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# BIG SPRING HERALD

**TUESDAY**

**FEBRUARY 10, 2015**



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## Bill Crooker dead at 91

*Ex POW was county GOP trailblazer, as well as driving force behind Ports-to-Plains, health clinic*

**BY LYNDEL MOODY**  
 Staff Writer

William B. "Bill" Crooker is being remembered today as a man of wisdom and a visionary who was tireless in his efforts to help Howard County. Long-time Howard County Commissioner Crooker died Monday at his home in Big Spring. He was 91. "He was instrumental in so

many of the different things in Howard County and the way things came about," said Howard County Judge Kathryn Wiseman. "I remember in 1999 when he brought blueprints to the Road Administration Department and sat down with the road administrator at that time and talked about Port-to-Plains and the impact it would have on

Howard County. He was instrumental on getting other counties to give us money to prepare for the Ports-to-Plain corridor. He was tireless in his efforts for Howard County, and we really valued his advice and goals. He will be sorely missed." Crooker, the first Republican elected to county-wide office, served as commissioner

for Howard County Precinct 3 for 40 years before his retirement in 2008. He was born in White Plains, N.Y., and joined the U.S. Army Air Corp after the outbreak of World War II. He served at the Bombarrier School in Big Spring before shipping off to Europe. See **CROOKER**, Page 3



**CROOKER**



Lisa Lopez, left, and Donna Wennik of Faye's Flowers are shown with some of the Valentine's Day gifts available at the store.

## The business of love

Valentine's Day is a time for romance, but it's also one of the busiest times of the year for some firms

**By JULIE BASS**  
 Staff Writer

What to buy that special loved one on Valentine's Day? Valentine's Day, which will be celebrated Saturday, is a day to show your love and appreciation for those special people in your life. Among the most common ways to do that are with a bouquet of flowers, candy or a stuffed animal. Like just about every florist in the country, Faye's Flowers on Gregg Street will be up to its collective necks in Valentine's Day requests. It has already received more than 200 orders before the week started and expects to have around 1,000 before the close of

business Saturday, Co-owner Mary Schuelke said. It will come as no surprise that the most popular flowers of the season are roses. Schuelke said the shop receives about 400 dozen roses in advance of Valentine's day and stores them in refrigerators to await arrangement and delivery. Since most of the orders are for delivery, friends and family come in to help Mary and her daughter Heather, who co-owns the store. Mary has a few words of wisdom to pass on to the shoppers if they want a timely order:

- Order ahead of time, if possible.
- Have the gift delivered to the person's work address so the re-

ipient has a better chance of getting to them quickly. • A reliable phone number is essential in case the driver needs to make special arrangements prior to delivery. And if you think your face lights up when you get a special gift from that special someone, imagine how the delivery person feels. Schuelke said the drivers enjoy getting to see the look of surprise and a smile spread across the face of the recipient. Those two other Valentine's gift standby — cards and jewelry — also are available locally. Dora Hernandez, manager of See **LOVE**, Page 3

## Among the elite

*Big Spring band members earn all-state honors*

**BY LYNDEL MOODY**  
 Staff Writer

Big Spring High School band students Nick Conner and Alex Rivera are heading to San Antonio on a mission: The duo plan to perform just a little bit better than last year when they compete against the best musicians in their class at All-State Band. As for Conner, his dream is to earn one See **BAND**, Page 3

## Choir trio listed with state's best

**BY LYNDEL MOODY**  
 Staff Writer

Three Big Spring High School choir students will be heading to San Antonio this week to join the best musicians in the state at the Texas Music Educators Association's All State Choir. "I am extremely excited to go," said high school senior Michael Mathews, who plans to continue on with music after graduation by pursuing a degree in music performance and music business in college. See **CHOIR**, Page 3

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# Obituaries

## Elida (Lolly) Juarez



Elida (Lolly) Juarez, 65, of Big Spring, died Thursday, Feb. 5, 2015, at Midland Memorial Hospital. Vigil service will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 9, 2015, at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with Deacon Johnny Arguello, officiating. Burial will follow at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

She was born on April 13, 1949, in Big Spring, Texas, to Juana and Amador Flores. She has been a lifetime resident of Big Spring. She was a homemaker most of her life but at a young age she worked at the Settles Hotel. She enjoyed gardening and taking care of her grandchildren. She was a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

She is survived by her husband, Joe Juarez of Big

Spring; five sons, Joe Juarez Jr. and wife, Diana, David Juarez and wife Dahlia, Johnny Juarez, Donny Juarez and wife, Katrina, and Michael Juarez and wife, Eugina, all of Big Spring; her mother, Juana Flores; one sister, Lorina Chavarría and husband Joe of Odessa; four brothers, Jesse Flores and wife, Rosa, of Big Spring, Esquiél Flores of Big Spring, Raul Flores of Dallas and Antonio Flores and wife, Amanda, of Big Spring; 18 grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

She was preceded in death by her father, Amador Flores and a sister, Elena Mier.

