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Community pride

Marchesseault, Hodnett are top man and woman

By **AMANDA MORENO**
Staff Writer

The winners have been announced ... Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Man and Woman of the Year — Marc Marchesseault and Sherry Hodnett — have been on board with hometown pride all year long. The two, along with Hero of the Year, were recognized Tuesday at the annual Chamber banquet.



Marchesseault

contact. Nine years ago, he decided to return. Now, not only does his military career make Webb AFB a large part of his history, his involvement with Hangar 25 Air Museum continues that legacy.

"He has worked diligently to encourage us to recognize our past, appreciate our present and look forward to the future of this Howard County area," McEwen said.

He served as an influence Hangar 25's development, served on the Webb Air Force Reunion committee, bringing hundreds of veterans back to Big Spring, and served as chairman of the Air Park Advisory Board. His contributions don't stop there though. He is also heavily involved in Big Spring Main Street, the hang gilding committee and citizens advisory panel. Through his talent as a photographer, he has been able to share his love for Big Spring through several gifts to the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce and Convention and Visitors Bureau.

"He looks for and finds the beauty here," McEwen said. Sherry Hodnett, Woman of the Year, has been making her mark on Big Spring through her numerous volunteer efforts and recruiting practices, as well as through her work at Home Hospice.

"She has the experience and the forms to fill out, especial-

ly with her involvement as past president and advisory board of RSVP, to get you enthused and signed up for good use of your time and talents," said Verna Davis, last year's

Woman of the Year.

Hodnett has been involved with Home Hospice for 20 years, working with volunteers. She has initiated a junior volunteer program and

helped many families during a time of illness and dealing with death.

"It's not just the volunteers


See **BANQUET**, Page 3A



HERALD photos/Amanda Moreno
Clockwise, from top, a Hero of the Year Award was added to presentations at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Banquet, held Tuesday night. The first recipients of the award were all area firefighters. On hand to receive the award from Chamber Executive Director Debbye ValVerde were Volunteer Fire Chief Tommy Sullivan, left, and Interim BSFD Fire Chief Richard Grove. Russ McEwen, last year's Man of the Year, presented 2011 recipient Marc Marchesseault with the award. And Verna Davis, last year's Woman of the Year, presented Sherry Hodnett with the 2011 Woman of the Year Award.

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54414 79720

Penalty added to delinquent taxes

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Your property taxes just got higher today — unless you've already paid them.

Tuesday was the last day for



residents to pay their property taxes before their bills began accruing penalties and interest, according to local officials.

"The penalties and interest start at 7 percent and increase each month," said County Tax Assessor Kathy Sayles. "As of July 1, penalty and interest grows to 18 percent, with an additional penalty tacked on for attorney fees."

Approximately 36,000 to 37,000 tax statements were mailed out in mid-October, according to Sayles, and area

residents who aren't sure how much they owe can get that information over the phone or in person at the tax office.

The tax penalty and interest schedule is as follows: After Jan. 31, 6 percent penalty and 1 percent interest; after Feb. 28, 7 percent penalty and 2 percent interest; after March 31, 8 percent penalty and 3 percent interest; after April 30, 9 percent penalty and 4 percent interest; after May 31, 10 percent penalty and 5 percent interest; and after June 30, 12 percent penalty and 6

percent interest, including an additional 20 percent attorney fee.

Sayles said if residents have lost their bill or are not sure if they've paid it, they can contact her office.

"If you're not sure about your status, it's always better to check," Sayles said. "All you have to do is give us a call and we can check the status of your property tax."

For more information, contact the Howard County Tax Collector's Office at 264-2232.



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Police blotter

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

- KEVIN GLENN CATE, 39, 3227 Cornell, was arrested Tuesday on a warrant for duty on striking fixture or landscape.
- YVONNE RODARTE, 33, of 2532 Fairchild, was arrested Tuesday on a warrant from another agency.
- JAMERE RAYSHAD COOPER, 23, of 3706 Boulder Dr., was arrested Tuesday on a warrant for failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- RIANNON LEE HENSON, 27, of 2001 S. Monticello, was arrested Tuesday on a warrant for speeding.
- JEFFERY SCOTT WALLING, 41, of 19100 S. Highway 87, was arrested Tuesday on a warrant for driving while intoxicated (open container) – second offense.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported:
 - In the 2200 block of Runnels.
 - In the 2700 block of Carol Drive.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported:
 - In the 1000 block of S. Birdwell Lane.
 - In the 1500 block of Runnels.

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 70 inmates at the time of this report.

- JOE FELIPE GONZALES JR., 25, was arrested Tuesday by DPS on a Midland County warrant for

fugitive – driving while intoxicated – bond forfeiture.

- YVONNE M. RODARTE, 33, was booked into the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of theft by check.
- KEVIN GLENN CATE, 39, was booked into the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of duty on striking fixture or highway landscape.
- JAMERE RAYSHAD COOPER, 23, was booked into the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- RIANNON LEE HENSON, 27, was booked into the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of speeding.
- JEFFERY S. WALLING, 41, was booked into the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated – second offense.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of W. 17th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 900 block of Mountain Park Drive. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1200 block of Madison. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 800 block of Creighton. One person was transported to SMMC.

Support Groups

WEDNESDAY

- RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at (432) 517-9207 for more information.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; open 12 & 12 study meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

THURSDAY

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

Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Thu 2/2	Fri 2/3	Sat 2/4	Sun 2/5	Mon 2/6
69/52	66/35	58/33	49/31	57/33
Sunrise: 7:40 AM Sunset: 6:20 PM	Sunrise: 7:39 AM Sunset: 6:21 PM	Sunrise: 7:38 AM Sunset: 6:22 PM	Sunrise: 7:37 AM Sunset: 6:23 PM	Sunrise: 7:37 AM Sunset: 6:24 PM



Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	67	59	pt sunny	Kingsville	81	65	t-storm
Amarillo	59	40	t-storm	Livingston	76	60	t-storm
Austin	71	60	t-storm	Longview	73	59	cloudy
Beaumont	76	63	t-storm	Lubbock	61	40	t-storm
Brownsville	79	67	t-storm	Lufkin	76	60	t-storm
Brownwood	70	61	t-storm	Midland	71	53	windy
Corpus Christi	76	66	t-storm	Raymondville	81	65	t-storm
Corsicana	69	59	cloudy	Rosenberg	74	63	t-storm
Dallas	69	59	cloudy	San Antonio	72	62	t-storm
Del Rio	74	62	t-storm	San Marcos	72	60	t-storm
El Paso	68	38	sunny	Sulphur Springs	70	59	cloudy
Fort Stockton	76	48	windy	Sweetwater	67	56	cloudy
Gainesville	65	55	cloudy	Tyler	72	58	cloudy
Greenville	67	56	cloudy	Weatherford	66	56	cloudy
Houston	73	63	t-storm	Wichita Falls	65	55	cloudy

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	68	43	pt sunny	Minneapolis	40	28	pt sunny
Boston	43	27	cloudy	New York	47	33	cloudy
Chicago	45	33	mst sunny	Phoenix	67	42	mst sunny
Dallas	69	59	cloudy	San Francisco	62	42	pt sunny
Denver	38	26	mixed	Seattle	52	36	pt sunny
Houston	73	63	t-storm	St. Louis	60	42	mst sunny
Los Angeles	71	45	sunny	Washington, DC	53	36	rain
Miami	81	67	pt sunny				

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- Served as Howard County Attorney, Big Spring City Attorney
- Member of Howard County Bar Assoc., State Bar Assoc., American Bar Assoc.

C.E. Mike Thomas Attorney at Law
c.e.mikethomas@gmail.com

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Support Groups

MONDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, noon-1 p.m., 615 Settles.
- PEP — Parent Education Program for CPS participating and non-participating parnts, single parent, grandparents, adoptive or fostering parents. Every first and fourth Monday of the month from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Northside Community Center. Classes are free. For information, call 263-2673.
- Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting, 8-9 p.m., fourth floor, VA Medical Center.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 6 p.m. Call 213-1342 or 263-6819.

TUESDAY

- Big Spring Parkinsons Support Group meeting at the Big Spring Senior Center at 10:30 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month. This is a group for those with Parkinson's Disease, Young Onset Parkinson's, caregivers, and those interested in learning more about the illness. There is time for socializing and information. For more information about the support group or about Parkinson's Disease, contact Jody at 432-699-6640 or midlandparkinsons@yahoo.com or Jo Bidwell at the Lubbock APDA office at 806-785-2732.
- Special Parents for Special Children support group meets the first Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m. at Elbow Elementary. Contact Kerri Rosenbaum at 432-816-3320 or kerrirosebaum9488@msn.com
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; closed discussion meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- Al-Anon, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

- RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at (432) 517-9207 for more information.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; open 12 & 12 study meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

THURSDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, open discussion noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.
- Spring Tabernacle Ministries has a faith-based support group for those who need help finding and continuing to walk down the path God has for each of us. Meetings are at 11 a.m. until noon and again at 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.. The classes take place at Spring Tabernacle Ministries, located at 1209 Wright St.

