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VOLUME 105, NUMBER 26

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County stock show begins today

395 animals entered in annual event at county fair barns

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer
 The area livestock show circuit gets off to a cold but boisterous start today when the annual Howard County Junior Livestock Show begins at the county fair barns.

Hundreds of animals, ranging from tiny rabbits to huge steers, will



McWhorter

be on display this week — 395, to be exact, according to Kandi McWhorter, county extension agent.
 “I think that’s down a little bit from previous years,” McWhorter said. “We just don’t have as many kids showing animals this year. I think that’s because of the

economy; raising a show animal is a big investment.”
 Activity began at 11 a.m. today with lamb weigh-in, followed by goat weigh-in at noon and the lamb show at 3 p.m. Goats will be shown immediately afterward
 Thursday, rabbits will be weighed in between 4 p.m.

and 5 p.m., while steer and heifer weigh-in will be at 6 p.m. The rabbit show will be held at 6:30 p.m.
 Steers and heifers will be shown at 9 p.m. Friday, followed by the hog show at 1 p.m. The show concludes
 See **STOCK**, Page 3

Timing said right for ISD bond issue

Officials look at bringing \$60 million package to voters

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

Big Spring Independent School District officials believe the time is right for another go at a bond election.
 Trustees gave their blessing to a preliminary \$60 million facility improvement plan during a special meeting at the high school board room Tuesday night.
 The plan, which would finance three new elementary campuses and renovations at every other school, is expected to go before school district voters this May.
 For now, officials concede they have a selling job to do.
 “What we need to do now is go out into the community and tell them what we want to do and get their feedback,” said Dr. Michael Stevens, special assistant to the superintendent.
 “I believe it’s the right time,” board member Irene Galan said. “I love some of those older buildings, but we need to do what’s right for our schoolchildren.”
 Under the plan, officials would:
 • Close Bauer, Marcy and Washington elementaries, along with Goliad Intermediate.



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan
Dr. Michael Stevens, special assistant to the superintendent of Big Spring Independent School District, speaks to district trustees during a special meeting Tuesday evening. Officials are considering a \$60 million facility improvement plan to replace and renovate BSISD’s aging infrastructure.

See **BSISD**, Page 3

INDEX

Comics	10
Classified	8-9
Features	6
Obituaries	2
Opinion	4
Sports	7,11-12

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www.bigspringherald.com

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Tax man is coming

End of January is deadline to avoid penalties

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

Area residents who haven’t paid their property taxes have until the end of January to ante up their 2009 tabs or face penalties and interest, according to local tax officials.
 Area property owners can avoid the annual last-minute dash to pay their taxes by getting them out of the way early in the month, said County Tax Assessor Kathy Sayles.
 “Once the taxes go delinquent in February, the penalties and interest start at 7 percent and increase each month,” said Sayles. “As of July 1, penalty and interest

“Once the taxes go delinquent in February, the penalties and interest start at 7 percent and increase each month. As of July 1, penalty and interest grows to 18 percent, with an additional penalty tacked on for attorney fees.”



—Kathy Sayles, County Tax Assessor

grows to 18 percent, with an additional penalty tacked on for attorney fees.”
 Approximately 36,000 tax statements were mailed out in mid-October, according to Sayles, and area residents who aren’t sure how much

amount that’s due. So if you haven’t received a statement, call us or come by the office. Some people, because of their homestead exemptions, have no taxes, so we don’t send them a notice. However, if they just want to make sure everything is OK, all they have to do is call.
 “They can reference their check with an account number that we can give them so they can get their payment in the mail. Once that’s done, we mail them back a receipt for their payment.”
 For taxpayers over the age

See **TAXES**, Page 3



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Obituaries

Rudy Holguin

Rudy Holguin, 54, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2010, at his residence. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Take Note

• There will be a blood drive at the Eastside Baptist Church on Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The address is 1108 E. Sixth in the fellowship hall.

• Birdwell Lane Baptist Church is selling cookbooks to raise funds for the church. The cook books can be purchased by calling Pat Steen at (432) 263-3035.

• T&P Federal Credit Union has set up an account for Arthur Hernandez Jr. for medical expenses. Arthur has had numerous medical problems the past couple of years. He has had several surgeries on his stomach, the last one a few weeks ago. After the surgery he developed a staph infection. He is still in the hospital. The out-of-pocket expenses, the travel and expenses for his wife and many other numerous expenses are mounting up. Please help Arthur and his wife Melinda in this difficult time and make a much-needed donation.

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

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

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

• HATS (Hope After The Sadness), an American Cancer Society Resource Room is available at First Methodist Church. This center provides information and valuable resources for those affected by cancer. This HATS ministry, established in memory of the late Rev. Dr. Shane Brue, maintains a room with free hats, wigs and head coverings available for check-out by those dealing with hair loss due to cancer treatment. Other services and resources are also available. Contact the "Hat Lady," Marci Lykken at 267-2915.

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

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

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

Police blotter

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

- RAFAEL CRUZ LOPEZ, 65, of 508.5 Father Delaney, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- SEAN MICHAEL GEER, 36, of Odessa, was arrested Tuesday on charges of disorderly conduct – language and resisting arrest, search or transportation.
- THEFT was reported: in the 1700 block of 15th Street. In the 400 block of Birdwell Lane.
- RESISTING ARREST, SEARCH OR TRANSPORTATION was reported in the 200 block of FM 700.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported: in the 800 block of Owens. In the 400 block of 10th Street.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 3300 block of Interstate Highway 20.

Sheriff

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 61 inmates at the time of this report.
- JOMAR DEMOND ADAMS, 27, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.
 - GEORGE GANDER, 45, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance.
 - SEAN MICHAEL GEER, 36, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of resisting arrest, search or transportation and disorderly conduct – vulgar language.
 - RAFAEL LOPEZ, 65, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
 - PAUL WILLIAM SCHLIPF, 46, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on charges of failure to maintain financial responsibility, speeding (two counts), failure to appear (two counts) and disregarding a stop sign.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1000 block of Sycamore. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2000 block of Amber Lane. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2400 block of Alabama. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 100 block of S. Nolan. One person was transported to SMMC.
- STRUCTURE/AUTOMOBILE FIRE was reported in the 500 block of W. Sixth Street.

Support Groups

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY




- Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 615 Settles 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m.

SUNDAY

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

Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Thu 1/7	Fri 1/8	Sat 1/9
 30/14 Variable cloudiness and windy. Cold. High around 30F. Winds NNE at 20 to 30 mph.	 28/17 Snow showers at times. Highs in the upper 20s and lows in the upper teens.	 44/22 Sunny. Highs in the mid 40s and lows in the low 20s.
Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 5:57 PM	Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 5:58 PM	Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 5:59 PM

Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	31	17	pt sunny	Kingsville	51	30	windy
Amarillo	23	8	pt sunny	Livingston	40	21	windy
Austin	37	21	windy	Longview	32	20	windy
Beaumont	49	25	rain	Lubbock	30	13	pt sunny
Brownsville	60	35	rain	Lufkin	40	22	pt sunny
Brownwood	33	19	windy	Midland	35	17	windy
Corpus Christi	50	29	windy	Raymondville	55	32	cloudy
Corsicana	30	19	windy	Rosenberg	48	25	rain
Dallas	31	20	windy	San Antonio	42	25	windy
Del Rio	42	24	windy	San Marcos	38	22	windy
El Paso	45	23	windy	Sulphur Springs	30	18	windy
Fort Stockton	34	19	windy	Sweetwater	30	15	windy
Gainesville	25	12	windy	Tyler	31	18	windy
Greenville	27	15	windy	Weatherford	29	15	windy
Houston	47	25	rain	Wichita Falls	26	12	windy

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	41	19	sn shower	Minneapolis	8	-4	sn shower
Boston	31	19	mst sunny	New York	36	28	mst sunny
Chicago	24	19	sn	Phoenix	67	44	pt sunny
Dallas	31	20	windy	San Francisco	59	48	pt sunny
Denver	19	2	mst sunny	Seattle	47	39	cloudy
Houston	47	25	rain	St. Louis	19	8	sn shower
Los Angeles	72	51	pt sunny	Washington, DC	37	29	sn shower
Miami	65	51	pt sunny				

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 3-8-28-32-33.
Number matching five of five: 0.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order:
5-1-6-7. Sum It Up: 19.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order:
4-7-9. Sum It Up: 20.

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State briefs

\$2 buys new city hall for town

KRUM (AP) — A couple of bucks will get you a new home for city hall in one Texas town.

Krum (kruhm) city leaders this week paid off the remaining half of the \$2 they agreed to spend to buy several historic downtown buildings for new municipal offices. A parking lot is part of the deal.

The Krum City Council on Monday authorized Mayor Terri Wilson to sign the closing documents and to spend up to \$55,000 from the general fund to relocate.

The public works, police and city administration offices will get new digs, as part of agreements secured by business leaders for donation of the unoccupied historic buildings.

Krum is a town of about 3,200, located 45 miles northwest of Dallas.

Corpus Christi youth gets donated replacement pigs

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — A Corpus Christi youth whose \$600 pig was swiped from his school's new agricultural barn has received two donated hogs.

Weldon Kemp hopes to have the pigs ready for upcoming stock shows.

Kemp in October had his female red Duroc stolen from the 38,000-square-foot ag barn at Calallen High School.

The 17-year-old senior hoped his pig would earn him prize money for college. Kemp wants to be a minister.

Corpus Christi police believe the hog was slaughtered and cooked. One man has pleaded guilty over the theft and received probation. Two others remain under indictment.

Breeder Clint Curry gave Kemp a registered

red Duroc, which could be shown at the San Antonio Stock Show. Another family friend donated a pig for Kemp raise for this month's Nueces County Junior Livestock Show.

Brownsville banning use of plastic bags

BROWNSVILLE (AP) — Plastic shopping bags commonly supplied to customers by retailers will be banned in Brownsville in a move to protect the environment.

The Brownsville City Commission on Tuesday approved the ban, to take effect in 2011.

Commissioners are calling for a voluntary ban of plastic shopping bags through December 2010. As of next year, businesses can only provide recyclable paper bags, reusable bags or biodegradable bags.

Neither the voluntary nor the mandatory ban

applies to plastic bags for bagging meat, fish and poultry products.

The ordinance says Brownsville has a duty to protect the natural environment, the economy and the health of its citizens.

Son accused of killing mother in San Antonio

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Police say a 57-year-old San Antonio man who is accused of killing his mother called 911 to report the slaying.

