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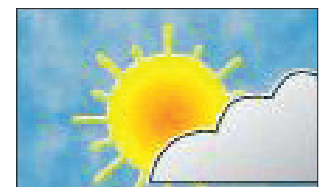


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H BIG SPRING HERALD

WEDNESDAY

JANUARY 27, 2010



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Council gets feet wet with water park

Takes legal step toward obtaining \$4.2 million

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Big Spring City Council unanimously approved the first of several legal requirements necessary to issue \$4.2 million in certificates of obligation Tuesday night, as the city moves forward with the design and construction of a water park to replace the swimming pool at Comanche Trail Park.

Councilwoman Stephanie Horton made the motion, which was seconded by Councilman Manuel Ramirez Jr., to begin the notification and publication requirements for the city to issue the certificates, which the council is expected to give a final nod in March if no problems arise.

"This is the first legal requirement in the process of issuing certificates of obligation," City Finance Director Peggy Walker told the council during the meeting. "What we're doing tonight is giving the council's intention



Above is an artist's rendering of the proposed water park to be located in Comanche Trail Park. Big Spring City Council unanimously approved on first reading several requirements necessary to issue \$4.2 million in certificates of obligation.

to issue certificates. At this point we are looking at \$4.2 million.

"The date this will come back before the council to formally issue those certificates

will be March 8, which is on a Monday. We'll hold our regularly scheduled meeting that night instead of the following Tuesday, just so we can meet all of the time guidelines and

requirements for the issuance (of the certificates)."

The focus of a city council work session approximately a week ago, municipal leaders considered several differ-

ent courses of action, ranging from renovating the existing swimming pool to constructing a new, larger aquatics

See **COUNCIL**, Page 3A

Mega-meeting to look forward, back

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Officials with several different agencies and tax entities in Howard County will get a chance to see how local groups are working together Thursday night, as Howard College prepares to play host to a joint meeting of area boards and elected officials.

According to the agenda, the meeting will include

"We're hoping this get-together will give everyone a chance to see what we've been able to accomplish during the last year. We expect it to be informal, but more importantly, it will be informative."



—Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen

board members and elected officials from Big Spring, Coahoma and Forsan, as well as the superintendents and trustees from the respective

independent school districts, Howard County, Howard College, Big Spring Economic Development Corporation and Big Spring Area Cham-

ber of Commerce.

Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen said officials from the different entities began meeting on a regular basis

more than a year ago to try to work together on common goals, and Thursday's presentation will help bring board members and other decision-makers up to speed on their progress.

"Dr. Cheryl Sparks, president of Howard College, will be making the presentation and directing the meeting," said McEwen. "We're hoping

See **FORWARD**, Page 3A

INDEX

- Comics 8B
- Classified 5-7B
- Features 6A
- Obituaries 2A
- Opinion 4A
- Sports 1-2,4B

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Reception to honor novice book author

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

It's interesting what a few encouraging words can do.

Some kind words from a teacher helped convince Kathy Highley she could be an author, a dream that recently became reality with the publication of her first novel.

Highley, a long-time Big Spring resident, will sign copies of her book "106 Arrowhead Drive," during a reception at Heritage Museum beginning at 5 p.m. Thursday.

Becoming an author is the

What: Author Kathy Highley book signing.

Where: Heritage Museum.

When: 5-6:30 p.m. Thursday.

culmination of a decades-old dream, she said.

"I took Susan King's English class at Howard College," Highley said. "She gives you lots of homework, so it seems I was always writing ... One day I told her I wanted to be a writer and she said, 'You

See **BOOK**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Kathy Highley holds a copy of her first novel, "106 Arrowhead Drive," Tuesday afternoon. Highley will sign copies of her book during a reception at 5 p.m. Thursday in Heritage Museum.

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The "One Love" Pendant

2009 Reader's Choice Winner For Best Jewelry Store

From the Street Inspired Art and Jewelry Collection by Zac Phimney

Lady Steers fall at district leader Plainview



By **JOE ZIGTEMA**
Sports Editor

PLAINVIEW — The Plainview Lady Bulldogs let the Lady Steers know they have a long way to go as they handed Big Spring a 61-26 loss Tuesday in Plainview.

But the Lady Steers have time with a young squad that coach Mike Warren said is getting better each game. Sophomore Cerbi

Ritchey scored 11 points and grabbed eight rebounds, and has become a force inside for Big Spring, Warren said.

“She’s starting to assert herself, and you see her get more physical every game,” he said. “I think it’s rubbing off on the girls. The referees are going to let you play a little bit, so they can get in there and mix it up, and I think we’re doing that

better.”

Warren said he thinks Lady Steers starters, Bridgette Tuitt, Valerie Ross and Linzee Yarbar are starting to come around, and young players Logan Yarbar and LaShaunte Anderson could be key pieces down the stretch.

“When we get Bridgette going, Valerie going and Linzee going all at the same time, I think we’re going to be good,” he said. “Logan

and LaShaunte came off the bench and did well. We have a good little combination working, and they’re hustling and working hard.”

Plainview (13-11, 5-0) got on the Lady Steers early in the first, starting the game on a 9-0 run. Big Spring (7-14, 0-4) responded with a 5-0 spurt of its own on the strength of two Ritchey buckets but Plainview came back with eight more to end the period

up 17-5.

The Lady Steers got four of their six points in the second quarter from senior Valerie Ross as Plainview extended its lead to 28-11 at the break. The Lady Steers allowed just one field goal in that quarter, forcing Plainview to earn nine of its 11 points at the free throw line.

The Lady Steers took See **BSHS**, Page 14

HERALD PHOTO/Tony Claxton
Cerbi Ritchey scored 11 points, but the Steers lost at Plainview.

X-FACTOR



HERALD PHOTO/Tony Claxton
Xavian Parnell puts a shot up and in Tuesday night in Plainview. The Steers beat the Bulldogs 72-60 for their fourth straight win. Parnell had seven rebounds and scored five points off the bench for Big Spring.

wasn’t an easy moment throughout the whole game. I was never really relaxed until the last 20 seconds. They put so much pressure on the ball, our guards got tired. But we’re not going to shy away from a fast pace. We stepped up to the challenge.”

Plainview made a

run to get within nine points in the third quarter, but instead of calling timeout, Morris let his squad play through the change in momentum. Jerrell Williams ended the run with a pass to Pavel Plakhotny down the floor, who banked it in with an easy shot

for two of his eight points on 4-of-4 shooting.

“We’ve got seasoned kids,” he said. “I wanted to see what they were made of.”

Williams tallied 14 points for the Steers and four assists.

See **STEERS**, Page 14

Steers beat Plainview, go 3-0 in district

BY **JOE ZIGTEMA**
Sports Editor

PLAINVIEW — At the end of Tuesday night’s game in Plainview, it was the Bulldogs, not the Steers, that were stuck in the district 4-4A dog house.

Big Spring (12-11, 3-0) kept its unblemished district record clean while sending Plainview (13-12, 0-3) to its third straight district loss with a 72-60 decision at Plainview’s Dog House.

Guard Luke Adams dropped 30 points in the game, making the Steers 4-0 since he’s joined the team Jan. 13. Adams has posted double digit numbers in every game but one, including two straight 20-point efforts.

“He’s gutsy, heady, you can’t come up with enough adjectives,” coach Marcus Morris said. “He steps on the floor to win, and our whole team has that mentality right now.”

Big Spring held a double digit lead for most of the game, but Morris said it did not feel like one.

“We never broke,” he said. “But none of it was easy. There

S. Carolina, Downey upset No. 1 Kentucky

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — As long as South Carolina has Devan Downey, the season isn’t over.

The senior scored 30 points to lead the Gamecocks (12-8, 3-3 Southeastern Conference) to a 68-62 win over No. 1 Kentucky on Tuesday night, an upset made even more remarkable considering South Carolina lost two of its starters before SEC play even began.

Downey is dragging the Gamecocks almost all by himself, scoring 31 of his team’s 68 points per game in conference games.

“We don’t have a chance if we don’t have somebody like him,” Gamecocks coach Darrin Horn said.

Downey believes this is the kind of win that can propel the team to bigger things.

“We still feel like all of our goals are in front of us,” he said. “To me, this is motivation. I wish we had practice tomorrow so we could get back in the gym and work.”

The Wildcats (19-1, 4-1), no longer the last unbeaten team in the country, will likely keep their first top ranking in seven years for just a week. That doesn’t bother coach John Calipari that much, because he

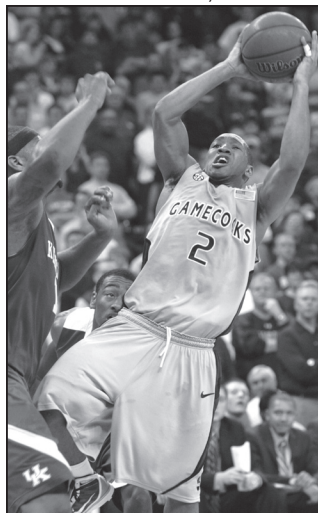
has been telling his team they have to play hard for 40 minutes, and can’t expect just to swoop in at the end and win.

“It’s a great lesson. I’ve been saying it all year — but a lot of times, until you take an ‘L’ they don’t want to believe you. Especially, with how young we are.”

This game was expected to be a showdown between all-SEC Downey and the conference’s most talented freshman in John Wall. Wall scored 19 points, but shot 6 for 16 and disappeared for long stretches as the Gamecocks put a power forward on him.

South Carolina also got physical with the Wildcats. The

See **CAROLINA**, 2B



AP PHOTO/Mary Ann Chastain
Devon Downey led South Carolina past No. 1 Kentucky Tuesday.

Forsan splits with Stanton as girls pull off comeback victory

Herald Staff Report

FORSAN — Down 10 points going into the fourth quarter in Forsan Tuesday night, the Forsan Lady Buffs had some work to do.

They played on, chipping the lead down to eight, then six, then four until, with a few minutes left in the game, Amanda Longorio took over.

Longorio, who has until recently been out with a foot injury, scored 13 points and grabbed 11 rebounds as Forsan toppled Stanton 50-49 at home for a huge win to take sole possession of first place in district 7-A.

“They were able to get the ball inside, and she did a good job of getting it in and scoring in there,” Stanton coach

Jim Kinnear said. “You have to give the Forsan girls all the credit in the world.”

Hillger said Longorio adds a new dimension to his team, especially with the boost she provides on the glass.

“We’re still getting used to her playing,” Hillger said. “We don’t have a lot of time for her to do it, but she gives us a little more of a half-

court offense.”

Stanton led by 12 at halftime and virtually the entire game going into the fourth quarter. But when Forsan picked up the defensive effort, Stanton’s offense struggled and could only manage four points in the final period.

“They picked up their defensive intensity and pushed us out of our offense,” Kinnear said.

Stanton’s Rachel Fleckenstein scored 28 points in the game.

“She’s a monster,” Forsan coach Robert Hillger said. “We just didn’t have an answer for her.”

The game sets up a rematch between the two in the last district game of the season, likely with district title implications, Feb. 9.

“It was a good win for

our fans, but it’s just one district win,” Hillger said. “That just means we get to go over to their place and try to do it again.”

Stanton tops Forsan

FORSAN — The Stanton Buffs got an early lead and held on to it late as they edged Forsan 36-30 in a Buffalo defensive struggle

See **BUFFS**, Page 2B

Sports in brief

Tuesday’s area scores
See 2B for Box Scores

Big Spring 72, Plainview 60
Plainview girls 61, Big Spring 26
Jim Ned 68, Coahoma 40
Jim Ned girls 65, Jim Ned 36
Grady boys 57, Sands 28
Sands girls 43, Grady 27
Robert Lee boys 31, Garden City 26
Garden City girls 55, Robert Lee 19

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.

