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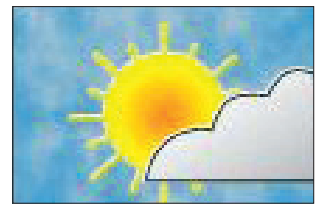
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BIG SPRING HERALD

MONDAY

FEBRUARY 16, 2009



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ISD elections draw few candidates so far

By STEVE REAGAN
 Staff Writer

A sprinkling of area school board candidates have thrown their hats into the ring, officials said.

Although several area districts have yet to officially call for the May 9 elections,

candidates can file at any time up until March 9.

School districts in Big Spring, Coahoma, Forsan, Stanton and Sands will hold trustee elections May 9. Glasscock County and Grady school districts hold their trustee elections at a later time, while Howard College

will not have trustee elections this year.

In Big Spring, seats currently held by Maria Padilla (District 2) and Tony Kennedy (District 4) are up for election this year. Both Padilla and Kennedy have filed their candidacies but no challengers have emerged as yet,

Business Manager Debra Green said.

Both positions are for three years.

Candidates may file at the BSISD business office located across the street from the high school on 11th Place during normal business hours, Green noted.

Coahoma ISD will elect three trustees this year, officials noted. At-large positions currently held by Jody Reid, Allen Wright and Kirk Allen will be decided this year.

As of Friday, no one had filed for the election, said

See **ELECTIONS**, Page 3

What's the deal?

Crude prices down but gasoline is rising

NEW YORK (AP) — Crude oil prices have fallen to new lows for this year. So you'd think gas prices would sink right along with them.

Not so. Last Thursday, for example, crude oil closed just under \$34 a barrel, its lowest point for 2009. But the national average price of a gallon of gas rose to \$1.95 on the same day, its peak for the year. On Friday gas went a penny higher.

To drivers once again grimacing as they tank up, it sounds like a conspiracy. But it has more to do with an energy market turned upside-down that has left gas cut off from its usual economic moorings.

The price of gas is indeed tied to oil. It's just a matter of which oil.

The benchmark for crude oil prices is West Texas Intermediate, drilled exactly where you would imagine. That's the price, set at the New York Mercan-



(AP photo/Paul Sakuma)

A customer gets ready to pump gasoline. Murmurs of price gouging by gas station owners and big oil companies turned into a howl last week as benchmark crude prices fell to a yearly low on the same day that retail gas prices hit a new high.

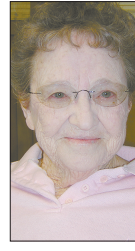
A gem of a show coming March 7-8

By THOMAS JENKINS
 Staff Writer

Heads up, prospectors and rock hounds.

The Big Spring Prospectors Club is set to present its 40th annual Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show March 7-8, and according to event coordinators, the event is just as diverse as the stones and gems they work with.

Prospectors Club spokes-



Lamb

woman Lola Lamb said the show — which is slated for the Howard County Fair Barn — has something or everyone in the family.

“Admission is free. We'll have a dozen dealers coming from all over Texas, New Mexico and Arizona, and club mem-

bers will be doing demonstrations. We'll also have the spinning wheel for the children, and there will be a wider of variety of novelties for the children to take home” said Lamb, a longtime Prospectors Club member. “There will be displays from the prospector groups in Midland and Lubbock, and possibly Abilene. They attend our shows and set up displays, and when

they hold their shows we do the same for them.

“A lot of people probably don't realize what can be inside what appears to be an ugly old rock. There will be plenty of displays showing what is actually inside a rock, and how it's worked into jewelry. Several people at the show will be working with the stones so people can see the process they go through

first hand.”

Lamb said demonstrations are a big part of the Gem and Mineral Show, which is slated for 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Saturday, March 7, and 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Sunday, March 8.

“All of the demonstrations this year are going to be done by our local club members,” said Lamb. “They will be

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 Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 6 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. Sunday.

States face competing priorities for spending stimulus monies

By BETH FOUHY
 Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — It may sound like a nice problem for states — figuring out how to spend the billions in infrastructure funding they'll receive as part of President Barack Obama's economic stimulus plan.

But the task is more complicated

than it seems, as state officials try to set priorities while managing competing pressures from communities, watchdog groups and federal regulators over how the money is allocated.

Under the plan Obama is expected to sign into law early this week, states will divide \$27 billion to build

and repair roads and bridges. That is less than half the \$64 billion in projects states told the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials late last year that they had ready to go.

The law also requires that half

See **STIMULUS**, Page 3

Look In Friday, February 27th Edition Of The Big Spring Herald For The Health & Fitness Section

Information Related To YOUR Health!

HEALTH & FITNESS

Obituaries

James 'Jim' Clary

James "Jim" Clary, 78, of Stanton died Saturday, Feb. 14, 2009, at his residence. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Notice

Residents who were unable to attend the Texas Department of Highways presentation on the pending renovation of Gregg Street may see it on Channel 17 at 9 p.m. through Feb. 22.

Exceptions are Monday and Wednesday, when city council meetings will air.

You can also access the video by going to www.mybigspring.com and click on Community TV on the left panel.

The \$5.8 million project, which is expected to begin soon and last for about 10 months, will result in a complete resurfacing of Gregg from FM 700 north to Fourth Street.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 9 a.m. Saturday and 7 a.m. today:

Note: An arrest log for Sunday, Feb. 15, was not made available by the BSPD in time for press.

- CLIFFORD STANLEY, 28, of Oregon, was arrested Saturday on a charge of parole violation issued by the Oregon Parole Board.

- EUGENE MANRIQUEZ, 48, of 637 Manor Lane, was arrested Saturday on a charge of hindering the discharge of officers' official duties.

- THEFT was reported:
 - in the 1200 block of 11th Place.
 - in the 700 block of Interstate Highway 20.
 - in the 1700 block of FM 700.

- POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA was reported in the 300 block of Settles.

- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported:
 - in the 500 block of Westover Road.
 - in the 900 block of Runnels.

- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the 1900 block of Highway 87.

- ABANDONING/ENDANGERING A CHILD was reported in the 800 block of Eighth Street.

Take Note

- Rides of Hope is seeking volunteers to assist with driving patients to Allison Cancer Center for appointments. Our plans are for round trip mileage reimbursement through RSVP. A meeting is planned to discuss this volunteer opportunity, Wednesday Feb. 18 at 10 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church, located at the corner of Fourth and Scurry. The meeting will be in the Youth Hall.

- Due to the recent migration of bats at the Sacred Heart Church building, mass is being moved to Immaculate Heart of Mary on Hearn Street until further notice. These include 3:30 p.m. confessions, the 5 p.m. mass and the 11:30 a.m. mass.

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

- West Texas Opportunities Inc., through a Job Access Reverse Commute project with the Texas Department of Transportation offers transportation to employment in Midland, on a limited schedule, Monday

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

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

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

- HATS (Hope After The Sadness), an American Cancer Society Resource Room is available at First Methodist Church. This center provides information and valuable resources for those affected by cancer. This HATS

ministry, established in memory of the late Rev. Dr Shane Brue, maintains a room with free hats, wigs and head coverings available for check-out by those dealing with hair loss due to cancer treatment. Other services and resources are also available. Contact the "Hat Lady," Marci Lykken at 267-2915.

- Road to Recovery, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volunteer, or to request a ride for treatment, call (877) 277-1618, the High Plains American Cancer Group Report Center. Anyone wishing to volunteer to drive in this program should call Sherry Hodnett, president of the Big Spring ACS Board, at 264-7599 at her office at Home Hospice.

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

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

Support Groups

SUNDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous meets from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 5 p.m. until 6 p.m.

MONDAY

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

- 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.

TUESDAY

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

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

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. and closed discussion meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

- Al-Anon, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

- RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at (432) 517-9207 for

more information.

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. Open podium/speakers meeting 615 Settles 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m.

CHANGING DATES

- The local National Alliance on Mental Illness group meets every two weeks in the basement of the Howard County Library. For dates and times, contact Ramona Blassingane at 263-9748.

Your Local Weather

| Tue 2/17 | Wed 2/18 | Thu 2/19 |
|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |
| 76/43 | 70/34 | 59/30 |
| Considerable clouds early. Some decrease in clouds later in the day. Warm. | Sunshine. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the mid 30s. | Mainly sunny. Highs in the upper 50s 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

- 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. All working artists and those interested in art are invited to attend.
- Order of the Eastern Star No. 67 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

WEDNESDAY

- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Free blood pressure screenings from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Salvation Army, 811 W. Fifth St., provided by InHome Care.
- Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.
- Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third St.

THURSDAY

- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association meets at 5:30 p.m. in the Big Spring City Council Chambers, 307 E. Fourth.
- League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. The public is invited.
- American Legion Post 506 meets at 6 p.m. Call 263-2084 for more information.
- Rackley-Swords 379, Vietnam Veterans of America meets at 7 p.m. in the Sparenburg Building, 309 S. Main St.
- Big Spring Masonic Lodge No. 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

FRIDAY

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

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State Briefs

People report seeing falling debris in Texas

DALLAS (AP) — Law enforcement agencies across Texas received numerous reports Sunday of a fireball and falling debris.

John Foster, a spokesman for the Williamson County Sheriff's Office in Georgetown, said deputies and firefighters were out looking for debris after callers said they thought they saw a plane crashing. Foster said the department took its helicopter up to search for the source of the debris, but found nothing.

"We don't doubt what people saw" but they found no debris, he said.

The Federal Aviation Administration said it received numerous reports across Texas of falling debris.

"We don't know what it was," said FAA spokesman Roland Herwig.

The U.S. Strategic Command said there was no connection to the sightings over Texas and Tuesday's collision of satellites from the U.S. and Russia.

"There is no correlation between the debris from that collision and those reports of re-entry," said Maj. Regina Winchester, with STRATCOM.

The FAA notified pilots on Saturday to be aware of possible space debris after a collision Tuesday between U.S. and Russian communication satellites.

3 dead in apparent murder-suicide near Lufkin

LUFKIN (AP) — Three people are dead near Lufkin after an apparent double murder-suicide.

Investigators believe 45-year-old Rickey Mullin, of Lufkin, shot and killed his estranged wife and her mother before turning the gun on himself. Authorities found the bodies of 35-year-old Margaret Renee Mullin and her mother, 58-year-old Brenda Sue Mayo Alderman in a van and Rickey Mullin's body in the yard of his home just outside Lufkin Saturday morning. The women lived in Nacogdoches.

Renee Mullin had filed for divorce in November.

Angelina County Sheriff's investigator David Rodriguez says the women came over to the residence and "something went horribly wrong." The Lufkin Daily News reported in its online edition Sunday.

PRICES

Continued from Page 1

tile Exchange, that you see quoted on business channels and in the morning paper.

Right now, in an unusual market trend, West Texas crude is selling for much less than inferior grades of crude from other places around the world. A severe economic downturn has left U.S. storage facilities brimming with it, sending prices for the premium crude to five-year lows.

But it is the overseas crude that goes into most of the gas made in the United States. So prices at the pump will probably keep going up no matter what happens to the benchmark price of crude oil.

"We're going definitely over \$2, and I bet we'll hit \$2.50 before spring," said Tom Kloza, publisher and chief oil analyst at Oil Price Information Service. "This is going to be an unusual year."

On the last day of 2008, gas went for \$1.62 on average, according to the auto club AAA, the Oil Price Information Service and Wright Express, a company that tracks transportation data.

The recession in America has dramatically cut demand for crude oil, and inventories are piling up. So prices for West Texas crude have fallen well below what oil costs from places like the North Sea, Saudi Arabia and South America.

That foreign oil sells in some cases for \$10 more per barrel — and that doesn't even include shipping.

Brent North Sea crude, which feeds some East Coast refiner-

ies — and therefore winds up at many gas pumps around America — now costs about \$7 more per barrel than the West Texas crude. Deutsche Bank analysts say the trend should continue.

Historically, West Texas International crude has cost more. So nobody bothered building the necessary pipelines to carry it beyond the nearby refineries in the Midwest, parts of Texas and a handful of other places.

Now that the premium oil is suddenly very inexpensive, refiners elsewhere can't get their hands on it.

"It's so cheap," said Lynn Westphall, the senior VP of external affairs at San Antonio-based Tesoro, which owns a half dozen refineries on the West Coast and Hawaii. "But you can't just build a pipeline to everywhere. We know we can't get it."

Tesoro's refineries in North Dakota and Utah use locally drilled oil and Canadian oil, which also has been running about \$10 more per barrel than West Texas crude.

So why not build more pipelines? Because investing billions of dollars over several years makes no sense when the prices could just flip a year from now to where they were before.

