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THE BIG SPRING HERALD

THURSDAY
 FEBRUARY 3, 2011



VOLUME 106, NUMBER 54

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Public school makeup days
 Forsan Independent School District will hold classes Monday, Feb. 14 to make up for classes canceled this past Tuesday, officials have announced.
 Big Spring ISD will have its makeup day May 6. Coahoma ISD's choice to make up the classes has yet to be determined.

ONE, TWO, THREE ... LET'S GO!



Coahoma boys' basketball coach Kim Nicols, in red sweater, exhorts his team during a timeout of the Bulldogs' game with Slaton Wednesday afternoon in Coahoma. See related story, Page 1B.

Historic hotel on the mend

Renovations expected to be complete this year

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

Officials with the Settles Hotel Development Company say they have a tight schedule ahead of them, but still expect to have the renovation of the historic Settles Hotel completed by the end of 2011.
 Kris Ryan, SHDC manager, said the project has faced some hurdles recently — including freezing weather — but is making a great deal of progress.
 "The freezing weather has forced us to bring a number of the large, fueled heaters in to keep the change in temperatures from cracking our plaster," Ryan said. "When you're working with these kinds of materials, a 10-degree change from day time to night time isn't a problem. However, when the temperatures drop as much as they have lately, it can really cause those walls to move and crack."
 "Every night, before I leave the work site, I have to go through the hotel and make



sure all of the heaters have fuel. Even with them, however, it only gets up to about 40 degrees inside the structure. So the cold weather certainly has changed the way we're handling things, but we're still making a great deal of progress."
 The building, erected for \$500,000 in 1930, was a

See **SETTLES**, Page 3A

\$10,000 raised by Eagles, WTC for Children In Need

Special to the Herald

West Texas Centers and the Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 3188 raised \$10,680 during the Ninth Annual Children In Need Chili Cook-off Jan. 29 at the Eagles Lodge.
 Close to 40 cooks participated in the cook-off, which awarded prizes to the top 10 entrants.

The chili cook-off has grown in popularity as evidenced by the number of participants and visitors who pay to sample the chili, said Landon Sturdivant, West Texas Centers Chief Operating Officer.
 All money raised goes toward West Texas Centers' Children in Need Fund, which provides money to children who may have a

See **COOK-OFF**, Page 3A

Census estimates show big gains for U.S. minorities

HOPE YEN
 Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. racial minorities accounted for roughly 85 percent of the nation's population growth over the last decade — one of the largest shares ever — with Hispanics accounting for much of the gain in many of the states picking up new House seats.
 Preliminary census estimates also suggest the number of multiracial Americans jumped roughly 20 percent since 2000, to over 5 million.

"The growth of the Hispanic community is one of the stories that will be written from the 2010 census."

—Robert Groves, census director

The findings, based on fresh government survey data, offer a glimpse into 2010 census results that are being released on a state-by-state basis beginning this week. New Jersey, Mississippi, Virginia and Louisiana are the first to receive the census redistrict-

ing data, which will be used in the often contentious process of redrawing political districts based on population and racial makeup.
 "There are going to be a lot of additional Hispanic officials elected when redistricting is done," said E. Mark Braden,

a former chief counsel to the Republican National Committee who now advises state governments on redistricting. "But folks in power don't give up control that easily — there will be tension between the ins and outs."

Arkansas, Indiana, Iowa and Maryland are among the states scheduled to receive their data next week. By law, all states must receive their redistricting data by April 1.
 Four of the eight states

See **CENSUS**, Page 3A

INDEX

Comics	6B
Classified	3-5B
Features	5A
Obituaries	2A
Opinion	4A
Sports	1-2B

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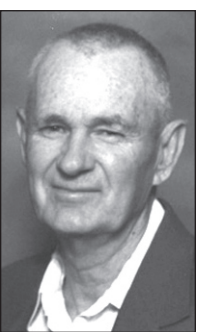
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Obituaries

Allan T. Hopper



Allan T. Hopper, 86, of Stanton died Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2011, at his residence. Graveside funeral services with military honors will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Feb. 4, 2011, at the Blocker Chapel at Evergreen Cemetery with the Rev. Bob Porterfield officiating.

He was born July 9, 1924, in the Moore Community in Howard County and married Wilma LaVerne Young on Nov. 16, 1946, in Big Spring. She preceded him in death April 29, 2009.

He grew up in Martin County and attended Fairview Schools. He served his country in the United States Army during World War II in the European Theater. Allan was well known as a softball and basketball player in school and while in the Army and loved to fish. Mr. Hopper had worked for 35 years as a mechanic for John Deere before retiring. He was a Baptist.

Survivors include one daughter, Linda Grissam and husband Tommy of Big Spring; two sons, Kenneth Hopper and wife Jan of Coppell and Johnny Hopper and wife Linda Kay of Stanton; one brother, Joe Hopper of Colorado City; six grandchildren, Brandon Hopper, Bryan Garner, Candy Ulmer, J.L. Hopper, Kyle Grissam and Courtney Grissam; and 10 great-grandchildren, Jacob, Sarah and Wesley Ulmer, Christopher, Dusty and Amber Hopper, Alina, Riley and Austin Hopper and Dustin Williams.

He was preceded in death by his parents; six brothers; one sister; and one grandson, Cory Hopper.

The family suggests memorials be made to Hospice of Midland, P.O. Box 2621, Midland 79701; or to the Martin County Senior Center, P.O. Box 1233, Stanton 79782.

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

Paid obituary

William Lane 'Sunny' Edwards



William Lane "Sunny" Edwards of Big Spring passed away Monday, Jan. 31, 2011. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 5, 2011, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park with the Rev. Craig Holstedt officiating.

Sunny was born July 2, 1918, in Big Spring to Marion Edwards and Ova Mae Williamson Edwards. He ranched in Howard and Ector counties until 1959, when he and his wife, Jane, bought Cree Meadows Golf Course in Ruidoso, N.M., where they lived for 50 years.

He served 17 years on the board of the Ruidoso Jockey Club and was president of Ruidoso/Sunland for three years. Quarter horses were his passion and he raised and ran many winners. Sunny returned to Big Spring in 2007.

In October 2010, Sunny received the Foy Proctor Memorial Cowman's Award of Honor from the Haley Library in Midland and will be inducted into the Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame in April of this year.

Sunny was preceded in death by his wife of 68 years, Mary Jane Reed Edwards; his son, W.R. "Stormy" Edwards; and two sisters, Annabelle Neal and Mary Nell Mansfield.

Survivors include a daughter and son-in-law, Lane and Don Reynolds; grandchildren, Don Reynolds II, Katie DeLaO, Leigh Reynolds and William Rowan Edwards; nephew, Red Schwarzenbach; nieces, Belle Schwarzenbach, Deane Kelley and Zane Neal; and six great-grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials be made to the Heritage Museum, 510 Scurry, Big Spring 79720; or a charity of choice.

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

Paid obituary

Herman Rosemond Sr.



Herman Rosemond Sr., 70, of Big Spring died Thursday, Jan. 27, 2011, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday at West Highway 80 Church of Christ with Ullis Johnson and Ulysses Mathews officiating.

He was born May 22, 1940, in Cameron. He worked at the Big Spring Mall. He had been a resident of Big Spring for many years and was a member of West Highway 80 Church of Christ.

He is survived by one son, Herman Rosemond Jr. of Big Spring; one daughter, Erica Mitchell of Big Spring; one step-son, Frank Williams Jr. and wife Tara of Fort Worth; one step-daughter, Addie Jo Pride and husband Glynn of Amarillo; seven sisters, Evelyn Hawkins and husband Jimmy, Vivian Jones and husband Hebrew, all of Big Spring, Katie Gardner of Lancaster, Calif., Earnestine Gipson, Wanda Sue Kirkland and Donna Jean Pier of Las Vegas, Nev., and Fannie Gipson of Los Angeles, Calif.; four brothers, Tywayne Bledsoe of Topeka, Kan., DeWayne Bledsoe of Big Spring, Marvin Bledsoe and wife Demetra and Charles Bledsoe and wife Brenda, all of Houston.

He was preceded in by his mother, Luella Bledsoe; step-father, Vivian Bledsoe; his wife, Mattie Rosemond; one brother, Leonard Gipson; and step-daughter, Veronica Williams.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com

Cariker Roy Wright



Cariker Roy "C. Roy" Wright, 69, of Rogers, Ark. died Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2011, at Mercy Medical Center in Rogers. He was born April 7, 1941 in Olney to Lee Roy Wright and Helen Bennett Wright.

He graduated from high school in Coahoma and worked in the oil field industry for many years in various capacities, most recently as a safety consultant. C. Roy was very generous with his time, and a lifelong volunteer for many worthy causes.

He was an Eagle Scout and served as a leader of Boy Scout groups in several cities in Texas. He volunteered in many youth sport activities.

Volunteer firefighting in West Texas was his passion. He served as fire chief in the Big Lake Volunteer Fire Department and the Howard County Volunteer Fire Department. He spent countless hours receiving training and training others in fire suppression techniques to further their abilities in protecting their communities. He served for many years as an instructor at the Texas A&M University Fire Training School.

He was certified as a law enforcement officer in the state of Texas and served as a reserve member of the Howard County Sheriff's Department. He loved his family, children and especially his five grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Lee Roy and Helen Wright of Bentonville, Ark., and one son, Jim Bob Wright of Rogers, Ark.

C. Roy is survived by his wife of 51 years, Glenda Wright; two sons, Joe Don Wright and wife Rhonda of Bella Vista, Ark., Jon Wright and wife Kathy of Rogers; three grandsons, Zac Wright, Josh Wright and Brantley Wright; two granddaughters, Payton Wright and Lauren Gardner; brothers Wesley Wright and wife Kandis of Bentonville, Ark., Marvin Wright and wife Linda of Midland and Jimmy Wright and wife Cheryl of Bentonville, Ark.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A visitation will be held from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 4, 2011, at Stockdale Funeral Services in Rogers, Ark. A memorial service and burial will be held in Big Lake at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Mercy Health Foundation of Northwest Arkansas - Cardiology P.O. Box 98 Rogers, AR 72757. www.mercy4u.com/foundation

Arrangements are by Stockdale Funeral Services of Rogers. Online condolences may be made at stockdalefuneral.com

Paid obituary

John Lewis Stripling



FORT WORTH — John Lewis Stripling, 94, died Sunday, Jan. 30, 2011. Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2011, at Ridglea United Methodist Church with interment to follow in Greenwood Memorial Park.

John was born Jan. 15, 1917, in Big Spring to Fox and Fannie Stripling. John received his bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Austin and his master's degree from McMurry in Abilene. He served in the military for much of his life and retired as a lieutenant colonel. After military retirement, he began a career as a teacher and later retired from O.D. Wyatt High School in Fort Worth.

John was preceded in death by his parents; four brothers; one sister; and a grandson.

Survivors include his wife of 65 years, Marjorie Albaugh Stripling; children, Marjorie Schultz and husband Albert, Jeanne DuBois and husband Richard, John Stripling Jr., Martha Walsh, Julie Mulvey and husband Kim; seven grandchildren; a great-grandson; a sister, Emma Ruth Webb and husband Darrell; and many nieces and nephews.

Arrangements are under the direction of Greenwood Funeral Home.

Support Groups

THURSDAY

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

Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Fri 2/4	Sat 2/5	Sun 2/6	Mon 2/7	Tue 2/8
41/25 Mainly sunny. High 41F. Winds W at 10 to 20 mph.	60/29 Sunny. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the upper 20s.	54/26 Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the mid 20s.	44/24 Plenty of sun. Highs in the mid 40s and lows in the mid 20s.	55/18 Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the upper teens.

Police blotter

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

Note — No arrests were reported for the corresponding period.

• STOLEN VEHICLE was reported in the 400 block of E. Fourth Street.

• HARASSMENT was reported in the 1800 block of Hearn.

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 63 inmates at the time of this report.

No arrests or transfers were recorded for the corresponding period.

