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McLellan files for mayor post

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

The first political hat has been tossed in the city of Big Spring, as Leonards Pharmacy Inc. owner and former economic development board member Larry McLellan filed last week to run for the mayoral seat on the city council.

McLellan will be vying for the seat currently held by Mayor Tommy Duncan, who announced last week he would not be seeking reelection.

According to McLellan, his decision to run for the seat — which will be up for grabs in the May 11 contest — was influenced largely by his time working on the Big Spring Economic Development Corporation board of directors, where he served in several positions, including president.

"I had quite a few people approach me about

See **MAYOR**, Page 3



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

A group of local children try their hand at a game of basketball at the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club recently.

Suspect booked on indecency charge

Local man accused of exposing self to 9-year-old girl at city park

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

A local man was arrested on indecency with a child charges stemming from an alleged incident in Comanche Trail Park.

Aaron Lustfeldt, 27, of Big Spring, was awaiting arraignment this morning after being arrested on the inde-

cency charge, said Big Spring Police Department Public Information Officer Sgt. Tony Everett.

"On Friday at around 5:30 p.m., police received a complaint that a white male subject in his 20s had exposed his genitals to a 9-year-old girl while she was at a playground in Comanche Trail Park,"

Everett said. "Witnesses described a maroon van as the suspect vehicle."

Over the course of the weekend, police and sheriff's deputies received reports of the suspect vehicle being spotted at several locations in the area, including Big Spring State Park and the Wal-Mart Supercenter, Everett said.

"The information said that the suspect was behaving strangely and may have been taking photographs of women as they went about their business," he said.

The investigation eventually led officers Lustfeldt, Everett said.

"It was determined that he is a registered sex offender

and was located when Deputy Blake Jones was doing a monthly compliance check on the suspect and found the maroon mini van at his residence," Everett noted. "At this point in the investigation, a warrant for his arrest was requested and obtained."

He was booked into the county detention center.

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Judge: School finance plan unconstitutional

By **WILL WEISSERT**
Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — The system Texas uses to fund public schools violates the state's constitution by not providing enough money to school districts and failing to distribute it fairly, a judge ruled Monday in a landmark decision that could force the Legislature to overhaul the way it pays for education.

Moments after closing arguments in his packed courtroom, state District Judge John Dietz ruled the funding mechanism does not meet the Texas Constitution's requirements for a fair and efficient system that provides a "general diffusion of knowledge." He declared that funding was inadequate and that there were wide

(The judge) declared that funding was inadequate and that there were wide discrepancies in state support received by school districts in wealthy parts of Texas vs. those in poorer areas.

discrepancies in state support received by school districts in wealthy parts of Texas vs. those in poorer areas. He also said the system is tantamount to an income tax, which is forbidden by the state constitution.

It was the second time in less than a decade the state has been ordered to remake its school finance system. Dietz said he would issue a written ruling elaborating on his announcement in about

a month. The state can then appeal the case directly to the Supreme Court, which could order the Legislature to remake the system.

But a ruling from the high court is not likely to come until the end of the legislative session in May, meaning Gov. Rick Perry would need to call a special session in 2014. In the interval, the state's school finance system remains unchanged.

This was the sixth case of

its kind since 1984. During a round of litigation eight years ago, Dietz issued a similar ruling, but the all-Republican Supreme Court reversed his findings on funding — while still declaring the system unconstitutional since it violated state guarantees against an income tax.

This time around, more than 600 school districts across Texas responsible for educating three-quarters of the state's 5 million-plus public school students sued. At issue were \$5.4 billion in cuts to schools and education grant programs the Legislature imposed in 2011 — but the districts said simply restoring that funding won't be enough to

See **SCHOOL**, Page 3



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News in brief

Ala. town relieved: Child rescued from underground bunker, captor killed after long standoff

MIDLAND CITY, Ala. (AP) — For six anguished days, people in this small Alabama town asked just one question about the 5-year-old boy being held hostage in an underground bunker by a menacing, unpredictable neighbor: "Is he free yet?"

After FBI agents determined that talks with an increasingly agitated Jimmy Lee Dykes were breaking down, they stormed the closet-sized shelter and freed the kindergartner. The 65-year-old hostage-taker was killed by law enforcement officials, an official told the AP.

Authorities say the boy, who appeared to be facing imminent danger when they went in, is doing well in the aftermath of his ordeal. But they have yet to answer questions as to how they monitored Dykes and exactly what prompted the rescue Monday afternoon.

And almost a week after Dykes was accused of fatally shooting a school bus driver on Jan. 29 and grabbing the child at random from a busload of students, the man described as threatening and volatile by his neighbors lay dead on his property in Midland City.

An official in Midland City, citing information from law enforcement, said police had shot Dykes. The official requested anonymity because the official wasn't authorized to speak publicly about the investigation into the case that had captured national attention.

Obama looking for more diversity in next wave of jobs; Pritzker, Burwell on list for top jobs

WASHINGTON (AP) — As he prepares to announce a new wave of Cabinet and other senior posts, President Barack Obama is aiming to put a more diverse face on his administration — an image that was missing as he filled the first round of vacancies of his second term with a parade of white men.

Obama is said to be looking at women, Latinos and openly gay candidates for top slots at the departments of Commerce, Labor and Interior, and

for his own White House budget office.

The leading candidate for nomination to be secretary of commerce is Penny Pritzker, a long-time Obama ally and big-money fundraiser from Chicago, according to people familiar with the White House selection process. The top candidate to lead the White House Office of Management and Budget is Sylvia Mathews Burwell, who was a former budget, White House and treasury official in the Clinton administration and is now the president of the Wal-Mart Foundation.

Both women, if nominated, would replace men, bringing business and government experience to the jobs and helping rebalance the male dominance of Obama's early nominations at the State Department, Treasury and the Pentagon — the three top posts in the Cabinet. In addition to selecting former Sen. John Kerry for secretary of state, Jack Lew for treasury secretary and former Sen. Chuck Hagel for defense secretary, Obama last month also nominated John Brennan to be CIA director. Then he appointed Denis McDonough as his new chief of staff.

The initial series of personnel decisions stood out not only because the posts are so high-profile, but because Obama has pledged to bring a racial and gender mix to his administrative team. Obama also chose Kerry to replace Hillary Rodham Clinton, who had been the most high-profile woman in the Cabinet, after weighing whether to nominate U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice to the post.

Son of slain Minneapolis business owner joins Obama, leads state's push for gun law changes

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (AP) — Sami Rahamim has committed statistics about gun deaths to memory, folding them into sentences that make his case. He talks like a lawyer, not a high school senior — no pauses or filler, no public trace of his pain.

