

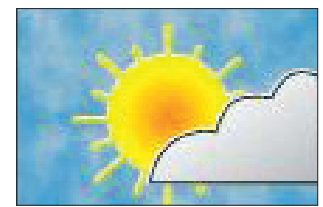
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H BIG SPRING HERALD

WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 10, 2010



VOLUME 105, NUMBER 56 COPYRIGHT 2009 50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Masons honor Nichols

Long-time Coahoma coach receives award for years of service

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

COAHOMA — “One More Year” Nichols has put plenty of years in as a teacher and coach at Coahoma High School and he was honored for that service Tuesday.

Kim Nichols, the athletic director and head basketball coach at CHS, was presented with the local Masonic lodge’s annual Community Building Award during a school assembly Tuesday morning.

He has spent his entire career at Coahoma. For the past 26 years, Nichols has been head coach of the boys’ basketball team and was named athletic director in 2005.

The long-time coach came to Coahoma right after graduating from West Texas State University in the mid-1970s. In



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan
Kim Nichols, left, speaks to Coahoma High School students Tuesday after receiving the annual Community Builder Award from John Overton and the Masonic Lodge No. 922 of Coahoma. Nichols, a longtime teacher and coach at the school, was presented the award for outstanding service to the school and community.

City OKS sludge removal proposal

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

A recent change in which water reservoir the city of Big Spring receives the precious resource from could add up to some costly changes, as the city council approved a bid to remove sludge from the municipal water treatment plant worth more than \$300,000 Tuesday night.

The council, with Councilman Manuel Ramirez Jr. absent, unanimously

approved the bid, which will allow the city to have a contractor come in and remove sludge — made up of mud, chemicals and other toxins — from the facility, a process the municipality hasn’t had to outsource since 2001.

According to Assistant City Manager Todd Darden, problems with the quality of the water being delivered to the city by the Colorado River Municipal Water District are not only causing issues with sludge removal, but also with state

requirements on tap water.

“I can tell you right now the water we’re putting out today is the same quality as the water we were putting out five years ago,” Darden told the council. “However, the standards governing that water have changed and gotten more stringent. We’re not talking about a health issue here, we’re talking about a quality issue that has caused us to fall

See **SLUDGE**, Page 3A

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‘The same ... but different’ Bagwell exhibit debuts at Hall Center for Arts Monday



File photo
Local artist Sue Bagwell’s work will be the subject of an exhibit that begins Monday and runs through April 1 at the Hall Center for the Arts at Howard College.

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

Local artist Sue Bagwell apparently has never appreciated the old adage about not switching horses in mid-stream.

Bagwell’s art is full of examples of work that started one way then branched off in another direction — and that’s not necessarily a bad thing, she says.

Her approach to art will be celebrated in “The Same ... but Different,” an exhibit that will begin Monday at the Hall Center for the Arts on the Howard College campus on Birdwell Lane.

The exhibit, which runs through April 1, will be for-

mally dedicated with a reception scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Monday in the Hall Center lobby.

The reception is open to the public and refreshments will be served, said Stacy Slaton, director of the Howard College art department.

Bagwell said the exhibit’s theme is about “comparing where you start and how that changes as you go on and get different ideas.

“Sometimes, I’ll start working on a piece and I’ll start thinking, ‘What if I tried it this way?’” she added. “What’s unique about this show is it’s just as much about the process as it is about the final

See **BAGWELL**, Page 3A

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Valentine’s Day Is Just Around The Corner

The “One Love” Pendant

2009 Reader’s Choice Winner For Best Jewelry Store

From the Street Inspired Art and Jewelry Collection by Zac Phinney

Lady Steers win in 2OT, force play-in game



HERALD PHOTO/Tony Claxton

The Lady Steers celebrate their first district win, setting up a play-in rematch with Lake View.

By **JOE ZIGTEMA**
Sports Editor

SAN ANGELO — The Big Spring Lady Steers just don't like to lose to Lake View.

The Lady Steers outlasted the Maidens 45-43 for their first district win Tuesday night in a double-overtime nailbiter that sets up a rematch between the two with a playoff spot on the line. Time and place are yet to be determined.

Cerbi Ritchey scored 11 points, 10 of which came in the first half. Linzee Yarbar made some clutch free throws down the stretch on the way to her 10

points, including what proved to be the game-winning charity toss.

The Lady Steers built an early lead to eight at the half, lost it in the third quarter but made a furious 10-2 run in the fourth to reclaim the lead. Lake View (6-21, 1-7) forced overtime with 30 seconds to go in regulation, and it took two periods for the Lady Steers to come out ahead.

"I'm really proud of the girls," Big Spring coach Mike Warren said. "It's all on them. We haven't been in a situation where we were ahead at the end of a game. We didn't handle it real great, but we did just enough to win."

Big Spring (8-16, 1-7) looked strong

in the early going with seven straight points to open the game, but Lake View chipped away to make it 11-9 at the end of one.

The Lady Steers held the Maidens to just two points in the second frame while Ritchey continued to pour in buckets from the paint, and the Steers went into the locker room with an eight point lead.

It was in the third quarter that things got hairy like a recurring nightmare for Big Spring. Lake View ended that period on a 16-3 run that gave the Maidens a five-point lead going into

See **BSHS**, Page 2B

CHAMPS

Steers clinch district title with win

By **JOE ZIGTEMA**
Sports Editor

SAN ANGELO — The Big Spring Steers decided to take a parting gift from District 4-4A Tuesday night in San Angelo as it will leave for 3A next year. The district title.

But for district champions, there wasn't much celebrating going on at the end of regulation for the Steers. In fact, the Lady Steers seemed much more excited than their male counterparts.

It was for a sigh of relief for Big Spring, which wrapped up its first district title in 21 years with a 51-43 win in San Angelo.

"When it comes down to it, to wrap up a district title you have to be excited about it and we are," Steers head coach Marcus Morris said. "It's what we wanted to do, not in the exact fashion we wanted because we didn't play our best basketball, but if you can play subpar and win on the road, that's a good feeling."

Senior Jerrell Williams said the Steers have some work left to do.

"It feels good that we



HERALD PHOTO/Tony Claxton

Luke Adams fires a shot at Lake View High School in San Angelo on Tuesday night. The Steers captured their first district title since 1989 with a 51-43 win over the Chiefs. Adams led the Steers with 16 points as Big Spring won its seventh straight game.

made history tonight, but we could have done better. That's why it doesn't feel as good as I thought it would."

Williams and the Steers left San Angelo with a hunger for something even sweeter — an undefeated

district title run.

"That would mean a lot," Williams said. "That's my goal this year, so we're just getting closer and closer every game out there."

The Steers are one game closer to

that goal thanks to a 14-point effort from Williams and 16 from guard Luke Adams. Tristian Clay added nine for Big Spring and Pavel Plakhotny scored eight points on

See **STEERS**, 2B

Stanton edges Forsan for share of 7-A title

Herald Staff Report

STANTON — The Stanton and Forsan girls basketball teams had everything to play for Tuesday night at Stanton High School.

Rivalry game. Revenge game. District title game.

The game lived up to its billing, too, as Stanton pulled off a 39-37 win to earn a share of the District 7-A, Division I title. Three points have decided the teams' two games this season.

"It was the same way last year," Stanton coach Jim Kinnear said. "Both teams are well-deserving of that honor."

Stanton won the coin flip for the district seeding, meaning it will receive a first-round bye and Forsan will play in a bi-district game against an opponent to be determined.

A 13-6 third quarter made the difference for Stanton (24-5, 5-1), which was down 19-16 at the

end of a first half Forsan led by as many as 12.

"They just played hard," Stanton coach Robert Hillger said of his team. "It seemed like in the third quarter (Stanton) got all the loose balls and everything went their way, but that was because of what they were doing. They were hustling and scrapping and getting after it."

Kinnear's press defense was effective in the second half.

"It was a battle the whole game, and we picked up the pressure in that second half, and kept the pressure on," he said.

Forsan had a chance on one second two on the clock, down two and with Morgan Forshee shooting three free throws. Forshee couldn't get the first charity shot to fall, Kinnear called a timeout to ice her and Stanton ended up com-

See **STANTON**, Page 2B

Big third quarter lifts Coahoma to victory

Herald Staff Report

SAN ANGELO — Coahoma had been in a 3-point shooting slumber for the last three district games, all losses.

The Bulldogs were wide awake Tuesday in San Angelo.

Coahoma nailed nine 3-pointers, six of which came in the third period, as it pulled away from Grape Creek for a 68-51 win.

"They were not extending their defense at all, and for us to have any success inside we had to hit some shots," Bulldogs coach Kim Nichols said. "They were just letting us stand a shoot the ball, so we pulled the trigger and hit some."

Martin Leija broke out of his recent slump with

a 24-point effort, 14 of which came in that third quarter on the strength of four 3's. He was supplemented by 13 from Josh Paniagua and 10 from Hunter Williams.

The Bulldogs held Grape Creek leading scorer Jake Younts to eight points.

"He scored 23 on us last time, so for us to hold him to eight was good," Nichols said. "He's a good player."

Although Coahoma (16-12, 3-5) is eliminated from postseason play, Nichols said he was happy to see a solid effort from the Bulldogs.

"I was proud of the way they bounced back after we got kicked around Friday against Wall,"

See **COAHOMA**, 3B

Area roundup: Sands tops Borden County

Herald Staff Report

WATER VALLEY — The Garden City Lady Bearkats concluded their domination of District 10-A, Division II Tuesday night with a 54-26 win over Water Valley.

Morgan Schwartz scored 21 points and Amber Halfmann chipped in 10 as the Lady Bearkats got the

game in hand early with a 22-5 first quarter.

Garden City will get a playoff tuneup Friday against Anton in Post.

Loop 41, Grady 24

LENORAH — The Grady Lady Wildcats' season drew to a close Tuesday with a 41-24 loss to district champion Loop.

Grady fell to 3-7 in District 9-A, Division II and finished the season

11-18. Kelly Cook and Maegan Blocker each scored seven points for the Lady Wildcats.

Sands 39

Borden County 38

ACKERLY — Ashley Stockton put back an offensive rebound with two seconds left on the clock Tuesday as Sands pulled off the upset over Borden County to force a play-in game with Klondike for a playoff

spot.

The teams will meet Friday at 7 p.m. at Lamesa Middle School. Stockton finished with a game-high 21 points on the night as Sands improved to 17-12 on the season.

Taylor Richey scored 20 points for Borden County, which finished No. 2 in District 9-A,

See **ROUNDUP**, 3B

Sports in brief

Tuesday's area scoreboard
See 2-3B for box scores

Big Spring girls 45, Lake View 43, 2 OT
Big Spring boys 51, Lake View 43
Grape Creek girls 51, Coahoma 46, OT
Coahoma boys 68, Grape Creek 51
Stanton girls 39, Forsan 37
Stanton boys 30, Forsan 25
Sands girls 39, Borden County 38
Borden County boys 53, Sands 35

Youth baseball league signups to start

The Big Spring Youth Baseball League has scheduled signups for the upcoming summer season for Saturdays in February beginning this Saturday.

Children 5-15 can sign up for the league at Big Spring Mall. Registration fee is \$65 and \$60 for additional siblings. Birth certificate required. Weekday signups are at Gartman Refrigeration, 3206 E. FM 700, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. All ages 8-12 must attend one of three tryout sessions scheduled March 8-10.

Forsan, Coahoma in Top 10 softball polls

The defending state champion Forsan Lady Buffs debuted at No. 2 in the Texas Girls Coaches Association Top 10 polls out this week.

Coahoma was ranked No. 5 in district 2A in the preseason poll.

Forsan is scheduled to get under way Feb. 15 against Grape Creek, while Coahoma will start with its alumni game Feb. 13 before the Prairie Dog Classic in Lubbock the following weekend.

