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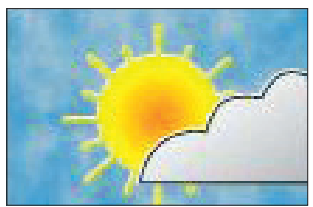
Howard's Hawks top South Plains College in WJCAC opener
Page 1B



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H BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY
JANUARY 12, 2010



VOLUME 105, NUMBER 31

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

H2S exposure leads to local man's demise

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

GARDEN CITY — A 65-year-old Big Spring man was killed Monday morning after he and three co-workers were exposed to hydrogen sulfide gas at an oilfield site in Glasscock County, approximately 15 miles north of Garden City near FM 461.

Johnny Mills was pronounced dead just before noon, according to Glasscock County Sheriff Keith Burnett. Mills was an employee of Garden City-based Sheridan Enterprises. Mills' co-worker, 27-year-old Steven Waters, was rushed to an Odessa

hospital after the pair were exposed to hydrogen sulfide while working on a tank battery.

According to officials, the pair were atop the tank battery when the gas was released. When emergency workers arrived on the scene, Waters had fallen to the ground from the tank, while Mills was discovered unconscious atop the battery.

The pair were preparing to replace a set of tank batteries at the location when the accident occurred, according to unconfirmed reports.

See **DEATH**, Page 3A

Man who left fliers at school told to stay away

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

COAHOMA — A person who left "disturbing" fliers on the vehicles of Coahoma High School students and staff in the past week has become persona non grata at the school district.

a white male in his 40s, left fliers on the cars of students and staff last week titled, "The Library of Congress Extreme Oath and Induction of Jesuits." The hand-written fliers also contained some violent and disturbing language, including declaring

The man, identified only as See **FLIERS**, Page 3A

ISD-wide science fair scheduled Wednesday

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

More than 100 Big Spring Independent School District students will find out if their science projects pass muster when the district holds its annual science fair Wednesday.

Judging of projects will be held from 9 a.m. until noon at Dora Roberts Community Center. The exhibits will be

open to the public from noon until 2 p.m., at which time an awards assembly will be held at the community center's exhibition hall.

Projects from three divisions will be on display — junior (grades 3 through 5), intermediate (grades 6 through 8) and senior (grades

See **FAIR**, Page 3A

INDEX
Comics 6B
Classified 4-5B
Features 5A
Obituaries 2A
Opinion 4A
Sports 1-2B



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HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins

Compass' Regional Vice President Mark Keller, right, explains the food services his company will be providing at the county jail facility to Howard County Commissioners Monday morning, as the court voted unanimously to contract with the Arizona-based company.

Cornell meals provider hired by Howard County

Too early to know if move will save money, officials say

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners gave the go-ahead to a contract with Compass Group's Canteen Correctional Services to provide food services at the county jail, but officials say it's too early to say how much the move will cost or save.

Commissioners voted unanimously — with Precinct 3 Commissioner Jimmie Long absent — to enter into the contract, with Commissioner Jerry Kilgore making the motion and Commissioner Gary Simer providing the second.

Compass' Regional Vice President Mark Keller made a presentation to the court during the Monday morning meeting, explaining the process by which the company will provide all materials and personnel to provide the jail with food service.

"We currently provide food services for Cornell Corrections, so we already have

"We currently provide food services for Cornell Corrections, so we already have people in place. We would be providing the same type of service to the jail that we are providing there. This includes three meals a day, a cold breakfast and hot lunch and dinner."

—Mark Keller, Compass/ regional vice president

people in place," said Keller. "We would be providing the same type of service to the jail that we are providing there. This includes three meals a day, a cold breakfast and hot

See **MEALS**, Page 3A

Still SMARTing, court to settle suit

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

It appears the county's 2009 decision to switch its law enforcement software over to SMART software systems might not have been so smart, as the Howard County commissioners agreed Monday to seek a lawsuit settlement with the company.

Commissioner Jerry Kilgore made the motion to allow County Attorney Joshua Hamby to pursue a settlement to the suit between the county and Taylor-based SMART Public Safety Software, which was approved unanimously by the court.



Parker

Commissioner Jimmie Long was not present for the meeting.

According to County Judge Mark Barr, county offices utilizing the SMART software will be switching back to the system the government agency used before the completion of the new jail facility.

"We've been with the SMART software since the jail opened last year," said Barr. "The software has not operated satisfactorily for the jail or any of the other

See **SMART**, Page 3A

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Missed opportunities haunt young HC Hawks



HERALD PHOTO/Tony Claxton
Asia Reid shoots Tuesday in Levelland. The Hawks fell 51-44.

By **JOE ZIGTEMA**
Sports Editor

LEVELLAND — As well as the Howard College Hawks played through the early portion of the season, Tuesday night was not their night.

The young Hawks let multiple opportunities slip away in the second half of their 51-44 loss to South Plains in Levelland, committing, as coach Earl Diddle

called them, “mental errors.”

“I thought we were really sluggish,” Diddle said. “We’ve been off a week, and I just didn’t think we were really ready to play. I was pleased with certain components of the game, but we couldn’t play well enough long enough.”

The Hawks drop to 14-2 on the season and 0-1 in WACJAC conference play. South Plains

improved to 10-6, 1-0 in conference.

Kelsey Canavan and Ashlyn Green led South Plains with 10 points apiece. Canavan finished with a double-double, and her post counterpart Jasmine Taylor scored eight and grabbed nine rebounds. ToiEasha Cooper grabbed 10 rebounds as well as South Plains out-rebounded the Hawks 52-34 in the game.

“We didn’t block

them out,” Diddle said. “We stood and watched the ball and they got loose on us, and they got where we couldn’t recover from that.”

Howard shot just 27 percent from the field for the game. Tasha Tubbs, the team’s leading scorer, could not get in rhythm on the night, finishing 2-for-18 from the floor with eight points.

“We didn’t shoot the ball very well, but I

think that happens on the road,” Diddle said. “You live by the jump shot and you die by the jump shot.”

Asia Reid was a bright spot for Howard College, grabbing a career-high 15 rebounds to go with her 10 points. She kept Howard in the game with several cutbacks and shot 4-of-6 from the charity stripe.

“She was pretty See **WOMEN**, Page 2B

Watkins, Emory fuel Howard win

By **JOE ZIGTEMA**
Sports Editor

LEVELLAND — Tuesday night was the Josh Watkins and Carlos Emory show.

Watkins scored 17 of his 21 points in the second half and Emory was 7-of-12 from the floor, including two 3-pointers, for 16 as the Hawks edged South Plains 59-47 on the road for their first conference win and 10th straight victory.

The South Plains defense focused on stopping Howard leading scorer Jae Crowder, which opened the door for Watkins and Emory.

“Carlos (Emory) can shoot the ball outside, and he played really well tonight,” head coach Mark Adams said. “Josh (Watkins) has done that all year for us. He didn’t get off to a great start, his shot selection wasn’t very good in the first half, but I thought he stepped up in the second half.”

Howard (14-1, 1-0) started fast behind Emory, who scored 10 of Howard’s first 19 points to help the team build an 11-point lead through the first 10 minutes. The Hawks led by as many as 14 in the first half, but South Plains struck back in the final minutes of the first half with a 8-0 run to make it 27-21 at the break.

“They had the momentum going into halftime,



HERALD PHOTO/ Tony Claxton
Carlos Emory wins the opening tipoff Tuesday night against South Plains in Levelland. Emory scored 16 points and Josh Watkins scored 21 to lead the Hawks to their 10th straight win.

so we knew that coming back out we had to get on them,” Adams said.

Howard opened the second half on a 7-2 run led by Watkins, who got to the basket with a foul and started a fast break off a steal that led to an Emory dunk.

South Plains battled back to cut the lead to four at 34-30 at the 14:20 mark, but that was as close as they would come as Howard pulled away down the stretch.

“I thought we made some adjustments in the second half,” Adams

said. “I thought the key to the win was our bench. We had more depth than they did, but both teams played like it was a heavyweight slugfest.”

Howard shot 42 per-

See **HC MEN**, Page 2B

Cardinals fans react to McGwire, steroids

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Rory Russo will never forget that September night in 1998 as he watched Mark McGwire’s record-breaking 62nd homer curl over the fence just inside the foul pole in left field at old Busch Stadium.

Everyone at the ballpark was going nuts except Russo’s wife — she had picked that inopportune moment for a trip to the restroom.

“She missed the whole thing,” Russo said Monday.

Too bad for her. For Russo, it was a moment the lifetime Cardinals fan still cherishes, even after McGwire’s often-criticized congressional testimony in 2005 led many in baseball-crazy St. Louis to conclude “Big Mac” was a steroids user.

On Monday, McGwire confirmed it, saying he used steroids over several seasons, in both Oakland and St. Louis, including that 70-homer season of 1998.

The admission was all the talk here on Monday, even if it was hardly a surprise. But for the most part, fans were ready to forgive and — if not forget — at least move on.

“It’s not surprising but I’m still disappointed,” said Chris Freidhoff, 28, who manages Hotshots,

a bar in the shadow of Busch Stadium. “Really, Mark, the whole time you were a Cardinal you were using? I mean, I figured he did it, but not the whole time.”

“But I’ll give him another chance,” Freidhoff said. “At least he apologized, even if it did take him a while.”

St. Louis has seen its share of baseball glory — 10 world championships and 17 pennants have made the team baseball’s most successful outside of the New York Yankees. And few seasons have generated as much excitement as 1998.

The Cardinals acquired McGwire at midseason a year earlier, and even that season, he made a run at Roger Maris’ record of 61, ending 1997 with 58.

From the outset in 1998, McGwire was ahead of Maris’ pace. Fans lined up to get in for batting practice just to watch McGwire.

Adding to the excitement was the fact that Sammy Sosa of the rival Chicago Cubs was matching McGwire homer for homer. By September, it was clear both men had a shot to top Maris. Both eventually did — Sosa hit 66.

McGwire tied and set the record at home — against the Cubs. On

See **MCGWIRE**, 2B

Lady Steers set to host Plainview; Steers look to snap losing skid

Herald Staff Report

The Big Spring girls basketball team hopes Steer Gym treats them kinder than the Tiger Pit did Friday in Wolfforth.

