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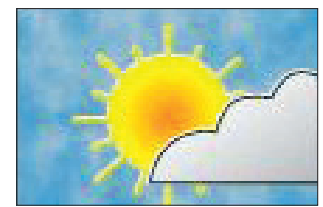


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# H BIG SPRING HERALD

**FRIDAY**

**FEBRUARY 26, 2010**



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## Bond issue green-lighted

### BSISD trustees call for election in May

**By STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer


Now comes the hard part. Big Spring Independent School District trustees unanimously voted to hold an election May 8 to ask district taxpayers to approve \$60 million in facility improvements during a brief special meeting Thursday evening.

Calling for an election is one thing. Officials know the major test will be selling the public on the idea.

"We realize taxes going up will be tough," Trustee Tony Kennedy said. "But you go to any community in our area ... and they have newer schools or have renovated or remodeled their buildings within the last few years. It's time for Big Spring students to get the same kind of learning centers that those other communities have."

Both opposition and support

**"It's time for Big Spring students to get the same kind of learning centers that those other communities have."**



— Tony Kennedy, BSISD trustee

for the bond were on display Thursday.

Local resident Tommy Duncan spoke against the bond, saying it was too much for taxpayers to bear.

"I'd like to remind all of you that Howard County and Howard College recently passed bonds and the city ... will

See **BSISD**, Page 3



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan  
From left, Big Spring Independent School District officials Dr. Michael Stevens, Assistant Superintendent Danny Ferrell and Superintendent Steven Saldivar talk after school trustees unanimously voted Thursday to hold a \$60 million bond election May 8.

## Early voting slow, ends today

**By THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

Local election officials say early voting during this year's political party primaries has been slow, with today the last day to cast early ballots before election day Tuesday.

"At the end of the day Thursday we had a total of 1,493 ballots turned in during early voting," said County Elections Administrator Sandra Bloom. "We had 1,267 cast in person and 226 early ballots cast by mail-in ballot, which is a total of 8.86 percent of the registered voters eligible to participate in the election."

"I have to admit, I was a little surprised by the turnout during early voting. I had really thought it would be higher, especially with the governor race pushing things along. However, we're still hoping for a good

turnout Tuesday."

Early voting will continue through 5 p.m. today at the Howard County Election Office, located on the third floor of the county courthouse, according to Bloom.

"It's very important to remember you can vote in either the Republican primary or the Democratic primary, but you cannot vote in both," she added. "The primaries act as a nominating process to decide who will be on the ballot in the November election. However, you don't have to vote in the primaries to be eligible to vote in the November election."

With more than a dozen local residents vying for their party's nomination going into the November election, area voters have plenty of decisions to make.

See **VOTE**, Page 3

### ON THE BALLOT

Early voting in this year's political party primaries continues until 5 p.m. today. Polls are set up at the Howard County Elections Administrator's office, on the third floor of the county courthouse. The election is slated for March 2.

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

**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.

**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.

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## City addressing water quality; no threat to residents, officials say

**By THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

Big Spring residents may have recently received a rather confusing — and alarming — notice from the city concerning the quality and safety of drinking water in the Crossroads area, but city officials say the problems pose no dangers to consumers.

"The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) sets minimum water quality standards for public drinking water," reads the notice, which was mailed out to city water customers. "These standards include enforceable treatment technique requirements for drinking water. Inadequately treated drink-

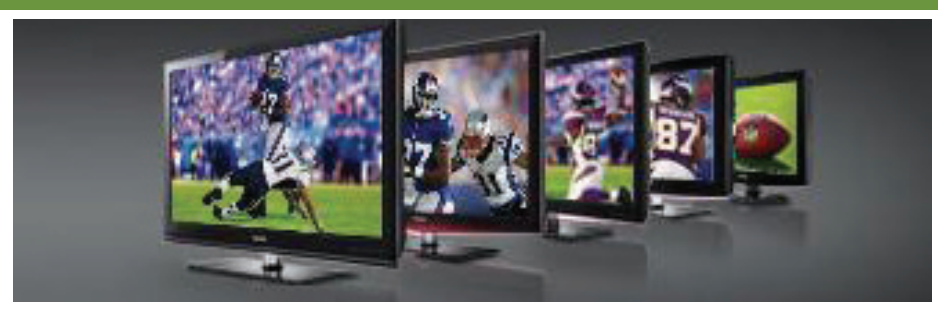
ing water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses and parasites, which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches.

"The city of Big Spring Water

See **WATER**, Page 3

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# ALL CITY CHOIR



HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins

Vocalists with the Big Spring All-City Choir lift their voices during Thursday night's performance at Big Spring High School. The choir is made up of students from every Big Spring ISD elementary and intermediate campus.

## VOTE

Continued from Page 1

On the Republican ticket, the Precinct 2 seat on the county commissioners court features a trio of political hopefuls, including incumbent candidate Jerry Kilgore, who has held the seat for more than a decade now. Kilgore is facing Donnie Baker and Melanie Gambrell.

The race for the Precinct 2 seat on the Commissioners Court has also drawn a contest on the Democratic ticket, as Alon USA employee Richard Belew takes on business owner Jim Sinclair.

Precinct 4 Commissioner Gary Simer, a Democrat, is unopposed in the party primary. On the Republican ticket, however, business owners John Cline and Roy Beauchamp are on the ticket, with the winner to challenge Simer in November.

The seat of Justice of the Peace Precinct 1, Place 2 is also be up for grabs. Incum-

bent Kathryn Wiseman is being challenged by David Baird in the Republican primary. On the Democratic ticket, business owner Ricky Hughes is unopposed and will face the winner of the Republican race in November.

Also facing off in the Republican primary are attorneys Mike Thomas and Tim Yeats, who are running for 118<sup>th</sup> District Court Judge.

19<sup>th</sup> District U.S. Rep. Randy Neugebauer (R-Lubbock) drew a pair of challengers. Lubbock's Andy Wilson is unopposed on the Democratic ticket and Richard "Chip" Peterson, Lubbock, is alone on the Libertarian ticket, sending the contest to the November election.

District 85 Texas Rep. Joe Heflin (D-Crosbyton) unopposed on the Democratic ticket, will have to face a Republican challenger, Jim Landtroop or David Andrews, in November. Heflin has also a Libertarian challenger — Robyn L. Burwell of Abilene.

## BSISD

Continued from Page 1

take in at least 8 percent more in taxes this year," Duncan said. "I just think the citizens of Big Spring are ill-equipped to handle a \$60 million tax bond at this time."

While no one in the audience spoke directly in support of the bond, several people applauded after trustees voted for the issue.

Board President Mike Dawson, who will step down this year after 12 years as a trustee, believes that voters will support the measure once they are fully briefed on how officials intend to spend the money.

"The major concerns I've received are more toward the

specific wording of the (ballot measure), in other words, exactly how will the \$60 million be spent?" Dawson said. "We've studied this issue for more than two years and it is the board's responsibility to put forth to the voters what we believe is in the best interest of the school district."

BSISD officials plan to use the bond money in the following manner:

- \$43 million will be used to construct new elementary campuses at the current sites of Washington, Marcy and Goliad schools, demolish those existing buildings along with Bauer Elementary, add a classroom wing and physical education gym to Moss Elementary and renovate Kentwood Elementary.
- \$2.7 million will be spent

to construct new classrooms at Big Spring Junior High to house BSISD sixth-graders, making BSJH a three-year campus.

- \$12 million in improvements are planned at the high school, including installation of a new roof and fire suppression system and upgrading the building's science labs.

- An additional \$2.5 million is being asked for improvement to campus grounds, parking lots and driveways.