Obituaries

Betty 'Tootle' Krager

Betty "Tootle" Krager, 59, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2010, at her residence. A vigil service will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 28, 2010, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 29, 2010, at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church with Msgr. Bernard Gully officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

She was born Nov. 7, 1950, in Stevens Point, Wisc., and married Gary Krager on July 22, 1989, in Big Spring.

Betty was a lifelong resident of Big Spring and had worked as an administrative assistant at the Big Spring State Hospital. She was a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish and was the church organist for many years.

Survivors include her husband, Gary Krager of Big Spring; her daughter, Kathryn Krager of Arlington; one granddaughter; one brother, Thomas Ross of Midland; one niece and one nephew.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Walter and Betty Ross, and one brother, Richard Ross.

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

Jewel Cauble Anderson

Jewel Cauble Anderson, 91, formerly of Big Spring died Jan. 25, 2010, in a Rowlett nursing home. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 29, 2010, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Interment will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 6:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

She was born Aug. 20, 1918, in Big Spring and married Donald Arthur Anderson on March 9, 1938. He preceded her in death Nov. 28, 1999.

She graduated from Big Spring High School and worked at Thomas Office Supply. Jewel was a member of the First Christian Church, belonged to the Couples' Dance Club and played in the Tuesday Bridge Club for more than 50 years.

She is survived by her son, Donald Gene Anderson and wife Victoria of Katy; her daughter, Jan Anderson Grant of Lavon; five grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Jewel was also preceded in death by her brother, J.D. Cauble.

In lieu of flowers, please donate in Jewel Anderson's name to a charity of your choice.

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

Jessie Leo Adkins

Jessie Leo Adkins, 92, of Siloam Springs, Ark., formerly of Stanton and Midland died Jan. 25, 2010, at Circle of Life Hospice in Springdale, Ark. Graveside services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 29, 2010, at Evergreen Cemetery in Stanton. Jessie will lie in state at Gilbreath Funeral Home Thursday and Friday until service time.

She was born Dec. 12, 1917, in Tussy, Okla.

Survivors include one daughter, LaRue Yates and husband Kenneth of Siloam Springs, Ark.; three brothers, Kenneth Allgood of Ruidoso, N.M., Cherry Allgood of Sheridan, Calif., and Bill Allgood of Roseburg, Ore.; one son-in-law, Loie Badgett of Andrews; six grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren.

Jessie was preceded in death by her husband, Albert Richard Adkins; one daughter, Lou Ann Badgett; one son, Charles Richard Adkins; one brother, Earl Allgood; and three sisters, Leona Cravens, Johnnie Kennemer and Geneva Franklin.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests gifts and memorials be sent to Circle of Life Hospice, 901 Jones Rd., Springdale, Ark., 72762.

Arrangements are under the direction of Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com

Siler E. Williams

Siler E. Williams, 91, of Big Lake died Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2010, in a Big Lake nursing home. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Police blotter

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

- JANICE RODRIGUEZ, 33, of 1425 E. Sixth St., was arrested Tuesday on four local warrants.
- SAMUEL WOODS, 44, of Odessa, was arrested Tuesday on charges of public intoxication and theft — more than \$50 and less than \$500.
- THEFT was reported in the 200 block of FM 700.
- TERRORISTIC THREAT OF A FAMILY/HOUSEHOLD was reported in the 1100 block of 14th Street.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 1400 block of Sixth Street.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the 1900 block of N. Highway 87.
- AGGRAVATED ASSAULT was reported in the 900 block of FM 700.

Fire/EMS

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

- TRAUMA was reported in the 800 block of Anna. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported near the 184 mile marker of Interstate Highway 20. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 3800 block of Connally. One person was transported to SMMC.
- GRASS FIRE was reported in the 200 block of Channing.

Sheriff




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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 65 inmates at the time of this report.

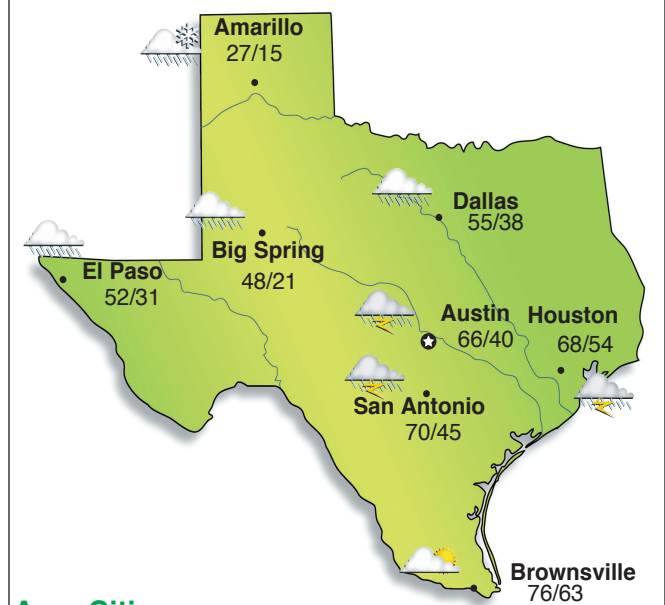
- ROY CARTER, 34, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on charges of failure to maintain financial responsibility, using DT fuels in a taxable manner and driving while license invalid.
- TOMMY CHARLES WILLINGHAM, 24, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation.
- RONNIE CARL CARTER, 49, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation.
- JANICE RODRIGUEZ, 33, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of failure to control speed, violation of a promise to appear, failure to maintain financial responsibility (two counts) and failure to appear (two counts).
- DAVID JUAREZ, 33, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.
- SAMUEL EUGENE WOODS, 44, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of no fishing license, theft and public intoxication.

Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Thu 1/28	Fri 1/29	Sat 1/30
 48/21 Rain likely with a few thunderstorms. Morning high of 48F with temps falling to near 40F.	 42/19 Morning clouds followed by afternoon sun. Highs in the low 40s and lows in the upper teens.	 50/25 Sunshine. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the mid 20s.
Sunrise: 7:42 AM Sunset: 6:16 PM	Sunrise: 7:42 AM Sunset: 6:17 PM	Sunrise: 7:41 AM Sunset: 6:18 PM

Texas At A Glance



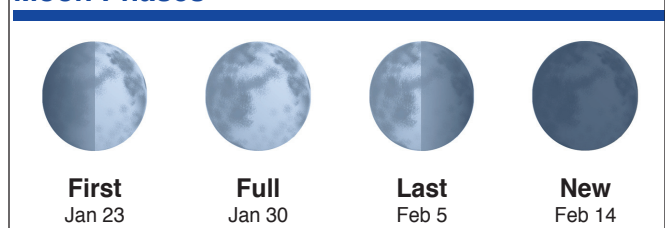
Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abiene	52	24	rain	Kingsville	76	57	windy
Amarillo	27	15	mixed	Livingston	68	50	rain
Austin	66	40	t-storm	Longview	56	43	rain
Beaumont	68	58	rain	Lubbock	35	17	mixed
Brownsville	76	63	cloudy	Lufkin	69	51	rain
Brownwood	58	31	t-storm	Midland	50	24	t-storm
Corpus Christi	70	57	t-storm	Raymondville	79	60	cloudy
Corsicana	55	39	rain	Rosenberg	69	54	t-storm
Dallas	55	38	rain	San Antonio	70	45	t-storm
Del Rio	66	36	t-storm	San Marcos	67	41	t-storm
El Paso	52	31	rain	Sulphur Springs	53	40	rain
Fort Stockton	57	29	rain	Sweetwater	50	23	rain
Gainesville	47	30	rain	Tyler	55	42	rain
Greenville	51	36	rain	Weatherford	51	31	rain
Houston	68	54	t-storm	Wichita Falls	42	21	frz rain

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	60	39	pt sunny	Minneapolis	8	-7	pt sunny
Boston	39	15	mixed	New York	44	19	cloudy
Chicago	16	9	pt sunny	Phoenix	62	42	rain
Dallas	55	38	rain	San Francisco	60	44	pt sunny
Denver	37	23	sn shower	Seattle	52	45	rain
Houston	68	54	t-storm	St. Louis	27	17	cloudy
Los Angeles	67	47	mst sunny	Washington, DC	53	25	windy
Miami	73	65	pt sunny				

Moon Phases



UV Index

Thu 1/28	Fri 1/29	Sat 1/30
2	4	5
Low	Moderate	Moderate

Lottery

The winning numbers in Tuesday evening's drawing of the Georgia Lottery's "MEGA Millions" game were: 07-08-38-39-48, Mega Ball: 22

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 1-4-22-33-34. Number matching five of five: 0.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 3-5-3-0. Sum It Up: 11.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 2-7-5. Sum It Up: 14.

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Ron Midkiff Publisher... Ext. 250
John A. Moseley Managing Editor... Ext. 230
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STEERS

Continued from 1B

“Jerrell did a great job tonight of showing his leadership,” Adams said. “He played well.” Posts Matt Ritchey and Xavian Parnell did the dirty work down low for the Steers, each notching seven rebounds. Ritchey finished with nine points and Parnell five. “Some nights we don’t score as much

as we want to down low, but we have great guards that can shoot, so all I have to do is get rebounds and kick it out for another shot from Jerrell, Tristian (Clay) or Luke,” Ritchey said. Big Spring got on the board early and often in the game, starting on an 11-2 run thanks to five from Adams. Plainview made one of its own later in the period to make it a 16-12 first quarter. The Steers picked up where they left off

in the second, scoring the quarter’s first six points. Adams dropped 15 in the quarter, including the last four of a 10-2 run going into the locker room. Plainview made a run in the third, using an 11-4 run to come within nine in the third. Down 14 going into the fourth, the Bulldogs again came within 10 but that was as close as they would get. Plainview was led by Josh Smiley, who fin-

ished with 18. Thomas Curry added 12, Rick Jackson had 11 and Jaylon Jackson 10. The Steers move on to face Frenship at home Friday. Tipoff is 7:30 p.m. at Steer Gym.

Big Spring 72, Plainview 60
BS 16 21 19 16 -- 72
PV 12 12 18 18 -- 60

BS (12-11, 3-0)- Luke Adams 30, Jerrell Williams 14, Matt Ritchey 9, Pavel Plakhotny 8, Xavian Parnell 5, Tristian Clay 4, Monte Anderson 2
PV (13-12, 0-3)- Dustin Brown 10, Ty King 4, Bubba Wiggins 2, Thomas Curry 12, Daniel Miller 3, Rick Jackson 11, Josh Smiley 18

SCORES

Jim Ned 65, Coahoma 36
JN 16 22 14 13 -- 65
CHS 10 4 7 15 -- 36
Jim Ned (17-10, 4-2)- Taylor 4, Tutt 9, Brown 10, Tutt 4, Avery 10, Portera 8, Day 2, Doherty 7, Deal 11
Coahoma (14-13, 2-4)- Gonzales 1, Buske 2, Gee 11, Martin 2, Fowler 11, Stone 5, Pulis 2, Castlaw 1
Free throws- JN 13-22, CHS 12-19; 3-point goals- JN 6 (Portera 2, Doherty, Deal 3), CHS 2 (Fowler, Stone); Total fouls- CHS 15, JN 17

No. 3 GC 55, Robert Lee 19
GC 15 14 17 9--55
RL 2 2 7 8 --19
GC (23-1, 6-0): Morgan Schwartz 18, Amber Halfmann 17, Lauren Schwartz 6, Kate Halfmann 5, Rachel Hirt 3, Paige Niehues 2, Laura Halfmann 2, Britni Cook 2.
RL (13-10, 4-2): Walker 6, Roach 4, Brisbin 3, Rainwater 2, Hinderliter 2, Saucedo 2.
Free throws -- GC 8-13, RL 5-11. 3-point goals -- GC 5 (A. Halfmann 4, L. Schwartz 1); RL 0. Total fouls -- GC 16, RL 12. Fouled out -- RL, Hinderliter.

