

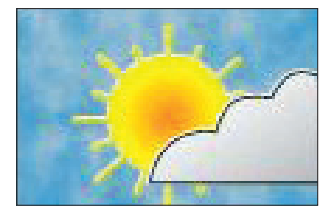
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H BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY
JANUARY 26, 2010



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Burkes honored for role at SWCID

Campus buildings named for husband, wife, administrator, instructor

By **CINDY SMITH**
 Special to the Herald

The Howard College board of trustees gave special recognition to Dr. Douglas and Beatrice Burke by naming buildings on the SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf campus in their honor during their regularly scheduled meeting Monday.

The administration building, now called the Douglas Burke Education and Admin-

"Dr. Burke was a true visionary as he worked with Howard College to establish SWCID and to lead its early development. When he passed away in 1988, we lost a giant in the field of deaf education."



Sparks

istration Building, was chosen to honor Dr. Burke for his pioneering role in the life of SWCID.

As the first deaf individual

to lead an institution of higher education in the nation, Burke paved the road for all deaf leaders and students.

"Dr. Burke was a true vi-

sionary as he worked with Howard College to establish SWCID and to lead its early development," said Dr. Cheryl T. Sparks, Howard College

president. "When Dr. Burke passed away in 1988, we lost a giant in the field of deaf education."

Burke's early work in the establishment of a community college for the deaf was a milestone in the world of higher education as it created new opportunities for the deaf not only in Texas but on the national and world-wide scene, officials said.

Sparks added, "He is cer-

See **SWCID**, Page 3

Jail gets OK from state board

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners received some good news concerning the new county jail Monday morning, as officials informed the court the facility passed a re-inspection with flying colors, earning a certificate of compliance from the state.

The \$11.57 million jail — which accepted its first inmates in late April 2009 — failed an inspection conducted by the Texas Commission on Jail Standards in September 2009, as the state agency identified a number of problems with documentation.

According to Jail Administrator Mike Dawson, the commission conducted a re-inspection of the facility Friday, part of a follow-up called for after the jail failed to make muster last year.

"They conducted the re-inspection on the



HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins

County Jail Administrator Mike Dawson, right, informs members of the Howard County Commissioners Court Monday morning that the jail recently passed its re-inspection, earning full state certification.

INDEX

Comics	12
Classified	9-11
Features	5-6
Obituaries	2
Opinion	4
Sports	8,14

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1 54414 79720 9

Budget deficit projected at \$1.35 trillion

By **ANDREW TAYLOR**
 Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The latest congressional budget estimates due Tuesday predict a \$1.35 trillion U.S. deficit for this year, a top legislative aide says.

The Congressional Budget Office figures confirm the massive problem facing President Barack Obama and his Democratic allies just days before his Feb. 1 budget submission. The White House says Obama will propose a three-year freeze on domestic agency budgets, though the savings would barely make a dent.

The White House is under considerable pressure to cut deficits — the red ink hit a record \$1.4 trillion last year — or at least keep them from

growing. Encouraged by last week's Massachusetts Senate victory, Republicans are hitting hard on the issue. Opinion polls show voters increasingly concerned as November elections near.

The budget office said the deficit would slide to \$480 billion by 2015, CBO says, but only if tax cuts on income, investments and large estates are allowed to expire at the end of this year. Most budget experts see deficits as far higher once tax cuts and other policies are factored in.

The 2010 deficit figure is in line with previous estimates and would be a slight decline from last year's shortfall. But plans afoot on Capitol Hill for a new jobs bill and a coming Obama request for war funds would add to the total.

The figures arrived just hours before the Senate is likely to reject a White House-backed plan to establish a bipartisan task force to recommend steps to curb the deficit.

The spending freeze, expected to be proposed by Obama during the State of the Union address to Congress on Wednesday, would apply to a relatively small portion of the federal budget, affecting a \$477 billion pot of money available for domestic agencies whose budgets are approved by Congress each year. Some of those agencies could get increases, others would have to face cuts; such programs got an almost 10 percent increase this year. The federal budget total was \$3.5 trillion.

The freeze on so-called discretionary programs would have only a modest impact on a deficit expected to match last year's \$1.4 trillion. The steps needed to really tackle the deficit include tax increases and curbs on benefit programs like Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security.

That is the idea driving the Obama-backed plan to create a special task force to come up with a plan to curb the spiraling budget deficit. But the Senate sponsors of the plan say it has attracted too much opposition from the right and left to prevail.

Republicans say the panel — it would try to develop a deficit reduction blueprint after the November elections

See **BUDGET**, Page 3

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEW

'Best Loser' event again set to begin

Ready for a new challenge? Or maybe you made a New Year's resolution to lose weight, but really haven't gotten started on what seems a monumental task yet?

Well, chances are you're not alone. And we here at the Herald, in cooperation with Serenity Spa, may be able to offer a little added incentive.

That's because the Herald and Serenity Spa are co-sponsoring the 2010 Best Loser Fat to Fitness Spring Challenge. Perhaps you've already noticed the advertisements we've been running in the paper. Maybe you haven't.

One thing's for certain. We here at the Herald know from personal experience that losing weight is a little easier when you've got somebody working to lose weight along with you. It's even better when you've got a support group.

That's why the challenge is looking for teams — four people of any sex and any age — to take part in February, March, April and May. That's right, this year's challenge will last a month longer than 2009's inaugural event.

Entry fees are \$50 per team — \$12.50 per team member.

Those teams will be competing for not only some bragging rights, but some cold, hard cash — like all the entry fee money. The grand prize could be worth \$500 or \$1,000, it just depends on how many teams enter.

Official weigh-ins will be at the Serenity Spa, the first one scheduled for Feb. 1 to Feb. 5 (Preferably Feb. 1). Team pictures will be taken Feb. 8 through Feb. 12 here at the Herald offices.

Team progress will be monitored and recognized. However, only a team's weight loss percentage will be noted, not the individual's, so nobody is going to be embarrassed.

So, we're encouraging readers to take part in the challenge. Be sure to sign up no later than Jan. 31. That means you need to drop your entry form and team fee here at the Herald in person by Friday. Mailed entries must be received by Jan. 31.

