenly noticed the elusive bird. This time we could see black and white barring on its back as it disappeared from sight.

Since the arrival of birds in need had slowed to a trickle, we savored our leisurely meal. The respite from fall's migratory calamities was welcome.

"Must have flown into something," related a late-morning caller. "It's down-right addled," she added. After asking her to bring the bird, we waited for the woman to arrive.

Wrapped in a towel was a bird very similar to the one we had seen coursing through our trees. Although it resembled two other species, the golden-fronted woodpecker was unique in its choice of location.

While the Gila woodpecker was located far to the west in Arizona and parts of Mexico, and the red-bellied woodpecker frequented east Texas and a vast eastern portion of the United States, our bird-in-hand ranged from portions of the Panhandle down through the central part of

the state and into Mexico. Our county was enticing because of its vast mesquite forests.

When asked where she had found the bird, the woman described seeing it beside the road as she drove into town. "It's not often that kind of critter is on the ground." Afraid it would be hit by a car, she had gathered it in her hands when it did not move as she approached.

After examining the woodpecker for any noticeable damage, we placed it in an isolated area where we could observe it without its seeing us. The woman had adequately described its dazed condition.

Since time and patience could do wonders for the bird, we started to prepare an area for its special needs. Securing rough mesquite logs vertically to the sides of a long cage, we also placed them on the floor.

Accustomed to the bark and climbing, the bird could stand or climb on its way to a hopeful recovery. Mealworms and crickets were offered to help duplicate an insect diet, since it was the wrong time of year for grasshoppers and ants. Fresh yaupon berries and acorns supplemented its other cravings.

Finished with our efforts, we decided to go ahead and place the confused bird in our make-shift home. Although it was standing, the woodpecker made no attempt at discovering its new surroundings and was not uncomfortable with our presence.

Having time to observe the bird, we appreciated even more what few glimpses we had previously seen. Up close, we noted the yellow or golden coloration above its bill.

A small patch of red on the top of its head assured us it was a male. In contrast to these colors and those of his barred wings were his gray-



Courtesy photo

Capable of pecking and chiseling out a nest site in telephone poles, trees, and even fence posts, the golden-fronted woodpecker excavates enough wood particles to create a tunnel almost 12 inches deep before coming to the area where eggs and babies will reside. This cavity will be used year after year in raising its young.

ish underparts that continued upward through his face. Over his belly was a tinge of yellow, as if washed by an unseen watercolorist.

The white rump we had seen in flight was followed by a black tail. His straight, pointed bill could only suggest the long, sticky tongue he used to extract hidden larvae and ants.

Hours passed. Finally, we could resist no longer the urge to check on our patient. Quietly opening the door to his room, we were greeted by a stare from a bird tightly gripping what it must have thought was a branch or trunk. With its pointed tail feathers used as a prop, the woodpecker was upright as

its curved nails clung to the bark.

A noisy protest preceded its half-jumping, half-flying to another upright log.

Scattered on the floor of the cage was the food we had offered.

At least the woodpecker had recovered enough to examine the contents of his enclosure. Later, we noticed that most of the insects had been consumed.

The next day, to make his release as easy as possible, we covered the cage and carried it to the side yard. Uncovering the top, we slowly opened two wide doors.

Since the sides of the cage were still covered, the woodpecker could only see the sky

and numerous tree branches. Cautious at first, the bird in less than a minute decided to follow his inner desires.

Bursting from his confinement, the golden-fronted woodpecker flew quickly to a nearby limb.

From there he used branch after branch to elevate even higher.

Feeling safe, he uttered a harsh admonishment as he looked in our direction one last time.

Two weeks later, we would have another encounter with a member of his specie discovered inside a chimney.

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

How do you build a bully?

Recently we are hearing a lot about the school bully. No matter what school we attended, this particular individual was somewhere to be found. School policies have been written and a lot of research has been conducted concerning this "special" person who would create a problem for other children, away from the eyesight, earshot and authority of the teacher.



DARRELL RYAN

Bullying can involve physical contact, spreading rumors or other negative behaviors committed to intimidate, humiliate and isolate another individual. None of us want our child to fit into this category so I did a bit of investigating to understand the making of a bully. It's interesting to note that research shows a family connection to the origins of young bullies.

The majority of the research involved children between the ages of nine to 16. Review of the literature found that children with parents who are demanding, directive and unresponsive are the most prone to act out bullying behavior. On the other hand, there were parallels showing that children raised by nurturing, warm, responsive parents were less likely to bully.

Children who experience hostility, abuse, physical discipline and other aggressive behaviors by their parents are more likely to model that same behavior in their peer relationships. Children learn how to behave and interact with others from their parents, so if they are learning about aggression and angry words at home, they will tend to use these behaviors as coping mechanisms when they interact with their peers.

Research has also found that children from middle-income families were less likely to bully than children from the high and low ends of the family income scale. Some studies suggest boys are more prone to bullying than girls, others state that it runs equally among the genders, although boys are more likely to act out physical bullying, while girls are more verbal.

