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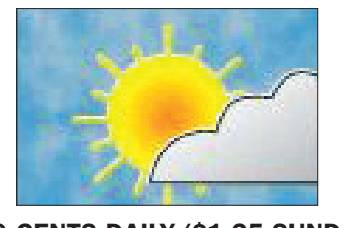
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H BIG SPRING HERALD

THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 18, 2010



VOLUME 105, NUMBER 63 COPYRIGHT 2009 50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Reliever route moving along

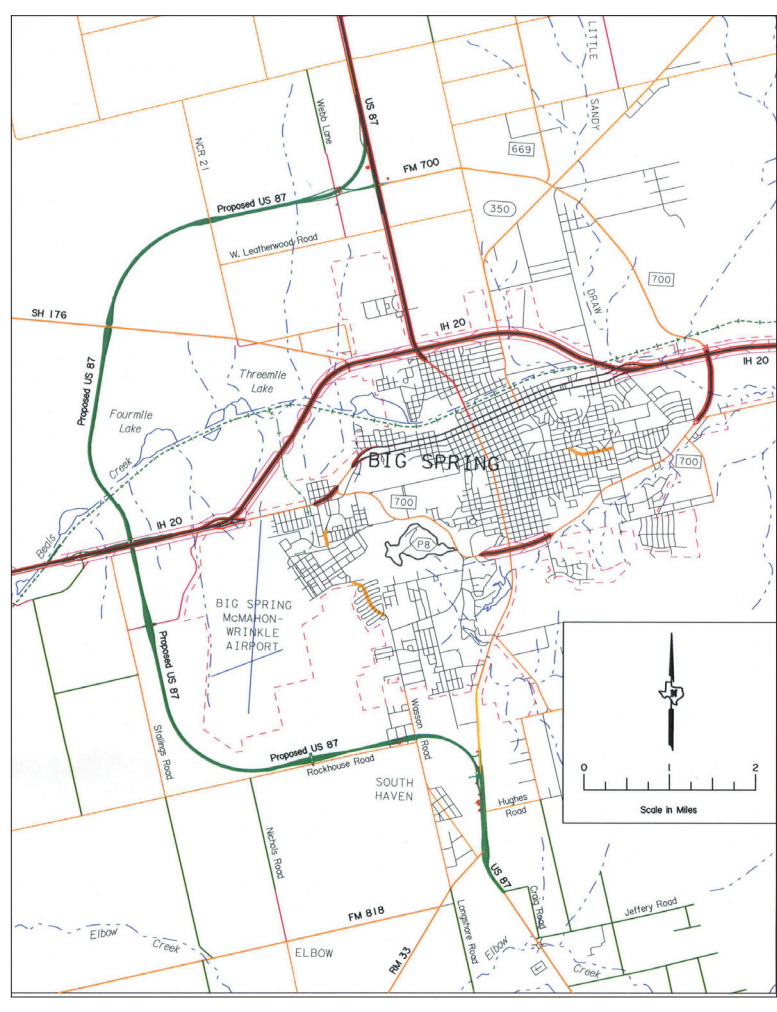
By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

State and federal transportation officials are mulling over plans to construct a reliever route on Highway 87 that would divert heavy truck traffic from downtown Big Spring.

Roy Dill, area engineer for the local Texas Department of Transportation office, said consultants are making final revisions to the plan calling for a 12.2-mile route to gain approval from state and federal agencies.

If approved, it would be at least three years before construction begins and another two years after that before the project is completed, Dill estimated.

"It all depends on funding," Dill said. "We're expecting it to take two years from the time plans are finally approved ... for us to complete right of way purchases," Dill said. "I would say it would be about three years before we



begin actual construction." Plans call for the four-lane reliever route to begin at FM 700 north of Big Spring, extend southwest to cross Interstate 20 between Stallings

Pneumonia flare investigated at FCI Big Spring

Officials cite 35-40 cases since November, no related deaths

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Officials at the Big Spring Federal Correctional Institution say representatives from the Centers for Disease Control and Texas Department of State Health Services are at the facility helping to track down the cause of a recent outbreak of pneumonia.

According to information released by Big Spring FCI, health officials arrived at the prison Tuesday and are working with the Bureau of Prisons staff to collect data on the outbreak, which has affected between 35 and 40 of the facility's 1,707 inmates. "These agencies are) working with the BOP staff to collect data regarding the recent cases of pneumonia among the inmate population and to assist us in identifying measures to possibly prevent future cases of pneu-

monia," reads a press release issued by Big Spring FCI.

"Since November the institution has identified approximately 35-40 cases of probable pneumonia — from an inmate population of 1,707. Those diagnosed with pneumonia were housed apart from the general population, responded well to antibiotics, and all have either recovered or are in the process of recovering."

Officials with the local prison said inmates are being educated on necessary precautionary measures to prevent the spread of germs — for example, hand washing.

According to the most recent update from the facility, the institution remains under normal operation at this time, with only inmate transfers to other prisons suspended.

See **FCI**, Page 3

Artificial turf coming to Forsan fields

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

FORSAN — After spending millions of dollars the past several years to improve academic facilities, Forsan school trustees are now going to give athletic fields an upgrade.

Forsan Independent School District trustees gave preliminary approval

See **FISD**, Page 3



Four-year-old Jordan Smith climbs a rope ladder at Kids' Zone Wednesday afternoon. High temperatures in the upper 60s are forecast through the weekend.

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Inside The Big Spring Mall 267-6335

Obituaries

Peggy Jean Thomas McDuff

Peggy Jean Thomas McDuff, a long time resident of Fort Worth, died Feb. 10, 2010, in Kingwood after a long illness.

She was born in 1923 to Clyde E. and Reba Thomas in Big Spring. Peggy was one of nine children. After Pearl Harbor, she left North Texas State University to join the war efforts as a nurse. She attended John Sealy School of Nursing at UT Medical Branch in Galveston through the end of the war and graduated in 1945 as a registered nurse. She moved to Austin where she met and married John R. McDuff. They lived in Fort Worth from 1947 to 2007. She was

a practicing RN until she started her family. After her last child was in high school, she taught licensed vocational nursing for 16 years. During her 60 active years in Fort Worth, she was a member of the Fort Worth Woman's Club, Rejabian Book Club and taught English as a Second Language at the library.

She and her husband, John were early members of the Ridglea United Methodist Church where Peggy was president of the Women's Society of Christian Service and later they were active in the Twosome Class of First United Methodist Church of Fort Worth and served on the Board.

Peggy organized a Woman's Investment Club and served as president. She and John organized a couple's dance club and bridge club. Peggy was a member of the For Worth Republican Woman and served as president. She served two years as Republican Precinct Chairman and Peggy and her husband were Fort Worth/Tarrant County Chairmen for John Cornyn in his first bid for statewide office. She was named one of the Women of the Year by the Fort Worth Commission on the Status of Women.

Peggy loved to read, dance, sail and travel. Among the many places she visited, her favorites included Australia, Egypt, India and Mexico. After they took early retirement and moved aboard their 35-foot sailboat, Blythe Spirit, they cruised for a year and a half in the Gulf of Mexico, Bahamas Islands and the Chesapeake Bay.

Visitation for Peggy was held at Neal Funeral Home on Monday, Feb. 15, 2010, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. with services following at 12 p.m. Internment followed in the Cleveland Memorial Cemetery in Cleveland, Texas. with Chaplain Bob Dunegan Officiating.

To sign the family guest book or to leave tributes, please go to www.nealfh.com. All services were handled under the trusted care of Neal Funeral Home.

Paid obituary

Jon Ronald Hong

Jon Ronald Hong, 59, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2010, at his residence. No services are planned at this time.

Jon was born June 17, 1950, in Fargo, N.D., and married Brenda Fairfax. They soon moved to Big Spring. She preceded him in death May 18, 1991.

Jon worked as a supply clerk at the VA Hospital. Survivors include two sisters, Cindy Clow and husband Allen of Lancaster, Minn., and Barbara Richardson and husband Mont of Woodland Hills, Calif.

In addition to his wife, Jon was preceded in death his parents, Percy Ronald and Mildred Miller Hong; and one sister, Janet.

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



Police blotter

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

- JACQUES FOSTON, 37, of 4201 W. Highway 80 Apt. 4, was arrested Wednesday on charges of evading arrest or detention with a vehicle and driving while license invalid.
- MIGUEL REYES, 31, of 102 W. 13th St., was arrested Wednesday on a local warrant.
- SAMUEL PITTMAN, 26, of 2535 Gunter, was arrested Wednesday on two local warrants.
- EVADING ARREST OR DETENTION WITH A VEHICLE was reported in the 200 block of FM 700.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 200 block of FM 700.

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 50 inmates at the time of this report.

- DANIEL JEROME LANGSTON, 53, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of theft by check.
- JACQUES LARON FOSTON, 37, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of evading arrest or detention with a vehicle and driving while license invalid.
- SAMUEL DAVID PITTMAN, 26, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of failure to obtain Texas driver's license within 20 days and violation of a promise to appear.
- RICHARD DELOSRIOS, 49, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of FM 700. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 100 block of Courtney Place. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 2400 block of Driver Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 3200 block of Drexel. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported near the intersection of Third Street and Price. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of Simler. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 900 block of S. Nolan. One person was transported to SMMC.
- GRASS FIRE was reported in the 1500 block of Wood.

Take Note

• Coahoma Lions Club is sponsoring a pancake supper from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. this evening at the Coahoma Elementary School cafeteria. Meals are \$5 each. Youngsters 6 and under eat free. Proceeds will benefit Lions projects such as eye exams and glasses, Howard College scholarship to a CHS senior, Texas Lions Camp and other worthy endeavors.

• American Legion Post 506 will hold a fish fry from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the post, 3203 W. Highway 80. Delivery will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. by calling 263-2084. Carryouts are also available. Plates are \$10 each.

• The Junior Class of 2011 will be fund-raising at Pizza Inn on Feb. 22. Please come out and support the junior class. Donations are accepted. All proceeds go toward Big Spring Junior/Senior Prom. Prom is April 24 at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Also the junior class will meet this Sunday at the Big Spring High cafeteria to talk about Prom. Students and parents please make plans to attend the meeting.

Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Fri 2/19	Sat 2/20	Sun 2/21
67/39	68/44	66/34
Some clouds in the morning will give way to mainly sunny skies for the afternoon. High 67F.	Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the mid 40s.	Morning clouds followed by afternoon sun. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the mid 30s.
Sunrise: 7:24 AM	Sunrise: 7:23 AM	Sunrise: 7:22 AM
Sunset: 6:36 PM	Sunset: 6:36 PM	Sunset: 6:37 PM

Texas At A Glance



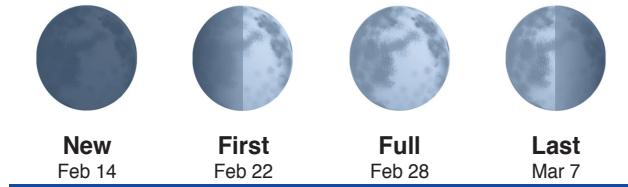
Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	65	41	pt sunny	Kingsville	66	55	rain
Amarillo	46	29	pt sunny	Livingston	62	46	cloudy
Austin	59	50	cloudy	Longview	60	49	cloudy
Beaumont	63	48	cloudy	Lubbock	58	33	sunny
Brownsville	65	57	rain	Lufkin	64	48	cloudy
Brownwood	65	46	pt sunny	Midland	72	43	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	62	55	rain	Raymondville	66	54	rain
Corsicana	57	48	cloudy	Rosenberg	60	50	cloudy
Dallas	58	48	cloudy	San Antonio	64	53	cloudy
Del Rio	67	51	pt sunny	San Marcos	61	50	cloudy
El Paso	68	42	mst sunny	Sulphur Springs	57	50	cloudy
Fort Stockton	73	44	sunny	Sweetwater	66	40	pt sunny
Gainesville	52	42	cloudy	Tyler	59	48	cloudy
Greenville	55	45	cloudy	Weatherford	56	43	cloudy
Houston	60	50	cloudy	Wichita Falls	53	36	pt sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	54	31	mst sunny	Minneapolis	27	11	pt sunny
Boston	41	27	pt sunny	New York	41	30	pt sunny
Chicago	35	23	mst sunny	Phoenix	72	49	pt sunny
Dallas	58	48	cloudy	San Francisco	57	48	rain
Denver	38	25	flurries	Seattle	58	37	sunny
Houston	60	50	cloudy	St. Louis	38	32	sn shower
Los Angeles	62	48	pt sunny	Washington, DC	44	28	sunny
Miami	66	53	cloudy				

Moon Phases



UV Index

Fri 2/19	Sat 2/20	Sun 2/21
6	6	6
High	High	High

The UV Index is measured on a 0 - 11 number scale, 0 is lowest and 11 is highest, with a higher UV Index showing the need for greater skin protection.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 10-11-25-31-39-54.
Number matching six of six: 0.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 4-9-11-15-23.
Number matching five of five: 1. Prize: \$21,803.
Winning ticket purchased in: Katy.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 5-4-2-4. Sum It Up: 15.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 4-3-8. Sum It Up: 15.