FRIDAY

- AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.
- Celebrate Recovery, a Christ-centered recovery program, is held at Cornerstone Covenant Church, 706 E. 12th St. at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call at 264-0015 or visit www.cccbigspring.org

SATURDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m. Covered dish supper at 7 p.m.

SUNDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous closed meeting from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 7 p.m. until 8 p.m.

Take Note

- Crossroads Friends of NRA Banquet will be held at 6 p.m. Saturday at the Dora Roberts Community Center. Tickets are \$25. Funds raised at this and other FNRA events in West Texas support local youth shooting groups (Boy Scouts, 4-H, JROTC, etc.) law enforcement, education, safety and many other areas. Giveaways, games, and live and silent auctions will be held. For more information, call Melanie Gambrell at 432-270-7384.
- Mobile Meals is in need of volunteer delivery drivers. If you can donate one hour per week to help deliver meals to the elderly, call Macaria Cantu at 263-4016.
- Spring of Siloam, a Christian women's job training group, will hold its next 12-week session beginning Feb. 6. Applications for the session, which is free to the public, will be accepted through Feb. 2. To submit an application, visit the group's web site at www.springofsiloam.org. For more information, call 432-213-2857.
- Family Unity Conference will be held Feb. 17-18 in Big Spring. Conference host is the Rev. Rosalind Simmons. Friday evening at 7 p.m., the theme will be "The Help: For Anger, Forgiveness and Bitterness." Saturday's continuation will be themed "Life Class: Healing Strife," and will begin at 9 a.m. The event will be held at the Howard College Cactus Room. Registration is \$25. Register online at www.veteranshouseofhope.weebly.com. Lunch is \$10. Deadline to register is Feb. 1. For more information, contact Desiree Fizer at 432-270-3813. The conference is open to everyone.
- As the 8th annual Powwow is coming near, organizers are seeking people interested in native American culture. The group is a family oriented organization that is looking to expand. You do not have to be native American to join. For comments,

- questions and answers, call Richard "Indio" Lesser at 432-935-0125 or Connie Lesser at 432-816-6772.
- Mitchell County Senior Citizens Dance will be held at the Colorado City Civic Center, 157 E. Second St. Jan. 26 from 7-10 p.m., \$5, snacks are welcome. Mike Potter and friend Kevin Rainwater will be performing. Everyone is welcome.
- Spring Tabernacle Ministries, 1209 Wright St., has a brief, inspirational message before giving away food and clothing on Thursday mornings. It's a great way to work off community service and get help, too. Be there at 9 a.m.-11 a.m. and get two for one plus a rehab meeting.
- American Cancer Society will have its board meetings at noon on the second Tuesday of the month through April. Lunch will be furnished. Meetings will take place at Home Hospice, located at 111 E. Seventh.
- Home Hospice is seeking volunteers. Training will be provided and geared to your time frame. Volunteers are needed for in office duties as well as sitters, deliveries and crafts. To find out more information or to volunteer contact Sherry Hodnett at Home Hospice by calling 264-7599.
- Every 10 years, Texas requires that marks and brands be re-registered in the county or counties in which you operate. The re-registration period began Aug. 31 and runs through Feb. 29, 2012. At the conclusion date, all marks and brands that have not been re-registered are automatically available for registration by another party. For additional information, contact the Howard County Clerk's Office at 264-2214 or 264-2213.
- Hangar 25 Air Museum needs your help. We are in need of volunteers to fill a variety of positions such as

- tour guides, front desk, clerical, events, and many others. Set your hours and days of the week you are available. Meet new people and enjoy a rewarding experience. For more information, contact Emma Bogard at 432-267-2963.
- The Salvation Army is holding its annual heater drive and is in need of heaters. Community members can donate new or used heaters. Monetary donations are also welcomed. Donations can be made at the main office, located at 811 W. Fifth St., Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- The Homeownership Preservation Foundation (HPF) is an independent national nonprofit dedicated to helping distressed homeowners navigate financial challenges and avoid mortgage foreclosure. If you want to stop foreclosure and are in need of foreclosure help, the time to call 888-995-HOPE is now. The Homeowner's HOPE hotline is a counseling service provided by HPF to work with you to find a solution to your problem. HPF can provide counseling free of charge, in English and 170 other languages, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Free free foreclosure help, call the hotline.
- The Salvation Army has funding for Texas Military Personnel now serving or has served in Iraq or Afghanistan. The military member or their family member may apply at 811 W. Fifth St. or call 267-8239. The grant is funded by the TRIAD Fund of Permian Basin Area Foundation.
- Weight Watchers meets at 6 p.m. Thursdays at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m. Flexible payment options.

BANQUET

Continued from Page 1A

who have been affected by our Woman of the Year," Davis said. "Her kindness and compassion have touched so many people ... the hours she has spent with individuals and families bring tears of remembrance and joy for those with the stories to tell. She was there for so many people."

She has also had a hand in Hangar 25, the Chamber of Commerce and served as a Red Coat ambassador. She also served as moderator of Presbyterian Women for the First Presbyterian Church and Tres Rios Presbytery.

"Her talents go far beyond organizing, leading and volunteering," Davis said. "She has won many awards for

her sewing, cooking and decorative painting. She is a very talented lady.

"Yes, our community is enriched by its volunteers, but even they need guidance and leadership. She has gifted us with amazing use of her talents, but as one nominator said in trying to describe the many layers of this person and still get across her warmth, caring and generosity, 'She is not a person easily captured with words.'"

During the banquet, Hero of the Year — an

award which was added this year — went to all Big Spring and Howard County firefighters.

"I remember a night in June when those brave firefighters fought a valiant fight to protect homes and businesses for more than 24 hours on that fire," said Terri Johansen, outgoing Chamber of Commerce president. "They risked their lives to save our

homes and property and we will be eternally grateful."

Guest speaker for the banquet was Charlie Johnson, a Big Spring High School graduate and former NFL player. After graduating from high school in 1956, he continued his education on a football scholarship at Schreiner Institute. His football career continued at New Mexico

State University and included two consecutive Sun Bowl victories. His jersey number was the only number to ever be retired in more than 109 years from New Mexico Aggie football.

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

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EXP. 2/29/12

Big Spring Symphony Orchestra
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Respighi:
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Omega Hernandez, 80, died Friday. Funeral services were at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

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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.

Bill McClellan Managing Editor	Ron Midkiff Publisher	Steve Reagan Staff Writer
Amanda Moreno Staff Writer	Thomas Jenkins Staff Writer	

OUR VIEWS

A performance to see

Big Spring Symphony Orchestra will have the honor of performing with gold medalist Hauchen Zhang on Saturday.

The concert — which was originally scheduled to take place at the Municipal Auditorium — will take place in Garrett Hall at First United Methodist Church at 8 p.m.

Due to ongoing construction at the Municipal Auditorium — currently a little more than 25 percent complete — Saturday's concert had to be relocated.

However, just because there has been a change of venue does not mean the quality of the performance or the excitement behind having a gold medalist perform in Big Spring is diminished at all.

As always, the symphony will delivering a performance not to be missed and Zhang will only add to that.

Zhang, who was born in Shanghai and has been studying piano since the age of 3 1/2, received a gold medal in the Van Cliburn piano competition.

He performed with Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, at the age of 6 and went on to win several competitions before the age of 19.

This will be the first time a gold medalist will perform with the Big Spring Symphony, according to conductor Dr. Keith Graumann.

Zhang will play Rachmaninoff's 2nd Piano Concerto, amongst other selections during Saturday's performance.

Tickets for the concert can be purchased at the door, as well as in advance at several locations throughout the Big Spring community. Locations include the *Big Spring Herald* office, Blum's Jewelers, Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Western Banks, Faye's Flowers, KBST and KBYG.

The symphony performance will once again provide an opportunity for Big Spring residents to experience the arts at work. There is no need to travel to Lubbock, Dallas or even further to experience an amazing symphony at work.

Adults tickets are \$15, senior tickets are \$10 and tickets for students are \$5.

Garrett Hall in First United Methodist Church is located at the corner of Scurry and Fourth Street.

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.
- 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

When we let You into our family, Lord, our family will be truly blessed.

