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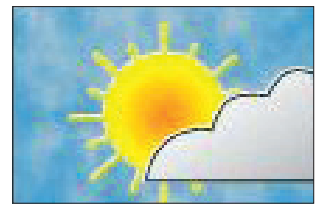
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HIGH SPRING HERALD

THURSDAY

FEBRUARY 12, 2009



VOLUME 104, NUMBER 62

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Man gets 5-year term in transient's death

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

A Big Spring man was sentenced to five years in prison after being found guilty of failure to stop and render aid in 118th District Court Wednesday. The district court jury



Lopez Jr.

handed down the maximum possible sentence after finding that Andres Aguilar Lopez Jr., 33, was guilty of a June 2006 offense that killed transient

Larry Pullen. District Attorney Hardy Wilkerson said testimony showed that Lopez was southbound on Highway 87 in the early morning hours of June 22, 2006, when his Chevrolet pickup struck and killed Pullen, who was crossing the

highway on foot. Pullen was declared dead at the scene, while Lopez was subsequently apprehended at his residence in the 4000 block of Parkway. "Although his truck was heavily damaged in the accident, Mr. Lopez never

stopped," Wilkerson said. "Instead, he continued south on Highway 87, turned onto Hearn Street, then to his residence on Parkway. He never notified the police and never tried to render aid to Mr. Lopez never

See **5 YEARS**, Page 3A

No debate, BSHS wins 7th straight

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

They kept the tradition going. Big Spring High School debaters Jessica Rubio and Thad Loftis maintained BSHS' victory streak in that event, winning the school's seventh straight District 4-4A title Tuesday afternoon.

Rubio and Loftis bested an Abilene Cooper debate team in the finals to claim the crown.

BSHS Debate Coach Jennifer Adams said the duo complement each other well.

"Jessica is a sophomore, so we're going to have her a couple more years," Adams said. "Thad is graduating this year and has other interests beside debate. He obviously had to

"We knew we had a good chance ... but we also knew there was the possibility we didn't win."
 —Jessica Rubio, BSHS sophomore

concentrate more on it this year. They just make a solid team together."

Rubio and Loftis are both in their first full year as members of the debate team.

"The last two years, I was in both debate and one-act play, but I wasn't able to do both at the same time, so I chose one-act," Loftis said. "This year, I

See **DEBATE**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Big Spring High School students Jessica Rubio, left, and Thad Loftis captured top honors at Tuesday's District 4-4A Cross-Examination Debate Tournament. They now advance to the state tournament, to be held in Austin later this year.

County Special meeting called to take care of oversight

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners will hold a special meeting Friday morning to discuss what appears to be an oversight in the placement of emergency communications equipment at the new jail facility.

According to County Judge Mark Barr, the meeting is expected to center around a change order necessary to transition existing 911 communications equipment from the existing jail facility to the new location on W. Highway 80, near the McMahan-Wrinkle Airpark.

"We had planned on moving the 911 equipment out to the new jail," said Barr. "Apparently, there are a lot of electronic issues that go along with that move, and project architect Jeff Heffelfinger wasn't aware of the move. So we need to get stuff lined up for that transition."

Barr said the change order is a last-minute effort, but shouldn't break the bank for the \$11.57 million project.

"From what Jeff was telling me, we have to get some air conditioning equipment to make this change," said Barr. "I don't have a final figure yet, but he estimated the change order would cost around \$10,000, so it's not going to put us in any kind of budget crunch for the project."

See **COUNTY**, Page 3A

Peanut Co. president pleads 'fifth'

By **MITCH ANDERSON**
 Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

WASHINGTON — Faced with anguished family members, angry lawmakers and e-mails they said showed him more concerned about profits than sick Americans, the head of a peanut company refused to answer congressional questions Wednesday about allegations that his firm may be responsible

for nine deaths and hundreds of food-borne illnesses.

The House Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations summoned Stewart Parnell, owner and president of Lynchburg, Va.-based Peanut Corporation of America (PCA), whose Georgia plant is under investigation. His appearance came amid revelations that he gave the plant's manager the go-ahead

to ship products that initially tested positive for salmonella but were clean in retests.

Since September, the salmonella outbreak has sickened at least 600 people and may have contributed to the deaths of nine, including three Minnesotans. The most recent death linked to the

See **FIFTH** Page 3A



Investigators think girl was abducted

SATSUMA, Fla. (AP) — Investigators were treating the disappearance of a 5-year-old north Florida girl as an abduction and continued searching for the child Thursday.

The Putnam County Sheriff's Office

AP Photo/John Pemberton
Crystal Sheffield, mother of missing 5-year-old Haleigh Cummings, weeps as Johnny Sheffield, Crystal's father, tries to comfort her. The girl was last seen Monday night when she went to bed.

said investigators assume Haleigh Cummings was abducted because house-to-house searches of the neighborhood Wednesday found no evidence that she wandered away.

Haleigh's father Ronald Cummings also said he didn't believe she had left their home in the middle of the night.

"I know somebody took her. I know for a fact she didn't wander off — she's afraid of the dark," Cummings told NBC's "Today" on Thursday.

See **CHILD**, Page 3A

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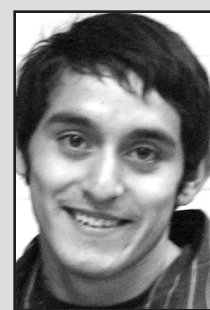
HERALD SPORTS HONOR ROLL.

Cade Hollandsworth, LaRay Woodard, Zamir Linton & Sidney Parker

BSHS senior footballers
Four Big Spring Steers signed to play football for West Texas A&M last week. Hollandsworth, Woodard, Linton and Parker will all four be headed to Canyon with hopes of contributing soon.

Jordan Valle & Shane Allen

BSHS senior x-country runners
Class 4A individual cross



Valle

country state champion Valle signed to run collegiately at Texas A&M, Corpus Christi. Allen, who finished 36th at the state meet, will run cross country at Western Texas College in Snyder.

Taylor Seaton

BSHS freshman forward

Seaton displayed a hot hand in the Lady Steers' 43-24 victory over San Angelo Lake View Tuesday.

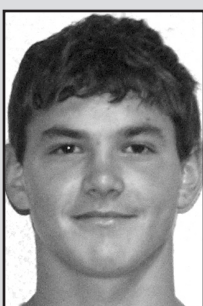
Seaton was the game's leading scorer, posting all 12 of her points in the first half with 10 coming in the opening stanza, including two 3-pointers from the corner. It was her season high in points.

Matt Ritchey

BSHS junior post

Ritchey was key in the Steers' 58-51 victory over Lake View Tuesday.

He finished with 12 points, with his biggest shot putting Big Spring up by 7 late in the fourth.



Ritchey

However, his biggest plays of the game came in the final 25 seconds.

With Big Spring up by 4, Ritchey drew a charge to stop one Lake View possession, then scrambled for a loose ball rebound on the Chiefs' next offensive sequence that led to a Darius McCalister layup with less than 10 seconds to play, sealing the victory for Big Spring.

Morgan Schwartz

Garden City forward

Schwartz has consistently been the catalyst for the 10th-ranked Garden City Lady Bearkats this season.

She scored 37 combined points in the Lady Bearkats' final two games — wins over Sterling City and Water Valley.

Schwartz had 19 in a 60-20 thrashing of Sterling City Friday, then posted 18 in a 58-23 blowout of Water Valley.

Her cousin Macy Schwartz scored 15 in both contests.

Worth noting:

Cody Sheppard scored 28 points for Coahoma in the Bulldogs' 66-63 win over Grape Creek Tuesday.

Garden City's Brett Chudej has scored 23 points in his last two games for the Bearkats.

Each week the Herald recognizes area athletes for achievements in their particular sport.

Favre: 'It's time to leave'

By DENNIS WASZAK Jr.

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK — Brett Favre's record-breaking right arm made the decision easier for him this time.

The 39-year-old quarterback insists he's done playing football, telling the New York Jets on Wednesday that his injured shoulder is still bothering him and he's retiring after 18 seasons.

And he really means it — at least for now.

"I have family and friends who are like, 'All right, Brett. Is this the real deal?'" Favre said. "To me, it is. It is.

Believe me. It's been a wonderful career, I couldn't ask for anything more. It was worth a shot for me to go to New York. I wish I could've played better down the stretch. I didn't.

"It's time to leave."

Favre, who struggled with his decision to retire last March only to return a few months later, kept this goodbye simple — no tearful farewell or jampacked news conference. He spoke to owner Woody Johnson, general manager Mike Tannenbaum and coach Rex Ryan and informed them he was calling it a career.

"I have no reason to wonder why you would be so skeptical," Favre said with a slight chuckle.

The Jets placed Favre on the reserve-retirement list, papering the quarterback's retirement paperwork had been filed with the NFL — something he didn't do last winter with the Green Bay Packers.

"Emotionally, I'm OK with it," said Favre, who spent the day on his bulldozer and doing yard work on the grounds at his home in Kiln, Miss. "I

See **FAVRE**, Page 2B

Unbeatable?

Oklahoma beats Baylor, remains perfect in Big 12

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer

WACO — Blake Griffin could only smile when he turned to run down the court after his deflected shot still fell through the hoop.

Austin Johnson knows his buzzer-beating 3-pointer was lucky.

A couple of lucky shots, another double-double by Griffin and an earlier game-changing run of 3s by Johnson pushed second-ranked Oklahoma to a 78-63 victory over Baylor on Wednesday night and stretched the Sooners' winning streak to 12 games.

"That's what comes with one team is on a roll and the other is struggling," Baylor coach Scott Drew said.

The shot clock was running out on the Sooners (24-1, 10-0 Big 12) when Willie Warren passed to Johnson, who caught the ball and shot while still in the air. That 3-pointer with 4 minutes left pushed Oklahoma's lead back to the 10 and took the steam out of Baylor (15-9, 3-7).

"It was deflating," said Drew, whose team has a six-game losing streak.

"It was just a really lucky shot," Johnson said. "Stuff happens like that sometimes. It was just a lucky shot."

Griffin had 18 points and 10 rebounds for his 21st double-double this season, matching the school record with six regular season games left.

Johnson finished with 17 points while Juan Pattillo and Warren each had 14 for the Sooners, who beat Baylor for the 30th straight time since December 1977.

"The streak doesn't really mean a lot to me," coach Jeff Capel said. "We put up on our board before the game, we have one goal, that's to get to 24-slash-10. That was our goal, 24 wins overall and 10 wins in the conference. That's all we focused on. We didn't talk about the past or what's happened before. It was just that."

See **BIG 12**, Page 2B



AP photo/Jerry Larson

Oklahoma's Blake Griffin (23) shoots between Baylor's Lace Darius Dunn, left, and Mamadou Diene, right, in the second half of an NCAA basketball game Wednesday in Waco. Oklahoma defeated Baylor 78-63 to remain undefeated in Big 12 play.

Lawson, Hansbrough lead No. 3 UNC past No. 6 Duke

By JOEDY McCREARY

AP Sports Writer

DURHAM, N.C. — Tyler Hansbrough squared up in front of the Cameron Crazies and tossed up a long 3-pointer — just like he did three years earlier.

Just as then, the North Carolina star swished it through.

"I'm not scared to shoot 'em," Hansbrough said.

Here's something else that never seems to change around here: Hansbrough, walking off Coach K's court a winner.