Ralph Wayne Nunley remained in the Bexar County Detention Center on Wednesday on a murder charge. A jailer, who declined to provide her full name to The Associated Press, said bail was \$250,000. The jailer had no listing of an attorney for Nunley.

Police arrested Nunley on Tuesday after discovering the body of 83-year-old Floy Nunley in her home. Police say

the man had blood on his clothes.

Sgt. Dale Sanders says the elderly woman appeared to have defensive wounds, from a knife. The cause of death was not immediately released.

Family friend Guadalupe Villarreal says the woman had suffered a stroke in late December and that her son was depressed.

IRS rep in Dallas admits to accepting bribe

DALLAS (AP) — An IRS worker in Dallas who accepted a bribe in exchange for a promise of no audit faces a maximum 15 years in prison.

Sentencing is March 29 for 33-year-old Fernando Hernandez of Dallas.

Prosecutors say Hernandez on Tuesday pleaded guilty to receiving a bribe by a public official. He also could be fined up to \$250,000.

Investigators say Hernandez was arrested Oct. 9 at his IRS office over a June 2005 incident in which he sought and accepted a \$2,000 bribe from a taxpayer.

Former pastor's case dropped

WACO (AP) — A judge has dismissed child-porn charges against a former Waco-area minister after prosecutors said they lack sufficient evidence to win a conviction.

Prosecutors also cited a mistrial in an August trial of former Elm Mott Church of Christ pastor Henry Edgington, in which a McLennan County jury voted 9-3 for acquittal.

TAXES

Continued from Page 1

of 65 or currently on disability, Sayles said there is a special installment plan that can help them avoid penalties and interest.

"You make your first payment in January, then you just make the remaining three payments in April, June and Aug. 1," she said. "This is for people 65 and older or are receiving disability."

The tax penalty and interest schedule is as

follows: After Jan. 31, 6 percent penalty and 1 percent interest; after Feb. 28, 7 percent penalty and 2 percent interest; after March 31, 8 percent penalty and 3 percent interest; after April 30, 9 percent penalty and 4 percent interest; after May 31, 10 percent pen-

alty and 5 percent interest; and after June 30, 12 percent penalty and 6 percent interest, including an additional 20 percent attorney fee.

"Just remember, we go by the postmark on the envelope," said Sayles. "As long as it's postmarked by the deadline,

you're OK."

For more information, contact the Howard County Tax Collector's Office at 264-2232.

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

BSISD

Continued from Page 1

- Build three new K-5 elementary campuses to replace Washington, Marcy and Goliad, while renovating the remaining elementaries to handle students in grades kindergarten through five.

- Renovate the junior high and add classrooms to handle grades six through eight.

- Build new science labs and refurbish the roof and fire suppression safety systems at the high school.

Trustees have been trying for years to update the district's infrastructure which, with the exception of the 10-year-old junior high, averages more than 60 years in age. A 2007 facility study conducted

by the Texas Association of School Administrators, concluded that both Bauer and Washington elementary campuses were obsolete and in need of demolition.

Trustees floated a \$34 million bond issue before voters in 2008, but that plan was resoundingly defeated.

In the interim, local officials have targeted both Marcy Elementary and Goliad Intermediate for closure, saying it would cost more to renovate those buildings than replace them.

Marcy, the largest elementary in Big Spring in terms of enrollment, has long been overcrowded and uses several portable classrooms to handle the overflow of students. Renovating Goliad to handle the full range of elementary grades, meanwhile, will be prohibitively expen-

sive, officials said.

"We looked at Goliad, and we just can't fix it," Stevens said. "Anytime you do renovations to buildings, you have to bring them into compliance with (the Americans With Disabilities Act) requirements and to do that at Goliad would cost more than a new building."

Stevens said \$42 million of the proposed bond would go into construction of the new elementary campuses, which would be constructed adjacent to the existing school buildings. The remaining \$18 million would go into renovation projects at the remaining campuses.

Financing the bond over the course of its 20-year life would increase the bill of the owner of an average-priced home in Big Spring (\$42,616) by \$5.85 per month, Ste-

vens said. Owners of a \$100,000 home would see an increase of almost \$20 per month in their tax bills.

Stevens said he expects resistance to the district's plan.

"There are people who will vote against this," he said. "Of course, there are people who would vote against it if we asked for \$40 million or \$20 million."

"But this appears to be a good time for this," he added. "Howard County, the city of Big Spring, Howard College and the Coahoma and Forsan school districts have all passed bond issues in

the past few years ... It's our time now. We have to do something and I think through our collective effort we can get something done."

Trustees have until March to officially call for a bond election to be held in May.

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

STOCK

Continued from Page 1

Saturday with the buyers' barbecue lunch at noon, followed by the premium auction at 1:30 p.m.

A concession stand will be manned all

week.

Despite a cold front that's expected to blow through this area Thursday, McWhorter said the show will go on.

"We'll just have the heaters on higher than normal," she said. "Peo-

ple just need to be bundled up and prepared."

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
24th & Johnson 267-8288
Eliazar "Charlie" Rodriguez, 77, died Friday. Funeral Mass was at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.
Jim Bell, 6, died Saturday. A gathering will be from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Thursday at his home at the Whip-In R. V. Park.
Richard Morris, 74, died Monday. Private family services will be at a later date.
Leonard Schafer, 80, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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2010 Travel Showcase
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Big Spring Travel Show Thursday, January 7 2:00 PM Dora Roberts Com. Center Comanche Trail Park 100 Whipkey Drive Big Spring, Texas	Abilene Travel Show Saturday, January 9 1:00 PM Southern Hills Church of Christ 3666 Buffalo Gap Road Abilene, Texas <small>*Due to construction, please enter at South or West entrances.</small>

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NOTICE OF SCHEDULED ENTRY INTO FIELDS

Pursuant to Tex. Agric. Code, Sec. 74.117, cotton producers in the Permian Basin Boll Weevil Eradication Zone, which consists of Dawson, Ector, Howard, Martin, and portions of Borden and Midland counties are hereby notified that Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation personnel will be conducting eradication activities in and around their fields, beginning **January 16, 2010**. All cotton fields will be mapped, and treatment will begin during the cotton-growing season. For notification prior to any chemical treatment, call 1-800-687-1212 with the exact location of your field and appropriate telephone numbers. Field entry and treatment is expected to last until all cotton is harvested in the zone. For more information regarding this program, please call the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation at 1-800-687-1212.

EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

Bill McClellan
News Editor

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

OUR VIEW

AARP volunteers primed, ready with tax program

It's almost income tax time. And while we're still a few months away from that April 15 deadline, the local AARP is now conducting its annual Tax-Aide program.

AARP spokesperson Gloria Hopkins said the program is designed to help people that might not otherwise be able to file a tax return by helping residents make sense of the tax laws and forms that seem to get more and more complicated with each successive year.

The program provides free federal tax preparation assistance to those who cannot afford professional tax help — senior citizens, people with disabilities, those that cannot speak English and those with low-to-moderate income.

In fact, the program is a necessity for many area residents who can't afford to have their taxes prepared professionally, and the heart and soul of the operation are volunteers.

AARP volunteers explain many special tax credits and deductions and how people may claim them on their tax returns. They help complete returns, as well, right down to any refunds that might be due the taxpayer.

Hopkins said area residents planning to use the service should be sure to gather up their financial information before heading to the Senior Center.

"People need to be sure to bring all of the pertinent information with them, including a tax booklet if one was received through the mail, W-2 forms and 1099 forms," said Hopkins. "They also need to bring any forms that show their 2008 earnings and their 2007 tax returns. We also need a Social Security card for every person named on the return and a photo ID for the person filing."

Hopkins said there are some major changes to the tax law this year that could really benefit Crossroads residents.

"Before last year, property taxes would have been an itemized deduction. However, starting last year and continuing this year, they are part of the taxpayer's standard deductions," said Hopkins. "So homeowners need to be sure to bring proof they paid their 2008 property taxes with them. The deduction can be as much as \$500 for a single person and \$1,000 for married couples."

Hopkins said there are also deductions for taxes paid on new homes and vehicle, so filers should be sure to bring proof of those purchases, as well.

Participants in the program will be able to e-file their tax returns at no charge, according to Hopkins.

The Tax-Aide program will continue from its Feb. 4 start on each Monday through April 11.

For more information on the program, or if you're interested in volunteering, contact Hopkins at 267-6733.

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we have a heavenly smile on our face all day,
Lord, for You.

Amen

Offering a Latino peace plan

On one side, we have those who argue that participating in the 2010 U.S. census is crucial to Latinos, that getting even undocumented immigrants counted is essential to empowering the Hispanic community. And they are right! Because census results are used to determine how political power and federal funds are distributed, those who are not counted will be doing a disservice to their own states and local communities.

But on the other side, you have those who argue that undocumented immigrants must use the census as a completely different empowering weapon. They are refusing to participate in the census unless Congress passes comprehensive reform legislation that grants legal status to undocumented immigrants. And they also are right! Because the survival of many incumbent Democrats may depend on the census results, a census boycott is Latinos' most powerful weapon against those politicians who claim to be their amigos but keep putting immigration reform on the back burner.

Both arguments make so much sense that the Hispanic immigrant community now stands divided over which course to take when the Census Bureau starts counting on April 1. And though the number of undocumented immigrants who actually boycott the census could be small, the boycott's opponents say that any undercount of Latinos, legal or illegal, would be very harmful to the Hispanic community. If the nation's 47 million Latinos — including some 8 million undocumented immigrants — are not counted properly, the size of the congressional delegations could be affected in several states with large Hispanic populations, they say. But the other side asks: What good is there in having more do-nothing politicians?

Both sides often agree that it is the politicians who should be punished for breaking their

promises to the immigrant community. So if the census is too counterproductive as a weapon, why can't both sides agree to postpone the boycott until the midterm elections? Why can't we punish those politicians when it really hurts and without punishing ourselves?

I know. Undocumented immigrants can't vote. Their leverage is now, with the census. But what if those of us who do vote were to commit ourselves to punishing the politicians in November? Would the census boycotters allow pro-immigrant American voters speak on their behalf? And if the census boycotters were to back down, would the other side commit to joining a nationwide campaign against all lawmakers who fail to fight for comprehensive immigration reform this year?

Such a compromise would push back the deadline for Congress to act on immigration reform from April 1 to Nov. 4 and would punish only the politicians who stand in its way.

