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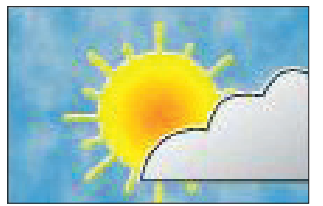


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# H BIG SPRING HERALD

**WEDNESDAY**

**MARCH 11, 2009**



VOLUME 104, NUMBER 84

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**HAWKS ARE REGION CHAMPS!**  
SEE PAGE 1B

## Robbery suspect jailed

*Montez may be charged in second incident as well*

By **STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

A Big Spring man is in custody after being charged in the robbery of a convenience store Monday. David Hernandez Montez, 40, was charged with aggravated robbery in connection with a holdup at Star Stop No. 14, 4806 W. Highway 80, according to information released by Sgt. Tony Everett, Big Spring Police Department public information officer. In addition, Montez is a suspect in



Montez

another armed robbery that occurred Monday at the 7-Eleven convenience store at FM 700 and Birdwell Lane. Officers responded to the 7-Eleven shortly after 5 a.m. Monday in reference to a robbery call.

Reports state that a Hispanic male subject had fled the scene after demanding money and knocking the clerk to the ground. The clerk was not seriously in-

jured and the subject fled the store empty handed, Everett noted.

Shortly before 6 a.m. that morning, officers were dispatched to the Star Stop convenience store in reference to an armed robbery.

There, they learned that a Hispanic male had entered the store, went behind the counter and into the office. There, he produced a handgun and demanded money from the clerk.

The suspect then took an undis-

See **ROBBERY**, Page 3A

## Obama to sign bill, push for new rules

By **PHILIP ELLIOTT**  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Acknowledging it's an "imperfect" bill, President Barack Obama said he will accept a \$410 billion spending package but insisted it must signal an "end to the old way of doing business."

The massive measure funding federal agencies through the fall contains nearly 8,000 pet projects, known as "earmarks" and denounced by critics as pork.

Obama defended earmarks when they're "done right," allowing lawmakers to direct money to worthy projects in their districts — but added they've been abused, and he'll work with Congress to curb them.

"I am signing an imperfect omnibus bill because it's necessary for the ongoing functions of government," Obama declared. "But I also view this as a departure point for more far-reaching change."

In a sign of his discomfort with the bill, Obama did not sign it in public. And he declined to answer a shouted reporters' question about why.

Running for president, Obama denounced the pet projects as wasteful and open to abuse — and vowed to rein them in.

See **SPENDING**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

**A 13-month, \$6 million renovation of several downtown streets began Tuesday as work crews began removing the old road surface on First Street between Gregg and Runnels. Residents are asked to avoid the work zones if possible.**

## Getting to work

*Road reconstruction rumbles through downtown*

By **STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

Big Spring's unofficial motto during the next few months might very well be, "Road Work Ahead."

Work crews began a \$6 million renovation of city streets Tuesday, a project that is expected to last about 13 months.

The street renovation, which was approved by city voters in 2007, will affect Main, Scurry and Lancaster streets, as well as much of the downtown area, city officials said.

The first work began Tuesday as crews began tearing up First Street

*"We know there's going to be inconvenience — there's really nothing we can do to prevent it. But about all we can do is get our work crews in there, get the work done as fast as we can, then get them out."*

Terry Wofford,  
large project coordinator for the city of Big Spring

between Gregg and Runnels. Over the next several months, work crews will be hop-scotching over the area, said Terry Wofford, large project coordinator for the city of Big Spring.

"They are tearing out the old surface, then they'll go down 14 inches

and begin resurfacing the streets," Wofford said. "Typically, they will do half of the street at a time, then switch off and resurface the other half."

The major work will be per-

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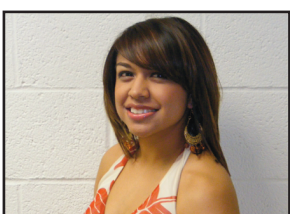
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# Time to start believing



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Members of the Howard College women's basketball team celebrate following their 78-53 victory over Odessa College in the Region V Tournament championship game Tuesday at Lubbock Christian University's Rip Griffin Center. The Hawks move on to the NJCAA National Tournament in Salina, Kan., which begins Tuesday. Pictured above are Chassidy Cole (far left), Tynisha McDowell (1), Patricia Malouff (12), Miesha Blackshear (3), Rachael Dryver (21), DeAndra Thomas (44) and NaTalia Smith (right).

## Hawks soar

*HC women blast OC, 78-53, qualify for national tourney*

By JONATHAN HULL

Sports Editor  
LUBBOCK — From worst to first.

It took four years, but the Howard College women's basketball team climbed the ladder out of the cellar and have finally reached the top of its region.

The Hawks defeated Odessa College's Lady Wranglers Tuesday, 78-53, claiming the Region V championship and advancing to the NJCAA National Tournament in Salina, Kan.

"It's really inspirational," said Howard Head Coach Earl Diddle. "These girls have a lot of emotion. They're always hopping around. They're great. They deserve this. I thought we were always a pretty good team. We went through a part of the season where we were sick and injured, but they real-

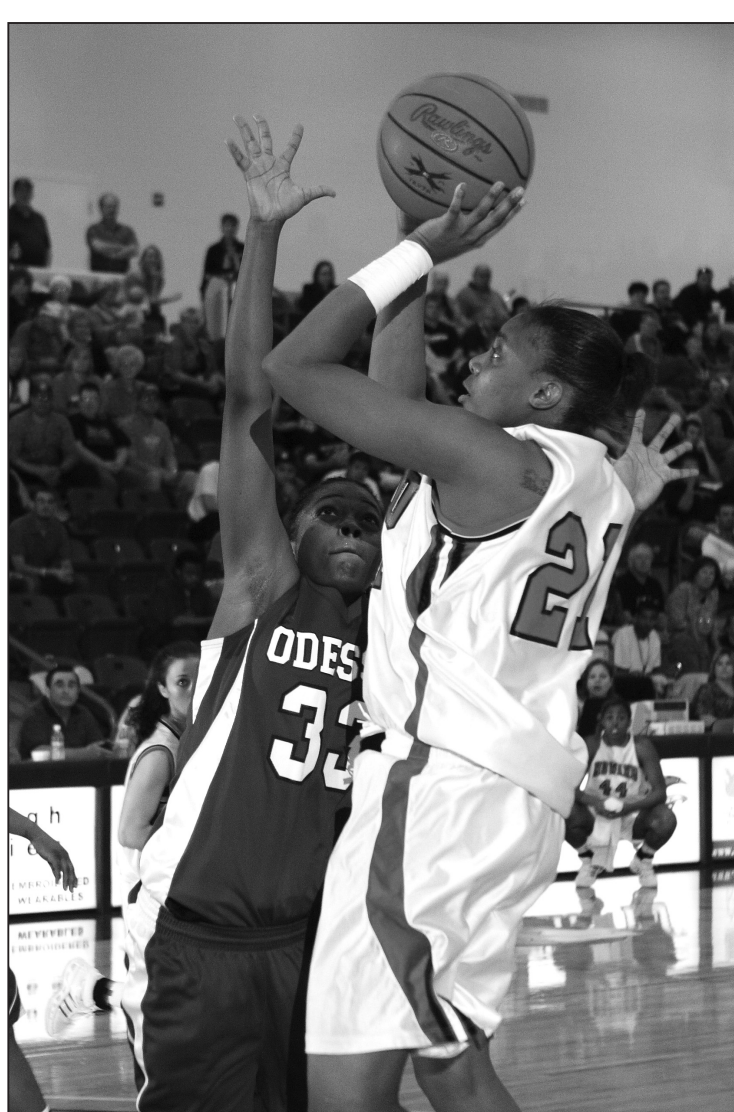
ly came back. They played with no fear today. They believed they could win this. I'm very proud for this school. I'm very proud of our kids."

It was a back-and-forth battle in the first half with Odessa taking a 25-24 advantage into the break, courtesy of two Diandra Marquez free throws with no time left on the clock.

Howard finally started to separate with 14:58 left to play in the game. DeAndra Thomas hit back-to-back buckets, drawing a foul on the second one and converting the 3-point play. Thomas' five consecutive points gave the Hawks a 36-32 advantage.

Patricia Malouff followed with a 3-pointer, forcing Odessa to take a time out down 39-32 with 13:23 on the clock.

See **HAWKS**, Page 6B



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Howard College forward Rachael Dryver (21) shoots over Odessa College's Tammie Thornton in the Hawks' 78-53 win Tuesday in the Region V Tournament finals at Lubbock Christian University's Rip Griffin Center.

## Bufs edge Ira, 4-3, in district opener

Herald Staff Report

FORSAN — Forsan's Buffaloes opened district play for baseball Tuesday with a complete roster.

Key members, including Evan Burton and Ryan Flores, of the team played in their first game this season after being involved in a prolonged basketball season that saw the Buffs advance to their first regional tournament in more than

See **BUFFS**, Page 6B

## Bulldogettes shut out Midland Christian

Herald Staff Report

MIDLAND — Coahoma's Bulldogettes won their ninth softball game in a row Tuesday, shutting out Midland Christian, 2-0.

Katie Dunn picked up the win, pitching six innings. Heather Newton came in to pitch the seventh and earn the save.

Newton scored both of Coahoma's runs — one in the third and one in the fifth. Joanna Gonzales had both RBI.

Coahoma is off for the rest of spring break and picks back up play Tuesday at Abilene Wylie. Coahoma beat Wylie earlier this season with Newton registering 14 strikeouts.

## Sports in brief

### BSGSA registration continues Saturday

The Big Spring Girls Softball Association is holding sign-ups for the 2009 season continues at 10 a.m. Saturday at the Big Spring Mall.

Subsequent sign up date is the following Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Girls ages 4-14 are eligible to play with a registration fee of \$65.

The fee covers full uniform.

Late registration after Saturday will include a \$10 extra charge.

For more information, contact Lucy Ramirez at 466-3670.

### Lady Steers boosters meeting Monday at ATC

The Big Spring Lady Steers Booster Club is meeting at 5:45 p.m. Monday in the Athletic Training Center.

All parents of Lady Steers athletes in junior high or high school are encouraged to attend.

### Moss Creek hosting ATV and side-by-side races

The Texas Crossroads Racing Circuit is having an event hosted by Moss Creek Lake March 22.

Events feature a variety of ATV and side-by-side vehicles. Registration starts at 7 a.m. with the first races

taking place at 8 a.m. A required \$15 for TCRC membership will be charged along with entrance fees for each individual race.

For more information or directions to to event, visit [www.texasrcr.net](http://www.texasrcr.net).

### BSCC hosting 3-person scramble April 4-5

The Big Spring Country Club is hosting a 3-person scramble tournament April 4-5 with a 1 p.m. shotgun start both days.

Entry fee is \$60 per player plus golf cart. Private carts are welcome.

Entry includes barbecue on the course April 4 and practice rounds the day before.

## Obituaries

### Sandra Jean Way



Sandra Jean "Jaure" Way, 64, of Big Spring, died Sunday, March 8, 2009, in a local hospital. Funeral services will be held at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, March 12, 2009, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Ulis Johnson officiating.

She was born Nov. 19, 1944, in Jacksonville, Fla.