To finance the new bond, BSISD officials estimate the district's tax rate — currently \$1.12 per \$100 valuation — will increase by 35 cents for the life of the 20-year bond. That would raise taxes on a median-priced home in Howard County (\$42,000) by approximately \$70 a year.

Owners of a home valued at \$100,000 would see their taxes rise by about \$240 a year.

This election is coming two years after voters rejected a \$34 million bond to construct a central elementary campus and renovate the high school.

"There's a big difference from last time," Kennedy said. "We were trying to build just one large elementary (in 2008) and we weren't serving the entire district. We found that the neighborhood school concept was what we had to get back to. It's a better plan. And in addition to the new buildings, we're going to renovate other campuses as well."

"We just feel that this will work better all the way around," he added. "We know taxpayers have concerns, but

are our kids worth that extra money? We believe they are."

The job now for bond supporters is to educate voters on the need for the planned improvements, BSISD Superintendent Steven Saldivar said.

"We've heard some comments about the bond and they are not accurate," Saldivar said. "We want the public to know the facts. We're not doing something just to do it. We've planned this out very carefully ... We're going to meet with people, talk to them, take them on tours of campuses ... Above all, our goal is to provide the best possible education for students at Big Spring ISD. That's what we're focusing on and this is the time that we need to take that next step."

## WATER

Continued from Page 1

Treatment Plant failed to meet the minimum treatment technique requirements for the month of December 2009. Specifically, our water system allowed the turbidity of the filtered water to exceed 0.3 Nephelometric Turbidity Units in more than 5 percent of the measurements made during the month. This violation is classified as a non-acute violation. The city is addressing the issues that contributed to the cause of the violation and will continue to work toward providing you the best quality product possible."

According to Assistant City Manager Todd Darden, the language used in the notices is dictated by the state and is designed to cover a number of situations that don't apply to the problems currently identified with the Big Spring water supply.

"The language we have to put in the notice is mandated by the state, and it's across

the board for any entity that violates the quality issue for the treatment of water," said Darden. "There are certain constituents that could be harmful, but the constituents they are talking about aren't found in our source water. We test for those and we're on our 20<sup>th</sup> month of testing for those organisms and they are not found in our water. Our issue is only the quality of the water."

"The water we're putting out today is the same quality that met standards five years ago. However, they have raised the standards since then. We have some issues we feel like we can address that will get rid of these quality problems we're having with our treatment. We're visiting with some consultants that are very familiar with some of the constituents we're having to deal with now that we haven't had to deal with in the past."

Darden said one of the contributing factors to the higher levels of turbidity is the levels in the reservoirs that serve the Big Spring area, with

the Colorado River Municipal Water District having switched to E.V. Spence Reservoir in December.

"I think a big part of it is the lake levels are so low. There are two times each year that water turns over in the lakes, and that's in the winter and in the summer," said Darden. "And it can happen more than once in the summer. You'll notice there's an odor associated with this problem, which is connected to the amount of algae in the water. Because the levels in the lakes are so low it's more predominant."

"We've talked to the water district and we're trying some new water treatment techniques utilizing their facilities to help with the problem, and we feel like the sludge removal will help with the problem. The district has also talked about possibly switching our water sources to see if it might help, but right now they are in their winter maintenance activities, which has them limited to where they can get us water from. We're work-

ing on issues to get it addressed."

The city recently approved a \$300,000 contract to have sludge created by the water removed from the water treatment plant, action Darden said he feels will help improve the quality of the water. In the meantime, however, he said he's confident the water is safe for consumption.

"I can confidently say our water is safe to drink. I know the language (contained in the mail-out notices) is kind of harsh and makes it appear it's harmful, but based on what we're sampling and what we're testing, we feel confident in saying it's a quality issue and not a health issue associated with this violation," he said. "It is a violation,

however, and that's why we have to send out the notices. If it were health related we would have to do a whole lot more related to notification of the public and trying to get word out if there were health and safety issues associated with the water. In this case, however, it's simply quality."

The notices call for customers and citizens with questions regarding the violations and the quality of city water

to contact Darden at 264-2501, or Kenny Scott at 264-2393.

**MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL**  
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Leslie McCurtain, 49, died Wednesday. A private family service will be held at a later date.

Frank Bustamante, Jr., 49, died Friday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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<b>Dear John (PG-13)</b> Fri.: 4:40 7:30 10:20 Sat.: 1:50 4:40 7:30 10:20	<b>Valentine's Day (PG-13)</b> Fri.: 4:10 7:00 9:50 Sat.: 1:20 4:10 7:00 9:50

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# Hunt, Lady Steers win two at Midland tourney

BY JOE ZIGTEMA  
Sports Editor

MIDLAND — Pitcher Kenzie Hunt is the Lady Steers' stopper. She showed that Thursday in the opening rounds of the Midland Classic in the Lady Steers' repeat wins over first Monahans and then Grape Creek.

Hunt tossed all seven innings of a 5-1 win over the Maidens and came on in relief to pitch the last two of an 8-3 victory over the Lady Eagles. In all, Hunt struck out 15 batters in nine innings of work while allowing just one unearned run on five hits.

"I was very proud of Kenzie's performance," Lady Steers coach John Sparks said of Hunt, who beat Monahans 7-0 last Friday. "I know when she's on the rubber, she is always going to do what it takes to win a game."

The Lady Steers' bats got off to a slow start against Monahans, not plating a run until the fifth inning to break a 1-0 Lady Loboes lead. Jessica Womack got things started with a single to center field, followed by a Macy Briggs walk and a Haley Dimidjian single to right field to load the bases.

Carson Riebe got the RBI by drawing a walk to tie the game, followed

by a Linzee Yarbar infield single that drove in another run. Logan Yarbar added another infield single one batter later to drive in the Lady Steers' third run of the game, which was all they would need.

Big Spring added to its lead in the seventh and final inning as Linzee Yarbar drove in a run with a triple to the center field fence. Yarbar would score on a Jillian Valle RBI groundout as the Lady Steers earned their second victory over Monahans on the season.

In the Lady Steers' nightcap against See **SOFTBALL**, Page 13



HERALD PHOTO/Joe Zigtema  
Senior Kenzie Hunt pitches Thursday against Monahans in Midland.