Not everyone will agree. There always will be some Latino leaders who are more faithful to their parties than they are to their communities, and they are the ones who would refuse to go along with an organized campaign to defeat members of their own parties. But among those Latino leaders who oppose the census boycott, there are also many independent activists who don't owe allegiance to either major political party. In fact, many of them would like nothing more than to punish some Democrats for continuing to benefit from Latino support without doing anything to earn it, as well as some Republicans for continuing to bash immigrants.

If census boycott leaders, such as the Rev. Miguel Rivera of New Jersey and Los Angeles activist Nativio Lopez, were to agree to turn around and encourage immigrants to participate in the census, would the outspoken opponents of the boycott agree to join Rivera and Lopez if immigration reform failed and some politicians needed to be punished?

Some pro-immigrant independent leaders, such as Juan Jose Gutierrez of Latino Movement

USA, already have vowed to use the midterm elections to go after anti-immigrant politicians. Will others be willing to join him?

If a vast coalition of Latino and immigrant organizations could be created — with the single purpose of defeating every politician who opposes or even procrastinates on immigration reform — perhaps Rivera, Lopez and the undocumented immigrants who follow them could still be persuaded to participate in the census and organize another form of boycott — on Election Day.

For real bipartisan credibility, this coalition would have to pledge to encourage voter abstention in every race in which neither candidate is pro-immigrant. No more settling for the lesser of two evils, no more voting for the Democrat because Republicans are generally even worse on immigration. Let's look at each candidate, one by one.

If this coalition created an immigration report card for every Washington lawmaker and kept track of all of them during the next few months and if it vowed to keep it going — if necessary — until President Barack Obama runs for re-election in 2012, the census boycotters surely would be made an offer they couldn't refuse. Their boycott strategy for empowering immigrants would be used on a much bigger scale, at the ballot box.

The debate between those immigrants who favor the census boycott and those who oppose it has intensified during the past few months; both sides are becoming more entrenched in their positions and more critical of their opponents. But for the good of the community they claim to represent, the time has come for them to show some real leadership and mount a united front against all anti-immigrant politicians, including our phony amigos.

What I have offered here is a simple solution, a way out of this dilemma, a peace plan to move the Latino immigrant community forward.

Any takers?

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What if we were judged by our jails?

It seemed like a great idea at the time — not letting prisoners vote. That avoided political retribution, especially in states where sheriffs are elected rather than appointed. It also meant that legislatures could freely treat inmates like dirt while shrewdly filling up jails with marginal black or poor offenders to get them out of the voting booth.

For a long time this was a win-win situation. California and New York lawmakers were especially "tough on crime," while Southerners were especially "tough on blacks." Eventually, many politicians found it useful to be tough on both. And later on, they added Latinos. Many an election went to the "toughest" and plenty of candidates enjoyed those "purified" voter lists.

Then came the Great Recession. Suddenly, America's bloated prisons became an incumbent's nightmare. "Who can we let go without getting tagged as 'soft on crime?'" "Which prisons can we close without getting beat up by the jailers union?"

"What services can we cut without firing up the ACLU?" "Is it cheaper to privatize?"

Less frequent, unfortunately, is the question, "Who are we holding that we shouldn't?" But that one is at last occasionally being heard. New York has finally repealed most of its so-called Rockefeller Drug Laws, synonymous with the modern definition of "draconian." And it has tardily dawned on California that parole is cheaper than incarceration. Also that perhaps while "three strikes and you're out" may be a delightful political concept, the state can no longer afford it. Arizona, conversely, isn't thinking much beyond hiring a private prison contractor.

It looks like locking people up is a hard habit to break. The American prison population quadrupled in just the last 25 years. We've even surpassed China and Russia in the percentage of citizens in the clink. Meanwhile the rest of the world just scratches its head. "What are those crazy Americans up to now? Their country isn't crime-ridden."

True, but we do loathe codding. No matter to us that recidivism seems to slacken when treated with education, health care, decent food, easy

visitation, periodic release time, halfway houses, generous parole, libraries, and other elements of civilization. Rather we see ourselves as "tough but fair," and in our heroic imagination we somehow connect our harsh behavior back to the glory days of the rough-and-ready frontier.

Nor should we forget the special case of illegal drugs. We're at our most draconian when punishing the cultivation, sale and possession of those products that ironically were legal 50 years ago. We still cling to this stance even while much of the world is now pulling back, legalizing and regulating them, treating addicts, reducing crime, improving health and closing prisons.

Maybe the discipline of shrunken budgets will actually cause us to rethink our basic incarceration policies rather than just continuing to prospect for more line items to cut. Or maybe not. America is not steeped in learning lessons from the rest of the world.

They are, after all, just foreigners.

Minuteman Media columnist
William A. Collins is a former state representative and a former mayor of Norwalk, Conn.



MIGUEL PEREZ



WILLIAM A. COLLINS

News in brief

House and Senate Democrats to skip formal talks, act quickly on health bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama is prodding House and Senate Democrats to get him a final health care bill as soon as possible, encouraging them to bypass the usual negotiations between the two chambers in the interest of speed.

Obama delivered the message at an Oval Office meeting Tuesday evening with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and his No. 2, Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., joined in by phone.

They agreed that rather than setting up a formal conference committee to resolve differences between health bills passed last year by the House and Senate, the House will work off the Senate's version, amend it and send it back to the Senate for final passage, according to a House leadership aide, speaking on condition of anonymity in order to discuss the private meeting.

Obama himself will take a hands-on role, convening another meeting with congressional leaders at the White House on Wednesday, the aide said.

The aim is to get a final bill to Obama's desk before the State of the Union address sometime in early February.

In latest sign of trouble for Democrats, senators, governor ditch re-election plans

WASHINGTON — With the 2010 election year barely under way, two senators and one governor — all Democrats — ditched plans to run for re-election in the latest signs of trouble for President Barack Obama's party.

Taken together, the decisions by Sens. Chris Dodd of Connecticut and Byron Dorgan of North Dakota as well as Colorado Gov. Bill Ritter caused another bout of heartburn for Democrats as they struggle to defend themselves in a sour political environment for incumbents, particularly the party in charge.

As 2009 ended, Democrats watched a string of their House members announce retirements and one congressman defect to the GOP.

Now, with Dodd, Dorgan and Ritter out, Republicans have even more to crow about, if not better opportunities to pick up Democratic-held seats.

Democrats, who have a 60-40 Senate majority that includes two independents who vote with them, now will have to defend four open seats in the Senate. The others are Delaware and Illinois, where Sens. Ted Kaufman, who replaced Vice President Joe Biden, and Roland Burris, who replaced Obama, aren't running for full terms.

Obama says intelligence 'dots' not connected in airliner attack

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama scolded 20 of his highest-level officials on Tuesday over the botched Christmas Day terror attack on an airliner bound for Detroit, taking them jointly to task for "a screw-up that could have been disastrous" and should have been avoided.

After that 90-minute private reckoning around a table in the super-secure White House Situation Room, a grim-faced Obama informed Americans that the government had enough information to thwart the attack ahead of time but that the intelligence community, though trained to do so, did not "connect those dots."

"That's not acceptable, and I will not tolerate it," he said, standing solo to address the issue publicly for the fifth time — and the first in Washington — since the Dec. 25 incident.

Afterward, the White House released quotes from the Situation Room session. Disclosing Obama's words during a private meeting is normally strictly off-limits for this White House and most others before it. In this case, Obama advisers are eager to portray the president as aggressively on the job — even as he has little, or in this case nothing, new to announce about how to tackle the security lapses that allowed the airline plot to almost succeed.

Obama did not say who, if anyone, in the government might be held accountable. Earlier in the day, White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said the president still has full confidence in his three top national security officials: the director of national intelligence,

Dennis Blair, CIA Director Leon Panetta and Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano — all of whom were among those around the table with Obama later.

Yemeni security forces capture 3 al-Qaida suspects linked to embassy threat

SANA, Yemen (AP) — Yemeni security forces arrested three suspected al-Qaida militants from a cell that the U.S. has said was linked to a plot against the American or other embassies, the Interior Ministry said Wednesday.

The arrests were the latest move in Yemen's U.S.-backed crackdown on al-Qaida's offshoot here, as Yemeni officials trumpet that they are taking on the militant group.

The U.S. and British embassies closed for two days this week because of a threats that al-Qaida was planning an attack. Other Western embassies also took security precautions, closing to the public or limiting access.

The two missions reopened on Tuesday, after the United States said an assault by Yemeni security forces on an al-Qaida cell northeast of the capital a day earlier had "addressed" the threat.

In those clashes, Yemeni forces attacked a group of al-Qaida fighters moving in the mountains in the Arhab region. The troops were aiming to capture al-Qaida's suspected leader in the area, Mohammed Ahmed al-Hanaq, and a relative Nazeeh al-Hanaq, the ministry said.

International activists scuffle with Egyptian police over aid convoy

AL-ARISH, Egypt (AP) — International pro-Gaza activists and Egyptian security clashed at this Mediterranean port when Egypt refused to allow an aid convoy pass through its land to the Hamas-ruled seaside territory, witnesses said Wednesday.

The intermittent clashes lasted for a couple of hours and left than 50 activists and over a dozen members of the security forces injured. Activists briefly seized some policemen as well.

The clashes add to the embarrassment of Egypt, which has come under fire from Arab and Muslim groups for cooperating with Israel in its 28-month blockade of the impoverished territory.

More than 500 international activists accompanied the convoy organized by the British-based group Viva Palestina, bringing tons of humanitarian supplies, as well as vehicles, to Gaza. The group includes British, American, Jordanian and Turkish activists and lawmakers.

Fight against fat goes high-tech: Wireless monitors emerge as tool in research

ALHAMBRA, Calif. (AP) — The fight against fat is going high-tech. To get an inside look at eating and exercise habits, scientists are developing wearable wireless sensors to monitor overweight and obese people as they go about their daily lives.

The experimental devices are designed to keep track of how many minutes they work out, how much food they consume and even whether they are at a fast-food joint when they should be in the park. The goal is to cut down on self-reported answers that often cover up what's really happening.

In a lab in this Los Angeles suburb, two overweight teenagers help test the devices by taking turns sitting, standing, lying down, running on a treadmill and playing Wii. As music thumps in the background, wireless sensors on their chests record their heart rates, stress levels and amount of physical activity. The information is sent to a

cell phone.

"I can't feel my legs," 15-year-old Amorette Castillo groans after her second treadmill run.

South Korea says North Korea began uranium program soon after 1994 deal

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea appears to have started a uranium enrichment program soon after it agreed in a 1994 deal with the U.S. to dismantle its existing plutonium nuclear weapons program, South Korea's foreign minister said Wednesday.