Sandra lived in Big Spring from 1954 to 1957 when she moved to Albuquerque, N.M. She returned to Big Spring in 1970 and worked at the Big Spring State Hospital until retiring in 1998. She worked in administration for Comanche Flats from 1998 to 2003 and had been a nurse consultant for them from 1992 until January 2008.

Sandra was a devoted mother, grandmother and Nana. She loved music and collected a lot of music over the years. She was a loving Christian who loved her Lord and lived to honor Him.

Survivors include one daughter, Debra Smith of Junction City, Kan.; two sons, Arthur Baty of Junction City, Kan., and Jose "Joe" Jaure Jr. of Lancaster; 13 sisters, Barbara Davis and Sharon Williams, both of Big Spring, Jacqueline Flint of Abilene, Hope, Jennifer and Mary, all of Florida, Cecilia Ryan of Tuscaloosa, Ala., Cynethia Hunter of Irving, Marsha Way of Albuquerque, N.M., Danis Humphrey of Lancaster, Deborah Ealy of Redlands, Calif., Delores Porter of San Bernadino, Calif., and Faith Kinsey of Colorado; four brothers, Earlis Way Jr. of Waco, Michael Way and Morris Way, both of Albuquerque, N.M., and Allen Way of Washington; four grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and one son, Genio Baty.

The family suggests memorials to a favorite charity.

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

*Paid obituary*

## Take Note

- Michael Quinn Sullivan will be the guest speaker at a meeting of the West Texas Pachyderms, set for 7 p.m. March 18 in Howard College's Hall Auditorium. For more information, call 267-7387.

- Howard County A&M Club is accepting applications from high school students who are graduating in May and have been accepted at Texas A&M for fall 2009. Students must be Howard County residents who plan to enroll for at least 12 hours. Deadline for applications is April 1. More information and the application may be found on the club Web site at <http://bondwebs.com>.

- The Family History Center (genealogy library) of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints will be open from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesdays. For more information, contact R.A. McKay at (432) 553-8127.

- Big Spring resident Velma Campbell was on vacation in Arizona when she had a massive stroke. She has since been transported to a hospital in Lubbock. She has many friends and is an avid bowler. If anyone would like to help, a savings account has been set up at Wells Fargo. The savings account number is 9662778118.

- Coahoma alumni will hold an all school, all classes reunion Saturday, Aug. 1 at the Coahoma school building. The Coahoma Alumni Association is trying to update its e-mail and mailing address lists and asks that you contact Patti Meets at [pmeeks@basin-net.net](mailto:pmeeks@basin-net.net) or (432) 267-6688 with updates. More information will be shared as the reunion planning progresses.

## Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- DANIEL PARKER WHITE, 28, 811 W. 16<sup>th</sup>, was arrested on charges of failure to appear, no seat belt, driving while intoxicated and possession of a controlled substance.
- LIONOSO LEE JIMENEZ III, 30, 1504 Sycamore, was arrested on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia and a parole violation warrant.
- AGGRAVATED ROBBERY was reported in the 1400 block of Stadium.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 600 block of Eighth.
- ASSAULT CAUSING BODILY INJURY was reported in the 2900 block of Highway 80.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 500 block of 13<sup>th</sup>.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 1100 block of 15<sup>th</sup>.
- THEFT was reported in the 300 block of Owens, the 400 block of Fourth and the 1800 block of Gregg.

## Sheriff

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity (Note: there were 51 prisoners reported in the county jail):

- CHRISTOPHER ORNELAS, 31, was arrested on a motion to revoke probation.
- DONALD RAY ALSBAUGH, 48, was arrested on a charge of theft.
- DAVID MONTEZ, 40, was transferred after being arrested on a charge of aggravated robbery.
- WILLIAM JAY MCNEW, 50, was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated, third or more offense.
- MICHAEL MCNEW, 18, was arrested on three bondsman off bond warrants and a charge of possession of marijuana.
- BRANDON SHANE ANDERSON, 26, was arrested on a bench warrant for unauthorized use of a vehicle.

## Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service reported the following activity:

- TRAUMA was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1000 block of N. Main. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 2900 block of Highway 80. Service was refused.
- DUMPSTER FIRE was reported in the 1300 block of Runnels.
- TRASH FIRE was reported in the 1400 block of Runnels.

## Support Groups

### THURSDAY

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

### FRIDAY

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

### SATURDAY

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

## Your Local Weather

Thu 3/12	Fri 3/13	Sat 3/14
<b>43/33</b> Cloudy with occasional showers. Cold. High 43F. Winds NE at 15 to 25 mph.	<b>40/33</b> Showers possible. Highs in the low 40s and lows in the low 30s.	<b>54/35</b> Few showers. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the mid 30s.

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## Bulletin Board

### TODAY

- Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.

### THURSDAY

- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Friends of the Library meets at noon in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.
- Big Spring Main Street meets at noon in the Railroad Museum located at Second and Main streets.
- League of United Latin American Citizens LU-LAC Chapter 4791 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. The public is invited.
- American Legion Auxiliary meets at 6 p.m. at 3203 W. Highway 80.
- The Prospector's Club meets at 7:30 p.m. at 606 E. Third St. The public is invited to these meetings. For more information contact Lola Lamb at 263-3340.
- Neighbors and Newcomers Club meets. New members are welcome. Call 263-2005 for more information.

### FRIDAY

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

### MONDAY

- The Big Spring-Howard County Retired Teacher's Association meets in the Cactus Room at Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad for weigh-in.

## Lottery

There has been a rollover in the jackpot for the multistate Mega Millions lottery — to \$26 million.

The rollover occurred because no player matched all the winning numbers from Tuesday night's \$16 million drawing.

The winning numbers from Tuesday night's drawing were: two, 27, 31, 39 and 40. The Mega Ball number was 23.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 1-3-6-10-17.  
Number matching five of five: 0.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order:

0-6-7-2. Sum It Up: 15

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order:

3-9-0. Sum It Up: 12

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**News in Brief**

**Lawyer: Madoff will plead guilty to all charges without deal, faces up to 150 years in prison**

NEW YORK (AP) — Bernard Madoff could be facing his final hours of freedom after acknowledging that he will plead guilty to charges that he engineered one of the largest investment scams in U.S. history and was ready to face a prison sentence of up to 150 years.

The revelation came Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Manhattan, where Madoff waited for more than three hours in a conference room to avoid a clash with angry investors before appearing in court for the first time in nearly two months for what was to be a routine hearing.

An attorney for the 70-year-old former Nasdaq chairman told the judge Madoff intends to plead guilty this week to all 11 felony counts, including securities fraud and perjury.

The judge will decide Thursday whether to accept the plea and, if so, whether Madoff should remain free pending sentencing in several months.

Madoff, who was wearing a bulletproof vest, is accused of running a gigantic Ponzi scheme, defrauding billions of dollars from retirees, charities, school trusts and even Holocaust survivors.

**Investigators find federal agency misses, minimizes health hazards**

(AP) — The federal agency charged with protecting the public near toxic pollution sites often obscures

or overlooks potential health hazards, uses inadequate analysis and fails to zero in on toxic culprits, congressional investigators and scientists say.

A House investigative report says officials from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry “deny, delay, minimize, trivialize or ignore legitimate health concerns.”

Local communities have voiced frustration and confusion at findings by the agency that are challenged by outside scientists or are ambiguous about whether people living near industrial pollution or toxic dumps or breathe foul-smelling air have reason to worry.

“Time and time again ATSDR appears to avoid clearly and directly confronting the most obvious toxic culprits that harm the health of local communities throughout the nation,” said the report from the House Science and Technology investigations and oversight subcommittee.

**NKorea accuses Obama’s government of meddling**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea accused President Barack Obama’s government of meddling in its internal affairs Wednesday and vowed to take “every necessary measure” to defend itself against what it calls U.S. threats.

The statement by North Korea’s Foreign Ministry, however, was far less harsh than rhetoric issued by the country’s military during the run-up to joint U.S.-South Korean war games that started across the South on Monday. The North’s military has threatened South Korean passenger planes and

put its troops on standby.

Still, the Foreign Ministry’s statement was significant in that it was the agency’s first on the U.S. since Obama’s inauguration, an analyst said.

“The Foreign Ministry is Washington’s direct negotiating partner and has not engaged in criticizing the U.S. so far,” said Kim Yong-hyun, a professor at Seoul’s Dongguk University. “This means they have started expressing pent-up complaints.”

However, the ministry’s less strident tone than other agencies reflects Pyongyang’s willingness for negotiation, Kim said.

**Fresh off Obama meeting, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon heads to Capitol Hill**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Buoyed by President Barack Obama’s pledge to work on bringing peace to Darfur, the U.N. chief is making the rounds of Capitol Hill to strengthen cooperation on climate change and other pressing global crises.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon was to meet with Rep. Howard Berman, D-Calif., the House Foreign Relations chairman, Wednesday morning and with Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, in the afternoon.

Climate change was expected to dominate Ban’s meetings. There also has been interest on the Hill about Sudan and the way the United Nations conducts its investigation into Israel’s bombing of a U.N. compound in Gaza City.

**ROBBERY**

Continued from Page 1A

closed amount of cash and fled the scene.

Using descriptions provided by both

clerks, police were able to locate the suspect’s unoccupied vehicle at the 800 block of Willia. After a short wait, police spotted Montez entering the vehicle. He was immediately detained, Everett said.

Montez was subsequently identified

by the Star Stop clerk as the person who had robbed the establishment and was charged with aggravated robbery, a first-degree felony.

Further charges in connection with the 7-Eleven robbery will possibly follow, pending witness statements, Ev-

erett said. Montez is in custody in Howard County Jail in lieu of \$50,000 bond.

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

**SPENDING**

Continued from Page 1A

Explaining his decision, Obama said that future earmarks must have a “legitimate and worthy public purpose”, and the any earmark for a private company should be subject to competitive bidding rules. Plus he said he’ll “work with Congress” to eliminate any the administration objects to.

But he acknowledged that earmarks have bred “cynicism”, and he declared, “This piece of legislation must mark an end to the old way of doing business.”

White House officials in recent weeks have dismissed criticism of the earmarks in the bill, saying the legislation was a remnant of last year and that the president planned to turn his attention to fu-

ture spending instead of looking backward.

White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said Obama wouldn’t be the first president to sign legislation that he viewed as less than ideal. Asked whether Obama had second thoughts about signing the bill, Gibbs’ reply was curt: “No.”

“This is necessary to continue funding government,” Gibbs said. “It represents last year’s business. Although it’s not perfect, the president will sign the legislation, but demonstrate for all involved rules moving forward that he thinks can make this process work a little bit better.”

During his presidential campaign, Obama promised to force Congress to curb its pork-barrel-spending ways. Yet the bill sent from the Democratic-controlled

Congress to the White House on Tuesday contained 7,991 earmarks totaling \$5.5 billion, according to calculations by the Republican staff of the House Appropriations Committee.

The 1,132-page bill has an extraordinary reach, wrapping together nine spending bills to fund the annual operating budgets of every Cabinet department except Defense, Homeland Security and Veterans Affairs. Among the many earmarks are \$485,000 for a boarding school for at-risk native students in western Alaska and \$1.2 million for Helen Keller International so the nonprofit can provide eyeglasses to students with poor vision.