Pallbearers will be Joe Juarez III, Ricky Juarez, David Juarez Jr., Johnny Juarez Jr., Marcos Juarez, Michael Juarez Jr., John Mendez. Honorary pallbearer will be Zeke Flores III.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersand-smith.com](http://www.myersand-smith.com)

*Paid obituary*

## William B. 'Bill' Crooker

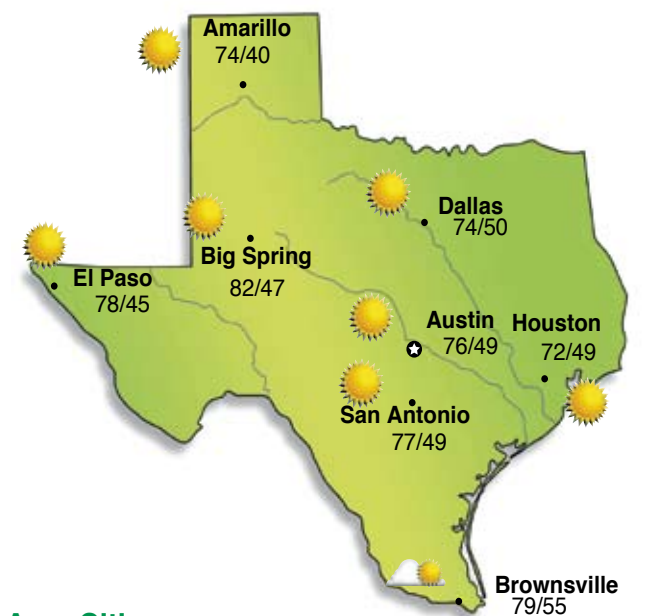
William B. "Bill" Crooker, 91, of Big Spring, died Monday, Feb. 9, 2015, at his residence. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

### Local 5-Day Forecast

Wed 2/11	Thu 2/12	Fri 2/13	Sat 2/14	Sun 2/15
<b>82/47</b> Sunny. High 82F. Winds SW at 10 to 20 mph.	<b>65/39</b> Mostly sunny and windy. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the upper 30s.	<b>60/39</b> Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the upper 30s.	<b>71/41</b> Mainly sunny. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the low 40s.	<b>70/39</b> Sunshine. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the upper 30s.
Sunrise: 7:33 AM Sunset: 6:27 PM	Sunrise: 7:32 AM Sunset: 6:28 PM	Sunrise: 7:31 AM Sunset: 6:29 PM	Sunrise: 7:30 AM Sunset: 6:30 PM	Sunrise: 7:29 AM Sunset: 6:31 PM



### Texas At A Glance



### Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	80	48	sunny	Kingsville	79	53	sunny
Amarillo	74	40	sunny	Livingston	70	45	sunny
Austin	76	49	sunny	Longview	67	43	sunny
Beaumont	69	43	sunny	Lubbock	81	43	sunny
Brownsville	79	55	pt sunny	Lufkin	72	45	sunny
Brownwood	80	46	sunny	Midland	81	47	sunny
Corpus Christi	73	53	sunny	Raymondville	80	55	sunny
Corsicana	73	49	sunny	Rosenberg	72	46	sunny
Dallas	74	50	sunny	San Antonio	77	49	sunny
Del Rio	79	50	sunny	San Marcos	77	49	sunny
El Paso	78	45	sunny	Sulphur Springs	68	48	sunny
Fort Stockton	82	51	sunny	Sweetwater	81	48	sunny
Gainesville	71	48	sunny	Tyler	69	47	sunny
Greenville	70	47	sunny	Weatherford	76	51	sunny
Houston	72	49	sunny	Wichita Falls	78	47	sunny

### National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	57	33	sunny	Minneapolis	29	22	snow
Boston	29	14	pt sunny	New York	38	20	pt sunny
Chicago	28	23	cloudy	Phoenix	81	54	sunny
Dallas	74	50	sunny	San Francisco	65	48	sunny
Denver	61	28	mst sunny	Seattle	54	42	rain
Houston	72	49	sunny	St. Louis	47	34	sunny
Los Angeles	76	58	sunny	Washington, DC	46	28	sn shower
Miami	75	53	sunny				

