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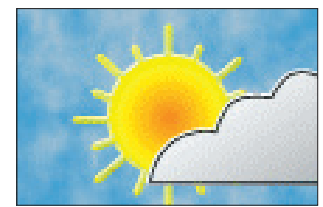
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BIG SPRING HERALD

WEDNESDAY

MARCH 30, 2011



VOLUME 106, NUMBER 101

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HERALD photo/ Amanda Moreno
 Executive director of the Big Spring Economic Development Corporation, Terry Wegman, Dr. Cheryl Sparks, president of Howard College and Terri Johansen, president of the chamber of commerce board visit before Part 1: Money at Work, of the State of the Community chamber luncheon series Tuesday afternoon.

Big Spring teeming with activity, officials contend

Numerous projects going on or wrapping up

By **AMANDA MORENO**
 Staff Writer

Who says nothing happens in Big Spring and Howard County? Anyone who attended Tuesday's State of the Community Series luncheon – Part 1: Money at Work, got a detailed report. Presentations from the city of Big Spring, Howard County, Colorado River Municipal Water District, Howard College and Big Spring Economic Development Corporation focused on the different areas each entity is working on.

"Repetition was heard, but that only means that we are working together," City Manager Gary Fuqua said. "One entity can't do it alone. It requires partnerships and

that is being seen here." Fuqua spoke about the downtown waterline replacement project which has been completed and the youth sports complex that was completed last year. He also brought up a newly established partnership with Buxton Inc., a market analysis firm.

"There is a lot of money leaving Big Spring, about \$900,000 a month," Fuqua said. "Most of the money is going to Midland. Midland has enough money." Through the partnership with Buxton, which focuses on retention and relocation statistics, new ways to keep money in the Big Spring community are hoped to be discovered. In the future,

there will also be a seminar for local businesses available through the economic development corporation, according to Fuqua.

"We are asking that the community get behind the new water park," Fuqua said. "It's going to be an asset to the community of Big Spring."

The effort started as a \$4.2 million project, but has been scaled down to \$3.7 million and Fuqua said is hopeful to come out under that. According to Fuqua, the water park will consist of a lazy river, water slides and four pavilions available for party use.

One of the common questions concerning the water

See **LUNCHEON**, Page 3A

Area-bound one act play on stage here

7 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the BSHS Auditorium

Herald Staff Report

Fresh from a stellar performance at the district contest, Big Spring High School's award-winning one act play will take the stage here Friday and Saturday evenings.

"In the Middle of Grand Central Station" will be performed at the Big Spring High School Auditorium at 7 p.m. both nights. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. Admission is \$2 for students and \$3 for adults.

The Nancy Pahl Gilnsenawritten play advanced from district competition in Sweetwater last weekend and will move on to the the area contest April 7 at Midland College.

BigSpringstudentsreceived numerous awards at the district meet. Alesha Yanez was selected best actress and Clay Branscom was named to the all-star cast. Honorable mention all-star cast members from BSHS were Mindy Ralston and April Zavala. Outstanding technical crew members were Marilee Rodgers, Lacy McMurtrey, Maranda Scott, Morgan Slaughter and Ryane Colette.



Yanez Branscom

Other cast and crew members are Amanda Kirk, Will Gill, Bree Cervantez, Lauren Puga, Diamond Bailey, Wiley McIntosh, Tyler Hall, Courtnie Smith, Clay Branscom and Kylie Farmer. Tabatha Wright is the drama instructor and play director.


"In the Middle" depicts the life of a 15-year-old runaway, Marta de Silva, and is loosely based on a true story about a girl who lived in Grand Central Station for four years. The play examines her emotional highs and lows as "runs" from a broken home to city psychiatric wards and residential treatment centers until she reaches the "living room" of the world's most famous train station.

Blood Drive

East Side Baptist Church will hold a blood drive from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at 1108 E. Sixth St. Walk-ins are welcome. For more information, contact Troy McClendon at 267-6025 or go to www.unitedbloodservices.org and use sponsor code W4561.

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Rodeo time at Coahoma!

By **AMANDA MORENO**
 Staff Writer

It's rodeo time again ... Coahoma Kindergarten Rodeo time. The elementary gym will turn into a rodeo arena Thursday at 9 a.m. Approximately 58 students will take part in six main events; barrels, bronc riding, milking, flag relay, bull riding and poles. For decades, kindergartners

at Coahoma have been a part of longtime tradition. Thirty-three years ago, professional rodeo clown Quail Dobbs — now retired — and a group of kindergarten teachers had an idea that has blossomed into a community event.

"It started out as a small scale performance and it has just continued to grow and grow," kindergarten teacher Jennifer Bac-

cari said. Baccari said some people may not understand the grand scale of the rodeo, but to those who grow up in Coahoma, it's more than just a school event.

"It's the way the community relates to the kids these days," Baccari said. "It's a fun thing you look forward to in

See **RODEO**, Page 3A



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Obituaries

Rita M. Baker



Rita M. Baker, 97, of Coahoma, died Monday, March 28, 2011, at her residence. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m., Thursday, March 31, 2011, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Chaplain Cherise Felty with Home Hospice officiating. Interment will follow at the Coahoma Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 30, 2011, at the funeral home.

She was born Sept. 15, 1913, in Doole and married Boyd H. Baker on Nov. 5, 1931, in Brady. He preceded her in death on July 27, 1992.

Mrs. Baker came to Coahoma in 1948 and had worked at the Coahoma School cafeteria. She was a member of the Coahoma Church of Christ.

Survivors include her son, Bobby Baker and wife Mary Ann of Big Spring; three grandchildren, Randy Baker and wife Kim of Tyler, Micky Berta and husband Ray of Hobbs, N.M., and Robert Baker of Gardendale; nine great-grandchildren, Alison Wells of Lubbock, Jeremy Baker of Odessa, Brian Parker of Lubbock, Misty Baker and fiance Chris Hogg of Coahoma, Christy Clark of Big Spring, Misty Dawn Gray and husband John of Dallas, Randal Clark of Midland, Cole Clark and wife Ema of Hobbs, N.M., and Jordyn Caraway of Kilgore; eight great-great-grandchildren, Brent, Maddie, Xavier, Teagan, Isiah, Mikayla and Katelyn; and eight nieces and nephews.

She was also preceded in death by two sisters and one brother.

The family extends a special thank you to Home Hospice of Big Spring and nurses Betty and Becky for their wonderful care.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be made to Home Hospice of Big Spring, 111 E. 7th, Suite A, Big Spring 79720.

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

Correction

In the Monday edition of the Herald, an arrest was listed for Robert Wayne Moseley, 47, Friday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while intoxicated (open container) – third or more offense. The correct charge should have read: was arrested on an Austin warrant for driving while intoxicated (open container) – third or more offense.

Lee Freeze



Lee Freeze, 82, of Big Spring died Monday, March 28, 2011, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at First United Methodist Church with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

He was born Nov. 25, 1928, in Vinson, Okla., to Virginia and Walter Freeze. He graduated from Southwestern State College in Oklahoma. He had taught at Bradley, Okla., Lamesa and Brownfield before coming to Big Spring in 1962. He was a counselor at Goliad Junior High, retiring in 1991. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Big Spring.

He is survived by his wife, Rueleen Freeze of Big Spring; three sons, James Lee "Jay" Freeze of Big Spring, Jim Dal Freeze and wife Michelle of Austin and Tim Hal Freeze and wife Allison of Plano; two sisters, Patsy Ruth Smith of Mangum and Peggy Larue Pence of Granite; two brothers, Eddie Lynn Freeze of Moore and Ronnie Ray Freeze of Altus; and four grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one brother, Wendell Farrell Freeze.

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

Police blotter

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

- ROBERT SCOTT OCHOA, 31, of 807 Willia Street, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.
- ASHLEY LEE RAMOS, 26, of 807 Willia Street, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.
- CRISTINA LEANN GARZA, 27, of 1902 Mittel Avenue, was arrested Tuesday on a warrant for safety belt child under 17, expired motor vehicle inspection certificate.
- MIGUEL ANTONIO ARENIVAZ, 21, of 2603 Ent Drive, was arrested Wednesday on charges of possession of marijuana less than or equal to two ounces.
- JOLINDA FLORES, 20, of 1603 Hilltop, was arrested Wednesday on charges of possession of controlled substance less than one gram, prohibited substance in correctional facility – takes controlled substance/danger drug/alcohol.
- DENISE SHADE, 49, of 1002 E. 16th Street, was

Enedina 'Olivia' Luevano Guzman



Enedina "Olivia" Luevano Guzman, 68, formerly of Big Spring, died Friday 25, 2011, at her home in El Monte, Calif. Vigil services will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday at Rose Hills Memorial Park, Whittier, Calif. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday with burial at Rose Hills Memorial Park.

Olivia was born Dec. 6, 1942, in Big Spring to Juan and Santiago Luevano. She moved to California in 1969 where she was employed by Mattel Toy Company.

She is survived by her husband, Armando Guzman; two sons, Richard Guzman and John Edward Guzman, both of El Monte, Calif., and one daughter, Connie Guzman of El Monte, Calif. She is also survived by her five sisters, Jessie Casillas of Big Spring, Aggie DellaRocco of Midland, Ernestina Martinez and husband Jesus of Burnet, Angie Molina and husband Juan of Coahoma and Mary Ann Ralston of Big Spring. She had nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two sons, Raymundo Guzman and Armando Guzman Jr.; two sisters, Beatrice McCray and Mary Lou Leyva; and two brothers, Eladio Zubiate Jr. and Roberto Luevano.

Lupe Lara

Lupe Lara, 64, of Big Spring died Tuesday, March 29, 2011, at his residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

arrested Tuesday on charges of possession of marijuana less than or equal to two ounces.