Ty Lawson scored 21 of his season-high 25 points in the second half and the third-ranked Tar Heels rallied past No. 6 Duke 101-87 on Wednesday night.

Hansbrough scored 17 points while remaining perfect at Cameron Indoor Stadium for the Tar Heels (22-2, 8-2 Atlantic Coast Conference), who won their eighth straight while becoming the first team in nine seasons to hit triple digits against Duke.

"Each year it's been different," Hansbrough said. "Our freshman year, no one thought we could come in here and win. ... Tonight was



AP photo/Gerry Broome

Duke's Kyle Singler, left, and Lance Thomas battle with North Carolina's Tyler Hansbrough (50) for a loose ball during the second half of an NCAA basketball game in Durham, N.C., Wednesday. North Carolina won 101-87.

one of those things where you didn't want to think about the record. We just wanted to come out and play."

They came on strong down the stretch, using late runs of 25-11 and 14-0 to first take the lead for good and then stretch it to 17. In the process, they snapped the Blue Devils' 14-game home court winning streak while claim-

ing first place in the ACC standings.

Wayne Ellington and Danny Green added 15 points apiece. Green and Hansbrough joined former Wake Forest standouts Tim Duncan and Rusty LaRue as the only players to beat Mike Krzyzewski four straight times on the Cameron court that now bears his name.

Kyle Singler scored 22

points and Jon Scheyer added 20 to lead Duke (20-4, 7-3), which kept up with the up tempo Tar Heels for about 30 minutes before spiraling to its fifth loss in six meetings with the hated rival located 8 miles down Tobacco Road.

"In the second half, we kind of had the mindset that we were going to outscore them," Singler said. "But you're not going to outscore Carolina."

Gerald Henderson finished with 17 points — but shot just 1-for-9 in the second half.

"We did not hit shots for a short period of time there," Krzyzewski said. "And they did, and they got away from us."

Then, Lawson gave North Carolina all the separation it needed a short while later, when he scored nine of the 12 straight points reeled off by the Tar Heels. His three-point layup with 3:42 remaining put them up 88-71.

That came two possessions after Hansbrough pulled up over David McClure and knocked down a 3-pointer.

"I told our guys, 'The streak is going to stop at some

See **NCAA**, Page 2B

Obituaries

Dorothy Anderson



Dorothy Anderson, 85, formerly of Big Spring died Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2009, at her residence in Tulsa, Okla. Graveside funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 14, 2009, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park in Big Spring with the Rev. Dr. Randy Cotton, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, officiating.

Family will receive friends at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home in Big Spring from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13, 2009.

Dorothy was born April 12, 1923, in Cisco and married Ray D. Anderson March 25, 1946, in Midland. He preceded her in death Aug. 28, 2007.

She was a long time member of Wesley United Methodist Church in Big Spring, where she taught the Dorcas Sunday School class for many years and was involved in numerous other church activities.

She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Steve and Phyllis Anderson of Tulsa, Okla.; her sister and brother-in-law, Jane and Bob Womack of Lubbock; her brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Bo and Patsy Anderson of Big Spring; two granddaughters, Kim Temple and Cari Harkins and their families; their mother, Mary Schwendeman; and Phyllis' daughter, Anna Gammill and her family.

She is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews and their families, many of which are still in Big Spring and the West Texas area.

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

Paid obituary

Chester Eckert



Chester Eckert, 56, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2009, at his residence. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 13, 2009, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. David Harp, pastor of First Baptist Church of Stanton, officiating. Interment will follow at 2 p.m. at Miles Cemetery in Miles.

He was born March 16, 1952, in Snyder. He came to Big Spring in 1975 from Thorndale and was a truck driver. He was a Lutheran.

Survivors include two brothers, Steve Eckert and Fred Eckert, both of Big Spring; and one sister, Dornell King of Big Spring.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Carl Elmer Eckert.

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

Barney C. Toland

Barney C. Toland, 89, died Sunday, Feb. 8, 2009, at his residence in Sweetwater. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 14, 2009, at McCoy Chapel of Memories with the Rev. Jeff Pritchard officiating. Interment will follow in Sweetwater Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13, 2009, at McCoy Funeral Home.

Mr. Toland was born May 1, 1919, in the Capitola Community in Fisher County to J.L. and Etta Toland. He married Frankie Lee Kidd Sept. 29, 1937.

From 1966 to 1974, he owned Barney Toland Volkswagen in Big Spring. He had owned several car dealerships in Odessa and had been a roughneck during the 1940s. Most recently, he had managed the Double S Ranch in Maryneal.

He is survived by his wife, Frankie of Sweetwater; daughter, Jan Smith and her husband Steve of Sweetwater; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Clara Toland Crump, and a brother, J.L. (Frog) Toland Jr.

The family requests memorials be made to the Sweetwater Municipal Auditorium, P.O. Box 584, Sweetwater 79556.

Support Groups

THURSDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

FRIDAY

• AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

SATURDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.

Police blotter

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

- **JERRY RIVERA**, 32, of 1315 Park, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **ROBERT SANCHEZ**, 44, of 423 Westover Rd., was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **RICHARD DELOSRIOS**, 48, of 707 Lorilla, was arrested Wednesday on 12 local warrants.
- **UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE** was reported in the 1100 block of Lloyd.
- **THEFT** was reported:
 - in the 300 block of Owens.
 - in the 1800 block of Gregg Street.
 - in the 1200 block of 11th Place.
- **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 100 block of Courtney.
- **ASSAULT BY CONTACT** was reported:
 - in the 1400 block of Lancaster.
 - in the 1900 block of Highway 87.

Sheriff

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 50 inmates at the time of this report.
- **CHRISTOPHER LEE VALENCIA**, 26, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of bondsman off bond for failure to identify – giving false information.
 - **SANDRA SHAEFFER**, 25, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance in a drug free zone.
 - **LANA D. MARTINEZ**, 35, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of aggravated robbery and possession of a controlled substance in a drug free zone.
 - **JESSIE FIERRO III**, 18, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less in a drug free zone.
 - **ANDRES AGUILAR LOPEZ JR.**, 33, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for failure to stop and render aid.

Fire/EMS

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




- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 6600 block of Robinson Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported near the intersection of Fifth Street and Settles. Three people were transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1300 block of Oklahoma. Service refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2600 block of Connally. Service refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 300 block of S. Gregg Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 500 block of E. 13th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.

Take Note

• The Big Spring High School Key Club will be having a barbecue fundraiser at Wal-Mart from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday. Barbecue sandwiches will be sold for \$3, brisket burritos and sausage wraps for \$2 and a limited number of "award winning" smoked ribs for \$8 a half-rack and \$16 a full rack. Profits will help club members attend the spring conference in Dallas. Donations are welcomed.

• Canterbury/Canterbury North will host a Senior Sweetheart Dance Saturday. The dance will be held at 1700 Lancaster from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. and is open to all seniors. Admission is free and music will be provided by RC Entertainment. Burrito and dessert will be for sale starting at 3 p.m. and during the dance.

Your Local Weather

Fri 2/13	Sat 2/14	Sun 2/15
 71/32	 65/34	 64/33
Mainly sunny. High 71F. Winds WNW at 10 to 20 mph.	Mainly sunny. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the mid 30s.	More sun than clouds. Highs in the mid 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

- League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. The public is invited.
- American Legion Auxiliary meets at 6 p.m. at 3203 W. Highway 80.
- The Prospector's Club meets at 7:30 p.m. at 606 E. Third St. The public is invited to these meetings. For more information contact Lola Lamb at 263-3340.
- Neighbors and Newcomers Club meets. New members are welcome. Call 263-2005 for more information.

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

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

MONDAY

- The Big Spring-Howard County Retired Teacher's Association meets in the Cactus Room at Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 213-1342 or 263-6819.
- Evening Lions Club meets at 6:45 p.m. at Dragon China Buffett.
- DAV and Auxiliary Chapter 47 meets at 6:30 p.m. at 610 Abrams St.
- Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

TUESDAY

- Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Big Spring Band Boosters meets at 5:30 p.m. in the high school band hall. All band parents are invited to attend.
- Howard County Master Gardeners meet at 5:30 p.m. in the basement of the county courthouse. The public is invited.
- Big Spring Art Association meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 15-21-23-27-38-52.
Number matching six of six: 0.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 5-8-12-14-19.
Number matching five of five: 2. Prize: \$11,704
Winning ticket purchased in: Giddings, Fresno.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 7-8-8-7. Sum It Up: 30.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 2-8-9. Sum It Up: 19.

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Sports in brief

Correction on names from Stanton/Forsan box scores

In Tuesday's edition in the story titled "Forsan claims District 7-A title", the wrong names were listed for Stanton in the box scores.

It should have read:

Forsan 12 7 20 10-49
Stanton 7 10 2 7-26

Forsan (22-3, 5-1): Jeremy Robbins 15, Tristian Clay 14, Evan Burton 10, Nathan Atkerson 8, Alex Huckabee 2.

Stanton (8-6, 3-3): Tyler Fulton 15, Trace Sidle 6, Jacob Cazares 5.

Stanton 6 11 12 9-38
Forsan 5 5 11 12-33

Stanton (15-14, 4-2): Rachel Fleckenstein 15, Adrian Carrasco 10, Kesley Jones 6, Ashton Snellgrove 5, Tiffani Saucedo 2.

Forsan (21-8, 4-2): Amanda Longorio 19, Faith Belew 4, Shelby Jones 4, Shelby McDonald 2, Tori Gauer 2, Kelsey Jones 2.

Steers game vs. Frenship moved to 6 p.m. Friday

The Big Spring Steers basketball game vs. Frenship scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Friday has been moved up to 6 p.m. Friday.

This is due to the Lady Steers playing against San Angelo Lake View at 8:30 p.m. Friday in Sterling City in a game that will decide who receives the final playoff spot available out of District 4-4A.

To correct an error in Wednesday's Lady Steers story, the winner of Friday's game between Big Spring and Lake View will take on Amarillo Palo Duro in the first round of the playoffs, not Canyon.

Steers baseball scrimmage now taking place in Sweetwater

The Big Spring Steers baseball team is getting ready for the 2009 season with a scrimmage against Sweetwater.

Due to some scheduling conflicts, the Steers will be traveling to Sweetwater instead of the Mustangs coming to Big Spring. First pitch is set for 6 p.m.

Big Spring & Coahoma Little League sign-ups start Saturday

Big Spring and Coahoma Little League baseball organizations have merged this year and sign-ups for the community are set to begin Saturday at 10 a.m. and last until 5 p.m. at the old Athletic Supply Store in the Big Spring Mall.

Registration will last through Feb. 21. Available times for sign-ups are as follows:

Monday (Feb. 16) through Friday (Feb. 20): 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 21: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Cost is \$60 with no raffle and parents should bring their child's birth certificate with them.

For more information, contact Robert Smith at 263-7331 or 263-3333.

Everyone wearing red or black at HC game Monday gets in free

Howard College will be hosting Odessa College in doubleheader basketball action Monday starting at 5:30 p.m.

All fans wearing red or black will be admitted free of charge.

Halftime entertainment will be SHOUT — a dance team from Odessa.

Howard College hosting practice and girls basketball playoff games

Howard College is always playing host to several different high school basketball playoff games every season and the 2009 version of the postseason is no different. Here's the schedule put in place so far.