On Sept. 27, Rahamim's father, Reuven Rahamim, was shot and killed along with five others at Accent Signage Systems in Minneapolis, the company he founded, by an ex-worker who recently had been fired. In the months since, Sami Rahamim has become a 17-year-old lobbyist for reducing gun

violence.

Rahamim has been at the state Capitol nearly every day for a month, missing school to push for legislation that would boost background checks and tighten gun regulations in Minnesota. He's spoken at churches, synagogues and gun violence forums.

And Monday, Rahamim sat two chairs from President Barack Obama as part of a round-table discussion on how best to reduce gun violence, before the president took his push to tighten gun laws on national TV from Minneapolis. Rahamim shared his story and ideas with Obama — not just as a victim, but as a committed advocate.

"Nobody would blame him if he were curled up in a corner crying even until this moment," Minnesota Rep. Keith Ellison said. "But he's on his feet. He's talking to people about gun violence. He has truly harnessed his grief."

After avoiding comment for days, N.J. Sen. Menendez forcefully denies prostitution allegation

WASHINGTON (AP) — After ducking comment for days, Sen. Robert Menendez is forcefully denying allegations he engaged with prostitutes in the Dominican Republic, calling the claims false "smears."

Menendez told reporters on Monday that he had done nothing wrong. His voice rose with anger as he described "anonymous, nameless, faceless individuals" who he said have driven false stories into the mainstream media.

"That's what they've done successfully," he said his first public remarks since the allegations began to spread on Wednesday. "The bottom line is all of those smears are absolutely false."

Menendez's public denial came after the FBI conducted a search of the West Palm Beach offices of a Florida doctor who also was the senator's biggest political donor in his re-election campaign last year. A week before the November election, The Daily Caller, a conservative website, reported that Menendez had used a business jet owned by Dr. Salomon Melgen to fly to the Dominican Republic for trysts with prostitutes.

SCHOOL

Continued from Page 1

fix a fundamentally flawed system.

"It's not just dollars; it's how we use them,"

David Thompson, an attorney representing school districts that educate about 2 million students, said in reaction to Dietz's ruling. "I think there's a lot of room there to begin a discussion with the Legislature."

The districts noted that the cuts came as the state requires schools to prepare students for standardized tests that are getting more difficult and amid a statewide boom in the number of low-income students and those who need extra instruction to learn English, both of whom are more costly

to educate.

"There is no free lunch," Dietz said while issuing his ruling. "We either want increased standards and are willing to pay the price, or we don't."

The trial, which began Oct. 22, took more than 240 hours in court and 10,000 exhibits to get this far.

Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, said Dietz's decision confirms what his party has been saying all along.

"Hopefully this latest in a long line of decisions will force the legislature to truly and systemically address the inequities in our school finance system to ensure that every child in every school — regardless of wealth — has access to a top-notch education," Ellis said in a statement.

The state attorney general's office declined to comment. But Texas Education Commissioner Michael Williams said he'd wait for appeal.

"The Texas Education Agency will continue to carry out its mission of serving the students and educators across our state," he said in a statement.

A spokeswoman for Perry declined to comment. But Lt. Gov. Dewhurst said he was disappointed in Dietz's decision and that he would work with other top state leaders to "ensure that Texas continues to have an accountable, efficient system of public education that produces graduates ready to compete in college and in our global economy." Texas relies on local

property taxes to fund its schools. But attorneys for the school districts said the bottom 15 percent of the state's poorest districts tax an average of 8 cents more than the wealthiest 15 percent of districts, but receive about \$43,000 less per classroom.

Rick Gray, a lawyer representing districts mostly in poorer areas of the state, said during closing arguments that the funding system was "woefully inadequate and hopelessly broken." He said Texas must begin producing better educated college graduates, or it would see its tax base shrink and needs for social services swell due to a workforce not properly prepared for the jobs of the future.

"Texas should be ashamed," Gray said of

the funding system.

The state countered that the system is adequately funded and that school districts don't always spend their money wisely. "We are not here to debate whether the state is providing the best system money can buy," argued Assistant Attorney General Shelley Dahlberg. "We are here asking if the state system is a constitutional one and we believe that it is."

Districts in rich and poor parts of the state are on the same side of the case since the funding mechanism relies on a "Robin Hood" scheme where districts with high property values or abundant tax revenue from oil or natural gas resources turn over part

of the money they raise to poorer districts.

But many "property wealthy" districts say that while they are in better shape than their poorer counterparts, the system still starves them of funding since local voters who would otherwise support property tax increases to bolster funding for their schools refuse to do so, knowing that most of the money would be sent somewhere else.

Also suing were charter schools, which wanted state funding for their facilities and for Texas to ease or remove a cap allowing only 215 licenses to operate charter schools statewide. Dietz said those complaints did not violate the state constitution.

MAYOR

Continued from Page 1

filing my candidacy," McLellan said. "After everything that happened with the EDC and the water and wastewater project, I felt like the city was really looking in the wrong direction when it comes to that type of funding."

Big Spring voters approved a multi-million dollar overhaul of the city's water and wastewater facilities in a special election in May 2012, a move which will tie up nearly half of the Big Spring EDC budget for the next 20 years, a move McLellan and many other local residents and officials spoke-out against vehemently.

McLellan also led the charge against Duncan's efforts to abolish the existing EDC and replace it with a Type B corporation in hopes of gaining more funding for municipal infrastructure projects.

"I feel like the situation with the water and wastewater facilities was something that should have been addressed a long time ago," he said. "And, we're about to run into a similar situation with the municipal landfill, as the old one will have to be closed and a new one opened. We have to plan ahead for the future. As the number of citizens continues to increase, so is the amount of waste produced by the community. We're going to have to be careful how we handle this."

McLellan said the city's infrastructure needs to be more than just a topic of discussion for local politicians and representatives.

"We have to stop talking about the needs of our city's infrastructure and start doing something about it," McLellan said firmly. "We've seen steady increases in sales tax revenues over the past few years and we need to begin using that money to address our problems, not pad

our general fund. It's good to have a healthy general fund, however, there's work that needs to be done. It's time to take action."

Also up for grabs in the May election will be the seat currently held by first-term District 5 Councilman Craig Olson, who announced recently he would not be seeking re-election.

According to Big Spring officials, political hopefuls can begin picking up filing packets from city hall — located at 310 Nolan St. — until March 1.

Filing for the election is being handled by the city of Big Spring Administration, while the election itself will once again be coordinated by the Howard County Elections Administration Office. For more information on filing to run in the May election, contact Big Spring City Hall at 432-264-2513.

the Texas Secretary of State website, located at www.sos.state.tx.us

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

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EDITORIAL

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

—FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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OTHER VIEWS

Excuses for not building XL pipeline fading

After giving an unabashedly liberal inaugural address, approving a pipeline that environmental groups say will contribute greatly to global warming and possibly taint a major Midwestern aquifer would probably not be among President Barack Obama's priorities for his second term.