- TONY DELAGARZA, 46, of 1002 E. 16th Street, was arrested Tuesday on charge of possession of marijuana less than or equal to two ounces.
- THEFT was reported in: 800 block Willia Street. Courtney Place. 400 block of E. Fourth Street. 400 block of E. Fourth Street.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in 1900 block of Gregg Street.
- BURGLARY OF HABITATION was reported in 600 block of Circle.

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Samantha Berry photo

Big Spring High School cast and crew members of "In the Middle of Grand Central Station," are, left to right, top row, Ryane Colette, Amanda Kirk, April Zavala, Alesha Yanez, Lacy McMurtrey, Marilee Rodgers and Mindy Ralston; middle row, Will Gill, Maranda Scott, Bree Cervantez, Lauren Puga, Morgan Slaughter and Diamond Bailey; and bottom row, Wiley McIntosh, Tyler Hall, Courtnie Smith, Clay Branscom and Kylie Farmer. Not pictured is drama instructor Tabatha Wright.

LUNCHEON

Continued from Page 1A

park, according to Fuqua, is how will it work with the water restrictions.

"The old pool was using 1 million gallons of water a day," Fuqua said. "The water park will be using about 200,000 gallons of water."

Currently, water restrictions are on voluntary limitations and allow for swimming pools to be filled. With these restrictions, the new water park will still be able to operate and remain within the guidelines, Fuqua said.

"We are aiming at opening Memorial Day weekend," Fuqua said. "The main goal is to make the new pool break even. The old pool never did, but we will be using PR (public relations) to get the most people we can into the pool."

He said efforts will be aimed at attracting those in surrounding

areas such as Garden City, Ackerly and Colorado City.

One of the topics discussed was the proposed joint law enforcement center. Fuqua and County Judge Mark Barr spoke about how the facility would be a benefit to the community.

"We are behind it," Barr said. "We have to work out some details; actually we start working on those tomorrow."

Another commonly asked question according to Barr is updates on the jail.

"Things are running smoothly," Barr said. "The first year was a learning experience, but now it's running smoothly."

He spoke of the "excellent job" Sheriff Stan Parker has done in putting his staff together.

Terry Wegman, executive director of Big Spring Economic Development Corporation, updated those attending the luncheon on expan-

sions and new projects. Plains Cotton Co-op handled 216,000 bales of cotton and has 14 employees. John Crane Production Solutions is planning on doubling its production.

"AmericanLimestone, out at the airpark, has their production up," Wegman said. "They have been able to add new employees."

He included an update on a solar project.

"We are looking for a site where we have a square mile to place solar panels," Wegman said. "The proposed project would provide 60 megawatts of power and bring in some permanent jobs."

"A hot topic is the Settles Hotel," Wegman added. "They have the mechanical infrastructure in and have two rooms completed. The goal is to be completed by the end of the year."

The Howard County Health Center is expected to be completed by May. According to Wegman, that project is on

schedule and shouldn't have a problem meeting the deadline. The health center will provide services to underprivileged patients of Howard County.

John Grant, Colorado River Municipal Water District general manager, provided insight to the current water situation. CRMWD provides water to 500,000 people from four sources: Lake J.B. Thomas, Lake Spence, Lake Ivy and groundwater in Ward County.

"Lake Thomas, which is about 5 percent full, is the main water source for Snyder," Grant said. "Spence is less than 3 percent full and by June we are expecting to pump all the water that we can out of there."

Starting in June, according to Grant, the water in Ward County will have to be used. Pipeline construction has been started in order to maintain adequate water usage from that water supply. The pipeline, however, will

not be completed and operational until next summer. A raw water production plant, off FM 700, is in the beginning phases.

While the water district is starting projects in hopes of alleviating water issues, Howard College is wrapping up construction projects. Through the bond project, Dr. Cheryl Sparks, president of Howard College, said that they were able to replace a 60-year-old heating and cooling system with a new central heating and cooling plant.

"I could take a full afternoon to go through before and after photos," Sparks said. "For anyone that wants to follow our progress they can do so online." Those who want to follow can access www.howardcollege.edu and

click the About Howard College tab and then on the Bond Updates tab.

"September 30 we will be marking 65 years of the first day of class," Sparks said. "We figured what better way to commemorate 65 years than a rededication."

She continued, "We believe we have come a long way over 65 years."

The series is being sponsored by Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. The second part of the State of the Community Series will focus on Education and Medical on June 30.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Lee Freeze, 82, died Monday. The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral Services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at First United Methodist Church with burial at Trinity Memorial Park. Lupe Lara, 64, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

RODEO

Continued from Page 1A

kindergarten."

What started out as a simple way to have fun has turned into an honor for Dobbs, according to Baccari. Each year there are special guests at the rodeo, including professional rodeo announcer Ben Clements; Miss Rodeo Texas, Jody Nix, the Howard College rodeo team and rodeo clown Jim Bob Sellers.

"This year we have extra special guests from Quail's rodeo days," Baccari said. "We will also have Miss Rodeo Texas Princess. The kids are really excited about her coming."

For the past three weeks the children have been practicing their events, according to

Baccari. Sandra Wallace, Coahoma music teacher, has worked with the students on the songs and square dance that will be performed at the halftime show.

"Every year is different. You work with them on the same songs and same things each year, but they each add their own twist to it," Baccari said. "You can work with them, but you never know what they are going to do un-

til they do it."

Baccari, Sheila Holt and Connie Tewilligear, all kindergarden teachers, and assistant Larenda Harrison, have been working with the students to ensure the audience will enjoy a fun-filled performance.

"This year we have four clowns and four princesses," Baccari said. "An added piece of trivia is that Quail's granddaughter is going to be one of the prin-

cesses."

Seats tend to go fast, according to Baccari, so she said to make sure you get there early.

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

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May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, adored, loved, preserved & glorified throughout the world now and forever. The sacred heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, Helper of the Hopeless, pray for us. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ for the help of your servant St. Jude in listening to my prayers. Say this prayer nine times for nine days. By the end of the eighth, your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank you Sacred Heart of Jesus & St. Jude for prayers answered.
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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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7th Powwow will make you dance to a different drum

If you've ever wanted to dance to the beat of a different drum, here's your chance.

The Big Spring Powwow is this weekend and dancing is a big part of what it's all about.

Powwow committee member Randy McKinney points out that dancing has always been part of Native American culture.

"Native Americans dance for many reasons — a good hunt or harvest, marriage or childbirth, or just for the fun of it. These dances would last for days," said McKinney.

In this case, powwow is two days, Saturday and Sunday at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum on the Howard College campus.

The \$5 admission fee — children 12 and under get in free — allows spectators the opportunity to watch all the dancing they'd like, learn about Native American culture, shop among the many vendors for jewelry, art and good eats, and participate in a silent auction.

The costumes — actual Native American clothing — are worth the price of admission alone, in our opinion.

Each day begins at 10 a.m. with gourd dancing, followed by a grand entry at 12:30 p.m.

On Saturday, there is a break for dinner at 5 in the evening, then dancing commences again at 6 p.m. and lasts until 10.

Sunday's schedule begins with church at 9 a.m. with gourd dancing at 10 again and a grand entry at 12:30. Everything wraps up at 5 o'clock.

The Big Spring Powwow, a contest powwow, is in its seventh, and on its way to becoming one of the traditional events in this community.

If you've been in the past, chances are you're going back this weekend.

If you haven't gone before, make plans to bring your camera.

And make plans to dance to a different drum.

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

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to newsdesk@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we refuse to be alone, Lord, and invite You into our life. Amen

Obama's BAM! ZAP! POW!

It was "Mission Accomplished" but without the banner.

In a strong, almost pugnacious, speech Monday night, President Barack Obama said he had achieved his initial goals in Libya. "So for those who doubted our capacity to carry out this operation, I want to be clear: The United States of America has done what we said we would do," he said.

Slashing the air with his left hand, he used language that was not only robust, but martial: "We struck regime forces. ... We hit Gadhafi's troops. ... We targeted tanks."

BAM! ZAP! POW!

Obama admitted that he militarily intervened in Libya even though America was not at any risk. "There will be times ... when our safety is not directly threatened, but our interests and values are," he said.

And that is why we are fighting in Libya. Our interest is to have a stable world, and our values are to promote democracy and to prevent a "massacre" in Libya and "violence on a horrific scale."

"We must stand alongside those who believe in the same core principles that have guided us through many storms: our opposition to violence directed against one's own citizens; our support for a set of universal rights, including the freedom for people to express themselves and choose their leaders; our support for governments that are ultimately responsive to the aspirations of the people," Obama said.

Which you could call the

Obama Doctrine, except we hold so few countries to it, including dictatorships that we not only do business with, but whom we also call friends and allies, that it doesn't deserve that title.

But Libya is the right enemy at the right time because we think we can defeat Moammar Gadhafi on the cheap — that is by using air power alone — and supporting rebel forces.

Make no mistake, Libya is ruled by a "tyrant," Obama said, who "has denied his people freedom, exploited their wealth, murdered opponents at home and abroad, and terrorized innocent people around the world — including Americans who were killed by Libyan agents."

"In the past," Obama said, "we had seen him hang civilians in the streets, and kill over a thousand people in a single day."

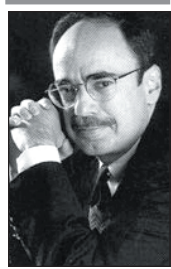
Gadhafi is a monster.

This is undisputable. Though the European Union has been selling him weapons since 2004, the same year President George W. Bush lifted a U.S. trade embargo against the monster.

And so as we begin our third ongoing military adventure in the Mideast, we know who the bad guy is. But who are the good guys? Who are the rebels? What do they want? And what kind of government will they form if they get the chance?

On this, Obama was virtually silent. "Tomorrow, Secretary Clinton will go to London, where she will meet with the Libyan opposition and consult with more than 30 nations," he said.

