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Teacher contracts up in air

Full text of Supt. Steven Saldivar's letter to employees, Page 3A.

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Faced with an uncertain financial future, Big Spring Independent School District officials are hitting the brakes temporarily on teacher contract renewals.

school districts typically renew teacher contracts in March, but school trustees will discuss putting that action off for a month when they meet at 5:15 p.m. Thursday in the high school board room.

With the future of state aid to school districts so uncertain while state legislators struggle to adjust to a multi-billion-dollar shortfall, many districts, including nearby Midland ISD, have delayed

teacher contract renewals for the time being until the budgetary picture coming out of Austin becomes clearer.

Districts stand to lose millions of dollars in state aid this year — in Big Spring alone, estimates of lost state revenue for the coming budget cycle vary between \$3 million and \$5 million.

And considering that personnel costs make up a huge majority — 77 percent — of

What: Big Spring ISD board meeting.

Where: Big Spring High School board room, 707 E. 11th Place.

When: 5:15 p.m. Thursday.

budget costs locally, BSISD personnel are concerned what that will mean to their job security.

Sandra Waggoner, who has been BSISD's chief financial officer for the past 10 years, said this is "by far" the worst budget situation seen locally during her tenure.

"We're hoping to get the budget (for the next fiscal year) balanced, but it's not there yet," Waggoner said. "There has been some discussion among our legislators

See **BSISD**, Page 3A

VA sets town hall meeting

Herald Staff Report

The Big Spring VA Medical Center will host a town hall meeting Thursday to discuss upcoming changes planned for the hospital in the coming year.

The meeting will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday in the outpatient lobby of the medical center, located at 300 Veterans Blvd.

Daniel Marsh, director of the West Texas VA Health Care System, said that WTVAHCS leadership will provide information regarding newly implemented programs, changes to existing programs and some future programs in the planning phase. Construction and staffing plans also will be shared.

"Previous VA town hall meetings have proven very successful and informative to veterans who may have questions or concerns regarding the Department of Veterans Affairs policies and procedures,

See **VA**, Page 3A



Cars, Stars and HandleBars will be having its fifth annual fund-raiser April 2 at the Big Spring Country Club. There will be 750 tickets sold for \$100 each. The cost includes hors d'oeuvres and entertainment and the opportunity to win a 2011 Ford Fusion SE, 2011 Silverado 1500 extended cab pickup or a 2011 Harley Davidson motorcycle. Tickets can be purchased at Classic Cleaners, State National Bank, Citizens Bank, Wells Fargo, Lonestar Bank, American State Bank and Western Bank in Coahoma. Pictured above is Stacy Barr with one of the vehicles for this year's fund-raiser, which benefits Big Spring State Hospital.

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City council approves mandate resolutions

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Big Spring City Council took a step against unfunded state mandates during its meeting Tuesday night, approving resolutions supporting House Joint Resolution 56 and Senate Joint Resolution (SJR) 17.

During its Feb. 22 meeting, the council had already approved first reading of the resolution supporting House Joint Resolution 56, which calls for a constitutional amendment prohibiting unfunded and under funded mandates passed down from

the state level to city and county governments.

"No bill enacted by the legislature on or after Jan. 1, 2012, requiring a local government to establish, expand or modify a duty or activity that requires the expenditure of revenue by the local government shall be effective until and unless the legislature appropriates or otherwise provides for the payment or reimbursement, from a source other than the revenue of the local government, or the costs incurred for the biennium by the local government in complying with the requirement," Mayor Tommy Duncan said,

reading the details of the proposed bill to the council and audience during the previous meeting.

Approval of the final reading of the resolution passed by a unanimous vote Tuesday, as did emergency reading of SJR 17, a joint senate bill that mirrors the house bill.

"Texas is having problems financially, as all states are. We understand the cuts are coming in various areas," Duncan said. "However, if the state mandates that we do things by eliminating their requirements to provide

See **CITY**, Page 3A

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Opal Evelyn Mealer



Ms. Opal Evelyn Mealer, 90, of Big Spring passed away Monday, March 7, 2011, in Big Spring. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday, March 10, 2011, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. R.T. Havener, retired Assembly of God minister, officiating. Interment will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 9, 2011, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel.

Ms. Mealer was born March 18, 1920, in Paris, Texas, to Clem and Cora Wilkerson before the family settled in Big Spring. She came to Big Spring in 1929 and attended Big Spring schools. On April 29, 1936, she married Robert Odell Mealer in Ellijay, Ga. The couple soon began the ever-growing family that would serve as both her source of joy and inspiration throughout her life.

Classy, with an easy knack for flamboyance, Ms. Mealer was known for her impeccable style and insatiable appetite for laughter and a well-told yarn. As her first name implied, she had the ability to dazzle any room. Ms. Mealer could feed a household on a moment's notice, and her coconut pies were legendary across the state.

She could also sing. A gifted soprano, Ms. Mealer performed regularly with gospel groups across West Texas, appearing on local radio shows, in concert halls, conventions and many a revival meeting. She also sang in the choir at First Assembly of God in Big Spring, where she was a loyal member for 75 years. Even in her last days, surrounded by family and cherished friends, Ms. Mealer carried a song in her heart.

Ms. Mealer worked with her sister-in-law, Opal Wilkerson, and her niece, Evelyn Bender, at Miss Royale from 1970 to 1987. She then worked as a cashier at Herman's Restaurant for 12 years before retiring.

She is survived by four children, Zeldia and Charles Odom of San Antonio, Norma Lee of Big Spring, Preston and Linda Mealer of Pearland and Bobby and Sharon Mealer of San Antonio; two sisters, Veda White of Dickinson and Juanita Bryant of Odessa; one brother, Ed Wilkerson of Big Spring; 10 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren and 10 great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Robert, on Oct. 3, 1983; and her parents, brothers and sisters, Agnes Altom, Dorothy Miller and Tutor, Herman and Fred Wilkerson.

Her family would like to thank the staff at Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation Center and Home Hospice for their compassionate service and friendship.

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

Obituaries

Stormee Kay Nix



Stormee Kay Nix, 31, of Big Spring went home to be with her precious father March 5, 2011, from a tragic car accident. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, March 10, 2011, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Alan Wallace, pastor of Peoples Fellowship Church of the Nazarene in Lubbock, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Wednesday, March 9, 2011, at the funeral home.

Stormee was born Jan. 3, 1980, in Big Spring to Teresa Nix, but by the love of Teresa was later adopted by L.G. and Anne Nix, which was a glorious day in their lives. Stormee was a character; her personality was one of a kind. She was funny and loved to have a good time. Needless to say, she loved and enjoyed life to the fullest.

She touched everyone she was around and loved her family and friends more than words can say. She met the love of her life, Michael Alexander, and they had two beautiful children. Her children made each day of her life worth living. They were the sparkle of her eye. She was so truly loved by many and will be missed by all.

She is survived by her husband, Michael Alexander; two beautiful sons, Keagan Earls and Kason Alexander, all of Big Spring; one beautiful daughter, Kylee Alexander of Big Spring; her mothers, Anne Nix and Teresa Brockman, both of Big Spring; her sisters, Jeannie and husband Russ Rutledge, Shari Beall, Shawna and husband Bubba Parrish, Tina and husband Eddie Earls and Karla Nix, all of Big Spring, and Shari Mintz of Iraan; her brothers, Ray and wife Dana Nix of Big Spring and Jerry and wife Texana Mintz of Iraan; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Mike and Pam Jones; her sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, Kimberly and Jesse Barrera, Tashia Alexander, Jolie Jones and Aaron Dehoyos and Kelly and Brian Portillo; as well as numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her father, L.G. Nix; grandparents, Ray and Jonnie Faye Maxwell, and Lela and Dub Nix; and brother-in-law, Bobby Beall. They are now all rejoicing in heaven as we speak.

The family requests in lieu of flowers donations to be made to their favorite charity.

Pallbearers include Steven Croft, Stetson Earls, Colby Nix, Jerry Mann, Brian Portillo, Junior Barrera, Aaron Dehoyos and Mike Jones.

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

Catherine Green



Catherine Green, 94, of Big Spring died Saturday, March 5, 2011, at Marcy House. Graveside services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday at Mount Olive Memorial Park with the Rev. Joey Bacon officiating.

She was born Feb. 12, 1917, to Amy Jane and Volney Gordon Callahan. She lived her early life in Ackerly. She moved to California during World War II, returning to Big Spring 16 years ago. She had worked at Sears.

She is survived by a daughter-in-law, Carolyn Sagnis of San Diego, Calif.; one sister-in-law, Johnnie Callahan of Big Spring; two nephews; and two nieces.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Harry E. Green; son, E. Don Green; and one brother, Leon B. Callahan.

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

Maurice Gabriel Bennett



Maurice (Mo) Gabriel Bennett, 70, died Monday, March 7, 2011, at Midland Memorial Hospital Hospice In-Patient Unit. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. Dennis Teeters officiating. Burial with military honors will follow at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

He was born June 3, 1940, in Raleigh, W. Va., to Ocie and T.R. Bennett.

Mo was a member of the US Army's 101st Airborne "Screaming Eagles." He also served in the Navy aboard the USS Lexington. He married Evelyn Ann Paul. He was a truck driver for 40 years then became a certified diesel mechanic.

He is survived by his wife, Evelyn Bennett; one son, Brandon Baker and wife Kasey; one daughter, Tori Grantom and husband James; one brother, Dan Bennett; and five grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; mother and father-in-law, Evelyn and Joe Paul; one niece; and three brothers.

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

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Saldivar's letter to BSISD staff

Editor's note: Following is the full letter sent by Big Spring Independent School District Superintendent Steven Saldivar to district employees concerning the decision to delay teacher contract renewals:

March 9, 2011

Staff Members:

Texas school districts are being forced to make very tough fiscal decisions due to the huge shortfall being faced by the Texas Legislature. Big Spring ISD's top priority for the 2011-2012 school year is staffing. With seventy-seven percent of our total budget being personnel cost and a possible \$4 million reduction in state funding, the central administration has been working on a variety of measures to cut spending. One measure that has been undertaken is the Early Notification Incentive Offer that was taken advantage of by approximately forty district employees.

As we work our way through next year's budget, our priority is to keep the employees we currently have on staff. With hard economic times looming, many positions that would normally be replaced may not be replaced and thus we will more than likely lose the positions that have been eliminated due to resignations. We are hoping that through attrition we can greatly impact the \$4 million loss in state funding. Our top priority is to save as many classroom teachers as possible, but we understand tough financial times call for tough decisions.

Our next step is to meet with campus administrators and program directors to find out what positions need to be replaced, what adjustments in assignments can be made or if there are other campus/program expenses that can be cut.

We are required to issue teacher contracts at least 45 days before the end of school; however, that is more than a month before the state legislature presents the district with the final budget numbers. With this in mind, the district will not be making teacher recommendations until after we have had time to meet with the principals and directors and study in-depth each individual campus's/program's needs; then we will be able to make the best decision for the education of our students.

In order to accomplish this, we are going to delay making teacher recommendations to the Board until April 7. Employees that will be affected by personnel changes will be notified prior to the April 7 Board meeting.