Saturday
Sonora vs. Sudan, 2 p.m., (practice game)

Tuesday
Klondike vs. Water Valley, 6 p.m.

Feb. 20
Greenwood vs. Abilene Wylie, 8 p.m. (only if Greenwood wins their first round game Tuesday.)

FAVRE

Continued from Page 1B

really felt like it was time. Obviously, the circumstances last year were a lot different. Physically, if I felt better, we may not be having this conversation, but I think that's more than anything the writing on the wall."

Favre, still recovering from a torn biceps tendon, had two years left on his contract and was due \$13 million next season, clearing a chunk of salary cap space for the Jets. His decision came six weeks after his only season in New York ended in disappointment as the Jets went 1-4 down the stretch and failed to make the playoffs.

A major reason for the collapse was Favre, who threw nine interceptions in those five games. He said he played with the injury that got worse later in the season and needed a cortisone injection after the team's game at San Francisco in Week 14.

"It's something that obviously I was able to play with," he said. "I don't think I was nearly as productive as the season progressed, but it very well could be fine next year. I'm well aware of that. But then again, it could linger and bother me throughout the year and I just felt like it was time. I think that, to me more than anything, was a wakeup call."

Favre insisted that even if his shoulder felt better next season,

he's still done with playing.

"It's nothing I would second-guess, no," he said.

If this is indeed it for Favre, he leaves the game with a slew of records, including career touchdown passes (464), completions (5,720), yards passing (65,127), regular-season victories (169) and interceptions (310).

"With Brett, there was always the possibility that he wouldn't play the second year," Johnson said. "We were hoping to get one good year out of Brett Favre. We picked him based on, in our opinion, his giving us the best chance to win last season. We were disappointed not to have made the Super Bowl, but we did some very good things with Brett."

The team improved from 4-12 in 2007 to 9-7, but the late-season woes cost Eric Mangini his job — and perhaps tarnished Favre's legacy a bit.

"You name it in professional football, and I've done it," Favre said. "Very few people, if any, can say that. I've received way more honors than I probably deserve. I've had my share of mistakes. I've had my share of lucky breaks. I wouldn't trade my career for anything."

The three-time NFL MVP holds the mark among quarterbacks with 291 consecutive starts, including the playoffs, despite playing through several injuries throughout his career.

"The longevity of his career and his love for the game is truly inspiring," All-Pro kick returner-running back Leon

Washington told The Associated Press. "I'm privileged to have played with not only a Hall of Fame QB, but also a great role model."

After the Jets' season-ending 24-17 loss to Miami, Favre said he felt discomfort in his arm "for quite a while." It turned out to be a torn biceps tendon, and he opted not to have surgery.

It wasn't all bad with the Jets for Favre. He threw a career-high six touchdown passes, tying Joe Namath's team record, in a 56-35 victory over Arizona in Week 4. Favre also helped rejuvenate the franchise, drawing thousands of fans to training camp practices.

He finished with 3,472 yards passing and 22 touchdowns, but the 22 interceptions were his most in three seasons.

"It would've been fantastic to be coaching Brett," Ryan said. "It's a sad day to see him leave, to see him retiring."

New York now will move forward with a new quarterback, perhaps with Kellen Clemens, Brett Ratliff or Erik Ainge. The Jets could also look to sign a veteran free agent such as Jeff Garcia, Kerry Collins, Byron Leftwich or Rex Grossman, or target a quarterback with their first pick — No. 17 overall — in the draft in April.

"If an opportunity presents itself, we'll measure it carefully and then make the best decision for the Jets," Tannenbaum said. "But going into the league year, we feel good about the players we have."

NCAA

Continued from Page 1B

time," coach Roy Williams said. "Let's just put it off for another year."

No. 1 Connecticut 63, No. 23 Syracuse 49

At Storrs, Conn., Hasheem Thabeet had eight points, 16 rebounds and seven blocks and the top-ranked Huskies won their 12th straight game.

A.J. Price had 17 points for UConn (23-1, 11-1 Big East), which has won three straight since claiming the top spot in the rankings.

The Huskies pulled away with a 12-0 run for a 56-40 lead midway through the second half.

BIG 12

Continued from Page 1B

Oklahoma is the first NCAA Division I team with 24 victories, a mark No. 21 Utah State (23-1) will try to match at Idaho on Thursday night. The Sooners have their best start in conference play since they were 11-0 in the Big Eight Conference in 1985.

After Quincy Acy sparked a wild sequence that got Baylor within 52-49 with 8 minutes left, Capel called timeout. And the Sooners responded.

Within a minute after the timeout, Pattillo hit a baseline jumper, and following a missed 3-pointer by Baylor, Johnson passed inside to Pattillo, who made the shot and added a free throw after being fouled.

"We knew they were going to have a run," Johnson said. "It came, we kept playing and got through it."

The Sooners extended their lead to 62-51 when Tony Crocker hit a long 3-pointer with 5 minutes left and Baylor never got closer than seven points after that.

Griffin botched a slam attempt on Johnson's inbound ally-ooop pass midway through the first half, but grabbed his miss between Baylor defenders and went straight back up to make the second try. On the next possession, he got his basket that went in despite being deflected.

"It's something I practice," Griffin said, with a smile. "I guess he got his hand on it and bent it backwards and put a topspin on it. I got pretty lucky today."

It was 35-30 at halftime after Omar Leary passed to Blake, who made a quick move around Rogers and had a clear path for a one-handed slam in the final minute.

Griffin opened the second half in a similar fash-

ion, with a one-handed reverse slam on a pass from Johnson in the opening minute. Taylor Griffin's basket made it 40-30 before Baylor had scored in the second half.

Acy's slam dunk that got Baylor within 52-47 came after Dunn missed a 3-pointer and a couple of Bears touched the long rebound before Rogers passed to Acy.

Oklahoma then had a turnover, when Warren tried to force a pass inside to Blake Griffin. Acy stole the pass and that led to layup by Dunn. But Baylor never got closer.

Curtis Jerrells had 19 points to lead Baylor (15-9, 3-7), which has its longest losing streak since starting 0-6 in 2005-06, the freshman season for seniors Jerrells, Henry Dugat and Kevin Rogers.

Rogers and Dunn each had 11 points. Rogers also had nine rebounds.

Dunn was 0-for-6 shooting 3-pointers, ending his streak of 28 consecutive games with a 3-pointer, one short of the school record.

Oklahoma took the lead for good with 3½ minutes left in the first half when Warren hit a long 3-pointer from the left wing to make it 25-24.

That came during a stretch of four consecutive 3-pointers by the Sooners, with Johnson making the other three.

The first by Johnson was from well beyond the arc, but Warren went even a few feet deeper for his. After a timeout, Johnson hit 3s on consecutive possessions.



Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Standard Operating Procedure

West dealer.
East-West vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ A K Q 3 2
♥ Q J 10 4
♦ A K J
♣ 8

WEST
♠ J 8
♥ K 6 3 2
♦ Q 9 4
♣ A K J 5

EAST
♠ 10 5
♥ A 8
♦ 7 6 3 2
♣ 10 9 6 4 2

SOUTH
♠ 9 7 6 4
♥ 9 7 5
♦ 10 8 5
♣ Q 7 3

The bidding:
West North East South
1♣ Dble Pass 1♠
Pass 4♣
Opening lead — king of clubs.

from the queen, West chose to adopt a passive line of defense and shifted to a low trump at trick two. Declarer played two top trumps, conceded two tricks to the A-K of hearts and easily made the contract.

The outcome would have been altogether different had West instead shifted to a low heart at trick two. East would have won with the ace, returned a heart to the king and ruffed West's heart continuation for down one.

It is true that there was no way for West to know that East, rather than South, had the ace of hearts, and it might therefore be argued that a low heart play by West was a dangerous move.

However, there's no real merit for such a contention. From West's viewpoint, the contract can't possibly be stopped if declarer has the ace of hearts. He should therefore credit East with that card because it offers the only chance for the defense to score four tricks.

True, East must also have precisely a doubleton heart for this assumption to bear fruit, but it costs West nothing to hope for that as well. In bridge, many assumptions are, of necessity, based on hope, and in dire circumstances, it can hardly be wrong to hope for the best.

Tomorrow: Test your play.
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su | do | ku

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

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

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Oil slides toward multiyear lows

C O L U M B U S, Ohio (AP) — Oil prices slid closer to a new multiyear low Thursday because of growing doubts that the \$789 billion stimulus package will reinvigorate the economy and demand for energy.

Retail gas prices, meanwhile, reached a new high for 2009 on Thursday and appeared headed back to \$2 a gallon as refiners cut back on production.

Light, sweet crude for March delivery fell \$1.04 to \$34.90 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell \$1.61 overnight to settle at \$35.94 after a government report on Wednesday showed that crude inventories jumped much more than expected.

There were also more signs of economic weakness. The number of people requesting first-time unemployment benefits dropped slightly last week, but remained near a 26-year high.

DEBATE

Continued from Page 1A

chose debate.”

“As a freshman, I debated for a semester. This is the first year that I really, really went with it,” Rubio added. “The main thing I like about it is that you learn so much more about the world than not being in it. You never get the full meaning of the news until you’re in something like debate.”

BSHS has dominated district cross-examination debate this decade, but faced a new challenge this year with the entrance of Abilene Cooper High School into the league.

“Cooper had won its district meet the last two years,” Loftis said. “And we had won our district the past six years ... so there was lots of pressure.”

The pressure compounded for the BSHS duo after the preliminary round of debates when they discovered they were the only local team to advance to the final round — as opposed to three squads from Abilene Cooper.

“It was definitely resting on our shoulders,” said Rubio.

After the final debate, both had mixed feeling about their chances.

“We knew we had a good chance ... but we also knew there was the possibility we didn’t win,” Rubio said. “When they announced we had won ... we were so excited and surprised, all at the same time.”

“When we found out, it was like this big weight just fell off our shoulders,” Loftis added.

With the title, the duo now advance to the state tournament, to be held at the University of Texas in Austin later this spring.

“We just have to go out there, hold our heads up high and have the confidence that we belong,” Loftis said.

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

COUNTY

Continued from Page 1A

The 96-bed jail, which was approved by voters in 2006, will replace the current facility located in the Howard County Courthouse.

Barr said the early completion date — the original completion date for the facility was April — should have jail officials and inmates ready to move in sometime in March.

The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the commissioners courtroom, located on the second floor of the County Courthouse.

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

5 YEARS

Continued from Page 1A

Pullen.”

Wilkerson added that Lopez was intoxicated during the incident, but said alcohol was not the reason for the collision.

Midland attorney Tom Hirsh represented Lopez.

Lopez could have been sentenced to probation or as little as one year in county jail. Instead, the jury maxed out his prison term — a verdict which met with Wilkerson’s endorsement.

“We’re very satisfied with the jury’s decision,” he said. “We felt it was in line with the evidence and the history of the defendant. I would also like to point out that this was the result of excellent investigative work by the Big Spring Police Department and the Howard County Sheriff’s Office. They provided me with very solid evidence in this matter.”

Lopez must serve one quarter of his sentence — about 15 months — before becoming eligible for parole.

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

‘FIFTH’

Continued from Page 1A

outbreak was reported Wednesday in Ohio.