"How long is WTI going to be cheaper than Venezuelan oil? Than Canadian?" asked Charles T. Drevna, president of the National Petrochemical and Refiners Association. "You just don't build a pipeline like that."

At the same time, refiners have seen the same headlines as everyone else about job losses and consumer spending. They've slashed production just to avoid taking losses on gasoline no one will buy. Result: Higher

ELECTIONS

Continued from Page 1

Judy Dobbs, superintendent's secretary for the district. Filings will be accepted at the CISD administration office adjacent to the high school.

At-large positions held by Lewis Boeker and Misty Rhoten will be decided this year at For-san ISD. As of Friday afternoon, Boeker was the only candidate to have filed for election, said Judy Park, administration secretary for the district.

Candidates may file at the superintendent's office in the high school/junior high building, Park added.

Stanton ISD Superintendent David Carr said three positions on the SISD board are up for election this year — the District 2 seat currently held by Ramiro Reyes and two at-large positions held by James "Pinky" Jones and Reggie Franklin, respectively.

Both Reyes and Jones have filed for re-election, Carr said. Filings will be accepted during normal business hours at the administration office at 200 N. College St. in Stanton.

Sands CISD voters will elect three trustees this May, Superintendent Wayne Blount said. At-large positions currently held by Amy Parker, Steve Blaggrave and Tommy Staggs will be decided.

The race has attracted two challengers — Wes Hughes and Nate Avey — but none of the incumbents had filed as of Friday afternoon, Blount said.

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

SHOW

Continued from Page 1

doing bead making, fastening and cabochons, which are the round oblong stones you sometimes see in belt buckles and bolo ties."

With 40 years of gem shows to celebrate, Lamb said the local group is doing it in style.

"The ruby is the 40-year anniversary stone," said Lamb. "So to celebrate 40 years of gem shows in Big Spring, we'll be giving away a manmade ruby cut into the Star of Big Spring. That will be the grand prize."

And while door prizes and plenty of beautiful stones for sale is a major draw for the show each year, Lamb said

she hopes area residents who have been bitten by the rock bug will use it as an opportunity to learn about the club and its members do.

"It's a hobby, but it's also an ongoing process," she said with a smile. "You learn something new everyday, not only from other club members, but also when you go to a show or you pick up the rock

and gem magazine. It's a learning process, and most rockhounds like to share their knowledge with other people.

"My favorite part of the club is the collecting and the mystery of it. Sawing a rock in half and seeing what's inside is quite an experience, because you can't tell what a rock looks like just by the outside of it. It's fascinating to see

how pretty it is on the inside sometimes. On the other hand, sometimes it's nothing, but you just never know. You kick a rock, or throw it, and you never really think about what kind of beauty might be inside of it."

For more information on the show, contact Lamb at 263-3340.

Contact Thomas Jen-

kins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

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 Juan Martinez Gonzales, 75, died Thursday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home

STIMULUS

Continued from Page 1

the money be spent on projects that have been vetted by the federal government and deemed "ready to go" in 120 days, as a way to jolt the economy and create jobs. That means state officials are under pressure to make decisions quickly on which projects to fund and which to bypass.

While many states have made their lists of "ready-to-go" infrastructure projects available online for public review, others have resisted, in part because the limited stimulus funding means only a fraction of the projects will receive money. Watchdog groups say it's likely that state officials fear angering constituents if a project appears on a wish list and then is struck from the final allocation.

"There will be huge internal battles in states about priorities," said Phineas Baxandall of the Public Interest Research Group.

In California, for example, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's office rejected a request by The Associated Press for a detailed list of "ready-to-go" projects. The AP sought the information under the California Public Records Act, but the governor's office last week said the documents were internal drafts, adding "disclosure would chill critical communications to and within the Governor's Office, thereby harming the public interest."

The sheer volume of money directed toward state projects has fueled calls for transparency, with journalists, interest groups and others demanding a full accounting of which projects receive the funding, which are rejected, and why.

Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick addressed that sentiment last week when he named a local real estate developer to oversee bidding for the stimulus money. Patrick also set up a new Web site with information on every project that receives the money.

"I don't want to send a mistaken impression there are pet projects," Patrick said.

The governor appeared with the state's attorney general, Martha Coakley, who also will help track the stimulus funds.

"An ounce of prevention in handling the money is worth a pound of grand jury investigations and civil litigation down the road," Coakley said.

Mindful of the accelerated timetable they face, states are moving quickly to develop mechanisms for identifying priority projects and disbursing funding for them.

Some have created oversight commissions while others are leaving decisions to state transit officials. Some are required by law to involve state legislators, while legislators in states that don't require their participation are pressing to have input.

Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland, a Democrat, has retained a former U.S. diplomat as a temporary, unpaid "infra-

structure czar." But the Republican-controlled Senate, concerned that Strickland could try to push stimulus funding through the state's Controlling Board instead of through the legislature, has drawn up a separate "spending blueprint" for the federal stimulus money.

Alabama Gov. Bob Riley, a Republican, has hired two former state finance officials to oversee the stimulus money. New Hampshire Gov. John Lynch, a Democrat, tapped a former attorney general to manage the funds, while Wisconsin Democratic Gov. Jim Doyle established a state Office of Recovery and Reinvestment led by the president of a local electric utility and a vice chancellor of the University of Wisconsin.

In Virginia, Gov. Tim Kaine, a Democrat, is taking a grass-roots approach, setting up a Web site seeking input from residents, local governments and community groups as to how the money should be spent. Nearly 600 suggestions

poured in on the first day alone, state officials said.

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OTHER VIEWS

Legislature should provide education reform this time

The 2009 Legislature has barely begun its work in Austin. Most of what has been done since the session convened on Jan. 13 has been aimed at getting organized.

But thanks to Sens. Steve Ogden of Bryan and Florence Shapiro of Plano, there is a hint of major change in the wind on one of state government's perennially most-difficult issues.

Ogden and Shapiro, two of the Senate's most powerful members (he chairs the Finance Committee and she chairs the Education Committee), say they want to change the state's system of public school finance.

Details of that potential change are not worked out, but the fact that these two are talking publicly about it is highly significant. When the session began, most experts were saying that major school finance legislation would have to wait until the 2011 session.

Ogden explained his reasoning during a Finance Committee hearing last Wednesday.

"The tradition (on school finance) in the Legislature is, you know, we just kind of wait until we get sued and then we wait until the court tells us what to do and we go try to do it," he said. The Texas Supreme Court has decided five major school finance suits against the state since 1989.

"I would like to get off of that treadmill," Ogden said. "I would like to kind of anticipate and say, now look, is this system meeting the kind of constitutional guidelines that we've been given by the court, and if it's not, we need to fix it."

He added, "I don't think we need to wait until 2011."

Shapiro, also a Finance Committee member, agreed.

The current school finance system does not meet constitutional standards.

The Texas Constitution requires the Legislature to establish "an efficient system of public free schools."

The Supreme Court has interpreted efficient to mean a system that allows school districts to raise similar amounts of money per student when they have similar tax rates. That is far from the case in Texas today.

According to guidelines set by the Legislature in 2006, most school districts have maintenance and operations tax rates of \$1.04 for each \$100 of taxable property value.

Calculations from the Equity Center, an Austin advocacy group organized by less-wealthy school districts, show that the \$1.04 rate delivers widely varied per-student income to Tarrant County districts under the 2006 law.

The amounts range from \$4,927 in the Everman district to \$6,139 per student in Southlake's Carroll district. For Carroll, that amounts to almost \$500,000 more to spend on operating a typical 400-student elementary school. That makes a big difference when it comes to hiring the best teachers and administrators.

The Northwest school district raises even more, and with a lower tax rate. Its maintenance and operations rate of \$1 for each \$100 in property value delivers \$6,695 per student.

School administrators frequently say that they need more money, and they do. But that's not the point that Ogden and Shapiro are starting from. They're looking for a system that is fair to all districts and to all students.

That's what Texas needs, and there is no reason why the Legislature can't deliver it.

THE STAR-TELEGRAM
FORT WORTH

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we spend time studying Your word, Lord.

Amen

No fair pay for women yet

President Barack Obama just signed his first piece of legislation — the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. You may remember Ledbetter's case. She worked for the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company for most of her career, and found out after many years that she had been paid less than the men doing the same job all along. To add insult to injury, she had trained a couple of those guys.



MARTHA
BURK

The George W. Bush/Roberts/Alito Supreme Court ruled in 2007 that though Ledbetter had indeed experienced discrimination, she was not entitled to damages because she hadn't filed her lawsuit within 180 days of that first short paycheck — never mind that she didn't discover the discrimination for more than a decade.

The ruling overturned 40+ years of precedent. Up until Ledbetter v. Goodyear, courts had always ruled that a victim of wage discrimination had 180 days from the day she found out about it to file suit, and that each new short paycheck started the countdown clock over again. In passing the new bill, Congress and President Obama have restored the law to the way it has been interpreted for the last four decades.

But if you think that's the

answer to women's pay inequity prayers, you're dead wrong. Women still make only 77 cents to the dollar a man makes for full time year round work. We need more — much more. The main reason Lilly Ledbetter got shafted was that she didn't know her situation as compared to the men. Employers are under no obligation to report pay statistics, and in most companies you can get fired for talking pay with co-workers. Though federal legislation to fix these two problems is in the pipeline, it's been in the pipeline for over a decade.

The governor of one state — New Mexico — is not waiting. Bill Richardson (Obama's choice for commerce secretary who voluntarily dropped out of consideration) has just signed an executive order in his state that is groundbreaking. Not only will the state as an employer have to study and report its own pay practices when it comes to gender and race, so will private sector companies that want state contracts. Richardson has declared overcoming pay inequity and job segregation a priority, and established a high-powered task force to implement the needed changes.

Employers are likely to wail and gnash their teeth. Won't this cost money? Well maybe, but probably not that much. They already know who works for them, the gender and race of their employees, and how much they're paid by job category. So gathering the data ought to be relatively simple. Besides,

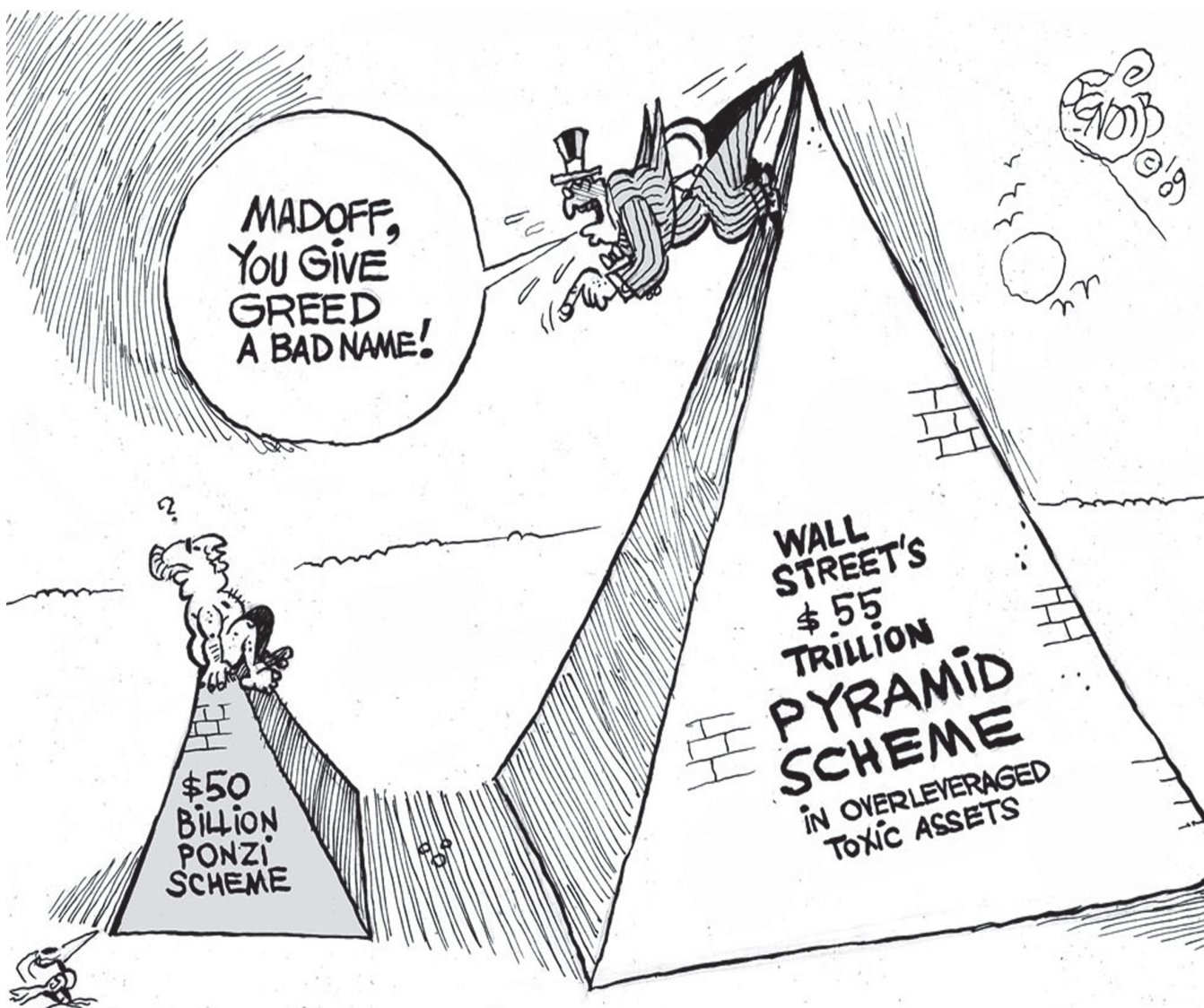
all employers won't have to do it — just those that want state contracts, paid with dollars from taxpayers. In this day of bailouts and boondoggles at taxpayer expense, citizens footing the bills have a right to expect that any company getting government business pays its workers fairly. And there will be technical assistance and reasonable exceptions for small business.