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Symphony Association, Inc.
Dr. Keith Grammann, Music Director & Conductor

Big Spring Symphony In Concert

February 20, 2010 8:00 p.m.
Big Spring High School Auditorium

Symphony in Motion

Third in the 2009-2010 Concert Season
"Moving On" (Or is that Moving Around?)
BEETHOVEN'S 'FIFTH SYMPHONY'
WAGNER'S 'RIDE OF THE VALKYRIES'
DVORAK'S 'CARNIVAL OVERTURE'

Guest Artist
Sarah Wilson, Cello
Tchaikovsky: "Variations on a Rocco Theme"

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

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

BIG SPRING HERALD

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas.

USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6811

BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: \$8.85 monthly; \$95.58 yearly (includes 10% discount). MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$14.58 monthly Howard; \$18.33 elsewhere.

On the ballot

Early voting in this year's political party primaries continues from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. through Feb. 26. Polls are set up at the Howard County Elections Administrator's office, located on the third floor of the county courthouse. Call 264-2273 for more information. Election day is March 2.

Howard County Commissioners Court
 Precinct 2
 Democrat: Richard Belew, Jim Sinclair.
 Republican: Donnie Baker, Melanie Gambrell, Jerry Kilgore (I).

Precinct 4
 Democrat: Gary Simer (I).
 Republican: Roy Beauchamp, John Cline.

Justice of the Peace
 Precinct 1, Place 2
 Democrat: Ricky Hughes.
 Republican: David Baird, Kathryn Wiseman (I).

118th District Judge
 Democrat: None.
 Republican: Mike Thomas, Tim Yeats.

Texas House District 85
 Democrat: Joe Heflin (I).
 Republican: David Andrews, Jim Landtroop.
 Libertarian: Robyn L. Burwell.

U.S. Representative 19th District
 Democrat: Andy Wilson.
 Republican: Randy Neugebauer (I).
 Libertarian: Richard "Chip" Peterson.

ROUTE

Continued from Page 1

Road and the local airport, then southeast to rejoin Highway 87 just north of the Garden City Highway.

Preliminary estimates place the cost of the project at \$120 million.

Aside from being part of the overall Ports To Plains project that would stretch from Canada to Mexico, the reliever route also would have a built-in safety bonus, Dill said.

"The main thing is that it would remove trucks from going downtown," he said. "There are safety concerns that if we had a truck carrying chemicals or other hazardous cargo involved in an accident downtown, that would be a significant hardship. This project would remove a number of (intersections) where those kind of accidents typically occur."

A truck reliever route for Highway 87 has been talked about since the 1970s, but increased political support for the Ports To Plains project has TxDOT officials more confident that the idea will finally be approved, Dill said.

If the project is approved, Dill envisions construction being done in stages, with the southern portion of the route getting top priority. The remainder of the route would be completed as funding is received, he added.

"If we received the entire \$120 million all at once, I'm sure it would be completed faster," Dill said. "But I don't see that happening."

If the project is improved, TxDOT will hold a series of public hearings to gain input from area residents, he added.

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

For the public, economic jolt eclipsed by unemployment

WASHINGTON (AP) — The jobless got a hand. Taxpayers got tax breaks. And a sinking economy stabilized.

But the public's response to President Barack Obama's recession-fighting policies has been increasingly dreary. And the reason is simple: six months of unemployment above 9.6 percent.

"It doesn't yet feel like much of a recovery," Obama had to concede Wednesday, even as he sought to promote his year-old massive economic stimulus bill.

Unemployment trumps all else. It provides a lens through which the public reads an economic narrative of bank bailouts, executive bonuses, expensive health care remedies and exploding debt.

In that environment, gross domestic product growth is an abstraction. Obama gets little credit for an economic turnaround under his watch. And Republicans seek political advantage by merely asking, "Where are the jobs?"

Marines pound insurgents with missiles, mortars as 'stiff resistance' seen

MARJAH, Afghanistan (AP) — U.S. Marines pummeled insurgents with mortars, sniper fire and missiles as fighting intensified Thursday in two areas of the Taliban southern stronghold of Marjah, where U.S. and Afghan forces are facing stubborn resistance in an operation now in its sixth day.

Marines traded machine-gun fire after coming under attack by insurgents with rocket-propelled grenades. One Marine company attacked Taliban positions surrounding them at dawn.

Marines and Afghan troops continued to battle "stiff resistance" in different parts of town, a Marine spokesman said Thursday.

"We're seeing more fortified positions. They're standing their ground, essentially," Lt. Josh Diddams said. "You don't know where you're going to get a little pop up of insurgents who are going to stay and fight."

FCI

Continued from Page 1

"In an abundance of caution, the BOP has temporarily halted inmate institution transfers out of the facility in order to ensure that the illness does not spread

to other BOP institutions," reads the report. "Inmate visitation has not been affected."

Selma Garcia, public information officer for the Big Spring FCI, said neither the CDC or TD-SHS have expressed any concerns the outbreak could spread into the surrounding commu-

nity. "They are treating this as an institutional problem and haven't expressed any concerns that the community might be in danger," said Garcia. "They are working to try to determine the cause of the pneumonia, and once they have made that

determination we'll be taking steps to keep this from spreading any further."

Garcia said the BOP is not taking any special precautions with its guards or other employees that come in contact with the inmate population.

"I can assure you that

any steps we are taking to protect the inmates we're also taking to protect our employees," she said. "However, I'm not aware of any special procedures being taken at this time."

Garcia also confirmed there have been no deaths attributed to the pneumonia outbreak.

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

FISD

Continued from Page 1

this week to plans for installation of artificial turf on the football, softball and baseball fields adjacent to Forsan High School.

Randy Johnson, FISD superintendent, said the projects have a total estimated cost of \$1.3 million. The biggest slice of that pie will go to the football field, which will cost \$750,000 to upgrade. The softball field turf is estimated to cost \$340,000, while the baseball field, where artificial turf will be installed only on the infield and 10 feet into the outfield, will cost about \$220,000.

Money for the projects will come out of district reserve funds, Johnson said.

"Within the past five years, we've had a bond election and we've undertaken several other projects to upgrade our academic settings," Johnson said. "Now, we're at the point where we can start upgrading our athletic facilities."

Aside from the \$4 million approved by voters in the most recent bond election, trustees have also approved significant outlays to upgrade school infrastructure in the past few years, Johnson noted.

Water played a big part in the decision to go with artificial turf at all three fields.

"At the football field, we have an underground watering system that's more than 20 years old that needs to be pulled up ... while the softball field has major drainage issues," Johnson said, pointing out that wet grounds forced Forsan to move four of its softball games to Big Spring last season. "We've been researching this for more than a year now and we believe using artificial turf will allow us to get more use out of the fields and is the safest and most cost-effective way for us to go."

Installing artificial turf makes sense economically, Johnson said.

"Research shows that the fields will pay for themselves within 8 to

10 years," Johnson said. "And when the time comes to install a new surface, the costs will be significantly lower because all the surface work will have already been done and all they'll have to do is roll out a new carpet."

The fields also will be cheaper to maintain, he noted.

"We'll have to purchase two machines that effectively sweep the fields and collect

any trash ... but the fields will be as close to maintenance-free as we can get," Johnson said. "In the past, the maintenance staff used to be on the fields for a day getting them ready. We'll be trading that for one person working 45 minutes a couple of times a week."


The cost will not significantly reduce reserve fund levels, either. Johnson said reserve will eventually

be replenished with tax money from the several area wind farm projects that will be realized in the next few years.

School trustees will hold a special meeting within the next two weeks to consider an official OK to the projects, Johnson said.

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

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Coahoma Lions Club
is hosting a
PANCAKE SUPPER
Thursday, Feb. 18 ~ 5-7 pm
 at Coahoma Junior High Cafeteria

AN ENCOURAGING WORD



By Eddy Pitchford

Some people have already filed their income taxes while others have begun sorting receipts and gathering necessary information. Income tax time is often stressful as income is matched against outgo.

While financial inventory is important, it fails in comparison to life assessment. What attitudes need to be changed? What choices need to be redirected? What habits need to be corrected?

Income tax time can help us understand house upkeep; personal inventory lets us know about home and heart upkeep. "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?" (Luke 9:25)

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Wednesday Class.....	7:00 PM

210708

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

Remember to join us Saturday during symphony concert

The third concert of the Big Spring Symphony's 2009-2010 subscription season is set for Saturday and is certainly aptly titled "Symphony in Motion."

The orchestra's performance will begin at 8 p.m. in the Big Spring High School auditorium.

According to Dr. Keith Graumann, the symphony's music director and conductor, much of the music will follow the "Symphony in Motion" theme, including the opening piece, R. Wagner's "Ride of the Valkyries." Audience members will recognize it from a key scene in the movie "Apocalypse Now." Also to be played during the first portion of the concert will be L.V. Beethoven's "Symphony No. 5 in C minor."

"Beethoven's 5th Symphony is the most recognizable of any piece in western music, and rightly so. It is a magnificent, yet difficult work to play, and I always feel privileged to perform it," Graumann noted.

Featured soloists will be Big Spring Symphony members Michael Santorelli, trumpeter, and Sarah Wilson, cellist. Santorelli will perform the "Trumpet Concerto in E-flat Major" by Franz Joseph Haydn. Wilson will perform the "Variations on a Rococo Theme" by Peter I. Tchaikovsky.

Also to be performed are "Capriccio Espanol, mvt V" by Rimsky-Korsakov and the "Carnival Overture" by Antonin Dvorak.

"This would be a great concert for a person to attend who had never been to a Big Spring Symphony concert," Graumann said.

Those would include some special guests at the concert — 20 third- and fourth-grade music students from Hutchinson Elementary School in Colorado City. Music teacher Nannette Mata came up with the idea of making the concert trip as a reward for students excelling in her classes.

We encourage our readers to make plans now to attend "Symphony in Motion" Saturday beginning at 8 p.m. in the Big Spring High School auditorium.

Tickets are just \$15 for adults, \$10 for senior citizens and \$5 for students.

Tickets are available at KBST Radio, Western Banks, Faye's Flowers, Blum's Jewelers, the Heritage Museum, Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce and the Big Spring Herald. They'll also be on sale at the door the night of the performance.