## HOOP DREAMS

*Steers hope to continue playoff run vs. EP Austin*

Herald Staff Report

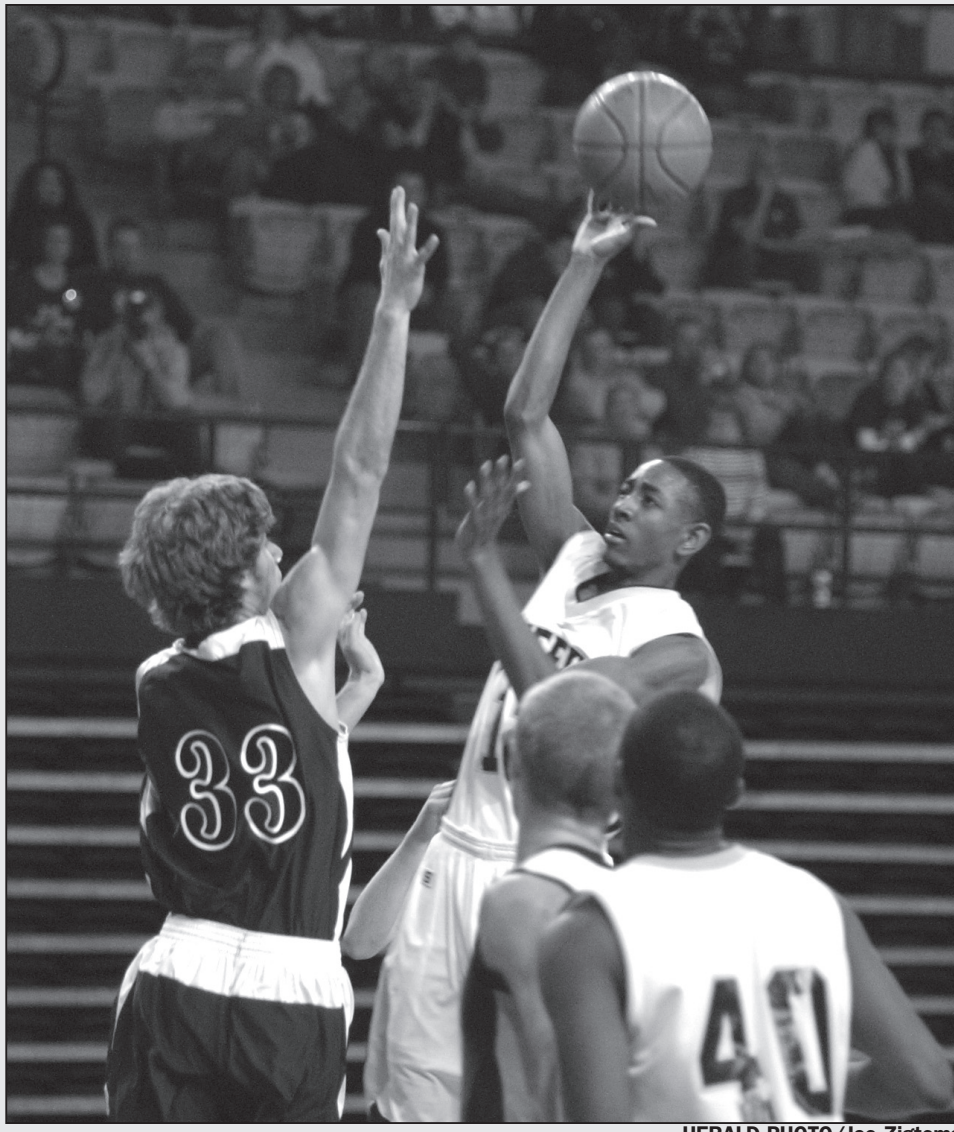
ALPINE — Big Spring coach Marcus Morris called it after his team's 65-45 win over Canyon High School on Wednesday at South Plains College.

"The fun thing about basketball season is the next round is even more fun and more pressure packed, and the next opponent is that much better."

The Steers face an opponent tonight in El Paso Austin that is much better — the Panthers are the No. 16-ranked team in the state — heading into tonight's match-up at Sul Ross State University in Alpine. Tipoff is 7 p.m.

Austin is fueled by guard Timothy Bell, who is averaging 20 points per game this season. Against EP Riverside in the bidistrict round, Bell dropped 26 points, including four buckets from behind the arc. Bell is also efficient — he's shooting 57 percent from inside the 3-point line and 36 percent beyond it. He also shoots 80 percent from the free-throw line.

Posts Devarre Wright and Tony Baker are



HERALD PHOTO/Joe Zigtema  
Senior guard Jerrell Williams goes up for a shot over a Canyon High defender Wednesday at the Texan Dome in Levelland. The Steers will try to topple the state's 16th-ranked team, El Paso Austin, tonight in Alpine.

Austin's weapons on the inside. Baker is averaging 17 points per contest, Wright averages 11 and guard Isaac Spencer also averages double figures with 10.

The Steers counter with senior guard Jerrell Williams, who leads the team in steals and is Big Spring's best on-ball defender.

Junior guard Luke Adams shouldered the load offensively for the Steers against Canyon, scoring nine of his 20 points at the free-throw line. Matt Ritchey also stepped up his game, scoring 10 points in the second half. Xavian Parnell grabbed nine rebounds to lead the Steers on the glass, where they pounded

Canyon 36-22.

Stanton hopes to avenge gridiron loss

The No. 24 Stanton Buffs will take on Olton tonight at 7 p.m. at Slaton High school. Olton defeated Plains in the bidistrict round 47-39.

The matchup is a rematch of the football playoffs, where

See **HOOPS**, Page 13

## Howard wins WJCAC with victory over FPC

Herald Staff Report

BORGER — The Howard Hawks are WJCAC champions.

The No. 2 Hawks outlasted Frank Phillips 89-80 Thursday night in Borger 89-80 to clinch at least a share of the title. But they got much more than that.

Howard (26-1, 13-1) got an outright WJCAC title thanks to the Odessa Wranglers, who upset No. 1 Midland 74-67 to earn a spot in the WJCAC tournament.

Josh Watkins scored 27 points and dished four

assists for the Hawks. Jae Crowder scored 22 with six rebounds, and Carlos Emory chipped in 10 with a 14-rebound effort.

With the No. 1 seed, the Hawks will open with NTJAC No. 4 seed Southwestern Christian in the Region 5 tournament in Lubbock next week.

South Plains earned the No. 4 seed in the WJCAC thanks to its 80-50 win over New Mexico JC. Odessa has the No. 3 seed from its head-to-head edge over the Texans.

## Bearkats fall to Valley in deciding 3rd frame

Herald Staff Report

LUBBOCK — The Garden City Bearkats were looking good at halftime Thursday night against Turkey Valley in the area playoffs at Lubbock Cooper High School.

It was in the third quarter that things turned nightmarish.

Down just three at halftime against the state's No. 25 team, Garden City's leading scorer, Brett Chudej, went down with an ankle injury in the third quarter, and Valley would go on to score 24 points in the frame to break open a 49-35 lead.

"We were right where we wanted to be when (Chudej was injured), and between turnovers

and Brett going down we found ourselves in a position we were struggling to get out of," Garden City coach Koby Abney said.

Chudej had scored 23 points in 20 minutes before his injury. He finished as Garden City's leading scorer.

Due to Garden City's long football playoff run to a state title, the Bearkats didn't get as many games in the regular season to hone their skills, Abney noted. It's both a blessing and a curse.

"It's frustrating as a coach because you see several (games) that got away," Abney said. "We weren't playoff-ready yet because we only

See **BEARKATS**, 13

## Steers fall behind, come back but drop 13-11 decision to Trinity

BY JOE ZIGTEMA  
Sports Editor

ANDREWS — The Big Spring Steers showed one thing to Lubbock Trinity on Thursday in the opening round of the Best of the West baseball tournament in Andrews — don't count them out.

The Steers fell behind Trinity 10-1 through

five innings before they put up an eight-spot in the fifth and added one in the sixth to tie it at 10. Unfortunately for the Steers, three late runs for Trinity handed Big Spring a 13-11 defeat, its first of the year.

Martin Yanez started for the Steers, giving up seven runs in three innings. Mike Enriquez

relieved him, giving up four runs in two 2/3 innings as the Steers tied the game and then lost the lead. Freshman Max Papajohn tossed the last 1 1/3 innings, giving up two runs.

Nine walks and three errors proved costly for Big Spring, as was a late wild pitch in the seventh that allowed a run to score. But coach

Burt Otto was happy with the way his team came back from nine runs down.

"You look up at the scoreboard and see yourself down 10-1 trying to rally the troops, and then you see 10-10 and you feel pretty good about yourself," Otto said. "We showed a lot yesterday. We've been talking about how we're

an inexperienced team, and we were never out of it."

The Steers' bats were hot in the fifth inning as they kept the base paths moving to get them back into the game.

"We just put a lot of hits together," Otto said. "They finally on defense made some miscues, and we put several hits together back to

back. One through nine was hitting and getting on base and we were making consistent contact with the baseball."

The Steers play host Andrews today at 7 p.m. Big Spring will play Snyder at 10 a.m. Saturday and Fort Stockton at 4 p.m.

Check Sunday's Herald for results from the tournament.