By doing internal pay equity analyses, companies that have a problem and don't know it will be able to find out and fix it before they get hauled into court for discrimination. And if they're not doing anything wrong, they ought to be proud of it and willing to tell the world. Sure would cut down on all those "frivolous lawsuits" if employees could see the statistics up front and know they weren't being shorted in the pay envelope.

Congress did the right thing by bringing us back to a 40-year-old standard when it fixed Ledbetter. But the state of New Mexico is way ahead of the curve, looking forward, not backward.

Women ought to push the other 49 governors to follow Richardson's lead — particularly one self-described "feminist" who can see Russia from her house.

Martha Burk is the author of "Cult of Power: Sex Discrimination in Corporate America and What Can Be Done About It," just out from Scribner. She is also director, corporate accountability project for the National Council of Women's Organizations.



Rigid ideas: Good TV, bad people

In my unending desire to become even more famous, I now plan to become either an unbending leftist or a unwavering conservative. I'll probably decide which by flipping a coin or checking to see whether I look better in a jacket and jeans or a suit with a bow tie.



DANIEL
KLINE

Whether I want to be Rush Limbaugh or Keith Olbermann, I'll follow the easy path of never having to question anything to fame, riches and maybe a really big boat. When all your thoughts and values adhere rigidly to one philosophy, there's never any doubt how you feel about an issue and you never waste a single second thinking.

If I pick Republican, then Democrats are bad and I get to make easy points by calling them "Dumbocrats" saying "tax and spend" a lot and raising the specter of socialism. If I select the Democrats, then the GOP gets to be evil and I have to start saying "fat cats," and talking about how everything favors the oil companies.

This plan should make me a TV star because picking all your views from one neatly labeled

basket makes for an efficient TV or radio show. Viewers know instantly whether your opinions outrage them or endear you to them. Nobody ever has to be outside their comfort zone and everything remains clearly black or white.

It would be entertaining if just once one of these talking heads offered an opinion that clashed with his core beliefs. It seems impossible to me that no liberal pundit has ever found a traditionally Republican view that he believes in and equally baffling that it never happens in the other direction.

Even politicians occasionally emerge who cross party lines. Democrat Joe Lieberman supports the war and Republican Rudy Guiliani supports gay rights. But, on television and the radio, our pundits and commentators must be one or the other which leaves little room for intelligent debate.

Basically, becoming a famous radio, TV or even print media personality requires being beloved by one side of the political spectrum and hated by the other. Those of us who actually think about each issue and have the ability to change our minds are relegated to the minor leagues.

Perhaps this happens because the public allows itself to be pulled too easily into rigid ideologies or maybe media executives

simply like taking the easiest road. Agreeing with one large group and making another large group the enemy has worked for everyone from Bill O'Reilly to Adolph Hitler.

I could easily write a column that, regardless of what I actually think, always plays up to one side or the other. Being anti-Obama would be an easy way to inflame passions on both sides of the aisle as would becoming a crusader for liberal social causes.

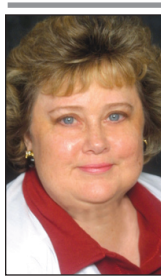
Taking either of those paths would make me more marketable and an easier sell to newspapers and ultimately other forms of media. Unfortunately, playing a character for fame and pretending you actually are that character, pretty much means selling out. This makes everything you say hard to believe and, for me, would make me it a little hard to live myself even if I was living in a really big house.

I'd like to be famous and I'm pretty sure I'm good enough in this medium, not to mention on TV or the radio, to keep people interested. Still, I'd rather be writing to you from the relative anonymity of the op-ed page than be just another unthinking buffoon collecting a paycheck.

Daniel B. Kline's work appears in over 100 papers weekly. He can be reached at dan@notastep.com.

Men and women experience heart attacks differently

Good heart health is a combination of diet, exercise and knowing your risk factors for heart disease, as well as recognizing the signs of a heart attack. A heart attack rarely happens without warning — it's up to us to identify the signals and act in time. In honor of American Heart Month, do your heart a favor: learn the facts about how to keep your and your loved one's heart healthy and strong.



DR.
CYNTHIA
RUTLEDGE

If you've never had a heart attack, you may picture it as you've seen it depicted in the movies: the sudden, sharp chest pain, staggering and eventual collapse. Actually, the signs of a heart attack are much more subtle and are not the same for everyone. We've all heard about the differences between Mars and Venus when it comes to matters of the heart. These differences hold true when it comes to heart health, as

well. Knowing how to recognize the early symptoms of a possible heart attack, can help men and women — and their doctors — to prevent it, or intervene in time to minimize the damaging effects on the heart.

Men usually experience what we know as the "classic" signs of a heart attack: heavy squeezing or chest pain, discomfort in areas of the upper body (arms, back, neck, jaw or stomach); shortness of breath; a cold sweat or nausea.

Women suffering a heart attack sometimes experience chest pain, but not as frequently as men do — and, they experience other symptoms that people don't generally link to heart trouble: shortness of breath, nausea or vomiting, and back or jaw pain. Women also experience symptoms earlier: for men, symptoms come either right before, or during a heart attack.

Research by the National Institutes of Health indicates that women experience different physical symptoms as long as a month or more before experiencing a heart attack. In a 2007 study of

more than 500 women, 95 percent of participants reported experiencing new symptoms at least a month before their heart attack, including unusual fatigue, sleep disturbance and shortness of breath. Less than 30 percent of women studied experienced chest pains prior to the attack, and 43 percent had no chest pain during the attack. Other symptoms included indigestion and anxiety. The study was one of the first to examine the differences in the way men and women experience a heart attack.

Knowing the differences is important for many reasons. Women who experienced these non-traditional symptoms did not identify them as a heart attack and put off seeking medical attention — decreasing their chances for preventing, or surviving, the attack. The American Heart Association estimates that about 95 percent of sudden cardiac arrest victims die before reaching the hospital.

The reason these differences are just now coming to light is that heart disease has, for decades, been considered a man's disease that did not generally affect women

— so, research focused primarily on men. However, cardiovascular disease has claimed the lives of more women than men, every year since 1984.

Talk to your doctor today about steps you can take to educate yourself about heart health and any recommended health screenings based on your individual profile.

Remember that symptoms may come and go. Even if you're not sure if it's a heart attack, it's important to be checked by a doctor. New medications and treatments are now available that can stop some heart attacks in progress and save lives — but these drugs must be administered at the first sign of heart attack symptoms, for maximum effectiveness.

During American Heart Month, take care of the ones you love. Knowing the symptoms of a heart attack and how to minimize its effects will help ensure that you and your loved ones are heart-healthy for many years to come.

Board-certified in Family Medicine, Dr. Cynthia Rutledge has been a part of the

Go Red Event, Luncheon reservations due

Dr. Rutledge and her Family Medical Center teammate, Dr. Sue Roberts, will be the featured speakers at the 2009 American Heart Association Go Red for Women Event and Luncheon, scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 19 at the Dora Roberts Community Center. Presented by the Scenic Mountain Medical Center Healthy Woman Program, women and the men who love them are invited to attend the free luncheon to learn more about what they can do to lead a heart healthy life style. A complimentary heart healthy lunch is being served, so reservations are a must! Log on to www.smmccares.com and click on the Healthy Woman button, or call Kim Howell at 268-4842 to reserve your seat today.

experienced and dedicated medical team at Family Medical Center for more than six years.

NUTRITION WISE

Defining density, cranberry juice

Q: Are nutrient density and energy density the same thing?

A: No. Nutrient density looks at how many nutrients a food gives you compared to the calories it contains; these calculations take into account not just vitamins and minerals, but also dietary fiber and cancer-protective phytochemicals. The foods highest in nutrient density tend to be vegetables and fruits. Whole grains, beans, low fat dairy, seafood and lean poultry and meat are also considered high. It's important to note, however, that while a food can be high in nutrients, if it's loaded with fat and sugar that send calories soaring, it's no nutritional bargain. Energy density, on the other hand, refers to the calories in a given amount of food. In fact, it is often referred to as calorie density. Unlike nutrient density, high-energy-dense foods are not what you should be looking for, unless you are trying to promote weight gain. Foods low in energy density provide few calories in a larger portion of food to make you feel full with less. Most vegetables (unless they're fried), fruits and broth or vegetable-based soups are good examples of foods that help you feel full for fewer calories.



KAREN
COLLINS
MS, RD, CDN

Q: Does drinking cranberry juice help prevent urinary tract infections?

A: Cranberries contain two compounds that seem to prevent bacteria from sticking to cells lining the urinary tract. Although many studies have been done, results are hard to interpret, because they use different products (cranberry juice concentrate, cocktail or capsules) and varying doses. While needing more research, most experts acknowledge that cranberry juice may help prevent urinary tract infections, mainly in women who develop them repeatedly. Women who rarely get these infections may not derive any special benefit. Research does not currently support a role for cranberries in the treatment of preexisting urinary tract infections. Also note that people with diabetes or prediabetes should be careful since regular cranberry juice is sweetened with large amounts of sugar; choosing a reduced-sugar product is therefore important for these consumers.

Spicing up a cold day the healthy way

American Institute for Cancer Research

Add some spice to a cold day with this unique version of a Spanish classic, tamales. This spicy creation is easy to prepare and offers a wonderful mix of flavors and nutrition. Although a departure from the traditional tamale, this dish is sure to become a classic in your recipe book.

The Spanish tamale is a traditional Mexican food consisting of corn dough filled with meat, cheese or vegetables. Tamales were first developed as portable rations and they were as varied as the sandwich is today. Although usually wrapped in a corn husk (or sometimes plantain leaves), AICR's version in encased in a whole-wheat piecrust.

A key ingredient in this week's recipe is the pinto bean. A medium-sized pale pink bean with reddish-brown streaks, its name actually translates to "painted" in Spanish. Like most legumes, pinto beans are rich in fiber. According to experts, foods containing dietary fiber probably play a role in combating colorectal cancer.

Adding lima beans provides additional fiber, texture and taste. Native to South America, this ancient legume is sometimes referred to as the aristocrat of beans. A member of the kidney bean family, lima beans are commonly available in large or baby lima beans. They contain potassium, folate and other disease-fighting nutrients.

Just the right combination of spices brings out the flavor of the dish, beginning with a touch of chili powder to add some heat, complimented by cumin, which imparts an earthy flavor. Oregano and cilantro round out the flavors.

Tamale Pie

- Vegetable cooking spray
- 2 (15-oz.) cans unsalted pinto beans
- 2 medium zucchini, cut into ¾-inch chunks
- 1 (14-oz.) can roasted and diced tomatoes with mild green chiles
- 1 cup frozen sweet corn
- 1 cup frozen lima beans
- 1 cup (medium hot) salsa
- 1 tsp. chili powder
- 1/2 tsp. cumin



- 1/2 tsp. oregano
- 2 Tbsp. fresh cilantro, chopped
- 1 store bought refrigerated whole-wheat pie crust (8-9 inch)
- 1 cup reduced-fat, shredded cheddar cheese

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Spray shallow 2 ½ quart baking dish with cooking spray.

In 5-quart saucepan, stir together beans, zucchini, tomatoes, corn, lima beans, salsa and herbs. Bring to boil. Reduce heat, cover and

simmer 10 minutes. Spoon into baking dish. Place rolled out piecrust on top. Bake about 25 minutes or until bubbly at the edges. Sprinkle with cheese and bake 3 additional minutes or until cheese is fully melted. Let stand 10 minutes and serve. Makes 6 servings.