The Lady Steers will try to rebound from a 63-13 loss Friday to Franship, but the road won’t get any easier with Plainview coming to town.

“(Franship) is good,” coach Mike Warren said Friday. “There’s no doubt, and Plainview’s probably better than them so we have that to look forward to Tuesday.”

The Lady Steers have to find a way to give their sputtering offense some life. They will look to guard Bridgette Tuit for offense, who has shown at times this season that she can score in a variety of ways.

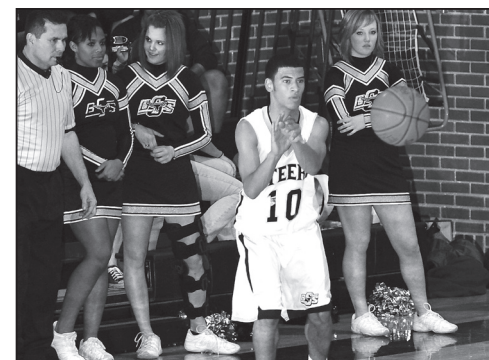
The team will also need the play of senior Valerie Ross, one of the team’s best perimeter shooters. Ross has gotten off to a slow start this season, but she has shown she has the capability to score.

The boys, meanwhile, hope they can find some luck to shrug off a seven-game losing streak. The boys

have been competitive in most of those games, but unfortunate circumstances have plummeted the team’s record to 9-12.

The boys held an 11-point lead at Brownfield on Friday, but let it slip away. They face a beatable opponent tonight in Andrews, which the Steers beat 60-47 in the Monahans Tournament earlier this year.

“Our confidence level may be down right now,” Morris said Saturday. “It’s just some kind of bad luck and poor timing, but we’ll get it together.”



HERALD FILE PHOTO/ Tony Claxton
Tristian Clay and the Big Spring Steers will try to end a seven-game skid tonight against Andrews.

Sports in brief

Tuesday’s hoops schedule
Check Wednesday’s Herald for results

Big Spring boys vs. Andrews, 7:30 p.m.
Big Spring girls vs. Plainview, 6 p.m.
Coahoma girls at Ballinger, 6:30 p.m.
Forsan at Baird, 6:30/8 p.m.
Grady vs. Klondike, 6:30/8 p.m.
Stanton vs. Midland Trinity, 6:30/8 p.m.
Sands vs. Dawson, 6:30/8 p.m.

Rotary Club to host trout fishing contest

The Greater Big Spring Herald will host its third Annual Trout Fishing Contest for kids Saturday at the Comanche Park Lake.

The event is free and will be held from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Registration will begin at 1 p.m. at the Dora Roberts Community Center. Kids 17 and under are welcome.

Prizes will be awarded. Call the Rev. Ken McIntosh at 517-4821 for more information.

Coaches’ meeting scheduled in Midland

A West Texas All-Star and competitive fast-pitch softball meeting will be held in Midland on Feb. 6.

Recreational coaches will meet from 1-3 p.m. and competitive coaches will meet from 3-5 p.m.

The meeting will be held at the Clarion Hotel, 4300 Business Interstate 20.

For more information, contact Freddie Ezell at 638-3024 or Scott Stone at 631-8320.

Obituaries

Tommy Ray Lucas

Tommy Ray Lucas, 65, of Big Lake died Sunday, Jan. 10, 2010, in a Big Spring hospital. Graveside funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2010, at the Bold Spring Cemetery in West.

He was born July 26, 1944, in Clute. He had lived in Big Lake since 1995 and worked in the oilfield as a pumper. He was a musician for 30 years and had his own band, "The Desperado Band."

Survivors include three daughters, Tammy Lucas, Lori Lucas and Mary Jane Lucas; two brothers, John Lucas and William Lucas; one sister, Pat Graham; his caregiver, Lupe Elizondo; and several grandchildren.

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

Paid obituary

Bacilisa 'Bessie' Lara

Bacilisa "Bessie" Lara, 58, of Big Spring died Sunday, Jan. 10, 2010, at her residence. Vigil services will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral mass will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

She was born Aug. 25, 1951, in Monterey, Mexico. She moved to Big Spring 40 years ago from Colorado City. She worked for Big Spring ISD in the cafeteria at Runnels and Big Spring Junior High for 30 years, retiring in 2008. She was a Catholic.

She is survived by her husband, Lupe Lara of Big Spring; one son, Robert Lara of Orlando, Fla.; two stepsons, Johnny Lara of Big Spring and Billy Yanez of Odessa; one step-daughter, Rosie Ovalle of Big Spring; and several grandchildren.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersand-smith.com

Johnny D. Mills

Johnny D. Mills, 65, of Big Spring died Monday, Jan. 11, 2010, in a local hospital. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Take note

• The West Texas Amputees monthly meeting will be held Saturday, Jan. 16, at 11 a.m. at Health South Rehab Hospital of Midland, 1800 Heritage Blvd. For more information, contact Linda at (432) 684-6092.

• A class to become a certified Master Gardener is forming now and will begin Jan. 19. Cost is \$85 per person and includes a workbook and live instruction. Those participating will be required to complete 50 hours of classroom work and 50 hours of volunteer service. For more information or to register, contact Shelley Borgstedte at (432) 664-9660, Joni Boyd at (325) 829-8398 or the county Extension service at 264-2236.

• 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.

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Police blotter

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

• **KARISSA MITCHELL**, 24, of 1213 Ridgeroad, was arrested Monday on a warrant from another agency.

• **THEFT** was reported in the 1100 block of Lamesa.

• **TERRORISTIC THREAT OF A FAMILY/HOUSEHOLD** was reported in the 100 block of Carey.

• **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported: In the 3600 block of Hamilton.

In the 800 block of Third Street.

• **ASSAULT BY CONTACT** was reported in the 1900 block of N. Highway 87.

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 59 inmates at the time of this report.

• **RICARDO GARCIA**, 44, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence (charge not provided).

• **KARISSA RIQEL MITCHELL**, 24, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a probation violation for possession of marijuana — two ounces or less.

Fire/EMS

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

• **TRAUMA** was reported in the 100 block of W. 21st Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1900 block of Wasson. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **TRAUMA** was reported near RR 33 and Highway 461. Three people were transported from the scene.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 700 block of Pine. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1600 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 200 block of W. Marcy. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **GRASS FIRE** was reported in the 1400 block of Boing.

Support

TUESDAY

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

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

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




SATURDAY

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

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Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Wed 1/13	Thu 1/14	Fri 1/15
		
61/39 Partly cloudy skies. High 61F. Winds S at 15 to 25 mph.	57/36 Showers. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the mid 30s.	43/31 Chance of showers. Highs in the low 40s and lows in the low 30s.
Sunrise: 7:48 AM Sunset: 6:02 PM	Sunrise: 7:47 AM Sunset: 6:03 PM	Sunrise: 7:47 AM Sunset: 6:04 PM

Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	61	43	pt sunny	Kingsville	63	53	rain
Amarillo	62	29	sunny	Livingston	59	39	pt sunny
Austin	56	45	rain	Longview	57	41	pt sunny
Beaumont	58	43	pt sunny	Lubbock	60	34	sunny
Brownsville	63	54	rain	Lufkin	58	39	pt sunny
Brownwood	63	46	cloudy	Midland	63	41	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	59	53	rain	Raymondville	62	51	rain
Corsicana	58	43	pt sunny	Rosenberg	61	46	pt sunny
Dallas	59	45	pt sunny	San Antonio	58	49	rain
Del Rio	55	46	cloudy	San Marcos	57	46	rain
El Paso	59	36	mst sunny	Sulphur Springs	56	42	pt sunny
Fort Stockton	63	41	sunny	Sweetwater	61	42	pt sunny
Gainesville	56	41	pt sunny	Tyler	56	40	pt sunny
Greenville	54	40	pt sunny	Weatherford	58	41	pt sunny
Houston	60	46	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	60	40	mst sunny

Lottery

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 17-22-26-27.

Bonus Ball: 11.

Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 1. Prize: \$675,000.

Winning ticket purchased in: Arlington.

Number matching five of five: 1. Prize: \$26,264.

Winning ticket purchased in: Austin.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 4-3-2-0. Sum It Up: 9.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 1-0-0. Sum It Up: 1.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 1-24-32-33-35.

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Slugger Guerrero completes 1-year deal with Rangers

ARLINGTON (AP) — Vladimir Guerrero will now be hitting in the middle of the lineup for the Texas Rangers instead of doing damage against them.

Guerrero and the Rangers finalized a one-year contract Monday that guarantees him \$6.5 million and includes a mutual option for 2011.

"I feel good that I've had a lot of success hitting here and I'm hoping to help the team win and stay healthy and do the same things I've done in the past on this field," Guerrero said through an interpreter during his introduction. "I've been well for the last couple of months and I'm just hoping to

be healthy in 2010."

The eight-time All-Star and former AL MVP passed a physical. His deal calls for a \$5.5 million salary this year and has a \$1 million buyout of the option year.

Guerrero helped lead the Angels to five AL West titles the past six years and was the AL MVP in 2004, his first season in Los Angeles after beginning his career with Montreal from 1996-2003. He is a .396 career hitter against Texas, which finished second in the West last season, 10 games behind Los Angeles.

The Angels showed little interest in retaining Guerrero, who had two stints on the dis-

abled list last season (torn right pectoral muscle and strained left knee) and turns 35 next month. Los Angeles signed free-agent slugger Hideki Matsui and kept Bobby Abreu with a \$19 million, two-year contract.

Guerrero is a career .321 hitter with 407 homers and 1,318 RBIs in 1,850 career games. He is a .394 career hitter at Rangers Ballpark, with 14 homers and 33 RBIs in 50 games at his new home.

"We've been on the bad end of this man's bat for the last six years, taking some serious beatings from him," general manager Jon Daniels said. "I think we're pretty

excited to see him dole some of those out in our uniform."

Guerrero, who will primarily be the designated hitter but still play some outfield, fills one of the Rangers' biggest off-season wants with a powerful right-handed bat for the middle of the lineup with Michael Young and Josh Hamilton. The Rangers lost outfielder Marlon Byrd in free agency to the Chicago Cubs.

In the first 44 games of his career against Texas, Guerrero had one of baseball's most peculiar streaks: a 44-game hitting streak from 2004-06, the longest stretch by any player against one team since at least 1957.

