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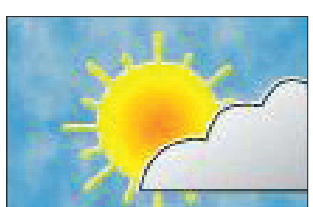
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BIG SPRING HERALD

FRIDAY

FEBRUARY 19, 2010



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HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins

Local resident and member of the Concerned Citizens Council Shannon Thomason, left, looks over a lawsuit filed against the city of Big Spring Thursday afternoon while Keith Elkins, executive director of the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas, and local attorney John Ferguson look on. The Concerned Citizens Council is alleging the city violated the Open Meetings Act.

Lawsuit filed against city

Group accuses council of violating meetings act

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

A group of Howard County citizens, backed by the Texas Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas, filed a lawsuit against the city of Big Spring in 118th District Court Thursday afternoon alleging the municipality violated the Texas Open Meetings Act in January.

The lawsuit — which was filed on behalf of the Concerned Citizens Council with local residents Shannon Thomason, Steve Campbell, Thomas Tafuro, John Huckabee, Joe Hernandez and Mary Musik named as plaintiffs — alleges an emergency meeting of the Big Spring City Council held Jan. 7 violated the act, which requires 72 hours notice of meetings.

“What happened in this particular case is the city of Big Spring officials waited until the very last minute to take any action on a citizen request,” said Keith Elkins,

executive director of the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas, shortly after the lawsuit was filed. “They had 20 days to do so and they waited until the very last hour, then they posted an emergency posting for a meeting that, by law, requires at least 72 hours notice. They gave the taxpayers six hours notice. That, in and of itself, is unacceptable.

“We’re not here on behalf of the Freedom of Information Foundation to tell the people of Big Spring how to conduct their business. That’s their business. We are, however, here to try to make sure the elected officials of Big Spring follow state law, and we think this filing and the facts that will come out in court will show they, in fact, did not.”

At the heart of the issue for the Concerned Citizens Council is a proposal to replace the city pool, which was closed earlier this

See **LAWSUIT**, Page 3A

Symphony concert slated Saturday evening

Herald Staff Report

Strike up the band — or, in the case, the orchestra.

The Big Spring Symphony will host its third concert of the 2009-2010 season Saturday and tickets remain on sale

throughout the community.

Titled “Symphony in Motion,” Saturday’s show will begin at 8 p.m. at the Big Spring High School Auditorium and will feature such favorites as Wagner’s “Ride of the Valkyries” and

Beethoven’s “Symphony No. 5 in C minor.”

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.

Tickets are available at the Western Banks, Faye’s Flowers, Blum’s Jewelers, the Heritage Museum, Big

See **CONCERT**, Page 3A

Stewart honored by local Masonic lodge

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Howard Stewart is a self-described “volunteer-holic.” One of the results of this condition is receiving awards from a grateful community.

Stewart, a third-generation Mason, was honored Thursday at the local Staked Plains Lodge with the Golden Trowel Award, presented in recognition of outstanding service to the lodge and community.

“His continued involvement with activities here at the lodge and his community service are the reasons for his receiving this award,” said Lodge Master Les Montgomery, who presented the award.

While Masons have been around for centuries, the Golden Trowel is a relatively

recent award, first presented in the early 1990s to members for their outstanding service.

“The award winner is the member who constantly does the little things, not because he’s asked to or because he seeks recognition, but because he practices in his daily life the principles Masons hold dear,” Montgomery said. “This is the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a Master Mason.”

A committee recommends members for the award and the honor is decided by a vote of the entire membership, Montgomery said.

Stewart, who retired from Big Spring Independent School District in 2007 after a 30-year career as a teacher,

See **STEWART**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Howard Stewart, right, receives the Golden Trowel Award from Les Montgomery, master of the Big Spring Masonic Lodge, during a ceremony Thursday evening. The award was presented to Stewart in recognition of outstanding service to the lodge and community.

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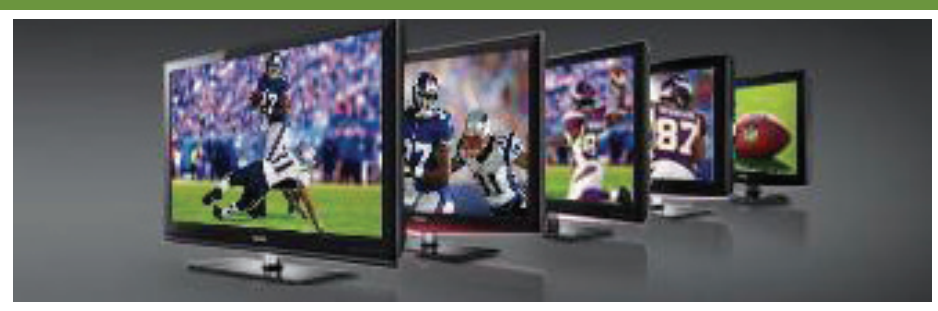
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LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED

Struggling Howard falls at Western Texas

By JOE ZIGTEMA
Sports Editor

SNYDER — Hawks coach Earl Diddle liked the way the Howard women opened Thursday's game with a 7-2 advantage in the first five minutes.

Not much went right after that.

The Hawks turned the ball over 22 times, which Western Texas converted into 25 points, as the Lady Westerners downed Howard 65-49 in Snyder. Howard (18-8, 3-7) has lost four straight since the Hawks came back to beat Frank Phillips at home Feb. 1.

And with three starters out, the Hawks are struggling to find rhythm.

"Every possession is big to us, and then we can't give up easy baskets at the other end," Diddle said. "This is almost a whole new team with two games to go. I think the players are a little frustrated, and I'm a little frustrated."

Teisha King scored 15 points for Western Texas (13-15, 2-9) and Jamie Wilson added 11 on a night the Lady Westerners shot 53 percent from the floor. Jackie Bartelson led the Hawks with 14 points and Kelsey Murgel chipped in 11.

"Any time you win a ball game, that's a good thing," Lady Westerners coach Tammy Davis said. "Our conference is just so brutally tough that even if you've struggled, you can still play well and do some good things."

Murgel opened the game with a 3-pointer from the top of the key in the first minute, followed by a bucket from Bartelson inside. D.J. Fountain then hit a midrange jumper at the 15:55 mark, but Western Texas responded with seven straight points to take a 9-7 lead it would never give up.

See **HOWARD**, Page 2B



HERALD PHOTO/Tony Claxton
D.J. Fountain lets a jumper loose Thursday in Snyder. The Hawks lost the game 65-49.

Hawks deny scrappy Westerners

BY JOE ZIGTEMA
Sports Editor

SNYDER — One game removed from a big win over Midland College, the No. 3 Howard Hawks faced a Western Texas team fighting for its playoff life Thursday in a contest that had "trap game" written all over it.

The Hawks steered clear of that situation in Snyder as they came away with their eighth straight win, a 60-46 decision.

"We'll take the win and try not to look back," Hawks coach Mark Adams said. "We played good enough to win after that big Midland game, so now maybe we can get things back. This is still not the caliber of basketball that we need to be playing."

Four Howard players were in double figures on the night, including Jae Crowder with 17, Josh Watkins with 16 and Carlos Emory and LaMont Austin each with 11. Emory also grabbed 11 rebounds to lead the team.

"They have good players, but they're a great team," said Western Texas coach Jason Sautter, a former Howard assistant. "I remember where they came from at the beginning to where they're at now, and they deserve every-



HERALD PHOTO/Tony Claxton
Josh Watkins goes up over a Western Texas defender Thursday in Snyder. Watkins scored 16 points as the Hawks notched their eighth straight win in WJCA play 60-46. Howard will host Odessa on Monday at home.

thing they're getting." Will Harrison scored 20 points and grabbed nine rebounds off the bench for the Westerners.

The Hawks jumped out to an early 12-3 lead behind six points

from Emory in the first three minutes, but Western Texas scrapped its way back into the game through the rest of the first half. The Hawks led comfortably the whole way but could never deliv-

er a knockout punch to the Westerners.

The Hawks led 34-28 at the half. Howard extended its lead to 13 out of the break with a 17-0 run in the

See **HAWKS**, Page 14

Bulldogettes hungry for return to state

BY JOE ZIGTEMA
Sports Editor

COAHOMA — The Coahoma softball team is revamped and reloaded for the 2010 season as a strong core of Bulldogettes return, hoping to get back to a state tournament they missed for the first time in five years last season.