Per serving: 380 calories, 10 g total fat (2.5 g saturated fat), 53 g carbohydrate, 16 g protein, 11 g dietary fiber, 470 mg sodium.



By Steve Becker Famous Hand

North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ A 7 3
♥ 10 8 6 5
♦ Q
♣ A 10 8 3 2
WEST
♠ K 8 6 4 2
♥ K Q 9 2
♦ 10 5
♣ K 6
EAST
♠ J 10
♥ A J 7 4 3
♦ A 9 8 7 4 3
♣ —
SOUTH
♠ Q 9 5
♥ —
♦ K J 6 2
♣ Q J 9 7 5 4

The bidding:
North East South West
Pass 1♥ 2♣ 4♥
5♣ 5♥ Pass Pass 1♠
6♣ Pass Pass Dble
Opening lead — king of hearts.

The 160-deal semifinal match between Brazil and the United States at the 1985 Bermuda Bowl in Sao Paulo, Brazil, was one of the most exciting in world team championship history. After a nip-and-tuck battle that the Brazilians led most of the way, the Americans trailed by only 6 IMPs going into the last two hands. This was the penultimate deal.

In the Open Room, with a large partisan audience watching on Vu-Graph, the Brazilians, seated North-South, reached six clubs doubled as shown. The declarer was Marcelo Branco, and the cheering throng

could see that the slam was unbeatable, provided Branco guessed how to play the clubs. After ruffing the opening heart lead, Branco tabled the club queen, on which West smoothly followed low. With the audience — far removed from the playing area — shrieking "finesse, finesse," Branco pondered the situation and finally called for the ace. Down one for a loss of 200 points.

At the second table, with a Brazilian pair now holding the East-West cards, the bidding went as follows:
North East South West
Pass Pass Pass 1♠
Pass 2♥ Pass 4♥
Pass 5♣ Pass 5♥

Here, the American North-South pair didn't even enter the bidding, and the Brazilians climbed to five hearts under their own steam. The critical bid was West's leap to four hearts on minimal values, which encouraged East to try for slam with a cuebid of five clubs. Five hearts might have succeeded on another day, but on this occasion declarer found it impossible to overcome the bad breaks in hearts and diamonds, and finished down one. Thus Brazil, with chances to gain significantly at both tables, instead lost 250 points — exactly 6 IMPs — to throw the match into a dead tie with one deal remaining. We'll see what happened on that deal tomorrow.

Tomorrow: Famous Hand — 2.
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Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box. Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

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

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World at a Glance

Obama has auto recovery, stimulus bill, foreclosure plan on the agenda

WASHINGTON (AP) — It will take more than one “car czar” to help get the embattled U.S. auto industry back on track, President Barack Obama has decided. Instead, his administration is establishing a presidential task force to direct the restructuring of General Motors Corp. and Chrysler LLC, a senior administration official said Sunday night.

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner and National Economic Council Director Lawrence Summers will oversee the across-the-government panel, the official said, speaking on the condition of anonymity because no announcement has been made.

GM and Chrysler are expected to submit restructuring plans to the government by Tuesday, the deadline for showing how they can repay billions in loans and become viable in spite of a huge drop in auto sales.

The auto industry task force is just one element of Obama's plan to revive the flailing economy. On Tuesday he's flying to Denver to sign the \$787 billion stimulus bill into law, taking his economic message to the American people, who are giving him high marks for handling the crisis.

Obama will also be tackling the home mortgage foreclosure crisis. The direct appeals for public support follow scant GOP backing in Congress for his agenda and increasing partisan bickering.

Secretary Clinton visits Tokyo and warns North Korea about nuclear programs

TOKYO (AP) — Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, in Tokyo to begin her first trip abroad as President Barack Obama's chief diplomat, said Washington's alliance with Japan is a cornerstone for the U.S. and warned North Korea to live up to its commitments to dismantle its nuclear programs.

She arrived Monday in Tokyo to a large group of dignitaries, including two Japanese astronauts who flew on the U.S. space shuttle.

Clinton is in Asia to meet with the

leaders of Japan, China, South Korea and Indonesia.

“The bilateral relationship between the United States and Japan is a cornerstone in our efforts around the world,” she said. “We will be looking for ways to collaborate on issues that go beyond just our mutual concerns to really addressing global concerns.”

Clinton said the main issues on her agenda included climate change, clean energy and nuclear proliferation, along with the global financial crisis.

Israel takes control of more West Bank land, paving way for 2,500 settlement homes

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel has taken control of a large chunk of land near a prominent West Bank settlement, paving the way for the possible construction of 2,500 settlement homes, officials said Monday, in a new challenge to Mideast peacemaking.

Successive Israeli governments have broken promises to the United States to halt settlement expansion, defined by Washington as an obstacle to peace. Ongoing expansion is likely to create friction not only with the Palestinians, but with President Barack Obama, whose Mideast envoy, George Mitchell, has long pushed for a settlement freeze. Obama has said he'd get involved quickly in Mideast peace efforts.

The composition of Israel's next government is not clear yet following inconclusive elections last week. However, right-wing parties are given a better chance to form a ruling coalition, with hardline leader Benjamin Netanyahu at the helm.

Netanyahu supports settlement expansion and has derided peace talks with the Palestinians as a waste of time, saying he would focus instead of trying to improve the Palestinian economy. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has dismissed Netanyahu's approach as a non-starter, and his aides said recently that peace talks can only resume after a settlement freeze.

At the center of the latest expansion plans is Efrat, a settlement of about

1,600 families south of Jerusalem.

Pakistan imposes Islamic law in parts of northwest to pacify Taliban

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP) — The government agreed to implement Islamic law across a large swath of northwest Pakistan on Monday in a concession aimed at pacifying a spreading Taliban insurgency.

The decision was announced after talks with a pro-Taliban group from the Swat Valley, a one-time tourist haven in the northwest where extremists have gained sway through brutal tactics including beheadings and burning girls schools.

Officials gave few details on the what kind of Islamic or Shariah law they were planning to implement in Malakand region, which includes Swat, but said laws that do not comply with Islamic texts had been suspended effective from Monday.

“This was the peoples' demand. There was a (legal) vacuum,” said Chief Minister Amir Haider Khan Hoti, saying the change would not violate the constitution — which stipulates a secular legal system — or human rights in the region.

Several past deals with militants in northwest Pakistan have failed, including one in Swat last year. The U.S. has warned such pacts simply give insurgents time to regroup, but the country's civilian government insists force alone cannot defeat the extremists wreaking havoc in Pakistan and attacking U.S. troops in neighboring Afghanistan.

Illinois GOP leader calls on new Sen. Burris to resign after questions arise on his testimony

CHICAGO (AP) — One month after Roland Burris was sworn in to the U.S. Senate to represent Illinois and fill Barack Obama's vacant seat, he's hearing calls for his resignation.

“I can't believe anything that comes out of Mr. Burris at this point,” state Rep. Jim Durkin said. “I think it would be in the best interest of the state if he resigned because I don't think the state can stand this anymore.”

Durkin and House Republican Leader Tom Cross want an investigation of Burris for possible perjury.

Their statements come after Burris over the weekend released a Feb. 5 affidavit that he filed with the Illinois House committee investigating the impeachment of former Gov. Rod Blagojevich. The affidavit contradicts statements he made last month in front of the committee, before being sworn in Jan. 15.

The discrepancy could mean he perjured himself.

Iraqi officials say bombs targeting minibuses filled with Shiite pilgrims kill 8, injure 24

BAGHDAD (AP) — Roadside bombs struck two minibuses filled with Shiite pilgrims returning to Baghdad on Monday, killing eight people and wounding 24 others, officials said, in the latest of a series of deadly attacks targeting the pilgrims.

The first bomb rocked a minibus pulling into a busy square in the Shiite neighborhood of Sadr City in Baghdad, killing four people and wounding 11 others, a police official said. The driver, who refused to give his name, said his minibus was filled

with pilgrims returning from the Shiite holy city of Karbala, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) south of the capital.

The second minibus coming from Karbala was attacked in the Shiite neighborhood of al-Kamaliya in Baghdad, killing four people and wounding 13 others, said the police official.

Medical officials confirmed the number of dead and wounded in the two attacks. All the officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

The attacks followed a series of bombings last week targeting pilgrims on their way to Karbala that killed 60 people and wounded 170.

Justin Timberlake leads GQ's list of '10 Most Stylish Men in America'

NEW YORK (AP) — Justin Timberlake wins style props in the March issue of GQ magazine. The magazine picked the entertainer to lead a list of the “10 Most Stylish Men in America.” It singled out Timberlake for his impact on fashion, willingness to take risks and “knack for targeting trends” such as hats, three-piece suits, skinny ties and beards.

Timberlake, who launched his clothing line William Rast several years ago, tells GQ he considers model Kate Moss a style icon because she “could put a barrel on and it would be some sort of statement.”

It irks the 28-year-old heartthrob when an entire outfit revolves around a hat, and he'd never wear an argyle sweater vest off the golf course. He prefers to keep it simple, clothes-wise.

Other “Stylish Men” include Kanye West, T.I., Jason Schwartzman, hotelier Andre Balazs and photographer Alexi Lubomirski.

'Astonishing richness' as survey counts 13,000 species in Arctic, Antarctic oceans

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — The polar oceans are not biological deserts after all. A marine census released Monday documented 7,500 species in the Antarctic and 5,500 in the Arctic, including several hundred that researchers believe could be new to science.

“The textbooks have said there is less diversity at the poles than the tropics, but we found astonishing richness of marine life in the Antarctic and Arctic oceans,” said Victoria Wadley, a researcher from the Australian Antarctic Division who took part in the Antarctic survey. “We are rewriting the textbooks.”

In one of the biggest surprises, researchers said they discovered dozens of species common to both polar seas — separated by nearly 7,000 miles (11,000 kilometers). Now they have to figure out how they separated.

“We probably know more about deep space than we do about the deep polar oceans in our own backyard,” said Gilly Llewellyn, leader of the oceans program for the environmental group WWF-Australia. She did not take part in the survey. “This critical research is helping reveal the amazing biodiversity of the polar regions.”

Most of the new discoveries were simpler life forms known as invertebrates, or animals without backbones.

PROFILE 2009



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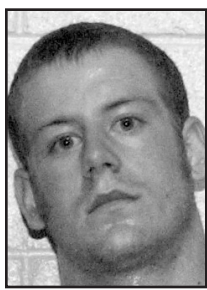
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Green, Hughey advance to state swim meet

Herald Staff Report

ANDREWS — Surprise. That was the message Big Spring High School swimmer Cameron Hughey sent his teammate DeShae Green Saturday at the Class 4A, Region I Swim Meet in Andrews. Green entered the 100-yard freestyle race heavily favored to sweep the competition. He had posted the best time in the preliminaries and his qualifying mark was nearly two seconds better than Hughey's. However, a strong first 50 meters put Hughey out in front just enough to hold off Green in the final stretch,



Hughey

Coach Kenneth Nelson. "Cameron really shocked us all and came out of nowhere to win this one." Still, there was good news for Green

giving the underdog a regional championship and a berth to the state meet in Austin Feb. 27 and 28. "That was DeShae's race. The 100 definitely isn't Cameron's strongest event," said Big Spring Swim Nelson. "Cameron really shocked us all and came out of nowhere to win this one." Still, there was good news for Green

— he'll still be making a trip to the state meet. Green, a senior, will also be competing in the 200-meter freestyle at the state championships after finishing the race in record time Saturday. Unfortunately, Abilene Wylie's Chris Price also put up a record-breaking performance and was just four-tenths of a second quicker than Green. Still, Green earned a bid into the event at Austin due to once again posting one of the best times in the state. "DeShae has had an outstanding senior season," said Nelson. "He's set

the school record in the 100 and 200 several times this season. I'm excited for him to reach state." On the girls' side, junior Kelly Sage came closest to qualifying for state, finishing fourth in the 100-yard backstroke. Sage was also fifth in the 200 freestyle and teamed with Simone Rist, Jenni Walker and Doris Brant for a fourth-place performance in the 200-yard freestyle relay. "Our girls have had a great season," said Nelson. "Kelly has been a fantastic leader. I'm really excited about

See **SWIM**, Page 12

BHS opens 2009 softball season Tuesday

Big Spring plays host to Monahans at 5:30 p.m.

By JONATHAN HULL

Sports Editor
One of the signs that spring is near is when local high schools prepare to field the latest version of their softball and baseball teams.

For the Big Spring Lady Steers, the softball season begins Tuesday.

The Lady Steers open their 2009 campaign, by playing host to Monahans at 5:30 p.m. at Lady Steer Field.