But the president should do so and soon, before the Republicans and the energy industry on one side and the environmentalists on the other can make it a major political issue. And it would remove a major irritant in U.S.-Canadian relations since the Canadians very much want to see it built.

One by one the Obama administration's objections to the \$7 billion project, which would carry 800,000 barrels of crude oil a day from Canada's tar sands to refineries on the Gulf Coast, have been met.

Nebraska, the state that potentially could be most adversely affected by a spill from the proposed Keystone XL pipeline, has signed off on the project, as have the other five states the line will cross.

Nebraska GOP Gov. John Heineman, initially an opponent, said that a rerouting of the pipeline around environmentally sensitive lands had satisfied his concerns, the same concerns Obama cited when he blocked the pipeline last January. Heineman might also have been swayed by the \$418 million in economic benefits the line would bring to his state.

House Speaker John Boehner said Nebraska's approval of the route “means there is no bureaucratic excuse, hurdle or catch President Obama can use to delay this project any further.”

Actually, there is one: the State Department is reviewing the project, which was first proposed in 2008. The study is expected to approve the project in March, which would leave the administration truly out of excuses.

Obama professes to be serious about climate change, but the various forms of “clean” energy have yet to be proved economically and technologically feasible on anything like the scale needed to fill America's energy needs.

Thanks to major finds of natural gas and oil, the United States is virtually energy independent and is actually exporting modest amounts of oil. Given the instability of many of the global energy-producing areas, that independence should not be surrendered lightly.

— *San Angelo Standard-Times*

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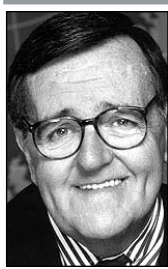
Forgotten, but not gone

Former presidential nominee, Mitt Romney, and his wife, Ann, were in Washington, where they met with friends and supporters and attended the annual Alfalfa Club dinner, an exclusive black-tie event.

One of the more memorable lines from last year's closed-to-the-press dinner was former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush's needling of his most famous sibling, when — while addressing the then-unsettled GOP nomination contest — he reported that at one point his brother even thought about running again: “George, I said, ‘the Constitution prohibits you from running again.’ He said, ‘Wow, they put my name in the Constitution?’”

The weekend's real political news, however, was being made by the GOP's 2008 standard-bearer, Arizona Sen. John McCain, along with GOP Senate colleagues Jeff Flake of Arizona, Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and Marco Rubio of Florida, all of whom had been working with Democratic Sens. Chuck Schumer of New York, Michael Bennet of Colorado, Bob Menendez of New Jersey and Dick Durbin of Illinois to produce a comprehensive compromise immigration plan.

That plan — which said that after measures were taken to secure the border, undocumented immigrants could obtain legal status on a probationary basis once they had undergone a background check, and paid a fine and any back taxes owed — was proudly unveiled by the eight



MARK SHIELDS

senators.

By losing the growing Hispanic vote nationally 71 percent to 27 percent to President Barack Obama after running a fierce get-tough-on-illegal-immigrants campaign, Romney not only made the senators' bipartisan immigration proposal possible. For his fellow Republicans, Romney made the switch on immigration imperative.

As McCain put it on Wednesday at a breakfast hosted by Politico, “If you have a large bloc of Americans who believe you're trying to keep their ... fellow Hispanics down and deprive them of an opportunity, obviously that's going to have an effect.”

What sort of an effect? McCain: “The trend will continue of lack of support from Hispanic voters, and also, as you look at the demographics of states like mine, that means we will go from Republican to Democratic over time.”

One irony is that McCain was one of Romney's most important 2012 endorsers for the nomination.

This surprised some of us who remembered the Romney TV spot four years earlier that charged that McCain had “pushed to let every illegal immigrant stay here permanently — even voted to allow illegals to collect Social Security. And Mitt Romney? He opposes amnesty for illegals.”

Earlier in 2007, Romney test-drove his 2012 campaign when he attacked an Arkansas plan that enabled the children of undocumented immigrants to apply for college scholarships. Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee counterpunched: “I'm standing here tonight on this stage because I got an education. If I hadn't had the education,

I wouldn't be standing on this stage, I might be picking lettuce. In all due respect, we're a better country than to punish children for what their parents did ...”

In 2008, Romney got even tougher on Texas Gov. Rick Perry and the Lone Star State's Dream Act: “One of the things I still can't get over is the idea that a state would decide to give \$100,000 discounts to the children of illegals to go to school in their state.”

According to projections from the respected Pew Research's Social & Demographic Trends, Hispanics, who constituted just 3.5 percent of the U.S. population in 1968 and 17 percent in 2011, will jump to 29 percent of the U.S. total in 2050. Asian-Americans, who were a tiny 0.6 percent in 1960, will increase to 9 percent. With African-Americans growing to 13 percent of the nation, this would mean that whites — who had been 85 percent of all Americans in 1960 — would shrink by the middle of the century to approximately 47 percent.

A bipartisan immigration bill staking out the path to citizenship will not, by itself, be a political silver bullet for a GOP still trying to shake off the anti-immigrant baggage the Romney candidacy saddled it with. But it could mean that Republican candidates might eventually, after hard work, hope to reach the 40 percent of the Hispanic vote George W Bush won in 2004.

To find out more about Mark Shields and read his past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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Doctored videotapes are peanuts

Many have rightly condemned MSNBC's serpentine editing of a video to make it appear that certain gun rights activists heckled the father of a 6-year-old victim of the Sandy Hook shooting massacre, but let's not pretend this was a one-off event.

The liberal media long ago forfeited their respected role as watchdog over the government and have voluntary descended to the status of a public relations arm of the Democratic Party and various liberal causes.

It doesn't do it justice to call them cheerleaders, for they are active participants, every bit as much involved in bringing about the events as the party with which they collude.

They no longer merely report the news. They deliberately influence it to advance the liberal political agenda. So while they engage in plenty of deceptions on the micro level, they daily engage in a category of sin that far exceeds the despicable doctoring of videos.

For what they're about is grand deception on a macro scale. They aren't watchdogs, and they aren't just cheerleaders. Cheerleaders wear uniforms and are readily recognizable. These progressive media mavens are cloaked in a disguise of pseudo-neutrality and pseudo-objectivity, such that when they root for the political team that is assaulting America's founding principles and driving us head-first into national ruin, many in their unwitting audience have no earthly idea they've got skin in the game.

