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County transportation advisory board named

By STEVE REAGAN
 Staff Writer

Howard County officials are setting into motion plans to obtain millions of dollars in grant money to help repair area roads.

During their Monday meeting, county commissioners

set the bureaucratic machinery in motion for the county to apply to the Texas Department of Transportation for grant money to help repair county roads damaged by heavy oilfield-related traffic.

Commissioners approved the formation of a five-member

Howard County Energy Transportation Reinvestment Zone advisory board, whose main function will be to oversee the road renovation project.

Board members appointed by the commissioners Monday were Tim Blackshear,

Rodney Bomar, Mark Morgan, Marcus Phillips and Frank Long.

The board will hold its first meeting at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday in the old commissioners meeting room on the second floor of Howard County Courthouse. At that time, the board

is scheduled to elect officers and formally approve application for the grant money.

The grant application must be submitted to TXDOT by mid-March, although county officials are unsure when the

See **COUNTY**, Page 3



HERALD photo/Tommy Wells
 Howard College students Jessica Elder (left) and Kendall Maddox put a smile on their face while playing along with the song 'Happy And You Know It' in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum on Monday evening.

Early voting going well at courthouse

Herald Staff Report

More than 1,000 voters have cast early ballots in advance of the March 4 state and county primary election, officials said.

On Monday, 152 ballots were cast, bring early voting totals to 1,024. That figure represents 6.19 percent of the registered voters in Howard County, Election Administrator Sandra Bloom said.

Early voting for the March 4 primary continues through Friday at the election office, located on the first floor of the Howard County Courthouse.



As expected, Howard College numbers down

Economic upward trend impacts community colleges throughout state

BY LYNDEL MOODY
 Staff Writer

Uncertified numbers show student enrollment dropped by 8 percent in the Howard County Junior College District for the spring semester.

Those figures show a trend of falling enrollment since the district's historic highs of 2010-2011 and 2011-2012, but it is not surprising since the area's economy has been trending upward, Howard College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks told trustees at their monthly meeting Monday.

"When we have a significant

economic downturn, community colleges tend to see an increase in enrollment," Sparks said. "We know the economy started going down in 2008-2009 and that is when we started seeing these peeks. That was across the state."

According to the preliminary numbers given at the board meeting, the Big Spring campus saw 1,725 students

enrolled, a drop of 1.5 percent and Lamesa, 145, making a 7.1 percent decrease. The San Angelo campus saw the largest percentage drop of 13.4 percent with 2,274 students enrolled for the Spring semester. The SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf did see an increase of 7.5 percent with 157 students enrolled.

As a whole, the district

had 4,301 students enrolled. Contact hours also showed a decrease of 10.5 percent with 656,060 logged in.

Sparks added falling enrollment is trending throughout the state in community colleges.

"Of 48 colleges, 37 are showing decreases in enrollment,"

See **COLLEGE**, Page 3

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 Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7331 before 6 p.m. weekdays.



Local students qualify for ExxonMobile Fair in March

Herald Staff Report

Sixteen students from Big Spring schools qualified to compete in the ExxonMobil Texas Science and Engineering Fair to be held next month.

These students earned a slot at the competition after placing well in the Regional Science Fair held on the Uni-

versity of Texas Permian Basin campus, Feb. 14-15.

Individual results are as follows:

High School Division: Physics, Kaegan Baucam, second; environmental science, Andrea Ramirez, second; chemistry, Makaila Phillips and Laquana Gray, tied for first.

Junior High Division: Animal sciences, Trinady Joslin,

first; behavioral/social sciences, Callie Leicht, second and Kloe Mata, third; energy/transportation, Chloe Bustamante, second (also won a "Friends of the Science Fair" special award); engineering: electrical and mechanical; Luke Soldan, third; mathematical sciences; Rowan Colette, second; team, Ranen Wilson and Ivan Delgado,

first; Keana Pena and Ariana Tejerina, second; and Nathan Letz and Manuel Marquez, third.

Big Spring Junior High School sent 18 students, 12 of which qualified for state competition.

Elementary Division: Students who compete in

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COUNTY

Continued from Page 1

funds would be received.

County Judge Mark Barr said Howard is eligible for between \$3 million and \$4 million in grant money.

Officials anticipate using the money on road repair in the northern and southwestern parts of the county — areas where oilfield traffic has been the heaviest.

In other business Monday, commissioners tabled discussion on a burn ban because Tommy Sullivan, chief of the county volunteer fire department, was unable to attend.

Commissioners also heard from a group of homeowners who want to the county to assume maintenance responsibility for privately owned roads east of Big Spring.

The homes are located on D Reid and Clay roads, located off the 11th Place Extension.

Commissioner Donnie Baker said several steps must be taken before the idea is approved.

“I don’t know that everybody is for the idea,” he said. “The county’s not necessarily looking to take on more roads, but I think this is a legitimate request.”

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

From left, Howard County Judge Mark Barr and Commissioners Jimmie Long and John Cline look over a resolution formally approving the county’s participation in a grant program administered by the Texas Department of Transportation. Grant money will be used to renovate county roads damaged by heavy oilfield traffic.

FAIR

Continued from Page 1

the Elementary Division do not advance any fur-

ther. The following students who placed are all from Marcy Elementary School

Michael Stoaks, fourth-grader, first; Teresa Rios, third-grader,

first; Anastasia Maron, third-grader, second; Giselle Holguin, third-grader, third; and Erynn Lasater, third-grader; third.

These students, also

from Marcy Elementary, received the following special awards: Naomi Reyes, third-grader, \$100; Jocelyn Chairez, third-grader, \$100; Adolfo Salinas,

third-grader, \$50; Madeline Slack, third-grader, \$50; and Hannah Joo, \$50, fourth-grader.

State competition will be held in San Antonio at the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center March 20-23.

COLLEGE

Continued from Page 1

Sparks said. “Three years ago there was record enrollment across the state. The economy is changing. Eleven of those are showing increases but they are not significant. In contact hours, 32 showed decreases. Sixteen of those colleges showed an increase but it was pretty flat.”

Sparks contrasted the enrollment numbers with unemployment figures.

“The unemployment rate in the San Angelo area according to December figures was 4.4 percent,” Sparks said. “The state of Texas is 5.6 percent. In the Concho Valley, the rate was 4.3 percent. We think that is reflective of what is happening in our San Angelo campus relative to the non-traditional student population being down significantly.”

Unemployment figures are also trending down in the rest of West Texas. According to figures from the Permian Basin Workforce Commission, Sparks said, Midland has seen an unemployment rate of just 2.8 percent — the lowest in the nation, according to news reports. Odessa has an unemployment rate of 3.4 percent; Dawson County, where the Lamesa campus is located, is at 6 percent and Howard County is

5.2 percent.

“We are seeing numbers down in a lot of our area community colleges,” Spark said. “Western Texas is down 7.8 percent; South Plains, 4.3 percent. Odessa is actually up 2.8 percent, but down in contact hours, Midland’s down 6 percent.”

Sparks did add that the college hopes to bolster enrollment numbers as it heads into a base funding year. The state legislature uses enrollment and contact hours to base funding levels for colleges.

In other business, construction at the San Angelo campus continues to progress in a timely matter despite losing 27 working days due to bad weather, John Parsons, campus dean of facilities of the West Texas Training Center, reported to Howard College trustees Monday.

“We are not panicking. We are still on target to finish the Academic Building on Aug. 13,” Parsons said. “How-

ever, just to be prudent in our planning, we are only scheduling second eight-week courses for the Academic Building just to give us a little bit of cushion so that we have plenty of time to transition from the Training Center to the Academic Building.”

Construction on the exterior for the Academic Building continues as that project moves toward interior work, Parsons added. In other areas of construction, interior work, including lighting, continues on the pre-engineered metal building. The foundation slab for the Student Services Building has been poured and exterior framing is expected to begin sometime this week.

The north parking lot and round-about drive work is complete. The south parking lot base

is complete with pouring of the asphalt scheduled for next month and the truck driving range redesign expected to begin this week.

In other business, trustees:

- Approved a change in the district organizational structure and renewal of administrative contracts. Dr. Amy Burchett, vice president for academic student affairs, will now serve as second in command for the college, Sparks said. Contracts for Brenda Claxton, chief financial officer; Steve Smith, chief business officer; and Parsons were also renewed.
- Approved a 36-month contract with Hudson

Energy Services for a district rate of a combined .0777 cent per kilowatt an hour.

- Rejected a bid for an air handler unit for the Big Spring campus. District officials felt the bid was too high and plans to rebid the project.
- Ordered trustee elections for May.

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3	1	7	9	8	6	4	2	5
2	8	4	7	3	5	6	1	9
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Paula M. Martinez, 85, died Saturday. Funeral Mass will be at 11 a.m. today at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Bobby Dancer, 66, died Thursday. Graveside services will be 3 p.m. Wednesday at Ackerly Cemetery.