This year's team looks as strong as ever — ranked No. 5 in 2A's pre-season poll — thanks to a tremendous one-two punch in the pitcher's circle with Heather Newton and Katie Dunn.

Newton, a first-team All-State player who signed with Angelo State in the pitching staff, but Dunn will make a difference as well.

"Pitching and defense will keep you in every game, and they do that for us," Coahoma coach Tracy Tadlock said of his duo. "Katie is a No. 2 pitcher but she would probably be an ace for a lot of teams around here, so it's good that Heather doesn't have to take all the innings."

The Bulldogettes are also more active around the field, Tadlock said.

"We're getting more athletic and quicker," he said. "If you have a lot of speed and contact hitters, that can really hurt other teams, and that's what we're getting

to. The ability to take an extra base and put pressure on the defensive player every time we put the ball in play because you're going to have to get rid of the ball quick to get us out."

Coahoma will be breaking in some new players along with returners in new positions this season, Tadlock said.

The Bulldogettes' current lineup is tentative, but to start the season, junior Joanna Gonzales will move in to shortstop from left field, Jennifer Castilaw will take over duties behind the plate and Haley McCullough will be at second. Freshman Laurel Nix will play third base.

"But she hits a lot bigger than that," Tadlock said of Nix. "We're also fortunate to have a couple kids that we know can hit and we know can contribute, and they can fill in if someone's having a problem."

Dunn will play first when she's not pitching and the corner outfield spots will platoon Kylie Gee, Jordan Martin and Brandi Smith, among others.

"Our expectations are always to go win the whole thing," Tadlock said. "There's only one winner and everybody else ought to be a little disappointed, but I'm really excited and I think we have a great chance."

Experienced Lady Steers looking 'sweet' on softball diamond



HERALD FILE PHOTO/Tony Claxton
Kenzie Hunt pitches in a game last season. Hunt returns along with seven starters from last year.

BY JOE ZIGTEMA
Sports Editor

As soon as the basketball Lady Steers joined softball practice on Wednesday, head coach John Sparks knew he would have a team to work with this season.

"It was just sweet to watch," Sparks said. "Doing infield-outfield, they know what to do, you don't have to tell them and they know my plan."

Sparks has a postseason run on his mind for for the Lady Steers this season, who return seven members from last year's squad and bring in some new contributors who should

add depth to the team. Big Spring opens the season at Monahans at 5 p.m. tonight.

Senior Linzee Yarbar, who has played center field the last three years, will move to the infield at shortstop this season and is the team's best hitter, Sparks said. Sophomore Cerbi Ritchey will take over first base duties but will also play the corner outfield spots.

Valerie Ross will join her hoops teammates in the middle infield at second base, and Jillian Valle will resume her third base duties from last year.

Freshmen Logan Yarbar and Haley

Dimidjian will contribute immediately to the team. Yarbar will back up senior Kenzie Hunt in the pitcher's circle, a luxury Sparks said he didn't have last year. She will patrol center field and Dimidjian will play right along with senior Macy Briggs in left.

"She's been doing OK right now, but she's going to be a good player," Sparks said of Dimidjian. She just needs some experience."

The Lady Steers' lineup is highlighted by Linzee Yarbar, Hunt and Valle, but Sparks is looking for some

See **BSHS**, Page 2B

Sports in brief

Girls playoff games on tap tonight

The girls area playoff round heats up tonight as Forsan, Stanton and Garden City take the court. Forsan will play No. 10 Smyer in Slaton tonight. Stanton's Lady Buffs will take on No. 11 Tahoka at Andrews High School and Garden City will travel to Lubbock Roosevelt High School for a matchup with Guthrie.

Check the weekend's *Herald* for results

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.

Howard College to host playoff games tonight

Howard College will host two girls area playoff games tonight beginning at 6 p.m.

Petersburg and Rankin will hit the floor at 6 p.m. tonight, followed by Abilene Wylie and Greenwood at 8 p.m. in a 3A contest.

Dorothy Garrett will host boys playoff action Tuesday as Grady will play Water Valley at 6 p.m. before Blackwell and Loop at 8 p.m.



Dr. Cynthia Rutledge, right, of Family Medical Center gives a presentation about heart health during the Healthy Woman monthly event at Dora Roberts Community Center Thursday afternoon.

HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

Man angry with IRS crashes plane into office

AUSTIN (AP) — A software engineer with an apparent grudge against the government crashed his small plane into an office building with nearly 200 Internal Revenue Service employees inside, killing himself and at least one worker.

Before flying his single engine Piper PA-28 into the hulking black-glass office building Thursday morning, A. Joseph Stack III apparently posted a rambling screed on a Web site in which he railed against “big brother,” the Catholic Church, the “unthinkable atrocities” committed by big business and the governments bailouts that followed.

In the note, signed “Joe Stack (1956-2010)” and dated Thursday, he said he slowly came to the conclusion that “violence not only is the answer, it is the only answer.”

Law enforcement officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because the investigation was still going on, said the 53-year-old Stack apparently set fire to his house and posted the screed.

Stack’s wife, Sheryl, planned to address the news media on Friday, the Red Cross said.

Some who knew Stack said he offered little hint of his anger before the attack.

“He didn’t rant about anything,” said Pam Parker, an Austin attorney whose husband played in a band with Stack. “He wasn’t obsessed with the government or any of that. ... Not a loner, not off in a corner. He had friends and conversation and ordinary stuff.”

But in the self-described “rant,” the author fumed about the IRS and wrote, “Nothing changes unless there is a body count.”

CONCERT

Continued from Page 1A

Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, the Big Spring Herald and KBST Radio. Ticket prices are \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors and \$5 for students. The Symphony Guild suggests that children under the age of 5 are not expected to enjoy the concert.

STEWART

Continued from Page 1A

coach and director of transportation and maintenance, first joined the local lodge in April 1987. Since that time, he has served in a variety of positions, including past master of the lodge, past com-

mander of the local commandry, past high priest of the York Rite Mason chapter 178 and current Worthy Patron of the Oder of the Eastern Star and secretary-treasurer of the Masonic Temple Association.

He has also active within the community, being involved with organizations ranging from the

American Cancer Society, Relay for Life, the city traffic commission, Festival of Lights and the board of directors for Big Spring Country Club.

Stewart expressed humility after receiving the award.

“After reading the requirements, I really don’t think I deserve this,” he

said. “I don’t feel like I’ve done anything outstanding — I just try to stay busy. I tried retirement for a while and that didn’t last ... I can take very little credit for the way my life has worked out.

“I’m just a volunteer-holic,” Stewart continued. “I just have a hard time saying no, I guess.”

LAWSUIT

Continued from Page 1A

year because it didn’t conform to federal standards. The revenue garnered from the adopted tax rate will bring an estimated \$331,400 above the effective rate. The bulk of that money — \$243,579 — would be earmarked for the pool project.

Had the rollback petition been successful, the tax rate would have fallen back to 97.9398 cents per \$100 property value — the roll back rate set by the state of Texas. The rollback would have left the city’s current budget with a shortfall of about \$180,000, according to officials.

The council recently agreed to move forward with a \$4.2 million aquatics center to replace the Municipal Swimming Pool.

Elkins said the process began when citizens from Big Spring contacted his foundation for legal advice on the matter.

“We were contacted by some citizens here in Big Spring who were alleging the Texas Open Meetings Act had

been violated, which is where we come in,” said Elkins. “We put them in touch with some legal experts that are on our staff and it was determined that violations did in fact occur. We are assisting and trying to provide some of the funding for filing of the lawsuit on behalf of the citizens of Howard County.”

Elkins said because the Open Meetings Act was violated, at the very least the citizens of Big Spring are owed a rollback election.

“It’s up to the citizens of Big Spring. It’s their lawsuit,” said Elkins. “We’re just assisting them in it. However, I think the facts will show that they clearly have the law on their side, or we would not be involved. The Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas has been in existence for more than 30 years as probably the oldest educational and advocacy agency of its type in the country, working for open government and to make sure records are accessible to the public. After looking at the facts, our attorneys have determined, yes, in fact, the city did violate the Open Meetings Act

clearly, and, as such, the citizens of Big Spring are at least entitled to a rollback election so they can decide whether or not they want this tax increase. That’s not for us to decide, it’s for the citizens of Big Spring to decide.”