Police blotter

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

- JEFFREY MARTIN, 26, of 1003 E. 15th St., was arrested Tuesday on a local warrant and a charge of public intoxication.
- MARIO ROBERT OVALLE, 36, of 1300 Madison, was arrested Tuesday on charges of disregarding a red light, no driver's license (when unlicensed) and failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- DELMA VALENCIA, 49, of 107 N.E. Eighth St., was arrested Tuesday on a warrant from another agency and expired driver's license.
- POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA - TWO OUNCES OR LESS IN A DRUG FREE ZONE was reported in the 600 block of Sixth Street.
- CREDIT/DEBIT CARD ABUSE was reported in the 400 block of Fourth Street.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 1300 block of Gregg Street.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported:
In the 2500 block of Ent.
In the 1900 block of Winston.

Sheriff

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity:
Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 56 inmates at the time of this report.

- MARIO ROBERT OVALLE, 36, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on charges of no driver's license (when unlicensed), disregarding a red light and failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- JESSE PEREZ, 50, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for driving while intoxicated - second offense.
- TASHA MARIE DANIELS, 27, was arrested Tuesday by DPS on a charge of theft of service.
- EARL P. HANKE, 51, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on charges of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension, failure to maintain financial responsibility and displaying an expired registration.
- DELMA VALENCIA, 49, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license expired and a motion to revoke probation for driving while intoxicated.
- ALIX JADE GREEN, 23, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of public intoxication and disorderly conduct - language.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 800 block of Andree. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1400 block of E. Fourth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 500 block of Westover Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

Support Groups

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

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

Take Note

- The federal government, through the No Child Left Behind Act, requires each school district across the country that receives Federal Title I funds to report the status of the district and each campus through an NCLB Report Card. The Report Card for Big Spring ISD can be found on the school district website: bsisd.esc18.net. A hard copy of the report can be viewed in the BSISD Central Office. Copies of the Campus Report can be found on the school district website under the individual campuses. Look for NCLB Report. The report covers the following areas: Part I - Student Achievement; Part II - Student Achievement and Academic Expectations (AYP); Part III - AYP and Schools Identified for Improvement, Corrective Action, and Restructuring and Part IV - Teacher Quality.
- The Salvation Army Sweetheart Banquet will be held Friday. Menu will consist of spaghetti, salad, garlic bread and peach cobbler. Cost is \$10 per person. Call the Salvation Army for reservations at 267-8239. All proceeds will go toward a trip to Atlanta for the commissioning service in June.

- Maranatha Baptist Academy, 903 Johnson, has a competition team going to the Southern Plains Regional Student Convention. They will compete in academics, art, photography, needle and thread, athletics, drill team, color guard, music and platform events. The convention will be held March 22-26 in Cedar Hills at Mt. Lebanon Baptist Encampment. Students will be holding a fund-raiser Friday, Feb. 12 at Wal-Mart. They will be selling homemade burritos and baked good for Valentine's Day. Funds raised will help send them to the convention. Maranatha Baptist Academy has been in operation since 1981. For more information about the fund-raiser or the academy, call 263-7696 or 213-1046.

- A fund has been established at Myers & Smith Funeral Home and Chapel to help pay expenses in the death of Marcela "Marcy" Rivera, who died following a one-vehicle traffic accident. Donations can be delivered to the funeral home at 301 E. 24th or mailed to P.O. Box 2760, Big Spring, 79721.

- A fund has been established at Wood Forest National Bank for Jeffery Cate (Bubba). He is a lifetime resident of Big Spring and is employed at B&E Roustabout. He was in a car accident New Year's Eve and is still in a hospital in Lubbock. He had surgery to remove his spleen and has several broken bones, including one in his neck. He has also suffered some memory loss due to a bruise on one side of his brain. He has three small boys. The medical bills and family travel expenses are adding up. Any donations would be greatly appreciated.

- Attention military personnel and dependents: The Salvation Army currently has funding for Texas military personnel now serving or who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. Members or dependents may apply at the Salvation Army Office, located at 811 W. Fifth St., or call (432) 267-8239. The grant is funded by the TRIAD Fund of Permian Basin Area Foundation.

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



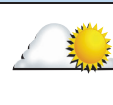
- Birdwell Lane Baptist Church is selling cookbooks to raise funds for the church. The cook books can be purchased by calling Pat Steen at (432) 263-3035.

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

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

Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Thu 2/11	Fri 2/12	Sat 2/13
 37/28 Rain and freezing rain in the morning will become a mixture of rain and snow showers in the afternoon. Cold.	 55/33 Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the low 30s.	 61/34 Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the mid 30s.
Sunrise: 7:32 AM Sunset: 6:29 PM	Sunrise: 7:31 AM Sunset: 6:30 PM	Sunrise: 7:30 AM Sunset: 6:30 PM

Texas At A Glance



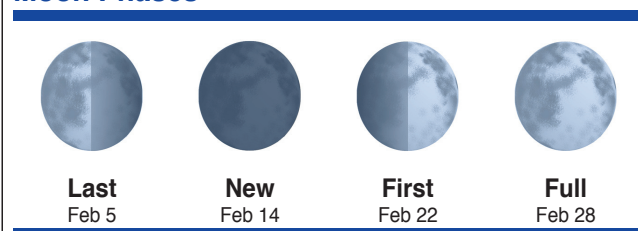
Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	35	30	mixed	Kingsville	60	43	rain
Amarillo	41	24	cloudy	Livingston	41	32	rain
Austin	38	34	rain	Longview	39	32	rain
Beaumont	43	37	rain	Lubbock	39	28	mixed
Brownsville	62	47	rain	Lufkin	41	33	rain
Brownwood	38	33	mixed	Midland	41	32	mixed
Corpus Christi	57	43	rain	Raymondville	60	44	rain
Corsicana	37	32	rain	Rosenberg	44	37	rain
Dallas	38	33	mixed	San Antonio	43	38	rain
Del Rio	44	36	rain	San Marcos	39	35	rain
El Paso	56	37	rain	Sulphur Springs	38	32	mixed
Fort Stockton	49	33	rain	Sweetwater	37	30	mixed
Gainesville	35	31	mixed	Tyler	38	32	rain
Greenville	36	31	mixed	Weatherford	37	31	mixed
Houston	44	38	rain	Wichita Falls	36	31	mixed

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	45	29	pt sunny	Minneapolis	21	13	pt sunny
Boston	32	21	sn shower	New York	33	21	windy
Chicago	25	10	pt sunny	Phoenix	63	45	sunny
Dallas	38	33	mixed	San Francisco	61	47	pt sunny
Denver	46	25	mst sunny	Seattle	51	44	rain
Houston	44	38	rain	St. Louis	33	24	cloudy
Los Angeles	65	47	mst sunny	Washington, DC	34	22	windy
Miami	64	51	mst sunny				

Moon Phases



Lottery

The winning numbers drawn in the Lotto Texas drawing Tuesday night: 2-17-20-26-48. Mega Ball: 12. Megaplier: 4.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 1-2-19-33-34. Number matching five of five: 1. Prize: \$23,476. Winning ticket purchased in: Whitney.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 1-2-19-33-34. Number matching five of five: 1. Prize: \$23,476. Winning ticket purchased in: Whitney.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 5-1-0-7. Sum It Up: 13.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 6-7-5. Sum It Up: 18.

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Third in the 2009-2010 Concert Season
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BEETHOVEN'S 'FIFTH SYMPHONY'
WAGNER'S 'RIDE OF THE VALKYRIES'
DVORAK'S 'CARNIVAL OVERTURE'



Guest Artists
Sarah Wilson, Cello
Tchaikovsky: "Variations on a Roccoco Theme"



Michael Santorelli, Trumpet
F.J. Haydn: "Trumpet Concerto"

Tickets: Adults \$15, Seniors \$10, Students \$5
Music Students - FREE
Locations: Blum's Jewelers, Fayers' Flowers, Big Spring Herald, Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, KBST Radio, Heritage Museum, Western Banks



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News in brief

Galveston residents can seek Ike rebuilding help

GALVESTON (AP) — Galveston leaders are encouraging residents whose homes were battered by Hurricane Ike to seek federal rebuilding assistance.

The city on Feb. 28 has to report to the state its progress in administering the \$104 million federal Community Development Block Grant program.

Ike slammed the Galveston area on Sept. 13, 2008, becoming the costliest natural disaster in Texas history by leaving behind overall damage topping \$29 billion.

Galveston has until September 2011 to spend the grant money, or it will be forced to return the funds to the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Deb Siefert, who heads the application process, says Galveston officials initially feared too few homeowners would participate, but now it appears the city is ahead of schedule. So far more than 1,100 homeowners have applied for grants.

HISD could drop higher pay for advanced teachers

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Independent School District is studying whether to abandon the traditional practice of paying teachers more for having advanced degrees.

The largest public school system in Texas, which

has more than 200,000 students and 295 schools, and the top-rated YES Prep charter school chain are among those looking to save money and base higher pay on student learning.

"I would like us to look with our teachers and see whether or not those dollars could be spent in a more productive way," HISD Superintendent Terry Grier said.

The district estimates that the extra payout for teachers with a master's or a doctorate is costing taxpayers about \$7.8 million this school year.

The money might be better spent to pay teachers more for taking on leadership roles or to bolster the district's bonus plan tied to student test scores, Grier said.

Texas lawmakers in the 1980s stopped mandating higher salaries for teachers with advanced degrees. Many districts continue the practice.

The number of teachers with master's degrees statewide has grown over the last four years, though the percentage has dropped slightly to just under 21 percent, the Houston Chronicle reported Wednesday.

Training period trimmed for DPS troopers

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Department of Public Safety is reducing the length of academy training for troopers by nine weeks in an effort to attract more recruits and save money.

DPS Director Steve McCraw says cutting the trooper training period to 18 weeks has been approved by the agency's governing board.

"We can provide superior training at less cost, in less time, and it's far easier for us to recruit," said McCraw, who says many recruits will not commit to a training course lasting more than seven months.

"We determined we can be much more competitive in recruiting, in college and the military in an 18-week school and one that's not done just once or twice a year," he said.

DPS has nearly 400 vacancies. Much of the training that was removed related to gaining an intermediate police officer rating, which also requires six years of experience, McCraw told the Houston Chronicle.

The Public Safety Commission also approved an eight-week school for certified peace officers who want to join the DPS, he said.

The training cut is supported by the 3,300-member DPS Officers Association, whose leaders say large Texas police departments offer higher salaries and allow trainees to live at home.

The DPS academy is in Austin and trainees must live in barracks.

State Rep. Hubert Vo, D-Houston, said Tuesday he plans to make further inquiries.

"My main focus is we're not reducing the safety of the public by reducing the training time, and I don't think we are," Vo said.

BAGWELL

Continued from Page 1A

product."

To illustrate the concept, Bagwell will pair up similar works of art,

along with a short essay detailing what Bagwell's original idea was and why she decided to try something different with the second piece.

"It's the first show I've ever done where everything is explained,"

she said. "Some of the works will look similar, but others will look quite different because of the different mediums I used."

Bagwell said she's always been interested in being an artist, but

only became serious about her work in the mid 1990s.

"It's all about creating something that didn't exist before and doesn't go away," she said. "So much of what you do every day seems to end

up undone, but when you create a work of art, it's there and it won't go away."

For more information on Bagwell's exhibit, contact the college art department at 264-5115.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
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Affordable pre-need plans

SLUDGE

Continued from Page 1A

out of compliance with regulations."

Darden said the city of Big Spring began receiving its water from the E.V. Spence Reservoir in December, and higher concentrations of certain algae in the water have caused the problems.

"The turbidity of the Spence water is creating sludge faster than we can get rid of it," said Darden.

"There are two ways to extract the water from the sludge so it can be disposed of in the landfill, and those are through evaporation or mechanically."

The city currently

uses an evaporative method — the sludge is pumped into large drying beds and scraped up once the water has dried — to remove the unwanted contaminants and chemicals, according to Darden.

"The last time we had to contract sludge removal was in 2001," he said. "Unfortunately, we don't have the manpower or equipment to do this work in-house. We're estimating 860 tons of the material will need to be removed, which will cost the city \$306,460, and this is an unbudgeted item. The contractor estimates they will be able to remove approximately 50 tons of the material each day."