Sands 43, Grady 27
Grady 4 6 7 5 --27
Sands 9 16 4 14 --43
Grady (9-15, 1-5): Kelly Cook 10, Maegan Blocker 6, Charmynee Arnold 4, Julia Schuelke 4, Katie Meeks 2, M.J. Price 1.
Sands (4-2): Ashli Stockton 17, Morgan Yarbrough 13, Megan Yarbrough 6, Lani Robless 3, Jennifer Gomez 3, Jasmine Ybarra 1.
Free throws -- Grady 5-11, Sands 13-25. 3-point goals -- Grady 0, Sands 4 (Stockton). Total fouls -- Grady 19, Sands 12. Fouled out -- Grady, Cook.

Boys
Robert Lee 31, Garden City 26
Garden City (7-5, 3-2): Jesse Montes 9, Reggie Halfmann 7, Hayden Halfmann 6, Aaron Long 4.
Robert Lee : Dillard 13, Gartmon 6, Nesbit 6, Philleay 4, Peyton 2.
Garden City 10 7 0 9 --26
Robert Lee 4 12 8 7 --31
Free Throws -- GCHS 8-15, RLHS 3-7. 3-point goals -- RLHS 2 (Gardmon, Dillard), Total fouls -- GCHS 12, RLHS 10.

Grady 57, Sands 28
Grady (20-3, 5-1): Shane Teague 15, Dylan Cox 18, Johan Wiebe 7, Riley Pinkerton 4, Jacob Rodriguez 10, Zach Perez 3, Zane Robinson 2.
Sands (1-5 in district): Preston Zant 5, Junior Rogers 2, Johnny Rogers 7, Sean Blagrove 2, Albert Ybarra 3, Daniel Armendariz 4, Gabriel Guillen 4
Grady 10 17 12 18 --57
Sands 2 5 13 8 --28
Free throws -- GHS 5-7, SH 4-6. 3-point goals -- GHS 6 (Cox 4, Teague 2), SHS 3 (Zant, Ju. Rogers, Jo. Rogers). Total fouls -- GHS 6, SHS 10. Fouled out -- None.

Jim Ned 68, Coahoma 40
Jim Ned 22 14 19 13 --68
Coahoma 10 10 13 7 --40
Jim Ned (22-4, 3-1): Noland 3, Cupps 2, C. O'Dell 3, Dacus 14, Keiner 2, Ikeler 5, Cargill 2, J. O'Dell 7, Allen 18, Bryant 9, Wise 3.
Coahoma (14-10, 1-3): Josh Paniagua 9, Tanner Ruiz 10, Hunter Williams 4, Martin Leija 6, Isaac Garcia 5, Kirk Hahn 2, Alex Crabtree 4.
Free throws -- Jim Ned 3-6, Coahoma 13-18. 3-point goals -- Jim Ned 7 (Allen 4, Ikeler 1, C. O'Dell 1, Noland 1), Coahoma 3 (Paniagua, Ruiz, Garcia). Total fouls -- Jim Ned 17, Coahoma 10.

(Fleckenstein, Carrasco), FHS 1 (K. Jones); Total fouls- SHS 23, FHS 18; Fouled out- Stanton, Jones, Hale

Boys
Stanton 36, Forsan 30
SHS 15 7 6 8 -- 36
FHS 9 13 13 15 -- 50

Stanton (19-5, 3-0)- Tyler Fulton 18, Trace Sidle 3, Jorge Reyna 2, Andreas Chavez 2, Blake Evans 2, Grayson Gray 9
Forsan (10-10, 0-3)- Evan Burton 11, Ryan Flores 5, Kolten Self 4, Mike Hill 3, Patrick Robles 3, Zack Dykes 2, Bracken Schreiner 2
Free throws- SHS 3-8, FHS 3-4; 3-point goals- SHS 1 (Sidle), FHS 3 (Flores, Robles, Hill); Total fouls- SHS 5, FHS 11

BSHS

Continued from 1B

some momentum to open the second half as Linzee Yarbar scored four straight points off two Big Spring steals. Yarbar picked the first from the frontcourt and went down for an easy layup, and Taylor Seaton assisted Yarbar

for the second to make the score 28-15 early in the third. Yarbar added her sixth point later in the quarter on a fast break that made it 32-19. Plainview took hold of the game from there and cruised to stay atop the district standings. The Lady Steers get a rematch with Frenship

at home Friday night. The Lady Steers fell to the Lady Tigers at the Tiger Pit in their district opener. “We’re going to work on shooting the next few days to try to get ready for Frenship,” Warren said. “We just have to look at the positives because we’re going to shoot good at home Friday night.”

Plainview 61
Lady Steers 26
BS 5 6 10 5 -- 26
PV 17 11 15 18 -- 61
BS (7-14, 0-4)- Cerbi Ritchey 11, Linzee Yarbar 6, Logan Yarbar 2, Valerie Ross 4, Taylor Seaton 1
PV (17-9, 4-0)- Kyndra Jackson 17, Lauren Ritter 12, Amanda Ramirez 10, Sydney Hearn 8, Dylan Chavez 6, Marisa Gamboa 3, Ashley Welch 2, Sandra De La Garza 2, Emily Welch 1
Free throws- BS 5-10, PV 15-21; 3-point goals- BS 1 (Ross), PV 2 (Jackson, Ramirez);

BUFFS

Continued from 1B

Tuesday night at Forsan High School. Stanton’s Tyler Fulton dropped 18 points in the game to lead the winning Buffs, who used 15

first-quarter points to jump on Forsan’s four in the opening frame. “We just couldn’t get it rolling in that first quarter,” Forsan coach Brad Batla said. “We came out a little flat and we couldn’t recover from there.”

Forsan (10-10, 0-3) outscored Stanton (19-5, 3-0) 12-8 in the final period but couldn’t make up for the 10-point deficit it faced going into the fourth quarter. “I was pleased with the way we played after last week,” Batla said. “I’ll take 36 points every time. We got it to within four with about 15 seconds left, so we had a little bit of a chance to make something happen, but

we never gave up and we kept fighting.” Evan Burton led Forsan with 11 points. Stanton committed just five fouls in the game, and Forsan only 11. The two have Friday off before Stanton hosts McCamey on Tuesday and Forsan hosts Iraan. Tipoff is at 8 p.m. “Next week we have two home games that we can get, and all we need is really one to have a

chance to play off for that third place spot,” Batla said.

Girls
Forsan 50, Stanton 49
SHS 15 19 11 4 -- 49
FHS 9 12 15 -- 50

Stanton (21-5, 2-1)- Ashley Snellgrove 6, Kesley Jones 6, Rachel Fleckenstein 28, Adrian Carrasco 5, Krista Sanchez 2, Jamie Hale 2
Forsan (18-4, 3-0)- Ambra Hill 6, Miranda Park 8, Shelby Jones 6, Kelsey Jones 10, Morgan Forshee 4, Stacey Stanley 2, Brittney Roemer 1, Amanda Longorio 13
Free throws- SHS 7-18, FHS 13-27; 3-point goals- SHS 2

teammates to make the free throws to seal the Gamecocks’ first-ever win over a No. 1 team in eight tries. They also have beaten Kentucky three straight times. Before the start of the 2008-09 season, they had only beaten the Wildcats seven other times. Calipari was impressed with his first look at Downey. “He made the tough shots. We were saying if he makes tough shots it’s going to be hard. And he made about three tough ones at tough times,” Calipari said. And Kentucky’s coach hopes his young team learned a lesson watching the old SEC veteran Downey do the things he was supposed to do instead of trying to make the fancy plays to get on highlight tapes. “As I sat there and watched it unfold,” Calipari said. “I said this is what happens to a young team.”

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

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

CAROLINA

Continued from 1B

Gamecocks outrebounded Kentucky by four — only the second time in 11 games they’ve had the advantage on the boards. Freshman forward DeMarcus Cousins did score 27 points and had 12 rebounds, but every time he got the

ball he had to fight off at least two swarming Gamecocks. “It got rough out there now. That thing was rough. We tried to catch it in the post, people over the top were pushing, shoving,” Calipari said. “Well, that’s the way the game was going to be played. You better bow up your neck and go make plays.”

The 5-foot-9 Downey is never afraid to mix it up. He drove through and around four defenders Saturday for what appeared to be the game winner against Florida, only to watch the Gators push the ball up in 5 seconds with Chandler Parsons burying the winning 3-pointer. He took it to Kentucky’s big men, too, making 10 of 11 free throws to offset 9-for-29 shooting from the field. “I knew that my team needed me to score, so I couldn’t be gun-shy,” said Downey, who was the top high school player in South Carolina in 2005, but decided to go to Cincinnati. He spent a year with the Bearcats before coming home. With the Wildcats up 47-42, Downey took over. He had a three-point play and two foul shots to tie it up. Downey had another three-point play with 4:06 left to give the Gamecocks the lead for good, 54-51. Downey made two more baskets before turning it over to his

teammates to make the free throws to seal the Gamecocks’ first-ever win over a No. 1 team in eight tries. They also have beaten Kentucky three straight times. Before the start of the 2008-09 season, they had only beaten the Wildcats seven other times. Calipari was impressed with his first look at Downey. “He made the tough shots. We were saying if he makes tough shots it’s going to be hard. And he made about three tough ones at tough times,” Calipari said. And Kentucky’s coach hopes his young team learned a lesson watching the old SEC veteran Downey do the things he was supposed to do instead of trying to make the fancy plays to get on highlight tapes. “As I sat there and watched it unfold,” Calipari said. “I said this is what happens to a young team.”

Contract Bridge
By Steve Becker
Two Less One Equals 2,220

North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A 10 7 6 2
♥ K J 9 3
♦ 7
♣ K J 6

WEST EAST
♠ 3 ♠ K Q J 4
♥ 10 ♥ 2
♦ K Q 8 6 4 ♦ J 10 9 5
♠ A Q 10 9 5 4 ♠ 8 7 3 2

SOUTH
♠ 9 8 5
♥ A Q 8 7 6 5 4
♦ A 3 2
♣ —

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

Redble
Opening lead — three of spades.
This hand was played in a rubber-bridge game many years ago by Camillo Pabis Ticci, well-known Italian star. The bidding was rather sporting, to say the least — especially East’s double of six hearts. At first or even second glance, it looks as if declarer must lose two spade tricks and go down one. How-

ever, Pabis Ticci managed the play exceptionally well and made the slam.
West led the three of spades, which Pabis Ticci recognized as a probable singleton. After winning the spade with dummy’s ace, he played the king of trumps and then ruffed the six of clubs. Next he cashed the diamond ace and trumped a diamond in dummy, then ruffed dummy’s jack of clubs and trumped his last diamond in dummy. The stage was now set for the elimination play he had planned for the outset.
Pabis Ticci led the king of clubs from dummy, but instead of ruffing it, he discarded the eight of spades. West won the trick with the ace but had to return a diamond or a club, allowing declarer to ruff in dummy while discarding the nine of spades from his hand. As a result, Pabis Ticci made six hearts redoubled for a score of 2,220 points instead of going down one for a loss of 400.
The loser-on-loser play, planned from the start, worked to perfection. In effect, Pabis Ticci exchanged a club trick he didn’t have to lose for two spade tricks he seemed certain to lose — a profitable trade by any measure.

