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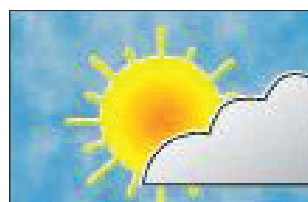
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THE BIG SPRING HERALD

FRIDAY

FEBRUARY 20, 2009



VOLUME 104, NUMBER 69

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Stimulus funds receive scrutiny

Texas to receive \$16 billion 'relief'

By APRIL CASTRO

Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN — A special panel of state lawmakers set about Thursday trying to identify dozens of deadlines and triggers that will enable the state to receive more than \$16 billion from the federal economic rescue plan.

"The only thing we can do wrong is not ask questions at this point," said Rep. Jim Dunnam, chairman of the House Committee on Federal Economic Stabilization Funding, which met for the first time Thursday. "We have to get a good grasp on the timelines involved."

Texas' share of the package is divided among education, health and human services, transportation, labor, criminal justice, and housing and infrastructure. Education gets the largest share with more than \$6 billion, closely followed by health and human services programs, according to an analysis prepared by the Legislative Budget Board.

Gov. Rick Perry, who wrote President Barack Obama this week to accept the money on behalf of Texas, objects to the economic stimulus and has suggested some of the money be rejected even though the state faces a \$9 billion rev-

See **STIMULUS**, Page 3A



HERALD photos/Steve Reagan
Above, Gracie Enriquez, a junior art student at Big Spring High School, shows the two paintings she will enter into the University Interscholastic League regional exhibition, scheduled for Saturday at Odessa Permian High School. Sixteen BSHS students will enter the competition, including senior Daniel Budke, at right, who is participating for the fourth time.



Art smart

16 BSHS students ready for regionals

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Artists want to win, too. Big Spring High School's best artists will be in competition this week when 16 BSHS students enter their work in the University Interscholastic League regional exhibition Saturday in Odessa. Works judged outstanding there qualify for the state meet later this year in Houston.

Judy Tereletsky, art teacher at the high school, said this is one of the strongest groups of artists she's instructed during her tenure here.

"All of them deserve a regional medal," she said. "I'm keeping my fingers crossed that we'll have three qualify for state ... but we have a really strong batch of artists. We could easily have all 16 go to state."

The students' work runs the arts spectrum from water colors to pottery and the students themselves range from newcomers to comparative veterans.

For senior Daniel Budke, this will mark

See **ART**, Page 3A

Details of Arizona boy's case may never be known, officials reveal

By FELICIA FONSECA

Associated Press Writer

ST. JOHNS, Ariz. — The charges against a 9-year-old Arizona boy in a double homicide that shocked the nation have been resolved with a guilty plea to a single count of negligent homicide, but the mystery surrounding the

"If the kid is ever going to have a chance at a normal life, how is he going to deal with 'I pleaded guilty to killing my dad.'"

—Tommy Apache County Attorney Michael Whiting

case remains.

No one inside or outside of the Apache County court-

house on Thursday ever addressed what led to the Nov. 5 shootings of the boy's father

and the father's roommate at their home in this rural community of about 4,000.

The boy acknowledged he did something risky and dangerous that ended the life of the roommate, 39-year-old Timothy Romans, but he

See **BOY**, Page 3A

INDEX

- Comics 6B
- Classified 3-5B
- religion 6-7A
- Obituaries 2A
- Opinion 4A
- Sports 1-2B

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HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Approximately 200 people attended the Go Red For Women luncheon at the Dora Roberts Community Center Thursday. The event, sponsored by Scenic Mountain Medical Center in conjunction with the American Heart Association, was held to help raise awareness of heart disease, the No. 1 killer of women in the United States. The AHA will hold its annual Heart Gala from 8 p.m. until midnight Saturday at Big Spring Country Club. Tickets are \$20 apiece and will be available at the door.



Look In Friday, February 27th Edition
 Of The Big Spring Herald For The
Health & Fitness Section
 Information Related To YOUR Health!



Tech, Leach hash out new contract

By **BETSY BLANEY**

Associated Press Writer

LUBBOCK — Texas Tech and coach Mike Leach agreed Thursday on a new contract after months of contentious negotiations.

Leach signed the contract shortly after he and Kent Hance, the university's chancellor, met for about two hours Thursday afternoon to hammer out an agreement. Hance said the negotiating part lasted only about 15 minutes.

"Me and my family are thrilled to

death that we're going to be in Lubbock for another five years," Leach said at an evening news conference. "I appreciate Chancellor Hance and Gerald (Myers) the opportunity to be here and the opportunity to be here to coach the Red Raiders for many years to come."

Weeks ago, Leach and Tech essentially settled on the financial terms of a five-year, \$12.7 million deal. But Leach took issue with several clauses the school added when the sides were trading proposals. The provision that bothered Leach the most would have

triggered his firing and a \$1.5 million penalty if he interviewed for another job without getting permission from Myers, the athletic director. Leach's existing contract had no such restriction.

He was prepared to keep coaching under the remaining two years of a five-year, \$10 million contract.

In the new contract that keeps Leach at Tech through 2013, Leach only needs to notify Myers in writing to interview at another school.

The contract also includes a \$250,000 bonus if Leach and Tech win the

national championship, a \$75,000 bonus if Tech participates in a BCS Bowl and a \$50,000 bonus if Leach is picked as national coach of the year.

If Tech terminates the contract, the school must pay Leach \$400,000 for each year remaining on the agreement. And there is no buyout amount.

Hance said he is confident in Leach will stick around for many years.

"We'll just make that zero on the buyout," Hance said, recalling his

See **LEACH**, Page 2B

HC women win late over Clarendon

Herald Staff Report

CLARENDON — A serious case of deja vu nearly struck the Howard College women's basketball team Thursday night in its 61-59 victory over Clarendon College.

In the first meeting between the two teams Jan. 19, Clarendon's Kenisha McDade sank a floater at the buzzer to deliver the Lady Bulldogs over Howard, 46-45.

This time around it was Howard that hit the big shot. Howard was down 59-57 with 18 seconds to play, when the Chassidy Cole hit a 3-pointer to give the Hawks a 60-59 advantage. Clarendon couldn't make a bucket on its ensuing possession and Miesha Blackshear was fouled. Blackshear sank 1 of 2 charity shots, leaving Clarendon within 2 points.

The Hawks' defense clamped down and didn't allow the Lady Bulldogs a clean shot and Howard picked up a huge victory.

"We really played pretty good. We had a great first half with a lot of energy and effort," said Howard Head Coach Earl Diddle. "We lost our focus in the second and they got right back in the ball game. They got to the point where they were attacking the basket on us and we just couldn't stop them."

"I thought we played pretty well considering we were on the road with a four-hour trip and also had the last time we played them," Diddle continued. "It was a big game for us. There were certain scenarios where Clarendon could still get in the regional

See **HC**, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull

Howard College's Devon Baker brings the ball into the front-court in action from earlier this season at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Howard College's men's and women's basketball teams pulled off a sweep over Clarendon College Thursday.

Hawks pound outmatched Clarendon

Herald Staff Report

CLARENDON — When a 20-win team meets a winless squad on the hardwood, it's usually a safe bet as to who will win.

That theory held up Thursday as the Howard College Hawks (21-6, 10-4) routed Clarendon College (8-20, 0-14), 82-58.

With the win, Howard is now either a win or a New Mexico Junior College (20-8, 8-6) or Western Texas College (18-9, 8-6) loss away from wrapping up a berth into the Region V Tournament.

The Hawks have a chance to clinch Monday, when they travel to take on South Plains College (23-3, 11-3) at 7:30 p.m. Defeating South Plains could actually give Howard a shot at the second seed out of the conference.

Howard opened against Clarendon with an 11-2 run, but saw the Bulldogs put up their biggest fight of the night right after. Leading 18-6, Howard pulled within 3 points, 18-15.

The Bulldogs' rally was apparently enough to get Howard inspired as the Hawks outscored Clarendon 16-7 to end the first half with a 34-22 advantage.

Howard remained hot offensively in the second half and rolled off an 11-2 midway through the 20 minute frame to take a 53-32 lead. The closest Clarendon would come in the final 10 minutes was 15 points.

Hawks played in double figures for the Hawks, led by 14 points apiece from La'Trail McCoy and Vladimir Gavranic. Devon Baker and Joshua Watkins each scored 12, while Markeys Deans had 11 and Denzel Barnes

See **HAWKS**, Page 2B

Tiger making early comeback next week in match play championship

By **DOUG FERGUSON**

AP Golf Writer

LOS ANGELES — All it took were six words on his Web site to bring the buzz back to golf.

"I'm now ready to play again," Tiger Woods said Thursday.

More than eight months after Woods winced and wobbled on one good leg to win the U.S. Open, the world's No.

1 player said his reconstructed left knee and his game were in good enough shape to compete.

He entered the Accenture Match Play Championship, which begins Wednesday just outside Tucson, Ariz., and where Woods will hit his first real shot in 253 days.

The return of Woods was welcomed by the PGA Tour, which has seen

television ratings plummet in his absence, and even the players whom Woods has routinely beaten while compiling 65 victories.

"He was ready to go weeks ago," Stuart Appleby said. "I don't think he needs to do a couple of laps around the track. He'll be on that horse and he'll be whipping it."

Woods posted his news during the

first round of the Northern Trust Open, and the tournament — not to mention its leader, Phil Mickelson, who opened with a career-best 63 at Riviera — soon became insignificant.

"I think it's awesome," Kenny Perry said. "The economy is down. We

See **TIGER**, Page 2B

Sports in brief

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.

Meet the Lady Steers at today's softball game

An opportunity for the community to meet and greet the 2009 version of the Big Spring Lady Steers softball team will be given at the Lady Steers games vs. Midland Christian Friday at Lady Steer Park.

The junior varsity takes the field at 4 p.m. with the varsity playing at 5:30 p.m.

Afterwards, the varsity will take on the Big

Spring High School faculty in a ragball game. Meal deals will be served for \$5 apiece.

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:

Today: 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.

A coaches meeting will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday at Parker-Hannifan located at the airpark.

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

Howard College hosting practice and girls basketball playoff games

Howard College is plays 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: (All games

listed are girls basketball).

Today

Rankin vs. Petersburg, 6 p.m.

Greenwood vs. Abilene Wylie, 8 p.m.

BSCGA holding annual membership drive Sunday

The Big Spring Chicano Golf Association is holding its annual membership drive at 10 a.m. Sunday at the municipal golf course in Comanche Trail Park.