Sincerely,
Steven Saldivar
 Superintendent

BSISD

Continued from Page 1A

about using the 'rainy day fund' to make up some of the shortfall ... so we're hoping we get some relief."

School administrators, including Superintendent Steven Saldivar, have said for months that cutting staff would be the last option officials consider, and they are hopeful another month will bring better fiscal news from legislators.

In a letter to BSISD employees, Saldivar said school officials are doing everything they can to avoid firings or layoffs, but added that tough choices will have to be made in the coming months.

"With hard economic times looming, many positions that would normally be replaced may not be replaced and thus we will more than likely lose the positions that have been eliminated due to resignations," the letter stated. "We are hoping that, through attrition, we can greatly impact the (estimated) \$4 million loss in state funding. Our top priority

is to save as many classroom teachers as possible, but we understand tough financial times call for tough decisions."

Officials are hopeful that normal attrition through resignation or retirement will alleviate the need for further personnel level cuts. To that end, BSISD offered personnel a \$1,000 "early notification incentive" to employees who gave resignation/retirement notice prior to March 1.

Waggoner said approximately 40 employees took advantage of the offer.

Saldivar said officials will meet with campus administrators and program directors to "find out what positions need to be replaced, what adjustments in assignments can be made or if there are other campus or program expenses that can be cut."

But Saldivar also noted that BSISD doesn't want to make any final personnel decisions until officials get a better idea of what state funding levels will be in the coming fiscal year.

"We are required to issue teacher contracts at least 45 days before the end of school; how-

ever, that is more than a month before the state legislature presents the district with the final budget numbers," his letter stated. "With this in mind, the district will not be making teacher recommendations until after we have had time to meet with the principals and directors and study in-depth each individual campus/program need; then we will be able to make the best decision for the education of our students."

"In order to accomplish this, we are going to delay making teacher recommendations to the (school board) until April 7," Saldivar added. "Employees who will be affected by personnel changes will be notified prior to the April 7 board meeting."

One area that will not be effected will be the upcoming school construction projects.

"Those are not even part of our maintenance and operation budget, so there won't be any effect on those projects," Waggoner said.

In other business Thursday, trustees will consider:

- Bids for the demolition of the College Heights campus build-

ing.

- Prevailing wage rates for the upcoming construction projects.

- Expedited waivers for early release days, TAKS testing days and staff development days.

- Employment recommendations.

Lottery

The winning numbers in Tuesday evening's drawing of the "Mega Millions" game were: 03-17-19-41-55, Mega Ball: 24.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 19-24-29-30-37.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn by the Texas Lottery, in order: 2-6-6-2. Sum It Up: 16.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn by the Texas Lottery, in order: 9-1-3. Sum It Up: 13.

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Thomas H. Weaver, 85, died Friday. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at the Texas State Veterans Cemetery at Abilene.

Catherine Green, 94, died Saturday. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Maurice Bennett, 70, died Monday. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial with military honors will be at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

CITY

Continued from Page 1A

services and mandate we do it, we don't want to be stuck with that bill. This is an emergency reading and we asked for that so we could send these resolutions (of support), one to the Texas House and one to the Texas Senate, at the same time."

Also during Tuesday night's meeting, the council approved:

- The Big Spring Economic Development Corporation's annual audit the year ending Sept. 30, 2010. Auditor Dale Newberry gave the agency a clean bill of fiscal health.

- First reading of an ordinance amending the the annual budget for

the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2011, to increase the Motel Tax Fund budget to provide additional event funding. The budget will be increased by \$50,000 from the fund to cover funding for events in the Crossroads area.

- First reading of a resolution authorizing the city manager or his designee to approve the terms and conditions of an inter-local agreement with the Harris County Department of

Education, which sponsors Choice Facility Partners.

- Approval of an agreement with Buxton Company for a retail development strategy and authorizing the city manager to execute any necessary documents.

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

VA

Continued from Page 1A

benefits and medical services," Marsh said in a statement.

Following the presentations by VA staff, there will be a question and answer session. Questions of general nature will be discussed in open forum. Questions

or issues involving a Veteran's personal health care will be addressed by VA staff members in confidential session following the meeting.

Veterans who have questions regarding this Town Hall Meeting are encouraged to contact Public Affairs Officer Iva Jo Hanslik at 264-4824 or 1-800-472-1365, ext. 4824.

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EDITORIAL

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-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	Amanda Moreno Staff Writer	Thomas Jenkins Staff Writer

OUR VIEWS

Can prayer bring rain?

As summer approaches and the temperatures begin to heat up, the importance of water becomes more and more evident.

The recent fires and increased fire danger also brings up another importance of how much water is needed.

Water may have become such an overlooked part of our day to day lives, but it's undeniable that water is important and irreplaceable.

The lack of water affects the growth of our crops and the ability to keep lawns green and presentable.

It also has an affect on ranchers and their ability to keep their animals hydrated.

As temperatures increase, the ground begins to become drier and the fire dangers increase.

Of course, the simple solution would be to keep areas watered and trimmed, but there are some areas that rely solely on Mother Nature and the moisture she brings.

The longer the period without moisture the more it will take to rehydrate the area. It has already been a substantial amount of time and there still seems to be no rain in the forecast.

The issue of water has been a hot topic for a few months now and will only continue to be an issue at the forefront.

The lack of rain affects everyone.

Area lake levels will continue to lower and the water supplies will continue to diminish, which will result in increased calls for rationing.

Steps can be taken to reduce the consumption of water, but nothing will solve the problem without the sources being re-filled.

This Thursday, area residents will unite to pray for rain. The meeting will take place at First Baptist Church at 7 p.m.

It doesn't matter what your religion may be, the fact of the matter is rain is needed at this time and any means that might help should be exercised.

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

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The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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- 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

Is the President out of the cold?

President Barack Obama has made it official.

"Look, I definitely feel folks' pain," he said at a recent news conference.

And he is definitely doing some painful things in his new budget.

The president said he is "cutting things I care about deeply," and these "are all programs that I wouldn't be cutting if we were in a better fiscal situation. But we're not."

Unfortunately, one of the things he is cutting back is something that makes him look cruel, heartless and uncaring. It makes him look like one of those old silent-film bankers with top hats and handlebar mustaches who throw widows out into the snow.

The program Obama intends to cut has a particularly unpleasant-sounding acronym: LIHEAP. It stands for Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, and it gives money to poor people who cannot pay their heating bills in winter.

(The program also gives aid to those who cannot pay their air conditioning bills in summer. This sounds like a luxury item, until you consider that during a heat wave in Chicago in 1995, some 750 people died over a five-day period because they didn't have air conditioning or they couldn't afford to turn it on.)

This winter has been a particularly brutal one for the people who live in the Midwestern and Northeastern United States, and LIHEAP has undoubtedly kept some of them alive.

So what is President Obama proposing in the budget he released this week? He is going to cut LIHEAP funding in half, from \$5.1 billion to \$2.5 billion.

Nearly 9 million people currently get such funding, and according to the National Journal, which broke the story, the "American Gas Association predicts that 3 million Americans eligible for the program won't be able to receive it unless LIHEAP funding stays at its current level."

"LIHEAP has been semi-sacred for most Democrats and many Republicans," the magazine

said, "a program that carries an emotional resonance, as it was designed to keep poor people, particularly older poor people, cool in the summer and warm in the winter."

Obama defended the cuts by saying he had doubled funding to the program when he first came into office because there was a huge spike in energy costs. "Energy prices have now gone down, but the costs of the program have stayed the same," Obama said Tuesday. "So what we've said is, well, let's go back to a more sustainable level."

If it turns out that once again you see a huge energy spike, then we can revisit it."

But National Public Radio White House correspondent Scott Horsley says there's some fuzzy — or maybe frosty — math going on there. Horsley said Obama's rationale for the drastic cut "is that the cost of heating fuels has fallen from the time when that budget was ramped up to \$5 billion a year. Now that is true for natural gas, which is a popular heating fuel. It's not true for heating oil, it's not true for electricity, and it's not true for kerosene. So there are people who really are going to be affected ..."

MODERATOR: And then the president is saying he feels that pain — to use a phrase from earlier.

HORSLEY: He feels that shiver.

Some say Obama has no intention of really cutting the program but just wants to show how serious he is about reducing the deficit and expects Congress to restore the LIHEAP funding. This may be true. But his threat has already had one beneficial effect.

All those Republicans who think Obama is a socialist should read the press release put out by the World Socialist Web Site, which is published by the

International Committee of the Fourth International, one of the Trotskyite branches of socialism.

"The axing of LIHEAP amounts to a literal death sentence for many of those unable to pay exorbitant utility rates," the socialist site say. "It will result in more freezing deaths in the winter and heat-related deaths during the summer, as well as more fatal house fires as victims of utility shutoffs desperately seek to keep their families warm in bitter cold temperatures."

Which sounds like Obama better turn in his party card. A number of lawmakers were also angry, though more measured in their language.

"There are many other areas of the budget that can be cut, and that would not result in such harmful consequences for our most vulnerable families and senior citizens," said Sen. Susan Collins, a Republican from Maine.

And Sen. Jon Tester, a Democrat from Montana, ripped Obama for cutting LIHEAP in order to fund more exotic schemes. "Talk about misplaced, off-track priorities," Tester said. "I won't support a budget that dumps billions of dollars into high-speed rail while cutting something as basic as heat for family homes across Montana and America."

As I said, Obama may be hoping enough members of Congress will heed the cries of angry constituents and restore the LIHEAP funding. But what if they don't?

In that case, the president may really feel the pain — the pain of being out in the political cold.

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.



In Wisconsin and Washington, broke ain't broke: It's a big lie

"America is not broke," filmmaker Michael

Moore told a group protesting against Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker's attempts to curb public employee union collective bargaining in Madison over the weekend.

"Neither is Wisconsin."

Forget Wisconsin's projected two-year \$3.6 billion budget shortfall. Forget this year's \$1.65 trillion in federal deficit spending. Any claim that Wisconsin — or Washington — is broke, Moore claimed, is "a Big Lie."

"We reject anyone who tells us America is broke and broken," he explained. When President George W. Bush was in the White House, Democrats railed against deficit spending. Now they don't even seem to notice red ink.

The new message: A government can't really be broke because politicians have the power to raise taxes.

In Moore's America, as long as lawmakers preside over spending increases, taxpayers have an obligation to keep ponying up — whether they like it or not.

It doesn't matter if voters send signals to stop the spending spree by electing more Republicans to the House, as well as governors like Walker. Public

employee unions have a "right" to engage in collective bargaining for benefits — even if federal workers don't have that power — but there is no right for voters to push for an end to the growth in spending.

Once a state spends, it must keep spending. It's like the SEIU lawsuit against then-Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's furlough policy for California public employees. The 2010 complaint lamented "the governor's unreasonable insistence to avoid tax increases to pay the judgment and to keep the state services intact."

Quoth Moore: "If those who have the most money don't pay their fair share of taxes, the state can't function." The filmmaker argues, the economy only suffers if the wealthy "get to keep most of their money." (My italics.)