Foreign Minister Yu Myung-hwan's remark, if accurate, suggests North Korea had no intention of giving up its atomic ambitions when it signed the 1994 pact that defused an earlier crisis.

Suspicious about a North Korean uranium program touched off a new nuclear standoff in 2002, when a U.S. official said the North privately admitted having such a secret program.

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

The Educated Guess

East dealer.
East-West vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ A 4 3
♥ K 7 4
♦ K 7 5 2
♣ Q 10 5

WEST
♠ K 10 8 6 5
♥ 9 8 5
♦ J 9
♣ K 7 2

EAST
♠ Q 9
♥ 10 6 3 2
♦ Q 8 6 3
♣ 8 6 4

SOUTH
♠ J 7 2
♥ A Q J
♦ A 10 4
♣ A J 9 3

The bidding:
East South West North
Pass 1 NT Pass 3 NT
Opening lead — six of spades.

You have to do a certain amount of guessing in bridge, because that is intrinsic to the game. Even so, you should guess right far more often than you guess wrong.

Many so-called guesses can be resolved by adopting what is known as the percentage play. There is no guarantee that a percentage play will succeed; it is merely that the odds favor its success over the long haul.

For example, suppose you're in three notrump and West leads the six

of spades. How should you proceed? Observe that if you follow low, West wins with the queen and returns a spade, establishing West's suit. When you later try a club finesse, you wind up down one.

But if you go up with the ace of spades at trick one and then take the club finesse, you make the contract because the opposing spades are blocked and West can't run his suit. As soon as you regain the lead, you have nine tricks.

The question, therefore, is whether declarer should know to make this play. Percentage-wise, it is correct to put up the ace at trick one before trying the club finesse. True, you go down if it turns out that West started with five spades to the K-Q and the king of clubs, in which case you could have made the contract by playing low from dummy on the opening lead. Despite this possibility, you will be better off in the long run if you put up the ace of spades.

This is because there are many more hands where East will hold the K-x or Q-x than neither of the honors. If East does have the king or queen, you ensure the contract by playing the ace at once but jeopardize it by playing low from dummy instead. The ace is therefore the percentage play.

Tomorrow: The good old days.
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Annie's Mailbox[®]

Dear Annie: My mother is overly controlling with her grown children. She seems to think that when she gives an opinion, we have to agree. What's worse, she is so negative about everything.

She starts fights with us and expects us to capitulate and say she is right every time. She voices her opinions without thinking them through and has stepped on a lot of toes over the years.

She has no friends left. We don't even celebrate holidays together because it is simply too depressing.

Mom will pick a fight on the phone, scream at the top of her lungs and then hang up and refuse to talk to us until we call and beg forgiveness.

My father is the only one who is always on speaking terms with her, but he's afraid to make her angry or she'll start a fight with him, too. So he stays out of our disputes.

The last few times I saw my mother, she didn't seem well. There's no point in telling her to see a doctor, because she has already been through four doctors in six months.

She hates all of them. In spite of her abrasive personality, I still worry about her. I've suggested all of the siblings get together with both parents and voice our concerns, but my brothers and sisters do not want to hear Mom scream at us, and we know she will. Please help before she drives everyone away. — *Sad in Ohio*

Dear Ohio: People who are perpetually unhappy, pick fights with others and drive friends and family away are often depressed and may even have an underlying mental illness.

Your mother's apparent physical problems are likely exacerbating the situation. Unless she recognizes that



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

she needs help, she isn't likely to respond well to any suggestion that she get it.

Contact the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (dbsalliance.org) at 1-800-826-3632 and the National Alliance on Mental Illness (nami.org) at 1-800-950-NAMI (1-800-950-6264), and ask for assistance.

Dear Annie: I am a photog-

rapher who has done many weddings. The current trend of strapless dresses, however, has presented wedding dress horrors. Please tell all brides looking for dresses to consider the following:

Strapless dresses don't look great on everyone, especially overweight or large-busted women. If you feel even remotely uncomfortable in the dress, you will look it.

If the dress slips down at all when you walk, imagine spending your entire wedding adjusting it and pulling it up. These things are not attractive.

More than once, I have seen a surprise appearance by "the girls," especially when the bride lifts her arms while dancing or to throw the bouquet.

Bending over to talk with children or kiss Grandma presents a whole new problem. I have spent hours Photoshopping out creases,

dimples, stretch marks and unattractive cleavage.

So try a dress with spaghetti straps or a halter, or wear something that shows off your back, but please, no more strapless gowns. — *K.R.*

Dear K.R.: Thanks for your words of wisdom. Brides, take note. Just because it looks good in a magazine doesn't mean it's right for you.

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

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

The Capricorn sun keeps us on task, but even the busiest schedule has room for a few little social niceties. The moon in Libra emphasizes our need for both platonic and romantic love. Getting along is a priority.

Working together is a pleasure. Finding someone new to click with is one of life's greatest thrills during this moon.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Always up for a little adventure, you find someone who will give you a run for your money in the daredevil department. The two of you

will go to great lengths to outdo one another.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You marvel at the glass-half-empty people who are always bringing up negative things, because for you the whole point of life is to see the good wherever you can. You'll connect with a special friend who shares that gift.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You feel like you're somebody who never wins anything, but everyone is a winner eventually. You just have to keep taking chances. Your number just came up, and you're about to find out.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You wouldn't want to escape reality completely, but you can dodge it occasionally. Taking a break from a long and demanding

obligation can be the smartest thing to do. You return refreshed, recharged and ready to go.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your strong sense of ethics means you can't help but frown where rules are broken. You will face a challenge involving the words and actions of a close friend and your own morals.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Responsibilities invigorate you. Things are heating up, but that's just when you feel most alive. Some people work best under pressure, and you are definitely in that category.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Everyone seems to have picked you to be the friend they complain to. You are a master of listening to problems without taking them on, so you'll be OK. This, too, shall pass.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). No one can argue with your powers of conversation. You make language dance. Insightful without being overbearing, you're a joy to be around. And you are about to meet your match.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov.

22-Dec. 21). Your personality is like a knife that can't be dulled: always sharp, always shiny. Today you'll bring a good bit of joy to someone who needs it. The evening introduces a small and welcome thrill.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You wouldn't call yourself a sentimental person, but today brings a syrupy mood. You might feel a little bit silly indulging your emotions, but from the outside, it's a charming and attractive state.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Listening to bad news brings on a sudden realization: You can turn it off. Bringing negative energy you can't change into your life is an exercise in futility. You have better things to do.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You have spent several months working on a project only to suddenly see it threatened from the outside by someone less competent than you. Don't react emotionally. A proper course of action will shortly become clear to you.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 6). You'll come into internal alignment this month, letting go of false reasoning and adopting new beliefs that help you attain

your goals. A commitment will solidify your course. March brings a muse into your life. April features upgrades in your transportation. You'll be seeing more of the world in May and October. Gemini and Virgo people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 36, 2, 39 and 50.

JANUARY MAKE-OVER MADNESS — NEW YEAR, NEW YOU: Makeovers aren't just for faces, you know! Each sign will apply themselves to a different focus of improvement in 2010. The high-energy twins will bring their Gemini magic to the area of health and fitness. This trendsetting sign is likely to kick off the fresh decade by getting into a new game, sport or fitness craze. Of particular interest will be activities that combine old-fashioned muscle work with technological advances. The mix of modern and ancient techniques will deliver speedy results for Gemini. The social aspect of exercise cannot be underestimated for this friendly sign. Gemini is far more likely to stick with a program if it involves fun with friends — and hopefully dishy conversation, too. As for Cancer, this year's improvements

will center on relationships. It's about time for old wounds to be healed, and Cancer is willing to do the emotional work it takes to put past pain in its final resting place. Cancer will find the perfect confidante in January, too — a supportive soul who is an excellent listener. As Cancer focuses on making one particular relationship more harmonious, all of Cancer's relationships will improve.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Whether his theme is spiders from mars, scary monsters or just plain dancing, rock iconoclast David Bowie commits fully to his art, and the result is nothing short of captivating. His powerful Capricorn sun, Mercury and Mars give him a talent for business and high finance. And Bowie's natal moon, Saturn and Pluto shine brightly in the eternally entertaining sign of Leo.

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

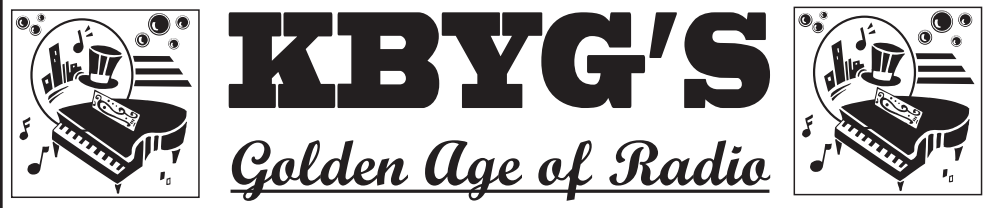
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Garcia's 23 leads Coahoma to win at Sands



HERALD PHOTO/Joe Zigtema

Hunter Williams lets a shot loose for two points Tuesday in Ackerly. Coahoma won 68-40.

Herald Staff Report

ACKERLY — Isaac Garcia had a ball Tuesday against Sands in Ackerly.

Garcia scored 19 of his 23 points in the first half as Coahoma rolled over Sands 68-40 for its 12th win of the season. The Bulldogs scored 24 points in the first quarter against a smaller Sands lineup and locked down the Mustangs' leading scorer, Johnny

Rogers. He finished with six points.

"We got going early," Coahoma coach Kim Nichols said. "They tightened up on him in the second half, but the damage was already done."

Senior Bert Ybarra scored 10 points to lead the Mustangs. Junior Rogers, Preston Zant and Gabe Guillen scored seven points apiece. For Coahoma, Josh Paniagua scored 11 points as he and Garcia

made up for a slow night from Coahoma leading scorer Martin Leija. Leija added a modest six points for the Bulldogs.

Nichols and Coahoma are gearing up for a showdown with Ira on Friday. The game will be played in Coahoma. Tipoff is 6:30 p.m.

The Bulldogs will try to avenge a 70-46 loss to Ira in Stanton's Hooptown Tournament earlier this season.

compared with the two teams' earlier meeting this season — a 46-31 Grady win.

"At this point I'm real pleased with where we've progressed," he said. "We played them the first game of the season, and we've improved and bounds since then."

Grady has also participated in some tough battles with a Forsan district rival — the Stanton Buffaloes, who look to be the early favorite to win district 2-1A.