As always, we suggest that you make sure your doctor says it's all right to take part.

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.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

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- 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

Our judgment is better, Lord, when we're walking with You.

Amen

Stop the merger merry-go-round

What may be the dumbest corporate merger of all time — the \$165 billion deal that saw AOL gobble up Time Warner a decade ago — ended just before the holidays, when AOL formally spun off into a totally separate company.

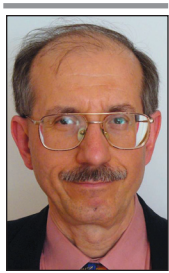
That AOL-Time Warner merger had been a disaster for years. Indeed, the merger had essentially become a joke, a move so wrongheaded that outside observers could only laugh at the folly behind it.

The yuks first broke out when execs at the newly merged media giant forced staff on the Time Warner side to use AOL's email.

That email, designed for consumers, bombed in the workplace. Large attachments crashed the system. Messages vanished. Amazingly, that fun went on for a year.

But the merger would be no joking matter for the thousands of workers who lost their jobs, as execs of the new AOL-Time Warner rushed after the "synergy" they claimed their merger would surely create.

Meanwhile, the executives who cut the merger deal laughed all the way to the bank. Time



SAM
PIZZIGATI

Warner's numero uno cashed out \$153 million in stock option profits in the merger's first year. AOL's top gun collected \$100 million in the second.

Those windfalls came as no surprise.

Corporate execs, in our modern economy, don't cut merger deals to create better companies. They merge simply to create bigger companies — because bigger companies mean bigger rewards for the executives who cut the deals.

Those executives whose companies get swallowed walk away with lush golden parachutes. The execs who do the swallowing get larger paychecks because they have larger companies to "manage."

Only the foolish among these executives, of course, actually do much managing.

The really clever ones just keep cutting deals. Hewlett-Packard CEO Mark Hurd, for instance, wheeled-and-dealed 31 mergers in the 46 months after he became the HP chief in 2005. Hurd collected just under \$40 million in salary and new stock incentives in 2008.

The enormous wealth that mergers create — or, to be more accurate, the enormous wealth that job slashes and price hikes by newly merged companies generate from workers and consumers — doesn't all funnel into corporate executive suites. Mergers leave investment bankers equally flush.

Wall Streeters who specialize in "mergers and acquisitions" — the M&A crowd — take a percentage cut of every merger deal. Over one recent six-year period, Goldman Sachs alone collected \$2.7 billion in merger fees.

Last year's financial meltdown did put a crimp on M&A fees. But business is booming again. The most recent "good" news for the merger boys: a \$30 billion deal, announced last month, that will give cable giant Comcast a majority stake in NBC Universal.

All these billions of dollars in merger wheeling and dealing will cost workers and consumers billions more. Jobs will disappear as newly merged companies ax newly "redundant" workers. Prices will climb as newly merged firms exploit their more dominant market share and flex their marketplace muscles.

The financial-sector reform legislation now moving through Congress offers consumers some much-needed protection from the credit card and mortgage games today's financial giants so enjoy playing. But the legislation does nothing to limit the mighty rewards that merger games can bring.

We need more reforming. Until we have it, those games will continue.

Sam Pizzigati, an Institute for Policy Studies associate fellow, edits Too Much, an online weekly on excess and inequality.



Wondering what is God's will?

I don't presume to know the answer to this question in regard to the earthquake in Haiti as some people have claimed.

"Jesus never prayed to know if God were willing that a man should live" are words written by Mary Baker Eddy, which I heard read during this past Sunday's Lesson Sermon. Every time disaster strikes, there will be those that conclude God's will is at work. I can't explain why tragedy falls prey to some and not others, but I could never believe that God's will for His children is pain and suffering.

When multitudes gathered before Jesus, he didn't know the history or plight of all who gathered. There was no discussion with his disciples about who was worthy or not worthy of being saved. He prayed for everyone. He loved everyone. And he healed everyone who came to him for healing.

Surely this was true because Jesus knew our Father-Mother God loves and cares for everyone impartially and unconditionally.

When sadly hearing the news about the horrific earthquake in Haiti, I couldn't help but be reminded of a survivor's story who experienced the tsunami in Sri Lanka. Her story is one I often think about and have shared with others many times. The question of whether or not it was God's will that she be faced with a tsunami is not what came to her mind.

She was in Sri Lanka for the wedding of her niece, along with other family members and friends. They were having breakfast in their beach hotel when the monstrous wall-high waves hit. She spoke of not knowing how to swim and being crushed by furniture and other debris as she reached out for something to save her.

But the first thought that came to her as she tumbled in the water was the Psalmist's words "I shall not die, but live." (Psalms 118:17)

More thoughts came to her, some giving her direction such as "Cycle ... paddle ... use your legs." She thought of Jesus calming a storm on the sea with those powerful three words, "Peace, be still." (Mark 4:39) And also the words, "Know that God is here." And again that declaration, "I shall not die, but live."

I was comforted that in her extreme peril, she received what she described as "angel thoughts." Mary Baker Eddy's words, "These angels deliver us from the depths" suddenly seemed poignantly true.

Hearing about this survivor's story taught me that perhaps it's not necessary to try to explain why bad things happen, where evil comes from or whether or not it is God's will. I thought if she could survive a tsunami of that proportion, what could I not survive, endure or overcome? So perhaps even against all odds, any of us could be victorious, saved or healed.

This tsunami survivor example has given me encouragement to meet disaster or catastrophe in life. Maybe you, too, will be encouraged to find answers for overcoming your own catastrophes.

Clearly, this dear woman believed she could turn to God to help in her time of crisis. She must have known God not as a destroyer but as Creator — as a protector and preserver of humanity and as a God of love. The book of I Kings says God is not in the wind, earthquake or fire. God is the "still small voice" that is present no matter how dire the situation. (I Kings 19:11-12)

Perhaps such knowledge and faith could help any of us when faced with a crisis. You and I may never encounter a tsunami or experience an earthquake, but how do we contend with whatever we may be facing — extreme debt, divorce, unemployment, injury, illness?