I share much of Moore's rage at the Wall Street swells who side-swiped the American economy.

They bundled bad paper, sold it as good paper, and their only excuse is that, their bloated salaries notwithstanding, they really didn't know what they were doing.

But I am not so angry at the Wall Street meltdown that I want an America in which people who create wealth don't have title to most of their earnings and savings.

The top 1 percent of earners pays 38 percent of federal income taxes. Whether you consider that fair or not, noted Richard Morrison of the Tax Foundation, "at the very least we know that

'the rich' aren't dodging taxes in the way that populist critics frequently suggest."

This is where left-wing economists frequently invoke the historically highest marginal tax rate — 91 percent — under President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Not that they ever would advocate such a thing, mind you. They're just pointing it out. They don't argue that higher taxes will create more wealth so much as that higher taxes will create more equality. (If top earners leave the state, they're right.)

And apparently, the ticket to economic equality is for Americans to ignore the heavy load of debt that taxpayers must shoulder because politicians have handed out benefits and pensions to public workers regardless of the cost.

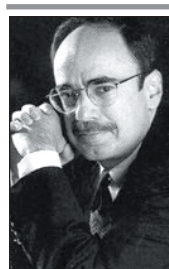
The answer to Wisconsin's woes — like the answer to America's red ink — is to keep feeding the beast.

"The country," Moore assures, "is awash in wealth and cash. It's just that it's not in your hands."

Then again, your hands are not really your hands, unless they're extracting more money from your wallet.

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.

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ROGER SIMON



DEBRA SAUNDERS

Why not check this out?

From some of my older columns, I am culling some books that you may have forgotten about or didn't know we had. In cooking, Paula Deen and her boys prepare delicious down home Southern meals. If one dollop of butter is good, then how about two or three? We have for you "The Lady and Sons, Too!" (641.597 DEE P); "The Lady and Sons Savannah Country Cookbook" (641.597 DEE P) and "The Lady and Sons Just Desserts" (641.597 DEE P). They are full of Southern dishes and recipes to make them.



HOLLIS McCRIGHT

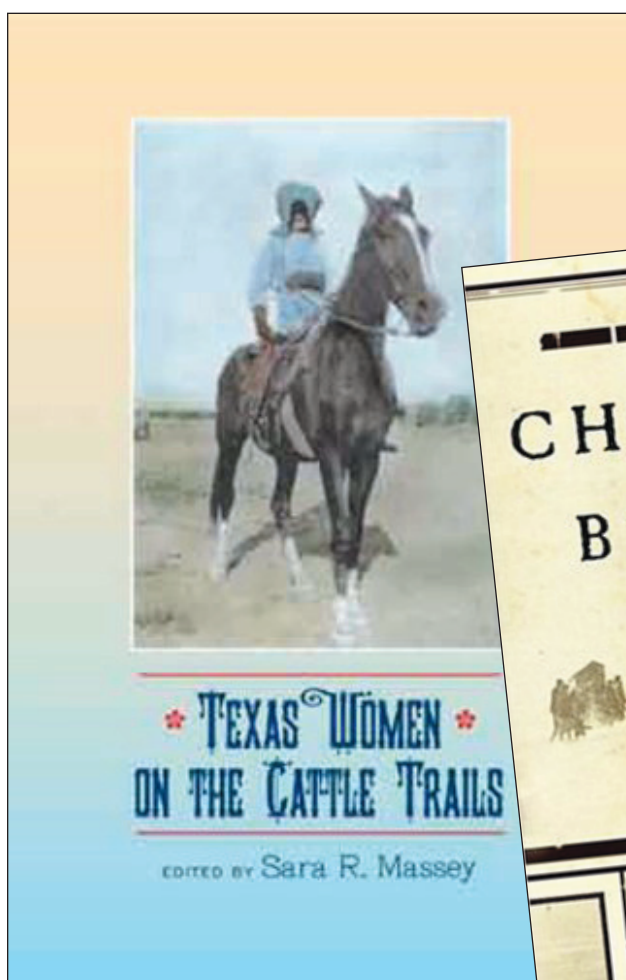
What with all the wind blowing and sand in the air, what about a blizzard that sweeps the Plains? If you have ever been caught out on the range working cattle when a blue norther blows in, then you know how quickly the temperature can drop. David Laskin has written a heartbreaking account of such a thing. January 12, 1888, began as an unseasonably warm morning across Nebraska, the Dakotas and Minnesota. It was so warm that children walked to school without coats or gloves. That afternoon, the sky exploded in a raging chaos of snow and hurricane force winds. By the next morning, Jan. 13 (yes, it was also a Friday) more than 500 people had perished on the plains, frozen to death. In "The Children's Blizzard" (978.02 LAS D), Laskin traces the stories of five families who were forever changed that day. Laskin draws on family interviews and memoirs as well as contemporary accounts. The library has received the IRS forms

and booklets. While we must charge for copies of forms, we are still the easiest place in town to obtain IRS forms. Please note that we do not physically have all the forms, but we can either pull it from www.irs.gov or tell you how to do it.

Knitting has turned into a big business! Knitting is no longer a job for maiden aunties or grannies, teenagers are learning how to knit. On our shelves is "Hip Knits: 65 Easy Projects" (746.432 BET H) from Better Homes and Gardens Publishing. Cabling, scallops, and patterns — all are terms associated with knitting. It has lots of cute projects just waiting for your knitting needles.

Is scrap booking your thing? Leeza Gibbons has written "Scrap-booking Traditions" (745.593 GIB L). It will give you additional ideas on personalizing your family scrap-books.

During the Depression era, the federal government devised various schemes to enable people to work and obtain a living wage. One of those programs was the WPA or Work's Progress Administration. If you remember, the Big Spring State Park was built by the CCC and the mural at the 118th District Court building painted by Peter Hurd were funded by the federal government. David La Vere is a historian who has gathered a tremendous amount of detail about the life of the former



Texas Indian peoples. Tribes include the Kiowa, Comanche, Caddo, Wichita and Lipan Apaches. His book, "Life Among the Texas Indians: The WPA Narratives" (976.400 LAV D) is culled from oral histories stored at the Oklahoma Historical Society. Their recollections of daily life, war and raiding, hunting and planting, food ways, dress, parties and spiritual practices are very interesting.

Check out "Texas Disasters: True Stories of Tragedy and Survival" (976.4 COX M) by Mike Cox. This is a gripping account of 20 of

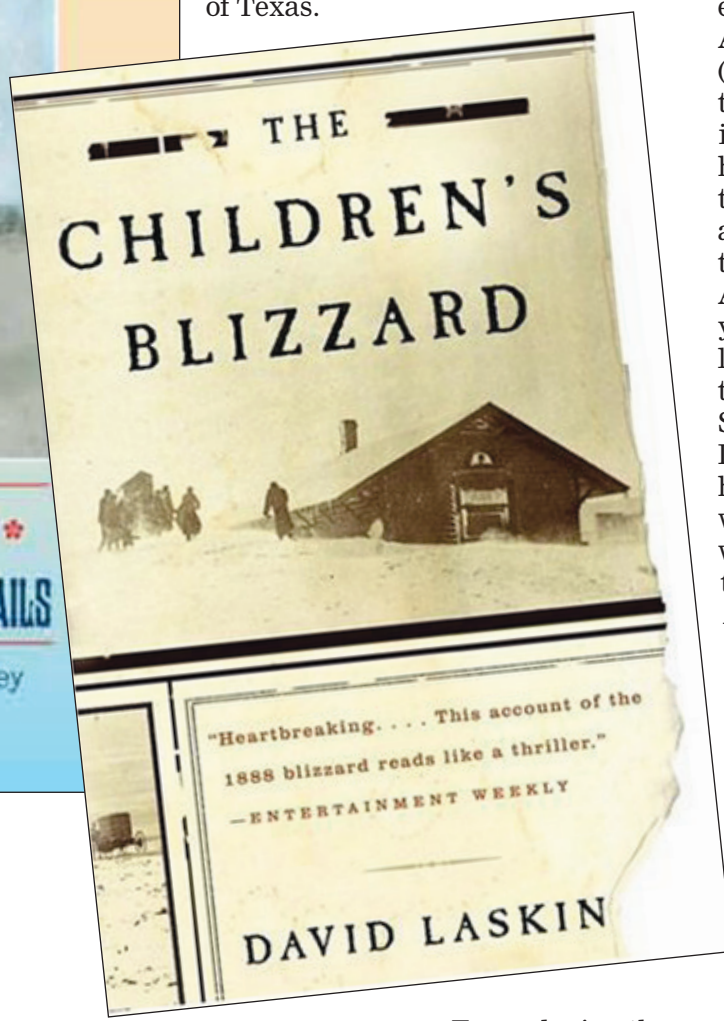
the most devastating disasters in the history of the state of Texas.

"Texas Women on the Cattle Trails" (976.405 MAS S), edited by Sara Massey, tells the story of 16 women who drove cattle up the trail from

How can you help? You go to a link below that will take you to a website where you can express your support for all libraries. It is located on the Texas Library Association's website (which is spearheading the drive to keep libraries viable). 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 a pre-written letter that will be sent to Gov. Perry, Sen. Kel Seliger and Rep. Jim Landtroop. If the link I have provided does not work, you may go to www.txla.org and find the link to the "Take Action" site.

Howard County 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.



"Wanted: Historic County Jails of Texas" (365.976 BLA E) by Edward A. Blackburn Jr., takes readers to each of the 254 counties in the state, presenting brief histories of the counties and the structures that housed their criminals. Interviews with local officials, historians and newspaper publishers have yielded colorful anecdotes for many of the jails.

Texas during the last half of the nineteenth century. The courage of Margaret Borland and the spunk of Willie Matthews, the pure delight of Cornelia Adair viewing the buffalo, and the joy of Mary Bunton gazing on the open range offer new insights into women's experiences of the West.

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In Sunday's Big Spring Herald

American Profile

Asleep AT THE Wheel
Keeping cowboy jive alive for 40 years

Still Swinging

The Western swing band Asleep at the Wheel has kept cowboy jive alive from coast to coast for 40 years.

AmericanProfile

Obituaries

Antonia Castañon Lopez

Antonia Castañon Lopez, 58, of Glasscock County died Monday, March 7, 2011, at her residence. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, March 10, 2011, at the St. Lawrence Catholic Church with Father Q officiating. Burial will be in the Ciudad Fernandez Cemetery, Ciudad Fernandez, San Luis Potosi, Mexico.

She was born Nov. 27, 1952, in Las Adjuntas, Rio Verde, San Luis Potosi, Mexico.

Antonia had lived in St. Lawrence since 1997 and was a homemaker. She was a member of St. Lawrence Catholic Church.

Survivors include her husband, Felipe Lopez of Glasscock County; four daughters, Maria Lopez of Glasscock County, Alicia Lopez of Brownsville, Alma Lopez of Glasscock County and Lucila Lopez of Mexico; one son, Jose Lopez of Big Lake; her mother, Leocadia Galvan of Mexico; 11 grandchildren; and eight brothers and sisters.