The liberal media's fraud is so pervasive that by presenting the news through a distorted, progressive prism, they've created an alternate reality that bears little relationship to actual

reality. What has emerged is a new normal, foisted on us by a cluster of malicious manipulators who long ago abandoned their honor and their professional calling.

This manufactured pseudo-universe is what allowed President Barack Obama to win reelection despite presiding over (and largely causing) the longest period of high unemployment since World War II and the worst recovery in 50 years. It's what enables him to enjoy a 60 percent approval rating despite being conspicuously radical, hyper-partisan, consciously divisive and dogmatically uncompromising.

Just ask yourself whether Obama could have won if the media had reported on his economy objectively and let the facts speak for themselves. But they did much worse; they apologized for him and his failures every step of the way, shamelessly conspiring with him to scapegoat his predecessor, President George W. Bush, even four years after his term ended. This was as immoral as it was preposterous, but they did it with such faux earnestness that those who rely on them for their news lapped it up and digested its poisonous seed.

These are media that appointed themselves the chief prosecutors against Bush for his alleged mishandling of the federal cleanup operation in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. They were on that story 24/7 from the outset, not to apprise the public of the conditions in New Orleans and other stricken locations but to cause premeditated political damage to President Bush. Contrast that with their orchestrated cover-up of the Obama administration's selective negligence for some of Hurricane Sandy's victims and affected areas.

This is a press whose superstars, with exceptions, insinuated themselves into moderating the presidential debates and actively interceded on behalf of President Obama, both in their

questions and in their improper injections.

These are the “professionals” whose job is to hold our governing class to account with legitimate, pointed questions and follow-ups. Instead, they offer French kisses and free passes, despite the smorgasbord of corruption, scandal, mismanagement and policy failures that would be a welcome feast for journalists with a modicum of integrity.

Whereas they aided Democrats in constructing false scandals against the Bush administration, they wholly ignore very real ones under Obama, from the dismissal of the New Black Panther Party voter intimidation case to “Fast and Furious” to Benghazi.

From the corruption and waste in the president's stimulus plan to myriad green energy schemes to the fraudulent calculation of projected Obamacare costs to their protective reporting on the administration's handling of the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, the media have done this president's bidding.

Worst of all, Obama's media cohorts are helping him get away with not addressing the major culprit in our impending national financial catastrophe, entitlement spending. If it were not for the media's complicity, we could avert this imminent national calamity, but they simply will not perform even their rudimentary duties so as to expose this president as the uncompromising spendaholic ideologue he is.

So while we justifiably complain about doctored videotapes, let's not miss the larger point: that if this nation goes over a Greek-style financial cliff, we need look no further than President Obama's comrades in the institutionally corrupt media, without whom his destructive path could be deterred.

David Limbaugh is a writer, author and attorney.

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Washing hands is sudsy fun
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I wash eight fingers and two thumbs
Scrub! Scrub! Scrub! Scrub! Scrub!
With a little soap here
And a little more there
Bubbles here
Bubbles there
Give those germs a splashing scare!
Washing hands is sudsy fun
Scrub! Scrub! Scrub! Scrub! Scrub!

If your hands are extra dirty, sing this second verse and keep on scrubbing!

Now my hands are getting clean
Scrub! Scrub! Scrub! Scrub! Scrub!
Even dirt that can't be seen
Scrub! Scrub! Scrub! Scrub! Scrub!
With a little soap here
And a little more there
Bubbles here
Bubbles there
Watch them floating in the air
Now my hands are nice and clean
Scrub! Scrub! Scrub! Scrub! Scrub!

Standards Links: Music: Memorize and sing simple songs.

More fun hand-washing songs at www.kidscoop.com/kids

HAND SANITIZER vs. SOAP & WATER

Using hand sanitizer shouldn't be a _____ for washing your hands with soap and _____. While sanitizer does kill _____, it doesn't do a very good job of getting rid of _____ dirt. Think of hand sanitizer as just a little "touch-up" _____ hand washings with good ol' soap and water.

Fill in the missing words.

WATER GERMS BETWEEN
REPLACEMENT VISIBLE



THE SCRUB SQUAD 5 STEP PLAN

- 1 Rub your hands together under warm running water. Make sure to get wet up to your wrists.
- 2 Use a generous amount of soap. Liquid soap, powdered soap or bar soap are all great.
- 3 SCRUB: Get the palms, back of your hands, wrists, under your nails and between your fingers for at least 20 seconds.
- 4 Rinse your hands to get rid of the soap (and dirt and germs).
- 5 Air dry your hands or use a clean towel, either cloth or paper.

Standards Links: Health: Students know practicing good personal hygiene is a way to prevent or reduce risk of disease.



How many hands and bubbles can you find on this page?

Extra! Extra! Synonym Search

A **synonym** is a word that means the same or nearly the same thing as another word. Search the newspaper for synonyms for the word **CLEAN**. Then, look for synonyms for the word **DIRTY**. Which were easier to find?

Standards Links: Vocabulary: Identify grade-level appropriate vocabulary in reading.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Unscramble each of the mixed-up words.

When should I wash my hands?

- after playing DISTOUE O _ _ _ _ I _ _ _
- after using the STROMORE R _ _ _ T R _ _ _
- before eating or KONCOGI _ O O _ _ _
- after petting SANIMLA _ _ _ _ L S _ _
- before and after visiting a sick DRFNEI F _ _ _ _
- after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing
- after taking out the RATHS T _ _ _ _

Standards Links: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.



Healthy fun! Get a set of FREE hand washing activity pages for your classroom at www.kidscoop.com/kids

Double Double Word Search

SANITIZER
BATHROOM
COUGHING
MEMORIZE
BUBBLES
SQUAD
ELBOW
SCRUB
DIRTY
AVOID
GERMS
TOWEL
PALMS
NOSE
SOAP

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

S	T	H	G	P	A	O	S	D	B
M	O	S	N	A	E	L	C	A	U
R	W	C	I	L	A	N	T	U	B
E	E	R	H	M	Y	H	O	Q	B
G	L	U	G	S	R	T	N	S	L
D	W	B	U	O	A	S	R	H	E
M	E	M	O	R	I	Z	E	I	S
I	N	M	C	W	A	V	O	I	D
G	R	E	Z	I	T	I	N	A	S

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

Hand Exercises

Now that your hands are nice and clean, they could use a little exercise. Try these:

Stretch & Squeeze

Spread your fingers out as far as possible. Feel that s-t-r-e-t-c-h? Now squeeze them into two tight fists. Repeat 10 times.

The Big Reach

Stand with your feet slightly apart. Reach your hands up, up, UP as high as you can. Now bend and reach for your toes. Repeat 10 times.

