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WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 15, 2012



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Yeats under scrutiny

Judge denies misusing funds

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

118th District Court Judge Tim Yeats said this morning there is no merit to allegations he misused campaign funds during his 2010 election run.

"A complaint has been filed against me with the Texas Ethics Commission by an individual from East Texas," Yeats said in a press release this morning. "I deny the allegations made in that complaint. I am in the process of responding to the Ethics Commission concerning the matter. I am comfortable I have done nothing wrong and the Ethics Commission will find no violations of campaign finance laws once this matter is fully reviewed."

Tim Sorrells, deputy general counsel for the Texas Ethics Commission, said office could neither confirm or deny a complaint had been submitted to the TEC regarding Yeats' campaign spending during the 2010 election.

"We are prohibited by law from disclosing whether or not a complaint has been filed," Sorrells said this morning. "Speaking completely

See **YEATS**, Page 3A

EXTRAORDINARY PAIR



HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno
Shermila Kher, left, was recognized as a National Merit Scholar finalist and Lacy McMurtrey as a commended performer during ceremonies at Big Spring High School Tuesday.

BSHS students are listed among the nation's best

By **AMANDA MORENO**
Staff Writer

Two elite seniors are gracing the halls of Big Spring High School.

Shermila Kher — who was named a National Merit Scholar finalist — and Lacy McMurtrey — National Merit Scholar commended performer — have been named among the top 50,000 students in the nation.

National Merit Scholars are determined by the scores of the PSATs taken during the junior year of high school.

Students are able to take the PSATs as early as freshmen and sophomores in order to review their scores and continue to improve on them in order to prepare for the junior year, when the National Scholar program takes the scores.

This year, there were 1.5 million entries and both



girls were ranked amongst the top 50,000 students

See **BEST**, Page 3A

Public to vote on 4B project

Council applauds effort by EDC board to reach pact

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

The Big Spring City Council approved final reading of a measure Tuesday night calling for a May election to decide the fate of a proposed overhaul of the municipality's water and wastewater facilities.

The project would use up to \$13 million in economic development funding.

The approval came on a unanimous vote — first reading of the ordinance, which was held Jan. 10, also met with a unanimous ballot from the council — as members of the panel praised the Big Spring Economic Development Corporation board of directors and other local officials for working together and compromising on an issue that had threatened to divide many municipal and local representatives when it was originally introduced by Mayor Tommy Duncan in December.

During the January meet-

ing, when Duncan and the city administration revealed its proposed plan for the project, there was an outpouring of sentiments — both in favor and against — from local citizens and officials due to the controversial nature of the funding.

In the proposal's first incarnation, the Big Spring EDC — designated a 4A corporation by the state — would have had its operating budget slashed in half if the project were approved, providing between \$800,000 and \$800,500 a year for the water project's debt service and approximately \$800,000 to

\$850,000 annually for the EDC to operate on.

However, thanks to a last-minute agreement between the EDC board of directors and city administrators Monday night, the fiscal burden

See **COUNCIL**, Page 3A

"We also added a provision to delay any concerns the city council was going to keep coming back to the well and pushing the EDC in this direction. ... This was just to show the spirit of the agreement."



Sjogren



HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno
Katie Grimes, left, and Marj Carpenter look at a display included in the Vintage Valentine exhibit during the Valentine Day reception at the Heritage Museum. The exhibit will be up and open to the public through the beginning of March.

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Obituaries

J. Oakey Hagood



WHITESBORO — Funeral services for J. Oakey Hagood, 76, will be held Thursday, Feb. 16, 2012, at 3 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church of Whitesboro, Texas, with the Rev. Ken Hildebrand officiating. Interment will follow the service at Mt. Tabor Cemetery in Sandusky, Texas. All services arrangements are under the direction of Meador Funeral Home. Family visitation will be Wednesday evening, Feb. 15, 2012, from 6-8 p.m.

He passed away Feb. 12, 2012, at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital — WNJ in Sherman, Texas.

Julian Oakey Hagood was born April 1, 1935, to Julian Oakey and Juanita (Debruler) Hagood in Durham, N.C. He married Rebecca Ann Affleck on Sept. 1, 1963, in Big Spring, Texas. He was an avid softball player. He taught and coached in Big Spring for 20 years. Between the years of 1978-2001, he was a banker. He volunteered at Your Neighbors House. He was a member of the True Grit Bible Study for Methodist Men and a member of the First United Methodist Church of Whitesboro, Texas. After retiring from banking in 2001, he moved to Whitesboro, Texas, and worked as a substitute teacher. He loved kids and they loved him. He coached pee wee football, baseball and basketball. He occasionally attempted to golf and loved to travel to the Cayman Islands.

He is survived by his wife, Rebecca Hagood of Whitesboro, Texas; sons: Kent Cook of Bloomington, Ill; Roger Roe of Indianapolis, Ind.; daughter, Kim Hickman and husband Gregg, of Whitesboro, Texas; Kevin Hagood and wife Jill of Las Vegas, Nev.; sister, Dee Lockmiller and husband Ken of Lacy, Wash.; grandchildren, Anna Hagood, Garrett Hickman, Channing Hickman, Weston Hickman, Carson Hickman, Lauren Archibald and Madeleine Archibald; uncle and aunt, Allan and Undine Kernodle; and cousin, Katie Griggs.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Julian and Juanita Hagood; and his cousin, Alana Kernodle.

Casket bearers will be Kolton Massick, Matt Hobbs, John Wood, Trey Eleazer, Eddy Ruiz, Chance Hatchell and Jordon Gill.

In lieu of flowers, memorial may be sent to the First United Methodist Church, 122 Union Street, Whitesboro, TX 76273 or Your Neighbors House, 201 S. Union Street, Whitesboro, TX 76273.

To sign the online registry, please go to www.meadorfuneralhome.com.

Paid obituary

Dolores Valdespino Chavez



Dolores Valdespino Chavez, 94, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2012, at her residence. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16, 2012, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Co-Pastor Antonio Ibarra, of the Kingdom Hall for Jehovah's Witnesses, officiating. Interment will follow at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

The family will begin receiving friends at 1 p.m. Thursday until the time of service.

Dolores was born Nov. 22, 1917, in Chihuahua, Mexico, and married Ruperto Saiz Chavez, who preceded her in death. She was a homemaker and a member of the Kingdom Hall of the Jehovah's Witnesses.

Survivors include one son, Andres V. Chavez and wife Monica of Big Spring; three daughters, Ema Sanchez and husband Ambrosio Jr. of San Antonio, Beatrice Franco of Big Spring and Celia Larez and husband Reyes of Pine Bluff, Wyo.; two sisters-in-law; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to her husband, Dolores was preceded in death by her parents, Juan and Pabla (Bautista) Valdespino; two daughters, Ermina Aleman and Gloria Rodriguez; and one son-in-law, Ramon Franco.

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

Santiago 'Jimmy' Munoz



Santiago "Jimmy" Munoz, 82, of Big Spring died Sunday, Feb. 12, 2012, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with a prayer service following at 8 p.m. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at First Assembly of God with the Rev. Craig Wascom officiating. Burial will be at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

He was born July 25, 1929, in Stanton. He married Ramona Hilario on Sept. 17, 1950. She preceded him in death Jan. 13, 2000. He was a veteran of the U. S. Army. He was a custodian at Malone-Hogan Hospital and later Scenic Mountain Medical Center until 1992. More recently, he was employed at Harris Lumber and Hardware. He was a lifetime resident of Big Spring and was a member of the First Assembly of God.

He is survived by three sons, Esmael Munoz and his wife Linda, Joe Munoz, and Johnny Munoz, all of Big Spring; six daughters, Amelia Rodriguez and her husband Rafael of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Linda Galan and her husband Frank, Cindy Lozano, Eva Foster and her husband Daniel, Ramona Goff and her husband Clifford, and Rosita Martinez and her husband Raul, all of Big Spring; two brothers, Elias Munoz and Ezekiel Munoz, both of Big Spring; five sisters, Esther Mezick, Naomi Valdez, Margie Munoz and Isabel Allred and her husband John, all of Big Spring, and Leonora Arms and her husband Paul of Midland; 21 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-granddaughter.

In addition to his wife, he was preceded in death by his parents, Emeteria Jaimez Munoz and Aristerio Munoz; one son, Benjamin Munoz; one brother, Daniel Munoz; and one granddaughter.

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

William A. 'Bill' Bonner Jr.



William A. "Bill" Bonner Jr., 68, of Austin formerly of Big Spring died Saturday, Feb. 11, 2012, in Big Spring. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Trinity Memorial Park with Chaplain Cherise Felty officiating.

He was born July 27, 1943. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy, having served in Vietnam. He graduated from Big Spring High School and Angelo State University with a bachelor's degree in accounting. He had been a certified public accountant in Austin for more than 40 years.

He is survived by his cousin, Glynda Jones and her husband Grady of Lampasas; and one step-son, Lee Eubanks of Austin.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William A. Bonner Sr. and Gail Whitney Legg.

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

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1500 block of Tucson. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 3300 block of Auburn. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 3200 block of Auburn. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported at N. Hwy 87 and Co-op Gin Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 200 block of E. Robinson. One person was transported to SMMC.

Contact the *Herald* at
citydesk@bigspringherald.com

Police blotter

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

- LARRY WILSON STEIGER JR., 28, of 100 E. Shangri-La Dr. in Azle, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid with a previous conviction.
- DANIEL WAYNE PAYTON, 33, of Greenville, Ohio, was arrested Wednesday on charges of public intoxication and disorderly conduct — language.
- BRADLEY LEE GRIFFIN, 24, of 700 W. Interstate Highway 20, was arrested Wednesday on charges of possession of marijuana — two ounces or less, disorderly conduct — discharge of a firearm and a warrant from another agency.
- ADRIANN N. JUSTICE, 24, of 2008 Lacruse in San Angelo, was arrested Wednesday on a warrant from another agency.
- RONNIE JAMES JOHNSON, 28, of 1303 Lamar Ave., was arrested Tuesday on a warrant for terrorist threat.
- JOHNNY RAY PAYNE JR., 32, of 1509 Stadium Ave., was arrested Tuesday on warrants for driving while intoxicated (two counts).
- BOBBY GENE BRICKER, 39, of 3704 Boulder Dr., was arrested Tuesday on warrants for failure to appear and driving while license invalid.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 800 block of W FM 700.
- ROBBERY was reported in the 1000 block of E. 11th.
- THEFT was reported:
In the 800 block of E. 15th Street.
In the 800 block of W. Eighth Street.
- ASSAULT was reported in the 700 block of W. Interstate Highway 20.
- SHOTS FIRED was reported in the 700 block of W. Interstate Highway 20.

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 66 inmates at the time of this report.

- RONNIE JAMES JOHNSON, 28, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a judgement sentenced (terroristic threat).
- JOHNNY RAY PAYNE, JR., 32, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while intoxicated sentenced judgement 60 days.
- LARRY WILSON STEIGER, JR., 28, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday on a charge of driving while license invalid with previous conviction/suspension without final restitution.
- BOBBY GENE BRICKER, 39, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on warrants of failure to appear and driving while license invalid.
- ADRIANN JUSTICE, 24, was transferred by the BSPD to the county jail Wednesday on charges of possession of controlled substance less than one gram, possession of controlled substance less than 28 grams, possession of marijuana less than two ounces, possession of drug paraphernalia, bondsmen off bond/forgery of government financial instrument.

Take Note

- American Legion Post 506 will hold a fish fry from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the lodge, 3203 W. Highway 80. Plates are \$10 each. Delivery is available from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. by calling 263-2084.
- Hangar 25 Air Museum is hosting a patch workshop for kids from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Saturday.