Amen

Plenty of bad news to go around

Leah and I have been residents of Big Spring for a little more than a year. We came here from the St. Louis area, and while living there I became a devotee of a particular local television station as my source of news, KMOV Channel 4. They did an excellent job reporting the relevant events of the area and I developed an appreciation for the overall professionalism and performance of their journalistic duties.

Even though I never became personally acquainted with either of them, the personable anchor team of Vicky Newton and Larry Connors became almost like friends, as for several years, I allowed them access to my living room many evenings at 6 and 10.

What really sealed the deal for me and made me a committed fan was when Larry introduced a weekly segment called "Good News 4 a Change" which devoted extensive coverage to various positive and uplifting stories during the evening newscasts.

Are you wondering if you read that right, a news station reporting good news? Who in the world would ever think of that?

I have studied psychology and I have a relatively commendable acumen of the human psyche and I understand people are fascinated and captivated by bad news. Tragedy, disaster, catastrophe, mayhem and murder dominate the headlines because they grab our attention and pique our interest and some people actually crave the emotional stimuli associated with chaos.

After all, how many people would actually be auto racing

fans if there was some pre-event guarantee that all you would see during the race is drivers going in a circle for hours in protected, padded lanes with absolutely no chance of bumping into each other?

Why do people almost have accidents rubbernecking to look intently at the evidence of another accident? It's simply a manifestation of the curious mind that, for some inexplicable reason, seems to dominate the eye-gates and ear-gates of the majority of people.

Research gives credence to many theories about why bad news sells, ranging from people vicariously relating to the victims in a tragedy to finding a dubious sense of security in knowing that bad things happen to other people, but not me. Of course it is acknowledged that there really are macabre people who find a deviant pleasure in observing tragedy.

There seems to be an entire subculture of humanity who is passionate about hearing and repeating bad news. When a minister experiences failure he will be talked about multiplied times more than the countless members of the clergy who are genuine and uncompromisingly faithful to Godly principles and ethical behavior. For every pugnacious teenager who makes headlines for committing a hideous crime there are thousands of peaceable and honorable young people who are representing their generation with dignity and honor.

If the headlines declared "Local Citizen Wins Humanitarian Award" it would garner limited attention or response. If it declared "Local citizen arrested as serial killer," sales records would be broken.

Since we need to be well informed people, I am certainly not decrying the fact that news is news, bad or good, and that it

certainly deserves the right to be published and broadcast. With great interest I will continue to read stories in the *Herald* regardless of which category they may fall into because I am interested in the happenings in my own personal world.

The paramount thing I want you to glean from this exposition is the natural proclivity to find gratification in bad news, for whatever psychological reason, should be overruled by a desire to think upon positive and uplifting things. There is simply too much to lose by always dwelling on the negative, and too much not to be gained by disciplining and programming our minds to seek out the good that is plentiful if we are willing to pursue it.

I am by nature a positive person who strives to constantly focus my attention and thoughts on things that will ultimately produce strength, joy and constructive influence in my life. I am not always successful because I am totally human. But I take seriously the fact that my mind is fertile soil for whatever seeds I choose to plant and I really desire to produce a good crop.

The Apostle Paul said to the Philippians, "...whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things."

Give it a try. I have an idea there will always be plenty of bad news waiting for you if you feel you can't live without it.

You may not agree with anything I've said, but I column as I see 'em.

Eddy Prince is the senior pastor at Grace Fellowship Church in Big Spring, Texas. He can be reached by email at pastor-prince@msn.com.

GOP makes Obama look good

The Republican field debated for the 19th time Thursday night, and once again, the media promised us it was going to be a "make or break" event.

Don't believe the media.

The media say the debates

have been the most critical factor in the nominating race so far because the media have been forced to watch them all. And take notes. And write stories.

And we want someone to share our pain: Someone like you.

Having done my duty and paid attention to all of the debates, and since we do not have another debate scheduled until Feb. 22, I will announce my conclusion now:

These debates are making the Obama staffers in Chicago so giddy that after each one they are tearing off their clothes, running through Millennium Park and howling at the moon.

And why shouldn't they? The American people, after being treated to hour upon hour of Republican candidates being allowed to say pretty much whatever they want, are slowly discovering something: Barack Obama doesn't look that bad anymore.

An NBC News/Wall Street Journal Poll released Wednesday said that "for the first time in six months, more people approve of the job the president is doing than disapprove."

Sure, the president's approval/disapproval figure is only 48-46, but he has achieved that after six months of solid Republican debating. After six months of attack. After six months of being told that the American economy is doomed without a steady Republican hand on the tiller of state.

So what else does the poll show? "More people said they

believe the economy will get better (37 percent) in the next year rather than worse (17 percent). That's the highest level in more than a year and a seven-point jump over last month."

Oh, my. This is not what the Republicans had in mind.

The debates were supposed to winnow the field and leave the strongest Republican standing. It is all very Darwinian: the survival of the fittest. (Even though some Republicans don't believe in evolution, just about all of them believe in survival of the fittest. That's because they believe they are the fittest.)

True, the number of lecterns on the stage has been winnowed from nine to four, but what have the "fittest" Republicans been telling America about their agenda?

Well, Thursday night, we had a good, long talk about America's moon colony.

What moon colony? Fair question. America currently lacks a moon colony. But Newt Gingrich would like a moon colony, and it won't even cost a lot if we offer a "prize" to people to build one. As he once again reminded America, "Lindberg flew to Paris for a \$25,000 prize."

Newt says we have to have a moon colony because, if we don't, the Chinese will have a moon colony, and if that happens, well, it will be bad.

But Mitt Romney said a moon colony could cost \$1 trillion. So how big would the prize have to be to get people to compete for building the moon colony? More than \$1 trillion, I would guess. And where would the U.S. government get that kind of money? We would have to borrow it from the Chinese. Who could just hold onto it and build their own moon colony.

Do you see now why Obama is doing better in the polls?

Not that we are supposed to spend our time worrying about the substance of these debates. That is for professional fact-checkers. (Don't ask me who fact-checks the fact-checkers.

You don't want to know.)

Instead, the media decide who wins and who loses, who gets made and who gets broken. Looking for the little things help me decide.

Which is why my notes begin: "National Anthem. All put hands on hearts. Santorum and Mitt sing. Newt and Ron Paul don't. Why?"

I don't know. I am waiting for a fact-checker to tell me.

Further notes: "Newt praises Callista for playing French horn. Have words 'French horn' ever been spoken at political debate before? Unlikely, but not impossible. Especially if debate were in France."

"When asked by Santorum if people in Massachusetts must buy health care, Mitt replies, 'First of all, it's not worth getting angry about.' Presidency pays only \$400,000 a year. So why would Romney get emotional about it?"

"Debate supposed to be Newt's best opportunity to win Florida, but at one point he says, 'Gov. Romney is exactly right' and at another he says, 'I agree with Gov. Romney.' Newt appears to be lacking in mindless aggression. This is no way to win a debate."

The debate wandered back and forth and finally ended up with CNN moderator Wolf Blitzer asking the candidates, "Why are you the one person on this stage most likely to beat Barack Obama?"

My notes say that Ron Paul cited his "freedom message," that Santorum said he could win Reagan Democrats and that Romney said America needs "dramatic, fundamental, extraordinary" change.

Newt, I note, said, "This is a big choice election."

But he didn't say the choice was standing on the stage.

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► World at a glance

After lopsided loss in Florida, Gingrich needs another comeback to stay in GOP race

Newt Gingrich leads the competition for comebacks with two in the race for the Republican presidential nomination. He'll need one more, and soon, if he's going to make good on his vow to remain a credible contender until the party convention next summer.

With a lopsided loss to Mitt Romney in the Florida primary on Tuesday night, the former House speaker is looking at a potentially bleak and even winless February as the prelude to Super Tuesday on March 6.

He confronts a significant disadvantage in campaign funding and the appearance of a gender gap in the polls in Florida, where he trailed the winner by nearly 20 points among women. Romney has grown more polished and confident in debates, while Gingrich faces a struggle to regain the discipline that helped carry him to an upset victory in the South Carolina primary on Jan. 21.

The former House speaker acknowledged little or none of this in a speech to a smallish crowd in Orlando, Fla., following his drubbing.

"I think Florida did something very important, coming on top of South Carolina. It is now clear that this will be a two-person race between the conservative leader, Newt Gingrich, and the Massachusetts moderate," he said.

10-day turnaround: Romney relies on a killer instinct to reverse fortunes in Florida

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Mitt Romney embraced a killer instinct and leveraged a dominant political machine to crush chief rival Newt Gingrich in Florida's Republican presidential primary.

It was a remarkable turnaround for a candidate who lost big just 10 days earlier in South Carolina. "I stand ready to lead this party and our nation," a jubilant Romney told cheering supporters Tuesday night in Florida, claiming a resounding victory in a state that rejected his White House bid in 2008.