On Capitol Hill, the sons of two of the Minnesotans were among the witnesses Wednesday, mixing anger with sorrow as they described the suffering and deaths of their parents. “Our family feels cheated; my mom should be here today,” said Jeff Almer, whose mother died in December. “But the session’s climax came when Parnell repeatedly invoked his right not to incriminate himself as he declined to answer sometimes taunting questions, as newly released internal company e-mails showed him complaining about lost revenue while the outbreak was being investigated.

In an August e-mail obtained by House investigators, Parnell, advised that products initially identified with salmonella had come up clean in retests, said, “okay, let’s turn them loose then.” In another, from October, Parnell complained that positive tests were “costing us huge \$\$\$\$\$\$.”

After the national outbreak was tied to his company in mid-January, Parnell wrote a message to Food and Drug Administration officials saying that his workers “desperately at least need to turn the

raw peanuts on our floor into money.”

Robert Lightsey, manager of PCA’s Georgia plant, also invoked his right not to testify when he appeared alongside Parnell before the subcommittee.

One of the panel members, Rep. Greg Walden, R-Ore., said that “lives were lost and people were sickened because (this company) took a chance, I believe knowingly, with products that were contaminated.”

Shortly afterward, Walden, holding up a plastic jar containing recalled products and wrapped in crime scene tape, asked Parnell if he would like to sample them.

Parnell, sitting straight up, arms folded on his lap, repeated: “Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, on advice of my counsel, I respectfully decline to answer your questions based on the protections afforded me under the U.S. Constitution.” After he had made the statement several times, lawmakers dismissed him from the hearing.

Minnesotans Almer and Lou Tousignant, each of whom lost a parent who had eaten salmonella-tainted peanut butter, told the committee that Congress must approve mandatory product recalls and improve public notice about contaminated food.

Almer, of Savage,

Minn., called the current food safety process a “broken and ineffective system with abysmal oversight” and said he’d like to see Peanut Corp. executives serve jail time.

As he testified, Almer displayed a photograph of his late mother, Shirley Mae Almer, in front of him.

“Her death and the deaths of seven others could have been so easily prevented if not for the greed and avarice of the Peanut Corp. of America,” he said.

Tousignant, of Minneapolis, whose father, Clifford, died in January, implored lawmakers to act.

“Do not let us be back here next year or the year after experiencing the same thing,” he said. “Do not let the death of my father and seven others like him be in vain.”

Testimony suggested that the problems at PCA are not new. A lab tester said that the company discovered salmonella at its Blakely, Ga., plant as far back as 2006. Food and Drug Administration officials also told lawmakers that more federal inspections could have helped prevent the outbreak.

Darlene Cowart, of JLA USA testing service, said she made one visit to the plant at the company’s request in 2006 and pointed out problems with its peanut roasting process and storage of raw and

finished peanuts together that could have led to the salmonella. She testified that Peanut Corp. officials said they believed the salmonella came from organic Chinese peanuts.

According to a previous FDA report, the company found salmonella contamination in its plant at least a dozen times dating to June 2007.

In a Jan. 12 message to his employees, Parnell insisted that the outbreak did not start at his plant, calling that a misunderstanding by the media and public health officials. “No salmonella has been found anywhere else in our products, or in our plants, or in any unopened containers of our product,” he said.

“We appear to have a total systemic breakdown,” said Bart Stupak, D-Mich., chairman of the committee’s investigations subcommittee.

mittee.

Candy, cookies, granola bars and crackers containing the contaminated product have appeared everywhere from nursing homes to schools, even showing up in FEMA meal kits passed out in wake of the Kentucky ice storms. More than 1,900 products have been recalled nationwide. The government raided the company’s Georgia plant on Monday, and Peanut Corp. closed its Plainview, Texas, facility this week.

A federal criminal investigation is under way.

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Howard County Awarded Federal Funds Through FEMA
HOWARD COUNTY HAS BEEN AWARDED FEDERAL FUNDS UNDER THE EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER NATIONAL BOARD PROGRAM. Howard County has been chosen to receive **\$15,299.00** to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in the county.

The selection was made by a National Board that is chaired by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and consists of representatives from The Salvation Army; American Red Cross, United Jewish Communities; Catholic Charities, USA; National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA; and, United Way of America. The Local Board was charged to distribute funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs in high-need areas around the country.

A local Board, made up of the County, City, United Way and other local charitable organizations will determine how the funds awarded to Howard County are to be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local service organizations in the area. The Local Board is responsible for recommending agencies to receive these funds and any additional funds under this phase of the program.

Under the terms of the grant from the National Board, local organizations chosen to receive funds **must:** 1) be private voluntary nonprofits or units of government 2) have an accounting system, 3) practice nondiscrimination, 4) have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and / or shelter programs, 5) if they are a private voluntary organization, they must have a voluntary board, and 6) never been debarred or suspended from receiving Federal funds. Qualifying organizations are urged to apply.

Howard County has distributed Emergency Food and Shelter funds previously with The Salvation Army, Isaiah 58, Northside Community Center and St. Vincent DePaul Society participating. These agencies were responsible for providing over 8,000 meals, 8,000 pounds of food and over 300 nights of lodging.

Public or private voluntary organizations interested in applying for Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds must contact **Nancy Foster at the United Way of Big Spring at (432) 267-5201** or come by **215 W. 3rd Street** for an application. The deadline for the submission of applications is **February 17, 2009.**

CHILD

Continued from Page 1A

Haleigh was last seen Monday night in her father’s mobile home in Satsuma. The rural community along the St. Johns River is about 70 miles north of Orlando.

She was reported missing when her father returned home from work early Tuesday. His girl-


friend had woken up and discovered the child was missing.

The girlfriend, 17-year-old Misty Croslin, told a 911 dispatcher that a back door that was usually locked had been propped open by a brick.

Sheriff Jeff Hardy told NBC’s “Today” that searches for Haleigh by air, ground and water would continue Thursday. Investigators also were interviewing the 44 sex offenders living within 5 miles of Ronald Cummings’ home.

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AN ENCOURAGING WORD



By Eddy Pitchford

Valentine’s Day is almost here. Many couples will celebrate with cards, dinners, candy, flowers and romance. School children will exchange valentines with one another. Hearts, hugs and kisses will fill the air - all in the name of love.

Make no mistake about it! Romance love is a blessing and needs to be shared in appropriate ways. However, love is much deeper than diamonds and teddy bears. Love is a commitment that includes patience and kindness. Love is a decision to rejoice in truth and to serve one another.

While Valentine’s Day is a reminder that love sparkles with hope and excitement, it does not compare with the greatest expression of love. A candlelight dinner for two pales in comparison to the eternal love of God that sent Jesus to the cross. That love gives meaning to every day of the year - including Valentine’s Day.

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Announcements

CONCEALED HANDGUN class scheduled for Feb. 28th is rescheduled. Have two classed available Feb. 21st and March 7th. Call (432)394-4492 to confirm Tommy Scott.

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

Bill McClellan
News Editor

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

OUR VIEW

Make Saturday special holiday for loved ones

Saturday is Valentine's Day. Just the mention of this holiday devoted to romance conjures up certain images — roses, chocolate, intimate dinners by candlelight, a quiet evening alone letting the one person we love the most know just how special they are to us.

Valentine's Day mean's different things to different people. It becomes as individual as each of us.

For some, it's a time to go full bore. To spend freely. Shower the one we love with one lavish gift after another.

Others adopt a more reserved tone. A whispered sentiment. A simple card.

All those varied methods mean the same thing, however.

That message is simple: I love you.

No three words are more warming to the human soul.

Perhaps nothing is more desperately sought by each of us. And, most certainly, nothing is more difficult to find.

That's because love isn't something you can purchase, regardless of how much you spend.

Love can't be summoned on demand. It's something given freely from the heart.

Love is shared and should be nurtured — not just today, but every day. Better yet, every moment.

So, on this Valentine's Day, we hope each of you takes the time to do just that.

Regardless of the manner you choose, let those you love the most know they fill a special place in your heart and your life.

Their lives will be enriched, as will yours.

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

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

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we look to Your word, Lord, for our future.
Amen

No consensus on stimulus

President Barack Obama has done more in the first three weeks of his presidency to validate the suspicions of his critics than I thought possible. But of all his objectionable actions, nothing compares to his falsely labeled "stimulus" bill, which he is trying to force upon us with fear and deception.

Just consider his smug assertion that "there is no disagreement that we need action by our government to jump-start the economy."

Maybe Mr. Obama has been cooped up in the White House too long and hasn't seen the dissent, such as that expressed in a strong protest letter signed by umpteen respected economists: "With all due respect Mr. President, that is not true. Notwithstanding reports that all economists are now Keynesians and that we all support a big increase in the burden of government, we the undersigned do not believe that more government spending is a way to improve economic performance." The letter cites the failed record of "stimulus" spending in the Depression era and in Japan in the 1990s and recommends lower tax rates and reduced government as the best remedies.

But even if you accept Obama's disputed premise that spending is the panacea, his bill fails his own criteria. It's just smoke and mirrors aimed at blurring his larger goal of radically restructuring the economy. But he pleads urgency anyway, as if he were trying to set speed records for breaking faith with the electorate.

The blogger Calafia Beach Pundit trenchantly observed: "Very

little of the bill involves immediate stimulus or anything that might be actually stimulative; only a little over 10 percent of the money gets spent this fiscal year, and about 30 percent gets spent next fiscal year. ... About 30 percent of the money goes to transfer payments. ... Only \$20 billion would be spent over the next 18 months on highway construction; and about 20 percent of the bill doesn't get spent until 2012-19."

Obama already lost his fabled cool while angrily wagging his finger at us from the Democratic retreat in Virginia (exemplifying that bipartisanship he promised), scoffing at the charge that his bill was all about government spending.

He said: "What do you think a stimulus is? It's spending. That's the whole point!"

With all due respect, sir, that's not the whole point. Even the "nonpartisan" Congressional Budget Office and your fellow Keynesians concede that not all spending has the same stimulative effect.

But we know you know that, sir, and that you are not about to let this "crisis go to waste." You have loaded up this bill with your party's pent-up wish list of pet pork projects and political payoffs: \$345 million for Agriculture Department computers, \$650 million for TV converter boxes, \$15 billion for college scholarships, and untold, obscene amounts for ACORN-like "community organizing" causes.

Making matters worse, the CBO concluded that the bill would hurt the economy more in the long run than if we did nothing. Even if the spending helped stimulate in the short run, there would be so much additional government debt within a few years that it would crowd out private investment.

Worse still, The Heritage Foundation's Robert Rector says that

of the \$816 billion in new spending (based on the House bill), \$264 billion (32 percent) of it "is new means-tested welfare spending," representing "about \$6,700 in new welfare spending for every poor person in the U.S."

Outraged yet? Well, brace yourself, because Rector says: "The bill sets in motion another \$523 billion in new welfare spending that is hidden by budgetary gimmicks. ... The total 10-year extra welfare cost is likely to be \$787 billion."

So here we are, poised to have this fraudulent, socialistic legislative monstrosity crammed down our throats that A) many reputable economists dispute will stimulate; B) is the type of disastrous remedy tried and failed in the 1930s and more recently in Japan and surely would exacerbate and prolong this recession; C) even Keynesians would agree contains non-stimulative pork; D) would plunge us so much further into debt that we should all be brought before criminal tribunals to answer to our children; and E) President Obama has ominously bragged is only a down payment on further Draconian measures he plans to unleash in the future.