Cost is \$15 to play plus a cart fee. All players must be registered by 9:30 a.m.

Teams will be randomly drawn for the 4-man scramble format.

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 today.

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

HC

Continued from Page 1B

tournament, so they were playing for their lives as well.”

The Hawks took an 11-point lead into the break, but Clarendon continually chipped away at the Howard lead. The Lady Bulldogs finally overtook Howard, 57-55, with less than 2:00 to play courtesy of a 12-3 run that ended with an Alex Ray 3-pointer. A free throw by Janee Williams made it 57-55, but the Hawks tied it up after Blackshear went 2 for 2 at the line.

Shaniqua Roberts hit her only field goal of the night to give Clarendon a 59-57 lead with less than a minute to play, setting in motion the dramatic finish.

Cole's 3-pointer wasn't a set play. The Hawks were passing around the perimeter against the Lady Bulldogs' zone defense. Clarissa Krum found

Cole alone on the backside of the zone. Cole caught the ball ready to shoot and sank her third trey of the night.

Blackshear led all scorers with 23 points — the second game in a row she's topped 20 points on the scoresheet.

“It's really important for her to generate offense and action to help her teammates score,” said Diddle. “She did a really good job of dribble penetrating and finishing. That really helps us because we've got some good set shooters on the perimeter. She's really hard to defend when she's shooting well. If her jump shot is a factor, then defenders have to guard her closer on the perimeter. That allows her to shot fake and use her quickness to drive the lane.”

Krum was good for 15, hitting 3 of 5 3-pointers, while Chassidy Cole scored all nine of her points from behind the arch.

Williams led Clarendon with 20 points, while Alex Ray scored 11.

The win puts Howard at 8-5 in Western Junior College Athletic Conference play and 23-6 overall. They're tied with Odessa for the third of four spots available in the Region V Tournament, however, still haven't clinched a berth.

New Mexico Junior College, which Howard split its season series with, is still mathematically in the regional equation, but has to win its final two games.

The Hawks have one game on their schedule, when they travel to Levelland Monday to take on South Plains College (22-6, 9-3) at 5:30 p.m.

Howard defeated South Plains, 62-55, Jan. 22 and can clinch its berth into the Region V Tourney with a win.

“The game against South Plains is big. It's great to come down to the end of the season to have big games,” said Diddle. “You look at a game like this and know this is why you come to Howard College. It also makes you think about a couple of games you let

get away. Our only concern is what you can control, though. These type of games keeps everyone on their toes. It certainly helps practice. It just makes everything much more important.”

Howard College (23-6, 8-5) 61, Clarendon College (17-11, 4-8) 59

Howard (61)

Miesha Blackshear 7-14 8-12 23, Patricia Malouff 3-7 0-0 7, Rachael Dryver 1-3 0-0 2, Chassidy Cole 3-12 0-0 9, DeAndra Thomas 2-4 1-4 5, Danielle Cota 0-3 0-0 0, Clarissa Krum 5-8 2-2 15. Totals 21-51 11-18 61.

Clarendon (59)

Donisha Bronnon 2-4 0-3 4, Jamie Young 1-5 2-4 4, Alex Ray 4-5 0-0 11, Janee Williams 7-11 6-8 20, Asia Reid 2-6 0-1 4, Kenisha McDade 2-7 1-1 5, Quinae Thomas 0-3 0-0 0, Enid Sanchez 2-3 0-0 5, Shaniqua Roberts 1-3 1-2 3, Ruth Stewart 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 22-48 10-19 59.

Halftime: HC 36, CC 25. 3-point goals: HC 8-19 (Krum 3-5, Cole 3-9, Malouff 1-3, Blackshear 1-2), CC 4-11 (Ray 3-4, Sanchez 1-2, Thomas 0-2, Williams 0-2, Reid 0-1). Rebounds: HC 32 (Blackshear 6, Cole 6, Dryver 6), CC 27 (Bronnon 7). Assists: HC 9 (Blackshear 2, Cole 2, Dryver 2), CC 9 (Williams 4). Turnovers: HC 11, CC 15. Total fouls: HC 15, CC 17. Fouled out: Dryver, Thomas, Young.

HAWKS

Continued from Page 1B

added 10.

Howard shot 56.4 percent from the floor, while holding Clarendon to 39.2 percent.

Eric Taylor led the Bulldogs with 12 points, while Deron Foreman and Javon Cravin each added 10.

Clarendon could actually help Howard clinch its spot in the Region V Tournament by upsetting New Mexico Junior College Monday.

The Hawks lost to South Plains College earlier this season, 66-62. Since that loss, Howard has won seven straight, including a win over No. 5 Midland. If the Hawks defeat SPC Monday and they end up tied with the Texans for second place in the Western Junior College Athletic

Conference, then Howard's victory over Midland could serve as the tie breaker to give the Hawks the second seed for the regional tourney.

Howard College (21-6, 10-4) 82, Clarendon College (8-20, 0-14) 58

Howard (82)

Devon Baker 3-12 5-6 12, Denzel Barnes 2-4 6-6 10, Joshua Watkins 3-3 6-9 12, Markeys Deans 4-5 3-4 11, Vladimir Gavranic 4-7 5-7 14, LaTrail McCoy 4-6 3-6 14, Ricardo Zanini 2-2 0-0 5. Totals 22-39 28-38 82.

Clarendon (58)

Moses Adenpoju 1-1 1-2 3, Javon Cravin 3-7 1-2 10, Sam Jones 1-3 1-3 3, Mike Jones 0-2 1-3 1, Will Benson 3-13 1-1 8, Eric Taylor 1-4 0-0 3, Elhadji N'Diaye 3-4 5-8 12, Nick Tunnel 0-2 0-0 0, Clavin Brown 3-5 0-0 7, Nick Prid 0-2 1-2 1, Tyrus Dowell 0-1 0-0 0, Deron Foreman 5-7 0-4 10. Totals 20-51 11-25 58.

Halftime: HC 34, CC 22. 3-point goals: HC 6-15 (McCoy 3-5, Zanini 1-1, Gavranic 1-3, Baker 1-5), CC 7-25 (Cravin 3-6, N'Diaye 1-2, Eric Taylor 1-3, Brown 1-3, Foreman 0-1, Benson 1-4, Dowell 0-1, Tunnel 0-1, M. Jones 0-2, S. Jones 0-2). Rebounds: HC 30 (Deans 7), CC 25 (M. Jones 5). Assists: HC 9 (Barnes 4), CC 6 (Taylor 2). Turnovers: HC 17, CC 20. Total fouls: HC 20, CC 25. Fouled out: Gavranic.

TIGER

Continued from Page 1B

need something to boost us up. And there's going to be a gazillion reporters there, so it will be fun to be around. That place is going to come to life.”

In the eight months that Woods has been gone, Pdraig Harrington won two majors, the Americans won the Ryder Cup and Vijay Singh won the FedEx Cup. But with a mainstream audience, golf loses relevance without Woods.

“We are delighted that Tiger is returning to competition and look forward to watching him compete next week,” commissioner Tim Finchem said in a statement, which read more like an understatement.

Woods has not been seen inside the ropes since June 16, when he rapped

in a short par putt at Torrey Pines to defeat Rocco Mediate in a 19-hole playoff to win the U.S. Open for his 14th major, which Woods called “probably the best ever” given the circumstances.

The U.S. Open was his first tournament since surgery on his left knee to clean out cartilage after the Masters. Preparing for his return, Woods suffered a double stress fracture in his left tibia.

The swelling was so bad at Torrey Pines that he couldn't see his knee cap.

He limped badly over the final few days, at times using his club as a cane.

A week after the U.S. Open, he had surgery to rebuild the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee, ending his season. It was his third surgery in five years on the knee.

What to expect upon his return? “He's human,” swing coach Hank Haney said. “He has played one tour-

namment in 10 months. I would think he would be a little rusty, but I really don't know what to expect.”

Woods began hitting short irons toward the end of December, and friends such as Mark O'Meara and John Cook said he had been playing plenty of golf over the last few weeks at his home course in Florida.

The last big obstacle to his return was the Feb. 8 birth of his son, Charlie Axel.

“Elin and our new son Charlie are doing great,” Woods wrote. “I've enjoyed my time at home with the family and appreciate everyone's support and kind wishes.”

Woods will be under even greater scrutiny when he returns at Match Play, a tournament that is unpredictable even with two good legs. The eight-month break is his longest ever, and there are questions of rust and whether he had to modify his swing after surgery.

Haney said the swing hasn't

changed, but there might be one difference.

“He's working on the same stuff that he's always been working on, but he'll be able to do it with a strong leg now,” Haney said. “It will be a little different in the finish because his knee doesn't give way.”

Woods is a three-time winner of the Accenture Match Play Championship, but no tournament is more fickle. Woods won in 2004 for his only victory of the season. Last year, at the height of his game, he was lucky to escape against J.B. Holmes and Aaron Baddeley.

His return could last only one day. He could also advance to the weekend, where Woods might face as many as 36 holes a day.

“I didn't think he would return at Match Play because the media would be all over him if he lost in the first round,” Appleby said. “But if Tiger lost in the first round, it would mean nothing to him.”

LEACH

Continued from Page 1B

conversation with Leach earlier in the day. “I know he's not leaving.”

Myers said he has always wanted Leach to be Tech's coach.

“I think that got lost with all the rhetoric and speculation,” Myers said. “To put it mildly this has been a tough negotiation, and it's good to get it behind us.”

On Tuesday, the school's Board of Regents scheduled a special meeting hours before a second deadline passed without Leach accepting Tech's “last and final” offer. The board planned to meet Friday but that meeting was canceled once the deal was sealed.

The meeting was to have been in private to discuss Leach's sta-

tus, but the coach requested a public hearing late Wednesday. Under state law, the board had to grant his request. Leach then met with Hance to discuss his contract.

The termination clause that led to the stalemate had been added after Leach flew to Seattle to interview for the Washington job in December. Myers wrote to Leach's agents that he didn't want the coach interviewing elsewhere, then returning to Lubbock without commenting to reporters. He said he didn't want to unreasonably withhold permission for Leach to talk to other schools, just that he wanted to know when Leach was doing it.

In their ninth season under Leach, the Red Raiders reached unprecedented heights in 2008. They went 10-0 for the first time and beat top-ranked Texas to secure the highest ranking in

school history at No. 2. Texas Tech was knocked out of BCS contention with a blowout loss to Oklahoma, then fell to Mississippi in the Cotton Bowl to finish 11-2.