Most of the government has been running on a stopgap funding bill set to expire at midnight Wednesday. Refusing to sign the newly

completed spending bill would force Congress to pass another bill to keep the lights on come Thursday or else shut down the massive federal government. That is an unlikely possibility for a president who has spent just seven weeks in office.

The \$410 billion bill includes significant increases in food aid for the poor, energy research and other programs. It was supposed to have been completed last fall, but Democrats opted against election-year battles with Republicans and former President George W. Bush.

The measure was a top priority for Democratic leaders, who praised it for numerous increases denied by Bush. It once enjoyed support from Republicans.

But the bill ran into an unexpected political hailstorm in Congress

after Obama’s spending-heavy economic stimulus bill and his 2010 budget plan, which forecast a \$1.8 trillion deficit for the current budget year.

The bill’s big increases — among them a 14 percent boost for a popular program that feeds infants and poor women and a 10 percent increase for housing vouchers for the poor — represent a clear win for Democrats who spent most of the past decade battling with Bush over money for domestic programs.

Generous above-inflation increases are spread throughout, including a \$2.4 billion, 13 percent increase for the Agriculture Department and a 10 percent

increase for the money-losing Amtrak passenger rail system. The measure also contains a provision denying lawmakers the automatic cost-of-living pay increase they are due next Jan. 1.

**ROADS**

Continued from Page 1A

formed on Main and Scurry streets. Main will be resurfaced from First to 18<sup>th</sup>, while Scurry will be renovated from First to 24<sup>th</sup>. Portions of Lancaster and other streets also will receive facelifts, officials said.

Resurfacing work will constitute much of the overall work, but other related projects include landscaping of several downtown areas and installing ramps to several sidewalk areas.

The overall project is expected to last about 13 months, with road resurfacing expected to be completed by late September or early October, Wofford said.

“They’re going to complete the downtown area first, then work their way south,” he said.

Wofford said he hopes residents and businesses accept a certain degree of inconvenience while the projects are ongoing.

“We know there’s going to be inconvenience — there’s really nothing we can do to prevent it,” he said. “But about all we can do is get our work crews in there, get the work done as fast as we


can, then get them out.” Wofford also asked residents to avoid work areas if possible.

“During the construction period, if you can avoid those areas, it would be beneficial,” he said. “There will be a lot of large equipment out there ... and it could be kind of dangerous.”

Work crews are expected to be at work between 7:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, Wofford said.

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# EDITORIAL

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

**Ron Midkiff**  
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**John A. Moseley**  
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**Bill McClellan**  
News Editor

## OUR VIEW

# SkyWarn class a chance to get ready for storms

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. As we've noted before, few adages could be more correct, nor could they apply to more situations in our lives. And that means we should keep it in mind these days with spring — and the prospect of stormy weather — right around the corner.

Spring is when our area traditionally experiences a great deal of the severe weather — things like hail storms and tornadoes. While there's no way to prevent such storms, there is a way to learn more about them and to be prepared.

That's why the National Weather Service will conduct SkyWarn classes throughout West Texas in the coming weeks.

The class in Big Spring will be held Thursday, March 19, in an effort to have area residents ready to face potentially violent weather.

Slated for 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. in the Big Spring City Council Chambers, located at 307 E. Fourth Street, the class will be an excellent way to check preparedness at the beginning of the severe weather season.

Other classes will also be held in the area. In Garden City, the class will be Feb. 24 in the community center. And on April 6, a class will be held in Stanton at the Martin County Courthouse.

According to NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist Pat Vesper, the class will include information on tracking and classifying storms and various weather conditions, but it's not limited to emergency management officials and storm chasers.

"It has a lot to offer everyone," said Vesper. "We offer a lot of information on safety during storms and bad weather the average person can use to protect themselves and their families."

SkyWarn classes' main focus is safety and cover the most common severe weather situations for the Harea in hopes of preparing area residents for worst case scenarios.

"It's really a lot of good information for people to have," said Big Spring Police Department Lt. Terry Chamness. "It gives people a basic knowledge of what severe weather is like in our area. Since we're getting ready to head into the severe weather season, which begins in March and lasts until October, this is really important information to have."

We couldn't agree more, and that's why we encourage local residents to make the most of these opportunities.

What's more, there's no charge for the classes.

Sounds like good use of a couple of hours to us.

## LETTER POLICIES

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- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
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- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we define our reputation with Your Love, Lord.

Amen

# Truth becomes an obstacle

In Congress and in the media, Sen. Robert Menendez, D-N.J., was being treated as an obstacle last week. He was telling the truth about Cuba, the land of his ancestors, but sometimes, for some people, the truth becomes an obstacle.

One news story said Menendez sent "Congress into overtime." Another story noted that his "stinging defection" threatened the Democratic leadership's ability to pass the \$410 billion omnibus spending bill, which is meant to fund the federal government through September.

And yet what Menendez was doing was standing on principle against three sneaked-in foreign policy provisions that have nothing to do with funding U.S. government operations. He also was standing against a very undemocratic way of changing U.S. policy toward Cuba; there was not even an open debate on the subject.

"This body is being asked to swallow these changes in the crudest process I can imagine — without analysis, without inclusion and without debate," Menendez charged on the Senate floor last week. "Supporters of these modifications claim to be carrying them out in the hopes of fostering democratic change in Cuba, even as they do so in a way that silences democratic debate in our country."

But Menendez was not to be silenced. In his impassioned hour-long speech, the New York-born son of Cuban refugees spoke of a brutal dictatorship that has "gilded the spirit of their people over a rotten core of brutality, deprivation and fear." He spoke of Cuba's countless murders, human rights violations, young men and women forced to do hard labor against their will, and dissidents who have been beaten or sentenced to decades in prison "for the crime of thinking independent thoughts, for the crime of asking for change."



MIGUEL PEREZ

He spoke of the average Cuban worker, who "lives on an income of less than a dollar a day," thanks to a 50-year-old failed revolution, which has made the Cuban people regress.

"The island was not rich in 1959," Menendez said. "Yet Cubans have fewer opportunities to get ahead than they did 50 years ago." The speech was so loaded with vivid examples of the realities of life in Cuba that it already has become a hit on YouTube ("Menendez speech on the Realities in Cuba").

Although the bill's Cuba provisions do not lift the 47-year-old U.S. trade embargo against the Communist island outright, they clearly begin a process of relaxing trade and travel restrictions against the Fidel/Raul Castro regime, without proper discussion in Congress and without first getting a single human rights concession from the world's oldest dictatorship.

Amazingly, the provisions don't even call on the Cuban government to free political prisoners, hold democratic elections, stop persecuting dissidents, show some respect for human rights, or allow the Cuban people to congregate and express themselves freely.

Yet instead of condemning the House opportunists who tucked these provisions into a bill where they don't belong, instead of blasting them for their sneaky way of doing the people's business, some leftist, liberal organizations and very naive bloggers were condemning Menendez for "blocking the work that has to be done in Congress."

They saw him as an obstacle, as if telling the truth about Cuba was getting in the way of their own omnibus funding or their leftist agenda.

While Barack Obama was campaigning for president last year, he vowed to relax some of the restrictions on Cuba, yet he also pledged to use the embargo as leverage to seek democratic reforms on the island.

Menendez, swimming against the tide in his own party, was, in effect, assisting the GOP leaders wanting to torpedo the entire bill because it also includes \$7.7 bil-

lion in wasteful earmark spending. Yet Menendez courageously called on President Obama to resist signing the bill with the Cuba provisions intact.

"If the omnibus bill is signed by the president as is, he will be extending a hand, while the Castro regime maintains its iron-handed clenched fist," Menendez said, insisting that the Cuba provisions were placing the whole appropriations package in jeopardy. By not supporting the bill in the Senate, Menendez risked causing the Democrats to fall short of the 60 votes needed to advance the measure beyond a Republican filibuster.

The Cuba provisions ease travel restrictions to the island by Cuban-Americans and by U.S. merchants seeking to sell food and medical supplies to Havana. A sticking point for Menendez was that the provisions also lift the current requirement that Cuba pay for food before it leaves the United States.

"That suggested policy change would give the Cuban regime financial credit to purchase agricultural products from the U.S.," Menendez said.

"Considering the serious economic crisis we're facing right now, we need to focus on solutions for hardworking Americans, not subsidies for a brutal dictatorship," Menendez said.

Of course, for those who wanted to flush this bill through the Senate in a hurry, all this talk about Cuba became an obstacle. And instead of blaming those who sneaked Cuba into the bill, they blamed Menendez and described him as a Democratic defector.

On Tuesday, after receiving assurances from the Treasury Department that the bill's language would not impact U.S. policy toward Cuba, Menendez finally dropped his opposition to the bill.

Nevertheless, for telling the truth about Cuba before we blindly jumped into bed with the tyrannical Castro brothers and for standing up to his fellow Democrats to defend the quest for freedom in the land of his ancestors, Menendez deserves respect and admiration.

# An Orwellian bully pulpit

Does the following statement from Melody C. Barnes, director of President Barack Obama's Domestic Policy Council, strike you as a) patronizing or b) Orwellian? "The president believes that it's particularly important to sign this (presidential memorandum authorizing federal funding for human embryonic stem cell research) so that we can put science and technology back at the heart of pursuing a broad range of national goals."



DAVID LIMBAUGH

Your answer should be both a and b, especially when considered in conjunction with another presidential memorandum "aimed at insulating scientific decisions across the federal government from political influence."

The president brazenly sermonizes against scientifically challenged conservatives while triggering federal funding of research that is scientifically controversial and preparing to impose cap and trade penalties on corporate America in deference to global warming junk science.

While you won't hear much about this in the mainstream media, there is a meeting currently taking place in New York City that serves as an ironic backdrop for Obama's embryonic stem cell order.

OneNewsNow.com reports that more than 70 scientists — representing the views of tens of thousands more scientists — are meeting at The Heartland Institute's second annual International Conference on Climate Change to make the case that politically motivated alarmism, not science, is driving climate change activism, which potentially threatens the sovereignty of the United States.

At the conference, European Union and Czech Republic President Vaclav Klaus likened those pushing global warming hysteria to the communists of Old Europe, who refused to listen to opposing views. Their goal, Klaus warned, is to control the public.

Sounds familiar. The Obama administration repeatedly implements policies that are in direct contradiction to its benign rhetoric, which is what I mean by "Orwellian." Consider its fiscal recklessness accompanied by promises of fiscal responsibility, including its staggering denial that it is promoting earmarks. Or its boasts of bipartisanship while shutting Republicans out of the legislative process. Or calling its plan to chill an employee's choice to opt out of union membership the "Employee Free Choice Act."

But Obama's statements while introducing his embryonic stem cell executive order truly take the cake. He said: "But after much discussion, debate and reflection, the proper course has become clear. The majority of Americans, from across the political spectrum and from all backgrounds and beliefs, have come to a consensus that we should pursue this research — that the potential it offers is great, and with proper guidelines and strict oversight, the perils can be avoided."

It would take several columns to parse that statement alone, but just look at the misleading phraseology: "The majority of Americans ... have come to a consensus." Assuming a majority favors embryonic stem cell research — and even federal taxpayer funding for it — is it not deceptive to imply that a majority constitutes a consensus?