### Moon Phases

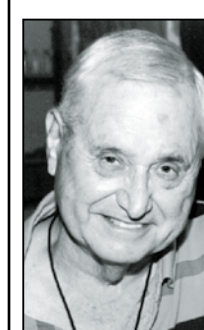


### UV Index

Wed 2/11	Thu 2/12	Fri 2/13	Sat 2/14	Sun 2/15
5	5	5	5	5
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

## Charles Driver

September 9, 1943 – February 5, 2015



Charles Driver, 71, of College Station, passed away on Thursday, Feb. 5, 2015, at St. Joseph Hospital in Bryan with his family at his side. A time for family to receive friends will be held from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 10, at Hillier Funeral Home, 2301 East 29th Street in Bryan. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 11, also at the funeral home,

with Cash Fields officiating. Burial will follow at College Station Memorial Cemetery in College Station, Texas.

Charles was a member of First Christian Church of Big Spring, Texas. He was born Feb. 9, 1943, in Fond du Lac, Wis.

He graduated from Big Spring High School in 1961. He attended Sul Ross State University. Charles served in the US Army as a medic. He retired from the Texas Department of Criminal Jus-



[www.hillierfuneralhome.com](http://www.hillierfuneralhome.com)

tice in 2001.

Charles loved animals, nature, the outdoors, and wildlife, but most of all he loved his family and friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Curtis and Charlene Driver.

Charles is survived by his wife of 47 years, Louise; son and daughter-in-law, Shannon and Brandy Driver; grandchildren, Emily, Austin, and Hunter Driver, all of College Station, Texas; and brother, Handley Driver.

Charles was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He will be greatly missed.

Please share memories and tributes to Charles at [www.hillierfuneralhome.com](http://www.hillierfuneralhome.com).

*Paid obituary*

# Police, Sheriff

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- LEONARD ANTHONY AGUINAGA, 26, of 1018 Ridgeroad was arrested on a warrant for criminal mischief, less than \$20,000 impair/interrupt public service.
- ADAM JAMES FLORES, 20, of 1104 E. 14th St. was arrested on charges for assault on a family/household member and intentionally/recklessly impeding normal breathing or circulation.
- LARRY DALE KING, 31, of 1607 Virginia, was arrested on charges for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.
- JACOB IAN STRAIN, 35, of 1019 Nolan, was arrested for a warrant from another agency.
- JESSICA LYNN BURDEN, 22, of 2911 N. Moss Lake Road, was arrested on charges of possession of marijuana, less than 2 ounces.
- MARSHALL L. COKER, 31, of 1429 E. 6th St. was arrested on charges of possession of marijuana, less than 2 ounces and failure to report name/address change.
- STELIOS DEMETRIOU, 67, was arrested on charges for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.
- GABRIEL ANTONIO LOPEZ, 21, of 500 NW 9th St. was arrested on charges of possession of marijuana, less than 2 ounces.
- NOEL GARCIA II, 33, of 625 McEwen St. was arrested on a warrants for bail jumping/failure to appear, issuance of a bad check, and a warrant from another agency.
- ATHEA RYANNE NALL, 30, of 1108 Lamar St. was arrested on a warrant for forgery by check/credit card.
- MARTIN ANTHONY RAMIREZ, 24, of 1308 Ridgeroad Dr. was arrested on a warrant for criminal mischief, more than \$50 but less than \$500.
- THEFT was reported in the 2000 block of E I-20,

Hwy 176, 600 block of W I-20, and the 2600 block of Fairchild Dr. and the 1600 block of Gregg St.

- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 8000 block of N. Service Rd. 1 and the 1300 block of Lincoln Ave.
- ASSAULT was reported in the 11700 block of Perdue Ave., 100 block of N. 1st St. and the 1600 block of Martin Luther King.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 1300 block of Park St.
- MINOR ACCIDENT was reported 300 block of Main St.
- MAJOR ACCIDENT was reported at Hwy 87 and Hearn.
- DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE was reported in the 1000 block of N. Main St.
- HARRASSMENT was reported in the 3000 block of E. I-20 and the 3000 block of W. Hwy 80

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

- Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 69 inmates at the time of this report
- LEONARD ANTHONY AGUINAGA, 26, was booked by the BSPD on a warrant for criminal mischief impair/interrupt public service
- NOEL GARCIA II, 33 was booked by the HCSO on warrants for issuance of bad check, bail jumping and fail to appear, and a capias warrant for chained dog.
- ADAM JAMES FLORES, 20, was booked by the BSPD on a warrant for assault on a family/household member impeding breath/circulation.
- ATHEA RYANNE NALL, 30, was booked by HCSO on a warrant for forgery financial instrument (two counts)
- MARTIN ANTHONY RAMIREZ, 24, was booked by HCSO for a warrant for criminal mischief, more than \$50 but less than \$500.
- JACOB IAN STRAIN, 35, was booked by BSPD on a warrant for parole violation.