Plagued by the injuries last season, Guerrero hit .295 with 15 homers and 50 RBIs in 100 games, all his lowest totals since he was a rookie for the Expos in 1997 and missed 52 games because of three DL stints.

"I don't feel like I need to prove anything, just do my job," Guerrero said.

Asked if he considered himself a DH, Guerrero said he was "not ready to make that commitment in my head"

"The whole key is that we're going to do whatever we have to do

to keep him healthy," said manager Ron Washington, adding the slugger would play the outfield "here and there."

Also, free agent Khalil Greene reached an agreement on a one-year deal to become the Rangers' utility infielder. Two people familiar with those negotiations told The Associated Press about Greene's deal, speaking on condition of anonymity because the contract will not be finalized until Greene takes a physical later this week.

MCGWIRE

Continued from Page 1B

Sept. 8, with a national TV audience watching, McGwire lined a pitch from Chicago's Steve Trachsel over the wall. He missed first base in his excitement, went back and touched it, then circled the bases as fireworks went off. Maris' family was in the stands. McGwire hugged the Maris family, hugged Sosa, hugged his young son, Matt.

It was a season that many said helped baseball recover from the damage caused by the

1994 labor dispute that forced cancellation of the World Series. Congress honored McGwire and Sosa. Interstate 70 through St. Louis was dubbed "Mark McGwire Highway."

McGwire admitted in 1998 that he used androstenedione, an over-the-counter muscle enhancer banned by the NFL, IOC and others. But it was his evasive testimony at the congressional hearing five years ago that seemed to sour many Cardinals fans. One of his questioners at the hearing, Rep. William

Lacy Clay from St. Louis said McGwire's name should be removed from the highway signs.

On Monday, some fans wondered why McGwire waited so long.

"The man went from a normal-sized human being to a behemoth," said Jim Stevens, a 55-year-old Cardinals fan eating a late lunch at the Broadway Oyster Bar next to Hotshots. "This is the move he should have made years ago."

Many, though, said they're willing to welcome McGwire back with open arms when he rejoins the Cardinals

next season as a hitting coach.

"We're good baseball fans, of course we'll welcome him back," Russo said. "I'm glad he's our hitting coach."

McGwire's apology even seemed to win over one of his harshest critics.

"I'm glad he finally told the truth and has taken personal responsibility for his mistakes," Clay, the congressman, said in a statement. "He owes that to the Cardinals and to baseball fans everywhere. From my perspective, the issue is now closed and we move on."

WOMEN

Continued from Page 1B

active," Diddle said. "She got some numbers and played pretty well in certain parts of the game."

The Hawks led for the better portion of the first half, building a six-point lead through the first 12 minutes. But a 12-0 South Plains run late in the first half gave South Plains a lead it would never give up, though the Hawks would threaten it later.

They tied the game at 28 and again at 36 with nine minutes left. But every time Howard made a run to get back

in the game, South Plains responded with a quick bucket at the other end.

"I thought we gave up too many easy baskets for them. Way too many easy baskets," Diddle said.

The Lady Texans used a 13-3 run to break the 36-all tie going down the stretch. The Hawks cut the lead to five with a minute and a half left, and their press forced two straight turnovers. But poor execution down the court limited the Hawks' scoring opportunities, and they were never able to capitalize.

"We thought we had a good chance to come in here and play well, and

that's the most disappointing thing," Diddle said. "I don't think we played particularly well."

The Hawks will try to rebound Thursday at home against New Mexico Junior College. Game time is 5:45 p.m.

S. Plains 51, Howard 44

Howard (14-2, 0-1)- Reid 3-7 4-6 10, Tubbs 2-18 2-2 8, Bartelson 4-8 0-2 8, Ards 2-12 1-2 7, Colbert 2-4 5, Murgel 2-3 4, Fountain 1-4 2

South Plains (10-6, 1-0)- Canavan 4-10 2-2 10, Green 5-7 10, Cooper 4-13 8, Romaine 3-9 0-0 6, Griffin 2-7 2-3 6, Taylor 2-8 1-1 5, Ngobeni 2-6 4, McLee 1-2 2

Halftime 24-21 SPC; 3-point HC 5-17 (Ards 2, Tubbs 2, Colbert); SPC 0-4; Rebounds HC 34 (Reid 15), SPC 52 (Cooper, Canavan 10); Assists HC 7 (Colbert 3), SPC 12 (Green, Griffin 3); Turnovers HC 15, SPC 12; Blocks HC 2 (Reid, Ards), SPC 5 (Canavan 3); Fouls HC 12, SPC 12;

HC MEN

Continued from Page 1B

cent for the game, including 45 percent in the second half. South Plains, meanwhile, was held to 34 percent from the floor and 1-of-11 from behind the arc.

Guard Tramar Sutherland led South Plains with 16 points and post Myles Walker put in 12 to go with 11 rebounds. The Texans outrebounded Howard 39-29 in the game, including 15 offensive boards for South Plains. Crowder's seven rebounds led the Hawks.

Howard plays again Thursday at home against New Mexico Junior College. Game time is 7:45 p.m. at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Howard 59, S. Plains 47

Howard (14-1, 1-0)- Watkins 7-13 6-6 21, Emory 7-12 2-4 16, Crowder 1-6 4-6 6, Austin 1-4 2-2 5, Obasi 2-3 4, Sundufu 1-2 3, Mentor 1-3 3, McGee 0-3 1-2 1

South Plains (10-4, 0-1)- Sutherland 6-12 4-6 16, Walker 5-12 2-5 12, Ingram 3-11 6, Gross 2-5 2-2 6, Orta 1-7 2-2 5, Brown 1-2 2

Halftime 27-21 HC; 3-point- HC 6-16 (Emory 2, Austin, Watkins, Sundufu, Mentor), SPC 1-11 (Orta); Rebounds HC 29 (Crowder 7), SPC 39 (Walker 11), Assists HC 9 (Watkins 4), SPC 8 (Orta 6), Fouls HC 17, SPC 15, Turnovers HC 12, SPC 13



By Steve Becker

Famous Hand — Part II

North dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.
NORTH
♠K 10 6
♥AK J 4
♦A 10 9 5
♣K 7

WEST
♠J 9 7 2
♥—
♦J 8 3
♣A 10 9 8 6 3

EAST
♠8 5 4
♥Q 9 8 6 3
♦K 7 2
♣Q 2

SOUTH
♠A Q 3
♥10 7 5 2
♦Q 6 4
♣J 5 4

The bidding:
North 1♣ East South West
1♥ 1♥ Dble 2♠
3♣ Pass 3NT

Opening lead — ten of clubs.
Yesterday, we saw how Paul Chemla, playing for France against the Netherlands in the 1986 world team championship, brought in a seemingly impossible four-heart contract with the North-South cards. But that was only half the story. At the other table, the Dutch North-South pair arrived at three notrump after North opened with an artificial strong club bid and East overcalled in hearts. This contract might well have succeeded against ordinary defense, but Michel Lebel, sitting East for France, is no ordinary defender.

The critical play came at trick one after West led the ten of clubs. Declarer naturally played low from dummy to assure himself of a club trick, whereupon Lebel followed with the deuce!

South won the trick with the jack, but there was now no way for him to make the contract. East would have to gain the lead before declarer could score nine tricks, and his club return would then enable West to run the suit for down two.

Had Lebel won the first trick with the queen of clubs, South would have made his game. West could take the next club with the ace, but declarer's jack would have prevented the run of the suit, after which East could safely be given the lead.

While Lebel's play may seem to violate the general rule of "third hand high," he had a very good reason for playing low. West's lead of the ten marked South with the jack. If South had the A-J, it didn't matter what East did. But if West had the ace, playing the queen would wreck communications between East and his partner.

Ton Schipperheyn, the Dutch journalist who reported the deal, had one final observation to make on the outcome. "You can see," he said, "that declarer can make the contract if he also ducks at trick one, but who can blame him for winning the jack? Would YOU have ducked?"

Tomorrow: Planning the play.
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Texas grandma dies, faced trial over dog mauling

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Prosecutors in San Antonio say a woman facing trial over the 2009 dog mauling death of her 7-month-old grandson has died of apparent natural causes.

Irma Barrera was 59. Barrera was to have been in court Monday on charges of injury to a child.

The San Antonio Express-News reports prosecutors moved to drop the case after learning that Barrera died Dec. 6.

Barrera was injured and her grandson, Izaiah Gregory Cox, died following the March 31 attacks blamed on her two dogs at her home.

Barrera was indicted in August after prosecutors determined that another grandchild, several years ago, had been injured by the dogs.

Police shot and killed the two dogs, in the woman's yard, while responding to the March attack.

Texas school board rejects child's longhair appeal

MESQUITE (AP) — A Dallas-area school board stood firm Monday night behind its ban on a 4-year-old boy's long, flowing hair.

Officials with the Mesquite school district have had pre-kindergartner Taylor Pugh under in-school suspension at Floyd Elementary School in Balch Springs since November because of his long hair.

His parents appealed the suspension, saying the child likes his hair long. After an hourlong closed-door meeting Monday night, the Mesquite school board decided to lift the suspension if Taylor reported to school with his hair braided and kept no lower than his ears, said board spokesman Ian Halperin.

Taylor's mother, Elizabeth Taylor, said that was not good enough.

"If I braid his hair, his scalp will bleed and his hair will break," she said after the meeting.

FLIERS

Continued from Page 1A

war on heretics and liberals, CISD Superintendent Randy Brown said.

An investigation by the Howard County Sheriff's Office soon identified the man and determined that the fliers were not directed at any specific Coahoma individual, Brown said, adding that rumors to that effect have been circulating through the community since the incident.

Howard County Sheriff Stan Parker said deputies were contacted Wednesday and located the man two days later.

"Someone spotted him at his place of work in Big Spring (and) contacted us and we went to talk to him," Parker said. Deputies soon determined the man had no criminal intent in his actions.

"He actually kind of broke down when we talked to him," Parker said. "He told us his intention was to instruct, not to scare people."

Because he has not been charged with a

crime, authorities are not releasing the man's name at this time.