Last season, a young Lady Steers squad posted a 17-25 record and advanced three rounds deep into the playoffs before losing to district rival Frenship in the regional quarterfinals.

Only one starter — shortstop Desiree Yanez — is missing from that team, meaning Big Spring is returning much of its fire power from last season.

Also missing from last year's squad is head coach Jennifer Reyes. Reyes left the team to spend more time with her family, allowing John Sparks, who had been the assistant the past two years under Reyes, the opportunity to head the program.

Sparks says there will be some difference between the 2009 version of the Lady Steers as opposed to what has been seen the last two seasons.

"We're going to be very aggressive on the base paths," said Sparks. "I think we're going to surprise some teams with our

See **SOFTBALL**, Page 12



HERALD file photo/Jonathan Hull

Big Spring Lady Steers pitcher Kenzie Hunt winds up in action from the 2008 softball season at Lady Steer Park. The Lady Steers start their season at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday at Lady Steers Park, hosting Monahans.

Lady Steers face No. 7 Lady Dons in bi-district round

By JONATHAN HULL

Sports Editor
Measuring success is subjective. It all comes from one's point of view.

After finishing 0-28 last season, it's not farfetched to call the 2008-2009 season a success for the Big Spring Lady Steers.

The Lady Steers (9-19) saw a nine-game improvement this year and are currently on a three-game win streak that has carried them into the postseason for the first time since 2000. They clinched their playoff berth following a 52-38 victory over San Angelo Lake View Friday in a play-in game for the fourth and final postseason spot available out of District 4-4A.

However, competing in the playoffs means facing probably the toughest team the Lady Steers have seen all season.

Big Spring will meet the Amarillo Palo Duro Lady Dons at 6 p.m. Tuesday at Lubbock Christian University. The Lady Dons come into the game with a 23-6 record and are ranked seventh in the state.

They received the No. 1 seed out of District 3-4A via coin toss after finishing tied atop the league with third-ranked Canyon.

"This is super, super, super," said Lady Steers Head Coach Mike Warren. "We won't know for a couple of years, but I think this opportunity to play a team like Amarillo Palo Duro in the postseason is going to be important to this team's development. We know how tough Palo Duro is going to be. They're going to be awesome. Just to listen to the girls in the locker room and to see how much fun they're having and how much confidence they're gaining. It's hard to describe exactly how important this opportunity is going to be."

Palo Duro will throw a relentless high pressure defense at the Lady Steers, hoping to force a plethora of turnovers and turn those mishaps into easy points.

"We just want to try and go compete and maybe handle a little bit of their pressure," explained Warren. "I understand they're going to pressure us from start to finish. I've heard they don't call of the dogs. Hopefully, playing Frenship and Plainview can help us deal with what Palo Duro is going to throw at us. If we can break their press, then I think we have a chance to compete. Palo Duro is going to have five athletes on the floor who are going to run, run, run and run."

Howard completes 4-game sweep of Lon Morris Saturday

By JONATHAN HULL

Sports Editor
Howard College's baseball team remained perfect on the season, sweeping its first four-game weekend series of the year.

The Hawks dominated Lon Morris College Saturday, taking both games of the second doubleheader in as many days, 9-2 and 10-0.

As was expected this season, the

Hawks (6-0) remain strong on the mound, allowing just two runs and 10 hits in the two games combined.

Friday, the Hawks won Game 1, 5-2, then rolled to an easy win in Game 2, 11-0. The second contest was over after five innings as the Hawks hit two grand slams in a single inning to pick up the victory.

"The series was good in a lot of

ways. We came out the first day in the first game and let them play with us," said Howard College Coach Britt Smith. "Our pitching and defense was outstanding, but our hitting just wasn't very good. We took a lot of bad at-bats. After a little griping from the coaching staff, they played a lot better in the

See **HOWARD**, Page 12

Sports in brief

Hawks softball goes 2-2 at Cowtown Classic

Howard College played four games at the Cowtown Classic softball tournament in Fort Worth over the weekend, splitting with a 2-2 record.

The Hawks opened with a 2-1 victory over Eastern Oklahoma, but fell hard in their second game, 19-2.

The Hawks rebounded with an 8-0 win over Lovett College, then finished with a 4-2 loss to North Central.

The Hawks are now 8-7 on the season and travel to play Ranger college at 1 p.m. Wednesday.

Steers raising funds with 50-inning game Saturday

The Big Spring Steers will play a 50-inning intrasquad baseball game at 9 a.m. Saturday at Steer Park in hopes of raising funds for the booster club.

Admission is \$1 and donations will also be accepted. The concession stand will be open with all profits going toward the booster club.

The Big Spring Baseball Boosters will meet at 6 p.m. Thursday at Steer Park to discuss the 50-inning game as well as other business regarding the upcoming season. All parents of Steers baseball players are encouraged to attend.

Anyone with questions can call Denise Carrillo at 816-1685.

Big Spring & Coahoma Little League sign-ups continue

Big Spring and Coahoma Little League baseball organizations have merged this year and sign-ups for the community have begun at the old Athletic Supply Store in the Big Spring Mall.

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

Monday through Friday: 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturday: 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 tonight 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:

Tuesday

Klondike vs. Water Valley, 6 p.m.

Friday

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

BSCC hosting 4-person scramble this weekend

The Big Spring Country Club is hosting a 4-person scramble tournament Saturday and Sunday with a 1 p.m. shotgun start both days.

Entry fee is \$75 per player plus cart, although private carts are welcome.

Entry includes barbecue on the course both days and practice rounds on Friday.

The field will be flighted by first-round score. Call the Pro Shop at 267-5354 for information.

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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: I'm a 40-year-old man who has moved back home with my mother to recover from a car accident. The recovery is nearly complete, but the economy is slowing my progress toward moving out of the house.

Mom is very intrusive. When I first moved back home, I was in traction and unable to protest the carefully pressed undergarments and starch in my shorts. I have quite a lot of correspondence related to the accident, which my mother rearranges regularly when I'm not in the room.

I sometimes wonder whether I'm receiving all my mail. She screens my phone calls by leaving the ringer off so I don't hear the phone, and the answering machine is in her bedroom.

The most irritating aspect is that Mom stealthily walks up behind me when I'm using the computer. I'm not surfing any questionable websites, but I'd like my e-mail and Facebook activities to be private. I'd be happy to show her most of this if she'd just ask.

I don't know how to get my mother to respect my personal space. I'm hoping she'll see this letter in print and understand. — *Smothered in Louisville, Ky.*

Dear Smothered: Mom isn't going to "understand." You need to discuss this with her directly. Don't be confrontational.

Say lovingly, "Mom, I know you care about me, but I feel suffocated when you look over my mail, screen my phone calls and check what I'm doing on the computer. If you want to know something, just ask me. I'll be happy to tell you." We hope you can move out soon.

Dear Annie: I have a male friend who is married. I socialize with him and his wife. I've known since I met "Todd" that he finds me attractive.

A few weeks ago, Todd and his wife came over to my house for a party my family was giving.

Drinking was involved, and Todd and I ended up messing around, kissing and stuff. I feel so awful. I don't know what to do.

Should I tell his wife? Should I keep away from Todd? I feel so guilty, I can't stand it. Do you have some advice? —

Sorry Now

Dear Sorry: You may socialize with the two of them, but never be anywhere alone with Todd, even if it's just the kitchen.

Say nothing now, but if he gets too friendly, tell him firmly that you are not interested and if he comes one step closer, you will tell his wife. And watch your liquor intake. It obviously impairs your judgment.

Dear Annie: This is in response to "Complaining in Tennessee," about what to do with unwanted note cards, note pads, calendars, etc.

Could you please encourage readers to donate their surplus to their local public schools?

Many district budgets include a relatively small amount for teachers to spend on the surprisingly varied and overwhelming

needs of their students. Teachers often spend hundreds of their own dollars to fill these needs.

Need some ideas? Some kids wait outside in the cold in the mornings with no gloves, hats or proper coats. How about giving your old ones to the schools to distribute?

Plastic crates, bins and small containers come in handy in the classroom. Magazines, fabric and craft goods make for creative fun. We'll take those miscellaneous pens, pencils and markers collecting in your kitchen junk drawer.

Bookcases? Yup. Your kids outgrow their board games? We'll use them. Puzzles? Legos? Even lamps and old pillows can be recycled in a classroom to create a cozy area for kids to curl up with a good book.

Most of the teachers I've had the pleasure to work with want to do their part to nurture, encourage and challenge America's future citizens. Your donations would be greatly appreciated. — *Ready to Recycle in Rifle, Colo.*

Dear Ready: This is a great idea. Interested parents can call the school or ask individual teachers if they can use what you would like to give away.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column.

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KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR



(AP Photo/Rob Carr)

Romance novelist Nora Roberts poses in a one of the literary-themed rooms at the newly renovated hotel she opened Friday, Feb. 13, in Boonsboro, Md.

Author Roberts opening hotel nearly lost to fire

By DAVID DISHNEAU

Associated Press Writer
BOONSBORO, Maryland (AP) —Tragedy, desire and a happy ending. A new Nora Roberts' novel?

Close. It's her new bed-and-breakfast, a luxurious getaway built from the charred remains of a 210-year-old hotel in downtown Boonsboro, near Roberts' western Maryland home.

The eight, literary-themed rooms are furnished with items largely chosen by Roberts and purchased or made locally, reflecting her love affair with the little town that has become a destination for romance readers.

The best-selling author and her husband, Bruce Wilder, will welcome their first guests Tuesday to Inn BoonsBoro, nearly a year after an accidental fire destroyed all but the stone walls.

Roberts said she had dreamed for years of restoring the three-story structure, located across Main Street from the Turn the Page Bookstore Cafe that she and Wilder opened in 1995. The shop holds book signings that draw up to 250 readers to Boonsboro, a town of 3,400 that had no tourist lodging.

In 2007, Roberts and Wilder bought the former Boone Hotel and a nearby restaurant building in hopes of reviving the faded business district of what has become a bedroom community for workers in Washington and Baltimore, each about 60 miles (96 kilometers) away.

The hotel "was really in dire straits" but "I sort of had half the idea already in place — you could do a B&B, and the rooms could all be different and unique," Roberts said. "And then, when we were able to get it, we just went forward with that."

The \$3 million renovation has made the hotel a decorator's showcase in shades of tan, green and blue, with each room except the penthouse suite designed around a literary couple.

Lovers of "Pride and Prejudice" can choose the "Elizabeth and Darcy" room, done up like an English

cheap. The price for a night's stay ranges from \$220 to \$300. Packages incorporating massages, champagne or tours of the nearby Antietam Civil War battlefield are available.

Roberts, 58, and her downtown neighbors fully expect the B&B to fuel the tourist economy that has developed around her work. Paintings and photographs by local artists adorning the inn's walls are for sale, and more are available at nearby Gifts Inn BoonsBoro, a shop Roberts and Wilder recently opened offering locally made art, crafts, soap and furniture.

"We have a deep well of talent in the area, and so we want to showcase that," Roberts said.

Boonsboro Mayor Charles F. "Skip" Kauffman is deeply appreciative of what Roberts and Wilder have done for Boonsboro.

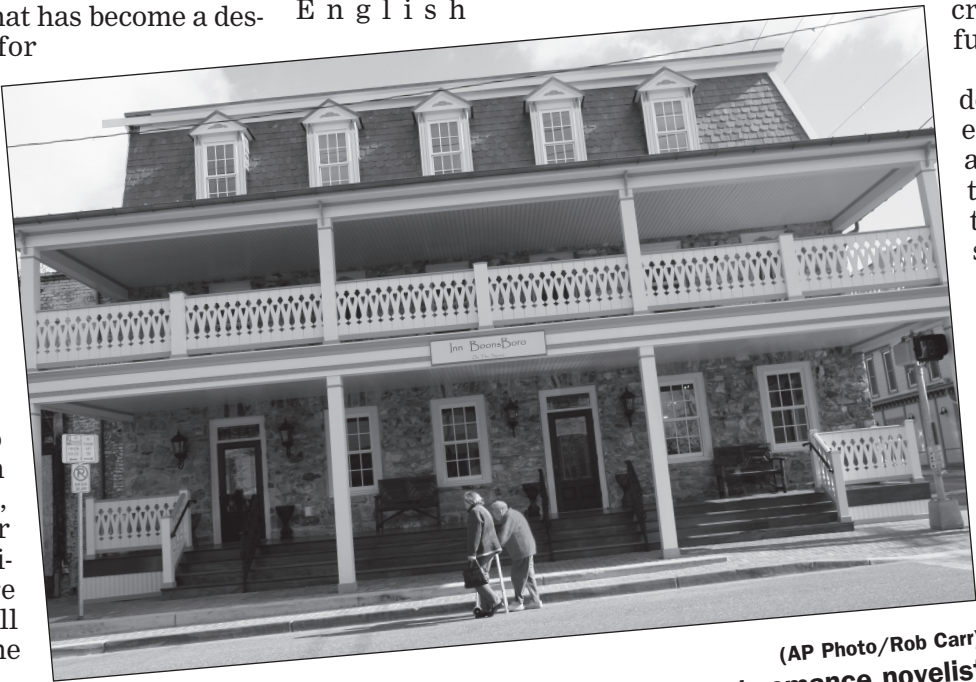
"They're great people and they're people of their word. They say they're going to

do something and they do it — and they've got the money to do it with," he said.