Romney was beaten down as he came into Florida after Gingrich trounced him in South Carolina. The former House speaker's triumph fueled a wave of momentum that threatened to unite anti-Romney conservatives in Florida and beyond.

Recognizing the threat, Romney had hatched a new strategy even before the South Carolina loss was official.

U.S. officials say most attacks by Afghan forces on US troops were not insurgent-controlled

WASHINGTON (AP) — Supposedly friendly Afghan security forces have attacked U.S. and coalition troops 45 times since May 2007, U.S. officials say, for the first time laying out details and analysis of attacks that have killed 70 and wounded 110.

In testimony prepared for delivery Wednesday to the House Armed Services Committee, defense officials said that in most cases the Afghans acted out of personal motivation and were not controlled or directed by insurgent groups. The second most common circumstances involved insurgents impersonating or infiltrating Afghan security forces.

Such insider attacks by Afghan security forces have been on the rise, punctuated by the Jan. 20 shooting of four French troops by an Afghan soldier, which prompted France to halt its training program and threaten to withdraw its forces from Afghanistan earlier than planned. The incidents

further erode support for the increasingly unpopular war in Afghanistan, and add more complications to the already difficult mission of U.S. forces.

The figures do not include an incident Wednesday in which an Afghan soldier shot and killed a NATO service member in southern Afghanistan. International forces and the Afghan army disagreed on exactly what happened in the killing. A spokesman for the international military force said Afghan soldiers detained the gunman after he attacked NATO troops Tuesday night. Afghan National Army commander Sayed Malluk confirmed the shooting, but said the Afghan soldier told investigators it was an accident.

The U.S. defense officials' testimony, obtained by The Associated Press in advance of Wednesday's hearing, lays out the screening process for Afghan nationals who are brought in to provide security for U.S. forces. And it includes improvements in the program made after an attack at Forward Operating Base Frontenac in March 2011 that killed two U.S. soldiers and wounded four others. The base is in Kandahar Province in southern Afghanistan, and lawmakers have been demanding details about the incident.

Obama to detail broader housing plan to allow more borrowers to refinance their mortgages

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration is trying to fix a stubborn drag on the economy by allowing all homeowners to refinance their mortgages at lower interest rates even if they owe more than their homes are worth, tackling a difficult issue of vital concern in states key to President Barack Obama's re-election.

Obama on Wednesday was to draw attention to a proposal he outlined in his State of the Union address to allow homeowners with privately held mortgages to take advantage of record low rates, for an annual savings of about \$3,000 for the average borrower. Obama was detailing his plan during a visit to a northern Virginia community center.

The administration proposal faces a major hurdle in Congress. The program would be paid for by a fee on large banks. The administration has tried unsuccessfully before to win support for assessments on large banks.

The plan would expand the administration's Home Affordable Refinance Program, which allows borrowers with loans backed by government-affiliated mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to refinance at lower rates. About 1 million homeowners have used it, well short of the 4 million to 5 million the Obama administration had expected. Moreover, many "underwater" borrowers — those who owe more than their homes are worth — couldn't qualify.

Private economists have estimated that expanding the plan to all borrowers could allow up to 10 million homeowners to refinance, giving the economy a significant jolt. The Federal Reserve has been less sanguine, estimating that 2.5 million more Americans might be eligible to refinance through the expanded program.

Ex-LA elementary school teacher charged with photographing, molesting kids due in court

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The children at Miramonte Elementary School never complained about their third-grade teacher. Not when he blindfolded them, not when he put tape over their mouths or even when he placed live cockroaches on their faces.

He told them it was a game. Then he photo-

graphed them, creating images that would eventually lead to his arrest.

Mark Berndt faced arraignment Wednesday on charges that he committed lewd acts on 23 boys and girls, ages 6 to 10, between 2008 and 2010.

He has hired a lawyer and has made no statements to authorities, said Los Angeles County sheriff's spokesman Steve Whitmore.

The investigation began when a film processor found Berndt's photos more than a year ago. Since the discovery, the school district fired Berndt and police put him under surveillance.

"If it wasn't for the film processor, this could still be continuing today," said sheriff's Lt. Carlos Marquez.

As Facebook prepares to go public, investors wonder whether Zuckerberg has a twist in store

NEW YORK (AP) — Facebook, the social network that changed "friend" from a noun to a verb, is expected to file as early as Wednesday to sell stock on the open market. Its debut is likely to be the most talked-about initial public offering since Google in 2004.

The Menlo Park, Calif.-based company expects to raise as much as \$10 billion, though some accounts say it could be less than that. At \$10 billion, the company would be valued at \$75 billion to \$100 billion.

The highly anticipated documents Facebook files with the Securities and Exchange Commission will reveal how much it intends to raise from the stock market, what it plans to do with the money and details on the company's financial performance and future growth prospects.

A stock usually starts trading three to four months after the filing.

Around the nation, regular investors and IPO watchers are anticipating some kind of twist — perhaps a provision for the 800 million users of Facebook, a company that promotes itself as all about personal connections, to get in on the action.

Kuwait parliament election test for growing array of opposition groups

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — Kuwait is heading into elections in much the same combative style that gripped the last parliament: Opposition groups pressing for even a bigger voice against the nation's Western-allied rulers and domestic tensions running so high that one group torched the campaign tent of a rival.

Thursday's voting for the 50-seat assembly — one of the most outspoken elected bodies in the Gulf — will test how much Kuwait's ruling family and its backers can hold back a growing array of challengers, including hard-line Islamists and young liberals inspired by the Arab Spring.

An expected strong showing by opposition groups also could bring major distractions for Kuwait's leadership as the nation regains its role as the main base for American ground troops in the Gulf following the U.S. withdrawal from Iraq last year.

Although Kuwait's key government posts are firmly in the hands of the ruling Al Sabah family, the country's parliament stands out in the Gulf as one of the few elected groups that openly confront the leadership over issues such as cronyism, free expression and alleged corruption.

Kuwait's emir, Sheik Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, dissolved parliament and called elections in December after months of political showdowns that included opposition lawmakers demanding to question the prime minister over an alleged payoff scandal and protests that culminated in anti-government mobs storming parliament.

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few DVD sets and from the History Channel comes the complete Season Two of "How the Earth Was Made." You will go back in history some 4.5 billion years ago, peeling back layers of rock, filling up river canyons, parting the oceans and leveling mountains and volcanoes to investigate well-known locations in the world. The Grand Canyon, Sahara Desert, Mt. Everest, Vesuvius and other areas will be explored. Another series we have received is the Stargate Atlantis, Seasons 1 and 2. These are donations, and sometimes they may skip or have some damage on them, so please be patient.

With spring not too far away, we have the Discovery Channel's 2 DVD set of "Storm Chasers: Wrong Place, Right Time" for you to check out. On Disc 1, Josh and Sean race to get a bigger and badder Tornado Intercept Vehicle in which to enter the eye of the tornado. In subsequent discs, they chase one near Lamesa, Texas, Kansas, Arkansas and other tornado alley hotspots. From Scott Turow comes "Innocent" (F T U R S), the sequel to "Presumed Innocent." While not a "new" book

(published in 2010), it pits Rusty Sabich, now a chief judge of an appellate court, against Tommy Molto once again. Barbara Sabich is found dead by her husband, who is accused of her murder. Molto accuses Rusty of causing her death. Another classic Turow thriller.

Tammi Hoag is another N.Y. Times best selling author. In "Secrets to the Grave" (F H O A T), the police force of Oak Knoll is already coping with a sensational trial of the See-No-Evil killer; now they have to contend with the murder of beautiful Marissa Fordham, too. Witness to the murder is Marissa's daughter, 4-year-old Haley. Child advocate Anne Leone is called in to help, as is her FBI profiler husband Vince. Facts are stripped away from Marissa's life, leaving one to wonder which one is the true Marissa.