"I can tell you that he is a white male in his late forties from Big Spring (and) does not have a criminal history," Brown said. "He was very apologetic to the officers and asked if he could come and apologize to us. He will not be given that opportunity. He did indicate that his fliers were meant to provide religious education and were in no way meant to threaten any students or staff at Coahoma ISD."

Although the man was

not arrested, he was issued a criminal trespass warning, meaning that if he returns to CISD property, he will face charges, Brown said.

"We know who he is and we know what he's done," Brown said. "If he comes back out here, the sheriff's office will be called."

Brown hopes CISD staff, parents and students can soon put this incident behind them.

"Unfortunately a rumor has been circulating that the man had specifically threatened Coahoma High School students. There is abso-

lutely no truth to that rumor," Brown said.

"I am aware that some of our students and parents are concerned about this situation and that is certainly understandable," Brown added. "The language in the flyer was bizarre and violent, and for that reason it was taken very seriously. In these types of situations it is easy for students and parents to panic, especially when

the truth is distorted by rumors and speculation. It is very disappointing when others make our job of providing an environment where students and staff feel safe and secure much more difficult than it should be."

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

MEALS

Continued from Page 1A

lunch and dinner. Our personnel would come in at 8 a.m. to serve breakfast and prepare the lunch and dinner meals. After that, they would prepare the breakfasts for the next day, and would usually be out of there around 7 p.m. We will provide two people and have a third ready just in case something happens.

"These meals meet all of the requirements set by the Texas Jail Commission and are based on a 2,700 calorie per day diet. The truth of the matter is we already have the support in place, all within a mile away. I really feel like we can offer the most because of that."

According to County Judge Mark Barr, Compass was the only company to supply a bid for

the recent request, which was made after Jail Administrator Mike Dawson got the go-ahead to explore the idea in December.

Barr said companies like Compass have the ability to purchase foods for less because they buy in volume, giving them a distinct advantage over small operations like the county jail.

"The lowest cost we found in Texas was Harris County, which pays 88 cents, and the highest was \$2.50," said Barr. "We simply don't have the purchasing power that entities such as the school district have. That could improve if we go out for bids on these types of services."

According to County Auditor Jackie Olson, meals at the jail have cost an average of \$1.67 each since the jail opened the first part of May last year. However, according to Dawson, the cost of meals changes from month to

month, and without a full year of operation at the newly-built facility, it's difficult to calculate the difference in cost between meals being served no and those to be served by Compass.

"We're looking at an 11-cent increase in the cost of each meal. Going by that alone, we're looking at an overall increase of just more than \$9,000," said Dawson. "However, this is also going to free up a member of the jail staff, so it's really hard to get an idea if this is going to save us money or cost us money."

When asked when his company would be able to start serving at the jail facility, Keller said it would take between 30 and 45 days to get everything in place.

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

SMART

Continued from Page 1A

offices that have used it."

Problems with the software first emerged last year, around the time the jail was completed in late April, officials said, and contributed to a failed jail inspection performed by the Texas Jail Commission in September 2009.

"On the day of inspection it was discovered that not all of the inmates were classified, or some of the classifications were being done incorrectly," County Jail Administrator Mike Dawson told the court following the botched inspection. "That's basically keeping our serious offenders — what we call a maximum offender — from being housed with someone like a 17-year-old brought in on a minor

traffic offense.

"We have a classification system. It's administered electronically with our software system, our SMART Public Safety software. To say the least, we've had issues with our jail management software. Sometimes the staff can enter all of the information in and nothing but zeroes are printed out on the classification page. Unfortunately, I believe four of the 10 he (the inspector) pulled were nothing but zeroes on the classification page."

Dawson said the problem was corrected by simply doing the classifications by hand, circumventing the SMART software.

"We've corrected that by following the recommendation of the jail inspector, which is to adopt what's called a decision tree. It's a paper form our staff is now doing," said Dawson.

"It goes very fast. You fill it out in ink, and we are basically going to do away with the classifications done by the SMART software. That way we'll have a classification sheet that's done by hand, by the staff, and will eliminate these errors in classification and we'll have the form in the file."

According to Sheriff Stan Parker, issues with the classification print-outs weren't the only problems he and his staff had with the software, which cost the county slightly more than \$172,000.

"We're working with

SMART to resolve these problems," Parker told the court in September. "We called them immediately after the problems with the classifications was found, and they are working on it. However, I have to admit the software isn't living up to our expectations. It gets frustrating. We've depended on this software, probably more than we should have, and it bit us in the end."

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

DEATH

Continued from Page 1A

Officials said Waters was in serious condition when he was taken from the scene of the accident by life flight. Later Monday afternoon Waters was listed as in stable condition, according to Burnett.

Also injured in the oilfield accident were Mike Moore, 48, of Big Spring, and Ernie Hicks, age not provided, of Garden City. Both are employees of Cat Construction, according to officials.

Moore and Hicks were rushed to Scenic Mountain Medical Center, according to Burnett, where they were kept overnight for observation. Both men were listed in stable condition.

All four men were believed to be wearing H2S meters, which warn of concentrations of the gas, at the time of the accident, according to officials.

Burnett said the official cause of Mill's death will not be determined until an autopsy is completed.

According to information provided by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, hydrogen sulfide — also known as H2S — is a flammable gas that is extremely toxic, even in low concentrations. The gas smells like rotten eggs, according to information taken from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web site.

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

FAIR

Continued from Page 1A

9 through 12)

Judging will be done in the following categories: Behavioral and social science; chemistry; engineering; medicine and health; space science; biochemistry; computer science; environmental science; microbiology; zoology; botany; earth science; mathematics; physics; and team entries.

A total of 142 entries were received for last year's fair. Of that number, 92 were entered by elementary students.

The top three finish-

ers in a variety of science fields, including chemistry, physics and engineering, will advance to the regional science fair, scheduled for March at University of Texas Permian Basin in Odessa.

The top three junior high school and high school finishers at the regional fair qualify for the state science fair to be held later this year in San Antonio.

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

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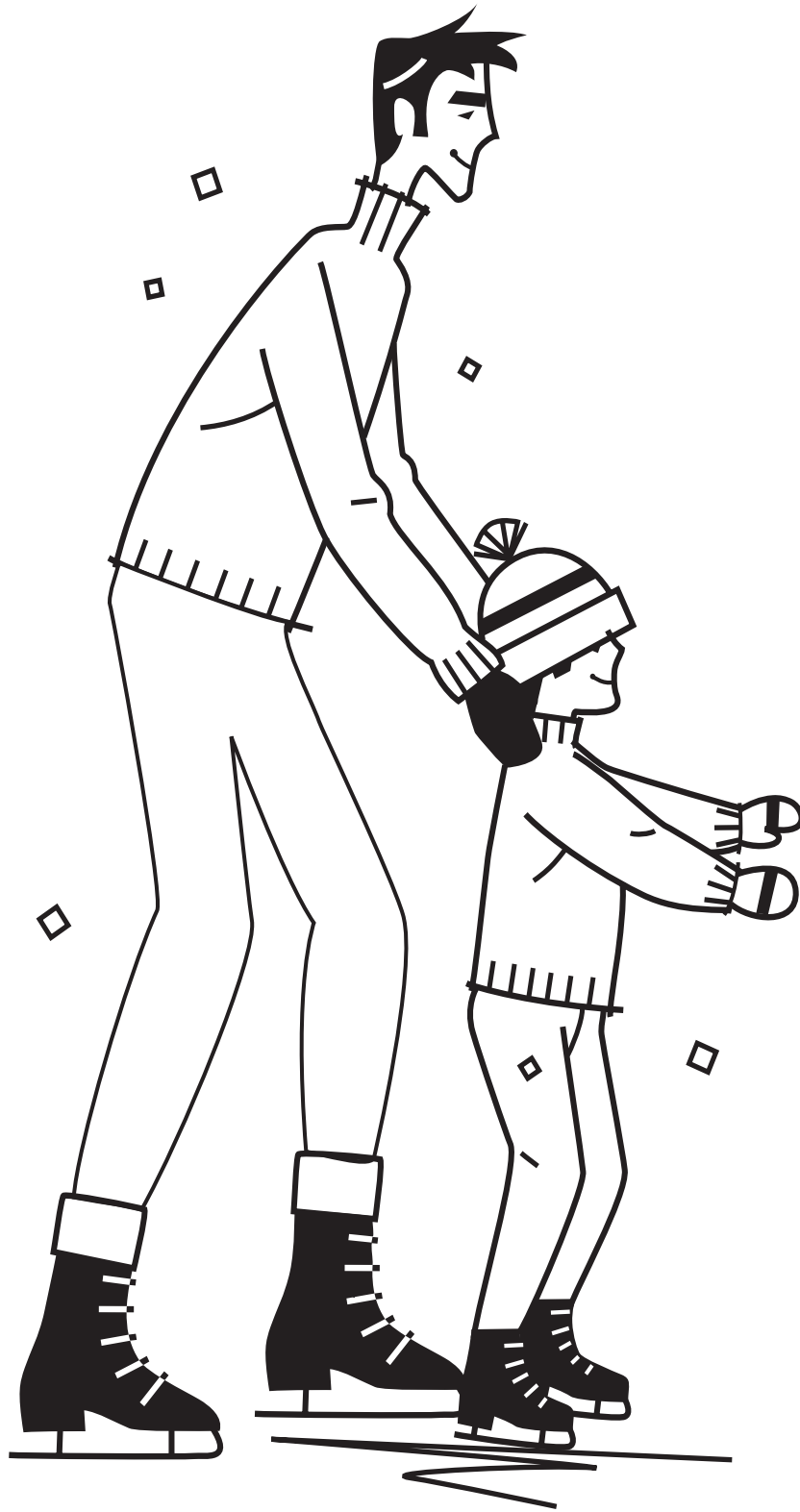
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THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1935: AMELIA EARHEART WAS THE FIRST PERSON TO FLY SOLO FROM HAWAII TO CALIFORNIA.
- 1973: THE DESIGNATED HITTER RULE WAS ADOPTED BY BASEBALL'S AMERICAN LEAGUE.
- 2002: AL-QAEDA PRISONERS ARRIVED AT GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA FOR THE FIRST TIME.



TRUE OR FALSE?
EARLY ICE SKATE BLADES
WERE MADE OUT OF ANIMAL BONES.

