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WEDNESDAY
 MARCH 2, 2011

 50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

VOLUME 106, NUMBER 77

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Are you prepared for fire?

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

Would you know what to do if a wildfire were bearing down on your home, forcing you and your family to evacuate?

The recent rash of wildfires in and around the Howard County area has many local residents asking that very question, as dry conditions and high winds aren't likely to go away anytime soon.

Big Spring Fire Marshal Carl Condray said the vital strategy area residents can take to protect themselves and their families during an evacuation is to prepare



Condray ahead of time.

"One of the most important things you can do to prepare for this type of emergency is make lists," Condray said. "When you're faced with an emergency like this, things can get very emotional very fast, and that can make it really easy to forget something vital."

"Make a list of all your medications, and be sure to grab the medications you have on hand because there is no

See **PREPARED**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
Howard County Volunteer Fire Department responded to a brush fire in western Martin County on Tuesday. Wildfires have swept the Crossroads area over the past few weeks and the danger remains eminent.



HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno
The Comanche Trail Festival of Lights storage warehouse and displays housed inside were not harmed, but the few displays that were outside received substantial fire damage recently. The windmill, which was one of the first displays acquired for the Festival of Lights, received extensive damage.

Fire threatens festival lights

By **AMANDA MORENO**
 Staff Writer

Fifteen years almost went up in smoke this week.

The warehouse containing lights, displays and other items used in the annual Comanche Trail Festival of Lights was in the path of flames during Sunday's west side fire. Because of firefighters' quick response, the warehouse did not receive any damage, but light displays outside were burned.

"Thank the Lord and the firefighters that more damage wasn't done," Pat Simmons, founder of the Festival of Lights, said Tuesday. "The damage could have been a lot worse."



The warehouse, located at the air park, contains 15 years worth of lights. The displays as well as boxes of lights are stored there throughout the year, except for the month that they are being used.

"If the fire would have reached the inside of the warehouse, we wouldn't have been able to recover," Simmons said. "There would have been no way that we could have recovered 15 years of lights. We would have been done."

The displays that were

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www.bigspringherald.com

To reach us:
 Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 6 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. Sunday.

Homebound vets get some help

VA Medical Center program currently serves 39 people in the area

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

If patients can't get to the clinic, then the clinic will go to the patients.

That's the reasoning behind the VA Medical Center's Home Based Primary Care Program, which is designed to provide clinical medical services to home-bound veterans.

The program, which began locally last April, currently serves 39 veterans living within a 60-mile radius of the Big Spring VA Medical Center.

"Basically, the program is a clinic that we take to the veteran," said Mabel Kelley, program director. "We try to help those who have difficulty coming to the clinic ... It helps to keep the veteran out of the hospital and in a home setting longer."

Veterans who qualify for the program receive regular visits from program staffers, which include a nurse practitioner,

See **VETS**, Page 3A



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Obituaries

Grover Wayne Vogel

Grover Wayne Vogel, 43, of Bangs, went to be with the Lord Feb. 27, 2011, after battling a long illness. He was born Sept. 7, 1967 to Billy Kyle Vogel Sr. and Kathy Moody Vogel in Monahans. He has lived the past 15 plus years in Bangs with his parents and his sister, Sharon Petty, and family.

He was a Christian with a strong love for God. Wayne spent his life working in the oil field where he operated a pulling unit. Wayne had a special gift of always lending a helping hand and he had the ability to touch all people he encountered. He relished his role as a caregiver in kindness and had pride in his family.

Survivors include his mother, Kathy Vogel of Bangs; two brothers: Billy Vogel Jr. and his wife Carey of Bangs and Bobby Vogel and wife Melissa of Rankin; three sisters; Sharon Petty and husband Burdon of Bangs, Karen Taylor and her husband Randy of Lake Brownwood, and Tammy Vogel and her husband Larry of Santa Anna. He was raised with his nephew Jerry Powell and nieces Missie Gebhardt and Angela Sides, two cousins George Vogel and Margie Vogel, both were very dear to him. He is survived by his little buddy, Gareth Petty. He is also survived by uncles, aunts, cousins and many nieces and nephews, great nieces and nephews.

Wayne was preceded in death by his Daddy, Billy Vogel Sr., uncle Jerry Vogel, Sr., nephew Brian Petty and other family members.

Graveside services will be Thursday, March 3, 2011, at 3:30 p.m. in the Bangs Cemetery.

Friends and relatives are requested to be at Heartland Funeral Home at 2:30 p.m. to take the final ride with Wayne. Services will be officiated by Brian Hall. The family will receive friends at the Heartland Funeral Home Wednesday, March 2, 2011, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Friends and relatives are invited to sign his on-line guest book at heartlandfunerahome.net

Paid obituary

Sheriff

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity (officials reported 55 inmates in the county jail):

- STEVEN ANTHONY RODRIGUEZ, 39, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of disregard for a stop sign; disregard for red light/ran stop sign.
- JESUS BUSTAMANTE, 69, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance less than one gram.
- JIMMY ESCOVEDO RODRIGUEZ, 53, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance less than one gram.
- DANIEL PAUL JOHNSON, 48, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- ROGER DALE PEACOCK, 59, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal mischief impair/interrupt public service.
- MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ, 18, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of MTRP/ evading arrest/detention.
- JOHN THOMAS LAMAR, 57, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of issuance of a bad check.

Mary Lou Simonek



Mary Lou Simonek, 75, died Saturday, Feb. 26, 2011, in Haltom City. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, March 3, 2011, at First Baptist Church of Stanton with the Rev. Bob Porterfield, pastor of West Kentucky Baptist Church in Midland, officiating. Interment will follow at Evergreen Cemetery of Stanton.

The family will receive friends from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., Thursday, March 3, 2011, at Gilbreath Funeral Home in Stanton.

Mary Lou was born on Aug. 18, 1935, in Colorado City, and married Louis Simonek Feb. 3, 1952 in Big Spring. He preceded her in death Dec. 7, 2006.

Mary Lou was a stay-at-home mom and raised five children. She cleaned houses and worked as a waitress to help supplement family finances. After the children were raised and had moved from the home, she began working as a secretary for Mid-

land Glass and Mirror. Upon retirement, Mary Lou built a greenhouse and grew plants as a hobby.

Survivors include her daughter and son-in-law, Gloria Ann and Rickey Whitaker of Haltom City; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Dennis and Kim Simonek of Lewisville and Kenneth Wayne Simonek of Dallas; a daughter-in-law, Jill Franklin of Austin; three sister-in-laws, Lydia Fisher of Lubbock, Porky Corich of Odessa and Millie and Bob Bassett of Lubbock; one brother-in-law, Jerry and Sharon Simonek of Waco; eight grandchildren, Gena, Michelle, Elizabeth, Emily, Janis, Jason, Nathan, and Nicky, as well as 22 great-grandchildren.

Mary Lou was preceded in death by her parents; her brother, Sonny, and her twin sons, Ronald and Donald.

The family suggests memorials be made to Professional Hospice, 345 Westpark Way, Suite 101, Euless 76040.

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

Paid obituary

Police blotter

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

- FRANKIE RUBIO, 51, of 621 Sgt. Paredes Street, was arrested Tuesday on charges of public intoxication and two warrants from other agencies.
- RICHARD NORMAN RAMIREZ, 45, of 611 N. San Antonio Street, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of driving while intoxicated/ third or more.
- STEVEN ANTHONY RODRIGUEZ, 39, of 1413 Wood Street, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of disregard for a stop sign.
- JIMMY RODRIGUEZ, 53, of 501 NE Ninth Street, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance less than one gram.
- JESUS COSTAN BUSTAMANTE, 69, of 605 S. Nolan Street, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance less than one gram.
- ROGER DALE PEACOCK, 59, of 3623 Dixon Street, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of criminal mischief impair/interrupt/divert public water.
- RAYMOND EARL OVRTON JR., 31, of 706 Tubb, was arrested Tuesday on warrants from

another agency.

- DOMINICA CARLYNN THACKER, 30, of 1200 Hoosier Road, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of theft less than \$50.
- RANDY HERNANDEZ, 24, of 1403 Stanford Avenue, was arrested Tuesday on charges of possession of marijuana, more than 4 ounces but less than 5 pounds; evading arrest/detention; driving while intoxicated with a child passenger; unauthorized use of motor vehicle; evading arrest/detention using vehicle.
- PETER MARQUEZ LARA, 40, of 1104 E. 11th Place, was arrested Tuesday on a warrant from another agency.
- LETICIA KAY CANTU, 35, of 904 Rosemont, was arrested Tuesday on a warrant for hindering officers discharging official duties; drove without being secured by a safety belt.
- STOLEN VEHICLE was reported on the 1200 block of Madison.
- BURGLARY OF HABITATION was reported on the 2600 block of Albrook.
- THEFT was reported on the 1200 block of E. 11th Place.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 600 block of Goliad. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 700 block of Willa. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1100 block of Alford. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1200 block of 11th Place. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 100 block of 24th. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of Johnston. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.
- GRASS FIRE was reported in the 700 block of Pine.
- GRASS FIRE was reported in the 1000 block of Sycamore.

Thank you

from

Howard Hornsby's family to the wonderful people of Big Spring. You have touched our hearts in so many ways with your love, thoughtfulness, and support during Howard's long battle with cancer.

There are so many generous people we want to thank, and we want you to know we will be forever grateful for your endearing kindness and great big giving hearts!

Thank you for blessing Howard and his Family.