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

Police blotter

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

• VICTOR RAYMOND DOMINGUEZ, 34, of 2911 W. Highway 80 Apt. 257, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.

• MICHAEL PAUL HOGAN, 39, of 1710 S. Young, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid with a previous conviction.

• DANIEL PAUL JOHNSON, 48, of 811 W. Fifth St., was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.

• RANDALL ESTON HOLLIS, 40, of 1110 Jeffery Rd., was arrested Tuesday on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid with a previous conviction.

• BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 100 block of N. Cottonwood.

• THEFT was reported in the 900 block of Douglas.

• ASSAULT was reported:

In the 2200 block of Cecilia.

In the 900 block of Birdwell Lane.

In the 400 block of E. Fourth Street.

• CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported:

In the 400 block of E. Fourth Street.

In the 1800 Block of E. FM 700.

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 69 inmates at the time of this report.

• ADAM AGUIRRE, 28, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for evading arrest or detention with a vehicle.

• FELIPE SAIZ, 37, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a bench warrant for driving while intoxicated — third or more offense and a Tom Green County warrant for burglary of a habitation.

• DENNIS LYNWOOD BACA, 38, was arrested Tuesday by DPS on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.

• DANIEL PAUL JOHNSON, 48, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• RANDALL ESTON HOLLIS, 40, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.

• JESSE ROGER OLGUIN, 27, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of marijuana — two ounces or less.

• JOSHUA LANCE WIER, 31, was arrested Wednesday by DPS on a Tarrant County warrant for non-payment of child support.

• MICHAEL RICHARD MULLANE, 30, was arrested Wednesday by DPS on a Randall County warrant for a motion to revoke probation for possession of marijuana.

• CHANCE PATRICK NEWTON, 21, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on municipal warrants for no seat belt — passenger, failure to appear (six counts) and violation of a promise to appear.

• JOHN GLENN HAMILTON, 22, was arrested Wednesday by DPS on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.

Fire/EMS

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

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.






• TRAUMA was reported in the 100 block of Echols. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported near the intersection of Arizona and Vines. One person was transported to SMMC.

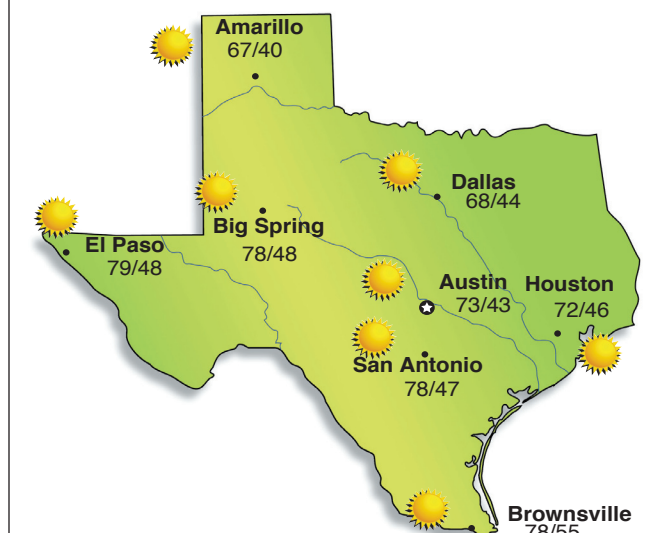
• MEDICAL was reported near the 190 mile marker of Interstate Highway 20. One person was transported to SMMC.

Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Thu 3/10	Fri 3/11	Sat 3/12	Sun 3/13	Mon 3/14
 78/48 Mainly sunny. High 78F. Winds SSE at 10 to 20 mph.	 83/50 Windy with times of sun and clouds.	 80/51 More sun than clouds. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the low 50s.	 79/52 Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the low 50s.	 76/42 More sun than clouds. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the low 40s.
Sunrise: 7:03 AM Sunset: 6:50 PM	Sunrise: 7:02 AM Sunset: 6:51 PM	Sunrise: 7:00 AM Sunset: 6:52 PM	Sunrise: 6:59 AM Sunset: 6:52 PM	Sunrise: 6:58 AM Sunset: 6:53 PM

Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	74	47	sunny	Kingsville	78	49	sunny
Amarillo	67	40	sunny	Livingston	70	39	sunny
Austin	73	43	sunny	Longview	66	41	sunny
Beaumont	71	43	sunny	Lubbock	73	40	sunny
Brownsville	78	55	sunny	Lufkin	69	41	sunny
Brownwood	76	46	sunny	Midland	77	50	sunny
Corpus Christi	74	52	sunny	Raymondville	81	52	sunny
Corsicana	66	43	sunny	Rosenberg	73	45	sunny

• MEDICAL was reported in the 100 block of E. Robinson Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 700 block of W. Interstate Highway 20. Service refused.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 600 block of Driver Road. 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 600 block of Aylesford.



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4. The Wish List

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Elder Abuse

You have a right to be safe and protected from abuse. The Office of the Attorney General and the State of Texas are committed to protecting you from verbal, emotional and physical abuse, as well as financial exploitation, whether you are living in your own home, with family or in a long-term care facility.

REPORT ELDER ABUSE

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

SENIOR ABUSE:

Adult Protective Services (800) 252-5400

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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News in brief

Gadhafi says Libyans will fight against no-fly zone

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP) — Moammar Gadhafi said in an interview broadcast Wednesday that Libyans would fight back if Western nations impose a no-fly zone to prevent the regime from using its air force to bomb government opponents staging a rebellion.

He said imposing the restrictions would prove the West's real intention was to seize his country's oil wealth.

Gadhafi made his remarks in an interview aired Wednesday by Turkey's state-run TRT Turk television. The interview was conducted late at night when Gadhafi made a surprise appearance at a hotel where foreign journalists are staying in Tripoli and gave a few interviews.

In separate remarks, Gadhafi called on Libyans in the rebel-held east of the country to take back control from the opposition leaders who have seized the territory.

Senate to vote on rival GOP, Democratic budgets in bid to boost compromise chances

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a demonstration of offi-

cial Washington's often curious logic, the Senate is expected to vote down both a slashing GOP budget bill and a less painful Democratic plan to demonstrate progress instead of gridlock.

The idea is to show both sides that they need to move toward each other to break a bitter stalemate over how much to cut spending as Congress wraps up last year's unfinished budget work. The combatants are facing a March 18 deadline that already has Republicans in the House drafting another stopgap spending measure to make sure the government doesn't shut down if a broader agreement isn't reached by then.

Democrats on Wednesday are poised to kill the House-passed GOP plan, saying it cuts too deeply into programs like education, college aid, housing subsidies and a food program for low-income pregnant women and their babies. Republicans and some Democratic moderates are likely to kill a White House-backed Senate plan that cuts agency operating budgets about \$11 billion below last year's levels, saying that's not enough when the deficit is projected to hit \$1.6 trillion this year.

Freshman Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia said the kabuki theater is a waste of time.

"Republicans will say Democrats don't go far enough. Democrats will say Republicans go too far," Manchin said Tuesday. "The truth is both are

right, and both proposals will fail. Worse still, everyone in Congress knows they will fail."

Suicide bomber kills 36 at funeral attended by anti-Taliban militiamen

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP) — A suicide bomber struck a funeral attended by anti-Taliban militiamen in northwestern Pakistan on Wednesday, killing at least 36 mourners and wounding more than 100 in the deadliest militant attack in the country this year. The Pakistani Taliban claimed responsibility.

The blast near the city of Peshawar was not far from the tribally administered regions bordering Afghanistan where militants are at their strongest. The area struck is home to several tribal armies that battle the Taliban with the government's encouragement.

Police officer Zahid Khan said about 300 people were attending the funeral for the wife of a militiaman in the Matani area when the bomber struck. TV footage showed men picking up bloodied sandals and caps from a dusty, open space where mourners had gathered.

Witnesses said the bomber, who appeared to be in his late teens, showed up at the funeral just as it was about to begin.



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News in brief

More than 700 Dallas educators to resign early

DALLAS (AP) — More than 700 Dallas teachers, principals and other employees have accepted the district's offer to resign early to offset potential layoffs.

The Dallas school district's incentive provided up to \$10,000 for some educators with contracts to leave at the end of this school year.

Dallas Independent School District spokesman Jon Dahlander says about 40 percent of those taking the buyout had more than 30 years of experience.

Officials estimate the buyout will save the district about \$45 million in salaries. It comes as a way to prepare for massive state cuts to public education that are expected.

The Dallas Morning News reports that the district had committed \$6.4 million from its reserve fund for the deals to employees when the resignation incentive deadline ended Tuesday night.

Baby left in vehicle found dead

NEW BRAUNFELS (AP) — Police say a

6-month-old girl found dead in a vehicle in Central Texas was accidentally left there after her mother drove to work that morning.

New Braunfels authorities say the baby was still strapped in her car seat Tuesday when her mother discovered her after work.

The Austin American-Statesman reports that it appears the baby was left in the car about nine hours.

Justice of the Peace Mike Rust has ordered an autopsy. Police are investigating.

Embattled Alamo stewards set to testify at Capitol

AUSTIN (AP) — The longtime custodians of the Alamo are expected in Austin amid a state investigation into their care of the revered Texas landmark.

Leaders of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas were scheduled Wednesday to appear before a Texas House committee. The century-old nonprofit has been under investigation since last year by the Texas attorney general's office.

The inquiry began after a former DRT member accused the group of mismanagement and failing to properly maintain the Alamo. Results of the investigation have not been released.

The Daughters have been the caretakers

of the Alamo since 1905. That's when the Legislature gave the group stewardship of the famous 1836 battle ground where an outnumbered band of Texans made a legendary stand before Mexican forces seized the mission.

Committee considers ban on texting and driving

AUSTIN (AP) — The House Transportation Committee will consider legislation to institute a statewide ban on texting while driving.

The committee was expected to hear testimony Wednesday from the family of Alex Brown. The West Texas girl died in a one-car accident while she was texting.

Five bills targeting cell phone use while driving have been filed.

Texas officer hurt when tactical grenade explodes

ALICE (AP) — The commander of a South Texas police tactical squad is hospitalized after a tactical grenade exploded in his hand.

Alice police tactical commander Richard DeLeon was in critical but stable condition at Christus Spohn Hospital-Memorial in Corpus Christi after he was airlifted from the scene of the Tuesday afternoon accident. That's according to hospital spokeswoman Sherry Carr-Smith.

Alice Police Chief Daniel Bueno says the 25-year veteran of the police force was loading equipment into his squad car when a flash-bang grenade exploded in his hand. Bueno says DeLeon's hand was injured and his car damaged severely, but protective clothing prevented more serious injury.

The flash-bang grenade is used to startle and distract suspects when officers rush to subdue them.

Teen sent to prison for attack on delivery man

FORT WORTH (AP) — A teenager who robbed and attacked a pizza deliveryman with a baseball bat will finish serving his 40-year sentence in a Texas prison.

A judge on Tuesday ruled that the 17-year-old will be transferred to prison instead of being released from a juvenile facility when he's 19.

The Fort Worth hearing that was closed to the public had been called by the Texas Youth Commission. The TYC has confined the teen since he was sentenced last year after pleading guilty to aggravated robbery.