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Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast				
Thu 2/16	Fri 2/17	Sat 2/18	Sun 2/19	Mon 2/20
67/31	60/38	57/39	61/39	65/42
Sunrise: 7:29 AM Sunset: 6:32 PM	Sunrise: 7:28 AM Sunset: 6:33 PM	Sunrise: 7:27 AM Sunset: 6:34 PM	Sunrise: 7:26 AM Sunset: 6:34 PM	Sunrise: 7:25 AM Sunset: 6:35 PM

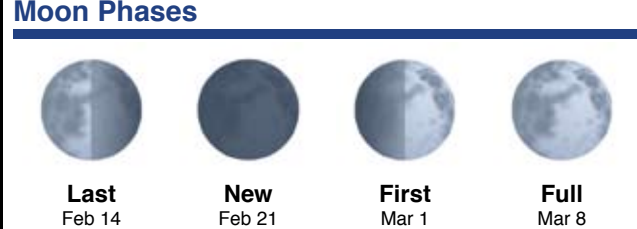


Texas At A Glance



Area Cities		
City	Hi	Lo Cond.
Abilene	68	33 windy
Amarillo	48	26 windy
Austin	75	46 t-storm
Beaumont	72	56 t-storm
Brownsville	81	65 cloudy
Brownwood	73	41 t-storm
Corpus Christi	79	59 t-storm
Corsicana	73	42 t-storm
Dallas	74	43 t-storm
Del Rio	76	43 pt sunny
El Paso	60	35 sunny
Fort Stockton	66	36 windy
Gainesville	68	38 t-storm
Greenville	70	41 t-storm
Houston	74	54 t-storm

National Cities		
City	Hi	Lo Cond.
Atlanta	64	49 pt sunny
Boston	51	30 cloudy
Chicago	43	35 rain
Dallas	74	43 t-storm
Denver	34	17 sunny
Houston	74	54 t-storm
Los Angeles	59	44 rain
Miami	81	68 sunny



BEST

Continued from Page 1A

nationwide. McMurtrey was ranked among the top 34,000 as commended performers and Kher was ranked among the top 15,000 as a finalist. Both students were honored during a special ceremony held Valentine's Day. "It feels good that all the hard work pays off in the end," McMurtrey said. McMurtrey attributed part of her success to not only her parents, but several teachers throughout her high school career, including, Kelly Ralston, freshman English and Wendy Glaze. "I had a memorable time with Mrs. Glaze. She got to know me on a personal level," McMurtrey said. "My parents also helped me and always made sure I had my homework done. It's nice to know that working hard for a long time gets recognized and you think about the other kids and if they are thinking the same thing." Kher also had a group of teachers who made an impact along the way, "My debate team, Mr. (Clint) Adams and Mrs. (Jennifer) Adams, have coached me since I was a sophomore when I came to Big Spring. Without them providing a place to go at the end of the day and without debate tournaments

to look forward to, I'm not sure I would have been able to get as far as I have through the year ... My mom has always supported me and always been there no matter what my goals were but never pressured me, but always made me feel like I could succeed." The honor for Kher was something she had wanted and thought of, but never quite thought she would get this far. "It feels pretty good. I didn't think I would make it this far. My mom was always sure I would be a finalist but I never really thought it was going to happen," Kher said. "Makes me feel really good and makes me wonder if the other kids are like me." Harvard and other ivy league schools have shown interest in both girls, according to Mike Ritchey, Big Spring High School principal. "This is something that just doesn't happen everyday at Big Spring High School," Ritchey said. Scholarships were a big part of the process for both girls. According to Ritchey, because of their academic success, both girls have very prestigious universities seeking them out and offering them some intriguing scholarship packages. A full-tuition package with room and board along with other benefits has been offered to Kher from the University of Alabama. At this moment, she said this is

Support Groups

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

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

• Spring Tabernacle Ministries has a faith-based support group for those who need help finding and continuing to walk down the path God has for each of us. Meetings are at 11 a.m. 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.

YEATS

Continued from Page 1A

hypothetically, if an investigation is conducted and penalties are assessed, then the complaint will become a matter of public record. However, if no wrongdoing is found then the matter would simply remain confidential." Sorrells dismissed reports from other area news outlets claiming TEC had confirmed there was an investigation currently ongoing. Yeats' office however, expressed knowledge of an investigation this morning. According to Sorrells, once a complaint is filed and both parties are notified, the defendant in the matter has between 10 to 25 days to submit a response, at which time TEC will decide whether to launch an investigation into the alleged wrongdoing. "If wrongdoing is found, then the commission can issue a penalty," Sorrells said. "It's hard to say how long an investigation, if launched, can take to complete."

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

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1A

won't fall completely on the shoulders of the EDC. Instead, the board will provide \$750,000 a year for the first two years, and then 40 percent of its sales tax revenue — with a floor of \$500,000 and a ceiling of \$750,000 for the following 18 years — with the city of Big Spring picking up the remainder of the tab. Unfortunately, it's hard to say what that bill will look like until the project matures, according to City Finance Director Peggy Walker. "These first two years, we know the EDC will be paying the \$750,000, and the way sales tax revenues are projected right now, that won't be a problem for them. So, at least for 2013 and 2014, things are very stable and easy to project," Walker said. "Unfortun-

nately, it's when you go beyond that you begin to tread into unknown waters. "We're anticipating debt service on the project to be between \$800,000 and \$850,000 a year. If the EDC's 40 percent holds up around the \$750,000 to \$800,000 mark, the city will be able to make up the difference through the utility fund. However, should something unforeseen happen and that 40 percent suddenly become something much less than that, we'll have to get creative." However, anyone believing Walker is ready to march herself and the city into fiscal uncertainty without a backup plan is jwrong. "In 2014, we have bonds that will be paid off from the utility fund, so, in essence, we will have about \$500,000 freed up in case we run into a bad situation with

the sales tax revenues," Walker said. "The idea the administration is taking into this project is to use those funds, once the bonds are paid off, for water line replacement. However, they can be redirected if we get into a scrape." The proposal also contains an agreement City Attorney Linda Sjogren said she hopes will quell the idea within the community the city council will simply begin using the Big Spring EDC — and, more importantly, its tax funding — as a revenue source, an idea at the heart of many arguments currently surrounding the proposed 4B project. "We also added a provision to belay any concerns the city council was going to keep coming back to the well and pushing the EDC in this direction," Sjogren said. "In the future, if the city council proposes a 4B project and it is

approved by the voters, the amount of the (new) project would reduce this project. This was just to show the spirit of the agreement." The city of Big Spring has struggled with its water and wastewater systems, most recently being cited by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality numerous times due to high levels of turbidity in municipal waters. Voters will get the chance to either vote in favor or against the project during the May 12 municipal elections.

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

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the route she is looking to take. "Right now I plan on going to the University of Alabama and pursuing political science before I go on to law school," Kher said. McMurtrey has also planned a path to take after college. "I plan on attending Angelo State for physical therapy," McMurtrey said. Both girls offered words of advice to their peers. Kher quoted Abraham Lincoln: "Whatever you are be a good one. "So, even if you aren't the type good at taking a test who wouldn't be a national merit finalist, find whatever it is you are good at and be the best at it." McMurtrey offered these words of advice: "Find something you really love to do and that helps you in everything. If you really love to do something, it makes you a better person. It makes you want to work harder than even more than that one thing." The last national merit scholar at Big Spring High School was Nathan

Smith in 2002. Smith is a graduate of Rice University. Ritchey expressed his pride in both girls and the honor this designation brings to them, as well as to Big Spring High School. "Very proud of them and their accomplishments. They are wonderful ambassadors of Big Spring High School and our community. We wish them the very best of luck and no doubt they will be successful in whatever they aspire to become because of their work ethic and because of having no fear of academics," Ritchey said. "It means a lot to Big Spring as a school. Big Spring High School and Big Spring. Sometimes we just get beat up, and undeservedly so, and here are two examples of what is happening in our school and in our curricula. Not only is this an accomplishment for our students here,

but a compliment to our upper-level academics and affirmation to our teachers that the rigor is there and we are on the right track. Otherwise, I don't think we would be having this conversation," Ritchey added.

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

Dr. James Shelton, 67, died Sunday. Funeral Services will be at 4 p.m. today at First Christian Church. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park. Santiago "Jimmie" Munoz, 82, died Sunday. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. tonight at Myers & Smith Chapel with a Prayer service following at 8 p.m. Funeral Services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at First Assembly of God. Burial will be at Mount Olive Memorial Park. William A. Bonner, 68, died Saturday. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Trinity Memorial Park Peace Chapel.

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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	

HOME COUNTRY

When it's cold, build a fire in the fireplace, or the woodburning heater, or maybe just light a candle and look in the flames, look deep in the flames for the answers.

I've always believed they are there, and this time of year is a time for questions. It is a time to weigh the events of the past year and toss them around and ask why.

It has been a good year for each of us in some respects, and a bad year in others. Just like every year.

A few of our young people died this year. Others were born. Some precious old-timers left us, too, but at least they had the chance to hang and rattle and turn gray. It was the young ones that make us ask the tough questions.

But there were also the beautiful things that happened this last year. People went out of their way to help others. People tried valiantly to better themselves. Some did it by studying a foreign language. Some did it by taking wood shop at the community college. Dewey did it by managing to get acquainted with his dream woman. Doc held another of his unique golf tournaments to raise money for winter clothes for kids. The old Miller dairy got pulled down. Many of us were worried about kids playing in there and getting hurt. It really wasn't safe any more. And while we'll miss seeing it out there, with that big tobacco ad painted on its roof, we'd miss having those kids around even more. You make decisions and hope for the best.

There were some new homes built this year, and Steve has been spending more and more time in his cabin up in the mountains not too far from Jasper Blankenship's mining claim. Steve just needed a hole-up spot. A place where a cowboy can go and no one can kick him out.

And so our world says goodbye to another year and we'll hope the next one is better, and it probably will be. Life brings the good and the bad together at this time of year and helps us wash our lives with a laugh and a tear and a dollop of forgiveness.

Brought to you by Slim's award-winning advice book "A Cowboy's Guide to Growing Up Right." Start your year off right at <http://www.nmsantos.com/Slim/Slim.html>.

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

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

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The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- 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

With you, Lord, we can avoid the wild-goose chase of earthly problems.

Amen

He 'Columns as he sees 'em'

I heard about a preacher who was asked to deliver the message at a man's funeral. The man who was dead and his brother were both well known to be scoundrels in the community. The living brother offered the minister \$1,000 if he would call his deceased brother a saint at the funeral. The minister agreed to do that.

As he was delivering the sermon, he said "We all know that the man lying in this coffin was a liar, a thief, and a bum. But compared to his brother, he was a saint."

Accurately assessing someone's true character has always been a challenging prospect. A troubling display of this generation's confusion about what is truly important has been blatantly visible in recent months with numerous reports of prominent well respected coaches, politicians, sports figures and celebrities whose lives and actions represent the contemptible side of humanity being defended, admired and even idolized by the media and the masses.

Like people all over the world, I was saddened this past weekend by the untimely death of Whitney Houston because she was unequivocally one of the most remarkable singers of my lifetime and I admired much of her work. Her vocal mastery was magnificent and I am broken-hearted she passed away much too young under such tragic circumstances. She is being honored as a legend and, from an artistic viewpoint, rightfully so. She was an amazingly talented performer who leaves a rich musical legacy for us to treasure.

It isn't the deserved adoration and appreciation for a beloved celebrity or personality who is

either alive or dead that troubles me. What disturbs me so deeply is when people idolize them after their death as if they were heroes worthy of our worship with no regard for the horrific exemplary life they may have lived.

It has happened many times. A celebrity dies in an accident or from an overdose and the whole world reveres them with hero's status even though the person's existence may have been characterized by an immoral, or even illegal, lifestyle. History records many instances when murderers, abusers, perverts, and crooks have been given celebrity status posthumously. It was easy to find yourself having sympathy for "Bonnie and Clyde" in the movie although in reality they were ruthless thieves and brutal murderers.

I despise hearing someone who is in the public eye declaring their indifference toward the influence they exert simply by being who they are or being famous for what they do. If a person is endowed with extraordinary gifts and the ability to excel in their chosen field to the degree of reaching stardom, they need to realize it is incumbent upon them that a substantial amount of personal integrity and responsibility is a mandate.

Where have all the heroes gone, men and women of integrity and class that can be admired and truly used as role models?

I know there are plenty of fine upstanding people who represent wholesome and admirable characteristics and actions, but even then restraint is necessary in our idolization. I am reminded the very first of God's Ten Commandments was "thou shall have no other gods before me."

Society loves to spotlight their heroes and even in the Bible we are admonished to honor those who are worthy of honor and to respect those who lead us with truth and integrity. I have admired many people in my lifetime and given them due respect

and honor, but very few have obtained the status of a hero.