We love you,

Amy, Paul and David Hornsby

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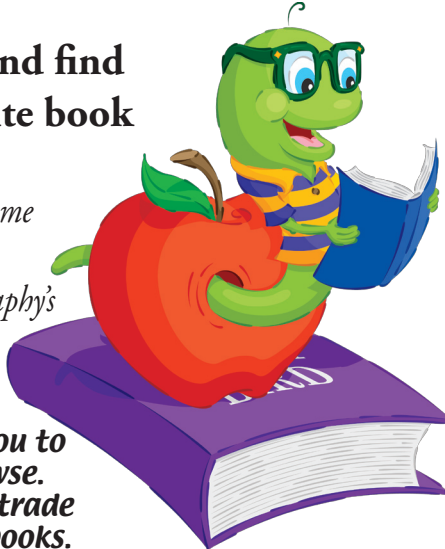
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Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Thu 3/3	Fri 3/4	Sat 3/5	Sun 3/6	Mon 3/7
88/47 Partly cloudy skies. Near record high temperatures. High 88F.	89/43 Mainly sunny. Highs in the upper 80s and lows in the low 40s.	71/35 Partly cloudy and windy. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the mid 30s.	76/45 A few clouds. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the mid 40s.	87/56 Mainly sunny. Highs in the upper 80s and lows in the mid 50s.
Sunrise: 7:11 AM Sunset: 6:45 PM	Sunrise: 7:10 AM Sunset: 6:46 PM	Sunrise: 7:09 AM Sunset: 6:47 PM	Sunrise: 7:08 AM Sunset: 6:47 PM	Sunrise: 7:06 AM Sunset: 6:48 PM

Texas At A Glance



Take Note

- Daniel Flores and Crystal Shults lost almost everything to a mobile home fire in Big Spring Monday evening. They are in need of clothing, furniture, appliances and other items and monetary donations. If you would like to help call 432-270-2081.

- The Salvation Army has funding for Texas Military Personnel now serving or has served in Iraq or Afghanistan. The military member or their family member may apply at 811 W. Fifth St. or call 267-8239. The grant is funded by the TRIAD Fund of Permian Basin Area Foundation.

- The HCV Section 8 waiting list for the Big Spring Housing Authority is open effective March 1. The authority will be accepting new applications. The office is located at 201 NE Seventh in Big Spring.

- 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.

- Mobile Meals is in need of volunteers to deliver meals to the homebound elderly in Big Spring. If you can donate at least one hour a week, call Macaria Cantu at 263-4016 and leave a message.

- An account has been set up to help Bob and Jeanine Fishback with Bob's medical and travel expenses: Bob Fishback Medical Account 915967, Big Spring Education Employees Federal Credit Union, 1110 Benton, Big Spring 79720. For more information, call 263-8393.

Support Groups

WEDNESDAY

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

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; open 12 & 12 study meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

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.

- Spring Tabernacle Ministries has a faith-based support group for those who need help finding and continuing to walk down the path God has for each of us. Meetings are at 11 a.m. and noon, each lasting an hour. The classes take place at Spring Tabernacle Ministries, located at 1209 Wright St.

FRIDAY

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

- Celebrate Recovery, a Christ-centered recovery program, is held at Cornerstone Covenant Church, 706 E 12th St. at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call at 264-0015 or visit www.cccbigspring.org

SATURDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night.

PREPARED

Continued from Page 1A

telling how soon you'll be able to refill a prescription if you have to evacuate. Also, keep a list of all your important documents, especially your insurance documents and phone numbers."

Condray said a change of clothes, eyeglasses — if needed — and some cash or credit cards for emergency travel should also be on any evacuation list.

"It's also a good idea to have a plan in place before you need one. Talk to your family and tell

them if there is an emergency, you're going to your brother's house in Lubbock, or wherever you will be going," Condray said. "That way everyone knows where to meet, as well as where to contact you and make sure you're OK.

"Something else people sometimes don't think of is a place to keep their pets," he said. "Try to come up with a quick place you can drop off your pets if there is an evacuation."

While there is nothing homeowners can do to fire-proof their houses, Condray said there are some last-minute measures that can help cut

down on damage and make it safer for firefighters trying to protect their property.

"Shut off all your utilities, except the water," Condray said. "Shut off anything that uses gas or electricity and shut down the main breaker for the structure. This can help prevent fire and smoke damage, as well as make it safer for firefighters trying to save your home."

The Howard County Volunteer Fire Department has been called to numerous grass fires during the past several weeks — despite an ongoing county-wide burn ban — as Mother Nature

continues to refuse to cooperate, according to Chief Tommy Sullivan.

"The level of wildfire danger right now is very, very high," Sullivan said. "There's just so much dead grass and brush out there, and there's no moisture to help keep conditions from getting worse. We've been in need of rain for quite some time now."

Sullivan encouraged residents to do what they can to lessen the chance of their home being destroyed by a wildfire.

"One of the most important things they can do is clear at least a 50-

foot area around their house. Personally, with the high winds we have out here in West Texas, I suggest a 100-foot circle," Sullivan said. "Make sure the grass is scalped down as low as you can get it within that area, because fire can move really fast through it.

"Also, if you have trees, it's not necessary to get rid of all of them, just make sure they aren't touching. You don't want the fire to be able to jump from one tree or bush to the next. It's possible to make your property look good and still make it safe."

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Ronald Suggs, 67, died Friday. Funeral services were at 11 a.m. today at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Abilene State Cemetery.

Eufrazio Trejo Mata, 88, died Tuesday. Prayer service will be at 7:30 p.m. tonight at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

LIGHTS

Continued from Page 1A

damaged include a cowboy scene, which had been used in recent years. A windmill, one of the earlier displays which was not currently being used, was heavily damaged. An oil derrick was leaning against the wall of the warehouse did

receive some damage, but not as severe as the cowboy display. A steam engine display leaning against the warehouse and received substantial damage.

"We weren't currently using the steam engine, but we were considering putting it back in use," Simmons said.

Simmons said the damage wasn't as extensive as it could

have been, but it will take a good amount of volunteers and time to repair the damage that was done.

"We will be needing volunteers in September and October to help restring and repair the displays that were damaged," Simmons said. "The little damage that was done will still be a pretty good cost."

Those wanting to volunteer

should contact Simmons at 432-213-5444. Anyone wanting to make monetary donations to help with the repairs can mail them to Festival of Lights, P.O. Box 2464, Big Spring 79721.

Contact Staff Writer Amanda Moreno at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at life@bigspringherald.com

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VETS

Continued from Page 1A

dietician, social workers and other medical personnel. During those home visits, personnel perform many of the services the patient would receive in a clinic, Kelley said.

"We have a nurse practitioner who can prescribe medication, a dietician who can help with any dietary problems — especially for those who have diabetes — and a registered nurse who serves as the patient's case manager. She examines them, and if she finds something that concerns her, she'll discuss it with the others on the team."

Veterans who qualify for the program must:

- No longer need hospital care but need continued services for recovery or health maintenance.

- Live within a 60-mile radius of the VAMC.

- Have high-risk diagnoses that utilize a large amount of resources, such as neurological diseases, diabetes mellitus, end-stage liver or renal disease or autoimmune

deficiency disease.

"They are accepted into the program on a case-by-case basis," Kelley said. "First, they are interviewed, then the case manager goes out to visit with them. The process takes between two and four weeks.

Kelley cautioned that the program is only for veterans who have conditions that can be treated in a home setting. If the patient's condition worsens, they are referred to other available services.

With a total of 10 people on staff, the program definitely has room for more patients, she added.

"I think the more the program catches on, the more it will expand," she said. "We're already get-

ting calls because people are hearing about us."

For more information on the program, call 263-7361, ext. 5618, or toll-free at (800) 472-1365,

ext. 5617.

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

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ANSWERS

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In Sunday's Big Spring Herald

Rise & Shine

Modeled after the mom and pop restaurants of a bygone era, Utah's Blue Plate Diner serves up breakfast all day.

AmericanProfile

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.

Bill McClellan Managing Editor	Ron Midkiff Publisher	Steve Reagan Staff Writer
Adam Coleman Sports Editor	Thomas Jenkins Staff Writer	

Heritage programs are still important

Dubbed the most important document in Texas history, the Texas Declaration of Independence — written overnight and signed March 2, 1836 while the Alamo was under siege — is on display at the Lorenzo de Zavala State Archives and Library Building in Austin.

The document has deteriorated over time because knowledge of how to archive was absent for most of the time since it was created. But nowadays, archivists have advanced in preservation technology, and documents like our state's declaration have a better chance to survive in the future.

We hope Gov. Rick Perry was kidding when he announced a week ago that the Texas Historical Commission should be done away with to help shore up the state deficit. Our legislators say that deficit is about \$15 billion, but others put the number at \$27.1 billion, an amount thought to be more realistic.

We agree that cuts need to be made to balance the budget, but we think decisions should be made to cut things that will not hurt Texas. Legislators should not cut things that are part of the solution, such as education and those who preserve our history and culture. That would be a great mistake. Our history is invaluable. Our state has rich history with diverse cultures — influences from the Spanish colonies, the French colony (LaSalle) Mexican colonies and more.

So what else can you do? Well, Perry has begun thinking about using some of the Rainy Day Fund, a fund set aside to help in financial need. We think there is indeed a financial need. How much does that fund have in it? It's a safety net of about \$9.4 billion.

We also think the tax on fuel, which has not been raised since the 1980s, should be increased by a cent or two. It's a fair tax and would generate a significant amount that would slice away at the deficit.

Letting non-violent prisoners out of confinement would save significant amounts of money.

And gambling is being considered to generate more revenue in the state to offset the deficit. Some proponents of gambling say it would generate \$1 billion in revenue a year.

All of these ideas could balance the budget. Let's remember that history is also an economic boom.

"Few people realize that 'tourism' generates in excess of \$51 billion dollars each year. Heritage tourism is the largest segment of this 'pie' and the fastest growing segment. THC is totally focused on heritage tourism. Texas state historical markers are visible reminders of our history, and the very individuals who helped chart our course. The marker program will vanish if THC is forced to close its doors," said Texas Historical Commission Executive Director Mark Wolfe in a letter to Gary Dunnam, Victoria County heritage director.

Dunnam noted that three historical markers were installed this month at Foster Field, Salem Community and the Murphy Ranch.

"A fourth, for F. W. Gross School, will be dedicated at the next reunion of graduates. We have just received word that a fifth marker, "El Camino Real in Victoria County" has been shipped from the foundry. Markers for the "J. Meredith Tatton House" and "The Old Pump House — Victoria's Original Water Works" have been approved, and will be cast this year. We are documenting our county's history — putting it out there for the public. There is no substitute for this program. We must insure that THC survives this bloodletting," Dunnam said.

Dunnam quoted John Steinbeck, who said it best: "How will we know it's 'us' without our history?"

We could go into courthouse restoration and many, many other valuable programs the commission helps with, but the list is too long.

The bottom line is that the commission and the Texas Commission On the Arts account for \$17.4 million, only .06 percent of that \$27 billion deficit, hardly worth bothering these commissions.

Gov. Perry, quit picking at the lifeblood of Texas — our culture and heritage in these two commissions. Make cuts and take actions where they will really count.