ANSWER: TRUE



LUTZ

figure skating
jump from
a backward edge

*How they
SAY that in...*

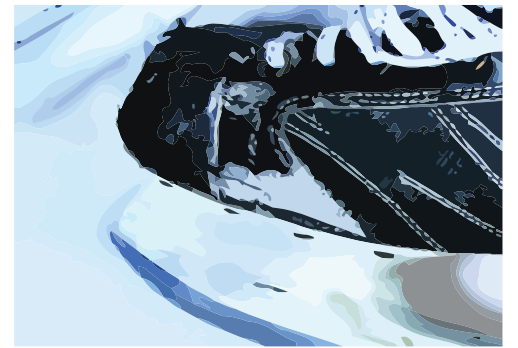
- ENGLISH:** Ice
- SPANISH:** Hielo
- ITALIAN:** Ghiaccio
- FRENCH:** Glace
- GERMAN:** Eis

**Did you
KNOW!**

ICE HOCKEY EVOLVED FROM A GAME
BRITISH SOLDIERS BROUGHT TO
CANADA THAT THEY
CALLED "SHINTY."



**GET THE
PICTURE!**



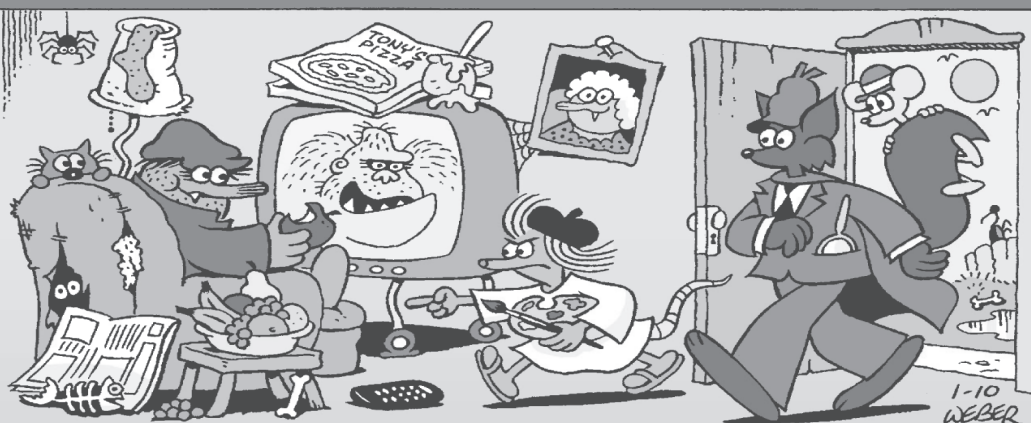
Can you guess what
the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: HOCKEY SKATE

SLYLOCK FOX and COMICS FOR KIDS

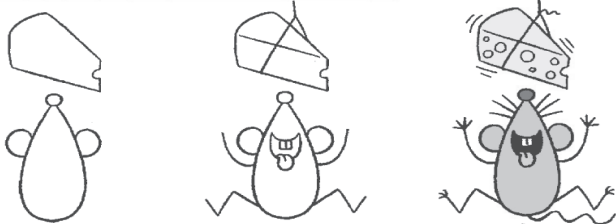
BY BOB WEBER JR.

Artist Georgia Opossum says Shady Shrew stole a bowl of fruit she was painting. Ms. Opossum claims that when she took a phone call from her agent, the shrew grabbed the bowl and bolted. Shady insists he bought this fruit a week ago. What evidence did Slylock Fox observe that suggests Shady Shrew is lying?

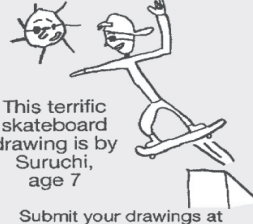


Solution -- There are green bananas in the fruit bowl. If they were purchased a week ago, they probably would have turned yellow by now.

HOW TO DRAW a hungry mouse



YOUR DRAWING

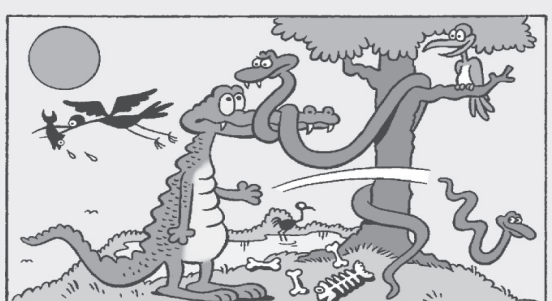
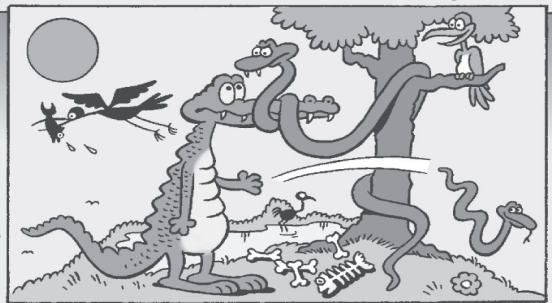


The scrambled words are species of rodents. How many can you unscramble?

- 1) EBRAVE
- 2) RSULERIQ
- 3) TMEASHR
- 4) UESMO

Answer -- 1) Beaver
2) Squirrel 3) Hamster
4) Mouse

Find six differences between these panels.



Answer -- Bone, tooth, flower, leaves, snake's tongue and branch.

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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
Publisher

Bill McClellan
News Editor

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

OUR VIEW

School boards deserve all our support, praise

It's somewhat a thankless job, so it is not surprising when many let out a snicker recently when Gov. Rick Perry has proclaimed January as School Board Recognition Month to help highlight the contributions of the people that oversee the administration of our local schools.

Those who snickered, or even worse laughed out loud, should be ashamed.

That's right, we said ashamed.

School board members deserve all the recognition they can get, because they are simply dedicated men and women who take the time to care about the education of our children.

They make critical decisions that directly affect the future of the youth in our community and rarely receive any thanks.

Here in Big Spring, they bear responsibility for an annual budget of \$30.4 million, 3,872 students, 589 employees and eight school campuses. It's not an easy job, but one trustees commit themselves to do.

And for all but one of the members of the Big Spring ISD Board, it's a commitment they've made now for at least five years. The senior of the trustees is Irene Galan, who's spent 15 years on the board. Current Board President Mike Dawson has 11 years of service, Phil Furqueron has eight, Alan Paret has seven and both Tony Kennedy and Maria Padilla have served for six years. Jeff Brorman, who's the board's current vice president, has served for two years.

Remember, there's no pay that comes with the job — just a requirement that they work tirelessly and devoting countless hours to help ensure a quality education is available for the young people of our community.

And as we've noted before on several occasions, the youth of our community are our future.

To our way of thinking, the members of our school board are often faced with almost impossible challenges, yet they still provide us with an invaluable service — their time, dedication and commitment to children.

They deserve all our support and, at the very least, a little praise now and then.

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
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- 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.
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A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

We can realize our ambitions, Lord, by giving them to You to take care of.

Amen

Greater transparency deserved

On Christmas Eve, just as Americans were getting ready to celebrate the holiday with family and friends, Senate Democrats passed a partisan health care bill without a single Republican vote. It was crafted in secret and packed with sweetheart deals. A majority of Americans were rightly opposed to the bill, but it was rushed through without regard to the rising concerns raised by citizens throughout our country.

Over the past year, Republicans repeatedly offered constructive, concrete proposals to reform America's health care system, but over and over again we were shut out of the legislative process. In committee hearings, Republican commonsense amendments were defeated. On the Senate floor, we were blocked from offering a reasonable number of Republican amendments to address issues such as tax increases and Medicare cuts. And promises to give the public ample time to read the bill online — a bill that was more than 2,000 pages long — were broken. Even Senate Democrats reluctantly acknowledged that they had yet to see the final version of a bill that leaders of their own party had been amassing in secret.

Now that the Democrats have rammed this legislation through Congress, they are once again closing the doors on the American people as they merge the House and Senate versions of

the bill. Closed door negotiations and political kickbacks in exchange for votes do not meet the expectations of the American people. Numerous Senators have reiterated the need for transparency, including then-Sen. Barack Obama as a presidential candidate in August 2008:

"I'm going to have all the negotiations around a big table. We'll have doctors and nurses and hospital administrators. Insurance companies, drug companies — they'll get a seat at the table, they just won't be able to buy every chair. But what we will do is, we'll have the negotiations televised on C-SPAN, so that people can see who is making arguments on behalf of their constituents, and who are making arguments on behalf of the drug companies or the insurance companies. And so, that approach, I think is what is going to allow people to stay involved in this process."

On his very first day in office, President Obama signed a memorandum to all federal agencies directing them to break down barriers to transparency, participation and collaboration between the federal government and the people it is to serve. The President said at the time:

"For too long, the American people have experienced a culture of secrecy in Washington, where information is locked up, taxpayer dollars disappear without a trace, and lobbyists wield undue influence. For Americans, business as usual in Washington has reinforced the belief that the government benefits the special interests and the well connected at the expense of the American people."

I couldn't agree more with the approach the president

promised. It's unfortunate, however, that we have yet to see the administration, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi or Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid follow through on the president's pledge.

During the upcoming negotiations to reconcile the House and Senate versions of the bill, the American people deserve to see what will and will not be in the legislation, as well as to know who is sitting at the table during the talks. That is why several of my Senate colleagues and I recently wrote to Sen. Reid urging him to fulfill President Obama's campaign pledge to allow C-SPAN cameras to go behind closed doors and televise the final health care bill deliberations live and in their entirety.

We look forward to the majority leader's response to our request and hope that he will demonstrate a renewed commitment to full transparency as the Senate works with Speaker Pelosi and the White House to come to a final compromise. The goal of health care reform should be to bring down the high cost of health care and make insurance coverage more affordable.

The closed door meetings and the Christmas Eve vote did nothing to make health care more affordable or accessible to Americans. And it is likely the bill will only be worsened during the upcoming conference meetings, unless the public has the opportunity to see with their own eyes what passage of this bill will do to our economy and the quality of our health care.

Kay Bailey Hutchison is the senior U.S. Senator from Texas and is the Ranking member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.