It isn't because I am a cynical guy or unusually critical of people. In fact, quite the opposite is true of me. I seem to have a temperament with an ability to accept and trust almost anyone until they prove me wrong, and even then I am slow to catch on sometimes because I naturally love and trust people and find it hard to believe someone would be willfully dishonest or hurtful.

I am nobody's judge, but I do believe we need to be truthful with ourselves about people's character.

We can call people or things anything we want to, but as Juliet eloquently said in Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, "What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet."

I am always looking for someone to admire and honor with my allegiance because I genuinely love people and want to trust them. Sadly, it's just getting more and more difficult to find true heroes in today's world.

Maybe like Johnny Lee's looking for love, we are looking for heroes in all the wrong places. The true hero may be sitting at the breakfast table with you every morning instead of performing on a stage every night. Our policemen, firefighters, teachers, nurses and many others deserve a look for sure.

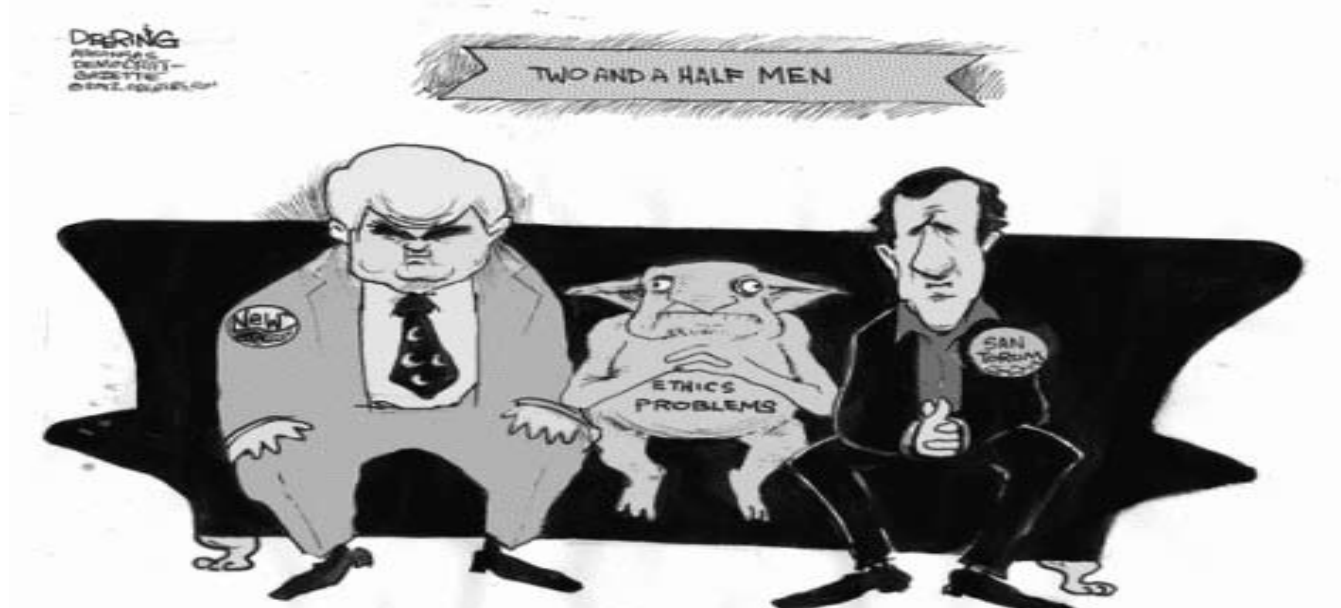
A minister friend of mine, Russell Mills, posted his version of an old quotation on his Facebook page and I found it timely for this publication. He said "The idolization of celebrities: You know the sun is setting on a culture when small men cast long shadows."

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.



SLIM RANGLES



Romney is dazed and confused

From San Francisco, where I live, the controversy over the White House decision to require church-affiliated employers to provide contraception in their employee health care benefits has felt like an argument about the barn door's being open years after the horse got out of the barn.

In 1996, San Francisco effectively forced Catholic Charities to offer domestic-partner benefits for same-sex couples (without calling them domestic-partner benefits) in order to receive city funds to care for the sick. A 1999 law made California one of 28 states that now require employers to include contraception in health care plans that cover prescriptions.

Yet the Obama administration boldly went where no state (not even California) had gone before when it announced that under the Affordable Care Act, all employers must provide birth control as part of their health insurance packages. Churches would be exempt, but Catholic hospitals, universities and charities would not.

States have legal loopholes. In California, for example, a church-affiliated institution

can get around the mandate by self-insuring or not offering prescription drug coverage. The only way out of the Obamacare mandate is to move to another country. Otherwise, there's no exit.

On Friday, the White House announced an alleged compromise: Religious organizations can opt out of paying for contraceptives, but their health care insurers must provide contraceptives to the organizations' employees on their own. Because "no religious institution will have to provide these services directly" — as President Barack Obama claimed — the administration offers the illusion that religious organizations aren't paying for contraceptives.

As a believer in birth control and family planning, I suppose I should be thrilled.

Except that President Obama just trampled on the first part of the First Amendment, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

"The government needs to stay out of the church," argued Carol Hogan of the California Catholic Conference. "Read the Constitution. The prohibition is on the government, not on the church."

For its part, the administration keeps stretching the English language to the brink. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services frames the issue as one

of "access" to "preventive health care services." "Access" no longer means being able to obtain something. "Access" now means being able to get something for free and making someone else — even someone who objects on moral grounds — pay for it.

Supporters claim that the mandate is no big deal because 90 percent of Catholics practice birth control in violation of church doctrine. That tells me that there never was an access problem.

But there is a "choice" problem. In a raw exercise of power, the Obama administration has decreed that religious organizations must reject their deeply held beliefs and hand out Food and Drug Administration-approved contraceptives — including the morning-after pill.

Said Richard Doerflinger of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, "We used to say that if you're pro-choice, you should support conscience clauses."

Now it turns out that Americans of all religious persuasions are free to choose, as long as they choose to agree with Obama.

Email 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.



DEBRA SAUNDERS

Pekingese becomes America's top dog at Westminster

NEW YORK (AP) — The crowd at Madison Square Garden grew louder with every tiny step Malachy took, and he sure took a lot of them just to get halfway around the dog show ring.

That was perfect for this Pekingese. Gave him more time to soak in the cheers and look around the stands at his adoring fans Tuesday night.

Moments later, the Peke whose smushed-in face frames a mop of flyaway fur and whose pace rivals a snail's, became America's top dog by winning best in show at the Westminster Kennel Club.

This little stump of a dog beat out the likes of a Dalmatian, German shepherd, Doberman pinscher, Irish setter, a Kerry blue terrier and

wire-haired dachshund. A 4-year-old pompom, Malachy wobbled to his 115th overall best in show title.

"He saved all his energy for the ring today," handler David Fitzpatrick said.

Fitzpatrick gave his 11-pound champ a bit of a boost — he carried him onto the green carpet for the final lineup, shortening his long walk. Malachy's pink tongue popped out from his black face, his eyes sparkling like black diamonds.

"No other dog moves like this," Fitzpatrick said. It's true, as a Pekingese is supposed to move with a "slow and dignified" gait.

Malachy chilled out after his win, resting his silver and white coat on a cool pack. He had plenty of time to get

ready, having won the toy group Monday night.

"I kept him quiet all day," Fitzpatrick said.

More than 2,000 purebred dogs in 185 breeds and varieties competed in the nation's most prestigious pooch parade. When it came down to a best of seven, Malachy was the last to enter the darkened ring.

Judge Cindy Vogels studied them before making her pick. The No. 2 show dog in the country came close last February after taking the toy group here.

"Super dog, and he had a stupendous night," she said. "There's a lot of dog in a small package."

The champion at Westminster wins a coveted silver bowl, but not a cent. Instead,

the honor of this title lasts a lifetime for any owner, and brings a wealth of opportunity in breeding potential.

This was the fourth time a Peke won at Westminster, and the first since 1990. Fitzpatrick, who co-owns Malachy with Iris Love and Sandra Middlebrooks, said the cute pompom was likely headed back to East Berlin, Pa., for a life in retirement.

"He'll probably chase squirrels and he'll be pampered," Fitzpatrick said.

Several top choices lost out early as underdogs ruled the breed judging.

A black cocker spaniel called Beckham who was the nation's No. 1 show dog and a wire fox terrier named Eira, picked by many to win, proved once again it takes

more than a great reputation to own this carpet.

It was, however, a really big day for a Tibetan mastiff, and even more so for his owners.

Major won his breed, a nice start for Debbie Parsons and Brad Slayton. A few hours later, the co-owners from the Seattle area made it a special Valentine's Day — they got married in the backstage benching area where hundreds of dogs are housed.

With dogs brushing by, people climbing on crates to get a better view and the total crush of the crowd, it made for a somewhat chaotic scene.

"This dog brought us together," Slayton said. "Today," he added, choking up, "I bought a Valentine's Day card for my wife, not my girlfriend."

Tomorrow's Horoscope

The Sagittarius moon rules as we near the end of the 2012 Aquarian solar transit. If your wheels are spinning about how you might make a difference in the world, you're not alone. There's a feeling that the pressure is on and it's time to make choices. Apply the expansive mindset and general luck accompanying this lunar station to the quest.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). This day will be touched by unusual happenings, idiosyncratic people and strange experiences that seem to come from out of the blue. You enjoy the shakeup.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It will be so challenging to establish consistent practices in your personal and professional life that you may give up, deciding instead to move with the whims of the moment.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There will always be those "Chicken Little" types who, with the slightest provocation, will run around saying the sky is falling. You know better. The sky, in fact, will never fall. If anything, it will rise.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Hit the pause button for perspective. When you take a breather, you'll be able to rise above your situation and give some thought to the mark you'd like to leave on the people and situations you encounter.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You may not feel like your usual powerful self. Instead you realize you're someone who is just trying to get through a situation — to slog it out with the rest of the players. Knowing you're not alone may help you soldier on.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You may jump toward the sun, but your point is not to land there. You just want to get off the ground. Your reasonable aims will be successful, and a few of your unreasonable ones will also triumph.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There are more than a billion organisms in a teaspoon of soil. Everything you encounter, even only for a brief moment, will be changed by you. The very ground is changed because you walked on it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You crave new experience. At the same time, you are tied to your responsibilities. You're so convincing, though, that you just may be able to charm those who need you into joining you on a madcap adventure.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You may start off the day feeling at odds with those around you. But once you adjust your attitude, your day fills up with the qualities of harmony and union.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Scattered efforts are still efforts. There is an apparent lack of pre-termination to the day's events, and yet your actions will be like dandelion seeds, riding on the wind and taking root wherever they land.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You like it when the ball is in your court. It means it's your chance to shine. However, it may feel today like dozens of balls are being hit back to you at once. Take it easy. All balls can be returned in due time.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your head is filling with fanciful ideas. There is so much delightful influence around you, and you are extraordinarily receptive to the best of it. Ask for guidance through your imagination.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 15). Your opportunities multiply as they are seized. In March, choose your focus and stay with it. April turns friendships into love. You'll earn your money differently in May. Your personal life will shift to accommodate new priorities in the summer. Make fun important, and see more of the world in August. Scorpio and Sagittarius people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 20, 31, 33 and 14.

FRIENDSHIP TIPS FROM THE STARS: Friends are one of the true measures of wealth in this lifetime. When relationships are going well, it's easy to take friendship for granted. Keep your relationship skills sharp and your friendships strong with these tips from the stars.

ARIES: Track the Details. Friends are always dropping hints to you about what they like, need and find important. Your busy life can get in the way of remembering these details at the appropriate time. After you talk to a friend, take notes about what you've

learned. Your lists will help you stay in better contact, choose better birthday gifts and generally be more thoughtful and caring when it matters.

TAURUS: Pour Some Sugar on It. You're true, consistent and stable, and this is great for cementing platonic bonds. Take it to the next level by resolving to be tender, funny and surprising, as well. In every friendship endeavor, ask yourself: Am I creating a memory with this? Give you and your friend something to laugh about when you're sitting on the porch together in your old-people rocking chairs.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Musical Aquarius Amber Riley auditioned for "American Idol" but was turned down by the show's producers, only to make her own way to stardom as the proud belter Mercedes Jones on the mega-hit television series "Glee." Riley was born when the moon was in Taurus, an astrological aspect not uncommon for stellar singers. Taurus rules the throat.