Fire/EMS

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

• MEDICAL was reported in the 2700 block of Crestline. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 400 block of Dallas. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAUMA was reported near the intersection of Fourth Street and Gregg. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1100 block of E. Highway 350. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 2900 block of W. Highway 80. One person was transported to SMMC.

• STRUCTURE FIRE was reported in the 800 block of W. 15th Street.

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SETTLES

Continued from Page 1A

destination of choice for travelers for many years — as well a center of activity for the community — but has been vacant and in an advanced state of dilapidation for more than two decades.

Brint Ryan, a Big Spring native and brother to Kris Ryan, announced plans for a multi-million-dollar renovation of the structure in December 2006. According to SHDC officials, the project includes plans for commercial and residential use of the property, with retail space available

on the first and second floors. The project's budget has ballooned from \$12 million to \$20 million since its inception.

And while the majority of the structure remains covered in drywall dust and empty of even the simplest furnishings, Ryan said there is a room on the 12th floor — nestled deep within the aging hotel — that reminds him and his brother of what is still to come.

"We've done a mock-up on the 12th floor which basically has everything in it we're planning to use, such as furnishings and fixtures," Ryan said. "It's really something to see. You step from a hallway where the plaster work is still

being done into a setting that's just amazing. We've shown it to a few people, and they've put it on par with some of the best hotels in the nation.

"The shower doors aren't completed yet, and the hardware for the doors isn't up yet, so there's still work to be done on the mock-ups. We also need to cut and set the stone thresholds for the doorways. However, it gives you a chance to see what the project will look like when it's done."

Ryan said room mock-ups are a very important part of the renovation process.

"You don't want to make the same mistake 50 times for 50 rooms," he said with a

laugh. "That's why we put together these mock-ups. That way Brint can come in and see what he likes and what he doesn't like."

While the mock-up rooms may give those working on the renovations a sense of completion, Ryan said the project still has a long way to go before it's ready to be reopened.

"We're about to begin work on the basement, which is going to be a big task," Ryan said. "There's also a lot of piping and electrical work to be done on the first three floors. However, we feel really good about the progress we've made. It's not going to be easy to have the project com-

pleted by the end of the year, but that's exactly what we're shooting for."

That doesn't mean the hotel won't see some use before that. In fact, the 2011 Cars, Stars and Handlebars kickoff reception has been scheduled from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. March 3 at the hotel. Cars, Stars and Handlebars is an annual fundraiser for the Big Spring State Hospital.

For more information on the Settles Hotel renovation project, visit <http://www.settleshotel.com>

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

COOK-OFF

Continued from Page 1A

special one-time need.

Winners of the Chili Cook-off were: Illegal Aliens No. 1, Mike Ramirez, first place; Illegal Aliens No. 2, Mike Calvio, second place; Long Carson, Doug Carson and

Ron Long, third place; Bad BBQ, Kem Hooper and Jeremy Grant, fourth place; The Twins, Rodney Jones and Guy White, fifth place; Dalton Gang, Dalton and Carol Lewis, sixth place; Cindy Lou Whos Chili, Cindy Sturdivant, seventh place; Tilleys Chili, Tommy Tilley, eighth place; Red Hot Chili Peppers, Shane Pepper and girls, ninth

place; Dr. Phartgood's Miracle Elixer, Glenn and Madison Pitchford, 10th place.

Kem Hooper earned the Showmanship Award and Charlie Campbell won the Horse's Award.

West Texas Centers is the mental health and mental retardation authority for 23 counties in rural West Texas.

CENSUS

Continued from Page 1A

gaining House seats owe roughly half or more of their population gains over the last decade to Hispanics. They include Texas, which picks up four seats; Florida, which will add two seats; and Arizona and Nevada, picking up one seat apiece.

In Georgia and Washington state, which also gain one seat each, Hispanics combined with other minority groups accounted for a majority of their growth since 2000.

Among states losing House seats, Louisiana and New Jersey each would have posted a net population loss, and Michigan would have sustained bigger declines, if it hadn't been for Hispanic growth. Latinos also made up roughly 60 percent or more of the growth in New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, Iowa and Massachusetts — which each lose a seat — raising questions as to whether remaining districts in those states will need to accommodate emerging Hispanic voting blocs.

Broken down by voting age, minorities accounted for roughly 70 percent of U.S. growth in the 18-and-older population since 2000, and Hispanics made up about 40 percent. Hispanics also represented more than half the growth share of the voting-age popula-

tion in Texas and California.

"The growth of the Hispanic community is one of the stories that will be written from the 2010 census," Census director Robert Groves said Wednesday, previewing major demographic trends, including the movement of many minorities from city to suburb. "We should see a big difference from 2000 to 2010."

Thomas Saenz, president and general counsel of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund, which successfully challenged the redrawing of a majority Hispanic Texas district that weakened the Latino vote after the 2000 census, said his group was expecting to see "a minimum of nine additional Latino-majority House seats" based on 2010 results, if states comply with federal law.

The 1965 Voting Rights Act protects the interests of substantial minority voting blocs, in some cases requiring states to get federal approval of state redistricting plans. The law does not ensure that minorities are elected to office, but that votes of minorities are not overly weakened in a way that keeps them from electing the candidates they prefer. Based on population growth, MALDEF has suggested that several new Hispanic districts are warranted in places such as Texas, Florida, California and New York.

"We'll be monitoring everywhere," Saenz said.

Jeffrey M. Wice, a Democratic redistricting attorney, said states also will have to decide whether to consider citizenship when drawing political lines. Many lower federal courts have ruled that citizenship data should be used if available to determine whether a minority voting bloc has been unduly weakened — an issue that could mix already intense redistricting fights with contentious immigration politics.

Some demographers say the available census data on citizenship rates may not be reliable in certain situations because the numbers are five-year averages from 2005-09.

"This is a new area, and the Supreme Court has largely been silent on the issue," Wice said. "In some places, the use of citizenship data may dilute the ability of Hispanic communities to be fairly redistricted. Republicans may attempt to base redistricting on citizenship data in New Jersey, so that is one state to keep an eye on."

The preliminary demographic numbers are based on the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey as of March 2010, as well as comparisons of the 2000 census with 2009 demographic estimates and the 2009 American Community Survey, which samples 3 million U.S. households. According to those figures, minorities represented between 81 percent and 89 percent of the U.S. population growth since 2000, higher than the official 80 percent share in 2000.

The minority growth share in 2010 is the largest in recent memory, with only the influx of European minority immigrants such as Italians, Poles and Jews in the late 1800s possibly rivaling it in scope, said William H. Frey, a demographer at Brookings Institution who analyzed the census data.

Other findings: —In all, non-Hispanic whites make up roughly 65 percent of the U.S. population, down from 69 percent in 2000. Hispanics had a 16 percent share, compared with 13 percent a decade ago. Blacks represent about

12 percent and Asians roughly 5 percent. Multiracial Americans and other groups made up the remaining 2 percent.

—California, Texas, New York and Hawaii were among the states with the largest number of people who identified themselves as multiracial.

—Some 40 states show population losses of white children since 2000 due to declining birth rates. Minorities represented all of the increases in the under-18 population in Texas and Florida, and most of the gains in the child population in Nevada and Arizona.

"The new engines of growth in America's population are Hispanics, Asians and other minorities," Frey said. "But it's just the tip of the iceberg. For the under-18 population — potential voters in the not-too-distant future — minorities accounted for virtually all the growth in most U.S.

states." "Political strategists and advocates, especially in growing states, cannot afford to ignore this surging political wave," he said.

In December, the Census Bureau officially reported the nation's population was 308,745,538, up from 281.4 million a decade ago. The growth rate for the past decade was 9.7 percent, the lowest since the Great Depression, with most of the growth occurring in the South and West.

The population changes will result in a shift of House seats taking effect in 2013.

- American Legion Post 506 will hold a Super Bowl Party on Sunday. There will be food, door prizes and give-aways. No cover charge. The lodge is located at 3203 W. Highway 80. For more information, call 263-2084.
- The Kiwanis Club of Big Spring will hold its annual pancake supper from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. March 11 at the Howard College Cafeteria. Tickets are \$5 per person and can be obtained from any Kiwanis Club member or by contacting Don McGonagill at 267-7601.

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Herman Rosemond, Jr., died Thursday. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at West Highway 80 Church of Christ.

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AN ENCOURAGING WORD

By Eddy Pitchford

Healthy skepticism is good. We should read the fine print when we receive offers in the mail. We should check expiration dates when we shop for groceries. We should seek clarification when a politician makes campaign promises. We should raise an eyebrow when a new coach promises championships.

However, we often acquire an unhealthy skepticism. We mentally replay conversations looking for an opportunity to call a foul. We doubt the sincerity of co-workers trying to encourage us. We think family members are wolves in sheep clothing. We believe friends are merely using us. We distrust kind people and reject compliments.

When we see dirt everywhere, we may need to clean our glasses. "...Love believes all things, hopes all things..."

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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.

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Adam Coleman Sports Editor		Thomas Jenkins Staff Writer

OUR VIEWS

Planning a great bowl party?

Whether you are a football fan or not, the Super Bowl is reason enough for getting together and having a good time. For fans, it's a special occasion — no matter what two teams are playing. For football widows — and you know what we mean if you are one — it's a time of celebration because it's the final game of the season.

This year, coming on the heels of a major cold front, a game-time forecast in the low- to-mid 50s makes grilling a real possibility, always a hit for a crowd. Steaks, fajitas or burgers anyone? Brisket? Ribs? Even hot dogs sound good. Chips and dips are a must. Did someone say chicken wings?

Cook out? How about eat out?

That's a real possibility, too, as several local restaurants with large screen televisions will be inviting customers to dine with them and watch the game. The city's collection of bars — nightspots, if you prefer — will also be featuring the big Packers-Steelers clash on TV and no doubt be offering specials on food and drink of all types.

All in all, it should be a lot of fun.

But there is the potential, of course, for some disaster, especially when alcohol might be involved. Our experience is that booze often finds its way to big bashes. Likewise, many of us, while celebrating big bashes, find our way to the spirits. After all, one of the largest brewers in this country is a major sponsor of Sunday's televised event. Yep, in between urging us to pop a top on a Bud, we'll be reminded over and over to "drink responsibly."

And that's is what we are doing, urging our readers to plan ahead if they plan on having a drink or two or three while enjoying Sunday's big game. If it's your intent to slop some hops this weekend, we're not here to say "don't." But we are here to say don't get in your vehicle and drive afterward. Appoint a designated driver if you are going as a group or call a taxi, phone a friend.

When you drink alcohol, it's your life you are messing with. When you drink alcohol and get behind the wheel, it's an entirely different matter. Believe us, you do *not* want to go through the rest of your days knowing that a dumb decision on your part caused someone to lose their life. In short — don't drink and drive.

Have a great time. Celebrate! Go Packers! Go Steelers! But foremost, go home safely.

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 newsdesk@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

College: A beginning, not an end

Every year, UCLA's Higher Education Research Center does a national study of college freshmen, some 200,000 in all. This year, the big news is emotional health — or lack thereof. Nearly half of the students surveyed — and more than half of the young women — ranked their emotional health as "below average," the highest numbers since the survey began 25 years ago.



SUSAN ESTRICH

What gives? You don't have to be a college counselor to know some of the sources of the stress. The economy is surely No. 1. These are young people who are starting college and in many cases taking on massive debt, without any assurance of a well-paying (or any) job at the other end.

They are part of a generation that, everyone keeps telling them, cannot hope to live as well as their parents. And their parents, or many of them, are not living as well as they used to.

The only thing worse for a student than worrying about their own potential unemployment is worrying about their parents' current unemployment — and the impact of college costs (even with all those loans) on families that are in economic trouble.

This year's study found paternal unemployment at the highest levels since the study began.

And it found increasing numbers of students making the decision about where to go to school based not on the school's rankings or their own dreams, but on who gives them money.

Obviously, the study points to

the need for more mental health services on campus. Freshmen who come in stressed are likely to get even more stressed in an environment where making the grades and making the connections may well spell the difference between having a job — or entre to grad school — at the end of four years, and not. It points to the need for professors like me (I teach freshmen, as well as law students.) to pay even more careful attention to how our students are doing, to take note of repeated absences or work that suddenly falls below standards, and to reach out to those students to offer help, not threats.