## Sports in brief

### Crossroads sports on tap today

Check Sunday's Herald for results

#### Baseball

Big Spring at Andrews, 7 p.m.  
Coahoma vs. Monahans at Shallowater, 3:30 p.m.

#### Softball

Coahoma at Midland Classic, 10 a.m., 3, 7 p.m.  
Big Spring at Midland Classic 1 p.m., 7 p.m.

#### Basketball

Big Spring vs. EP Austin, Alpine, 7 p.m.  
Stanton vs. Olton, Slaton 7 p.m.

### Softball signups under way

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

Signups will be held each Saturday 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.

### Youth baseball league signups to go until March 6

March 6 is the last chance to sign up for the Big Spring Youth Baseball League.

Signups will be held from 5:30 to 7 p.m. all week next week. Children 5-15 can sign up for the league at Big Spring Mall on March 6 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Registration fee is \$65 and \$60 for additional siblings. Birth certificate required. Children 8-12 must participate in a tryout session March 8-10.



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I have savings put away for retirement. I also have two wonderful young sons who will be going to college in five and seven years, respectfully, so in addition to saving for my retirement, I am also saving for college.

What is the problem, you ask? Well, I hate going to work.

It's not the job, but I work for the most condescending micromanagers you could imagine.

They belittle me almost every day, and every morning in the parking lot I get a knot in my stomach and spend the day with nagging nausea and heartburn (for which I now take medication).

I am not the only one who is treated poorly, so I know I'm not being singled out.

All of this is affecting my health. I'm having trouble eating, I've lost weight, and I am sometimes short with my sons, who are really good kids and don't deserve it.

I'm on the verge of depression. I know I should be thankful for having a job that pays the bills in this economy, but is my health worth it?

Should I look for another job, with less pay and "unprotected" status, or stay where I am? — *Lucky or Unlucky?*

Dear Luck: If the country were not in the economic shape it's in, I might answer differently, but given the situation we're in, I would encourage you to stay within your safety net and find a way to ameliorate your distress.

Because of the health benefits you describe, I would see a therapist who might prescribe antidepressants or talk it through with you so you could get the tools to either ignore these bullies or confront them.

An example would be to respond, the next time one of them comes at

you, "Let's talk about this. Why, exactly, are you making an effort to belittle me?"

If there is a constructive criticism, I'd like to hear it, but perhaps in a more mature, less bullying way."

The shock of your counteroffensive just might induce ... well, awe. Good luck. — *Margo, realistically*

### When the Motivator Cannot Be the Mother

Dear Margo: I'm worried about my 16-year-old daughter.

Over the past several years, she has gained a lot of weight. While she is not morbidly obese yet, I'm afraid she is heading in that direction.

She is 5 feet 3 inches tall and 183 pounds. She is on medication that increases her hunger, so I know that is part of the problem. She says she's happy the way she is. I would applaud her saying that, but I'm worried about her health.

I've recently begun exercising and eating healthfully myself, by way of example, but she's not interested.

Whenever I mention going for a walk or eating less, she shows complete disinterest. I don't want to bruise her ego, but I'm not sure what to do here. — *Baffled*

Dear Baf: She's 16? That's an unusual age to be indifferent to a weight problem — if only because of the dating and social aspect.

Perhaps she feels the drug is going to make her fat no matter what she does.

I think your best bet is to be in touch with the doc who prescribed her medication and ask him to work with her on ways she can counteract the increased appetite, and on supplying information about how carrying too much weight can stress other organs and bones.

Perhaps a nutritionist is the answer. I suspect she would be more receptive to what her doctor has to say, as opposed to her mother. Good luck. — *Margo, interventionally*

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

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# Liven up the Lenten season

(Family Features)

This Lenten season, meat won't be missed at the dinner table with Layered Eggplant Parmesan Casserole.

This take on the classic Italian favorite, combines breaded eggplant slices, zesty marinara sauce, melted mozzarella cheese and layers of pierogies — the perfect pairing of pasta and potatoes — all in one deep dish.

This meal's great flavor is surpassed only by its convenience, requiring less than ten ingredients and prepared in less than an hour.

And if your family is craving a meatier meal, add a pound of crumbled, cooked sausage to the marinara sauce.

## Layered Eggplant Parmesan Casserole

Serves 6

- 1 medium eggplant
- 2 large eggs
- 1/2 cup seasoned Italian bread crumbs
- 4 tablespoons olive oil, divided
- 1 24-ounce jar tomato-basil marinara sauce
- 1 16-ounce box Mrs. T's potato and cheddar pierogies
- 1 1/2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese, divided

Preheat oven to 350° F.

Cut eggplant into 1/2-inch-thick slices. Beat eggs in bowl. Place bread crumbs in separate bowl. Dip eggplant slices in eggs to coat; dip into bread crumbs



to coat well on both sides.

Heat 1 tablespoon olive oil in 12-inch skillet over medium-high heat; add eggplant slices and cook until lightly browned on both sides. Repeat with remaining eggplant slices and olive oil.

Grease a 2 1/2-quart baking dish. Spoon 1/3 of marinara sauce on bottom of dish. Arrange half of frozen pierogies

on sauce. Top with half of eggplant slices, 1/2 cup mozzarella cheese and half of remaining sauce. Repeat with remaining ingredients, finishing with sauce and mozzarella cheese. Bake 30 minutes or until mixture is hot and bubbly.

Optional: Add one pound crumbled, cooked sausage meat to marinara sauce.

## Tomorrow's Horoscope

The moon in Leo offers entertaining possibilities all day long — never a dull moment.

It's as though the fates are conspiring to put on a circus. With the conclusion of each act, the clowns waiting in the wings march out in their floppy shoes to make us laugh.

For many, the best way to enjoy the show is to don a silly hat and be a part of it.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). Loved ones might not behave to the best of their ability. There are circumstances you don't understand affecting their mood. Regardless, let your love be unchanging.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). You have an excellent sense of humor. You'll make an excellent impression with your brand of quick-witted entertainment. A beautiful someone likes the way you express yourself with verve.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). You are in the mood to be musical — or maybe just noisy. Mechanical gadgets and the latest inventions will hold particular interest for you. Tonight, you'll enjoy a challenge that could only happen in today's technological world.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). When things don't work one way, change your approach and try again. Your persistence will win out. Also, you will people who have the answers. Help is a phone call away.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). Why toil away when

you can delegate? Common excuses for not delegating include, "In the time it takes to teach this, I could have done it myself." This excuse doesn't hold water if you are teaching the right person for the task.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're an inventor. Even if you are not exactly creating software or machines that will improve man's lot, you are creating something special in your lifetime. Others will reflect this to you today.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Being sensitive is at once a blessing and a curse. Your highly organized nervous system will pick up on the slightest imbalances or bad vibes. And it will also carry you to great emotional and artistic heights.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The usual methods won't work. Hopefully, you have a few tricks up your sleeve. Try doing things backward, upside down and any way other than the normal way. The spoils will go to the flexible one.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll be competing. Whether or not you win depends on the field you choose. Size up your competition. Keep in mind that in order to be noticed, you will have to greatly surpass what the others are doing.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). When you feel it, do it. Don't hesitate, or the feeling, and the opportunity, will be lost. When your inner grace is expressed, people not only become endeared to you, they fall in love a little bit.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Uncomfortable scenarios must play out in order

for you to get the lesson. As much as you'd like to skip ahead a chapter, sometimes the only way to get to the other side is to go through.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). You have a way of bridging the gaps between people. You relate to every generation, all cultures and both genders. Your humor will be entertainment for the whole family.