With the B&B finished, Roberts said she's eager to get started on a new J.D. Robb book — working title, "Fantasy in Death" — after a nearly three-week break from writing.

"I'm a writer who wants to write," she said. "Come Tuesday morning — or Monday afternoon, if I can manage it — I'm back to work and all will be well."

On the Net:
Inn BoonsBoro: <http://www.InnBoonsboro.com>



(AP Photo/Rob Carr)

Two women walk by the newly renovated hotel that romance novelist Nora Roberts owns in Boonsboro, Md.

country house with a velvet chair and cashmere throw.

The "Nick and Nora" room, based on Dashiell Hammett's "The Thin Man," features Art Deco touches including a curlicue lamp that Roberts proudly proclaims she assembled herself.

The only room dedicated to a Roberts couple is the "Eve and Roarke" room, with Lucite chairs and other modern furnishings suggesting the slightly futuristic world of the "In Death" series, written under the name J.D. Robb.

All this luxury doesn't come

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Someone notices your subtle changes in mood. This quality of attention should tell you something — you are loved. Also, you have an effect on other even when you don't realize it, which is quite a responsibility.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Everyone treats family differently from the way they respond to a stranger. Often the strangers

get more patience. Today, it is those closest to you that will require your utmost care and compassion.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Think broad and work small. It's the nice little things you do and the pleasant way you are that will make someone want your work, buy your product, be in your club and/or on your side.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The quickest way to building your confidence is to take on a procrastinated task, especially one that has to do with tidying up your home. As soon as you get into the thick of a project, helpers arrive

to bring it to the finish line.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Connections happen quickly, if not immediately. Be aware of the small social details. If all you do is smile and exchange a few pleasantries you may very well be entering into a new relationship.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You get excited at the very mention of a makeover. That's you, always eager to improve. The subject may be your business, home or relationships. In all areas you make quick progress.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). What used to make your heart sing has now

become too ordinary. You will enjoy your old favorites again, but only after you venture off for a while. Keep looking for inspiration. It comes from many different places.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Focusing too intently on problems just creates more of them. Take charge. Distract yourself. You're really having to work at being positive, but this is the most important work you could do.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You are always operating at many levels at once, though you're usually not so conscious of your multi-dimensional

activity as you are today. You'll get practical information through extrasensory means.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The plan for increasing your financial flow will come together quickly. It all springs from who you are. Write down what you're good at, what you're bad at, your likes and dislikes. Get to know yourself all over again.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You don't need to change a single physical thing about yourself in order to be mega-attractive. Your body, hair, clothes — it's all fine. All you have to do is know what you

like and love about yourself and accentuate that.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You can work when you're not inspired, but what's the fun in that? You'll be much more productive after you take a break. During your down time muses will stimulate your creativity.

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.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

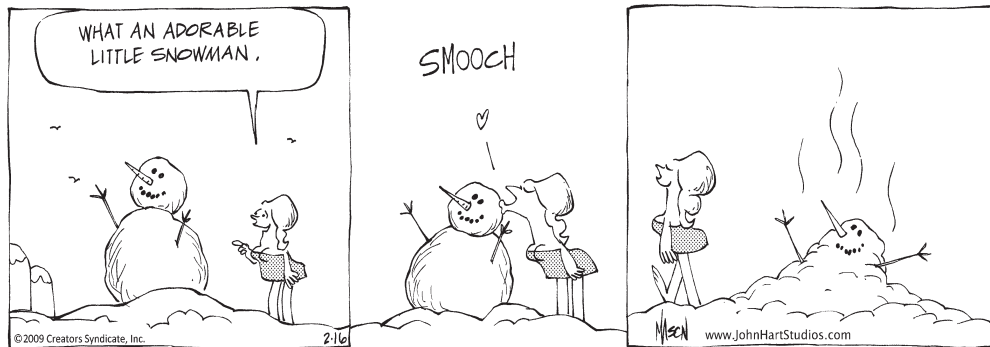
| | WFAA (2) Dallas | KMID (3) Midland | UNI (4) Spanish | KPEJ (5) Odessa | KOSA (7) Odessa | KTLE (8) Telemundo | KWES (9) Midland | WTBS (11) Atlanta | KMLM (12) Odessa | KPBT (13) Odessa | DISC (20) Discovery | AMC (21) Classics | SPIKE (22) Spike TV | TNT (23) Atlanta | BET (26) Black Ent. | DISN (27) Disney | ESPN2 (28) Sports | ESPN (29) Sports |
|--------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|--|------------------------|------------------------------|---|---------------------|----------------------------|--|
| 5:PM :30 | News ABC | News ABC | Locura | Lopez | News CBS | Noticias NBC | News NBC | Raymond Friends | CCM Granger | BBC Business | Dirty Jobs | Charles S. Dutton | Ult. Knockouts | Law & Order | 106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live | Wizards | Horn | SportsCenter |
| 6:PM :30 | News ABC | Jeopardy! | Tontas Cielo | Lopez | News CBS | Noticias NBC | News NBC | Friends | Granger | Business | Dirty Jobs | Charles S. Dutton | Ult. Knockouts | Law & Order | 106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live | Wizards | Horn | SportsCenter |
| 7:PM :30 | The Bachelor | The Bachelor | Cuidado-Angel | House | Big Bang | Doña Barbara | Chuck | Fam. Guy | Israel | Antiques Roadshow | Destroyed | Movie: Million Dollar Baby, Morgan Freeman | Knockouts 5 | Law Order: CI | Movie: Madea's Family Reunion, Lynn Whitfield | Wizards | Women's College Basketball | College Basketball |
| 8:PM :30 | | | Fuego en la Sangre | 24 | Two Men Worst | El Rostro de Analia | Heroes | Fam. Guy | Light of the Southwest | American Exp. | 1 Way | Movie: Ring of Death, Charlotte Ross | The Closer | Trust Me | 2009 BET Honors | Wizards | E:60 | College Basketball: Texas at Texas A&M |
| 9:PM :30 | True Beauty | True Beauty | Cristina | TMZ | CSI: Miami | Sin Senos El Cartel | Medium | Name | | Rough Crossings | Man vs. Wild | | | | | Wizards | E:60 | College Basketball: Texas at Texas A&M |
| 10:PM :30 | News Nightline | News Nightline | Impacto | Raymond | News | Noticias | News | Seinfeld | Israel | Dirty Jobs | Movie: First Blood, Brian Dennehy | UFC 95 Countdown | Saving Grace | | | Wizards | E:60 | College Basketball: Texas at Texas A&M |
| 11:PM :30 | Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live | Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live | La Hora de la Risa | Law Order: CI | Late Late Show | Decisiones de | Late Night | Movie: The Cookout | Sex & Uri Harel | Smiley Destroyed | Smiley Destroyed | CSI: NY | The Closer | Movie: Woman Thou Art Loosed | So Raven Cory | NASCAR Now | NFL Live Final | |
| 12:AM :30 | News | Extra | Basco | RENO 911 | Insider | Programa Pagado | News | News | Israel | 1 Way | Movie: First Blood, Brian Dennehy | Disorderly Con. | Trust Me | | Replace Kim | Who's Number 1? | SportsCenter | |
| 1:AM :30 | Paid | Paid | Clasicos | Friends | Entertain | Paid | Poker After Dark | (15) Movie: King's Ransom | Light of the Southwest | Man vs. Wild | Amazing Video | Law & Order | The Deal | Emperor Dragon | Boxing: Friday Night Fights | | SportsCenter | |

DENNIS THE MENACE

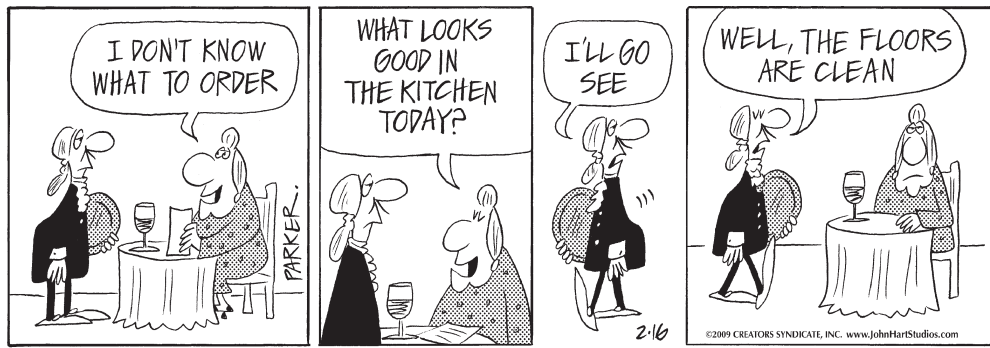


"A LAND OF MILK AN' HONEY MUST BE FULL OF COWS AN' BEES."

BC



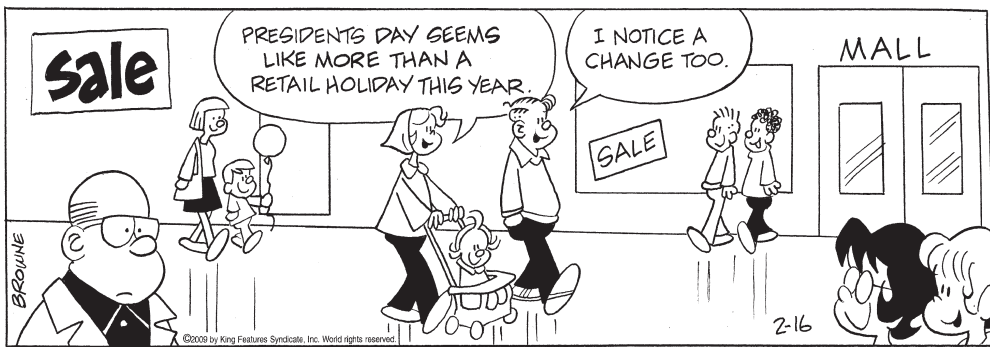
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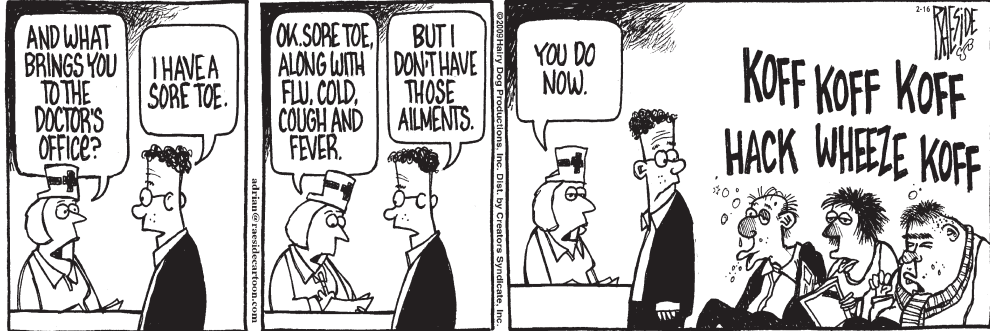
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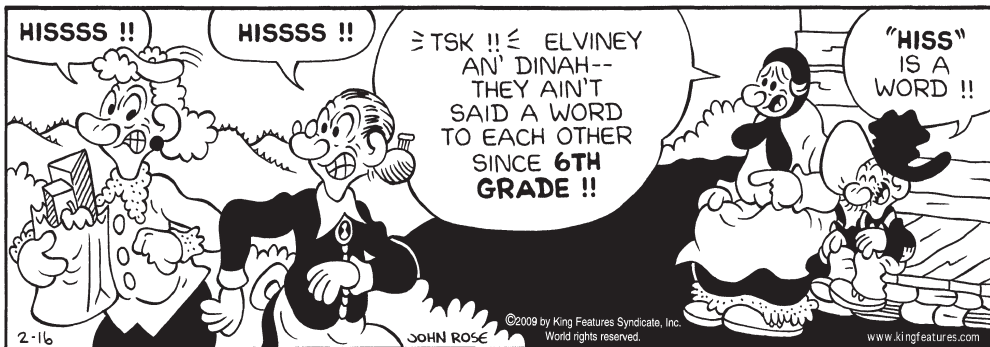
HI AND LOIS