Do we give up? Do we believe there is no hope? Do we resolve to a life of chance, vulnerability and uncertainty? The inspiration I gained from one woman's victory over a formidable foe has strengthened my confidence and trust in the mightiest power of all — the Divine.

While we all may face struggles and hardships that at times bring us to our knees, we can be assured that the "still small voice" will be with us, will lift us up and guide us onward and upward to a new day — to solutions, freedom, peace, comfort, healing.

May we too have the strength and faith to look at adversities and proclaim, "I shall not die, but live."

Surely this is God's will for His beloved children!

Annette Bridges is a freelance writer who lives in North Texas. Her columns are published weekly by numerous other websites and newspapers. E-mail her at annettebridges@gmail.com

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What's the Difference?

There are five things different between Picture A and Picture B. Can you find them all?



Answers: 1. chin guard on #99 2. missing shadow 3. missing football 4. missing number on sleeve 5. number is turned around on #12

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1880: THOMAS EDISON RECEIVED A PATENT FOR HIS INCANDESCENT LIGHT.
- 1945: THE RUSSIANS LIBERATED AUSCHWITZ CONCENTRATION CAMP.
- 1951: THE U.S. AIR FORCE BEGAN ATOMIC TESTING IN THE NEVADA DESERT.



PUNT

kick a football



HOW MANY PLAYERS CAN BE ON A FOOTBALL FIELD PLAYING AT A GIVEN TIME FOR A PARTICULAR TEAM IN AMERICAN FOOTBALL?

ANSWER: 11

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Kick

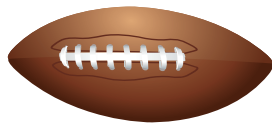
SPANISH: Retroceso

ITALIAN: Scossa

FRENCH: Coup-de-pied

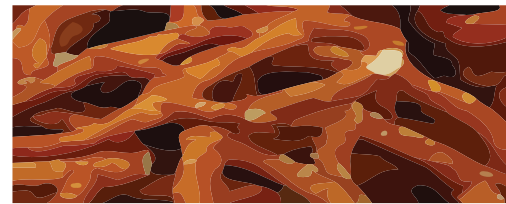
GERMAN: Tritt

Did You Know?



AMERICAN FOOTBALL EVOLVED FROM SEVERAL CHANGES TO WHAT WAS KNOWN AS RUGBY FOOTBALL.

GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: PRETZELS

BSHS students give helping hand to Haiti



By HANNAH WEBER
Special to the Herald

The Big Spring High School Student Council is holding a fund-raiser for the American Red Cross to help with the Haiti Relief Effort.

If BSHS students want to donate to the Big Spring High School Haiti Relief Fund they can bring their money to the front office or there will be a table set up in the lunchroom through Friday. Student Council representatives will be working the table in the lunchroom.

Senior Haley Carrillo says "It is really good that Big Spring High School is coming together to help a nation in need."

Student Council officers have been working to make it as easy as possible to give a donation for Haiti. They have been creating posters and hanging flyers to help spread the word about the fund-raiser.

There will also be a program called "Hats for Haiti" on Friday. Faculty and students can wear hats that day if they pay \$2. This money also goes to the Red Cross Haiti Relief Effort.

Any size donations are welcome through this week. Student Council is pushing for everyone to get involved because it will be fun for the high school students at Big Spring High School and great for Haiti.

Courtesy photo/Hannah Weber

Big Spring High School Vice President Kyler McGee, left, looks on as junior Daniel Moreno contributes to the school's Haiti Relief Fund. Friday, the school will hold a "Hats for Haiti" program. Faculty and students can wear hats that day if they pay \$2. All proceeds go to the Red Cross Haiti Relief Effort.

Hannah Weber is a senior at Big Spring High School.

Giving a wounded hawk a second chance

"Animal Control," said the familiar voice. After putting the Parks & Wildlife receptionist on hold, an employee finally located the officer who had captured a hawk.

"It's very large and doesn't fly well," he offered as a description.

"Can we put it down?"

Having heard often from the public and animal control officers that type of description, she responded quickly. "No! It needs to be examined by the bird people."

After being alerted of the expected delivery to Parks & Wildlife in Midland, we waited until the receptionist called again. "They were right about its being big," she added.

Glancing inside a large dog carrier, we recognized the size and coloration of a ferruginous hawk. Describing its wing feathers and "leggings" as rusty, or the color of iron, the adjective had been a wise choice when ornithologists were identi-

fying species.

Although it resisted my trying to remove it from the enclosure, the raptor lacked the strength and weight I had expected. Free of the walls that had contained it, the hawk flapped its wings repeatedly and sent loose papers floating to the floor.

Finally calm, the bird of prey glanced around the room. Everything about the raptor was large, including its head and bill. At least two feet long with a wingspan of almost five feet, it was regal in its composure.

Positioning the back of the hawk against my chest, with its head well below my face, I extended one wing, then the other. With no obvious breaks, the bird could have sustained bruising, or a soft tissue injury, to the leading edge of one or both wings. A hairline fracture was another possibility. At least someone had seen that it tried to fly.

Of more concern was its lack of body fat. Its keel, or breastbone, was pronounced. Unable to fly and hunt, the ferruginous was facing death by starvation.

Once home, trying to open its tightly clasped



Courtesy photo

From as far north as the state of Washington and southern Canada, the ferruginous hawk migrates to the southwestern part of the United States and Mexico for winter. When available, prairie dogs and rabbits provide its natural food source.

bill proved to be a challenge. Having administered fluids, we later gave it small feedings of baby mice.

Since it was more alert the next morning, we decided to see if it would eat on its own. An hour later, its meal had been devoured.

After several more days, the hawk grew restless as it improved. To prevent damage to its feathers as it started to become more active, and provide the time needed to regain its weight and

flight ability, meant a trip to South Plains in Lubbock.

Before placing it in a carrier, holding this magnificent bird of prey helped me to understand why a friend had described members of this species as Mexican eagles.

High above our West Texas terrain, he had seen these large soaring birds as they graced his hunting lease.