But we who are parents also need to help our children find some balance, some comfort in their situations, some hope that not every decision they make now will determine their fate forever.

I went to the college that gave me the most money. It was not my first choice, or any choice. It just was. To be honest, at the time, it just seemed obvious that I would go to the school that gave me money even if now, when I meet young people who do the same thing, it seems like a painful choice.

Forget it. My last choice turned out to be a great choice. College is what you make of it. Wherever you are can be the right place for you — or the wrong place — not because of how it's ranked on some national survey, but because of how you approach it.

When I was in college, I used to despair when people told me these were the best years of my life. They weren't.

The years when I had my children and they were still small (and lived at home and wanted nothing more than to be with

their mother) were the best. My college years were hard (I was always afraid that I wouldn't be able to handle the work, not having attended some fancy public or private high school) and often lonely (I used to joke that months passed where the only guy who came to our dorm was the janitor.). My parents split up, my world fell apart, I had no place to live, no money, I had to leave early to work - boohoo and all that.

Some people love college. Some people are not lonely, scared or financially on a precipice. Those people can use this column to wrap tomorrow's fish.

As for the rest of us, children and parents, it's worth taking a minute to remind ourselves that, like so much in life, it's not the hand you're dealt but how you play it. College, in the end, is not a competition, but a time to learn, grow and develop the values you will live by. It is a beginning and not an end, an opportunity and not a burden, a time for growth and not gut-wrenching stress.

I was as stressed as anyone in college, which might be why I did so well. But guess what: Plenty of people who didn't do as well as me and didn't attend as fancy a school have bigger jobs, more success, richer husbands — whatever it is that today's students are so stressed about finding at the other end.

So much for stress. It doesn't even work.

To find out more about Susan Estrich and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com.

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Cheap immigration rhetoric

President Obama's recent effort to resuscitate the immigration reform debate in Congress — after he allowed it to die and be buried for at least the next couple of years — shows he has little respect for our intelligence.

Apparently, the president believes that, when he runs for re-election, this kind of cheap rhetoric in the State of the Union will be enough to convince Latino voters that he tried to do something about immigration reform, and that we should vote for him in 2012.

And he may be right. Given the anti-immigrant venom within the Republican opposition, and the new and even more draconian measures conservatives already are promoting, a little rhetoric may be all the president needs to convince the overwhelming majority of Latino and other pro-immigrant Americans to vote for him next year. More than voting for Obama, we'll probably be voting against his opponent.

Even if all he gives us is rhetoric, Latinos and pro-immigrant Americans may have to vote for Obama simply because he could be the lesser of two evils because the alternative could be much worse for immigrants, Latinos and minorities in general.

But please, Mr. President, don't try to build false hopes and expectations when we all know that positive immigration reform has no chance of coming out of this Congress, not when it is now more heavily populated by immigrant bashers, not when even the light version of immigration reform — the DREAM Act — failed to clear the Senate during the more pro-immigrant lame-duck session.

As Obama spoke about immigration reform in his 2011 State of the Union, I couldn't

help wondering what could have happened if he had been so bold a couple years earlier — at the time when he actually promised to do it!

"I strongly believe that we should take on, once and for all, the issue of illegal immigration," Obama told Congress last week. "And I am prepared to work with Republicans and Democrats to protect our borders, enforce our laws and address the millions of undocumented workers who are now living in the shadows. I know that debate will be difficult. I know it will take time. But tonight, let's agree to make that effort."

Isn't that special?

What makes it cheap rhetoric is that it comes at a time when the president knows comprehensive immigration reform has no chance of passing through a House of Representatives where conservative extremists, more than ever, are competing to see who can be more vicious and emerge as the new champion of immigrant bashers.

"Today, there are hundreds of thousands of students excelling in our schools who are not American citizens," the president told Congress last week.

"Some are the children of undocumented workers, who had nothing to do with the actions of their parents. They grew up as Americans and pledge allegiance to our flag, and yet they live every day with the threat of deportation. Others come here from abroad to study in our colleges and universities. But as soon as they obtain advanced degrees, we send them back home to compete against us. It makes no sense."

Of course, he is right. But what makes no sense is that he waited so long to make that case in a State of the Union speech. One can only imagine what could have happened if he had been so "prepared" to do this when Democrats controlled the House and had a supermajority in the Senate. Would we have had immigration reform now if

the president had fought for it with the same energy and tactics he used to win the health care reform battle?

All we know is he didn't even try.

Oh, yes, we have heard his flowery immigration demagoguery many times before, but it's always completely hollow, without an outline of steps to be taken or a timetable for getting things done. Even Obama's major speech on immigration at American University last July was void of concrete commitments to fix our broken immigration system.

At that time, the president said this is an issue that "lends itself to demagoguery" and "has been held hostage to political posturing." He said his administration "will not just kick the (immigration) can down the road."

Yet isn't that exactly what the president did in his State of the Union?

Of course, there are many things he could do, by executive order, to ease the pain of the immigrant community. He could easily curtail immigration raids and deportations until Congress finally decides to act. He could order federal authorities not to persecute those DREAM Act students he says he wants to legalize. He could order his Justice Department to squash local discriminatory laws and vigorously prosecute hate crimes, including those committed by local law authorities and politicians.

Considering that Republicans are likely to nominate an anti-immigrant candidate, Obama is likely to win the majority of the Hispanic vote in 2012. The question now is whether he wins it by default, only through demagoguery, or he earns it by putting some punch behind his words.

To find out more about Miguel Perez and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

Paper links ex-Klansman to 1964 killing

HOLBROOK MOHR

Associated Press

FERRIDAY, La. — Arthur Leonard Spencer says sure, he made some mistakes back when he was a “snot-nose kid,” like joining the Ku Klux Klan. But murder?

No, the 71-year-old Spencer says, a small-

town weekly paper got it wrong when it reported recently that he may have been involved in burning down a black man’s shoe repair shop in 1964 with the owner inside.

“I feel sorry for his family, but I didn’t have nothing to do with it,” Spencer said.

No law enforcement agency has named Spencer as a suspect. But for the dead man’s family, still praying for justice 46 years later, it’s a welcome if not entirely solid lead.

The allegations were reported by the Concordia Sentinel of Ferriday, whose editor, Stanley Nelson, has dedicated the past four years of his life to an all-consuming investigation of the blaze that killed 51-year-old Frank Morris.

Nelson has written more than 100 stories about the case, culminating in an article that quoted Spencer’s estranged son, his ex-wife and her brother as saying the former Klansman confessed to taking part in the crime.

Morris’ slaying is one of more than 100 unsolved cases from the civil rights era that the FBI reopened in recent years. But for Nelson, the Morris case was unique, because it happened in his town. He has pledged to solve the crime once and for all.

The motive for the attack is not clear.

By most accounts Morris was well liked around town by both his black and white customers. He was separated or divorced and lived alone in a back room at his shop.

He was not known to be actively involved in the civil rights movement, which made black men targets in those days. And FBI documents indicate at least one witness debunked rumors that Morris had courted white women — a virtual death sentence in that era. Still, just being a successful black businessman with a white clientele and having contact with white women was enough to enrage many people back then.

Others have speculated that Morris may have been targeted for refusing to do shoe repairs for a corrupt sheriff’s deputy, who wanted the services for free.

Whatever the case, heavily censored FBI files from the time paint a chilling picture of Morris’ death.

Morris was asleep inside the wooden store in Ferriday on Dec. 10, 1964. He woke up about 2 a.m. to the sound of breaking glass and crept to the front of the shop. Two men were standing

just outside, one of them holding a shotgun.

“Get back in there, nigger,” one of the men said. The other tossed a match onto the gasoline they had poured inside.

The gas exploded and Morris ran out the back door, his body in flames.

Two police officers who arrived within minutes took him to a hospital. He died four days later — but not before describing his attackers.

They were “kind of small,” maybe 30 to 35 years

old, Morris told FBI investigators in one of several interviews. They had been in the store before. He later described the attackers as men he thought were his friends, but he never told investigators their names.

It’s not clear whether he didn’t know their names or was scared of further attacks. It is also likely that his severe injuries and heavy doses of medication impaired his ability to help investigators.

There may have been at least one other man waiting in a getaway car, Morris said, but he didn’t get a good look at that person.

Nelson believes one of the men may have been Spencer, and said so on the front page of his newspaper. Nelson received reporting help from an organization he helped found, the Civil Rights Cold Case Project, a team of investigative reporters, academics, documentary filmmakers and others who want to tell the stories of unsolved cases from the civil rights era.

Among those Nelson quotes is Spencer’s former brother-in-law, Bill Frasier, who was a sheriff’s deputy at one time.

Frasier told The Associated Press that he and Spencer were chatting decades ago about Spencer’s days in the KKK when the subject came up unexpectedly.

“I asked him, ‘Did y’all ever kill anybody?’” Frasier said in an interview. “He said, ‘We did

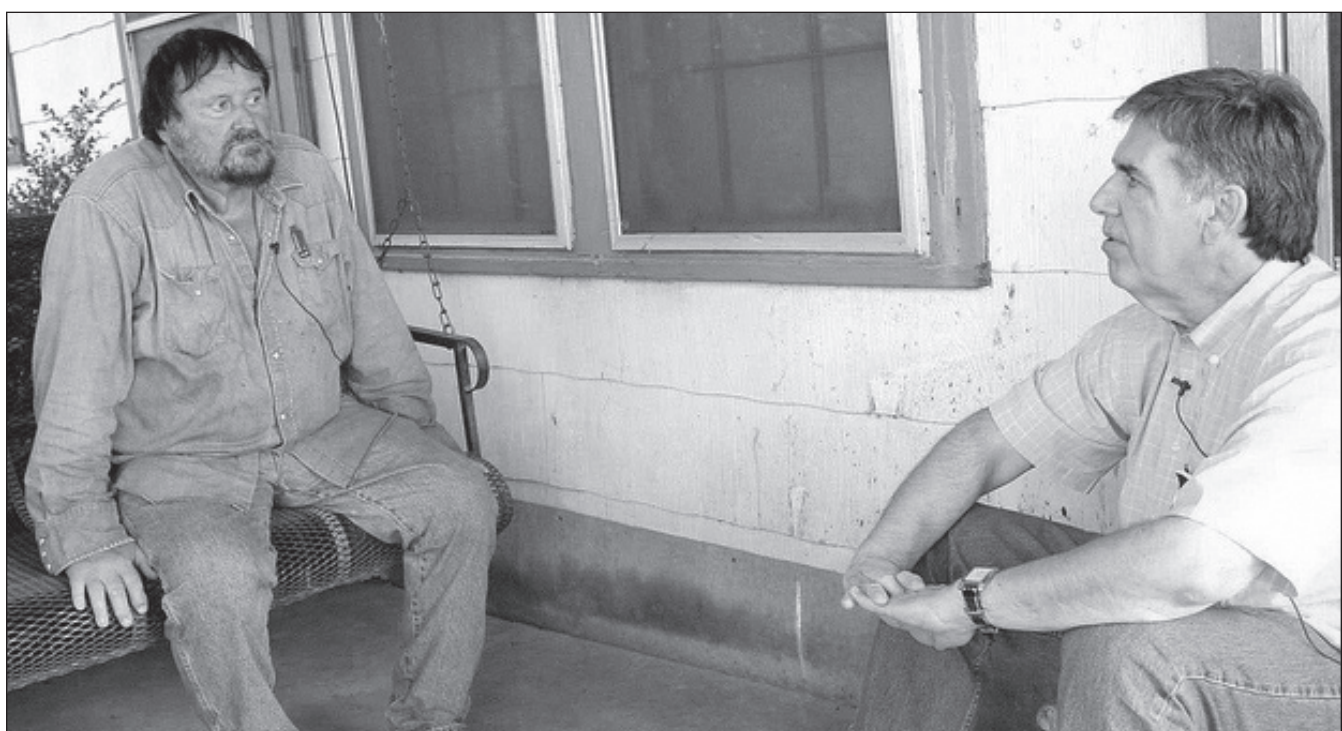


Photo by David Paperny, copyright Civil Rights Cold Case Project, 2010

Stanley Nelson (right) interviews Arthur Leonard Spencer at his home in Rayville, La., last summer.

one time by accident.”