Social commentators have observed that baby boomers are spoiled, self-indulgent narcissists. I'll say. If this legislation doesn't prove that, nothing will. When will we learn we are not gods who can spare ourselves of all pain with some magic bullet fired from our self-proclaimed genius?

Isn't it time we grow up, discard our hedonism, assume accountability and quit trying to buy our way out of this mess with our children's money?

*David Limbaugh is a writer, author and attorney.
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• KEL SELIGER

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Connect bridge to no-where, new reality

Taxpayers around the globe have paid over \$13 trillion (more than a quarter of the gross global product) to bail out financial, insurance and other organizations as well as investors. Was this global crisis — which with each passing hour is casting millions of Americans out of their jobs, out of their homes, and into a deep well of debt — truly inevitable?

In 1993, the gross global product represented about \$20 trillion and derivatives traded in the world markets, \$12 trillion. Although derivatives have appropriate functions, such as making hedging possible and lending liquidity to markets, they are instruments whose value is not intrinsic but derived from that of mortgages, securities and other assets. Yet by 2008, while the gross global product had grown to \$56 trillion, derivatives had reached approximately \$530 trillion! When the derivatives' underlying value was eroded by reckless mortgage loans, the huge excess in speculation and the artificiality in the financial edifice were revealed.

As far back as the early '90s, books such as *When Corporations Rule the World*; hearings by the House Banking Committee on the derivatives market; leaders in academia such as the former president of Harvard University, Derek Bok; and reporters, such as Thomas Friedman, laid out different consequences of the practices and policies unfolding in global markets. Economists of the stature of Joseph Stiglitz and a handful of prudent, long-time investors including Warren Buffet called attention to the growing dangers. The out-

come was foreseen by those who were willing to see.

If there's any hope of full recovery, we must look at the mythical mindset, symbolized by the infamous Bridge to Nowhere, which blinded us to that outcome as a means of connecting us to a brighter future.

Many believed that "the end of history" had been reached, that capitalism — not on the basis of enlightened self-interest but unregulated and unrestrained self-interest — was infallible, and that the U.S. had become the only "indispensable nation," free to disregard others. Meanwhile, over 40 million Americans did not have a bank account, approximately 45 million did not have health insurance, and 30 million adults were considered illiterate.

The need for inter-connectedness with our own poor and with other nations means that Americans' image of ourselves, and our aspirations — the essence of what defines "the American Dream" — must undergo radical change.

When Americans disconnected the identity of the nation from the reality of its own marginalized community and from the international reality, during a period of rapidly evolving globalization, our mindset became dysfunctional. We manifested our own loss of faith in the principle of broadly-shared prosperity.

Now, it's time to stop being awe-struck by the cleverness of those who have been intent on succeeding at the expense of everyone else.

Intelligence, knowledge and power alone do not necessarily translate into ethical, moral, or enduringly productive behavior; without wisdom and balance, they have repeatedly produced elitist excess ... and they did so once again in bringing about the current crisis.

What the people need to ask what changes and sacrifices

are required in order to move in a worthwhile direction. The future of our country demands that all of us build a bridge back to reality. A good start is recognizing that the necessary flows of capital, products and services of globalization are not sustainable in a ruthless system of commerce that relies on low- or no-pay for work, and the assumption that our natural and human resources are expendable. The notion of unending, increasing affluence, and of lax or nonexistent accountability, must be abandoned.

It is not too late and our history holds the answers: a return to honoring the truths that are "self-evident," "a decent respect for the opinions of mankind," and the full, educated, responsible engagement of the people. This is the essence of modern democracy and the source of the longstanding success of our country.

The timing is favorable. President Obama has been a bridge between those in power and the rest of the country on a platform built on hope and inclusiveness. The economic crisis has placed us outside our comfort zone, which makes a revolution of thought possible.

We can all help replace the paradigm built on the fantasies of self-proclaimed masters of the universe with one based on the profound realities that the founders of the nation modestly disclosed. This paradigm shift will reveal the new 21st century frontier. It is a challenge to be grasped now.

As candidate Obama observed, this is our and the peoples of the world's moment.

*Hector Garcia is a consultant on international trade and investment and on intercultural communications.
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LR2

Entry Land Rover provides luxury with capability

With a base price starting around \$36,000, the upscale, yet off-road capable Land Rover LR2 rolls into the 2009 model year with a number of enhancements and optional packages.

Positioned as Land Rover's entry in the luxury sport utility segment, the five-passenger LR2 featuring Land Rover's permanent intelligent all-wheel drive system capable of dynamically adjusting torque delivery to suit a wide variety of situations.

On a straight paved road, the system routes most of the powertrain's output to the front wheels. In tough off-road conditions, almost all of the torque can be distributed to the rear wheels when required.

The LR2 also features Land Rover's Terrain Response, a multi-mode system to maximize traction and control in a variety of driver-selectable settings including grass, gravel, snow, mud, ruts and sand.

A 3.2-liter I-6 engine delivering 230 horsepower and 234 lbs.-ft. torque powers the LR2. Mated to a six-speed adaptive automatic transmission with CommandShift, it has a 0-60 mph performance time of 8.4 seconds.

Requiring premium unleaded fuel, it has an

EPA fuel economy rating of 15 mpg city, 22 mpg highway.

Standard safety features include seven airbags (dual frontal airbags, driver's

knee airbag, side-impact airbag for front seating positions and side-curtain airbags for all outboard positions), LATCH child seat anchor system, integral head restraints for all seats, vehicle security system with keyless entry, auto-dimming rearview mirrors, automatic headlights with headlight washers, front and rear fog lights and tire pressure monitoring system, to name just a few.

It also features a four-channel, all-terrain anti-lock braking system with electronic brakeforce distribution, emergency brake assist, cornering brake



The 2009 Land Rover LR2.

control, active roll mitigation, hill descent control and dynamic stability control.

Like all Land Rovers, the LR2 is fully off-road capable with a minimum ground clearance of 8.3 inches and a wading depth of 19.7 inches.

While capable of climbing rock faces and blazing trails where none previously existed, the LR2 is very much a luxury SUV.

My personal favorite premium feature (and there are many) is the 320-watt Alpine audio system with iPod auxiliary jack. (With the chilly weather we've had this week I've also developed an appreciation for the heated seats).

Standard features include dual-zone automatic climate control, leather seats, wood trim, push button start, electronic cruise control, leather-wrapped tilt and telescopic steering wheel,

power windows, power panoramic dual-panel sunroof with integrated blinds, multifunction trip computer, rear park distance control feature and rain-sensing wipers, again to name but a few.

A number of optional packages are available, including a technology package (\$3,500), HST body kit package (\$2,200), lighting package (\$1,050) and a cold climate package (\$700).

The 2009 Land Rover LR2 delivers a smooth, steady ride on the road and is certainly off-road capable. It also drew a lot of attention during my one-week test drive.

Neal White has been covering the automotive industry for 20 years. Comments may be sent to Neal at neal.white@wninews.com.

THE NUTS AND BOLTS



MODEL: 2009 Land Rover LR2 5-seat luxury SUV AWD-wheel drive
PRICE RANGE: \$36,000-\$43,000
ENGINE: 3.2-L I-6 (230 hp/234 torque)
TRANSMISSION: 6-speed automatic
EPA: 15 mpg city, 22 mpg highway
FUEL: Premium unleaded
SUSPENSION: Independent with MacPherson struts, lower control arms, coil springs, anti-roll bar, 7.3-inches of wheel travel (rear); independent, struts with lateral and longitudinal link, coil springs, anti-roll bar, 8.7-inches of wheel travel.
BRAKES: ABS with electronic brakeforce distribution, emergency brake assist, cornering brake control, active roll mitigation, hill descent control and dynamic stability control.
LENGTH: 177.1 inches
WHEELBASE: 104.7 in.
WIDTH: 85.7 inches
HEIGHT: 68.5 inches
WEIGHT: 4,255 lbs.

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PROFILE 2009



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Stories, photos and ads featuring profiles of people working and living in Howard County.

Why Advertise:

- Available all year long for people interested in moving to our area, and are pre-sold on choosing the products and services of businesses that advertise here.
- Identify yourself as an established part of the community.
- It's a strong and effective opportunity to tell your community relations story.

Publish Date:

Sunday, March 29, 2009

Deadlines:

Faith & Courage

February 20, 2009

Health & Fitness

March 6, 2009

Learning & Leisure

February 27, 2009

Business & Industry

March 18, 2009

Rates & Sizes:

Open or Contract Rates

SAU broadsheet sizes

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Well let your superstitions work for you. We are offering 2 ghoulish specials to existing as well as new customers. The catch is they are good for one day only, that's right you got it **FRIDAY 13TH**, you can get 13 months for \$85.00 or 13 weeks for \$13.00

So act quick before it's gone even if you just renewed or are in the middle of your subscription call in and we can add time and save you money.

If you are a new customer or just have not taken the paper for a while come in and we will get you set up with the best source for local news and exciting coverage of crossroad sports.

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Real Estate for Rent

1501 HILLTOP (Rear)- One bedroom, one bath. \$350. month, plus deposit. Call (432)264-3976.

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704 SOUTH Lancaster 2 Bdrm, 1 bath. Stove furnished. \$425. Month. \$300. No Pets. Refers. No Pets. Call (432)816-5025 serious inquires only.

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BY OWNER 3/2/2, 1885 sq. feet. 525 Scott, Highland South, Remodeled in 2007. \$145,000.00. Call 432-264-1364.

BY OWNER- 3547 Sq. Ft. Brick- 4 bdrm, 2-1/2 baths, 3 living rooms, 2 car garage, 1-1/2 acres. 8403 Gail Hwy. Below appraisal \$179,500.00. 432-270-4646.

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Legals

COUNTY OF HOWARD
BIG SPRING, TEXAS
Invitation to Bid
The Howard County Auditor will accept sealed bids until 10:00 A.M. on February 20, 2009 for:
One (1)- 1 Ton Crew Cab Chassis/Cab with Flat Bed.
To be used for maintenance of County Roads.
Bids may be mailed to the Howard County Auditor, at P.O. Box 1949, Big Spring, Texas 79721-1949 or delivered to the Auditor's Office, Room 202 County Courthouse.
Mark Sealed Envelopes
"SEALED BID FOR 1-Ton Crew Cab Chassis/Cab with Flat Bed"
Bids will be presented to the Commissioners' Court on February 23, 2009 at 10:00 A.M. for their consideration.
The court reserves the right to reject any or all bids.
Jackie Olson,
County Auditor
#6038 February 5 & 12, 2009

Tomorrow's Horoscope

The Aquarian sun is an idealist. Aiming for the highest and best is the norm under this transit; and yet, knowing what exactly that means in practical terms is a challenge. For instance, everyone wants peace, but it's hard to get a consensus on how to go about it. During this sun/Neptune conjunction, certain ideas emerge that all can agree upon.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll appreciate the wide variety of opinions, styles and manners that are playing out around you. You will also be the one to strike upon the thing everyone agrees about, and unify a diverse group.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Those around you expect you to make all of the decisions and it does get tiring. But remember, that just comes with your role as an idea person. Share the bright notion that pops to mind this afternoon.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're not afraid to join new situations, which is why you may be assigned by a boss or group leader to investigate and explore. With your irrepresible charm, wherever you land you will make new friends.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). A new relationship is charged with creative energy. There's no telling

where this will lead, but even if it doesn't go anywhere at all you'll be satisfied. The connection is invigorating and that's what matters.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). High-tech systems may be overrated. Whether it's writing by hand instead of printing a label, keeping track of your schedule or any other number of tasks on your plate, you'll benefit from an old-school approach.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). What's right for you is not a fantastic fit for your neighbor. You understand that this makes the world better. You celebrate diversity and accept those whose opinions do not reflect the way you think or live.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Once upon a time you were an amateur at the very thing you get paid to do now. It's not vain to stop and marvel at how far you've come and, in fact, taking a moment to do so will boost your confidence and help you continue on.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). People go to you because they expect quick action and you are readily available for anyone who needs you. In order to stay so accessible you also need to set aside sacred time that is only for you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your judgment is stellar. You can practically read people's minds. You will remain this clear as long as you don't want or need anything from those you are dealing with.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You love the

chase. That's why you don't mind when someone's "come hither" look turns into a "go thither" look. If you wait patiently this will turn around yet again. And you've a few of your own games still up your sleeve.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You are whimsical and funny and don't mind showing a silly side if there's not much going on. But when it comes time to do serious business this afternoon, you have the sang-froid of a ninja master.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You've got something to sell or a message to impart. Nothing fancy or expensive is going to help in this endeavor. Word of mouth is your best marketing tool. An old-fashioned grass-roots effort is what gets the job done.