With their white tails and heads visible in flight, they had resembled in size and partial coloration our

American birds. Ranch hands and other hunters had added to the lore evoked by their presence on mammoth towers supporting endless miles of electrical lines through the ranch.

At the wildlife center, confirmation of no breaks was reassuring. Underweight, the hawk was first placed in a mew in the barn. Over time, as it gained weight and strength, the raptor progressed from using the lowest perches to attaining the highest.

Another two weeks passed. Then it was ready for the flight cage. With the freedom to fly from one end to the other, the ferruginous exercised throughout each day. With its added activity came a ravenous appetite as well.

Finally, with the promise of stable weather, the raptor was placed in a carrier.

Driving through familiar cotton fields, a volunteer from the center soon welcomed the change of scenery as grasslands appeared, then turned into rolling hills and canyons.

To return the ferruginous hawk to open spaces with ample food was reward enough for

the long drive. Placing the carrier on the ground, the man opened the door.

Coming from a darkened area into the bright morning light, the hawk stopped to get its bearings.

Noting the direction of the wind as it walked, then almost hopped with excitement, the raptor suddenly and quickly took flight.

Rising slowly, its wings continued to flap even though they appeared as if too heavy for its body.

The strength it had gained from weeks in the flight cage enabled the bird to elevate as it used the sustained breeze.

Circling as it rose, the raptor was soon high enough for the volunteer to see the dark V formed by the hawk's feathered legs as its feet came together underneath its tail.

As it continued spiraling upward, its flight became a graceful reintroduction into its realm, the sky.

Bebe McCasland is author of The Scoop from Bird Poop. She is federally and state licensed to rehabilitate wild birds.

News in brief

Senate expected to reject bipartisan deficit task force

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate is likely to reject a White House-backed plan to establish a bipartisan task force to recommend steps to curb the deficit, even as lawmakers digest the news that President Barack Obama wants a three-year freeze in the domestic budgets they control.

Fresh numbers arriving Tuesday morning from the Congressional Budget Office are expected to bring continued bad news on the deficit, keeping the pressure on Obama and congressional Democrats to demonstrate they're serious about taking on the flood of red ink.

The spending freeze, expected to be proposed by Obama during the State of the Union address on Wednesday, would apply to a relatively small portion of the federal budget, affecting a \$477 billion pot of money available for domestic agencies whose budgets are approved by Congress each year. Some of those agencies could get increases, others would have to face cuts; such programs got an almost 10 percent increase this year. The federal budget total was \$3.5 trillion.

The freeze on so-called discretionary programs would have only a modest impact on a deficit expected to match last year's \$1.4 trillion. The steps needed to really tackle the deficit include tax increases and curbs on benefit programs like Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security.

Haitians left homeless by earthquake plead for tents

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — The dusty soccer field lined with spacious tents is an oasis for earthquake survivors among Haiti's homeless sheltering in acres (hectares) of

squalid camps.

Competition for the canvas homes has boiled into arguments and machete fights, a sign of the desperation felt by the hundreds of thousands of people without homes struggling for shelter in this wrecked city. Haiti's president has asked the world for 200,000 tents and says he will sleep in one himself.

Fenela Jacobs, 39, lives in a 4-by-4-meter (13-by-13-foot) abode provided by the Britain-based Islamic Relief Worldwide. She says the group offered her two tents for 21 survivors but she ended up putting everyone in one tent after people threatened to burn both down if she didn't give a tent up.

Still, she says living in the 2-meter-tall (6-foot-high) khaki home with a paisley interior is better than the makeshift shelters crafted from bed sheets propped on wooden sticks where her family was living before.

"It's a lot more comfortable," Jacobs said, though she added it gets really hot inside the tent in Cazo, a Port-au-Prince neighborhood hidden in the hills behind the international airport.

Pilot in crash did not heed tower's recommendation

BEIRUT (AP) — The pilot of an Ethiopian Airlines plane that crashed into the sea minutes after takeoff flew in the opposite direction from the path recommended by the Beirut control tower, Lebanon's transportation minister said Tuesday.

All 90 people on board were feared dead after the plane went down in flames around at 2:30 a.m. Monday, during a night of lightning and thunderstorms.

Transportation Minister Ghazi Aridi told The Associated Press that the tower had asked the pilot "to cor-

rect his path but he did a very fast and strange turn before disappearing completely from the radar."

It was not clear why that happened or whether it was beyond the pilot's control. Like most other airliners, the Boeing 737 is equipped with its own onboard weather radar which the pilot may have used to avoid flying into thunderheads.

Lebanese officials have ruled out terrorism or "sabotage." The plane was headed to the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa.

Obama touts breaks for small businesses that add workers

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama's push to create jobs includes a new tax credit for small businesses that add employees, an idea that has appeal as the nation struggles with an unemployment rate topping 10 percent.

It is an idea, however, that fell flat in Congress when Obama first proposed it last year because lawmakers didn't know how to target the credit effectively. The Obama administration still hasn't provided details on how the tax credit would work, and some tax experts question whether it would.

"It's very hard to know when a company is incrementally adding jobs because of a tax credit, and when they would have done it anyway," said Eugene Steuerle, a Treasury Department official in the Reagan administration who is now co-director of the Tax Policy Center, a Washington think tank. "I'm sympathetic to subsidizing low-wage jobs. It's just a question of how you design it."

Congressional researchers say a tax credit for firms that increase payroll could be a good way to increase employment, if the credit is available to all companies, not just small businesses. They cautioned, however, that it would be difficult to administer.

Among the issues raised by tax experts:

Google tries to keep China sales staff

BEIJING (AP) — Even if Google's stand against censorship leads it to close its search engine in China, the company still hopes to maintain other key operations in the world's most populous Internet market.

Google Inc. is in delicate negotiations with the Chinese government to keep its research center in China, an advertising sales team that generates most of the company's revenue in the country and a fledgling mobile phone business.

Both sides are torn by conflicting objectives.

Google says it's no longer willing to acquiesce to the Chinese government's demands for censored search results, yet it still wants access to the country's engineering talent and steadily growing online advertising and mobile phone markets.