KAY
BAILEY
HUTCHISON



Reform won't cure this sick system

Good riddance to 2009: the recession, the Wall Street bailouts, the main street misery, and most of all the so-called health-care "debate." Now that the debacle is mostly over, for better or worse, we'd best turn our attention to the one factor driving up health-care costs in this country that hasn't even been mentioned — the lack of paid sick leave.

While Congress was laboring to insure the insurance companies from loss of profits, almost 60,000 cases of swine flu were confirmed in the United States. The World Health Organization has declared the global situation a "public health emergency of international concern," and says the epidemic is not over. Early on, the U.S. government increased distribution of antiviral drugs and ramped up production of the H1N1 vaccine, and the Centers for Disease Control recommended that sick people stay home from work or school to avoid infecting others.

Right.

Everyone, including members of Congress, probably would say that's good advice. But there's one little problem. According to the Institute for Women's Policy

Research in Washington, fewer than half of U.S. workers get paid sick days. What's worse, only a third of those who get the benefit are able to take their sick days to care for ill children. Workers who come into direct contact with the public, such as restaurant servers, childcare workers, and hotel employees, are among the least likely to have paid sick days. Many are low wage workers who not only lose wages if they stay home — they risk losing their jobs.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that workers who lack paid sick time are more likely to go to work with a communicable illness, and parents who cannot stay home with a sick child are more likely to send them to school or day care to infect other kids. At the height of the flu outbreak, Mexico closed its schools — the first step that any public health service recommends at the onset of an epidemic. According to Dr. Jody Heymann, at the McGill Institute for Health and Social Policy, Mexico could do this because the country combines paid sick leave with child-care through its social insurance system. At least 139 other countries provide some paid sick leave to workers as a matter of national law.

Though some large companies do it anyway, no U.S. laws — national or state — require that workers have paid sick days, meaning workers are at the

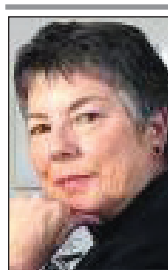
mercy of corporate bureaucrats. So much for "the best health-care system in the world."

Though the swine flu threat is lessening, winter isn't over, and we still have many cases of seasonal flu ahead of us. The monetary cost to employers and families runs to the millions of dollars. It's good that the Obama administration held press conferences and declared a public health emergency at the height of the crisis, but a far more serious — and continuing — emergency is the lack of sick leave. That propagates the virus as surely as food service workers sneezing into your food because they're too poor or too scared for their jobs to stay home.

The Healthy Families Act, which requires that paid sick time be provided by employers with fifteen or more employees, is likely to be back on the table in Congress sometime in the next couple of months. And unlike the division over health insurance, the country is together on this one. Four out of five Americans think paid sick days should be a basic labor standard.

Pundits say this is a time politically to leave the dogfights of 2009 behind and go for some big ideas. Clearly, this is one idea whose time is long past due.

Martha Burk is a political psychologist, women's issues expert and director of the Corporate Accountability Project for the National Council of Women's Organizations.



MARTHA
BURK

Bird Poop:

Red-tailed hawk gets a reprieve

While the celebrations and TV bowl games continued into a new year, outside the stranger searched the easement in spite of the cold wind. Checking around each dumpster, and having been without food for days, the wanderer was becoming desperate.



BEBE McCASLAND

Inside, half time brought customary dips, chips and treats for one family's gathering. Hurriedly gathering last night's debris into several plastic bags, the hostess welcomed the break.

Opening the back gate, she walked toward the city's refuse bin. As she raised one of the lids, the wind jerked it from her hand and slammed it against the back of the receptacle. Setting her trash on the ground, she struggled to bring the wayward top forward against the strong gusts.

Losing her grip, the woman tried again. As she positioned herself closer to the rear of the dumpster, she noticed a movement behind the other end. In the tall grasses between the unit and her fence was a large, brown bird.

Hurrying inside, she asked her husband and son to come outside. Disgruntled at having to leave the start of the second half, they knew it was easier to comply than object. From his wife's description, her spouse thought the bird

might be a hawk or owl. "It was here, I tell you," she said as they found nothing behind the dumpster. "We have to look for it," she urged.

Because she was so insistent, the father and son decided to go in opposite directions. The first dumpsters offered nothing.

As the son approached the next one, he realized what his mother had seen.

"Come quick," he yelled to his parents. Running to the spot, his father called back to his wife, "Get a blanket. Or towel."

With his wife blocking one end of the dumpster, and his son the other, the man cautiously lowered an old blanket over the bird. Emaciated and weak, the stranger gave little resistance.

"Can you pick it up?" asked the game warden when he called during the afternoon. Since he had transported numerous birds to us, we were glad to help.

As we crossed over the scenic tributary of the Colorado River, we noticed pockets of water accented by the stream's rocky bed. The surrounding bluffs would have been an ideal setting for the bird the officer had described to us.

Placed in a cardboard box, a red-tailed hawk had become entertainment in itself during a scoreless third quarter at the couple's home. Grateful for someone who could take the bird, the family was still excited over their discovery.

On the drive home from Colorado City, we wondered why the hawk was in an al-



Courtesy photo

Perched on a river bluff, telephone pole, or dead tree, the red-tailed hawk often scans the terrain for its next meal. Swooping down with talons extended, the raptor easily takes cottontail rabbits, mice and ground squirrels.

ley. Upon examining the bird, we discovered the reason.

The largest flight feathers, the primaries, had been cut off the end of one wing. Unable to soar while hunting, the hawk was facing slow starvation.

Because someone had mutilated the wing, it could not fly over the open, undeveloped plains and rangeland of our western environment. To a human it would be like losing the fingers on one hand.

Dark brown above, the hawk's back and wings were accented with whitish mottling. Its tail was a lighter brown with numerous, narrow bars.

Lying on its back, the bird had a creamy white underside with brownish streaks on the lower neck and belly. Flight feathers were enhanced with barring, while the leading edge of the wings near the shoulders looked like brown epaulets.

As a juvenile raptor, this red-tail would be afforded recovery time at the Eos Wildlife Sanctuary in Midland.

With proper diet,

feather replacement and exercise, the bird of prey could be free again.

When mature, however, its appearance would change.

From above, its once mottled appearance would be changing into an overall brown. As the top of its tail feathers acquired a reddish color, the hawk, as it banked in the sky, could offer positive identification to earth-bound admirers. From underneath, the same feathers would appear to have a cinnamon hue.

Because of time off for holiday activities, a "C-City" family was momentarily given a unique experience.

Escaping the possessive nature of the individual who had tried

to prevent its skyward destiny, the red-tailed hawk could never acknowledge, except through its ultimate freedom, those whom it had deeply impressed.

Federally and state licensed to rehabilitate wild birds, Bebe McCasland is author of *The Scoop from Bird Poop*.

Parent's Corner:

Taking a burned biscuit

Have you ever read a story and wished you had thought of it first? Well, I didn't create the following story but I wish I had. It's a wonderful way to look at life and develop relationships.

When I was a kid, my mom liked to make breakfast food for dinner every now and then. And I remember one night in particular when she had made breakfast after a long, hard day at work.



DARRELL RYAN

On that evening so long ago, my mom placed a plate of eggs, sausage and extremely burned biscuits in front of my dad.

I remember waiting to see if anyone noticed! Yet all my dad did was reach for his biscuit, smile at my mom and ask me how my day was at school.

I don't remember what I told him that night, but I do remember watching him smear butter and jelly on that biscuit and eat every bite.

When I got up from the table that evening, I remember hearing my mom apologize to my dad for burn-

See RYAN, Page 6A

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Myths About Israel and the Middle East (1)

Do the media feed us fiction instead of fact?

We all know that, by dint of constant repetition, white can be made to appear black, good can get transformed into evil, and myth may take the place of reality. Israel, with roughly one-thousandth of the world's population and with a similar fraction of the territory of this planet, seems to engage a totally disproportionate attention of the print and broadcast media of the world. Unfortunately, much of what the media tell us — in reporting, editorializing in columns, and in analysis — are endlessly repeated myths.

What are the facts?

■ **Myth:** The "Palestinians" are a nation and therefore deserving of a homeland.

Reality: The concept of Palestinian nationhood is a new one and had not been heard of until after the Six-Day War (1967), when Israel, by its victory, came into the administration of the territories of Judea and Samaria (the "West Bank") and the Gaza Strip. The so-called "Palestinians" are no more different from the Arabs living in the neighboring countries of Lebanon, Syria and Jordan, than Wisconsinites are from Iowans.

■ **Myth:** Judea and Samaria (the "West Bank") and the Gaza Strip are "occupied Arab territory."

Reality: All of "Palestine" — east and west of the Jordan River — was part of the League of Nations mandate. Under the Balfour Declaration, all of it was to be the "national home for the Jewish people." In violation of this mandate, Great Britain severed the entire area east of the Jordan River — about 75% of Palestine — and gave it to the Arabs, who created on it the kingdom of Transjordan. When Israel declared its independence in 1948, five Arab armies invaded the new country in order to destroy it at its very birth. They were defeated by the Israelis. The Transjordanians, however, remained in occupation of Judea and Samaria (the "West Bank") and East Jerusalem. They proceeded to drive all Jews from those territories and to systematically destroy all Jewish houses of worship and other institutions. The Transjordanians (now renamed "Jordanians") were the occupiers for nineteen years. Israel regained these territories following its victory in the Six-Day War. Israel has returned the entire Gaza Strip to the Palestinians. The

final status of the "West Bank" will be decided if and when the Palestinians will finally be able to sit down and seriously talk peace with Israel.

■ **Myth:** Jewish settlements in Judea and Samaria (the "West Bank") are the "greatest obstacle to peace."

Reality: This is simply not correct, although it has been repeated so often that many have come to believe it. The greatest obstacle to peace is the intransigence and the irreconcilable hostility of the Arabs. Not more than 200,000 Jews are settled in these territories, living among about 1.4 million Arabs. How can Jews living there be an obstacle to peace? Why shouldn't they live there? About 1.2 million Arabs live in Israel proper. They are not an obstacle to peace. Neither the Israelis nor they themselves consider them as such.

■ **Myth:** Israel is unwilling to yield "land for peace."