Tomorrow: Pinpoint defense.
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In Sunday’s Big Spring Herald

Medal contenders

The Winter Olympics are upon us and every time America tunes in to this international event, unknowns suddenly become national heroes. We profile three medal contenders. Plus, making the most of your doctor visit and cheesy chicken chowder.

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MORTON BUILDINGS

Outrage over health care deals undercut Obama's signature issue

WASHINGTON (AP) — Special legislative favors, especially one designed to secure a Nebraska senator's vote for the embattled health care package, ignited so much public outrage that President Barack Obama is calling them a mistake and House leaders say the bill can't be resurrected unless such sweetheart deals are scrapped.

Obama says Americans were understandably upset by the backroom dealmaking that he called ugly. In a cruel twist, the reaction helped elect a Republican senator in Massachusetts last week, putting the health legislation in peril.

Rep. Jim Clyburn of South Carolina, the No. 3 House Democrat, said Tuesday the House may be able to pass the Senate health bill — and salvage Obama's top domestic priority — if the offending items are deleted.

"We've got to get rid of that Nebraska stuff, we've got to get rid of the Louisiana stuff," Clyburn said, referring to provisions inserted to help secure the votes of holdout Democratic senators Ben Nelson of Nebraska and Mary Landrieu of Louisiana.

Obama, speaking to ABC News this week, said, "I didn't make a bunch of deals." But he acknowledged making "a legitimate mistake" by letting White House and congressional negotiators include the items during last month's closed-door negotiations.

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1A

facility.

Following a presentation from officials with Water Technologies Inc. — the Fort Worth-based company the city contracted with to come up with a design to replace the old pool — the council gave the go-ahead to have the matter put on Tuesday night's agenda.

According to city officials, the \$4.2 million facility — which does away with the concept of a rectangular swimming pool in favor of a water park concept — will not require a tax hike, fitting the construction and eventual operation and maintenance of the proposed facility into the current tax rate of \$1.013243 per \$100 valuation.

Councilman Troy Tompkins asked Walker why the item was listed as an emergency reading on the agenda, which negated the need for a second reading. Walker said it was necessary for the city to meet its timeline on the project.

"We're doing it this way because of the timing of the requirements. You have to publish this item twice," said Walker. "You have to do it two times, consecu-

tively, and two weeks apart. We're going to make that publication come Friday, and then again that following Friday, Feb. 5. We want to make the whole process move through so we can do the final issuance in March. That way we can take them to the market and have the proceeds in time for when we actually bid this project out."

The council gave the order not to open the existing swimming pool — located in Comanche Trail Park — at the end of the school year in May 2009 after city officials learned the facility failed to meet federal requirements laid out in the Virginia Graeme Baker Act, which requires public swimming pools to have measures in place to prevent drain entrapment, a situation where a swimmer becomes trapped by the suction force of a pool drain.

According to city officials, the facility also failed to meet ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) requirements, many of which were identified when the city was sued by a local resident for not meeting the federal requirements.

Although the suit was later settled, the pool — along with the Municipal Auditorium — have both remained closed until they

can be brought into compliance with federal and state law.

Walker was quick to point out to the council although Tuesday night's vote will allow the project to move forward, it doesn't obligate the city to give final approval to the proposed park.

"All you're doing tonight is notification of intent," said Walker. "You're not bound by this. The council, at some date in the future, could change their minds. This is just a required notice to the public that your current intention is to move forward with the certificate of obligations."

Following the vote, Tompkins told the council he had recently come in possession of a study commissioned by the Settles Hotel Development Company, which has undertaken the multi-million dollar task of renovating and rehabilitating the historic downtown hotel.

According to Tompkins, the study identifies Comanche Trail park — and specifically the municipal swimming pool — as a tourism-generating asset for the Crossroads area.

"This study was done prior to us starting any conversations about the pool, especially doing a water park type pool," said Tompkins. "However, it

seemed remarkable that this firm from Las Vegas, Nev. — which is not drinking the 'West Texas Kool-Aid' — came in and one of the things they identified was the park and the fact that they found it to be a driver of tourism, and they mentioned the pool specifically."

Mayor Russ McEwen agreed, saying the park is often the topic of conversation with newcomers to the Big Spring area.

"The one comment I get anytime people come to Big Spring is they can't believe the city park we have," said McEwen. "Those of us who grew up here and lived here a long time may take it for granted, but it's a great resource and something we should utilize even more."

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288
James W. Mathews, 78, died Thursday. Funeral Services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel.
Maria G. Munoz, 76, died Friday. Funeral Mass was at 1 p.m. Wednesday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

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FORWARD

Continued from Page 1A

this get-together will give everyone a chance to see what we've been able to accomplish during the last year. We expect it to be informal, but more importantly, it will be informative."

One of the items on the agenda will be the work of the grant writer hired by the collective agencies in 2009, a move McEwen said has benefitted all of the entities — albeit indirectly — during the past year.

"If you go to each of the entities that have helped pay for the grant writer, many of them haven't received a grant," said McEwen. "However,

just as we discussed when we made the decision to hire the grant writer, if one agency gets a grant then it benefits everyone in the county. This is a group effort because it effects everyone in the county, not just one group or one area."

Communications and visibility, retirement community certification and law enforcement partnerships — including the need for classes concerning parenting, anger management, domestic violence and truancy — are also on the agenda.

Education — one of the issues that brought the group of leaders together in the first place — will also be a major focus, according to McE-

wen.

"Simply put, there is a need for vocational training in Howard County," said McEwen. "That was one of the first issues we identified. However, the school districts have very strict rules they must follow when it comes to their programs and curriculums. That's why it is going to take a group effort to address these deficiencies.

"By bringing all of the school superintendents and officials with Howard College together, we give them a chance to discuss their needs. And a great deal of the time, one district may have developed a program to address those needs, and they can share their information on how well

it's working."

Although the meeting has been posted as an official gathering by the Big Spring City Council and other government agencies — as required by law — McEwen said it will be an informal gathering.

"Every effort is being made to segregate the different board and council members so there will be no discussions of items not on the agenda," said McEwen. "We plan to hold meetings like this very infrequently, but they are necessary. Some of the different board and council members have said they feel like the decisions being made by this joint commission are being made without them, and this will give

them a chance to participate in that process. I think it will be good for everyone involved."

The meeting is set to get under way at 6 p.m. in the Florence T. Hall Studio Theater in the Hall Center of the Arts on the Howard College campus.

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

BOOK

Continued from Page 1A

already are' — and I believed her."

After further training in Glorieta, N.M., Highley spent time deciding the subject for her first novel before finding it north of Big Spring five years ago.

"It's a book about this house I saw in Lubbock," she said. "It's a beautiful old house, but the family disappeared and never came back. That old house has been on the market for 10 years, but it hasn't been sold."

Highley obtained permission from the owner to tour the house. Walking the halls, she began formulating ideas for a book.

In the book, which Highley stresses is entirely a work of fiction, the patriarch of the family, a doctor, dies before the birth of the family's fifth child. That death is a catalyst for the family's breaking apart, which leaves the old house vacant. Years later, the fifth child endeavors to reunite the splintered family.

The story came to Highley in bits and pieces, she said.

"Usually when I write, the characters tell me what happens next," she said. "I don't plot it all out in the beginning."

It took Highley about

two years to write the first draft of the novel.

"I've been rewriting it ever since," she said. "I tell people I'm not really a writer, I'm a rewriter."

The book explores several Christian-based themes Highley hopes readers will enjoy.

"My prayer always is that readers find my books a blessing," she said. "I hope there's lessons in the books that help the readers with their own situations."

Readers can purchase copies of the book at Thursday's reception, which will be held until 6:30 p.m. The book is also available at Faye's Flowers, Inspiration Flowers and Gifts,

Blissful Gift Shop, T. Blackshear Interiors and online sources like Amazon.com.

"And I usually have a couple of boxes of the book with me," Highley joked.

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

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

Bill McClellan
News Editor

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

OUR VIEW

Get tickets for chamber banquet now

Less than two weeks ... that's it. That's all the time that's left to get tickets for the annual Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Banquet. That's important to note, since this year's banquet is almost at hand.

This year's banquet, which is themed "Wild About Big Spring and Howard County," will for a second year feature a live auction rather than a guest speaker. Jay Hendricks of KOSA-TV in Odessa will again be the emcee.

Highlights of the banquet will include naming of the Man and Woman of the Year.

The banquet will be held at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 11, at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. A meal will be provided. Tickets are \$25 each and will be available through Feb. 5. No tickets will be sold after that and none will be available at the door.

Tickets are available at the chamber office, 215 W. Third or you can reserve a ticket by calling 263-7641.

Businesses can get involved by securing a table for \$125. Table sponsors can decorate their table and make it more interesting by offering giveaways (pens, pencils or whatever you like with the company logo on them). Then when individuals come into the coliseum that night, they'll be able to sit at your "sponsored" table and learn more about your company.

What's more, table sponsors also get four tickets which can be given to employees or anyone you wish.

We hope you will come out and join us as we not only salute the chamber of commerce and those staff members and officers, board members and volunteers who have worked so hard to make it a success, but celebrate our community's man and woman of the year honorees.

In other words, this banquet promises to be a really good time. You won't want to miss it.

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

When we're walking with You, Lord, we're right where we need to be.

Amen

Politicizing Haiti's natural disaster

The U.S. response to the disaster in Haiti made us proud to be Americans. As we watched the pain and suffering of the Haitian people on television, most of us were not only compelled to donate to relief efforts but also happy to see President Barack Obama's quick troop deployment and \$100 million response to the earthquake emergency.

We were moved by so many acts of kindness, so many Americans looking beyond skin color and geographic boundaries, so many of us recognizing that indeed Haitians are "our hemispheric neighbors" and that we needed to extend them a helping hand.

What made it even more beautiful is that our government was truly making a bipartisan effort. Even conservative Republicans were supporting our liberal president. Our human compassion had given us an issue we all could agree on.

Well, almost all of us. There were some truly amazing exceptions.

Talk radio terrorist Rush Limbaugh, who consistently promotes fear and hatred, was not about to break out of his mold. And neither was evangelical Christian terrorist Pat Robertson, who also is known for preaching fear and hatred. Limbaugh was quick to politicize our relief efforts, and Robertson was quick to explain that the Haitian victims were being punished by God.

Even for those two individuals, who are known for going over the edge, this was a little too much. This time, Limbaugh and Robertson moved so far to the right that they went over a cliff and down a precipice. And most amazingly, there are people still willing to follow them!

Limbaugh described the disaster as a political opportunity that Obama is exploiting to promote his "compassionate" and "humanitarian" credentials and

to boost his "credibility with the black community — in the both light-skinned and dark-skinned black community — in this country. It's made-to-order for him. That's why he couldn't wait to get out there." In fact, these are credentials Obama doesn't really need. More than 200,000 are feared dead, and a multitude of others have been left homeless or injured; isn't that enough for Obama to want to rush there on behalf of all of us?

Limbaugh has claimed he wants the president to fail at everything he does, and the radio terrorist decried the White House's promotion of disaster relief organizations and discouraged Americans from making private donations to those agencies. "We've already donated to Haiti," he said. "It's called the U.S. income tax."

Yet in spite of Limbaugh's disgusting attitude on Haiti, people still follow him blindly.

In fact, if Limbaugh wants to see someone who truly needs to improve his compassionate and humanitarian credentials, all he has to do is find the nearest mirror.