CELEBRATE AQUARIANS! You inspiring Aquarians are always forging your own path, dancing to a different beat and changing the world with every move you make. The best way to understand Aquarians is to listen to what they have to say!

Here's what some very famous Aquarians had to say about life: Oprah Winfrey: "Every one of us gets through the tough times because somebody is there, standing in the gap to close it for us."

Paul Newman: "It is useless to put on your brakes when you're upside down."

Michael Jordan: "I've missed more than 9,000

shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. Twenty-six times I've been trusted to take the game-winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed."

Jennifer Aniston: "A relationship isn't going to make me survive. It's the cherry on top."

Justin Timberlake: "I believe people can move things with their minds."

Ellen Degeneres: "In the beginning there was nothing. God said, 'Let there be light!' And there was light. There was still nothing but you could see it a whole lot better."

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Grammy-winning rock singer and songwriter Sheryl Crow is a free-spirited Aquarius and mother. With natal career planet Mars in Leo, the sign of children, Crow's experiences of motherhood will lead to new levels of creative inspiration. Aquarius is a musical sign and the water bearers like Sheryl Crow are deeply moved through tonal vibration. Crow says, "Music commands how we feel."

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

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Annie's Mailbox ®: son's anger problems

Dear Annie: I am a single mother of a 7-year-old son who has a lot of anger problems. When "Ryan" was 3, his dad and I split up. My ex just left in the middle of the night. It was a month before Ryan saw him again, and when he did, Dad was sporting a new girlfriend.

When Ryan was 6, my father died unexpectedly, and I allowed my son to go to the funeral, but not the graveside. Then Ryan and I moved in with my mom to help her out, but shortly after, my younger sister and her two girls moved in, too. That was a difficult time, and it's when I started to notice a change in Ryan's attitude.

My son is very aggressive and violent with everyone. (He hits, kicks and punches.) Ryan was diagnosed with ADHD when he was young, and now the doctor thinks he may be bipolar. He is seeing a home-based counselor and is on medication for ADHD.

I'm wondering if this has anything to do with the loss of the men in his life. Should I have let him go to the graveside to say goodbye to his grandfather? Is there something else I should be doing? — *Worried Mother in Florida*

Dear Mother: There has been a lot of upheaval in Ryan's young life. Grandpa's death was a loss, but it is not the source of all this anger. His father leaving was likely the most damaging event, especially if Dad hasn't been particularly active in Ryan's life since the divorce.

The next would be having cousins move into his home, disrupting whatever fragile stability he had. Good for you for putting him in counseling.

It should help. Right now, your job is to be a source of total security, utter dependability and

loving reassurance. Be his rock.

Dear Annie: My ex-wife has been seeing the same therapist for a long time. Is it OK to give gifts to your therapist, and should your therapist accept them? I feel it crosses a line. And is it common to go to the same person forever? Isn't it time to switch to someone new? I am out of the relationship but feel something is wrong here. — *Questions from Rochester, N.Y.*

Dear Rochester: It's OK to give a therapist a gift for a special occasion — a holiday or, say, reaching a milestone in treatment. And she can go to the same therapist as long as she feels it is helping.

But this is SO not your business. Why are you keeping tabs on what your ex-wife does with her doctor? It borders on stalking. Stop it right now.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Choosing Happiness," who is leaving her bipolar husband who refuses treatment.

I, too, am bipolar. I've attempted suicide four times and was institutionalized once. In manic fits, I've driven across the country, leaving friends and family panicked. In depressive episodes, I've become catatonic, not speaking and barely moving for days.

I am now married with two young children and have a job I love. I have these things because I take six medications daily, go to therapy and accept the help of my friends and family. Without those things I would not be able to maintain this life that I've come to treasure. Bipolar disorder can be just as hard on loved ones as it is on those of us who have it. It's not fair to expect them to simply deal with it. Why would you want your loved ones to experience that kind of heartache?

I still have bad days and mood swings. But my quality of life, and that of my husband and children, has improved so greatly that I know I did the right thing. If "Choosing's" husband won't get help, she should leave. — *Better Now*

Dear Better: Your letter is testimony that getting help can make a world of difference. Kudos for recognizing what you needed to do.

Dear Annie: My ex-husband was one of those who thought the grass was greener on the other side. After a long marriage, he had an affair. I never thought he could betray our family like that.

Our two teenage children are still devastated. Although I have encouraged them to call and see their father, they refuse. We have tried counseling and I feel it helped all of us, but the kids are still very angry.

The problem is, their father blames me. He harasses me daily, threatening to delay his child support checks, take us back to court, and on and on, all because the children don't want to have contact.

I have explained that I am not stopping the children from seeing him, but it falls on deaf ears. He needs to take responsibility for what he did, address it to the kids and move on.

I am not at fault for how they feel. I have tried repeatedly to help them mend fences, but they simply aren't ready. I am in a good place with my life now, but my ex continues to say mean and hateful things to me. I have told him that I forgive him even though

I don't understand why he cheated, and that he needs to forgive himself and stop blaming me for the mess he has made of his life.

I am hoping if he reads this he will come to the same realization. What else can I do? — *The Ex-Wife*

Dear Ex: We think your husband's guilt is so overwhelming that he is taking it out on everyone else. Tell him you agree the

children would benefit from having a relationship with their father, and suggest family counseling for all of you. If he is truly interested in re-establishing contact, he will cooperate.

Dear Annie: My sister and brother use too many antibiotics. And they both use only as many pills as they need to feel better and save the rest. I've told both of them that abuse of antibiotics is the No. 1 reason we have superbugs that won't be cured by existing medications. I've warned them they could get seriously ill, but they both ignore my advice.

How can I get them to stop self-medicating with antibiotics for stuff like a bad cold? Also, I believe some doctors prescribe unnecessary antibiotics to get people like my siblings off their back. This strikes me as malpractice. How can this abuse be stopped? — *Concerned*

Dear Concerned: Doctors should not be prescribing antibiotics for viral infections (like a cold) because they are generally ineffective. But patients often clamor for something and doctors too often accede to their patients' demands. Even when an antibiotic is necessary, by not using the full amount, the infection isn't entirely killed off and what's left is more resistant to the drug, making future infections more dangerous. Unfortunately, there is no medication that will make your siblings smarter and more responsible. Sorry.

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

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News in brief

Economic stimulus package on track for final votes

WASHINGTON (AP) — Economic stimulus legislation at the heart of President Barack Obama's recovery plan is on track for final votes in the House and Senate after a dizzying final round of bargaining that yielded agreement on tax cuts and spending totaling \$789 billion.

Obama, who has campaigned energetically for the legislation, welcomed the agreement, saying it would "save or create more than 3.5 million jobs and get our economy back on track."

The \$500-per-worker credit for lower- and middle-income taxpayers that Obama outlined during his presidential campaign was scaled back to \$400 during bargaining by the Democratic-controlled Congress and White House. Couples would receive \$800 instead of \$1,000. Over two years, that move would pump about \$25 billion less into the economy than had been previously planned.

Officials estimated it would mean about \$13 a week more in people's paychecks when withholding tables are adjusted in late spring. Critics say that's unlikely to do much to boost consumption.

Scientists wary about orbital debris field after satellites collide

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Scientists are keeping a close eye on orbital debris created when two communications satellites — one American, the other Russian — smashed into each other hundreds of miles above the Earth.

NASA said it will take weeks to determine the full magnitude of the unprecedented crash and whether any other satellites or even the Hubble Space Telescope are threatened.

The collision, which occurred nearly 500 miles over Siberia on Tuesday, was the first high-speed impact between two intact spacecraft, NASA officials said.

"We knew this was going to happen eventually," said Mark Matney, an orbital debris scientist at Johnson Space Center in Houston.

Obama displays his fascination with Lincoln

(AP) — When Barack Obama launched his presidential campaign, he did it in Abraham Lincoln's hometown. When he arrived in Washington, he followed the train route Lincoln used in 1861. When he needed a Bible for his swearing-in, Obama picked Lincoln's.

Heck, even Obama's lunch on Inauguration Day

was modeled after Lincoln's favorites, right down to the seafood stew.

Clearly, the 44th president wants Americans to know how much he admires the 16th.

Presidential historian Doris Kearns Goodwin thinks that reflects Obama's genuine affinity with Lincoln — for his willingness to learn and grow, his ability to communicate with the nation, his insistence on having strong-willed, independent advisers.

"Somehow Lincoln has worked himself into Obama's heart and mind, and it's a good thing to have Lincoln as your mentor," said Goodwin, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of "Team of Rivals," a Lincoln book that Obama says has influenced his thinking on how to govern.

Afghanistan steps up security for Holbrooke visit following Taliban assault

KABUL (AP) — Heavily armed government troops thronged the streets of Afghanistan's capital Thursday, stepping up security before the arrival of the new U.S. envoy to the region the day after Taliban attacks showed how easily the city's defenses can be breached.

Richard Holbrooke, President Barack Obama's recently appointed envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan, was expected later in the day for his first trip to the country. Security would have already been high for such a visit, but Holbrooke arrives following one of the Taliban's most audacious attacks on the capital.

On Wednesday, Taliban militants killed 20 people in a coordinated assault on three government buildings. Armed with guns, grenades and suicide vests, they stormed through barricades at the Justice Ministry in the heart of Kabul and a corrections department building to the north.

One attacker was killed before he could force his way into a third building, the Education Ministry.

The Taliban claimed responsibility soon after the assault began.

Peanut butter may get 'high risk' designation

WASHINGTON (AP) — They say nothing is more wholesome than peanut butter, but the government may soon ask companies that make the gooey treat to prove it.

The salmonella outbreak is starting to change the way the government oversees the safety of peanut butter and other foods, health officials tell Congress.

Dr. Stephen Sundlof of the Food and Drug

Administration told lawmakers Wednesday that agency inspectors will start to routinely collect samples for bacterial testing whenever they go into a facility. Currently that's done only if officials suspect a problem.