Guadalupe Rodriguez, Sr., 66, died Saturday. Vigil services will be 7 p.m. tonight at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral services will be Wednesday 10 a.m. at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will follow at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Trudy Page, 46, died Saturday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Marianne Garmaker, 69, died Sunday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home

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Opinion

“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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A chilling proposal from the left

Any freedom-loving person would be outraged at the attempt by the Federal Communications Commission to inject itself into monitoring the practices of print and broadcast media organizations, but the outrage came almost exclusively from conservatives, which is highly instructive.

But liberals and conservatives are on such different planets that they don't even agree that this development — that only conservatives objected — is instructive, which is also instructive.

The Washington Post was hoist with its own petard in reacting with a subtly pointed headline, “Proposed FCC study of news organizations sparks conservative outcry,” and exposing its own biases rather than those of conservatives.

Simply put, everyone should object to this proposed action, and the fact that only conservatives did shows they are the only ones acting as freedom's guardians. That liberals didn't object is bad but is made much worse by their opinion that conservatives' objection is itself objectionable.

If blindly ideological liberals had a clue, they'd understand that the primary reason conservatives object is not their fear that certain media outlets will be exposed as unfairly conservative. Conservatives strenuously oppose the proposed action because it is such a threat to our First Amendment liberties, and any government that would even casually contemplate such a move is one to be greatly feared — and beaten back.

Of course, conservatives also fear that government monitoring of media outlets would in fact lead to a disproportionate chilling of conservative expression, which is inevitable when those doing the monitoring are guaranteed to be liberals who delude themselves into believing that only liberally minded people are capable of being objective. If you think that is an exaggeration, listen to liberal hosts of the

major networks assessing one another as committed, objective journalists while decrying the bias of conservatives. Their lack of self-awareness is stunning.

But even if conservatives are wrong about this, liberals have nothing to fear from us on this issue anyway, because we are not the ones proposing dangerous ideas to monitor, regulate and suppress speech. They are. In the past 50 years, any serious encroachments on First Amendment political and religious expression have come almost exclusively from the left — from campus speech codes to the Fairness Doctrine to Net neutrality.

Liberals are so intoxicated by their own biases that they don't recognize how absurd it is that they apparently believe they have a legitimate basis to be outraged at the ideological bias of conservative talk radio and the alleged conservative bias of Fox News Channel.

The major news networks — CBS, NBC and ABC — had a monopoly on television broadcast news for decades.

They were almost exclusively liberal — a monolithic force in the gathering, dissemination and reporting of network television news. When CNN came on the scene, it certainly didn't change this liberal monopoly; we're talking Ted Turner — Mr. Jane Fonda — after all.

But with the advent of conservative talk, which was self-admittedly ideological because it was opinion journalism as much as it was news journalism, the liberal establishment went bonkers and cried foul. Liberals invoked the regulatory power of the government through the Fairness Doctrine in an attempt to emasculate this upstart medium because it was a potential threat to their monopoly.

Think about it. Conservatives had no voice for a half-century or more in television news and not much of one in the print media. They complained but never sought to use government to muzzle the glorified propagandists at the major networks. And these people had serious power. Go back and examine Walter Cronkite's influence on the Vietnam War.

Conservatives didn't try to regulate the speech of liberal news outlets, even when they had an unrivaled and unchallenged

monopoly and pretended to be purely objective news outlets while being infected with bias at every stage of the news process. But at the first signs of a serious conservative presence — first with Rush Limbaugh's show and then with Fox News Channel — they screamed bloody murder, and they've been trying to muzzle it ever since.

The conservative blogosphere has just about sent them over the edge.

The liberals' proper remedy to counter conservative talk — as if they needed to, given their continuing dominance on television news — was to start their own liberal shows and compete in the marketplace of ideas. Well, they did, and they failed repeatedly. Then they tried to get Big Brother to re-impose the Fairness Doctrine to “hush Rush.” They've also tried and failed with the maniacally liberal MSNBC to unseat Fox News Channel as the dominant cable network. Such is their frustration at having lost their unchallenged monopoly that even the president of the United States himself takes personal shots at this network — as he does at conservative talk. What a bunch of babies! What a bunch of bullies! What a bunch of Stalinists!

Of all the horrifyingly destructive things this administration is doing to this country, nothing has scared me more in the past five years than this chilling proposal to chill speech.

Liberals are getting more and more brazen in their totalitarian propensities. We shouldn't let our guard down just because this latest effort appears to have stalled. Liberals are patient, tireless and relentless, and they'll try again when they think they can get away with it.

Keep your eyes wide-open!

David Limbaugh is a writer, author and attorney. His latest book, “The Great Destroyer,” reached No. 2 on the New York Times best-seller list for nonfiction. Follow him on Twitter @davidlimbaugh and his website at www.davidlimbaugh.com. To read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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- Letters should be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com or mailed to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721.

DAILY PRAYER

May we remain diligent about reading Your word, Lord, for our life.

Amen

Mass transit is for the young

I frequently ride one of those cheap buses connecting my small city with a big city. At first, I expected my fellow passengers to be largely poor and old — the folks who can't afford to drive or are unable to.

I was wrong, wrong, wrong. Most are able-bodied, youngish adults taking the bus to save something more precious to them than money — their time. Like me, they spend the hours zoned out on their preferred media, thanks to mobile phones, tablets, laptops and the bus's Wi-Fi (when it works). Earplugs cocoon our brains in customized sound.

The passengers are surrounded by so many wires and power cords that the scene resembles the intensive care unit in a hospital. (For obvious reasons, there's always a jockeying for seats near the electrical outlets.)

When I drive, my Honda Accord provides primo telematics — streaming audio, hands-free phoning and a wealth of satellite radio channels.

These things ease but don't solve the big problems of driving: the crashing boredom and stress.

And as wonderful as these media offerings can be, accessing them still distracts from the road. (We're not talking about a

radio with an on/off button.)

Time is the ultimate luxury in this age of constant communication, and driving can be a monstrous waste of it.

The surge of suburb-raised adults into America's walkable cities reflects, in large part, a growing aversion to captivity in traffic.

Whether young and hip or old or poor, urbanites often don't own a car. They need alternative means to go distances their feet won't take them.

The trend is real. Vehicle-miles traveled by those ages 16 to 34 fell 23 percent from 2001 to 2009, according to the National Household Travel Survey. In the same period, these younger people increased passenger-miles on public transportation by 40 percent.

A study by the Frontier Group noted that mass transit is “more compatible with a lifestyle based on mobility and peer-to-peer connectivity” than is driving. Bus and train passengers can text, email, work and play games. Meanwhile, many states are banning use of mobile devices while driving, as, frankly, they should.

Other factors linking this group to mass transportation are apps making it a cinch to find routes and schedules — and to score reservations.

They also alert travelers to delays in departures or arrivals, much as the airline apps do. When wheels are needed for special tasks, car-sharing services provide cheap access.

Urban planners have long ob-

served that many suburbanites also want mass transit alternatives for getting into town.

It was no surprise that as Dallas extended its light rail system into the open spaces, developers built housing around the stops.

Given the growing numbers of Americans seeking mass transit, you'd think moving more money its way would be enlightened policy.

Not to our right-leaning friends muttering about a “war on cars.”

To quote the 2012 Republican Party platform: “In some States with elected officials dominated by the Democratic Party, a proportion of highway funds is diverted to other purposes. This must stop.”

True, my intercity bus was privately owned. True, it traveled on highways. But for most of its passengers, public mass transit was what got them to the bus and, at the other end of the trip, to their final destination.

Very few city people can do all their business on foot. Modern mass transit — key to the revival of American downtowns — serves all ages and income groups.

A final word to Washington politicians: Give your drivers a day off, and take public transportation. You'll find a lot of new voters in those seats.

Follow Froma Harrop on Twitter @FromaHarrop. She can be reached at fharrop@gmail.com. To find out more about Froma Harrop, visit the Creators Web page at www.creators.com.



DAVID LIMBAUGH



FROMA HARROP

Bird Poop: When the wren falls ...

As she approached her driveway, the woman noticed a small bird huddled in the middle of the street. Fearing the worst, she stopped her car.



BEBE McCASLAND

Walking toward the tiny bundle of feathers, she hoped it would still be alive. After slowly stooping to pick it up, she was startled when it resisted. After protesting its sudden captivity, the little bird finally seemed to realize the futility of such an effort. It no longer scratched against her skin with its beak and feet. Once inside her house, she placed the bird inside the only box she had. Then she returned to the street to move her car into the driveway.

Her call about the welfare of the bird was

filled with adjectives regarding its appearance. Only about five inches long, with a not-much-longer wingspan, the bird was grayish-brown on top. Underneath, it was much lighter. Over each eye was a distinctive white stripe. Long was the word she chose for both its bill and tail.