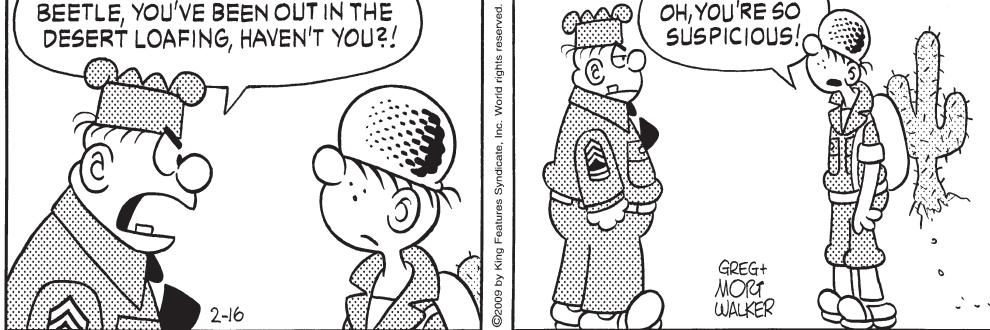
THE OTHER COAST



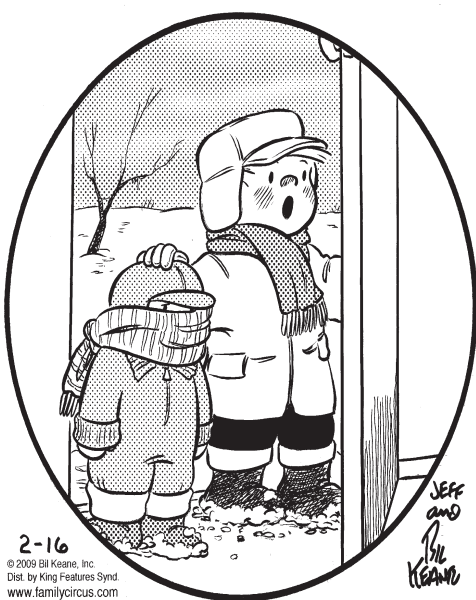
SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY

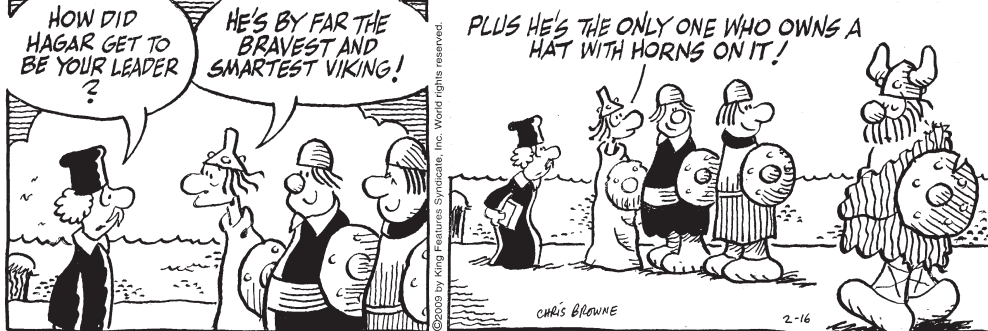


THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"PJ wants to come in now. His eyes are cold!"

HAGAR



BLONDIE



This Date In History

Today is Monday, Feb. 16, the 47th day of 2009. There are 318 days left in the year. This is Presidents' Day.

Today's Highlight in History:
On Feb. 16, 1862, during the Civil War, some 14,000 Confederate soldiers surrendered at Fort Donelson, Tenn. (Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's victory earned him the nickname "Unconditional Surrender Grant.")

On this date:
In 1804, Lt. Stephen Decatur led a successful raid into Tripoli Harbor to burn the U.S. Navy frigate Philadelphia, which had fallen into the hands of pirates.

In 1868, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks was organized in New York City.

In 1918, Lithuania proclaimed its independence, which lasted until World War II. (It again declared independence in 1990.)

In 1923, the burial chamber

of King Tutankhamen's recently unearthed tomb was unsealed in Egypt by English archaeologist Howard Carter.

In 1945, American troops landed on the island of Corregidor in the Philippines during World War II.

In 1959, Fidel Castro became premier of Cuba a month and a half after the overthrow of Fulgencio Batista.

In 1968, the nation's first 911 emergency telephone system was inaugurated, in Haleyville, Ala.

In 1977, Janani Luwum, the Anglican archbishop of Uganda, and two other men were killed in what Ugandan authorities said was an automobile accident.

In 1988, seven people were shot to death during an office rampage in Sunnyvale, Calif., by a man who was obsessed with a co-worker. (The gunman, Richard Farley, is under sentence of death.)

In 1998, a China Airlines Airbus A300-600R trying to land in fog near Taipei, Taiwan, crashed, killing all 196 people on board.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Patty Andrews is 91. Kim Jong Il, the president of North Korea,

is 67. Actor Jeremy Bulloch is 63. Actor Pete Postlethwaite is 63. Actor William Katt is 58. Actor LeVar Burton is 52. Actor-rapper Ice-T is 51. Actress Lisa Loring is 51. Tennis Hall of Fame player John McEnroe is 50. Rock musician Andy Taylor is 48. Rock musician Dave Lombardo (Slayer) is 44. Rock musician Taylor Hawkins (Foo Fighters) is 37. Singer Sam Salter is 34. Rapper Lupe Fiasco is 27. Actor Mike Weinberg is 16.

Thought for Today: "The heart may think it knows better: the senses know that absence blots people out. We have really no absent friends."

— Elizabeth Bowen, Irish-born author (1899-1973).

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Answer to previous puzzle

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| N | E | E | D | L | E | S | | S | T | E | A | M | E | D | | | | | |

Newsday Crossword

ON THE FLOOR by Gail Grabowski
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|---------------------|----------------------|--|
| ACROSS | 1 Tra __ (singing syllables) | 5 Soak in the tub | 10 Taxis | 14 Starting with | 15 Arm joint | 16 Sandwich cookie | 17 Catcher's glove | 18 Duck relative | 19 Is going to | 20 One dashing to home plate | 22 Regarding | 23 Kitchen appliance | 24 Use a steam iron on | 25 News summary | 28 "Because I __ so!" | 30 Slanted typeface: Abbr. | 31 State with confidence | 34 EMT's skill | 37 Criticize severely | 40 North Pole aide | 41 49 Down group | 42 Make simpler | 43 Went by plane | 44 Outperforms | 45 Outdoor barbecue area | 48 Sand bar | 51 Traditional knowledge | 52 Support strongly, with "for" | 57 Important times | 58 In pieces | 59 Slice into cubes | 60 Keep __ (persist) | |
| | 61 Not worthy | 62 Applies frosting to | 63 Computer input | 64 Go inside | 65 Hawk's home | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 11 Get out of bed | 12 Waist circlers | 13 Songs for one | 21 Sharp knock | 24 Bread with a pocket | 25 Chinese-restaurant staple | 26 List-ending abbr. | 27 Baby cow | 28 Sunflower edible | 29 Curved lines | 31 Poker starter | 32 Slow-cooked meal | 33 That woman | 34 IRS-form experts | 35 Annoying one | 36 Highways: Abbr. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 38 Norway's largest city | 39 Landed, as a fish | 43 Spanish celebration | 44 Scrooge's exclamation | 45 Beg | 46 Major blood vessel | 47 Characteristic | 48 Get going | 49 Cowboy's mount | 50 Aquatic mammal | 52 Garden access | 53 Unwrap | 54 Squeaking rodents | 55 High cards | 56 Exam | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

HOWARD

Continued from Page 7

second game.

"Now, our pitching and defense was fantastic all weekend long," Smith continued. "So, it was good to see us respond offensively."

Saturday, the Hawks' bats didn't catch fire until the fourth inning of the first game, when they posted four runs to break a 2-2 tie. Howard added three more in the fifth to go up 9-2 — a margin that held until the end.

Freshman Duncan McGee picked up his first win of the season.

Bryan Johns stood out offensively, hitting a double and a triple and knocking in four runs. Miles Hamblin had two RBI, while Andrew Collazo,

Nick Popescu and Joe Leftridge each had one.

The Howard bats stayed hot as the Hawks' pitching staff threw a shutout in the second game.

Howard got off to a great start in the first inning. After two consecutive walks and a hit batter loaded the bases for Howard, Popescu took advantage by hitting a triple that scored Johns, Hamblin and Monk Kreder, giving Howard a 3-0 lead.

The Hawks added three more runs in the second and two in the fifth and sixth innings. Jonathon Castillo ended the game with a single back up the middle of the infield that scored Hamblin and Tommy Vukovich with two outs in the sixth inning.

Burch Smith picked up the win for the Hawks.

Howard travels to Abilene to face

Vernon College at 1 p.m. Tuesday.

Smith is pleased with the way the team is playing right now, but is also cautious that the Hawks don't get too comfortable with their ability.

"We thought we were going to be about pitching and defense and to see us come out and live up to that expectation is nice," said Smith. "Honestly, we've swung the bat a little better than I've expected. I knew we could score runs, but I thought we would have to manufacture more runs with solid base running.

"The tough thing is that when you win a bunch complacency can set in," he continued. "It's going to be more about us taking care of our business and not worrying about who we're playing. Really, that's our only concern. If we show up to play, then we're going to be good. I don't know

that we're going to run into anybody with more talent than us. It's just a matter of us playing well. It doesn't mean we can't get beat. We've got a lot of talent, but we've got to play well, too."

Howard College 9,

Lon Morris 2

Lon Morris 002 000 0-2 4 0

Howard 101 430 x-9 11 0

WP - Duncan McGee (1-0).

2B: LM - None, HC - Bryan Johns, Stephen Niedwieki. 3B: LM - None, HC - Johns, Andrew Collazo. HR: LM - Roestel, HC - Nick Popescu. RBI: LM - Roestel 2, HC - Hamblin 2, Johns 4, Collazo, Popescu, Leftridge.

Game 2

Howard College 10,

Lon Morris 0

Lon Morris 000 000- 0 6 2

Howard 330 022-10 9 2

WP - Burch Smith (1-0).

2B: LM - None, HC - Runey Davis, Collazo, Popescu. 3B: LM - None, HC - Jonathan Castillo. HR: LM - None, HC - None. RBI: LM - None, HC - Monk Kreder 2, Popescu 3, Bobby, Castillo 2, Davis, Johns.

SOFTBALL

Continued from Page 7

aggressiveness. We've got a lot of the same girls back from last year, so the experience is there. We have struggled some in our scrimmages, but there has been plenty to be encouraged by as well."

One of the reasons the Lady Steers might be struggling in scrimmages is due to the lack of some key players who are still on the basketball team, mainly Linzee Yarbar and Valerie Ross, who Sparks expects to make up the middle infield of the team.

"Either Linzee or Valerie will play shortstop and the other will play second," said Sparks. "I'm not trying to rush them back either. I want the basketball team to do well. We'll have time to get them into a softball groove before the district season starts."

Also returning from last season's infield is third baseman Jillian Valle and first baseman Kenzie Hunt, who Sparks says will start the season as the Lady Steers' ace on the mound.

Hunt gets the early nod due to last year's ace Kelly Sage just now being available for practice as she wrapped up the swimming season Saturday.

"Kenzie will be our No. 1 starter for now, but I'm excited to get Kelly back as well. They made a good pitching duo for us last year," noted Sparks. "Both are reliable hitters as well. Kenzie and Jillian have been two of the top hitters in our scrimmages. We've got a lot of experience and ability in the infield."

A familiar face will be behind home plate as Baylea Fox will start at catcher for a third consecutive season. Fox is the only returning starter who is a senior this year. Sparks is comfortable with her presence behind the plate.

"Baylea has taken this team three deep into the playoffs the last two seasons, so I'm definitely OK with her at catcher," Sparks said.

In the outfield is where the Lady Steers are needing some players to step up. Sparks is hopeful sophomore Jessica Womack can be one of those athletes.

"Jessica gets a good jump on the ball and has flashed a pretty solid glove," he noted. "She's got a pretty strong arm and I'm interested in how she'll do in the outfield. I think she could be an answer for us out there."

As for matching up in District 4-4A, Sparks feels like the Lady Steers can play with anyone in the league, including perennial favorite Frenship.

Frenship hasn't lost a district softball game in two years, but has been challenged most by Big Spring. Last season, the Lady Steers stretched Frenship to its limit in the regional

quarterfinals.

Big Spring eventually was swept in the best-of-three series in two tightly played games.

"I think we can play with Frenship. We showed we can last season," said Sparks. "Our biggest challenge is the mental part of the game. We've got the physical ability. The biggest thing I have to accomplish as a coach is to get these girls mentally prepared to play.