The Victoria Advocate

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

It is good for us to be eager in our learning of Your word, Lord, thank you for Your help in our life. Amen

Hello and goodbye, governors

Dear governors, welcome to Washington! We are delighted you are visiting us for the National Governors Association Winter Meeting this weekend.

Now go home. Immediately.

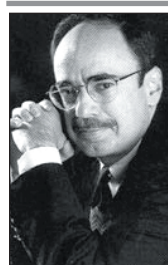
How did you get here in the first place? Where did you get the money? Haven't you been reading the news reports? Your states are broke, busted, insolvent. You are out of dough, greenbacks, scratch, cabbage, moolah.

Did you fly here on airplanes? I hope not. And I sure hope you did not pay extra for a pillow. Angry crowds may surround your plane when you land back at home. I suppose some of you took the train, in which case you might arrive by the weekend after next.

And those of you who drove (as if), have you noticed the spike in gas prices this week? You may have driven here in a limo, but you will be thumbing a ride home.

I know why you came. I went to the official National Governors Association (NGA) website and read that Saturday's opening plenary session "will conclude with remarks from Zhou Qiang, the party secretary of the Hunan Provincial Committee. Secretary Zhou is leading a delegation of Chinese officials interested in establishing a subnational dialogue with NGA."

I have obtained an advance copy of Secretary Zhou's speech.



ROGER SIMON

It is titled, "We Will Buy You All, You Pathetic Running Dogs of Failed Capitalism."

It starts with a joke: An American governor and a Chinese provincial governor go into a bar.

The American governor says, "I will buy you a beer."

The Chinese provincial governor says, "Where would you get that kind of money?"

I went to the website of the Pew Center on the States and read that there is a gap of \$1 trillion between what the states actually have set aside and what they owe their workers' retirement funds.

In the old days, do you know what they called people who ran up \$1 trillion in bills and didn't have the money to pay them? Lindsay Lohan.

Do you know what they call them today? Governors.

We are talking real trouble. In Wisconsin, state workers are planning to occupy the state capitol and sell naming rights to the dome.

Which may not be a bad idea. As Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman, the NGA vice chair, said, "The NGA Winter Meeting gives governors the opportunity to exchange ideas as well as to discuss our shared policy challenges and effective solutions."

So I have some suggested topics for NGA breakout sessions:

— How Much Can I Get for a State Highway, and Do We Have to Keep Painting the White Lines?

— Can I Sell All the State Office Buildings on "Pawn Stars"?

— State Parks. Who Needs Them?

I cannot figure out why you people became governors in the first place. Why didn't you take

on an easy job, like running Libya?

The NGA current motto is, "The Collective Voice of the Nation's Governors."

After this weekend, the motto may be, "Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?"

The District of Columbia tourism industry is very happy the governors are coming to Washington to spend their last few dollars on fancy hotel rooms and miniature booze and Snickers from their mini-bars. But there is a new rule this year: cash only. We don't take checks credit cards or IOUs from governors.

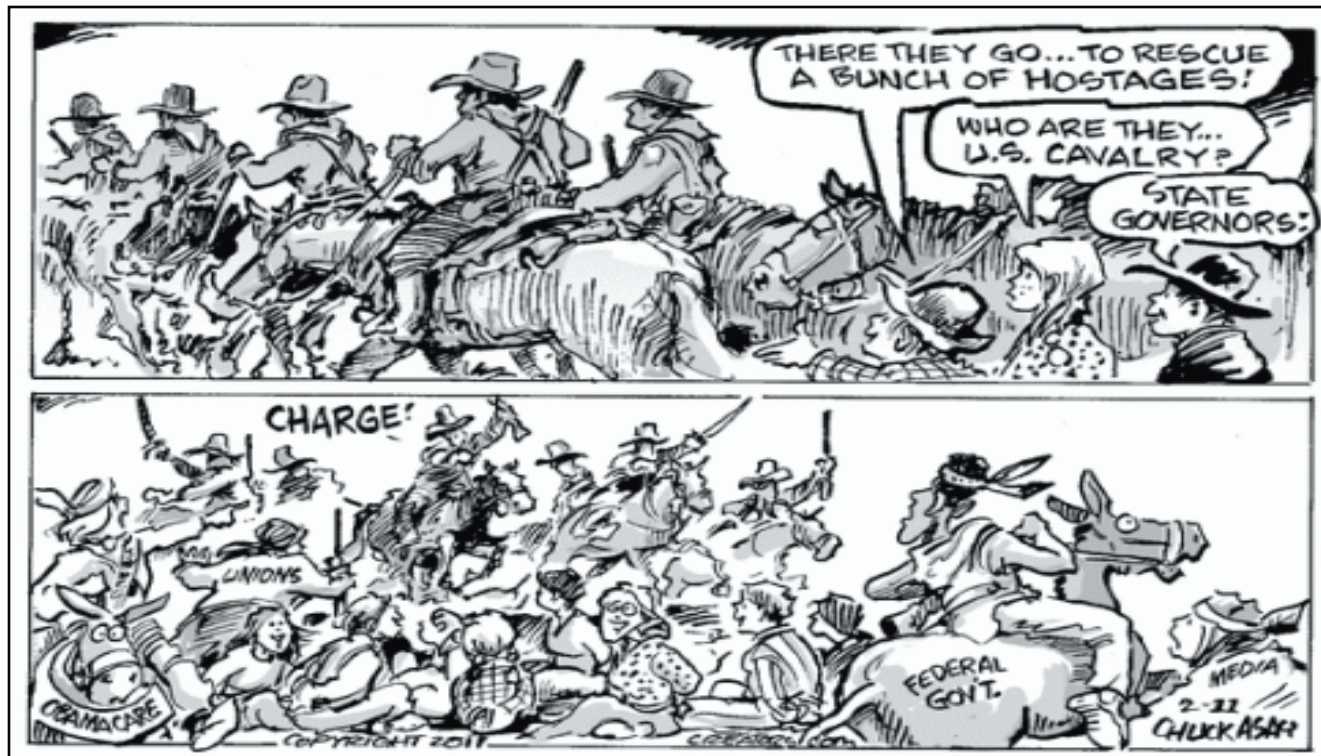
Nothing personal. But considering that President Barack Obama's new federal budget slashes home heating aid for the poor by 50 percent, you people should be back home chopping up the furniture in your state capitols for firewood.

But what the heck. After all, tomorrow is another day. And you didn't become a governor because you thought the job was easy. You became a governor so some day you could run for president.

So kick back. I am not saying there is no hope.

According to a recent report, states are quietly seeking a way to declare bankruptcy so they don't have to pay the pensions of retired public workers. I assume the governors will be employing the law firm of Dewey, Cheatem & Howe.

To find out more about Roger Simon, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate webpage at www.creators.com.



Tax or spend? The final chapter

I am reluctant to join the chorus of scolds who chide Republicans for opposing Gov. Jerry Brown's proposal to put a tax-increase extension on a special election ballot in June.

But I will join the chorus, though first I must point out that GOP Assembly members and senators didn't spend California to the brink of ruin. The Democrats and nominally Republican former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger share that honor.

I also am reluctant to blame the GOP because I believe that the necessary two GOP votes from both the Assembly and Senate will materialize.

A few brave Repubs will defy the zealots. On their website, radio talk-show hosts John and Ken put Republican "heads on a stick" for those who failed to join the "Taxpayers Caucus," which opposes voting on tax increases. Someone has to stand up to the intimidation. Likewise the bullying of the Washington, D.C.-based tax-pledge tyrant Grover Norquist.

The truly conservative move is to negotiate concessions — preferably pension reform or a spending cap — because it's time to settle the tax-versus-cuts argu-

ment once and for all.

Yes, 65 percent of Californians rejected a similar tax-increase measure (Proposition 1A, which would have extended increases in the vehicle license fee, sales and income taxes) in 2009. But that was in the consequences-lite Schwarzenegger years, when a failure to raise taxes did not necessarily result in spending cuts.

Now the consequences are clear. The new governor brought welcome clarity to the issue last week when he told a joint legislative budget committee that if voters reject his tax proposal, he will only sign an "all-cuts budget."

The anti-taxers should be jumping for joy.

If Californians reject the Son of Proposition 1A, then there will be no question that voters truly want Sacramento to cut spending.

What is more, the minute a tax measure qualifies for the ballot, the Democrats will be on the hot seat.

As Jann Taber, spokeswoman for GOP Senate Leader Bob Dutton, noted, what Brown and company call a half-cut-half-tax solution to a \$26 billion budget hole doesn't really represent a 50-50 split.

Brown's proposed tax increase is actually \$14 billion, while his cuts are closer to \$8 billion, after accounting for funds shifted among money pots. What's more, Democrats rescinded

some of Brown's Medi-Cal and senior-care funding cuts without finding a way to pay for these services.

Speaking for his Taxpayer Caucus, state Sen. Tony Strickland observed, "Everyone criticizes Republicans for not standing for something, but when we start standing for something, they complain."

Bully for the purists — too bad they make such a mess. For years, Republicans stuck to their anti-tax principles, Democrats stuck to their big-spending ideals, and the product was red ink.

Worse, taxpayers found out that they could vote for more spending without paying for it. More red ink.

Brown has told Californians that if they want this level of government, then they have to pay for it: "I think we have to meet the moment of truth now."

Truth is: (a) He needs to give Republicans something in exchange for having their heads put on sticks. (b) Voters aren't likely to vote for his tax package without real reforms. And without real reform, failure is more than an option.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@schronicle.com. To find out more about Debra J. Saunders, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

News in brief

Pro-Gadhafi forces retake oil port in rebel-held east

BENHAZI, Libya (AP) — Forces loyal to Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi retook control of a key oil installation and port on the coast of the rebel-held eastern half of the country Wednesday and warplanes bombed an ammunition depot on the outskirts of a nearby town also controlled by the opposition, witnesses said.

Gadhafi's forces are escalating a counteroffensive after government opponents over the past two weeks seized control of the eastern half of the country and several cities and towns in the western half near the regime stronghold in the capital Tripoli.

On Tuesday, loyalists pushed back rebels from towns near Tripoli, where Gadhafi appears to be in full control. They also kept up military operations for a second straight day to try wrest back Zawiyah, the city closest to the capital which is in the hands of government opponents. But rebels, backed by mutinous army forces and their weapons, have managed to repel those attacks and held on to Zawiyah so far.