**T O D A Y ' S BIRTHDAY** (Feb. 26). You will be a beloved leader this year. Your constructive approach will be admired and emulated. You have high standards, but you know when to let up on demands. You encourage others to strive for their full potential. In the process of guiding them, you'll reach yours. Finances take a turn for the better in June. Leo and Taurus people adore you. Lucky numbers are: 3, 18, 5, 43 and 20.

**WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST:** **ARIES:** Give specific compliments — others thrill to hear your approval. **TAURUS:** Be thoughtful and considerate, or something in a relationship will be lost. **GEMINI:** You will validate others through your agreement and support. Kindness comes naturally to you. **CANCER:** Though you often love to stay in and be comfortable at home, you'll look beautiful in the glow of a foreign light. So go adventuring! **LEO:** You are growing in popularity this weekend. Enjoy it, but don't let it go to your head. **VIRGO:** Walk with grace, as though you're on the catwalk and everyone is watching. More people are watching you than you think! **LIBRA:** Remember, you're looking for some-

one to add to your life, not take it over. **SCORPIO:** Any work you do to create an atmosphere around you will reflect well on you. **SAGITTARIUS:** You have a special brilliance. Believe it, and do some investigative work to understand the nature of your particular intelligence. **CAPRICORN:** You are the only one who can assess where you are in life. Review, and decide that who you are is good enough. **AQUARIUS:** You feel in some ways overlooked, though you'll remedy that this weekend, capturing the attention you crave. **PISCES:** You are in alignment with those around you. You will serve them while still attending to your own needs.

**COUPLE OF THE WEEKEND:** Leo and Pisces are both associated with the arts and entertainment, though in a different way. Leo has an instinct about how to capture attention and keep it. Pisces can slip into the mood and spirit of another person and explore it, which is fascinating for all involved. This weekend, Leo and Pisces benefit by checking out the local artistic scene and discussing what they've experienced together.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to [www.creators.com](http://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](http://www.creators.com).

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## Annie's Mailbox

In the past few years, "Hettie" has pulled several stunts where her drinking has put herself and her children in extreme danger.

She insists she is sober, but I know from several reliable sources that she is not. She won't admit that her cheating and drinking drove her husband away, and she has my parents snowed into thinking it was all his fault.

She swindled her ex and my parents out of enough money to net her a nice income, yet she twists everything so that she comes out the victim.

I do not allow my teenagers to baby-sit for her or get in her car because she allows strange men in her home and drives

drunk.

She only calls when she wants something, and if I don't drop everything (I work full time), she screams at me.

My parents believe I am a horrible person because I don't buy in to Hettie's lies or give her money.

I've tried to help in the past, and it brought nothing but trouble. She is a mean, lying drunk.

My parents say I need to look past this because she is "family." I cannot deal with the drama anymore. I am cordial to Hettie, but won't make her our charity poster child like my parents do.

I have done my best, but I am still the "disappointing daughter." Last year, their intense

disapproval sent me into the hospital with a major anxiety attack. Talking to them doesn't help. This is breaking my heart. — *Refuse to be an Enabler*

Dear Refuse: Your parents have blinders on when it comes to Hettie.

Accepting that she is a "mean, lying drunk" makes them fear it's their fault, and that is why they blame you instead.

You cannot change the way they think, but you can change how you deal with it. If you need help, get some counseling to learn better coping skills.

Dear Annie: I have repeatedly told my

daughter to remove her things from my home because we no longer have room for them, but it does no good.

We plan on moving soon and cannot take along 10 boxes of our daughter's books and clothes.

She lives out of the country and visits two or three times a year. Each time she visits, she buys more than she can possibly take back and leaves the rest here.

It is prohibitively expensive to ship boxes of books to her. What do we do? — *Out-of-Space Mom*

Dear Mom: Notify your daughter that you will pack up her things and put them in a stor-

age facility for six months or until her next visit, whichever comes first.

After that, you will stop paying storage fees. She can then decide whether she wants to keep paying the fees herself, ship the items to her current location, sell them or make other arrangements that don't involve you.

The important thing is that you stick to your guns.

To our Baha'i Readers: Happy Ayyami-Ha.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column.



KATHY MITCHELL  
MARCY SUGAR

Dear Annie: I adore my husband of 20 years, and we have the best kids on earth. The problem? My parents. My older sister is divorced and has several small children. She is also an alcoholic and a horribly toxic person.

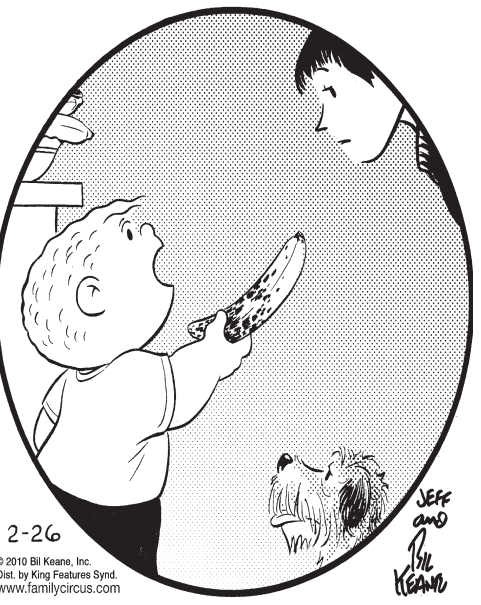
	WFAA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5:PM :30	News ABC	News ABC	Locura Notic.	Lopez Lopez	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News NBC	Friends Office	In Touch	BBC Business	Cash Cab	Twelve, Matt Damon	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Deck Deck	NASCAR Interrupt	SportsCenter
6:PM :30	News Ent	Jeopardy! Wheel	Nombre-Amor	Two Men Two Men	News Ent	12 Cora-zones	News Millionaire	Seinfeld Seinfeld	Scrivner House	PBS News-Hour	Dirty Jobs		UFC: Silva vs. Irvin	Bones		Deck Deck	The Harlem Globetrotters	NBA Basket-ball: Dallas Mavericks at Atlanta Hawks.
7:PM :30	Movie: Blades of Glory, Will Arnett	Movie: Blades of Glory, Will Arnett	Hasta que el Dinero	The 41st NAACP Image Awards	Ghost Whisperer	EI Clon	XXI Winter Olympics: Speed Skating, Skiing, Bobsled.	Fam. Guy Fam. Guy	Door-Wis-dom	Wash. NOW.	Dirty Jobs	Movie: Forrest Gump, Gary Sinise		Bones	Pay It Off	Deck Deck	NFL Live	
8:PM :30	20/20	20/20	Rosa	Simpsons Friends	NUMB3RS	Sin Hay Parais		Bill Cosby: Twain Prize	American Loggers				Best of PRIDE	Movie: The Longest Yard, Burt Reynolds	Pay It Off	Wizards	Boxing: Friday Night Fights.	NBA Basket-ball: Magic at Hornets
9:PM :30	News Nightline	News Nightline	Impacto Notici.	Raymond	News TMZ	Noticias Letterman	News Titulares	Church Cortes	Charlie Rose	Mark Sanchez	Movie: Forrest Gump, Gary Sinise		Ways Die	Movie: The Replacements, Orlando Jones	The Mo'Nique	Phineas Deck	SportsCenter	
10:PM :30	Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live	Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live	Gancho	Law & Order: SVU	Late Late	Decisiones	XXI Winter Olympics	McGee	T. Smiley (Off Air)	American Loggers		MAN	MAN	Wendy Williams	Suite Life	SportsNation	SportsCenter	
11:PM :30	Cathedral	Paid	Ahora-Hago	Faith	Insider	King/Hill	Ent	Mark CCM	Overhaul'n	Movie: Exorcist: The Beginning		MAN	MAN	Movie: New Jack City, Judd Nelson	Replace	NASCAR Poker	SportsCenter	
12:AM :30	Paid	Paid	Mujer... Cero	RENO 911	Paid	Paid	Paid	Best of Light of the Southwest						Movie: Varsity Blues, David Walker	Emperor	Poker - Europe	SportsCenter	

DENNIS THE MENACE



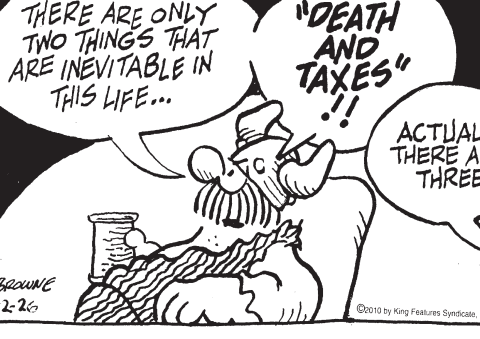
"If I had a brother, I'd want him to be just like you, Ruff."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Will you open this, Mommy? I'm not sure it's done enough to eat."