Thomason agreed, saying Big Spring taxpayers should have a say in how the pool issue — and the tax rate — are handled.

“We’ve felt all along that on a project of this size the citizens should have a vote,” said Thomason. “Had the city followed the Texas Open Meetings Act it wouldn’t be an issue. However, they decided to violate the law to take away the right of the

citizens to have a vote on this issue. This is the only response we have.”

Elkins said violations of the Texas Open Meetings act of this type are far more common than most people would think, a growing problem in the Lone Star State.

“The Open Meetings Act seems to under attack from a lot of different areas. This law has been around for 43 years and it works,” said Elkins. “This is the very reason we’re here today, to make sure the law is applied equally and people follow the law to guarantee whether you live in Big Spring or Austin, you have the same entitlement to

know what the government is doing, when they are doing it, and you can participate in it if you want to. We just want to make sure it’s a level playing field.”

City Attorney Linda Sjogren said Friday morning the city staff hasn’t yet received a copy of the lawsuit.

“I really can’t comment on this until we’ve had a chance to go over the lawsuit and see exactly what’s being alleged,” said Sjogren. “I can tell you this is much more complicated

and convoluted than the Concerned Citizens Group has made it out to be.”

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

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEW

We salute:

Each week, the Herald salutes individuals and groups from our community and area who have been recognized for special achievements or accomplishments.

We recognize these special people for working to help make our region a better place to live, work and play

This week we salute:

- The Big Spring Steers, who claimed the District 4-4A boys' basketball championship, closing the season with a 64-50 win over Plainview Tuesday night in Steer Gym.

- City of Big Spring Chief Code Enforcement officer Chad Averette and his staff, who have an 86 percent compliance rate from people who receive notifications of violations of city codes — an excellent rate that Averette and other city officials are committed to improving.

- Chaplains with the Emergency Services Chaplains Corps, who provide an invaluable service not only to members of the public, but also to emergency services personnel with the Big Spring Fire Department, Howard County Sheriff's Office, Big Spring Fire Department and EMS, Department of Public Safety, Victim Services of Big Spring and Scenic Mountain Medical Center's emergency room.

- Jeanie Knocke and Drew Mouton, who were named recipients of the Man and Woman of the Year for 2009, during last week's Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce banquet.

Is there an individual or organization in our community that you feel should be saluted? If so, please send us their name and why you think they should be recognized. We must have your name and telephone number and you must provide it in writing.

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

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

May we make a new connection, Lord, with You.
Amen

Dreaming on the Rock

Just south of Llano and a little northwest of Fredericksburg is an amazing place known as "Enchanted Rock." It's a chunk of pink granite taking up more than 650 acres and rises about 450 feet in the air. It's inspiring, magnificent and beautiful. I love to go there.

CHASING THE DREAM

For thousands of years, the local Indians would make pilgrimages there because they believed the rock had supernatural power and was a place of dreaming.

The first European to visit the area was probably Cabeza de Vaca. This half-naked Spanish explorer and renown faith healer stopped by in 1536 after being shipwrecked in Galveston.

It's the kind of place that calls to explorers and dreamers. The kind of place where God shows up in a really neat way — if you want to see Him.

Last Thursday, I woke up after three days of a powerful conference and I wanted to get out of town. So Leanna and I left for

Enchanted Rock in hope of finding a "love shack" to "hole up" in for a few days.

What we found was far above our expectations in an amazing bed and breakfast called Trois Estate.

BUILDING THE DREAM

Rebecca and Charles Trois left the hustle and bustle of Austin's high society to build something amazing and share it with the rest of us.

This elegant, European-style getaway at Enchanted Rock is a hand-built village by the two of them. The houses have wine bottles in the walls so light shines through, imported doors that are hundreds of years old, a saloon modeled after the birdcage in Tombstone, details, finishes and collectibles from places only imagined by most of us, a spa, an underground grotto, artisan market and an amazing Italian restaurant where Rebecca is the chef.

Charles is an artist and this village is their passion — their dream.

LIVING THE DREAM

Enchanted Rock had done it again and when this explorer and dreamer showed up there last Thursday — he was blown

away.

It is so important for you and me to be dreamers. We are not here just to survive but to thrive and live life more abundantly. I think God has gotten a bad rap as a dream killer because so many fuddy-duddy religious people have misrepresented him. My Friend Dave Crone says, "The Pharisees were the dream killers of Jesus' day," and indeed they were.

I don't know if Rebecca and Charles are Christians but they sure have a thing or two to teach most of us Christians about the Kingdom. They were hospitable, giving, happy and world changing kind of people that dared to dream big and make it happen.

I think Jesus is like that. Knowing this truth makes me want to live life all the more and that's the kind people all Christians should be.

"When the Lord brought back the captives to Zion, we were like those who dream." — Psalms 126:1

The Rev. Troy Brewer pastors Open Door Ministries near Joshua and Crowley and can be reached through his websites at www.opendoorministries.org or www.freshfromthebrewer.com



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STRESS POSITION

Uncle Mort and census counting

A few days after the Super Bowl, I bade "so long" to the Interstate, knowing that the sun-splashed highway would be visible only with headlights upon resumption of my travels a few hours later. It was time for my semi-annual visit to the thicket where Uncle Mort and Aunt Maude have been residents for 97 years.

I wanted to get Mort's "take" on current affairs and to watch Maude shake her head in wonderment. Everyone has known for decades — and Maude's been privy to the probability since they were wed nearly 80 years ago — that Mort spends waking moments trying to outsmart the world.

A woman of few words, she made this observation before I tracked him down in the backyard: "Nothing's changed out here, nephew," she laughed. "Mort is still looking at everything sideways."

Then she added, "As long as he's out, I don't think they'll lock him up, but if they ever lock him up, I doubt that they'll ever let him out."

Mort was alternating between laughter and groans.

Forfeiting his old pick-up truck for a golf cart when gasoline prices skyrocketed, he was taking his grease gun to the accelerator when I interrupted.

"I try to grease this sucker every five years," Mort said. "Been reading about you car-driving people having trouble with accel-

erators. The only time 'recall' is mentioned around here is when I'm trying to remember where I left the grease gun."

He was punch-pleased that even if the pedal sticks, he can either jump off or keep it between the fences at top speed of 10 mph until the tank empties.

I made the mistake of asking about the moans.

"Down in my back, nephew," was his answer. "It's getting tougher to load a 50-inch TV on my golf cart the day before the Super Bowl and then return it to the store two days later."

Oh, no! This vignette reminded me why the clerks run the other way when Mort enters the store to make sure they still have the "48-hour-no-questions-asked return policy."

Then, he switched to the game. "I never dreamed I'd profit from New Orleans winning the Super Bowl," he bragged, "but I've come up with a book that's bound to make me rich, particularly in Louisiana."

He showed me the manuscript of How to Speak 'Who Dat' in 10 Easy Lessons.

Truth to tell, it is a replication of Pig Latin, a "language" born of boredom many decades ago and seldom used today.

"In words beginning with consonants, the initial consonant is moved to the end of the word followed by 'ay,'" he explained. "So, 'Saints' would be 'Aints-say.'" (There are a few more rules, but reading them invites eye-crossing.)

On one point, Mort and I agreed.

We nodded that it was common to hear "Sooner Nation," referring to University of Oklahoma football, and "Red Sox Nation,"

commonly heard synonymously with Boston Red Sox baseball. We decided on the need to "practice up" for similar application to New Orleans Saints football.

Where shall we place emphasis? "WHO-dat Nation?" "who-DAT Nation?" Or maybe "who-dat NATION?"

About that time, a woman — a bona fide representative of the United States government — entered the back yard, startling Uncle Mort. He isn't used to having two visitors at once.

Pad in hand, she began her spiel.

"Every decade, the government tries to find out how many men, women and children live in this country," she explained. "I'm plumb sorry, ma'am," Uncle Mort apologized. "But you've done come to the wrong house, 'cause I don't know."

I figured it was time to wind my way up the country roads to the Interstate and get back in the race. I wondered if my accelerator would stick, if I could remember Pig Latin without buying Uncle Mort's new book and if the census lady was still laughing.