Ahmed Jerksi, manager of the massive oil installation in the eastern town of Brega on the Mediterranean coast, said pro-Gadhafi forces retook control of the facility at dawn without using force. Brega is about 125 miles (200 kilometers) from Libya's second-largest city Benghazi, the nerve center of the rebel-held east.

There are about 4,000 oil workers at the Brega facility and there had been at least one checkpoint around it which was guarded by a small contingent of armed rebel forces from the area. But there were no reports of clashes between the two sides.

Senate poised to send Obama stopgap GOP funding bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — In an early victory for Republicans, the Democratic Senate is voting to send President Barack Obama a GOP-drafted measure that cuts \$4 billion in spending as the price for keeping the government open for an additional two weeks.

Sweeping bipartisan support is expected Wednesday for the measure, which passed the House on Tuesday by a 335-91 tally. More than 100 Democrats broke with Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi of California to support it.

"The president is encouraged by the progress Congress is making towards a short-term agreement," White House press secretary Jay Carney said after the House vote. "Moving forward, the focus needs to be on both sides finding common ground in or-

der to reach a long-term solution that removes the kind of uncertainty that can hurt the economy and job creation."

Hours earlier, however, Carney had floated a trial balloon for a four- or five-week measure that would provide a more realistic time frame for what promises to be highly contentious negotiation on a follow-up bill to set spending levels through the end of the fiscal year, Sept. 30.

That balloon soon popped. "If there had been a conversation about this 10 days ago or two days ago, we might have had something to talk about," Republican House Speaker John Boehner said. "But the fact is, we were forced to move on our own."

Wis. gov. proposes deep cuts for schools

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Gov. Scott Walker is plowing ahead with his full plan for balancing Wisconsin's budget, proposing massive cuts to public schools even as he faces a stalemate over his proposal to strip public workers of collective bargaining rights.

With Senate Democrats still missing, Walker presented the second part of his two-year spending plan to the Legislature on Tuesday. It relies on getting concessions from government employees to help pay for about \$1 billion cuts in aid to schools, counties and cities while avoiding any tax or fee increases, furloughs or widespread layoffs as lawmakers grapple with a projected \$3.6 billion shortfall.

Jamie Domini, a project coordinator at Badger Rock Middle School in Madison, said Walker's proposal — which includes a 9 percent cut in aid to schools amounting to about \$900 million — would "completely gut the public education system in Wisconsin."

"It's just so frustrating," Domini said.

Walker, whose cost-cutting ideas have stirred a national debate over public-sector unions, said it was time for government to be "leaner and cleaner."

N.Z. police warn some bodies may never be pulled from quake rubble

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand (AP) — Anguished family members visited collapsed buildings Wednesday where bodies of their loved ones lie trapped more than a week after New Zealand's earthquake, as officials said some remains may never be recovered from the rubble.

An official tour of the worst-hit sites in the Feb. 22 disaster was the first time many relatives had

been so close to the places where the estimated 240 victims died.

"The mood was somber and it was very emotional for them," police Superintendent Dave Cliff said. About 250 foreigners and 100 New Zealanders were among the family members who went on the trip. News crews were not invited.

An unknown number of students and staff from Japan, China and other countries were at an English-language school in one of the two office buildings that completely collapsed in the magnitude-6.3 quake. Police said last week that up to 120 bodies were inside the Canterbury Television, or CTV, building where the language school was located.

Gunmen kill Christian Pakistan government minister

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Assailants purportedly sent by al-Qaida and the Taliban killed the only Christian member of Pakistan's federal Cabinet Wednesday, spraying his car with bullets outside his parents' driveway. It was the second assassination in two months of a high-profile opponent of blasphemy laws that impose the death penalty for insulting Islam.

The killing of Shahbaz Bhatti, a Catholic in his 40s, further undermines Pakistan's shaky image as a moderate Islamic state and could deepen the political turmoil in this nuclear-armed, U.S.-allied state where militants frequently stage suicide attacks.

In pamphlets found at the scene of the shooting, al-Qaida and the Pakistani Taliban said they targeted Bhatti because of his faith and because he allegedly belonged to a committee that was reviewing the blasphemy laws.

Bhatti was ambushed early afternoon Wednesday outside his parents' home in the capital of Islamabad. The politician had just pulled out of the driveway when three men standing nearby opened fire, said Gulam Rahim, a witness.

Two of the men opened the door and tried to pull Bhatti out, Rahim said, while a third man fired his Kalashnikov rifle repeatedly into the dark-colored Toyota.

Calif. AG calls for gay marriages to resume

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The state's top attorney has dealt another setback for seekers of gay marriage bans with her request to allow the unions to resume immediately in California.

State Attorney General Kamala Harris' request Tuesday to an appeals court considering the constitutionality of California's gay marriage ban comes a week after the Obama administration said it would no longer defend a federal law that prohibits the U.S. from recognizing gay unions.

Together, the two actions represent a blow to opponents of gay marriage, as well as to Proposition 8, the voter-approved initiative that banned the unions in California in 2008.

In a letter to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, Harris joined the lawyers for two same-sex couples and the city of San Francisco in seeking the resumption of gay marriages in California. The unions were put on hold while Proposition 8's sponsors appeal a trial judge's ruling striking down the ban.

Harris said those sponsors were unlikely to prevail in their appeal and that keeping the ban in effect was a fruitless violation of gay Californians' civil rights.

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NURSING HOME ABUSE:

Department on Aging (DADS) (800) 458-9858

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Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (800) 252-8011

- Abuse includes involuntary seclusion, intimidation, humiliation, harassment, threats of punishment, deprivation, hitting, slapping, pinching, kicking, any type of corporal punishment, sexual assault, sexual coercion, sexual harassment, verbal abuse, or any oral, written, or gestured language that includes disparaging or derogatory terms, regardless of the person's ability to hear or comprehend.
- Neglect means the failure of a caretaker to provide the goods or services, including medical services, which are necessary to avoid physical or emotional harm or pain.
- Exploitation includes a caretaker's illegal use of a senior's resources for monetary or personal benefit, profit, or gain. Seniors may need help with their finances, but unless they hand control over to another person, they have the same right as anyone else to receive, spend, invest, save or give away their money. A family member, "friend" or nursing home may not take control of a senior's money without that person's permission.
- If you are being abused, or suspect that someone else is being abused, do not remain silent. If you are aware of a specific act of abuse, neglect or exploitation, you are required by law to report it.

If the victim is in immediate danger, call 9-1-1 or your local law enforcement agency.

If the victim is in a nursing home or assisted living facility, or is in his or her home and relies on a home health provider, call the Texas Department of State Health Services at (800) 458-9858.

If the victim is a resident of a long-term care facility, that receives Medicaid funding, report the criminal abuse, neglect or exploitation to the Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit at (512) 463-2011 (Austin), toll-free at (800) 252-8011 or by e-mail at mfcu@oag.state.tx.us.

Abuse of a senior who is not in a health care facility can be reported to Adult Protective Services at (800) 252-5400.

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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

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

A Matter of Faith

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 5
♥ K 10 8
♦ K Q J
♣ A Q 9 7 6 3

WEST
♠ A J 9 6 2
♥ J
♦ 10 8 7 6 4 3 2
♣ —

EAST
♠ K Q 10 8 3
♥ 7 3
♦ A 9 5
♣ 10 5 2

SOUTH
♠ 7 4
♥ A Q 9 6 5 4 2
♦ —
♣ K J 8 4

The bidding:
North East South West
1♠ 1♠ 2♥ 4♠
5♥ 5♠ 6♥
Opening lead — two of spades.

This deal, which occurred in a duplicate game many years ago, is most remarkable in that a different result was achieved at nearly every one of the 13 tables where it was played.

When North-South bought the contract, they played in four, five or six hearts, or five or six clubs, doubled in some cases.

When East-West played the hand, they were in five or six spades, doubled in every case.

The North-South pairs who bid and made slam in hearts earned the best scores in their direction. The East-Wests who sacrificed in five or six spades achieved good scores, going down 200 or 500 to prevent the opponents from making a vulnerable game or slam.

Only one East-West pair found the way to set six hearts. The bidding went as shown, with West deciding not to sacrifice against six hearts because he thought he had a reasonable chance to defeat the slam.

And defeat it he did. He boldly led the deuce of spades at trick one, won by East with the queen. The fact that West had underlined the ace of spades — a highly risky maneuver against a slam — was not lost on East, who was certain that his partner had a very good reason for such an unusual lead.

He therefore resisted the natural impulse to try to cash the ace of diamonds. Had he played the ace, of course, South would have ruffed and taken the rest of the tricks to make the slam.

Instead, demonstrating supreme faith in his partner, East returned a club, fully expecting his partner to be void in that suit. West happily ruffed to defeat the slam, and the defenders earned themselves a well-deserved top score.

Tomorrow: Reducing the risk factor.

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ID bill gets airing before committee

By JAY ROOT

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Republicans on Tuesday were pushing new ID requirements for Texas voters, one of a string of bills that conservative legislators have put on the fast track in the state Legislature.

The bill, which would require a photo ID for most voters, came up for a debate in a House panel after clearing the Senate in January. Voters over age 70 and disabled voters would be exempt.

The bill's passage into law is all but certain despite claims by Democrats and civil rights groups that the legislation would erect new hurdles for minorities and the poor. Republicans say it's needed to combat voter fraud.

Voter ID is one of several issues this week sure to warm the hearts of conservative ac-

tivists — and frustrate Democrats who are essentially powerless to stop them. On Wednesday, lawmakers will hear testimony about legislation designed to crack down on illegal immigrants in so-called "sanctuary cities," and the House will debate legislation requiring women to get a sonogram before having an abortion.

The Voter ID legislation was first bill out of the Senate, and the sonogram bill is the first one scheduled to hit the House floor.

"I'm always amazed that the folks who campaign on limited government, their first two priorities are more government," said Rep. Pete Gallego, a West Texas Democrat.

Gallego said the both the voter ID and the sonogram bill would require the Leg-

islature to spend money on discretionary programs at a time when appropriators are looking for every available dollar to plug a budget shortfall as high as \$27 billion.

Gov. Rick Perry put voter ID, abortion restrictions and the sanctuary cities bill on the fast track by declaring them "emergency" legislative priorities at the beginning of the session in January.