Public opinion seemed to favor Leach as the drama unfolded. A few dozen supporters rallied on his behalf Tuesday, the day before a Texas Tech alumnus and another fan took out a full-page ad in the Lubbock newspaper blasting the Texas Tech administration for its stance.

Leach was never fazed by the hoopla, even when it was suggested that Friday's planned board meeting could lead to his firing.

Architect of the nation's most prolific offense the past decade, Leach is 76-39 and has taken Texas Tech to a bowl game every season. He's six victories shy of Spike Dykes' school record of 82.

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STIMULUS

Continued from Page 1A

enue gap. "All scenarios are possible right now," House Speaker Joe Straus said, when asked if some of the money should be left behind. "Right now, it's coming, so we ought to make the best use of it as possible."

The Legislature must fit each piece of the stimulus into the 2010-2011 budget, which lawmakers are now writing and starts later this year.

Without the economic help, Texas lawmakers would be faced with cutting government services and dipping into the state's so-called Rainy Day Fund.

But meeting federal requirements to receive the money is becoming its own quagmire.

"Most people don't know anything," Dunnam said, urging the panel to read the 1,100-page law and stay in contact with the state's congressional delegation.

Texas is slated to get about \$2.25 billion for highway and bridge construction projects. Of that, \$1.5 billion will be spent on projects selected by the Texas Transportation Commission, which expects to vote on selections Thursday. Officials from the Texas Department of Transportation have been asked to address the committee next week.

"If you want input, you've got six days," Dunnam told lawmakers, questioning the rush to approve transportation projects so soon after the stimulus bill was signed into law.

A spokesman for TxDOT would not release a list of projects to be brought before the commission next week. The department has been working since November to select new projects based on criteria like safety and congestion needs, spokesman Chris Lippincott said.

In addition to the \$16 billion slated to go to the state, Texas stands to gain billions more from the package through grants and tax cuts.

News in Brief

Clinton barnstorms through Asian diplomatic tour at frenetic pace

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Dashing through a kaleidoscopic tour of the far East in her first outing as U.S. Secretary of State, Hillary Rodham Clinton is back in full campaign mode.

But instead of selling herself as presidential candidate, Clinton is pitching the still-emerging foreign policy of her former rival, President Barack Obama.

While cautiously projecting Obama's careful diplomatic stances in her official meetings with diplomats and foreign leaders, Clinton has unleashed the ebullient public persona she showed in the final giddy stages of her unsuccessful 2008 campaign.

Clinton has appeared unabashedly delighted soaking up affectionate, sometimes gushing reactions that she evoked among foreign officials and onlookers.

At the Jakarta airport in Indonesia, she beamed as she was serenaded by rows of singing, swaying schoolchildren. Later, she visited the headquarters of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, waving and smiling broadly when hundreds of employees chanted "Hee-ler-ry," "Hee-ler-ry" as she entered.

Obama tries to reassure Canada that U.S. won't be protectionist on trade

OTTAWA (AP) — On his maiden voyage outside U.S. borders as president, Barack Obama sought to reassure free-trading Canadians that his country is not cultivating a protectionist streak as its economy tanks and hemorrhages jobs.

"I want to grow trade and not contract it," Obama declared Thursday during a quick visit to court warmer relations with America's snowy northern neighbor.

The president stuck to his pledge to eventually seek changes in the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement to increase enforcement of labor and environmental standards. But he said he intends to do so in a way "that is not disruptive to the extraordinarily important trade relationships that exist between the United States and Canada."

Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper said he might be willing to negotiate but not by "opening the whole NAFTA and unraveling a very complex agreement." Canada is the U.S.'s largest trading partner and with \$1.5 billion in trade between the two nations, they have the largest trading relationship in the world.

ART

Continued from Page 1A

his fourth trip to the regional UIL meet and a last chance to qualify his work for the state meet.

"I've never been to state, so this is the year," he said. "This is my last year and I really want to make it to state."

Budke, who will enter a pencil and ebony drawing of a woman enjoying a cup of coffee in this year's contest, sees art as something he will enjoy for the rest of his life.

"For me, it's a great stress reliever," he said. "It's a great outlet, especially this year because

I'm taking some really hard classes. In art, I can just chill and work on my latest project."

While Budke is taking his last swing at a regional medal, Saturday will mark the first time BSHS freshman Tony Stuckert will enter the competition. Unsure of his chances, Stuckert simply says he "hopes to get a medal."

Unlike Budke's black and white entry, Stuckert's work is vibrantly colorful. True to its title, "Tree of Color," the tempera painting features liberal and effective use of colors.

He credits his family with getting him inter-

ested in art.

"Probably what got me started was my grandfather, who taught me how to draw," Stuckert said. "I saw some pictures of his drawings — he drew very realistic drawings of animals — and that got me interested."

Between Stuckert and Budke on the experience spectrum is junior Gracie Enriquez, who will enter two creations in Saturday's contest.

"(Qualifying for the state meet) is really important to me," she said. "I want to go to an art college and that would make my chances much better."

Enriquez plans for a

career in the art field, perhaps as a graphics designer.

Overall, it is a very diverse group of students who will display their work at Saturday's exhibition. That diversity, Tereletsky said, is reflected in the entries.

"I've seen more originality and style in this year's entries. The individuality of the student has really shown through in their work," she said. "When I see the pieces, I see the kids shining through."

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

BOY

Continued from Page 1A

was not asked to explain any motive for the killing, nor have police discussed one. During the hearing where the boy entered the plea, little was said regarding the death of the boy's father, 29-year-old Vincent Romero.

Details in the case were sparse from the beginning as a result of a gag order. Defense attorney Benjamin Brewer said that although the public has a strong appetite for details, it's unlikely that will be satisfied.

"That information is probably never going to come out," he said.

Police said the boy, who was charged with two counts of premeditated murder, used a .22-caliber rifle to shoot the men as they returned home from work. Under the plea agreement, the boy pleaded to a reduced charge in Romans' death, and the charge stemming from his father's death was dropped.

The boy's plea spares the community from what would have been an emotional trial and prevents the boy from serving time in the state juvenile corrections system or being tried as an adult.

Defense attorney Ron Wood said the deal wasn't expected to please everyone.

"I don't know it was the best thing. That remains to be seen," he said. "This resolution of the case causes more potential for working out in (the boy's) favor."

The boy hasn't been sentenced, but Wood said he would fight to keep the boy out of a county juvenile detention facility, although that is an option under the plea deal.

Apache County Attorney Michael Whiting wants the boy to undergo extensive mental evaluations and treatment.

The boy's mother cried throughout Thursday's hearing, and through her lawyer, objected to the plea deal. But Superior Court Judge Michael Roca accepted it.

The boy was 8 when he was accused in the double homicide. Police in St. Johns found Romero and Romans shot to death after the boy ran to a neighbor's house. Authorities didn't initially consider him a suspect, but he was questioned again after Romans' wife raised suspicions about him. In a police interview released by prosecutors, the boy admitted pulling the trigger.

Police reports say the boy told a state Child Protective Services worker that his 1,000th spanking would be his last.

Prosecutors and defense attorneys strug-

gled with what to do with a child who was charged with murder while he was so young. No child 8 years old or younger committed homicide in the United States during 2005-2007, according to FBI statistics.

Whiting said he spoke with the Romero family before giving final approval to the plea deal, and they agreed it was in the child's best interest for him not to be forced to admit to killing his father.

"If the kid is ever going to have a chance at a normal life, how is he going to deal with 'I pleaded guilty to killing my dad,'" Whiting said.

A spokesman for the Romans family, John Andreas, said Romans' wife and two daughters were disappointed with the plea deal and that the case appeared to focus more on the boy than the victims.

"Tim is still dead. The boy took away something that is not replaceable," Andreas said. "There is no satisfaction."

Friends in the close-knit community said Romero, who had full custody of his son, was a caring father who seemed to be doing all

he could to raise a polite and respectful boy.

Authorities said they had no record of any complaints filed about the boy with Arizona Child Protective Services and that the third-grader had no disciplinary record in school in St. Johns.

Talk of a plea deal emerged less than a month after the shootings. Brewer said at the time that he was unsure of his client's ability to understand the proceedings.

In court Thursday, the boy was more talkative and relaxed than in previous hearings, laughing and chatting with his lawyer and mother.

But his demeanor became more serious as the hearing got underway. The judge questioned him for nearly half an hour, about whether he understood his rights, the terms of the plea agreement and the consequences.

The boy answered respectfully and politely, using "yes, sir" or "no, sir" in most cases.

Roca drew laughter from the boy when he told him that once he turns 18, "you don't have to worry about me anymore, and that's a good thing."

allowed to enroll in any public or private school unless evaluations determine that he doesn't pose a threat to himself or anyone else.

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

Bill McClellan
News Editor

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

OUR VIEW

We salute:

Each week, the Herald salutes individuals and groups from our community and area who have been recognized for special achievements or accomplishments.

We recognize these special people for working to help make our region a better place to live, work and play

This week we salute:

- City Councilman Greg Biddison, who announced that he will not be running for re-election, bringing to an end 12 years of service to our community.

- All those who attended Thursday's American Heart Association "Go Red For Women" luncheon, sponsored by Scenic Mountain Medical Center, as well as Drs. Sue Roberts and Cynthia Rutledge, who presented the program.

- Christine Everett, who is coordinating Saturday's "Run for the Fallen" at Comanche Trail Park, which honors former Big Spring resident Sgt. Conrad Alvarez and two other members of the 101st Airborne Division killed in Iraq about a year ago.

- All those involved in the "Rides of Hope" program that transports local cancer patients to the Allison Cancer Center at Midland Memorial Hospital for their treatment.

- Pete Thiry, who guided the Big Spring YMCA for more than a decade, before leaving to take the position as director of the San Angelo YMCA.

Is there an individual or organization in our community that you feel should be saluted? If so, please send us their name and why you think they should be recognized. We must have your name and telephone number and you must provide it in writing.

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
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- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
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LETTER POLICIES

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- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
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- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we put the brakes on and put a halt to earthly problems, Lord, by giving them to You.

Amen

Paradox: A democratic dictatorship

Until Sunday, Latin American dictatorships had been established by force. It usually took a strong-arm president, a coup d'etat or a violent revolution to violate a constitution and subject the people to a regime that deprived them of their civil and human rights.