Rounded on the end, the tail, she said, had some feathers on the outside that were tipped with white. Across the length of the tail were black streaks or bars. "It doesn't weigh a thing," she continued.

From the sounds of activity coming from her box, the woman said she thought it was exploring the sides and bottom for any means of escape. She had already experienced this same behavior when the little bird was in her hand.

An hour later, the woman arrived with her avian passenger. Her lifting the cumbersome box from the rear seat of her vehicle brought a chuckle to our day. The largest of hawks would have been comfortable inside.

Instead, she had what we already had determined was a Bewick's wren.

This bird was one that would flit between bushes or trees, and was not usually seen in prolonged flight. Was a roadrunner involved? An encounter with an automobile seemed unlikely. But for some reason the bird had been found in the street. We could only counter the resulting effect by observation and time.

Having placed logs vertically and horizontally within our longest container, we released the little being inside. Investigating every inch of rough bark and new surroundings, our active guest displayed the typical, physical behavior of its species.

Its tail was in constant motion. For a few seconds, it would be raised above its back. The next, it was jerked sideways.

Hopping about the enclosure, it probed for insects under the bark with its long slender bill. If it had been in our side yard, it could have investigated the inside of last year's yucca pods for spiders and hidden larvae.

To meet its dietary needs, I emptied frozen bags of crickets. Al-



Flicking its tail up and sideways, the Bewick's wren (pronounced bue-ick) is constantly searching for insects.

Courtesy photo

most always among our shipments were smaller insects that this bird could enjoy. Though every package presented an arduous search, it was worth the effort. Hunger overcame the bird's angst.

What we didn't have for the wren was a flight facility.

Uncomfortable with turning it loose, I called Midge Erskine at Eos Wildlife Sanctuary in Midland. She readily agreed to place it outside in an area where the wren could display its readiness for release. Flight and the ability to hunt were primary.

In spite of February having cold mornings and warm afternoons, insects continued to thrive in the Permian Basin. The day we chose was perfect for our taking the bird to Midge's facility. As we drove west, my thoughts were on the Bewick's wrens in our own neighborhood. Soon, they would be

nesting.

One year, a pair had chosen a new wren house we had installed. In the midst of raising their young, a coachwhip had threatened the nestlings by climbing a nearby mesquite. Slowly, the snake extended its head and part of its body beyond a limb. It lacked only about an inch of reaching the entrance to the house.

As it continued to try to extend its body further out on the limb, the coachwhip had gained the attention of the parents. Fussing over this invasion, their frantic racket had alerted me as I emptied our trash.

My running toward the elevated nest frightened the snake. To watch it turn and slither hurriedly down the tree was memorable. After it disappeared under the fence, and I retreated, the parents returned to the nest.

In the years since, we have enjoyed the

crisp, expressive tunes from male wrens in our area. Clearly floating through early morning, the songs sound like cheep, cheep, che-we-e-e followed by chip, chip, te-da-a, te-dee.

Their nests sites have also made our neighborhood more interesting. Block-tile fences, mailboxes, garages, tiled roofs, discarded cowboy boots, and flowerpots have offered endless accommodations for these cavity-seeking birds.

In Midge's outside facility, the Bewick's quickly mastered the length of the enclosure with its rapid wing beats.

When she released it, she knew it would find its place, whether in an urban setting or out in our seemingly endless mesquite and cactus country.

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

Sudoku Answer on Page 3

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.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Merrily We Roll Along

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A K J 5
♥ K J 9 6 3
♦ A 8
♣ 6 2

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

EAST
♠ 9 3
♥ A 10 8 2
♦ 7 4
♣ Q J 7 5 4

SOUTH
♠ Q 8 7 6 4 2
♥ —
♦ K Q 10 5 3
♣ A K

The bidding:
North East South West
1♥ Pass 1♠ Pass
3♠ Pass 4♣ Pass
4♦ Pass 5NT Pass

Opening lead — ten of clubs.
Grand slams are comparatively rare, occurring in approximately one deal out of 100. But when the occasion arises and it becomes clear to either member of the bidding side that the possibility of a grand slam exists, good bidding technique is generally required.

Consider this case where North opened one heart and South responded with one spade. North

raised to three spades (indicating 16 to 18 points and four spades), leaving South in a position where he could not be sure whether there was a small slam, a grand slam or only a game in the combined hands.

In an effort to learn more about North's hand, South next bid four clubs, showing first-round control of clubs and interest in a slam.

North cooperated by bidding four diamonds, indicating first-round control of diamonds. This was very good news to South, who now visualized a potential grand slam.

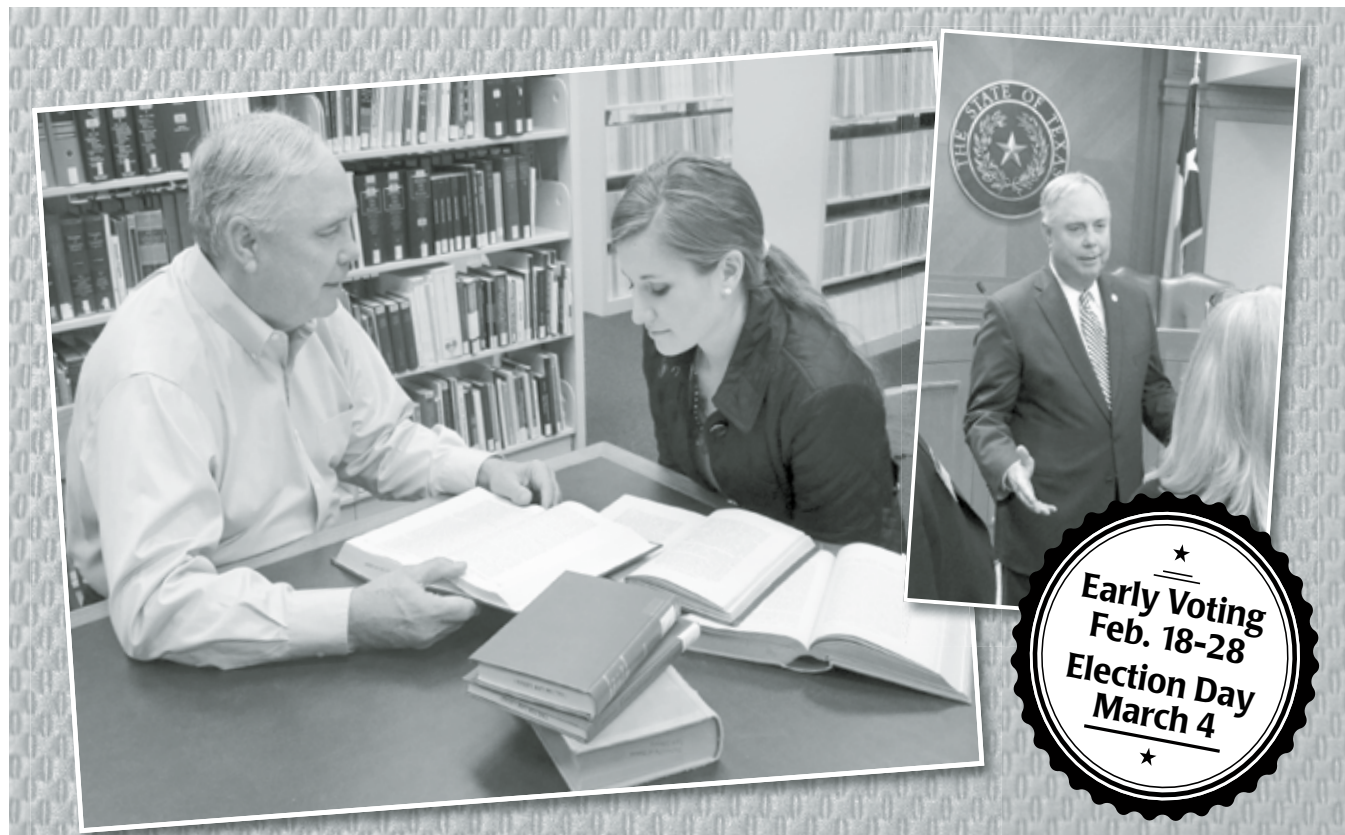
Accordingly, South leaped to five notrump. This was the "grand slam force," directing North to bid seven spades (the trump suit agreed upon earlier) if he held two of the three top trump honors. (With only one top honor, North would bid six spades.)

North duly responded seven spades, which was easily made. True, North-South together had only 30 high-card points, but that didn't stop them from making all the tricks.

South needed three specific cards from partner — the A-K of trumps and ace of diamonds — for the grand slam to become a feasible contract. He used the necessary tools (four clubs and five notrump) to extract that information, and was well-rewarded for his efforts.