Frasier alleges that Spencer went on to explain that the group burned a store when nobody was supposed to be inside, though Spencer didn’t name Morris as the victim and insisted that he stayed in the car.

Spencer’s ex-wife, Brenda Rhodes, didn’t return calls from the AP. Efforts to find Spencer’s son were unsuccessful.

Rhodes was quoted by the Concordia Sentinel as saying a friend of hers, a man now dead, once claimed that he and Spencer participated in the crime. The son, an ex-convict named Boo Spencer, told the paper that his father admitted taking part in the crime, adding that the Klan didn’t like that Morris owned a business.

Boo Spencer has served time in prison for theft and other crimes, and authorities said the father helped them on at least one occasion when they were investigating the son.

The FBI won’t discuss Spencer in detail.

“We are aware of these allegations, but allegations alone are not proof,” the agency said in a statement. “As with any case, the FBI is committed to a thorough investigation of all information we receive.”

Spencer, a stocky man with dyed black hair and a salt-and-pepper beard who spent his life working as a trucker and mechanic, denied any involvement in the crime during a recent interview with the AP at his home, a small white

house at the end of a long gravel road outside Rayville, La., billed as the “White Gold Capital of the South” because of its vast cotton fields.

Spencer said he was questioned by the FBI last year. He said he cooperated and has nothing to hide.

So why would people say these things about him? The \$10,000 reward? Vengeance?

Spencer said his son, his ex-wife and her brother are all mad at him because he left the family. “It’s like a fatal attraction — you know, like that movie. They won’t leave me alone. And now they’re trying to put a murder on me that I don’t know nothing about,” he said.

No one has ever been charged in the case. And it’s not clear how much evidence the FBI has to go on after so many years.

The FBI obtained a portion of a finger that had been found two days after the fire in a parking lot or alley near Morris’ burned store, according to FBI documents from the 1960s. There have been conflicting reports about whether Morris was missing a finger, but some hospital officials told investigators he was not. Spencer isn’t either.

There was little other evidence — soil and clothing samples and a five-gallon container that provided no fingerprints.

Rosa Williams, Morris’ granddaughter, said she has ached for answers for most of her

life. Now, she said, she has hope because she knows the FBI has been working the case. And she believes Nelson will see it through to the end. She has learned more about the case from him than from anyone else, she said.

“It’s been a long battle. It’s hard. It still is. We are hoping there will be justice,” Williams said.

Jake Davis was 13 in 1964 and worked at Mor-

ris’ shop. In a recent interview with the AP, Davis said he saw Morris arguing with three white men on the day of the fire but doesn’t know whether one of them was Spencer. As a young black boy, Davis didn’t even mention the three men when the FBI questioned him at the time.

“If I had talked then, I probably wouldn’t be around now,” he said.

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Never Say Die

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

<p>NORTH</p> <p>♠ K Q 9 5 ♥ J 6 2 ♦ 10 4 3 ♣ K 9 2</p>	<p>EAST</p> <p>♠ 7 4 2 ♥ 9 7 3 ♦ Q J 7 5 ♣ A 6 4</p>
<p>WEST</p> <p>♠ 6 ♥ Q 10 8 4 ♦ A 9 ♣ Q J 10 8 5 3</p>	<p>SOUTH</p> <p>♠ A J 10 8 3 ♥ A K 5 ♦ K 8 6 2 ♣ 7</p>

The bidding:
South West North East
1♠ 2♣ 2♠ 3♣
4♠

Opening lead — queen of clubs.

Some plays that are regarded as abnormal may become normal when they’re made in circumstances where standard procedure won’t work. Take this case where South brought in a seemingly unmakeable contract by deviating from the norm.

West led the queen of clubs against four spades, and declarer saw at once that his chances of making the contract were decidedly poor. The opening lead indicated that East had the ace of clubs, which in turn meant that West, who had overcalled on the two-level, had to hold the ace of diamonds.

But South found a way to make his game despite the unfavorable location of the two missing aces. He ducked the queen of clubs and ruffed the ten when West continued the suit. Recognizing that it was pointless to cross to dummy with a trump to lead a diamond to the king, he instead led a low diamond from his hand at trick three!

This play certainly violated the standard practice of leading toward strength instead of weakness. But South was well aware that he had to take unusual steps to have any chance for the contract. After West played the nine of diamonds, dummy’s ten lost to East’s jack. East returned the nine of hearts, won by South with the ace.

Declarer now made his second good play when he led the six of diamonds, forcing West to win with the ace. West exited with a club, ruffed by South.

Declarer next played three rounds of trumps, ending in dummy, and returned a diamond, finessing the eight after East followed low. South then discarded a heart from dummy on his king of diamonds and so made four spades.

Note that declarer could not have made two diamond tricks had he initiated the suit by first leading low from dummy.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.
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su | do | ku

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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

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

NOTICE OF RATE CHANGE REQUEST

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) publishes this notice that on January 7, 2011, Oncor filed with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) its Petition and Statement of Intent to Change Rates, a copy of which is kept at Oncor’s office at 1601 Bryan St., 23rd floor, Dallas, TX 75201. This notice is being published pursuant to Commission Procedural Rule 22.51(a)(1).

Oncor’s rate filing, based on the system-wide financial results for a 12-month test year ending on June 30, 2010, adjusted for known and measureable changes, supports a net increase in transmission and distribution rates of approximately \$353 million over adjusted test-year revenues, or approximately a 12.6% increase over adjusted test-year revenues of \$2,809.2 million. Test-year revenues have been adjusted to annualize the rate increase from Oncor’s last base rate case, to normalize billing units, to remove the revenues associated with Oncor’s Advanced Metering Cost Recovery Factor, Energy Efficiency Cost Recovery Factor, and Rate Case Expense surcharge, and to increase test-year revenues to reflect Transmission Cost of Service (TCOS) and Transmission Cost Recovery Factor (TCRF) adjustments approved or pending after June 30, 2010. If the approved or pending TCOS and TCRF adjustments are excluded from the adjustments to test-year revenues (and thus included in proposed base rates), the total base rate increase over adjusted test-year revenues is approximately \$441 million, or approximately a 16.2% increase over adjusted test-year revenues of \$2,720.6 million. If approved, the increased rates will be charged to Oncor’s direct customers, all retail electric providers (REPs), in those portions of Oncor’s service area under the original jurisdiction of the Commission. Each such REP is potentially affected by the proposed change. Depending on the REPs’ actions, the end-use customer classes of such REPs are potentially affected by the proposed change. In addition, the result could be a change in Oncor’s transmission cost of service rates, which would impact all load serving entities in the Electric Reliability Council of Texas. Oncor has requested a February 14, 2011 effective date for its proposed rate change.

Persons who wish to intervene in or comment upon these proceedings, in Docket No. 38929, Application of Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC for Authority to Change Rates, should notify the Commission as soon as possible, as an intervention deadline will be imposed. A request to intervene or for further information should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the Commission at (512) 936-7136. The deadline for intervention in the proceeding is 45 days after the date the application was filed with the Commission.

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC

Winter storm leaves destruction in its wake

MILFORD, Conn. (AP) — An enormous winter storm left Midwesterners shivering in its frozen footprint and crushed snow-laden buildings in the Northeast, where a combination of ice, snow and rain pushed much of the winter-cursed region to its breaking point.

Wind chills dipped to nearly 30 below in parts of the nation's midsection early Thursday as the region began dealing with the storm's aftermath. The sprawling system unloaded as much as 2 feet of snow, crippled airports and stranded drivers in downtown Chicago as if in a prairie blizzard. Even the sunny Southwest wasn't spared: Freezing temperatures delayed Thursday's opening round of the Phoenix Open in Scottsdale, Ariz., and led to school closures in parts of New Mexico.

In Oklahoma, at least three people were killed when the pickup truck plunged off a snow-covered highway and

into the Spring River Thursday. Five to eight people were in the truck that jumped a guard rail on Interstate 44 near the northeast town of Miami, Ottawa County Sheriff Terry Durborow said.

Officials in the Northeast had warned homeowners and businesses for days of the dangers of leaving snow piled on rooftops. As the 2,000-mile-long storm cloaked the region in ice and added inches to the piles of snow already settled across the landscape, the predictions came true. No one was seriously injured, however.

In Middletown, Conn., the entire third floor of a building failed, littering the street with bricks and snapping two trees. Acting Fire Marshal Al Santostefano said two workers fled when they heard a cracking sound.

"It's like a bomb scene," Santostefano said. "Thank God they left the building when they did."

A gas station canopy on

New York's Long Island collapsed, as did an airplane hangar near Boston, damaging aircraft. Roof cave-ins also were reported in Rhode Island. The University of Connecticut closed its hockey rink as a precaution because of the amount of ice and snow on the roof. The school hoped to have it inspected and reopened in time for a game Saturday.

A barn roof collapsed Wednesday night at an upstate New York dairy farm, trapping an unknown number of cows inside.

Some places in the Northeast that have gotten more snow so far this winter than they usually get the whole season are running out of places to put it. In Portland, Maine, the downtown snow-storage area was expected to reach capacity after this week's storm — the first time in three years that has happened.

"It's not so much about plowing as it is about where

to put it," said Mike Schumaker, a contractor near Albany, N.Y. "We still have snow from Christmas that hasn't melted."

Snow totals in the Northeast hit their peak at several inches in New England, a far cry from the foot or more the region has come to expect with each passing storm in a season full of them. Meanwhile, the Midwest was reeling from the storm's wallop as the system swept eastward.

Chicago's 20.2 inches of snow was the city's third-largest amount on record.

"This is probably the most snow I've seen in the last 34 years," joked 34-year-old Chicagoan Michael George. "I saw some people cross-country skiing on my way to the train. It was pretty wild."

The system was blamed for at least 12 deaths, including a homeless man who burned to death on Long Island as he tried to light cans of cooking fuel and a woman in Oklahoma City who was killed while

being pulled behind a truck on a sled that hit a guard rail.

Airport operations slowed to a crawl nationwide, and flight cancellations reached 13,000 for the week, making this system the most disruptive so far this winter. A massive post-Christmas blizzard led to about 10,000 cancellations.

Chicago public schools canceled classes for a second straight day. The city's iconic Lake Shore Drive reopened before dawn Thursday after crews worked overnight to clear snow and stranded vehicles.

Drivers had abandoned hundreds of vehicles stopped in their tracks by snow that drifted as high as the windshields late Tuesday and into Wednesday morning.

Some motorists came away angry, frustrated that the city didn't close the crucial thoroughfare earlier. Others were mad at themselves for going out during the storm or not using another route.

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► State briefs

Mexico provides electricity to ice storm-hit Texas

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico will provide electricity to Texas to help the U.S. state weather an ice storm that has forced rolling blackouts. Mexico's Federal Electricity Commission says it has agreed to transmit 280 megawatts of electricity to Texas between Wednesday and Thursday night. A commission statement says the electricity will be transmitted at interconnection points in Nuevo Laredo — across the border from Laredo, Texas — and Piedras Negras, which sits opposite of Eagle Pass, Texas. Rolling blackouts have been implemented across Texas, including in Super Bowl host city Dallas, due to high demand during the rare ice storm.

Texas lawmaker wants school electric rate cuts

AUSTIN (AP) — A legislator seeks to lower base electricity rates for Texas school districts by 20 percent to save money and help avoid teacher layoffs. The bill was filed Wednesday by state Sen. Wendy Davis of Fort Worth. It came on a day when schools in her district were closed due to an ice storm that led to some controlled power outages to conserve electricity. Texas lawmakers face a projected \$15 billion shortfall in the next two-year budget period. The Fort Worth Star-Telegram reports state colleges and universities currently get the base electric rate break.