HAGAR



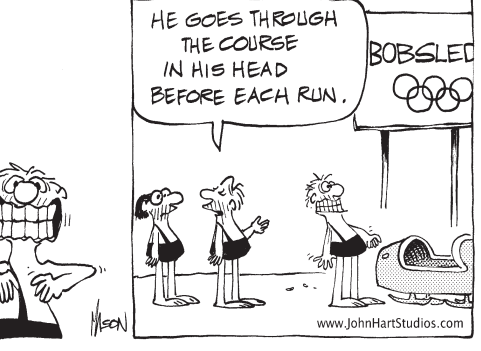
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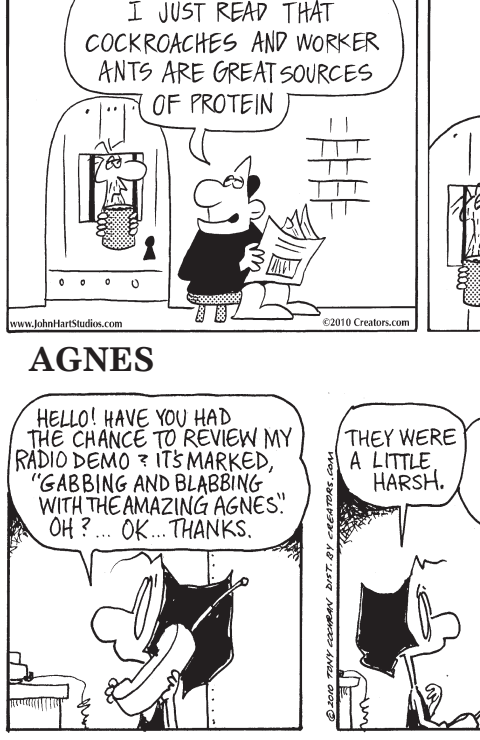
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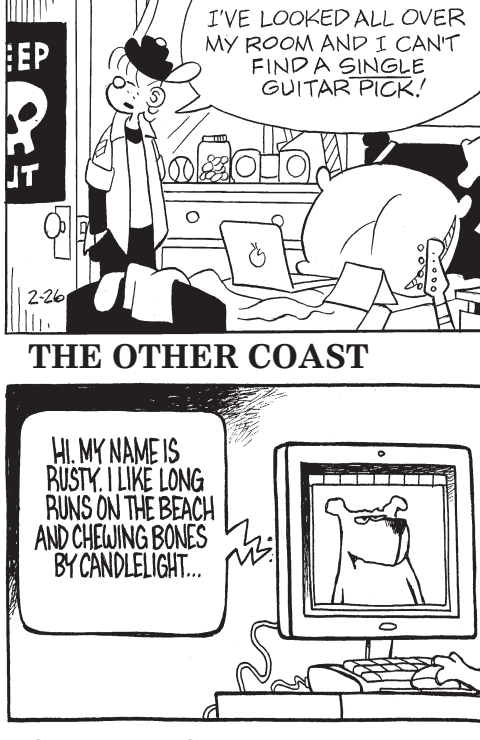
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HI AND LOIS



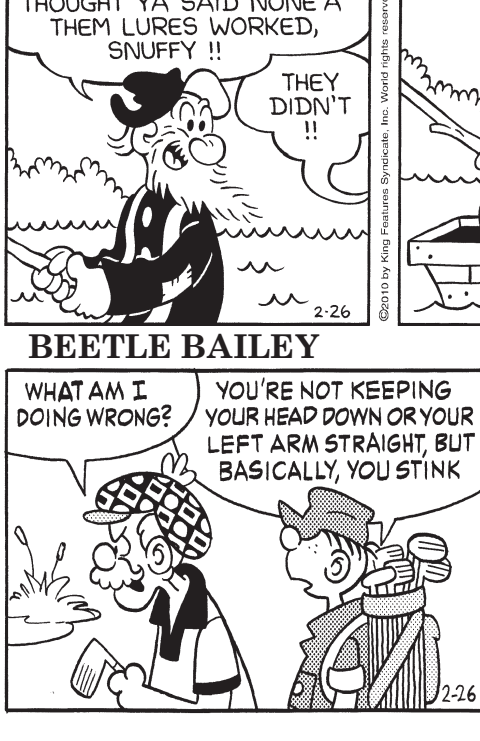
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

- Armstrong's ride
- Modern address starter
- Oscar Night lineup
- USA part
- Means of access
- Rework
- Start of a quip
- Shiva worshiper
- Scorches
- Uncommon sense
- Swift
- Nixon in China character
- Part 2 of quip
- Nears one's target
- Philanthropist
- Like a dipstick, sometimes
- Significant
- College sports org.
- Eases off slowly
- Respected authorities
- Part 3 of quip
- Slip up
- Some coats
- Disney subsidiary
- Ninth-century pope
- in Provence (Mayle memoir)
- End of quip
- Environmentalists' concern
- Russian industrial city
- Away from the slip
- Knoll

DOWN

- Gloucester good-bye
- Beatty's Oscar film
- Hot Springs offerings
- "You dig?" reply
- Nancy Drew byline
- Fall off, as support
- Some cholesterol
- Most lapdogs
- Rent
- Signal booster
- Acquired some stock?
- Sworn statement
- Thick head of hair
- Comes to a decision
- Organ component
- Gentle reminder
- Show horse
- Backwoods assent
- Madre's sister
- Remove an obstruction from
- Type selection
- Long ago
- Bluster
- Some times
- Bit of Batman's outfit
- Place
- Pearl Buck character
- Coordinate
- Seam stuff
- Diamond stats
- Postponed
- Rock singer Chris
- Corner
- Asimov novel
- Overwhelmingly
- Space agreement
- Moderated
- Miles' counterparts
- Minimal matter
- Buffoon
- 25 Across
- contemporary
- Shirley MacLaine role of 1963
- Endow with rights
- Obama's mother
- Rap-sheet abbr.

This Date In History

Today is Friday, Feb. 26, the 57th day of 2010. There are 308 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 26, 1940, the United States Air Defense Command was created.

On this date:

In 1802, French literary giant Victor Hugo was born in Besancon (buhz-an-SOHN').

In 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte escaped from exile on the Island of Elba.

In 1870, an experimental air-driven subway, the Beach Pneumatic Transit, opened in New York City for public demonstrations.

In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson signed a measure establishing Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona.

In 1929, President Calvin Coolidge signed a measure establishing Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming.

In 1945, a midnight curfew on night clubs, bars and other

places of entertainment was set to go into effect across the nation.

In 1952, Prime Minister Winston Churchill announced that Britain had developed its own atomic bomb.

In 1979, a total solar eclipse cast a moving shadow 175 miles wide from Oregon to North Dakota before moving into Canada.