Under certain sentencing rules, teens who cause problems can be transferred to prison to serve their full sentence.

The victim died a year after the attack.

Tarrant County prosecutor Riley Shaw says no decision has been made about whether to charge the teen in the man's death.

Perry warns Legislature: Don't tap Rainy Day Fund

DALLAS (AP) — Texas Gov. Rick Perry said Tuesday the Legislature should keep its hands off the state's Rainy Day Fund, but he declined to say whether he'd veto any move to use the money.

Texas is facing its worst budget crisis in generations, and some Republican lawmakers have proposed using money from the \$9.4 billion reserve fund to cover part of the state's \$27 billion budget shortfall. Perry has opposed that solution, calling it an "absolute last resort."

"The truth of the matter is, there's no guarantee we won't be in the same situation in two years," Perry told reporters at a Dallas machine shop, where he touted the virtues of small business. "If we tap the fund now, all

we've done is kick the can down the road."

But when asked directly if he would veto any measures that tap the fund, Perry said he couldn't comment because his policy is to avoid discussing legislation before it reaches his desk.

NE Texas twisters scatter outbuildings

DALLAS (AP) — Severe storms unleashed damaging winds, including suspected tornadoes, across northeast Texas that damaged outbuildings and trailers but injured no one.

The windstorms were part of a line of severe thunderstorms that formed along a cold front Tuesday afternoon.

Lamar County Sheriff B.J. McCoy says a brief tornado near Brookston, 85 miles northeast of Dallas, lifted a barn about 20 feet before smashing it and tossed a firefighter into a ditch without injuring him.

Planned Parenthood rallies at Capitol

AUSTIN (AP) — A day after losing a fight over a bill that would give Texas some of the strictest abortion rules in the country, House Democrats stood Tuesday with Planned Parenthood advocates working against a barrage of legislative attempts to weaken their programs.

Hundreds of supporters rallied at the Capitol, saying they were angry with state lawmakers for endangering women's health care and family planning. The legislation approved Monday requires women to get sonograms before an abortion, and recently approved Medicaid limits would leave many of the organization's patients without access to birth control and health screenings.


"This is basic, preventative health care," said Ken Lambrecht, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood Texas Capital Region.

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HERALD Photo/Adam Coleman

Garrett Stuteville tries to tag a Brownfield baserunner out during the Big Spring Steers' 12-2 win over the Cubs Tuesday night.

BSHS baseball takes care of Brownfield

BY ADAM COLEMAN
Sports Editor

It wasn't exactly a night full of offense for Brownfield and Big Spring in their matchup Tuesday at Steer Park.

Big Spring third baseman Jacob Acosta changed all that with one swing, though.

Acosta's three-run RBI double sparked a five-run third inning as the Steers went on to beat the Cubs 12-2 in five innings.

The Steers were up 3-1 before Acosta's blast to left field, but they hadn't had an extra base hit. Acosta's double went past the Brownfield left-fielder and Gunnar Kennedy, Jared Deporto and Max Pappajohn were

sent home. The Steers went from a 3-1 lead to an 8-1 lead.

"We needed a key hit," BSBS head coach Bert Otto said. "We needed something to break it open. Thankfully Jacob got a pitch that's in his zone, his power area and he did with it what he's supposed to do."

Acosta said he was looking for a faster pitch, but he had to adjust and knew he needed a big hit with the bases loaded.

"Had to break it open," he said. "My teammates got on base, as a clean-up batter, I just have to come through and hit them in, get the game going."

The Steers (5-6) inflicted

even more damage with a four-run fourth, sparked by an error that helped Garrett Stuteville get a run. Kennedy followed that up with an RBI single.

Kennedy got the win on the mound, overcoming a slow start, but battling back to quell the Brownfield bats.

In the first inning, Kennedy allowed a double, hit a batter and walked another with the bases loaded, but he ended the inning with two strikeouts. Kennedy had four total strikeouts in five innings pitched.

Brownfield's starting pitcher didn't fare well. Tate Longoria pitched 1/3 inning, walked three and allowed one run.

"You have to adjust to the strikezone," Otto said. "We thought there were some pitches that were close. Gunnar's character, he kept fighting and kept trying to find it and if he couldn't, he did what he's coached to do and pitch for contact. Let your defense take care of it."

The Steers were coming off a 1-3 record at the Snyder tournament, with their only win coming against Greenwood.

Otto said the Steers could have done better at that tournament, but it's good to get another win heading into the Big Spring tournament, which begins Thursday.

"We were 1-3 out there,

could be 2-2 depending on how you look at it," he said. "Any time you can get a win, it's good."

This will be the first time Big Spring baseball host its own tournament. Brownfield will

get another shot at the Steers Thursday night at 7 p.m. Lamesa, Andrews and Levelland are also on tap for the Steers this weekend.

Contact Sports Editor Adam Coleman at 263-7331 ext. 237

Lady Steers lose at Cooper, 6-1

ABILENE — The Big Spring softball team took a 6-1 loss to Abilene Cooper Tuesday night, dropping the record to 8-9.

It was 0-0 until the Lady Pirates broke out with a four-run third inning.

They tacked on a run in the fifth and another in the sixth.

BSHS head coach John Sparks said Cooper was fundamentally sound and difficult to top. Meanwhile, the Lady Steers couldn't get much offense going and they squandered some opportunities.

Sparks is hoping his team gets back on track with the Snyder tournament approaching this weekend.

Forsan baseball falls, softball wins at Coahoma

FORSAN — The Coahoma Bulldogs got the best of Forsan Tuesday night with a 6-1 win over Howard County rival Forsan.

The Bulldogs got things started early with a huge five-run second inning. While Forsan only got one run in the fourth, the Bulldogs answered back with another score in the fifth. Patrick Robles gave the Buffs their only RBI. Coahoma's Tanner Ruiz had the game's only extra base hit with a double.

Forsan had five errors in Tuesday's game and Coahoma had four.

Forsan baseball has Anson at 5 p.m. in Forsan. Meanwhile, the Bulldogs are headed to Greenwood for a tournament.

Coahoma-Forsan softball

Shanna Taylor's squad picked up a much-needed win over the Coahoma Bulldogettes, earning a 3-1 victory behind Ashley Buzbee's arm.

The Lady Buffs improved to 8-5 overall, 1-1 in District 3-2A play. The Bulldogettes, however, fell to 6-10 overall, 0-2 in district play.

Coahoma was coming off a consolation championship in the San Angelo tournament, but still hasn't exactly found its stride this season.

Both teams have dealt with tough opponents to start the year and it doesn't get any easier. Coahoma is going to Lampasas for a tournament and Forsan is in the Snyder tournament.

Nowitzki overcomes fouls to lead Mavs over Wolves

The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Dirk Nowitzki couldn't get in a rhythm for most of three quarters because of foul trouble, so seldom-used veteran Brian Cardinal stepped right in and knocked down shots in the building he used to call home.

The Dallas Mavericks

didn't miss a beat with their MVP candidate on the bench, the strongest sign yet that they could be a dangerous team in the playoffs.

Nowitzki overcame foul trouble to score 25 points in 27 minutes and Cardinal scored a season-high 12 points to help the Mavericks

See **MAVS**, 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

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.

Chicano Golf Association

The association is hosting its individual tournament at 10 a.m. March 13 at Comanche Trail Golf Course. The deadline to register is 9:30 a.m. that day.

Ragball tournament

The tourney takes place from 6 p.m. to midnight

on March 11, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. on March 12 and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on March 13. The cost for a team of 10 is \$100 or \$125 for as many as you want. This helps support the Big Spring Junior High School science trip. Contact Katrina Gonzales at 816-6752 for more information.

Chubby Abrego Scholarship Golf Tournament

This tournament begins 8 a.m. April 9 at Comanche Trail Golf Course. It's a 4-man scramble, the cost is \$60 and that includes a meal. The tournament helps fund scholarships for Coahoma High School athletes. For more information contact Rocky McCullough at (432) 213-4868, DeLloyd Hooser at (432) 816-9051 or Gene Piercefield at (432) 816-1134. Prizes will be included.

Top-seeded Kansas favored in Big 12 Tournament

The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Top-seeded Kansas goes into the Big 12 tournament favored to win but with much to lose.

Colorado and Nebraska, in the final hours of their Big 12 membership, both have much to gain.

For fired-but-still-working Pat Knight, the four-day event in downtown Kansas City is an opportunity to extend his time as Texas Tech's coach by at least one game.

And besides all that, the last Big 12 tournament that will actually have 12 teams should be wide open.

"Certainly this year, there's so many teams out there with so much to play for, it should be as competitive as any tournament we've had," said Kansas coach Bill Self.

The No. 2 Jayhawks (29-2), the conference regular-season champions for the seventh year in a row, figure to already own a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tourney. But if they should stumble

and lose on Thursday morning to the winner of Wednesday's Nebraska-Oklahoma State match, they could get pushed down a line, depending on what happens at other conference tournaments.

"To me, the conference tournaments aren't as important as the regular season," Self said. "What it does is give everybody hope. It gives everybody incentive to play for. I know it's not the most important thing, from our standpoint, as the NCAA tournament. But still yet, it is our league and it is our conference championship and any time you lace 'em up you want to try to play your best."

Knight was fired by Texas Tech on Monday after going 50-60 in three seasons. The Red Raiders (13-18) will have a bevy of seniors line up against sixth-seeded Missouri (22-9) in the last game on Wednesday night. As soon as they lose, Knight and all his staff are unemployed.

"This is about the seniors," Knight said. "Hopefully, I'm going to coach

again. But we've got some seniors, and this could be their last game or last couple of games. So it's about them. I walked in and told them, 'Fellas, they got me this morning. I've been fired. I'm kind of like the seniors. This is my last week.'"

Senior guard David Tairu said the team was stunned.

"It kind of shocked all of us," he said. "It was kind of strange timing for us. We didn't even know he was talking about getting fired. We were just focused on getting ready for the tournament."

The favored Jayhawks lost only to Kansas State and Texas in the regular season and are powered by the Morris twins. Markieff led the league in rebounds and Marcus was Big 12 player of the year.

Colorado (19-12), which is headed to the Pac-10 next year is led by all-conference swing man Alec Burks and could nail down an NCAA bid with a victory over No. 12 seed Iowa State (16-15) on Wednesday. The winner

of that one advances to meet fourth-seeded Kansas State (22-9), which has won eight of its last nine and comes in as the league's hottest team.

Coming out of high school in Grandview, Mo., in the Kansas City area, Burks was barely even noticed by Kansas, Missouri and Kansas State. But after a breakout sophomore season when he averaged almost 20 points, the smooth 6-foot-6 playmaker is making a triumphant return to his home area.

"It's been a whirlwind," Burks said. "A couple of years ago, nobody knew about me except in Grandview. Now everybody knows about me. It's a blessing."

He's not worried about putting on a show for the local schools that spurned him.

"I'm just going to go play my game," he said. "I don't have to prove nothing now."

If the Buffs win, they'll face a Kansas State team they swept in the regular season but is hardly the same now.

sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Warrick, Carter lead Phoenix past Houston, 113-110

The Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Everyone knows Channing Frye can shoot.