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HOLIDAY MATHIS

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U.S. stocks mixed as Greek bailout talks inch along

CHRISTINA REXRODE

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — Stocks were mixed on Wall Street as Greece inched closer to a deal to resolve its debt crisis.

The Dow Jones industrial average gave up an early gain and was down 12 points at 12,866 around 10 a.m. The Standard & Poor's 500 edged up 3 points to 1,354. The Nasdaq composite rose 15 to 2,947.

Greece is trying to secure loan extensions and other breaks from its lenders — notably the other euro zone countries and the International Monetary Fund — so it won't default on debt obligations due next month. The lenders have demanded that Greece cut back on what it spends on pensions and public-sector jobs and other government services, but implementing those cuts has been difficult in a country that has grown used to generous govern-

ment spending.

The deal-making has been strained and unpredictable. For months, Greece and its lenders have no sooner hammered out one portion of the debt deal before they find something else to agree on. Incremental developments, such as a nod from China that it would continue to invest in some government bonds, commitments from one or two Greek party leaders that they would agree to the cuts, have sent stocks zigzagging up and down, underscoring how desperate investors will latch on to even the smallest signs of good news.

Tuesday night, a meeting between European finance ministers planned for Wednesday was canceled after Athens failed to deliver on several demands made the previous week. On Wednesday, the head of Greece's Conservative party, Antonis Samaras, sent a letter to the country's international creditors committing to the terms of the second international bailout. That news set off a late-day round of stock buying on Wall Street.

Among the biggest movers:

— Comcast climbed 5 percent after the cable pro-

vider reported profit and revenue that beat Wall Street expectations. Comcast managed to stem the tide of TV customers streaming out the door as it added TV channels and better customer service. Like other cable companies, Comcast is struggling with how to retain customers who are opting to watch video online.

— Kellogg rose 4 percent after announcing it would buy Procter & Gamble's Pringles business. Diamond Foods had originally inked the deal to buy Pringles, but got caught up in an accounting scandal that forced it to get rid of its top two executives last week.

— Zynga plummeted 9 percent after the company said it lost money in the fourth quarter and analysts said the company's growth was slowing significantly. The maker of popular Facebook games like Farmville went public in December.

— Madison Square Garden Co. climbed 2.5 percent, the morning after Knicks point guard Jeremy Lin scored a tie-breaking 3-pointer in the final second of a match against the Toronto Raptors, helping the Knicks rally to a 90-87 win.

Wiley College celebrates history with song

HANNAH DECLERK

Marshall News writer

February is Black History Month, a month set aside to honor the accomplishments and history of the African American people.

To honor a practice that has played a large role in African American history, Wiley College, a historically black college, held "A Musical Tribute to Black History" in the Julius S. Scott Sr. Chapel Tuesday.

"I am so excited for today's focus to be on music, and its role for the people, especially for the African American people," Wiley College Chaplain Michelle Hall said. "February is a time set aside for who we are, and singing is part of who we are."

The mid-week chapel service was also part of the

college's Religious Emphasis Week which began Monday and will last through Thursday.

"Often in our culture, worship is about tapping our feet, swaying to the beat, and raising our hands," Rev. Hall said. "And I hope those songs take you to a different place in your relationship with God."

Religious Emphasis Week consists of a slate of community worship services and activities that will be led by two prominent pastors, the Reverend Dr. Frederick D. Haynes, III, the pastor of Friendship West Baptist Church in Dallas, and the Reverend Michael W. Waters, pastor of Joy Tabernacle Church in Dallas.

On Tuesday, the Chapel was packed with students, faculty, alumni and guests who were given a historical tribute through song by the A Cappella Choir of Wiley College.

The performed Negro Spirituals included "I Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray," and "Take My Mother Home," and "Swing Low Sweet Chariot" arranged by Wiley student Othello I. Cash.

Wiley College Director of Choral Music Stephen Hayes gave audience members a brief history lesson of the significance of the spiritual, and each performed song.

"The music of African Americans did not start here in the United States, it began at the time the individuals were captured as slaves and has grown to the only original art form America has given the world," Dr. Hayes said.

Dr. Hayes and the choir surprised the audience with a final song in recognition of the 110th birthday of Langston Hughes, who was born Feb. 1 1912.

The song, "Hold Fast to Dreams," was a song with lyrics from Hughes's well-known poem, "Dreams."

"That song, took me a long way back," Rev. Hall said. "I remember that we are here because of someone else's dream, not just Martin Luther King Jr., but our parents, grandparents, and great grandparents."

Swiss craft janitor satellites to grab space junk

GENEVA (AP) — The tidy Swiss want to clean up space.

Swiss scientists said Wednesday they plan to launch a "janitor satellite" specially designed to get rid of orbiting debris known as space junk.


The 10-million-franc (\$11-million) satellite called CleanSpace One — the prototype for a family of such satellites — is being built by the Swiss Space Center at the Swiss Federal Institute for Technology in Lausanne, or EPFL.

EPFL said Wednesday its launch would come within three to five years and its first tasks are to grab two Swiss satellites launched in 2009 and 2010.

The U.S. space agency NASA says over 500,000 pieces of spent rocket stages, broken satellites and other debris are being tracked as they orbit Earth.

The debris travels at speeds approaching 17,500 miles per hour, fast enough to destroy or inflict costly and time-draining damage on a satellite.

In **Sunday's**
Big Spring Herald



American Profile
Refueling a
Racing Tradition
Legendary Wood Brothers
return to Victory Lane

Rewing It Up!
Trevor Bayne's 2001 win of his first
Daytona 500 made him the race's youngest
champion and helped to refuel NASCAR's
oldest racing team, Wood Brothers.

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World Brief

Israeli ambassador says Thai bombs similar to ones used in India, Georgia attacks

BANGKOK (AP) — The homemade "sticky" bombs discovered in a Bangkok house after an accidental blast were similar to devices used against Israeli Embassy targets in India and Georgia, Israel's ambassador said Wednesday, building on his country's claims the incidents are part of a covert terror campaign by Iran.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast called the allegations "baseless," saying Israel was trying to damage its relations with Thailand and fuel "conspiracy" theories.

Thailand's government was struggling to piece together what a trio of Iranian men were plotting when a cache of explosives detonated by mistake in their home in Bangkok's busy Sukhumvit Road area a day earlier. Bomb disposal teams searched the Iranians' house again Wednesday looking for more evidence, while security forces were searching for an Iranian woman they said had originally rented it.

Two of the men were detained, and Thai immigration police chief Lt. Gen. Wiboon Bangthamai said a third suspect who fled the destroyed house escaped to Malaysia after boarding a flight bound for Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday night. He identified the man as Masoud Sedaghatzadeh, but had no other details.

Israel has accused Iran of waging a campaign of state terror and has threatened military strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities. Iran has blamed the Jewish state for the recent killings of Iranian atomic scientists and has denied responsibility for all three plots this week.

Congressional bargainers reach tentative deal on extending payroll tax cut, jobless benefits

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressional leaders are gauging lawmakers' reactions to a tentative deal extending a 2 percentage-point payroll tax cut and extra jobless benefits through 2012, a pact bargainers reached after House Republicans conceded that the tax cut would not have to be paid for with spending cuts.

Both sides cautioned late Tuesday that the agreement was not final and still could be altered. If completed, final congressional approval was possible by Friday, which would be an election-year victory for President Barack Obama, who made the payroll tax cut a keystone of his largely ignored jobs creation plan in September.

House Republicans emerging from a closed-door meeting said reaction to the package was generally positive, with some saying it reflected a desire to avoid spending months debating an issue that cost them dearly last year. In December, the House GOP initially opposed a two-month extension of the tax cut and other benefits that were about to lapse, only to retreat under pressure from outside party leaders and conservatives.

"We've got to move onto another issue," said Rep. Dennis Ross, R-Fla. "I think that's what the mood is."

"I'd say most people are for it, at least accepting it," said Rep. Peter King,

R-N.Y.

Syria to hold referendum over new constitution on Feb. 26

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian President Bashar Assad has ordered a referendum on Feb. 26 on a new constitution that would open the way to political parties other than the ruling Baath Party, the state news agency said Wednesday.

Amendments to Syria's constitution were a key demand by the opposition at the beginning of the country's 11-month-old uprising against Assad.

But in the wake of the military's deadly assault on dissent, many opposition leaders are demanding nothing less than Assad's departure.

The current Syrian constitution enshrines Assad's Baath Party as the leader of the state. But according to the new draft, obtained by The Associated Press, "the state's political system is based on political pluralism and power is practiced democratically through voting."

The draft also says the president can hold office only for a maximum of two seven-year terms. Assad, who inherited power from his father, has been in power for nearly 12 years.

U.S. closely watching Syrian chemical arms, portable missiles, other weapons sought by militants

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. and its allies are closely monitoring Syria's stockpiles of chemical arms and portable anti-aircraft missiles, a State Department official says, amid concerns that the country's unconventional weapons could fall into the hands of terrorist or militant groups while the 11-month-old uprising continues.

"Syria is a country of significant proliferation concern, so we monitor its chemical weapons activities very closely," the State Department official said, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss intelligence-related matters. "We believe Syria's chemical weapons stockpile remains under Syrian government control, and we will continue to work closely with like-minded countries to impede proliferation (of) Syria's chemical weapons program."

The official added that the U.S. is in discussion with its allies on ways to ensure that Syria's stockpile of portable anti-aircraft missiles, called Man-Portable Air Defense Systems, or MANPADS, aren't stolen or diverted. "We are consulting with allies and partners as we plan for a variety of contingencies," the official said.

Republicans in Congress, meanwhile, have been critical of U.S. efforts to secure Libya's chemical and unconventional arsenals, saying the Obama administration should have responded more quickly during that crisis and now faces the task of trying to account for thousands of missing portable anti-aircraft missiles.

"We got off to a slow start with Libya," Rep. Edward Royce, R-Calif., chairman of the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on terrorism, nonpro-

liferation and trade, said in a recent interview.

Attend college at age 8? It's not that hard if you really want to, says boy scholar's book

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The one thing 14-year-old Moshe Kai Cavalin dislikes is being called a genius.

All he did, after all, was enroll in college at age 8 and earn his first of two Associate of Arts degrees from East Los Angeles Community College at age 9, graduating with a perfect 4.0 grade point average.

Now, at 14, he's poised to graduate from UCLA this year. He's also just published an English edition of his first book, "We Can Do."

The 100-page guideline explains how other young people can accomplish what Cavalin did through such simple acts as keeping themselves focused and approaching everything with total commitment. He's hoping it will show people there's no genius involved, just hard work.

"That's always the question that bothers me," Cavalin, who turned 14 on Valentine's Day, says when the G-word is raised. "People need to know you don't really need to be a genius. You just have to work hard and you can accomplish anything."

As Whitney Houston's family seeks private time to grieve, fans seek a place to do the same

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — In Whitney Houston's hometown, her family plans a private church service, with no public memorial set. In Los Angeles, where she died, there's not even a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame for fans to pile flowers. So for the legion of music lovers mourning a global superstar, where do broken hearts go?

Fans who have gathered outside the church where Houston will be eulogized Saturday at an invitation-only service — and outside the funeral home where her body now rests — say they understand why the family wants to keep the world out the best they can. But they also yearned for the chance to fully share in the grief and the remembrance of a native daughter who made it big and made them proud.

Samuel Turner Jackson, of Newark, said he was looking forward to heading down to "The Rock," as the Prudential Center is known. Before, that is, the funeral home announced Tuesday that no public service would be held at the 18,000-seat arena, an option that had been discussed.

The arena, home to home to the NHL's New Jersey Devils, displayed an image of Houston on a screen outside Tuesday.