Of course, those who agree on a proposition always share a consensus among themselves, but doesn't "consensus" suggest that there is almost unanimity on the issue?

The answer is yes.

The Obama left repeatedly uses this type of language to manufacture the impression that only a fringe minority disagrees with the overwhelmingly accepted majority view. They declare a consensus when there isn't one and bully the true opposition from voicing their concerns. They do it with global warming, embryonic stem cell research, "intelligent design" theory and now Keynesian economics.

They have plenty of help from the liberal lapdog media. They dutifully report that Obama is lifting a ban on embryonic stem cell research when there has been no ban on such research, only a restriction on federal funding for it. Nowhere do they acknowledge the genuine ethical objections to or the scientific problems that have been encountered in such research. Instead, they just portray opponents of federal subsidies for the practice as Luddites.

While the left ridicules those who don't buy into their decreed "consensuses," they are the ones who suppress scientific inquiry and debate on various issues. They are the ones who suppress publication of facts.

You'll rarely hear from them about the failures and hazards of embryonic stem cell research, such as a report that embryonic cells injected into a boy caused multiple brain tumors. You'll never hear them speak about the increasing successes of adult stem cell research, even though adult stem cell science is less expensive, more accessible, probably involves less cancer-causing risk, and is not ethically controversial.

Beware; when the Obama left mounts its rhetorical high horse and tells us it is advancing science in furtherance of a consensus, it is most likely signaling that it is implementing a highly controversial, scientifically dubious policy whose opposition it intends to intimidate and silence with the formidable force of the presidential bully pulpit.





# TEXAS TODAY

## Gunfire outside Gonzales City Hall

GONZALES (AP) — Five people were injured Tuesday in a disturbance near Gonzales City Hall that apparently involved guns and cars.

Police said two people were taken to a San Antonio hospital for treatment of gunshot wounds. Three others were treated and released at Gonzales Memorial Hospital. Police did not say how the three were injured.

Three people were in custody Tuesday night, police said. One of those was a 32-year-old man detained for resisting arrest after the parking lot disturbance. An 18-year-old male and 15-year-old male were also arrested and detained for burglary of a habitation after a foot chase following the disturbance, according to a police statement.

The statement did not say the condition of the victims, but said vehicles were used in an altercation.

Texas Department of Public Safety spokeswoman Tela Mange said the people in the disturbance knew each other and the incident was not believed to be gang related.

Gonzales City Manager David Huseman said "a couple folks had some sort of disagreement and apparently tried to settle it in the city parking lot." He said no city employees were involved.

## Austin couple charged with killing woman

AUSTIN (AP) — An Austin husband and wife have been arrested and charged with murdering and burning a 21-year-old woman's body the night of Austin's Mardi Gras.

The body of 21-year-old Christy Lynne Espinosa was found burned beside a road in eastern Travis County. The Austin-area woman had been last seen celebrating Mardi Gras in Austin.

Sheriff's spokesman Roger Wade says 26-year-old Martha Medina-Hernandez and 33-year-old Kenneth Hernandez are charged with murder. Medina-Hernandez was arrested in Eagle Pass on Sunday, while Hernandez was arrested Tuesday in Austin.

Arrest affidavits say Espinosa was riding with the Hernandezes as they drove around Travis County drinking on Feb. 24. Statements differ on the motive behind Espinosa's death, but the arrest affidavits say the husband and wife blame each other for the death.

## Police officer killed during chase

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — A Corpus Christi police officer was struck and killed by a sport-utility vehicle police were chasing after a disturbance call.

Police are withholding the 20-year veteran's identity until relatives are notified.

A police statement says officers went to a house across the street from Laguna Park in southwest Corpus Christi just before midnight. After a brief struggle, a 21-year-old male suspect broke free and sped away in an SUV. During the pursuit, the vehicle hit an officer who was standing on beside Texas 358 westbound. He died a short time later at Spohn Memorial Hospital.

The police statement says officers later shot and wounded the suspect after he rammed their cars with the SUV. He's hospitalized with what police say are non-life-threatening wounds. His identity hasn't been released.

## Three dead in apparent murder-suicide

NORTH RICHLAND HILLS (AP) — Police found four shot, three fatally, in what detectives call an apparent murder-suicide overnight in the Fort Worth suburb of North Richland Hills.

Police say neighbors called about 10:30 p.m. Tuesday with reports of the sound of gunfire coming from the house in the normally quiet neighborhood just off Rufe Snow Road, a block north of Mid Cities Boulevard.

Officers arrived to find two men, ages 38 and 17, and a 55-year-old woman dead. Another woman was wounded and hospitalized. Her condition hasn't

been revealed.

Police say one of the men was the suspected gunman. The relationships of the four and the motive behind the shootings remain unclear.

## TV company Belo to cut 150 jobs

DALLAS (AP) — Television company Belo Corp. said Wednesday it plans to cut 150 jobs, reduce some employee salaries by 5 percent and suspend its 401(k) matching contributions to help reduce cash operating expenses by about 10 percent this year.

The 5 percent salary reduction will affect employees who are part of the Dallas-based company's management-compensation programs. The suspension of the 401(k) matching program, however, will apply to all employees.

Belo, which owns 20 television stations, said the cost-cutting measures will take effect in mid-April.

President and Chief Executive Dunia Shive said the new steps and past cost-cutting initiatives will reduce 2009 cash operating expenses by about 10 percent, excluding severance costs.

Belo's revenue fell more than 5 percent in 2008 as increased political advertising and higher retransmission and Internet revenue failed to offset overall advertising declines.

In response, the company initiated a hiring freeze, reduced staff in some markets and took other cost-cutting steps last year.

Last week, Belo said it will indefinitely suspend its dividends after the second quarter to focus on paying down debt and conserving cash. Belo's second-quarter dividend of 7.5 cents will be paid on June 5.

Belo shares fell 18 cents, or 21 percent, to 69 cents in morning trading.

## Neiman Marcus posts loss on write-downs

DALLAS (AP) — Luxury merchant Neiman Marcus Inc. posted a fiscal second-quarter loss Wednesday on a series of hefty write-downs totaling more than half a billion dollars. The results were also hurt by a dramatic pullback in spending among its wealthy customers.

The privately held company, based in Dallas, said it lost \$509.3 million for the quarter ended Jan. 31. That's compared with a profit of \$44.3 million in the same quarter last year. Quarterly revenue fell 21 percent to \$1.08 billion from \$1.37 billion.

The results were hurt by several one-time charges, including write-downs on trade names, goodwill and other assets. Those charges totaled \$560.1 million during the quarter.

Adjusting for those items and for other expenses, the company said it earned \$24.6 million compared with \$187.3 million last year.

Luxury sellers like Neiman Marcus have been among the hardest hit retailers as they were caught by the sudden retreat of shoppers who had been willing to pay prices like \$900 for designer shoes and \$5,000 for handbags. The sudden reversal forced Neiman Marcus and other stores to offer unprecedented discounts on coveted brands during the holiday season to try to pull in shoppers.

Rival Saks Inc., which operates Saks Fifth Avenue, last month reported a loss for the fourth quarter and issued a downbeat sales forecast.

To preserve cash, Neiman Marcus and Saks are taking steps to cut costs. Neiman Marcus said in January that it's cutting approximately 375 jobs, or nearly 3 percent of its work force.

Last week, Neiman Marcus said same-store sales declined 20.9 percent in February. Same-store sales are sales at stores open at least a year and are considered a key indicator of a retailer's health.

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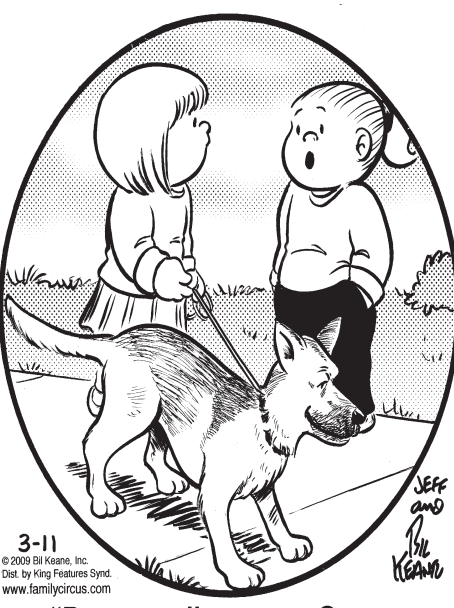
	WFAA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5 :PM :30	News ABC	News ABC	Locura Noticiero	Lopez Lopez	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News NBC	Raymond Friends	Cortes Harris	BBC Business	Cash Cab Cash Cab	Rider, Carrie Snodgrass	CSI: NY	Bones	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	So Raven So Raven	sic - Teams TBA	SportsCenter
6 :PM :30	News ABC	Jeopardy! Fortune	Tontas Cielo	Two Men Two Men	News CBS	12 Cora-zones	News NBC	Seinfeld Seinfeld	Mark Hagee	News-Lehrer The Detonators	The Detonators	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order		So Raven So Raven	Suite Life Montana	College Basketball	
7 :PM :30	Scrubz	Scrubz	Cuidado-Angel	Lie to Me	Christine Gary	TRI Pre Game	The Chopping Block	Payne Payne	Israel Scott	Monarchy-Roy	The Detonators	Movie: In the Line of Fire, Rene Russo	CSI: Crime Scn	Movie: Jurassic Park III, Tea Leoni	Movie: Inside Man, Jodie Foster	An Extremely Goofy Movie	College Basketball: NEC Final	
8 :PM :30	Lost	Lost	Mañana es	American Idol	Criminal Minds	Fútbol: México vs. Bolivia	Life	Payne Payne	Light of the Southwest	American Masters	MythBusters		Star Wars Star Wars	Harlem	Life De	College Basketball: Big East Second Round		
9 :PM :30	(:02) Life on Mars	(:02) Life on Mars	Don Francisco	TMZ	CSI: NY		Law & Order	Payne Payne		Design e2	(:45) Movie: Sleeping With the Enemy	Toughest Cowboy	Trust Me	Hatchett Hatchett	Life De	College Basketball: Big Sky Final		
10 :PM :30	News ABC	News ABC	Impacto Noticiero	King-Hill	News CBS	Noticiero	News NBC	Seinfeld	Israel	Charlie Rose	Made	CSI: NY	Movie: Jurassic Park III, Tea Leoni	Movie: Inside Man, Jodie Foster	So Raven	Baseball		
11 :PM :30	Insider Jimmy Kim-mel Live	Jimmy Kim-mel Live	La Casa de la Risa	Law Order: CI	Late Late Show	Decisiones de	Late Night-Jim	Movie: The Last Boy Scout	Sex & Dr. Young	Smiley	The Detonators	(:45) Break-ing Bad	Disorderly Con.	Replace	UEFA	Final		
12 :AM :30	News ABC	News ABC	Contra Viento	RENO 911	Insider	Pagado	News		Israel Sanchez	MythBusters	(:45) Movie: Saturday Night Fever, Barv Miller	Amazing Video	Cold Case	The Deal	Dragon	Soccer		
1 :AM :30	Basco	Basco	Mujer... Güereja	Friends	Entertain Paid	Poker After Dark	Movie: ...											