His replacement can, too.

Hakim Warrick did something Frye never has — scored 32 points in place of the injured Frye, and the Suns added to their recent mastery of Houston with a 113-110 victory over the Rockets on Tuesday night.

Warrick established a career high in scoring, making 14 of 19 shots — many of them mid- to long-range jumpers and not his usual game of inside baskets and dunks.

"I got a couple of layups that got me going and Steve (Nash) just kept feeding me," Warrick said.

"I just had to knock it down. This game is mostly confidence so you see the ball go in the basket, you are going to continue to be aggressive and no matter what I'm going to be aggressive but once you some early buckets it really helps you out."

Vince Carter scored 15 of his 32 points in the fourth quarter, including two of his five 3-pointers, in the Suns' seventh consecutive victory over Houston. Carter was coming off a 29-point game in Sunday's overtime loss at Oklahoma City, but he missed two of three free throws when Phoenix had a chance to take the lead with 17.4 seconds to play in that game.

"I couldn't wait to get back on the floor," Carter said. "I am not afraid to fail or be afraid to be in that position, to win games for my team."

MAVS

Continued from Page 1B

ericks outlast the Minnesota Timberwolves in a 108-105 victory on Monday night.

"Without Cardinal, I don't think we'd have won the game," Mavericks coach Rick Carlisle said. "His activity, rebounds, loose balls, deflections, shot-making completely turned the game around."

Nowitzki picked up his fourth foul early in the third quarter. So the Mavericks turned to Cardinal, an 11th-year pro who just keeps finding a way to stick on a roster thanks to nights like this. He had played a grand total of 9:17 in his last five games, including three where he didn't see the floor at all.

All he did was hit four of his first five 3s and pester Kevin Love on defense to give the Mavericks a much-needed boost.

"It was exciting to be

out there playing," said Cardinal, who spent the previous two seasons in Minnesota. "I've got a good relationship with quite a few of those guys over there and people within the organization. It was fun to go out there and play and compete against them."

Love had 23 points and 17 rebounds for Minnesota. He posted his 51st double-double in a row, which is tied with Moses Malone in 1978-79 for the longest streak since the NBA-ABA merger in 1976. Malone had his streak over two seasons, so Love's is the longest single-season streak.

"I'd be jumping for joy if we were winning and everybody was playing great, including myself," Love said. "I'm just going out there and playing hard and it is just kind of happening for me. But it is kind of an afterthought because we aren't winning."

Michael Beasley added 20 points and nine rebounds for the worst team in the Western Conference, who gave the powerful Mavericks all they could handle.

Sluggish for much of the night, the Mavericks missed their first 10 3-pointers. Nowitzki played just 14 minutes in the first three quarters, but used a 10-0 run bridging the end of the third and start of the fourth quarter to take control. Jason Terry's two free throws gave them a 94-87 lead with 5:30 to play.

The young Wolves responded with an 8-0 run of their own and took a two-point lead with 2:15 to play before the veteran Mavericks finished them off. Terry hit a 3-pointer in transition and the Mavericks went 11 for 12 at the free-throw line down the stretch.

Jason Kidd had 13 points and nine assists and Terry finished with 11 points for the Mavericks, who made 12 of 35 3-pointers and missed Tyson Chandler for the third straight game because of a sprained right ankle.

The Mavericks, who pride themselves on the defense, were still stinging after blowing an 18-point halftime lead at home against Memphis on Sunday. The Grizzlies scored 41 points in the third quarter and won the game on Zach Randolph's fallaway 17-footer just before the buzzer.

Perhaps looking more at Minnesota's record, and a little heavy-legged on the second night of a back-to-back, the Mavericks trailed 30-22 after one quarter.

When Nowitzki went to the bench with his fourth foul just over two minutes into the third quarter, Minnesota outscored the Mavericks 15-0 toward the end of the period to take an 80-70 lead.

Target Center, which has so often been whisper-quiet during another long, cold, miserable winter in Minnesota,

was about as loud as it has gotten all season in the third quarter when Love extended his streak. He received a standing ovation and loud chants of "M-V-P! M-V-P!" as he shot free throws.

Wishful thinking, of course, but Love's incredible consistency has been one of the few bright spots for the Wolves this season.

"It felt great to have the crowd on their feet, such a great ovation," Love said. "It's one of those moments where you pinch yourself to see if it's real."

"The Target Center, all the fans, the Twin Cities, all of Minnesota have great all year. They've had our backs. I can't imagine what it's going to be like when we really start winning and turn that corner."

Notes: Former Timberwolves player Corey Brewer, traded to New York just before the deadline, waived and signed with Dallas last week, got a nice ovation from the crowd when he entered the game in the first quarter. "I really didn't want to leave," Brewer said. "The best-case scenario for me would have been to sign my extension (in Minnesota), but I didn't get one, so I am in a good situation and I am happy." ... Timberwolves G Wayne Ellington hit a half-court shot at the final buzzer.

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Active Defense

East defense. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠K 10 5
♥Q 9 8 2
♦K
♣K Q J 9 6

WEST
♠J 8 4 2
♥6 3
♦J 7 6 5 3
♣5 2

EAST
♠A Q 7
♥5
♦A Q 10 8 4 2
♣A 10 3

SOUTH
♥9 6 3
♦A K J 10 7 4
♠9
♣8 7 4

The bidding:
East 1♦ South 2♥ West Pass North 4♥

Opening lead — five of diamonds.

In many deals, the best method of defense is to play possum and simply wait to collect the tricks declarer must inevitably lose. This is called passive defense.

In other deals, it is necessary to be more aggressive in order to establish your side's tricks before declarer can establish his. These deals require active defense.

There is no hard-and-fast rule that tells you when to adopt one type of defense or the other. Each deal has its own particular set of circumstances, with the bidding, the dummy, the early play and many other considerations determining which form of defense to adopt. In the final analysis, good judgment is the critical factor.

Assume you're East in today's deal, defending against four hearts. West leads a diamond, which you win with the ace. What should you return?

If you opt for the passive approach, you lead a trump. This does not turn out well after declarer wins, draws trumps and forces out your ace of clubs. He loses only a spade, a diamond and a club, and so makes the contract.

But if you lead a spade at trick two — either a low one or the ace followed by another spade — you beat the contract, ultimately scoring two spades, a diamond and a club.

For this method of defense to succeed, declarer must have at least three spades and your partner must have the jack, which is surely not an impossibility. If he doesn't have it, you're fighting a losing cause whatever you do, and your active defense will have cost you nothing.

Tomorrow: Sylvia does it again.
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sudoku

ANSWERS

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

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For more information go to www.mybigspring.com, or apply in person in the Human Resources Office located at 310 Nolan. (432)264-2346.

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DRIVERS WANTED. Find out why our average length of driver employment is 9 years. Reagent Chemical, a family owned company is dedicated to providing great service to our customers and taking care of our employees, is currently hiring professional drivers in Stanton, Texas. Requirements include Class A CDL with Tank and Hazmat endorsements. Minimum of 2 years driving or 1 year tanker experience. Paid weekly by check or direct deposit. Benefits include family health & dental insurance with no premium contribution by the employee. 401K with company match plus profit sharing. Company paid life insurance, short and long term disability, additional life and disability is available thru group coverage. Up to 10 days vacation starting first year plus 10 paid holidays. Uniforms provided. Call 432-458-3446 or 432-661-4079.

Help Wanted



DO YOU have a great personality, friendly smile, and good computer skills? Would you like to earn a competitive salary, have benefits and love your job? No experience necessary but must love people. The following two positions are available:

Assisting doctors with patient exams, X-rays, and therapy consisting of massage, ultrasound, stretching and many others.

Insurance biller with an eye for details. Must have good communication and computer skills. Bookkeeping or insurance background a plus. Some patient care will be necessary on occasion. Hours are M-F 8:20 to 6 and rotating Saturday's. Wages based on experience and job duties. Health insurance, vacation and sick leave available. Call 432-267-2225 to schedule an interview.

DON'S TIRE & Truck Service Inc. S. Service Rd I-20 Exit 178 Big Spring, TX 79720 Taking Applications: Tire Tech: Must have knowledge of tires, must be 21 or older. All applicants must have a valid Texas Drivers Lic. Mechanic Tech: Must have mechanical ability. Must have Valid Texas driver lic.

Apply In Person Only/ No Phone Calls

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. Call 432-683-2868 or 432-288-3761 for information

DUE TO our growth, we have a continuing need in our Big Spring field office for: Transport, Vacuum, Wench Truck and Kill Truck Drivers. We offer competitive pay; 401(k) with company match; affordable medical, dental, and life insurance; paid time off based on length of service; and paid holidays.

Apply in Person @ 2206 North Hwy 87 Big Spring, TX No Phone Calls Please EOE-M/F/D/V Drug Free Environment

NEED TRANSPORT/BOBTAIL Driver for fuel deliveries. Excellent Starting Salary and Benefits. Must have CDL & good driving record. Come by 1st & Johnson, Park Fuels/Chevron, Big Spring. (432)263-0033.

PARKPLACE RETIREMENT Living is seeking a night front desk clerk. This position is part time week end shift work from 12:30am to 8:30am. Must be able to read, write, and understand written instructions, and follow directions. Duties include overseeing facility, light housekeeping, and assisting in during meal times, etc. Must be able to multitask and be active. Apply in person at 501 W. 17th Street.

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Help Wanted

FRITO LAY is seeking hard worker to fill full-time Route Sales Position in the Big Spring, TX area (\$40,300-\$43,000/yr)

Benefits include: 401K/retirement/stock options, health/dental/vision insurance and vacation leave. Some travel involved. Candidates must have a solid work history, strong communication skills and an excellent driving record. No prior experience required. Please apply online at www.fritolayemployment.com for consideration. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer dedicated to diversity in our workplace. EOE M/F/V/D

IMMEDIATE OPENING now available for mature, Christian person to work in private, Christian childcare facility. Prefer experience in early childhood education, but will train right person. Part-time or full-time applications being accepted, New Hope Christian School, 118 Cedar Rd.

Join BUSY BEE'S professional home cleaning team! Enjoy an independent work environment and \$10/hr compensation. We provide paid training, all necessary supplies and uniform. Must have own transportation and speak English (bilingual a plus). All cleaners are drug tested and background checked. Bonded and insured. Please call Jessi Williams, owner, at 432-816-3732 for an application.

KELLY SERVICES NOW HIRING GENERAL LABORERS

Temporary positions in Big Spring, will consist of clean-up, sweeping, shoveling and unloading. Possibly work some weekends. \$10.00/hr. Call Kelly Services at 432-689-9801 to schedule appt.

LOCAL 20+ Year Construction Company seeking experienced help. General residential and light commercial repairs, remodeling, painting interior and exterior experience. Pay D.O.E. Call 432-267-2296.

MAINTENANCE PERSON. AC Certified, own tools. Tanglewood Grove Apts. Come by 3304 West Hwy 80. No phone calls please.