See, **POLICE**, Page 3

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# CHOIR

Continued from Page 1

Mathews is joined by junior Hannah Morgan and freshman Ranen Wilson. The trio qualified for the prestigious honor after competing against students in their region and area last semester.

"I expect to hear some great singing," said Wilson, who said he plans to become a forensic anthropologist once he finishes his high school and college studies. Morgan, who has another year of high school and has been involved with music since the age of 7,

said she is considering a career in the medical field.

The three singers are taught by high school choir instructor Ger-shom Garcia.

According to the TMEA website, beginning Wednesday all-state students will have about three days of rehearsals directed by nationally recognized conductors during the convention. The All-State Choir ensemble is scheduled to perform in front of thousands at the convention, Saturday.

Contact Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by citydesk@bigspringherald.com.



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody  
All-State Choir qualifiers Michael Mathews, left, Hannah Morgan and Ranen Wilson will head to San Antonio this week to join the best choir students in the state by participating in three days of rehearsals ending with a performance in front of an audience of thousands Saturday at the Texas Music Educator's Association annual convention.

# CROOKER

Continued from Page 1

His plane was shot down and Crooker served time as a POW in Germany.

After the war, he married Joyce, a Big Spring native, in 1945. He went to work as a personnel manager at Cosden Refinery and in 1968 was approached by a group of people to run for political office.

It was a point of pride, Crooker once said, that he was the first Republican elected to office here.

One of his lasting achievements for Howard County was helping to bring to fruition the Highway 87 bypass construction project, which had been a long-time stumbling block on development of the Ports-to-Plain corridor in the area. Crooker served on the original Ports to Plains committee.

"Bill was a great

American," said U.S. Congressman Randy Neugebauer, who served as the chairman of the original Ports-to-Plain committee. "We lost a great American. Howard County and Big Spring lost a dedicated public servant and I lost a friend. Dana and I are saddened by his sudden loss and our hearts go out to his family. Bill was an earlier partner in Ports-to-Plains when it was just being talked about. He committed on that early. Bill was truly a servant leader."

State Rep. Drew Darby (R-San Angelo) also extended his condolences.

"It is an honor to memorialize this outstanding public servant and World War II hero who was an integral part of Big Spring and West Texas," Darby said on the floor of the Texas House today. "His leadership will be greatly missed."

In addition to recognizing members of How-

ard County on Howard County Day at the Capitol, Rep. Darby passed a resolution in honor of Commissioner Crooker.

In April 2014, a groundbreaking ceremony was held on the four-lane, divided truck relief route to help relieve truck traffic especially those carrying hazardous contents from downtown Big Spring in anticipation of increased traffic from trade between the United States, Mexico and Canada.

"Today is one of those I-can't-really-believe-this-is-happening days," Crooker said at the time of the event.

Ports-to-Plains is a highway corridor that will facilitate transposition of manufactured goods from Mexico through West Texas to Colorado and ultimately to Canada and the Pacific Northwest. Big Spring currently falls along the corridor since it follows along on Highway 87. The proposed

corridor would connect to Mexico from Laredo, Texas, which is home to one of the busiest ports — land or sea — in the United States.

"Bill was a committed person to the community and had a vision of the future. We are going to see his long-time vision come to pass in years to come," said Big Spring Mayor Larry McLellan. "His work on Ports-to-Plains, serving on the Howard County Commission Court and his involvement in the community and dedication helped to make our city and county a better

place."

Early on the multi-decade process to bring the corridor through Big Spring, many who worked with Crooker said he was met with resistance on the idea but the former commissioner persisted diligently.

"The moment I remember most about Bill was after (State Sen.) Kel Seliger was elected. He and Kel came here and talked about Ports-to-Plains," recalled Gloria McDonald, former Big Spring city council member and currently on the Ports-to-Plains board. "It was like push-

ing a string up hill, but Bill pushed through everything and kept the faith. He had such a vision, but nobody saw it but him."