I thought of Mort's insistence to omit "marching" from the Saints' famous song. "They didn't 'march' in," he contended. "The Saints 'passed in,' 'kicked in' or even 'barged in,'" he said.

I thought of the post-game shot of teary-eyed MVP quarterback Drew Brees hugging his infant son. I think he "soared in."

Dr. Don Newbury is a speaker and author living in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Send inquiries/comments to newbury@speakerdoc.com. Phone: 817-447-3872. Web site: www.speakerdoc.com.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

This is the first full day of the sun's journey through Pisces. The symbol for Pisces — two fish swimming in opposite directions — evokes the complexities of this sign. There's a certain flexibility that goes along with this transit and a willingness to question one's ideology.

Whatever you believe, could the opposite belief be true, as well?

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There's a temptation to put the cart before the horse. It's great to superimpose yourself onto your fantasy future, but you still have to do the work in the present in order to get there.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If you're too careful, you won't be able to accomplish what you need to do. Make "quick and dirty" your mantra. You'll be amazed at the quality of work you can put out when you just let your-

self dive in without a care.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Find the time to write something down about your day. This turns into an adventure as you uncover thoughts and feelings you didn't even know you were having. What a discovery! Like a treasure tucked away in a mysterious cave.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're a bit of a provocateur these days. Make this work to your advantage. Create a stir just for you. Get some hype going for your project, business or personal interest.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). As a situation grows more convoluted by the hour, you're finding it increasingly difficult to keep your mouth shut. You add your two cents and it amounts to a lot more than that.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Someone is trying to impress you with status. Too bad this person hasn't figured out that you could care less about how important other people think they are. You want to connect with someone as down-to-earth as you

are.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There are those around you who can't help but stir things up. It's their job to challenge the status quo. You will somehow find a way to conduct yourself with grace even when the boat is rocking.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's true that part of your identity is tied to what you do. And lately that's a big part of you. But you're not about to let that become your whole identity. There is so much more to you. Explore new extracurricular activities.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). To say that you are merely talented would be an understatement. You could become a master, with the right training. Consider getting a teacher. You might be able to barter to obtain someone's mentorship.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Keep doing the right thing. You are moving toward a state of grace. Others can sense that you're headed for a sweet position, and they will want to

get closer to you, just hoping the good fortune will rub off on them.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You may be affected by someone's mistake or oversight. This small slight doesn't have to ruin your day, though. In fact, it might be the best thing to happen to you, as other opportunities spring up.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll get your moment to shine, and you won't have to fight for it, either. So be patient, modest and laid-back. When it's your turn, you'll step up and deliver with great charm.

T O D A Y ' S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 19). You will show the world that there's even more to you. You increase your self-discipline and become stronger emotionally, physically and financially. March brings a new and influential friend into your life. June introduces a different line of work. September features family additions and celebrations. Aquarius and Virgo people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 3, 33, 21 and 49.

WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST: **ARIES:** You are self-confident and self-sufficient. This is so attractive. **TAURUS:** Put in some time with your love's family. Building these relationships is a new way to show your love. **GEMINI:** You are committed to improving yourself. Take a break, though. Cut loose. **CANCER:** Someone needs you to be strong and constant. Embrace your role as the rock. **LEO:** You have to pay to play. You'll be paid back, though. **VIRGO:** Dare to put your feelings in writing. You don't have to send the note, but it will help you to write it. **LIBRA:** Your private life is your business, though someone is trying to stick his or her nose into it. **SCORPIO:** Hone your style so that it can come through loud and clear. **SAGITTARIUS:** When you are happy, your love will be happy. Get a massage. **CAPRICORN:** Try not to overthink your status in a relationship. Everything is going well. **AQUARIUS:** You request things of your love, it's true. But

your delivery is so cheerful that you can't possibly be accused of nagging. **PISCES:** You'll be the life of the party. And if there is no party, throw one.

COUPLE OF THE WEEKEND: Aries and Pisces are right next to one another on the zodiac wheel, though one represents the beginning and the other the end. These two naturally fall into established roles: Aries leads and Pisces follows. Aries cooks and Pisces cleans up. Aries makes the social schedule and Pisces shows up to the party. This weekend the roles reverse and Pisces takes charge of Aries, the devoted follower.

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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Dear Margo: Same song, second verse

Dear Margo: For a few years now, my marriage has been very lonely, and my spouse is difficult in the best of times.

I admit: I was looking for a thrill and had an affair with a married man who had similar marriage woes.

To my utter shock and dismay, I've found that this man is completely perfect for me and we connect on all levels.

We've fallen deeply in love and have developed an incredible friendship.

I know people scoff at this type of thing, and I frankly never thought such a thing could happen.

We are generally sane, responsible people, though, and agreed not to break up our families; we will tolerate our disappointing spouses in order to give our children the best possible future.

We've taken the difficult step of giving up most of our relationship together and now just send e-mails because we both still need the lifeline.

But honestly, I am devastated. I don't know how to break such bonds of love and friendship. I am living with one man and loving and missing another.

I am slowly falling apart inside and running out of reasons to explain my sadness and depression to those around me. I don't know what to do. — *Grieving*

Dear Grieve: I only give you this advice because I have lived it and I believe in it.

Although I never left one man for another, I think life is too short to

be trapped in a marriage that is the polar opposite of fulfilling.

Yes, divorce takes a toll on children, but so does a sad and depressed mother.

I don't know whether the man of your dreams is willing to leave his family, but if he is, I would suggest you go ahead and remake your lives.

If he will not (which is more often than not the case), I recommend that you sever all ties and see a counselor about outmaneuvering the depression.

Then, too, children grow up. Good luck figuring this out. — *Margo, progressively*

Calling All Lovelorn!

Dear Readers: I've never tried anything like this before, but the request below strikes me as worthwhile.

I believe in studies, and honestly, who better than my audience for this particular subject?

So if you think you have something to add, be my guest.

Dear Margo: I am a psychology Ph.D. student and am currently undertaking a research project on how people process and are affected by hurtful events.

This includes factors such as how long people hold on to hurt feelings; how the importance of the relationship and type of event affect the intensity of the hurt; and what other emotions they tend to experience at the same time as the hurt.

I am currently in an important phase of my

research, that of data collection, and I am finding it difficult to meet my required participant numbers.

Given that this is a topic that you and your readers know first-hand, I was wondering whether I could ask for your help in completing my data collection, which takes the form of two questionnaires that can be completed online.

Participants are welcome to complete one or both of the questionnaires.

Participants need to be 18 years or older and currently involved in a romantic relationship to be eligible.