But now some people are freely choosing to be ruled by a dictator!

In a referendum Sunday, when a majority of Venezuelan voters chose to abolish term limits and allow socialist President Hugo Chavez to continue running for office indefinitely, they created the ultimate paradox: a democratic dictatorship!

I know. It doesn't make sense. How can people vote to deprive themselves of their own freedom? Are they masochists?

With Fidel Castro as his mentor, Chavez never has hidden his intention to build a Venezuela in the image of communist Cuba. But why would more than 6 million Venezuelans vote to turn their country into a Cuban-style failure? What do they see in Cuba that they want to emulate? How can they fall for all that socialist crap about combating social inequality, given that their model country's revolution got rid of the rich and made everyone equally poor?

Obviously, thanks to Chavez's huge propaganda machine, many Venezuelans have a distorted image of the realities of life in Cuba, where repression and misery reign.

Chavez also has uprooted deep-seated anti-American sentiment in Venezuela and throughout Latin America. By spending much of Venezuela's oil wealth on the poor, Chavez has purchased the loyalty of many of his followers, with jobs and welfare benefits. He has created a solid base of supporters, who obviously don't care whether Chavez becomes another Castro.

Before Sunday, Chavez already controlled the Venezuelan

legislature, the courts and even the National Electoral Council. Everyone knew that indefinite re-election was the last piece of the puzzle he needed to crown himself as Venezuela's permanent ruler. On Sunday, by a 54-46 percent margin, Chavez got what he wanted.

It's not a mandate. The referendum results show that Venezuela is deeply polarized between those who adore and those who despise their loudmouthed "presidente." Yet Chavez said he saw Sunday's referendum victory as a clear mandate to transform Venezuela into a socialist country.

"Those who voted 'yes' today voted for socialism, for revolution," a victorious Chavez told his followers from a balcony at the Miraflores presidential palace Sunday night. He has said he plans to rule until at least 2049, when he will be 95 years old. Apparently, he wants to break Fidel Castro's record as Latin America's longest-lasting caudillo.

Like Castro, Chavez is not someone who reaches out to the opposition or who tries to find consensus with his opponents.

With Chavez, you are either with him or against him. And if you are against him, his job is never to negotiate. He aims to crush you.

Some naive observers and many bleeding-heart liberals argue that Chavez still will have to run for re-election in 2012 and that somehow democracy has been enhanced because the people now have the freedom to keep re-electing a popular leader. Perhaps they would be right if they were speaking of a country with much stronger checks and balances, which would prevent the incumbent from manipulating elections.

But in Venezuela, Chavez already has all the power, and he shamelessly uses government resources to promote his personal political agenda. While campaigning to abolish term limits, he already showed how he would be unbeatable in future elections. He required TV stations to air his frequent speeches, pressured some 2 million government employees to promote his agenda, and persecuted his

political opponents. He will do it again in 2012 and for as long as he pleases.

In a country where the economy is almost completely dependent on oil production, the only thing that could stop Chavez is a continued drop in the price of oil. When he no longer can use Venezuela's oil wealth to create welfare programs and make voters indebted to him, perhaps Venezuelans will boot him out.

But in the meantime, the Venezuelan model for building a democratic dictatorship may be emulated by other socialist Latin American leaders who would like nothing more than to stay in power indefinitely and continue building a united front against the United States. Two Chavez disciples, Bolivian President Evo Morales and Ecuadorian President Rafael Correa, already have used referendums and constitutional changes to prolong their stays in power. As things stand now, both Morales and Correa could govern until 2017, and Nicaragua's Sandinista president, Daniel Ortega, is planning an amendment that would allow him to run for office again.

In other words, all of them are planning to outlast President Barack Obama — perhaps as presidents for life. Yet for those naive enough to believe them, including many leftist Americans, these dictators still will call themselves "democratic" leaders if they succeed.

At a time when Latin Americans need to hear that there are better alternatives to Chavez's totalitarian and hatemongering methods and when the new U.S. president has a unique opportunity to promote real democracy in Latin America, unfortunately President Obama seems to be following the Bush administration's playbook on how to squander U.S. relations with our hemispheric neighbors.

While Obama keeps sending special U.S. emissaries to the rest of the world, the United States keeps ignoring the coalition of socialist dictatorships that is lining up against us in our own backyard.

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A community transformed

About 80 percent of the time, it is a community of some 5,000 souls.

However, it becomes a "city" on each month's "First Monday" weekend when as many as 300,000 visitors flock to Canton for its signature event.

(Actually, the "Monday" designation no longer fits. "First Monday" now operates during the last Thursday through Sunday block of each month.)

The unique trade days/swap meet/flea market is billed as the largest such event in the world in continuous operation. It dates back to Confederacy days in the 1850s, when stray horses were auctioned. Later, hunting dogs were added, and for the past half-century or so, thousands of items whet the interest of curious shoppers and bargain hunters.

My wife and I were in Canton recently on a "non-event" weekend.

She insisted that we stop on Main Street to snap a photo—one showing eight empty parking spaces in a row! She wanted photographic proof for her friends who visit the community only for the big event.

She was breathless when she made her first purchase there several years ago.

What a steal, picking up the hatchet that George Washington used to chop down the cherry tree.

The hatchet has required three new heads and four new han-

dles, however.

Another time, she took in all four days. While she was away, I spent all waking hours on housecleaning and fix-up projects. I went well beyond "spring cleaning," expecting her to shower me with compliments upon her return.

She was stone-faced and silent as I took her into every room. She never said a word.

At tour's end, I asked her if there was anything she would like to say. "Yes," she responded, "It's a thankless job, isn't it?"

Every year, several prominent names are "shoo-ins" for Shakespeare's list of "Oh, what fools we mortals be." Add the name of Olympic swimming champion Michael Phelps, whose image now is sullied with his admission of marijuana use.

His endorsement list took a big "hit" when Kellogg's decided not to renew their contract with him when the current agreement ends this month.

I guess they figured "snap, crackle and pop" can stand up well without adding "puff."

Our 28-month-old grandson, Kedren Penney, has started verbalizing sentence fragments, but a half-dozen of them delight his parents and take restaurant personnel aback during food orders.

"No milk/soy/egg for me," he always warns.

Mom and Dad figure it never hurts to reinforce avoidance of foods that could set off serious food allergy repercussions.

Another grandson, 4-year-old Jonah McDaniel, "outran" his dad in a footrace after Sunday school. He bragged that he "gets the trophy."

Ryan, his dad, asked about the

size of the trophy.

"It reaches from God's ceiling down to our floor," Jonah informed.

One of my favorite people is Grant Teaff, another man who keeps close tabs on the goings-on of his grandchildren. A vignette he chuckles about often centers on a "teaching moment" for his daughter, Layne Pittman, whose sons, Jake and Eli, were ages 5 and 3 at the time. Teaff labels Jake as a "lawyer type, very bright, meticulous and assertive." He describes Eli as a "middle linebacker, a tough-and-tumble, aggressive type who asks questions later."

During breakfast preparation, the two youngsters waged a serious argument about who got the first pancake. Layne seized the moment, explaining that the argument was pointless, since each would get a pancake at about the same time. "Besides, you should remember what Jesus would say: 'Let my brother have the first pancake.'"

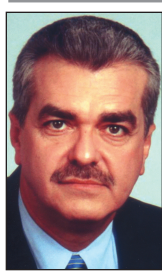
As she served their plates, she heard Jake whisper, "OK, Eli, today you be Jesus."

Finally, in Tyler, there's a clever sign on a re-sale shop that features children's clothing. It's called "Hand-Me-Ups."

Undoubtedly, it is the "up" reference that catches attention.

I was befuddled for a minute or so. Then it dawned on me that the "ups and downs" of the matter depend on the size of the beholder.

Dr. Don Newbury is a speaker and writer living in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. Send inquiries or comments to: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Phone: 817-447-3872. Web site: www.speakerdoc.com.



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have the power to understand, as all God's
people should, how wide, how long, how
high, and how deep his love really is.
Ephesians 3:17-18

He chose us from the beginning,
and all things happen just
as he decided long ago.
Ephesians 1:11

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You might be wonder-filled as the sun explores the first blushes of Pisces. Perhaps you are more aware that everything in life has a feeling and you are better able to read those feelings than you were just a few days ago.

Notice the people and activities that bring you up and figure out how to get more of this kind of buoyancy in your life.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You have attempted to delegate a task over and over. You've tried different people, different instruction styles, different timing — the result is the same: less than satisfactory. The job is still yours to do because you do it the best.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You have your heart set on an exciting future happening. There is nothing tangible that can stand in your way. Beware, however, of the intangible attitudes and thought processes of your team. Bring the positive energy.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). No, you're not dreaming this up —



HOLIDAY MATHIS

When getting caught is a blessing

Dear Margo: OK, so I am in high school, right? Freshman year. I thought my first year was going to be great, and until a month ago it was.

Then my grades started slipping, and eventually I cheated on a quiz to bring my grade up because I was tired of looking like a failure.

Unfortunately, I got caught, and the teacher and counselor called my parents. When I got home, my mom took my phone and read everything on it. Therein lies the problem.

By invading my privacy, she found out I was bisexual, used to cut myself, stopped eating or forced myself to throw up, and thought I was in love with my best friend — who is a girl, I might add.

Now I am stuck in counseling. Also, she discovered similar problems going on with two of my best friends. Now she won't let me see them until they tell their parents what's been going on and see a counselor.

One friend was already in counseling when this happened, but the other refuses to say anything, even if it means we can't see each other anymore.

My problem is that I feel angry and terrible all the time and just want to cry every second because everything is ruined: I can't see the girl I've fallen for, and my parents are trying to convince me that I am not bi, but merely curious.



MARGO HOWARD

someone really is smitten with you. The extra attention is energizing, though you should be a little bit careful not to accidentally give false hope. Keep your interactions strictly friendly.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The familiar rhythm of home life is slightly pushed. It's amazing how adding one more person or activity to the schedule puts the whole day in rush mode. Stay calm, efficient and unapologetic.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll need to be resourceful. From a mishmash of old work supplies to last night's dinner, you have always been able to create from the leftovers. A traditional proverb says, "From a fallen tree, make kindling."