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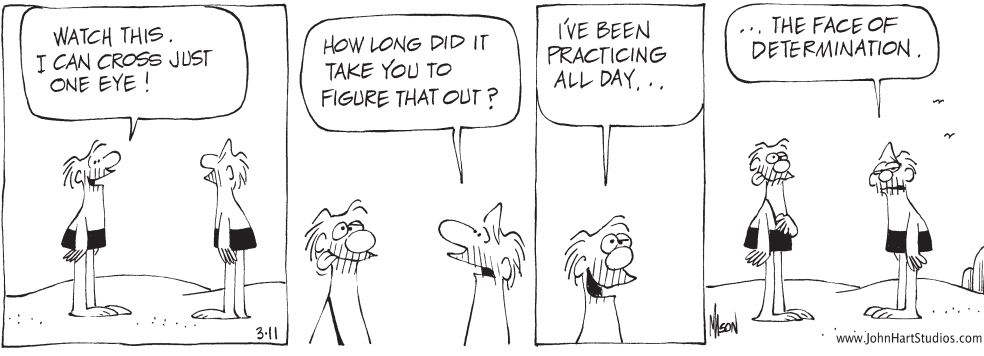
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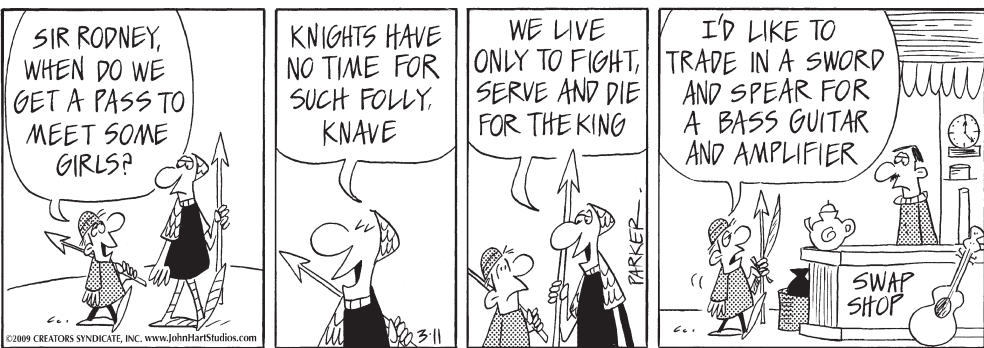
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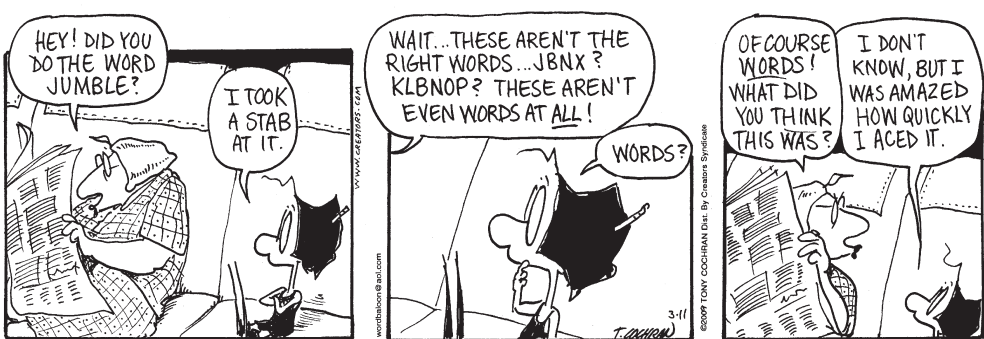
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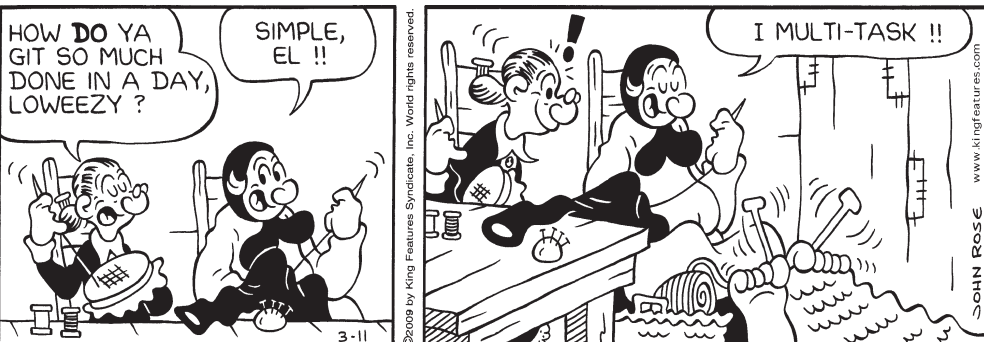
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This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, March 11, the 70th day of 2009. There are 295 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 11, 1942, as Japanese forces continued to advance in the Pacific during World War II, Gen. Douglas MacArthur left the Philippines for Australia. (MacArthur, who subsequently vowed, "I shall return," kept that promise more than 2 years later.)

On this date:

In 1810, French Emperor Napoleon I was married by proxy to Archduchess Marie Louise of Austria.

In 1861, the Constitution of the Confederate States of America was adopted during a convention in Montgomery, Ala.

In 1888, the famous "Blizzard of '88" began inundating the northeastern United States, resulting in some 400 deaths.

In 1930, former President and Chief Justice William Howard Taft was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

In 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Lend-Lease Bill, providing war supplies to countries fighting the Axis.

In 1957, Charles Van Doren's 14-week run on the rigged NBC game show "Twenty One" ended as he lost to attorney Vivienne Nearing; Van Doren's take was \$129,000. American explorer Richard E. Byrd died in Boston at age 68.

In 1959, the Lorraine Hansberry drama "A Raisin in the Sun" opened at New York's Ethel Barrymore Theater.

In 1965, the Rev. James J. Reeb, a white minister from Boston, died after being beaten by whites during civil rights disturbances in Selma, Ala.

In 1977, more than 130 hostages held in Washington, D.C., by Hanafi Muslims were freed after ambassadors from three Islamic nations joined the negotiations.

In 1985, Mikhail S. Gorbachev was chosen to succeed the late Soviet President Konstantin U. Chernenko.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Terence Alexander is 86. Media mogul Rupert Murdoch is 78. ABC News correspondent Sam Donaldson is 75. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia is 73. Musician Flaco Jimenez is 70. Actress Tricia O'Neil is 64. Actor Mark Metcalf is 63. Rock singer-musician Mark Stein (Vanilla Fudge) is 62. Singer Bobby McFerrin is 59. Movie director Jerry Zucker is 59. Actress Susan Richardson is 57. Recording executive Jimmy Iovine is 56. Singer Nina Hagen is 54. Country singer Jimmy Fortune (The Statler Brothers) is 54. Singer Cheryl Lynn is 52. Actor Jeffrey Nordling is 47. Actress Alex Kingston is 46. Country musician David Talbot is 46. Actor Wallace Langham is 44. Actor John Barrowman is 42. Singer Lisa Loeb is 41. Singer Pete Drogé is 40. Actor Terrence Howard is 40.

Answer to previous puzzle

S	P	A	M	S	T	E	M	S	D	A	M	P								
P	A	R	E	O	R	B	I	T	E	G	O	S								
A	S	E	A	L	I	B	R	A	L	O	T	S								
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											N	A	M		C	A	P			
D	O	N	T	S	T	A	Y	O	U	T	L	A	T	E						
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T	A	N	G								R	I	G	O	R		C	O	L	T
A	L	E	S								S	E	A	R	S		E	Y	E	S

Newsday Crossword

GET GOING by Randall J. Hartman  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

- |                              |                                      |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                | <b>DOWN</b>                          |
| 1 Back-to-health program     | 1 UK fliers                          |
| 6 Former ruler of 16 Across  | 2 Yalies                             |
| 10 Goose egg                 | 3 Stereo player                      |
| 14 Legal excuse              | 4 Drive the getaway car, maybe       |
| 15 Hockey great Gordie       | 5 Food for parakeets                 |
| 16 Persia, today             | 6 Ostentatious                       |
| 17 Drummer's partner         | 7 Highway honker                     |
| 18 Paris airport             | 8 Hole punchers                      |
| 19 Toll road                 | 9 "Psst!"                            |
| 20 Employee protest          | 10 "Quiet!"                          |
| 23 For example               | 11 Composer Satie                    |
| 24 Tam or beanie             | 12 Yard tool                         |
| 25 Keaton of the silent era  | 13 Washington's bill                 |
| 29 Huffed and puffed         | 21 Boathouse implement               |
| 31 Christmas mo.             | 22 Not yet cooked                    |
| 34 "Tomorrow" musical        | 25 Moisten, as a turkey              |
| 35 Take wing                 | 26 Up to                             |
| 36 Region south of San Diego | 27 Breaks sharply                    |
| 37 Olmos film of '88         | 28 Pie pans                          |
| 40 Helpful hints             | 29 Portends                          |
| 41 Told a whopper            | 30 Shane star                        |
| 42 In reserve                | 31 Miles of jazz                     |
| 43 Ernie of the links        | 32 Throw out                         |
| 44 Feedbag contents          | 33 Barker's Price Is Right successor |
| 45 Messy place               | 35 Peeved mood                       |
| 46 Juan, PR                  | 36 Crooner Crosby                    |
| 47 Boxing victories          | 38 Hawkeye Pierce                    |
| 48 Proceed cautiously        | 39 Metropolis reporter               |
| 55 Rover's pal               | 44 Squirrel hangout                  |
| 56 Solitary                  | 45 "The Tell-Tale Heart" author      |
| 57 Vote to accept            | 46 Sports-replay technique           |
| 59 Dutch cheese              | 47 Pants parts                       |
|                              | 48 Off-target                        |
|                              | 49 Eden evictee                      |
|                              | 50 Aluminum product                  |
|                              | 51 Machu Picchu builder              |
|                              | 52 Admired one                       |
|                              | 53 Discern                           |
|                              | 54 Grand-scale                       |
|                              | 55 G-man                             |
|                              | 58 Explosive initials                |

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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55					56				57			58
59					60				61			
62					63				64			

# Alabama man kills at least 9, including 4 relatives

By JESSICA GRESKO and DESIREE HUNTER

Associated Press Writer  
SAMSON, Ala. — Authorities were working Wednesday to learn why a gunman set off on a rampage of at least nine slayings across two rural Alabama counties. Shocked, grieving residents hoped the answers weren't lost when he killed himself.

Tuesday's shootings in a mostly rural area near the Florida border were believed to be the work of Michael McLendon, who lived with his mother and once worked at a local metal plant.

The bloodshed began when McLendon burned down his mother's house in Kinston, Coffee County Coroner Robert Preachers said. Authorities found Lisa McLendon's body inside, but they have not determined how she died or whether she was a 10th victim of her son's spree.

McLendon then drove a dozen miles southeast to Samson, in Geneva County, where he claimed nine victims, including four members of his family. The rampage ended another 12 miles farther east in Geneva at the metals plant where McLendon worked until 2003. After a shootout with police, McLendon, killed himself.

Investigators declined to comment on a motive for the shootings, in which at least

four other people were injured, including a child. The victims' names have not been released.

"He cleaned his family out," Preachers said. "We don't know what triggered it."

Samson Mayor Clay King said he had known McLendon all his life and could not say what triggered the shootings. McLendon's exact age wasn't released, but some authorities estimated he was in his late 20s.