So I guess it will be up to Hillary to find out who the good guys are. Though she still may be baffled. We sometimes make mistakes about whom we are talking to. Our intelligence as regards to the Middle East is still a little sketchy.



ROGER SIMON

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Let voters decide on issues

In Sacramento, the knee-jerk response to any crisis is to blame the Republicans. But if Gov. Jerry Brown and Democratic legislative leaders can't cut a deal to win the two GOP votes in the Assembly and two in the Senate needed to qualify Brown's tax-increase extension for the June ballot, Democrats must take their share of responsibility for fudging a deal.

First, there's the original sin: Brown's decision to stake his budget package on a do-over ballot measure that voters rejected by a 2-1 margin in 2009. Brown knew when he plotted this strategy that it would be career suicide for Republicans to vote for the sort of tax increases that he himself dared not advocate when he ran for governor.

Now the Dems have to give the GOP something in return.

I believe Republicans should hang their heads in shame for failing to terminate redevelopment agencies and funnel \$1.7 billion into vital services.

I also believe Republicans should provide the four votes needed to get Brown's measure — which would extend the "temporary" 2009 income taxes, sales

taxes and car fees for five years — on the ballot. In recent elections, voters have sent too many muddled messages. The Brown measure would force voters to take a stand for or against today's level of spending.

On Friday, Senate Republican Leader Bob Dutton released a point-by-point list detailing what his caucus has sought in return for some yes votes. Brown spokesman Gil Duran countered, "It splashes over the border of what's possible" — as he criticized the GOP list as being too long.

Well, it was too long — see provisions to restore county-fair funding and to move the primary to March.

And then it wasn't too long — some items actually were details on pension reform, like details in the Brown campaign platform.

The GOP list also claimed that Brown supported some items — capping pensions at \$106,000 — and rejected others — increasing cost-sharing for health and pension benefits.

Some Republicans argue that Brown is so beholden to public-employee unions for supporting his candidacy that he cannot say no to them. The governor has yet to prove them wrong.

In this, Brown does no service to the left. As San Francisco Public Defender Jeff Adachi has argued, the more municipalities pay into pension systems, the

We went to war in Iraq over weapons of mass destruction that did not exist and, years later, knowing we had to get better spies, we were caught by surprise by the popular uprising in Egypt. (And when, by the way, during his 30-year reign in Egypt, did we tell Hosni Mubarak, our good friend and ally, that we would not tolerate his violation of our "core principles"?)

But we had to act. If we had not, "a massacre would have driven thousands of additional refugees across Libya's borders, putting enormous strains on the peaceful — yet fragile — transitions in Egypt and Tunisia," Obama said.

This is the new Domino Theory. In the '60s, we said if the communists took over South Vietnam, Japan would follow and then Australia and then we would be battling men in black-clad pajamas on the Golden Gate Bridge.

Today, our new Domino Theory states that refugees from Libya would destabilize Tunisia and Egypt. I don't know about Tunisia, but having been to Cairo, I think you could slip a few hundred thousand refugees in there and nobody even would notice.

No matter. "As we speak," the president said, "our troops are supporting our ally Japan, leaving Iraq to its people, stopping the Taliban's momentum in Afghanistan and going after al-Qaida around the globe."

Mission accomplished. But ongoing.

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.

less cash they have for social services liberals support.

Also, younger workers pay a penalty when cities lay them off in order to pay benefits for retired city workers.

Republicans tell me that Brown won't give at all on the idea of putting pension reform and a solid spending cap on the ballot. The Brownies counter that the GOP can't focus.

They should talk. The latest PPIC poll found that while 54 percent of likely voters supported Brown's plan in January, support now has slid to 46 percent. Brown has to convince voters he'll be tough with labor, too.

After Brown signed the painful spending-cuts part of his budget last week, he said, "I find it shocking that elected representatives can so cavalierly say to the people, 'Shut up, you have no right to weigh in on this.'"

The same goes for a pension reform and spending cap: What's wrong with letting the voters decide?

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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News in brief

Rebels flee under onslaught from Gadhafi forces as world debates Libya's future

RASLANOUF, Libya (AP) — Moammar Gadhafi's forces hammered rebels with tanks and rockets, turning their rapid advance into a panicked retreat in an hourslong battle Tuesday. The fighting underscored the dilemma facing the U.S. and its allies in Libya: Rebels may be unable to oust Gadhafi militarily unless already contentious international airstrikes go even further in taking out his forces.

Opposition fighters pleaded for strikes as they fled the hamlet of Bin Jawwad, where artillery shells crashed thunderously, raising plumes of smoke. No such strikes were launched during the fighting, and some rebels shouted, "Sarkozy, where are you?" — a reference to French President Nicolas Sarkozy, one of the strongest supporters of using air power against Gadhafi.

World leaders meeting in London agreed that Gadhafi should step down but have yet to decide what additional pressure to put on him.

"Gadhafi has lost the legitimacy to lead, so we believe he must go. We're working with the international community to try to achieve that outcome," U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton told reporters after the talks concluded.

German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle said it "has to be made very clear to Gadhafi: His time is over." But Germany and other countries have expressed reservations about the current military intervention in Libya, let alone expanding it.

Top envoys agree Gadhafi must step down but don't discuss arming the rebels

LONDON (AP) — A sweeping array of world powers — from the United States to the United Nations, from the Arab League to NATO — spoke from the same script Tuesday in forcefully calling for Libya's Moammar Gadhafi to step down. Some even hinted at secret talks on Gadhafi's exit.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and British Foreign Secretary William Hague led the crisis talks in London between 40 countries and institutions, all seeking an endgame aimed at halting Gadhafi's bloody onslaught against Libya's people.

Although the NATO-led airstrikes on Gadhafi's forces that began March 19 aren't aimed at toppling him, dozens of nations agreed in the talks that Libya's future does not include the dictator at the helm.

"Gadhafi has lost the legitimacy to lead, so we believe he must go. We're working with the international community to try to achieve that outcome," Clinton told reporters.

House GOP leader rules out stopgap spending bill to buy negotiating time and avert shutdown

WASHINGTON (AP) — The No. 2 Republican in the House said Tuesday that the chamber won't pass another short-term federal funding bill to avert a government shutdown if talks between the GOP and the White House fail to produce a 2011 spending

agreement by an April 8 deadline.

Majority Leader Rep. Eric Cantor of Virginia said "time is up" and that it's up to Democrats controlling the White House and the Senate to offer significant spending cuts as part of legislation to fund the government for the rest of the budget year.

Cantor's remarks to reporters suggest that Republicans could advance a stopgap bill if an agreement is struck between Democrats and the White House that would need time to draft into legislation and pass through House and Senate.

Talks have mostly broken down, however, and the combatants are instead casting blame in a daily back-and-forth public relations battle. Democrats say that GOP leaders, fearing a tea-party rebellion, have pulled back from a near-agreement on an overall figure for spending cuts that would slash President Barack Obama's budget requests for the current year by \$70 billion or more.

Victims executed, set on fire in attack that ends when Iraqi gunmen blow themselves up

BAGHDAD (AP) — Wearing military uniforms over explosives belts, gunmen held a local Iraqi government center hostage Tuesday in a grisly siege that ended with the deaths of at least 56 people, including three councilmen who were executed with gunshots to the head.

The five-hour standoff in Tikrit, former dictator Saddam Hussein's home town, ended only when the attackers blew themselves up in one of the bloodiest days in Iraq this year.

First they set fire to the bodies of the three slain Salahuddin province councilmen in a brutal, defiant show of how insurgents still render Iraq unstable — even if it has so far escaped the political unrest rolling across the Arab world.

"Why did they shoot him and set fire to his poor body?" said Salahuddin government spokesman Mohammed al-Asi, trying not to weep when confirming the killing of lawmaker Mehdi al-Aaran, an elderly man who headed the council's religious affairs committee.

Huge Wal-Mart women's bias lawsuit hits possible block by skeptical Supreme Court justices

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court appears ready to block a massive sex discrimination lawsuit against Wal-Mart on behalf of up to 1.6 million women, and that could make it harder for other workers nationwide to bring class-action claims against large employers.

The 10-year-old lawsuit, argued in lively exchanges at the court Tuesday, claims that Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the world's largest employer, favors men over women in pay and promotions. Billions of dollars are at stake if it is allowed to go forward.

The case also could affect the future of other class-action lawsuits that pool modest individual claims into a single action that creates the potential for a large judgment and increases the pressure on businesses to settle.

In Tuesday's arguments, several justices suggested they were troubled by the case and lower court decisions

against Bentonville, Ark.-based Wal-Mart. Estimates of how many women could be included in the lawsuit run from 500,000 to 1.6 million.

Syrian leader offers concessions as wave of popular dissent shakes the country

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Facing an extraordinary wave of popular dissent, Syrian President Bashar Assad fired his Cabinet on Tuesday and promised to end widely despised emergency laws — concessions unlikely to appease protesters demanding sweeping reforms in one of the most hard-line nations in the Middle East.

The overtures, while largely symbolic, are a moment of rare compromise in the Assad family's 40 years of iron-fisted rule. They came as the government mobilized hundreds of thousands of supporters in rallies in the capital and elsewhere, in an effort to show it has wide popular backing.

Nearly every aspect of Syrian society is monitored and controlled by the security forces, and the feared secret police crush even the smallest rumblings of opposition. Draconian laws have all but eradicated civil liberties and political freedoms.

But with the protests that erupted

on March 18, thousands of Syrians appear to have broken through a barrier of fear in this tightly controlled nation of 23 million.

AP IMPACT: U.S. nuclear reactors required to cope with blackouts lasting a maximum 4 or 8 hours

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's a nightmarish scenario — a days-long blackout at a nuclear power plant leading to a radioactive leak. Though the odds of that happening are extremely remote, an Associated Press investigation has found that some U.S. plants are more vulnerable than others.