Honduran gets 60 years over Texas killing of wife

GEORGETOWN (AP) — A Texas judge has ordered 60 years in prison for a man who fatally shot his estranged wife and injured someone driving by. Hernan Mendieta pleaded guilty Wednesday to murder and aggravated assault in Williamson

County. The 35-year-old Mendieta was arrested in October after police found the body of 25-year-old Ruth Rodriguez in a vehicle. A passing driver was hurt by shattered glass after Mendieta shot out a window in his vehicle. Investigators believe Mendieta abducted Rodriguez after she left their 4-year-old son at a child care facility. Mendieta must serve 60 years for murder and 20 years for aggravated assault. The sentences will run concurrently. Mendieta must serve at least 30 years. Prosecutors say the illegal immigrant from Honduras faces deportation after prison. The boy is with his mother's relatives.

Fallen Marine's parents adopt son's bomb dog

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The parents of a U.S. Marine killed in Afghanistan are adopting the bomb-sniffing dog who the military says loyally rushed to their son's side when he was fatally shot. Darrell and Kathy Rusk were expected to take home Eli on Thursday. The black Labrador is being retired from military service following the death of Pfc. Colton Rusk. The military says the 20-year-old Texan died in December during a gun battle with Taliban fighters. Rusk was the handler for Eli, who is trained to sniff out explosives. After their son was killed in combat, the Rusks asked the military if they could adopt the dog. The transfer will take place at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio. The base is training headquarters for all dogs used by the U.S. military.

Charges dropped in fatal stabbing

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Charges have been dropped against a man who claimed self-defense in the 2007 fatal stabbing of a stranger in the bathroom of a San Antonio restaurant. Richard Daniel Simmons had faced retrial

Wednesday in a case in which he told police that he had been attacked. Prosecutors say they decided not to pursue the case against Simmons, whose first murder trial last year ended in a hung jury. Investigators say Simmons admitted to stabbing 38-year-old Antonio Herrera at least 18 times. Nobody witnessed the restroom attack. Defense attorney Demetrio Duarte told the San Antonio Express-News that, since the first trial, he located three witnesses who agreed that Herrera was being loud and confrontational at the eatery before the incident.

Frozen car window leads to bust

EL PASO (AP) — A frozen car window in icy El Paso has led to drug charges against a man. Police say officers around 1:45 a.m. Thursday were stopped at a red light when an approaching car did not have its headlights on. Officers approached the vehicle. The driver was unable to roll down a window, which was frozen due to extreme cold conditions. Police say an El Paso man riding in the vehicle then opened his door. An officer saw a bag of what appeared to be marijuana on the floor board. The passenger was detained and is facing a marijuana possession charge. Temperatures early Thursday in El Paso were in the single digits.

Miss Arkansas 'stuck in Dallas

NASHVILLE, Ark. (AP) — A winter storm that's grounded airline flights nationwide has left Miss Arkansas in Dallas and unable to return home. Miss Arkansas 2010 Alyse Eady of Fort Smith was forced to cancel appearances Wednesday — including one at the Nashville Rotary Club. She wrote in an e-mail to the Texarkana Gazette that she is "Still stuck in Dallas for the second day" and is staying with her boyfriend's parents in Richardson.

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Kelly's choice: Fly in space or stay with wife

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Will he fly or not?

There are hints that astronaut Mark Kelly will blast into space in April, as commander of Endeavour's final voyage. That would mean leaving his wounded wife, Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, to continue her rehab without him for at least a few weeks.

She has limited movement on her right side, and no one has said if she can speak. She was shot in the head not quite a month ago in an attack by a gunman.

Kelly's decision to take a risky rocket ride so early in her recovery may seem startling. But those who know the couple, as well as doctors and rehabilitation experts, say it's a personal choice. And for this modern, high-powered couple, not an extreme one.

"I don't think he can lose either way," said Dr. Louann Brizendine, a psychiatrist at

the University of California at San Francisco and author of "The Male Brain" and "The Female Brain."

If he decides to go, she said, people will understand that it's for a short period of time. "It's a one-time opportunity perhaps for him. It's what he's trained to do, and also he would only leave if he knew she was in super-good care," Brizendine said. "So I don't think he'll get terribly criticized if he goes."

On the other hand, if he stays, "he would get a lot of praise and a lot of kudos, for staying by her bedside," she said.

Research shows a strong social support network — family, friends, church or similar — is crucial for rehabilitating patients and improves the outcome.

But that doesn't mean a spouse has to be there 24-7, 365 days, said Dr. David Lacey, medical director of acute inpatient rehab services at Wake Forest University

Baptist Medical Center in North Carolina.

"You also have to look at what's normal for the couple," Lacey said. "If it were my parents who had almost never been apart for the entire 50-some years they were married, all of a sudden changing that structure would be a pretty dramatic impact."

But what's normal for Kelly and Giffords, through their three-year marriage, is spending a few weeks apart at a time — he in Houston, she in Washington or her home state of Arizona.

However, Kelly, 46, kept vigil at her side in the days immediately after the Jan. 8 shooting in Tucson.

By now, Giffords, 40, should be at a stage where there's little risk for complications, Lacey noted.

"He has to search deep how he feels about where he's going to be emotionally five, 10, 20 years from now because she's

going to live through this now," Lacey said. "No matter what her outcome, whether it's very positive or not so positive, he's going to be

in this for the long haul. What occurs during that two- to three-four week span of the training and the flight may be insignificant over the next 10

years. Either way."

The ultimate goal of rehabilitation, experts say, is for the patient and family to get back to a near-normal lifestyle.



Missing!

Hailey Darlene Dunn

Last seen Dec. 27 at 1804 Chestnut St. in Colorado City TX

Age: 13 Height: 5'1" Weight: 120
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Anyone with information concerning her whereabouts or circumstances of her disappearance are asked to call the authorities

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Slaton throttles Coahoma boys, girls



File Photo

Hunter Williams and the Coahoma Bulldogs lost to Slaton 68-51 Wednesday.

By **STEVE REAGAN**

Staff Writer

COAHOMA — The third quarter was like hemlock to the Coahoma Bulldogs and Bulldogettes Wednesday.

Both squads had encouraging efforts in the first halves of their respective games against Slaton Wednesday, but once the second half started, all the good vibes vanished as if through a hole in the roof of the Coahoma Elementary Gym.

The end result was a 68-51 win for Slaton in the boys' game and a 63-33 decision in the girls' game.

Boys game

Coahoma coach Kim Nichols would like to bottle the effort and results shown by his team in the first half of its game with Slaton Wednesday.

The second half? That part, he'd like to forget.

For 16 minutes, Coahoma gave the Tigers all they could handle, taking a 23-20 lead into halftime. But the Bulldogs imploded in the last two quarters against Slaton's relentless inside game.

"We were just taking better care of the ball in the first half," Nichols said. "Then, we got sloppy in the third quarter and (Slaton) went to work inside. That seems to be our M.O. this season — we'll have at least one bad quarter.

Reagan Reid and Tanner Ruiz led the Bulldogs with 16 and 14 points, respectively. Slaton had three players score in double figures, led by Kisen Thomas, who tallied 19 points.

It was Thomas who led the Tigers' third quarter charge, scoring consecutive baskets to give Slaton a 24-23 lead with 85 seconds gone in the half. Coahoma's Aaron Acevedo countered with a free throw to tie the game, but Thomas hit his third straight basket of the quarter, and the Tigers were off on a 13-0 run that gave them control of the game.

The closest the Bulldogs got was after Hunter Williams' jumper with a minute left in the third brought Coahoma to within 10 points of the lead, but Slaton's Clint Martin responded with consecutive three-pointers and the Tigers maintained its double-digit

lead the rest of the way.

The loss drops Coahoma to 11-13 overall and 3-7 in district play.

After the game, Nichols said his team's execution may have been lacking in spots, but there was nothing wrong with its effort.

"For a group that's out of the playoff picture, there's been no lack of effort on the guys' part," Nichols said. "We're definitely not shutting it down. We have four games left, and we'll return to practice (Thursday) and get after it."

Girls game

The Coahoma Bulldogettes knew they were in trouble when the Slaton hit its first three in trouble — all three-pointers — of the game. In fact, it was the Tigerettes' ability to hit from long distance that proved to be the difference in the contest.

Slaton hit 12 three-pointers in the contest, which did not surprise Coahoma coach Mitzi Bell.

"We knew they had outside shooters from the last time they played us," Bell said. "We just got out of routine. The girls got here today not really knowing if we'd have a game (because of the weather), plus we're dealing with a couple of injuries."

Jennifer Castillaw led Coahoma with 11 points, while Collyn Heinrich and Ashley Jaramillo each had 19 points for the Tigerettes.

Slaton's long-range gunners continually kept Coahoma at bay — each time the Bulldogettes threatened to make a game of things, either Heinrich, Jaramillo or Charlsi Heinrich (four three-pointers) would respond with a shot from beyond the arc.

It was Collyn Heinrich who provided the biggest dagger in the decisive third quarter. Coahoma had fought its way back to a single-digit deficit when she went to work, canning four of her five three-pointers in the stanza to help Slaton push its lead to 20 entering the final quarter.

The win improves Slaton's record to 20-7 overall and 10-2 in district play, while the Bulldogettes fell to 10-16 and 3-9 with the loss.

Injuries have forced Coahoma to rely on

See **COAHOMA**, Page 2B

Denver City too much for Forsan Lady Buffs eliminated from playoff contention

Forsan girls

FORSAN — The Forsan Lady Buffs had a hard time keeping their playoff hopes alive against Denver City Wednesday.

The Lady Buffs dropped a District 3-2A game as Denver City rolled, 53-37.

Forsan head coach Robert Hillger said Denver City was tall in the post and ultimately, that was his team's downfall.

What the loss does is eliminate Forsan from playoff contention with two games left to play. The next game is at Stanton Friday at 6 p.m.

Denver City 53, Forsan 37
Denver City 11 15 9 18 - 53
Forsan 5 13 7 12 - 37

Forsan — Forshee 15, Hill 11, Galloway 4, Roemer 4, Crane 2, Willard 1

Denver City — David 23, Hawkins 16, Espinoza 4, Carter 4, Pate 3, Brown 3

Free throws — Denver City 14-28, Forsan 8-13
Total Fouls — Denver City 17, Forsan 24

Forsan boys

FORSAN — The Buffs fell to 4-6 in District 3-2A play after a 62-46 loss to Denver City at home.

Patrick Robles and Kolten Self had 15 apiece, but it just wasn't enough in Wednesday's game. One of the big quarters for Denver City was the third, where Forsan was outscored 21-10.

Denver City 62, Forsan 46
Denver City 16 9 21 16 - 46
Forsan 12 15 10 9 - 46
Forsan — Robles 15, Self 15, Suazo 5, Phillips 4, Schreiner 4, Johnson 2, McDonald 1

Denver City — David 15, Brown 10, Reyna 9, Alaron 9, Martin 7, Durham 6, Garrett 4, Dougherty 2

Free throws — Denver City 6-13, Forsan 5-11
Total Fouls — Denver City 13, Forsan 14



File Photo

Bryson Phillips had four points in the Buffs' loss to Denver City Wednesday.

Tide, Tigers tussle for blue chips on signing day

The Associated Press

Alabama and Auburn were at it again on national signing day.

The Iron Bowl rivals tussled for blue-chip recruits on the first day high school football players could make their college choices official.

The Crimson Tide and Tigers, who have won the last two national championships, each landed recruiting classes the experts adore and went head-to-head for several top prospects — none bigger than offensive tackle Cyrus Kouandjio from DeMatha High School in Maryland.

Rated one of the top-10 recruits in the country by Rivals.com, Scout.com and ESPN, Kouandjio on Wednesday said he was picking Auburn over Alabama, where his brother, Arie, plays.

But just because a recruit makes an announcement on national television, doesn't mean he's made up his mind. Cyrus Kouandjio did not sign a binding letter of intent with Auburn

or Alabama — or for that matter with New Mexico, his odd other finalist — and there is no indication when he will make his decision official.

Seantrel Henderson, the top-rated offensive lineman coming out of high school last year, pulled a similar move, committing to Southern California on television but not signing on the first day of the signing period. He ultimately ended up at Miami.