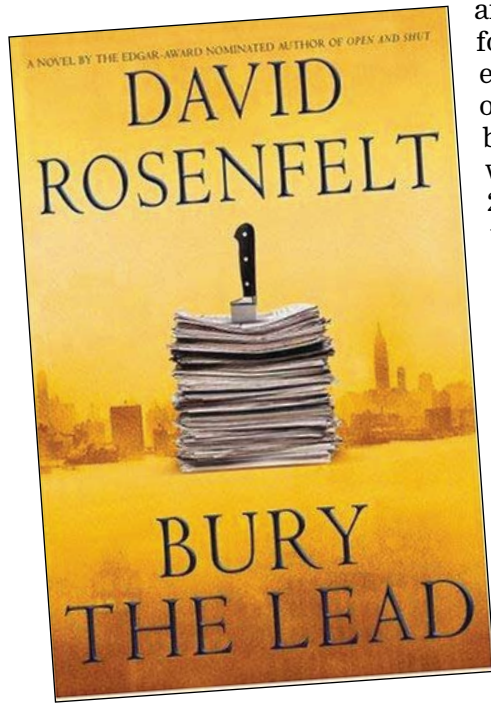
From the Today Book Club comes "Bury the Lead" (M R O S D) by David Rosenfelt. In his third mystery, Rosenfelt brings back prosecutor Andy Carpenter, from Paterson, N.J. Triumphant after his streak of winning murder cases and his \$20 million inheritance, Andy should be feeling pretty good. Yet, a mid-life crisis is threatening him. He knows he needs to get back to work. When a friend asks him to help protect a star reporter, Andy is not thrilled. The arrival of death threats and murdered bodies do add a fillip to the case that makes it more exciting. Check it out to see how Andy survives. I think we have some of Rosenfelt's first books on the

shelves, too.

From Swedish authors Anders Roslund and Borge Helstrom, comes a gripping story on the order of Stieg Larrson's "Girl" series. Piet Hoffman is the Swedish police's most important secret operative. Secreted within the Polish mafia that is trying to take over the amphetamine distribution within the Swedish prison system, his cover must not be broken. When a botched drug deal goes wrong, the investigation is handled by DI Ewert Grens. In "Three Seconds" (F R O S A) is an intensely suspenseful novel with twists and turns that reach high within the police department, the government and high society, and it will certainly keep you up reading late at night.

While not new, Brad Thor's "Foreign Influence" (F H O R B), first

published in 2010, is an intense read. Navy Seal Scot Horvath is again called into action



under the aegis of a new spy agency. Unfettered by any sort of oversight by politicians, it reports only to a secret panel of insiders. Two very different acts all point toward

one final plot of terrorism pointed directly at the United States.

Woodworkers, are you ready for some projects to work on? Here is a book that you will only need 2x4s to make the majority of the items. Authored by Stevie Henderson and Mark Baldwin, "2x4 Projects for Outdoor Living" (684.18 H E N S) has lots of neat things to make. How about making an outdoor picnic area? It has the table, benches, trash container, an arbor outdoor bar, hurricane lamps, yard light — everything you would need to really make the back yard the go-to place to hang

out. Do check it out to see how easy it would be to make them.

Another great book that was donated to us, is "50 Years: The Story of the Diocese of San Angelo" (282 D I O S). The Diocese celebrated the Golden Jubilee by writing a book that has a short history and photo of every church within the Diocese. Filled with photos and quick facts about the churches, I think everyone will find it fascinating to read.

We are open Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 until 2; the internet/video room closes at 5:30. Our website has changed; it is now: <http://wtls.tsl.state.tx.us/howard-county>. Our phone numbers are 264-2260; fax number is 264-2263.

Hollis McCright is director of the Howard County Library.

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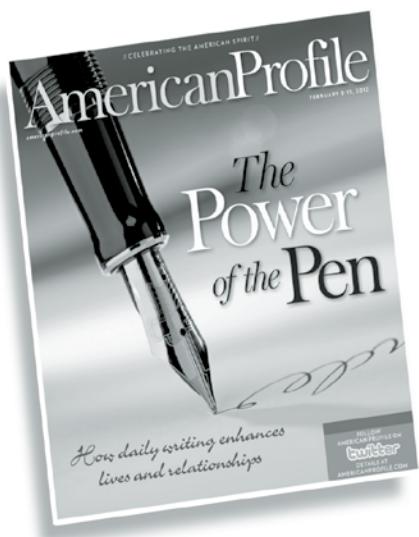
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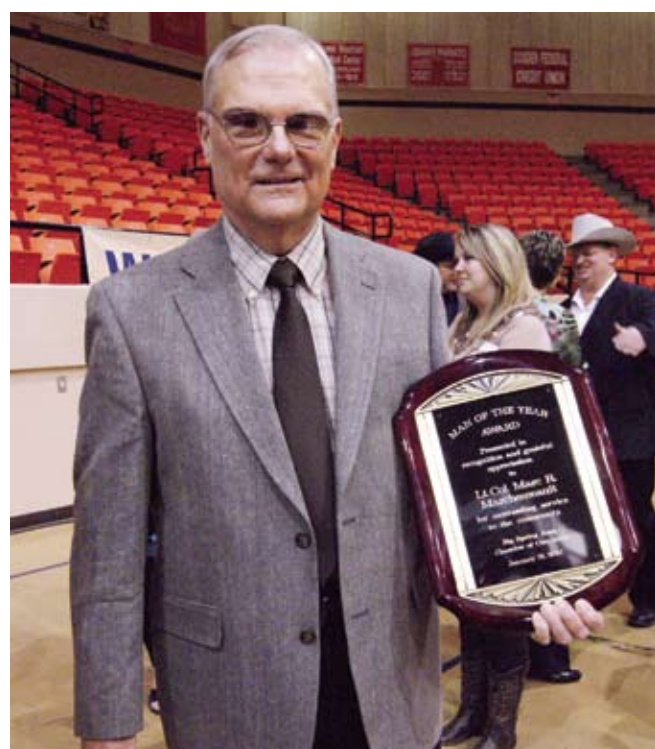
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Ugly starts, pretty endings

Steers, Lady Steers start slow, finish fast en route to wins

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

The Big Spring Steers and Lady Steers followed similar scripts to victory against Sweetwater Tuesday — struggle early, use defense and three-point shooting to take the lead, then blow matters wide open in the second half.

The results were anything but boring for BSHS fans — the Lady Steers claimed a 48-31 win, while the Steers raced to a 48-37 victory in District 5-3A action for both teams.

The Lady Steers improved to 20-8 overall, 3-3 in district play, while the Steers are now 13-16, 3-3.

Girl's game

Big Spring 53

Sweetwater 31

The Sweetwater Lady Mustangs denied Big Spring's inside star Cerbi Ritchey much room to maneuver (much less score), so it was left to the Lady Steers' perimeter players to pick up the slack. With Ritchey held in check, Big Spring's outside players responded with a mini-barrage of three-pointers, knocking down six shots from beyond the arc.

Guard Ambra Hill scored 14 points — six from three-point range — and Mary King added nine to lead the Lady Steers.

But the real star of the night was the Lady Steers' defense, which harassed, confounded and ultimately overwhelmed Sweetwater Tuesday night.

The Lady Mustangs were able to stay close for a quarter, but Big Spring's



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Big Spring's Chazzell Robinson (40) attempts to block a shot from Sweetwater's Kaleb Hoover during their District 5-3A basketball game at Steer Gym Tuesday night.

defensive pressure began paying dividends in the second eight minutes.

With Sweetwater holding a 15-13 lead, the Lady Steers' defense went into shutdown mode, holding the Lady Mustangs scoreless during a four-minute stretch of the second quarter.

On the other end of the court, the Lady Steers began finding their range: King, up from the junior varsity to re-

place an ailing Diamond Mayes, tied the game with a pair of free throws, then Big Spring reeled off 11 unanswered points to take a comfortable 26-17 lead at intermission.

If Sweetwater found Big Spring's defense worrisome in the first half, however, it became nightmarish for the Lady Mustangs in the final two quarters.

The Lady Steers' full-court pres-

sure took any lingering drama out of the game in the second half, blanketing Sweetwater for a stretch of more than 10 minutes.

"Our defense is what won us the game," BSHS Coach Mike Warren said. "You've got to give Sweetwater some credit for the way we played early. They are fighting for a playoff

See **BSHS**, Page 2B

Sports Calendar

TODAY

Softball

Howard College at Weatherford College (DH), 1 p.m.

THURSDAY

Baseball

Frank Phillips College at Howard College (DH), noon.

Women's basketball

NMJC at Howard College, 5:45 p.m.

Men's basketball

NMJC at Howard College, 7:45 p.m.

To submit a calendar item, please call 263-7331, ext. 235, or e-mail reporter@bigspringherald.com

Area basketball roundup

GIRLS

Slaton 68

Coahoma 23

SLATON — The Coahoma Bulldogettes fell to 1-11 in District 3-2A play by dropping a 68-23 decision to Slaton Tuesday night.

Minnie Goodblanket scored 11 points and Jennifer Castilaw added seven for the Bulldogettes, who return to action Friday at home against Lubbock Roosevelt. Game time is 6:30 p.m.

Denver City 37

Forsan 27

DENVER CITY — The third quarter proved decisive as the Forsan Lady Buffaloes dropped a 37-27 decision to Denver City in District 3-2A basketball action Tuesday.