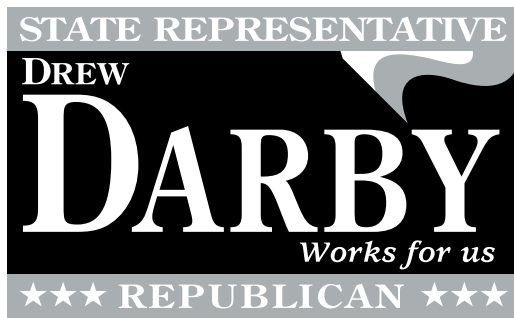
Tomorrow: Sound reasoning helps a lot.

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Drew Darby: Champion of education

- Secured more state funding for area colleges and universities to help reduce tuition burden on students and parents.
- Co-authored and passed reforms to standardized testing.
- Co-authored and passed reforms to allow for technical, career, science/math, and fine arts degrees in high school graduation plans instead of a single, college-only path.
- Passed increased funding of the Teacher Retirement System.
- Passed accounting reforms in Teacher Retirement System to make it actuarially sound.
- Fought to lower administrative overhead in our schools and increase resources for students and teachers.
- Opposes federally mandated education standards; fully supports local control.



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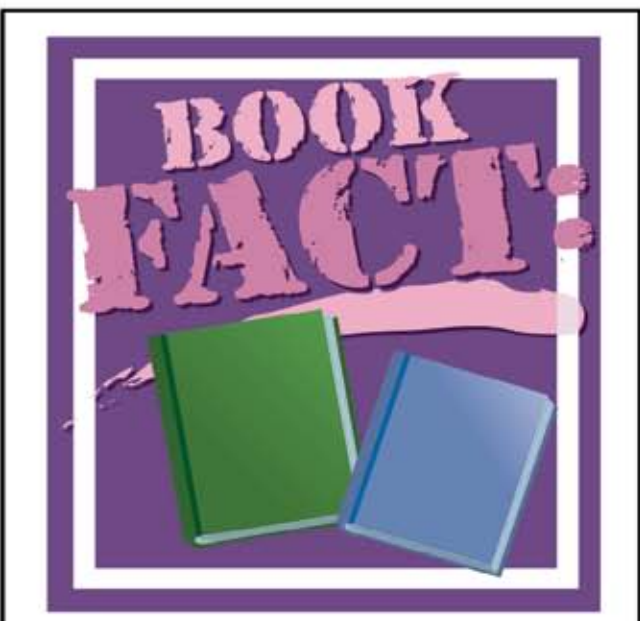
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ANSWER: DIARY OF A WIMPY KID

What's the Difference?

There are four things different between Picture A and Picture B. Can you find them all?



Answers: 1. Boy's hair is red 2. Bowl is now blue 3. Phone is missing 4. Extra bar on seat next to boy

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- 1844: THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC GAINS ITS INDEPENDENCE FROM HAITI.
- 1951: THE 22ND AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION IS RATIFIED, LIMITING PRESIDENTS TO TWO TERMS.
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book forming part of a larger work

How they SAY that in...

- ENGLISH:** Word
- SPANISH:** Palabra
- ITALIAN:** Parola
- FRENCH:** Mot
- GERMAN:** Wort

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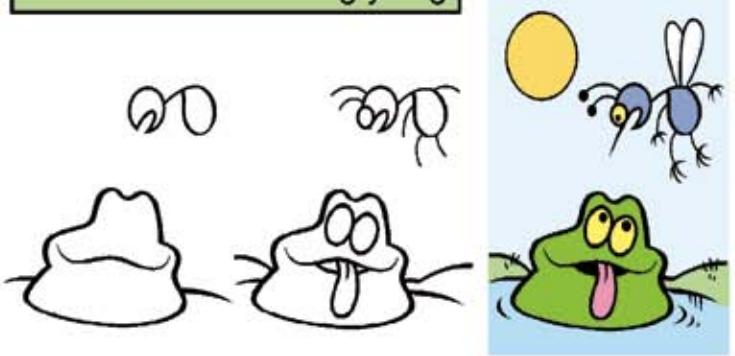
BY BOB WEBER JR

Rachel Rabbit was on her way to the market when a gust of wind blew a \$50 bill out of her hand and over to Slylock Fox's side of the ravine. How will Slylock safely return the money?



Solution -- Slylock will put the money inside a snowball and throw it across the ravine to Rachel Rabbit.

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Which of these animals never eats plants?

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- 2) Frog
- 3) Hippo
- 4) Koala
- 5) Spider

Answer -- (2)

Spot six differences between these panels.



Answer -- Flame, star, bear's eyes, leaves, owl and snowcap.

The fourth Find the six differences collection is here. Send \$4 (check/money order in U.S. funds made payable to King Features) with your name and address to Six Differences No. 4, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

Down in 'The Dorothy'

Loss to NMJC leaves Hawks in must-win mode in finale

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

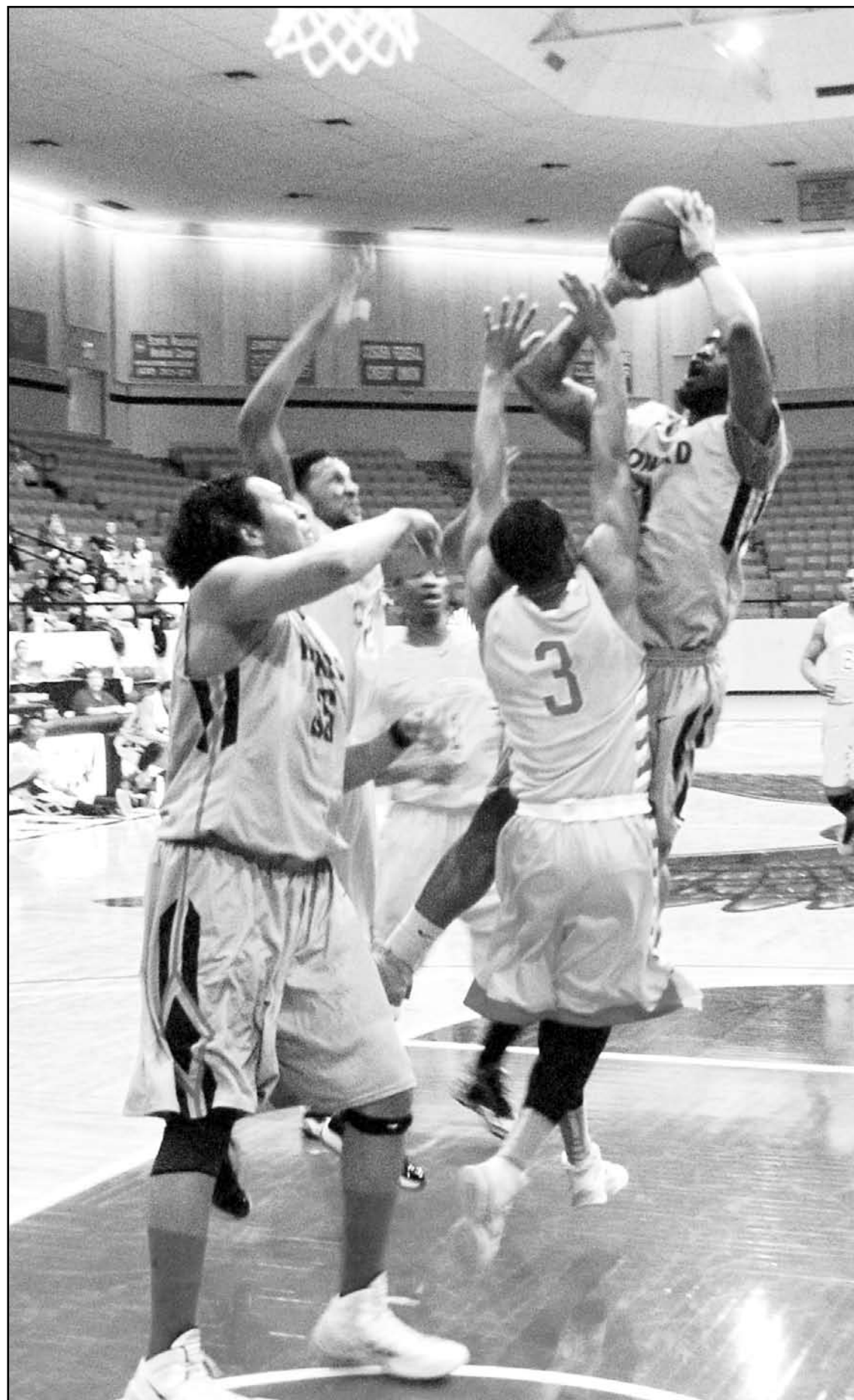
The Howard College men's basketball team found itself right where it didn't want to be after the final buzzer on Monday night. Beaten and with their backs against the wall.

The New Mexico Junior College Thunderbirds held off a late rally by the Hawks to claim a crucial 63-62 win in front of a large crowd in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum on Monday. In so doing, the Thunderbirds clarified Howard College's postseason hopes ... win on Thursday in Snyder or watch from the bleachers.