MIDWAY BAPTIST Church, is seeking a bi-vocational music leader. Please call (432)394-4764 or mail your resume to 6200 S. Service Rd., Big Spring, TX 79720.

Need CASHIER & STOCKER for weekends & evening shifts, 3:00-11:00pm. Must be TBAC Certified. Apply at Fast Stop, 1500 E. 4th St.

NEED TRANSPORT/BOBTAIL Driver for fuel deliveries. Excellent Starting Salary and Benefits. Must have CDL & good driving record. Come by 1st & Johnson, Park Fuels/Chevron, Big Spring. (432)263-0033.

PARKPLACE RETIREMENT Living is seeking a night front desk clerk. This position is part time week end shift work from 12:30am to 8:30am. Must be able to read, write, and understand written instructions, and follow directions. Duties include overseeing facility, light housekeeping, and assisting in during meal times, etc. Must be able to multitask and be active. Apply in person at 501 W. 17th Street.

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PARKPLACE RETIREMENT Living is seeking a outgoing individual for the position of waitstaff. The position is part-time, working Thursday and Fridays. Job duties include preparing drink orders, preparing salads, busing tables and cleaning dishes. Apply in person at 501 W. 17th Street.

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

PLANT EXPANSION- Needing gas processing plant operators in Midland area willing to do shift work. Computer experience a plus. Please send resume to PO Box 50307, Midland, TX 79710 or email MMGMeters@feagangc.com

PROFESSIONAL COUPLE seeks inhome childcare for six-month old, 3-4 days per week. Teaching or early childhood experience a must. Pay commensurate with experience. Call Leana (432)264-0083.

RUSTY'S OILFIELD Service In Stanton has immediate openings for CDL Driver, roustabout pushers and helpers. Must have valid drivers license. Apply in person at 3327 W I20 in Stanton. 432-756-2821.

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.

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The courier of the sky takes his message into the realm of Aries, and he will continue to report from there until May 15, 2011. Mercury in Aries favors efficient communication that gets right to the point. A childlike naive guides our conversations, so when the concepts become too fancy or nuanced, the important part may be missed.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There's something you'd like to confess. The admission is actually quite harmless, and yet it's the perfect thing to tell a friend. The honesty will bond you together.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Try not to rely too heavily on one idea of who you are. Strive to be well-rounded. Instead of following one mentor, branch out. And socialize with many different sets of friends, as well.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll encounter individuals who are not as verbally inclined as you are. It will be a challenge to get these types to open up and talk to you, but it

Dear Annie: More than 10 years ago, I was convicted of prostitution and shoplifting and went to jail.

At that time, I was homeless, an alcoholic and had an undiagnosed mental illness. With the help of several community agencies and my family (who never gave up on me), I was able to get sober, receive treatment and obtain housing.

I have been working for several years at volunteer jobs in my church and for

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

will help you to know what they have to say, so the effort is worthwhile.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll be the leader today. You're not out to control anyone — you rule by getting the input of everyone involved. You invite discussion. But ultimately, it's you who makes the decision.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You love people, in theory. You'll come across individuals who challenge that theory today. You will benefit from making an extra effort to kindle a feeling of warmth for every single person you meet.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Even the smartest person can't know everything about every subject. You know what you know, and it shouldn't be a reason for pride or shame right now. Share what you know, and admit what you don't so that others can fill you in.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You've been so mentally taxed lately, and you need to blow off some steam. Get into activities that

make you breathe and sweat. Physical exertion makes you stronger. It also impresses someone near to you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You can delve deeper into your subject of interest without much expenditure. You don't have to go to school to learn about it. There is enough information in magazines, in books and on the Internet to guide you along.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Because you are mature and worldly, you recognize that other people are going to feel differently than you do about things and wisely withhold some of your opinions.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You have that "wow" factor today. It's not so much about what you look like or what you say. It's your internal strength and confidence that allow you to forget yourself and get involved in the fascinating world around you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You have a right to be

satisfied with your current level of education and stature — you've worked hard to get where you are. And yet you'll still be driven to better yourself through reading and conversation.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There's a reason you gravitate toward those who are even-keeled and predictable: You're busy. You don't have time for drama or for having to spread your attention in unexpected ways.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 9). You'll be cherished in your circle, and your influence will grow. In April, you'll approach your love life as though you can't lose, and you'll win a million times over. Your ideas about how to improve your work environment will be implemented in July. You make a difference in your community in September. Virgo and Cancer people celebrate you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 13, 39, 11 and 28.

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Annie's Mailbox

a local organization that helps the mentally ill.

I would like to find a paying job, but no one will hire me because of my criminal record.

I asked for a pardon from the mayor, but was turned down, even though I presented him with many letters of recommendation from people who know me from church and other community organizations.

Annie, I am not the same person I was 10 years ago. I have a lot to offer. I want to continue to contribute to the community, but I need an income.

Right now, I depend on Social Security, odd jobs and my family.

I am not involved in any behavior that would lead me back to the streets. What can I do to prove that I am trustworthy and would be a good employee?

— *Midwest*
Dear Midwest: Unfortunately, many companies don't look beyond the criminal record when hiring. Would one of the places where you do volunteer work hire you in a paid position, even part time?

Don't be afraid to ask, and explain why you need the job.

Many states offer programs to help ex-

offenders get back into the job market, and you can check online, at City Hall or through the governor's office.

Other places are the Safer Foundation (saferfoundation.org) at 571 W. Jackson, Chicago, IL 60661; the National Hire Network (hirenetwork.org); the U.S. Dept. of Labor (www.doleta.gov/usworkforce/onestop/onestopmap.cfm) at 1-877-US2-JOBS (1-877-872-5627) or servicelocator.org.

Goodwill Industries has been known to help with job training and placement. Good luck to you.

Dear Annie: I'm a 15-year-old sophomore in high school. I do volunteer work for a local organization and must frequently be in contact with my supervisor via e-mail.

I have always addressed her as "Mrs. Brown," which I feel is appropriate and respectful. Yet she always signs her e-mails "Mary."

Since she never uses her last name, I'm beginning to feel awkward and overly formal by continuing to address her as Mrs. Brown. What should I do?

— *Trying to be Respectful in Vermont*
Dear Vermont:

Normally, we would say it is more polite to wait until Mrs. Brown specifically tells you, "Please call me Mary." However, by signing her e-mails to you with her first name, she is giving you tacit permission to address her this way. If you are comfortable doing so, go right ahead.

Dear Annie: I have to take issue with your advice to "Twin Problems," whose sister is a bully. I cannot believe you are letting the parents off the hook. Where is their responsibility in this issue, which you called extreme sibling rivalry? The bully should be being coached at home, and instead you are telling the innocent young lady to talk to her school counselor. In my view, her parents are doing a terrible job of parenting. Why don't you tell them to do better? — *G.T.*

Dear G.T.: They didn't write to us. Readers often expect us to give advice to a third party who isn't looking for help. "Twin Problems" has already talked to her parents. They did nothing. She needs an advocate, and her school counselor is the most logical choice. We hope she follows through.

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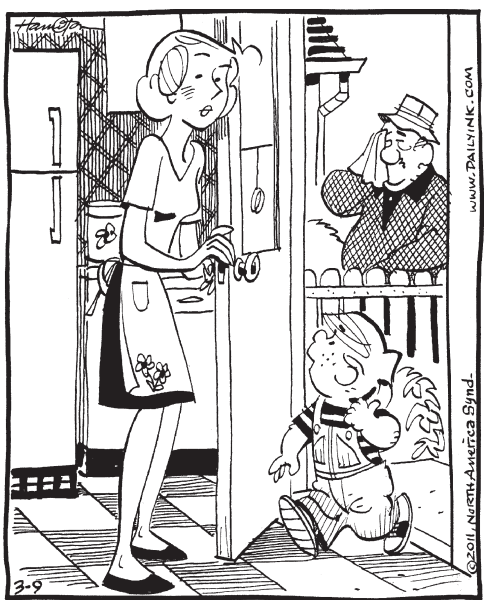


CONCRETE
SOIL
UNSATURABLE ROCK STRATUM OR "FLOATER"
CLAY
LOAD-BEARING ROCK STRATUM



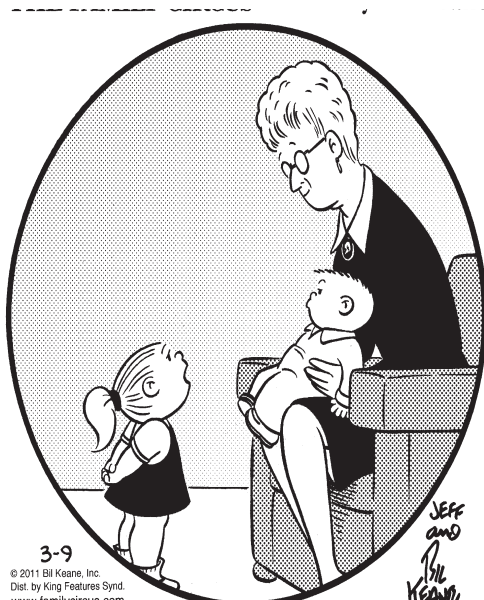

	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5:PM	News ABC	Alma Notic.	Lopez	News	Noticias	News	Seinfeld	Swallow	World	Lyrics!	Cash Cab	Specialist, James Woods	Ways Die	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Good	Nation	SportsCenter
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Lena de Amor (SS)	Two Men	News	Caso Cerado	News	King	McGee	Business	'70s	MythBusters		Ways Die	Bones		Shake It	Pardon	
7:PM	Wheel	Eva Luna (SS)	American Idol	Survivor-Island	Aurora (SS)	Minute to Win It	King	Dr. Diana	PBS News-Hour	70s Show			Ways Die	Bones	Crews	Wizards	College Basketball	College Basketball
8:PM	Better	Triunfo del Amor		Criminal Minds	Herederos-Monte	Minute to Win It	Browns	Bill Cloud	NOVA (DVS)	Top Model	Sons	Movie: Once Upon a Time in Mexico	Ways Die	Bones	Movie: Steppin' The Movie	Wizards	College Basketball	College Basketball
9:PM	Off the Map	Rosa de Guadalupe	Simpsons	C.M.: Suspect	La Reina del Sur	Law & Order: SVU	Payne	Payne	Illicit: Dark	Married	Desert Car Kings	Movie: Exit Wounds	Ways Die	Bones	Wizards			
10:PM	News	Impacto	How I Met	News	Noticias	News	Conan	Conan	Charlie Rose	King	Sons		Ways Die	Southland	The Mo'Nique	Sonny	SportsCtr	
11:PM	Nightline	Noticiero	Raymond	Letterman	Decisiones (SS)	Decisiones (SS)	Jay Leno	Jay Leno	Bill Cloud	King	Sons		Ways Die	Southland	The Mo'Nique	Sonny	SportsCtr	SportsCenter
12:AM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Para Volver a Amar	Law & Order: SVU	Late	Decisiones (SS)	Late Night	Conan	Conan	Lopez	World	South Pk	Breaking Bad	UFC Fight Night	CSI: NY	Wendy Williams	Hannah	NFL Live	
1:AM	Extra	Tontas Cielo	Paid		Decisiones (SS)	Late Night	Conan	Conan	Sala	T. Smiley (Off Air)	South Pk	Sons	Cops	CSI: NY	Movie: State Property 2, Michael Bentt	Hannah	NASCAR	
2:AM	Paid	Raymond	Insider		Decisiones (SS)	Late Night	Conan	Conan	Upd		South Pk	Sons	Focus 4	CSI: NY	Movie: State Property 2, Michael Bentt	Hannah	NASCAR	SportsCenter
3:AM	Paid	Mujer...	TMZ		Decisiones (SS)	Late Night	Conan	Conan	Light		South Pk	Sons	Gospel	Leverage	Movie: State Property 2, Michael Bentt	Hannah	NASCAR	SportsCenter
4:AM	Paid	Cero	King-Hill	(:37) Up to	Decisiones (SS)	Late Night	Conan	Conan	Light of the Southwest		South Pk	Sons	Overhaul'n	Leverage	Movie: State Property 2, Michael Bentt	Hannah	NASCAR	SportsCenter