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Finances feel personal, and yet that is not the case. Separate your identity from your money. A dollar amount has nothing to do with who you are. A friend in a different economic circumstance can help you be objective.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Everything seems to hinge on one person saying "yes!" Realistically there are many favorable options you could take, so this single approval, though

you're likely to get it, is not the end-all-be-all. Stay open.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your positive thoughts outweigh the negative ones, though just barely. Force yourself to be upbeat. Tilt the scale in your favor by writing out your wishes. Soon that wishful thinking will move from paper to the real world.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You want to be appreciated, and with some measure of enthusiasm. No amount of praise will make you blush. In fact, you would respond best to thunderous applause. Encourage others to emote on your behalf.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There is an opportunity to trade services. Do the math before you agree. Know what the cash value of your service would be on the open market. Investments of time are the riskiest of all.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your career plan requires attention. Certain projects and relationships are adrift and need to be reigned back in. Review your choices and make sure they are adding up to your desired outcome.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You are so savvy today. You realize that perception is reality and

use this law to create the exact impression you want to make. You also use this law to observe the opportunities in every situation.

WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST: **ARIES:** When you put your mind to it you will dream up the most romantic, interesting date you've ever experienced.

TAURUS: You continue to make the grand gestures and big efforts. You can't help but think a certain someone is lucky to be with you.

GEMINI: What you do on a whim leads you right into the arms of love.

CANCER: To win at love is to succeed in communicating clearly, understanding the other person and making sure you are being understood.

LEO: Strive to sweeten your demeanor. Loved ones appreciate the tenderness you display.

VIRGO: Because you deeply appreciate who a loved one is, you earn respect and admiration.

LIBRA: Insightful compliments will get you everywhere.

SCORPIO: Powerful nonstop confidence is half of your attraction secret — the other half is honest vulnerability.

SAGITTARIUS: You feel like the love in your heart makes you invincible and maybe it

does.

CAPRICORN: A loved one will deliver as promised, though your help may be required.

AQUARIUS: You get where a loved one is coming from and that's why you're able to bring this person around to your point of view.

PISCES: You expect others to bring their best to a relationship and so they do.

COUPLE OF THE WEEKEND: Aquarius and Pisces are more alike than most astrological neighbors.

Side by side on the wheel of the zodiac, intellectual Aquarius is associated with the phrase "I know," and ethereal Pisces takes a leap into the unknown with the phrase "I believe." In their shared adventures these signs challenge each other's perceptions and build each other's faith.

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

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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

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Bidding Quiz

Below are seven common bidding sequences. Where the question mark appears, indicate whether you consider partner's last bid as forcing (compelling you to bid again) or non-forcing (permitting you to pass). If partner's last bid merely invites you to bid again, treat such a bid as non-forcing.

- North 1♠ South 2NT
- North 1♠ South 1♥
- North 1♥ South 1NT
- North 2♣ South 2♦
- North 1♥ South 2NT
- North 1♠ South 1♥
- North 1♠ South 2♦

fore required to bid again, even with a minimum opening.

2. Nonforcing. North may have minimum values for his opening bid, and South also may have minimum values for his response, so South is not compelled to bid again. If North wanted partner to bid again, he would have to jump in a new suit (a jump-shift).

3. Nonforcing. Here South is being strongly invited to go on, but he may pass with only six or seven points instead of the eight to 10 he might have had for the initial notrump response.

4. Nonforcing. Ordinarily, the bid of a new suit by responder is 100 percent forcing, but when a player has passed originally, the change-of-suit principle no longer applies.

5. Nonforcing. South should have 11 or 12 points, making his two-notrump bid merely invitational.

6. Forcing. As in problem 1., a jump bid by the responder is forcing to game unless the partnership agrees otherwise.

7. Forcing. Just as the one-heart response forced North to bid again, so does the mention of still another new suit. North may have minimum values and be tempted to pass, but he is nonetheless required to honor South's forcing bid.

1. Forcing. In Standard bidding, South's two-notrump bid shows 13 to 15 points, balanced distribution and stoppers in the other three suits. Such a hand opposite an opening bid obviously should offer excellent prospects for game. North is there-

Tomorrow: It's just common sense.

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Church News

First Presbyterian, Big Spring

Wednesday activities were Bible study at 5:17 p.m. and choir and youth group at 6 p.m.

Ellen Austin is in charge of "Take Ten" refreshments for Sunday.

Liturgists for February are Mark Morgan and Lloyd Morgan.

Monday, the Session met in the church library.

The 84th Stated Meeting of Tres Rios Presbytery will be held Friday at Grace Presbyterian Church in Midland. Mark Morgan was elected by the Session to be Elder Commissioner for this church at the meeting.

Presbyterian Women will meet Tuesday at 2 p.m. in the church library for their monthly Bible study.

We will have a joint Ash Wednesday service with First Presbyterian Church, Coahoma in our chapel on Feb. 25 at 7 p.m. to begin the church season of Lent. We will join with other churches in our community for a series of Lenten lunches.

We will host the first lunch and devotional March 4 at noon. March 11, the lunch and devotional will be at First United Methodist Church.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church will host the March 18 lunch, communion and devotional; and First Christian Church will be host March 25. These services will begin at noon and end by 1 p.m.

The lectionary for the Transfiguration of our Lord is II Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; II Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9. We will receive our monthly "Noisy Offering," which is dedicated for use by the Service Committee to relieve hunger in our community.

The offerings by the choir will be Brahms' "Our God and Our Father," arranged by Thompson and "Gird on Thy Sword, O Man" by W. Glen Darst. "A Touch of Glory," based on Mark 9:2-3, is Rev. Bronaugh's sermon topic for the day.

First Presbyterian, Coahoma

The friendly folks at First Presbyterian Church, Coahoma invite anyone to come and worship with us. We meet at 11 a.m. Sunday to share the scriptures, sing, pray and worship, ordinarily led by Commissioned Lay Pastor Tom Koger

The 84th Stated Meeting of Tres Rios Presbytery will be Friday at Grace Presbyterian Church in Midland. The Session elected Elmer Lindsey as Elder Commissioner to represent our church.

February 25, we will have a joint worship service with First Presbyterian of Big Spring for Ash Wednesday. The service will take place at the chapel at Big Spring at 7 p.m.

The lectionary for the Transfiguration of our Lord is II Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; II Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9.

First United Methodist

Our mission team is due back from Nicaragua this weekend; please pray for their safe arrival.

Sunday services of worship will be at 8:30 a.m. and 10:50 a.m. Sunday school classes for all ages will meet at 9:45 a.m. Midweek Bible study and lunch is served each Wednesday at noon in Garrett Hall. A special Ash Wednesday service will be included Feb. 25.

United Blood Services will be in the church parlor Sunday from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. with a drive for Amy Williams. Prayerfully consider this important gift of life.

It's Relay For Life time and our

Happiness comes from losing yourself

More than 2,000 years ago, Jesus made a profound statement when He said, "*He that finds His life shall lose it, and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it,*" *Matthew 10:39*. This principle is the key to the world's happiness.

The Bible is the world's greatest psychology book. The No. 1 cause for which you can lose yourself is others, through God. Only when you are not your main focus can you find a life of joy and satisfaction. Then and only then does fulfillment of life become a reality.

A flower seed is neither beautiful nor fragrant, but once it breaks out of itself and grows into a beautiful blossom, the fragrance and bloom attracts our attention. So it is with each of us. Are we demanding the attention of our world, our communities, and our churches with our fragrance? What are we giving to our own families? We will never find real life on planet earth until we can lose ourselves in others. Jesus himself did exactly



JERRIE STOCKS

that. It took him all the way to the cross, but He was so focused on others, He was willing to go.

We often see those who are faithful to their church, their jobs, and their families, but their personal Christian walk with the Lord is lacking. They seem to have no zeal or enthusiasm and their spiritual life is weak. Have they forgotten that Jesus freely and willingly gave his life for their freedom? His death was a supreme price to pay, not some cheap, bargain basement, off-the-beaten-path way of dying. Is it possible that we have become so self-involved that the real things in life have faded and many have forgotten the man who gave his all to them?

While looking through a medical magazine recently, a short article caught my attention. The author noted that many people are sick simply because their main focus is on themselves.

He went on to say that many have become so self-involved that they have even shut themselves off from family and friends. He concluded by saying that they have become prisoners of self within their own bodies and homes.

True joy and happiness are the results of giving out rather than taking in. They are attributes of Christ that our world today is sadly

lacking. Otherwise, we would not see parents murdering their own children, the taking of innocent lives, greed beyond comprehension, and the crime rate at an all-time high. Nor would we see millionaire investors swindling their faithful employees' monies that they have worked so hard for to secure their retirements.

Why are we seeing these things at an unprecedented rate? Because people are focused solely on themselves and no one else matters. It is possible for a person to become so absorbed with money that getting more of it becomes their only thought. The Bible tells the story of a rich man like that in Luke 16:19-31. Understand, wealth does not automatically condemn one, nor does poverty in this life guarantee eternal joy. Our destiny depends upon a solid relationship with God, which is often reflected in our attitude toward material possessions.

If you desire true happiness, you will find it in losing yourself, which often times requires you to move out of your comfort zone. Continually focusing on self never brings happiness in the long run, and certainly never the abundant life Christ so freely gave us.

God bless

church has been involved in this worthy project since its beginning in Big Spring 15 years ago. Cancer dealt us a heavy blow, taking the life of our beloved pastor Shane Brue. And now Amy Williams, wife of our youth director is in the fight of her life. They and many of our members make us realize that cancer affects everyone in some way. Ann and Paul Townsend, Marci Lykken and Debbie van Pelt have agreed to help Brent organize a team and raise funds. If you are contacted, say yes. If you aren't called personally, volunteer.

Our new Web site is almost complete; however until then you can get information on scheduled and special activities by calling our church office at 267-6394. Our church buildings are at Fourth and Scurry. We're First Methodist, where families grow in Christ.

St. Paul Lutheran

St. Paul Lutheran Church invites you to worship with a loving, caring congregation. Services begin at 9 a.m. Sunday with children and adult Sunday school classes following at 10:15 a.m. Our services are led by Pastor Wayne K. Frost.

Keep your calendar open for Sunday, March 8. St. Paul will be hosting Mariachi San Pablo. The band is from El Paso Ysleta Lutheran Mission. Plan to come and listen to the music and song of these very talented musicians. The public is invited.

A mission trip to Mexico is planned March 14-17 by Richard Sanders, who will be visiting and taking supplies to a children's orphanage. For more information concerning the trip, contact him at 816-1631.

Small group Bible study classes are available for anyone wishing to attend. Contact the church office from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday at 267-7163 for places and times.