"We are changing that now as a result of this (outbreak)," Sundlof, head of the FDA's food safety center, told the House Energy and Commerce investigations subcommittee. The panel is looking for ways to prevent another outbreak like the one that has sickened some 600 people and is being linked to nine deaths. More than 1,900 products have been recalled.

Israel's shift to right could complicate Obama policies as he reaches out to Iran

WASHINGTON (AP) — Israel's shift to the right could throw a monkey wrench into President Barack Obama's conciliatory overtures to Iran and his budding drive to promote Arab-Israeli peace-making.

Results of elections this week in Israel are likely to ensure a pivotal role for rightist Benjamin Netanyahu, whose tough statements on Iran reflect the distrust of Israeli voters. And unlike many Israelis, his aim in dealing with the Palestinians does not include immediate peace negotiations.

Netanyahu says he wants to focus on reviving the Palestinian economy and leave peacemaking for later. At the same time, he wants to expand the Israeli population on the West Bank beyond the current total of nearly 300,000.

The Palestinians, moderate or extremist, have other plans for the area: forcing the Israelis to withdraw and making the territory part of a Palestinian state.

Two detained for possible arson in wake of Australian wildfires

YEA, Australia (AP) — Australian police detained two suspects Thursday in connection with the country's worst-ever wildfires, as the government pledged to push through a national fire alert system after thousands were caught off-guard by the infernos.

The two suspects were taken in after they were reported acting suspiciously in an area burned out by last weekend's fires, but it was unclear if the two are suspected of setting fires, or of some other wrongdoing after the fires started.

Authorities say some of the fires that ravaged Victoria state last weekend and killed at least 181 people were the result of arson. Officials said the death toll could exceed 200.

Health and Medical Guide

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DEADLINE: Friday, Feb. 20

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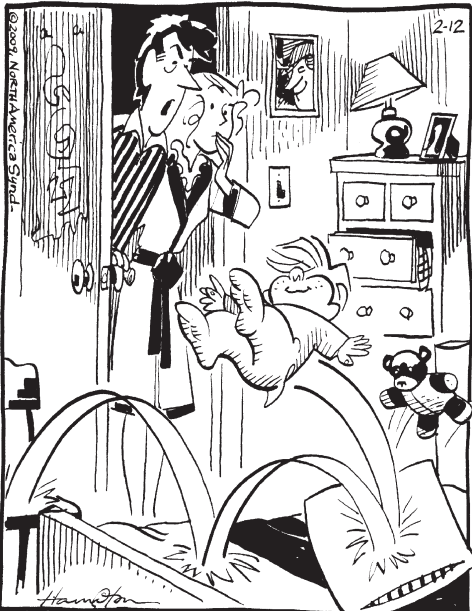
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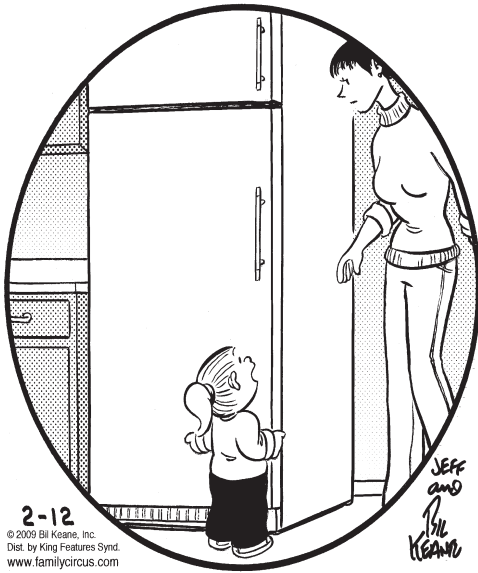
	WFAA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5 :PM :30	News ABC	News ABC	Locura Noticiero	Lopez Lopez	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News NBC	Raymond Friends	Granger Brad	BBC Business	Cash Cab Cash Cab	Working Girl, Sigourney Weaver	CSI: NY	Bones	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Wizards of Waverly Hills	NASCAR Now	SportsCenter
6 :PM :30	News ABC	Jeopardy!	Tontas Cielo	Two Men	News CBS	12 Corazones	News NBC	Seinfeld	Sanchez	News-Lehrer	Made	CSI: Crime Scn	NBA Basketball: Miami Heat at Chicago Bulls.	Movie: Idlewild, Paula Patton	Suite Life	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	
7 :PM :30	Ugly Betty	Ugly Betty	Cuidado-Angel	The 40th NAACP Image Awards	Survivor: Tocantins	Doña Barbara	Name Friends	Friends	Israel Sprma	Texas InnerVWS	HowStuff-Works	Movie: Two Weeks Notice, Alicia Witt	CSI: Crime Scn	TNA IM-PACT!	Phineas	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	
8 :PM :30	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Fuego en la Sangre	CSI: Crime Scn	El Rostro de Analia	Office Friends	Friends	Friends	Light of the Southwest	Antiques Roadshow	Destroyed	(:15) Movie: An Officer and a Gentleman, Louis Gossett Jr.	Toughest Cowboy	DEA	Baldwin	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	
9 :PM :30	(:02) Private Practice	(:02) Private Practice	Rosa	TMZ	(:01) Elev-enth Hour	Sin Senos El Cartel	(:01) ER	Movie: My Best Friend's Wedding	Israel Van Impe	Charlie Rose	Made	(:15) Movie: Universal Soldier, Ally Walker	Real Vice	Without a Trace	Movie: Blade II, Fon Per-	The Deal	Dragon	
10 :PM :30	News ABC	News ABC	Impacto	Raymond	News ABC	Noticias	News NBC	News	Dr.	Smiley	HowStuff-Works	Movie: Red Corner, Bradley Whitford	Movie: Universal Soldier, Ally Walker	Movie: Blade II, Fon Per-	Emperor	College Basketball	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 Famosos	Late Night	Sex & Sex & (12:10)	Swallow	Smiley	HowStuff-Works	(:12:15) Movie: Red Corner, Bradley Whitford	Movie: Universal Soldier, Ally Walker	Movie: Blade II, Fon Per-	Emperor	College Basketball	SportsCenter	
12 :AM :30	News ABC	News ABC	Clasicos	Humor	Consumer	Insider	Programa Pagado	News ABC	LightWrd	Light of the Southwest	Destroyed	Movie: Red Corner, Bradley Whitford	Movie: Universal Soldier, Ally Walker	Movie: Blade II, Fon Per-	Emperor	College Basketball	SportsCenter	
1 :AM :30	Paid	Paid	Paid	Humor	Consumer	Insider	Programa Pagado	News ABC	LightWrd	Light of the Southwest	Destroyed	Movie: Red Corner, Bradley Whitford	Movie: Universal Soldier, Ally Walker	Movie: Blade II, Fon Per-	Emperor	College Basketball	SportsCenter	

DENNIS THE MENACE



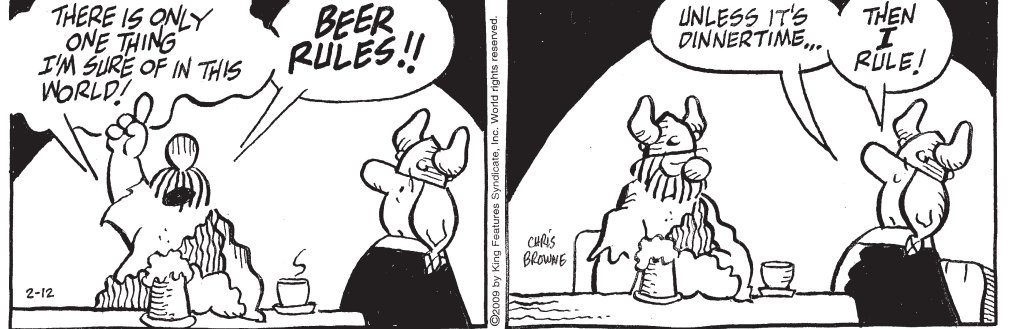
"NEXT TIME, WE TELL THE SITTER NO SUGAR OR CAFFEINE FOR DENNIS AFTER DINNER."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Mommy, can you please move the refrigerator? My grape rolled under it."

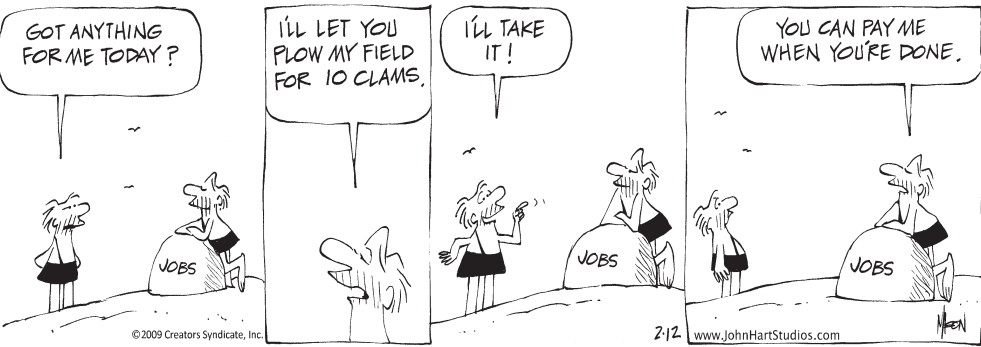
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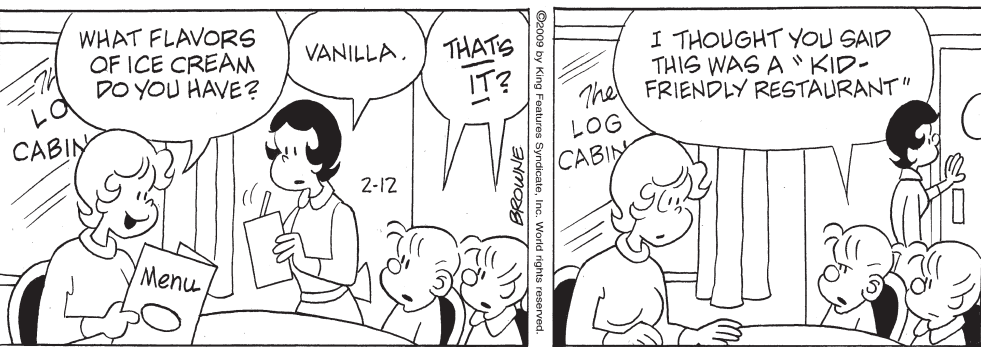
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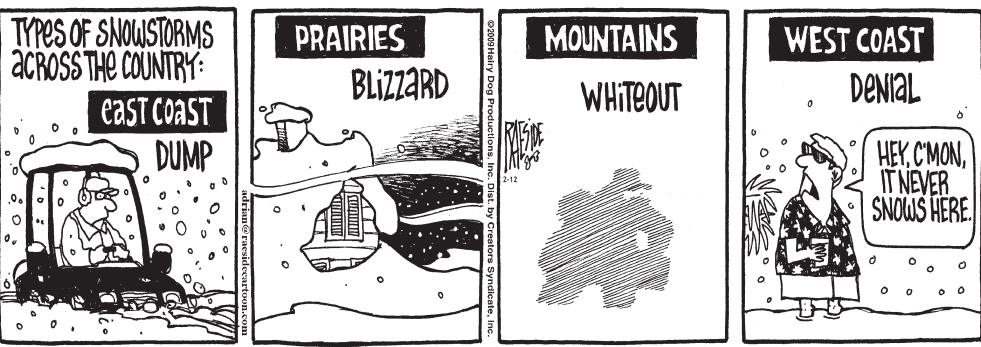
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HI AND LOIS



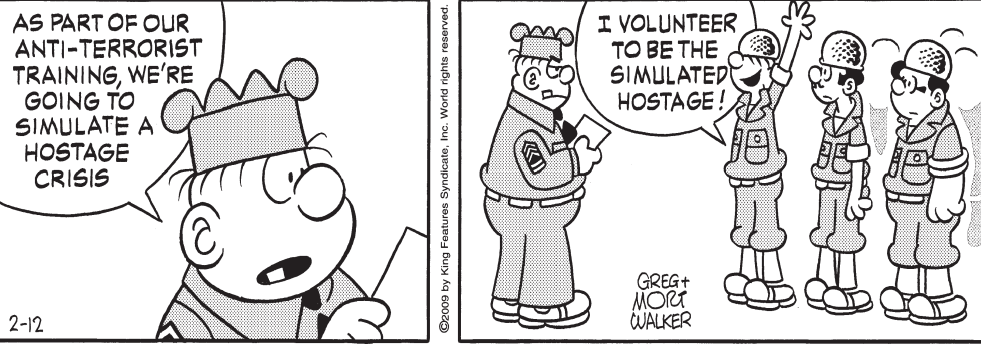
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Feb. 12, the 43rd day of 2009. There are 322 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Feb. 12, 1809, Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president of the United States, was born in present-day LaRue County, Ky.