Long before the nuclear emergency in Japan, U.S. regulators knew that a power failure lasting for days at an American nuclear plant, whatever the cause, could lead to a radioactive leak. Even so, they have only required the nation's 104 nuclear reactors to develop plans for dealing with much shorter blackouts on the assumption that power would be restored quickly.

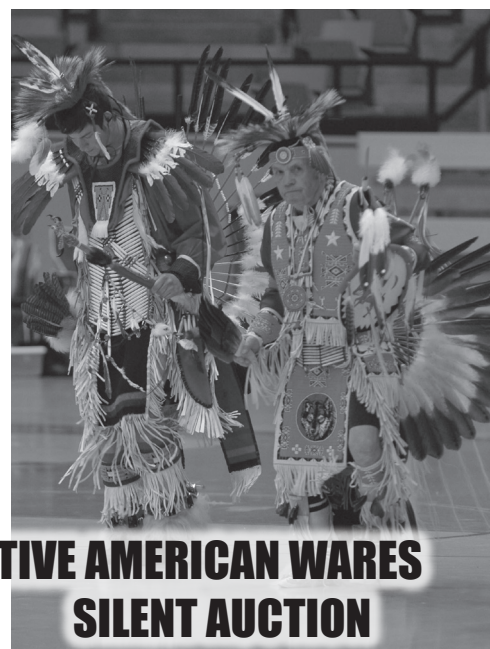
In one simulation presented by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in 2009, it would take less than a day for radiation to escape from a reactor at a Pennsylvania nuclear power plant after an earthquake, flood or fire knocked out all electrical power.

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Why not check this out? At the library

Dave Ramsey is a well-known financial self-help guy. You may hear his radio show on one of the local stations or from XM or Sirius radio. We now have one copy of his "Total Money Make-over" (332.024 RAM D)

for you to check out. It shows the steps you should take to become debt-free and financially secure. Funny, it is just the same way my parents (in their 80s) handled their finances while we were kids.

A new BOCD is "The Informationist" (AUCD F STE T) by Taylor Stevens. Vanessa Munroe deals in information, expensive information, for corporations, heads of states, private clients, anyone who can pay her tab. When asked by a Texas millionaire to find his daughter, who vanished in Africa four years before, she is game. It will take her back to her childhood and open old memories that perhaps were best forgotten.

We now have "Burn" (BOCD FBAR N) by Nevada Barr, who writes the Anna Pigeon series. Anna, a park ranger with the National Park Service, takes some time to recover in post-Katrina New Orleans with her friend Geneva. She isn't there long before she runs across

Jordan, who is the least bit creepy. It looks like someone is trying to place a curse on her — a chicken (dead, of course) with runic symbols, and strange signs of some very dark doings in the heart of post-Ka-

From Faye Kellerman's husband Jonathan, comes "Therapy" (M KEL J). Milo Sturgis tells Alex Delaware it has been awhile since he has had a "nice little murder." There is nothing nice about a young couple being shot in the head and the woman impaled with a spike. It is indeed dark therapy when Delaware must delve into Gavin's psyche via popular celebrity psychologist Dr. Mary Lou Koppel's fiercely guarded files. As Delaware goes through the twisted wreckage of Gavin's mind, he doesn't find madness; instead it is a chain of greed, corruption and hate.

This looks like a neat, interesting book: "The Vikings: Voyagers of Discover and Plunder" (948.022 CHA R) by Rene Charand. At times bloody, but always eventful, the history of the Vikings continues to capture the imagination. They erupted in to British history with the infamous raid on Lindisfarne, but that is only one part of their history. With their raids taking them from Norway to North Africa, they established the Dukedome of Normandy, provided the Byzantine emperor with bodyguards and were the first to land on the shores of America, some 500 years before Columbus. This is a very readable book.

We have received some new fiction, too. "Richard North Peterson's "The Race" (F PAT R) is a vivid and sometimes-frightening story of contemporary power politics. It pits a

"righteous" candidate for president to resolve the conflict between his feelings and his presidential ambitions. He must decide who and what he is willing to sacrifice.

This is a 2004 Michael Connally book: "The Narrows" (F CON M). FBI Rachel Walling finally gets the call she has been dreading for years. Robert Backus, a serial killer known as "The Poet" is back. Harry Bosch, the former LAPD detective, is also pulled into the case. This is a taunt and tantalizing mystery that will take the pair

from the Nevada desert to the Las Vegas strip and the dark corners of Los Angeles. While again, this is not a new book, "Odd Hours" was written in 2008 by Dean Koontz; one of his Odd Thomas stories. In Pico Mundo, a fry cook named Odd was rumored to have the ability to communicate with the dead. Word of his ability filters out of Pico Mundo, bringing some who are friends and some who will be deadly enemies. Odd is pulled to the sea, to a small coastal California town where nothing is as it seems.

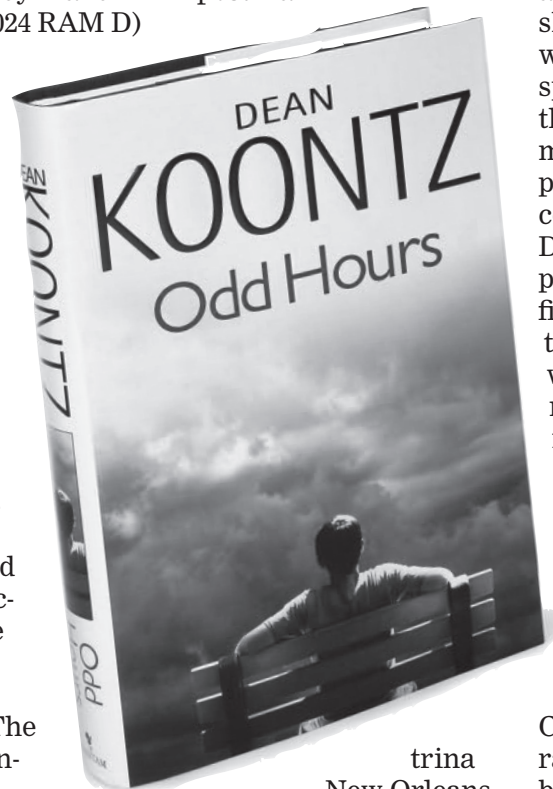
Again, Odd will face the dark forces and will come out after a shattering revelation.

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

Hollis McCright is director of the Howard County Library.



HOLLIS McCRIGHT



trina
New Orleans.

It will take all of Anna's skills to uncover the threads that connect the darkness. Barr's books are excellent.

Read by George Guidall, is Faye Kellerman's "The Mercedes Coffin" (AUCD M KEL J). A cold case turns hot when billionaire genius Genoa Greeves offers a substantial financial incentive to open the cold case of the death of her favorite teacher, Bennett Alston Little. Lt. Peter Decker resents having to commit manpower to a 15-year-old murder that somewhat resembles a current execution-style murder. Decker, his wife Rina and his Hollywood detective daughter Cindy catapult into a dark, ugly murder case.

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News in brief

Edinburg officer accused of wrong OT, inmate sex

EDINBURG (AP) — A suspended South Texas police officer is charged with filing bogus time sheets and have sexual relations with a jailed female robbery suspect. Arraignment was scheduled Wednesday for former Edinburg gang investigator Robert Alvarez. He appeared in a 2009 episode of the History Channel TV series "Gangland." The McAllen Monitor reports an eight-count indictment unsealed last week says Alvarez misused official information, violated an inmate's civil rights and filed incorrect time sheets involving overtime pay. Defense lawyer Reynaldo Merino says Alvarez, who was indefinitely suspended in December, is surprised by the indictment. The indictment says Alvarez had sexual relations with a jailed woman in February 2010. He's also charged with having a sexual relationship with another woman he allegedly tracked using cell phone records secured through a subpoena.

Killeen city manager contract being bought out

KILLEEN (AP) — Leaders of a Central Texas city have voted to pay \$750,000 to buy out the contract of the city manager who last year received a raise for his good work. The Killeen City Council agreed Tuesday to buy out City Manager Connie Green's contract. A check was to be issued Wednesday. Green, who's been with the city more than 20 years and became city manager in 2005, earning \$195,000 annually. Mayor Tim Hancock says Assistant City Manager Glenn Morrison will be the interim city manager. The Killeen Daily Herald reports Green says that on March 15 he questioned the legality of city council members allegedly doing "walking quorums." The reference involves meetings by several council members without posting public notice, as required by the Texas Open Meetings Act.

Dallas-area priest pleads no contest to assault

ROWLETT (AP) — A Dallas-area priest has been put on probation after pleading no contest to misdemeanor assault over the inappropriate touching of a 14-year-old girl. The Dallas Morning News reported Wednesday that the Rev. Bob Crisp had been a priest at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Rowlett for a decade. The 62-year-old priest was put on leave last April. Crisp pleaded no contest Tuesday in Rowlett Municipal Court and received six months of deferred adjudication, plus was fined \$650 over the summer 2009 incident. He could not immediately be reached for comment. Investigators say Crisp slipped off his shoe and rubbed his bare foot on the girl's leg, while complimenting her pedicure and her footwear, in an incident near the church. A diocese spokeswoman says there are no plans to reassign Crisp.

Houston mayor seeks more budget cuts from police

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston police could be facing pension plan contribution cutbacks as the city deals with a projected \$130 million budget shortfall. Mayor Annise Parker's administration is seeking permission to

trim the city's annual retirement contributions. City Attorney David Feldman and Finance Director Kelly Dowe already have asked firefighter pension executives to accept \$14 million less than the city's obligation to the pension system for the next fiscal year. The Houston Chronicle reported, for its Wednesday editions, that they plan to ask police for cuts as well. Christopher Gonzales with the Houston Firefighters' Relief and Retirement Fund says it's unfair to balance the budget "on the backs of the firefighters."