"You have to give credit to New Mexico," said HC head coach Scott Raines. "They came in and did what they had to do. I thought we fought hard, but they fought just a little harder. They out-rebounded us by 10 and had fewer turnovers. I'm convinced if you can do those two things, you'll win 92 percent of your games. They did that and they won."

With the loss, New Mexico Junior College improved to 11-4 and moved into a tie for second with the Hawks in the Western Junior College Athletic Conference standings. Both teams enter their final games on Thursday with 11-4 records, although NMJC would win any tie by virtue of its two head-to-head wins over Howard.

The loss was double tough for the Hawks. Although they are tied for second in the current standings, the team finds itself facing a must-win situ-



Herald photo/Tommy Wells

Howard College freshman Travis Charles shoots over the top of NMJC's Rashaun Madison during the first half of the Hawks' 63-62 loss on Monday in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

See HAWKS, Page 13A



Herald photo/Tommy Wells

Sophomore Sarah Stinnett leaps past two NMJC defenders for a shot during the second half of their WJCAC game on Monday. The Lady Hawks suffered a 60-42 loss.

Lady Thunderbirds deal HC women a loss

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

The New Mexico Junior College Lady Thunderbirds moved a step closer to claiming the Western Junior College Athletic Conference women's basketball championship on Monday night in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

And they Howard College Lady Hawks weren't too thrilled about it.

NMJC used a 33-24 run in the final 20 minutes of play to claim a 60-42 victory and spoil the Lady Hawks' "Sophomore Night" activities.

With the win, New Mexico Junior College improved to 12-1 in conference play and heads into its final game against Clarendon needing a win to claim the WJCAC title. Odessa College trails the Lady Thunderbirds in the standings

by one game.

New Mexico didn't find the Lady Hawks' defense easy early in the contest. The Lady Hawks limited NMJC to just four shots from the field in the first 10 minutes of the game.

Unfortunately for the Lady Hawks, they had an even tougher time scoring in that span. Howard misfires on eight of its first 11 shots in the first quarter. The team managed just two shots from the field - both by LaTanya McMaryion - in the first 10 minutes and trailed 10-4.

Jade Jones scored three points midway through the first half and pulled the HC women to within three, at 10-7, with 8:22 to play in the half.

NMJC went on a 17-11 run from there and took a 27-18 lead into the half.

See HOWARD, Page 13A

Lady Steers go 2-2 at Stephenville tournament

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

The Big Spring High School Lady Steers' softball team's trip to Stephenville this past weekend went anything but the way they had hoped.

Big Spring went 2-2 in the annual Honeybee Invitational, which was held Thursday

through Saturday in the Stephenville City Park.

Big Spring opened the tournament with a narrow 2-1 loss to Stephenville in the first round of Pool Play on Friday.

"We got off to a rough start, committing seven errors in four innings of play," said coach John R. Sparks.

Big Spring rebounded nicely from the loss. The BSHS girls pounded out an 18-1 win over the Granbury JV in a their next game, and then closed out pool play with a 15-0 win over Lampasas.

With a second-place finish in their pool, the Lady Steers advanced to face Brownwood

in the first round of the championship bracket on Saturday. Brownwood claimed a 6-4 win and eliminated the BSHS squad from play.

Sparks said Ysabel Solis and Mariah Sarmiento both did a great job for BSHS, each pitching in two games.

See GIRLS, Page 14A

Injury clouds Buffs' outlook

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

The Forsan High School Buffaloes, without a doubt, are one of the more talented basketball teams remaining in the region as they head into the third round of the Class A, Division I playoffs this evening.

Just how talented will they be when they hit the floor of the court at Lubbock Cooper High School is the main question. Forsan could be forced to play without the services of Matthew Mims, who was injured earlier this week.

Mims reportedly injured a knee earlier and was hobbled during practice. According to Forsan ISD sources, Mims could be a game-time decision, pending clearance by physicians.

The Buffaloes are scheduled to face off against Farwell in the regional quarterfinals tonight at 7:30 p.m. The winner will advance to face either Shamrock or Memphis.

The Grady Wildcats and Sand Mustangs will also be in action tonight. The two Crossroads-area powers will be part of a Class A, Division II playoff doubleheader at Frenship High School, starting at 6 p.m.

Grady, the District 6-A champion, will face Meadow, the District 5 runner-up, at 6 p.m. Grady enters the game at 21-6. Meadow is 22-6.

The winner of the Grady-Meadow game will play either Anton or Nazareth in the Region I quarterfinals.

Sands, which finished second to Grady in the District 6-A race, will meet Petersburg at 7:30 p.m.

The Sands-Petersburg winner will advance to play Texline next. Texline defeated Happy on Monday, 73-38.

In other area action, the Garden City Bearcats and Ira Bulldogs will square off tonight in a regional quarter-final showdown. The game is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. in the Junell Center on the campus of Angelo State University in San Angelo.

Big Spring High School basketball fans will have plenty of reason to keep an eye on the Class 3A playoffs tonight as BSHS district stalemates Abilene Wylie and Monahans will both be in action.

Wylie, the District 4-3A champion, will face off against Lubbock Stycador starting at 7 p.m. in Lamesa.

Wylie is 27-3 this season. Monahans, which finished second in the 4-3A race to Wylie, will play Shallowater at 7 p.m. in Lamesa.

Shallowater ended the Steers' playoff run on Friday by taking a narrow 65-57 victory in Andrews.

Shallowater is 30-4 overall.

Snyder cancels junior high meet

The Big Spring Junior High School boys' and girls' track and field teams will have to wait a bit longer to stretch their legs. The teams' meet scheduled for Feb. 27 in Snyder was cancelled by SISD officials recently.

The Big Spring teams will still be competing in the BSISD Junior High Meet on March 5 at Blankenship Field.

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FOR SALE 2003 Corolla, good condition, \$8,000.00 call after 1:00pm for information 432-267-9993.

Legals

NOTICE OF FILING
KBST-AM, KBST-FM, KBTS-FM
On February 7, 2014, Rhattigan Broadcasting (Texas), LP filed an application with the Federal Communications Commission in Washington, D.C. for the Commission's consent to the assignment of license of AM Station KBST, operating on 1490 kHz in Big Spring, Texas, FM Station KBST, operating on 95.7 MHz in Big Spring, Texas, and FM Station KBTS, operating on 94.3 MHz in Big Spring, Texas. The application proposes the assignment of licenses of KBST and KBTS from Rhattigan Broadcasting (Texas), LP to Kbest Media, LLC. Rhattigan Broadcasting Partners (Texas), Inc. is the general partner and Rhattigan Broadcasting, LLC is the limited partner of Rhattigan Broadcasting (Texas), LP. Michael Rhattigan, Jerome Rhattigan and Guy Gill are the managing members of Rhattigan Broadcasting, LLC. Michael Rhattigan is an officer, director and shareholder and Jerome Rhattigan and Guy Gill are shareholders of Rhattigan Broadcasting Partners (Texas), Inc. Kustumaker Sooda, Nandlal Patel, Malinda E. Flenniken, Mike Abusaab and Lion's Den MS, LLC are the officers, members and manager of Kbest Media, LLC. Mike Abusaab Sheila Abusaab are the manager and member of Lion's Den MS. LLC. Copies of the application, amendments and related materials are available for public inspection at 608 Johnson, Big Spring, TX, #8177 February 14, 18, 20 and 25, 2014

Jupiter/Uranus Situation

The square of Jupiter in Cancer and Uranus in Aries reminds us that much good comes out of a happy home. But if we're not happy at home, it's very difficult to succeed anywhere else. Tend to your relationships and get them in good working order. Do what's necessary to bring harmony into your house.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Does love have a place in your current practical, organized mood? Yes! As long as it fits into your schedule. Rest assured, if you have a good plan, spontaneous things can still happen.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). One of your role models isn't fit for the job. This is especially true if you have made the common mistake of casting a movie star in that position. Seek guidance from those with real-world accomplishments.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Usually, before you act, you like to think about who will be affected by the action and what is likely to happen next. But today you'll feel so strongly that processing is more of an afterthought.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Since you can only rise as high as your comfort level, why not get comfortable with a new and higher level? Go where you'll be surrounded with beauty, elegance and good taste.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Take the time to organize your efforts and test a few different methods to be sure you've chosen the best one. You'll operate quickly once you have a proven system in place.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The only danger is in giving up too quickly. Forge ahead. Put your ideas in fine, presentation-ready form. The boss is likely to be impressed with what you come up with.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The reason you don't readily judge others is that you can never be sure what you would do were you faced with the same pressures. For this afternoon's circumstances, it will be best to use discernment instead of judgment.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You are generous, but you also realize that giving can be an imposition. You'll consider carefully the wants and desires of a person before you make a move.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You feel like a child of chance, and in many ways you are. Much of what happens, the good and the bad, is out of your control. That's why it's so important to take charge of all that actually is in your realm of influence.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There are some things you just have to trust, and you're better off not attempting to hedge your bets and not making a big fuss about it. The faith that demands proof isn't faith.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll stick with your preferred crew -- those who seem to bring

out your most natural state of being -- and enjoy the company of those who understand and accept the real you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Imagining exciting times ahead will be half of the fun. Believe it. The preparations for the future will count. And the best part is that you'll also enjoy the process of getting ready.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 25). What you do for others comes full circle, and you'll be celebrated big time this month. In March, you'll take charge of a part of your life that has been difficult to get a handle on in the past. April and May feature you in a leadership position, and you'll be well paid for it, too. June and September are the most adventurous. Scorpio and Leo people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 22, 19, 29 and 21.