Questions from council members regarding

the purchase of the necessary equipment and manpower needed to remove the sludge periodically were met with grim figures by Darden.

"The machine needed to press the water out of the material can cost anywhere between \$500,000 and \$1 million.

And that's just one machine. There is more machinery needed that we don't have to complete the process," said Darden. "When we had to do this in 2001 we looked at purchasing the equipment and doing it in-house when it was needed, and that wasn't cost effective."

However, Darden said the situations leading to the 2001 sludge removal were short term compared to the current problem, which could

necessitate a second look at beginning an in-house program.

"With water levels what they are in area reservoirs right now, there's no reason to believe we won't remain on Spence water for quite some time," he said. "We may be looking at a situation where this type of removal could become necessary a lot more often."

City Manager Gary Fuqua said the city staff plans to look at the matter when planning for the 2010-2011 budget begins later this year.

Peggy Walker, director of finance for the city, said the cost of the project isn't exactly written in stone, making it necessary for the city staff to bring the matter back to the council for an amendment to the 2009-2010 budget.

"I believe the 860-ton estimation may be rather liberal," she told the council. "That's why we'll be bringing this back to the council once the work has been completed and we have a solid cost."

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NICHOLS

Continued from Page 1A

an era when high school coaches live a somewhat nomadic life — moving from one job to the next — Nichols has been a picture of constancy.

"He's special to me, personally," said John Overton, who played basketball under Nichols' tutelage and who presented him the award on behalf of his fellow Masons. "In the world of high school athletics, for a coach to remain at the same school for more than 30 years is pretty remark-

able. It says a lot about the type of person he is."

The funny thing, Nichols said, is that it was never his initial intention to remain in Coahoma as long as he has.

"No, I never intended to," he said. "In fact, it was a joke among some friends of mine. They called me 'One More Year Nichols,' because I kept saying I'd stay for one more year, then move on."

The award is presented annually to a Coahoma resident who is a non-Mason but who best exemplifies

Masonic ideas such as service to the community, Overton said.

"He's contributed a lot of time and effort to make this school and this community a better place," Overton said. "One of the greatest things about Coach Nichols is that coaching isn't about him, it's about the kids. I think that's a major distinction."

An admittedly surprised Nichols had few words to say after receiving the award Tuesday.

"I'm very surprised, very humbled and very appreciative," he said.

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ROUNDUP
Continued from 1B

Division II.
BOYS
Garden City 67
Water Valley 33
WATER VALLEY — Brett Chudej scored 29 points as the Garden City Bearkats rolled to a 67-33 win over Water Valley on the road Tuesday.
The Bearkats outscored the Wildcats 23-6 in the third frame to run away with the win. They will host Robert Lee on Friday.

Grady 52, Loop 44
LENORAH —The No. 15 Grady Wildcats beat the Loop Longhorns in a see-saw battle Tuesday night at Grady High School.

The Wildcats outscored Loop 18-9 in the first, and then went cold from the floor in a 15-5 Loop second quarter. Grady would respond with a 14-5 third quarter to take the win.

Dylan Cox scored 19 points to lead Grady. Bryley Pinkerton added 13.

Grady advances to the

playoffs as the No. 2 seed in District 9-A, Division II.

Borden County 53
Sands 35
ACKERLY — The Borden County Coyotes won the District 9-A, Division II title Tuesday night with a 53-35 win over Sands.

Bert Ybarra scored a game-high 18 points for Sands, which finished the season 9-16.

Karl Lamming finished with 12 for Borden County and Brendan Tarleton had 11.

BOXES

GIRLS

G-City 54, Water Valley 26
Water Valley 5 5 6 10 --26
Garden City 22 15 6 11 --54

Water Valley (5-5): Lee 7, Salazar 6, Randolph 5, Hutchins 4, Pack 4.
Garden City (27-1, 10-0): M. Schwartz 21, A. Halfmann 10, Niehues 9, K. Halfmann 6, L. Halfmann 3, Cook 3, A. Ramirez 2.

Free throws -- Water Valley 3-6, Garden City 6-16. 3-point goals -- Water Valley 1 (Lee), Garden City 4 (A. Halfmann 2, Niehues 1, Cook 1). Total fouls -- Water Valley 17, Garden City 16. Fouled out -- Water Valley, Hutchins.

Loop 41, Grady 24
Loop 9 4 8 20 --41
Grady 2 9 6 7 --24
Loop (23-3, 8-2): Young 18,

Isbell 8, Cartwright 7, Ramirez 6, Castaneda 2

Grady (11-18, 3-7): Kelly Cook 7, Maegan Blocker 7, Charmynee Arnold 6, M.J. Price 2, Katie Meeks 2
Free throws -- LHS 11-25, GHS 12-16. 3-point goals -- None. Total fouls -- LHS 15, GHS 16. Fouled out -- Grady, Julia Schuelke.

Sands 39, Borden County 38
BC 11 19 5 3 --38
SHS 12 10 10 7 --39

BC (7-3 district)- Richey 20, Key 7, Anderson 5, Doss 5, Belondia 1
Sands (17-12, 6-4)-Stockton 21, Mo. Yarbrough 7, Wigginton 5, Robles 3, Me. Yarbrough 3
Free throws -- BC 9-12, SHS 7-18; 3-point goals -- BC 3 (Key, Richey, Doss), SHS 4 (Stockton 3, Wigginton); Total Fouls -- BC 15, SHS 11; Fouled out -- None

BOYS
G-City 67, Water Valley 33
Water Valley 7 6 6 14 --33
Garden City 16 15 23 11 --67

Water Valley (5-4): Herrera 8, Doss 8, Franke 6, Glass 4, Gray 4, Hahn 2, Doty 1.

Garden City (11-5, 7-2): Chudej 29, A. Long 9, H. Halfmann 9, Hirt 8, R. Halfmann 4, Dalton 4, Schaefer 4, Montes 2.

Free throws -- Water Valley 13-20, Garden City 8-15. 3-point goals -- Water Valley 2 (Doss,

Frankie), Garden City 1 (Long). Total fouls -- Water Valley 17, Garden City 15. Fouled out -- Water Valley, Herrera.

Grady 52, Loop 44
Loop 9 15 5 15 --44
Grady 18 5 14 15 --52

Loop (5-5): Armendariz 8, Bell 10, Sellers 3, Bratcher 8, Bingham 7, Boggan 8.

Grady (23-4, 8-2): Shane Teague 3, Dylan Cox 19, Tyler Matthews 2, Carston Russell 5, Bryley Pinkerton 13, Zach Perez 8, Tyler Gifford 2.

Free throws -- Loop 4-9, Grady 17-26. 3-point goals -- Loop 2 (Armendariz, Boggan), Grady 1 (Pinkerton). Total fouls -- Loop 18, Grady 14. Fouled out -- Loop, Sellers, Boggan; Grady, Matthews.

Borden County 53, Sands 35
SHS 8 9 6 12 --35
BC 15 11 16 11 --53

SHS (9-16)- Ybarra 18, Jo. Rogers 4, Guillen 4, Ju. Rogers 3, Blagrove 2, Hernandez 2, Armendariz 2
BC- Lamming 12, Tarleton 11, Q. Shafer 8, Richey 8, Cooley 7, Telchik 5, RT Shafer 2
Free throws- SHS 2-5, BC 5-10; 3-point goals -- SHS 5 (Ybarra 4, Ju. Rogers) BC 4 (Richey, Cooley, Lamming, Telchik); Total fouls -- BC 5, SHS 13

COAHOMA
Continued from 1B

Nichols said. "We're playing for team pride to try to end the season on a positive note. We're going to get after Jim Ned on Friday, but it's going to be a tough test."

Tipoff is at 8 p.m. in Tuscola.

GCHS 51, CHS 46
SAN ANGELO — Howard Angelo and San Angelo teams decided they wanted to play a little extra Tuesday night.

The Coahoma Bulldogettes wrapped up their 2009-10 season with a tough 51-46 overtime loss at Grape Creek.

The game was neck-and-neck the whole way,

but Grape Creek outscored Coahoma 5-0 in the extra period to nab the home win.

Kylie Gee led the Bulldogettes with 17 points. K'Leigh Fowler and Kenzie Stone had eight apiece.

Coahoma finished the season 13-17 overall with a 2-8 mark in a tough District 7-2A. Seniors Ashley Buske, Kylie Gee, Kalea Neff, Jordan Martin, K'Leigh Fowler and Kirstyn Pulis played their last games in a Coahoma uniform.

Bulldogs 68, Grape Creek 51
Coahoma 11 17 25 15 --68
GCHS 10 13 14 14 --51
Coahoma (16-12, 3-5)-Paniagua 13, Ruiz 7, Williams 10, Leija 24, Garcia 7, Bridge 1, Kirk Hahn 4, Alex Crabtree 2
Grape Creek (0-8 in District 7-2A): Broadway 14, Younts 8, Salcedo 2, Dotson 2, Doss 14, Thomas 11

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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OTHER VIEWS

Now, what military cutbacks are those?

One of the persistent myths about the year-old Obama presidency is that the Democratic commander in chief is intent on cutting the U.S. defense budget so that the Pentagon will go begging and our nation will be defenseless. Letters to the Daily News routinely sound the alarm.

A reader in Destin, Fla., warned last October that the president wants to "cut America's defense spending, even if China and Russia don't cut theirs." A reader in Crestview announced last March he was "declaring war" on military cutbacks. "Increased defense spending," he argued, "is the kind of real stimulus that our national economy and security need in this dangerous world."

If increased defense spending is the answer to our economic woes, then our problems are solved. Under President Obama, military spending has surged.

It's also being done more honestly. In years past, defense secretaries have pretended that the costs of waging active wars are separate from the "baseline" military budget and have not included those costs in annual budget figures, leaving them to supplemental appropriations.

However, the figure for the projected 2011 military budget is forthrightly estimated at \$708.2 billion, which consists of \$548.9 billion in the "baseline" budget and \$159.3 billion for "overseas contingency operations" — e.g., the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

There's an additional \$33 billion to pay for the 30,000 extra troops the president is sending to Afghanistan, bringing the grand total to \$741.2 billion.

The Center for a New American Security calculates that, when adjusted for inflation, this military budget is 13 percent higher than at the peak of the Korean War, 33 percent higher than at the peak of the Vietnam War, 12 percent higher than at the peak of the Cold War and 64 percent higher than the Cold War average.

And big-ticket weapons programs are on the rise: \$25 billion for 10 new ships, another \$10 billion for missile defense and \$11 billion for 43 more F-35 fighter planes.

Whatever President Obama's other failings may be, he is not skimping on the military.

NORTHWEST FLORIDA DAILY NEWS
FORT WALTON BEACH, FLA.

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A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Trusting You, Lord, isn't just wishful thinking, it's right thinking.

Amen

Wall Street really gets it

I don't know why people, even smart people, keep saying that bankers and the rest of the Wall Street crowd don't get it.

Dana Milbank, writing in The Washington Post, said it just the other week after Lloyd Blankfein, the Goldman Sachs chairman, testified before the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission.

It was a remarkably arrogant performance, even for a Wall Street prima donna. Blankfein's firm, the very exemplar of the too-big-to-fail model, received a many-multi-billion dollar bailout from the federal government last year as the Obama administration struggled to save the economy from a 1929-style grave.

It was also given permission to make itself into a bank holding company, thus avoiding the fate of Lehman Brothers, a too-big-to-fail firm that failed.

Having passed through a financial Valley of Death with the aid of the federal government, you would think that Blankfein would be a little humble. Grateful even.

Nope. He bragged, "we do a very, very good job," and that "key attributes of our energy, culture and processes were validated" by the crisis.

So good a job had he and his colleagues done that his company was setting aside nearly \$17 billion to reward them. (Blank-

fein himself was paid \$68 million in 2007, when the seeds of our current disaster were being sown.)