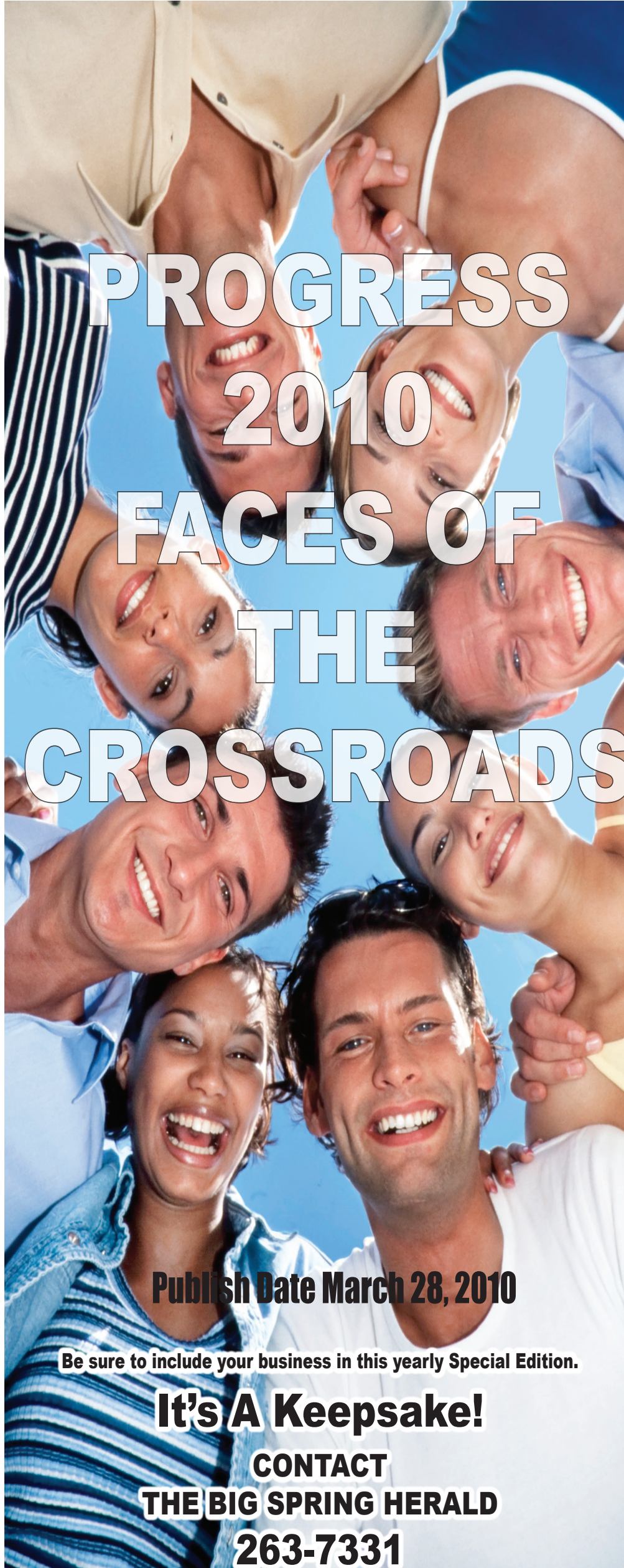
More details about the project and the questionnaires, as well as links to the questionnaires themselves, can be found at www.hurtlab.com.

Some preliminary results from this project were published in a number of media outlets late last year, but there are many more interesting findings that will come out of this research.

However, I won't be able to investigate these without sufficient participant numbers. Thank you very much for your time. I greatly appreciate it. — *Jodie Burchell in Australia*

Dear Margo is written by Margo Howard, Ann Landers' daughter. All letters must be sent via e-mail to dearmargo@creators.com. Due to a high volume of e-mail, not all letters will be answered.

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**PROGRESS
2010
FACES OF
THE
CROSSROADS**

Publish Date March 28, 2010

Be sure to include your business in this yearly Special Edition.

It's A Keepsake!

**CONTACT
THE BIG SPRING HERALD
263-7331**

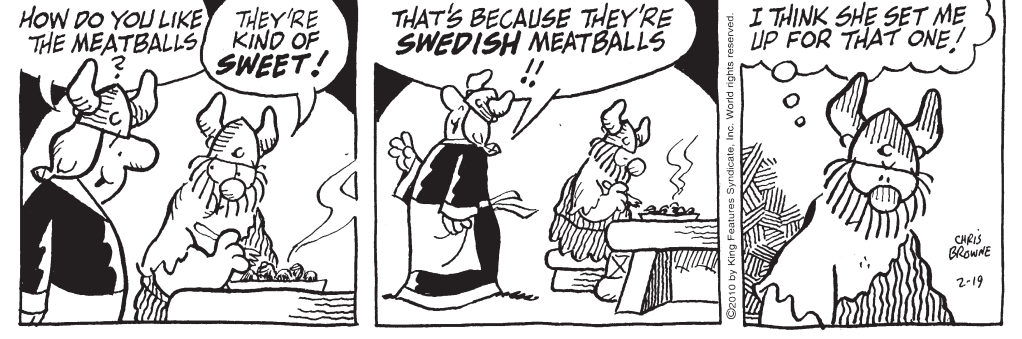
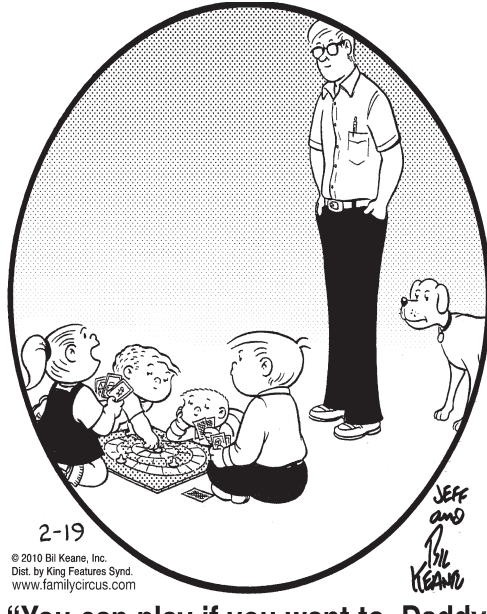
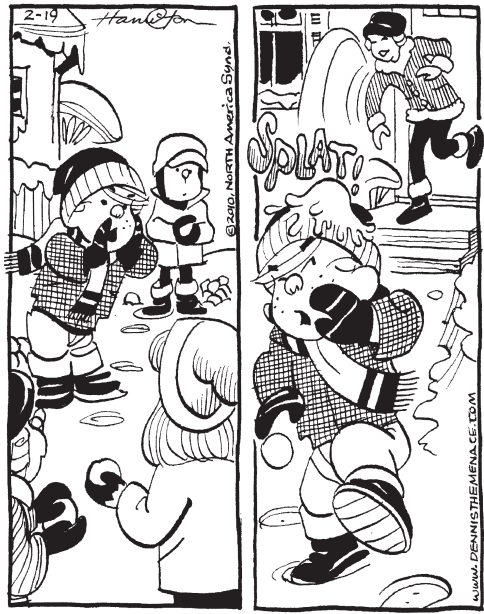
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Hidden treasures? Junk?
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Table with 20 columns (WFAA, KMDI, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLE, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN) and 20 rows (5:PM to 1:AM) listing local TV channels and their programming schedules.

DENNIS THE MENACE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

HAGAR



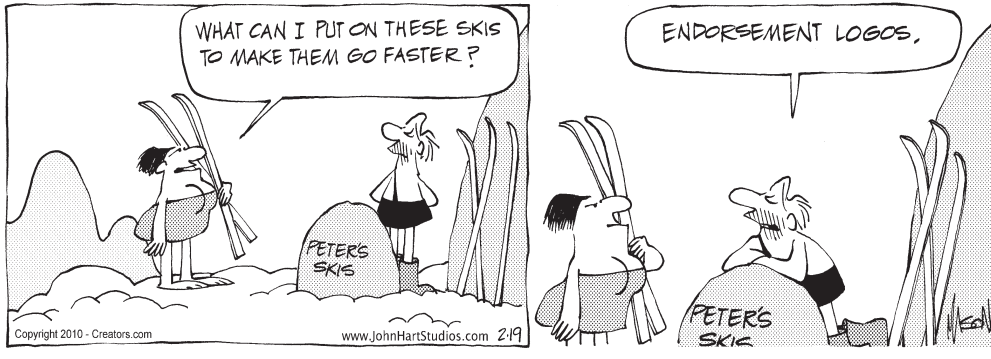
"EVERYBODY KNOWS GIRLS CAN'T THROW!" "AW, MOM! I WASN'T TALKIN' ABOUT YOU!"

"You can play if you want to, Daddy. It isn't too hard."

BLONDIE



BC



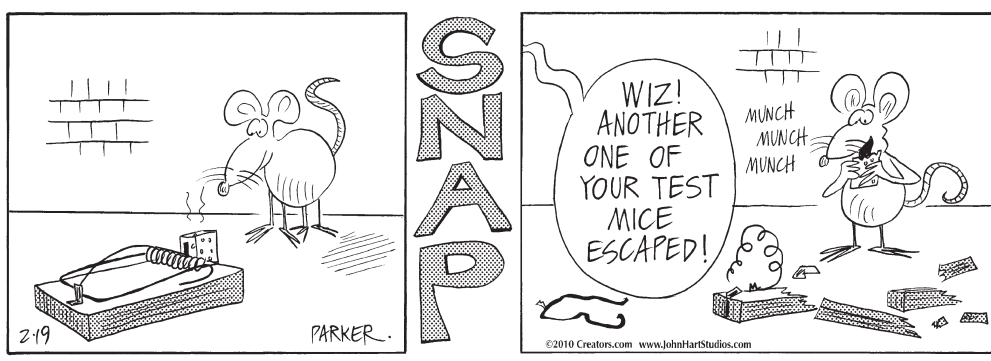
This Date In History

Today is Friday, Feb. 19, the 50th day of 2010. There are 315 days left in the year.