Texas guards indicted, alleged inmate beating

AMARILLO (AP) — Three fired prison guards have been indicted over the alleged beating of an inmate at a maximum-security unit in Texas. The Amarillo Globe-News reported Wednesday that a fourth indicted guard retired after the June 2010 incident at the Clements Unit. A Potter County grand jury on March 9 indicted John Jowers II, Matthew Borunda, Robert Nixon and Jeremy Beville on misdemeanor official oppression charges. Conviction carries a penalty of up to a year in jail. Texas Department of Criminal Justice spokesman Jason Clark says Jackie Ronald Green is serving a life term for a 2007 killing in Smith County.

Clark says Green was either threatening to or throwing things at the guards. TCDJ fired Borunda, Nixon and Beville shortly after the incident. Clark says Jowers resigned. Texas lawmakers consider privatizing inmate care. AUSTIN (AP) — Texas lawmakers facing a projected shortfall in the next two-year budget have discussed plans to hire private medical vendors to care for state prisoners. House Corrections Committee Chairman Jerry Madden of Richardson on Tuesday told the Austin American-

Statesman that he's discussed a draft plan. Madden says he's spoken with a senior adviser to Gov. Rick Perry, Mike Morrissey. Specifics have not been released. Perry spokeswoman Katherine Cesinger says his office will continue to work with lawmakers on this and other issues. The state more than 15 years ago hired the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston and Texas Tech University to help treat inmates. Madden says the system has become a national model for prisoner treatment costs. Lawmakers face a \$27 billion budget shortfall in providing existing

state services. Former SMU student pleads guilty to passport fraud. DALLAS (AP) — A former Southern Methodist University student who fled the U.S. nearly a decade ago has pleaded guilty to passport fraud. A federal judge in Dallas on Tuesday accepted the plea from 28-year-old Douglas Havard and ordered him to be sentenced June 20. Investigators say Havard spent the past seven years in an English jail after his 2004 arrest or involvement with a global identity theft ring with ties to Russian organized crime.



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Odds and Ends

Texas fisherman gets unwelcome boat guest

FREEPORT (AP) — It's the catch of a lifetime, but it's not clear whether a Texas fisherman landed an 8-foot shark or it landed him.

Jason Kresse, 29, of Freeport, and two crew members had been fishing for red snapper about 50 miles into the Gulf of Mexico and were dumping fish guts into the water about 3:45 a.m. Monday when they heard two big splashes in the distance.

"All of a sudden something hit the side of the boat," Kresse told The Associated Press on Tuesday. "He ends up landing on the back of

the boat." The mako shark had apparently been in a rush to feed. It began thrashing around, and Kresse said he and his crew couldn't get close to the 375-pound fish to toss it back in the water. It damaged the boat before dying several hours later.

Kresse, who has been fishing since he was a child, said the unplanned catch was a shock. Just unloading it was a challenge because it was so heavy.

"We had to use a forklift to get it off the boat when we got to the dock," Kresse said.



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HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Big Spring's Jillian Valle launches a two-run home run in the fourth inning of the Lady Steers' game against Abilene Wylie Tuesday afternoon. Wylie won the contest, 10-8.

Coming up short

Lady Steers fall in 10-8 slugfest

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

If the Big Spring Lady Steers ever get over their unfortunate tendency to give away runs, they could become a force in District 5-3A.

For the second game in a row, the Lady Steers dug themselves a hole too deep to climb out of, allowing six unearned runs in the first inning en route to dropping a 10-8 decision to Abilene Wylie in district softball action at the Big Spring ISD softball complex Tuesday.

There was a silver lining of sorts, however — staring at a 10-3 third inning deficit, Big Spring tightened up its defense, then launched a rally that resulted in the Lady Steers having the tying run at the plate in their last at-bat.

See RALLY, Page 2B

Wylie ices Big Spring

Steers drop chillily District 5-3A showdown

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

The weather for the day was "cold."

When an early spring norther blows through town, there's no colder place to watch baseball than Steer Park, and such was the case Tuesday. Temperatures in the 40s — and wind chills even lower than that — had fans scurrying for coats, blankets and hot chocolate.

For the young Big Spring Steers, however, the temperatures seemed to be invigorating, at least for most of the game. The Steers stood toe-to-toe with Abilene Wylie through four innings, before defensive mistakes and timely Wylie hits paved the way for the Bulldogs to take a 6-1 victory in District 5-3A baseball action Tuesday evening.

For Big Spring Coach Burt Otto, it was a case of a young team struggling to get its bearings.

"I thought they were very competitive tonight," Otto said. "But when you have a young squad, mistakes are just part of the maturing process. We had two errors lead to three runs tonight (but) we'll make those plays in the future."

For the present, however, it's apparent that the Steers are looking up at most of their district brethren. Wylie, for example,

"I thought they were very competitive tonight. But when you have a young squad, mistakes are just part of the maturing process. We had two errors lead to three runs tonight (but) we'll make those plays in the future."

Burt Otto
BSHS coach

relied on Spencer Labrie's pitching and spotless defense to keep the Bulldogs in the game before their bats finally warmed up in the fifth inning.

Labrie scattered seven hits and struck out seven in six innings of work to pick up the victory.

Big Spring starter Max Pappajohn was charged with all six Wylie runs in taking the loss for the Steers.

Big Spring spotted the Bulldogs an early 1-0 lead before knotting things in the second inning on a RBI single by Jake Rhoton.

The game remained tied until the fifth, when Wylie struck for three runs, two of them unearned. Garrett Martin led off the frame with a triple, Lance Lindley walked and both runners came home on a one-out double by Colin Harris. Harris eventually scored when Big Spring first baseman Gunnar Kennedy misplayed a throw from third.

Big Spring was unable to respond, despite scoring chances in the fifth and sixth innings.

"I thought (the Steers) hit the ball well tonight; they just didn't fall in," Otto said. "And Wylie took advantage of its opportunities. They broke it open a little bit, and we weren't able to respond."

The Steers return to action Friday when they travel to Andrews for a 7 p.m. game.

Wylie 010 032 0 - 6 7 1
Big Spring 010 000 0 - 1 7 2
WP — Labrie; LP — Pappajohn.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 235 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

Sports calendar

TODAY

Golf — Coahoma and Forsan at Coahoma HS Invitational, Comanche Trail Golf Course, Big Spring.

THURSDAY

Track — Coahoma and Forsan at Lone Wolf Relays, Colorado City.

FRIDAY

Baseball — Big Spring at Andrews, 7 p.m.

Baseball — Western Texas at Howard College (DH), noon.

Baseball — Colorado City at Forsan, 7 p.m.

Softball — Big Spring vs. Alpine (at Monahans), TBA.

Softball — Midland College at Howard College (DH), 1 p.m.

Softball — Colorado City at Forsan, 6:30 p.m.

Track — Big Spring boys and girls at Indian Relays, Seminole.

Tennis — Big Spring at Snyder tournament.

Tennis — Forsan at Wink tournament.

To submit a calendar item, call 263-7331, ext. 235.

Aggies down Baylor, head to Final Four

DALLAS (AP) — When the NCAA brackets came out, Texas A&M coach Gary Blair knew his team would have to get past top-seeded Baylor to get to the Final Four for the first time.

Well, when it mattered most, the Aggies finally beat Baylor and All-American Brittney Griner.

After eight consecutive losses to its Big 12 rivals, including the previous three this season, Sydney Carter got Texas A&M off to a fast start and went on to score 22 points in a 58-46 victory over the top-seeded Lady Bears in the Dallas Regional final Tuesday night.

"This was a very special

game," Blair said. "We didn't ask to play Baylor, we asked to be recognized for what we accomplished during the year. They chose to put us in the same region. ... Both of us could have been in the Final Four, both of us should have been in the Final Four."

Baylor and Griner, who played in the Final Four last year in the 6-foot-8 center's freshman season, will have to settle for the Big 12 regular season and tournament trophies the still-young Bears (34-3) already won this season.

The Aggies (31-5) blew a nine-point lead midway through the second half in Waco last month. They squan-

dered a 12-0 start in the Big 12 championship game just more than three weeks ago, two days before the brackets were unveiled with the conference's top two teams being the top two seeds in the same bracket.

This time, Blair's team lead from start-to-finish after Carter had a 3-pointer, an assist and a jumper in the game's first 2 minutes for a 7-0 lead. The Aggies were coming off a 41-point rout two days earlier.

"Once we beat Georgia, the feeling began then," Carter said. "There was definitely confidence, an all-around confidence going around the locker room before the game.

... We told ourselves this is our game. We were going to come in confident and this was our game."

Sydney Colson added 12 points for Texas A&M, including some important scores after two free throws by Griner had gotten Baylor within 48-41 with 4½ minutes left.

Colson blew past Griner and missed, but was fouled and made both free throws. Right after that, Colson had a steal and took it all the way for a layup and was fouled again. With the A&M bench going wild, and the stunned Baylor players sitting and staring ahead, Colson finished the three-point play to make it 53-41.

On the same day leading scorer Danielle Adams was named an All-American, she was only a complementary player for the Aggies with another subpar game against Baylor. And that was plenty all right with the 6-foot-1 senior who had only six points — all after halftime.

"I was the happiest person in the world," Adams said. "Six points? I mean my teammates had my back."

Griner, coming off a 40-point game Sunday against Wisconsin-Green Bay after scoring 30 the game before that, had 20 points and nine rebounds. But she struggled all night shooting, making only 6 of 18 from the field.

No underdogs needed in Final Four

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Leave the bracket-busting unpredictability to the men's tournament. In the women Final Four, it's a dose of March Mildness. Connecticut, Stanford, Notre Dame and Texas A&M, two No. 1 seeds and two No. 2s, will be in Indianapolis on Sunday for the national semifinals.