The Lutheran Hour is broadcast at 7:30 a.m. Sunday on radio station 1070 AM for interested listeners.

February items for Operation Ongoing Support for our troops are Chapstick, Blistex, hand sanitizers

(small) and licorice. You can also donate to the AT&T Phone Card Fund. The items can be dropped off at St. Paul, 810 Scurry.

St. Mary's Episcopal

Everyone is invited to worship services at St. Mary's Sunday. Holy communion will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. Sunday school for all ages begins at 9:30 a.m.

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew will have a meeting and breakfast Saturday at 8 a.m. in the parish hall.

St. Mary's Shrove Tuesday and Mardi Gras Party will be Tuesday at 6 p.m. The meal will include red beans and rice, benets, king cake and chichory coffee. Everyone is invited.

Ash Wednesday services are Feb. 25 at noon and 6 p.m. in the church.

For more information about St. Mary's Episcopal Church, call 267-8201 or visit our Web site at www.stmarysbst.org.

St. Mary's is located at 1001 S. Go-liad.

North Birdwell Lane United Methodist

Sunday morning worship service now begins at 10:30 a.m. with Sunday school for all ages at 9:30 a.m. The evening services remains at 5 p.m. Lay Pastor Jacque Mauch leads both services.

The week's adult Sunday school discussion is on "Isaiah Answers God's Call," taken from Isaiah 6:1-8 and will be led by Ben Boadle.

Bible study is held the first and third Wednesday at 6 p.m. and the United Methodist Women meet each second and fourth Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. All of the Wednesday meetings are at the church.

We are looking forward to the Angel Food delivery day Feb. 28 when volunteers from Westbrook Baptist Church and the Cowboy Church join us. This non-qualifying food ministry is open to anyone wishing to use it. For more information, call Madeline Boadle at 267-2203.

North Birdwell Lane United Methodist Church is a mission-minded church and welcomes all who are interested in doing God's work in our community, as well as surrounding communities.

North Birdwell Lane UMC is located at 2702 N. Birdwell.

Baptist Temple

We will be observing the Lord's Supper Sunday during our morning worship service. The sermon is from 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, titled "All That We Need."

We have Sunday school classes for all ages at 9:45 a.m. We have a new class called Temple 101 which is open to anyone seeking to know about the beliefs and vision of Baptist Temple Church. Our worship services are at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday. We also have activities for all ages at 7 p.m. Wednesday.

Our 12-Step group meets at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday in the fellowship hall and is open to anyone struggling with addictions of any kind. It is free; however donations are accepted to cover the cost of the workbook.

For more information, call us at 267-8287 or check us out on the Web at btcbigspring.org

East Fourth Street Baptist

Thanks to Dr. Darrell Robinson for his training and teachings in the Total Church Life Seminar this past weekend, and for the message he brought to the congregation Sunday morning. If you were unable to attend, you missed a blessing.

"Stop the Masquerade and find your place at His Table of Grace" Seminar is Saturday, March 21. Registrations are to be in by March 14. This ladies seminar will be held in our fellowship hall with guest speaker Sherry Kimbrough.

We at East Fourth want to invite newcomers to Big Spring to visit us during this Sunday's service. Sunday school starts at 9:45 a.m. for all ages; worship service at 11 a.m. in the Family Worship Center; evening service at 6 p.m., also in the Family Worship Center. Wednesdays, we have adult prayer meeting and Bible study in the fellowship hall; Youth Bible study/music in the upstairs youth department and the Back Door Bible study/music in the children's department. A men's Bible study is held Saturday at 7 a.m.. For more information, call the church office at 267-2291. Our church is located at 401 E. Fourth St.

Birdwell Lane Baptist

Sunday worship services are 10:55 a.m. and 5 p.m. Our location is 1512 Birdwell Lane. If you would like a ride, call 264-9924 or 267-7157. Children's Church is during Sunday worship for ages 4-12. We have a very friendly atmosphere, quartet singing and plain Bible preaching. There is Sunday school for all ages at 10 a.m. A nursery is provided. Midweek service is 7 p.m. Wednesday.

The youth will have visitation, a movie and popcorn Saturday from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. For further information, call 267-7157 or 267-8214.

Alive in Christ LCMS

Worship services are at 9 a.m. Sunday with the Rev. Bob Boyce of Abilene as officiant.

Ash Wednesday services are at 7 p.m. with the Rev. Carroll Kohl, retired, as guest pastor. Pastor Kohl is also first vice president of the Texas District of the Missouri Synod. We are most blessed and happy to have him serve us in this capacity. Prior to Lenten worship services Wednesdays at 6 p.m., we will serve soup and sandwiches to all who attend with the services following at 7 p.m. Mrs. Doline Budke, who also takes care of our altar, will be our scripture reader for Lenten services.

Sunday school and adult Bible

See **CHURCH**, Page 7A

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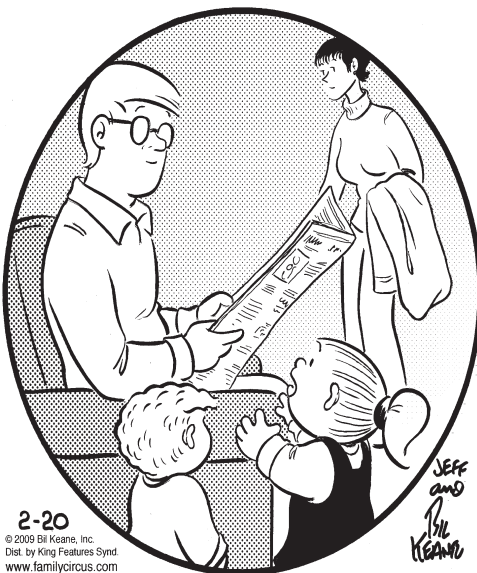
	WFAA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPiKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5 :PM :30	News ABC	News ABC	Locura Noticiero	Lopez Lopez	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News NBC	Raymond Friends	In Touch-Dr	BBC Business	Cash Cab		CSI: NY	Bones	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Montana	Horn	SportsCenter
6 :PM :30	News ABC	Jeopardy!	Tontas Cielo	Two Men	News CBS	12 Corazones	News NBC	Seinfeld	Sprna	News-Lehrer	Cash Cab		CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order		Montana	Interrupt	
7 :PM :30	Entertain	Fortune	Two Men	Sarah Connor	Entertain	Millionaire	Howie Do	Fam. Guy	Hagee	Update	Dirty Jobs	Movie: Apollo 13, Kevin Bacon	CSI: Crime Scn	Movie: The Fifth Element, Ian Holm	Movie: The Salon	Montana	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	NBA
8 :PM :30	Wife Swap	Wife Swap	Cuidado-Angel	Flashpoint	Doña Barbara	Howie Do	Fam. Guy	Update	Wash Wk NOW	Dirty Jobs	Movie: Apollo 13, Kevin Bacon	CSI: Crime Scn	Movie: The Fifth Element, Ian Holm	Movie: The Salon	Montana	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	NBA	
9 :PM :30	Supernanny	Supernanny	Fuego en la Sangre	Flashpoint	Doña Barbara	Howie Do	Fam. Guy	Update	Wash Wk NOW	Dirty Jobs	Movie: Apollo 13, Kevin Bacon	CSI: Crime Scn	Movie: The Fifth Element, Ian Holm	Movie: The Salon	Montana	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	NBA	
10 :PM :30	20/20	20/20	Rosa	TMZ	NUMB3RS	Sin Senos	Dateline NBC	Light of the Southwest	History Detectives	Man vs. Wild		Real Vice	Real Vice	Movie: The Deal	Montana	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	NBA	
11 :PM :30	News ABC	News ABC	Impacto	Raymond	News	Noticias	News	Church	Charlie Rose	Made	AFI's 10 Top 10	Disorderly Con.	Movie: The Deal	Montana	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	NBA		
12 :AM :30	Nightline	Nightline	Noticiero	King-Hill	Late Show	Titulares	Tonight Show	Sex & Cortes	Smiley	Dirty Jobs		MAN	Movie: The Deal	Montana	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	NBA		
1 :AM :30	Insider	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Desmadrugados	Law Order: CI	Late Late Show	Decisiones de Famosos	Late Night	Sex & Cortes	Smiley	Dirty Jobs		MAN	Movie: The Deal	Montana	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	NBA		
	Extra	Extra	RENO 911	Faith	Insider	Programa Pagado	Poker After Dark	Best of Light of the Southwest	Man vs. Wild	Movie: The Usual Suspects		MAN	Movie: The Deal	Montana	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	NBA		

DENNIS THE MENACE



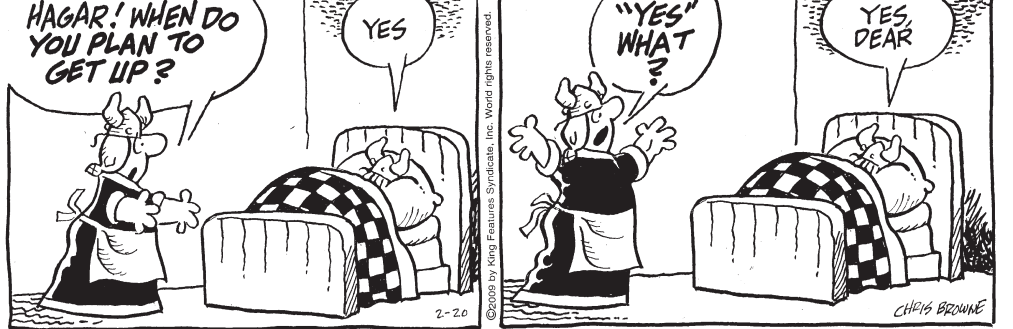
"DON'T WORRY ABOUT WRINKLES, MOM... ALL OLD LADIES HAVE 'EM!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

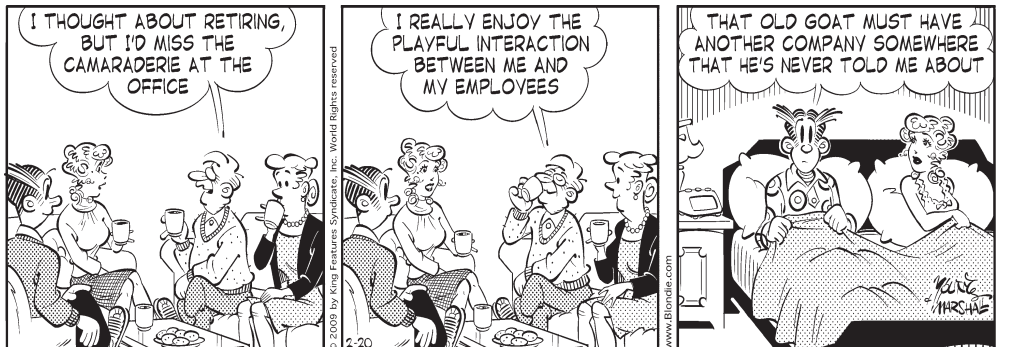


"Well SURE they call a dead person 'the late.' If you're not alive, you can't get anywhere on time."