U.S. residents, including native-born Americans, of Japanese ancestry...

Robinson & the Miracles is 70. Actress Carlin Glynn is 70. Sony Chairman, CEO and President Howard Stringer is 68.

WIZARD OF ID



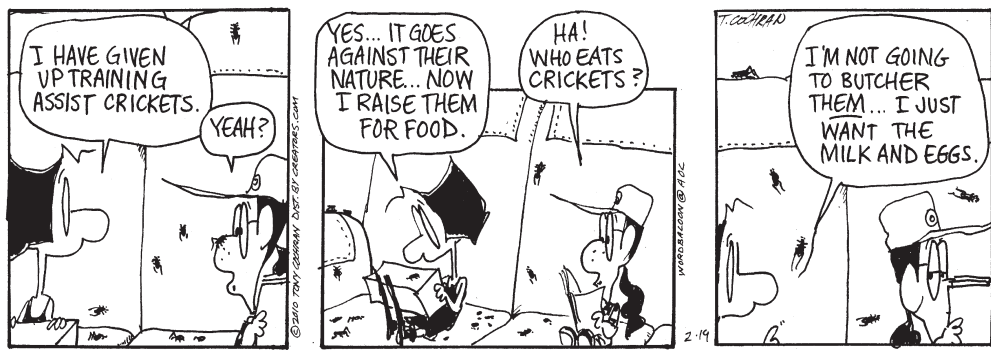
Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 19, 1945, during World War II, some 30,000 U.S. Marines began landing on Iwo Jima...

In 1977, Deng Xiaoping, the last of China's major Communist revolutionaries, died at age 92.

In 1999, President Bill Clinton posthumously pardoned Henry O. Flipper, the first black graduate of West Point...

AGNES

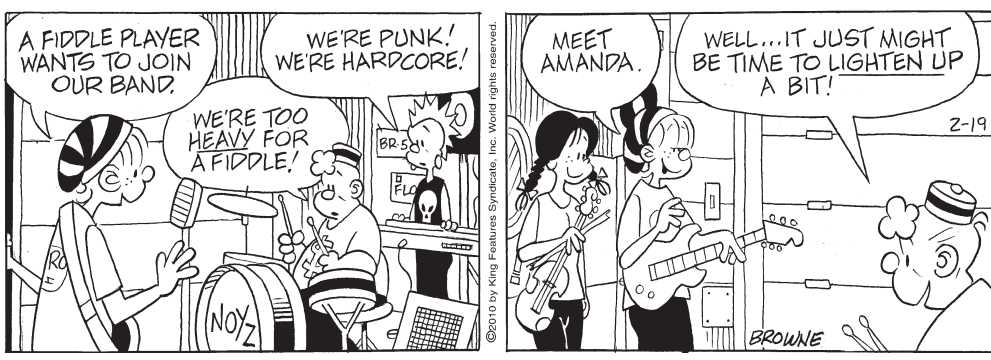


In 1803, Congress voted to accept Ohio's borders and constitution.

In 2008, an ailing Fidel Castro resigned the Cuban presidency after nearly a half-century in power...

Today's Birthdays: Singer Smokey Robinson is 70. Singer Bobby Rogers (Smokey

HI AND LOIS



In 1846, the Texas state government was formally installed in Austin...

In 1881, Kansas prohibited the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages.

In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt authorized the military to relocate and intern

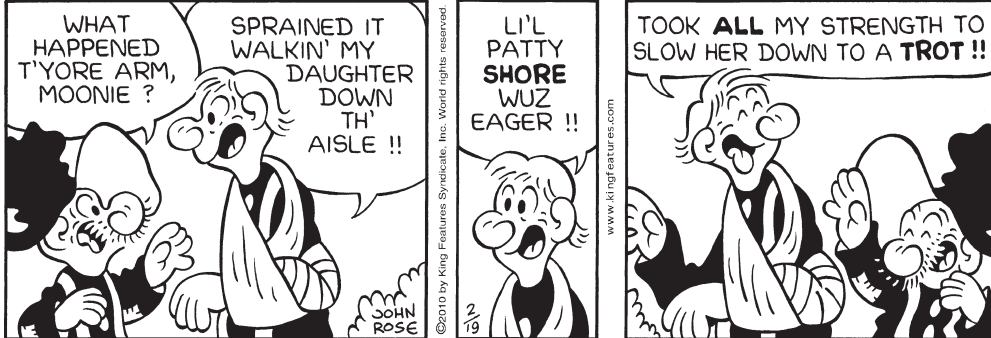
THE OTHER COAST



In 1881, Kansas prohibited the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Smokey Robinson is 70. Singer Bobby Rogers (Smokey

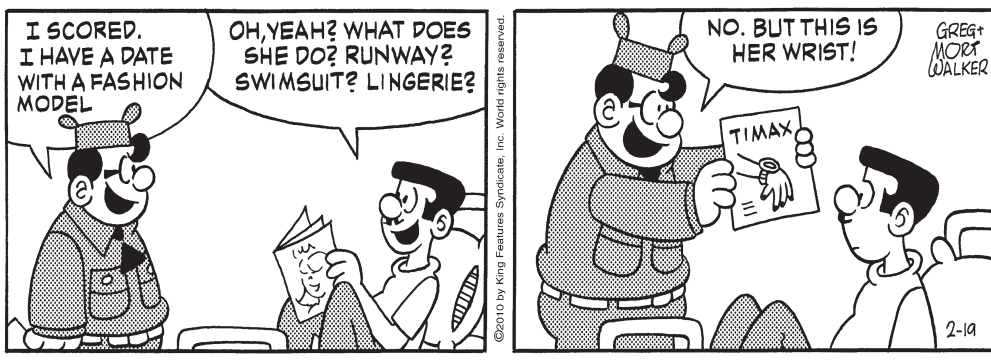
SNUFFY SMITH



In 1881, Kansas prohibited the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Smokey Robinson is 70. Singer Bobby Rogers (Smokey

BEEBLE BAILEY



In 1881, Kansas prohibited the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Smokey Robinson is 70. Singer Bobby Rogers (Smokey

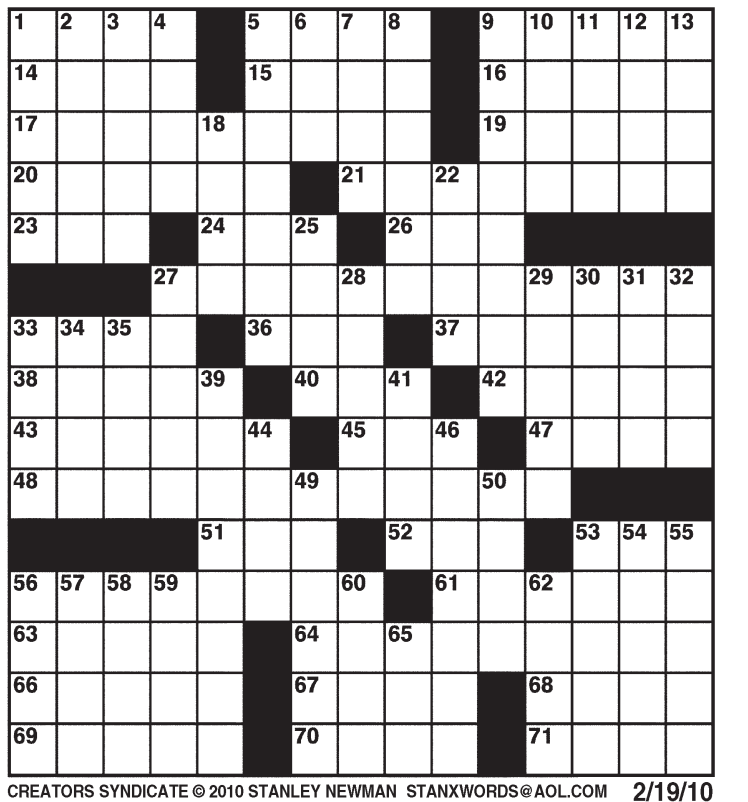
Answer to previous puzzle

Word search grid with words hidden in letters.