The double-digit seeds don't rule here — just the double-digit wins. The Huskies, Irish, the Cardinal and the Aggies all won their regional final games by at least 10 points, sucking the drama out of the most meaningful games of the season.

In one game in Indianapolis, the top-seeded Huskies (36-1) have a third straight national championship in sight when they play second-seeded Notre Dame (30-7). The Big East teams already played three times this season, UConn winning each time.

In another game, No. 1-seed

Stanford (33-2) makes its fourth straight Final Four and plays second-seeded Texas A&M (31-5).

The winners play Tuesday for the national championship.

The Huskies made their fourth straight Final Four after cruising to a 75-40 win Tuesday night against Duke. Maya Moore, only the second four-time All-American, expects to leave the Huskies with a third straight national title.

"One thing is the absolute truth, there's only one team playing right now that knows how to win a national championship," UConn coach Geno Auriemma said. "Only a couple kids playing next weekend know how to win a national championship and I'm fortunate to have them on my team."

In UConn's way is a Notre Dame team that will have the home-state advantage, but not much else. The Irish are 0-3 this season against their Big East

antagonist: losing 79-76 on Jan. 8; 78-57 on Feb. 19; and 73-64 in the conference tournament on March 8.

"You would love to be playing somebody that's not in your conference, but, at the same time, there's going to be a Big East team playing for the national championship next Tuesday night and that's pretty cool," Auriemma said.

The Huskies are two victories away from winning an eighth overall championship to match Tennessee's record. It would also match the title run that the Huskies had from 2002-04 and the one that the Lady Vols achieved from 1996-98.

Notre Dame was making its first trip to the Final Four since 2001, when Muffet McGraw's team won it all. In that season, the Irish lost to Connecticut in the Big East tournament championship game before beating UConn in the national semifinals.

RALLY

Continued from Page 1B

That his team was so competitive, despite its mistakes, had Head Coach John Sparks feeling somewhat optimistic about the Lady Steers' chances this season.

"It's like I told the girls after the game: 'We're 1-3 in district, but every team in this district is beatable, and every team in this district is beatable by you,'" Sparks said. "So, it's time to see what this team is made of."

Sparks hopes the Lady Steers' character is more exemplified by what they showed the final four innings of Tuesday's game, because what transpired at the beginning doesn't bode well for future success at all.

Big Spring defensive miscues in the form of three errors allowed Wylie to score six runs in the first inning, and things got worse for the Lady Steers before they got better.

After the Lady Steers parlayed four singles, a pair of sacrifice bunts and a Wylie error into three runs in the bottom of the second to cut their deficit to 6-3, Wylie responded in its next at-bat with four runs on six hits — all singles — to push its lead to 10-3.

That's when Big Spring apparently decided enough was enough. Relief pitcher Valerie Ross and her defensive teammates shut down the Lady Bulldogs the rest of the way, and the Lady Steers started finding their rhythm at the plate.

Big Spring got three runs back in its half of the third, thanks to four hits and a Wylie error, to cut the deficit down to 10-6, then tightened things even further in the fourth inning.

Jillian Valle provided the offensive spark in the inning, launching a two-run home run to left center that also scored Logan Yarbar, who had led off the stanza with a single.

But that's as close as the Lady Steers got. Twice in the later innings, Big Spring had the tying run at the plate, but hit into inning-inning double plays both times.

"It was just too little, too late," Sparks said. "I'm proud of the way they battled back, though. I'm OK with

that. We just have to find a way to battle all the way through the game."

The Lady Steers re-

turn to action Friday when they play Alpine in a non-district game in Monahans.

Ab. Wylie 604 000 0 — 10 14 4

Big Spring 033 200 0 — 8 8

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 235.

In Sunday's Big Spring Herald

The Ripken Way

Baseball great introduces a new generation to the all-American game

American Profile

Baseball Family Values

Hall of Famer Cal Ripken Jr. continues to champion baseball by mentoring young players and promoting professional standards among those who coach and play.

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

The Logic of Good Defense

South dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 7 3
♥ 9 6 3
♦ Q 10 4
♣ A Q 9 7 5

WEST
♠ Q 10 8 6 4
♥ 8 4 2
♦ 9 7 5
♣ 4 2

EAST
♠ A J 5
♥ K Q 7 5
♦ J 8 3 2
♣ K 6

SOUTH
♠ K 9 2
♥ A J 10
♦ A K 6
♣ J 10 8 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 2 NT Pass
3 NT
Opening lead — six of spades.

This deal from a team contest illustrates the difference one thoughtful play can make in the outcome of a deal.

The bidding was identical at both tables, and both Wests led their fourth-best spade, the six. At the first table, East won the spade with the ace and returned the jack, declarer holding up the king until the third round. The jack of clubs was then finessed, losing to East's king.

Since East had no spades, he shifted to a low heart. Declarer was taking no chances, though. He rose with the ace and cashed four clubs and three diamonds to finish with exactly nine tricks.

At the second table, East gave far more thought to his play on the opening trick. With eight points in view in the dummy and 14 more in his own hand, only 18 points were missing. Declarer had to have 16 or 17 points for his opening notrump bid and acceptance of North's invitation, so West could hold at most two points, marking South with the king of spades. This in turn meant there was no way the spade suit could be run immediately.

So instead of taking the ace at trick one, East played the jack! This left South awkwardly placed; if he didn't take the king, and West had the ace, the opponents could run the suit.

South therefore won the trick with the king and tried the club finesse. When it lost, East played the ace and another spade to set the contract one trick.

While it's true that declarer could have gotten home had he ducked the jack of spades, he can hardly be faulted for his play, which would have been right on the great majority of deals. But East, unlike his counterpart at the other table, gave South a chance to go wrong, and that made all the difference.

Tomorrow: A tough nut to crack.

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Lady Steers golfers open district tourney

Herald Staff Report

SWEETWATER — Fighting the best golfers in District 3-5A was bad enough. Dealing with the rain and cold just made things worse.

Big Spring High School golfers Kelsie Guinn and Gabri Gallier slogged their way through "miserable" conditions to shoot scores of 94 and 105, respectively, in the first round of the District 3-5A girls' golf tournament Tuesday afternoon.

Snyder's A team shot a collective score of 341 to take first place. Sweetwater A was in second with a 370, while Brownwood A was third with a 383.

Guinn's total was good enough to leave her tied for 12th in the medalist race, while Gallier currently places 22nd.

"Considering the conditions, I thought they played pretty decent," BSHS Coach Chris Joslin said.

BSHS returns to action Tuesday in Abilene.

su | do | ku

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

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

su | do | ku

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ANSWERS

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

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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.

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The Dental Assistant works as part of the dental team providing dental services to the patients of the Center. The Dental Assistant assists the Dentist during the examination and treatment of patients, sterilizes/disinfects instruments, prepares materials, and performs dental x-rays as needed. This is a full-time position with South Plains Rural Health Services Dental Clinic in Lamesa Texas. Must be certified. Bilingual a plus. This full-time position offers a competitive salary, benefits, and holidays. Please mail resume/ applications to Dale Moore, South Plains Rural Health Services, Inc. 1000 FM 300, Levelland TX 79336, or fax to (806)894-3378. Or apply online at www.sprhs.org EOE. No phone calls please.

TOP JOBS

THE HOWARD County Sheriff's Office is currently accepting applications for projected Detention Officer vacancies. Applications may be picked up and returned to the Sheriff's Administration office 1st floor Courthouse 300 S. Main.

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PARKVIEW NURSING and Rehab now accepting applications for Dietary, you may apply online at www.parkviewnursing.net or in person at 3200 Parkway.

PT MERCHANDISER

Needed in BIG SPRING. Retail exp. preferred; must have strong interpersonal skills & email/internet access. Please email merchandising@LMSVC.com or apply @ www.LMSVC.com/jobs with you contact info, exp. & loc.

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.

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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.

WESTERN BANK is now hiring for a full-time Bookkeeper/Teller. Monday thru Friday, \$9.00-\$11.00 per hour DOE. Medical benefits provided. High School Diploma required. Some Banking experience preferred. Must be will organized and must be a team player with good personnel skills. Pick up application at any Western Bank location or email resume to kbaker@thebank.net

"It Pays To Read Big Spring Herald Classifieds"

Help Wanted

BIG SPRING HERALD

Sports Reporter Opportunity

The Big Spring Herald has an opportunity for the right person. We seek a sports minded person to join our editorial department. The perfect candidate should possess a very strong interest in High School sports and knowledge of sports in general. This position requires some travel including a personal vehicle along with a working knowledge of Macintosh computers. The candidate should also have experience with Quark and InDesign computer programs.

This full time position includes benefits such as vacations, sick leave, and holiday pay, just to mention a few. If you feel you have the qualifications and are interested please submit a resume to Sports Editor Position, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, Texas 79721 or email to editor@bigspringherald.com We are an EOE.

THE WOOD Group is hiring Direct Care Staff for residential facility. Weekend (8pm to 8am) and PRN shifts available. To apply visit our website at www.thewoodgroup.us and fax application to 432-263-4334, or for questions call 432-269-2559.

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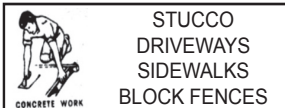
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Real Estate for Sale

LAND for **SALE**-Morgan Ranch Estates about 7 acres. Water well included. Call 432-853-7202 for more information and to set-up appointment to see land.