"If you would have asked me two days ago if he was capable of this, I would have said certainly not," King said on NBC's "Today" early Wednesday.

Five people were killed on the porch in Samson, along with a 74-year-old woman next door, said Kirke Adams, district attorney for Geneva and Dale counties. Four of the six killed were related to McLendon. A 4-month-old girl was the only survivor from the porch and was being treated at a Florida hospital.

Preachers had said McLendon's victims included his grandparents. But Adams said the 74-year-old victim might have been McLendon's great aunt.

The two unrelated victims on the porch were the wife and 18-month-old child of a Geneva County sheriff's deputy. They had stopped by the home to visit.

McLendon then drove

around Samson, shooting out his car window, killing three more people seemingly at random.

"He sprayed bullets through the town," Adams said.

One woman was struck down as she walked out of a gas station. Another man was driving. Another man was shot as he tried to run away.

"In a cowardly act, he shot him in the back," Adams said.

McLendon fired several shots at a Wal-Mart store in Geneva. No one was killed, but it was unclear if anyone was injured.

"There's a lot of people who had close calls," Adams said.

Samson contractor Greg McCullough said he was pumping fuel at the gas station when the gunman roared into the parking lot and slammed on his brakes.

"I first thought it was somebody playing," McCullough said. Then he saw the rifle.

McLendon opened fire, killing the woman who walked outside and wounding McCullough with bullet fragments that struck his truck and the pump. At one point the rifle appeared to jam, then McLendon fired more shots before driving off.

"I'm just in awe that something like this could take place. That someone could do such a thing. It's just shocking," McCullough said.

Police pursued McLendon

to Geneva's Reliable Metal Products, where he got out of his car and fired at police with his automatic weapon, wounding Geneva Police Chief Frankie Lindsey. He then walked inside and killed himself.

"He had plenty of ammo in his car and other weapons and he appeared to be going to do some damage there," Adams said.

Alabama Public Safety spokesman Kevin Cook said that McLendon resigned from his job at the plant in 2003 and it was unclear what kind of work, if any, he had been doing since. A person who answered the phone at the plant said no one could talk about the shooting.

King, the Samson mayor, said he knew the gunman and the victims. "What I'm focusing on is people here in the town, making sure they feel comfortable," said King, who added the town had opened a crisis center at a local church. "I've lived here 44 years and never, never dreamed of this happening."

State Rep. Warren Beck, a Republican whose office is near the Wal-Mart, said his secretary heard gunfire everywhere.

"This is one of the most tragic events ever in Geneva County," he said.

Among others injured was a state trooper injured by broken glass after McLendon

shot his cruiser seven times. The injured infant was taken to Wiregrass Medical Center in Geneva before being flown to another hospital, Wiregrass administrator John Rainey said.

The hospital's staff was ready to treat more injured victims, but their hopes were dashed as death reports trickled in.

"Unfortunately, we were getting the same bad reports as everyone else: Most people were untreatable," Rainey said. "It's something you'd expect in Atlanta or your bigger cities, but in a little town it puts a lot of people in stress. Our nursing staff broke down in tears hearing what was going on and realizing they weren't going to be able to help them."

One of the spots sprayed with bullets was a hardware store in Samson. Yellow tape was strung across glass windows shattered by at least five bullets. A "closed" sign was on the ground outside atop glass shards.

Tommy Boyles, a 76-year-old security guard who works at the same plant where McLendon killed himself, said he and his wife were on the street nearby.

"We could have been caught up in it just as well as anyone else," he said. "That's what scares you: to be an innocent bystander and some nut walks up with a gun."

## State senate begins debating possible election reforms

AUSTIN (AP) — The Republican-controlled Texas Senate began debating election reforms Tuesday that would require Texans to provide identification papers before voting.

Democrats, comparing the proposal to a modern-day poll tax, tried to delay consideration of the legislation. But GOP

lawmakers dismissed the challenges. They say the ID requirements, which would take effect in time for the pivotal 2010 elections, are necessary to stop voter fraud.

The author of the proposal, Sen. Troy Fraser, R-Horseshoe Bay, conjured up images of the old Daley machine in Chicago and of infa-

mous Box 13 — stuffed with votes for Lyndon Johnson in a 1948 Senate race. He says the threat is still there — from non-citizen immigrants, crooks and dead people.

"Voter fraud not only is alive and well in the United States, it's also alive in Texas," Fraser said. "I believe the dangers of voter fraud has threatened the entire electoral process."

Democrats contend the so-called Voter ID bill will disenfranchise thousands of voters.

Sen. Leticia Van de

Putte of San Antonio, leader of the Senate Democrats, said the measure is designed to shave about 3e to 4 percentage points off of Democratic vote totals in Texas just as the party begins to improve its statewide performance.

"This is voter suppression," she said.

While Texans already must show either a voter registration card or other identification, Republicans want to add the requirement of a photo ID or alternative forms of identification.

# sudoku

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

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

# Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker  
*In the Arms of Morpheus*

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

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass  
3 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass  
4 NT Pass 5 ♥ Pass  
7 ♣

Opening lead — five of hearts.  
Dear Mr. Becker: It will no doubt astonish you to learn that I am probably the greatest bridge player in the world!  
I say this knowing full well that my name is unknown to you and the bridge-playing public. It also is true that I have never won a world or national championship. Nevertheless, I still think no one can equal my accomplishments at the bridge table.  
There is one thing seriously wrong with my game, though. The

trouble is that I play brilliantly only while I'm asleep, but badly while I'm awake. I don't understand why this is so, but I am sure no one can hold a candle to my skills when I am in the arms of Morpheus.

For example, last night I held the East hand and my opponents got to seven clubs. They should have known I would defeat them, but my opponents never learn.

My partner led a heart. As any one can plainly see, there is only one way for declarer to play such a hand. He must take the ace and place all his hopes on the spade finesse. It would be foolish to finesse the queen of hearts and then later have to finesse in spades also. This would be running two risks instead of one.

So South, being a good player went up with the ace — and on the ace, I played the king!

You can't really blame South for falling for this play. He naturally thought the king was a singleton. Accordingly, after drawing trumps he led a heart and finessed the ten since there was no longer any reason to take a chance on the spade finesse.

But I took the ten with the jack to defeat the slam, and I'm sure I would have won the rubber on the next deal except that just then my wife woke me and said it was time to get up and go to work.

Cordially yours, Ford E. Winx

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In Sunday's Big Spring Herald

**American Profile**  
How Does Your Garden Grow?  
10 years, dozens of gold, blue, and silver awards from W. Atlee Burpee & Co.

INSIDE:  
• Landscaping your yard with native plants  
• You're in luck—order the Week's Day recipe for leprechaun soup!

*Seed starters*

For over 100 years, home gardeners all across America have turned to the W. Atlee Burpee & Co. for their seeds. The company sells more than 100 million seed packets a year. Plus, landscaping with native plants and leprechaun soup.

**American Profile**

# Odessa Permian brings back a familiar face, name to head football program

ODESSA (AP) — Odessa Permian’s search for a new football coach has led to a familiar name. Gary Gaines, whose Permian team was chronicled in “Friday Night Lights,” is set to be presented to the Ector County Independent School District board on Thursday as the new coach.

Gaines was an assistant at Permian from 1979 through 1981 and head coach from 1986 through 1989. The Panthers won the Class 5A state championships in 1980 and 1989. He also was an assistant at Texas Tech and head coach at Abilene Christian.

The 59-year-old Gaines is the athletic director for Lubbock ISD. He said he was excited about getting back into coaching. He will replace Darren Allman, who was recently named head coach at Austin Westlake.

## HAWKS

Continued from Page 1B

The break in play worked for only a moment, though. Up 41-36, The Hawks embarked on a 13-5 run, pushing their lead to double figures, 54-41. Rachael Dryver initiated the rally, hitting from inside the lane, then Chassidy Cole hit her second 3-pointer of the night with 11:21 to play, giving Howard a 46-36 advantage. A field goal by Marquez was immediately answered by a long 2-point bucket by Thomas. Malouff then caught fire from behind the arch. Her second three of the half was answered by a trey by Telisha Joe, but Malouff immediately responded with another long-range bucket, giving the Hawks the 13-point advantage with 8:32 to play. Eleven of Howard’s final 24 points came from the free throw line as the Hawks steadily pushed their lead over the 20-point margin.

Dryver led all scorers with her most productive performance in her two years as a Hawk, posting 22 points while pulling down a team-high eight rebounds. Malouff scored all 15 of her points in the second half. Thomas also finished with 15, knocking down 7 of 11 field goal attempts. She missed just one shot in the second half as the sophomore post proved she could sink a long-range jumper as well as score in the paint. “I was ready. I wanted this so bad,” said Thomas. “It’s my last year at Howard and I wanted everyone to know we can do it. We weren’t supposed to make it and now we’re on our way to Kansas.” Howard shot just 34.5 percent in the first half, but improved to 54.8 percent in the second. Odessa was good for only 38.5 percent of its shots and turned the ball over 19 times, compared to a mere 10 for the Hawks. Diddle attributed the improved performance in the second half to the team getting over the first half jitters.

“We relaxed a little bit. We were all a little nervous,” said Diddle. “Our defense got better. We sealed the basket. It was all good stuff.” The Hawks now wait to be seeded among the 15 other teams who qualified for the national tournament. It is played in a double-elimination format and begins Tuesday. Time for Howard’s opening game will be known once seeds are announced. The Hawks could play as early as 10 a.m. or as late as 8:15 p.m. Tuesday. They could also potentially play their first game at either noon or 2 p.m. Wednesday. “We have to continue to survive and advance,” said Diddle. “I don’t know how far we can go, but the first thing is to believe you can do it. When we get up there, it will be the best 16 teams in the country. We’re going to take a day off. I’m going to Albuquerque to recruit and watch the (New Mexico) state tournament. Then, we’re going to get back on the practice floor Friday. These girls are not done playing yet. That’s always a

great thing. It’s exciting.” While Diddle isn’t ready to make any predictions, Thomas and the rest of the players are setting their sights on the highest possible prize. “I think we can go out and get that national championship,” said Thomas with confidence. “I feel it.”

**Howard College 78, Odessa College 53**

**OC (22-11)**  
Priscilla Mbiandja 6-12 4-5 16, Shon Redmond 3-8 2-2 8, Diandra Marquez 2-8 2-2 7, Brittany Pennell 1-7 0-0 2, Tammie Thornton 1-3 1-2 3, Judith Tabala 1-1 0-0 2, Telisha Joe 2-4 0-0 5, Keisha Harris 2-3 1-1 6, Tamika Johnson 2-6 0-0-4. Totals 20-52 10-12 53.

**HC (26-7)**  
DeAndra Thomas 7-11 1-1 15, Chassidy Cole 2-8 0-0 6, Rachael Dryver 8-12 6-6 22, Patricia Malouff 4-8 4-6 15, Miesha Blackshear 3-9 3-7 9, NaTalia Smith 0-2 3-4 3, Danielle Cota 0-2 0-0 0, Clarissa Krum 3-8 0-0 8. Totals 27-60 17-24 78.