"We don't know what the circumstances are, but we're sure that the family did want to share something with the community that she gave so much to," he said. "But they have their reasons, and we're going to do the best we can to pay our respects and to mourn her."

sudoku

ANSWERS

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

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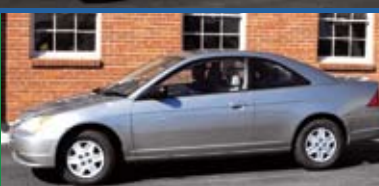
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HERALD photos/Amanda Moreno

Big Spring High School Principal Mike Ritchey recognized National Merit Scholar finalist Shermila Kher, pictured left, and National Merit Scholar commended performer Lacy McMurtrey during a special ceremony held Tuesday afternoon at the high school. The two rank amongst the top 34,000 students in the nation.

sudoku

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

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

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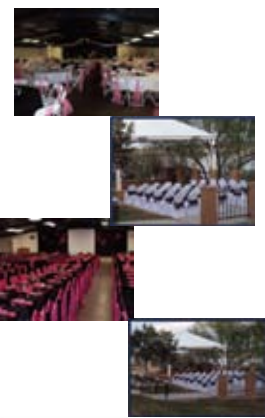
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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Sylvia Upsets the Apple Cart

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

- ♠ A Q
- ♥ J 9 7 6
- ♦ J 9 8
- ♣ A J 8 5

WEST

- ♠ K 9 8 6 3
- ♥ 4 2
- ♦ 6 5 4 2
- ♣ 9 4

EAST

- ♠ J 10 7 4 2
- ♥ 5 3
- ♦ K Q 10
- ♣ 7 6 3

SOUTH

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

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♣	Pass
6♥			

Opening lead — two of diamonds.

It's difficult to say whether Sylvia's outlandish bids and plays enraged her partners or her opponents more. But whatever the case, it seems clear that her assorted eccentricities were not intentional. She simply bid her hands as she saw them, which was rarely the way other people saw them. Her play similarly followed neither rhyme nor reason. Consider this deal where she held

the East cards, defending against six hearts. South was a well-known expert who on other occasions had felt the sting of Sylvia's unique approach to the game.

On West's opening diamond lead, South naturally played the eight from dummy, whereupon Sylvia played her queen! Of course, anyone else would have covered the eight with the ten, but this was Sylvia.

South won with the ace, cashed the A-K of trumps and then led a diamond toward the J-9. It seemed obvious to him that West must have the ten, since if Sylvia had it, she would have played it at trick one. After West followed low, therefore, declarer played dummy's nine, fully expecting it to force the king.

To South's amazement, Sylvia produced not only the ten of diamonds, but also the king, thus defeating the slam. To add even further to South's chagrin, he realized that he would have made the slam had Sylvia made the normal play of the ten on the opening lead.

Had she done so, South would have had no choice but to rely on a successful spade finesse to get him home. Only Sylvia's play of the queen, denying possession of the ten, could have steered him away from the winning line of play. Sylvia had struck again.

Tomorrow: Bad luck is not to blame.

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Lady Steers break playoff drought, 34-33

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

ANSON — Despite having to battle both a severe case of playoff nerves and a scrappy Burkburnett squad, the Big Spring Lady Steers are playoff winners for the first time in more than a decade, thanks a 34-33 Class 3A bi-district win at the Anson Sports Center Tuesday night.

The Lady Steers earned that rare victory in perhaps the most difficult way possible: by surviving a game that was by turns agonizing and irritating — irritating for the Lady Steers, who couldn't seem to buy a basket for long stretches of the contest; and agonizing for the BSHS fans, who watched their team fend off countless Burkburnett rallies in the closing minutes.

A Cerbi Ritchey three-pointer midway through the second quarter gave the Lady Steers a lead they never relinquished, but Burkburnett played stalking tiger for the rest of the game, and came within an eyelash of winning the game in the closing moments.

Bridgette Tuitt drove the baseline for a short jumper to give the Lady Steers a three-point edge with 5:16 remaining, but those were the last BSHS points of the night. From that point, Big Spring would have to depend on its defense to deliver the long-awaited playoff victory.

And it was enough — barely.

Burkburnett's Macy Cooke hit a short jumper to bring the Lady Bulldogs to within a point with 2:20 remaining, but things didn't get really frantic until the last few seconds.

After Big Spring's McKenzie Stone missed the front end of a

one-and-one with 20 seconds remaining, Burkburnett brought the ball downcourt and worked the ball inside to Cooke, who found herself about two feet away from a game-winning shot.

It missed.

Hailley Land grabbed the rebound for the Lady Bulldogs and fired a shot.

It missed.

Carissa Bounds grabbed the loose ball for Burkburnett and aimed for the basket.

It missed.

Finally, Cooke had one last chance from point-blank range, but her attempt was off the mark, as well, the buzzer sounded and the Lady Steers celebrated with a mixture of joy and relief.

Ritchey, who led all scorers with 14 points, admitted the Lady Steers were never able to shake a bad case of the playoff jitters.

"I went through the same thing in the volleyball playoffs earlier this year," she said. "You're shocked by the pressure if you're not prepared for it, and that was definitely the case tonight ... We thought we should have been way ahead (in the game), but we just hung in there and fought and found a way to win it."

BSHS Coach Mike Warren admitted that fortune smiled on his team Tuesday, but credited the Lady Steers' defense for that last, desperate stand that denied Burkburnett.

"We got a little lucky there at the end," Warren said. "But with 30 seconds left, I told the girls that we had practiced defense all year, so just go and play defense for 30 more seconds, and that's

See **BSHS**, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Big Spring's Mary King grabs a rebound during the Lady Steers' 34-33 bi-district playoff victory over Burkburnett Tuesday in Anson.

Sports Calendar

THURSDAY

Women's basketball
Midland College at Howard College, 5:45 p.m.

Men's basketball
Midland College at Howard College, 7:45 p.m.

FRIDAY

Golf
Big Spring boys at Plainview tournament.
Big Spring girls at Snyder tournament.

Baseball
McLennan College at Howard College, 2 p.m.
Amarillo Caprock at Big Spring (scrimmage), 5 p.m.
Forsan at Rawls (scrimmage), 6 p.m.

Softball
Big Spring at Andrews, 6:30 p.m.
Coahoma at Midland tournament, TBA.
Forsan at San Angelo tournament, TBA.
Howard College at Midland Classic, TBA.

Girl's basketball
Big Spring vs. Decatur, Class 3A area playoff, 7:30 p.m., Clyde.

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

Area roundup

Softball

Big Spring 13, Midland Christian 3

MIDLAND — The Big Spring Lady Steers jumped out to an 8-0 lead, then coasted to a 13-6 victory over Midland Christian High School in the season opener for both teams Tuesday afternoon.

Mercedes Ruiz and Tiffany Gonzales combined to pitch a five-hit and lady Steers, who rapped out nine hits and took advantage of a whopping seven errors to earn the win.

"The score looked one-sided, but we had to work for this one," BSHS Coach John Sparks said. "I did see some good things, though. Mercedes pitched very well and Gabi Torres had a home run for us."

Big Spring returns to action Friday at Andrews. Game time is 6:30 p.m.

BSHS 113 305 — 13 9 0
MCHS 000 030 — 3 5 7
Ruiz, Gonzales (4) and Herrera; Vines and Kalt; W — Ruiz; L — Vines; HR — Big Spring (Torres).

See **AREA**, Page 2B

Boys' basketball

Coahoma 68 Post 61

POST — The Coahoma Bulldogs ended their season on a winning note by downing Post, 68-61, Tuesday evening.

The Bulldogs ran out to a 21-point lead after three quarters, then survived a Post rally in the final eight minutes to earn the win, their second in three games.

"I was proud of the guys," CHS Coach Kim Nichols said. "They were just playing for pride at the end of the season this year ... but they did a good job."

Tanner reason led all scorers with 20 points, Alex Hill had 13 points and Aaron Acevedo added 10 for the Bulldogs, who ended their season with a 12-19 overall record.

The Bulldogs lose three seniors off this squad, but return seven players next season.

"We're going to be in a tough district, but with the

See **AREA**, Page 2B

Retired players pushing for better benefits

By DAVE CAMPBELL

AP Sports Writer

MINNEAPOLIS — The group of NFL retirees that was a part of the labor talks during the lockout last year has not given up their push for better post-career care.

Their money they helped gain for their fellow former players was less than what they believe they were promised, and they're eager to argue their case in court.

"I'm going to fight 'em to the end," said Hall of Fame guard Joe DeLamielleure, one of 47

ex-players who signed on as plaintiffs in the lawsuit filed in federal court against the NFL Players Association. They've alleged the current players illegally overreached by determining the retiree share of the \$10-billion-a-year business without them.

U.S. District Judge Susan Richard Nelson will hear oral arguments Wednesday in St. Paul, Minn., from both sides. The union has motioned to have the case dismissed. Spokesman Carl Francis said the NFLPA won't comment on the

lawsuit. The union's response to the complaint was filed under seal.

Michael Hausfeld, the lead attorney for the retired player group led by former Minnesota Vikings defensive end Carl Eller, insisted his clients aren't trying to make a money grab. Eller said they've estimated between \$300 and \$500 million in additional benefits they were promised in the early stages of CBA talks and didn't get.

Their contention is they were pushed out of negotiations to streamline the mediation process

despite a court order for their inclusion. Those talks last summer led to a new collective bargaining agreement for the owners and players and saved the 2011 season.

"The retirees don't begrudge the present players any income they merit, but at the same time they don't feel it was appropriate for the current players to essentially shortchange the retirees," Hausfeld said.

The NFL's new "Legacy Fund" is an additional \$620 million carved into

See **PLAYERS**, Page 2B

Longhorns top Sooners, 69-58

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) — Texas guard J'Covan Brown said he received the best 22nd birthday present possible Tuesday night — a victory over Oklahoma. For a bonus, the Longhorns boosted their NCAA tournament hopes.

Brown, the Big 12's scoring leader, had 19 points and Texas extended its winning streak to four games, rallying from an eight-point deficit to win 69-58.

"We got a win," Brown said. "There's no better birthday than this, spending it with my teammates."

Oklahoma (13-12, 3-10) dropped its fifth consecutive game, its fourth in a row at home and its fifth straight in its series against Texas (17-9, 7-6), which is seeking a 14th straight NCAA tournament appearance under coach Rick Barnes.

Myck Kabongo and Sheldon McClellan scored 13 points each for Texas.

Steven Pledger led the Sooners with 18 points, and Cameron Clark and Romero Osby had 13 apiece.

Oklahoma led 33-25 in the final minute of the first half, but Texas used a 10-0

run spanning intermission to go ahead.

Oklahoma rallied briefly to go up 37-35, but Brown hit three 3-pointers in a 3-minute span as the Longhorns seized control with a 19-5 run and went up 54-42 on a jam by Jaylen Bond with 10:57 left.

Texas cranked up its defensive intensity after halftime, as evidenced by Oklahoma's turnovers. The Sooners had three miscues in the first half but ended the game with 13.

Texas also kept Oklahoma off the free throw line in the second half, as the Sooners went 1 of 2 from the line. For the game, Oklahoma was 5 of 8, compared to 24 of 29 for the Longhorns.

"It was a tough start to the second half," Oklahoma coach Lon Kruger said. "We made some shots in the first half, and a lot of guys were doing some pretty good things."

"Then early in the second half, it seemed like there was a possession or two that kind of deflated us a little bit. We just couldn't get back on top. As a result of that, we played with a little bit less energy the rest of the way."

PLAYERS

Continued from Page 1B

the new CBA to go toward pension increases. Current payments to retirees or beneficiaries were bumped up to at least \$600 per month. Players over 55 already receiving pensions were given a benefit credit, an extra \$124 per season for those accrued prior to 1975 and an additional \$108 per season for those played between 1975 and 1992.

Overall, including the "Legacy Fund," an extra \$1 billion was set aside in the new CBA to improve benefits, league spokesman Greg Aiello said.

Hausfeld's firm also filed a concussion-related lawsuit on behalf of more than 100 former players last month against the NFL in Philadelphia federal court, alleging negligence and minimization by the league toward head-injury risk in the game. Commissioner Roger Goodell said during Super Bowl week the NFL "will not quit" helping "retired players, the current players and future players by making the game safer."

There is a palpable bitterness that has existed toward modern players from the retirees that has existed for decades.

Lawyers for the retired players referred in the complaint to a 2010 quote from New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees that described some of the retirees as coming to the current players and asking them to "please make up for my bad judgment." Brees cited

divorces, bad business decisions and an unwillingness to work after football as reasons for financial struggles of some of the former players.

Eller acknowledged that perception his group has tried to overcome among the current players.

"A lot of us did make bad decisions. We had our chance. We had our day at the park. I know that I certainly made bad decisions, but the point is that players today are still making bad decisions. And they're making millions of dollars. So what I'm saying is let's work together to minimize those decisions," Eller said.

DeLamielleure was less diplomatic.