In 1987, the Tower Commission, which probed the Iran-Contra affair, issued its report, which rebuked President Ronald Reagan for failing to control his national security staff.

In 1993, a bomb built by Islamic extremists exploded in the parking garage of New York's World Trade Center, killing six people and injuring more than 1,000 others.

One year ago: President Barack Obama laid out his first budget plan, predicting a federal deficit of \$1.75 trillion.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Fats Domino is 82. Country-rock musician Paul Cotton (Poco) is 67. Singer Mitch Ryder is 65. Rock musician Jonathan Cain (Journey) is 60. Singer Michael Bolton is 57. Democratic National Chairman

Tim Kaine is 52. Bandleader John McDaniel is 49. Actress Jennifer Grant is 44. Rock musician Tim Commerford (Audioslave) is 42. Singer Erykah (EHR'ih-kah) Badu is 39. Rhythm-and-blues singer Rico Wade (Society of Soul) is 38. Olympic gold medal swimmer Jenny Thompson is 37. Rock musician Chris Culos (O.A.R.) is 31. Rhythm-and-blues singer Corinne Bailey Rae is 31. Country singer Rodney Hayden is 30. Actress Taylor Dooley is 17.

Thought for Today: "There is one thing more powerful than the armies of the world, and that is an idea whose time has come." — Victor Hugo (1802-1885).

Answer to previous puzzle

ATAD	IOTAS	CUKE
CORE	SLANT	OHIO
IWONT	LETY	OUDOWN
DESIRE	HUN	HIS
DEMO	PHOTON	
SORROW	ASAP	
REF	PEAL	APPAL
ILL	BEBY	YOURSIDE
CLEAR	CODE	LAD
HEAL	TOPICS	
	INLAWS	EATS
THY	BOX	SPREAD
YOU	CAN	COUNT
PALO	GUAVA	NOON
OXEN	STRAP	GRAY

LAZYPONES by Bruce Venzke Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71

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# Environmentalists protest Olympic building in Sochi

SOCHI, Russia (AP) — As Russia's Black Sea resort of Sochi prepares to take the Winter Olympics torch from Vancouver, activists are warning that construction has caused environmental damage.

The southern city, surrounded by the pristine forests and rivers of the North Caucasus mountains, is hosting the 2014 games. But as the four-year countdown begins, the World Wildlife Fund and Greenpeace say unique habitats have been destroyed, spring water has been contaminated by heavy metal waste and the construction of the facilities is hazardously amateur.

Their protests have had trouble gaining ground, and the groups say they are no longer working with organizers. The two environmental organizations have withdrawn from a government-led oversight commission and are instead appealing to the United Nations in the hope of shaming authorities into action.

"Ecologists aren't washing their hands of the issue, but the opportunity to work in constructive cooperation with the authorities has vanished," Igor Chestin, head of the Russian branch of WWF, said during a tour Friday of Olympic construction sites.

The WWF announced

last week it was suspending cooperation with the Sochi Olympic Committee and has already cut all ties with Olympstroi, the state agency overseeing Olympic construction. No one at either organization could be reached for immediate comment Friday. Andrei Petrov, the World Heritage program coordinator at Greenpeace Russia, told The Associated Press that the organization had also ceased consultations with the government.

The Sochi games will be held in two clusters outside the city itself. Ice rink-based events will be held at a coastal cluster, while a mountain cluster will feature

the skiing, snowboarding and bobsledding, among other sports.

Activists say the chief environmental threat is to the Mzymta River, which connects the two clusters. Thousands of beech trees have been felled to clear the path for a road and rail link that skirts the river.

"The river will die completely," Chestin said during a car ride up the valley toward the mountain cluster in the village of Krasnaya Polyana.

Petrov said Russian legislation has been changed to allow the clearing of endangered trees to accommodate the Olympic construction.

"This is the kind

of thing that is utterly unacceptable in a normal country," he said. "Laws are being changed overnight to suit somebody's interests."

The WWF has made its concerns known in writing to the UNESCO World Heritage Center and the United Nations Environment Program, and is hoping international pressure will force Russia to address them.

"We are changing tactics," Chestin said.

The activists also decried what they called the arbitrary redrawing of the boundaries of national nature reserves to justify further commercial building. Contaminants are

dumped into rivers and the habitats of bears and birds are destroyed to clear the way for ski runs, they said.

"During construction of the buildings and roads, hazardous waste such as heavy metals enter the river and kills all life," Chestin said.

Asked whether he hoped Russia would engage with the green movement before the games, Chestin said the ball was in the officials' court.

"Russia is playing first violin in the Olympics," he said. "But the games are an international event. Global organizations like the U.N. play a huge role, and their voice should be heard."

## Cowboys, Bengals to play HOF exhibition

NEW YORK (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys will play the Cincinnati Bengals in the 2010 Hall of Fame exhibition game, one day after Cowboys star Emmitt Smith and longtime Bengals coach Dick LeBeau are inducted.

The game will be played on Aug. 8 in Canton, Ohio, marking the beginning of the NFL's preseason schedule.

ule.

Induction ceremonies will be held on Aug. 7. Smith, the NFL's career leader in yards rushing, was elected along with six other players, including Jerry Rice, John Randle, Rickey Jackson, Russ Grimm and Floyd Little.

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones issued a statement calling it "an honor" to play in the game.

## SOFTBALL

Continued from Page 8

Grape Creek, freshman Logan Yarbar made her second varsity start against the same team she beat Saturday at home.

Yarbar threw four innings in the game, allowing three runs, two of which were earned, striking out four and walking five. Yarbar went 3-for-4 at the plate in the game with three bunt singles, two stolen bases and one run scored.

"Logan is going to have to get more confidence, but that's OK," Sparks said. "I'm OK with it. We made a lot of young mistakes, but that's where we need to be, and that's what these tournaments are for."

Valerie Ross knocked in three runs in the game on three hits, including a double. The Lady Steers improved to 4-1 on the season as they

take on Pecos today at 1 p.m. and Midland Lee tonight at 7 p.m.

### Coahoma loses

The Coahoma Bulldogettes fell to Abilene High 3-1 Thursday despite 15 strikeouts from pitcher Heather Newton.

The Bulldogettes took a 1-0 lead through three innings, but defensive miscues cost the Bulldogettes all three of Abilene High's runs.

Coahoma will play three games today against Abilene Cooper, Odessa Permian at 3 p.m. and Marfa at 7 p.m. Check Sunday's Herald for tournament results.

Thursday's scores  
5 p.m. games- Andrews 7, El Paso El Dorado 0; Midland High 15, Kermit 0; Odessa High 13, El Paso Hanks 0; Big Spring 5, Monahans 1; Lee 21, Crane 0; Lee 21, Crane 0; Pecos 5, Grape Creek 1; Odessa Permian 7, Abilene Cooper 0;  
7 p.m. games- Midland High JV 8, Frenship JV 0; Midland Christian 3, Canyon 2; Seminole 6, Odessa 4; Lubbock Cooper 3, Andrews 0; Big Spring 8, Grape Creek 3; Abilene High 3, Coahoma 1; Odessa Permian 2, Greenwood 0

## HOOPS

Continued from Page 8

came away with a 35-21 win.

"They're a very quick basketball team," Stanton coach Kenny VanCuren said. "They're not real big, but they like to switch their defense so you don't know what you're

going to see. And we're very quick, so that nullifies us a little bit. But they can't match up with us inside."

The Buffs will look to Stanton big man Tyler Fulton, who is leading the Buffs in scoring this year. Fulton scored 10 points in the Buffs' last regular season game against Forsan on Feb. 9.

## BEARKATS

Continued from Page 8

played 20 games. It's frustrating that we didn't get a chance to mature as a team."