Chinese leaders are determined to control the flow of information, but realize they need rich and innovative companies such as Google to achieve their goal of establishing the country as a technology leader. Even some Chinese media that rarely deviate from the party line have warned that Google's departure could slow technology development and hurt China's economy.

Suicide bombing targets police offices in central Baghdad

BAGHDAD (AP) — A suicide car bomber killed at least 18 and injured dozens more Tuesday in a strike against a police crime lab in central Baghdad, a day after several hotels were hit by suicide attacks, officials said.

Rescue crews are still combing through the rubble looking for casualties. Officials say the majority of those killed were likely police officers who worked in the forensic investigation office at Tahariyat Square in the central neighborhood of Karradah. At least 82 people were reported injured.

This week's bombings — all against prominent and heavily fortified targets — dealt yet another blow to the image of an Iraqi government struggling to answer for security lapses that have allowed bombers to carry out a number of massive attacks in the heart of the capital since August.

Police and hospital officials said the bomber in Tuesday's attack tried to drive a pickup truck through a checkpoint and blast walls protecting the forensic evidence office.

Among those confirmed killed were 12 police officers and six civilians who were visiting the office. Officials said more than half the wounded were police.

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Howard women shoot past Lady Westerners



HERALD Photo/Joe Zigtema

Tasha Tubbs drained seven 3-pointers for 21 points Monday night at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. The Hawks won their first WJCAC conference game and improved to 15-4 on the season.

By **JOE ZIGTEMA**
Sports Editor

The Howard College women just got tired of missing shots.

The Hawks decided instead to shoot 55 percent from the 3-point line and 51 percent from the floor Monday night as they downed Western Texas 69-63 for their first conference win.

Tasha Tubbs started the game with two

straight threes for Howard (15-4, 1-3) and went on to shoot 7-of-8 from behind the arc for her 21 points. Kenyatta Colbert was 4-of-5 from downtown for her 12 points and Asia Reid scored her 10 on 4-of-6 from the floor.

"We did a better job of reading screens, we did a better job of reading where the defense was and that makes all the difference in the world," head coach Earl Diddle

said. "I know the girls are really happy, and I'm really happy."

Nastashia Atkins led the Lady Westerners with 20 points. Teisha King added 13 as the team fell to 11-10 and 1-4 in conference play.

Tubbs ignited the Hawks from the start with six straight points, followed by a Reid assist and a D.J. Fountain layup that made it 10-2 Howard in the early

going.

But Western Texas would bounce back with a run of its own at the 16-minute mark, and the two teams played within four points of each other for the rest of the half. Howard took a 34-31 lead into the locker room as Tubbs made her fifth 3-pointer of the half two seconds before the buzzer.

The Hawks opened See **HOWARD**, Page 14

STEAMROLLED



HERALD PHOTO/Joe Zigtema

Josh Watkins is fouled as he puts up a shot over Edis Dervisovic on Monday at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Watkins scored 18 points as the Hawks downed Western Texas 73-44 to move to 4-1 in WJCAC conference play. The Hawks play Odessa on the road Thursday. Tipoff is 7:45 p.m.

HC Hawks thrash Western Texas

By **JOE ZIGTEMA**
Sports Editor

The Howard College Hawks made a statement Thursday night after Thursday's loss at Midland.

They're not going anywhere.

The Hawks scored the first eight points of the game, built a 10-point lead in the first five minutes and trashed the Western Texas College Westerners 73-44 at Dorothy-Garrett Coliseum.

Jae Crowder led Howard (17-2, 4-1) with

25 points. Josh Watkins had 18.

"It was a real big statement coming off that loss," said freshman point guard LaMont Austin, who had eight points, all from the free-throw line. "We really got locked in, had a few good days of practice, we worked hard on defense and rebounding, and we came together and played as a team (Monday)."

Moses Sundufu scored 11 points off the bench for Howard, and Shaad O'Garro and

Damion McGee saw a lot of minutes in the game.

"Our bench came in and did very well," head coach Mark Adams said. "We've been waiting for this all year and they're very capable."

Lester Johnson led Western Texas with 10 points. The Westerners fell to 11-7 and 1-4 in WJCAC conference play.

The Hawks took a 36-20 lead into the locker room on the strength of two rim-rocking dunks from O'Garro

and Carlos Emory in the final minute.

The Hawks brought their No. 1-ranked defense in the second half, keeping WTC scoreless through the first nine minutes. Will Harrison gave the Westerners their 22nd point at the 10:51 mark.

"We just felt like it was important that we get on them in the first five minutes of the second half," Adams said. "They took a lot of charges, but they

See **HAWKS**, Page 14

Who's hot, not shifts by week in Big 12

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Texas and Kansas State have been vulnerable and even Kansas has had a hiccup.

The Big 12 race is shaping up to be wide open if the first couple of weeks of conference play are any indication.

Texas dropped to No. 6 in this week's Top 25 after losing two in a row following the program's first No. 1 ranking. No. 11 Kansas State, which knocked off Texas a week ago, lost at home to Oklahoma State. And No. 2 Kansas' only loss was a whopper, coming against a Tennessee team that suited up six scholarship players and three walk-ons.

No. 24 Baylor, on the other hand, has become the darling of the league after giving the Jayhawks a scare at Allen Fieldhouse and winning its first 11 home games. Texas Tech, with its win over Oklahoma on Saturday, already has matched its win total of a year ago and Colorado, picked to finish last, is no push-over.

"As we go on, the

cream will rise," Texas A&M coach Mark Turgeon said. "For the most part, we felt we had a couple teams that were Top 10 teams, and K-State got in there. I didn't expect them to lose at home. The rest of us are just going to beat each other up. You see teams 3-2, 2-2. It's going to be highly competitive."

The Big 12 went into Monday leading all conferences with seven teams among the top 37 of the RPI, eight teams with 14 wins and eight with a .737 or higher winning percentage.

Those statistics tell Texas Tech coach Pat Knight all he needs to know about the league.

"It's just a week-to-week deal. You can't get frustrated," Knight said. "If you're not Kansas, you're going to have some bad weeks. You have to get through them and not get down."