Estacado too much for Big Spring

By JOE ZIGTEMA
Sports Editor

Facing a tough schedule to begin the year, The Big Spring Steers got no rest Tuesday at Steer Gym.

The Lubbock Estacado Matadors, ranked No. 6 in 3A by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches, streaked past Big Spring (9-11) 74-53 in nondistrict action. Estacado's fast pace bothered the Steers at both the offensive and defensive ends.

"We like to play fast, but there's fast and there's Estacado fast," head coach Marcus Morris said. "They're a good basketball team, and we knew it coming in."

The Matadors shot 9-of-14 from 3-point range, led by Clarence Willard's 16 points. He was 5-of-8 from behind the arc.

"Turnovers, missed shots and not knowing for their team who had the hot hand," Morris said. "That tells the story right there."

Big Spring started the game with a 6-2 lead in the early going, but once the Matadors got rolling they never let the Steers within striking distance.

Estacado built a 10-point lead at half and widened that margin with a 22-11 third quarter, putting the game out of reach.



HERALD PHOTO/Tony Claxton

Big Spring's Daniel Segundo lays a shot up over an Estacado defender Tuesday at Steer Gym. Estacado handed Big Spring its sixth straight loss.

"We went dead in the third quarter," Morris said. "It's a trend. If we're going to have a chance to win and keep it close, we're going to have to continue to play through four quarters."

The loss extended the Steers' losing streak to six games, all against

opponents with winning records.

"There's not one thing to blame it on, it's just where we are as a basketball team right now," Morris said. "We just have to stay positive. If we were losing to bad teams, there would be a chance to be negative, but we'll get

it turned around. We'll get better."

Jerrell Williams scored 12 points to lead the Steers on 3-of-13 shooting. He was 5-of-6 from the free throw line. Tyler Tannehill was 5-of-8 from the floor for his 10 points to go

See **STEERS**, Page 11

Forsan, Grady split boys, girls games

Herald Staff Report

FORSAN — The Forsan Buffaloes came ever so close to knocking off area power Grady on Tuesday night.

The Buffs had the Wildcats — who entered the game with an impressive 14-2 record — within striking distance after a third quarter in which Grady scored just two points. But during that span, Forsan could manage just six of its own and Grady moved on to a 40-36 win.

Despite the loss, Forsan coach Brad Batla said he liked the way his young squad performed, especially during that third quarter.

"We played awesome defense," Batla said. "They missed a couple shots (in the third quarter) that they made in the first half, but we contested all shots and we limited them to one shot. Intensity-wise, we played all night."

Grady's Shane Teague led all scorers with 17 points and Dylan Cox chipped in 10. Evan Burton scored 16 points for the Buffs in the loss.

"They played good man-to-man defense," Batla said. "We just need a few more guys to step up and score."

Batla said he was as pleased as he could be with his young squad's performance, especially

compared with the two teams' earlier meeting this season — a 46-31 Grady win.

"At this point I'm real pleased with where we've progressed," he said. "We played them the first game of the season, and we've improved and bounds since then."

Grady has also participated in some tough battles with a Forsan district rival — the Stanton Buffaloes, who look to be the early favorite to win district 2-1A.

"Tonight shows that we can compete," Batla said. "That's good for our kids to see that we can play with all three teams in our district."

The Buffs stepped to 8-7 on the season.

"It really doesn't matter what our record is now, as long as we fix our mistakes so when we get into district play we have it down," Batla said.

Forsan will travel to Trinity on Friday. Tipoff is 8 p.m. Grady will take on Sands at home at the same time.

Lady Buffs 41
Grady 27

FORSAN — The Lady Buffs used a dominant first-half defensive performance to corral the Grady Wildcats on Tuesday night in Forsan.

Forsan's man-to-man defense limited the Lady Wildcats to nine

Area roundup: Stanton boys, Garden City girls prevail in overtime

Herald Staff Report

SEAGRAVES — Stanton's Tyler Fulton scored 20 points to lead the Buffs past Seagraves 50-47 in overtime Tuesday night on the road.

The game was a neck-and-neck affair down to the wire, with Stanton pulling out the victory in the extra period. Grayson Grey also scored 10 points in the

game, which only included 19 fouls.

Stanton shot 4-of-5 from the free throw line, while Seagraves missed some key free throws with a 4-for-8 night from the charity stripe.

Stanton will take on Midessa at home Friday at 8 p.m.

Stanton girls 56
Seagraves 32

SEAGRAVES — The Stanton Lady Buffs kept the ball rolling Tuesday

with a win over Seagraves.

Kesley Jones scored 20 and Rachel Fleckenstein chipped in 19 points for the Lady Buffs, who put the game away early with a 17-4 first quarter and cruised from there.

Stanton improved to 16-4 on the season and faces Odessa Home School in Stanton on Friday. Tipoff is 6:30 p.m.

Garden City 42
Klondike 39

GARDEN CITY — The Garden City Lady Bearkats redeemed their overtime loss to Ballinger last week with a thrilling overtime win Tuesday against Klondike.

Morgan Schwartz led the way with 25 points for Garden City, which was a 42-39 winner over

See **ROUNDUP**, Page 11



COURTESY PHOTO/James Schwartz

Garden City's Paige Nihues dives for a loose ball in the Lady Bearkat's OT win over Klondike.

Sports in brief

Tuesday's area hoops action

Estacado 74, Big Spring 53
Coahoma 68, Sands 40
Grady boys 40, Forsan 36
Forsan girls 41, Grady 27
Stanton boys 50, Seagraves 47, OT
Stanton girls 56, Seagraves 32
Garden City girls 42, Klondike 39, OT
Garden City boys 52, Midessa 35

Big Spring softball clinic to be held Jan. 16

Big Spring softball coach John Sparks will hold a winter skills softball clinic coming up.

The clinic will teach basic softball skills and will be held Jan. 16 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Girls in grades three through eight are welcome. The cost is \$25.

Contact John Sparks for more information or to sign up at 432-270-2711.

Big Spring Fall Sports Banquet to be held Saturday

The Big Spring High School fall sports banquet date has been changed from Thursday to Saturday.

The event will be held in the high school cafeteria at 7 p.m.

Awards will be given for Big Spring's successful fall sports season, including the football team's 10-3 campaign.

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Applications are required and available at the District's office, 400 E. 24TH Street, Big Spring, Texas 79720, by calling (432) 267-6341 or crmwd.org.

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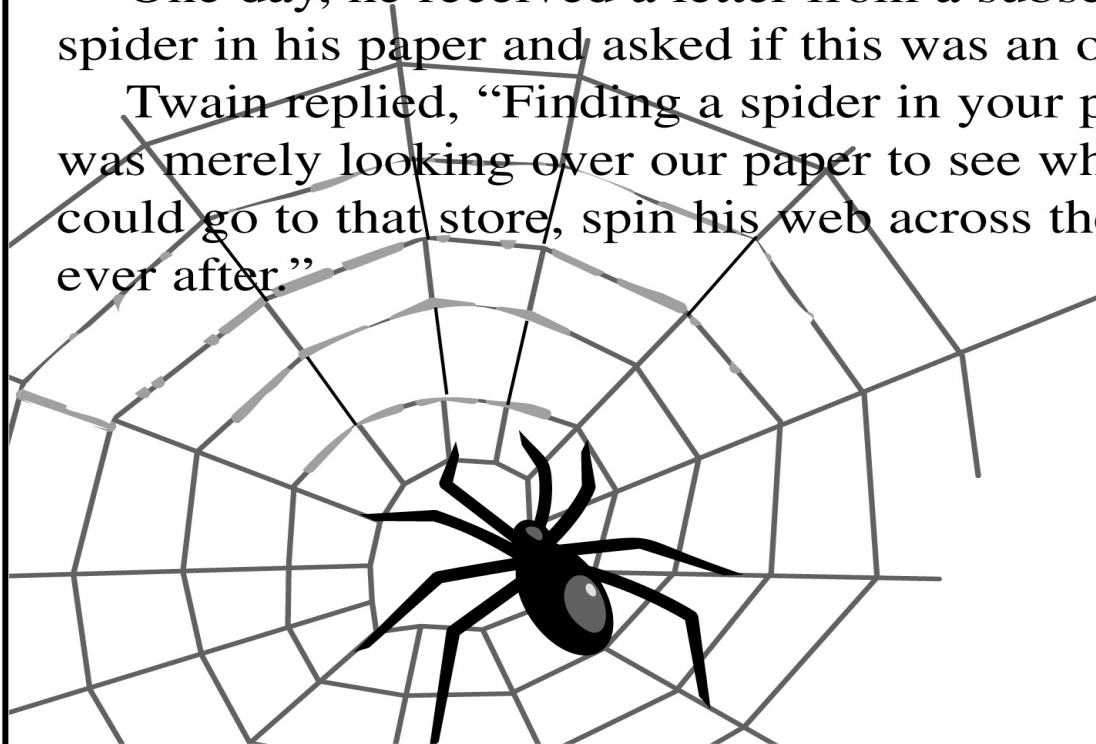
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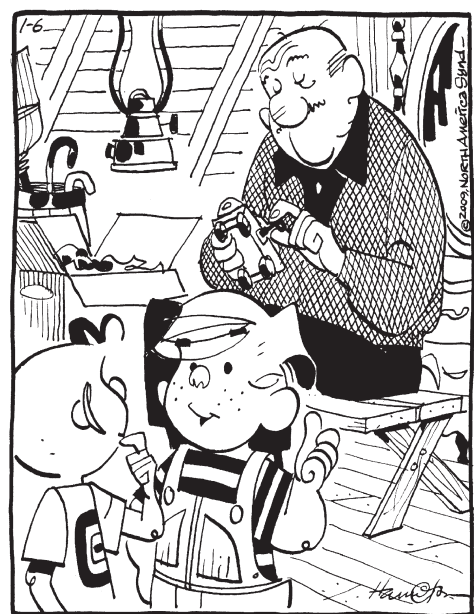
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5:30 PM	News ABC	News ABC	Locura Noticiero	Lopez Lopez	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News NBC	Seinfeld Office Harris	Cortes Harris	BBC Business	Man vs. Wild	2: Judgment Day, Edward Furlong	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas Suite Life	Around Interrupt	SportsCenter
6:30 PM	News Ent. Ton.	Jeopardy! Wheel	Gancho	Two Men Two Men	News Ent. Ton.	12 Cora-zones	News Millionaire	Name Name	Mark Swallow	PBS News-Hour	Man vs. Wild	UFC Un-leashed	Bones		Wizards of Montana	College Basketball: Memphis at Syracuse.	College Football: GMAC Bowl Central Michigan vs. Troy.	
7:30 PM	Middle Middle	Middle Middle	Nombre-Amor	Glee	I Get That a Lot	Más Sabe el Diabolo	Mercy Payne	Upd Payne	House	The Human Spark	Man vs. Wild	Movie: Day-light, Viggo Mortensen	UFC Un-leashed	Bones	Movie: Waist Deep, Larenz Tate	Movie: Cadet Kelly, Gary Cole	College Basketball: Duke vs. Iowa State.	
8:30 PM	Family Cougar	Family Cougar	Sortilegio	Glee	The 36th Annual People's Choice Awards	Pobres	Law & Order: SVU	Browns Browns	Light of the Southwest	This Emotional Life (DVS)	Man vs. Wild	Die Die	Bones	Game Game	Phineas Montana	NBA Basket-ball: Lakers at Clippers		
9:30 PM	(:01) Ugly Betty	(:01) Ugly Betty	Don Francisco	Simpsons Friends	Victorinos	The Jay Leno Show	Browns Browns	Upd Dr. Young	Charlie Rose	Man vs. Wild	Movie: Escape From L.A.	MAN Die	CSI: NY	The Mo'Nique	Wizards Suite Life	SportsCenter		
10:30 PM	News Nightline	News Nightline	Impacto Noticiero	Raymond TMZ	News Letterman	Noticias Decisiones	News Tonight Show	Lopez Tonight	Dr. Young	Man vs. Wild	Movie: Day-light, Viggo Mortensen	MAN Die	CSI: NY	W. Williams	Suite Life	Football NFL Live		
11:30 PM	Insider Jimmy Kim-mel Live	Extra Jimmy Kim-mel Live	Torrente, un Torbel	Paid King-Hill	Insider	Pagado	News Poker After Dark	Sex & Sanchez	Sanchez	Man vs. Wild	Overhaul'in	Star Trek: Voyager	Saving Grace	Movie: Waist Deep, Larenz Tate	Cory Kim	NBA Basket-ball: Lakers at Clippers	SportsCenter	
1:30 AM	Free Paid	Free Paid	Mujer... Cero	RENO 911	Paid	Pagado	Pagado	Lopez Tonight	Light of the Southwest						Replace Emper			