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

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

In 1908, the first round-the-world automobile race began in New York. (It ended in Paris the following July with the drivers of the American car, a Thomas Flyer, declared the winners over teams from Germany and Italy.)

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

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

In 1914, ground was broken for the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. (The cornerstone was laid on this date one year later.)

In 1959, the redesigned Lincoln penny, with an image of the Lincoln Memorial replacing two ears of wheat on the reverse side, went into circulation.

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

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Franco Zeffirelli is 86. Actor Louis Zorich is 85. Baseball Hall of Fame sportscaster Joe Garagiola is 83. Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., is 79. Basketball Hall of Famer Bill Russell is 75. Actor Joe Don Baker is 73. Author Judy Blume is 71. Rock musician Ray Manzarek (The Doors) is 70. Country singer Moe Bandy is 65. Actress Maud Adams is 64. Actor Cliff DeYoung is 63. Actor

Michael Ironside is 59. Rock musician Steve Hackett is 59. Rock singer Michael McDonald is 57. Actress Joanna Kerns is 56. Actor-former talk show host Arsenio Hall is 54. Actor John Michael Higgins is 46. Actress Christine Elise is 44. Rhythm-and-blues musician Keri Lewis is 38. Actor Jesse Spencer ("House, M.D.") is 30. Actress Sarah Lancaster is 29. Actress Christina Ricci is 29.

Thought for Today: "Quarrel not at all. No man resolved to make the most of himself can spare time for personal contention. Still less can he afford to take all the consequences, including the vitiating of his temper and loss of self-control."

— Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865).

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Answer to previous puzzle

ALOT	CLEF	SAMBA
NONO	ROMA	CHARD
TOTO	ERIC	HATED
SMOKESCREEN	CAT	
TATA	ROTHKIO	
DETERS	SHAZAM	
UCONN	PEAS	GAZE
ERR	STEAMED	KIN
LUCY	OPTS	EMEND
HERMES	GLARES	
CASSIE	SITS	
ORO	FIRECRACKER	
RENAL	IPOD	ANTE
ANGLE	MERE	READ
LAISTS	SEER	AWLS

Newsday Crossword

FOREWORDS by David W. Cromer
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN | ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Demean | 1 Leatherwork tools | 66 Shows flexibility | 10 Business-card abbr. |
| 6 Native Alaskan | 2 Oz creator | 67 Uncommon sense | 11 Trainer's employer |
| 11 Derby, for one | 3 Sacramento's ___ Arena | 68 French states | 12 Savory jelly |
| 14 Board defects | 4 Water source | 69 Computer breakdown | 13 Saw parts |
| 15 Greene of Bonanza | 5 Immigrant's subj. | | 18 Cutting light |
| 16 Tampa-to-Miami dir. | 6 At the ready | | 22 Photographic adjective |
| 17 Big star of early TV | 7 Timber wolf | | 24 Did tailoring |
| 19 Barbary beast | 8 Memorable spans | | 26 Museum honcho |
| 20 Air pollution | 9 Except if capacity | | 27 Author Jaffe |
| 21 Cropped up | | | 28 Its academy is in Colo. Spgs. |
| 22 Dart about | | | 29 Glacier's device |
| 23 Brewery furnace | | | 30 Really go for |
| 25 From Inverness | | | 31 Onetime Nintendo rival |
| 27 Steal cattle | | | 34 Part of IRA |
| 30 In that capacity | | | 36 Welles role |
| 32 Buckeyes' sch. | | | 37 Clad in clogs |
| 33 Line of work | | | |
| 35 Billiards gadgets | | | |
| 38 Mother-of-pearl | | | |
| 40 Minor player | | | |
| 41 Islam's Almighty | | | |
| 42 Searching for | | | |
| 43 Vessel | | | |
| 45 Numero ___ | | | |
| 46 Form notions | | | |
| 48 Threw softly | | | |
| 50 Steers clear of | | | |
| 52 Singer Amos | | | |
| 53 Tear apart | | | |
| 54 Nosy one | | | |
| 57 Red ink | | | |
| 61 Small-business mag | | | |
| 62 Casual wear | | | |
| 64 Alphabetic trio | | | |
| 65 Space Shuttle goal | | | |

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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64					65						66	
67					68						69	

New jobless claims drop slightly to 623K

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nearly 5 million Americans continued to draw jobless benefits late last month, and new requests again exceeded 600,000 as companies lay off scores of workers amid a deepening recession.

The Labor Department said Thursday that the number of initial jobless benefit claims dropped to a seasonally-adjusted 623,000, from an upwardly revised figure of 631,000 the previous week. The latest tally still was above analysts' expectations of 610,000 claims.

And in a sign that laid-off workers are having difficulty finding new work, the number of people claiming benefits for more than one week rose to 4.81 million from 4.78 million, the highest total since records began in 1967. The continuing claims data lag new claims by a week.

An additional 1.5 million people are receiving benefits under an extended unemployment compensation program approved by Congress last year, bringing the total number of recipients to 6.3 million.

Continuing claims are up sharply from a year ago, when the figure was 2.7 million.

In slightly better economic news, the Commerce Department reported Thursday that retail sales jumped 1 percent in January, reversing six months of decline and defying expectations of a 0.8 percent drop.

The rise in sales follows a 2.7 percent plunge in December, which marked the weakest

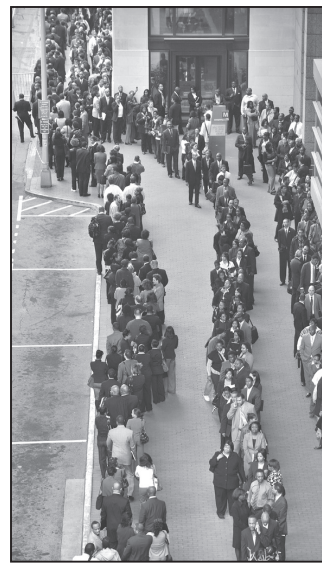
holiday selling season since at least 1969.

The 631,000 new jobless claims filed two weeks ago was the highest tally since October 1982, when the economy was emerging from a steep recession, though the labor force has grown by about half since then.

The four-week average of claims, which

smooths out fluctuations, rose by 24,000 to 607,500, the first time that figure has topped 600,000 in the current recession.

Economists consider jobless claims a timely, if volatile, indicator of the health of the labor markets and broader economy. A year ago, initial claims stood at 339,000.



AP Photo/Rich Addicks

Thousands of people turned out Wednesday for a federal government job fair at the Atlanta Federal Center in downtown Atlanta. The number of people requesting first-time unemployment benefits dropped slightly last week, but remained near a 26-year high.

TAX REFUND SALE 87 Auto Sales Se Habla Español



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"WE FINANCE"



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(Evenings May Vary)
Sat. 8:30-12:00

Rachel Rogers
Sen. Asst. Manager
Notary Republic

Monica Banks
Asst. Manager

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FINANCE**

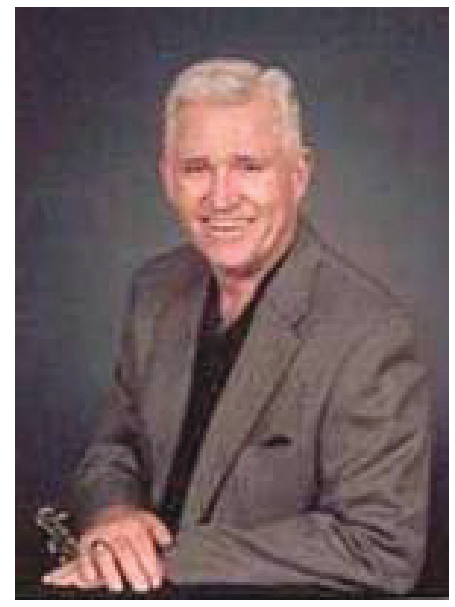
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Presented by well known author and pastor Dr. Darrell W. Robinson.

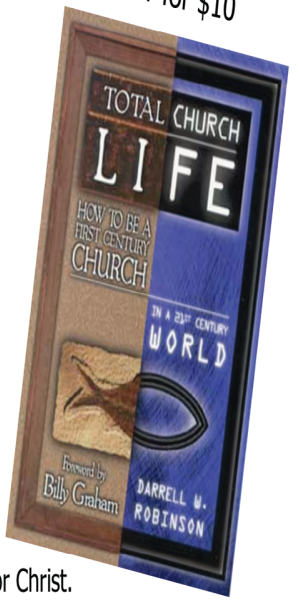
Dr. Robinson has over 35 years of pastoral experience. He serves as distinguished Professor of Evangelism at Mid-western Baptist Theological Seminary. Dr. Robinson has a passion to assist pastors and local churches in reaching their communities for Christ.

Free Attendance

Hosted by
East 4th Street Baptist Church

Friday, February 13 from 7:00pm to 9:00pm
and
Saturday, February 14 from 8:30am to 3:00pm—
a light lunch will be provided at noon on Sat.

Book is available at the door for \$10



Total Church Life is a Christ centered, Bible centered and people centered as well as creative and innovative in its approach to helping churches reach their primary ministry area for Christ.



Courtesy photo

Members of the Big Spring High School Choir attended Solo and Ensemble Contest at Odessa College Saturday. The students and their results are: back row, left to right: Larisa Cordova, 2 on solo, Vanessa Gonzalez, 2 on ensemble, Ashley Pike, 2 on ensemble and 1 on solo, and Jessica Stone, 1 on solo and qualified for state competition; front row, left to right: Leticia Bazaldua, 1 on solo and qualified for state, Shelby Crews, 2 on ensemble and 1 on solo and qualified for state, Willie Alcantar, 2 on ensemble and 1 on solo and qualified for state, Carl Friddle, 2 on ensemble, and Devante Lloyd, 2 on ensemble.

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RC & Company

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