The Longhorns (17-2, 3-1) were outshot, out-rebounded and were turnover-prone in losses at Kansas State and Connecticut. They were

See **BIG 12**, Page 14

Steers back in action at Plainview tonight

Herald Staff Report

The Big Spring boys and girls basketball teams are back after a Friday night off as they travel to Plainview tonight.

The Lady Steers are getting their second shot at the Lady Bulldogs, who defeated Big Spring at Steer Gym on Jan. 13.

The Lady Steers played

close with Abilene Cooper and 6-foot 5 post Deprise Cravin last Tuesday but ultimately fell 41-26 in Abilene.

With a week of practice under their belts, the Lady Steers will try to improve tonight as they begin the second half of their district slate.

Senior Linzee Yarbar led Big Spring with eight points at Cooper. She

and posts Cerbi Ritchey and Taylor Seaton will try to keep pace with the Lady Bulldogs, ranked 4A No. 22 in the latest TABC poll.

On the boys side, the Steers are coming off their best performance of the season, a 63-47 thrashing of Abilene Cooper.

They will go for their third straight district win tonight against

Plainview (14-10, 0-2), which has suffered two 51-50 losses at the hands of Cooper and Frenship.

The Steers are in the district driver's seat, though they may be without Tyler Tannehill for the rest of the season. Coach Marcus Morris said Tannehill tore his ACL in the Steers' district opener against Lake View.



HERALD PHOTO/Rick Nunez

Kenneth Maclin, above, caught this 16.12 pound large-mouth bass Monday at Comanche Trail Lake. He used a green, yellow and white burma with a long bib.

Sports in brief

Coahoma softball players invited for alumni game

All Coahoma Bulldogette softball alumni are invited to join in the 8th annual Coahoma softball alumni game scheduled for Feb. 13 at 3 p.m.

The game will be played at the Coahoma High School field as the Bulldogettes 2010 season opener.

Call Amy Dunn at 268-3228 or e-mail at adunn@coahoma.esc18.net for more information.

Big Spring softball tournament needs community support

Lady Steer softball parents and the city of Big Spring Parks and Recreation Department are hosting a 22-team high school softball tournament March 4-6.

The tournament needs community support to be a success. Banners will be displayed at the tournament for business owners who wish to support the tournament.

Call John Sparks for information at 270-2711.

Garden City to serve Bearkat benefit meal

The Garden City Bearkats are holding a benefit meal Sunday at the St. Lawrence Parish Hall at 11:30 a.m. Country-style ribs and all the fixings will be served, and the Bearkats will show their 2009 highlight video, which will be on sale for \$25.

Proceeds go to the purchase of the Bearkats' state championship rings. Cost is \$8 for adults, \$6 for children.

The hall is located at 2408 FM 2400, Garden City.

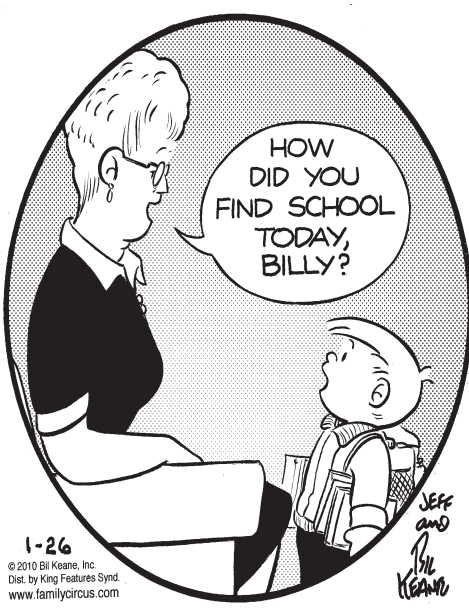
Table with 28 columns representing different TV channels and their respective programming schedules for the day.

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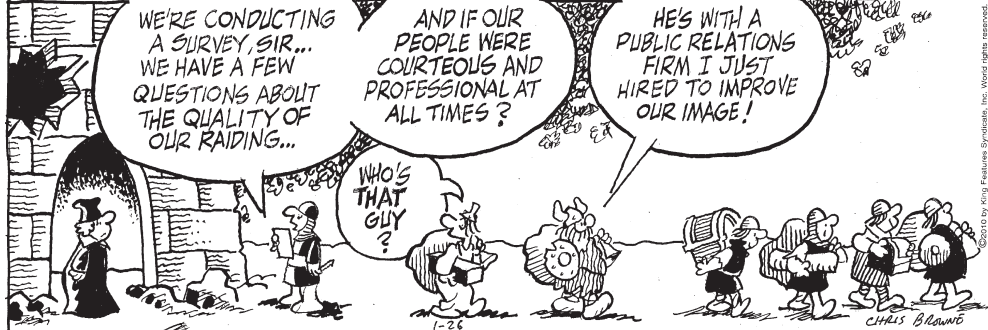
...AND FORGIVE RUFF. HE DIDN'T KNOW HE DID ANYTHING WRONG WHEN HE CHEWED UP MY SNEAKER.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

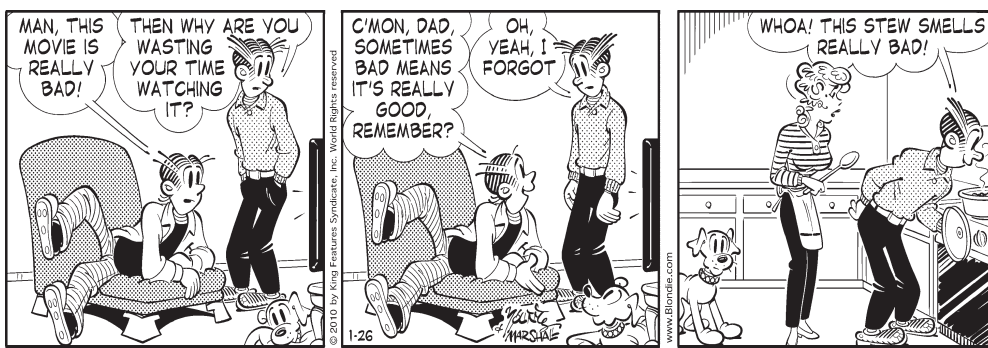


"I just got off the bus and there it was."