We hope to see you there.

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

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Walking with You, Lord, isn't the easiest thing to do, but it's the best thing to do.

Amen

Think, 'If I were an illegal...'

Put yourself in the shoes of an undocumented immigrant — constantly looking over your shoulder, aware that you could be arrested and deported at any time, going out every morning knowing that you might not be able to return to your family at night.

And then walk in those shoes for a while, feeling society and the economy slamming doors in your face, dealing with bigots who treat you as if you were an "alien" from another planet, watching the politicians who gave you hope reneging on their promises to make you legal.

Would that motivate you to do "your civic duty" by participating in the U.S. census? Why would you care?

Let's say you believe all the government propaganda assuring you that you won't be arrested and deported because the Census Bureau will not give your personal information to immigration authorities. Still, why should you take a risk — even if minimal? What's in it for you?

Many immigrant and Latino community activists would tell you that your participation in the census is crucial, that essential federal funding, community services and political representation would be lost if you were not to be counted. And they would be absolutely right. If you are not counted, your state, city and community are likely to lose some money and political clout.

But still, you would have to ask, "Why would I care?"

For you and some 11 million other undocumented immigrants in this country, federal funding, community services and political representation have been practically nonexistent. How can they threaten people with losing benefits they never have had? When they warn you about the benefits you could lose if you failed to participate in the census, you figure they must be talking about someone else!

Besides, if you are an undocumented immigrant and your participation in the census would bring your community more funds to hire more cops to arrest more undocumented immigrants, why wouldn't you stay away from the census? As long

as local communities are deputizing cops to enforce federal immigration laws, why would you want to help your community get federal money to hire more cops?

In fact, in the shoes of an undocumented immigrant, you might have planned to file your census forms in the same trash can where you dump your junk mail.

But imagine what could happen if someone came along and showed you how your fear and/or apathy could be turned into a political force. What if someone showed you how you could gain political leverage — for the first time in the many years you may have been an undocumented immigrant — by boycotting the 2010 census?

Well, if you're standing in the shoes of an undocumented immigrant, you should know that someone already has done just that. It's the Rev. Miguel Rivera. As chairman of the National Coalition of Latino Clergy and Christian Leaders — a group representing 20,000 evangelical churches in 34 states — Rivera is leading an organized boycott of the 2010 census by undocumented immigrants.

Its purpose is to pressure federal lawmakers to pass comprehensive immigration reform and create a path to legalization for undocumented immigrants. He says the census boycott can be used to strike back against the politicians who fail to deliver on their promises to reform immigration.

As Rivera has traveled across the country, he has convinced many Latino church and community leaders that the census gives undocumented immigrants unprecedented power and that they need to exert it now by boycotting the national head count that begins April 1. He knows that some sacrifice is involved, that boycotting the census will hurt immigrant communities. But when the census is the only weapon left with which to fight, Rivera is urging you to use it.

Unless the president and Congress at least stop deportations and grant undocumented immigrants some kind of temporary protective status that allows them to stay and work here legally, Rivera says thousands of census forms will be "either thrown to the trash can or burned in public display defiance (against) members of Congress that are not concerned about the harmful effects on

Latino families, schoolchildren and the elderly, for the lack of a humane comprehensive immigration reform."

Rivera's radical position has put him at odds with many Latino and immigrant community activists — his allies on many other issues — who say it is downright irresponsible to call on anyone to boycott the census. Some have said they would agree to a peace plan — suggested in a previous column of mine — whereby punishing the politicians would be postponed from the census to the midterm elections.

But if you listen with the ears of an undocumented immigrant, Rivera must be making a lot of sense at this point, especially when more and more politicians appear to be backing down from their pro-immigrant rhetoric of years passed. Instead of choosing between a census boycott by undocumented immigrants and election-time punishment for anti-immigrant politicians, perhaps we need both.

For now, while the government spends millions in a publicity campaign to promote census participation in the immigrant communities, Rivera's "legalization before enumeration" campaign has been spreading like wildfire through immigrant communities, where many people are feeling empowered for the first time. Across the country, immigrants are vowing to discard census forms and keep their doors closed when census workers come knocking. "It's a matter of principle," they tell you, repeating what they have learned from Rivera. "You can't count me only when it is convenient for the politicians," they say. "If you want to count me, I have to count all the time."

I know. Some of my readers will respond to this column by noting that if they were here illegally, they would kick their own butts back across the border. But c'mon, that's not putting yourself in their shoes! That's not making an effort to understand why they are here, willing to go through the hardship and humiliation of the "huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

Remember your immigrant ancestors? Put yourself in their shoes! You might recognize that — from the Native American perspective — none of them was legal.

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Fighting against 'Corporate Court'

A recent Supreme Court decision may mark a turning point for our democracy. The decision on Citizens United vs. Federal Elections Commission could have been relatively limited. When it first arrived at the Supreme Court, it only required the Court to decide whether feature-length films on pay-per-view were subject to the provisions of campaign finance regulations.

But the Court, over the course of many months, expanded the scope of the case to radically transform not just politics, but the democratic system itself.

Instead of ruling on the limited question that the case actually raised, the Court, led by relatively new Chief Justice John Roberts, demolished a premise that is more than a century old: that Congress has the lawful authority to restrict corporate spending in elections.

In a 5-4 decision, the Court ruled that corporations have the same free-speech rights as human beings and that it's unconstitutional for Congress to regulate their independent expenditures in elections.

Put in plain English, that means enormous corporations can pour unlimited amounts of money into supporting — or defeating — particular candidates.

And the amount of money that could be unleashed is mind-boggling.

Exxon Mobil earned \$45.2 billion in profits in 2008. Just 2 percent of that would be more

than the combined costs of the McCain and Obama presidential campaigns.

If Exxon Mobil decided to spend just that small sliver of its profits on behalf of one candidate, it could upend the election to select the leader of the free world.

Of course, Exxon Mobil doesn't need to spend that much money to have an impact on our country. The ability to spend it is enough.

Imagine that our senators faced a decision on whether or not to sponsor climate change legislation in the next few months. The legislation might be good for their constituents, but bad for Big Oil. If they fail to sponsor it, they'll get some angry phone calls from constituents who care about the environment. But if they do sponsor it, they could easily face tens of millions of dollars' worth of attack ads.

Which do we think they'll choose? The legislation will go unsponsored and Exxon Mobil won't have to spend a dime.

The results will be disastrous. Elected officials will swiftly become answerable to giant corporations instead of to ordinary voters. The point isn't that it will hurt progressives or conservatives.

Regardless of whether or not you approve of the decisions your elected officials make, those decisions won't be made to please you — they'll be made to further corporate interests.

Already various legislative solutions have been proposed, and they should be considered seriously. But there are only two ways to completely fix the damage done by this decision: change the Supreme Court or

change the Constitution.

We need to do both.

In the coming years, justices will leave the Court and presidents will nominate replacements.

It's absolutely crucial that, whoever the president, Americans demand he or she nominate justices who put the rights of individual Americans above the rights of corporations.

And because of the potentially cataclysmic impact of the decision, we need to move forward with a constitutional amendment restoring Congress's ability to limit corporate influence on elections.

As the leader of an organization dedicated to defending the Constitution and, especially, the First Amendment, I don't think this is a solution that we should embrace lightly. But the Supreme Court's disastrous decision requires an appropriate response.

The Court's ruling isn't a vindication of the First Amendment, it's a perversion.

The Court has established a situation in which the free speech rights of individual Americans are rendered meaningless by the speech of corporations — even thought corporations are not people and are only constructed for economic purposes.

In Citizens United, the Court did great harm to our Constitution. And it will take a bold effort to undo that. But together, it's a challenge we can undoubtedly overcome.

Michael B. Keegan is president of People For the American Way, which strives to meet the challenges of discord and fragmentation with an affirmation of "the American Way."



MIGUEL PEREZ



MICHAEL KEEGAN

Truck of the Year

*Ford Transit Connect
world class business vehicle*

It just so happened my week to test drive the 2010 Ford Transit Connect coincided with the North American Truck of the Year presentation being held in Detroit.

I wasn't surprised Ford's world-class vehicle specifically designed for commercial business needs received the top honor at this year's Detroit auto show. By the way, the Ford Fusion Hybrid (my top pick for 2010) won the North American Car of the Year award.

I'm sure there's a lot of people wondering what's so special about a "delivery van" that's worthy of such accolades. It's a good question. I have to admit I wasn't all that excited when I first saw the Transit Connect. Let's face it, not many people aspire to drive a "delivery van." And then I drove it. And I understand why the Transit Connect is receiving

so much attention — especially for businesses needing affordable trucks to meet their needs.

For a base price starting around \$21,000, the 2010 Transit Connect provides up to 135 cubic feet of cargo space with a payload capacity of 1,600 pounds.

It can be configured to meet the specific needs of any business and with available seating for up to five passengers, it is a perfect vehicle for companies needing to carry cargo for work and passengers or family during the off-hours.

Transit Connect is also available with Ford Work Solutions that enable you to operate your business and keep up with tools and inventory from inside the truck.

It corners on a dime and is absolutely ideal for city driving conditions. It's very easy to drive — which is something I can't say for most of the other commercial vehicles that I've driven over the



The 2010 Ford Transit Connect.

years. Visibility is outstanding.

It uses regular unleaded fuel and it has an EPA fuel economy rating of 22 mpg city, 25 mpg highway.

While the Transit Connect has been in production since 2003 (currently sold in 58 countries), it is brand new to the United States as Ford made the decision last year to add the commercial truck to its 2010 lineup.

After driving the Transit Connect, my initial reaction was to wonder what took Ford so long to market this vehicle in the states. If you own a business and don't need a huge truck, this is a no brainer.

Then I remembered that here in America, the auto market has long subscribed to the "bigger is better" philosophy.

What makes the Transit Connect a hit is the fact this

isn't a huge vehicle — though it offers a great deal of cargo capacity. With a wheelbase of 114.6 inches, it's a snap to park in even the tightest parking place and it's easy to get around in city driving.

It's powered by a 2.0-liter I-4 engine. While not overpowering, I found it more than adequate for getting up to freeway speeds and performing the tasks it was designed to handle. After doing a little investigative work on the fuel efficiency of the newspaper's small cargo box truck used for deliveries, the Transit Connect's mpg numbers were nearly twice as good. And believe me, it's a lot easier to drive.

Now you know why the excitement over a "delivery van."

Neal White has been covering the automotive industry for more than 20 years.

THE NUTS AND BOLTS



Independent MacPherson strut with stabilizer bar (front); multileaf spring with stabilizer bar (rear).

BRAKES: ABS
LENGTH: 180.6 inches
WHEELBASE: 114.6 in.
WIDTH: 70.7

MODEL:
2010 Ford Transit Connect
2-, 4- or 5-seat commercial business truck
Front-wheel drive
Trim packages:
XL, Wagon XL, XLT, Wagon XLT
PRICE RANGE:
\$22,000-\$25,000
ENGINE:
2.0-L I4 (136 hp/128 T)
TRANSMISSION:
4-speed automatic
EPA: 22 mpg city, 25 mpg highway
FUEL: Regular unleaded
SUSPENSION:

inches
HEIGHT: 79.3 inches
WEIGHT: 3470 lbs.
TRACK: 59.3/61.1 (front/rear)
TURN CIRCLE: 39 feet
CARGO: 135.3/78.1 cubic feet (behind first/second seating row)
PAYLOAD: 1600 pounds
FUEL TANK: 15.1 gallons
TIRES: 15-inch
FEATURES: Split rear cargo doors open at 180 or 255 degrees to provide 52.1 inches of load height, lift-over height less than 2 feet, 72.6 inches of load length.