Newsday Crossword

TRASH TALK by Merle Baker Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS: 1 Engine turns, 5 "No ___!", 9 Sealy alternative, 14 Jai __, 15 Doozy, 16 Be useful, 17 High-yield investments, 19 Water container, 20 "You said it!", 21 Scorchers, 23 It's over your head, 24 French article, 26 Med. nation, 27 Flintstone's friend, 33 Boy or girl preceder, 36 Downturn, 37 No picnic, 38 Sweat units, 40 The National Parks airer, 42 Parsifal quest, 43 They're not right, 45 "What's the ___?", 47 Soft-pedal, 48 Pet-shop group, 51 Turn down, 52 Sun. message, 53 The Sting music, 56 Winter-storm aftermaths, 61 Place, 63 Bar mitzvah reading, 64 Be squandered, 66 Hippodrome, 67 The Time Machine race, 68 Transcript figs., 69 Swiss city, 70 "Joyeux ___!", 71 Fictional governess, DOWN: 1 4 Down rulers, 2 Spend, with "down", 3 Actor Patinkin, 4 Many a Punjabi, 5 Farmhands, at times, 6 Manage, 7 Auto pioneer, 8 With much activity, 9 Sound of Music setting, 10 Daredevil Robbie's dad, 11 Carry on, 12 Cake component, 13 Draft choices, 18 Gaucho weapon, 22 Goose egg, 25 Easy job, 27 Not competent in, 28 Treble-clef lines, 29 Real-estate ad abbr., 30 Sweetheart, 31 Café addition, 32 Fashion mag, 33 Biblical brother, 34 Ben's girlfriend, Meet the Parents, 35 Like key lime pie, 39 The Red and the Black author, 41 Nurses, in a way, 44 Tosca tune, 46 Heat source, 49 Element in chlorophyll, 50 Airship's front end, 53 Grating, 54 Rite place, 55 Formation fliers, 56 Unconfident attempt, 57 A Doll's House character, 58 Metal sources, 59 Lose energy, 60 Do it alone, 62 Batting-practice setup, 65 Sight in a sandal



Let the fight within you out

With our shaky economy today and the many changes we are seeing in our country, we could easily become weary and develop a negative approach toward life. But the Bible tells us in Luke 21:28, "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."



JERRIE STOCKS

God's plan is right on schedule and He is still in control. Therefore, we need not be fearful. Instead, change your thinking and put your full trust in Jesus Christ concerning these troubled times.

The question is "How deep is your faith?" Shallow faith is sorely tested during difficulties. Our faith must be strong and embedded in God's promises to face the challenges of today's world. Jesus said, "If you have

faith as a grain of mustard seed, you could say unto this mountain, remove hence to yonder place; and it would obey you, and nothing would be impossible unto you."

Charley and Lucinda Slater lived in New Orleans with their 3-year-old twin boys when Hurricane Katrina swept their house away in a matter of minutes with tremendous force.

The family climbed upon the roof of their house hoping for a rescue team to come their way when the wind suddenly increased in intensity, causing the small frame house to give way to the power of the wind. In the chaos, Charley lost his grip on the two little boys and the horrified parents watched as the swirling waters swept the tots away.

Charley frantically anchored Lucinda to some large tree branches as he prepared to go in search of the boys. Lucinda prayed, "Please God, send us a rescue team and let them find our babies alive and well."

Seconds later out of nowhere, rescuers showed up

in a boat and Charley jumped aboard. As he left, he told his wife to stay in the tree and hold on tight. "I'm afraid we're all going to die," he said. Lucinda shouted back, "We are not going to die! The end is not near! God is with us and we will live." She prayed with every ounce of strength she had. "Please dear God, spare our lives and let Charley find the boys safe and alive." Lucinda kept her faith strong in God's promises and never doubted that the boys would be found alive. Her favorite scripture was Psalms 91:7, "A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you."

Several hours later near sundown, Charley and the rescue workers finally returned with both boys, who had sustained only minor cuts and bruises.

The twins, in shock, soaking wet, and muddy were found together, sitting in a galvanized wash tub that had wedged itself between two large trees. A Miracle? You decide.

When Lucinda saw the rescue team with Charley and the boys aboard, she began to sing, "Jesus, lover of my soul, Let me to Thy bosom fly, While the nearer waters roll while the tempest still is high. Hide me, O my savior, hide, Till the storm of life is past: Safe into the haven guide, O receive my soul at last. Other refuge have I none: Hangs my helpless soul on Thee: Leave, O leave me not alone, Still support and comfort me." As the winds died down, Charley, Lucinda and the boys were taken to a shelter, given a shower, warm clothing, and food, all freely donated by wonderful people from Texas and other states as well.

What a lady of faith! Her faith was anchored in the promises of God and it carried her family through the worst of the worst. This is what can be accomplished when doubt and fear are replaced with active, living faith. When you are convinced that God will never leave you alone and you allow the fight within you to come out, God will

honor that faith. Even small faith will produce enormous miracles when it is released.

It is often in the midst of our most difficult circumstances that we recognize the burning fight within. This fight tenaciously grabs hold of the impossible and brings miracles into our lives. Never allow doubt to override your faith or paralyze you with fear. Faith is the opposite of fear and the two do not mix. Faith is not some long drawn-out process we must endure; it is a simple matter of believing what the Bible says.

Jesus said, "In the world we will have tribulations (trouble), but be of good cheer for I have overcome the world." Jesus knew that we would need to press our faith as far as it would go and allow the fight within us to push to the front. As we do, God will see to it that we overcome.

Ephesians 6:16, "Above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one."

God bless

CHURCH NEWS

Continued from Page 5A

East Fourth Street Baptist

This past Sunday evening was designated Youth Night in which the youth led the music and presented a skit which designated the obstacles and temptations our youth and college kids face in today's world. It was a true, heart-wrenching story and showed how we all need the Love of God in our lives and know him as our personal saviour. This program was followed by a Valentine Banquet for the youth and college/career prepared by the adults. Their pictures will be presented in the foyer this Sunday.

This Saturday our youth will be selling their famous brisket burritos in front of Wal-Mart. Please help them earn their funds for summer camp by purchasing the burritos.

We invite you to visit us at East Fourth Street Baptist Church, located at 401 E. Fourth St. Sunday, we start our services with Sunday school at 9:45 a.m., followed by a worship service at 11 where you'll hear some praise and worship music led by the Voices for Christ and our choir leading out with gospel hymns. Our Sunday evening services are at 6 p.m. Wednesday, we have our adult prayer meeting and Bible study, youth Bible study, music practice and children's Back Door Bible Study beginning at 7 p.m. Saturdays, a men's Bible study is at 7 a.m.

Our pastor, Keith Weaver, brings our message.

For more information, call the church office at 267-2291. You'll always find a friend at East Fourth.

St. Mary's Episcopal

Everyone is invited to attend worship services at St. Mary's this Sun-

day. Holy communion is celebrated at 10:30 a.m. We have Sunday school for all ages at 9:30 a.m.

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew's will meet at the church this Sunday at 8 a.m.

The Episcopal Church Women will meet in the library after church. All women of the church are encouraged to join us for this short meeting.

St. Mary's noon Holy Eucharist Service is each Wednesday in the chapel.

St. Mary's Lenten Soup and Studies begins Wednesday at 6 p.m.

Our Inquirer's Class, for those interested in learning about the Episcopal Church, is 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 25, in the parish hall.

For more information about St. Mary's Episcopal Church, call 267-8201 or visit our Web site at www.stmarysbst.org. St. Mary's is located at 1001 S. Goliad.

St. Paul Lutheran

St. Paul Lutheran Church, located at 810 Scurry, invites everyone to attend our worship services. Sunday worship begins at 9 a.m. with Sunday school for all beginning at 10:15. Our pastor is Wayne K. Frost. To reach our church office, call 267-7163 or e-mail spaulle@sbcglobal.net.

Bible study opportunities are available to anyone wanting to participate. Currently, we have four classes — Wednesdays at noon and 6 p.m. in the parish hall, Friday at 6 a.m. at Greg's Grill in the Big Spring Mall, and Sunday at 6 p.m. at 2712 Ann.

For more information, call the church office between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

We are reminded to include in our daily prayers our military men and women, especially those in combat situations.