Halftime: OC 25, HC 24. 3-point goals: OC 3-13 (Harris 1-1, Joe 1-2, Marquez 1-6, Mbiandja 0-1, Johnson 0-1, Pennell 0-2), HC 7-17 (Malouff 3-4, Cole 2-6, Krum 2-7). Rebounds: OC 35 (Mbiandja 9), HC 38 (Dryver 8). Assists: OC 12 (Redmond 5), HC 18 (Blackshear 5, Cole 5, Dryver 5). Steals: OC 6 (Redmond 2, Pennell 2), HC 10 (Blackshear 5). Turnovers: OC 19, HC 10. Total fouls: OC 16, HC 11. Fouled out: None.

## BUFFS

Continued from Page 1B

30 years on the hardwood. It didn’t take long for the athletes to transfer from the hardwood to the diamond as the Buffs rallied to overcome Ira, 4-3, in their first district game. “This is a huge win for us,” said Forsan Head Coach Jason Phillips. “It’s great to start district with a win, but even better because it’s over Ira.

Ira is going to be a playoff contender. This is a big step towards our goal of winning district again.” Four of Forsan’s six hits went for extra bases, including triples from Burton and Flores in their first game of the season. Patrick Robles also had a triple, while Jake Rhoton doubled in the game. “It’s good to have all of the players with the team now,” Phillips continued. “These guys from basketball didn’t miss a beat.” Ray Martinez got the start and allowed just three runs — one earned — despite having the defense commit

five errors behind him. Martinez registered six strikeouts in five innings of work. Phillips attributes the errors to youth and unfamiliarity with defensive roles. “With more practice time, we’ll get better defensively,” he said. “We’re really young in spots. A lot younger than I expected us to be. We had a good tournament in Ralls where we fielded the ball well. I think with the basketball players joining us, we’ve got some guys who need to adjust to their roles a little bit.” Payton Parker took over on the

mound in the sixth inning and finishing the game, picking up the win as the Buffs took the lead in the bottom of Parker’s first frame of work. Forsan plays in the Lake View Junior Varsity Tournament in San Angelo beginning Thursday.

**Ira 010 020 0-3 4 2**  
**Forsan 000 112 x-4 6 5**

Ray Martinez, Payton Parker (6) and Zach Herrin. Fine, Juarez (6) and Bloom. W - Payton Parker (3-0). L - Juarez. 2B: FHS - Jake Rhoton. 3B: FHS - Evan Burton, Patrick Robles, Ryan Flores. RBI: Ira - Mays, Juarez. FHS - Burton, Flores, Rhoton. SB: FHS - Ty Johnson, Michael Hill.

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Cab</b> - Teal, Nice Truck, 90K Miles. <b>Was \$6,995</b> <b>NOW \$5,995</b></p> <p><b>★ ★ ★ DODGE TRUCKS ★ ★ ★</b></p> <p><b>2005 Dodge Ram 1500 Quad Cab SLT</b> - V-8, White, All Power, Local One Owner w/49K Miles. <b>Was \$16,995</b> <b>NOW \$14,995</b></p> <p><b>★ ★ ★ CARS ★ ★ ★</b></p> <p><b>2008 Ford Mustang V6</b> - Torch Red, Tan Cloth, Ford Program Unit, Like New, Only 8,400 Miles. <b>Was \$18,995</b> <b>NOW \$15,995</b></p> <p><b>2008 Ford Focus SE</b> - Blue, w/Gray Cloth, Ford Program Unit, Like New, Only 17,000 Miles. <b>Was \$17,995</b> <b>NOW \$14,995</b></p> <p><b>2008 Ford Focus SE</b> - White, w/Gray Cloth, Ford Program Unit, Like New, Only 12,000 Miles. <b>Was \$17,995</b> <b>NOW \$15,995</b></p> <p><b>2008 Ford Focus SE</b> - Silver, w/Gray Cloth, Ford Program Unit, Like New, Only 19,000 Miles. <b>Was \$17,995</b> <b>NOW \$15,995</b></p> <p><b>2008 Ford Taurus SEL</b> - Tan w/Leather, Ford Program Unit, Like New, Only 21,000 Miles. <b>Was \$19,995</b> <b>NOW \$17,995</b></p> <p><b>2007 Lexus ES 350</b> - Blue w/Tan Leather, One Owner, Very Nice Car, Loaded, Only 27,000 Miles. <b>Was \$32,995</b> <b>NOW \$28,995</b></p> <p><b>2007 Ford Fusion SEL</b> - Silver, w/Gray Leather, Ford Program Unit, Like New, Only 24,000 Miles. <b>Was \$16,995</b> <b>NOW \$14,795</b></p> <p><b>2006 Saturn ION3</b> - Silver w/Gray Cloth, One Owner, Great Gas Saver, Make Great First Car, Low Miles. <b>Was \$12,995</b> <b>NOW \$11,995</b></p> <p><b>2006 Lincoln Towncar Signature</b> - Stone Gray w/Gray Leather, One Owner, Loaded, Nice Car, Only 35,000 Miles. <b>Was \$23,995</b> <b>NOW \$20,995</b></p>	<p><b>★ ★ ★ CARS ★ ★ ★</b></p> <p><b>2005 Nissan Altima 2.5S</b> - Gray Cloth, One Owner, Like New, Low Miles. <b>Was \$14,995</b> <b>NOW \$12,995</b></p> <p><b>2004 Chev. Malibu LS</b> - Silver, w/Gray Cloth, One Owner, Like New, Very Nice, Must See, Only 55,000 Miles. <b>Was \$9,995</b> <b>NOW \$8,995</b></p> <p><b>2000 Mercury Grand Marquis LS</b> - Gold, w/Tan Leather, Well kept, Nice One Owner, Low Miles. <b>Was \$7,995</b> <b>NOW \$6,995</b></p> <p><b>★ ★ ★ SUV'S ★ ★ ★</b></p> <p><b>2008 Ford Escape XLT</b> - Vista Blue, w/Gray Cloth, Ford Program Unit, Only 18,000 Miles. <b>Was \$19,995</b> <b>NOW \$16,995</b></p> <p><b>2006 Ford Freestyle SEL</b> - Tan Leather, Loaded, New Car Trade In, Nice Crossover. <b>Was \$14,995</b> <b>NOW \$13,995</b></p> <p><b>2006 Nissan Pathfinder LE</b> - Black, w/Tan Leather, All Power, One Owner, Like New, Only 27,000 Miles. <b>Was \$25,995</b> <b>NOW \$24,995</b></p> <p><b>2006 Nissan Xterra SE</b> - White w/Gray Cloth, All Power, One Owner, Only 19,000 Miles. <b>Was \$19,995</b> <b>NOW \$17,995</b></p> <p><b>2006 Kia Sorrenta EX</b> - Gray w/Leather, One Owner, Like New, Good Looking SUV. <b>Was \$11,995</b> <b>NOW \$10,995</b></p> <p><b>2005 Jeep Wrangler Sport</b> - White w/Gray Cloth, Automatic, One Owner, Only 33,000 Miles. <b>Was \$16,995</b> <b>NOW \$15,995</b></p> <p><b>2005 Chevrolet Tahoe 4X2 LS</b> - White, w/Gray Cloth, One Owner, Like New, Loaded, Only 53,000 Miles. <b>Was \$19,995</b> <b>NOW \$15,995</b></p> <p><b>2005 Ford Escape XLT</b> - Silver, w/Gray Cloth, One Owner, Great On Gas, Like New, Only 63,000 Miles. <b>Was \$12,995</b> <b>NOW \$10,995</b></p> <p><b>2005 GMC Yukon 4X2 SLT</b> - White w/GTan Leather, Loaded, All Power, One Owner. <b>Was \$19,995</b> <b>NOW \$16,995</b></p> <p><b>2005 Ford Explorer Sport Trac XLT</b> - Red, w/Gray Cloth, All Power, One Owner, Like New, Low Miles. <b>Was \$18,995</b> <b>NOW \$16,995</b></p> <p><b>2004 Nissan Xterra XE</b> - Red, w/Gray Cloth, All Power, Nice First Car, One Owner, Only 67,000 Miles. <b>Was \$13,995</b> <b>NOW \$11,995</b></p> <p><b>2004 Honda CRV LX 4X4</b> - White w/Tan Leather, Loaded, All Power, One Owner. <b>Was \$13,995</b> <b>NOW \$10,995</b></p> <p><b>2004 Chevrolet Tahoe LT 4X2</b> - Gray, w/Gray Cloth, All Power, One Owner, Only 60,000 Miles. <b>Was \$20,995</b> <b>NOW \$17,995</b></p> <p><b>2004 Nissan Xterra SE</b> - Silver, w/Gray Cloth, All Power, One Owner, Nice SUV, Only 52,000 Miles. <b>Was \$16,995</b> <b>NOW \$13,995</b></p> <p><b>2004 Buick Ranier V8 CXL</b> - Silver, w/Gray Leather, Loaded, DVD Player, Moonroof, 51,000 Miles. <b>Was \$15,995</b> <b>NOW \$14,995</b></p> <p><b>2003 Lincoln Navigator 4X2</b> - Silver, w/Gray Leather, Loaded, One Owner, Like New, 78,000 MILES. <b>Was \$22,995</b> <b>NOW \$19,995</b></p> <p><b>2003 Nissan Xterra SE</b> - Blue, w/Gray Cloth, One Owner, Like New. <b>Was \$14,995</b> <b>NOW \$11,995</b></p>
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# Buffalo Tales

Forsan Student Council won sweepstakes for the 20th year at District Student Council Wednesday March 4. Michael Steelman received a \$500 scholarship for his work in student council. Seventeen students attended the conference. The group will take 10 students to state March 29-31. Jan Sims is the advisor.

seventh in Number Sense, seventh in Mathematics.

In the 11th grade division: Evan Burton placed third in Number Sense; Aric Denton, fourth in Science, seventh in Number Sense; Amanda Longorio, first in Calculator, seventh in Mathematics.

The Forsan Math and Science teams participated in the San Angelo Lake View Math and Science Meet Saturday, Feb 21.

In the 9th grade division: Courtney Blair placed fifth in Science; Sydney Holdampf, first in Science, first in Number Sense, fifth in Calculator, fourth in Mathematics; Kyle Stevenson sixth in Number Sense, third in Mathematics; Garrett Willey,

Forsan placed third as a team in all four events: Science, Number Sense, Calculator and Mathematics.

Kristi Couch is the group sponsor. The following were named to the girls' All District Basketball team: Amanda Longorio, Offensive Player of the Year; Shelby Jones, Co-Defensive Player of the Year; Shelby McDonald and Tori Gauer, All District Team. Faith Belew and Kelsey Jones were Honorable Mention.

The girls finished the season as Bi-District Champs.

Student Council sponsored a March of Dimes competition to earn money for the March of Dimes. The winning class will have an ice cream party and the top two sellers from each class will get a T-shirt.

The competition ended Friday, March 6.

Winners in the Elbow Energy Contest sponsored by the student council will be announced following Spring Break.

Regan Newsom presented a

program to Delta Kappa Gamma Teacher Sorority on the Forsan Student Council Program. Regan serves as secretary/treasurer of the group.

TAKS ELA and Reading tests were given Tuesday, March 3.

Forsan brought home 12 first places from TSA contest. Participants were Josh Hatfield, Zach Hatfield, Zach Herrin, Zane Herrin, Chase Pierce and Tim Huitt.