Studies suggest that the tolerance of bullying has served as one of the primary contributors to its persistence and severity. An Indian Proverb states that we will be known forever by the tracks we leave and the impressions we make.

Hopefully our tracks and impressions will be good ones.

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

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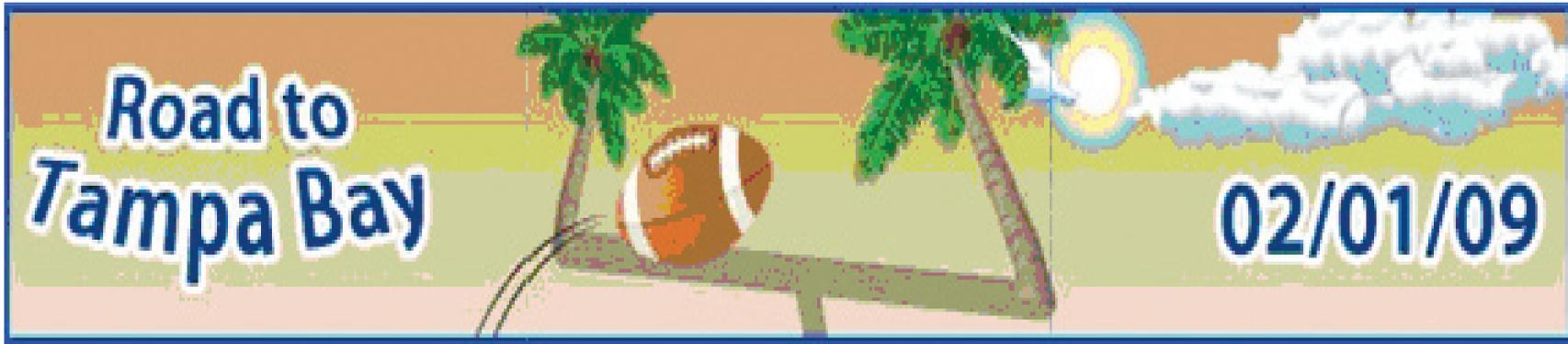
Bolero Esther Dark, pianist *Blue Danube*

Mendelssohn: Hebrides Overture
Tchaikovsky: Piano Concerto No. 1, 1
Rachmaninoff: Piano Concerto No. 2, 1
Ravel: Bolero
Bach: Brandenburg Concerto #5

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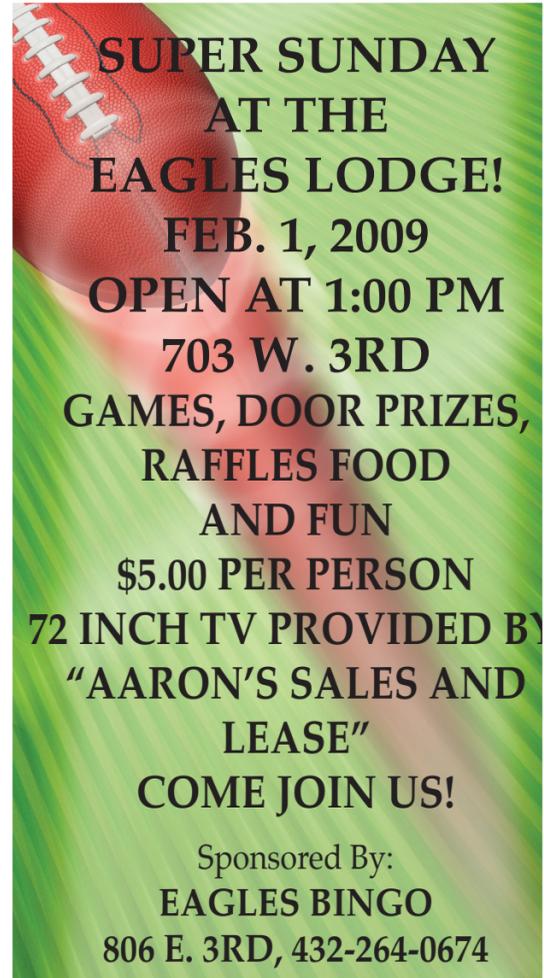
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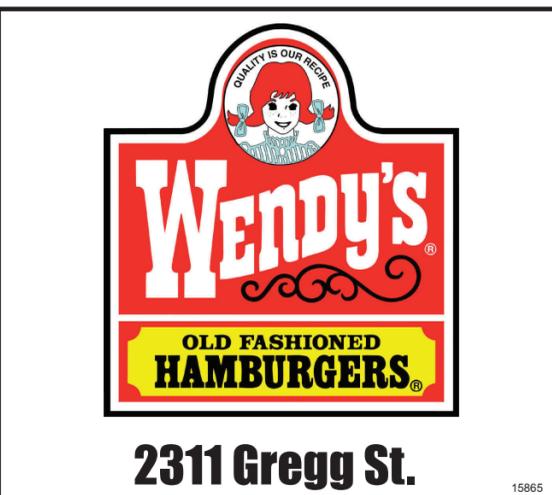
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