"I wish we could do football stuff instead of all this legal-beagle stuff. If we did this stuff when we were playing football, we'd kick their butt and take 'em to the woodshed," he said.

DeLamielleure, who blocked for O.J. Simpson with the Buffalo Bills during the 1970s as a six-time Pro Bowl pick over 13 NFL seasons, said the pension increases still aren't enough. He and his wife of 40 years both work.

They had four children, adopted two more and raised three others.

"We built this league for all these guys to have a good profession," he said.

One problem retired players have had is a lack of unification of their agendas. There are several groups that exist to organize and serve former NFL players, including Eller's Retired Players Association.

The Gridiron Greats Assistance Fund, for which DeLamielleure is an advisory committee member, is another group. It's a nonprofit designed to provide financial assistance and coordinate social services for those ex-players in the direst of needs — down to shelter, food and health care. Baltimore Ravens center Matt Birk is one of the current players who've gotten involved.

Birk said he's "not big into the legal battles" but he said he understands why Eller and his supporters are so fired up about the issues.

"When you feel like the game's kind of turned its back on you, it's tough," Birk said. "I think that's why you see a lot of the dirty laundry being aired. It's an emotionally charged issue."

Birk, a 14-year veteran, said he learned as he got older how critical post-career care can be given the physical toll the sport takes on the body. He said he was startled to hear some of the stories of struggling Hall of Fame players who had trouble paying their basic bills.

"I was like, 'Wow, we're not taking care of these guys?'" Birk said. "You start realizing you're going to be retired someday. I think that's the thing you try to convey to today's players, but it's really difficult to do. When you're playing and you're 23, 24 or 25, you think you're bullet proof, but that's not always the case. As soon as you're retired it doesn't matter how good you are and how many records you set."

AREA

Continued from Page 1B

guys coming back and getting some help from the junior varsity, we should be OK," Nichols said.

CHS 16 14 25 13 - 68
Post 11 8 15 27 - 61

C-City 55

Forsan 35

COLORADO CITY — The Colorado City Wolves broke open a tight game in the second quarter en route to a regular season-ending victory over the Forsan Buffaloes Tuesday night.

Leading 14-12 after the first quarter, the Wolves outscored Forsan 14-8 in the second eight minutes, and were never headed from there.

Patrick Robles and Dillon Bagnall led the Buffs with 12 and 10 points, re-

spectively.

Forsan concluded its season with a 12-17 record.

Forsan	12	8	4	11	-	35
C-City	14	14	14	13	-	55

time or site has been determined for the game.

LRHS	2	5	14	8	-	29
Stanton	20	13	14	7	-	59

Garden City 44 Sterling City 38

GARDEN CITY — It's on to the state playoffs for the Garden City Bearkats, who earned second place in District 12-1A Div. II by rallying in the second half to defeat Sterling City in the regular season finale for both teams.

The 'Kats trailed by six points at intermission, but rallied to take the lead in the third quarter and held on for the win.

Sam Miller had 11 points and Payton Schaefer 10 for Garden City (20-11), which will face Trent in the first round of the playoffs at a time and site to be determined.

S-City	10	10	2	16	-	38
G-City	3	11	9	21	-	44

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Stanton 54

Roosevelt 29

STANTON — The Stanton Buffalos earned the third and final playoff spot from District 3-2A by defeating Lubbock Roosevelt in the regular season finale for both teams Tuesday.

The issue was never in doubt for the Buffalos — they raced out to a 20-2 lead after one quarter and coasted to the victory.

Ehtan Mauldin and Scott Smith each scored 14 to lead Stanton (19-11), which will face Tornillo in the first round of the Class 2A playoffs. No

BSHS

Continued from Page 1B

what they did."

The Lady Steers advance to face Decatur in the area round of the Class 3A playoffs. That game will be played at 7:30 p.m. Friday in Clyde.

Burkburnett	10	4	13	6	-	33
Big Spring	8	10	12	4	-	34

BURKBURNETT (33) — Christinah Ogunleye 2 0-0 4; Hailley Land 3 1-3 8; Ebanie Griffith 1 0-0 2; Carissa Bounds 1 0-0 2; Autumn Johnson 2 0-2 4; Presley Ford 3 0-0 7; Macy Cooke 2 2-2 6; totals 14 3-9 33.
BIG SPRING (34) — Ambra Hill 3 0-2 6; LaShaunta Anderson 1 0-0 3; Yeneira Tuitt 2 0-0 4; McKenzie Stone 0 0-1 0; Mary King 1 0-0 3; Bridgett Tuitt 1 0-0 2; Cerbi Ritchey 5 3-5 14; Diamond Mayes 1 0-0 2; totals 14 3-8 34.
Three-point goals — Burkburnett 2

(Land, Ford), Big Spring 3 (Anderson, King, Ritchey); Total fouls — Burkburnett 11, Big Spring 11; Fouled out — none.

BSHS boys

LUBBOCK — The Big Spring boy's basketball team had some last-minute drama to deal with Tuesday, as well.

The Steers survived a late barrage of Nazareth three-pointers to take a 62-61 win over the Swifts at Lubbock Christian University Tuesday.

The Steers watched a 10-point lead disappear in the final minute thanks to the Swifts' long-range flurry, but Mac Segundo hit a free throw with no time left on the clock to secure the win for Big Spring. Segundo scored 23

points and Tavaris Walker had 14 to pace the Seers, who ended the regular season with a 15-16 record.

"Nazareth just got hot there at the end and started firing it in from all over the place," BSHS Coach Cliff Thompson said.

The Steers, who finished the season third in District 5-3A, advance to the state playoffs, where they'll face Burkburnett in a first-round game at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday in Eastland.

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



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Mention this ad for up to \$250.00 OFF a complete roofing job!





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Announcements

*****RATTLESNAKES*****
AMBUC'S
Now buying for Big Spring, Rattlesnake Roundup. We will be buying Fridays at 6PM. Call (432)213-6802 or (432)270-8783 for directions or more information.

Help Wanted

DIETARY MANAGER

Planning/preparing meals, supervising employees, purchasing food/supplies, etc. Must be certified dietary manager. Knowledge health dept. regs desirable & experience in medical facility preferred.
EOE.
Call our Administrator at (806) 872-2141, mail resume, or apply in person at SAGE HEALTH CARE CENTER, 1201 North 15th St, Lamesa, TX 79331.

Help Wanted

CNAs/LVNs

Full time CNA for either 2-10 or 10-6 shift. PRN for various shifts. Experience preferred. Must have TEXAS state license or Certification. EOE.
Call Emma Aguilar, Adm or Jeralynn Romine, RN, DON at **(806) 872-2141**, or apply in person at SAGE HEALTH CARE CENTER 1201 North 15th St. Lamesa, TX 79331

\$\$\$Immediate Opening\$\$\$
Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez
Texas State Veterans Home
Our employees are our greatest asset, providing flexible schedules and an attractive benefits packet.
Currently hiring the following positions:
RN-Full-time
LVN's
CNA's
CMA's
1809 N Hwy 87
Big Spring TX 79720
(432)268-8387
Fax (432)268-1987
"Equal Opportunity Employer"
Please contact Katee Rubio, HR Director
k Rubio@sears-methodist.com

COASTAL TRANSPORT is seeking **Owner-operators** with a **Class A CDL**. Must be 23 years, X endorsement with one year tractor trailer experience. **For More Information, Call 877-314-0700** between 9am-4pm, Monday-Friday.

Help Wanted

APPLICATOR DRIVER

Helena Chemical Company, a national agricultural-chemical company, has an immediate opening for spray applicator driver. Class A- CDL license and farm experience helpful; but will consider training. Requires high school diploma or equivalent. We offer an excellent working environment and outstanding compensation and benefits package. For consideration, please apply in person: Helena Chemical Company 100 S. St. Peter Stanton, TX 79782 Pre-employment drug screen required.
EOE
M/F/V/H

BLUE SKY Service is looking for Pipeline Welder's Helpers/Laborers for more information please call 432-530-6010.

BOOKKEEPER POSITION needed. Must have Quick Books experience. Call (432)270-0727.

BUCKEASY'S

Hiring Part-time Night and Weekend position. Must be energetic and hard working individual. Come by an pick up an app. today 1700 S. Gregg.

BUFFALO COUNTRY taking application for Assistant Manager. Experience required. Must apply in person 4911 South Hwy. 87 ask for Salitta. No Phone Calls.

Coastal Transport

We now have a **\$2000.00 Sign On Bonus!**
We are now hiring drivers to deliver petroleum products in and around the Permian Basin. Qualifications:
*Class A CDL drivers w/hazmat and tanker endorsements
*23 years of age or older
*1 year verifiable tractor/trailer experience
*Scheduled Days Off
*Home Everyday
Please contact 1-888-527-7221

COCKTAIL WAITRESSES. Outgoing & Enthusiastic? No experience necessary. Must be 18 or older. Call 432-213-0946 for application, San Franciscan Bar & Grill.

COOKS & CARHOP. Must be Neat in Appearance. Honest & Dependable. No experience necessary will train. Inquire at Wagon Wheel, 2010 Scurry St. No phone call Please!

Help Wanted

DAY CAMP Worker Needed at The Boys & Girls Club. Must have outgoing personality, patience, & love children. Apply at The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club, 811 West 5th.

Dependable Maintenance person needed for local Apt. Complex. Experience required. Must have reliable transportation background check required. Apply at 1002 North Main. 1pm-5pm.

DIRT WORKS Company looking for experienced dozer operator. Must have valid drivers license & pass drug test. CDL is a plus, but not required. FMI Call (432)213-3527.



EXPERIENCED BACKHOE operator/must have CDL and preferably oilfield experience. Call 432-517-0212.



EXPERIENCED RN/LVN for pediatric case in Big Spring. Apply in person at S&R Home Health, 1030 Andrews Hwy. Ste. 109, Midland, TX. or call 432-570-8880 for application.

FARM HAND Wanted! Experience only apply. \$550.00 Weekly plus Bonus. Call after 7:00pm. (432)684-5418.

FULL-TIME DATA Entry clerk for local accounting firm. Submit resume to sonya@boothevasssar.com

GENERAL MAINTENANCE: Must have a desire to work in a team environment and the ability to follow directions. Must have at least 1 yr maintenance experience. Abilities to include: painting experience; general plumbing, general sheetrock repair and texture and HVAC skills. Must have own tools, ability to take afterhours and weekend calls; valid TX drivers license and liability insurance. Apply in person at Bent Tree Apartments, 1 Courtney Place.

HIRING CLASS A CDL Vacuum Truck Drivers with tanker endorsement. Must have One year experience. Benefits include: Insurance, uniforms, 401k & paid vacation. Top Pay. Call 325-574-3639.

Join our professional cleaning team! \$12/Hrs. & advancement opportunities. We provide paid training, all necessary supplies & uniform. Must have own transportation & speak English. All cleaners are drug tested & background checked. Bonded and insured. Call **J. Williams Management at 432-699-2090** M-F 8-4.

NEED CDL Driver- Home Nightly, Local Run, Full-time. Call (432)267-4700.

Help Wanted

Looking for reliable people to deliver The Big Spring Herald.

Various routes open

Great opportunity for extra income. Must have reliable transportation, drivers license and insurance. **Stop by the Big Spring Herald,** 710 Scurry St. for application. No Phone Calls Please

MAINTENANCE PERSON needed for apartment complex. Must be HVAC certified and have their own tools. Come by 3304 W. Hwy 80., Big Spring.

MANAGER/ TRAINEE person needed for local Furniture and Appliance Store. Bilingual and outgoing personality a plus. All inquires are to be made in person at 1611 South Gregg, Big Spring.

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No Phone Calls Please

NEED EXPERIENCE Pulling Unit Operator with CDL. Good pay based on experience. Call (325)207-0858 or 207-0846.

NEED FULL-TIME Clerical Worker for Independent Oil & Gas Company in Big Spring. Competitive pay & benefits. Experience preferred. Please send resume to P.O. Box 1888 Big Spring, Tx 79721.

NEED TRANSPORT/BOBTAIL Driver for fuel deliveries. Starting Salary \$20.00 per hr., all full medical benefits paid, retirement plan, vacation and sick leave. Must have CDL & good driving record. Come by 1st & Johnson, Park Fuels/Chevron, Big Spring. (432)263-0033.