MERCURY RETROGRADE Rx: This Mercury retrograde is almost over. If you've come this far relatively unscathed, it would be a shame to be snagged by some kind of misunderstanding this late in the game. Here are three more stellar communication tips.

1. Wants and needs come first. The immature way to communicate is to come out with whatever information happens to be on the top of your head. Mature communicators understand that not everyone should have to hear that. Each person you talk to has wants and needs. What can you give them that would be of value because it's amusing, funny, crucial, interesting, loving or extremely relevant to

that person's wants and needs?

2. Consider each person's role. People get in trouble when they communicate in a way that's outside of the role they are supposed to be playing. When a boss talks as a close friend or a romantic partner speaks like a parent would, it can cause confusion and awkwardness. Stay within the communication style appropriate to the relationship.

3. Put your ego last. Most communication fails happen simply because one person wants recognition, validation, acknowledgment and praise more than he or she wants a genuine connection with another person. It starts with empathy.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Pisces actress Emily Blunt will play the Baker's Wife in the all-star cast of the film version of the beloved musical "Into the Woods." Blunt was born when the sun and Mars were in sensitive Pisces, and her Cancer moon adds to the psychic water-sign energy flowing through her natal chart. Lucky planet Jupiter in outgoing Sagittarius bodes well for her international appeal.

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

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Annie's Mailbox



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

Dear Annie: My wife of nearly 30 years and I are having some difficulties. Recently, she asked whether I wanted to go to Rome for a business conference. She thought we could see the sights afterward. I said yes, as I'm recently retired and have plenty of time.

However, a few weeks later, I was uninvited. She said I wouldn't enjoy the weather. Last week, I discovered that she is staying an extra day with someone else. She made these plans long before she disinvited me. Yesterday, she told me that a woman from work is staying with her for an extra day. I've never heard this woman's name before. These meetings are held once a year in different

locations, but this is the first time she has stayed any extra time.

Additionally, over the past year, her behavior at work has changed. She has started wearing makeup and nicer clothes. She mentions taking walks with some guy or another and having coffee or lunch with some other guy. I'm sure taking a walk with Peter or having coffee with Paul and casual conversations with Larry are innocent enough. But I've noticed that these same guys only interact with attractive women like my wife.

My wife doesn't see a problem, but I know how guys think. I worry that my wife is looking beyond me. Am I worrying about nothing? -- *Anxious in Davis, Calif.*

Dear Anxious: The fact that your wife wants to be more attractive at work is not necessarily a problem. A lot of married people enjoy flirting for the attention and have no interest in pursuing things further. However, when your wife disinvites you to a trip to Europe and then stays an extra day, we would be concerned that she intends to party. Things can get out of hand when you are far away from your spouse and want to impress your work friends with how wild and crazy (and

young) you are. It's time to have an honest conversation with your wife about your concerns. If she refuses to explain herself, counseling is the next step.

Dear Annie: I have a big problem. I am only 49 and have been married twice. My first wife passed away 10 years ago in May, and I am still mourning her death.

My new wife of seven years doesn't think it's normal that I still think about my first wife all the time. Can you help me deal with her death so I can move on and live a better life? -- *Still Grieving*

Dear Still: There is no timetable for grief, but if you haven't moved much beyond your initial stages of mourning after 10 years, it's time to seek professional guidance. It is normal to think about your first wife on occasion, but it is not normal to obsess over her, cry daily, turn her closet into a shrine or constantly compare her to your current wife. If you are doing any of these things, please ask your doctor to refer you to a grief counselor.

Dear Annie: The letter from "Two Scared Parents" motivated me to speak up. People don't seem to understand that alcoholism is an illness. I am an

alcoholic with many years of sobriety. I attend AA meetings and have been to Al-Anon meetings.

People whose loved ones have other serious diseases research to find out all they can about the disease. They are usually eager to learn in order to help. So why is it that when it comes to the deadly disease of alcoholism, the family complains, makes excuses and takes no action? They expect the sick person, the one who cannot think clearly due to alcohol in the brain cells, to be logical. When I ask, "Why don't you go to Al-Anon?" they tell me it's not their problem.

I realize it's hard to understand that it is a disease. Please, dear friends, go find out all you can about alcoholism. Take action to help yourself. -- *Anonymous*

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please email your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 737 3rd Street, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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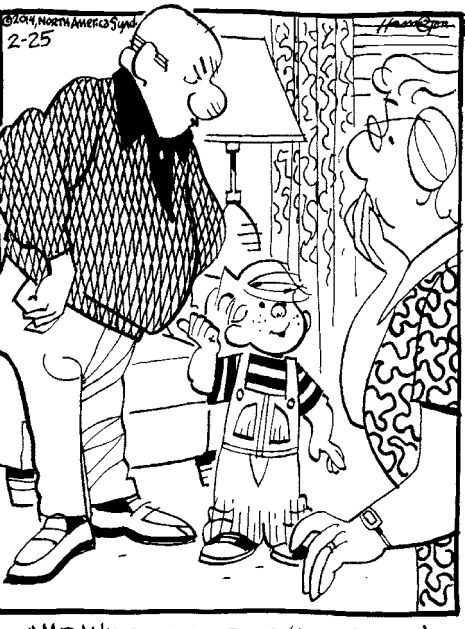
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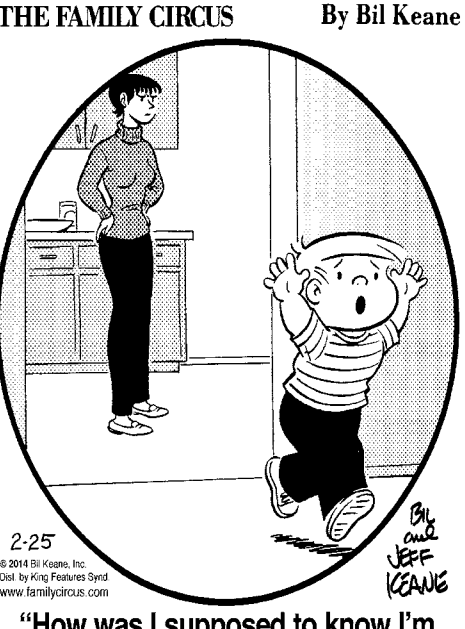
	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5:PM	News ABC	Casa	Two Men	News	Noticias	News	Seinfeld	Justice	Martha	Rifleman	Amish Mafia		Ink Master	Rizzoli & Isles	Being Mary Jane	Jessie	Around	SportsCenter
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Mentir Para Vivir	Big Bang	News	Caso Cer-rado	News	Seinfeld	Called	WordGirl	Rifleman	Amish Mafia	Movie: Gladiator, Connie Nielsen	Ink Master	Rizzoli & Isles	Being Mary Jane	ANT Farm	College Basketball	College Basketball: Florida at Vanderbilt.
7:PM	The Bachelor	Por Siempre	Glee (DVS)	NCIS (DVS)	La Impostora (SS)	The Voice	Big Bang	Upd	Amer. Expe-rience	Gilligan	Amish Mafia		Ink Master	Rizzoli & Isles	Being Mary Jane	Dog		
8:PM		Lo Que la Vida	New Girl	NCIS: Los Angeles	En Otra Piel (SS)	About-Fisher	Big Bang	Light of the Southwest	Frontline	Heroes	Amish Mafia			Rizzoli & Isles	Being Mary Jane	Good Luck Charlie	College Basketball	College Basketball: Indiana at Wisconsin.
9:PM	Mind Games	Qué Pobres	Mod Fam	Person of Interest	Camelia La Texana	Chicago Fire	Cougar	Big Bang	Ice Warriors	Taxi	Clash of the Ozarks	Game of Arms	Ink Master	(:01) Perception	Being Mary Jane	Austin		
10:PM	News	Impacto	Arsenio Hall	News	Noticias	News	Conan	With Schol-ars	Architect	Twi. Zone	Amish Mafia	Game of Arms	Tattoo	(:02) Rizzoli & Isles	Being Mary Jane	ANT Farm	Olbermann	SportsCenter
11:PM	Jimmy Kim-mel Live	Noticiero	How I Met	Letterman	Titulares	Tonight Show	Conan	Holmes	World	Perry Mason			Tattoo	(:03) Perception	Being Mary Jane	Good	Olbermann	SportsCenter
12:AM	Extra	Ni Contigo, Ni sin Ti	Raymond	Ferguson	Camelia La Texana	Seth Meyers	Conan	Holmes	Ministerios	The Un-touchables	Amish Mafia	Movie: Road House, Sam Elliott	Tattoo	(:04) Ha-waii Five-0	Wendy Wil-liams	Shake It	Basket	SportsCenter
1:AM	Paid	Conducta	Law & Order: SVU	Ent	Paid	(:07) Today	Movie: Angels in	Light of the Southwest	Hitchcock Hr.	Amish Mafia		Game of	Tattoo	(:04) The Mentalist	Movie: The Perfect Deck	Deck	NASCAR	SportsCenter