The chairman of the commission tried to get Blankfein to take some sort of responsibility for something — anything at all. "I'm troubled by your inability to accept the probability or certainty that your firm would not have made it through the storm but for the vast array of federal assistance," the chairman said.

And later: "You were securitizing and underwriting packages of mortgages, and when it was clear the market was going bad...you kept moving this product."

Blankfein was still having none of it. "I know it's become part of the narrative to some extent that people knew what was going to happen," he said. "We did not know at any minute what would happen next."

Did I mention he made \$68 million in 2007?

My income is in the high four figures; I don't know what's going to happen next. When they pay you 68 million bucks, you should know.

And there's a pretty good evidence that Blankfein and his gang did know. Goldman was selling mortgage securities to its loyal customers as good investments while at the same time making (winning) bets that those securities would fall in value.

Yet Dana Milbank, one of Washington's better reporters, began his otherwise excellent report (from which I borrowed shamelessly) by saying:

"Goldman Sachs Chairman

Lloyd Blankfein still doesn't get it."

Dana, baby, they get it. We're the ones who don't get it. The only reason these guys aren't (officially) crooks is that, for the most part, they can bribe politicians to legitimize their scams. They laugh in the faces of people like those on the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission. And they'd keep laughing all the way to the bank, except they are the bank.

It's been said that Bernie Madoff was, if nothing else, a clever scoundrel. He wasn't. He was a fool. He broke the law. You don't have to break the law to cheat people on Wall Street. Just play by the rules (which is easy when you make the rules) and the billions come rolling in.

Which is why I hope President Obama is right when he says he's going to be able to tax the big banks out of some of their "profits."

There wouldn't have been any profits had the federal government not come to the rescue of the economy. Half of the now-prosperous banks wouldn't be here.

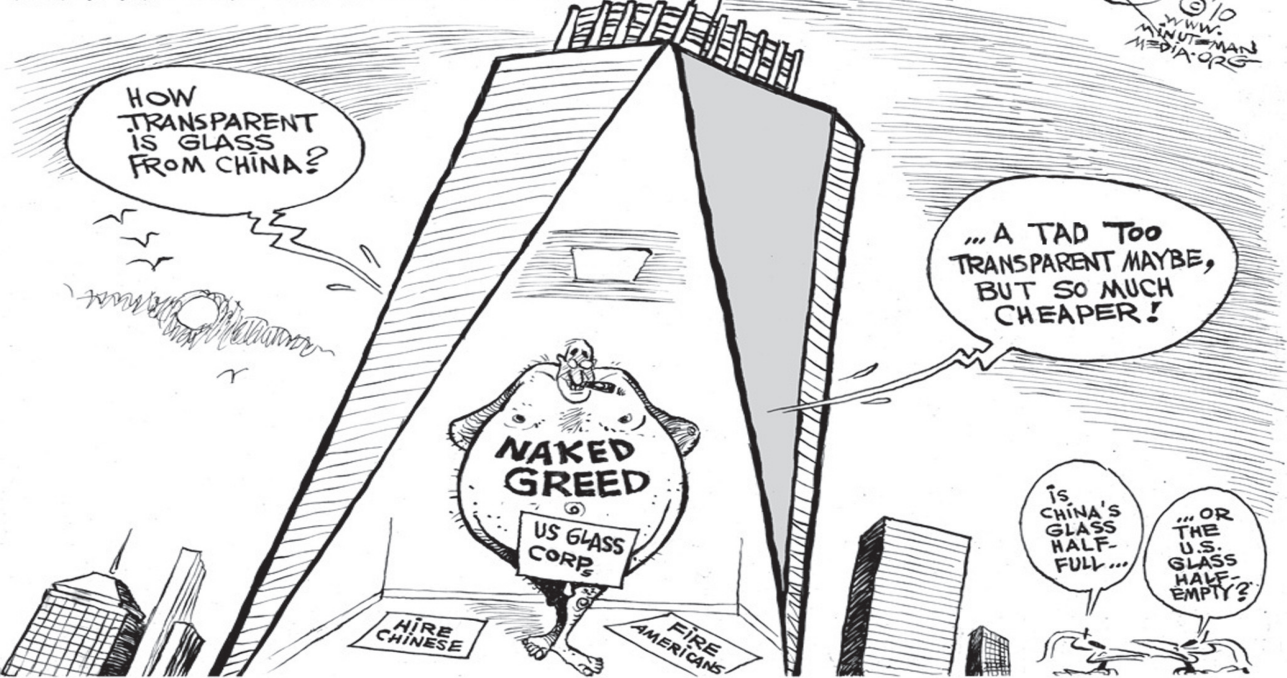
Instead of that bleak landscape, big banks and securities firms are on pace to pay their people about \$145 billion in 2009, a record sum.

In the name of justice — a word not heard much in Washington recently — those banks and financiers should pay something back to us to help ease the pain they caused.

Minuteman Media columnist Donald Kaul lives in Ann Arbor, Mich.

AMERICAN PRIDE! (MADE IN CHINA)

NEWS ITEM:
BEIJING GLASS CO. GETS CONTRACT TO PROVIDE WINDOW PANES FOR THE NEW WORLD TRADE CENTER BUILDING.



Seeing China from the new WTC

You can knock us Americans down, but you can't keep us down. For example, the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City were crashed to the ground on 9/11. But now, a new tower is rising from those very ashes.

The new tower is a soaring steel and glass monument to the American spirit, a powerful symbol of our national resilience.

Well—except for the glass. That's right, the glass.

A company named Beijing Glass got the government contract to provide the window panes that'll cover the first 20 stories of the tower.

Yes, the monument to our national spirit is being sheathed with made-in-China glass.

What? Can't American's make glass? Of course we can, but our biggest corporations, like Corning Incorporated and Guardian Industries, have been quietly and quickly moving their production and our jobs to China.

In just the past nine years, 30 percent of these jobs have been lost.

"Those who're looking through the rearview mirror waiting for the glass industry to come back," snorts the chairman of Guardian, "should know it isn't going to come back."

Indeed, Guardian now employs more workers in its 36 foreign plants than it does here.

Well, chirp the usual flock of free-trade economists, it's all about China providing "econo-

mies of scale" for manufacturers. Hogwash.

The glass industry's rush abroad is all about getting cheap labor and massive subsidies from the Chinese government.

For example, shipping heavy glass from Beijing to Manhattan would be prohibitively expensive—except that China subsidizes the transportation.

This isn't free trade, it's a raw deal.

There should be a stiff tariff on all subsidized glass coming from China—and the new World Trade tower is so symbolically important that every inch of it should be American made.

Jim Hightower is a radio commentator, writer, public speaker and winner of the 2009 winner of the Nation/Puffin Prize. He's also editor of the populist newsletter, The Hightower Lowdown.

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PARENT'S CORNER

The merits of living a dog's life

A few years ago I attended a workshop in which the presenter posed a question. He asked, "If you were an animal, what animal would you be?"

At the time I thought this question was a bit strange but it did make me think.

As I pondered the question I decided I would like to be a dog, but I really thought I would like to be my dog because I would like to be loved and cared for the way I care for my dog. Anyway, I had to ask myself "why a dog?"

I've thought about it several times since and I think I have discovered why I would choose to be a dog. Dogs live simply, love generously and care deeply. If I were a dog I would do things like run to meet loved ones when they return home. I would never pass up an opportunity to go for a joyride; I would allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in my face to be pure ecstasy.

I would take naps frequently and stretch vigorously after rising. I would run, romp and play every day and I would thrive on the attention of people. I would avoid biting when a simple growl

would do. On warm days I would lie on my back on the grass, drink lots of water and find the shade of a tree to relax. I would gladly show my emotion by bouncing around and wagging my entire body.

I would delight in a simple walk with my master. I would be loyal and never pretend I was something other than who I was. I would learn to find what I was searching for even if I had to dig up the entire yard in the process. And the best part I would know when those I love are having a bad day and I would know to be silent, sit close by and nuzzle them gently.

I read a story recently that I thought was excellent and really accented my thinking on dogs. The story was written by a veterinarian. He stated:

"I had been called to examine a 10-year-old Irish Wolfhound named Bones. The dog's owners, Ron, his wife Lisa and their little boy Shane, were all extremely attached to Bones, and they were hoping for a miracle. I examined Bones and found he was dying of cancer. I told the family we couldn't do anything for Bones, and offered to perform the euthanasia procedure for the old dog in their home.

"As we made arrangements, Ron and Lisa told me they thought it would be good for their young son Shane to observe the procedure. They felt as though Shane might learn something from the

experience.

"The next day, I felt the familiar catch in my throat as Bones' family surrounded him. Shane seemed so calm, petting the old dog for the last time, that I wondered if he understood what was going on.

"Within a few minutes, Bones slipped peacefully away. The little boy seemed to accept Bones' transition without any difficulty or confusion. We sat together for a while after Bones' death, wondering aloud about the sad fact that animal lives are shorter than human lives.

"Shane, who had been listening quietly, piped up, 'I know why.'

"Startled, we all turned to him. What came out of his mouth next stunned me. I'd never heard a more comforting explanation. It has changed the way I try and live.

He said, 'People are born so that they can learn how to live a good life, like loving everybody all the time and being nice. Well, dogs already know how to do that, so they don't have to stay as long.'

It does seem kids have a unique understanding that we often miss or forget.



DARRELL RYAN

Terrier mugged; coat missing

NEW YORK (AP) — A Brooklyn woman says a mugger stole a doggie coat right off the back of her mild-mannered terrier.

Donna McPherson says she tied up Lexie, her 10-year-old Westie, outside a Park Slope supermarket "for two minutes" while she bought milk.

She heard a "funny bark." When McPherson went outside, she found the little white dog shivering. His green wool coat, with leather trim and belt, were nowhere in sight.

McPherson said the dog coat was worth \$25. She said that, fortunately, Lexie wasn't wearing his pricier Burberry.

Bicycle Bandit pleads guilty

CAMDEN, N.J. (AP) — A man police dubbed the Bicycle Bandit has admitted committing eight bank robberies in southern New Jersey and Delaware.

Prosecutors say Brian Layton went on a yearlong spree in which he robbed banks in six New Jersey cities and in Wilmington, Del., and rode away on a bicycle each time.

Layton was arrested Sept. 25 while trying to flee from a New Jersey state trooper on the Garden State Parkway in a van and then by foot. Police say Layton dropped a backpack containing cash.



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The Spider

During Mark Twain's days as a newspaperman, he was the editor of a small Missouri paper.

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Twain replied, "Finding a spider in your paper is neither good nor bad luck. The spider was merely looking over our paper to see which merchant was not advertising so that he could go to that store, spin his web across the door and lead a life of undisturbed peace ever after."

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Why not check this out? At the library

Howard County Library will be closed Saturday and Monday for the President's Day holiday

The library will be closed Saturday and Monday for the President's Day holiday. We will reopen Tuesday at 10 a.m.

I am not a big fan of science fiction and so am not a good judge of it. The library has Book 1 — "The Thousand Orcs"

(SF SAL R) of the Hunter's Blade Series. The book flap reads: "Barbaric hordes of blood-hungry humanoids swept across the Spine of the World, and thousands of humans and dwarfs lie in their path." Author R.A. Salvatore began writing in 1988 and is the creator of the dark elf Drizzt. He has written several more books and the library does have a selection of them.

Christopher Pike is well-known for his vampire books and it looks like he has branched out into a more adult audience. Look for "Alosha" (SF PIK C) in the science fiction area. Stephen Baxter has written "Exultant," (SF BAX S) and like much of the SF genre, it involves time travel and an on-going war.

"Polaris" (SF MCD J) by Jack McDevitt acts much like a mystery except for the fact that it takes place in outer space. It looks to be most interesting.

One of my favorite authors, Dana Stabenow, has several

new-ish Kate Shugak mysteries out. Kate is an Inuit Indian, living and working as a private investigator in Alaska. She is asked to take the case of Victoria Bannister who was convicted of setting a fire that killed one of her sons. Dying of cancer, Victoria refuses to cooperate with Kate. Check out "A Taint in the Blood" (M STA D).