2010 West Texas Guitar Festival nears

Special to the Herald

Guitarists of all ages, from elementary age to adults, are invited to the 2010 West Texas Guitar Festival, Feb. 25-27. It is sponsored by The University of Texas at the Permian Basin, the West Texas Jazz Society, JW Pepper and Music World. There will be a lot of strumming, picking and grinning as participants perform in clinics and receive constructive written and verbal critiques from professional guitarists, say organizers.

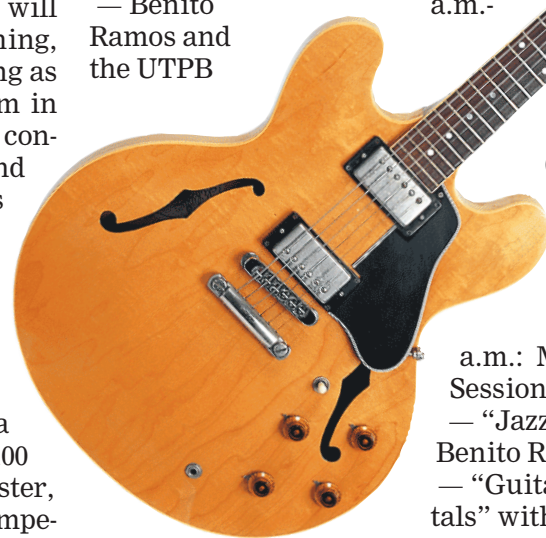
Best of all, there will be giveaways including a free pair of LaBella strings for the first 100 students who register, and at the end, a competition slot in the final concert and a \$2,500 guitar from Juan Alvarez.

The schedule is as follows:

Thursday, Feb. 25, from 7-8:30 p.m. at Crossroads Fellowship, 6901 E Hwy. 191 (free and open to the public): "Local Ensembles Concert"

— Isaiah Chavez's guitar club from Cameron

Elementary in Odessa — Elena Campos' two 7th Grade guitar ensembles from Ector Junior High
— Joe Campos' 9th Grade and High School guitar ensembles from Ector JH and Odessa HS
— Dennis Harris' private guitar studio
— Benito Ramos and the UTPB



Guitar Ensemble Friday, Feb. 26, from 1-5 p.m. in Library Lecture Hall 001 of UTPB
— Solo competition with professional guitarist, Carlo Pezzimenti
— Prepare 2 works for the competition
— Provide a copy of the music for the judge
— Competition winner receives a \$2,500 guitar from Juan Alvarez, the

Spanish guitar maker Friday, Feb. 26, at 7 p.m. in Library Lecture Hall 001 at UTPB
— Concert featuring the legendary jazz guitarist Bucky Pizzarelli for festival participants
Saturday, Feb. 27, from 9 a.m.-

4:30 p.m. in Library Lecture Hall 001 at UTPB
9-10:30 a.m.: rehearsal of works for final concert
10:30-11:15 a.m.: Masterclass Session 1
— "Jazz Improv" with Benito Ramos
— "Guitar Fundamentals" with Elena Campos
11:20-12:05 p.m.: Masterclass Session 2
— "All Things Electronic" with Ben Nunez (a.k.a. "Guitar Star")
— "The Bass Player" with Mark Lowe
— Exhibits open - LaBella Strings, J. W. Pepper, and Music World
12:05-1:30 p.m.: Grill out and visit exhibits
1:30-2:15 p.m.: Masterclass Session 3

— "Salsa Improv" with Joe Campos
— "Timbre and Practice Structure" with Dennis Harris

2:20-3:05 p.m.: Masterclass Session 4
— "Mariachi Style" with Jeremie Hernandez
— Classical Guitar Repertoire on the PML
— Exhibits open - LaBella Strings, J. W. Pepper, and Music World
3:15-4:30 p.m.: rehearsal of works for final concert
6 p.m.: sound check for concert
7 p.m.: Festival Concert at Crossroads Fellowship (free and open to the public)
— Competition winner from Friday
— Carlo Pezzimenti
— Festival participants in mass ensemble

Registration is recommended by Saturday, Feb. 20, although onsite registration will be accepted. For more information, visit the festival Web site at www.utpb.edu.

edu/guitar or contact the festival coordinator, Dr. Dan Keast, head of UTPB's Music Program at (432) 552-4292 or keast_d@utpb.edu.



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- Timothy D. Yeats -

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*Thank You All
For Working
Hard And
I Hope You All
Dance Your
Hearts Out!*

Dancingly,
♥ Miss Stevi

207122

Show Stopper Dance Competition

San Antonio, Texas

Friday, February 19, 2010



*You Are Our
Shining Star*

**GO DANCE
HARD
AND STRONG
AND YOU WILL
SHINE!**

*Love,
Dad, Mom, Landon & Bentley*

207127

*Good Luck Kaylor
Shine
like a
Star!*

*We Love You,
Mommy & Daddy*

207128

*Good Luck!
(We Love You)
Rick, Mom & Family*

**Kayla & Tessa
Martin**

207103

**Good Luck Baby,
We Are So Proud Of You!**

*Get Out There And
Shine Like The Star You Are!*

Momma & Chris

207116

Alyssa,

*We are so proud of you.
SHOW SAN ANTONIO WHERE YOUR HEART IS.*

*We Love You,
Daddy Larry & Mom*

207118

**Way
To
Go
R'Lonie!!**

*Love Ya,
Mamo, Papa
NahNah, B
Mom and
All The Family*

207105

Destiny Mata

*We know you'll
do great,
just dance as if
no one is watching*

*We Love You,
Your Family*

207111

**GOOD LUCK BABY
GIRL!!!**

Dance Your Heart Out!!!

LOVE PAPA, MAMA AND NENE

207120

Good Luck Girls!

Kayla Martin

Megan Magallanes

Hailey Grant

Destiny Mata

Lizzie Klaus

Tatum Miller

Serenity Watts

Alyssa Deanda

Chloe Bustamante

R'Lonie Cole

Scarlet Roberts

Bailee Grant

Tessa Martin

Kaylor Green



*Good Luck at Competition Honey,
We are so proud of you & all your
hard work!*



Love, Jon & Story 207123

GO BAILEE!!
*Good Luck
to our favorite
dancer*

We love you!

Love Mimi, Kala,
Kyle, Teana & Kids



207126

Lizzie Jean,




Good Luck at Competition.

*We Love You
Mom & Dad*

207104

Scarlet,
Good Luck in San Antonio



*We Love You,
Dad, Mom & Sydnie*

207130

*Good Luck
Chloe' and Tatum
on your duet!*

*We are very
proud of you both!*

Chris & Maira

207112

**Tatum
&
Chloe**

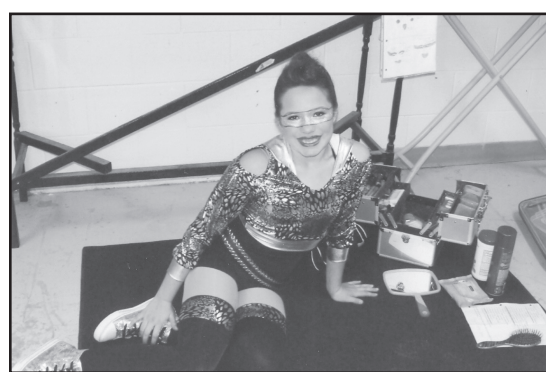
Good Luck Girls

**SHINE ON
STAGE!**

207117

**We are proud of our
dancer.**

Good Luck



*Love,
Mom, Stephen, Aoror, Brit and Bear*


207121

*Tatum,
You make us so proud!*



**We Love You,
Mom, Dad, Sloan
MeMe and Poppy**

207113



*I'm so proud of you!!
Go put on a show!!!*

Love Chelsea

207119

**It's Time To Rock
The Show**



We are so proud of you!

Love, Momma, Daddy, Reagan, Nana, Chase,
Heather, Hayden

207129

Area hoops teams gear up for postseason

Herald Staff Report

Basketball playoffs have arrived as the girls bracket moves into the area round and the boys gear up for games next week.

Forsan, Stanton and Garden City all face tough tests Friday against teams ranked in the top 25 coaches' poll. The Steers, meanwhile, are preparing for a Tuesday rematch with Canyon High that should be more manageable than the Lady Steers' task.

Girls

Forsan vs. Smyer

When: 6:30 p.m. Friday
Where: Slaton High School, Slaton

Forsan defeated Van Horn 72-26 in bidistrict action Tuesday. The Lady Buffs will take on a Smyer team ranked No. 10 in the state. Smyer is 29-3 on the season and received a bye as winners of District 6-1A, Division I. The winner of this game will play either Farwell or Wink in the regional quarterfinal round.

Garden City vs. Guthrie

When: 6 p.m. Friday
Where: Lubbock Roosevelt High School, Acuff

Garden City (27-1, 10-0) was ranked No. 2 in the last Texas Association of Basketball Coaches poll. The Lady Bearcats will face No. 18 Guthrie (24-3, 8-2), which earned the No. 2 seed out of a tough District 6 that also had ranked teams Paducah and Valley. The winner will play either Borden County or Benjamin in the regional quarterfinal round.

Stanton vs. Tahoka

When: 8 p.m. Friday
Where: Andrews High School

Stanton, which earned District 7-A's top seed by coin flip over Forsan, faces a Tahoka team ranked No. 11 in the state. The Lady Bulldogs are 27-5 after beating Springlake-Earth 38-33 on Tuesday. Tahoka is led by leading scorer and rebounder Tyra Helm. Kesley Jones leads the Lady Buffs after notching a 20-point performance in a win over Forsan.

Boys

Big Spring vs. Canyon

When: 6 p.m. Tuesday
Where: South Plains College, Levelland

Canyon lost a coin flip with Hereford for the No. 3 seed in District 3-4A. The Eagles are 15-14 on the season. Big Spring is the No. 1 seed in District 4-4A and 17-13 on the year. Should the Steers win, they would face a team from District 1 or 2, likely from El Paso.

See **PLAYOFFS**, Page 14

No. 3 Hawks ready for Westerners

Herald Staff Report

SNYDER — The Howard College men are tied atop the WJCAC standings after Monday's win over then-No. 1 Midland College.

Howard moved up to No. 3 in the latest NJCAA national poll, one spot behind Midland at No. 2. The Hawks will be in action at Western Texas tonight at 7:45 p.m. looking to keep their seven-game winning streak alive.

The Hawks pulverized Western Texas (14-10, 4-7) 73-44 at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum earlier this year, which started Howard's current winning streak.

"It will be a challenge," Hawks coach Mark Adams said Monday. "There are no easy games on the road, and all these other teams are clawing and fighting, trying to get in the playoffs. Each game is tough and we have to take them one at a time."

The Hawks face former Howard assistant Jason Souter, who is in his second year at Western Texas. The Westerners are led by guard Jeremy Jones, who is averaging 11 points per game. Jones scored seven points in the teams' first meeting.

Howard forward Jae Crowder is coming off



HERALD FILE PHOTO/Tony Claxton

Carlos Emory, right, wins the opening tip in a game earlier this season at South Plains. Emory and the Hawks are looking for their eighth straight win tonight against Western Texas in Snyder.

one of his best performances of the season against Midland, finishing with 28 points and 14 rebounds against the Chaps. Crowder scored 25 in his last game against Western Texas and is

leading the conference in scoring at just more than 18 points per game.

The Hawks will also look to scorers Josh Watkins and Carlos Emory, both of whom

Monday. Watkins and Emory combined for just nine points, well below their season averages of 14 and 11 points per game, respectively.

See **HOWARD**, Page 14

Kidd, new-look Mavs outlast Suns at home

Associated Press

DALLAS — Caron Butler spent the past few days trying to get accustomed to his new Dallas Mavericks teammates.