NEED WAREHOUSE/ Maintenance foreman. Starting salary \$12.50, with all benefits. Must have good driving record and experience in maintenance. Apply at 1st & Johnson, Park Fuels, Big Spring.

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Please apply on-line at WWW.MYATJOB.COM or stop by Restaurant and pickup an application.

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Big Spring Area Routes
Midland Reporter-Telegram
The Midland Reporter-Telegram

has delivery positions available in the Big Spring Area for both Home Delivery and Retail Outlet distribution. Good organization for customer tracking, a reliable vehicle and a dependable commitment to early morning deliveries ranging from 2:00am-6:00 am.
If interested please call Linda McCumber 432-967-4150

NOW HIRING - Nurse Aides - both Certified & Non-Certified Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation is looking for individuals that want a rewarding nursing career where you actually make a difference in persons lives. We will help you further your education and provide you with the training to get you started on the road to that rewarding career. You may apply on-line at www.parkviewnursing.net or in person at 3200 Parkway.

PART-TIME MAINT Tech needed for property in Big Spring. Applicant must have strong organizational skills and enjoy working outdoors. 20 hrs/week plus Vacation. Fax resume to (432)264-1761.

PAUL MUSSLEWHITE TRUCKING COMPANY
Now hiring for:
Mechanics & Truck Drivers. Come pick up application at 5605 N. Hwy. 87.
Also have opening for:
Clerical Position
Must be able to type and have good computer skills. Fax resume to (432)263-2803.

PIZZA INN
NOW HIRING COOKS. MUST BE AVAILABLE DAYS, NIGHTS, AND WEEKENDS. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE. APPLY IN PERSON AT 1702 GREGG.

PIZZA INN
NOW HIRING DELIVERY DRIVERS. MUST HAVE CLEAN DRIVING RECORD AND INSURANCE. MUST BE ABLE TO PASS DRUG TEST. MAKE UP TO \$12.00 PER HOUR. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE. APPLY IN PERSON AT 1702 GREGG.

THE SALVATION Army boys & girls club is seeking Program Coordinator Monday-Friday. Child development experience necessary. Apply at 811 West 5th.



Seeking Enthusiastic attendants to assist clients in the home with personal care, meal prep. and light housekeeping. P-T E.O.E. Call Sulema or Bonnie @ 1-800-458-3257.

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Applicant must be able to work in a fast-paced environment and pay close attention to detail. CDL required. Must have a good driving record and work early morning hours Monday through Saturday.

Warehouse
Immediate positions open for warehouse helper. The position includes (but is not limited to) pulling orders of frozen/dry/paper products at a fast and safe rate, and assisting in loading trucks for delivery to local restaurants. Forklift and pallet jack experience is preferred but will provide on the job training.

Benefits include health, dental and life insurance, 401K, paid vacation, employee discounts and credit union. No phone calls. Please apply at our corporate office:

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Keyword Search: Russell Cellular

RUSTY'S OILFIELD Service in Stanton has immediate openings for Mechanic, CDL Driver, Roustabout Pushers and Helpers. Must have valid drivers license. Apply in person at 3327 W I20 in Stanton. 432-756-2821.

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Other Requirements: Must be able to pass State and Federal Backgrounds and Credit Checks.

Experience Requirements: One year (2040) hours of experience in the armed forces or coast guard which involved significant performance of guard duty of detainees or prisoners; or the equivalent experience in a federal, state, or local government, or private organization which involved protecting/police duties, or college level training in courses such as corrections or police science may be substituted for experience at the ratio of two hours of instructions for one hour of experience.

Apply at Workforce Center (1001 Birdwell Ln., Howard College- Charles Warren Bld. 106), KEYWORD: PARAGON EOE.



Seeking LVN to assist clients in the home. Call Marleen @ 1-800-458-3257 E.O.E.

TEACHING POSITION- \$14/hr. Mon.-Fri. CDA required. Apply at Jack & Jill, 1708 Nolan.

TOP NOTCH Landscaping is Hiring for all positions. Experience preferred. Call (432)213-0031 Mon.-Fri. 8-5.

TRUCK SERVICE ADVISOR and TECHNICIANS Needed. Must be willing to work all shifts, must have valid drivers license and GED/Diploma. We offer competitive wages with commission as well. We offer medical, dental, vision, etc. All applicants must apply online at JOPAPP.COM then follow all steps from there to proceed with the application or call (432)816-9415. All must be reliable, dependable, some computer skills required, but will train the right person.

Help Wanted

TRUCK DRIVER

Helena Chemical Company, a national agricultural-chemical company, has an immediate opening for an experienced truck driver. This position will make deliveries, load and unload product, utilize a forklift, and perform general warehouse duties. The position requires high school diploma or equivalent, CDL with HAZMAT endorsement. We offer an excellent working environment and outstanding compensation and benefits package. For consideration, please apply in person:

Helena Chemical Company
100 S. St. Peter,
Stanton, Texas
Pre-employment
drug screen required.
EOE M/F/V/H

VAN DRIVER/CAREGIVER- Apply in person at Jack & Jill, 1708 Nolan.

WATER TRANSFER Laborers needed, CDL a plus, call 940-736-8694.

Items for Sale

FOR SALE Mesquite Firewood, \$160.00 for half cord. 50 pound sacks-\$20.00. Call Terry Jenkins at 432-270-3122.

Lost and Found

FOUND 2 female Huskies, no tags. Call (432)664-0482 to claim.

Pets



This link www.petfinder.com connects people to pets up for adoption from the Big Spring Animal Control (432)264-2372.

Real Estate for Rent

Swimming Pool
Carports,
Most Utilities Paid,
Senior Citizen
Discounts
1 & 2 Bedrooms &
1 or 2 Baths
Unfurnished

KENTWOOD APARTMENTS
1904 East 25th Street

267-5444
263-5555

403 GALVESTON large shop with large doors on both ends, high ceilings with fenced yard. \$1250. month, \$1250 deposit. Call (432)213-2319.

BUY/ RENT 2 thru 6 bdrm Homes, 24Hr. maintenance, Central Heat/Air, Pool, stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, Washer/dryer connections, also 1 & 2 bdrm Apts, available, (432)263-3461-Rosa.

COLORADO CITY OWNER FINANCE- 3 bdrm, 1 bath, large lot, 977 Sheppard. 37K. Call 325-277-4923.

Real Estate for Rent

NOW LEASING 1, 2 & 3 Bdrm Apts. Built in microwave, full-size Washer & Dryer included, private patio/balcony w/storage area, playground area, fitness center, and community center. Open Monday-Friday 9am-6pm. Call Knollwood Heights (432)264-1735.

OFFICE SPACE (825 sq ft) and Attached Shop (1842 sq ft) for lease. 3 Offices, 2 restrooms and fenced lot. \$1295/mo. Located on North 87, blocks from I-20! (432)270-0571.

PONDEROSA APARTMENT

Now Leasing
1 & 2 Bdrms
Pools & covered parking
No application fees
Senior Discounts
1425 East 6th Street
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SALE or LEASE- Very nice Commercial Property, 6000 sq feet building, 3 offices and 4 overhead doors. Good Location. Call (432)213-2400.



SMALL TWO room efficiency houses, fully furnished, located at Lake Colorado City. All bills paid including electric, cable, water, sewer, garbage. Call (432)230-6622.

Real Estate for Sale

3/2 PLUS Bonus Room. 2403 Carleton. Under Remodel. Owner will Finance. \$15,000.00 Down. WILL NOT RENT. Call (432)264-9907 or 517-0062.

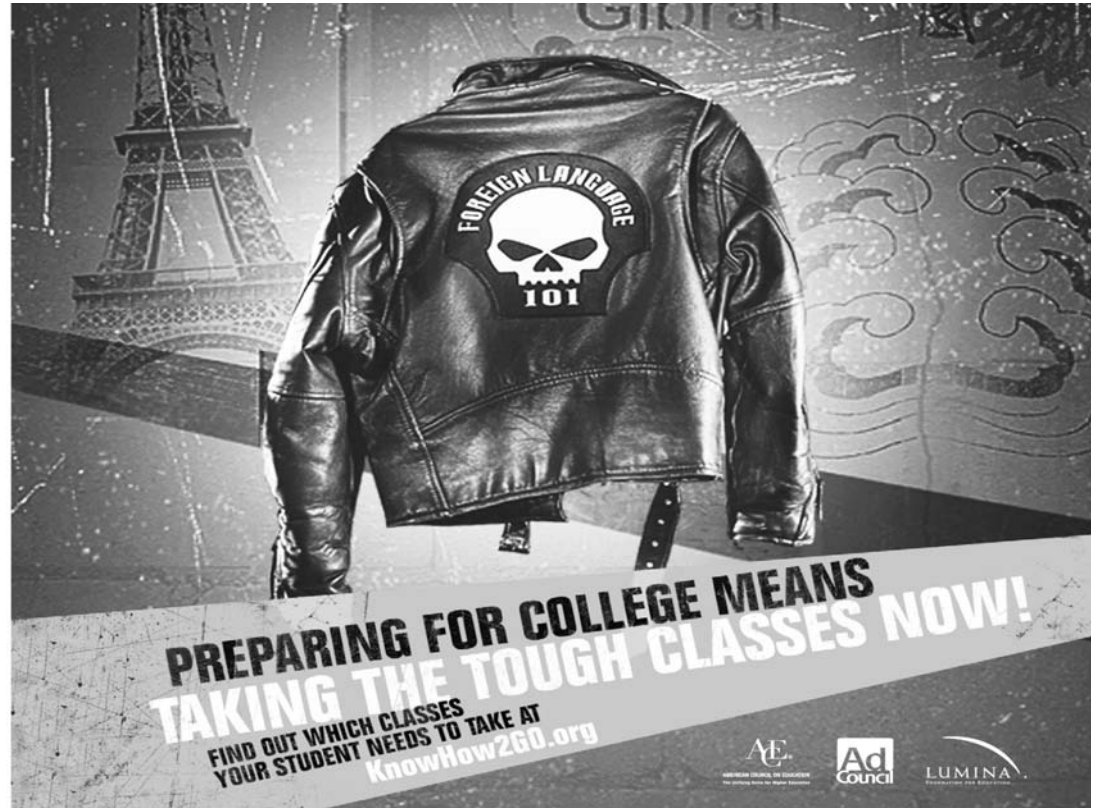
Legals

INVITATION TO BID

The Colorado Municipal Water District and Garney Companies are soliciting General Contractor, Subcontractor and supplier participation including those that qualify as SWMBE's for the following: Bid Package 6 Above Slab Work for the Ward County Water Supply Expansion Project. Bid Deadline is March 1, 2012 at 3:30 p.m. Bid will be received at CRMWD 400 E. 24th Street, Big Spring, TX 79721-0869. For more information contact Marcus Grace at (816)536-6485 or email mgrace@garney.com Garney Companies, Inc is an Employment/ Opportunity Employer. #7254 February 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 2012

ATTENTION THE BIG SPRING HERALD APPRECIATES YOUR BUSINESS

Here are some helpful tips and information that will help you when placing your ad. After your ad has been published the first day we suggest you check the ad for mistakes and if errors have been made we will gladly correct the ad and run it again for you at no additional charge. If your ad is inadvertently not printed advance payment will cheerfully be refunded and the newspaper's liability will be for only the amount received for publication of the advertisement. We reserve the right to edit or reject any ad for publication that does not meet our standards of acceptance.



PREPARING FOR COLLEGE MEANS TAKING THE TOUGH CLASSES NOW!
FIND OUT WHICH CLASSES YOUR STUDENT NEEDS TO TAKE AT KnowHow280.org

Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE OF CHANGES IN ELECTION PRECINCTS

Pursuant to §42.035, Texas Election Code, the Commissioners court of Howard County, Texas, herein provides notice of changes in County political boundaries as adopted by the Commissioners Court, and as precleared by the United States Department of Justice on the 30th day of January, 2012.

Interested individuals may review the adopted changes in the office of the County Clerk during regular business hours.

The changes in county election precincts were necessitated by re-districting of County Commissioners Court precincts in compliance with the United States Constitution and 42 U.S.C. §1973, also known as the Voting Rights Act, following the release of 2010 census data. Changes in county election precincts were designed to achieve numerical balance between the four commissioners court precincts, and to insure the voting rights of all citizens of Howard County, Texas. Donna Wright County Clerk

A VISO PUBLICO DE CAMBIOS EN ELECCION RECINTOS

De conformidad con §42.035, Código Electoral de Texas, la Corte de Comisionados del condado de Howard, Texas, este documento proporciona la notificación de cambios en los límites del Condado de política adoptadas por la Corte de Comisionados, y como precleared por el Departamento de Justicia el día 30 de enero, 2012.