But what Kouandjio did was different. Henderson wanted to go to USC, but changed his mind when NCAA sanctions hit the Trojans.

"I think Cyrus picked a school that he didn't know he wanted to go to," Rivals.com national recruiting analyst Mike Farrell said.

Another top recruit, linebacker Brent Calloway from Russellville, Ala., first committed to Alabama then switched to Auburn, but ended up signing with Alabama.

"Probably the most interesting story in this year's recruiting derby is

Auburn vs. Alabama," Allen Wallace, national recruiting editor for Scout.com and publisher of SuperPrep magazine.

Kouandjio isn't the only five-star recruit who is going to take a few more days to cement his decision.

Maybe the most heralded prospect in the nation, defensive end Jadeveon Clowney, from Rock Hill, S.C., said in an interview with ESPN he probably won't sign until his birthday, Feb. 14 — Valentine's Day. He said his choices are South Carolina, Clemson and Alabama.

Generally, signing day is about the rich getting richer. The top-rated players tend to flock to the traditional powers. So it was no surprise to see Texas, Florida State, Southern California, LSU, Ohio State and Notre Dame come away with classes highly ranked by the recruiting gurus.

Oregon, fresh off its first appearance in the national title game, also got high marks.

A couple of teams that had mediocre 2010 seasons, Georgia and Clemson, gave their fans reason to believe better days are ahead with classes packed with top prospects.

And in a day full of tiresome what-hat-will-he-pick news conferences at high schools all over the country, running back Isaiah Crowell of Columbus, Ga., might have started a new trend.

After declaring that he was staying close home and going to Georgia, Crowell pulled out a bulldog puppy in a red sweater. No going back on that.

A look around the nation at some of the other top stories of signing day.

SUNSHINE STATE SHUFFLE

Florida State is rolling under Jimbo Fisher. The Seminoles are coming off 10-win season and the first recruiting

See **SIGNING**, Page 2B

SIGNING

Continued from Page 1B

class Fisher can truly call his own drew rave reviews.

Rivals.com, Scout.com and ESPN all had Florida State's class rated in the top five in the nation.

Running back James Wilder Jr., son and namesake of the former NFL star who played for Tampa Bay, and defensive back Karlos Williams from Davenport, Fla., were two of the Seminoles' biggest scores.

With new coaches at rivals Florida and Miami, Fisher was able to clean up in state.

"They did most of their damage when Urban Meyer was (at Florida)," Farrell said. "Certainly, they took advantage of a weakened Miami. But they went head-to-head with Urban Meyer and they were winning."

While Meyer spent signing day working as an analyst for ESPN, his replacement at Florida, Will Muschamp, was securing another top-20 class for the Gators.

New Miami coach Al Golden

had lots of catching up to do in a short time when he arrived in Coral Gables, Fla., from Philadelphia, where he had been the coach at Temple.

The Hurricanes' class was generally ranked in the 30s nationally.

"There is a sense of accomplishment because we only had about 15 actual days on the road," Golden said.

SANCTIONS? WHAT SANCTIONS?

Nothing, not even NCAA sanctions, can stop Lane Kiffin from racking up on signing day.

The Southern California coach landed one of the highest-rated classes in the nation, despite the fact that his program couldn't play in a bowl game last season and won't be eligible for the post-season in 2011.

The sanctions also stripped USC of 30 scholarships, 10 per season, over three years, but because the Trojans are appealing the penalties handed down by the NCAA for violations involving former star Reggie Bush, they had a full complement of scholarships to work with this year.

"You probably couldn't point to a staff in the United State that deserves more credit than USC's," Wallace said.

Kiffin, who was one of Pete Carroll's top recruiters when he was an assistant at USC, went about trying to replenish a roster that was well under the 85-scholarship limit last season by signing a class this year that was expected to surpass 30 players.

Some of them are early enrollees who will count toward last year's class.

"They had to load up now because the future is uncertain," Wallace said.

PUTTING D IN THE DOME

Notre Dame needs to restock a defense that has been short on playmakers in recent years and that's just what coach Brian Kelly tried to do with the first Fighting Irish recruiting class he can truly call his own.

The jewels of Kelly's class, which received a top-15 grade from the experts, were defensive lineman Stephon Tuitt of Monroe Ga., and linebacker Ishaq Williams of New York.

8 0 19; Green 1 1-2 3; totals 23 6 63.
COAHOMA (33) — Ferrel 3 0 7; Neff 3 0 6; Pace 1 1 3; Maddox 2 0 4; Castillaw 5 1 13; totals 14 2 33.
Three-pointers: Slaton (Co. Heinrich 5, Ch. Heinrich 4, Jaramillo 3); Coahoma (Ferrel, Castillaw 2).

BOYS GAME

Slaton 7 13 26 22 — 68
Coahoma 11 12 10 18 — 51

SLATON (68) — Thomas 8 2 19; Fitts 2 0 5; Walton 3 0 8; Martin 2 0 6; Hollis 6 1 13; Fennimore 3 3 10; Heinrich 1 1 3; Samuels 0 2 2; Patino 1 0 2; totals 26 9 68.

COAHOMA (51) — Ruiz 4 3 14; Martin 1 1 3; Acevedo 0 2 2; Williams 3 0 6; Cravens 1 0 2; Re. Reid 7 2 16; Echavarria 4 0 8; totals 20 8 51.

Three-pointers: Slaton (Thomas, Fitts, Walton 2, Martin 2, Fennimore); Coahoma (Ruiz 3).

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

COAHOMA

Continued from Page 1B

underclassmen more this season — two freshmen saw considerable playing time Wednesday — and Bell hopes that helps lay a good foundation for the team's future.

"This is giving them game experience, which will help in the long run," she said. "The more experience they get in the long run, the better."

Both Coahoma squads return to action Friday at Lubbock Roosevelt.

GIRLS GAME

Score by quarters
Slaton 16 5 24 18 — 63
Coahoma 4 6 15 8 — 33

SLATON (63) — C. Heinrich 7 0 19; King 1 1 3; Ch. Heinrich 4 2 14; Copeland 1 1 3; Hasting 1 0 2; Jaramillo

Clemens waives any conflict involving attorney

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Baseball standout Roger Clemens told a federal judge Wednesday that he waives any conflict of interest that may arise from his lead criminal defense attorney briefly representing his former-teammate-turned-accuser Andy Pettitte.

In December 2007, Houston lawyer Rusty Hardin briefly advised both players just before the release of a report alleging they used performance-enhancing drugs.

Clemens denies the allegation. Pettitte admitted he used human growth hormone and claimed Clemens admit-

ted privately he did, too. Pettitte is expected to testify against Clemens during a trial scheduled for this summer on charges that Clemens lied about the drug use during a congressional hearing.

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1	4	2	8	7	9	5	3	6
5	7	3	6	4	1	8	2	9
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Grady, Stanton pick up wins

Grady boys

LENORAH — The No. 10 Grady Wildcats easily took care of Dawson in District 8A, Division II action Wednesday. Shane Teague and Bransen Richards were big with 11 and 10 points, respectively. Dawson fell to 0-12 in district play.

No.10 Grady 57, Dawson 29
Dawson 8 9 10 2 - 29
Grady 19 8 20 10 - 57
Grady — Shane Teague 11, Bransen Richards 10, Michael Kimenez 2, Brett Glaze 2, Johan Wiebe 8, Carston Russell 3, Bryley Pinkerton 16, Jacob Rodriguez 5
3-point field goals — Grady 5 (Teague, Russell, Rodriguez, Richards 2)
Records: Grady (23-3, 10-2)

Grady girls

LENORAH — The Grady girls were led by Kelly Cook and Charmynee Arnold in their win over Dawson Wednesday. Cook had a team-high 22 points, but right behind her was Arnold with 20. The Lady Wildcats got their eighth district win.

Grady 64, Dawson 31
Dawson 9 8 5 9 - 31
Grady 13 13 23 15 - 64
Grady — Cayley Oppogard 2, Kristen Blocker 2, Charley Ann Wells 1, Sarah Clay 2, Savannah Sawyer 7, Charmynee Arnold 20, Julia Schuelke 4, Katie Meeks 4, Kelly Cook 22.
3-point field goals — Grady 0
Records: Grady (16-7, 8-4)

Stanton boys

POST — The Stanton Buffaloes continue to be the team to beat in District 3-2A with an 11-point win in Post.

Tyler Fulton had 19 points and Grayson Gray chipped in 13 as the Buffs got their 20th win of the season. Stanton outscored Post in every quarter except the first, which was an 11-8 advantage for the Antelopes.

Stanton 53, Post 42
Stanton 8 15 12 18 - 53
Post 11 12 11 8 - 42
Stanton — Tyler Fulton 19, Ryan Brabtree 2, Jorge Reyna 4, Andreas Chavez 4, Nate Koonce 2, Thomas Ramos 2, Blake Evans 6, Grayson Gray 13
Records: Stanton (20-3, 8-2)

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COASTAL TRANSPORT is seeking **Owner-operators** with a Class A CDL. Must be 23 years, X endorsement with 1 year experience. For More Information, Call 888-527-7221 between 9am-4pm, Monday-Friday.

COASTAL TRANSPORT We are now hiring drivers to deliver petroleum products in and around surrounding areas of the Permian Basin.
Qualifications:
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*Home Everyday
Please contact our office M-F 8am/5pm for more information 1-888-527-7221.

EXPERIENCED WAIT-STAFF needed for day and evening shift. Apply in person at Big Spring Country Club. No phone calls please.

Help Wanted

DISABILITY SERVICES of the Southwest is looking to hire personal care attendants for disabled male in his home, Big Spring area, to assist him with daily needs. Day, evening, and weekend shifts are available. Must be CPR certified and 18 years old; call (432)550-6900 for further information. EEO

Drivers

\$400 SIGN ON BONUS Tanker Drivers Needed

Class A CDL required with Haz-Mat endorsement. 2 Years Experience preferred. Local hauling only. Home every night. Benefits and Great Pay.

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or 432-288-3761
for information**

EXPRESS MEDICAL SUPPLY, now taking applications for delivery service technician. Licensed Respiratory Therapist a big plus. Must have excellent driving record & be able to lift 75 lbs. Experience a plus. Background check and drug screening required. Also 7 days on and 7 days off/ call required. Immediate opening must Travel to Abilene for training. Apply at 1210 South Gregg Street, Big Spring.

TOP JOBS

EZMONEY **CUSTOMER Service Representative** Immediate Opening. Go to www.ezmoneyjobs.com and apply. **Drug Test and Background Test required.**

TOP JOBS

HELP WANTED Fast growing electrical company is seeking good people with experience in the Line, Electrical and Automation Department. Competitive pay. Insurance provided with 401K
Please send resume to jobs@jwpwr.com or call (432)425-0871 or you may send resume c/o P.O. Box 1431/192, Big Spring, TX 79721-1431.

MATURE PRIVATE Caregiver needed for elderly couple must be able to drive and cook must be available nights and weekends. Background and drug test will be required. Submit qualifications and references, c/o P.O. Box 1431/194, Big Spring, TX 79721-1431.

NOW HIRING full time/ part time employees at WES-T-GO. Apply in person, 1800 Gregg.

TOP JOBS

NOW HIRING Experienced Equipment Operator. Must be able to pass a drug test. Apply in person @ Erath Iron and Metal. For more information call (432)268-1512.

PIZZA INN

NOW HIRING WAIT STAFF. GOOD PERSONALITY A MUST. MUST BE AVAILABLE TO WORK DAYS, NIGHTS, & WEEKENDS. APPLY IN PERSON AT 1702 GREGG.

Help Wanted

PARKVIEW NURSING and Rehab now hiring charge Nurse for 10pm-6am shift. Competitive pay plus benefits. Great family working environment. Apply in person at 3200 Parkway or on-line at www.parkviewnursing.net

PART-TIME JANITORIAL Work. Dependable. Call (432)213-1186, (432)267-6027.