Also participating were Nathan Henley, Tessa Kendrick, Jake Rhoton, Kyle Daniel, CJ Ballard, Tim Davila, Michael Rangel and Tristian Clay.

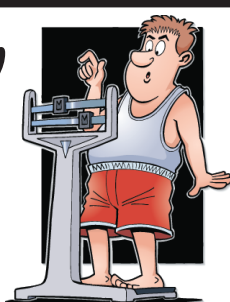
Forsan One Act Play Cast went to Andrews Friday, March 6 for a one act play festival.

The Zone One Act Play contest is set for Thursday, March 26. The group is performing "Cheaper by the Dozen."

School dismissed at noon March 6 for Spring Break and the regional basketball playoff games in Levelland.



## Best Loser Weigh-In



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## Dating Violence



**What is it?**  
Dating violence is controlling, abusive and aggressive behavior in a romantic relationship. It can happen in straight or gay relationships. It can include verbal, emotional, physical, or sexual abuse, or a combination of them.

**Controlling behavior includes:**

- Not letting you hang out with your friends
- Calling or paging you frequently to find out where you are, who you're with, and what you're doing
- Telling you what to wear
- Having to be with you all the time

**Verbal and emotional abuse includes:**

- Calling you names
- Jealousy • Belittling you (cutting you down)
- Threatening to hurt you, someone in your family, or themselves if you don't do what they want

**Physical abuse include:**

- Shoving • Punching • Slapping • Pinching • Hitting • Kicking • Hair pulling • Strangling

**Sexual abuse includes:**

- Unwanted touching and kissing • Forcing you to have sex
- Not letting you use birth control • Forcing you to do other sexual things

Anyone can be a victim of dating violence. Both boys and girls are victims, but boys and girls abuse their partners in different ways. Girls are more likely to yell, threaten to hurt themselves, pinch, slap, scratch, or kick. Boys injure girls more, are more likely to punch their partner, and more likely to force them to participate in unwanted sexual activity. Some teen victims experience violence occasionally. Others are abused more often, sometimes daily.

**If you are a victim of dating violence, you might...**

- Think it's your fault • Feel angry, sad, lonely, depressed or confused
- Feel helpless to stop the abuse • Feel threatened or humiliated
- Feel anxious • Not know what might happen next
- Feel like you can't talk to family and friends • Be afraid of getting hurt more seriously
- Feel protective of your boyfriend/girlfriend

**You're not alone**

- One in three teenagers has experienced violence in a dating relationship.
- 50 percent to 80 percent of teens have reported knowing others who were involved in violence relationships.
- 15 percent of teen girls and boys have reported being victims of severe dating violence (defined as being hit, thrown down, or attacked with a weapon).
- 8 percent of 8th and 9th grade students have reported being victims of sexual dating violence.
- Young women, ages 16 to 24 years, experience the highest rates of relationship violence.

**Get help**

Being a victim of dating violence is not your fault. Nothing you say, wear, or do gives anyone the right to hurt you.

- If you think you are in abusive relationship, get help immediately. Don't keep your concerns to yourself.
- Talk to someone you trust like a parent, teacher, school principal, counselor or nurse.
- If you choose to tell, you should know that some adults are mandated reporters. This means they are legally required to report neglect or abuse to someone else, like the police or child protective services. You can ask people if they are mandated reporters and then decide what you want to do. Some examples of mandated reporters are teachers, counselors, doctors, social workers, and in some cases, even coaches or activity leaders. If you want to help deciding who to talk to, call our Helpline at 1-800-FYI-CALL, or an anonymous crisis line in your area. You might also want to talk to a trusted family member, a friend's parent, an adult neighbor or friend, an older sibling or cousin, or other experienced person who you trust.
- If you want to get advice about who to talk to, call our helpline (1-800-FYI-CALL) or an anonymous crisis hotline in your area. You might also want to talk to a trusted family member, a friend's parent, an adult neighbor or friend, an older sibling or cousin, or other experienced person who you trust.

**Help Yourself**

Think about ways you can be safer. This means thinking about what to do, where to go for help, and who to call ahead of time

- Where can you go for help? • Who can you call? • Who will help you?
- How will you escape a violence situation?

Here are other precautions you can take

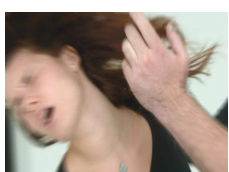
- Let friends or family know when you are afraid or need help.
- When you go out, say where you are going and when you'll be back
- In an emergency call 911 or your local police department
- Memorize important phone numbers like the people to contact or places to go in an emergency
- Keep spare change, calling cards, or a cell phone handy for immediate access to communication
- Go out in a group with other couples
- Have money available for transportation if you need to take a taxi, bus, or subway to escape

**Help Someone Else**

If you know someone who might be in an abusive relationship, you can help.

- Tell the person that you are worried • Be a good listener • Offer your friendship and support
- Ask how you can help • Encourage your friend to seek help
- Educate yourself about dating violence and healthy relationships
- Avoid any confrontations with the abuser. This could be dangerous for you and your friend.

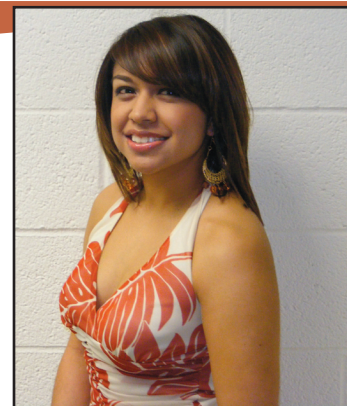
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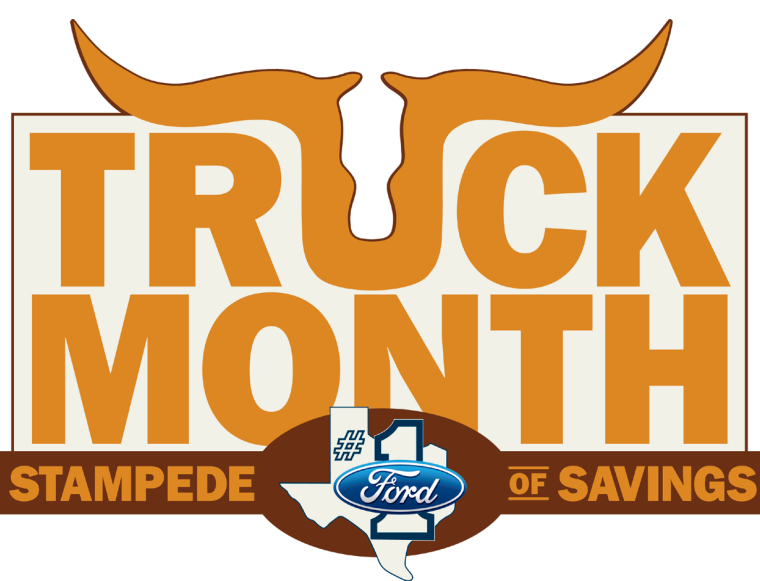


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# Why not check this out at the library?

Beverly Lewis has quite a following with her various series that deal with the Amish people. The series "Courtship of Nellie Fisher" ends with the third volume, "The Longing." Nellie has broken up with Caleb Yoder and chose to follow the ways of the New Order. Caleb is also working through losing the woman he loves because his father was so opposed to Nellie. Gosh, does that sound like something Shakespeare would write? Stop by in the stacks and look for more of Lewis' work.

Toni Morrison (author of "Beloved" and others) has written "A Mercy" (F MOR T). Continuing themes that she has been developing since the start of her career, Nobel Prize-winning author Morrison creates an intense and involving philosophical, Biblical, and feminist novel set in the Atlantic colonies between 1682 and 1690. Her impressionistic story traces slavery from its early roots, using unique voices — African, Native American, and white — while moving back and forth in time.

Another one from Annie Proulx (she wrote "Brokeback Mountain"), "Fine Just the Way It Was" (PRO A) is a collection of short stories. Most of them take place in the West and deal with multiple generations of people who struggle to survive.

A new book from Belva Plain: "Crossroads" (F PLA B). In it, Plain draws the distinction between greed and happiness. While it may not be as well received as "Evergreen" was, people will still enjoy it.

New Audio CDs have just come in: The first is a biography of Lucrezia Borgia

(AUCD B BOR L) titled "Lucrezia Borgia: Life, Love, Death in Renaissance Italy," it will take about 15 hours to listen.

Do you know who Walter L. Shaw is? Of the 39 patents to his credit, the speakerphone, conference calls and call forwarding were his biggest inventions. Listen to "A License to Steal" (AUCD 364.109 SHA W) written by his son, Walter T. Shaw. The son attempts to even the score against the corporations that stole his father's technology.

The last one is "The Pluto Files" (AUCD 523.492 TYS N) written by Neil DeGrasse Tyson. In August 2006, the planet Pluto was demoted as a planet. This is the story of how Americans rallied behind this small, underdog planet. It is an amusing account of the history of planet classification and a small sample of the hate mail he received from third-graders for Pluto's demotion.

A couple of biographies in print — "He Is ... I Say" (B DIA N), the autobiography of Neil Diamond and "Michael Phelps: Beneath the Surface" (B PHE M) written by Phelps.

A few mysteries have trickled through: Probably the last book that Margaret Truman wrote is "Murder Inside the Beltway" (M TRU M). It has all the trademarks: Politicians behaving badly, call girls, grizzled veteran police officer, etc.

It looks like now we have the CSI mysteries to read. Two are by Donn Cortez: "Harm for the Holidays" (M COR D) and "Cut and Run" (M COR D). They take place in Miami. Two others take place in LA and NY. Max Allan Collins wrote "Grave Matters" (LA) and Keith DeCandido wrote "Four Walls" (NY). These can be found in the Mystery section.

In Large Print comes Barbara Taylor

Bradford's newest novel: "Being Elizabeth" (LP F BRA B). Elizabeth Turner is in line to inherit the family business, but conflict comes from other family members. Add in an illicit love affair and you have a potboiler deluxe. Another "good" read from a reliable author.

Heather J. Paper has compiled a number of decorating hints, tips and ideas that range from color to windows to storage.

In "Decorating Idea Book" (747 PAP H), there are wide-ranging ideas to help you find your decorating style. The Library has other volumes to look at as well, so now is the time to re-style your home.

T.D. Jakes is a charismatic minister located in the Dallas area. The Potter's House is his church and he shares his insights in "Life Overflowing: Six Pillars for Abundant Living" (248.4 JAK T). Jakes' congregation is racially diverse and his television ministry reaches thousands of people.

Tony Dungy has retired from coaching football but not from life. "Uncommon: Finding Your Path to Significance" (796.332 DUN T) is wisdom and precepts that he has acquired during his life.

Just a reminder: The Library is located at 500 S. Main St. Our phone number is 264-2260.

The website is [www.howard-county.lib.tx.us](http://www.howard-county.lib.tx.us); currently it is down, but we are working with a new ISP provider to get it back up.

Looking ahead: The Library will close for April 10-11 for Good Friday and the Easter Holiday.

You can always return materials in the new book drop that the Friends of the Library graciously donated funds to purchase.

It is designed to take books on the left-hand side and movies, BOT or BOD on the right hand side.



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