Reality: The concept that to the loser, rather than to the victor, belong the spoils is a radically new one, never before thought of in world history. Israel has emerged victorious in the five wars imposed on it by the Arabs. In order to make peace, it has returned over 90% of the territory occupied by it, specifically the vast Sinai Peninsula, to Egypt. That territory contained some of the most advanced military installations in the world, prosperous cities and settlements, and oil fields developed entirely by Israel that made it independent of petroleum imports. In the Camp David Accords, Israel agreed to autonomy for Judea and Samaria (the "West Bank") with the permanent status to be determined after three years. But no responsible Palestinian representation has been available to negotiate with Israel about this.

All these myths (and others we shall talk about) have poisoned the atmosphere for decades. The root cause of the never-ending conflict is the unwillingness of the Arabs (and not just the Palestinians) to accept the reality of Israel. The very fact that those of the Palestinians who are not Israeli citizens have lived and continue to live in poverty, misery and ignorance. They could have chosen to accept the proposed partition of the country in 1947, would now have had their state alongside Israel for over sixty years and could have lived in peace and prosperity. They could have kept hundreds of thousands of refugees in their homes and could have saved tens of thousands of lives. Peace will only come when the Arabs finally accept the reality of Israel. And that is not a myth — that is a fact!

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Hearing on Kan. decision allowing voluntary manslaughter defense in abortion provider's death

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) — A Kansas judge's decision to allow a confessed killer to argue that he believes the slaying of one of the nation's few late-term abortion providers was a justified act aimed at saving unborn children has upended what most expected to be an open-and-shut first-degree murder case.

Prosecutors have challenged the ruling that allows Scott Roeder to tell a jury that the fatal shooting of Wichita doctor George Tiller was voluntary manslaughter. A Tuesday hearing is scheduled to allow Roeder's defense attorneys to respond.

Some abortion opponents were pleasantly stunned and eager to watch Roeder plead his case. Tiller's colleagues and abortion rights advocates were outraged and feared the court's actions give a more than tacit approval to further acts of violence.

"This judge has basically announced a death sentence for all of us who help women," said

Dr. Warren Hern of Boulder, Colo., a long-time friend of Tiller who also performs late-term abortions. "That is the effect of the ruling."

The facts of the case are not in dispute: On a balmy Sunday morning, Roeder got up from a pew at Wichita's Reformation Lutheran Church at the start of services and walked to the foyer, where Tiller and a fellow usher were

chatting. Wordlessly, he pressed the barrel of a .22-caliber handgun to Tiller's forehead and pulled the trigger.

Obama considers levy to recover tax dollars from financial firms

WASHINGTON (AP) — Targeting an industry whose political

deafness has vexed his administration, President Barack Obama is weighing recovering tax dollars from government-rescued financial institutions with a levy. The proposed levy could put Obama on the popular side of public opinion that is decidedly against Wall Street and angry over shortfalls in a \$700 billion bank bailout fund.

A senior administra-

tion official said Monday that Obama would seek modifications to the law that sent billions in bailout money in 2008 and 2009 to a flailing Wall Street that was approaching collapse. The government official spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the president's thinking.

The idea received an early boost from Speaker Nancy Pelosi, the top

Democrat in the House, where there have been calls for a hefty tax on bank bonuses.

"While we have not seen any specific language from the administration, Congress will certainly examine any serious proposals to lower the deficit and recoup even more of the TARP funds for the taxpayers," said Nadeem Elshami, a spokesman for Pelosi, D-Calif.

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RYAN

Continued from Page 5A

ing the biscuits. And I'll never forget what he said, "Honey, I love burned biscuits."

Later that night, I went to kiss Daddy good night and I asked him if he really liked his biscuits burned. He wrapped me in his arms and said, "Your Momma put in a hard day at work today and she's real tired. And besides, a little burnt biscuit never hurt anyone!"

You know, life is full of imperfect things and imperfect people. I'm not the best at hardly anything, and I forget birthdays and anniversaries just like everyone else.

What I've learned over the years is that learning to accept each other's faults and choosing to celebrate each other's differences is one of the most important keys to creating a healthy, growing and lasting relationship.

And that's what I hope for us today — that we will learn to take the good, the bad and the ugly parts of our lives and accept them for what they are. Because in the end, that's the only way we will be able to develop a relationship where a burnt biscuit isn't a deal-breaker. And we could extend this to any relationship.

In fact, understanding is the basis of any relationship, be it a husband and wife or parent and child or even a friendship. Don't put the key to your happiness in someone else's pocket; keep it in your own.

And, please pass me a biscuit and yes, the burnt one will do just fine.

Darrell Ryan is director of federal programs for the Big Spring Inde-

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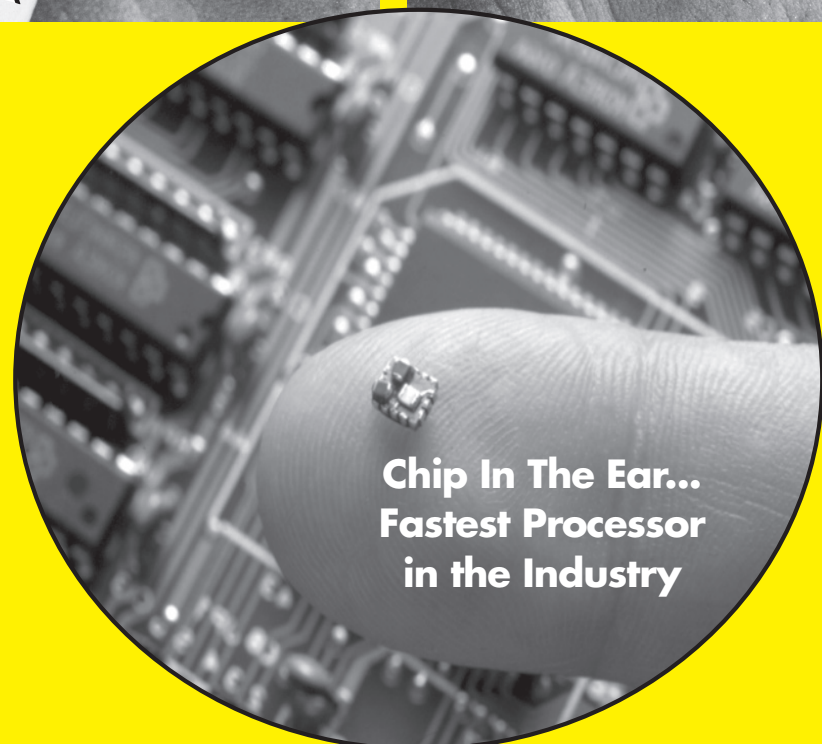


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Livingston Audiology & Hearing Aid Centers are proud to introduce Real Ear Digital Speech Mapping - it's like an MRI of your hearing aid's settings. It's simple. We will conduct a routine hearing evaluation. The results will be processed and displayed on our Digital Speech Imaging computer. You can actually see the parts of speech you are missing on the color monitor. Next, we will let you listen through a digital hearing aid and tune the hearing aid until it restores the missing speech sounds. Not only can you see the speech sounds being restored, you can hear them too.



Discover Sweep Technology from Starkey



Comfort -

Comfortable, HD sound with smoother, seamless transitions between quiet and loud environments. Automatically sets to situations for you.



Performance -

3x more powerful with multicore processing for virtually no whistling, better hearing in noise and telephone compatibility.



Personalization -

Our individualized hearing and lifestyle assessment ensures your hearing aids match your exact hearing loss and listening needs.

SAVE \$500

A simple sweep of your finger controls the volume. Sleek, discreet and available at Livingston.



Medicaid Accepted!