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BIG SPRING Dedicated Truck Stop Haul CDL/Hazmat, 2 yrs exp (tanker preferred), good MVR. Full Benefit Package. Griffin Transportation Fax: 806-785-4182 Call: 806-744-2067

SECURITY OFFICERS Needed for Hospital Federal Inmate Protection detail. All positions are Part-time and PRN.

Physical Requirements: Must be in general good health and vision must be correctable to 20/30 (SNELLEN) in one eye. The ability to distinguish basic colors is required. Emotional and mental stability is required.
Other Requirements: Must be able to pass State and Federal Backgrounds and Credit Checks.
Experience Requirements: One year (2040) hours of experience in the armed forces or coast guard which involved significant performance of guard duty of detainees or prisoners; or the equivalent experience in a federal, state, or local government, or private organization which involved protecting/police duties, or college level training in courses such as corrections or police science may be substituted for experience at the ratio of two hours of instructions for one hour of experience.

Apply at Workforce Center (in the Post Office), **KEYWORD:** PARAGON. EOE.
SEEKING LVN'S and RN's Snyder Care Center is seeking dynamic and compassionate LVN's and RN's to join our premier team of care givers. Ideal candidates will have a current Texas license and must be able to work in a team environment. We offer a fantastic work environment with competitive pay and benefits. For more information, contact **LETICIA CLEMER** at (325)573-9377 or email your resume to don@snyderoaks.com

SHELL STAR STOP looking for new team members. Full & Part time employees needed. Apply in person at any Shell Star Stop in Big Spring. Drug Free Environment.
SNYDER OAKS CARE CENTER Seeking compassionate and experienced 6a-2p & 2p-10p Nursing facility LVN's to care for our residents. Please apply in person to Leticia Clemmer, RN, DON Insurance, 401k, Holidays & your birthday. EOE. Drug Test Required for Employment 210 East 37th Street, Snyder, Texas 79549.

WAREHOUSE/ DELIVERY Wanted for local Rental Store. Benefits include paid vacation, retirement & health insurance. Requirements are background check, drug screening, good driving record and be at least 19 years old. Starting pay \$8.50 per hour. Apply in person, Credit World, 1611 Gregg.

Help Wanted

TEXAS BOOK company is currently seeking candidates for the position of Entry Level Account Clerk at the Howard College-Big Spring Bookstore. Minimum Qualifications: 1 yr. exp. or College accounting classes, proficient in Excel and Word, excellent team building, communication, cashier experience and organizational skills with attention to details. Salary dependent on experience with \$15,000-\$18,000 a year. Qualified candidates must apply on line at www.texasbook.com <<http://www.texasbook.com>>. Click on "Join Our Winning Team".

TRUCK DRIVERS wanted, 2 years, recent OTR. Insurance and Benefits. Call Jim Reed (432)661-6271.

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SATURDAY, February 5th Opening 9am
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SEASONED OAK Firewood. \$325.00 Full Cord & \$180.00 Half Cord. Delivered and Stacked. Call 325-648-2818 or 512-913-7406.

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On the Farm

TACK & SADDLE AUCTION Sat. Feb 5th 2:00pm
Preview at 1:00pm
State of the economy forces liquidation- Murphy Auctioneers has been asked to sell at public auction a complete inventory of western saddles & horse equipment from a Giant Wholesale Saddle Distributor. This business is liquidating a very nice collection of top quality saddles & tack. 10% Buyers Premium. Everybody is welcome.
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1303 STANFORD, 2 Bdrm, 1 bath, CH/A, no pets. \$550.00 month, \$400.00 deposit. Call (432)816-5570.

1732 PURDUE 3 bdrm, 2 Bath, CH/A, tile floors. \$775/month, \$650/deposit. Call after 5:00 pm (432)816-1255.

1900 MORRISON. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, CH/A. \$700.00 month, \$500.00 deposit. No HUD. Prefer Non smoking or pets. Call for more info (432)270-3849.

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2 MOBILE HOMES- 3 Bdrm. \$400. plus deposit and utilities. 1 Bdrm \$300 month plus deposit, all electric. No pets. Call (432)268-1684.

2 SMALL Houses- 3 Bdrm & 2 Bdrm. \$500. each. Call Diane 951-797-3752.

303 EAST 8th. Cute 1 Bdrm, 1 bath. \$350.00 Month, \$350.00 deposit. Call 432-213-3757.

511 EAST 18th. 2 bedroom, stove & refrigerator furnished, fenced yard. Good Location. \$500. Month, \$200. deposit. Call 432-267-1543 or 270-5543.

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900 ACRES 1.5 miles of Colorado River, Highly improved. Saba County. Beautiful Game Ranch. \$4,500,000.00. OBO. Must Sell. Call 903-326-4851, 903-872-2022 or 325-623-5651.

FSBO - 1609 East 17th, 2-1 carport, CH/A, 1&1/2 lots, large closets, stove/dishwasher, xlarge plus regular storage bldgs, covered patio, fenced. Separate shower/tub. No Owner Financing. \$50,000.00. **432-816-2011**

GARDEN CITY- 3 Large Lots (Calvary Heights Addition) with water well, electric and city water. Pine trees, Great School District, Ready for a House. (432)268-3985.

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RENT to OWN- 633 Settles 3 bdrm, 1 bath. \$5000.00 Down. Recently Remodeled. Call (432)212-3646.

RENT to OWN- 1111 Mulberry 2/1, \$5000 Down, Under remodel. Call (432)212-3646.

RENT to OWN- 1204 Stanford 3/1, \$5000.00 Down. Under Remodel. Call (432)212-3646.

Vehicles

2003 HONDA S2000, 62000 mi, clear title. \$7500, ppsvan@gmail.com or Call (978)683-0384.

Legals

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR COMMERCIAL FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT

PLYOTE WATER SYSTEMS II, LLC 400 W. ILLINOIS, STE 950 MIDLAND, TX 79701 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas.

The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the Wolfcamp, Strawn, Silurian, and Ellenburger, St. Lawrence SWD Lease, Well Number 1. The proposed injection well is located 11 miles South of Garden City, TX in the St. Lawrence, SE (Wolfcamp) Field in Glasscock County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 10226 to 10993 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512/463-6792).

#6887 February 3, 2011

Legals

The Colorado River Municipal Water District is requesting proposals for the construction of the following project:

Raw Water Production Facility- Big Spring Plant TWDB Project No. 21663 Loan No. L100064

Sealed proposals must be addressed to Mr. John Grant, General Manager, Colorado River Municipal Water District (CRMWD) Big Spring, Texas 76033 and will be received at the District's offices located at 400 East 24th Street, P.O. Box 869, Big Spring, Texas 76721 until 2:00 p.m. local time, Thursday March 3, 2011 to be accepted. The proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud at this time and place. Proposals received after this time will be returned unopened.

Advertisement and information for the Project can be found at the following web site:

<http://construction.freese.com>

Contract Documents may be downloaded or viewed free of charge at this web site. It is the downloader's responsibility to determine that a complete set of documents, as defined in the Instructions to Offerors are received. Printed copies of the Contract Documents may be purchased at the website for the cost of printing. The cost for printed Contract Documents is not refunded.

Contracts are also available for viewing free of charge at the District's Headquarters, 400 E. 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas.

A non-mandatory pre-proposal conference for the project will be held on February 17, 2011, at 2:00 p.m. at 400 East 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas 76721.

This project consists of the construction of a new membrane building that will treat 2.5 MGD of treated effluent from the Big Spring WWTP. The work includes the construction of a new diversion structure and pump station at the City's WWTP site, a 1.0 MG Source Water Tank, a Treatment Building, a 0.5 MG Product Water

Tank, a Product Water Pump Station, approximately 5,700 LF of PVC Piping, Electrical and Instrumentation.

Offerors must submit a cashier's check, certified check, or acceptable bid bond with their Proposal as a guarantee that the Proposer will enter into a contract for the project with the Owner within fifteen (15) days of Notice of Award of the contract. The security must be payable to the **Colorado River Municipal Water District** in the amount of five (5%) percent of the proposed Contract Price. Proposer must execute the contract, bonds and certificates of insurance on the forms provided in the Contract Documents. Contractors for this Project must pay no less than the prevailing wage rates for the area established by the Owner and included in the Contract Documents. Performance and Payment Bonds are required.

This contract is contingent upon release of funds from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). Any contract or contracts awarded under this Request for Proposals are expected to be funded in part by a loan from the TWDB. Neither the State of Texas nor any of its departments, agencies or employees is or will be a party to this Request for Proposals or any resulting contract.

Equal Opportunity in Employment - All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap or national origin. Offerors are required to comply with the President's Executive Order No. 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375, and as supplemented in department of Labor regulations 41 CFR Part 60.

Proposals are to remain in effect for 90 days from the date on which Proposals are received.

Colorado River Municipal Water District
John Grant
General Manager

#6874 February 3, 10, & 17, 2011

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Happy Chinese New Year, and welcome to the Year of the Metal Rabbit. The last year of the Metal Rabbit was in 1951. Harry S. Truman was president, "I Love Lucy" premiered on television, and Perry Como had a hit single with "If." The omens suggest that the year 4709 (according to the Chinese calendar) will be a gentler year than last.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). When you do good deeds, you will do them with passion. If you can muster the same degree of passion that bad men cultivate while doing evil, then you will provide a much-needed counterbalance.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The one you admire needs someone to lean on and will look for signs of compassion and kindness. Relax and let your natural goodness shine through. A magic connection happens tonight.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). If you find yourself saying, "What could possibly go wrong?" it is a sign that you shouldn't be counting on that particular scenario to go anything but terribly askew.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Being decisive can show your confidence and power. However, right now you are better off leaving your options open. Play the field. If you don't have to decide, put it off.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You will miraculously transform a situation that is clearly not in your favor into something that will ultimately benefit you. Pat yourself on the back now, and then enjoy it when others do the same two weeks from now.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Not only will you gain immense satisfaction from attempting to improve your performance over yesterday's scores, but you will also succeed in the effort.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You just can't keep a secret today. However you try, your body language will not be able to hold back your true feelings. You will telegraph your hopes, fears, stresses and triumphs.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It would be wrong to assume that because you are older than you were yesterday you are also dimmer. The opposite is true: Your light burns brighter as you age.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Knowing that there are benefits to doing the appropriate thing, you will think twice before you bare your soul. Your restraint will prove to be a classy move.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your compassion is needed. You may not like a certain person's bad habits, but you love the person nonetheless, and your actions will spring from that love.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). No matter what occurrence you encounter, there is always a multitude of responses to choose from. It is beneficial to look at your life in a way that doesn't cause you to be alarmed.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Go with your intuition, even if it seems ludicrous to do so. Your sign mate Albert Einstein said, "We should take care not to make the intellect our god; it has, of course, powerful muscles, but no personality."

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 3). You are compelled toward meaningful work this year. Monetary gains reward you, but the real motivating force is to contribute to the world something that will be solid and enduring. You will find freedom in your loving relationships, and you really do have the best of both worlds. Taurus and Capricorn people will be especially generous with you. Your lucky numbers are: 45, 39, 20, 1 and 16.

ASTROLOGICAL INSIGHTS: This Chinese New Year is an astrologically eventful

one with the passage of Mercury into the realm of Aquarius, and a few hours later, Venus into Capricorn. Mercury in Aquarius favors the free sharing of knowledge. Yes, information is power. But it's the meaning and application of the information that matters most. Communication through music and technology will be especially effective in raising the quality of life for people everywhere. There is an eccentric side to this aspect, and people will be more receptive to offbeat humor and random strangeness. As for the lovely lady Venus entering the realm of Capricorn, this transit will have a cooling effect on several relationships and projects. It's not that the passion goes away entirely, but rather that it transmutes into a productive and practical energy. Love is as love does. And some would argue that the feeling of love is irrelevant because love is a verb -- it must always be doing and showing or it doesn't exist. We continually will be asked to prove our love during this transit, which lasts until March 26, 2011.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Isla Fisher was born in an Arab country, was raised in Australia and currently resides in England with her husband Sacha Baron Cohen and their two children. This worldly actress and author was born under an eclectic Aquarius sun, though her well-balanced natal chart has a wide variety of influences, most notably the Pisces moon that is so common among gifted actors.