The Lady Buffs trailed by only two points early in the third, but Denver City rallied to take a 31-16 lead heading into the fourth quarter.

"I was really proud of our kids tonight," FHS Coach Robert Hillger said. "Most of the night, it was a two possession game. The third quarter was our killer tonight. But we battled back after being down 31-16 at

the end of three to close it to 6 points in the 4th, but just couldn't buy a basket to get us over the hump."

Raegan Haggard led Forsan (14-13 overall, 4-8 in district play) with eight points, seven rebounds and four steals. Cheyenne Galloway added seven points and 11 rebounds.

Forsan returns to action at home Friday against Stanton. Game time is 6:30 p.m.

FHS 5 4 7 11 - 27

DCHS 9 6 16 6 - 37

Garden City 58

Blackwell 15

BLACKWELL — The No. 9-ranked Garden City Lady Bearkats had little trouble with Blackwell Tuesday night, cruising to a 58-15 win in District 12-1A Div. II basketball action.

The Lady 'Kats raced out to a 17-0 lead after one quarter.

Cassie Hirt scored 14 points and Hannah Halfmann added 13 for Garden City (25-4, 12-0), which returns to action Friday at home vs. Bronte. Game time is 6:30 p.m.

See **AREA**, Page 2B

At media day, wacky questions the norm

By NANCY ARMOUR

AP National Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — Quick, Wes Welker, spell Bill Belichick. Hey, Osi Umenyiora, know any other Elis besides that Manning guy? Rob Gronkowski, what's your favorite song by Madonna?

Not exactly challenging questions about Sunday's Super Bowl between the New York Giants and the New England Patriots. But that's media day, the NFL's annual version of the circus, minus the ringmaster.

With players and coaches penned into cubicles, mainstream reporters were joined Tuesday by a guy in a superhero costume, another in an old-time football uniform, kids with microphones and some women who wore dress-

es that left little to the imagination. They asked the Patriots and Giants anything that crossed their minds.

And we do mean anything.

"This is crazy, man. It's crazy," said Patriots safety Patrick Chung. "I've never seen anything like this ever."

Actually, none of the players had. For the first time, the NFL let fans in on the act, too. For \$25 — or more, for those who waited until the last minute to buy their tickets — fans could sit in the stands at the stadium and listen to the interviews over a headset.

"We can't hear all of the questions, so we have to guess," said Lee Clifford, who brought his sons, 10-year-old Ben and 8-year-old Nick. "I guess lots of people can get a pass to a media event."

Even people who carry their

own disco ball, as the camera crew from Telemundo did.

Media day has never been the stuff of Woodward and Bernstein.

But it's gone from off-the-wall to downright goofy in recent years, the tipping point coming four years ago when a reporter from Mexico's TV Azteca showed up in a wedding dress from a slasher movie in hopes of winning Tom Brady's heart.

Imagine asking Vince Lombardi if he could name three Kardashians. Gronkowski actually did pretty well — he got Kim and Khloe right away, but needed a few more seconds to come up with Courtney. Or getting John Elway to salsa dance, as New York Giants receiver Victor Cruz did with singer Ciara.

There were no brides or pro-

posals for Brady this year, although the fashion-conscious QB did talk about having his nails painted.

"They were pretty easy on me," Brady said when asked what it was like to grow up with three older sisters. "They dressed me up a few times in their clothes and painted my nails once, but it was nice."

Most of the players were good sports about the whole thing, knowing what they were in for when they arrived at Lucas Oil Stadium. Even the normally dour Belichick managed a chuckle or two.

"It's kind of catching me off guard," Patriots cornerback Sterling Moore said. "I definitely thought he'd be a little more strict in his interviews."

He might have been a little

more cranky if he'd heard Welker when the receiver was asked if he knew how to spell Belichick's last name.

"Tough one. B-E-L-I-C-H-I," Welker said, and then paused. "K. Wait, that right? Is it CK?"

Told Belichick's name ended in "CK," Welker smacked his head.

Umenyiora fared better with the other Elis, naming Plaxico Burress' little boy, Elijah. As for Gronkowski and Madonna, he wasn't crazy for that question.

Silly stuff, to be sure. But the fans loved every minute of it. Parents let their kids skip school — Zane Bishop, a high school senior, had his head buried in a book during the break, cramming for his

See **MEDIA**, Page 2B

MEDIA

Continued from Page 1B

AP Government exam Wednesday — and the tickets were in such high demand people were actually scalping them.

“It’s such an intimate experience,” said Nick Lowery, a Patriots fan who drove from Columbia, Mo. “This is really cool.”

Unlike the NFL draft, when rowdy New Yorkers waste no opportunity to heckle picks and boo players, the fans were on their best behavior. Most in the crowd of 7,300 were Colts fans, with many sporting Peyton Manning’s No. 18 jersey. But the fans greeted both teams with applause when they came in, and cheered when Eli Manning, Brady and Welker talked about how much they were enjoying Indianapolis and praised Colts fans.

They even set aside their hatred for the Patriots, the Colts’ biggest rival.

“Our philosophy has been ‘Fans first.’ It’s all about Hoosier hospitality,” said Toni Meyer of Indianapolis.

Added Bill Burns, “The Patriots, we really don’t like ‘em here. But there hasn’t been any animosity.”

The only complaint was that fans wanted more. Though they could hear interviews with the head coach and four players on the headset, they were restricted to the stands. No autographs, no photographs with their favorite players.

“I kind of wish we’d been on the field, but I understand,” said Burns, who wore a hat with a “Press” card on the side and carried a toy purple microphone.

AREA

Continued from Page 1B

Garden City 17 19 11 11 — 58
Blackwell 0 6 2 7 — 15

Stanton 65
Post 51

STANTON — The Stanton Lady Buffalos started strong and were never headed as they took a 65-51 victory over Post in District 3-2A action Tuesday.

The Lady Buffalos (11-18, 6-6) raced out to a 27-10 lead after one quarter.

Stanton, which was led by Tara Patterson’s 16 points, returns to action Friday at Forsan. Game time is 6:30 p.m.

Grady 47
Dawson 41

WELCH — The Grady Lady Wildcats hung on to take a 47-41 win over Dawson in District 8-1A Div. II basketball action Tuesday. Charmynee Arnold and Sarah Clay each scored 10 points to lead Grady (16-12, 9-3), which returns to action Friday at Loop. Game time is 6:30 p.m.

Grady 10 11 11 15 — 47
Dawson 9 11 8 13 — 41

BOYS

Denver City 72
Forsan 49

DENVER CITY — The Forsan Buffaloes hung close for most of the first half, but eventually dropped a 72-49 decision to Denver City in District 3-2A basketball action Tuesday.

The Buffs trailed by only four points after the first quarter, but Denver City was able to expand its lead to eight at the half and 14 after three quarters.

Aric Hernandez scored 13 points and Kade Fannin added 9 to lead Forsan, which returns to action Friday at home vs. Stanton. Game time is 8 p.m.

Forsan 12 9 12 16 — 49
D-City 16 13 18 25 — 72

Stanton 44
Post 28

STANTON — The Stanton Buffalos rallied from a first-quarter deficit to take a 44-28 win over Post in District 3-2A play Tuesday.

Stanton trailed 8-7 after the first quarter, but rallied to take a 6-point lead at the half, then out-scored Post 24-12 in the second half.

Ethan Mauldin scored 10 points for the Buffalos (15-11, 6-4), who return to action Friday at Forsan.

Post 8 8 4 8 — 28
Stanton 7 13 8 16 — 44

Grady 74
Dawson 64

WELCH — No. 5 Grady broke open a tight game in the third quarter en route to a 74-64 win over Dawson in District 8-1A Div. II basketball play Tuesday.

Grady rallied from a halftime deficit to take a 60-49 lead after three quarters.

E.J. Rodriguez scored 18 points Zeke Clay and Brandon Richards added 14 and 13 points, respectively, for the Wildcats, who improved to 23-3 and 11-1 with the victory.

Grady returns to action Friday at Loop. Game time is 8 p.m.

Grady 13 21 26 14 — 74
Dawson 16 20 13 15 — 64

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BSHS

Continued from Page 1B

spot, just as we are.”

The victory put Big Spring on the doorstep of a spot in the Class 3A playoffs — the Lady Steers are one win (or a Snyder loss) from clinching third place in the district standings.

But Warren has bigger goals in mind: Next up for Big Spring is a rematch with Brownwood, which is a game ahead of the Lady Steers in second place.

“We can’t start off slow against Brownwood,” he said. “We’ve got to get our offense working early, attack their zone and produce some points.”

The Lady Steers return to action Friday in Brownwood. Game time is 6 p.m.