Rep. Larry Taylor, head of the House Republican Caucus, said the social conservative legislation was not providing a distraction to the work on the budget.

"They are emergency items as designated by the governor," Taylor said. "The appropriations process is continuing. It's not slowing that down at all."

According to the House author of the voter ID legisla-

tion, GOP Rep. Patricia Harless, the \$2 million needed for training and implementation of the bill would be paid for entirely with federal money. Harless proposed adding an exemption for disabled Texans and allowing voters to use a handgun license that had not expired more than two months before being used at a polling place.

Republicans are pushing voter ID bills across the country. The one in Texas mirrors a law passed several years ago in Georgia.

"The point of the bill is to deter and detect fraud, increase the public confidence in the voting process and make it no more burdensome than the actual act of voting," Harless said.

Georgia Secretary of State Brian Kemp, testifying before the House committee, said

that since the legislation took effect there, "we have not disenfranchised anyone . . . especially any minority group."

The legislation, as currently drafted, would require voters to present a valid form of state or federally issued photo identification. A driver's license, personal ID card, military ID, passport or concealed handgun permit would be accepted.

Rep. Marc Veasey, a Democrat from Fort Worth, said the legislation was designed to discourage marginal voters — generally Democrats — from casting ballots.

He said Republicans were hoping to "skim that off the top" in order to win close elections.

The voter ID legislation was left pending in committee Tuesday night after several hours of testimony.



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Why not check this out? At the library

If you are interested in World War II's Pacific campaign, then check out "Neptune's Inferno" (AUCD 940.542 HOR J) by James D. Hornfischer. It is the story of America's first concerted offensive against the Imperial Japanese juggernaut and the true turning point of WWII in the Pacific. Another neat AUCD is "American Rose" (AUCD B LEE G) by Karen Abbott. It is the phenomenal story of Gypsy Rose Lee and her career in vaudeville. I have read a review of the print version and it really sounds good. I did not know that actress June Havoc was Gypsy's younger sister.

From Kim Edwards, who wrote "The Memory Keeper's Daughter," comes "The Lake of Dreams" (AUCD F EDW K). Lucy Jarrett returns to her home in upstate New York to confront unresolved issues. While wandering through her childhood home, she discovers dusty relics that will lead her to re-evaluate her family, her friends and herself. We also have it in large print.

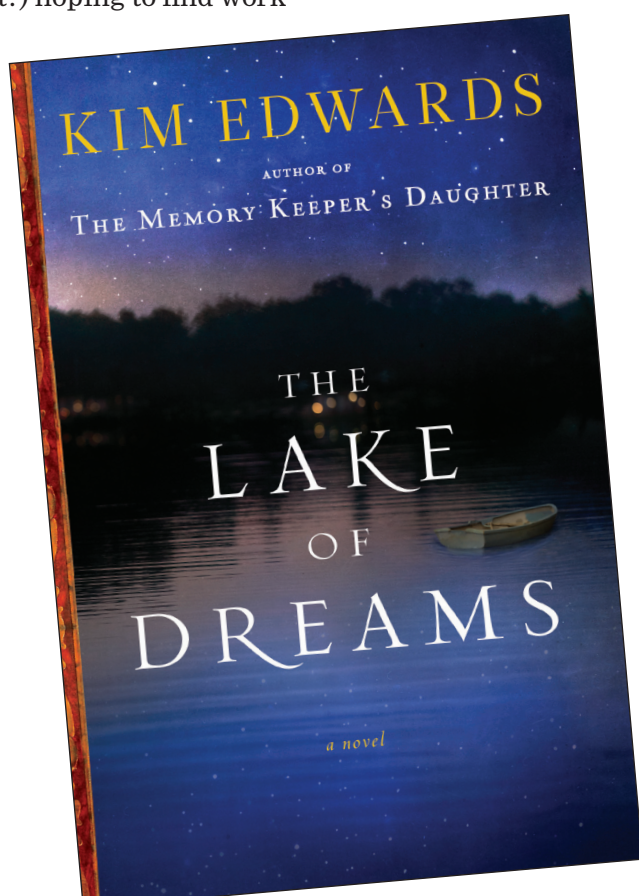
Gil Adamson's debut novel "The Outlander" (F ADA G) is the story of Mary Boulton. Set in 1903, she is living in an isolated cabin. After losing her baby and suffering from depression, she kills her husband when she learns of his infidelity. Pursued by her dead husband's brothers, Mary is faced daily with life and death situations. Not really being equipped with survival skills each day is a test, but she proves herself to be resilient and manages to evade her pursuers. As she makes her way to an uncertain freedom through Idaho and Montana, she manages to run into quite a mixture of individuals; some are pretty unsavory outcasts, but others prove to be helpful.

There are quite a few Westerns that have come in. Something we can identify with (with the recent range fires) is "The Burning Range" (LP W WES J) by Joseph A. West. It takes place in Oklahoma during the oil boom in the 1880s with gambler Chauncey Drake and the Pinkerton detective Reuben Withers.

Sam Brown's "Devil's Rim" (LP W BRW S)

has Concho Smith riding down Mexico way (sounds like a country western song, doesn't it?) hoping to find work

how they compare. We have filled in the gaps on the Home Repair is Homicide by



there. On his way, he sees a beautiful woman trying to keep the ranch going, while her crippled husband sits and broods. Do you see where this is going? See how the story ends by checking out Brown's book.

Have you seen the latest version of "True Grit"? I understand the Coen Brothers have done a reasonable job of telling the story the way Charles Portis wrote the book. "True Grit" (LP W POR) was first published in 1968 and is the basis for both John Wayne's version and the Coen's. No need to reprise the story, read the book and see

Sarah Graves. Jacobia Triptree has retreated to a 1823 federal style home in Eastport, Maine. "The Book of Old Houses," "Mallets Aforethought" and "A Face at the Window" may be found in the mystery section.

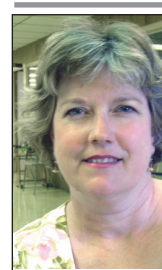
Please support libraries in Texas. You may go to the link provided below to express your support. The site is <http://capwiz.com/ala/tx/home/>. When you arrive there, press on the link that says "Take Action." That will take you to an area that you can write a letter of support that will be sent to Gov. Perry, Sen. Kel Seliger and Rep. Jim Landtroop. If the

link provided does not work, you may go to www.txla.org and find the link to the "Take Action" site. Our latest issue is to preserve the discounts that libraries receive to have internet access at a rate we can afford.

Did you know that local public libraries bridge the digital divide? Howard County Library provides 11 public access computers for patrons to use. People who use our computers are local residents, tourists and students. Most of our users don't have computers at home. Or if they do, sometimes

they cannot afford to have the digital link through a service provider. That is when they come to HCL to use our computers. At any given hour, we have anywhere from two to six people using our computers; sometimes all of the 11 computers are in use.

Please continue the telecommunications discounts that allows libraries, schools and



HOLLIS MCCRIGHT

higher education to obtain the T-1 line or fiber connections at no more than 110 percent of the cost. This program expires Jan. 1, 2012. Please amend the Texas Utilities Code (Chapter 52.258 268, 59.077 and 59.083) to extend this program.

The library is located at 500 S. Main St. Our phone number is 264-2260. The website is www.howard-county.lib.tx.us

Hollis McCright is director of the Howard County Library.

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News in brief

House to vote on new abortion rules

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas House is expected to vote Wednesday on a bill that would require doctors to perform a sonogram before providing an abortion. The bill says a woman must be shown the sonogram and hear the fetal heartbeat while the doctor explains whether the fetus has arms or legs.

The woman may look away but must sign an affidavit that she heard the heartbeat and description. A less stringent bill passed the Senate last month.

Gov. Rick Perry made the new abortion rules an emergency matter. Proponents say the bill guarantees that doctors provide patients with necessary information. Opponents say it interferes with the doctor-patient relationship and tries to shame women who seek an abortion.

If passed, the bill would move into conference committee.

Wheelchair-bound budget protesters cited in Austin

AUSTIN (AP) — At least 11 protesters in wheelchairs have been cited over an Austin demonstration against proposed budget cuts for social services.

The Dallas Morning News reports the tickets were issued Tuesday night for misdemeanor trespassing when some demonstrators refused to leave an area outside Gov. Rick Perry's office at the Capitol. Perry did not meet with the group leaders.

Protesters with the disability rights group Adapt of Texas had vowed to stay until they were removed or arrested.

Texas legislators are dealing with a projected \$15 billion budget shortfall for the next two-year spending period.

Perry spokesman Mark Miner criticized the protest, calling it counterproductive and saying the governor meets with constituents every day. Miner says disruptive tactics and preventing access to the Texas Capitol won't accomplish anything.

Review says possible Texas prison beds shortage

AUSTIN (AP) — A review finds Texas could face a shortage of as many as 12,000 inmate beds within two years if budget problems force prison system cuts and closures.

The report, presented Tuesday to the Senate Criminal Justice Committee, is led by consultant Tony Fabelo. His report comes from the Justice Center, a research affiliate of the Council of State Governments.

Texas lawmakers face a projected budget shortfall of at least \$15 billion in the next two-year spending period.

The Austin American-Statesman reports the review found that possible cuts of up to \$600 million

would hobble rehabilitation, probation and treatment, which help offenders stay out of trouble.

Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst says he's alarmed by the projections.

Search for Galveston hotel debris in Gulf

GALVESTON (AP) — City and state inspectors will try to determine whether debris from a Texas hotel being demolished has been dumped into the Gulf of Mexico.

The former Flagship Hotel in Galveston was built on pilings.

The Galveston County Daily News reported Wednesday that some witnesses say crews allowed huge shards of glass and chunks of concrete to fall into the Gulf.

Representatives of Landry's Restaurants Inc., which owns the property, says so far there's nothing to indicate that debris has fallen or been pushed into the water.

ICE official accused of travel fraud due in court

EL PASO (AP) — A 63-year-old U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement analyst accused of misusing his diplomatic passport to travel to Jordan and filing bogus expense reports is due in a West Texas courtroom.

Ahmed Adil Abdallat is scheduled to appear for a detention hearing in El Paso on Wednesday. He faces eight counts of misuse of a diplomatic passport and one of conversion of public money.