Helicopter Hands

Extend your arms straight out, level with your shoulders. Slowly start twirling your arms in a circular motion. Spin them faster and faster for 60 seconds.

Pat on the Back

Hold your hands out in front of you. Reach over your shoulders and pat your back for 30 seconds. Cross your arms and try again. Do this for 30 seconds. You deserve a pat on the back!

Standards Links: Physical Education: Use a variety of basic and advanced movement forms.

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word:
SQUAD

The noun **squad** means a team or crew that work together.

My **squad** was in charge of cleaning the playground.

Try to use the word **squad** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

Kid Scoo-doku

Complete the grid by using all the letters in the word **SQUAD** in each vertical and horizontal row. Each letter should only be used once in each row. Some spaces have been filled in for you.

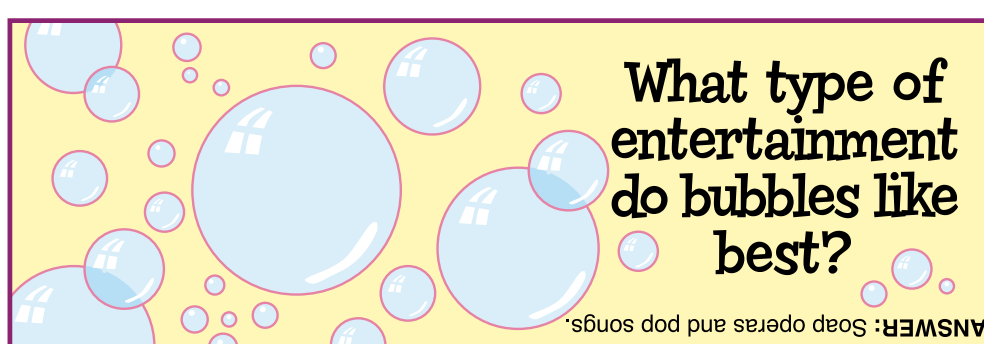
S				Q
Q	D			
U			D	
A		Q		
D			Q	S

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Scrubbing the News

Select three paragraphs in a newspaper article. Can you scrub away some of the words to make shorter sentences without losing important details?

Standards Links: Reading Comprehension: Understand the main idea.



What type of entertainment do bubbles like best?

ANSWER: Soap

Write On!

Bubble Trouble

Someone put too much detergent in the washing machine, and now your town is getting covered in soapsuds! Write a news article describing the scene.

Bird Poop: Mr. and Mrs. Finch pay a visit

After breakfast, Art gathered our plates and walked toward the kitchen. Just as I finished the last paragraph of a lengthy newspaper article, he walked hurriedly to the hutch, grabbed our binoculars, and headed back to the window over the sink.

"Look at the shallow dish," he encouraged. "Mr. and Mrs.!" Perched on the rim of one of our elevated basins, the pair seemed to relish their early morning drink.

To my right, our large window had been a delight, since it was close to our dining table. Throughout every meal, we had always been able to see numerous species flying in for water.

After a few sips, the male sidled in her direction. Easily, she moved a few steps away. Although it was the first week of February, courting season

was approaching. With his bright red crown, throat, breast, and rump, the male was easy to identify. His brownish wings and tail were dull in comparison.

In contrast, she was grayish-brown and noticeably streaked underneath. Often mistaken for sparrows, both were welcome in our side yard and trees.

Known for their voracious appetite for weed seeds, including those of the dandelion, the birds would also frequent the lots behind our property.

Once spring encouraged trees to "bud-out," these opportunists would be seen fluttering atop elms and mulberries as they gorged on new, emerging greenery.

Even hedges and perennials were a source of temptation for the house finches.

Delighted to see the active duo prompted me to refresh my memory. Turning to the alphabetized ledger that is a record of over 114 different species and 3,000 plus rescues, I noticed that under "F," my first recording of this species was 1983.

Years passed, and then in 1987, incidents involving house finches increased. Throughout the ensuing years, they were always present.

Throughout that day, I kept thinking about those birds. Not too long ago, we had seemed to have a rash of injuries involving house finches.

Discovering that it had only been five years, I noticed that three of the mishaps had occurred in February, and with our large window. At that time, our feeders had been mobbed with seed eating birds.

Knowing we had to solve the problem, I had gone outside and stood at each feeder. After looking in every direction, I concentrated on staring at our window. The reflection from it was seductive.

Indicating there was a passageway through the trees and to the sky above, the glass was a temptress for disaster. Any bird could be duped into believing it could fly in that direction.

When window decals of hawks slowed but did not stop the impacts, we removed the feeders. Concentrating on the need and lure of water for drinking and bathing, we watched to see what would happen.

Instead of hordes of doves bullying the smaller birds for seeds, their appearance at the water basins was staggered as to need throughout the day. An increase of blue



A male house finch enjoys a sip of water from a basin. During courting season his song punctuates a quiet morning. With his tail pointed upward and wings fluttering, he announces his intentions to the female. She, in turn, will build the nest with whatever is available. Since the nest site may be used the following year, the female is quite adept at finding a secretive location.

Courtesy photo

numerous "bird books," I started with a set that covered the late 1800s through the 1930s. Were the birds mentioned, and if so, where? A two-volume set from 1974 had no information. For some authors, the house finch was non-existent. Two editions, printed in 1980 and 1983 respectively, had the information I sought.

In 1940, an illegal operation, thwarted in New York City, had sought to smuggle house finches into the United States as "cage birds."

The confiscated birds were released on Long Island. An ensuing population explosion occurred in the eastern portion of our country over the next few decades.

In Mark Lockwood's Basic Texas Birds of 2007, he mentioned that before the 1950s, the house finch was found only in the western

third of Texas. Then it began to expand eastward.

"During the next thirty years the bird colonized all of the Rolling Plains and Edwards Plateau...birds that originated from an introduced population in the eastern United States began colonizing the eastern half of the state." Except for the lower tip of Texas, house finches now in 2013 are found throughout our state.

Because of a basic necessity for our avian friends, and through Art's watching a colorful character on a water dish, my memory had been challenged. An unusual dividend was learning through our collection about the house finches' very existence in our country.

Bebe McCasland is author of The Scoop from Bird Poop. She is federally and state licensed to rehabilitate wild birds.

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.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

How Humpty Dumpty got up on that wall

This morning, as I was having my coffee, I thought of the old nursery rhyme of Humpty Dumpty. Remember him? Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall. Humpty Dumpty had a great fall. All the kings' horses and all the kings' men couldn't put Humpty back together again.