Robertson, known for his outrageous comments on his "700 Club" broadcasts, blamed the earthquake on something that "happened a long time ago in Haiti, and people might not want to talk about it."

He said Haitians are suffering because they made a pact with the devil, which is not necessarily what people expect to hear from a preacher following a natural disaster.

"They were under the heel of the French — you know, Napoleon III or whatever," Robertson babbled.

"And they got together and swore a pact to the devil. They said, 'We will serve you if you will get us free from the French.' True story. And so the devil said, 'OK, it's a deal.'"

He said that ever since Haitian slaves "revolted and got themselves free" from French colonists in 1804, "they have been cursed by one thing after the other." In his long list of outrageous remarks, that one has to go near the top — right up

there with his ridiculous suggestion that Hurricane Katrina was God's punishment for the high number of U.S. abortions.

The man is clearly delusional, and still people follow him.

Unfortunately, we live in a society in which flame-throwing demagogues are treated like rock stars, especially by their mindless followers.

And just when we thought we had heard enough stupid, insensitive and racist remarks about Haiti, another famous promoter of fear and hatred had to make his mark. Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez told his own zombie followers that the United States is using the earthquake as a pretext for occupying Haiti.

Chavez, also using the airwaves to spew his diatribe, complained that U.S. Marines "armed as if they were going to war" are "occupying Haiti undercover."

Of course, that's because — in Chavez's warped mind — we Americans are not satisfied fighting just two wars and feel the need to conquer the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.

Even Haitian President Rene Preval has said U.S. troops are needed to maintain security in the country, which is on the verge of becoming lawless. But Chavez, who sees U.S. "imperialism" even in his soup, apparently is threatened by the same U.S. acts of kindness that make us proud to be Americans.

Granted, Chavez, Limbaugh and Robertson are strange bedfellows.

Indeed, Robertson once suggested that he would have no problem with it if Chavez were assassinated. But in the way they promote hate and fear, in the many stupid, insensitive and even racist comments they make, these three venom traffickers are exactly the same. Their outrageous comments, however, are not what make them scary; it's the number of people who are stupid enough to believe them and follow them down a precipice.

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• **KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON**
U.S. Senator
703 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: 202-224-5922

• **JOHN CORNYN**
U.S. Senator

517 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: 202-224-2934

• **RANDY NEUGEBAUER**
U.S. Representative
19th Cong. District
1510 Scurry
Big Spring
Phone: (432) 264-0722

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Austin, 78711
Phone: (512) 463-2000

• **JOE HEFLIN**
State Representative
Texas 85th District
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, 78768
Phone: (432) 213-2897 or
(512) 463-0604

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Afghanistan: This war won't work

The recent Taliban attacks on Kabul provide another wake-up call about why this war in Afghanistan simply isn't going to work. It won't bring security to Afghans. It won't turn Afghanistan into a democracy. And it won't make us safer.

In fact, the war killed more people in Afghanistan last year than the year before — 40 percent more civilians, according to the United Nations.

And the body count this year is already shaping up to be higher than last year. That goes for U.S. troops too.

And President Obama's escalation, the 30,000 new troops he just announced he's sending to Afghanistan? That's not helping either.

The Taliban have mostly stayed in the countryside, based in the small villages where almost 80 percent of Afghans live. But now, after Obama announced that the additional troops would be deployed in Afghanistan's "population centers," meaning the cities, guess where the Taliban headed for their most recent assault?

The same thing happens when U.S. troops go after Taliban or al-Qaeda targets — they may or may not kill the "right" person, but they consistently do kill a whole bunch of people guilty only of being in the very wrong place at the very wrong time. The "wrong" people get killed.

And what happens then?

The grieving and outraged family, friends and tribe members of those "wrong" people get angry. Very angry. They start to hate those who killed their family members — us — even if they never did before. And some of them turn to violence when they never would have before.

This isn't new — military and political leaders acknowledge that we're creating more terrorists than we're killing.

And still the policymakers aren't hearing it.

So it doesn't make us safer. And here at home we have another problem too. Alongside the horrifying human cost — young soldiers killed, others coming home with horrifying life-shattering injuries, others returning to face traumatic brain injury and PTSD — we have to pay the financial cost for this war.

The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have already cost us \$950 billion.

Yes, BILLION.

That's not counting the \$137 billion Congress appropriated

for spending between now and September.

And that also doesn't count the cost of those 30,000 new troops going to Afghanistan, which will cost roughly \$30 billion more just for their first year.

Altogether, that means by the end of this year we will have spent about \$1.08 trillion.

Yes, TRILLION — a number so big it's practically incomprehensible.

What else could we do with that money?

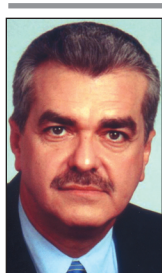
Well, just the cost of the current escalation could provide about six million people with health care. Or generate 600,000 well-paid green jobs.

Which is more likely to make us safer? Opposition to the U.S. war in Afghanistan, which peaked at almost 60 percent just a month or so ago, has dropped after Obama's escalation speech at West Point.

We've got a lot of work to do to make sure his administration knows this war won't make us safer, and it just costs too much too many lives and too much money.

Are you listening, President Obama?

Phyllis Bennis is a fellow of the Institute for Policy Studies and author of the just released *Ending the US War in Afghanistan: A Primer*.



MIGUEL PEREZ



PHYLLIS BENNIS

Dallas Mavericks win close one over Bucks 108-107

DALLAS (AP) — Two days after registering their most lopsided victory in team history, the Dallas Mavericks didn't have it quite as easy.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 28 points, Jason Terry added 21 and the Mavericks held on late to beat the Milwaukee Bucks 108-107 Tuesday night.

Dallas beat the New York Knicks 128-78 Sunday for the largest win in franchise history. The Mavericks, who were up by as much as 53 against the Knicks, never led by more than nine and overcame a near-perfect shooting performance from Bucks center Andrew Bogut.

After trailing by seven with just more than two minutes left, Carlos Delfino missed a running 10-footer in the lane before the buzzer that would have won the game for Milwaukee.

"We do what we have to do to buckle down at the end and win," said Mavericks forward Shawn Marion, who had 12 points. "You can't win every game by a blowout. But it doesn't matter. A win is a win."

Winning games by a wide margin has been more of an exception for the Mavericks.

Dallas improved to 13-4 in games decided by five points or less, including a Nowitzki shot at the buzzer that gave the Mavericks an overtime victory earlier this season over the Bucks.

The Mavericks tied an NBA record with their 10th consecutive victory in a one-point game since January 2007. The St. Louis Hawks also won 10 straight one-point games from 1959-1960.

"I know this streak goes back a couple of years," Dallas coach Rick Carlisle said.

"To have a successful season, you have to be able to win close games and we've had a lot of them."

Bogut hit his first nine shots from the floor and scored a career-high 32 points on 13 of 14 shooting. Delfino chipped in with 22 points for the Bucks, who dropped to 5-18 on the road.

Milwaukee dropped its fourth straight away from home. Three of those losses were by less than five points.

"We've been playing good teams on the road and we had chances to beat them," Bogut said. "We just haven't gotten a lucky bounce at the end. It will turn around for us."

It was tied at 95 midway through the fourth. Nowitzki hit two free throws and Terry made consecutive jumpers to stretch the lead to 101-95.

Nowitzki hit a jumper and Jason Kidd followed with a 3-pointer

to give the Mavericks a 108-101 advantage with 2:07 left.

Delfino hit consecutive 3-pointers, including a 32-foot 3-pointer as the shot clock was running down to make it 108-107 with 27.6 seconds left.

Luc Mbah a Moute stole the ball from Nowitzki in the lane with 3 seconds left, giving Milwaukee a final chance to win it.

Delfino caught the inbounds pass and drove toward the basket. He couldn't make his shot in the lane over center Erick Dampier as the Mavericks won their seventh straight over the Bucks in Dallas.

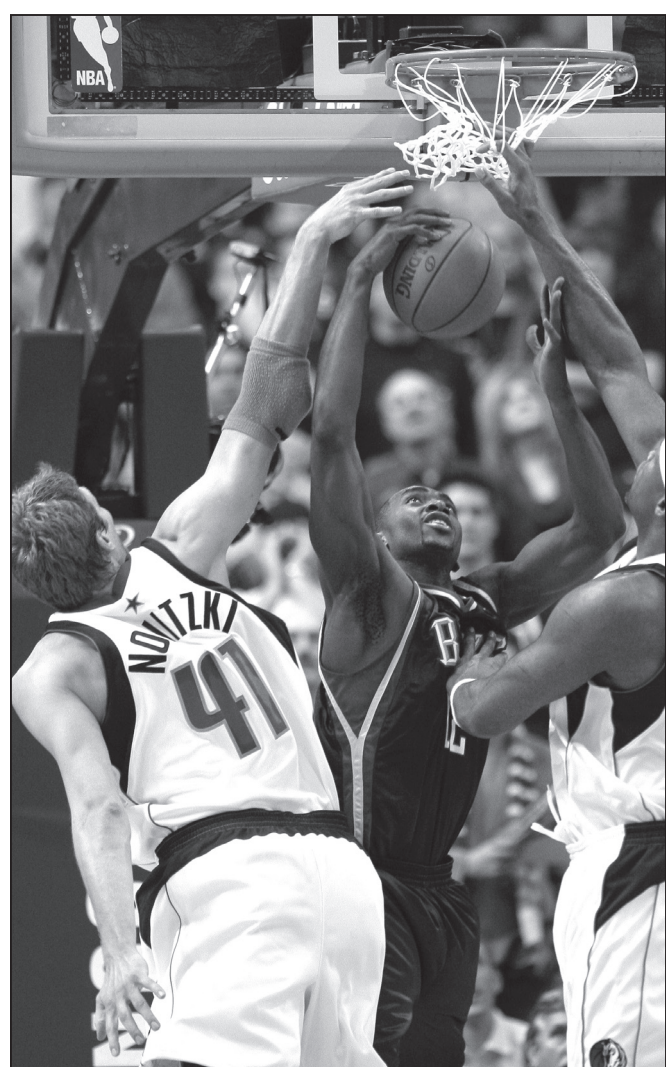
Marion was supposed to guard Delfino on the final play. But Dampier defended the last shot after Marion fell down.

"It's an escape," Carlisle said. "We were able to do it by getting a stop at the end."

Bogut hit all nine of his shots and scored 20 points in the first half.

The Bucks center finally missed on the first possession of the second half when his 8-foot jumper was off, breaking his streak of 14 consecutive made shots.

Bogut is 18 of 20 in his last two games.



AP PHOTO/Tony Gutierrez

Dirk Nowitzki and Erick Dampier block Luc Mbah a Moute Tuesday night in Dallas. The Mavs won another one-point game Tuesday night, their 10 in a row. That ties an NBA record.

"I tried to use my speed against Dampier," Bogut said. "Most of the night it was working."

NOTES: Kidd (personal reasons) and Dampier (left knee) were back in the start-

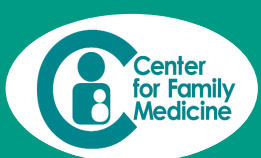
ing lineup after missing Sunday's game. ... Nowitzki played in his 883rd career game with the Mavericks to tie former guard Brad Davis on top of the franchise's career list. ... Bucks G Jerry Stackhouse, who played five seasons for the Mavericks, scored nine points in his first game against his former team. ... Original Mavericks owner Don Carter and his wife Linda celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the game.