Going in a different direction is "Prepared for Rage" (RN STAB D). Also by Stabenow, it "centers on the warm seas of the Florida coast near the Kennedy Space Center, where the latest space shuttle launch is to take place." Stabenow harnesses the strands of her story with consummate skill: the passion that propels a rogue terrorist on a crusade to strike a blow that will shatter American pride; the efforts of U.S. intelligence to thwart a bewildering array of foes; the rising careers of Capt. Cal T. Schuyler, the golden boy of the U.S. Coast Guard, and astronaut Kenai Munro, whose life ambition is realized when she's named to the shuttle crew." — Review from Publisher's Weekly.

The author of "Three Cups of Tea," Greg Mortenson, has written a sequel to his first book. In "Stones into Schools: Promoting Peace With Books, Not Bombs," (LP 371.823 MOR G) he recounts his relentless, ongoing efforts to establish schools for girls in Afghanistan; his extensive work in Azad Kashmir and Pakistan

after a massive earthquake hit the region in 2005; and the unique ways

Afghan warlords and surviving an eight-

touching on military matters, Islam and women — all woven together with the many rich personal stories of the people who have been involved in this remarkable two-decade humanitarian effort. This description is from the book flap, as I have not read the book yet. It sort of flew off the shelf before I could capture it.

Did you know that Robert B. Parker died? He is the author of all the Spencer books and the Jesse Stone series that stars Tom Selleck as the police chief of Paradise ME. Parker also authored some westerns. The mystery shelves have a good collection of his books; some of his latest one can be found on the new book shelf. "Professional," "Now and Then" and "Rough Weather" all star Spencer; "Stranger in Paradise" is a Jesse Stone book; and "Resolution" is one of his westerns. The publishing world will really miss him.

Howard County Library is open from 9 to 6, Monday through Friday and Saturday from 9 until 5. The Internet/Video room closes one-half hour before closing and on Saturdays it is closed from 12-1. The library is located at 500 S. Main St. Our phone number is 264-2260.

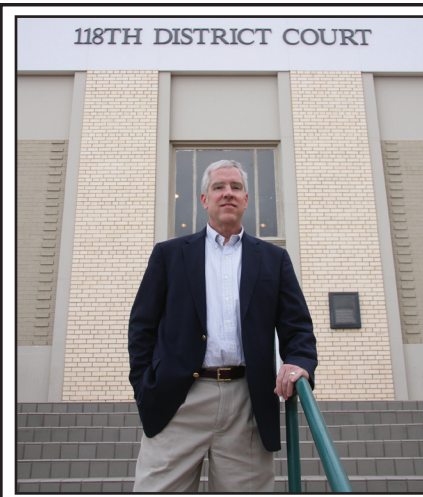
Hollis McCright is director of the Howard County Library.



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News in brief

White House, Palin trade jibes over human crib notes and teleprompters

WASHINGTON (AP) — The jokes about Barack Obama's close relationship with his teleprompter have been constant since he became president. Rush Limbaugh's poked fun at it on the radio. Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi bantered about it during an international summit. Obama himself skewered his affinity for the speaking crutch in an appearance before reporters.

But now, a year into Obama's administration, the subject has taken on more of an edge — and become a symbol of a larger debate over whether Obama has lost touch with the people.

Republican Sarah Palin mocked Obama over the weekend when she referred to the conservative Tea Party movement as being "much bigger than any charismatic guy with a teleprompter."

And heads turned when Jon Stewart, who hosts Comedy Central's "The Daily Show," recently displayed footage of Obama ensconced behind a podium, flanked by teleprompter screens during an appearance at a middle school.

Haitian vendor may have been trapped in quake rubble for 27 days

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — The tale seems dubious: that a rice vendor survived 27 days trapped under the rubble of a flea market following Haiti's devastating earthquake.

Skeptical health workers said no one could live that long without water and the last confirmed survivor found was a 16-year-old girl removed from rubble 15 days after the Jan. 12 quake. The only sources for the story were the two Haitian men who showed up at a clinic carrying the vendor, dehydrated and malnourished with rail-thin legs.

But then the patient became lucid enough to tell his tale Tuesday. And while his account has not been independently verified, doctors now say the 28-year-old man could have survived on water and

possibly some fruit beneath the rubble.

The man — identified as Evans Monsigrace — told doctors he had just finished selling rice for the day at a downtown Port-au-Prince flea market when the quake hit. He said he didn't suffer any major injuries and was trapped on his side in an area where food and drink vendors were selling their goods.

Honda adds 437,000 cars to existing global recall over faulty air bags

TOKYO (AP) — Honda Motor Co. is adding 437,000 vehicles to its 15-month-old global recall for faulty air bags in the latest quality problem to hit a Japanese automaker.

The company will replace the driver's side air bag inflator in the cars because they can deploy with too much pressure, causing the inflator to rupture and injure or kill the driver.

Japan's No. 2 automaker originally announced the recall to the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in November 2008 and the total of number vehicles recalled since then is approaching 1 million.

The latest expansion of the air bag recall includes 378,000 cars in the U.S., some 41,000 cars in Canada and 17,000 cars in Japan, Australia and elsewhere in Asia. The North American recall was announced Tuesday and followed Wednesday by the recall in Asia.

The recall now affects 952,118 vehicles, including certain 2001 and 2002 Accord sedans, Civic compacts, Odyssey minivans, CR-V small sport utility vehicles and some 2002 Acura TL sedans.

Secret documents on ex-Guantanamo detainee's treatment disclosed

LONDON (AP) — Britain's government on Wednesday disclosed once-secret information on the treatment of a former Guantanamo Bay detainee who says he was tortured in U.S. custody, losing

an extended court battle to keep the material classified.

Judges rejected the government's claim that revealing the information would damage U.S.-British intelligence cooperation.

The information disclosed consisted of a summary of U.S. intelligence information given to British spy agencies about former detainee Binyam Mohamed's treatment during interrogations by the Americans in May 2002.

The paragraphs read in court disclosed that he was subjected to "cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment" including sleep deprivation, shackling and threats resulting in mental stress and suffering.

Ethiopia-born Mohamed was arrested in Pakistan in 2002 and says he was tortured there and in Morocco before being flown to Guantanamo Bay. He was released without charge last year.

New figures show Americans continued to spend modestly in January

NEW YORK (AP) — Americans backed off from holiday spending in January, but retail sales rose for a third month in a row compared with a year earlier, largely because of gas price hikes, according to figures released Wednesday by a key data service.

Including goods from food to clothing to gasoline — but excluding cars — U.S. retail sales rose 3.6 percent from January 2009, according to MasterCard Advisor's SpendingPulse, which offer an estimate of spending in all forms including cash.

That increase followed a 4.8 percent gain in December and a 2.1 percent gain in November, according to SpendingPulse.

Excluding both gas and auto sales, retail sales rose 0.3 percent in January, 2.1 percent in December and 0.2 percent in November compared with a year earlier.

The year-over-year figures are not seasonally adjusted.

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Mercury joins the party in Aquarius. The sun, Venus and Neptune are already in this zany station, and when Mercury arrives, the volume level goes way up and so does the fun. If this were an actual party, this would be the moment the neighbors call the cops. Include everyone in your fun and you'll avoid attracting the wrong kind of attention.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The things you normally wouldn't have to put on your schedule, like talking to a friend or eating lunch, will now need to be carefully planned out, or else there just won't be time to do them.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your assumptions will be challenged, perhaps by a Scorpio. This is a happy occurrence. It's good to be reminded that even with all your experience, you can still be surprised by life.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Everyone around you will have a different opinion about the state of things. Listening to the discussion may not be very helpful to you, though, since what really matters most to your journey is how you see the world.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your mental discipline will be impressive. Your mind will filter out all that doesn't contribute to the bottom-line result you are looking for. Make the most of this rare gift.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You will take command of a squirrely situation. First you have to find a tasty nugget that will stop the "squirrel" in question dead in its tracks. Don't even try to handle the situation until you have the right bait.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Showing off is in bad taste. Although, being too modest could present problems, as well.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Practice putting across your ideas and expertise in a confident, informative, yet understated tone.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll endear others to you with your conversational etiquette. You're an excellent listener, and you rarely interrupt. It's not just because you were taught correctly, but also because you're genuinely interested in what others say.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll think of that distant person again. There was a time when this person seemed the lodestar of your life. But now the older and wiser you realizes that it's a mistake to make another human your guiding light.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Achievement is more important than success. You know what you've done. The pride that comes from that is far sweeter than the ringing of applause in your ears.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll be affected by changes in technology. You can't do your work in the same way you once did because you won't get the same results. You'll have fun making adjustments and getting up to speed.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You can't have a stellar approval rating every day. And if you did, you'd be a bore. This is an especially auspicious day to rock some boats. Make a game of it. Give yourself points for each person you shock.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). If the information seems to answer every question, there is probably something wrong with it. True knowledge doesn't close the mind to new questions and possibilities.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 10). Though many fortuitous events will fill your year, it is the beliefs and attitudes you maintain that will bring you happiness. The attention of someone you admire will motivate you.

Your positive outlook attracts a new position to you in March. Learn the skills to do the job well, and by April you'll be making more money. Cancer and Leo people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 19, 4, 33, 26 and 42.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS:

"I'm 40 years old, and I still can't seem to change my flaws. For instance, I have a big mouth. I tell stories I shouldn't tell, and I have a really hard time keeping a secret. Also, I eat too much and drink too much and don't exercise enough. I say the wrong thing at parties. There is a lot about my life that's going right, but honestly, I just can't stand my personality. I wish I could be beautiful, cool and funny and really connect with others everywhere I go. But instead I'm a dork, and now I'm an old dork. I feel really bad about myself. Can you help? — 40-year-old Leo

Because Leos are so into presentation, they sometimes mistake their public persona for their true self. But how you look and what you say at a party doesn't define you. Also, Leos are very in tune to what entertains others, so they

have a tendency to find what's exciting about a conversation and amplify that. Thus, they tell stories that sometimes have a touch of the inappropriate to them. So what? You get more attention and laughs, and you may notice, people keep inviting you back.

CELEBRITY PROFILES:

From Sharkboy to the world's most sought-after werewolf, Aquarian Taylor Lautner has stolen the hearts of many young female fans, including country/pop princess Taylor Swift. Lautner, an award-winning martial artist, has been employed as an actor since the age of 9. His Venus, Mars, Uranus and Capricorn are all stationed in the hardworking, ambitious sign of Capricorn.

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

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HOLIDAY MATHIS

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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

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

A Very Valuable Convention

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♦ Q 7 6 2
♥ 8 5 3
♦ K
♠ A Q J 10 5

WEST
♦ J 9 3
♥ K J 6 2
♦ A 7 4
♠ 8 7 3

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

SOUTH
♦ A K 10
♥ A 7 4
♦ Q 10 9 8
♠ 6 4 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1♦ Pass 2♣ Pass
2NT Pass 3NT

Opening lead — two of hearts.
A conscientious defender should try to decipher the meaning of every card his partner plays. This is especially true whenever partner has a choice of cards to play. In these cases, a good defender should ask himself why partner played the card he did play rather than another one he didn't play.

Consider this deal where West leads a heart to East's queen, which wins, and East continues with the ten, South playing the seven and West the six. East then leads another heart, on which South plays the ace

and West the jack.
Declarer tries a club finesse, losing to the king, and East has the chance to be a hero or a goat, depending on whether he returns a diamond or a spade. If he chooses the wrong suit, South makes the contract.

Suppose East returns a spade, eschewing a diamond return because South opened the bidding with a diamond. In that case, declarer eventually scores four spade tricks, four club tricks and a heart for nine tricks all told. But if East returns a diamond, South goes down one, losing three hearts, a diamond and a club.

East's problem is not entirely a matter of guesswork, however. He should go back to the play at trick three when West, known to hold the K-J of hearts, elected to play the jack rather than the king on South's ace.