I am a person who is infatuated with the origins of stories like this. I like to know the

original versions and to know why and where they came from. So I began to seek some answers about Humpty and was quite interested in what I found.

In England starting in the fifteenth century, Humpty Dumpty was a term that people used to call someone who was obese. As time went by, Humpty Dumpty was used to describe a clumsy person. Humpty Dumpty was portrayed in Lewis Carroll's "Through the Looking Glass" and in the nursery rhyme as an egg. Was Humpty an egg or a clumsy guy or an obese fellow who fell off a wall?

Well, Humpty Dumpty was apparently none of the above, so who

or what was he? As I looked for an answer, I found a version of the story that appears to be the origin of this famous nursery rhyme.

During the English civil war, which took place from 1642 to 1649, there was a battle in the summer of 1648, referred to as the Siege of Colchester, which was one of the most important battles of the war. Colchester was a walled city that was guarded heavily by the Royalists, who were supporters of King Charles I; however, they were trapped inside the walls by the Parliamentarian Army, known as the Roundheads because of their close cropped hair, and were led by Thomas Fairfax, who

was opposed to the crown.

Inside the city walls stood a castle and a few churches. One church, St. Mary's, stood right beside the wall. There was a large cannon, believed to be called Humpty Dumpty which was placed on the wall next to the church.

The story is that the walls of the fortified city were bombarded for 11 weeks before finally falling. The wall beneath Humpty Dumpty was destroyed and the cannon fell to the ground. Therefore "All the kings horses and all the kings men" tried to put Humpty back together again by attempting to place the cannon onto another part of the wall. Unfortunately, Humpty Dumpty was too heavy and could not be replaced.

This siege ended when the Royalist army surrendered and the leaders of the Royalists were executed behind Colchester Castle. And so, as Paul Harvey used to say, that is the "rest of the story."

Darrell Ryan is director of federal programs for Big Spring Independent School District.



DARRELL RYAN

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker
The Magic Number

East dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ J 7 3
♥ A K J
♦ A K 6 4
♣ 9 7 2

WEST
♠ 8 2
♥ 4
♦ J 9 7 5
♣ K Q 10 6 4 3

EAST
♠ Q 10 9 6 5
♥ 9 7 6 5 3 2
♦ 8
♣ J

SOUTH
♠ A K 4
♥ Q 10 8
♦ Q 10 3 2
♣ A 8 5

The bidding:
East South West North
Pass 1 NT Pass 4 NT

Opening lead — king of clubs.

The number 13, regarded by many as unlucky, is, without question, the single most important number in bridge. Hardly a deal goes by where an experienced declarer or defender does not take advantage of the knowledge that each suit contains 13 cards and that each player is dealt 13 cards.

Consider this case where South wound up in four notrump after North had invited a slam. North's raise to four notrump asked South to continue bidding toward slam if his one-notrump opening was based on 16 or 17 points.

West led the king of clubs, East playing the jack, and continued with the queen of clubs, taken by South with the ace. Anticipating no difficulty at all, declarer next cashed dummy's A-K of diamonds, but when East showed out on the second diamond, South unexpectedly found himself with only nine tricks.

Unfazed by this development, he proceeded to make the contract anyway. He cashed the A-K-Q of hearts and A-K of spades, reducing all hands to four cards. At this point, West was known to be holding the J-9 of diamonds and 10-6 of clubs, while South's last four cards were a spade, a club and the Q-10 of diamonds.

Declarer now led a club, and after West collected his two club tricks, he had to lead a diamond into South's Q-10. As a result, South made exactly four notrump.

In effect, West's distribution was an open book after the first six tricks had been played. At trick two, it became known that West had started with six clubs. At trick four, South learned that West had also started with four diamonds, and at trick six, South learned that West had started with precisely one heart. West's two unknown cards therefore had to be spades, and all South had to do while cashing his remaining heart and spade winners was to keep an eye on West's discards.

Tomorrow: Hidden weapon.
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Hawk b-ball squads lose again to Chaps

By **BRIAN MCCORMACK**
Sports Editor

MIDLAND — The Howard College women had a chance to avenge their Jan. 7 home loss to Midland College on Monday, but the Lady Chaparrals hung on to edge the Hawks 63-61 despite a strong effort on the road.

"I thought we played really well defensively," HC Head Women's Coach Earl Diddle said. "We did a good job on their All-American, Achiri Ade, and we were in a good position to win the game, but you've got missed free throws, missed blockouts — that's how you get beat."

HC point guard Marion Lemonnier put up 10 points, Tori Tucker hit 18 and Brittany Aikens had a game-high 20 points, but the Hawks gave up some costly plays at the end, including a three-point basket to put the Lady Chaps up by one just before time expired.

"That three-point shot was a big shot," Diddle said of Midland's late-game rally. "Giving up that shot was a tough play, because if she'd missed, we got the rebound and the game is over."

Despite coming away with a loss, Diddle is pleased with the his team's effort and

remains focused on a strong conference finish.

"I'm proud of the girls and the way they battled," Diddle added. "Every game comes down to three-five possessions. We just couldn't execute down the wire. When you are in conference play, every game means so much. Every play means so much — it's all important. The next game is always the biggest game."

That means Thursday's road trip to Clarendon College — whom the Hawks scored a 22-point home win over in their last meeting — will be the biggest game.

"(Clarendon) just beat Frank Phillips College by 20," Diddle said. "They've gotten better. We will have to play well to beat them."

Howard College will wrap up its four-game road affair against Clarendon and will welcome South Plains College to the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum on Saturday. Tip off is slated for 1 p.m.

MIDLAND — The Hawks led the Chaps 27-25 at the halfway mark Monday and Cameron Forte — one of the nation's leading scorers who is averaging

See **HAWKS**, Page 10



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Howard College's Tori Tucker puts up a shot during Monday's 63-62 loss against Midland College on the road. The Lady Hawks are 3-6 in WJCAC play. Both the Hawk men and women will be on the road for one more game Thursday against Clarendon before returning to host South Plains at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum on Saturday. Games are slated to begin at 1 p.m.

Area Sports Calendar

TODAY

- Boys Basketball**
- Big Spring at Greenwood, 7:30 p.m.
 - Forsan at Tahoka, 8 p.m.
 - Denver City at Coahoma, 8 p.m.
 - Stanton at Lamesa, 8 p.m.
 - Grady at Dawson, 8 p.m.
 - Garden City at Paint Rock, 8 p.m.
 - Sands at Borden County, 8 p.m.
- Girl's Basketball**
- Big Spring at Greenwood, 6:15 p.m.
 - Forsan at Tahoka, 6:30 p.m.
 - Denver City at Coahoma, 6:30 p.m.
 - Stanton at Lamesa, 6:30 p.m.
 - Grady at Dawson, 6:30 p.m.
 - Garden City at Paint Rock, 6:30 p.m.
 - Sands at Borden County, 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY

- Men's Basketball**
- Howard College at Clarendon College, 7:45 p.m.
- Women's Basketball**
- Howard College at Clarendon College, 5:45 p.m.