North Birdwell Lane

North Birdwell Lane United Methodist Church, 2702 N. Birdwell Lane, invites you to visit our congregation this Sunday. Sunday school is at 9:30 a.m. with different class members leading the lesson each week. Worship services are at 10:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. with certified lay minister Billy C. Bates preaching.

We are a small church but have a very big, loving heart. If you are searching for a church home or are in the neighborhood, we hope you will visit with us.

Wednesday, Feb. 18, North Birdwell began our celebration of the Lenten

Season as we prepare for Easter Sunday and the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Ash Wednesday service was held at 5:30 p.m. with the administration of ashes as we rededicate ourselves to make more disciples for Christ. We invite you to worship with us during this season of Lent.

Remember, God loves you and there is nothing you can do about it.

"For God so loved the world that He gave his only son that whosoever believes in Him shall have everlasting life." — John 3:16.

See **CHURCH NEWS**, Page 8A

CLASS OF 2012
*To all parents of
 Graduation Class of 2012
 (Sophomores)*

*1st Meeting is scheduled for
 Wednesday,
 February 24, 2010
 at the
 Big Spring High School Library,
 6:00 p.m.*

*Questions Contact:
 Valerie Robertson
 432-213-8315*

000123



VOTE
Timothy D. Yeats
 REPUBLICAN
 for
 DISTRICT JUDGE

For over 27 years I have had the pleasure of practicing law in courtrooms throughout West Texas. My broad legal background in civil and criminal law has prepared me for the office, and it would be an honor to serve as your next District Judge.

- Timothy D. Yeats -

For more information, go to www.yeatsforjudge.com

Club News

Big Spring Area Retired Teachers Association

The Big Spring Area Retired Teachers Association met in Howard College's Cactus Room, Feb. 15, 2010, with 31 members and one guest present. The invocation was given by Bill Schaffner.

Guest speaker was Shann Smith, director of Victim's Services for Howard, Martin, Glasscock and Mitchell counties. Using a very personal approach, she explained the services available to women, children and men in the area.

Mrs. Smith indicated that volunteers were always needed and encouraged TRTA members to become involved.

Bonnie Wheat, membership chairman, reported the addition of two new members.

Nancy Fulgham will replace Jean Wynn as delegate to the state convention. Roe Fulgham will attend as alternate delegate.

Loyce Phillips, Legislative Committee chairman, reported that TRTA now has 70,899 members, which is a record membership. She also reported that TRTA will host a first-ever national GPO/WEP summit in Washington D.C. March 9-10. News came last week that President Obama is seeking greater enforcement of the current GPO/WEP laws in order to help pay for the social Security program.

On the state level, it was reported that Governor Perry has told TRS it must reduce its current budget appropriation by 5 percent or \$26.5 million.

This budget cutting process is part of a statewide, all-agency attempt to reduce Texas state expenditures for the current biennium. It is important to note that the requested budget reduction exempts state contributions to the pension fund.

Bill and Corene Schaffner, Health Care and Volunteer Service Committee co-chairmen, reported a total of 14,845 hours volunteered by members for 2008-2009, with Delmar Hartin reporting 1,990 hours. Total steps walked by members were 67,081,000, with Delmar Hartin reporting 16,712,000 steps.

Retirement Education Chairman Andre Clark reported that the seminar held in Midland on Feb. 6 was a great success with 130 participants attending.

Howard County Democratic Club

The Howard County Democratic Club met Feb. 2 at the Commissioners Courtroom in the Howard County Courthouse. Democratic Party candidates president were Jim Sinclair, candidate for Precinct 2 on the Howard County Commissioners Court and Precinct 1, Place 2 candidate for Justice of the Peace Rick Hughes.

Howard County Democratic Club President Walt Shipman led a discussion during which the club membership presented several excellent ideas on how to raise the level of interest and enthusiasm for local Democrats running for office. One idea discussed was working booths at various public events during the coming year, like the Cinco de

Mayo celebration, Pops in the Park and the county fair. Another was having a raffle, such as has been done by our club in the past.

The club anticipates having local and state-wide Democratic candidates speak at club meetings after the primary races have concluded.

The next meeting of the Howard County Democrat Club will be Saturday at 2 p.m. at the Howard County Library meeting room.

TOPS Club 0021

TOPS Club 0021 (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) met Monday evening as usual in the fellowship hall of First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad to discuss weight problems and how to control health weight. Leader Laura Sickles opened the meeting by calling for the TOPS cheer.

Raymond Churchwell led the members in the TOPS pledge, then Ethel Cassaday led the KOPS (Keep Pounds Off Sensibly) pledge. The TOPS welcome song was led by Olnee Menges and sung by all.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read by Frank Sickles and approved by all present. A reading was then presented by Olnee Menges titled "Miracle Worker: Your Daily Walk."

Roll call was presented by Hughetta Roberts with nine TOPS and two KOPS members present.

The weekly Best Loser was Hughetta Roberts with a loss of .75 pounds. She was presented the \$1 prize and awarded a certificate of achievement. One member was recognized as a "turtle," which signifies no gain or loss for the week.

Leader Laura Sickles announced that Pam Klaus was the winner of the Valentine contest for the past six weeks with a loss of 8.25 pounds. A new contest for the next six weeks, an Easter bonnet contest, began Monday. Each participant will receive a flower for each .25-pound loss. The bonnet with the most flowers will be the winner.

The business portion began with the announcement that secretary Mary Berry has resigned due to a new work schedule. A motion was presented and approved to refund her unused registration fee. Olnee Menges was then approved to be secretary until March 31. New officers will be installed April 5.

A motion was presented to repay Leola Newton for her expenses for the contest. It was approved.

Carol Smith then presented the evening's program — "Goals and Secrets of Winners." We are encouraged to set realistic goals. Start small and work up to completion. Keep a focus on goals; use them as a blueprint to success. Remember, healthy eating helps you achieve your goal and helps you retain your goal after obtaining it.

All visitors are welcome at TOPS meetings. For more information, please call Frank Sickles at (432) 213-1342 or Olnee Menges at 263-6819.

TOPS does help weight loss. Come see for yourself.

CHURCH NEWS

Continued from Page 7A

First Church of the Nazarene

Many exciting things are happening at First Church of the Nazarene and we invite you to feel the movement of God's love that is taking place.

Join us for Sunday morning fellowship at 9:30 a.m. with coffee and donuts, followed by worship service at 10. Children's Church services, for ages 4-11, are in the fellowship hall Sunday, also at 10.

Wednesdays, our Naz Family classes begin at 6:30 p.m. for all ages. NazKidz (4 years through third grade) meets in the classrooms at the north end of the fellowship hall for Bible class. The fourth through sixth grade pre-teens have "gender focused" classes as they learn to grow into Christian men and ladies. The boys meet under the "Salt Shaker" in the gym and the girls meet in the east classroom under the "Salt Shaker." Youth Explosion with Pastor Cal, for seventh through 12th graders, is also Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Adults can choose one of the following options: The Coffee Class is studying Joy Comes in the Morning from Max Lucado's book, "He Still Moves Stones." Another is the study of the Nazarene Holiness movement and how it relates to our lives today. Or, you may be a part of a study of "Life in the Spirit: a study of the book of Galatians."

Thursdays at 7, the College and Young Adults Life Group meets with Pastor Cal. Sundays at 6:30 is the Harvest Life Group and Financial Peace University at 6 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

If you have any questions, call 267-7015 or e-mail us at church@nazfamily.org. Also, look us up on our Facebook and Twitter under Big Spring First Church of the Naz.

Spring Creek Fellowship

Pastor Dennis Teeters is continuing a sermon series, "Don't Just Stand There, Do Something..." with this week's sermon titled "Azariah Encouraged," based on 2 Chronicles 15:1-9. Sunday evening, we will continue studying 1 Corinthians. Sunday evening we will be coming from 1 Corinthians 10:23-11-1. Our services Sunday are at 10:45 a.m. with Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. Sunday evening begins at 5 p.m. with Bible study groups followed by worship at 6. Our services are a time of worship of our wonderful Savior, Jesus Christ.

Encounter is Saturday, Feb. 27, at 7 p.m. It will be a place for teens, college students and anyone else who wants to enjoy great music and fellowship. Cody Carnes will be coming back home to lead in this special time.

SCF is located in the College Park Shopping Center.

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