The jack play is significant to players familiar with the suit-preference signal. Since the K-J are equal in value at this point, West can indicate a preference for the lower-ranking suit (as between spades and diamonds) by playing the lower-ranking card, the jack.

If West had held the ace of spades instead of the ace of diamonds, he would have indicated his interest in the higher-ranking suit, spades, by playing the king instead of the jack at trick three.

Tomorrow: Camouflage.
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Blizzards his mid-Atlantic to New York

WASHINGTON (AP) — Snow, wind and slush hounded eastern commuters early Wednesday as blizzard warnings from Baltimore to New York City heralded the second major snowstorm in less than a week for the region.

More than 10 inches of new snow fell before dawn in parts of Maryland. Plows and salt spreaders fought heavy snow in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, where the flakes briefly turned to rain to make a slushy mix.

The manager of a Staten Island 7-Eleven, Yagnesh Patel, had a slippery drive to work ahead of the plows. "It's going to be a tough day ahead," Patel said.

The wind started blowing in gusts from 25 to 45 mph in and around snowbound Washington, whipping fresh powder and making driving treacherous as visibility was only about a block in many places.

Jeff Salgado, 24, a doorman at the Hampton Inn & Suites in downtown Baltimore, said guests had resorted to walking.

"All of them. I haven't seen a cab all day," Salgado said as he shoveled the latest layer of snow from in front of the hotel.

Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter urged residents to stay home if possible.

"It's going to be pretty horrendous out there," he said. "The roads are pretty rough right now, although our city forces are out."

Plows have been rolling around the clock for days in the nation's capital, Philadelphia and Baltimore after nearly 3 feet of snow fell in some areas — and they won't be stopping anytime soon.

Snow was falling from northern Virginia to Connecticut by early Wednesday after crawling out of the Midwest,

where the storm canceled hundreds of flights and was blamed for three traffic deaths in Michigan.

The National Weather Service issued blizzard warnings Wednesday that extended into New York City, where 10 to 16 inches could fall. Airlines canceled hundreds of flights at airports on the Eastern seaboard and schools in New York City were closed.

Along the East Coast, thousands of workers were scrambling to plow and salt roads. Maryland officials said salt supplies used by road crews were dwindling in some parts of the state.

A spokesman for Pennsylvania's Department of Transportation said drivers' shifts were running as long as 16 hours.

"It can be exhausting, mentally and physically," said Jerry Graham, a state plow truck driver in Pennsylvania's

Lehigh County.

Areas that dodged last week's storm won't be as lucky this time around. Airports in the New York City area joined their counterparts farther south in canceling many flights, while the city's 1.1 million school children had a rare snow day Wednesday, only the third in six years. As much as a foot was expected there.

A forecast of at least that much new snow wasn't welcome in Washington and Philadelphia, which were hit hard by a blizzard over the weekend. Each needs about 9 more inches to give the cities their snowiest winters since 1884, the first year records were kept.

"It's hard to find anything in the history books of these types of storms back-to-back," said National Weather Service meteorologist Stephen Konarik.

Michael Giambattista, 56, a

truck driver from Elizabeth, Pa., had been without power since Friday and was staying at a Red Cross shelter near his home with his girlfriend and 13-year-old son.

"I've never been without power like this," said Giambattista, who was trying to help keep spirits up among the more than 50 people at the shelter. "Mother Nature, you can't battle her. She's going to win."

The storms have kept some workers and students home for the better part of a week. About 230,000 federal workers in Washington have been off since Friday afternoon, when the first storm began. The U.S. House announced it was scrapping the rest of its workweek.

Several hearings and meetings in Congress and federal agencies were postponed, including one planned to address Toyota's massive recalls.



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- Does the Bible contain errors?
- Can a Christian be an evolutionist?
- Can we know God exists?
- Why does God allow bad things to happen?

We invite you to join us as we investigate the evidence. This lecture is FREE and open to all ages.

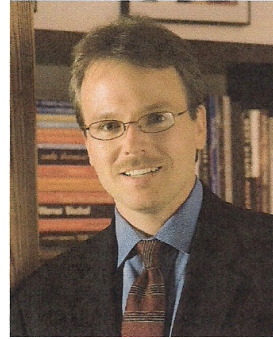
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Fri., Feb. 12th	7:00pm	Can We Prove God Exists?
Sat. Feb. 13th	6:30pm	Man: Product of Intelligence or Cosmic Accident?
	7:30pm	Jesus on Trial in 2010
Sun. Feb. 15th	9:00am	Is the Bible full of Errors?
	10:00am	What about Evil, Pain, and Suffering

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Brad Harrub, Ph.D.



Brad Harrub currently serves as the Director of Focus Press, and co-editor of *Think* magazine. He earned a doctorate in Anatomy and Neurobiology. He is the coauthor of the book, *Diamonds in the Rough, The Truth About Human Origins, Matters of Life and Death, & Investigating Christian Evidences*. He was an invited speaker to the International conference on Creationism, he has appeared on the television show "Origins."

For more information please call (432) 267-2132

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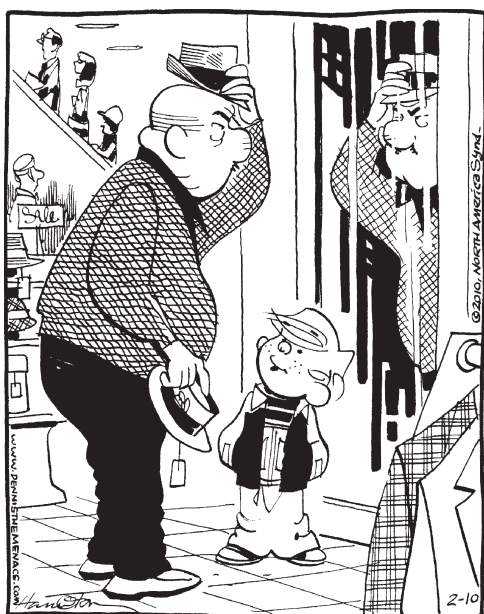
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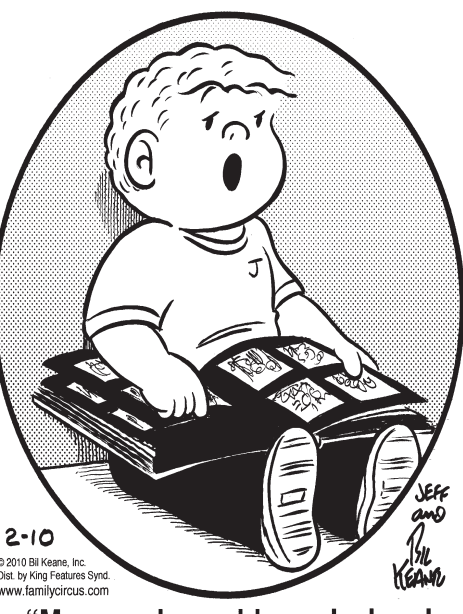
	WFAA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5:PM :30	News ABC	News ABC	Locura	Lopez	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News NBC	Friends	Cortes	BBC	Cash Cab	light, Viggo Mortensen	Die	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas	Around	SportsCenter
6:PM :30	News Ent	Jeopardy! Wheel	Nombre-Amor	Two Men	News Ent	12 Corazonas	Millionaire	Seinfeld	Mark	PBS News-Hour	Man vs. Wild	Die	Bones		Deck	Interrupt	College Basketball	College Basketball
7:PM :30	Charlie B. Middle	Charlie B. Middle	Hasta que el Dinero	Human Target	Chris Gary	Más Sabe el Diabolo	Mercy	Payne	Upd	Forever Wild	Man vs. Wild	Movie: The Fugitive, Sela Ward	Die	Bones	Movie: The Great Debaters, Nate Parker	Movie: Ella Enchanted, Cary Elwes		
8:PM :30	Family Cougar	Family Cougar	Sortilegio (SS)	American Idol	Criminal Minds	Perro Amor	Law & Order: SVU	Browns	Light of the Southwest	The National Parks: America's Best Idea	Man vs. Wild	Die	Bones		Phineas	College Basketball: Baylor at Nebraska.	College Basketball	
9:PM :30	(:01) Ugly Betty	(:01) Ugly Betty	Don Francisco	Simpsons Friends	CSI: NY	Sin Senos	Law & Order: SVU	Browns		Charlie Rose	Man vs. Wild	Die	CSI: NY	Game	Montana	Wizards Deck	College Basketball: Nevada at Idaho.	SportsCenter
10:PM :30	News Nightline	News Nightline	Impacto Notici.	Raymond TMZ	News Letterman	Noticias Decisiones	News Tonight Show	Lopez	Upd	Dr. Young	Man vs. Wild	Die	CSI: NY	The Mo'Nique	Wizards Deck	College Basketball: Nevada at Idaho.	SportsCenter	
11:PM :30	Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live	Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live	Gancho	Law & Order: SVU	Late Late	Decisiones	Late Night	Name	Israel	T. Smiley	Man vs. Wild	Die	CSI: NY	Wendy Williams	Suite Life	NFL Live	Fastbreak	
12:AM :30	News	News	Torrente, un Torbel	Paid	Insider	Pagado	News	Sex & Sanchez	Sex & Sanchez	Overhaul	Man vs. Wild	Die	CSI: Crime Scene	Leverage	Movie: The Great Debaters, Nate Parker	Cory	Final	SportsCenter
1:AM :30	News	News	Mujer... Cero	Paid	Insider	Pagado	News	Sex & Sanchez	Sex & Sanchez	Overhaul	Man vs. Wild	Die	CSI: Crime Scene	Leverage	Movie: The Great Debaters, Nate Parker	Replace	Final	SportsCenter

DENNIS THE MENACE



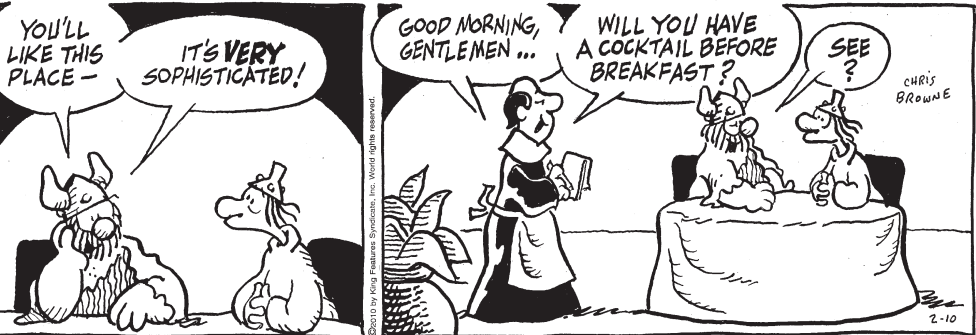
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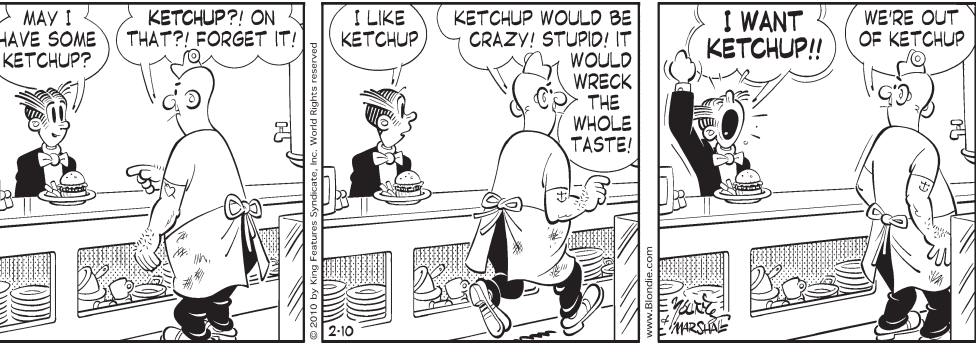


"Mommy, how old was I when I decided to be borned?"