DENNIS THE MENACE



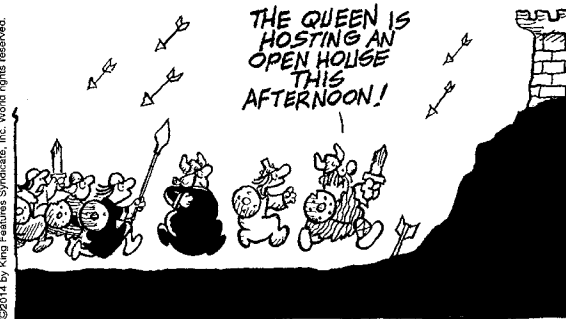
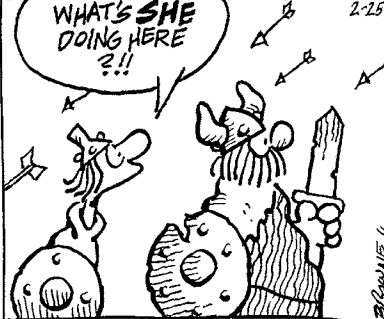
"MR. WILSON NEEDS TO 'LIGHTEN UP' IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

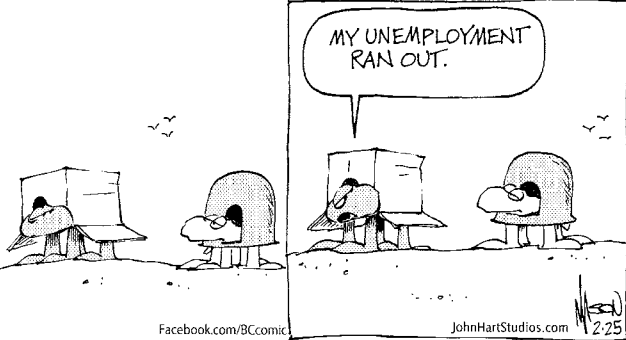
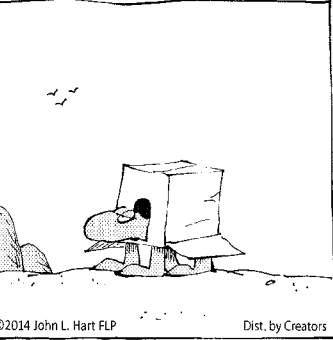


"How was I supposed to know I'm old enough to know better!"

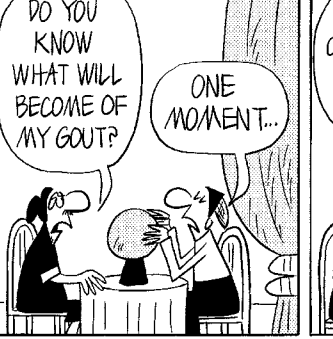
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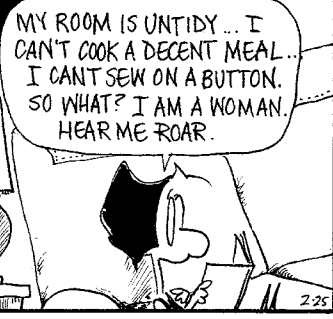
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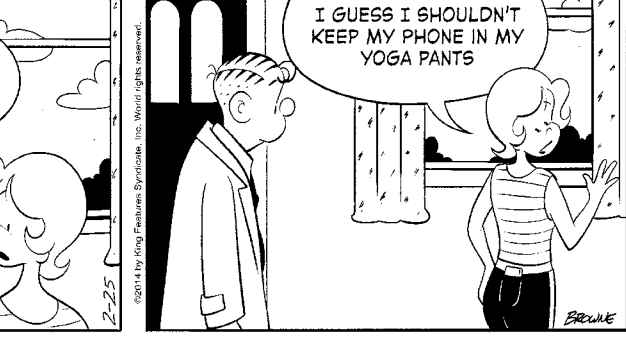
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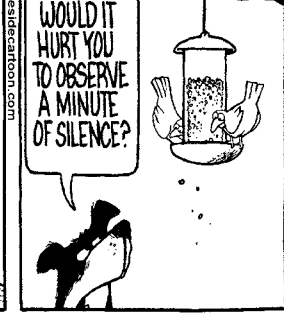
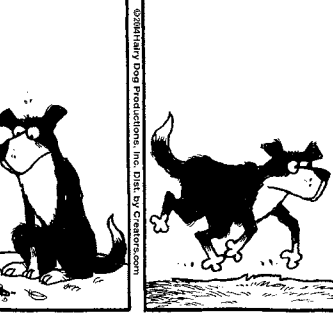
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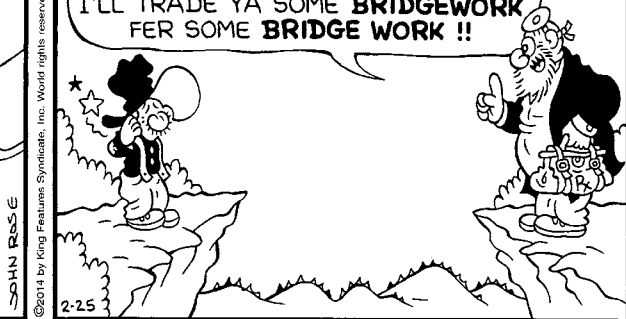
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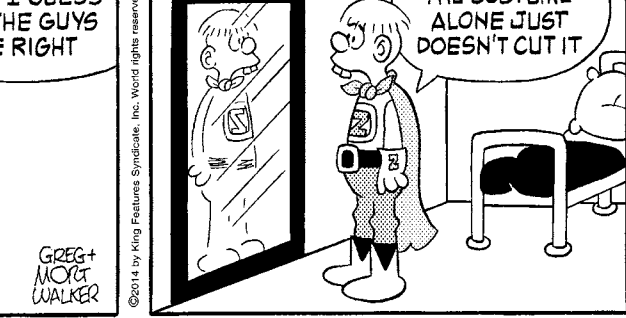
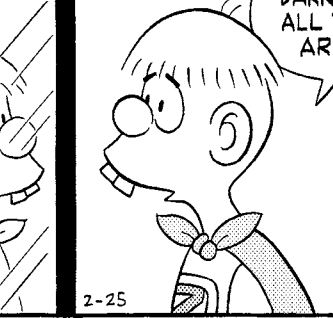
THE OTHER COAST



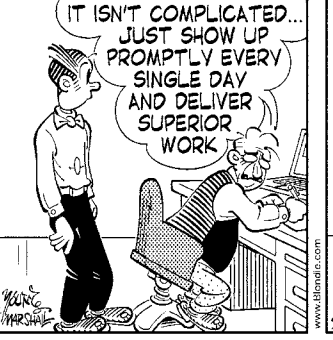
SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Feb. 25, the 56th day of 2014. There are 309 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Feb. 25, 1964, Muhammad Ali (then known as Cassius Clay) became the world heavyweight boxing champion as he defeated Sonny Liston in Miami Beach. (The victory was scored as a technical knockout when an injured Liston failed to answer the bell for the seventh round.) On this date: In 1836, inventor

Samuel Colt patented his revolver. In 1901, United States Steel Corp. was incorporated by J.P. Morgan. In 1913, the 16th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, giving Congress the power to levy and collect income taxes, was declared in effect by Secretary of State Philander Chase Knox. In 1914, Sir John Tenniel, the illustrator of Lewis Carroll's "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" and "Through the Looking-Glass," died in London three days before his 94th birthday. In 1922, French serial killer Henri Landru, convicted of murder-

ing 10 women and the son of one of them, was executed in Versailles (vehr-SY'). In 1943, Allied troops reoccupied the Kasserine Pass after clashing with German troops during World War II. In 1954, Gamal Abdel Nasser became Egypt's prime minister after the country's president, Mohammed Naguib, was effectively ousted in a coup.