It didn't take the former Washington Wizards player long to figure out that Jason Kidd can help make that task a lot easier.

Kidd had 18 points, 10 assists, seven rebounds and a career-high seven steals, and Butler started a key third-quarter run in the Mavericks' 107-97 victory over the Phoenix Suns on Wednesday night.

"He's a Hall of Famer, one of the best to ever do it," said Butler, who came to Dallas along with Brendan Haywood and DeShawn Stevenson in a seven-player deal Saturday. "I love playing with a guy like that. He gives you that confidence and makes the game that much easier."

Kidd was 4 of 8 from 3-point range and spurred a Mavericks defense that forced 17 turnovers. The Suns, who lead the NBA in scoring at more than 110 points per game, were held under 100 for only the seventh time this season.

"He's just amazing," Mavericks coach Rick Carlisle said of Kidd. "To get seven steals is a

phenomenal number in one game. It seems like they were all timely.

Butler scored 15 points and hit a jumper to open a 16-4 run in the third. Dirk Nowitzki added 10 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter for Dallas.

Amare Stoudemire, who has been mentioned in trade rumors in recent days, had 30 points and 14 rebounds for the Suns, who had their five-game road winning streak snapped.

Before the game, Stoudemire rated his chances of being traded before Thursday's deadline as 50-50.

Cleveland was considered the most likely destination if Stoudemire was dealt. But the Cavaliers moved on to their next choice, acquiring Antawn Jamison from Washington in a three-team trade Wednesday.

"I think he's put that all behind him and just played," Suns coach Alvin Gentry said.

Butler and Haywood were playing their first home game and second overall with the Mavericks. Haywood had 10 points, nine rebounds and five blocks starting in place of the injured Erick Dampier, who did not play after undergoing

See **MAVS**, Page 14

Focus on Vonn only figures to increase after Olympic gold medal

Associated Press

WHISTLER, British Columbia (AP) — A camera caught Lindsey Vonn dabbing on make-up minutes after becoming the first American woman to win an Olympic downhill.

Looking up, she realized the scene was being relayed to a giant videoboard near the finish area. She playfully scrunched up her features and said, "Oh,

come on."

Get ready for plenty of close-ups, Lindsey. The scrutiny is not going away.

That bruised and swollen right shin will continue being analyzed. More medals are anticipated.

Just don't try telling her that.

"I feel like a huge weight has been lifted off my shoulders," Vonn said after Wednesday's victory. "There was a

lot of expectations and a lot of pressure coming into these games, and I stood up to that, and I fought back today."

There's not much time to enjoy her Olympic breakthrough, though. The super-combined, the second of Vonn's five events, was set for Thursday at a Winter Games that she has been expected to dominate.

"I got the gold medal that I came here to get. And now I'm just going

to attack every day, with no regrets and no fear," said Vonn, a 25-year-old who lives and trains in Vail, Colo. "And, I mean, I'm just happy with one. Anything else from here on out is a bonus."

In other words: Look out, everybody.

Vonn feels pressure-free. Just as important, she proved to herself she can deal with the pain, which was at its most intense when she

landed the final jump.

"Now I can ski confidently," she said. "I know I can do it, even with the shin injury."

With some Lidocaine cream numbing the bothersome bruise, some advice from her husband and a heap of skill and confidence, Vonn set everything aside Wednesday and did what she does better than every other woman in the world: ski fast.

Vonn won the down-

hill in 1 minute, 44.19 seconds — more than a half-second quicker than anyone else — to collect her first career Olympic medal. She combined with Julia Mancuso to give the United States its first 1-2 finish in an Olympic Alpine event since 1984. Elisabeth Goergl of Austria was third, nearly 1½ seconds behind Vonn.

Thursday's race was

See **VONN**, Page 14

Sports in brief

50-inning game set for booster club

The Big Spring Booster Club will hold its annual fundraiser Saturday as the baseball team will play a 50-inning game through the morning.

The game will start at 9 a.m. Concessions will be available as well as Steer playoff T-shirts for \$15.

All profits will benefit the Big Spring Booster Club, which supports all Big Spring High School athletics.

Howard softball takes two in Ranger

The Howard College softball team swept a doubleheader against Ranger on the road Wednesday.

The Hawks beat Ranger 14-2 in the first game and took a 5-2 decision in the nightcap.

Howard is now 6-3 on the season and will play in the Midland Classic this weekend, where the Hawks will play five games in two days against teams from all over the country.

Softball signups coming up

The Big Spring Girls Softball Association will hold signups for the upcoming 2010 season for girls ages 4-14 as of Jan. 1.

Signups will be held each Saturday beginning Feb. 20 through March 13 at the Big Spring Mall.

Registration fee is \$75, including a full uniform. Late registration after March 13 will cost \$10 extra. For more info, contact Lucy Ramirez at 466-3670.

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GARAGE SALE: I-20 East Exit 184 S. Service Rd., (Follow signs to 311 Colorado Rd), Fri. & Sat. 7am-6pm. Tools, mobile home axles, Chevy step rails, TV cabinet, play station 2 games, men's clothing 2x, women's clothes 2x & 3x. Scrub tops 2x, Rocky size 11 & 13, boys 10-18, girls 6-12 and tons more.

PATIO SALE: Friday Only 9-3, 1900 Martin Luther King Blvd., Apt. 510 (Patio). Ladies clothes (size 12-14), jewelry, misc. items and lots more.

Help Wanted

\$\$\$Immediate Opening\$\$\$
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AREA REPS needed, part-time position, working with kids. Call 432-517-4880 or 1-800-605-2341.

THE COLORADO River Municipal Water District, regional raw water supplier for the Permian Basin, is accepting applications for following position in the Big Spring Area.

Operations Maintenance Technician- Responsible for maintaining the District's raw water pipelines, pump stations, and wells. Entry to intermediate level position.

CRMWD is an equal opportunity employer. Benefits include health insurance, retirement plans, and sick, vacation and holiday leave.

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

EUNICE HEALTH CLINIC

Radiology Technician

Full time, Monday-Friday.

Must have current state license.

Benefits Package includes: Health, Dental, & Vision Insurance, Life Insurance,

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Submit Resume To: mpowell@euniceclinic.com

Fax: (575)394-0215

Help Wanted

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BDS is looking for THREE experienced drivers who understand the meaning of customer service first; for its Midland location. \$56,000 GUARANTEED.

Requirements: Class A Commercial Drivers License, HazMat and Tanker Endorsements, Minimum of 2 years experience. Proven safety record & stable work history. Chemical experience a plus, Mountainous winter driving experience a plus. Benefits Include: Medical, Dental, RX Insurance, Life, Short & Long Term Disability Insurance, 3 Weeks Paid Vacation, Paid Holidays, Personal, Sick, Incentive Plans, 401(k) Plan.

Safety is of utmost concern to BDS as we transport chemicals throughout the U.S. BDS operates a modern fleet of sleeper equipped Freightliner Tractors and other transports with on-board computers and satellite communications. For more information visit our website: www.benchmarkdistributionservices.com

If you would like to join in our winning team, please contact Mr. Bobby Gardner to schedule an appointment.

bgardner@benchmark-research.com

Phone (432)697-8171.

BLAST MASTERS has a position available for:

* Crew Tech

Come by 1711 Snyder Hwy., and pickup an application. No phone calls please. Must have a valid TX drivers license and pass mandatory drug test & background check.

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EYE ASSOCIATES Inc. is accepting applications for contact lens technician. No experience necessary. Apply at 2311 Scurry Street. No phone calls please.

FARM HAND Wanted! Experience only apply. \$500.00 Weekly. Call after 7:00p.m. (432)684-5418.

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INFANT CAREGIVER 6:00a.m.-3:00p.m. Apply at 1708 Nolan.

LEARNING TREE Academy now hiring friendly energetic Pre-school Teacher with High School Diploma or equivalent. Experience preferred, but will train right person. Must pass background and drug test. Apply in person.

LOCAL PRODUCT Chemical Company seeks motivated employee: Delivery Treater Service Tech. Insurance, 401K, dental & optical available. Send resume to: Box 909, Big Spring, 79721

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NOW HIRING daycare workers for pre-school and toddler classes. Must be at least 18 yrs old, with GED or High School Diploma. Back ground check required. EOE. Contact Rhonda @ 432-517-4315.

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SUBSTITUTE CAREGIVERS for Christian preschool. Apply in person at 118 Cedar Rd. Must be able to pass a criminal history background check.

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WANTED PART time clerk. Qualification: Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must type at least 40 WPM. Must know Microsoft Word/Excel. At least 1 year experience. No criminal background. If interested apply at the Howard County Juvenile Probation Office at 315 Main Suite C.

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WANTED: TRUCK driver for natural gas gathering system. Must be DOT HAZMAT CERTIFIED. Excellent salary, 401k and paid medical insurance. Send resume to: Plant supervisor, 11703 East FM 846, Coahoma, TX 79511 or fax 432-399-4290 or email mwcol@wtggas.com

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4002 PARKWAY. 3 Bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A, fenced yard, Stove & refrigerator furnished. \$600. month, \$200. deposit. Call (432)267-1543.

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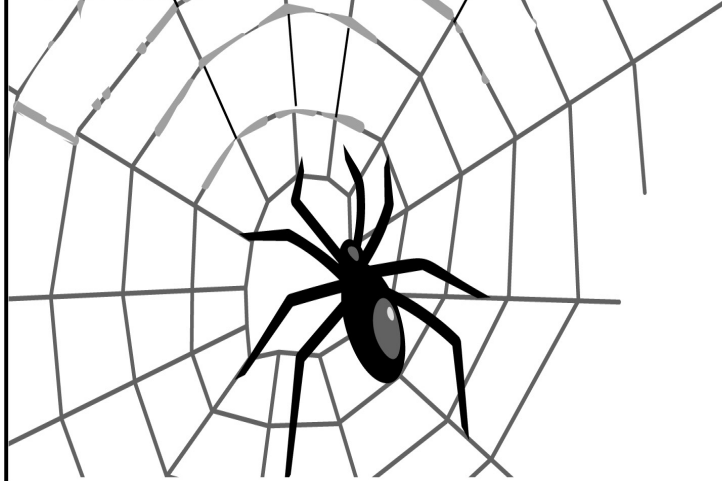
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

The sun embarks on a pilgrimage through Pisces, the final station of the zodiac. Like all of the best pilgrimages, the sacred place where he hopes to land is none other than the place he started — Aries, the beginning. These next weeks are like the moments before Dorothy figures out that "there's no place like home."



ARIES (March 21-April 19). Get that special treatment you've wanted. The attention you give to yourself and your own needs will be well placed. As a result, you will be kinder and more accepting of others.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You may feel like there's so much going on that you can't possibly keep up with it all. It might help you to know that someone admires your busy, happy approach to life. You are supported.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Unlimited power

usually brings out the worst in people. That's why it's important that we play checks and balances to one another's strengths. If you don't agree with the boss, speak up. And if you are the boss, listen.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Needing validation makes you vulnerable. If you would love to hear certain words, when you do hear them, you will believe them regardless of their plausibility. So be strong on your own. Validate yourself.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There's one thing the know-it-all doesn't seem to know at all, which is that the other people are thinking, "When is he going to be quiet?" Avoid filling that role. Keep your facts and figures to yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll do a good turn, and someone will do one for you. Soon the world seems to be spinning in your favor. And your inner exuberance becomes an outer glow. People can actually see it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Doing the same job every day is at times a comfort and a pleasure.