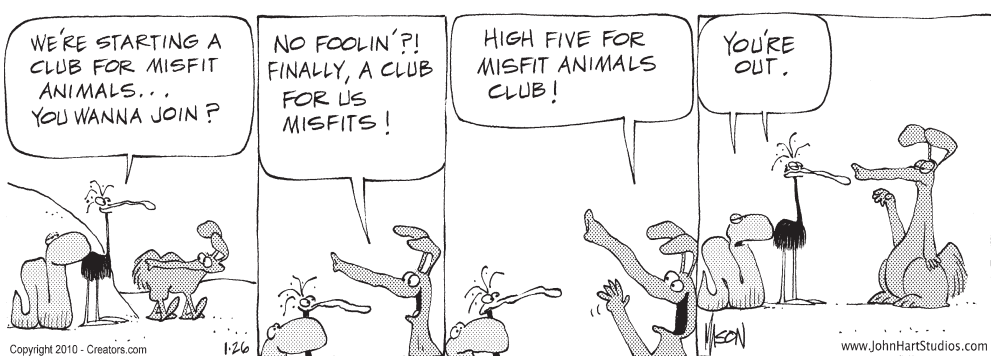
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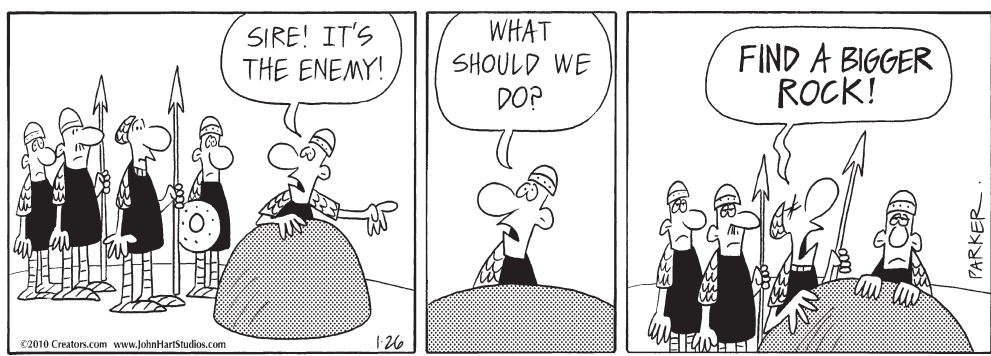
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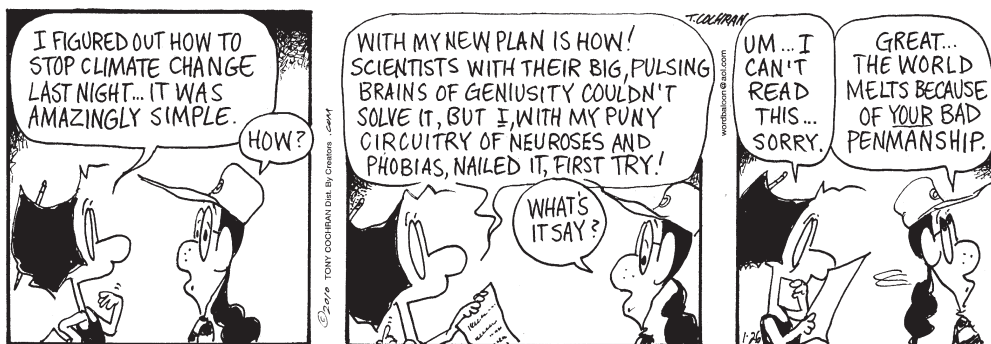
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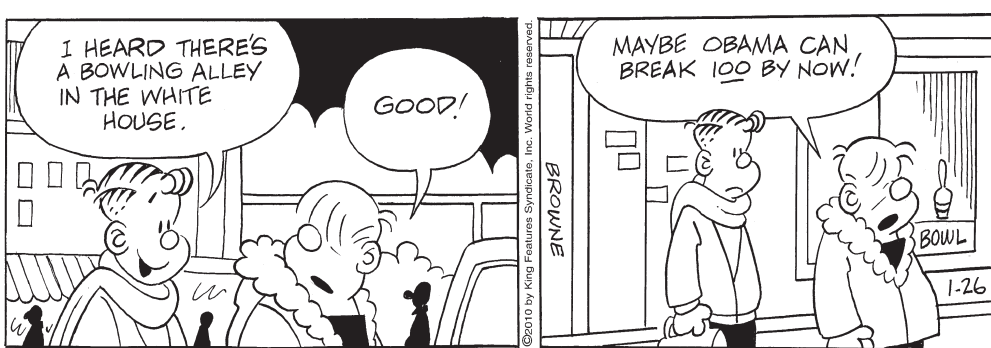
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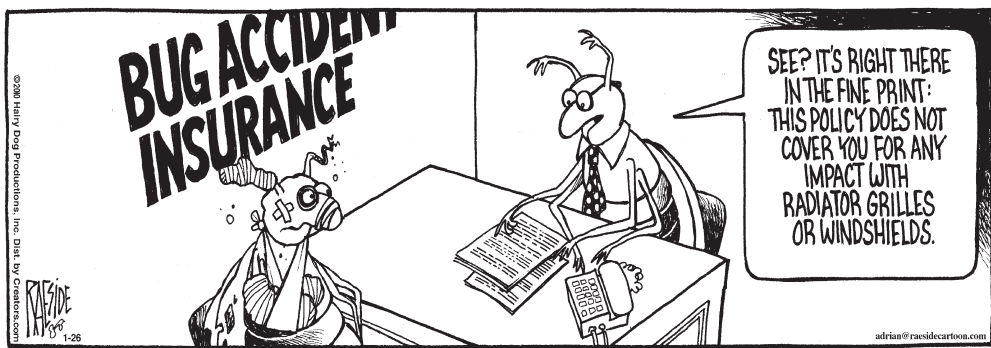
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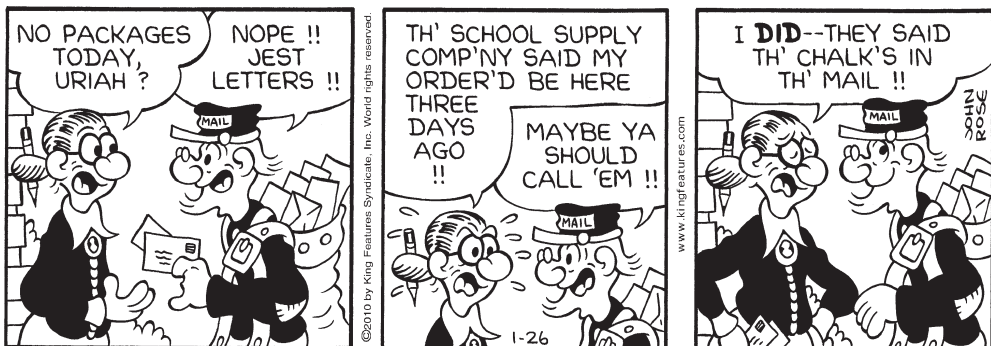
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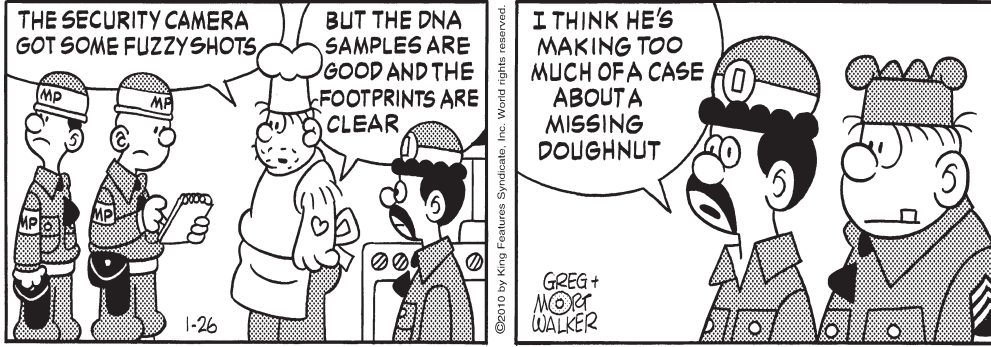
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 26, the 26th day of 2010. There are 339 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Jan. 26, 1950, India officially proclaimed itself a republic as Rajendra Prasad took the oath of office as president.