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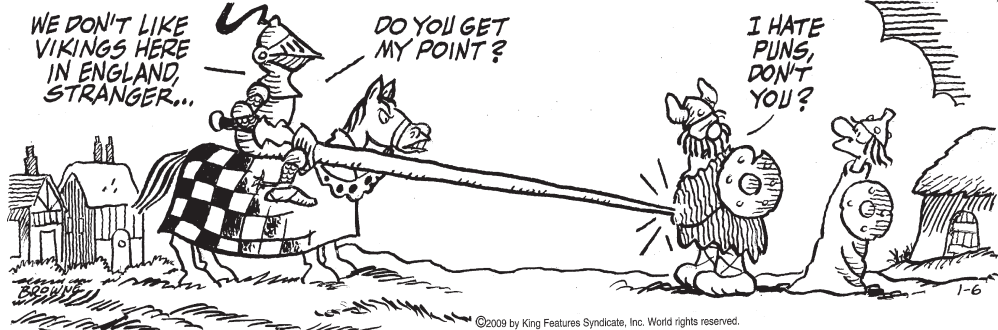
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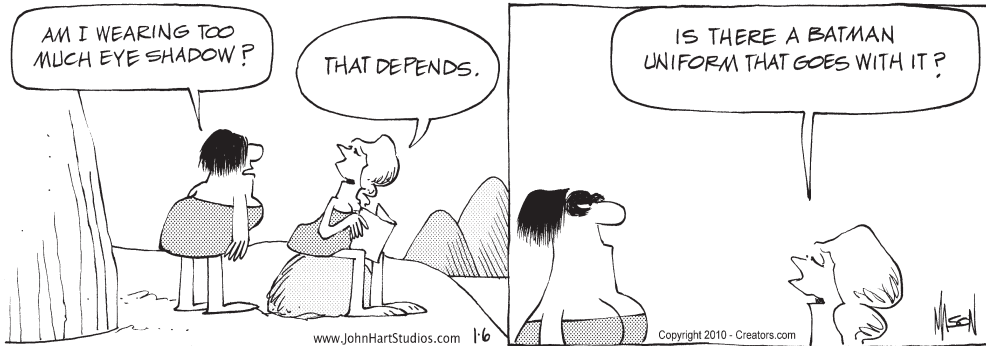
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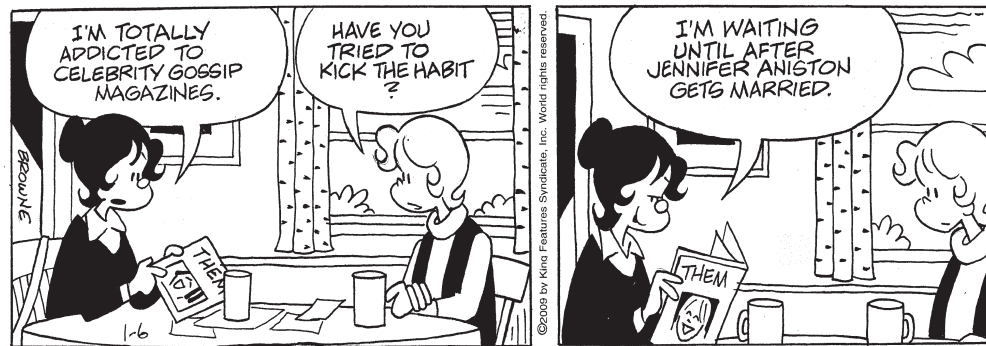
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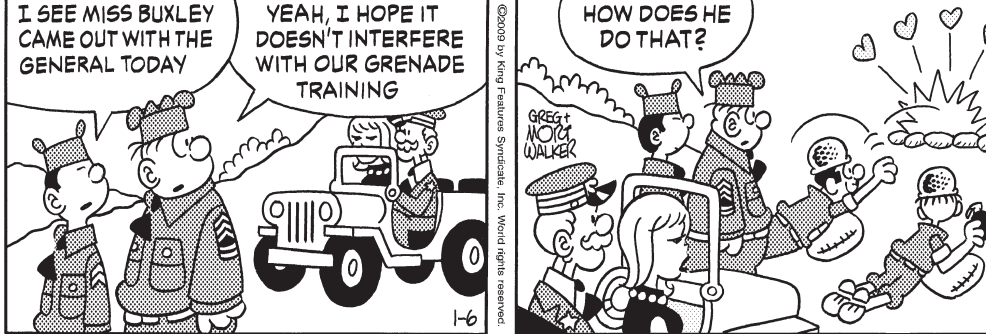
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This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 6, the sixth day of 2010. There are 359 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 6, 1838, Samuel Morse and Alfred Vail gave the first successful public demonstration of their telegraph, in Morristown, N.J.

On this date:

In 1540, England's King Henry VIII married his fourth wife, Anne of Cleves. (The marriage lasted about six months.)

In 1919, the 26th president of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, died in Oyster Bay, N.Y., at age 60.

In 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in his State of the Union address, outlined a goal of "Four Freedoms": Freedom of speech and expression; the freedom of people to worship God in their own way; freedom from want; freedom from fear.

In 1942, the Pan American Airways Pacific Clipper arrived in New York more than a month after leaving California and fol-

lowing a westward route.

In 1945, George Herbert Walker Bush married Barbara Pierce in Rye, N.Y.

In 1950, Britain recognized the Communist government of China.

In 1967, U.S. Marines and South Vietnamese troops launched Operation Deckhouse Five, an offensive in the Mekong River delta.

In 1982, truck driver William G. Bonin was convicted in Los Angeles of 10 of the "Freeway Killer" slayings of young men and boys. (Bonin was later convicted of four other killings; he was executed in 1996.)

Today's Birthdays: Pollster Louis Harris is 89. Bluegrass performer Earl Scruggs is 86. Retired MLB All-Star Ralph Branca is 84. Author E.L. Doctorow is 79. Actress Bonnie Franklin is 66. Musician Joey, the CowPolka King (Riders in the Sky) is 61. Former FBI director Louis Freeh is 60. Rock singer-musician Kim Wilson (The Fabulous Thunderbirds) is 59. Singer Jett Williams is 57. Rock musician Malcolm Young (AC-DC) is 57. Actor-comedian Rowan Atkinson is 55. Golfer Nancy Lopez is 53. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kathy Sledge

is 51. TV chef Nigella Lawson is 50. Rhythm-and-blues singer Eric Williams (BLACKstreet) is 50. Movie composer A.R. Rahman ("Slumdog Millionaire") is 44. Movie director John Singleton is 42. TV personality Julie Chen is 40. Actor Danny Pintauro ("Who's the Boss?") is 34. Actress Rinko Kikuchi ("Babel") is 29. NBA player Gilbert Arenas is 28. Rock singer Alex Turner (Arctic Monkeys) is 24.

Thought for Today: "Very few men are wise by their own counsel; or learned by their own teaching. For he that was only taught by himself, had a fool to his master." — Ben Jonson, English dramatist and poet (1572-1637).