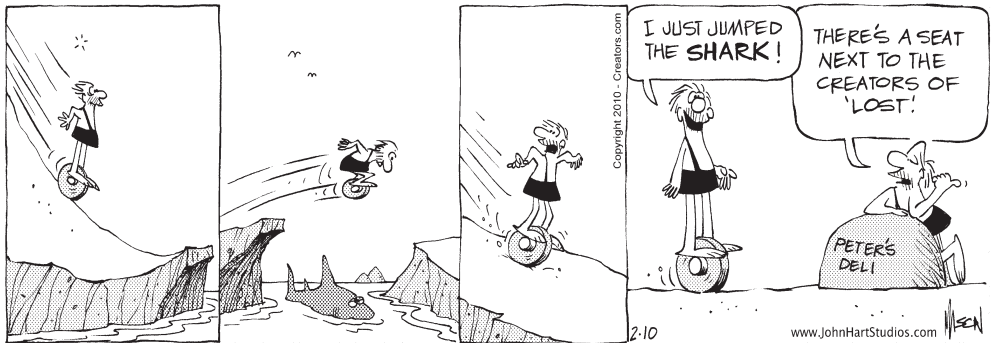
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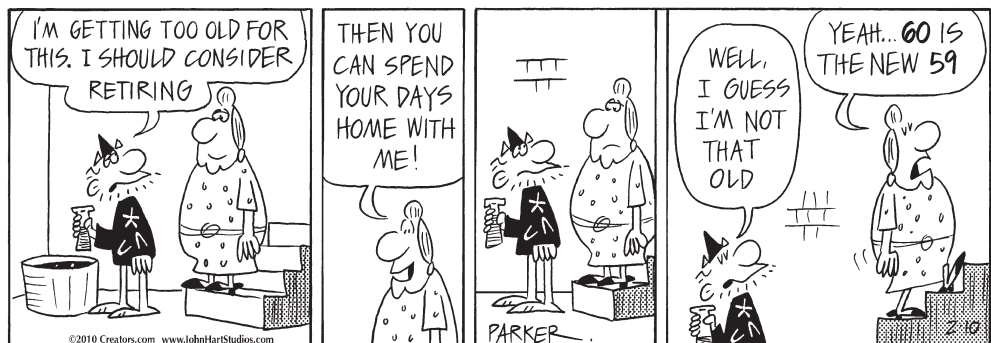
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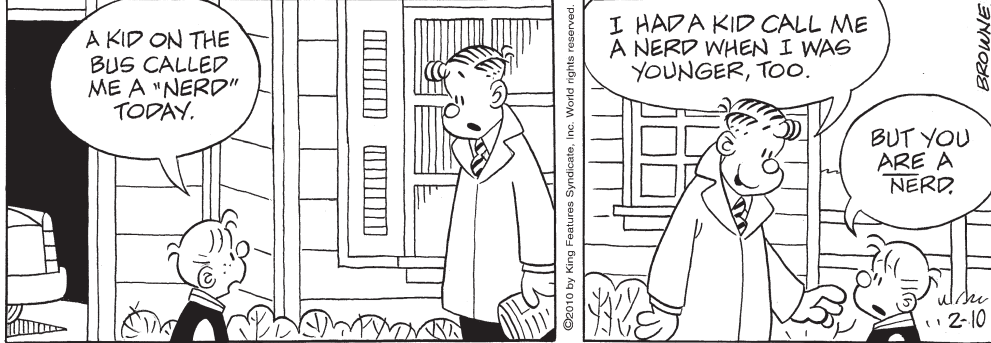
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This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Feb. 10, the 41st day of 2010. There are 324 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 10, 1967, the 25th Amendment to the Constitution, dealing with presidential disability and succession, was ratified as Minnesota and Nevada adopted it.

In 1763, Britain, Spain and France signed the Treaty of Paris, ending the Seven Years' War.

In 1840, Britain's Queen Victoria married Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha.

In 1841, Upper Canada and Lower Canada were proclaimed united under an Act of Union passed by the British Parliament.

In 1942, the former French liner Normandie capsized in New York Harbor a day after it caught fire while being refitted for the U.S. Navy.

In 1949, Arthur Miller's play

"Death of a Salesman" opened at Broadway's Morosco Theater with Lee J. Cobb as Willy Loman.

In 1959, a major tornado tore through the St. Louis, Mo., area, killing 21 people and causing heavy damage.

In 1962, the Soviet Union exchanged captured American U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers for Rudolf Abel, a Soviet spy held by the United States.

In 1968, U.S. figure skater Peggy Fleming won America's only gold medal of the Winter Olympic Games in Grenoble, France.

In 1981, eight people were killed when a fire set by a bus-boy broke out at the Las Vegas Hilton hotel-casino.

In 1989, Ron Brown was elected chairman of the Democratic National Committee, becoming the first black to head a major U.S. political party.

Today's Birthdays: Opera singer Leontyne Price is 83. Actor Robert Wagner is 80. Rock musician Don Wilson (The Ventures) is 77. Singer Roberta Flack is 73. Singer Jimmy Merchant (Frankie Lymon and the Teenagers) is 70. Rock musician Bob Spalding (The Ventures) is 63. Olympic

gold-medal swimmer Mark Spitz is 60. Walt Disney Co. president and chief executive Robert Iger is 59. World Golf Hall of Famer Greg Norman is 55. Country singer Lionel Cartwright is 50. Movie director Alexander Payne ("Sideways") is 49. ABC News correspondent George Stephanopoulos is 49. Political commentator Glenn Beck is 46. Actress Laura Dern is 43. Country singer Duke Mowrey is 38. Actress Elizabeth Banks is 36. Pop singer Rosanna Tavarez (Eden's Crush) is 33. Country musician Jeremy Baxter (Carolina Rain) is 30. Rock singer Eric Dill is 28. Rock musician Ben Romans (The Click Five) is 28.

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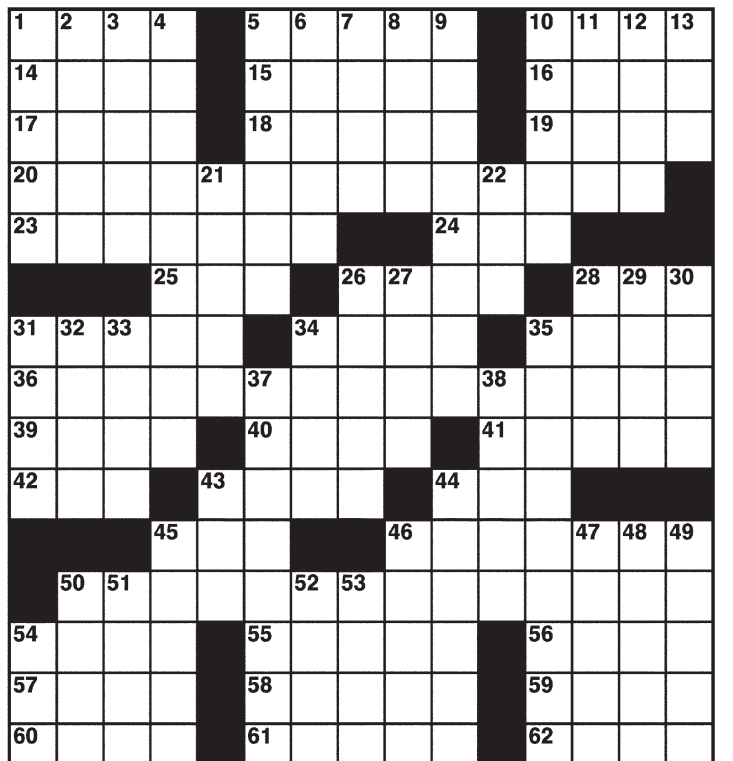
Answer to previous puzzle

POSH	COED	ATLAS
AREA	UNDO	VIOLA
TIER	REIN	ELBOW
HOT	POTATO	NESTS
SNOOPS	TRAG	
	RYES	TECHIE
SALSA	COAT	RISK
USE	THE	OLD
DIVA	ALVA	TWEED
SAY	YES	EMIT
	NET	REDTAG
LATTE	HONOR	ROLL
ANGER	UPON	ARIA
STING	MATE	MOBS
HEFTY	BLIED	ASIS

Newsday Crossword

BEATLES NUMBERS by Adam Cohen Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN | DOWN | DOWN |
| 1 Cookbook abbr. | 1 "Take that!" | 10 Well-known saying | 37 Orchestra leaders |
| 5 City where van Gogh painted | 2 Roll with a hole | 11 "You said it!" | 38 1945 summit conference site |
| 10 Labyrinth | 3 Fend (off) | 12 Region | 43 Relative of -oid |
| 14 "What ___ God wrought?" | 4 Cambodian capital | 13 Chapter of history | 44 Learjet alternative |
| 15 Contaminate | 5 Harmonize | 17 17th-century pope | 45 Where Alexandria is |
| 16 Love: Sp. | 6 Singer John or Bonnie | 22 Roll-call rejection | 46 Traffic cone |
| 17 Former Big Apple archbishop | 7 "Hi-___Hi-Lo" ('50s tune) | 26 <i>All in the Family</i> wife | 47 Uncanny |
| 18 Oscar-winning Swinton | 8 Interior: Prefix | 27 Alluring | 48 Three-time French Open winner |
| 19 Warrior princess of TV | 9 Remain firm | 28 42 Across, et al. | 49 Form of target practice |
| 20 Beatles tune of '68 | | 29 Aquamarine, for example | 50 The Life of Riley |
| 23 Periodic-table component | | 30 Subjective atmosphere | 51 Do a laundry chore |
| 24 TVA project | | 31 Shepherds' charges | 52 "Where ___ go wrong?" |
| 25 "The Raven" poet | | 32 Thick carpet | 53 Nautical direction |
| 26 Catch sight of | | 33 Quakers or Shakers | 54 Top athlete in many a sport: Abbr. |
| 28 Grp. for Hawks and Raptors | | | |
| 31 Suburban London county | | | |
| 34 Noggin nugget | | | |
| 35 Rights org. | | | |
| 36 Beatles tune of '67 | | | |
| 39 Individually | | | |
| 40 35 Across employee: Abbr. | | | |
| 41 Not in port | | | |
| 42 Army drill instructor: Abbr. | | | |
| 43 The "I" in I.M. Pei | | | |
| 44 The Indians, on baseball scoreboards | | | |
| 45 Double-curve letter | | | |
| 46 Aquatic birds | | | |
| 50 Beatles tune of '64 | | | |
| 54 Gardener of rhyme | | | |
| 55 Small brooks | | | |
| 56 "Rule, Britannia" composer | | | |



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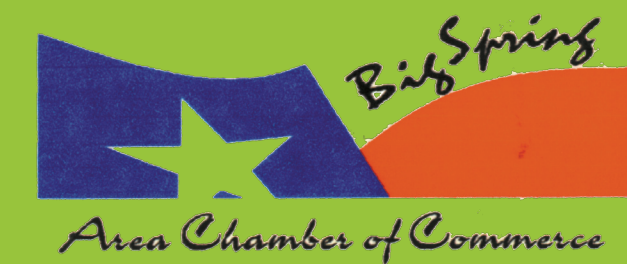
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February 2010

Living

The Crossroads Magazine

A woman's touch...
 How SMMC's Healthy Woman Program is touching lives in the Crossroads area

Chasing down a dream
 From India to Big Spring, how one intern is working his way through SWCID and more

Keep 'em swinging
 How former Steers coach Delnor Poss is 'growing' champion golfers at Midland College

It's all in the hips
 Have a resolution to lose weight or get fit? Give bellydancing a whirl.

Showcase of Homes Inside REALTORS

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Kurt Coor 2010-2012
Kathy Sheppard 2010-2012

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Vicki Stewart Front Desk

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Debbie Wegman
Mark Barr



Gloria McDonald
Dan Marsh
Steven Saldivar



Randy Johnson
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HOW TO CONTACT US

Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce
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Dimple the Clown fits a youngster for a balloon hat at the 27th Annual Howard County Health Fair at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.