Authorities say the ICE supervisory intelligence research specialist was issued a diplomatic passport to perform temporary duties at several U.S. embassies. He's accused of using it eight times since October 2007 to make personal trips to Amman, Jordan's capital.

House committee to consider immigration bills

AUSTIN (AP) — A House panel is debating several hot-button bills that could give police more power to enforce immigration laws.

The bills are aimed in part at cracking down on so-called sanctuary cities, which Gov. Rick Perry has put on the fast track in the Texas Legislature. One version of the Republican-backed legislation would make it clear that police agencies must not be barred from asking about immigration status after arresting people. Others are tougher, requiring that police officers inquire about immigration status.

Supporters say the legislation is needed to cut down on crime. Opponents say it will bog down police officers in added paperwork and negatively impact their ability to enforce state laws.

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Lowry, Rockets beat Blazers to reach .500

The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Kevin Martin believes the Rockets have found themselves in the wake of the NBA trade deadline.

Houston sent Shane Battier to Memphis and guard Aaron Brooks to Phoenix in moves last week. The two were both popular with fans and respected by their teammates, so there were questions about how the Rockets would adjust.

There didn't seem to be any issues at all on Tuesday night, when Houston beat the Portland Trail Blazers 103-87. It was the Rockets' fifth straight victory and pushed them to .500 at 31-31.

"Talent-wise I think we took a step backward (with the trades), but guys like Chase (Budinger) and Courtney (Lee) are getting an opportunity to get more minutes now, and Coach (Rick Adelman) gets an opportunity to leave his best players out on the court," Martin said.

Kyle Lowry had 21 points and 11 assists, and Martin finished with 20 points for the Rockets. Luis Scola added 21 points and Houston snapped a four-game losing streak at the Rose Garden.

It was the Rockets' sixth straight road win.

Portland leading scorer LaMarcus Aldridge was often double-teamed and held to 14 points, well off his average of 22.4. Nicolas Batum led the Blazers with 22 points.

Coach Nate McMillan and the team lingered behind closed doors after the game. The Blazers were coming off an equally troubling loss on Sunday, when they fell 90-83 to Atlanta at the Rose Garden.

"I'm trying to figure out what or why, but I know the last two games have felt the same," McMillan said. "We've been a team that scrapped and had movement and energy

See **ROCKETS**, Page 2B



Photo Courtesy of James Schwartz

Aaron Long and the Garden City Bearkats hope to upset No. 10 Ira today in regional quarterfinal action.

Garden City, Sands, Stanton continue playoff runs today

Garden City

The Garden City Bearkats simply haven't been tested yet in the boys' Class A Division II playoffs, but they might see a challenge today against No. 10 Ira in the regional quarterfinal matchup.

Garden City and Ira — two schools familiar with each other — face off at 6 p.m. today at Post High School in Post. Garden City beat Hermleigh 72-36 in the bi-district round and Dell City 72-42 in the area round. Ira had a bye in the bi-district round, but beat Valentine 70-35 in the area round. The winner of this one faces the winner of the Baird-Lipan regional quarterfinal.

Sands

No. 8 Sands has already had its fair share of upsets this season, with the two wins over Grady it took to wrap up a district championship.

Now comes possibly the biggest test of the season: No. 3 Paducah. Sands head coach

Billy Grumbles said the Dragons are athletic, have size and more importantly, are battle-tested. Paducah's faced some tough teams this season. The Mustangs will have their hands full, but players such as Bert Ybarra and Blake Thomasson are hoping to pull off the upset. Tip-off is at 6 p.m. today at Merkel High School in Merkel.

Stanton

Coming off a thrilling 49-47 win over No. 18 Bushland in the area round, the Stanton Buffaloes face Muleshoe at 6 p.m. today at the Rip Griffin Center in Lubbock.

Tyler Fulton, Trace Sidle and Grayson Gray have just been a few names leading the way for the Buffs. Muleshoe has had some impressive wins in the playoffs so far in a 69-35 win over Spearman in their bi-district round and a 61-46 win over Colorado City, which is in Stanton's district. The winner of today's game gets either No. 3 Wall or No. 10 Eastland.

Bradley, Mariners beat Rangers 5-2

The Associated Press

PEORIA, Ariz. — Milton Bradley says he's not bothered by having to compete for a starting job.

A couple more days like Tuesday and it won't be much of a contest.

Bradley drove in a pair of runs and went 3 for 3 with two singles and a double, leading the Seattle Mariners to a 5-2 win over the Texas Rangers on Tuesday.

"He's really working hard, he just needs to stay patient and let the game come to him," Mariners manager Eric Wedge said. "I think he's having a good time. He's enjoying himself, he's enjoying his teammates, I love his work ethic. Just want to see him sustain that."

Michael Saunders, whom the team has given previous chances to take over the position, is

See **RANGERS**, Page 2B



HERALD Photo/Tony Claxton

Logan Yarbar allowed nine hits, five runs and struck out six in the Big Spring Lady Steers' win over Greenwood Tuesday.

BSHS softball edges Greenwood, 6-5

BY ADAM COLEMAN

Sports Editor

Big Spring softball head coach John Sparks believes Jillian Valle is his go-to hitter right now.

She proved why that may be the case Tuesday afternoon.

Valle's game-winning home run in the seventh inning pushed the Lady Steers past Greenwood, 6-5 at home Tuesday.

It was her second home run of the game.

She finished the day going 3 for 3 with three RBIs.

Sparks said Valle was as clutch as she could be. The Lady Steers were on their last out when Valle hit the bomb.

"It was fun. We lost some focus, but that's OK, too. We learned and they played well. They stepped it up when they needed to and that's a good thing. We're on our way, we'll see."

See **STEERS**, Page 2B

Sports in brief

Big Spring Girls Softball Association

The Big Spring Girls Softball Association will conduct sign-ups for girls ages 4 to 14 to play. Sign-ups are each Saturday through March 12 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. at the Big Spring Mall. The registration fee is \$80 with no fundraiser. It will cover the full uniform.

Late registration after March 12 is \$10 extra. For

more information, contact Lucy Ramirez at 466-3670.

Coahoma girls softball sign-ups

Coahoma girls softball will be conducting early bird sign-ups for girls ages 3 to 18 (3 to 6 will be co-ed) from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday at the Coahoma Community Center and at the Big Spring Mall. This is a one day special \$10 discount.

Regular sign-ups are March 10-12, 17-19 and 24-26. Times for those days are 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and the locations are the same.

The fee is \$60, no fundraiser. Shirts and shorts will be provided. There will be a tournament hosted for every age group. Call Billy Newton at (325) 207-2640 or (432) 394-4294 or Amy Overton at (432) 816-1968 for more information.

Federal judge sides with NFL union in TV dispute

The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Just as a fourth-quarter turnover can swing the momentum of a game, NFL players got a big gain at a key point in their labor fight with the league.

Writing that the NFL enhanced “long-term interests at the expense of its present obligations,” U.S. District Judge David Doty overturned a special master’s ruling and backed the NFL Players Association’s claim that the league illegally secured a potential \$4 billion revenue stream for 2011 to wield against the union as lockout protection.

NFL lawyers have argued that sound business judgment was used in the last round of television contracts to maximize money for owners and players to share, but Doty disagreed.

The union’s contention is that the

league left money on the table for broadcast rights to the last two seasons in those negotiations with the networks to create a war chest for this year.

The current collective bargaining agreement expires at midnight Eastern time Thursday night, and a lockout could come next.

Doty criticized special master Stephen Burbank for legal errors and erroneously concluding earlier this month that the NFL can act like a self-interested conglomerate when in fact it is bound by legal agreements to make deals that benefit both owners and players.

“The record shows that the NFL undertook contract renegotiations to advance its own interests and harm the interests of the players,” wrote the judge, who has overseen NFL labor issues since he presided over a 1993 settlement that cleared

the way for the current free agency system.

Doty cited a chart-style NFL “Decision Tree” memo as a “glaring example” of the league’s intent, and quoted from it in his 28-page ruling: “Moving forward with a deal depended on the answer to the questions: ‘Does Deal Completion Advance CBA Negotiating Dynamics?’ If yes, the NFL should ‘Do Deal Now’; if no, the NFL should ‘Deal When Opportune.’”

The union had asked that the TV money be placed in escrow until the end of any lockout, so the owners can’t use it as a safety net, thus equalizing the risk level for both sides during a protracted work stoppage. Doty will preside over a hearing, yet to be scheduled, to determine potential damages for the players as well as an injunction involving the TV contracts.

Area boys’ basketball playoff schedule

Regional Quarterfinals Today

Sands vs. Paducah
6 p.m.
Merkel High School
- Merkel

Garden City vs. Ira
6:30 p.m.
Post High School
- Post

Stanton vs. Muleshoe
6 p.m.
Rip Griffin Center
- Lubbock

STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

BSHS’ standout pitcher Logan Yarbar pitched seven innings, allowing five runs and nine hits, but she did strikeout six Rangereettes.

While Valle’s hit was huge, Valerie Ross was solid, too, going 2 for 4 with an RBI. Haley Dimidjian went 2 for 5 with an RBI and Logan Yarbar tried to help her own cause with an RBI.

There’s still a lot of softball left to be played before district play and Sparks wants to keep things in perspective. While the win is nice, he said what his team does in the upcoming tournaments is key.

“There’s definitely some learning that needs to be done,” he said. “We have two more tournaments to play and after those two tournaments, we ought to be right there with anybody. It’s just small stuff. We get over that hump, we’ll be good.”

One of those tournaments is the one the Lady Steers will be hosting Thursday through Saturday. With 24 teams participating, Sparks said it should be an exciting weekend.

“Last year was our first one and people are really looking forward to coming to Big Spring,” he said. “We’re looking forward to having them here.”

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ROCKETS

Continued from Page 1B

and hustle. Our last two games, we haven’t been close to that.”

The Rockets, coming off a 91-89 victory over New Orleans on Sunday, led by as many as 19 points after Lowry’s jumper made it 87-68 early in the fourth quarter and Portland fans started heading for the exits.

McMillan said after Sunday’s game that the team would need time to adjust to the addition of Gerald Wallace, acquired in a deadline trade with the Bobcats, and

the return of center Marcus Camby and Brandon Roy from injuries. Apparently it was still a work in progress.

“We’re not even close to what we saw tonight,” McMillan said. “We know we’re better than that.”