DENNIS THE MENACE



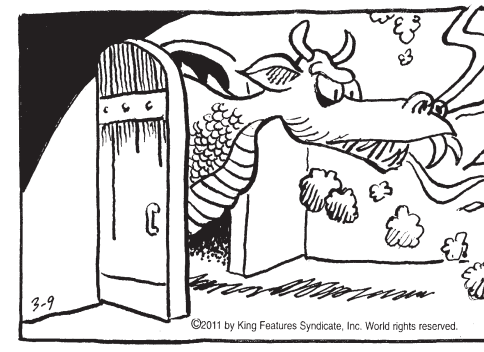
"MR. WILSON SAYS AS LONG AS I'M AROUND TO GIVE HIM A WORKOUT, HE DOESN'T NEED A PERSONAL TRAINER."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



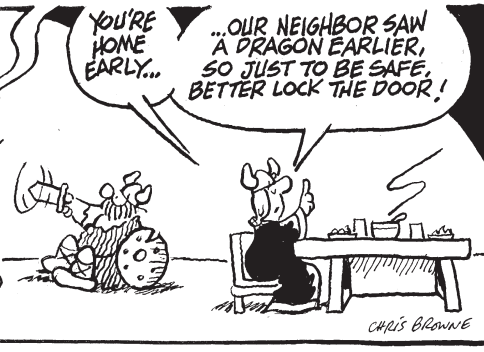
"Grandma, have we known each other for a long time?"

HAGAR



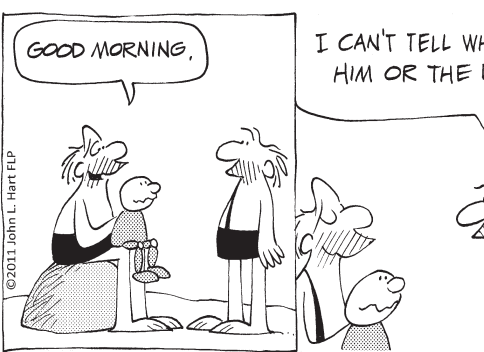
"...OUR NEIGHBOR SAW A DRAGON EARLIER, SO JUST TO BE SAFE, BETTER LOCK THE DOOR!"

BLONDIE



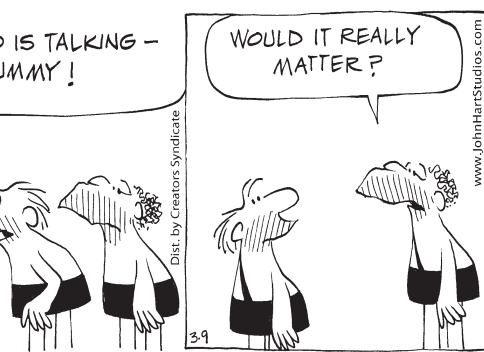
ACCORDING TO OUR SURVEY CARDS, CUSTOMERS ARE TRAVELING FROM FARTHER AWAY TO DO BUSINESS WITH US

BC



GOOD MORNING. I CAN'T TELL WHO IS TALKING - HIM OR THE DUMMY!

WIZARD OF ID



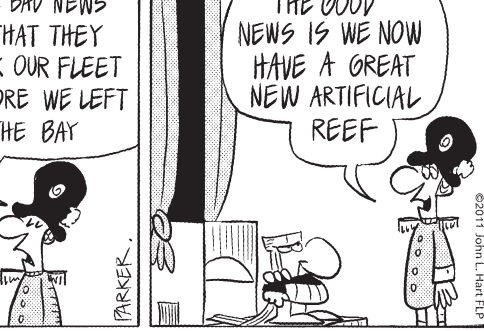
I HAVE GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS. THE BAD NEWS IS THAT THEY SUNK OUR FLEET BEFORE WE LEFT THE BAY. THE GOOD NEWS IS WE NOW HAVE A GREAT NEW ARTIFICIAL REEF.

AGNES



AGNES, WHAT IS THE CAPITAL OF MONTANA? HA! LIKE I'LL NEED TO KNOW THAT IN LOS ANGELES!

HI AND LOIS



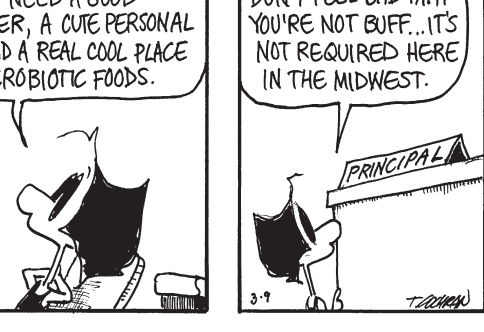
ONCE UPON A TIME, A WISE MAN SAID... THIS HOLE IN MY DONUT IS A WASTE OF SPACE. ...AND THAT'S HOW THE JELLY DONUT WAS INVENTED FOR REAL?

THE OTHER COAST



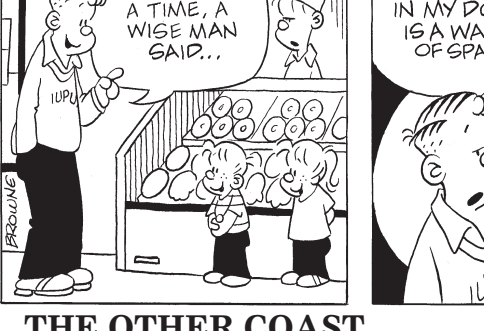
HEY, GUYS, CHECK OUT THE PUREBRED NEXT TO US. FLEAS. THEY'RE SUCH SNOBS.

SNUFFY SMITH



WELL ?! DOES HE HAFTA SPELL IT OUT FER YA, PAW? HE DID!! AN' I STILL DON'T GIT IT !!

BEEBLE BAILEY



HE'S HOPELESS. WHY DO YOU SAY THAT? HE THINKS WHEN THEY CALL HIM A "BIG BLOWHARD" IT'S A COMPLIMENT

This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, March 9, the 68th day of 2011. There are 297 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 9, 1861, the Confederate Congress, meeting in Montgomery, Ala., authorized the issuing of paper currency, in the form of interest-bearing notes, which were initially printed by a New York firm, the National Bank Note Co.

On this date:

In 1661, Cardinal Jules Mazarin, the chief minister of France, died, leaving King Louis XIV in full control.

In 1796, the future emperor of the French, Napoleon Bonaparte, married Josephine de Beauharnais (boh-ahr-NAY). (The couple later divorced.)

In 1862, during the Civil War, the ironclads USS Monitor and CSS Virginia (formerly USS Merrimack) clashed for five hours to a draw at Hampton Roads, Va.

Today's Birthdays

Former Sen. James L. Buckley, Conservative-N.Y., is 88. Singer-actress Keely Smith is 79. Singer Lloyd Price is 78. Actress Joyce Van Patten is 77. Actor-comedian Marty Ingels is 75. Country singer Mickey Gilley is 75. Actress Trish Van Devere is 70. Singer Mark Lindsay (Paul Revere and the Raiders) is 69. Former ABC anchorman Charles Gibson is 68. Rock musician Robin Trower is 66. Singer Jeffrey Osborne is 63. Country musician Jimmie Fadden (The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band) is 63. Actress Jaime Lyn Bauer is 62. Magazine editor Michael Kinsley is 60. TV newscaster Faith Daniels is 54. Actor Tom Amandes is 52.

Answer to previous puzzle

S	P	R	A	Y	T	A	P	S	M	E	E	T		
O	L	I	V	E	R	U	L	E	A	L	L	Y		
L	A	C	E	S	O	R	A	L	R	A	M	P		
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U	S	A	D	E	B	T								
P	A	R	E	T	B	A	R	E	H	A	B	S		
A	L	I	S	A	L	S	A	R	O	M	A	N		
N	O	S	K	I	N	O	F	F	M	Y	N	O		
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P	E	S	O		R	E	E	D		S	L	E	D	S

Newsday Crossword LET'S PLAY CATCH by Norma Steinberg Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS
- 1 Dangerous snakes
- 5 Smart (wise guy)
- 10 Pop singer Tori
- 14 Gambling token
- 15 Recess in a wall
- 16 Tree-twig creation
- 17 Brit's farewell
- 18 California/ Nevada lake
- 19 High wind
- 20 Circle segment
- 21 Sofa decoration
- 23 Domains
- 25 GPS reading
- 26 Smile from ear to ear
- 27 Language variations
- 32 Add up
- 34 Rendered unusable
- 35 Crude dwelling
- 36 Important periods
- 37 Bangor's state
- 38 When spring ends
- 39 Camcorder button
- 40 Precincts
- 41 News summary
- 42 Revamp
- 44 Look for
- 45 '70s boxing champ
- 46 Needing some water
- 49 Don't sleep well
- 54 Golf-ball holder
- 55 Be adjacent to
- 56 Slyness
- 57 Office plant
- 58 Folktales
- 59 Opened, as a necktie
- 60 Lisa Simpson's brother
- 61 Impolite look
- 62 Henhouse sounds
- 63 Scandinavian furniture chain
- DOWN
- 1 Fill in for
- 2 Clever
- 3 Very dark
- 4 Hot tub
- 5 National song
- 6 Perjurers
- 7 Repeat verbatim
- 8 Western-roundup food
- 9 Memento
- 10 Director from Taiwan
- 11 Ground grain
- 12 Scandinavian capital
- 13 Slow-cooked entrée
- 21 Cafeteria carrier
- 22 Maui, for one
- 24 Snaky swimmers
- 27 More arid
- 28 Charged particles
- 29 Beef serving
- 30 Albacore or bluefin
- 31 Ladder rung
- 32 Semester
- 33 Field of expertise
- 34 Nemesis
- 37 Getting promoted
- 38 Hoot at
- 40 Author of "J'accuse"
- 41 Harness strap
- 43 End of Lent
- 44 Tatters
- 46 Cup-shaped flower
- 47 Haute, IN
- 48 Busybody
- 49 Like some tales
- 50 Woodwind instrument
- 51 "You bet!"
- 52 Beach hill
- 53 Oceanic movement
- 57 Crime-fighting grp.

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