SWEETWATER (31) — Janell Walker 2 0-0 4; Kinsey Browning 3 1-2 8; Shelby Cason 0 1-2 1; Kendra Cason 6 0-0 13; Suede Shirley 0 0-2 0; Candice Hernandez 1 0-0 3; Alicia Finn 1 0-0 2; totals 13 2-6 31.
BIG SPRING (53) — Ambra Hill 3 6-7 14; Logan Yarbar 2 0-0 5; Leshauante Anderson 2 0-0 5; Dyrsha Vanderbilt 2 1-3 5; Yeneria Tuit 2 2-4 6; Mary King 2 4-4 9; Cerbi Ritchey 3 0-1 7; totals 17 13-19 53.

Sweetwater 9 8 5 9 — 31
Big Spring 11 15 19 8 — 53
Three-point goals — Sweetwater (Crosson, K. Cason, Hernandez), Big Spring (Hill 2, Yarbar, Anderson, King, Ritchey); Total fouls — Sweetwater 17, Big Spring 9; Fouled out — none.

Boy’s game
Big Spring 48
Sweetwater 37

The Big Spring Steers found strength in numbers Tuesday night.

Head Coach Cliff Thompson made liberal use of his bench vs. Sweetwater, sometime substituting as many as five players at a time.

This continuous wave of fresh legs helped the Steers overcome a shaky start and eventually wear down the Mus-

tangs.

“They don’t have a deep bench, and we do. That was a big difference, particularly in the second half,” Thompson said.

The first eight minutes, however, were a sort of mini-nightmare for the Steers, who scored only three points in the first quarter as the result of a new defensive wrinkle thrown at them by Sweetwater.

“They played man-to-man defense against us the last time we played, but this time they dropped back into a zone,” Thompson said. “They covered our big men and dared our guards to shoot the ball.”

In the second quarter, the Steers took that dare, scoring 12 of their 16 point from behind the three-point arc to take a 19-17 lead into intermission.

In the decisive third quarter, it was the Steers’ pressure defense that came to the forefront, forcing six turnovers and leading to several easy baskets as Big Spring took command of matters and cruised to the win.

Chazzell Robinson scored 12 points and Ty’ral Menefield added 11 for the Steers, who find themselves alone in third place in the District 5-3A standings.

Thompson was impressed with the way his team rebounded from the rough first quarter, especially with it coming on the heels of a blowout loss against Abilene Wylie Friday.

“I think it shows a lot about their character, about how they were able to weather the storm, so to speak,” Thompson said. “It was good to see that.”

The Steers return to action Friday at Brownwood. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

SWEETWATER (37) — Dylan Bennett 2 0-0 4; Taylor Jones 3 1-3 8; Kaleb Hoover 5 6-10 16; Cole Maxwell 1 1-2 3; Gabe Medellin 0 1-2 1; Tino Martinez 1 0-2 2; Dylan Adams 1 0-1 2; totals 13 9-20 37.

BIG SPRING (48) — Ty’ral Menefield 4 0-0 11; Marc Segundo 1 0-0 3; Ryan Pollard 1 0-0 3; Tyler Graves 2 1-2 6; Tavaris Walker 2 0-0 5; Richard Lewis 1 0-0 2; Sealy 2 0-0 4; Chazzell Robinson 5 2-4 12; Chris Nunez 1 0-0 2; totals 19 3-6 48

Sweetwater 8 9 6 14 — 37
Big Spring 3 16 20 9 — 48
Three-point goals — Sweetwater (Jones), Big Spring (Menefield 3, Segundo, Pollard, Graves, Walker); Total fouls — Sweetwater 13, Big Spring 19; Fouled out — Medellin.

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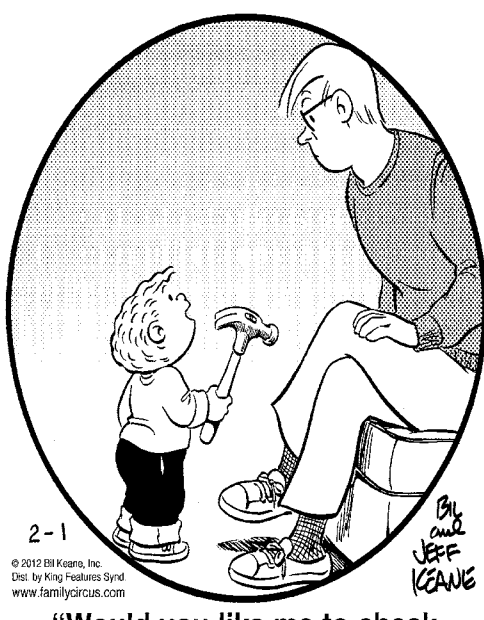
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5:PM	News ABC	Alma Notic.	Two Men CBS	News CBS	Noticias CBS	News CBS	King King	Swallow House	Charlie Rose	'Til Death King	Hogs Gone Wild	CSI: Miami	Ways Die	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Shake It Good	NFL32	SportsCenter
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Una Familia con Suerte (SS)	Big Bang	News Ent	Caso Cer-rado	News Ent	Seinfeld	Dr. Diana CCM	PBS News-Hour	Seinfeld	Hogs Gone Wild	CSI: Miami	Ways Die	Law & Order		ANT Farm Shake It	College Basketball	SportsCenter Spec.
7:PM	Middle Suburg.		American Idol	Super Bowl's	Una Maid en	Whitney Millionaire	Seinfeld	Upd Chelsea	Nature (DVS)	One Tree Hill	Dual Survival	Movie: The Jerk, Catlin Adams	Ways Die	Law & Order	Movie: Boyz N the Hood	Jessie	NBA Basketball: Thunder at Mavericks	
8:PM	Family Happy	La Que No	Mobbed	Criminal Minds	Flor Salvaje (SS)	Law & Order: SVU	Big Bang	Light of the Southwest	NOVA (DVS)	Remodeled	Beast Tracker	Ways Die	Law & Order		College Basketball: Baylor at Texas.			
9:PM	Revenge	Dale con Ganas (SS)	Simpsons How I Met	CSI: Crime Scene	Relaciones Peli	Law & Order: SVU	Big Bang		Inside Nature's	Cops	Monsters in Alaska	Movie: The Jerk, Catlin Adams	Ways Die	Law & Order	Movie: Carlitto's Way: Rise to Power	ANT Farm	NBA Basketball: Los Angeles Clippers at Utah Jazz.	
10:PM	News Nightline	Impacto	How I Met	News Letterman	Noticias Sin Senos no	News Jay Leno	Conan	McGee L. Moore	Charlie Rose	King South Pk	Beast Tracker	Ways Die	Southland		Jessie Vampire	SportsCenter		
11:PM	Jimmy Kim-mel Live	Hasta-Dinero	Law Order: CI	Late	Decisiones (SS)	Late Night	Office	Yohanan	World	South Pk	Monsters in Alaska	CSI: Miami	Ways Die	CSI: NY	Wendy Williams	Wizards	SportsCenter	
12:AM	Extra Paid	Mañana-Siempre	Raymond Fam. Guy	Insider	Pagado	(:06) Today	Conan	Light.	Roseanne Focus 4	Roseanne	Dual Survival	CSI: Miami	Ways Die	CSI: NY	Movie: Boyz N the Hood	Good	NBA SportsCenter	
1:AM	Paid	Par Ases	TMZ	Paid	Paid		Seinfeld	Light of the Southwest	Wretched Tripp	Hogs Gone Wild	CSI: Miami	Ways Die	To Be An-nounced		Random ANT Farm	SportsCenter Spec.	SportsCenter	

DENNIS THE MENACE



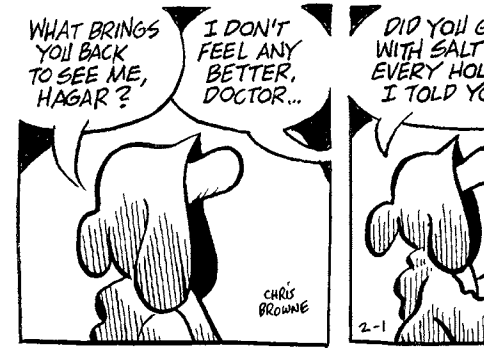
"SEE, DAD... NOW YOU CAN DRIVE IN THE CARPOOL LANE."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

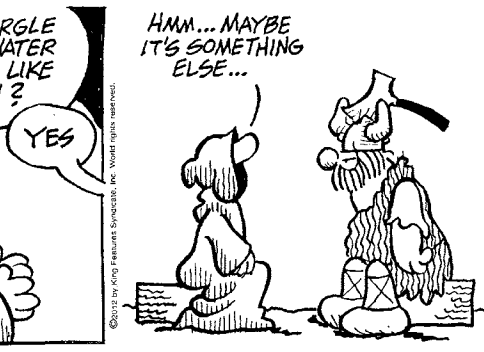


"Would you like me to check your knee-flexes?"