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

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

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

Legals

Coahoma
PUBLIC NOTICE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
TDHCA HOME HRA
The City of Coahoma has recently received a contract award from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) for Homeowner Rehabilitation Assistance through the HOME Investment Partnerships Program. Accordingly, the City is seeking to contract with a qualified professional management consultant to implement and administer the HOME contract activities within the contract benchmarks. Please submit your proposal of services and a statement of qualifications for these proposed services to City of Coahoma, PO Box 420, Coahoma, TX 79511. A copy of the proposal format is available at Coahoma City Hall. The City must receive proposals no later than 5pm April 6, 2011 to be considered. The City of Coahoma reserves the right to negotiate with any and all firms that submit proposals, per the Texas Professional Services Procurement Act and the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-102. Coahoma is an Affirmative marketing/Equal Opportunity Employer and encourages Historically Underutilized Businesses to submit proposals. #6925 March 23 & 30, 2011

NOBODY ASKS FOR IT
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Call 263-3312
Rape Crisis Services/Big Spring

Hold on to your cell phones — Mercury goes retrograde in Aries, adding extra challenges to the realm of communication. And because Aries is the hotheaded warrior, some of these challenges will likely be the direct result of lost tempers and impulsivity. It's times like these that teach us the value of patience and clear communication.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You will make a bigger effort to try to understand where someone dear to you is coming from. Learning more about his or her interests will help you gain the insight you desire.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). A new person will arouse your curiosity. A bit of casual research is in order. You'll learn the most from a Sagittarius or Gemini who is equally intrigued with the subject.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Moods are fleeting, but e-mail is forever — at least it has the potential to be, as once you hit that "send" button, there's no going back. Furthermore, have a nice long think about anything you put in writing today.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll perform as an individual with all eyes on you and will gain the acceptance of your audience. This personal win will bolster your confidence and give you the motivation to



HOLIDAY MATHIS

Tomorrow's Horoscope

continue to grow.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You prefer to do business where there is a strong sense of stability and tradition around matters of finance. You will connect with those who share your values and make a deal.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You have many friends, and yet you may not get the kind of attention you need from them now. Think about the relationship you'd really like. Once you start thinking about this, you will magnetically draw it to yourself.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Sit back and relax because today will be a smooth ride. Your preparation will pay off, your good karma will come back around, and you'll be just plain lucky.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You will communicate masterfully. Your word choices put others at ease. For instance, instead of saying "no problem," which has negative connotations, you'll say "my pleasure," which creates good feelings.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The presentation of an idea will sell it, whether the idea is a good one or not. A pleasant appearance drives the demand. You realize this and use it to your advantage.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You know a number of ways to make others feel better. You will boost someone's mood with your kind words. Afford yourself the same kindness by engaging in positive self-talk.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-

Feb. 18). You like people who might be classified as "go getters" as long as what they are going to get benefits you, too. Having common interests will help you tolerate the naturally opportunistic.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You will be successful at selling a product or service, just as soon as you can see the product or service from the customer's point of view. Your strongly empathic nature makes this easy for you.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 30). Your year is filled with friends, pleasures and amusements that balance well with your professional and family life. Next month a hobby connects you in business. In June, you will blossom as an inspired teacher and/or artist and will be paid well for your expertise. In August, amazing news has a happy effect on your family. Pisces and Scorpio people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 2, 14, 49 and 18.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTION: "My friend is trying to get me to join a new business. It's a multilevel marketing model, and the products themselves seem quite excellent. There are people in the company who appear to be making a solid living, and they make a compelling argument for buying into the whole scheme. Whenever I go to one of my friend's events, I get really excited and swept up in the moment. But when it's time to plunk down the cash, my stomach tightens and I start to sweat and swallow a lot. I feel so

uncomfortable that I just can't take the risk. My friend is an Aries, and she says I'm just being fearful and "chicken" and that I should live bigger and trust the universe. I'm a Capricorn. What should I do?"

By listening to your body's signs and rhythms, you ARE living big and trusting the universe. That is one of the ways providence speaks to you — through the tightening of your stomach, the spike of your temperature and the need to swallow. So while this business might be terrific for your friend, the bottom line is that you're just not feeling it. Don't let your friend pressure you out of self-interest.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Happy birthday to one of the most famous artists of all time, Vincent Van Gogh. The post-impressionism painter was born when the sun and Mercury were in impulsive Aries and the moon and Jupiter were in bold Sagittarius. These fiery aspects indicate a passion-prone iconoclast. Venus and Mars in Pisces shows a softer side and a spiritual calling. Before he was a painter, Van Gogh was a priest.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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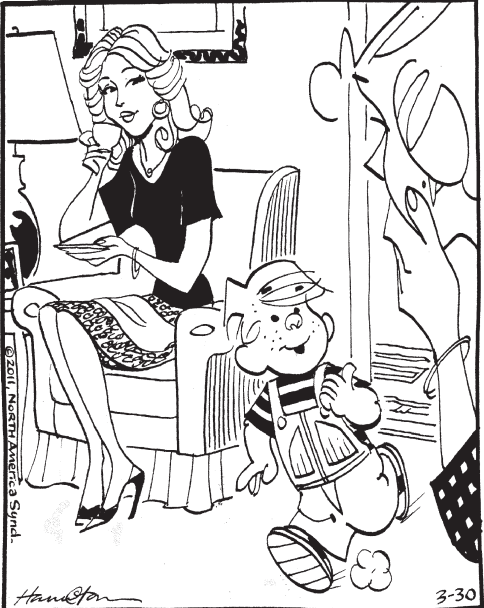
By Mail...
P.O. Box 1431



HERALD

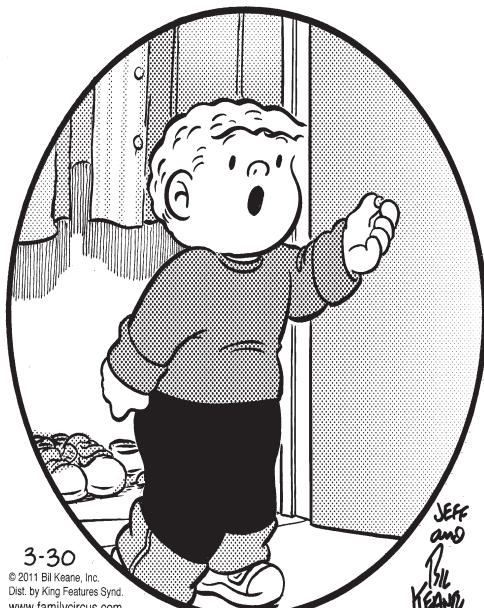
TV schedule grid with columns for station (e.g., KMID, UNI, KPEJ), time slot, and program name (e.g., News, Seinfeld, World).

DENNIS THE MENACE



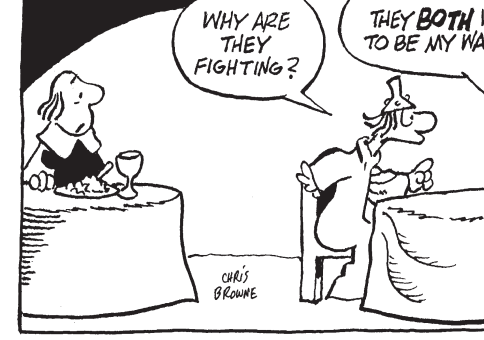
"DAD TOLD MR. WILSON THERE'S A 'TASTY DISH' IN HERE! WHERE IS IT, 'CAUSE I'M STARVED!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



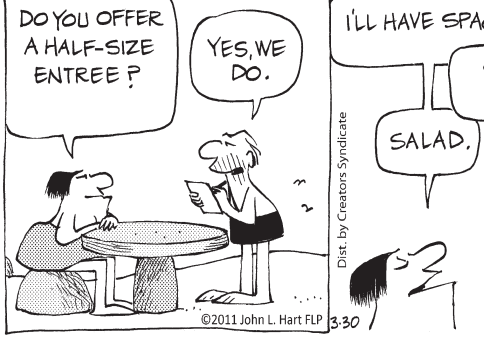
"This button lost its shirt."

HAGAR



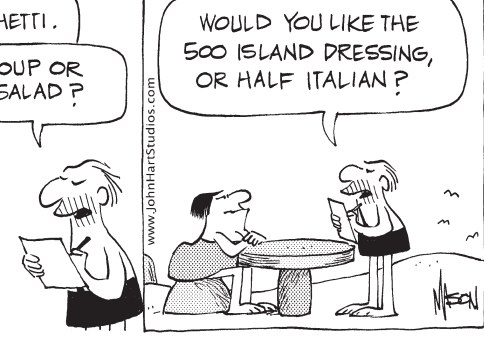
WHY ARE THEY FIGHTING? THEY BOTH WANT TO BE MY WAITER... WHEN I RETURN FROM A SUCCESSFUL RAID, I TEND TO OVER-TIP!!

BC



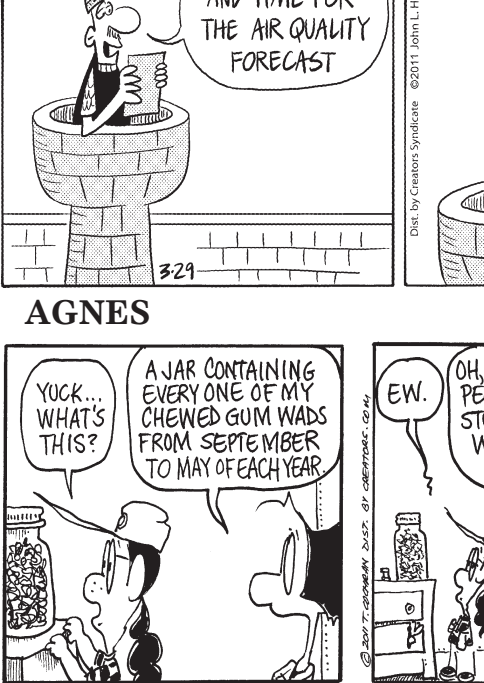
DO YOU OFFER A HALF-SIZE ENTREE? YES, WE DO. I'LL HAVE SPAGHETTI. SOUP OR SALAD? SALAD. WOULD YOU LIKE THE 500 ISLAND DRESSING, OR HALF ITALIAN?