Then there are other times when it seems like a ruthless sentence. Take a break — maybe use one of your personal days — before you become embittered.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your kindness will change lives. What you do in the name of love will not only affect your life and times, but will also go beyond those boundaries and impact the future in untold ways.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your prayers and dreams are powerful. And if you don't do either of those things, your good wishes and helpful intentions will be powerful. You will energize everything you touch.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Too much attention to how to do things right will produce results that are decidedly wrong. Once you are reasonably sure that you know what's going on, loosen your grasp of things and just let them happen.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You and a loved one know each other so well that, like two puzzle pieces perfectly cut to fit one

another, you can click together at will. You will connect with this loved one and speak profoundly in silence.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Fantasies become realities — it happens all the time, so why not for you? Some small occurrence that you wished would happen materializes for you. This instance should inspire you to wish bigger!

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 18). You maximize your resources and get terrific results. There are options open to you that you have not been ready to take advantage of until this year. May brings public praise. Sweet confessions of love make June zesty. You invest in a better and more beautiful living arrangement in September. Cancer and Scorpio people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 19, 9, 1, 32 and 14.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm a Pisces, and I've fallen for an Aries. This person doesn't know my feelings. We are both involved in other relationships. But some-

thing happens whenever we work together. It's a powerful click. He seems to know what I'm thinking. He answers questions I didn't even ask out loud, but really wanted to know. He does silly things just to make me laugh. He says he loves hearing the sound of my laugh. No one has ever said that to me before, certainly not my current partner. When I know that I am going to see him or be near him, I get a stomachache that doesn't go away until he leaves. What does it mean? Were we meant to be together? I do love my current partner — a Capricorn. But this Aries feels like destiny."

Pisces, as the sign of spirit, you can truly understand how humans can enjoy all kinds of energetic combinations without taking things to an inappropriate place. In other words, celebrate the special friendship, working relationship and synergy you have with this person, and don't try to make it more than it is. Not everything is about running off and starting a life with someone. Sometimes it's just

about enjoying a moment of connection, appropriate to the circumstance you're in.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Fitness expert Jillian Michaels has followed her Aquarian penchant for new and exciting approaches to old problems. Her efforts to help people get in shape have led her to apply her tough training methods on the television show "The Biggest Loser," as well as creating training tools for the Nintendo Wii. Michaels was born when the moon and Venus were in hardworking 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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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: My husband and I need some advice on how to approach a sticky situation concerning our daughter.

In the past several years, "Tricia" has gained a tremendous amount of weight.

We are genuinely concerned for her health, both physical and mental.

We don't know how to approach the subject without alienating her and causing resentment.

Tricia is married, with a loving husband and two precious children.

But we worry that if the weight situation continues, they may not have her around in a few years.

How do we address this in a kind, nonjudgmental manner? Any guidance will be appreciated. — *Concerned Parents*

Dear Parents: We know it will be difficult to watch your daughter continue to gain weight, but believe us when we say nothing you tell her will make an ounce of difference.

She knows she is overweight and that proper diet and exercise will help. She isn't ready.

The best thing you can do is tell her you love her and that she is a wonderful person and you will always be there for her.

Talk to your son-in-law about creating a healthy environment for the entire family — he may need to help more with the grocery shopping and meal preparation.

Children easily pick up their parents' habits — good and bad.

Otherwise, we urge you to stay out of it. This is truly a do-it-yourself project.

Dear Annie: I am bisexual. I am not going through a phase or trying to make up my mind. I am simply attracted to both males and females. Everyone seems to have a problem with



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

this. My best friend (who is gay) insists I must be straight. My mother tells me it's OK that I am gay. "Biphobia" runs rampant even with people who are supportive of homosexuality.

My sexual orientation is no one's business but my own.

I do not bring up the subject with strangers or acquaintances who have no need to know.

But close friends and relatives will eventually interact with whomever

I choose to date, and I'd rather not have them think I've "made up my mind" every time I date one sex or the other.

How can I make people understand and respect my sexuality? — *Not Confused*

Dear Confused: You don't have to explain your sexual orientation, nor do you need to defend yourself.

Bisexuality can be a difficult concept for some people to grasp, and the only way to make them understand is simply to live your life, letting them see for themselves how you choose your partners.

In time, they will figure it out. There's no need to aggravate yourself trying to do it for them.

Dear Annie: I feel compelled to respond to "K.R.," the wedding photographer who advises brides, especially those who are well-endowed, to steer clear of strapless gowns.

Every body type is different, but it doesn't mean a large-busted woman cannot wear a strapless gown on the biggest day of her life.

I was a size 18 when I married my true love and proudly and confidently wore a beautiful strapless gown.

It all comes down to the fit. My dress was tailored beautifully, and I wore the correct corset to support my cleavage.

I agree that if you are not comfortable in a dress, it will come across in the pictures. So, ladies, choose a style that best flatters your shape and makes you feel special.

As for that poor photographer having to Photoshop dimples, creases, stretch marks and unattractive cleavage, I think he is in need of a career change if it pains him so much to take a picture. — *Strapless, Confident Bride in Connecticut*

Dear Strapless: You have essentially made the same point — that women need to be careful when wearing strapless dresses.

And we don't believe the photographer was complaining about the job, only warning that if he has to spend that much time getting rid of unattractive things in the photographs, it means you were showing all those things at the actual event.

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@creators.com, 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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- Big Sister found a great new job...
- Aunt Sue found a dining room table...

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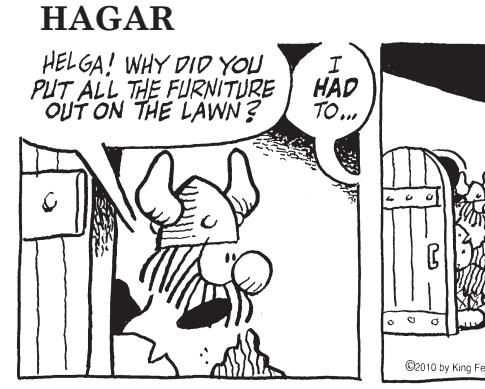
	WFAA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5 :PM	News ABC	News ABC	Locura	Lopez Lopez	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News NBC	Friends Office	Granger Brad	BBC Business	Cash Cab Dirty Jobs	Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas Deck	Around Interrupt	SportsCenter
6 :PM	News Ent	Jeopardy! Wheel	Noche Estrellas	Two Men Two Men	News Ent	12 Cora-zones	Millionaire	Seinfeld	Sanchez Dr.	PBS News-Hour	Dirty Jobs	CSI: Crime Scn	NBA Tip-Off		Wizards Deck	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	
7 :PM	The Deep End	The Deep End	Premio lo Nuestro 2010 (SS)	Bones	Survivor: Hero	El Clon	XXI Winter Olympics: Figure Skating, Snowboard-ing, Speed Skating.	Movie: The Bourne Supremacy, Brian Cox	Upd Sprna	TBA	Dirty Jobs	Movie: Dante's Peak, Charles Hal-lahan	UFC Un-leashed	NBA Basket-ball: Nuggets at Cavaliers	Vick	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	
8 :PM	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy		Past Life	The Mental-ist	Porro Amor		Movie: The Fugitive, Sela Ward	Light of the Southwest	Antiques Roadshow	HowStuff-Works	TNA iM-PACT!		Movie: Belly 2: Millionaire Boyz Club	Phineas Phineas	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	
9 :PM	(:01) Private Practice	(:01) Private Practice		Simpsons Friends	CSI: Crime Scene	Sin Hay Parais		Fam. Guy		Soundstage	HowStuff-Works			NBA Basket-ball: Celtics at Lakers	The Mo'Nique Deck	Wizards Deck	College Basketball	SportsCenter
10 :PM	News Nightline	News Nightline	Impacto Notici.	Raymond	News Notici.	Titulares		Lopez Tonight	Upd Van Impe	Charlie Rose	Dirty Jobs	Movie: The Fugitive, Sela Ward	UFC 110 Countdown		Wendy Wil-liams	Suite Life So Raven	NFL Live	Final
11 :PM	Insider Jimmy Kim-mel Live	Jimmy Kim-mel Live	Gancho	Law & Order: SVU	Late Late	Deci		Name Swallow	T. Smiley (Off Air)	HowStuff-Works	Overhaul-ing	Movie: Bram Stoker's Dracula, Anthony	CSI: Crime Scn Unsolved	Mysteries	Inside the NBA Saving Grace	Movie: Belly 2: Millionaire Boyz Club	Cory Kim	SportsNation
12 :AM	News Paid	News Paid	Torrente, un Torbel	King-Hill	Insider	Pagado		Sex & World	Lopez	Light of the Southwest					Emperor	NASCAR	SportsCenter	
1 :AM	News Paid	News Paid	Mujer... Cero	RENO 911	Paid	Pagado												



DENNIS THE MENACE
"THIS BLUEBERRY LOOKS LIKE A PEA HOLDIN' ITS BREATH."



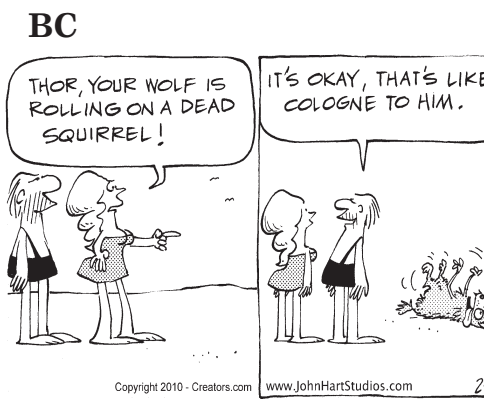
THE FAMILY CIRCUS
"Ooooo! I like their National Anfem. I hope they win more gold medals."



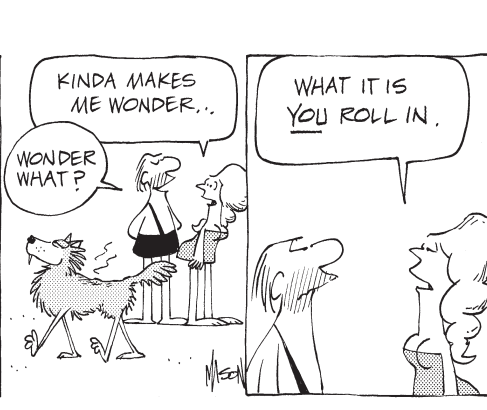
HAGAR
HELGA! WHY DID YOU PUT ALL THE FURNITURE OUT ON THE LAWN? I HAD TO...



I SAW A SPIDER ON THE FLOOR!



BC
THOR, YOUR WOLF IS ROLLING ON A DEAD SQUIRREL!
IT'S OKAY, THAT'S LIKE COLOGNE TO HIM.
KINDA MAKES ME WONDER...
WHAT IT IS YOU ROLL IN.