Martin believes the Blazers are dealing with the same problems Houston had struggled with before the trades.

“I think over on the Portland bench they’re going through what we went through all year — just too many quality wings. Now we can just do our three-guard rotation and find a rhythm out there.”

Martin’s 3-pointer in the first quarter put the Rockets up 24-17. It was the first of three straight 3s for Houston, with Lowry adding two more.

Lowry hit another 3-pointer that made it 49-40 and the Rockets went on to lead 53-42 at the half.

Three Houston players were in double figures at the break: Martin (12), Lowry (13) and Scola (10).

The Rockets opened the second half with an 8-2 run, capped by Budinger’s dunk that made it 61-44. Martin hit a 3-pointer that extended it to 73-57.

Wallace hit consecutive 3-pointers for Portland to narrow it to 75-64, but the Rockets would outscore Portland 10-4 and lead 87-68 after Lowry’s jumper.

Budinger finished with 14 points.

Martin had scored at least 30 points in three straight games, but the Rockets did not need such an outburst against the Blazers. Houston shot 58 from the floor.

“We’re a good team,” Lowry said. “Our record doesn’t show it, but we’re a good team capable of winning games.”

The Blazers were without Rudy Fernandez, who had the flu.

Portland signed center Jarron Collins earlier Tuesday to a 10-day contract. The 6-foot-11 Collins has averaged 3.9 points and 2.9 rebounds in 537 NBA games over 10 years. He has played for Utah, Phoenix and the Clippers.

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RANGERS

Continued from Page 1B

Bradley’s main competition in left field.

Adam Kennedy and catcher prospect Steven Baron hit solo home runs for Seattle.

The Rangers scored two runs in the third inning on an RBI groundout by David Murphy and two-out double by Brian Barden, then got two more in the ninth on a two-run single from Chris Davis.

Matt Harrison pitched two innings for the Rangers and gave up Kenne-

dy’s homer.

“I kind of made a bad decision going in (with the count) 3-1, and he turned on it,” Harrison said.

Nate Robertson, trying to win a spot in the Mariners’ rotation, gave up three hits and struck out three in two innings.

Notes: Rangers C Yorvit Torrealba was a late scratch from the Texas lineup due to lower back stiffness.

... Rangers RHP Brandon Webb, a former Cy Young Award winner who has dealt with injuries the past two years, threw a 15-minute bullpen session Tuesday morning and got through it without any problems or concerns.

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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.

SPECIMEN COLLECTOR needed in Big Spring area. Must have good driving record. Will train. Salary DOE. Please call 432-264-7506.



The Brogdon Company Inc. is seeking **CDL DRIVERS** with a min 1yr experience to move Heavy Equipment in the Permian Basin area. Great Pay & Benefits. Call (940)447-6787 leave message.

VAN DRIVER/ CAREGIVER- Work 1:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m. at Jack & Jill Child Care. Later hours also available. Apply in person at Jack & Jill, 1708 Nolan.

WAREHOUSE DELIVERY Some heavy lifting required. 9:00-5:30. Apply @ Elrod's Furniture, 2309 Scurry, Big Spring. No Phone Calls Please!

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.

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HOT ITEM!!

Owner Selling/Not Financing: Very clean, 2bdrm, 1bath, brick, open plan, CH/A, large lot, laundry-room, storage shed, fenced backyard 1408 East 18th. \$59,000.00. (432)213-2828 after 5:00

NICE NEIGHBORHOOD----- 3 Bdrm, 1 bath with garage. Huge Corner Lot. Under Remodel. Financing Available. \$79,900.00. Call (432)517-0062.

OWNER FINANCE- 710 East 15th. 3 bedroom, 1 bath, fenced yard, garage. Easy Terms. \$35,000.00. Call 325-277-4923.

OWNER FINANCE!! \$3,950.00 Down, \$535.30 month (PNI). 1403 Tucson 3 bdrm, 1 bath in Big Spring. Call (806)438-5557.

OWNER WILL Finance. Remodeled 1304 Johnson St. \$4000.00 down, \$489.00 month. Call Patience (432)349-5242.

OWNER WILL Finance. Remodeled 3 Bdrm, 1 bath Brick House- 2535 Gunter Circle. CH/A, \$4000. down, Neg. \$550. month. Call Patience (432)349-5242.

REDUCED!! GREAT Location. New Construction @ 507 Oak Glen- 3 bedrooms, 2-1/2 baths, in Highland South on approx. 1 acre. \$249,900. Call (432)816-3877 or (432)816-9215 for additional information.

RENT to OWN- 1204 Stanford 3/1, \$5000.00 Down, \$468. month. Under Remodel. Call (432)212-3646.

Legals

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT

ConocoPhillips Company, 3300 N.A. Street, Building 6, Midland, TX 79705, is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas to amend the disposal permit to dispose fluid into a formation that is productive of oil or gas. The applicant proposes to dispose fluid into the Glorieta formation, Settles, W.R. -C-, Well No. 9D. This well is a disposal well and ConocoPhillips is amending the interval and volume in the same formation. The well is located 2 miles South from Forsan, Texas, in the Howard Glasscock (Glorieta) Field in Glasscock County, Texas. Fluid will be injected into the subsurface depth interval of 2963'-3400'.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the 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 Division, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Drawer 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, TX 78711. (Telephone (512)463-6792). #6904 March 2, 2011

Generous souls know the secret: There's a high that comes from giving that cannot be obtained in any other way. The Aquarius moon suggests that the fastest way to happiness is to try to make others happy. The Pisces sun reminds us that we don't all want the same things. Use your powers of empathy to sense the needs of others.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You really don't feel that you have to beat anyone else in order to win at life. Since you don't have any worries about being inferior or superior to anyone, you treat everyone as an equal and are accepted by all you meet.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll observe others without feeling the need to judge them. It's not because you're trying to be a saint, but because you realize that non-judgment allows you to see and know more about the way things really are.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It will feel as though you can communicate with the elements. The ancient Egyptians believed everything was alive, including the rocks and the rivers. You'll relate to the world as though this is true today.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll meet a potential friend. This one is a true kindred spirit and requires you to be nothing other than who you are. You won't need to promote yourself or

Tomorrow's Horoscope

put on any kind of affectation. You're perfect "as-is."

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There is little room for compromise in some of your relationships, and this causes stress for you today. Luckily, you have a heavenly place in your own mind where you can go when you need relief and relaxation.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Changes are on the way. Go with what feels right. There is an idea unfolding in your life that will, once completely unfurled, transform your environment and your schedule.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You have an eye for the immaterial. You see beyond the solid form of things and people you encounter. You experience the energy firsthand and make your decisions based on that alone.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll be able to feel the force of goodness at work in your life. It's comforting to realize that this is something that's bigger than you — bigger than any individual on the planet.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're headed for an awe-inspiring encounter. You don't have to go out of your way to find it, either. All you have to do is shift your perspective. Everything around you is miraculous if you choose to see it that way.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your experiences will shape you. Whoever you are at the start of the day, you'll be someone different at the end of the day. The

changes will be subtle yet undeniable.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll be offered a gift that will test your grace. You can resist the gift because it makes you feel flustered and unworthy. Or you can simply smile and accept it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There is much to appreciate around you. You've seen it before, but you'll notice it in a new way today. Dare to be excited. Enthusiasm is the nectar of the gods.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 2). Your talents will be recognized and celebrated. The next 10 weeks will boost your social status — one relationship will be particularly fulfilling. You'll travel in style in May. You'll be in a position to help loved ones in June. July features increased self-discipline. Wedding bells ring in September. You share a special connection with Gemini and Libra people. Your lucky numbers are: 16, 33, 2, 15 and 46.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I have no willpower. Why was I born without it? I'm a Virgo. My sign is supposed to have self-discipline. Also, you have often written that Virgos are health-conscious. This doesn't describe me at all. I am more than 100 pounds overweight, so how can this be true? And how can a Virgo attain self-control?"

I'm sensing from your letter that being overweight does bother you, and that you'd like to have more self-discipline. These desires are very much in line

with the energy of Virgo. The key to self-control is always in the present moment. "Now" is the only moment we can influence. However, with good preparation, you can set yourself up for success in the "now" moment. For instance, if you have healthy foods around you that you eat frequently throughout the day, your body won't get so hungry that you cave in and drive through the fast-food line. If you have your water bottle out and remind yourself to drink plenty of water all day long, you won't mistake feelings of thirst for feelings of hunger and eat more than you need. Consider whether you are currently setting yourself up for success or failure, and make adjustments as needed.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Pisces pop star Ke\$ha is getting used to debuting at the top of the Billboard charts. This second-generation songwriter learned to write and record songs from her mother, who gave Ke\$ha lessons after school. Pisces is the sign of old souls, and it is not unusual for Pisces children to have a strong sense of what their career will be and to even begin work as a minor.