WIZARD OF ID



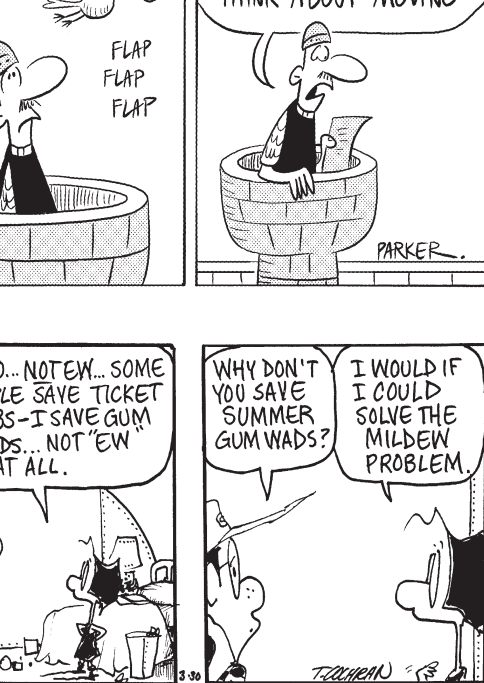
IT'S 9 A.M. AND TIME FOR THE AIR QUALITY FORECAST. FLAP FLAP FLAP. YOU MIGHT WANT TO THINK ABOUT MOVING.

AGNES



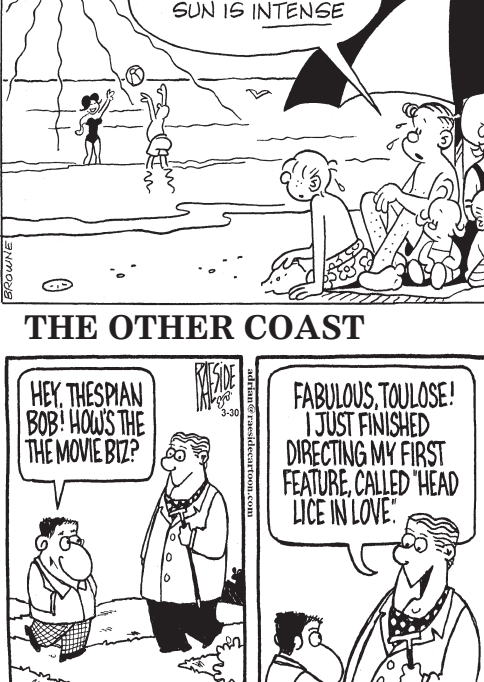
YUCK... WHAT'S THIS? A JAR CONTAINING EVERY ONE OF MY CHEWED GUM WADS FROM SEPTEMBER TO MAY OF EACH YEAR. EW. OH, NO... NOT EW... SOME PEOPLE SAVE TICKET STUBS - I SAVE GUM WADS... NOT 'EW' AT ALL. WHY DON'T YOU SAVE SUMMER GUM WADS? I WOULD IF I COULD SOLVE THE MILDEW PROBLEM.

HI AND LOIS



THAT TROPICAL SUN IS INTENSE. DO WE HAVE TO STAY UNDER HERE UNTIL SUNSET?

THE OTHER COAST



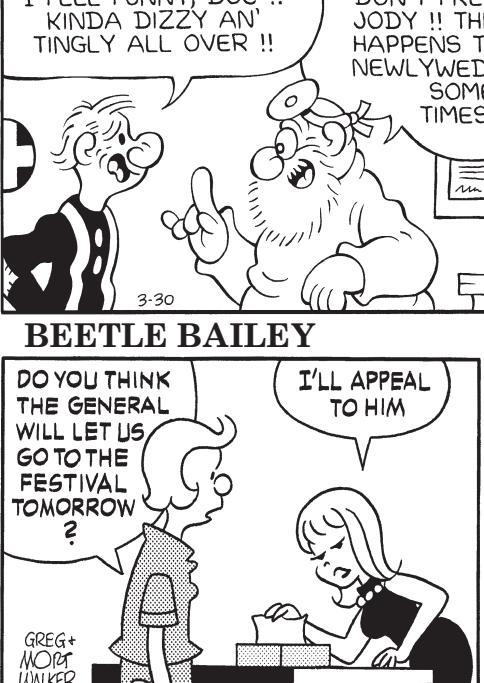
HEY, THESMAN BOB! HOW'S THE MOVIE BIZ? FABULOUS, TOULOSE! I JUST FINISHED DIRECTING MY FIRST FEATURE, CALLED 'HEAD LICE IN LOVE'. CRITICS HAVE SAVAGED IT, CALLING IT THE MOST VILE MOVIE EVER MADE, BUT NO ONE HAS EVER WALKED OUT ON IT. SO IT'S ACTUALLY REALLY GOOD? NOPE, IT'S VILE, BUT IT ONLY PLAYS ON AIRPLANES.

SNUFFY SMITH



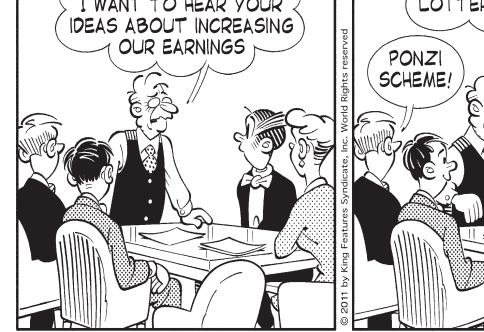
I FEEL FUNNY, DOC !! KINDA DIZZY AN' TINGLY ALL OVER !! DON'T FRET, JODY !! THIS HAPPENS TO NEWLY WEDS SOMETIMES !! WHY'S THAT? NUTHIN' CUTS OFF YORE CIRCULATION LIKE A WEDDIN' RING !!

BEETLE BAILEY



DO YOU THINK THE GENERAL WILL LET US GO TO THE FESTIVAL TOMORROW? I'LL APPEAL TO HIM. WHY ARE YOU CRYING? I'M PRACTICING MY APPEAL!

BLONDIE



I WANT TO HEAR YOUR IDEAS ABOUT INCREASING OUR EARNINGS. LOTTERY TICKETS. PONZI SCHEME! GOVERNMENT BAILOUT! OKAY, MOVING ON TO BUDGET CUTS!

This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, March 30, the 89th day of 2011. There are 276 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On March 30, 1981, President Ronald Reagan was shot and seriously injured outside a Washington, D.C., hotel by John W. Hinckley Jr. Also wounded were White House press secretary James Brady; Secret Service agent Timothy McCarthy and District of Columbia police officer Thomas Delahanty. On this date: In 1861, the element thallium was discovered by English chemist William Crookes. In 1867, U.S. Secretary of State William H. Seward reached agreement with Russia to purchase the territory of Alaska for \$7.2 million. In 1909, the Queensboro Bridge, linking the New York City boroughs of Manhattan and Queens, opened. In 1945, the Soviet Union invaded Austria during World War II. In 1959, a narrowly divided U.S. Supreme Court, in Bartkus v. Illinois, ruled that a conviction in state court following an acquittal in federal court for the same crime did not constitute double jeopardy. In 1964, John Glenn withdrew from the Ohio race for the U.S. Senate because of injuries suffered in a fall. In 1970, the musical "Applause," based on the movie "All About Eve," opened on Broadway. In 1986, actor James Cagney died at his farm in Stanfordville, N.Y., at age 86. In 1991, Patricia Bowman of Jupiter, Fla., told authorities she'd been raped dozens earlier by William Kennedy Smith, the nephew of Sen. Edward Kennedy, at the family's Palm Beach estate. (Smith was acquitted at trial.) In 2002, Britain's Queen Mother Elizabeth died in her sleep at Royal Lodge, Windsor, outside London; she was 101 years old. Today's Birthdays: Game show host Peter Marshall is 85. Actor Richard Dysart is 82. Actor John Astin is 81.

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS: 1 Mimicking, 6 Fundamental defect, 10 Commando weapons, 14 Shipwreck finder, 15 Price-list word, 16 Look closely (through), 17 In a way, informally, 18 Minuscule amount, 19 Lhasa __, 20 Proceed with care, 23 Jabber, 24 Summer zodiac sign, 25 New Orleans sandwiches, 27 Encouraging touch, 30 Home of Iowa State, 33 Star Trek officer, 34 Impresses greatly, 36 Jai __, 38 Succinct, 41 Proceed with care, 44 Parachute fabric, 45 Cat's remark, 46 One of 12 Popes, 47 Supersonic speed unit, 49 Hollywood Walk of Fame symbol, 51 Debate side, 52 Marcos once of Manila, 54 Bath accessory, 56 Full amount, 57 Proceed with care, 64 Quote-book abbr. DOWN: 2 Shoddy, 3 Concerning, 4 Of birth, 5 Premium quality agcy., 6 Disaster relief, 7 Hibernation hideaway, 8 Play opening, 9 Puppies, 10 It's a free country, 11 "Don't say a word!", 12 "Suppose . . .", 13 Bus-schedule listings, 21 Any Bryn Mawr grad, 22 Adolescence, 26 Act as censor, 27 Manipulated one, 28 Somewhere else, 29 "Yes, and then . . .", 31 K-6, 32 Wise ones, 35 Scandinavian toast, 37 "__ Rhythm" (Gershwin tune), 39 Speak unclearly, 40 Exxon's old name, 42 How some music is sold, 43 Hindu teacher, 48 Millinery accessory, 50 Motley, 52 Violinist Stern, 53 Have some snacks, 55 Over yonder, 58 Simplify, 59 Court statement, 60 Sly glance, 61 Subsequently, 62 Time after Mardi Gras, 63 Votes in favor, 65 As yet unopened.

Answer to previous puzzle crossword grid with words filled in.

EASY DOES IT by Fred Jackson III Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

Large crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-73.