Las personas interesadas pueden revisar los cambios adoptados en la oficina del secretario del condado durante las horas regulares de trabajo.

Los cambios en los precintos electorales del condado fueron necesarias por la redistribución de los distritos del Condado de la Corte de Comisionados de conformidad con la Constitución de los Estados Unidos y 42 USC §1973, también conocida como la Ley de Derechos Electorales, tras la publicación de los datos del censo 2010. Los cambios en los precintos electorales del condado fueron diseñados para lograr un equilibrio numérico entre los cuatro distritos electorales comisionados judiciales, y para asegurar los derechos de voto de todos los ciudadanos del condado de Howard, Texas. Donna Wright Official de Condado #7267 February 15, 22 & 29, 2012

Discover Another World, Read!
You never know what you might find.

Legals

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT

ConocoPhillips Company, 3300 North A Street, Building 6, Midland, Texas 79705 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas. The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the San Andres formation, Roberts, Dora 36. The proposed injection well is located 15 miles South of Big Spring, Texas in the Howard Glasscock Field in Howard County, Texas. Fluid will be injected into the subsurface depth interval from 1300 feet to 1888 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas. Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711. (Telephone (512)463-6792). #7266 February 15, 2012

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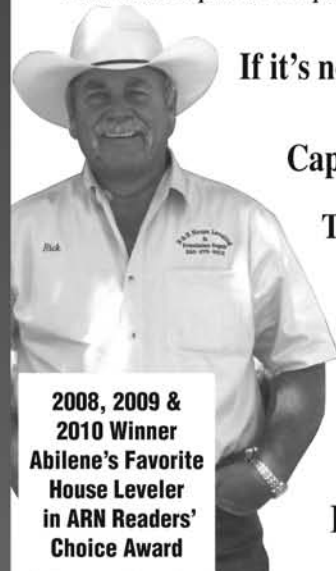
P.O. Box 1784
Big Spring, TX 79721

229832

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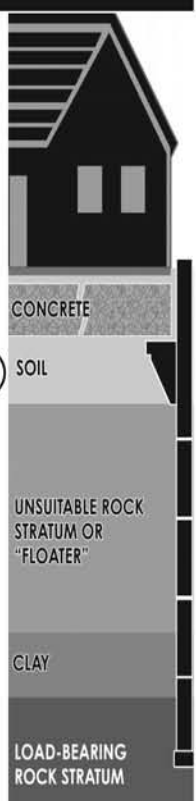


Table with 20 columns: Channel, Time, Program, Station, Program, Station, Program, Station, Program, Station, Program, Station, Program, Station, Program, Station, Program, Station, Program, Station, Program, Station.

DENNIS THE MENACE



I'M THINKIN' YOUR SAILBOAT WOULD BE HAPPIER IN THE BATHTUB, MR. WILSON.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



I have one left over. Which of you still wants to be my valentine?

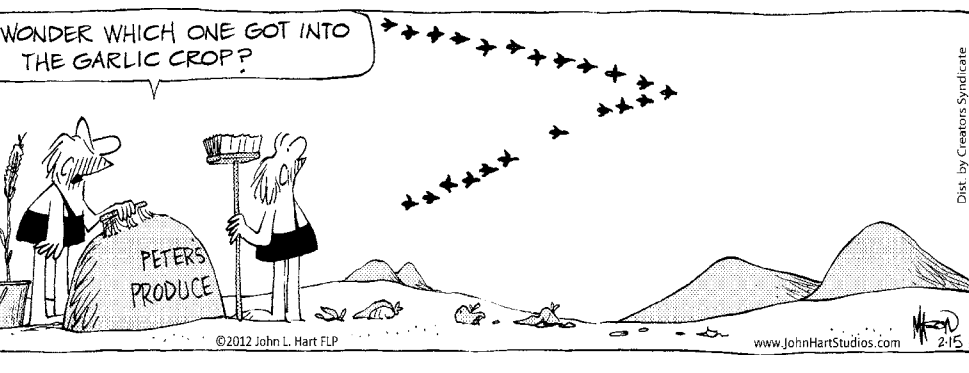
HAGAR



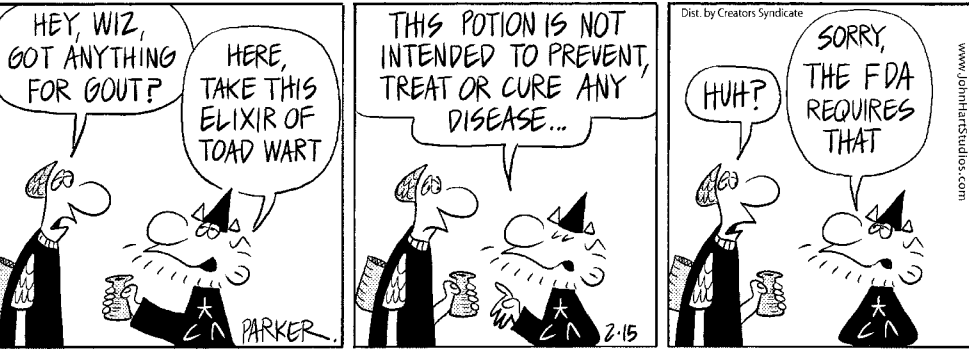
BLONDIE



BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



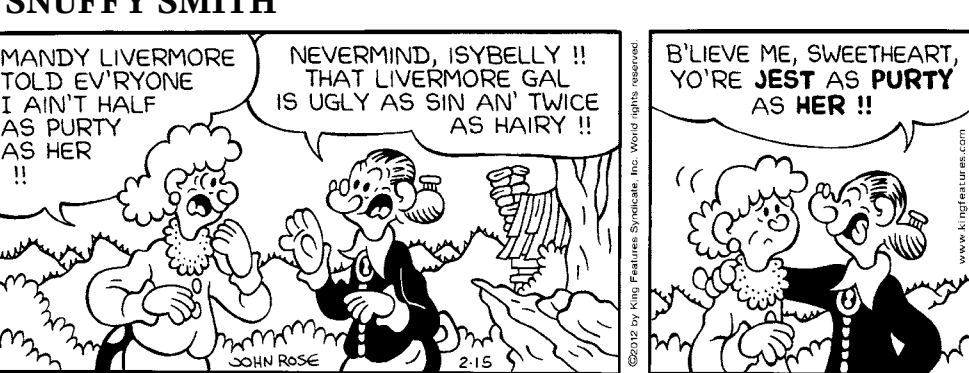
HI AND LOIS



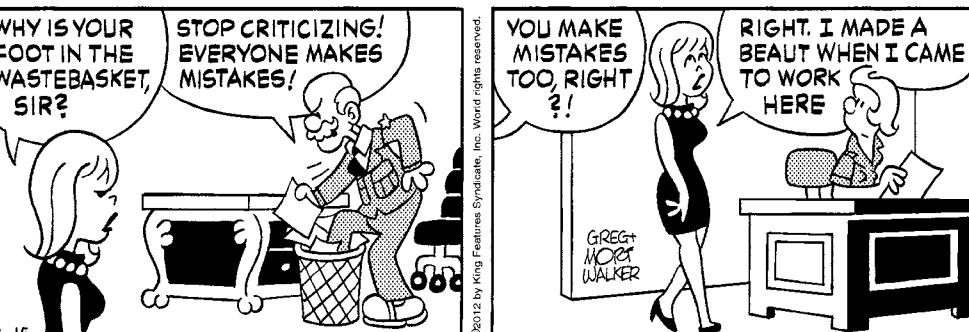
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Feb. 15, the 46th day of 2012. There are 320 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Feb. 15, 1952, a funeral was held at Windsor Castle for Britain's King George VI, who had died nine days earlier. On this date: In 1764, the city of St. Louis was established by Pierre Laclède and Auguste Chouteau. In 1812, American jeweler Charles Lewis Tiffany, the founder of Tiffany & Co., was born in Killingly, Conn. In 1898, the U.S. battleship Maine mysteriously blew up in Havana Harbor, killing more than 260 crew members and bringing the United States closer to war with Spain. In 1933, President-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt escaped an assassination attempt in Miami that mortally wounded Chicago Mayor Anton J. Cermak; gunman Giuseppe Zangara was executed more than four weeks later.

In 1942, the British colony Singapore surrendered to Japanese forces during World War II. In 1953, Tenley Albright became the first American woman to win the world figure skating championship, held in Davos, Switzerland. In 1961, 73 people, including an 18-member U.S. figure skating team en route to the World Championships in Czechoslovakia, were killed in the crash of a Sabena Airlines Boeing 707 in Belgium. In 1965, Canada's new maple-leaf flag was unfurled in ceremonies in Ottawa. In 1971, Britain and Ireland "decimalised" their currencies, making one pound equal to 100 new pence instead of 240 pence. In 1982, 84 men were killed when a huge oil-drilling rig, the Ocean Ranger, sank off the coast of Newfoundland during a fierce storm. In 1989, the Soviet Union announced that the last of its troops had left Afghanistan, after more than nine years of military intervention. In 1992, a Milwaukee jury found that Jeffrey Dahmer was sane when he killed and mutilated 15 men and boys. Benjamin L. Hooks announced plans to retire as executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Today's Birthdays: Actor Allan Arbus is 94. Former Illinois Congressman John Anderson is 90. Former Defense and Energy Secretary James Schlesinger is 83. Actress Claire Bloom is 81. Author Susan Brownmiller is 77. Songwriter Brian Holland is 71. Rock musician Mick Avory (The Kinks) is 68. Jazz musician Henry Threadgill is 68. Actress Jane Seymour is 61. © 2012 The Associated Press.

Answer to previous puzzle crossword grid with words like SHADY, SOSAD, GAS, NITRO, UNTIE, OLE, ALOUD, STILT, LIE, POMMELHORSE, DAD, LEI, CHESS, SODDED, FASTEN, PRIOR, LIMO, AGES, REST, LATIN, RAVE, YOKE, AVID, ATTEN, JORDAN, INSERT, STONE, BOO, TIC, BEATENTRACK, OAK, ARSON, HOPIN, ORE, TAINT, ELITE, PAY, ESSER, RENEW.

Newsday Crossword

PIECE OF WORK by Norma Steinberg Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS: 1 Penny pincher, 6 Touchscreen computer, 10 Long-running argument, 14 No longer edible, 15 Ship of Columbus, 16 Prefix meaning "all", 17 Current soldier's status, 19 Lubricates, 20 "Love ___ neighbor", 21 Former spouses, 22 From France, 24 Kids' cereal, 25 Droopy-eared hounds, 26 Does knee bends, 29 City south of Scottsdale, 30 Native of Ankara, 31 The ones there, 33 Batter's stat, 37 Intern, 38 Key near the space bar, 39 Was carried, 40 A/C units, 41 Estimate, 43 Once again, 44 Make fun of, 46 "Giant" zoo beasts, 48 Circus performer, 51 Support financially, 52 Grammatical gender, 53 Reynolds or Lancaster, 54 MDs' org., 57 California wine region, 58 Performs creditably, 61 Functions, 62 Important periods, 63 Dodge, 64 Onion relative, 65 Declare untrue, 66 Reached the limit, with "out", 7 Name of 13 popes, 8 "Farm" animal, 9 Afternoon sports event, 10 Wild goose chase, 11 Author Zola, 12 Dark, 13 Shapes of pucks, 18 Are, 23 Poisonous snake, 24 Chides, 25 Defeats on the field, 26 Wild guess, 27 Stop it, 28 Pakistani language, 29 For rent, 32 Favorite hangout, 34 Become attached, 35 Notion, 36 Darns something, 41 Kept watch over, 42 Sudden increase, 45 Lincoln nickname, 47 Patriotic song, 48 Invalidate, 49 Stop it, 50 Money of India, 51 Persnickety, 53 Soup partner of bacon, 54 Trojan War hero, 55 Fashion, 56 Not ___ of roses, 59 Miner's haul, 60 Actress Longoria.

13x13 crossword grid with numbers 1-66 indicating starting positions for clues.