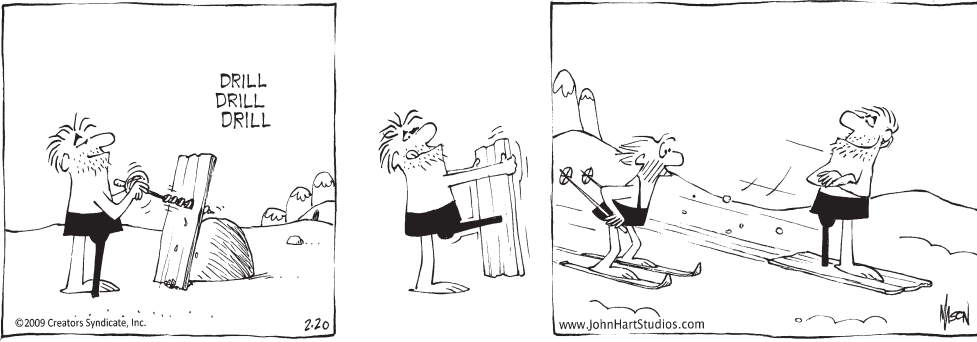
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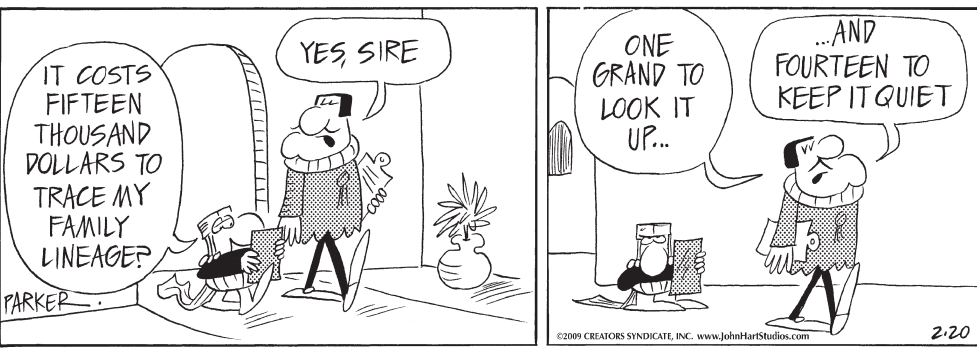
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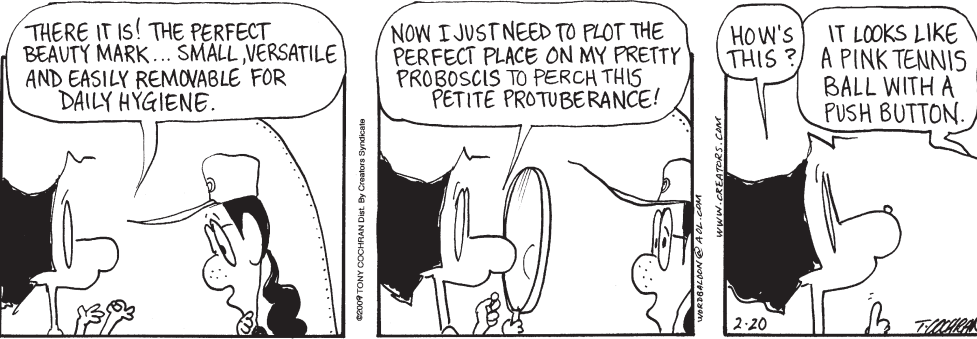
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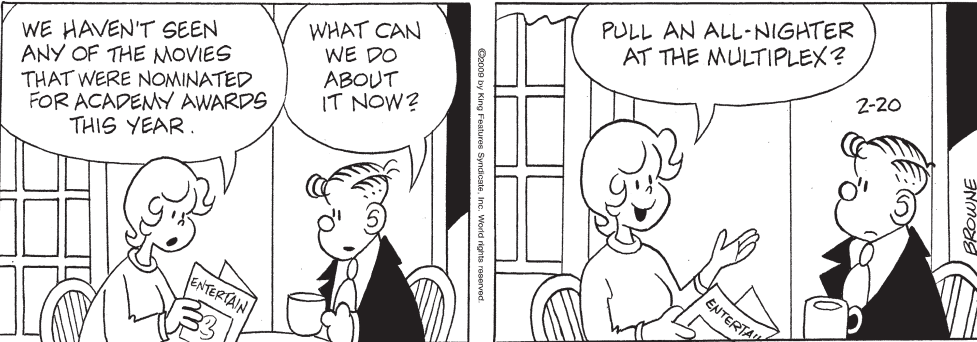
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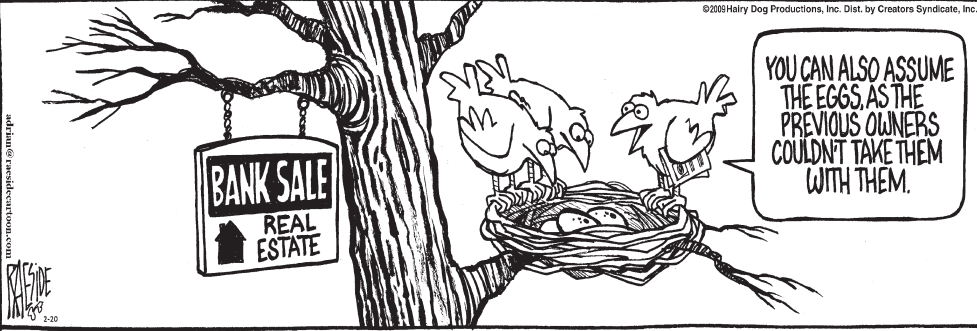
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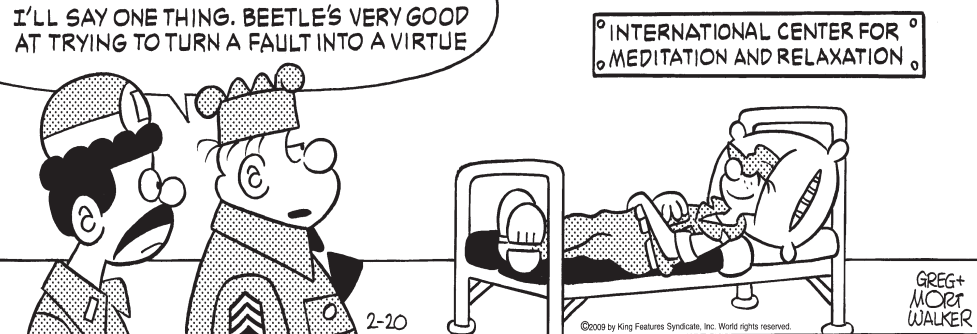
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Friday, Feb. 20, the 51st day of 2009. There are 314 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: Two hundred years ago, on Feb. 20, 1809, the Supreme Court, in United States v. Peters, 9 U.S. 115, ruled that no state legislature could annul the judgments or determine the jurisdictions of federal courts.

On this date: In 1790, Holy Roman Emperor Joseph II died. In 1792, President George Washington signed an act creating the U.S. Post Office. In 1839, Congress prohibited dueling in the District of Columbia. In 1934, a blizzard inundated the northeastern United States. In 1938, Anthony Eden resigned as British foreign secretary following Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's decision to negotiate with Italian dictator Benito Mussolini. In 1944, during World War II, U.S. bombers began raiding

German aircraft manufacturing centers in a series of attacks that became known as "Big Week."

In 1959, the Dow Jones industrial average closed above 600 for the first time, at 602.21. In 1962, astronaut John Glenn became the first American to orbit the Earth as he flew aboard the Mercury spacecraft Friendship 7.

In 1971, the National Emergency Warning Center in Colorado erroneously ordered U.S. radio and TV stations off the air; some stations heeded the alert, which was not lifted for about 40 minutes.

In 2003, a fire broke out during a rock concert at The Station nightclub in West Warwick, R.I., killing 100 people and injuring about 200 others.

Today's Birthdays: Fashion designer Gloria Vanderbilt is 85. Actor Sidney Poitier is 82. Actress Marj Dusay is 73. Jazz-soul singer Nancy Wilson is 72. Singer-songwriter Buffy Sainte-Marie is 68. Hockey Hall-of-Famer Phil Esposito is 67. Movie director Mike Leigh is 66. Actress Brenda Blethyn is 63. Actress Sandy Duncan is 63. Rock musician J. Geils is 63.

Actor Peter Strauss is 62. Rock singer-musician-producer Walter Becker (Steely Dan) is 59. Country singer Kathie Baillie is 58. Newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst is 55. Actor Anthony Stewart Head is 55. Country singer Leland Martin is 52. Actor James Wilby is 51. Rock musician Sebastian Steinberg is 50. Comedian Joel Hodgson is 49. Basketball Hall-of-Famer Charles Barkley is 46. Rock musician Ian Brown (Stone Roses) is 46. Actor French Stewart is 45. Actor Ron Eldard is 44. Model Cindy Crawford is 43. Actor Andrew Shue is 42. Actress Lili Taylor is 42. Singer Brian Littrell is 34. Actress Lauren Ambrose is 31. Actor Jay Hernandez is 31.