To submit a calendar item, please call 263-7331, ext. 237, or e-mail sports@bigspringherald.com

Thunder scorch Mavericks, 112-91

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — After two desperation shots and two overtime thrillers, the Oklahoma City Thunder were done playing close games against the Dallas Mavericks.

Russell Westbrook scored 24 points, Kevin Durant had 19 points and 10 rebounds, and Thunder blew out Dallas 112-91 Monday night while avoiding a third straight overtime game between the teams.

"The last time they came in here, they hit us in the mouth early," Durant said. "And I just told the guys that we've got to be the first hitter tonight and we've got to come out with a lot of

energy, and I think we did that."

The Mavericks had tied the first two meetings this season with 3-pointers at the very end, but there was no such drama the third time around.

Oklahoma City led by at least 20 throughout the second half, winning for the 10th time in 11 meetings between the teams since Dallas beat the Thunder in the 2011 Western Conference finals on its way to the NBA championship. That includes a four-game sweep of the Mavs in the first round of last year's playoffs.

Shawn Marion was the lone bright spot for Dallas,

hitting 10 of 14 shots and scoring 23 points. Dirk Nowitzki had 10 points on 3-for-11 shooting after missing the previous two games with a right adductor strain.

The Mavericks finished a four-game road trip 1-3, and now head home for their next five games — their second-longest stretch at the American Airlines Center.

"We don't have any excuses. At this point, that would be lame to blame it on that," said coach Rick Carlisle, who was denied in his first chance to earn his 500th career win. "We got two days of rest. We were in Phoenix for a couple days. Supposedly that air makes you feel

better."

He said the absence of reserve Vince Carter, who was out sick and missed his first game all season, was a factor, but "we've got to play better, too."

"When you put these guys on the open path with catastrophic turnovers, they're going to make you look bad. I think that was it more than anything," Carlisle said.

Kevin Martin chipped in 17 points off the bench for Oklahoma City, which rested its starters in the fourth quarter and got some playing time for seldom-used reserves Perry Jones III

See **MAVS**, Page 10

Documents: Worries about outage before Super Bowl

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Superdome officials warned just months before the Super Bowl that the venue's electrical system could suffer a power outage and rushed to replace some of the equipment ahead of the big game

While the cause of Sunday's 34-minute outage is still under investigation, records released Monday show that Superdome officials were worried in October about losing power during the NFL championship.

Tests on the electrical feeders that connect incoming power from utility lines to the stadium showed decay and "a chance of failure," state officials warned in a memo dated Oct. 15. The documents, obtained through a records request by The Associated Press, also show the utility that supplies the stadium expressed concern about the reliability of the service before the Super Bowl.

The memo said utility Entergy New

Orleans and the Superdome's engineering staff "had concerns regarding the reliability of the Dome service from Entergy's connection point to the Dome."

The memo was prepared for the Louisiana Stadium & Exposition District, the state body responsible for the Superdome.

Authorities then authorized spending nearly \$1 million on Superdome improvements, including more than \$600,000 for upgrading the dome's electrical feeder cable system, work that was done in December.

"As discussed in previous board meetings, this enhancement is necessary to maintain both the Superdome and the New Orleans Arena as top tier facilities, and to ensure that we do not experience any electrical issues during the Super Bowl," said an LSED document dated Dec. 19.

Superdome commission records

show a \$513,250 contract to replace feeder cables was awarded to Allstar Electric, a company based in suburban New Orleans.

A lawyer for the LSED, Larry Roedel, said Monday a preliminary investigation found the replacement work done in December did not appear to have caused Sunday's outage.

Entergy and the company that manages the Superdome, SMG, said Sunday that an "abnormality" occurred where stadium equipment intersects with an Entergy electric feed, causing a breaker to create the outage. It remained unclear Monday exactly what the abnormality was or why it occurred.

The lights-out championship game proved an embarrassment for New Orleans just when it was hoping to show the rest of the world how far it

See **OUTAGE**, Page 10

Real Estate for Rent

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Less Is More with Mercury in Pisces

Cuneiform script, the earliest known form of writing, started with more than 1,000 characters and was eventually refined to fewer than half of that. The modern English alphabet accomplishes much with only 26 characters. The Mercury transit through Pisces will inspire us to simplify our expressions while simultaneously endowing them with richer meaning.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). It seems that lately authority figures are constantly throwing down limits or telling you what to do. It's a sign that you're on the cutting edge and a threat to the old guard. Don't back off now; you're on to something.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's pretty clear that you need more stimulation. There's not enough in your environment now to motivate your hard work. Put yourself in a more demanding or risky situation.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The natural world holds many mysteries and much intrigue should you choose to give it your attention. Today the elements will be kind to you, so step outside to make some detailed observations.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Before you do the dull thing, like dive into your work to the exclusion of all social interaction, fresh air and fun, remember this: Pleasure is useful. All of the most amazing creators you know would concur.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The response you get from people, animals and technology will be of an unexpected if not downright weird variety. Also, they may seem to know you better than you know them, which is a little weird.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Sometimes a partner makes you feel better about yourself and at other times worse. Either way, you must admit, you feel more alive, and that's what it's all about for you right now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You like to think you're a regular kind of person, but like the "regular" people in movies, today you wind up in unusual circumstances that move you to heroic action.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Figuratively speaking, unless you show up with your paints and brushes, the world around you will lack color. If you can say or do "your thing" without hurting another person, you should.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Just because an action is within the law doesn't make it right. You hold yourself to a higher and self-created standard. Usually, you're quiet about this, but the world will be better off if you speak up.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Instead of asking "why," you will ask "why not" and go forward. You will never get an answer to that second question, mostly because there is no reason why you shouldn't act today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You do have a way of putting things. So don't be surprised if you hear your own words echoed in the conversation of loved ones -- proof that they are listening to you even when they don't show it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). If you react without knowing your reasons, the effect will be minimal. But if you know your reasons before you make a move, you'll create your desired effect.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY: (Feb. 5). It's your year to bridge the gaps. Where there is a lack of understanding or knowledge, you'll learn. The cycle of relationship luck over the next seven weeks starts the ball rolling. March shows a

lifestyle upgrade. Like a poker shark, you'll use your talent for reading people to make great money in April. Taurus and Gemini people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 13, 20, 44 and 9.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "The other day, I walked out my front door and startled a bat who had been swinging upside down from the eave something I saw out of the corner of my eye before it flew away. It happened twice in the span of a few hours, so obviously the bat chose my front stoop as a good place to hang out. I'm superstitious. Given the associations with bats, witches and Halloween, I'm guessing this means something bad is going to happen, and I wish it would already so I can stop worrying."