"Our first and foremost goal this season is to have a winning record," he continued. "We haven't had one in three seasons. Obtaining the winning season will lead to several other goals including a district title and advancement in the playoffs."

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

SWIM

Continued from Page 7

the potential she has in her senior year."

For Hughey, who also teamed with Green, Drew Breckenridge and John

McMahon for a school-record performance in the 200-yard freestyle relay in which they finished second, this will be a second consecutive trip to the state meet.

Last season, Hughey qualified for state in the 50 freestyle and finished 12th. This season Hughey suffered some heartbreak, flinching on the

stand and being flagged for a false start at the district meet. The mishap disqualified Hughey from advancing in his best race.

"Cameron was really upset after the district meet, but he was also motivated by the mistake," said Nelson. "He showed how badly he wanted to return to state with his performance in the 100. The 50 was his specialty. It was his race and he'd have easily advanced to state if it wasn't for the DQ. I'm very proud of the way he's approached preparing for the 100 instead.

"I think Cameron and DeShae have a great shot at competing at state," he continued. "I don't want to put an expected place on him. They were so much better in their times at regionals when compared to what they did at district. I think anything is possible at state."

Women 200 Yard Medley Relay

1, Pecos High School 1:58.68R. 2, El Paso Chapin 'A' 2:02.82. 3, Abilene Cooper High School 'A' 2:05.00. 4, Jefferson/Silva 'A' 2:11.52. 5, Pampa High School 'A' 2:12.96. 6, El Paso High 'A' 2:13.38. 7, Big Spring 'A' (Sage, Kelly, Hagland, Audrey, Walker, Jenni, Rist, Simone), 2:15.53. 8, Monahans High School 'A' 2:19.17.

Men 200 Yard Medley Relay

1, El Paso High 'A' 1:45.93. 2, Pecos High School 'A' 1:46.18. 3, Parkland Matadors 'A' 1:50.00. 4, Abilene Cooper High School 'A' 1:50.77. 5, El Paso Chapin 'A' 1:51.60. 6, Monahans High School 'A' 1:51.78. 7, Big Spring 'A' (Richey, AJ, Garcia, Joe, Rodriguez, Matt, McMahon, John), 1:58.90.

Women 200 Yard Freestyle

1, Contreras, Danya G, EP Andress, 2:03.20. 2, Elliott, Lauren, Pecos, 2:05.86. 3, Porras, Lauren, El Paso High, 2:06.29. 4, Ellis, Raq, EP Jeff/Silva, 2:10.50. 5, Sage, Kelly, Big Spring, 2:10.63. 6, Wilson, Mackenzie L, Andrews, 2:13.47. 7, McBride, Aimee, Monahans, 2:16.85. 8, Swindell, Stormy, Wylie, 2:24.65.

Men 200 Yard Freestyle

1, Price, Chris, Wylie, 1:47.94P. 2, Green, DeShae D, Big Spring, 1:48.34P. 3, Gonzalez-Arranda, Mauricio, EP Jeff/Silva, 1:49.64. 4, Dennis, Colby N, Pampa, 1:56.78. 5, Carl, Hunter, EP Chapin, 1:57.84. 6, Diaz, Jose, EP Austin, 1:58.05. 7, Navarro, Edward, Cooper, 1:58.66. 8, Guyer, Cole A, Pampa, 2:01.76.

Women 200 Yard IM

1, Drennan, Jocelin, Greenwood, 2:14.61R. 2, Partida, Gaby, El Paso High, 2:16.68. 3, Mendoza, Alexcia, Pecos, 2:26.89. 4, Hernandez, Anatalia, Pecos, 2:30.68. 5, Young, Xaimarie, EP Jeff/Silva, 2:33.97. 6, Maese, Sofia, El Paso High, 2:40.55. 7, West, Abby G, Pampa, 2:40.70. 8, Emelianova, Ksusha, Andrews, 2:50.40.

Men 200 Yard IM

1, Elliott, Josh, Pecos, 2:05.86. 2, Anzano, Michael A, EP Parkland, 2:07.98. 3, McGee, Ian, EP Chapin, 2:09.55. 4, Matlock, David A, Caprock, 2:10.44. 5, Stoffle, Kelly T, Pampa, 2:10.69. 6, Farmer, Jacob R, Andrews, 2:14.37. 7, Lopez, Kevin, EP Del Valle, 2:16.11. 8, Vasquez, Aaron, EP Irvin, 2:16.17.

Women 50 Yard Freestyle

1, Mohr, Alison, Andrews, 26.05. 2, Deer, Kathleen, El Paso High, 26.88. 3, Ford, Trisha, Cooper, 26.93. 4, Rex, Miranda, Andrews, 27.57. 5, Lujan, Edith, EP Andress, 27.81. 6, Morado, Celia, EP Irvin, 28.07. 7, Roman, Adrianna, Pecos, 28.18. 8, Montes, Nadia, EP Del Valle, 28.31.

Men 50 Yard Freestyle

1, Neef, Dustin K, Pampa, 22.61. 2, DE LA Vega, Jorge, EP Del Valle, 22.83. 3, Young, Josh N, EP Andress, 22.97. 4, Williams, Seth, El Paso High, 23.15. 5, Carrillo, Josh, Seminole, 23.23. 6, Robbins, Jacob, Monahans, 23.40. 7, Giner, Andrew, EP Burges, 23.42. 8, Nolen, Jacob, EP Chapin, 23.51.

Women 100 Yard Butterfly

1, Drennan, Jocelin, Greenwood, 1:01.44. 2, Mendoza, Alexcia, Pecos, 1:04.64. 3, Martin, Jessica, EP Chapin, 1:06.59. 4, Hernandez, Anatalia, Pecos, 1:08.41. 5, Barraza, Elisa, El Paso High, 1:13.29. 6, Hernandez, Jessica, EP Burges, 1:14.30. 7, Gallagher, Casey, El Paso High, 1:15.64.

8, Popham, Haley D, Monahans, 1:21.89.

Men 100 Yard Butterfly

1, Williams, Seth, El Paso High, 55.37. 2, Carrillo, Josh, Seminole, 57.66. 3, Spinks, Brandon, Monahans, 58.53. 4, Tighe, Jonathan, El Paso High, 59.28. 5, Stoffle, Kelly T, Pampa, 59.37. 6, Farmer, Jacob R, Andrews, 1:00.78. 7, Vasquez, Aaron, EP Irvin, 1:01.21. 8, Mendoza, Gus, Pecos, 1:05.15.

Women 100 Yard Freestyle

1, Thyfault, Mackayla, EP Chapin, 55.58. 2, Elliott, Lauren, Pecos, 58.11. 3, Armstrong, Conner, Pecos, 59.26. 4, Campos, Amanda, Cooper, 59.35. 5, Deer, Kathleen, El Paso High, 59.69. 6, Tucek, Nicole, Wylie, 1:00.21. 7, Rex, Miranda, Andrews, 1:02.80. 8, Gomez, Brenda, EP Irvin, 1:03.20.

Men 100 Yard Freestyle

1, Hughey, Cameron C, Big Spring, 49.19. 2, Green, DeSahe D, Big Spring, 49.48. 3, DE LA Vega, Jorge, EP Del Valle, 51.23. 4, Giner, Andrew, EP Burges, 51.24. 5, Neef, Dustin K, Pampa, 51.53. 6, Navarro, Carlos, Pecos, 51.92. 7, Robbins, Jacob, Monahans, 53.26. --, Young, Josh N, EP Andress, DQ.

Women 500 Yard Freestyle

1, Reynolds, Alyson, Pecos, 5:32.76. 2, Roman, Adrianna, Pecos, 5:42.03. 3, Porras, Lauren, El Paso High, 5:46.26. 4, Ellis, Raq, EP Jeff/Silva, 5:46.87. 5, McBride, Aimee, Monahans, 6:13.31. 6, Hernandez, Maggie, Pecos, 6:23.91. 7, Ramey, Kendle R, Pampa, 6:25.54. 8, Clary, Ashley, EP Burges, 6:26.47.

Men 500 Yard Freestyle

1, Gonzalez-Arranda, Mauricio, EP Jeff/Silva, 5:03.75. 2, Navarro, Edward, Pecos, 5:21.39. 3, Claflin, Sam, El Paso High, 5:25.83. 4, Morin, Frankie, Pecos, 5:29.21. 5, Avila, Jose, EP Jeff/Silva, 5:40.86. 6, Lynch, Cyle, Monahans, 5:43.04. 7, Richey, AJ, Big Spring, 5:49.50. 8, Jaramillo, Daniel, EP Burges, 5:54.57.

Women 200 Yard Freestyle Relay

1, El Paso High 'A' 1:47.78P. 2, Pecos High School 'A' 1:48.34P. 3, El Paso Chapin 'A' 1:48.97P. 4, Big Spring 'A' (Rist, Simone, Brant, Doris, Walker, Jenni, Sage, Kelly), 1:53.46. 5, Abilene Wylie 'A' 1:54.87. 6, Del Valle High School 'A' 1:55.30. 7, Monahans High School 'A' 1:56.62.

Men 200 Yard Freestyle Relay

1, Pampa High School 'A' 1:32.09R. 2, Big Spring 'A' (Green, DeSahe, Breckenridge, Drew, McMahon, John, Hughey, Cameron), 1:33.06P. 3, Del Valle High School 'A' 1:36.57. 4, Abilene Cooper High School 'A' 1:37.92. 5, Pecos High School 'A' 1:38.30. 6, El Paso Burges 'A' 1:39.09.

Women 100 Yard Backstroke

1, Partida, Gaby, El Paso High, 1:01.83R. 2, Contreras, Danya G, EP Andress, 1:04.80. 3, Armstrong, Conner, Pecos, 1:06.34. 4, Sage, Kelly, Big Spring, 1:08.24. 5, Wilson, Mackenzie L, Andrews, 1:09.61. 6, Tooke, Bailey, EP Chapin, 1:12.81. 7, Bernal, Daniela, EP Parkland, 1:13.64. 8, Carr, Kaitlyn, EP Jeff/Silva, 1:14.37.

Men 100 Yard Backstroke

1, Elliott, Josh, Pecos, 55.69. 2, Jennings, Eran, Cooper, 56.26. 3, Price, Chris, Wylie, 57.98. 4, McGee, Ian, EP Chapin, 58.99. 5, Carl, Hunter, EP Chapin, 59.47. 6, Guyer, Cole A, Pampa, 1:01.52. 7, Nolen, Jacob, EP Chapin, 1:02.65. 8, Smiley, Brian C, EP Andress, 1:03.34.

Women 100 Yard Breaststroke

1, Reynolds, Alyson, Pecos, 1:11.19. 2, Campos, Amanda, Cooper, 1:11.35. 3, Mohr, Alison, Andrews, 1:13.17. 4, Tucek, Nicole, Wylie, 1:16.14. 5, West, Abby G, Pampa, 1:20.19. 6, Arreola, Rachel, El Paso High, 1:21.93. 7, Hicks, Hannah, Seminole, 1:22.51. 8, Carreon, Ariel, EP Chapin, 1:24.93.

Men 100 Yard Breaststroke

1, Anzano, Michael A, EP Parkland, 1:04.07. 2, Wilkinson, Grant, El Paso High, 1:04.85. 3, Navarro, Carlos, Pecos, 1:07.06. 4, Richardson, Jonathon, EP Chapin, 1:07.95. 5, Teague, Derek, Pecos, 1:08.85. 6, Burns, Kevin, EP Andress, 1:09.89. 7, Hudson, Cody J, Pampa, 1:11.11. 8, Carrington, Oliver, EP Del Valle, 1:11.53.

Women 400 Yard Freestyle Relay

1, Pecos High School 'A' 3:54.45. 2, El Paso High 'A' 3:57.87. 3, Andrews 'A' 4:09.89. 4, Jefferson/Silva 'A' 4:12.02. 5, Abilene Cooper High School 'A' 4:12.39. 6, El Paso Chapin 'A' 4:17.22. 7, Abilene Wylie 'A' 4:17.34. 8, Monahans High School 'A' 4:19.42.

Men 400 Yard Freestyle Relay

1, Pampa High School 'A' 3:26.55. 2, El Paso Chapin 'A' 3:27.15. 3, Pecos High School 'A' 3:30.97. 4, Big Spring 'A' (Green, DeSahe, Breckenridge, Drew, McMahon, John, Hughey, Cameron 12), 3:34.40. 5, Del Valle High School 'A' 3:37.15. 6, Andress High School 'A' 3:37.65. 7, Monahans High School 'A' 3:38.02. 8, Abilene Cooper High School 'A' 3:38.68.

Health
and
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Guide

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