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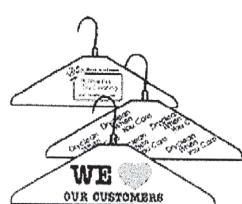
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Golf

LA QUINTA, Calif. (AP) — Bill Haas made a short birdie putt on the 18th hole to earn his first PGA Tour victory at the Bob Hope Classic, beating Matt Kuchar, Tim Clark and Bubba Watson by one stroke with an 8-under 64.

Haas was the last of three co-leaders to play the 18th, and an outstanding approach shot allowed him to two-putt his way to a 30-under 330 finish.

Kuchar and South Africa's Clark both had birdie chances on the par-5 18th at the Arnold Palmer Private course, but both missed their putts. Fourth-round co-leader Watson birdied the 18th to grab a share of second place.

After grinding through five rounds on four courses over six days in the rain-delayed tournament, Haas — the 27-year-old son of Jay Haas, the 1998 Hope Classic champion — couldn't celebrate until his final shot.

Baseball

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Mark Loretta retired as a player and was hired by the San Diego Padres as a special assistant to baseball operations.

Loretta's playing career spanned 15 big league seasons. He played with the Padres from 2003-05. Loretta most recently was with the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Loretta, who played mostly at second base during his career, also played for Milwaukee, Houston and Boston. He hit .295 with 76 homers and 629 RBIs in 1,726 career games.



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Why not check this out? At the library

First published in September 2003, John Annerino's "Dead in Their Tracks" (917.904 ANN J) is a firsthand account of the perils associated with crossing the desert on foot. Annerino recounts his experience making that trek with four illegal immigrants — and his return trips to document the struggles of those who persist in this treacherous journey. In this spellbinding narrative, he takes readers into the "empty quarter" of the Southwest to meet the mi-



HOLLIS
MCCRIGHT

grant workers and drug runners, the ranchers and Border Patrol agents who populate today's headlines. This is a disturbing look at the immigration issue.

For a quick fix in decorating your home, check out "\$500 Room Makeovers" (747.883 QUI L) by Lisa Quinn. It has some really neat, chic ideas to update your home. Ideas run the gamut from an outdoor patio space to a children's room and then on throughout the house. She uses everyday household objects such as pot racks, hot glue (for trimming lamps) and using futons as inexpensive sofas. The list just goes on and on.

Not too much fiction to write about. From Rosamunde

Pilcher, comes "The Blue Bedroom and Other Stories" (F PIL R). Pilcher's stories are small vignettes of life's little adventures: a small boy confronted by the death of his best friend, a young wife confronted with her husband's chance of promotion, the young love that is crossways. I simply marvel at the sheer simplicity of Pilcher's writing. It is so deceptive. Her stories seem to be mere pieces of fluff, but in fact, they are so much more. Very charming book to read and re-read.

A favorite author is Lee Child. While this is not a "new" book (published in June 2009), Jack Reacher is back. In a review from Publisher's Weekly:

Early one morning on a nearly empty Manhattan subway car, the former army MP notices a woman passenger he suspects is a suicide bomber. The deadly result of his confronting her puts him on a trail leading back to the Soviet war in Afghanistan in the 1980s and forward to the war on terrorism. Reacher finds a bit of help among the authorities demanding answers from him, like the NYPD and the FBI, as well as threats and intimidation. And then there are the real bad guys that the old pro must track down and eliminate. Child sets things up subtly and ingeniously, then lets Reacher use both strength and guile to find his way to the exciting climax.

"The Little Giant of Aberdeen County" (F BAK T) by Tiffany Baker should rush up the best-seller's list. Baker's bang-up debut mixes the exuberant eccentricities of John Irving's Garp, Anne Tyler's relationship savvy and the plangent voice of Margaret Atwood. In an upstate New York backwater, Truly, massive from birth, has a bleak existence with her depressed father and her china-doll-like sister, Serena Jane. Truly grows at an astonishing rate — her girth the result of a pituitary gland problem — and after her father dies when Truly is 12, she is sloughed off to the Dyersons, a hapless farming family. Her outsize kindness surfaces as she befriends the Dyersons' outcast daughter, Amelia, and later leaves her beloved Dyerson farm to take care of Serena Jane's husband and son after Serena Jane leaves them. Haunting the margins of Truly's story is that of Tabitha Dyerson, a rumored witch whose secrets afford a breathtaking role reversal for Truly. It's got all the earmarks of a hit — infectious and lovable narrator, a dash of magic, an impressive sweep and a heartrending but not treacherous family drama. This review is from Publisher's Weekly.

Some more westerns are in. Clifton Adams has written "Hard Times & Arnie Smith" (LP W ADA C). Arnie Smith was just a footloose cowboy, still making it even though the panic of 1892 has brought hard times. When he gets the news that he is heir to a prosperous country store in Texas, he is confronted with mind-numbing figures, stifling heat and sobbusters. Now for a couple of Max Brand books: "Valley of Outlaws" (LP W BRA M) and "Dan Barry's Daughter" (LP W BRA M). Brand (you may or

may not know this) is of German extraction and was born in Seattle in 1892. His parents died while he was a young man and he grew up in the Central Valley in California. He lived for a time in Germany with his wife and children, returning to the United States in 1938 when events grew grim there. For more information, check this Wikipedia site: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Max_Brand. Other excellent western writers are Lauraine Paine, William W. Johnstone and J.A. Johnstone. (J.A. worked as a fact checker for William).

Large print fiction is a popular destination for many of our patrons. For those who have vision problems, the large print is very welcome. For others, it is also a distinct advantage to not have to strain for the smaller print. There are duplicate of some titles, but in many cases, a title/author stand alone. Available for checkout is Alexander McCall Smith's "La's Orchestra Saves the World" (LP F SMI A). Smith is well known for his mysteries set in South Africa, but this particular book is a charming account of life during WW II in England. La (Lavender) has retreated to a small village to escape the bombing of London. To ward off depressing thoughts of the war, she organizes an orchestra to entertain and boost morale. This is a very charming book.

The library is located at 500 S. Main St. Our phone number is 264-2260. Our hours are 10 to 6, Monday through Friday; Saturday, we are open from 10 to 2. The Internet/DVD Room closes one-half hour before closing time. The Web site is www.howard-county.lib.tx.us.

Hollis McCright is director of the Howard County Library.

PARENT'S CORNER

What the kids said

I found an old list the other day written by a first grade school teacher who had 26 students in her class. I don't remember where I got the list but I knew it was written quite a while ago because today teachers up through the third grade cannot have more than 22 students.

Anyway, this teacher presented each child in her classroom the first half of a well-known proverb and asked them to come up with the remainder of the proverb.

It's hard to believe these were actually done by first graders. Their insight may surprise you. While reading, keep in mind that these are first-graders, 6-year-olds.

1. Don't change horses ... until they stop running.
2. Strike while the ... bug is close.
3. It's always darkest before ... Daylight Saving Time.
4. Never underestimate the power of ... termites.
5. You can lead a horse to water but ... How?
6. Don't bite the hand that ... looks dirty.
7. No news is ... impossible
8. A miss is as good as a ... Mr.
9. You can't teach an old dog new ... math
10. If you lie down with dogs, you'll ... stink in the morning.
11. Love all, trust ... Me.
12. The pen is mightier than the ... pigs.

See **KIDS**, Page 7A

STALKING: KNOW IT. NAME IT. STOP IT.

JANUARY 2010 StalkingAwarenessMonth.org

IF YOU'RE STALKED

You might:

Feel **fear** of what the stalker will do.

Feel **vulnerable**, unsafe, and not know who to trust.

Feel **anxious**, irritable, impatient, or on edge.

Feel **depressed**, hopeless, overwhelmed, tearful, or angry.

Feel **stressed**, including having trouble concentrating, sleeping, or remembering things.

Have **eating problems**, such as appetite loss, forgetting to eat, or overeating.

Have **flashbacks**, disturbing thoughts, feelings, or memories.

Feel **confused, frustrated, or isolated** because other people don't understand why you are afraid.

These are common reactions to being stalked.

IF SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS BEING STALKED, YOU CAN HELP.

Listen. Show support. Don't blame the victim for the crime. Remember that every situation is different, and allow the person being stalked to make choices about how to handle it. Find someone you can talk to about the situation. Take steps to ensure your own safety. For more ideas on how you can help, call 1-800-FYI-CALL.

ARE YOU BEING STALKED?

Stalking is a series of actions that make you feel afraid or in danger. Stalking is serious, often violent, and can escalate over time.

Stalking is a crime.

A stalker can be someone you know well or not at all. Most have dated or been involved with the people they stalk. Most stalking cases involve men stalking women, but men do stalk men, women do stalk women, and women do stalk men.

Some things stalkers do:

- Repeatedly call you, including hang-ups.
- Follow you and show up wherever you are.
- Send unwanted gifts, letters, cards, or e-mails.
- Damage your home, car, or other property.
- Monitor your phone calls or computer use.
- Use technology, like hidden cameras or global positioning systems (GPS), to track where you go.
- Drive by or hang out at your home, school, or work.
- Threaten to hurt you, your family, friends, or pets.
- Find out about you by using public records or on-line search services, hiring investigators, going through your garbage, or contacting friends, family, neighbors, or co-workers.
- Other actions that control, track, or frighten you.

You are not to blame for a stalker's behavior.

We can help.

Stalking resource center

To learn more about stalking, visit the Stalking Resource Center Web site www.ncvc.org/src



We can help you make a safety plan, learn more about your legal rights, and find help in your area.

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This document was developed under grant number 2004-WT-AX-H050 from the Office on Violence Against Women of the U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions and views expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. For more information on the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women, visit <http://www.usdoj.gov>.

This document is available in print or as a PDF and may be reproduced only in its entirety. Any alterations other than the addition of agency contact information in the space provided above must be approved by the Stalking Resource Center. Contact us at (202) 467-8700 or src@ncvc.org.

THINGS YOU CAN DO

Stalking is unpredictable and dangerous. No two stalking situations are alike. There are no guarantees that what works for one person will work for another, yet you can take steps to increase your safety.

If you are in **immediate danger**, call 911.

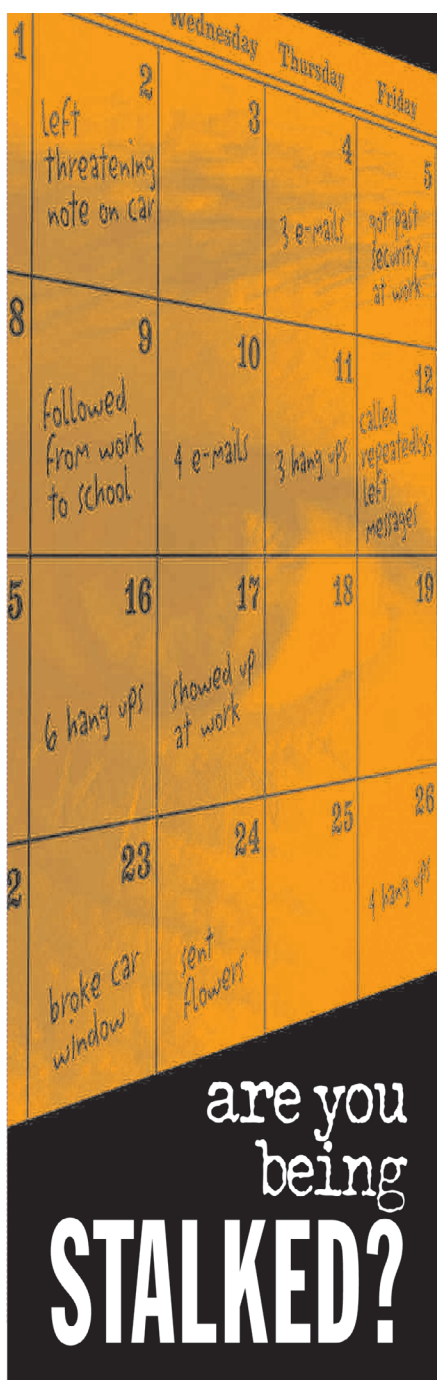
Trust your **instincts**. Don't downplay the danger. If you feel you are unsafe, you probably are.