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Answer to previous puzzle

D	I	V	A	S	R	A	F	T	T	U	G	S
I	R	I	S	H	A	E	A	R	I	A		
C	A	S	H	I	S	K	I	N	G		L	A
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A	L	L			S	S	T	S		E	R	A

Newsday Crossword

TO BE AND TO BE by Richard Silvestri
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS
- 1 Dutch city
- 5 Computer key
- 9 Stallone role
- 14 "Cheerio!"
- 15 Lima's home
- 16 Wee hour
- 17 Encyclopedic range
- 18 Trattoria choice
- 19 Breed of cattle
- 20 US social ideal
- 23 Sort
- 24 Mardi Gras king
- 25 Undistinguished one
- 29 Herring kin
- 31 Motor-oil additive
- 34 As a companion
- 35 Textile machine
- 36 Big brass
- 37 Evaluation by the Knesset
- 40 Vascular channel
- 41 Part of some scores
- 42 Into pieces
- 43 SASE, e.g.
- 44 Curse
- 45 Fair lass
- 46 The Office receptionist
- 47 Sound from the flock
- 48 Stadium fixtures
- 55 Hard cover
- 56 Graded fare
- 57 Programming language
- 59 Join
- 60 Menlo Park name
- 61 State
- 62 Patron
- 63 Drudge
- 64 Get a flat
- DOWN
- 1 Sched. number
- 2 Things to crunch
- 3 Big-bang material
- 4 Minotaur's place
- 5 In a snug way
- 6 Chummy
- 7 Poet Dove
- 8 Cut of meat
- 9 Laughed heartily
- 10 Appropriate, in a way
- 11 Prefix for bucks
- 12 Oz creator
- 13 Mantric sounds
- 21 Wale
- 22 Stage offering
- 25 Credulous
- 26 Superman Returns role
- 27 Antiseptic acid
- 28 impulse
- 29 Veronese wine
- 30 Use a strop
- 31 Maine senator
- 32 'Vette rival
- 33 Fake jewelry
- 35 Friend of Androcles
- 36 Editor's annoyance
- 38 Wool source
- 39 Jimmy Smits series
- 44 Raillery
- 45 Villain
- 46 Marinara
- 47 Encouraging word
- 48 Florence's river
- 49 Bankrupt
- 50 Jalopy
- 51 Bar on a car
- 52 Not locked
- 53 Speak irrationally
- 54 Flush
- 55 Jersey chew
- 58 Diplomacy, e.g.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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62						63				64		

► Club News

Howard County Master Gardeners

January 20, the Howard County Master Gardeners met at their first monthly meeting for 2009. The new officers for 2009 were installed. They included President Shelly Borgstedte, Vice President Perry Hall, Secretary Vickie Cheyne and Treasurer Pat Porter.

Members present discussed the various projects the club will continue to sponsor. Keep an eye on the developments with new plantings at the Highway 80 entrance to Big Spring on the west side of town and the Heart of the City Park.

The annual plant sale will be held April 25. It will be held in the Coronado Plaza — same location as last year's sale. Be sure to mark the date on your calendar.

The February meeting was held on the 17th in the basement of the courthouse.

The HCMG purchased several lots on Fourth Street last year for a greenhouse. The committee is developing plans to have a greenhouse ready

for use by October. Members plan to plant seeds and propagate cuttings for plants to be available for the 2010 plant sale.

A landscape book will be printed in the next few months for distribution to county residents. The book will contain information and photos of many of the members' favorite landscaping plants that thrive in Howard County.

Members will participate in re-certification classes during the year and will have multiple opportunities to acquire volunteer hours at project workdays.

HCMG members were encouraged to recruit new members and bring them to the next monthly meeting. Anyone in the county interested in the club may call the county agent's office at 264-2236.

TOPS

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) began Monday evening at 5:30 p.m. with leader Laura Sickles calling for the TOPS cheer. Linda Stapel then led TOPS in their pledge, after which

Ethel Cassady led the KOPS pledge. All members sang the welcome song.

Two visitors, Mary and Raymond Sayers, were introduced. Some of the TOPS members explained to the visitors how TOPS Club meetings and fellowships help members set goals, worth faithfully on eating habits and successfully lose extra weight.

Minutes of previous meetings were read and approved. Roll call was read by weight recorder Hughetta Roberts. The final answer to roll call told members the club had a loss of 9.5 pounds with Olnee Menges being the best weekly loser with a 6.25-pound loss. There were nine TOPS present and two KOPS (Keep Off Pounds Sensibly).

In the business portion, it was learned that registration for the State Recognition Days rally April 17-18 in Wichita Falls has been extended until Feb. 23.

Correspondence was then read from area coordinator Cindi Moore, urging members to continue their good works in losing weight. The record shows members of TOPS TX No. 21

lost a total of 81 pounds in 2008.

New business was a discussion on a club project of a garage sale May 22, to raise funds for the members travel expenses to area fun days. It will be held at the home of Linda and Dennis Stapel.

A program was presented about a key to weight loss success. "Happiness" is a major factor and we always need to be aware of ways to help ourselves be happy people to be successful in losing weight.

For more information about TOPS Club and how it helps people to lose excess weight, call Frank Sickles at (432) 213-1342 or Olnee Menges at 263-6819. All visitors are welcome. We meet each Monday at First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad. Weigh-in is at 5 p.m. Come and see us.

E-mail your Church and Club News to newsdesk@bigspringherald.com or life@bigspringherald.com

Do it with enthusiasm: It's the process that counts

It was just another e-mail forward from one of those friends who has a quota of e-mail to send out every day. I was about to delete the message without opening the attachment



BONNIE WHEAT

when I noticed the subject line — "Out of the Mouths of Babes."

Knowing that I was too busy to laugh that day, I opened the e-mail anyway. Even though I had to read hurriedly, I chuckled at the unvarnished blurbs of wisdom that came from the mouths of small children.

Most of the bragging grandparent stories were worth a grin.

I even laughed out loud a

couple of times.

However, one of the quips had some philosophical truth worth remembering. It seems that a little girl was pounding out a story on her grandfather's word processor.

When the grandfather asked her what the story was about, the tyke replied, "I don't know; I can't read."

Those of us who write for the satisfaction of stringing words together can identify

with this preschooler. We pound out our stories for the challenge of fitting words together like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle and building images with stacks of letters.

Although we hope to produce a readable document, it's the creative activity that keeps our thoughts flowing and our fingers moving.

It's the process that counts.

The Scripture reminds us that whatever we do should be done enthusiastically:

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men" (Colossians 3:23 NIV).

Whether the work God has called us to do is pounding out words that hopefully can be read or something a whole lot more important, we should do it whole heartedly.

God is more concerned with how we work than what kind of work we do.

It's the process that counts.

CHURCH

Continued from Page 1A

classes will be at 10:15 a.m. Sundays. Confirmation classes will be moved to 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays prior to soup and sandwiches and Lenten services.

February 26, the Board of Elders meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Their meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

March 10, the Board of Education will meet. Their meetings are scheduled for the second Tuesday of each month.

The Lutheran Youth Fellowship will be leaving from the church about 12:15 p.m. Sunday to meet with the youth from Holy Cross Lutheran Church at the Odessa Mall to eat lunch and ice skate. Contact Dana Byrd or Bev Von-Hassell to let them know how many vehicles will be needed for this trip. The next LYF meeting is March 8. Contact the leaders if you would like to host this meeting.

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League met last Thursday and drew names for next year's Prayer Pals. A notebook has been prepared by Jannette Bentley with information about your prayer pal's likes and dislikes. This notebook will be placed in the back of the parish hall by the kitchen door.

In order to stay current with Lutheran Church Missouri Synod news please click on LCMS e-News and

choose YOUR news. This should be fun and educational for all!

Mark your calendars for May 7-8 for the area youth retreat in Midland. Churches from Midland, Odessa, Lamesa, Big Spring and Sweetwater will be sending their youth for this fun and exciting retreat.

First Church of the Nazarene

First Church of the Nazarene welcomes everyone to our exciting and spirit-filled services.

Sunday, we have a meet-and-greet time with coffee and donuts in the commons at 9:30 a.m. Worship service begins at 10 a.m. with a mixture of contemporary and traditional music to uplift your soul. This is followed by a scripture-based message from Calvary Callender, our new pastor.

Wednesday, all adults are invited to join us at 6:30 p.m. for your choice of one of two Bible studies in the sanctuary building. Bob Heneghan is leading a class through the Book of John and Leonard Hadley's class meets in the commons with various scripture studies. The youth are invited to attend class in the gym upstairs in the "Salt Shaker."

Children also meet for Caravan which is our midweek scouting ministry that teaches lessons that begin building towers of truth in our children's lives.

Prime Timers Group for those 55 years and older meets the first Sunday of each month at 6 p.m. Burl and

Barbara Cooley are leading this reorganized ministry.

First Church of the Nazarene's ministry to Hispanics is led by the Rev. Felix and Marta Torres and meet for

worship and Bible Study at 5:30 p.m. each Sunday in the fellowship hall. You are invited to this service that is in Spanish.



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Are you ready for a challenge?

NEW!



2009 Best Loser Fat to Fitness Spring Challenge!

We are seeking teams (of 4 people any age) ready to take part and lose weight in March, April and May competing to claim

“The Best Loser” Spring Title and A Grand Prize Worth \$500 - \$1,000*!

If you are ready to start losing weight, sign up for **The Best Loser Spring Challenge!**

We are seeking teams (of 4 people any age) ready to take part in this fitness/lifestyle change, and compete for a Grand Prize Package! Team fee: \$40 (Only \$10 per person any age). Individuals or corporate sponsor

- Three official weigh-ins with the professional at YMCA where your progress will be monitored and recorded. Weight-In Dates: First March 9-13, Second, April 6-10 Third, May 11-15
- Team photos and updates will be published. Here you'll be able to follow along with the progress of each team, and see how your team measures up.
- We will only provide your team's **total percentage** of weight loss not individuals.
- At the end of the 3-month program, the winning team will be determined by the highest percentage of weight lost, and receive the "Grand Prize."
- Contest prizes determined on number of teams.
- To join the Best Loser Spring Challenge, fill out the form below and return to us with a check or money order for \$40 no later than March 6, 2009.



Questions? Call 432-263-7331. Ask for Rick.

Team Photos must be taken at The Big Spring Herald Prior to March 9th
FINAL PHOTO MUST BE TAKEN BY MAY 15TH
(TEAM PHOTOS MUST BE TAKEN TO QUALIFY FOR PRIZES)

Mail form or drop off along with \$40 team fee to:
The Best Loser
C/O Big Spring Herald
P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721



Sign us up for the Best Loser Challenge!

Team Name (Be Creative) _____

Team Captain 1: _____ **phone:** _____

Team Member 2: _____ **phone:** _____

Team Member 3: _____ **phone:** _____

Team Member 4: _____ **phone:** _____

Corporate Challenge

Business Name: _____

Sponsored by

BIG SPRING HERALD AND  **Of Big Spring**

*Grand Prize Predicated on number of teams