Answer to previous puzzle

GLOBE	DALE	AHEM
RAVEN	RUIN	WOVE
AVERT	ATAD	ABET
MARGIN	INFOR	ERROR
COT	AID	
STEED	CARD	BUS
APEX	ALUM	GLARE
COMPETIT	IVE	EDGE
HOPON	SIDE	AGED
ENE	DATE	GAPED
PIG	BAR	
BORDERLINE	CASE	
PLANE	NEAT	NASAL
ABCS	DANE	AMISS
EYES	ALES	SENSE

Newsday Crossword

GOOD CHEER by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 ___ the crack of dawn
- 5 Something to eat
- 9 Fair-minded
- 13 Secured, as gift wrapping
- 15 Rescue
- 16 Norway's capital
- 17 Scent
- 18 At that time
- 19 Shakespearean king
- 20 Bar's evening promotion
- 22 Grads
- 23 Spending limit
- 24 Caribbean music
- 26 Bleak
- 30 Copier powder
- 31 "Where are you?" response, maybe
- 32 Route
- 33 Whitish gemstone
- 37 Cross the goal line
- 38 In good health
- 39 Nimble
- 40 Oscar winner for Moonstruck
- 41 Recycling receptacle
- 42 2,000 pounds
- 43 ___ truly (letter sign-off)
- 45 Separated
- 46 Bird's feathers
- 49 Snaky swimmer
- 50 Mechanical man
- 51 Optimistic aspect
- 57 Shout of triumph
- 58 Round of applause
- 59 Lazy ___ (revolving tray)
- 60 Venetian blind part
- 61 Female choir voice
- 62 Current fashion
- 63 Ancient legend
- 64 Cat's cry
- 65 Bank charges
- 7 Winter outerwear
- 8 Family room
- 9 Pirate flag
- 10 Deplete
- 11 Closes loudly
- 12 Upper body
- 14 Preschool facility
- 21 In the pink
- 22 British brew
- 25 ___ minute now (very soon)
- 26 Shape of a puck
- 27 Fraction of a foot
- 28 Loafer or sneaker
- 29 What May is, so they say
- 30 Same-age siblings
- 34 Actor Brad
- 35 Skin soother
- 36 Extend credit
- 38 Deep-discount event
- 39 Statistics examiner
- 41 Wiretap
- 42 "___ sesame!"
- 44 Granola grain
- 46 Light-bending crystal
- 47 Menial
- 48 WWII sub
- 49 Fund, as a scholarship
- 52 "Do ___ others..."
- 53 Ride a wave
- 54 "That's clear now"
- 55 "Great" dog
- 56 Ceases
- 58 Sandwich meat

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20TH ANNUAL SNYDER FISH-A-THON

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POND IN SNYDER**

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HAWKS

Continued from Page 7A
ation in their final game against Western Texas on Thursday. A win would give HC at least the No. 4 seed in the Region V Basketball Tournament. A loss, however, could leave Howard College in a tie with Western Texas and Odessa College - and on the outside looking as both OC and Western Texas would own the tie-breakers.

The Hawks didn't look as if they would find themselves in a "win or go home" situation for much of the contest. Howard College dominated the first five minutes of the second half and built a 7-point lead.

Leading by three at the half, the Hawks hit stride quickly at the start of the second. Travis Charles and David Joseph both scored points early in the frame to help HC weather two quick shots from the floor by New Mexico. From there, Charles and Demeco Blue gave the Hawks a lift.

Charles pushed home a shot jumper from the baseline with just under 16:30 to play, and then looked on seconds later when Blue cleaned up a missed shot and pushed back an offensive rebound that staked Howard to a 43-36 lead with 15:49 to play.

Unfortunately for the Hawks, New Mexico answered right back. The Thunderbirds reeled off a 9-0 run - which included a pair of three-pointers - over the ensuing five minutes and took a 45-43 lead.

NMJC extended its lead a little from there. New Mexico came away with a steal by Jeff Newberry, who raced the length of the floor for an uncontested dunk and a 52-49 advantage with 7 minutes left in the game.

Jalin Barnes came up big for the Hawks seconds later. The freshman guard took some of the air of the Thunderbirds' sails. Just 23 seconds after Newberry's dunk, Barnes took a pass on the wing and drained a three-point shot that knotted the score at 52-52.

Moments later he added to the Hawks' mo-

WJCAC Standings

Men		
Team	Conf.	Overall
x-South Plains	12-3	25-4
Howard College	11-4	23-6
New Mexico JC	11-4	23-5
Odessa College	10-5	22-6
Western Texas	10-5	22-7
Frank Phillips	5-10	15-14
NMMI	3-12	13-14
Clarendon	3-12	8-20
Midland	3-13	11-18

mentum by nailing the back end of a two-shot opportunity from the free throw line to give Howard College a 53-52 edge.

Joseph tacked on a running layup seconds later and ballooned the HC lead to three, at 55-52, with just under 4 minutes left in regulation.

New Mexico fought its way back, however. The Thunderbirds used an 9-5 run over the next three minutes to grab a seemingly comfortable 61-57 lead. They stretched their lead to 62-57 with 5.5 seconds left on a dunk by 6-foot-10 post Chris Boucher.

The Hawks managed to create some excitement in the waning seconds.

After Boucher was whistled for a technical foul on his dunk, Joseph took advantage of the gift by going to go to the line for two free throws. Then, after the Hawks had inbounded the ball, the sophomore point guard put up a three-point shot that found nothing but net, and cut the Hawks' deficit to one, at 63-62, with sevenths of a second left.

A second miracle finish by the Hawks didn't materialize. Howard was unable to foul quick enough on the ensuing inbounds pass to stop the clock.

The loss, although damaging to the Hawks' postseason hopes, could

work in Howard College's favor said Raines.

"We have to learn there is fighting and there is competing. We fought hard, but they competed a little better than we did," he said. "We saw what kind of intensity we need to play with every game."

NMJC, now 23-5 for the season, got off to a quick start against the Hawks. The Thunderbirds opened the game with a 7-0 spree, including a three-point bomb by Jeff Neverson just 19 seconds into the contest.

Charles made sure the Thunderbirds' lead didn't get any larger. The HC freshman led an 8-0 run by pounding out the next six points. Joseph finished off the run with a pair of free throws that staked the HC men to an 8-7 lead with 15:16 left in the first half.

The Thunderbirds stayed close from there. Boucher knocked down a pair of attempts from the charity strip at the 6:08 mark to help NMJC rally for a 25-23 lead.

The Hawks responded to the challenge. Sparked by a three-pointer from Darius Johnson, Howard College closed out the first half with an 116 run and took a 34-31 lead into the half.

For the game, the Hawks had three players finish in double figures offensively. Joseph paced the HC attack with a team-high 20 points. Charles and Barnes added 16 and 12, respectively.

Boucher led all NMJC scorers with 20.

As a team, the Thunderbirds outrebounded Howard College by a 41-31 clip.

With the loss, Howard College fell to 23-6 for the season.

HOWARD

Continued from Page 7A

As a team, the HC women struggled offensively in the first half, making just five of their 30 shots from the floor.

Sarah Stinnett helped the Howard College offense come alive in the second. She scored all of her team-high points in

the final 20 minutes.

McMaryion and Jones tallied nine points apiece.

Erisha Talley and Briana Casas also played well for the Lady Hawks, Talley netted six points, while Casas dished out a team-leading six assists.

With the loss, the HC women fell to 12-16 overall, and to 3-10 in WJCAC play.



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GIRLS

Continued from Page 7A
Overall, the Lady Steers struggled with their focus in the tournament, he said.
"We just did not seem focused in our two losses, making too many errors, and not doing the little things that are going to make us successful," said Sparks.
Despite the losses, Sparks said the team could use the tournament to its advantage.
"We are going to learn

from this and go get the next one," he said.
The Lady Steers are scheduled to face Coahoma tonight, beginning at 4:30 p.m. at the BSISD Softball Complex. The BSHS and Coahoma junior varsity teams will lead off the action. The varsity teams will follow at about 5:30 p.m.
The Lady Steers will see their next tournament action this weekend when they compete in the "Best of the West" softball tournament in Snyder.
The lady Steers will open play on Thurs-

day with a first-round matchup against Graham at 4 p.m.

Big Spring will play two games on Friday, facing Perryton at 10

a.m. and Pecos at 4 p.m. Big Spring's final game of the round-robin event

will be against Snyder, starting at 4 p.m. on Saturday.

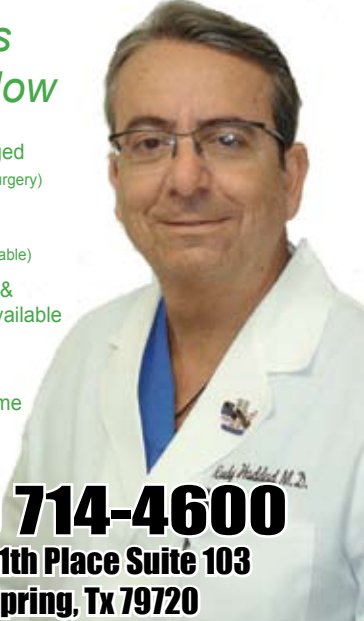
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