went ashore in Northern Ireland. In 1960, National Football League team owners chose Pete Rozelle to be the new commissioner, succeeding the late Bert Bell.

Jazzie B. (Soul II Soul) is 47. Actor Paul Johansson is 46. Gospel singer Kirk Franklin is 40. Actress Jennifer Crystal is 37.

Answer to previous puzzle: A crossword grid with words filled in.

Newsday Crossword

GET IT TOGETHER by Billie Truitt Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS 1 Places to soak 6 "Gee whiz!" 10 Endure 14 Throw for (surprise) 15 Region 16 Enthusiastic about 17 Rascal 18 Bar order on tap 19 Biting fly 20 Type of fixed-income investment 22 Nature walk 23 Coquettish 24 Hold in high regard 26 Crow's-nest cry 30 Winter jacket 32 'Peek-_, I see you!' 33 Compared to 35 "Sad to say..." 39 List of choices 40 Mr. Claus 42 West Coast sch. 43 Splotches 45 Fishing-rod attachment 46 Drench 47 Defame in print 49 End of a threat 51 Globe shape 54 That woman 55 Nursery school, briefly 56 Man's business attire 63 Cash advance 64 Facts and figures 65 Small crown

A crossword grid with numbers indicating starting positions for the clues.

A USER'S GUIDE TO

THE

BIG SPRING HERALD

Each day. The *Big Spring Herald* receives calls from readers - just like you - who have important questions about how the newspaper works and the services it offers. For your information and convenience, we have compiled this page of answers to readers' most frequently asked questions.

Save this page for future reference

HOW TO

REPORT THE SCORE

You can report your sports results between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. by calling 263-7331, faxing 264-7205 or drop your results at the *Big Spring Herald* office at 710 Scurry, Big Spring.

HOW TO

SUBMIT NEWS INFORMATION

To announce activities or events, mail or bring by the office a typed news release or fact sheet to Editor John Moseley as far in advance as possible. The release should include the who, what, why, when, and where of the event, and the name and telephone number of a contact person. If you have a timely news item, call John Moseley at 263-7331, ext. 230.

HOW TO

LOCATE A SPECIFIC STORY

If you are unable to locate an article, call 263-7331, or come by the *Big Spring Herald* at 710 Scurry, and we will try to assist you. Remember, we can only provide information that appeared in the *Big Spring Herald*.

HOW

OBITUARIES ARE HANDLED

Obituaries, whether paid or non-paid, are provided to the *Big Spring Herald* by funeral homes. Non-paid obits follow a standard form, while paid obits can include virtually anything the deceased's family requests. Any questions should be directed to the Editor John Moseley at 263-7331, ext. 230.

HOW TO

GET DELIVERY TO YOUR HOME

Call our office at 263-7335 or come by 710 Scurry. Our subscription rate is \$93.42 per year or \$8.65 per month.

HOW TO

OBTAIN BACK ISSUES

Back issues of the *Big Spring Herald* are kept on file for one year and may be purchased during regular business hours. However, some back issues sell out quickly and we cannot guarantee that any given issue will be available. You may also check with the Howard County Library reference department at 264-2262.

HOW TO

SUBMIT MARRIAGE, ENGAGEMENT OR BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

To submit engagement, wedding, or birth announcements come by our office at 710 Scurry and pick up a form. You may also download a form from our website at www.bigspringherald.com. If you have questions regarding the guidelines for these announcements, discuss them with Editor John Moseley at 263-7331, ext. 230.

HOW TO

PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD

Phone our office at 263-7331 or come by 710 Scurry. Ads can be placed between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

HOW TO

PLACE A DISPLAY AD

Phone our office at 263-7331 and ask for a retail advertising sales representative or visit our office at 710 Scurry. Telephone lines are open 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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by fax at 432-264-7205
Call us at 432-263-7331
Come visit us at
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www.bigspringherald.com