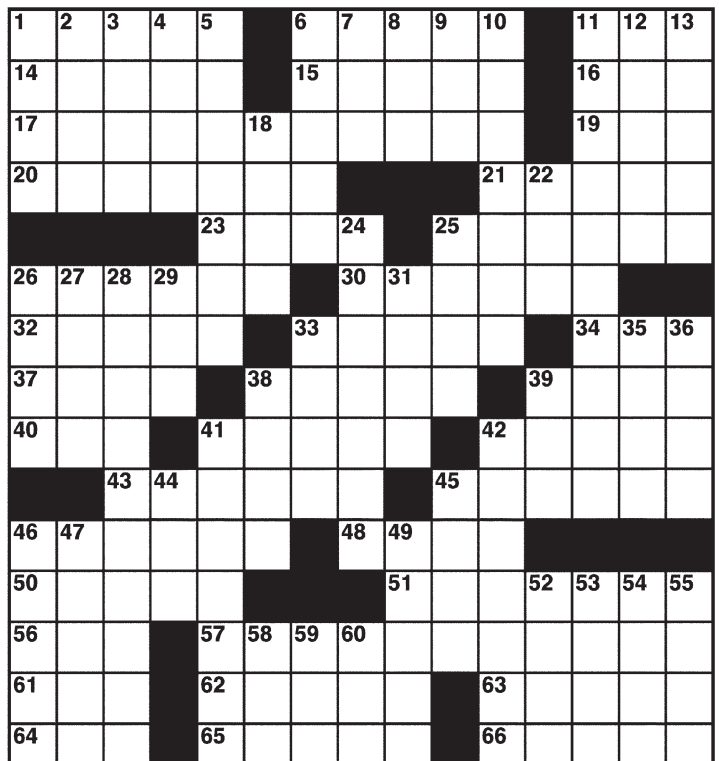
Answer to previous puzzle

SAFE	SLIM	ADAPT
PLEA	TADA	DOUSE
USER	OPEN	SUDAN
DOLLAR	DAYS	BILL
WYO	APLOMB	
GRADE	GOALIE	
ROBOTS	ABANDONS	
AMEN	HATED	ARIA
SETASIDE	SATINS	
LONERS	VEGAS	
SADDLE	ALI	
AGED	DISHES	DIRT
VALUE	SPAN	AREA
EPICS	LARD	TANG
DESKS	ERAS	ANTS

Newsday Crossword

CARDINAL PRINCIPLE by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 Social blunder
 - 6 Demeanors
 - 11 Timid
 - 14 Sci-fi being
 - 15 Moslem's Almighty
 - 16 Bathwater tester
 - 17 VIP's ride
 - 19 Pilot's guesstimate: Abbr.
 - 20 Antagonistic
 - 21 Less desirable berth
 - 23 Rotten to the ___
 - 25 Plays for time
 - 26 Bound together, as logs
 - 30 East African nation
 - 32 Poker-pot starters
 - 33 OK to do
 - 34 Get-up-and-go
 - 37 Horse coloration
 - 38 In good physical shape
 - 39 Spiced item
 - 40 ___ Arbor, MI
 - 41 Trellis climbers
 - 42 River-mouth formation
 - 43 Oppressively heavy
 - 45 Put trust in
 - 46 ___ Smith apple
 - 48 Golf-course hazard
 - 50 Incite anger in
 - 51 Totally baffled
 - 56 Auto-loan abbr.
 - 57 Disco illumination
- DOWN**
- 9 '60s-'70s war zone, for short
 - 10 Scold loudly
 - 11 Get a move on
 - 12 Convention site
 - 13 Long time
 - 18 Inept one
 - 22 Handle clumsily
 - 24 Highly regarded
 - 25 Used a firehouse pole
 - 26 Zhivago's love
 - 27 Auth. unknown
 - 28 *Babes in Toyland* costar
 - 29 Coop brooder
 - 31 Gets 100 on
 - 33 ___ wolf (solitary one)
 - 35 Engrossed by
 - 36 Downright nasty
 - 38 In good order
 - 39 Salon goo
 - 41 Actress Redgrave
 - 42 Director Brian
 - 44 Recent USNA grad
 - 45 Posted charge
 - 46 Thanksgiving table item
 - 47 Boxing-ring boundaries
 - 49 Like an ardent fan
 - 52 Dishonest one
 - 53 Fairy tale villain
 - 54 Tibia's place
 - 55 Immediately, in the OR
 - 58 Center X
 - 59 Daily grind
 - 60 "To a . . ." poem



Iowa defense dominates Georgia Tech in 24-14 win

MIAMI(AP)—Basking in an Orange Bowl victory, Iowa coach Kirk Ferentz misspoke during the postgame news conference when he referred to the opponent as "Wake Forest."

Ferentz knew who the Hawkeyes were playing. They had a month to prepare for Georgia Tech, and it showed.

Iowa stymied Tech's explosive triple option, allowing only nine first downs, and Ricky Stanzi threw two early touch-down passes in a 24-14 victory Tuesday night.

A temperature of 49 degrees at kickoff made it the coldest Orange Bowl ever, but the Hawkeyes kept the heat on Tech. The ninth-ranked Yellow Jackets averaged 35 points during the regular season, but their only score in the first three quarters came on Jerrard Tarrant's 40-yard interception return.

"This was Hawkeye

weather," Ferentz said. "We feel right at home right now."

The No. 10 Hawkeyes (11-2) earned their first Bowl Championship Series bowl win, matched the school record for victories and could claim their highest final ranking since No. 3 in 1960.

Atlantic Coast Conference champion Georgia Tech (11-3) netted a season-low 155 yards.

"We were our own worst enemy," coach Paul Johnson said. "We haven't played many games like that. We couldn't seem to get anything going. We couldn't hit a pass play, couldn't hit a big play."

The Yellow Jackets were first in the nation in time of possession, second in rushing and 11th in scoring. But they sputtered against an Iowa defense that held four bowl-bound teams to 10 points or less dur-

ing the regular season.

"If you say 'Hawkeye football,' it's defense," Stanzi said. "That's all it is: defense."

Defensive end Adrian Clayborn led Iowa's defensive charge, with two sacks and nine tackles, including two for a loss. He was chosen the game's most valuable player.

Last month, Clayborn said he'll return in 2010 for his senior season rather than turn pro, and after he game he confirmed he'll stick with that plan.

"He's shooting for national awards now," Ferentz said with a smile. "That was a little prelim."

The victory was a sweet one for the Iowa coach, who lost to Southern Cal 38-17 in the Hawkeyes' only other Orange Bowl appearance seven years



AP Photo/ Pat Carter

Iowa's defense dominated Georgia Tech's vaunted triple-option offense Tuesday in the Orange Bowl.

ago.

"The last time we were here — not because we lost, but because of the way we played — that was tough to live with," Ferentz said.

While the Hawkeyes had never faced the triple option in Ferentz's 11 seasons as coach, they stuffed the dive play and swarmed the flanks. The Yellow Jackets had only 14 three-and-outs during

the regular season, few-est in the nation, but they failed to pick up a first down on their first four possessions.

"It's just a good thing we had a month to prepare, because it was difficult," Clayborn said. "It was a great plan. The coaches put us in the right situation to make plays."

Georgia Tech finally made a first down mid-way through the second

quarter. The Yellow Jackets' first pass completion came 43 minutes into the game with Iowa leading 17-7.

Quarterback Josh Nesbitt finished 2 of 9 for 12 yards for Tech, which had a season-high seven punts and was hurt by nine penalties. Jonathan Dwyer, a 1,300-yard rusher the past two seasons, netted 49 yards on 14 carries.

"We know we can move the ball on any defense," Nesbitt said. "It was just a matter of going out and doing it. And you can't beat a good team when you're beating yourself."

Iowa freshman Brandon Wegherrushed for 113 yards and one score in 16 carries. Stanzi went 17 of 29 for 231 yards in his return from a sprained ankle that sidelined him in the season's 10th game.

ROUNDUP

Continued from Page 7

the Lady Cougars. She later fouled out in the game.

The Lady Bearkats close the nondistrict season with a 17-1 record. They will host Robert Lee in the district opener at Garden City on Friday. Tipoff is 6 p.m.

Bearkats 52, Midessa 35

GARDEN CITY — Garden City evened its record Tuesday night with a 52-35 win over Midessa Home School. Brett Chudej finished

with 26 points from his post position as the Bearkats got ahead early with a 13-2 first quarter. Hayden Halfmann added seven points.

Garden City head coach Kori Abney said his team is still knocking off rust from its late start — as evidenced by a 9-of-22 night from the free throw line.

"We did some really good things, but we also did some stupid things," Abney said.

Christoval will travel to Garden City on Friday. Tipoff is 8 p.m. in Garden City after the girls game.

FORSAN

Continued from Page 7

first-half points while the Lady Buffs put 24 on the board through the first two periods. They coasted on to a 41-27 win, their 13th of the season.

"The first half was relatively mistake free for us," Forsan coach Robert Hillger said. "That was the best half of basketball we played all season."

If there was a weak

spot for Forsan in the game, it was concerning foul trouble. Both teams combined for 47 fouls — 24 for Forsan and 23 for Grady — and the Lady Buffs had to play the last minute with four players due to their short bench. A scoreless minute, Hillger added.

Forsan also had trouble hitting its foul shots, finishing 10-21 from the charity stripe.

"We have to concentrate better at the free throw line," Hillger

SCORES

Continued from Page 7

Stanton 50, Seagraves 47
SHS 8 11 12 12 4 -- 47
Stanton 11 11 9 12 7 -- 50

Seagraves- Ricky Simental 13, Jachee Harrell 4, Jirus Davis 5, Damien Vidales 14, Travis Thompson 9

Stanton (13-5)- Tyler Fulton 20, Trace Sidle 6, Andres Chavez 2, Nathan Koonce 5, Thomas Ramos 2, Blake Evans 2, Grayson Grey 10, Brandon Almanza 3.

Stanton 56, Seagraves 32
Seagraves 4 11 11 6 -- 32
Stanton 17 10 17 12 -- 56

Seagraves- Perez 3, Fariss 2, Almaraz 4, Middleton 8, Hall 2, Arando 4, Gibson 7, Fuentes 2

Stanton (16-4)- K. Jones 20, Fleckenstein 19, Snellgrove 5, Patterson 4, Saucedo 2, Beasley 2, Hale 2

FT- Seagraves 6-7, Stanton 6-10; 3-point- Stanton 2 (Snellgrove, Jones)

Bearkats 42, Klondike 39, OT
KHS 11 11 7 8 2 -- 39
GC 10 9 10 8 5 -- 42

Garden City (17-1)- M. Schwartz 25, K. Halfmann 6, Niehues 5, A. Halfmann 3, Ramirez 2, R. Hirt 1

Klondike (13-4)- Banvelos 13, Brock 8, Skiles 6, Corde 5, Howard 4, Wiew 3

FT- GC 15-23; KHS 13-24; 3-point- KHS 2 (Corde, Banvelos), GC 1 (A. Halfmann); Fouled out- Skiles, Schwartz

Garden City 52, Midessa 35

Midessa 2 12 10 11 -- 35

G-City 13 12 12 15 -- 52

Midessa (10-6)- King 11, Rodriguez 10, Gregg 8, Able 4, Edwards 2

Garden City (3-3)- Chudej 26, H. Halfmann 7, Long 6, R. Hirt 5, Montes 4, R. Halfmann 2, Dalton 2

FT- MHS 3-5; GC 9-22; 3-point- Midessa 2 (Rodriguez 2); GC 1 (Hirt)