Take **threats** seriously. Danger generally is higher when the stalker talks about suicide or murder, or when a victim tries to leave or end the relationship.

Contact a crisis hotline, **victim services agency**, or a domestic violence or rape crisis program. They can help you devise a safety plan, give you information about local laws, refer you to other services, and weigh options such as seeking a protection order.

Develop a **safety plan**, including things like changing your routine, arranging a place to stay, and having a friend or relative go places with you. Also, decide in advance what to do if the stalker shows up at your home, work, school, or somewhere else. Tell people how they can help you.

Women are three times more likely to be stalked than men.



are you being STALKED?

Don't communicate with the stalker or respond to attempts to contact you.

Keep **evidence** of the stalking. When the stalker follows you or contacts you, write down the time, date, and place. Keep e-mails, phone messages, letters, or notes. Photograph anything of yours the stalker damages and any injuries the stalker causes. Ask witnesses to write down what they saw.

Contact the **police**. Every state has stalking laws. The stalker may also have broken other laws by doing things like assaulting you or stealing or destroying your property.

Consider getting a **court order** that tells the stalker to stay away from you.

Tell **family, friends, roommates, and co-workers** about the stalking and seek their support. Tell security staff at your job or school. Ask them to help watch out for your safety.

3.4 million people are stalked each year in the United States.

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Annie's Mailbox®

Dear Annie: I have four grown children. However, I am not entirely certain that my second daughter is my biological child. Around the time she was conceived, my wife had an affair with my brother-in-law.

Before my wife passed away, she swore that daughter was mine, but I can see no trace of myself in her or in any of her offspring. My other three children bear a strong physical resemblance to me, and so do their children.

I realize it is not her fault if she is not my child, and I would not treat her or her children any differently. But before I die, I would like to know the truth. Is there any way I could secretly obtain a DNA specimen from her to do a test? No matter which way it turns out, I would share the results with no one. — Tennessee

Dear Tennessee: There are ways to get specimens, but we are asking you not to do this. It will only bring you peace of mind if you discover she is indeed your biological child. Regardless of your promise, if you find out she is not yours, you may not be able to treat her the same. Keeping the secret will create stress and could undermine the relationship you now have. The only valid reason for doing a DNA test is to provide your daughter with an accurate medical history, but if you don't plan to inform her, this doesn't apply. We urge you to convince yourself she is yours and believe it with all your heart, because in the most important sense,

it is true.

Dear Annie: My cousin likes the same guy I like. She actually liked him first, but I've really fallen hard for him. I've known Justin for two years, and he has told me that he really likes me, too. We enjoy being together, but my cousin insists they're "meant for each other."

I've tried to tell her that Justin and I are happy with each other, but she always starts crying. Justin said he's flattered by her attention, but he doesn't feel the same way about her. He says I'm his "future girlfriend."

I'm afraid to bring it up with my cousin and tell her about my feelings because she has a bad habit of spreading rumors when she's upset. I don't want to go down that road again. Should I just come out and tell her? — Justin's Girl

Dear Justin's Girl: There's no reason for you to bring it up at all. Your cousin has a crush on Justin. It's up to him to let her know whether he's interested or not. If you become overly involved explaining things, your cousin will hold you responsible for whatever happens. It would help if she could focus her romantic interests on someone else, and maybe you could gently push her in another direction.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Uncomfortable Stepmom," whose 40-something stepson has the nervous habit of touching his crotch in public.

When I was in elementary school, I once went to the bathroom and walked back into class with my

zipper down. For days, other students made fun of me and ridiculed me.

I am now 44 years old and have a great life, but to this day, I often check repeatedly to make sure my zipper is up — even in public. My girlfriend mentions it to me when I do it, but the fear of it being unzipped is still there. Perhaps the same thing happened to the stepson and he is just double-checking his zipper. — Making Sure Zipper Is Up

Dear Making Sure: Your letter is proof that childhood teasing can last a lifetime. But please, try to double (or triple) check your zipper before you leave the men's room instead of groping yourself in public.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Ste. 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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KIDS

Continued from Page 6A

- 13. An idle mind is the best ... way to relax.
- 14. Where there's smoke there's ... pollution.
- 15. Happy the bride who gets ... all the presents.
- 16. A penny saved is ... not much.
- 17. Two's company, three's ... the Musketeers.
- 18. Don't put off till tomorrow what you ... put on to go to bed.
- 19. Laugh and the whole world laughs with you, cry and ... you have to blow your nose.
- 20. There are none so blind as ... Stevie Wonder.
- 21. Children should be seen and not ... spanked or grounded.
- 22. If at first you don't succeed ... get new batter-

ies.

23. You get out of something only what you ... see in the picture on the box

24. When the blind lead the blind ... get out of the way.

25. A bird in the hand is ... going to poop on you.

26. Better late than ... pregnant

We may never know the thought process of kids but we can enjoy the product.

Darrell Ryan is director of federal programs for the Big Spring Independent School District.



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LOST ON Dixie Street female Boston Terrier. Black- white/brindle, no collar. Needs medication. If found please call (432)263-0819.

HEIDI (dachshund) is still lost, was last seen on Carleton Street. Heidi is a blonde w/red spots and has been spade. She has been missing since 1/16/10. Has collar, with name, address, and phone#s. There is a \$200. dollar Reward for the return of Heidi. If info, please call (432)263-4515, 213-8904 or 213-8066 please!!!!!!!

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

The effects of yesterday's opposition of Venus in Aquarius and Mars in Leo may be more strongly felt today. Tensions mount as we move toward the full moon in Leo. It's like a long, drawn-out drum roll, and what happens Friday will be the cymbal crash at the end — an event that will shed light on some of the differences between women and men.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Good things are happening. Some of them you may not feel you've earned, but don't worry. Bad things have happened, too, and you didn't deserve those, either. Everything evens out.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll be the rebel. The role is a valuable asset to the group you rebel against. In fact, you are vital to the functioning of society. You're there to keep the status quo in check.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Though there is something to be said for your purity of vision, today there is little reason to hold fast to uncompromising ways. Getting input and being affected by it will strengthen your work and relationships.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Something you want continues to be so elusive that you are beginning to wonder whether it is even possible to have it. Impossibility is a temporary stage in the development of everything that was, is and ever will be.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll be dealing with a subject that has universal appeal. Whether it's your love of a person, a pet or your struggles with a project, share your story and the people around you will respond by sharing theirs.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). How long can laundry sit in the washing machine before it mildews? Can a dish be so dirty that it should be

thrown away? You'll do the domestic work to ensure you never have to answer these questions.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You will rise above the tone that others set. In fact, you'll be feeling so great for at least part of the day that you may officially call this your favorite time of year for decades to come.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll enjoy each stage of a relationship, so don't worry about how things will develop. When the newness wears off, the next thing to look forward to is a real sense of connection — different from the heady buzz of infatuation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You know what the greatest blessing of your life is. Every time you think about that part of your experience, you feel truly lucky. Dwell in your gratitude and you'll increase your good fortune.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Avoid being reactionary. Pick an image to help you stay true to the purposes you choose for yourself. This vision will be your lighthouse, guiding you toward the person you want to be.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Keep on reading. If you were to read your way through the whole day, it would be a day well spent indeed. Quench your thirst for new ideas and different perspectives.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It's not every day that someone is so astutely tuned in to you. But today you'll get a line of questioning from a curious mind. You'll find it interesting what you are willing to reveal about yourself.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 27). You will be a decisive and commanding presence this year. Others will enjoy following your orders because you have a clear and exciting vision. Attractive new friends come into your life in March. April features a vocational change. Your financial resources will deepen as you explore different options. Pisces and Virgo people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 45, 3, 15, 40 and 11.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "My sister is a Virgo, and I am a Scorpio. We haven't spoken since she decided not to come to my wedding five years ago. Recently, I decided that maybe I've been too hard on her. Since we are both in our 30s now and both have children, I thought that maybe I should make a gesture to heal the gap between us. I know my mother would like this, and I told her to invite my sister to my house. Well, my sister says that for her to come to my house, I would need to apologize profusely for my past behaviors. Is she kidding? She's the one who should apologize to me! I'm making a big gesture, and she's reacting like a child. Now what am I supposed to do? I feel like never talking to her again."

Then don't. Or wait until you really want to heal the relationship enough to sacrifice your own ego in order to do so. When you are willing to take the qualifiers off of the relationship and accept your sister for who she really is without imposing your rules on her, that's when you will know true love.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: She didn't win "So You Think You Can Dance" — or did she? Kherington Payne's stellar performance earned her a role in the 2009 film version of "Fame." This rising star has her sun and moon in bubbly, friendly, energetic Aquarius and five planets in hardworking, driven Capricorn. Look for more savvy moves from this dancing Aquarius in the upcoming film "Leading Ladies."

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HERALD

Obama's goal: Get agenda moving

WASHINGTON (AP) — Facing a divided Congress and a dissatisfied nation, President Barack Obama will unveil a jobs-heavy agenda in his State of the Union address Wednesday, retooling his message more than his mission.

His goal: Get the economy, the confidence of voters and his own presidency on surer footing. Obama will offer fresh details about how he wants to salvage an overhaul of health care, rein in the national debt and help businesses hire again. He will call

for education reform and more money for schools, take responsibility for mistakes in his first year and follow up his speech with a dash to Florida to announce \$8 billion in awards for high-speed rail.

Two themes will underpin the entire address — reassuring millions of Americans that he understands their struggles and convincing people that he is working to change Washington even as he finds himself working within its old political ways.

Yet for all the new

wrinkles he offers, Obama's moment will be measured largely by how well he reconnects with the public.

"In this political environment, what I haven't always been successful at doing is breaking through the noise and speaking directly to the American people," Obama conceded to an interviewer last week. This is his chance — speeches like this one can draw 30 million to 50 million viewers, sometimes more.

The White House knows the 9 p.m. EST address has enormous

stakes. Obama rode a tide of voter frustration into office and now is getting smacked by it himself.

"The president is going to explain why he thinks the American people are angry," Obama spokesman Robert Gibbs said Wednesday morning.

The guest list provides a rough outline of the story Obama wants to tell.

Sitting with first lady Michelle Obama in an elevated box overlooking the floor of the House will be people with stories of success and struggles, from

immigrants who started businesses to families having a hard time making ends meet.

Obama says he will not retreat from the big issues he campaigned on and tried to get done in his first year, when political momentum was strong.

He will push for health care, regulation of Wall Street, energy and immigration reform, and continue the global fight against terrorists.

Among additional ideas expected: An emphasis on education, with calls for more accountability for

performance but also more money to support reforms. Obama's next budget proposal is likely to suggest consolidating a series of elementary and secondary school programs, but overall, would increase Education Department spending more by than 6 percent.

Obama also will prod Congress to enact new jobs legislation, seek a freeze on some domestic spending for three years and try to blunt the impact of a Supreme Court decision that gives corporations much more freedom to influence elections through political advertising.

And a day after the Senate rejected his plans to create a bipartisan task force to tackle the federal deficit, Obama will announce that he's creating a similar panel by executive order.

The goal of the panel — likely to be comprised of 10 Democrats and eight Republicans — would be to make recommendations for reducing the deficit to Congress.