HAGAR



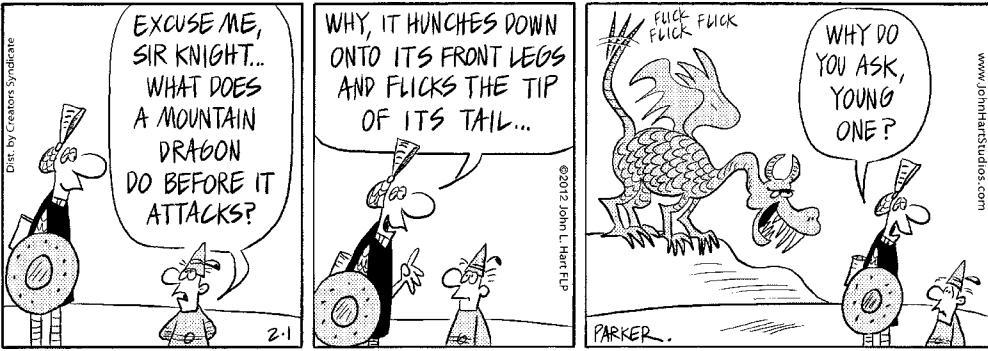
BLONDIE



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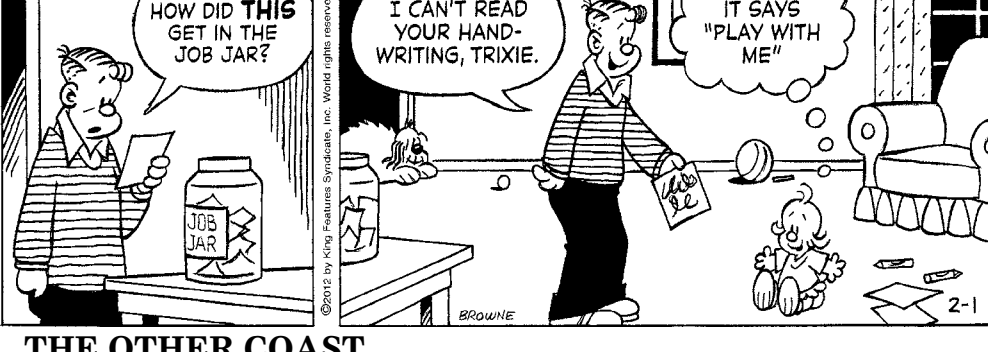
WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



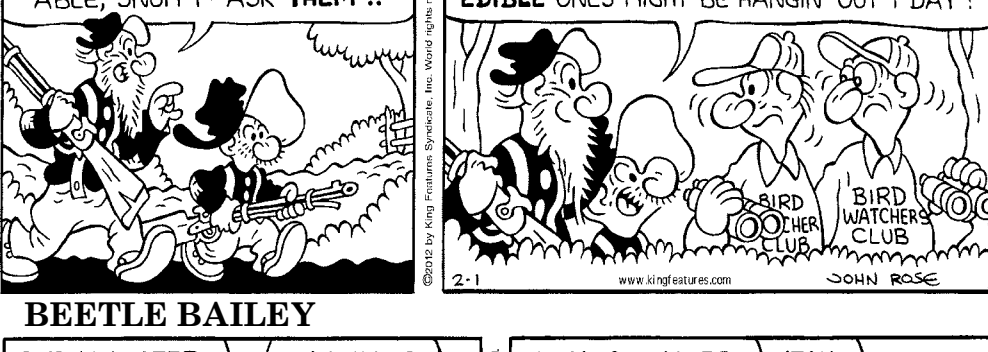
HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Feb. 1, the 32nd day of 2012. There are 334 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 1, 1862, "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," a poem by Julia Ward Howe, was published in the Atlantic Monthly.

On this date:

In 1790, the U.S. Supreme Court convened for the first time in New York. (However, since only three of the six justices were present, the court recessed until the next day.)

In 1861, Texas voted to leave the Union at a Secession Convention in Austin.

In 1922, in one of Hollywood's most enduring mysteries, movie director William Desmond Taylor was shot to death in his Los Angeles home; the killing has never been solved.

In 1942, the Voice of America broadcast its first program to Europe, relaying it through the facilities of the British

Broadcasting Corp. in London.

In 1943, one of America's most highly decorated military units, the 442nd Central Postal Directory, was authorized.

In 1946, Norwegian statesman Trygve Lie (TRIG'-vuh lee) was chosen to be the first secretary-general of the United Nations.

In 1960, four black college students began a sit-in protest at a Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, N.C., where they'd been refused service.

In 1962, the Ken Kesey novel "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" was first published by Viking Press.

In 1979, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini (hoh-MAY'-nee) received a tumultuous welcome in Tehran as he ended nearly 15 years of exile.

In 1982, "Late Night with David Letterman" premiered on NBC.

In 1991, 34 people were killed when an arriving USAir jetliner crashed atop a commuter plane on a runway at Los Angeles International Airport.

In 2003, the space shuttle Columbia broke up during re-entry, killing all seven of its

crew members.

Today's Birthdays: Gospel singer George Beverly Shea is 103. Actor Stuart Whitman is 84. Singer Don Everly is 75. Actor Garrett Morris is 75. Singer Ray Sawyer (Dr. Hook and the Medicine Show) is 75. Actor Sherman Hemsley is 74. Bluegrass singer Del McCoury is 73. Jazz musician Joe Sample is 73. TV personality-singer Joy Philbin is 71. Comedian Terry Jones is 70. Sen. Mike Enzi, R-Wyo., is 68. Opera singer Carol Neblett is 66. Rock musician Mike Campbell (Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers) is 62. Blues singer-musician Sonny Landreth is 61. Actor-writer-producer Bill Mummy (MOO'-mee) is 58. Rock singer Exene Cervenka is 56.

Answer to previous puzzle

TOTAL	RISK	RIGS
OHARE	ANTI	IDOL
UNTIE	NOUN	FETE
ROADRACING	LAI	
AWOL	PESTS	
SMARTER	DOOR	
TUTU	TAKEABOW	
A TOM	PLAYS	NONE
BEEP	BEEP	GAME
RUNG	CATERED	
ONION	ERIE	
MAMA	RAVEREVUE	
ICES	AREA	SANTA
THAT	SINK	UNITY
SONS	HATS	PETES

Newsday Crossword

INSTRUMENTAL by Fred Piscop Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 Cut and paste
 - 5 Got mellow
 - 9 Be a moocher
 - 14 Ballet jump
 - 15 Birdbrain
 - 16 Paperless exams
 - 17 Alternatively
 - 18 Feels bad about
 - 19 See eye to eye
 - 20 Wedding-toast glass
 - 23 "___ the season . . ."
 - 24 Absorbed, as a cost
 - 25 Play for a sap
 - 26 Cleveland's lake
 - 28 Slip into
 - 30 Medieval drudge
 - 34 Rainbow-shaped
 - 36 Yuk it up
 - 38 Bit of baby talk
 - 39 Region of unexplained disappearances
 - 42 Suffix for serpent
 - 43 Evergreen trees
 - 44 Windmill blades
 - 45 Rugrats
 - 47 NFL scores
 - 48 Bank take-back
 - 49 Lobbying org.
 - 51 Shelter adoptee
 - 52 Frequently, in verse
 - 55 Aircraft installation
- DOWN**
- 1 Boot out
 - 2 Indian metropolis
 - 3 "Mum's the word!"
 - 4 Abound
 - 5 Classified cost
 - 6 Overcharge
 - 7 Blissful spot
 - 8 Two caplets, perhaps
 - 9 Briquettes
 - 10 States one's case
 - 11 Pub projectile
 - 12 Elation
 - 13 Language suffix
 - 21 Debt-free
 - 22 Mushroom, molds, etc.
 - 27 Sleep stage: Abbr.
 - 28 Sees socially
 - 29 Sharer's word
 - 31 Pasta variety
 - 32 Playbill listing
 - 33 The other team
 - 34 Not much
 - 35 Clinton attorney general
 - 36 Touch down
 - 37 Must
 - 40 Deep-six
 - 41 40 winks
 - 46 Low-tech web designer
 - 48 Latter-day
 - 50 Author's representative
 - 51 Evita surname
 - 53 Noteworthy acts
 - 54 Secret meeting
 - 55 College club
 - 56 Volcanic flow
 - 57 Melt
 - 58 Talk wildly
 - 59 Easy victory
 - 60 Pro sports team VIPs

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