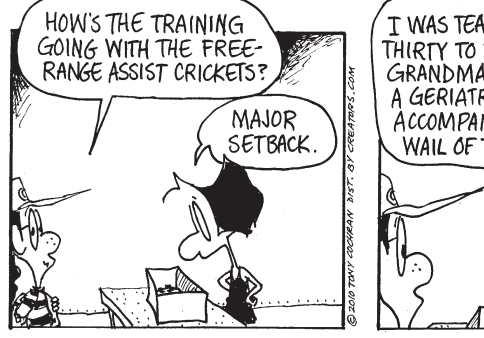
BLONDIE
GEEZ LOUISE, WATCHING THESE COOKING SHOWS ALWAYS MAKES ME HUNGRY.
I'VE NOTICED THAT, DEAR.
I'VE NOTICED THAT WATCHING THE WEATHER CHANNEL ALSO MAKES YOU HUNGRY!
YEAH, GO FIGURE! IT MUST HAVE TO DO WITH ATMOSPHERIC CONDITIONS OR SOMETHING



WIZARD OF ID
OUR SCOUTING PARTY HAS JUST RETURNED, SIR.
DID YOU MAKE CONTACT WITH THE ENEMY?
THAT'S ONE WAY OF PUTTING IT



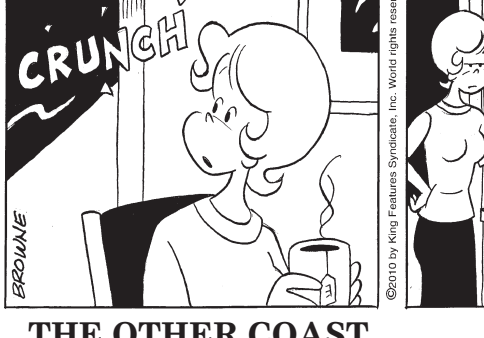
AGNES
HOW'S THE TRAINING GOING WITH THE FREE-RANGE ASSIST CRICKETS?
MAJOR SETBACK.
I WAS TEACHING A CREW OF THIRTY TO FOLD TOWELS... GRANDMA CAME IN AND DID A GERIATRIC FANDANGO ON 'EM, ACCOMPANIED WITH A SHRILL WAIL OF TRUE HORROR.
ARE THEY DEAD?
TWO DEAD, THREE INTRIGUE. MANY ARE NOW BEING TAUGHT HOW TO CHIRP WITH PROSTHETIC BACK LEGS.



HI AND LOIS
CRUNCH!
WE NEED TO GET SOME QUIETER COOKIES!!



THE OTHER COAST
WHY THE LONG FACE, WOKO?
I JUST HEARD MY BROTHER, BUSTER, HAS PASSED AWAY.
"WE WERE ABANDONED AS PUPPIES, BUT WE WERE BOTH RESCUED."
"BUSTER ENDED UP WITH A GREAT FAMILY IN VICTORIA AND LIVED A LONG, WONDERFUL LIFE WITH THEM."
LUCKY BUSTER.
FOR A DOG, BEING RESCUED IS LIKE WINNING THE LOTTERY.



SNUFFY SMITH
GIGGLE !! TH' BLUE ONES MAKE YORE LIPS AN' TONGUE ALL BLUE !!
THAT'S WHY I NEVER GIT THOSE, JAMEY !!
'CUZ THEN YA CAN'T DENY YA GOT CANDY !!
OOOH !! JAMEY'S GOT TH' BLUE ONES !!
I LOVE THOSE !!



BEEBLE BAILEY
THE TREE OUTSIDE THE OFFICE NEEDS FEEDING.
HOW DO YOU KNOW?
IT SENT A ROOT INSIDE TO YOUR SNACK DRAWER

This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Feb. 18, the 49th day of 2010. There are 316 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On Feb. 18, 1885, Mark Twain's "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" was published in the U.S. for the first time (it had been published in Canada and England the previous December).

On this date:
In 1546, Martin Luther, leader of the Protestant Reformation in Germany, died in Eisleben.
In 1564, artist Michelangelo died in Rome.
In 1735, the first opera presented in America, "Flora, or Hob in the Well," was performed in present-day Charleston, S.C.
In 1861, Jefferson Davis was sworn in as the provisional president of the Confederate States of America in Montgomery, Ala.
In 1930, photographic evidence of Pluto (now designated a "dwarf planet") was discovered by Clyde W. Tombaugh at Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Ariz.

In 1960, the 8th Winter Olympic Games were formally opened in Squaw Valley, Calif., by Vice President Richard M. Nixon.

In 1970, the "Chicago Seven" defendants were found not guilty of conspiring to incite riots at the 1968 Democratic national convention; five were convicted of violating the Anti-Riot Act of 1968 (those convictions were later reversed).

In 1977, the space shuttle Enterprise, sitting atop a Boeing 747, went on its maiden "flight" above the Mojave (moh-HAH'-vee) Desert.

In 1984, Italy and the Vatican signed an accord under which Roman Catholicism ceased to be the state religion of Italy.

In 2001, auto racing star Dale Earnhardt, Sr. died from injuries suffered in a crash at the Daytona 500; he was 49.

Today's Birthdays: Former Cosmopolitan editor Helen Gurley Brown is 88. Actor George Kennedy is 85. Former Sen. John Warner (R-Va.) is 83. Author Toni Morrison is 79. Movie director Milos (MEE'-

Answer to previous puzzle

SIDE	STARK	SECT
ORAL	TAHOE	PROW
DISK	IRATE	RIPA
ASH	SLASH	PRICES
SHOVELS	SAN	
FITS	STARTLED	
OASES	SHAKE	AXE
FLAW	MAINE	ASIN
MEL	DOLLS	PUTTY
EXTERNAL	GULP	
LAT	SUNDECK	
WALL	BRACKET	RUE
ISEE	ELLIS	PIPE
LIAR	ALERT	ROIL
LADY	LIFTS	ODDS

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Fictional free-spirited aunt
 - 5 Margarita feature
 - 9 "Yeah, sure!"
 - 12 Mideast airline
 - 13 Type of tennis tourney
 - 15 O'Brien predecessor
 - 16 "I can't ___" (hedger's comment)
 - 18 BPOE members
 - 19 Beast of burden
 - 20 Real sidesplitter
 - 21 Golf-ball feature
 - 23 Yemeni seaport
 - 24 Bounced off the cushion
 - 25 Black eye
 - 28 Virginia, in the 1600s
 - 29 East ___ (nation since 2002)
 - 30 Spoken for a
 - 31 Place for a body wrap
 - 34 Economist Greenspan
 - 35 Shot off a cannon
 - 36 Spinks of the ring
 - 37 Wetland area
 - 38 Triathlon needs
 - 39 Breakfast serving
 - 40 "Leave that to me!"
 - 42 Fund-raising device
 - 43 Poses a danger to
 - 45 Trespassing, e.g.
 - 46 Rock-concert venues
 - 47 Puccini heroine
- DOWN**
- 1 Badlands feature
 - 2 "Too bad!"
 - 3 Spring times
 - 4 North Pole worker
 - 5 More nimble
 - 6 Felonious flames
 - 7 Churl
 - 8 Paving stuff
 - 9 "I can't ___" (compulsive one's comment)
 - 10 Bracelet site
 - 11 Cheated, slangily
 - 14 Finished in the top three
 - 15 Iced-tea flavoring
 - 17 Choose from the menu
 - 22 Meteorite metal
 - 23 Auth. unknown
 - 24 Pepsi alternatives
 - 25 Shot in the dark
 - 26 City near Mauna Loa
 - 27 "I can't ___" (incredulous one's comment)
 - 28 Insertion mark
 - 30 South Pacific carvings
 - 32 Game that starts with a break
 - 33 One of the Brontës
 - 35 Deft touch
 - 36 Took a powder
 - 38 Florida city, for short
 - 39 West Side Story role
 - 41 Like Rocky or Rambo
 - 42 Won easily
 - 43 ___ boy (sissy)
 - 44 Way to stand
 - 45 Promotional ploy
 - 47 Insignificant
 - 48 Friend of Dennis the Menace
 - 49 Pro's adversary
 - 50 Slate, for short
 - 53 Rented out
 - 54 Kids' card game

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
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**SPORTS
IN BRIEF**

**Woods to speak
for first time
since accident**

MARANA, Ariz. (AP) — Tiger Woods will end nearly three months of silence Friday when he speaks publicly for the first time since his middle-of-the-night car accident sparked stunning revelations of infidelity.

However, his agent said Woods will not take any questions from a small group of media.

It will be Woods' first public appearance since Nov. 27, when he crashed his SUV into a tree outside his Florida home. Woods' only comments since then has been made through his Web site.

Steinberg said Woods is to speak at 11 a.m. Friday from the clubhouse at the TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., home of the PGA Tour.

**Cavs trade for
Jamison in
3-team deal**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Cleveland Cavaliers have acquired Antawn Jamison from the Washington Wizards in a three-team trade that sent Drew Gooden to the Los Angeles Clippers.

Washington received Cavaliers center Zydrunas Ilgauskas, a 2010 first-round draft pick and the rights to Emir Preldzic, who was selected in the second round of last year's draft from Cleveland.

The Wizards also received forward Al Thornton from Los Angeles.

Cleveland received guard Sebastian Telfair from the Clippers.

**T'Wolves get
Milicic from NY**

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Knicks traded Darko Milicic to the Minnesota Timberwolves, perhaps the former No. 2 overall pick's final stop before he returns to Europe.

The Timberwolves sent Brian Cardinal to New York and received cash considerations along with Milicic, who was unhappy with the Knicks and would have been waived had they not found a deal for him.

**Rockets trade
McGrady to
Sacramento**

HOUSTON (AP) — Published reports say the Houston Rockets have traded Tracy McGrady and his massive expiring contract to the Sacramento Kings for guards Kevin Martin and Sergio Rodriguez, center Hilton Armstrong and forward Kenny Thomas.

The Kings also reportedly will get forward Carl Landry, Houston's most productive bench player this season, and seldom-used forward Joey Dorsey.

The deal was first reported by KRIV-TV and the Houston Chronicle early Thursday morning. ESPN.com reported that the New York Knicks will work with the Kings and Rockets on Thursday morning

to acquire McGrady in a three-team swap.

The seven-time All-Star is making an NBA-high \$23 million this season, the last year of his contract.

**Stricker falls in
Match Play
Championship**

MARANA, Ariz. (AP) — Ross McGowan of England rolled in a 30-foot par putt on the 19th hole to beat Steve Stricker, only the second time in the Match Play Championship that the No. 1 seed was beaten in the opening round.

On a day dominated by news of Tiger Woods, golf's biggest star managed to have an influence at Dove Mountain.

McGowan only got into the 64-man field because Woods did not enter while on his indefinite break from golf. That also elevated Stricker to the No. 1 seed, and he became the first top seed since Woods in 2002 to lose in the first round.

**McGwire reports
to spring training**

JUPITER, Fla. (AP) — Mark McGwire's first day on the job ended with another apology for using steroids.

The St. Louis Cardinals' new batting coach got time in the batting cage with hitters, sat in on a lengthy staff meeting and then spoke with reporters at the team's spring training complex in Florida. He again said he was sorry, echoing remarks he made last month when he admitted he used performance-enhancing drugs during his time as baseball's home run king in the 1990s.

**McEnroe shaking
up US Davis Cup**

NEW YORK (AP) — United States captain Patrick McEnroe will be taking a fresh-faced Davis Cup team to the first round in Serbia next month.

McEnroe selected John Isner, Sam Querrey and the doubles pairing of twin brothers Bob and Mike Bryan to the team that will play against Serbia on March 5-7.