Meanwhile, Obama's White House is still feeling the jolt of last week's Senate election in Massachusetts. When little-known Republican Scott Brown won the seat held for nearly a half-century by the late Democratic Sen. Edward Kennedy, the result was widely viewed as a symbol of frustration with the economy and the powers that be.

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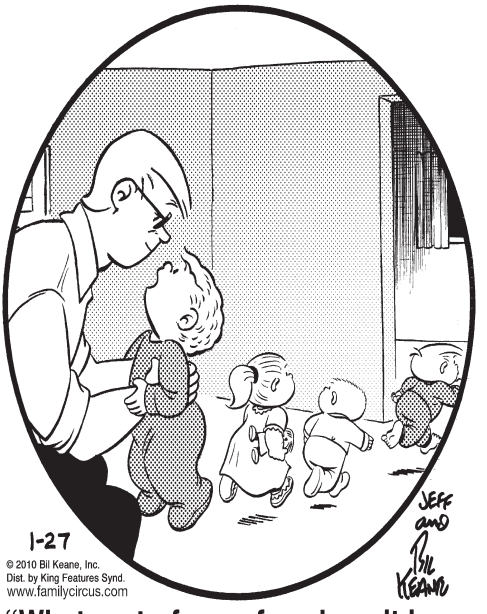
	WFAA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5:PM :30	News ABC	News ABC	Locura	George Lopez	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News NBC	Friends Office	Cortes Harris	BBC Business	Cash Cab	Catherine McCormack	CSI: Crime Scene	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas Wards		SportsCenter
6:PM :30	News Ent. Ton.	Jeopardy! Wheel	Nombrem-Amor	Two Men Ent. Ton.	News 12 Cora-zones	Millionaire	News Seinfeld	Seinfeld Swallow	Mark Payne	PBS News-Hour	Man vs. Wild	Man vs. Wild	Ways Die	Bones		Wizards-Place	NFL Live College Basketball	College Basketball
7:PM :30	Scrub Middle	Scrub Middle	Hasta que el Dinero	Human Target	Christine Gary	Más Sabe el Diabolo	Mercy	Payne Upd House	Forever Wild	Man vs. Wild	Man vs. Wild	Movie: The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen	Ways Die	Bones	Movie: Doing Hard Time, Sticky Fingaz	Smart House		
8:PM :30	Family Cougar	Family Cougar	Sortilegio	American Idol	Criminal Minds	Perro Amor	Law & Order: SVU	Browns Browns	Light of the Southwest	The National Parks: America's Best Idea	Man vs. Wild	Solv. History	Die	Bones	Game	Phineas Cory	Tennis: Australian Open, Women's Semifinals.	College Basketball: Florida State at Duke.
9:PM :30	(:01) Ugly Betty	(:01) Ugly Betty	Don Francisco	Simpsons Friends	CSI: NY	Victorinos	The Jay Leno Show	Browns Browns		Charlie Rose	Man vs. Wild	Movie: Terminator 2: Judgment Day, Edward Furlong	MAN	Leverage	Game	Phineas Montana		SportsCenter
10:PM :30	News Nightline	News Nightline	Impacto	Raymond TMZ	News Noticiero	Decisiones	News Tonight Show	Lopez Tonight	Dr. Young	Overhaulin'	Man vs. Wild	Movie: Star Trek: Nemesis, Brent Spiner	Die	CSI: NY	The Mo'Nique	Wizards Deck		
11:PM :30	Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live	Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live	Gancho	Law & Order: SVU	Late	Decisiones	Late Night	Name Sex & Upd	Israel T. Smiley		Man vs. Wild	Die	CSI: NY	Wendy Williams	Suite Life		NFL Live	
12:AM :30	News	News	Torrente, un Torbel	Paid King-Hill	Insider	Pagado	News	Sex & Sanchez			Man vs. Wild	Movie: Star Trek: Nemesis, Brent Spiner	CSI: Crime Scene	Leverage	Movie: Doing Hard Time, Sticky Fingaz	So Raven		SportsCenter
1:AM :30	Martin	Martin	Mujer... Cero	RENO 911	Paid	Pagado	News	Sex & Sanchez			Man vs. Wild	Movie: Star Trek: Nemesis, Brent Spiner	Unsolved Mysteries	Saving Grace	Replace School	Baseball	SportsNation	

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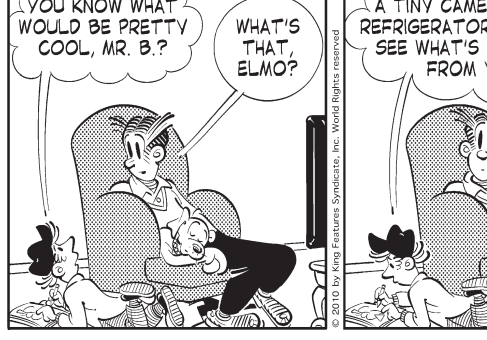


"What part of your face hasn't been kissed yet?"

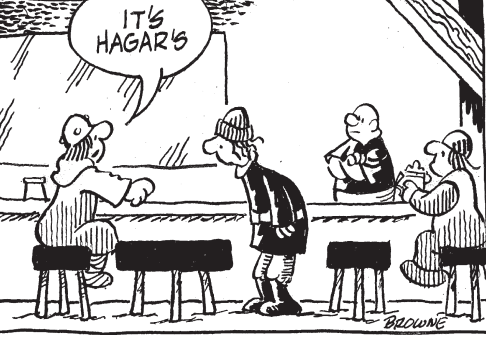
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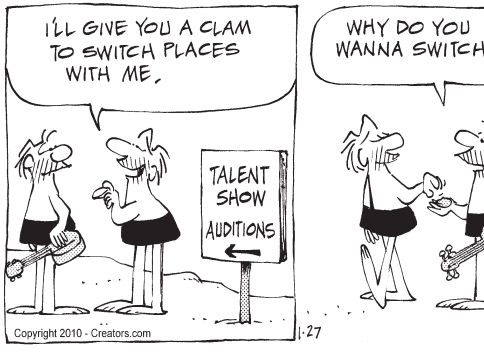
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WIZARD OF ID



This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 27, the 27th day of 2010. There are 338 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 27, 1880, Thomas Edison received a patent for his electric incandescent lamp.

On this date:

In 1756, composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born in Salzburg, Austria.

In 1943, some 50 bombers struck Wilhelmshaven in the first all-American air raid against Germany during World War II.

In 1944, the Soviet Union announced the complete end of the deadly German siege of Leningrad, which had lasted for more than two years.

In 1945, Soviet troops liberated the Nazi concentration camps Auschwitz and Birkenau in Poland.

In 1951, an era of atomic testing in the Nevada desert began as an Air Force plane dropped a one-kiloton bomb on

FRONT VIEW

Frenchman Flat.

In 1967, astronauts Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom, Edward H. White and Roger B. Chaffee died in a flash fire during a test aboard their Apollo spacecraft. More than 60 nations signed a treaty banning the orbiting of nuclear weapons.

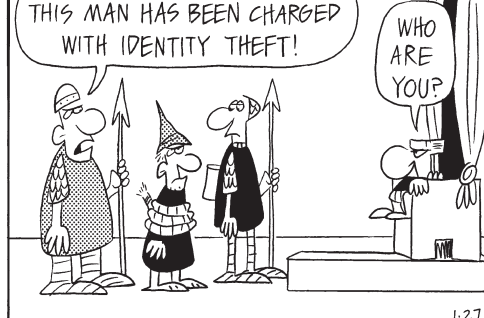
In 1973, the Vietnam peace accords were signed in Paris.

In 1981, President Ronald Reagan greeted the 52 former American hostages released by Iran at the White House.

In 1985, the secret three-day military-satellite mission of the space shuttle Discovery ended with a smooth landing in Florida.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Bobby "Blue" Bland is 80. Actor James Cromwell is 70. Actor John Witherspoon is 68. Rock musician Nick Mason (Pink Floyd) is 65. Rhythm-and-blues singer Nedra Talley (The Ronettes) is 64. Ballet star Mikhail Baryshnikov is 62. Chief U.S. Justice John Roberts is 55. Country singer Cheryl White is 55. Country singer-musician Richard Young (The Kentucky Headhunters) is 55. Rock musician Janick Gers (Iron Maiden) is 53. Sports and political commentator Keith

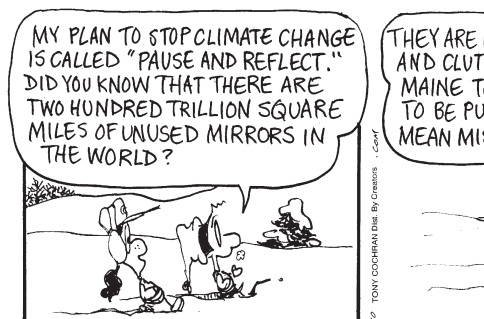
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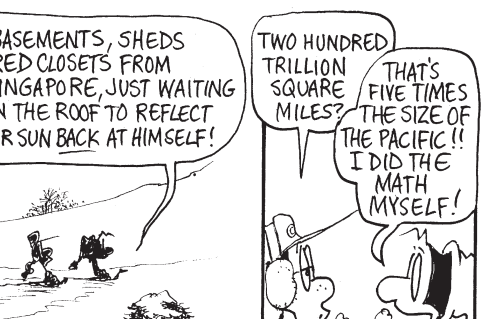
HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



BEETLE BAILEY



Answer to previous puzzle

BATHS	GOSH	LAST
ALOOP	AREA	INTO
ROGUE	BEER	GNAT
BEARER	BOND	HIKE
	COY	ESTEEM
LANDHO	PARKA	
ABOO	THAN	IFEAR
MENU	SANTA	UCLA
BLOBS	REEL	SOAK
	LIBEL	ORELSE
SPHERE	SHE	
PREK	SUITANDTIE	
LOAN	INFO	TIARA
ANTI	DIAL	ANTIC
TEST	ETTE	LEASH

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS**
- Catcher's base
 - Small snake
 - October birthstone
 - Bowled over
 - Sierra (African nation)
 - Literary sleuth Wolfe
 - High-risk investments
 - Stumble
 - Photographer Adams
 - The bottom line
 - Stockings and socks
 - Swerve
 - Began the bidding
 - Rooming-house residents
 - College teacher, for short
 - Disinclined
 - Life jackets
 - Doll's word
 - "Yo!"
 - Makeshift hanger
 - On cloud nine
 - Broadway investor
 - Birdhouse food
 - Lifelong callings
 - "... a fever"
 - 54 Across aide Emanuel
 - Symbol of goodness
 - Plummet
 - 44th president
 - Intrigued by
 - Luxurious lifestyle
 - Natasha's negative
- DOWN**
- Santa (California racetrack)
 - Breakfast beverage
 - Bushel of corn, essentially
 - One with no chance
 - Dugout equipment
 - Make good as new
 - Waffling
 - Evita's surname
 - Come up
 - Ran with ease
 - North Pole workers
 - Before
 - Comic-strip punch sound
 - Ram's offspring
 - Elliptical
 - Actress Moore
 - Local, as political support
 - Expend
 - Funnyman Brooks
 - "For Pete's ___!"
 - Wedding-cake layer
 - Certain cameras, for short
 - Rough shelter
 - Van alternative
 - Horse's chow holder
 - Scrooge's cry
 - Lancelot's protection
 - Breakfast at Tiffany's author
 - Glisten
 - Country singer Tucker
 - Change
 - Sculptor of The Thinker
 - Casino city
 - Fail at the box office
 - Tibet's location
 - Turn to water
 - Invites
 - A ways away

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47	48	49					50							
51						52	53			54	55	56	57	58
59						60				61				
62						63						64		
65						66								67