I, too, am superstitious, although I believe it's up to each person to decide what constitutes a good or bad omen. Did you know that the Chinese consider bats to be an extremely good omen associated with wealth and abundance? According to some Chinese fortunetelling methods, if your home is visited by bats, you will soon be blessed with financial luck, as bats gravitate to the most auspicious places. I hope this new interpretation of your bat incident will stop your worries. I challenge you to release any superstitions that cause you to walk around in fear and keep only the helpful ones.

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There's something for everyone in the Big Spring Herald's Classifieds!

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Yanks will support A-Rod, Rivera says

NEW YORK (AP) — Sitting on a stage with their manager and GM during a fundraiser, Mariano Rivera and Mark Teixeira vowed to welcome Alex Rodriguez back to the New York Yankees following the latest drug allegations against the New York Yankees star. Rodriguez is recovering from hip surgery expected to sideline him until at least the All-Star break. The Miami New Times reported last week that Rodriguez is included in records the paper claims show he bought performance-enhancing drugs from a defunct Florida anti-aging clinic. Rodriguez denied the charges. "We have to embrace him. He's our teammate,"

Rivera said. Rodriguez was among a half-dozen major leaguers accused in the report by the alternative weekly and could face a 50-game suspension. He admitted four years ago that he used PEDs while with the Texas Rangers from 2001-03. "He wears that uniform, that New York Yankees uniform, and I have to go out and be there for him," Rivera said. "Besides, he's my friend and I will respect and wait for him to give you the answer that you want." "We're hopeful and we're confident that he's going to come back healthy but you've got to find out," Yankee Manager Joe Girardi said.

OUTAGE

Continued from Page 7

has come since Hurricane Katrina in 2005. But many fans were forgiving, and officials expressed confidence that the episode wouldn't hurt the city's hopes of hosting the championship again. To New Orleans' relief, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said the city did a "terrific" job hosting its first pro football championship in the post-Katrina era. Fans watching from home weren't deterred, either. An estimated 108.4 million television viewers saw the Baltimore Ravens beat the San Francisco 49ers 34-31, making it the third most-viewed program in television history. Both the 2010

and 2011 games hit the 111 million mark. As for possible culprits, it couldn't be blamed on a case of too much demand for power. Meters showed the 76,000-seat stadium was drawing no more electricity than it does during a typical New Orleans Saints game, according to Doug Thornton, the Superdome manager. He also ruled out Beyonce's electrifying halftime performance. She brought along her own generator. Officials with the utility and the Superdome were quick to note that an NFL game, the Sugar Bowl and another bowl game were played there in recent weeks with no apparent problems. Determining the cause will probably take days, according to

Dennis Dawsey, a vice president for distribution and transmission for Entergy. He said the makers of some of the switching gear have been brought in to help figure out what happened. The blackout came after a nearly flawless week of activity for football fans in New Orleans leading up to the big game. Mayor Mitch Landrieu told WWL-AM on Monday that the outage won't hurt the city's chances, and he joked that the game got better after the blackout: "People were leaving and the game was getting boring, so we had to do a little something to spice it up." Sunday's Super Bowl was New Orleans' 10th as host, and officials plan to make a bid for an 11th in 2018.

HAWKS

Continued from Page 7

22 points per game — had a game-high 26 points, but a second half resurgence by Midland College gave them the 74-60 win over HC — its second of the season. No Hawk aside from Forte scored in double-digits. HC Head Coach Mark Adams attributed the loss to inconsistent shooting and defensive play in the second half of play. "We shot very poorly from the three-point line and we were under 50 percent at the free throw line," Adams said. It was a poor defensive effort in the second half, which makes it very hard to win." Also hurting the Hawks were matchup issues. The Chaps enjoyed a height advantage, especially at the guard position.

MAVS

Continued from Page 7

and Daniel Orton. The Thunder have alternated wins and losses for their past nine games, and have lost two in a row only once this season. "A good team usually responds to losses like that. I remember we used to be like that," said Nowitzki, who's

not used to being on a team struggling to contend for a playoff spot. "We responded well," Durant said. "The toughest test is to see how we do the next game. It's easy to do it. ... We've got to see if we can sustain it and keep going the next game." The Thunder charged ahead to stay after Darren Collison headed to the Mavericks' bench with his second foul,

picked up while reaching in against Durant on a made jumper with 4:10 left in the first quarter. Martin had a two-handed, alley-oop dunk and a 3-pointer during a string of nine straight Oklahoma City points, and Hasheem Thabeet's short jumper to start the second quarter made it 31-22 Thunder. Even when Collison — who had a season-high 32 points and hit a tying 3-pointer at the fourth-quarter buzzer in the teams' first meeting this season — returned, the Mavericks could never stop Oklahoma City's momentum. Collison checked back in and immediately

committed a turnover that led to runout layup by Westbrook, and the Thunder kept rolling until their lead reached 27. Oklahoma City hit 12 of its first 16 shots in the second quarter and had outscored Dallas 21-1 on the fast break by the time Durant bounced a slick pass to Martin for a layup on a backdoor cut to make it 61-34. "That always gets us in trouble when we turn the ball over. We're usually not very good when we can't go back and set our defense up. That really, for us, is a recipe for disaster," Nowitzki said. "But even defensively when we had our de-

fense set, we didn't get much going. They got whatever they wanted. They got 3s, they got layups, they got backdoor cuts. We were ball-watching. It was just an all-around tough game." Once the lead got lopsided, tempers started to flare. Kendrick Perkins and O.J. Mayo had to be separated, and referee Ken Mauer issued a technical foul against Perkins after reviewing the play on video. The Thunder protested that Dallas players were using inflammatory language, but Mauer explained that he was limited to video — and not audio — on the replay.

Oklahoma City led by as many as 33 in the fourth quarter.

"We really have matchup problems against Midland," Adams said. "We went back-and-forth with them until about 10 minutes left in the game, but then the bottom fell out and we gave up a lot of easy baskets." The Hawks (19-4, 6-3) will try to get back on track with a win over Clarendon College on the road Thursday. South Plains will be making the trek to Big Spring on Saturday. Game time is set for 3 p.m. at the Dorothy Garret Coliseum. "Our backs are to the wall," Adams added. "We have to start winning, that's all there is to it." *Contact Sports Editor Brian McCormack at 263-7331 ext. 237.*

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