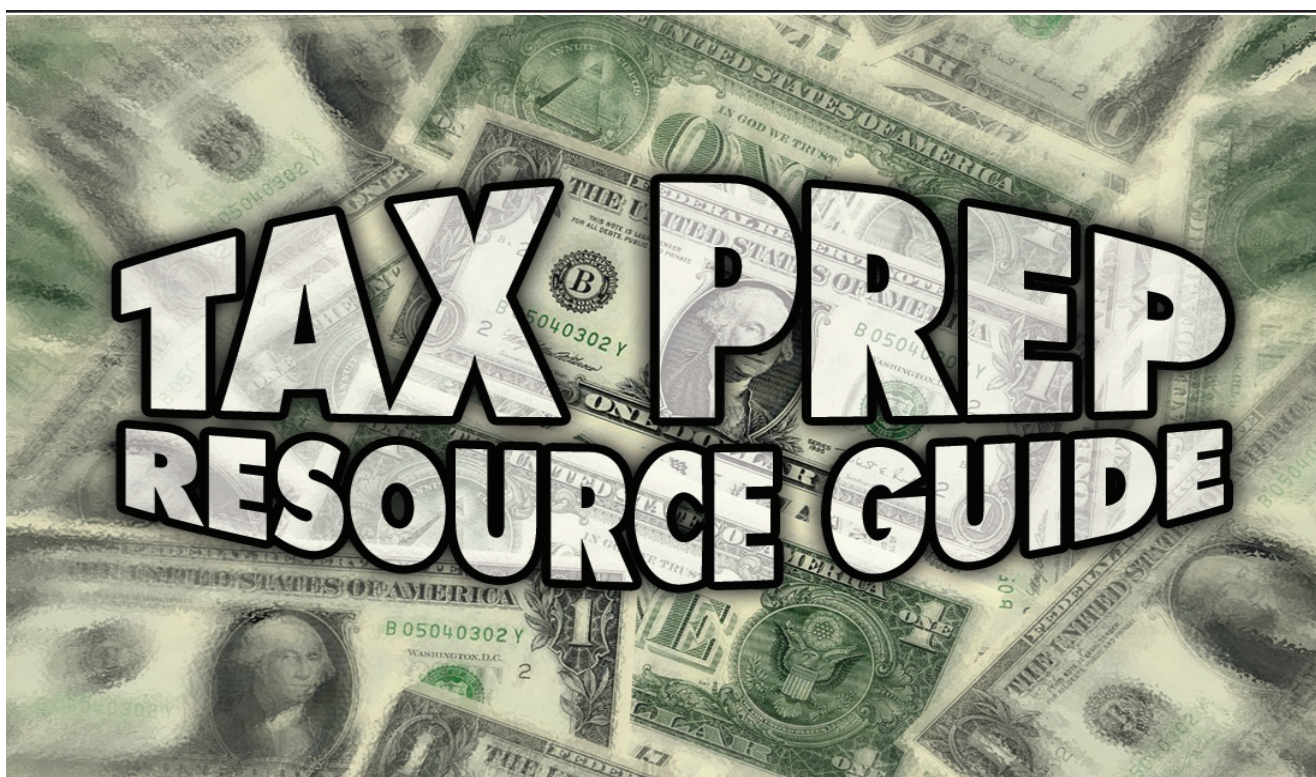
For the first time since 2000, neither Andy Roddick nor James Blake will be on the roster.

**Witness pleads
guilty to
distributing PEDs**

PITTSBURGH (AP) — A cyclist who was a U.S. Anti-Doping Agency witness against Floyd Landis in 2007 has pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute human growth hormone and another performance-enhancing drug.

Joe Papp admitted to conspiring with a Chinese manufacturer to sell drugs over the Internet to more than 180 customers including cyclists and other athletes.

In the Landis case, Joe Papp acknowledged his long pattern of drug use and testified about the ways synthetic testosterone helped him recover after races. Landis won the 2006 Tour de France but was later stripped of his title.





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▶ TEXAS SPORTS BRIEFS

Missouri 82, Texas 77
COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — Kim English scored 18 points and Keith Ramsey added 12 points and 11 rebounds for his first career double-double as Missouri beat

Texas. Jordan Hamilton led the Longhorns (20-6, 6-5) with 24 points off the bench and Damion James added 18 as the team ranked No. 1 for two weeks in mid-January lost for the sixth time in nine games and

fell into a sixth-place tie in the Big 12. Missouri (19-7, 7-4) raced to an 8-0 lead in the first two minutes as Texas turned the ball over on its first three possessions. The Longhorns came close but could not recover.

Young: 'This team is good'
ARLINGTON — Michael Young has enjoyed only two winning records in nine seasons with the Texas Rangers. There have been plen-

ty of disappointments for the Rangers' longest-tenured player, a career .302 hitter and perennial All-Star. The Rangers head into spring training with big expectations after adding right-hander Rich Harden and slugger

Vladimir Guerrero to an already solid core of players. Young says there should be high expectations because the Rangers, who won 87 games last season, are good.

MAVS
Continued from Page 8

surgery Wednesday to close an open dislocation of his right middle

finger. Dallas led 56-49 when it broke the game open starting the second half.

ing a 17-6 run that got Phoenix to 92-87 with 6:49 left.

points, Robin Lopez added 14 points and Steve Nash chipped in with 12 assists.

it would make no sense for the Suns not to trade Stoudemire only to see him walk away as a free agent at the end of the season.

Terry, who scored 17 points, hit a jumper and 3-pointer to push it back to 103-91 with 2:29 remaining. Marion had 14 points and 10 rebounds for Dallas, which had lost six of eight coming in.

Stoudemire was 12 of 23 from the floor and grabbed 12 of his 14 rebounds in the first half. "I felt great," Stoudemire said. "I came out with a lot of intensity from the start. I wanted to set the tone early, both offensively and defensively."

Walters said Stoudemire believed Phoenix's game Wednesday night at Dallas would be his last for the Suns.

"As a veteran team, we've got to understand what's at stake and start playing our best basketball," Kidd said. "We can't wait until the playoffs start. This was a must win for us." Richardson had 19

The trade of Stoudemire seemed more likely earlier in the day when agent Happy Walters told The Associated Press that

NOTES: Nowitzki and Phoenix forward Grant Hill were called for technicals with 1:35 left. ... Stoudemire has scored at least 20 points in eight straight games. ... The Mavericks have beaten the Suns five straight times at home.

sudoku

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.

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

VONN

Continued from Page 8

postponed last week because of too-wet, too-warm weather. Freezing overnight temperatures made the downhill slope especially slick Wednesday, and a series of scary falls prompted organizers to shorten the course and shave down the final jump for future races.

of disappointment all too well. At her second Olympics, four years ago in Italy, she lost control during a downhill training run at more than 50 mph and wound up in the hospital with a battered back. Less than 48 hours later, she was back on skis and finished eighth in the downhill.

against her back as she attacked every turn.

injury last year, I was in a lot of rehab. I knew that I just had to hang on and keep going for it," Mancuso said. "It's really been a tough, long road."

The downhill was interrupted for about a half-hour while Edith Miklos, a 21-year-old Romanian, was airlifted off the course by helicopter and later treated for a knee injury. Five-time Olympic medalist Anja Paerson, one of Vonn's chief rivals, lost control on the last leap, sailing about half a football field before landing on her back, tumbling through a gate and sliding across the red finish line. Miraculously, Paerson was badly bruised but no bones were broken, and she wasn't immediately ruled out for Thursday. Marion Rolland of France stumbled out of the start and tore a ligament in her left knee not 5 seconds into her run, years of work discarded in an instant. Vonn knows that sort

She sees that as a pivotal moment, and it preceded her big breakthroughs, including the last two World Cup overall titles and two world championship golds last year.

"I guess the — what's it called? — the adrenaline of the Olympics will tend to override everything. I think she could have skied without a foot and been OK," Thomas Vonn said, a folded U.S. flag tucked under his right elbow. "She put it out of her mind. She numbed it up real good. She was hurting in warmup, but you get in the starting gate, I think you forget a lot of that stuff."

She was 10th out of the starting gate and took the early lead by going nearly a second faster than Goergl. When Thomas Vonn — a former Olympic skier who serves as a coach and adviser to his wife — saw that, he radioed to Lindsey to tell her she would need to ski aggressively to top Mancuso's performance.

Vonn was hurt Feb. 2 in Austria, tumbling during a slalom practice session and slamming the top of her ski boot against her right shin. Simply pulling on her boot in her hotel room to test the injury's progress became an ordeal, something her husband, Thomas, said she found depressing.

If this Olympic medal thing was new to Vonn — she sobbed when it became clear the gold would be hers and kept calling this "the best day of my life!" — not so for Mancuso, of Squaw Valley, Calif. Mancuso won the giant slalom at the Turin Olympics, and said Wednesday, her trademark tiara propped atop her hair, "I've always just known that I would get a medal here."

Lindsey's reply to Thomas, essentially: "I got it." Good as she was, she wasn't perfect. Near the bottom, just before going into her final tuck, she hit a bump and briefly appeared to lose her balance, raising her right ski off the snow while steadying herself with her left.

"She's a fighter," U.S. Ski Team women's coach Jim Tracy said. "I knew 100 percent, whether she was going to be sore or not, she was going to be ready to race 100 percent."

If so, it was on faith, not form.

"One of the most clutch runs I've ever seen. She had the weight of the world on her, and people basically hanging the medal around her neck before she went out of the start," her husband said. "That's incredibly hard to deal with."

Indeed, Vonn was superior on this day, her ponytail peeking out of her helmet and flapping

not form.

She had failed to produce a top-3 finish since the Olympic test downhill at Whistler two years ago. She hasn't won a World Cup downhill in nearly three years. "Coming off a back

ference standings, to stay in the hunt for an appearance in the Region 5 tournament. The Hawks are two games behind No. 4 seed New Mexico JC with three games to

HOWARD

Continued from Page 8

Hawk women face must-win game
The Hawk women have a new-look team after losing three start-

ers earlier in the week. That means the Hawks will have to rely on post Jackie Bartelson for the bulk of their scoring going into tonight's 5:45 p.m. contest at Western Texas. Bartelson scored 15

points against Midland on Monday in a 55-39 loss.

The Hawks are 3-6 and have lost their last three games in WJCAC play. They need a win tonight against WTC, sitting last in the con-

ference standings, to stay in the hunt for an appearance in the Region 5 tournament. The Hawks are two games behind No. 4 seed New Mexico JC with three games to

Contract Bridge
By Steve Becker
A Singular Double Tragedy

North dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ Q J 9 7 6
♥ A K 9 8 7 2
♦ K 10
♣ —

WEST
♠ 5 2
♥ 6 4
♦ A 7 6 2
♣ Q 10 9 5 3

EAST
♠ A
♥ J 10 3
♦ J 9 4 3
♣ K J 8 7 2

SOUTH
♠ K 10 8 4 3
♥ Q 5
♦ Q 8 5
♣ A 6 4

The bidding:
North East South West
1♥ Pass 1♠ Pass
3♦ Pass 3♥ Pass
5♣ Pass 6♣ Pass

Opening lead — two of diamonds.

Some deals you hear about sound much more like fiction than fact. For example, here's one that may strain your credulity. It occurred, believe it or not, in a head-to-head match between two of the contending teams in a national team-of-four championship.

At the first table, the bidding went as shown. North clearly overestimated the value of his hand. Granting that South's one-spade response was music to North's ears, North

surely overstated his high-card strength when he jump-shifted in diamonds and then leaped to five spades over three hearts. After this, South certainly could do no less than cuebid his ace of clubs in an attempt to get to a grand slam.

Of course, the slam should have gone down one since the defenders held two cashing aces. But it did not occur to West that his partner could hold the ace of trumps, and he decided that desperate measures would be needed to defeat the slam the opponents had bid so confidently.

Accordingly, he led the deuce of diamonds! West was hoping to find dummy with the K-J and East with the queen, in which case declarer would almost surely play the jack from dummy.

However, this proved not to be the right time or place to underlead an ace against a slam. South won the diamond with the queen and cashed the ace of clubs, discarding the king of diamonds from dummy. He then conceded a trump to East's ace to make the slam.

At the second table, the bidding went differently, but the final contract was exactly the same! Again South got to six spades, again West underled the ace of diamonds, and again South made the slam — so the deal was a washout!

Now wouldn't you agree that truth is stranger than fiction?

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.
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PLAYOFFS
Continued from Page 8

Grady vs. Water Valley
When: 6 p.m. Tuesday
Where: Howard College

The Grady Wildcats will begin their playoff run against Water Valley, which finished No. 3 in District 10-A, Division II. Grady (23-4) finished the season ranked No. 15 in the coaches' poll. The winner will move on to face Vernon Northside, which was the No. 1 seed out of District 12.

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