Coahoma 68, Sands 40

Coahoma 24 15 17 12 -- 68

sands 9 11 8 11 - 40

Coahoma (12-6)- Paniagua

11, Ringener 3, Ruiz 2, Douglass 6, Williams 3, Leija 6, Garcia 23

Bridge 6, Hahn 2, Crabtree 2, Sawyer 2

Sands- Zant 7, Ju. Rogers 7, Jo. Rogers 6, Ybarra 10, Armendariz 2, Guillen 7

FT- CHS 6-7, SHS 5-10; 3-point- CHS 2 (Paniagua, Garcia), EHS 2 (Guillen, Zant)

Grady 40, Forsan 36

Grady 10 16 2 12 -- 40

Forsan 7 13 6 10 -- 36

Grady- Teague 17, Cox 10, Matthews 2, Wiebe 2, Rodriguez 2, Perez 7

Forsan- Flores 2, Self 5,

Robles 6, Suazo 7, Burton 16

FT- Grady 8-12; Forsan 7-8;

3-point- Forsan 1 (Suazo); Grady 4 (Teague 3, Perez)

Forsan 41, Grady 27

Grady 5 4 11 7 -- 27

Forsan 10 14 9 8 -- 41

Grady- Oppegaard- 5, Blocker 3, Arnold 2, Shulke 4, Price 6, Meeks 2, Cook 5

Forsan (13-4)- Ambra Hill 10, S. Jones 7, K. Jones 5, M. Forshee 8, C. Stanlee 7, Roemer 4

FT-Grady 12-21, Forsan 10-21;

3-point- Grady 1 (Oppegaard), Forsan 1 (Hill)

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STEERS

Continued from Page 7

with eight rebounds and two blocks.

"We challenged him this week watching fill about being faster and playing more aggressive, and I'm glad to see him do that," Morris said. "He adds a lot of different dimensions. He can go inside, he has a nice, soft touch from the outside, we just need to stay positive and he needs to keep getting better."

The Steers will try to snap their losing streak against Brownfield on the road Friday night. Tipoff is 7:30 p.m.

Estacado 74, Big Spring 53

Estacado 22 18 22 12 -- 74

BSHS 13 17 11 12 -- 53

Estacado (17-4)- Willard 16, Wagner 15, Hunter 10, Russell 10, Russell 9, Lewis 6, Robinson 6, Johnson 2

Big Spring (9-11)- Williams 12, Tannehill 10, Falcon 8, Anderson 8, Ritchey 6, Plakhotny 4, Clay 2, T. Parnell 2, X. Parnell 1

FG- BS 20-51; EHS 28-52; FT- EHS 9-13, BS 12-17; 3-point- EHS 9-14 (Willard 5, Robinson 2, Russell 2), BS 1-11 (Williams); Rebounds- BS 30, EHS 24; Turnovers- EHS 18, BS 18; Assists EHS 14, BS 9; Blocks- EHS 4, BS 2;

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Dallas hands Pistons 10th straight loss with road win

DALLAS (AP) — Behind a strong finishing kick, the Dallas Mavericks rebounded from their worst loss of the season.

The stumbling Detroit Pistons, on the other hand, are still searching for a way to end their longest losing streak in more than 15 years.

Jason Terry scored 26 points, Dirk Nowitzki added 22 and the Mavericks overcame a slow start to hand Detroit its 10th consecutive loss, beating the Pistons 98-93 Tuesday night.

The Mavericks were coming off a 131-96 loss Sunday to the Los Angeles Lakers, their most lopsided setback of the season and a performance coach Rick Carlisle called "embarrassing."

There seemed to be a carry-over from the Lakers game early against Detroit. Dallas shot 29 percent in the opening quarter and trailed by 14 in the first half on Tuesday.

Nowitzki and Terry combined to score 31 points in the second half to lead the rally against the Pistons.

"It was ugly," said Nowitzki who also grabbed 12 rebounds and finished 9 of 20 shooting. "It looked like we had a little West Coast hangover. We didn't have any energy. But (Terry) carried us offensively all game

long. He kept making shots."

The Pistons led for the better part of the first three quarters as they looked to win for the first time since Dec. 12. Rodney Stuckey missed a 3-pointer with 7.9 seconds left that could have tied the game.

Detroit hasn't dropped 10 in a row since the end of the 1993-94 season. The Pistons lost their final 13 games that season to finish 20-62.

The Pistons will try to end their slide Wednesday night at San Antonio.

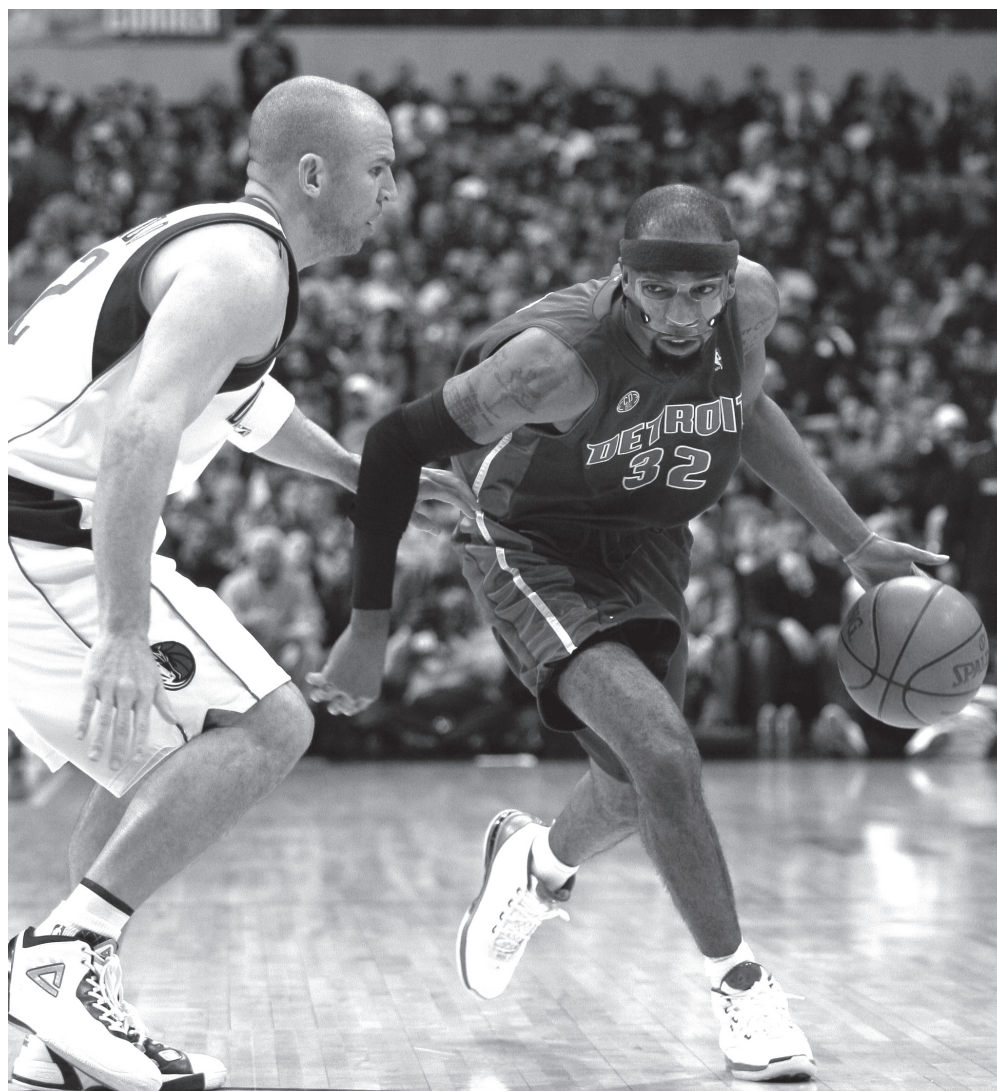
"Our guys competed," Pistons coach John Kuester said. "I was very impressed. We're going through an interesting stretch. But we're going to find a way to get out of this hole."

Detroit's Richard Hamilton scored 20 points, Charlie Villanueva had 17 and Stuckey had 10 of his 15 points in the fourth quarter.

The Pistons are still trying to regroup from a rash of injuries.

Hamilton (hamstring and ankle) and Tayshaun Prince (ruptured disc in back) have both missed 26 games, and Ben Gordon (left ankle) was out for nine in a row in December. All three returned to the lineup Dec. 27.

"We've had our ups and downs this whole year," Stuckey said.



Dallas' Jason Kidd guards the Pistons' Richard Hamilton Tuesday in Detroit. The Mavericks handed Detroit its 10th straight loss with a road win.

"We've had a lot of injuries. But that's not going to let us get down on each other."

Drew Gooden had 10 points and a season-high 18 rebounds, including a career-best nine on the offensive end. Shawn Marion added 18 points.

Gooden's struggles mirrored Dallas' early woes. He airballed two short jumpers in the first three minutes and

missed 12 of his first 14 shots, several of which were tip attempts on the offensive glass.

"He kept tipping it to himself," Nowitzki said of Gooden. "There seemed to be a lid on the basket. But he's a warrior in the paint."

The game was tied at 68 after three quarters when the Mavericks opened the fourth with an 11-3 run. Terry and Gooden each had four

points in the run that put Dallas up 79-71 with 8:34 left.

The Mavericks still led 94-86 on Terry's jumper with 1:45 left before the Pistons rallied. Gordon connected on a jumper that cut Dallas' lead to 94-93 with 14.7 seconds remaining in the game.

Nowitzki hit a pair of free throws with 10.4 seconds left to stretch the advantage to 96-93.

Stuckey missed an open 3-pointer from the baseline that could have tied it, and Marion clinched the game with a pair of free throws with 6.5 seconds left.

The Mavericks improved to 10-3 in games decided by five points or fewer.

"Early on, we were missing bunnies at the basket," Terry said. The third quarter came and we pushed the tempo. That is the way we like to play."

Dallas was 6 of 21 from the floor — including seven misses in a row at one point — in the first quarter and trailed 22-14.

Led by 12 first-half points each from Villanueva and Prince, Detroit's lead increased to 40-26 midway through the second quarter.

Nowitzki scored 14 points on 6 of 8 shooting in the third as the Mavericks rallied to tie the game heading into the final quarter.

NOTES: Nowitzki played in his 873rd career game with Dallas, moving past Derek Harper into second place on the club's career list. He is 11 away from passing Brad Davis for most games played in team history. Pistons backup G Will Bynum (ankle) missed his third consecutive game. ... Mavericks C Erick Dampier (left knee) was out of the lineup for the second game in a row.

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