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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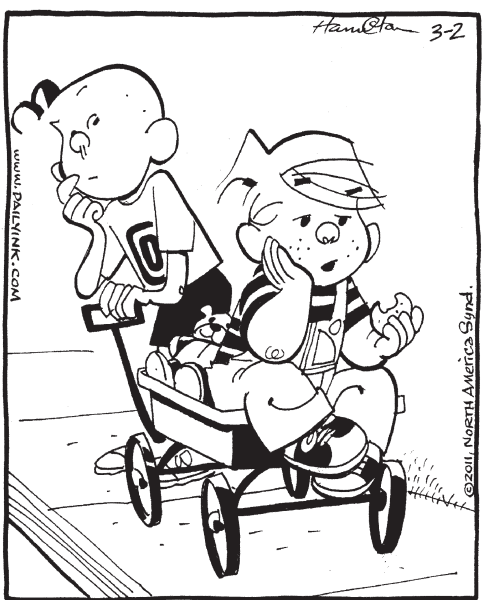
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	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5:PM	News ABC	Alma	Lopez	News	Noticias	News	Seinfeld	CCM	World	Lyrics!	Cash Cab	Darby	Ways Die	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas	Nation	SportsCenter
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Llena de Amor (SS)	Two Men	News	Caso Cer-rado	News	King	Faye H.	Business	70s Show	American Chopper		Ways Die	Bones		Deck	Pardon	
7:PM	Wheel	Eva Luna (SS)	American Idol	Survivor-Is-land	Aurora (SS)	Millionaire	King	Cortes	PBS News-Hour	70s			Ways Die	Bones		Good	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	College Basketball: Teams TBA.
8:PM	Family Sunshine	Triunfo del Amor	Traffic	Criminal Minds	Herederos-Monte	Minute to Win It	Browns	Upd House	American Masters	Top Model	Sons	Movie: Tombstone, Michael Biehn	Ways Die	Bones		Tinker Bell and the Lost		
9:PM	Off the Map	Rosa de Guadalupe	Simpsons	C.M.: Sus-pect	La Reina del Sur	Law & Order: SVU	Payne	Payne	Great Performances	Married Married	Desert Car Kings		Ways Die	Bones		Deck	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	College Basketball: Teams TBA.
10:PM	News	Impacto	How I Met	News	Noticias	News	Conan	Uri Harel	Charlie Rose	King	Sons	Movie: The Quick and the Dead, Russell Crowe	Ways Die	Southland	The Mo'Nique	Good	College Basketball	SportsCenter
11:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	La Verdad Oculta	Law & Order: SVU	Late	Decisiones (SS)	Late Night	Conan	Lopez Tonight	World	South Pk	Sons		Ways Die	UFC's Ultimate Fight Night	CSI: NY	Wendy Williams	Hannah	NFL Live
12:AM	Extra	Tontas Cielo	Paid	Insider	Pagado	News	Conan	Israel	T. Smiley (Off Air)	South Pk	Sons		Ways Die	CSI: NY	Movie: The Great Debaters, Nate Parker	Wizards	Final	SportsCenter
1:AM	Paid	Mujer... Cero	King-Hill	(:37) Up to	Pagado	Poker After Dark	Lopez Tonight	Light of the Southwest		Gospel	Overhaul'n	Tripp	Breaking Bad	Disorderly Con.	Leverage	Suite Life	NASCAR	

DENNIS THE MENACE



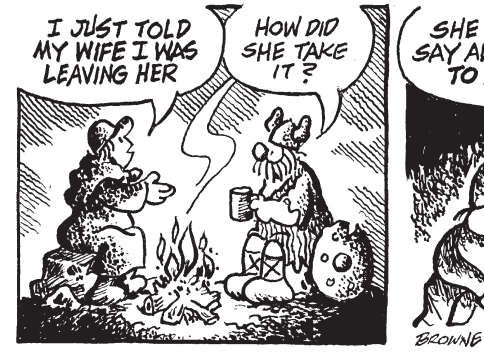
"MOM SAYS I'M AT THAT AWKWARD AGE... TOO OLD FOR BABY POWDER AN TOO YOUNG FOR COLOGNE."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

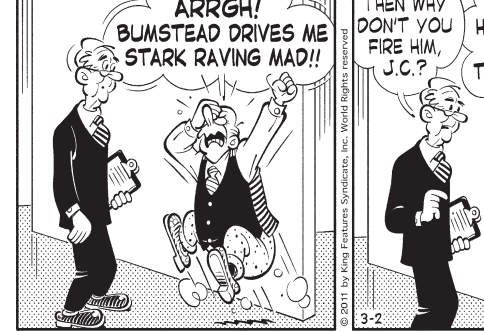


"But I'm not too sick to watch TV. I'm just too sick to go to school!"

HAGAR



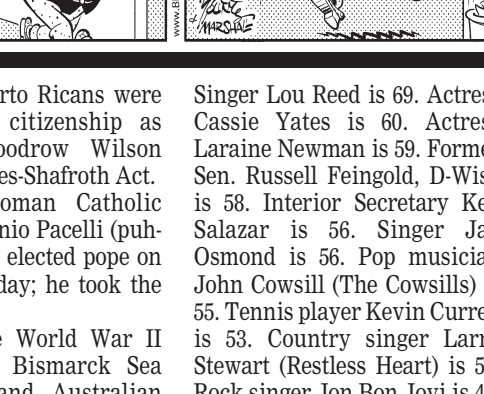
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WIZARD OF ID



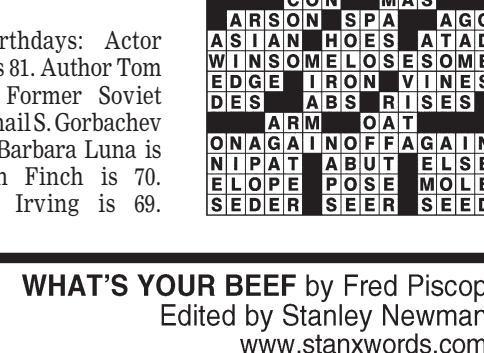
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HI AND LOIS



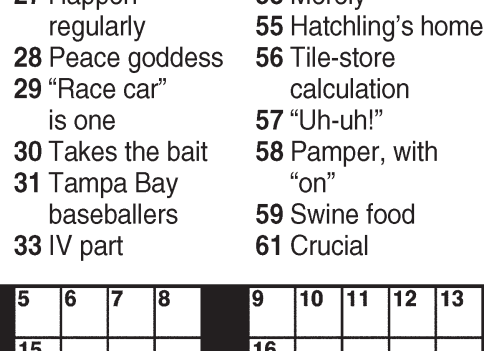
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, March 2, the 61st day of 2011. There are 304 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

- On March 2, 1861, the state of Texas, having seceded from the Union, was admitted to the Confederacy. The Territory of Nevada came into existence under an act signed by President James Buchanan.
- On this date: In 1793, the first president of the Republic of Texas, Sam Houston, was born near Lexington, Va.
- In 1836, the Republic of Texas formally declared its independence from Mexico.
- In 1877, Republican Rutherford B. Hayes was declared the winner of the 1876 presidential election over Democrat Samuel J. Tilden, even though Tilden had won the popular vote.
- In 1899, Mount Rainier National Park in Washington state was established.

In 1917, Puerto Ricans were granted U.S. citizenship as President Woodrow Wilson signed the Jones-Shafroth Act.

In 1939, Roman Catholic Cardinal Eugenio Pacelli (punchline 'ee) was elected pope on his 63rd birthday; he took the name Pius XII.

In 1943, the World War II Battle of the Bismarck Sea began; U.S. and Australian warplanes were able to inflict heavy damage on a Japanese convoy.

In 1977, the U.S. House of Representatives adopted a strict code of ethics.

In 1989, representatives from the 12 European Community nations agreed to ban all production of CFC's (chlorofluorocarbons) by the end of the 20th century.

In 1990, more than 6,000 drivers went on strike against Greyhound Lines Inc. (The company, later declaring an impasse in negotiations, fired the strikers.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor John Cullum is 81. Author Tom Wolfe is 81. Former Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev is 80. Actress Barbara Luna is 72. Actor Jon Finch is 70. Author John Irving is 69.

Singer Lou Reed is 69. Actress Cassie Yates is 60. Actress Laraine Newman is 59. Former Sen. Russell Feingold, D-Wis., is 58. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar is 56. Singer Jay Osmond is 56. Pop musician John Cowsill (The Cowsills) is 55. Tennis player Kevin Curren is 53. Country singer Larry Stewart (Restless Heart) is 52. Rock singer Jon Bon Jovi is 49. Blues singer-musician Alvin Youngblood Hart is 48. Actor Daniel Craig is 43. Rock musician Casey (Jimmie's Chicken Shack) is 35. Rock singer Chris Martin (Coldplay) is 34. Actress Heather McComb is 34. Actress Bryce Dallas Howard is 30. NFL quarterback Ben Roethlisberger is 29. Actor Robert Iler ("The Sopranos") is 26.

Answer to previous puzzle

SAPS	CLAD	SCRAP
CURL	RICE	ELATE
AREA	ANTE	EUROS
MAYBE	YESMAY	BENO
CON	MAS	
ARSON	SPA	AGO
ASIAN	HOES	ATAD
WINSOME	LOSESOME	
EDGE	IRON	VINES
DES	ABS	RISES
ARM	OAT	
ONAGA	INNOF	FAGAIN
NIPAT	ABUT	ELSE
ELOPE	POSE	MOLE
SEDER	SEER	SEED

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Spray setting
 - 5 Verdi piece
 - 9 Mattress problems
 - 14 Biblical preposition
 - 15 Clears after taxes
 - 16 Like most people
 - 17 Con game
 - 18 Diplomat's asset
 - 19 Arroz con ___
 - 20 Black belt's blows
 - 23 London's ___ Gardens
 - 24 The one yonder
 - 25 Borscht ingredient
 - 27 Remove, as a page
 - 30 Swimsuit part
 - 32 Butcher's cut
 - 35 Epoch
 - 36 TV, radio, newspapers, etc.
 - 38 Concerto instrument
 - 39 Belittlement
 - 42 Volts or meters
 - 43 Under siege
 - 44 Penta- minus two
 - 45 Become a lessee
 - 46 Wild equine
 - 47 Seven Sisters school
 - 49 Do business
 - 51 Son of Adam
 - 52 Palme ___ (Cannes film award)
 - 54 Tourney conclusions

- DOWN
- 1 Cologne scent
 - 2 Machu Picchu native
 - 3 Have the lead
 - 4 Salsa chunk
 - 5 Sticky-tongued animal
 - 6 Strike back
 - 7 Result of some bites
 - 8 Regarding, in memos
 - 9 Fall into disuse
 - 10 GI support grp.
 - 11 Sweet breakfast items
 - 12 Drained of color
 - 13 February forecast
 - 21 Hitchhikers' digits
 - 22 Keglers' org.
 - 26 Director Kazan
 - 27 Happen regularly
 - 28 Peace goddess
 - 29 "Race car" is one
 - 30 Takes the bait
 - 31 Tampa Bay baseballers
 - 33 IV part
 - 34 Respectful turnaround
 - 37 First claim, informally
 - 38 Gnocchi ingredient
 - 40 Suffix for novel
 - 41 Full of awe
 - 46 "The greatest" boxer
 - 48 "Zip your lip!"
 - 50 In flames
 - 51 More cagey
 - 52 Judge to be
 - 53 Merely
 - 55 Hatchling's home
 - 56 Tile-store calculation
 - 57 "Uh-uh!"
 - 58 Pamper, with "on"
 - 59 Swine food
 - 61 Crucial

WHAT'S YOUR BEEF by Fred Piscop

Edited by Stanley Newman

www.stanxwords.com

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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