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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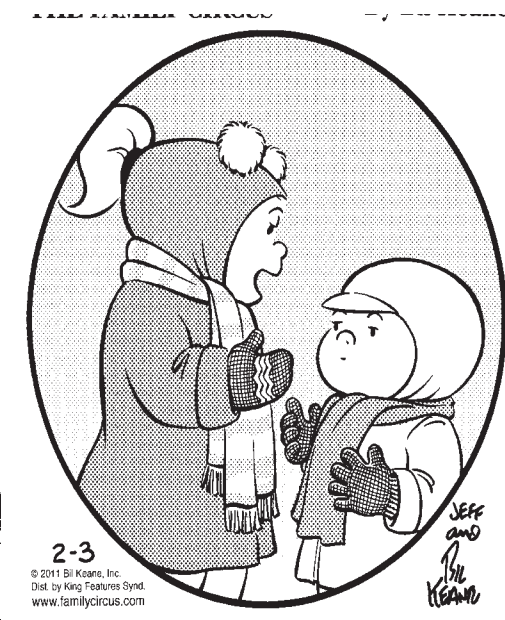
	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5:PM :30	News ABC	Alma Notic.	George Lopez	News	Noticias Noticiero	News	King King	Granger Brad	World Business	Lyrics! Lyrics!	Cash Cab	Moonstruck, Vincent Gardenia	Gangland	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Fish Shake it	Nation Pardon	SportsCenter
6:PM :30	Jeopardy!	Llena de Amor (SS)	Two Men Two Men	News	Caso Cerrado	News	Seinfeld Seinfeld	Sala Charles	PBS News-Hour	'70s '70s	Man vs. Wild		Gangland	NBA Pre-game		Deck Deck	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	College Basketball: Teams TBA.
7:PM :30	Wipeout	Eva Luna (SS)	American Idol	Big Bang Dad Says	Aurora (SS)	Commun Couples	Movie: The Wedding Planner	Upd Sid Roth	Aviators Parks	The Vampire Diaries	Man, Woman, Nikita	Movie: Ghost, Whoopi Goldberg	Gangland	NBA Basketball: Miami Heat at Orlando Magic.	Together Together	Adventures of Sharkboy		
8:PM :30	Grey's Anatomy	Triunfo del Amor	Bones	CSI: Crime Scene	Herederos-Monte	Office Parks		Light of the Southwest	Antiques Roadshow		Masters of Survival		TNA Wrestling		Celebration of Gospel 2011	Deck Deck	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	College Basketball: Teams TBA.
9:PM :30	(01) Private Practice	Mujeres Asesinas	Simpsons How I Met	The Mentalist	Alguien te Mira (SS)	30 Rock Out	Fam. Guy		Pioneers, Television	Married Married	Dual Survival			NBA Basketball: Spurs at Lakers		Deck Deck		
10:PM :30	News	Impacto	How I Met	News	Noticias	News	Conan	Alewine Van Impe	Charlie Rose	King King	Man, Woman, Son	Movie: Ghost, Whoopi Goldberg	MAN		The Mo'Nique	Wizards	College Basketball: Gonzaga at Portland.	SportsCenter
11:PM :30	Nightline	Noticiero	Raymond	Letterman	Titulares	Jay Leno							MAN		Wendy Williams	Hannah Hannah		SportsCenter Spec.
12:AM :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	La Verdad Oculta	Law & Order: SVU	Late	Decisiones (SS)	Late Night	Lopez Tonight	Bill Cloud Swallow	World T. Smiley	South Pk South Pk	Masters of Survival		MAN			Wizards	Final SportsNation	SportsCenter
1:AM :30	Extra	Tontas Cielo	Paid	Insider	Pagado	News	Lopez Tonight	Upd World	(Off Air)	Cops	Dual Survival		Trailers	Inside the NBA	Movie: Love Don't Cost a Thing	Suite Life	Sup. Bowl	
1:AM :30	Paid	Mujer... Cero	TMZ King/Hill	(:37) Up to	Pagado	Poker After Dark		Light of the Southwest		Influence Born	Overhaul'n	Movie: Moonstruck, Vincent	(:10) The Shield	Hawthorne		Suite Life		

DENNIS THE MENACE



"MR. WILSON LOVES CROSSWORD PUZZLES 'CAUSE HE KNOWS SO MANY CROSS WORDS."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

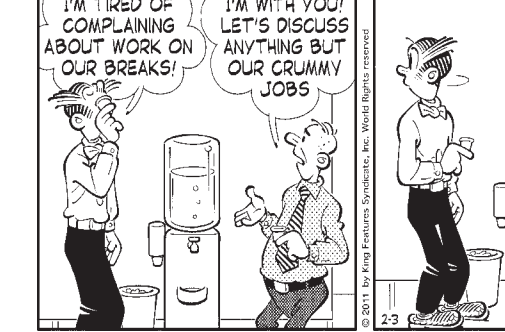


"I like wearin' mittens. My fingers get to stay with each other."

HAGAR



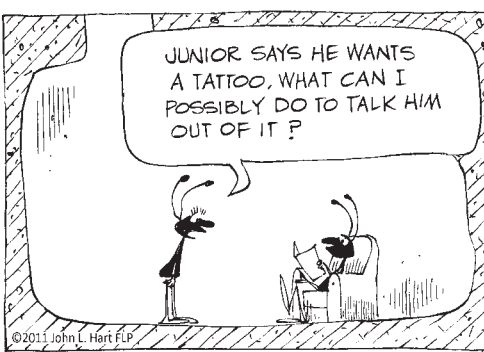
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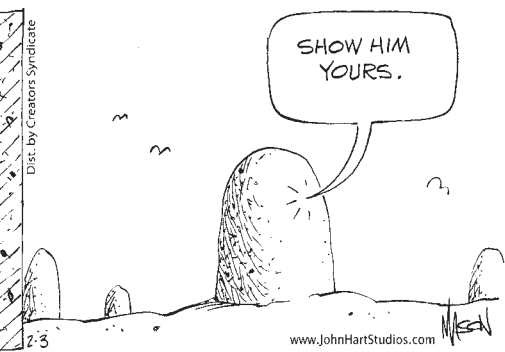
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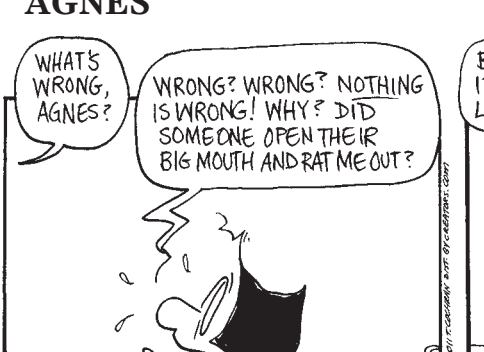
HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEETLE BAILY



This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Feb. 3, the 34th day of 2011. There are 331 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 3, 1959, rock-and-roll stars Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and J.P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson died in a small plane crash near Clear Lake, Iowa.

On this date:

In 1811, American newspaper editor Horace Greeley was born in Amherst, N.H.

In 1865, President Abraham Lincoln and Confederate Vice President Alexander H. Stephens held a shipboard peace conference off the Virginia coast; the talks deadlocked over the issue of Southern autonomy.

In 1913, the 16th Amendment to the Constitution, providing for a federal income tax, was ratified.

In 1924, the 28th president of the United States, Woodrow Wilson, died in Washington, D.C., at age 67.

In 1930, the chief justice of the United States, William Howard Taft, resigned for health reasons. (He died just over a month later.)

In 1943, during World War II, the U.S. transport ship Dorchester, which was carrying troops to Greenland, sank after being hit by a German torpedo; of the more than 900 men aboard, only some 230 survived.

In 1959, An American Airlines Lockheed Electra crashed into New York's East River, killing 65 of the 73 people on board.

In 1966, the Soviet probe Luna 9 became the first man-made object to make a soft landing on the moon.

In 1971, New York City police officer Frank Serpico, who had charged there was widespread corruption in the NYPD, was shot and seriously wounded during a drug bust in Brooklyn.

In 1991, the rate for a first-class postage stamp rose to 29 cents.

Today's Birthdays: Comedian Shelley Berman is 85. Former Sen. Paul Sarbanes (D-Md.) is 78. Football Hall-of-Famer Fran Tarkenton is 71. Actress Bridget

Hanley is 70. Actress Blythe Danner is 68. Singer Dennis Edwards is 68. Football Hall-of-Famer Bob Griese is 66. Singer-guitarist Dave Davies (The Kinks) is 64. Singer Melanie is 64. Actress Morgan Fairchild is 61. Actor Nathan Lane is 55. Rock musician Lee Ranaldo (Sonic Youth) is 55. Actor Thomas Calabro is 52. Actor-director Keith Gordon is 50. Actress Michele Greene is 49. Country singer Matraca (muh-TRAY'-suh) Berg is 47. Actress Maura Tierney is 46. Actor Warwick Davis is 41. Reggaeton singer Daddy Yankee is 35. Musician Grant Barry is 34. Singer-songwriter Jessica Harp is 29. Rapper Sean Kingston is 21.

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Newsday Crossword

WELL-FURNISHED by David W. Cromer

- Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com
- ACROSS**
- 1 Beech branch
 - 5 "Six-pack" muscles
 - 8 Hybrid utensils
 - 14 Type of bioscience: Abbr.
 - 15 One less than quadri-
 - 16 Pop singer Lionel
 - 17 Make a confession of
 - 20 Indian instrument
 - 21 EU charter member
 - 22 Paint applications
 - 23 Betrayed one's exclamation
 - 25 Sound at a 57 Across
 - 27 Media liaison group
 - 33 Bill for drinks
 - 37 Casual shirt
 - 38 Envelope abbr.
 - 39 Unfamiliar
 - 40 Barracks unit
 - 41 Characteristic
 - 42 Anchor attachment
 - 43 Kind of camera: Abbr.
 - 44 Needy neighborhood
 - 45 Statistician, slangily
 - 48 Severe-storm center
 - 49 Prepares beef, perhaps
 - 53 Right-hands: Abbr.
 - 57 Place to relax
 - 59 Photographer's gig
 - 61 '70s prime-time police pair
- DOWN**
- 1 Four __ (theme of the puzzle)
 - 2 Strand in the winter
 - 3 Words to live by
 - 4 Distend
 - 5 Justice Dept. agcy.
 - 6 Irish accent
 - 7 Trig function
 - 8 AARP members
 - 9 Machu __ (Incan center)
 - 10 Eight, to Enrique
 - 11 Ostrich relative
 - 12 Star-__ (Bumble Bee rival)
 - 13 Collectors' goals
 - 18 Skipped
 - 19 Wiped out
 - 24 Poetic sphere
 - 26 Simpsons grandpa
 - 28 Bow's opposite
 - 29 Seldom seen
 - 30 Coup d'__
 - 31 Working hard
 - 32 Biblical preposition
 - 33 Sharp remark
 - 34 Spiney houseplant
 - 35 Philbin cohost
 - 36 Promgoer, probably
 - 40 Like B.B. King's music
 - 41 Defeat decisively
 - 43 Milk source
 - 44 It means "earth"
 - 46 Learjet competitor
 - 47 Auto part, for short
 - 50 NFL coaching great Don
 - 51 Complete
 - 52 Things to darn
 - 53 Where tigers come from
 - 54 Knock it off
 - 55 Pop singer from Nigeria
 - 56 Barbering job
 - 58 Twosome
 - 60 Cosby Show son
 - 62 Jennings of game-show fame
 - 63 Poor mark

Answer to previous puzzle

TAKE	BALL	VISIT
RUIN	OREO	AFIRE
ARTS	WISC	NEPAL
PIC	LASAGNA	
SCHEMES	LOURDES	
EVER	ODAY	RUT
ANNEX	DRIPS	ALA
TOSS	SOAVE	IGET
ALI	CHUTE	SCARE
RAN	RABE	DEAN
INKWELL	SOANDSO	
RATED	PG	DEF
BATIK	IDEA	GRIT
UNITE	IDEA	OOZE
TAXED	PEER	OPEN