Livingston
Audiology & Hearing Aid Center

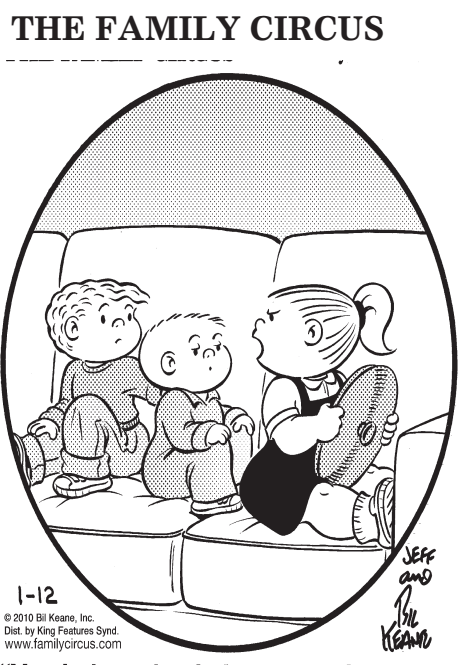
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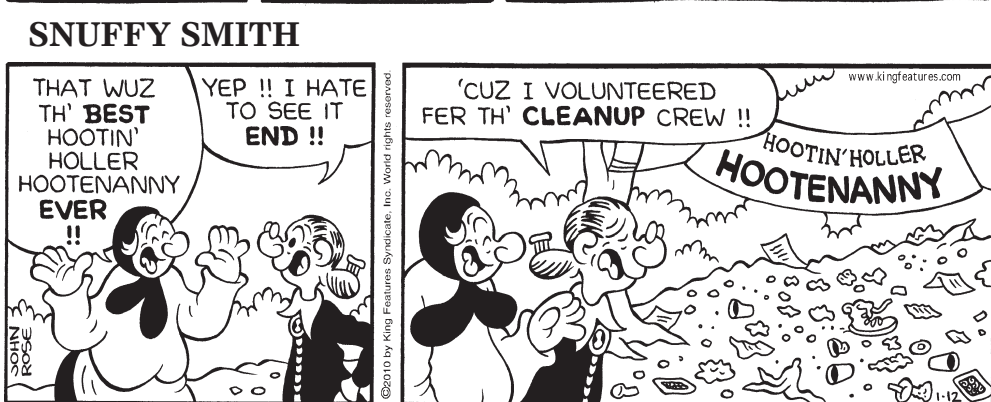
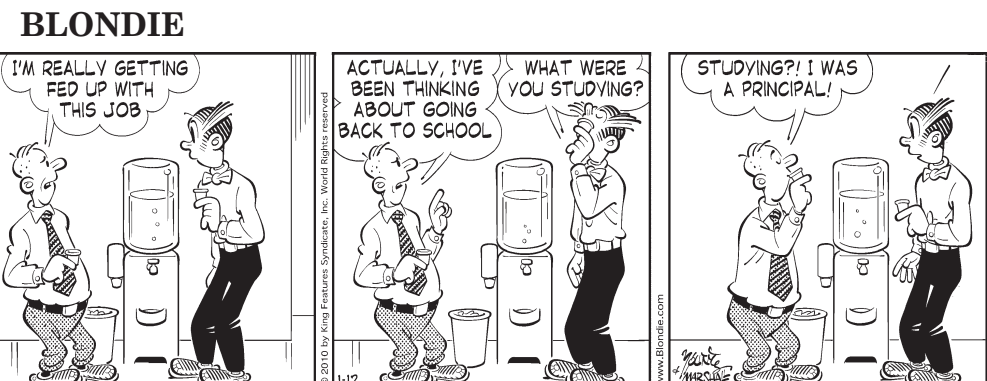
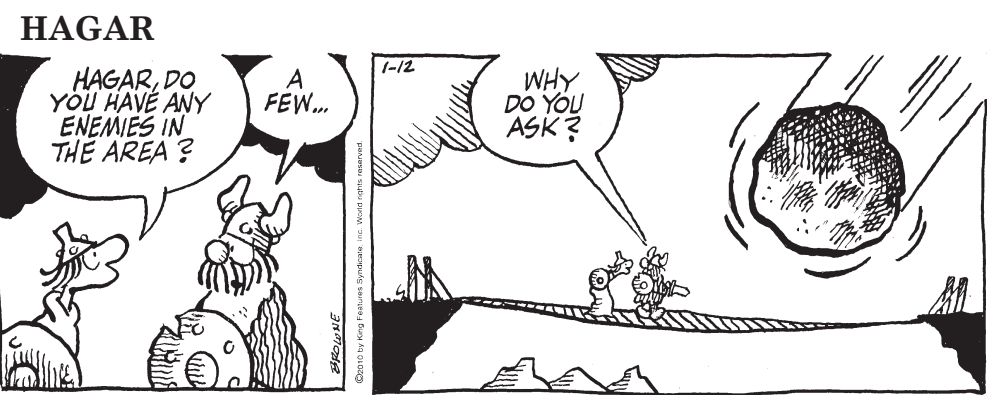
	WFAA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5 :PM	News ABC	News ABC	Locura	Lopez	News CBS	Noticias	News NBC	Friends Office	Scrivner Uri Harel	BBC Business	Cash Cab	Catherine McCormack	Knockouts 5	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas Suite Life	Around Interrupt	SportsCenter
6 :PM	Ent. Ton.	Jeopardy!	Gancho	Two Men	News Ent. Ton.	12 Cora-zones	News Millionaire	Seinfeld Harris	Dr. Young	PBS News-Hour	Dirty Jobs		Ult. Knockout	Bones		Wizards of Montana	College Basketball	College Basketball: Ohio State at Purdue.
7 :PM	Scrub	Scrub	Nomb-re-Amor	American Idol	NCIS: Los Angeles	Más Sabe el Diabolo	The Biggest Loser	Office	Office	Nova	Dirty Jobs	Movie: Behind Enemy Lines, Gabriel Macht	UFC Unleashed	Bones	Movie: The Cookout, Jenifer Lewis	Movie: Hoot, Brie Larson		
8 :PM	Scrub	Scrub	Sortilegio					Office	Office	Light of the Southwest	Independent Lens	Movie: True Lies, Tom Arnold	Entourage	Bones		Phineas	NBA Coast-to-Coast	College Basketball: Kentucky at Florida.
9 :PM	the forgotten	the forgotten	Aquí y Ahora	Simpsons Friends	The Good Wife	Victorinos	The Jay Leno Show	Office	Office			Movie: True Lies, Tom Arnold	Entourage	Southland	Monica	Phineas		
10 :PM	News Nightline	News Nightline	Impacto Noticiero	Raymond	News Letterman	Noticias Decisiones	News Lopez Tonight	Upd Cortes	Charlie Rose		Dirty Jobs	Entourage	CSI: NY	The Mo'Nique	Wizards of Suite Life	Who's Number 1?	SportsCenter	
11 :PM	Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live	Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live	La Escuelita VIP	Law & Order: SVU	Late Late	Decisiones	Late Night	Name	BBC	Howe & Howe Tech	Dirty Jobs	Entourage	CSI: NY	W. Williams	Suite Life	Final	NFL Live	
12 :AM	News	News	Torrente, un Torbel	Paid King-Hill	Insider	Pagado	News	Sex & Church	Upd	Overhaul	Movie: Behind Enemy Lines, Gabriel Macht	Entourage	Southland	Movie: Class Act, Karyn Parsons	So Raven	SportsNation	SportsCenter	
1 :AM	Paid	Paid	Mujer...	Paid	Ent. Ton.	Pagado	News	Sex & Church	Light of the Southwest			Entourage	Saving Grace	Kim	Wtr. X-Games	SportsCenter		
	Paid	Paid	Cero	RENO 911	Paid	Pelicula: La	Poker After Dark	Lopez						Emperor	Baseball			



"MR. WILSON NEVER ASKS WHAT WE'RE DOIN'... IT'S ALWAYS 'WHAT'RE WE UP TO?'"



"You behave back there or we're gonna turn this car 'round right now!"



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 12, the 12th day of 2010. There are 353 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 12, 1910, at a White House dinner hosted by President William Howard Taft, Baroness Rosen, the wife of the Russian ambassador, caused a stir by requesting and smoking a cigarette — it was, apparently, the first time a woman had smoked openly during a public function in the executive mansion. (Some of the other women present who had brought their own cigarettes began lighting up in turn.)

On this date:

In 1519, Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I died.

In 1773, the first public museum in America was organized, in Charleston, S.C.

In 1915, the U.S. House of Representatives rejected, 204-174, a constitutional amendment giving women the right to

vote.

In 1932, Hattie W. Caraway became the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate, after serving out the remainder of the term of her late husband, Thaddeus.

In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt re-established the National War Labor Board.

In 1948, the Supreme Court ruled that state law schools could not discriminate against applicants on the basis of race.

In 1959, Berry Gordy Jr. founded Motown Records (originally Tamla Records) in Detroit.

In 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson said in his State of the Union address that the U.S. should stay in South Vietnam until Communist aggression there was ended.

In 1976, mystery writer Agatha Christie died in Wallingford, England, at 85.

In 1986, the shuttle Columbia blasted off with a crew that included the first Hispanic-American in space, Dr. Franklin R. Chang-Diaz.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Luise Rainer is 100. Country singer Ray Price is 84. Singer Glenn Yarborough is 80. The Amazing Kreskin is 75. Country singer William Lee Golden

(The Oak Ridge Boys) is 71. Former heavyweight boxing champion Joe Frazier is 66. Rock musician Cynthia Robinson (Sly and the Family Stone) is 66. Singer-musician George Duke is 64. Actor Anthony Andrews is 62. Movie director Wayne Wang is 61. Radio commentator Rush Limbaugh is 59. Actress Kirstie Alley is 59. Writer Walter Mosley is 58. Country singer Ricky Van Shelton is 58. Radio personality Howard Stern is 56. Rock musician Tom Ardolino (NRBQ) is 53. Writer-producer-director John Lasseter is 53. Broadcast journalist Christiane Amanpour is 52. Rock musician Charlie Gillingham (Counting Crows) is 50.

Answer to previous puzzle

GRIP	PADS	ACCTS
EASE	AFEW	SHOUT
TILT	TALE	SANTA
SLEIGH	RIDE	IGOR
TIS	ENSNARE	
RISES	BONGOS	
OOH	BAR	ISAAC
BUILDINGS	SNOWMEN	
SPEAK	ATE	MOO
FRIEND	BOOST	
FASTENS	SAT	
ALTO	ICESKATING	
SLAVS	ACTI	AREA
TOTES	POET	WASP
STERN	ELMS	ANTS

Newsday Crossword

AGAINST ALL ODDS by Gail Grabowski

- Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com
- | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 63 Forest ranger's worry | 10 Join forces | 38 Sweater type |
| 1 Calculates a total | 64 Sanctify | 11 Winnie-the-___ | 39 Agenda item |
| 5 Stitched line | 65 Poems of praise | 12 Doing nothing | 44 Helping hands |
| 9 Valentine's Day archer | 66 Ooze | 13 Beloved | 46 Aspirations |
| 14 Butcher-shop buy | | 21 Like very much | 47 Die down |
| 15 Covetous feeling | DOWN | 22 Diet-food phrase | 48 Ancient stringed instruments |
| 16 Battery terminal | 1 BBs, for instance | 25 Grassy areas | 49 Goopy mass |
| 17 Colt's mother | 2 University administrator | 26 Fireplace remnants | 50 Cry of distress |
| 18 Tied, as a score | 3 Take a chance | 27 Oregon or Oklahoma | 51 Putter's target |
| 19 Stringed instrument | 4 One-dish meal | 28 Plops into a chair | 52 Capital of Norway |
| 20 Somehow | 5 Informal farewell | 29 Of farm life | 53 Street |
| 23 Calendar square | 6 Diplomatic agent | 30 Landed (on) | 54 Football officials, for short |
| 24 Mined rock | 7 State with confidence | 31 Rouse from sleep | 55 Garfield dog monster |
| 25 Roundup rope | 8 Talking bird | 32 Not moving | 56 Fairy-tale monster |
| 29 Huck Finn's transport | 9 Frolic | 33 Midterms, e.g. | 57 Don't throw away |
| 31 Clever one | | 35 Part of a sock | |
| 34 Up and about | | 36 Volcanic flow | |
| 35 Luau dance | | | |
| 36 Highway part | | | |
| 37 Somehow | | | |
| 40 Tennis-court dividers | | | |
| 41 Uncluttered | | | |
| 42 In plain sight | | | |
| 43 U-turn from NNW | | | |
| 44 Door ringer | | | |
| 45 Trousers | | | |
| 46 Ad-___ committee | | | |
| 47 ___ Baba | | | |
| 49 Somehow | | | |
| 58 Belt holders | | | |
| 59 Fly high | | | |
| 60 Outer limit | | | |
| 61 Young hooting bird | | | |
| 62 Behind schedule | | | |

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