Valley will move on to face either Grady or Northside, which play tonight at 7:30 p.m. in Floydada.

"They're probably the best team in the region that didn't win district,"

Abney said. "They've got good players."

**Turkey-Valley 64, Bearkats 48**  
Valley 13 12 24 13 --64  
GC 11 12 12 13 --48

Turkey Valley (22-5): Garcia 16, Hancock 15, Sherman 14, Smith 9, Allen 8, Mendoza 2.

Garden City (13-7): Brett Chudej 23, Reggie Halfmann 9, Hayden Halfmann 6, Brian Hirt 5, Jesse Montes 2, Aaron Long 2, Peyton Schaefer 1.

Free throws -- Valley 20-26, Garden City 15-25. 3-point goals -- Valley 4 (Garcia 3, Smith 1), Garden City 3 (R. Halfmann). Total fouls -- Valley 20, Garden City 22. Fouled out -- None.

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Canadian women, Korean win gold

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Gold was the only option for both Canada's women's hockey team and South Korean figure skater Kim Yu-na. For the U.S. Nordic combined squad, any medal in any color would do.

All of them were quite pleased with the way things turned out.

The Canadian women beat the United States 2-0 for their third straight Olympic title, this one even sweeter because it was on home ice — and in front of a who's who list of fans that included Wayne Gretzky, Prime Minister Stephen Harper, actor Michael J. Fox and several members of the men's hockey team, including captain Scott Niedermayer.

Up in the mountains, Billy Demong and Johnny Spillane finished 1-2 in a Nordic combined race, a surprising medal haul in a sport that's been part of the Winter Olympics since 1924 but never had an American medalist until these games.

Demong's victory is the first gold and his second of these games.

Spillane became the first medalist on Sunday, and now he has three, all silver.

Add silvers by the hockey women and Jeret "Speedy" Peterson in men's aerials, and the U.S. medal count is up to eight golds and 32 overall. The Americans are closing in on their record hauls of 10 gold of 34 total, both set at the 2002 Salt Lake City Games.

Canadian women celebrate gold

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — The women of the Canadian hockey team politely accepted their gold medals and waved to an adoring crowd. And then the real celebration began.

More than half an hour after they beat the United States 2-0 on Thursday, the players came back from the locker room and staged a party on ice — swigging from bottles of champagne, guzzling beer and smoking cigars.

The IOC said it would look into the matter. Informed of the antics by The Associated Press, Gilbert Felli, the IOC's executive director of the

Olympic Games, said it was "not what we want to see."

Villegas leads at Phoenix Open

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) — The memory of a missed 3-foot putt did nothing to diminish Camilo Villegas's game in the Phoenix Open.

The 28-year-old Colombian tied the tournament first-round record with a 9-under 62 to take a one-shot lead over former Florida teammate Matt Every.

Villegas regrouped with a bogey-free round after making the semifinals of the Match Play Championship last weekend, but missing the short putt that would have put him in the final. He beat Sergio Garcia in the third-place match.

Justin Rose, Mark Wilson, Ryuji Imada, Rickie Fowler and Pat Perez were three strokes back at 65 in near-perfect conditions at TPC Scottsdale.

Phil Mickelson and defending champion Kenny Perry were in a large group at 68. Match Play champion Ian Poulter struggled to a 72.

terfinals of the Mexican Open by Juan Monaco, and women's No. 1 seed Venus Williams fought back from 1-5 down in the final set to survive.

Monaco of Argentina beat top-seeded Verdasco of Spain 7-5, 6-3.

Williams had a harder-than-expected struggle against Spanish qualifier Laura Pous Tio, finally winning 4-6, 6-3, 7-5. Pous Tios is ranked No. 399 and Williams is No. 5.

Verdasco, who defeated Andy Roddick in an ATP final two weeks ago in San Jose, California, said he had not adjusted to clay after not having played on the surface in seven months.

Fernando Gonzalez of Chile rallied to beat Eduardo Schwank of Argentina 3-6, 6-3, 7-5, while third-seeded David Ferrer of Spain defeated Uruguay's Pablo Cuevas 7-5, 6-4.

Williams got herself into several holes with loose ground strokes and showed this is her first tournament of the season on clay — her weakest surface.

Williams, who won here last year, was cheered on by thousands of fans. "I really have never had that kind of support, ever in my life," Williams added. "Never, never at home, never anywhere. ... Never Fed Cup, never even the Olympics. ... It was just really amazing. I thought, OK, yeah, I can do this."

Venus comes back to win in Mexican Open

ACAPULCO, Mexico (AP) — Top-seeded Fernando Verdasco was knocked out of the quar-

Rangers P Feldman settling into new role

SURPRISE, Ariz. (AP) — In less than a year, Scott Feldman has progressed from afterthought to anchor of the Texas Rangers' starting rotation.

Winning 17 games in five months last season — and entering the closing weeks with a chance to reach the coveted 20-victory mark — will do that for a pitcher.

"I thought it would have been cool if I could have gotten 20," Feldman said. "Just to get 17 was a pretty cool thing. We had a good team."

Feldman was a large part of that success, posting a 17-8 record and 4.08 ERA in 31 starts. Despite not joining the rotation until late April, the right-hander was second on the club with 189 2/3 innings pitched.

Though he has just 56 career starts under his belt, the 27-year-old has become an elder statesman in a rotation that this year adds oft-injured veteran Rich Harden. It's a role that Feldman didn't necessarily expect but has embraced since the departure of Kevin Millwood.

"The pecking order was Millwood and Feldman," Rangers manager Ron Washington said Thursday. "Millwood disappeared, Feldman was successful. It's only right he moves up in the pecking order."

What helped Feldman succeed both personally and now as a leader,

Washington said, is his "impeccable work ethic." "It's about your work ethic around here. He's a great guy to model. You can't put leadership on people. Your teammates draw it out of you. And he's got the work ethic."

The professionalism he learned from Millwood, who often was the first pitcher on the field for drills in spring training, helped Feldman cope with disappointment last spring.

After going 6-8 in 25 starts for Texas in 2008 following two-plus seasons in the bullpen, Feldman found himself the odd man out of the rotation when the Rangers brought in free agent Kris Benson midway through spring training.

"It didn't take long before there was a need for a starter in the rotation and he stepped in," Washington said. "It gives him an opportunity to use all his pitches and he took to it."

Feldman said he knew the nature of the game was such that a chance to return to the rotation would come.

"At the beginning I just tried to stay focused, not get frustrated that I got moved to the bullpen, and wait for an opportunity," Feldman said. "Once I got the opportunity, I pitched pretty well, kept working hard and just had a lot of fun."

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

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			3		5	9		

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker  
Test Your Play

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Four Hearts, and North leads a trump. How would you play the hand? (Played correctly, the contract cannot be defeated regardless of how the North-South cards are divided.)

West: ♠ Q 7 4, ♥ K Q J 9 6 3, ♦ 10, ♣ K 6 5  
East: ♠ A 10 6, ♥ A 10 8 5, ♦ 7 4, ♣ A J 4 2

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Six Clubs, and North leads the two of hearts. You win with the queen and lead the four of trumps to dummy's queen, North following with the three and South the two. How would you continue?

West: ♠ K 5, ♥ A Q 10, ♦ K Q 2, ♣ J 9 8 6 4  
East: ♠ A J 8 3 2, ♥ K J, ♦ A J 7, ♣ A Q 5

\*\*\*

1. Draw the missing trumps, cash the K-A of clubs and, if the club jack is not yet a trick, lead a diamond. The defender who wins the diamond cannot return a spade or a club without establishing a 10th trick for you, so let's assume he leads another diamond. In that case, you discard your six of clubs!

Again the defender on lead cannot

Tomorrow: The percentage play.  
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