From left, Kathy Sheppard, Sherry Hodnett and Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Debbye ValVerde chat during a Business Before Hours event at Uptown Spa and Salon.



Tex Edwards, owner and operator of Flying E Spraying, accepts the Ag Business of the Year Award from Nate Avey, representative of last year's winner, Porter Henderson Implement, during the annual Ag Appreciation Luncheon, hosted by the Chamber.

Advertisement for Choate Well Service, Inc. including logo, slogan, and contact information.

Advertisement for Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce featuring the City of Big Spring logo and address.

Advertisement for Big Spring Farm Supply, including logo, owner names, and contact details.

Advertisement for Elrod's Furniture Store, featuring the Broyhill logo, store hours, and contact information.



Chamber is all about improving the quality of life and business

Having been in operation since 1919, the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce's mission statement is "to advance the civic, cultural and social betterment and interest of the people of Howard County."

Information about the city, various civic groups and businesses can be obtained at the office, located at 215 W. Third.

The Chamber currently boasts a membership of approximately 375 local businesses and groups, and with the help of its board of directors and many different committees, strives to improve the quality of life and business climate in the Big Spring area.

The staff consists of Debbye

Jan Hansen received Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce's 2008 Woman of the Year Award during last year's banquet while Carl Bradley accepted the 2008 Man of the Year Award. Below, a traditional ribbon cutting at La Quinta.

ValVerde, executive director, Nancy Davenport, executive assistant and receptionist Vicki Stewart.

The Chamber of Commerce sponsors many different activities and events throughout the year, including the Business After Hours program, designed to bring local merchants together for socializing and networking at different locations.

Annually, the Chamber hosts a banquet designed to recognize its members for their hard work throughout the year, and presentation of the Man and Woman of the Year awards.

The Chamber also sponsors such events as the annual Pops In The Park, Health Fair and the West Texas Ag Expo and Luncheon.

Leadership Big Spring, Junior Leadership and Senior Leadership are also sponsored and hosted through the Chamber of Commerce.

For information on any of the Chamber's activities or services, call 263-7641.



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Understanding how your chamber works

What is a chamber of commerce?

Your chamber of commerce is a voluntary organization of citizens who are investing their time and money in a community development program — working together to improve the economic, civic, and cultural well-being of the area.

There are two primary functions of a chamber of commerce: 1) it acts as a spokesman for the business and professional community and translates into action the group thinking of its members; and 2) it renders specific services of a type that can be most effectively rendered by a community organization both to its members and to the area as a whole.

How does it function?

Your chamber functions through the working committees of the organization. Money, planning, inspiration and guidance are useless unless the members work vigorously on the committee of their choice.

The goal of the program of work is always to create more dollars for more people and to improve the economic welfare of the community.

Every member has a voice in determining the policies and projects and every member is needed to work on active committees to get the job done.

Who is the chamber?

Members — Businesses, organizations, professionals and individuals working together for the betterment of the community.

Board of directors — Elected by the membership, these

individuals are charged with determining the policies which direct the affairs of the chamber. Directors do not implement policy; they employ an administrator to carry out board decisions.

Officers — The executive committee ordinarily includes the president of the board, president elect, one or more vice presidents, treasurer and past president. The officers provide direction and leadership to the board.

Staff — The executive vice president is hired by the board to be responsible for the daily management of the chamber and for employing and managing the staff.

Committees — The organization's objectives are best achieved by small groups of the membership engaged in common effort.

What are the benefits?

— Refers businesses to



visitors and callers.

— Helps promote a business of the chamber.

— Maintains awareness of key issues at the local, state, and federal level by coordinating with the Texas Chamber and U.S. Chamber.

— Provides businesses with education through seminars and increases

awareness of the importance of buying locally.

— Hosts quarterly luncheons, Ag Expo and Health Fair to provide programs, business information, and networking.

— Offers support and awareness of all areas of art.

— Works to increase growth of tourism in How-

ard County and support local attractions and events.

— Advertises businesses in the membership directory.

— Works with city, county, Moore Development, and other entities for the betterment of the community.

— Publishes a monthly newsletter to keep the community aware of happenings.

— Offers promotion and links to business through a Web site.

Membership investment

Membership investment for small businesses is \$250 per year with an additional \$30 processing fee the first year.

For more information

The chamber office is located at 215 W. Third. Or, contact Debbye ValVerde at (432) 263-7641 or write P.O.

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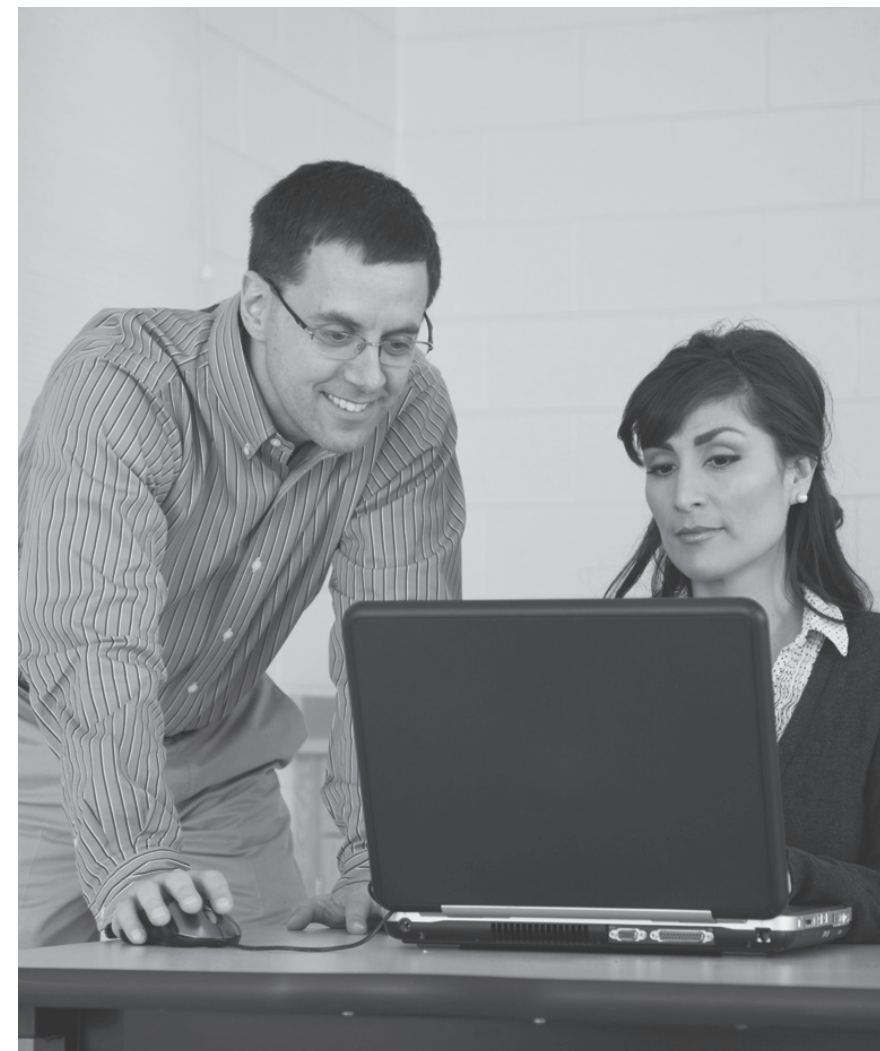
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The undersigned attorneys endorse **TIM YEATS** to be our next District Judge. It is imperative that we have a qualified, hardworking, and experienced trial lawyer to assume the role as District Judge. Not only has **TIM YEATS** been actively involved in many civic organizations, he has also been the lead trial attorney in excess of 100 jury trials. He has full knowledge of all aspects of the law, including civil, criminal and family law.

TIM is also a certified Mediator, and has mediated civil as well as family law disputes. As a Mediator he has assisted parties in reaching an amicable settlement which is precisely a skill a District Judge must possess. In summary, **TIM** has the experience, knowledge and temperament necessary for the job. On behalf of all of us we request that you vote for **TIM YEATS** in the Republican Primary regardless of party affiliation.

*The winner of the Republican Primary will be your next **District Judge!!***

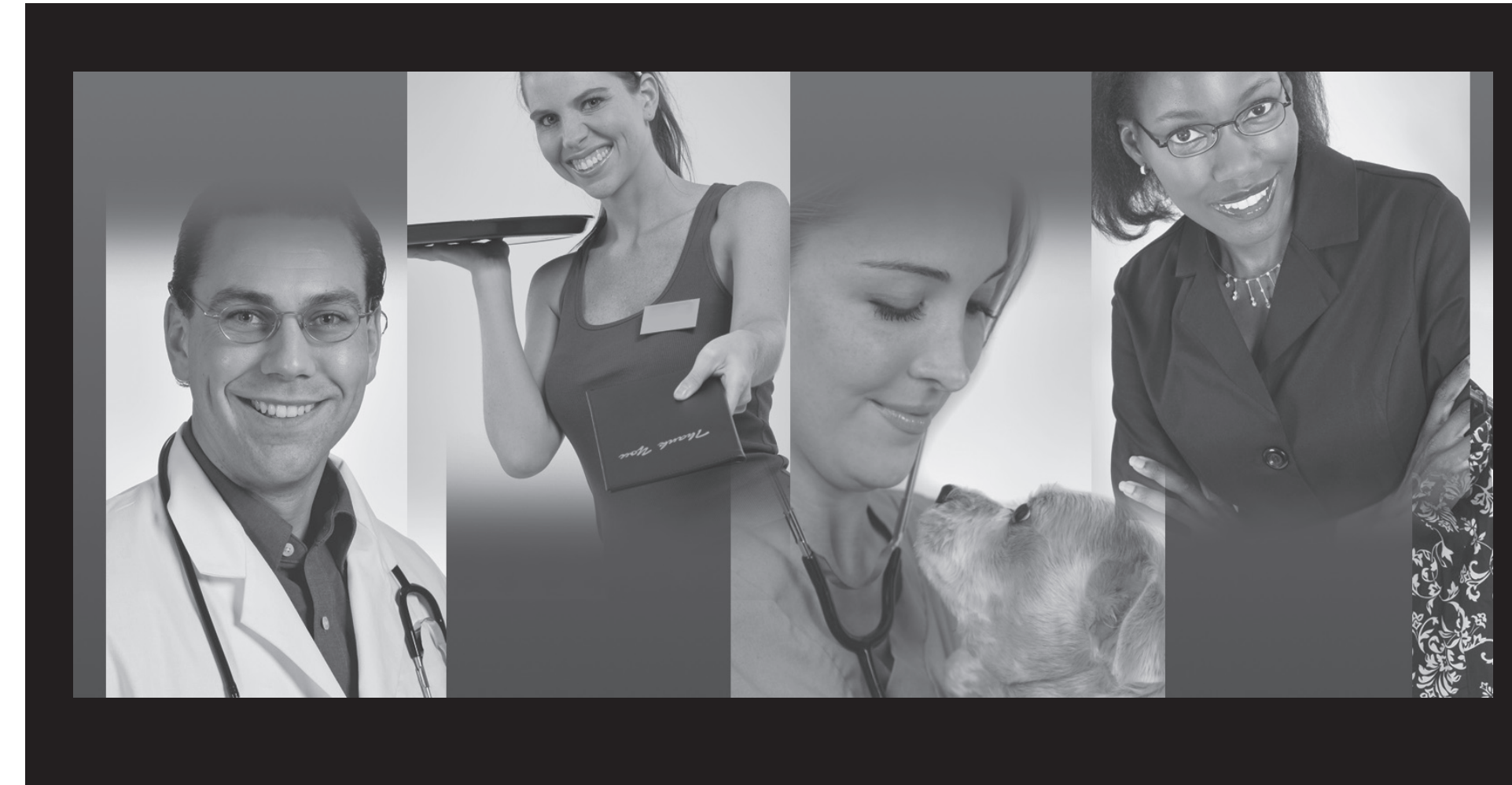


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