For several years, Crooker worked to found a county health clinic to serve low income families. That clinic opened in 2012. The dental clinic there is named after him.

Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

Contact Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234, citydesk@bigspringherald.com.

# BAND

Continued from Page 1

chair higher than last year, but don't be fooled. It's a mighty big chair.

The high school senior placed second last year at All-State band tryouts and hopes to cap off his high school career by being the best trombone player in his class.

He has already reached a milestone of sorts.

This is Conner's fourth return to All-State band competition. According to Rocky Harris, band director, Conner is the only student in recent Big Spring High School

band history and possibly in its entire history to accomplish that feat.

"I did feel a lot more pressure this year," Conner said. "What is harder than making the All-State band the first year is the second year and so forth. Of course, at tryouts I was real nervous. I tried to relax and make sure I had everything prepared. I went in there and kept straight to it and the results were fantastic."

Conner and Rivera earned their spot on the All-State band by competing against musicians in both regional and area tryouts held earlier this school year.

Rivera, a junior and euphonium player, is returning for a second year and also hopes to improve his standing from last year. He earned ninth chair at the 2014 All-State tryouts. Like Conner, Rivera is eyeing a chance at first.

"Hopefully, I go for first chair," Rivera said. "If I don't (get it) I want to do my best. I am grateful to return. I was a little more nervous at tryouts (this time) because I wanted to make it a second time. I wanted to be a returner, and I just went in there with a clear mind and did my best."

# LOVE

Continued from Page 1

Suggs Hallmark, said that the store has been very busy lately getting ready for Valentine's Day. Greeting cards are a big seller, but the store also carries a variety of gifts, such as pre-made gift baskets in different sizes and styles, candy, teddy bears, figurines, balloons and more.

Blum's Jewelers has a variety of jewelry ready for Valentine's Day. According to owner Greg Brooks, the store's top

selling item is a jeweled rose — a genuine rose covered in a colorful lacquer and trimmed with 24 karat gold. Another popular item this year, is the "Rhythm of Love" necklace that contains a diamond that contin-

ues to move, making it sparkle constantly.

Contact Staff Writer Julie Bass at 263-7331, ext. 232.

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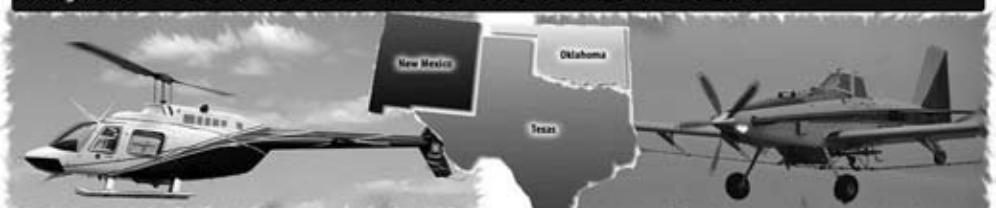
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8	9	7	4	1	5	6	2	3
5	4	6	2	8	7	3	1	9
3	2	1	5	4	9	8	7	6
9	7	8	1	3	6	5	4	2
7	8	9	6	2	4	1	3	5
1	5	4	3	9	8	2	6	7
2	6	3	7	5	1	4	9	8

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# POLICE

Continued from Page 2

•MARSHALL LOUIS COKER, 31, was booked by BSPD on charges of possession of marijuana, less than 2 ounces and a warrant for capias warrant for failure to report change of address/name

•ANNA HOFFPAUIR, 33, was booked by HCSO on a warrant for order of modified conditions of community supervision

•JESSICA LYNN BURDEN, 22, was booked by BSPD on charges of possession of marijuana, less than 2 ounces.

RONALD BRENT

DALTON, 50, was booked by Glasscock on charges of public intoxication.

•GABRIEL ANTONIO LOPEZ, 21, was booked by BSPD on charges possession of marijuana, less than 2 ounces

•ROBERT A. STEWART, 42, was booked by BSPD on charges of public intoxication.

•SHANNON LEIGH MINICA, 46, was booked by Glasscock on charges for driving while license invalid with previous convictions.

•FRANKLIN LEE RAY, 30, was booked by HCSO on a warrant for violation of probation, burglary of habitation with intent to commit

assault.

•LARRY DALE KING, 31, was booked by the BSPD on charges of unauthorized use of a vehicle.

•S T E L I O S DEMETRIOU, 67, was booked by the BSPD on charges of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

## MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Elida (Lolly) Juarez, 65, died Thursday. Funeral service was at 11 a.m. today at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

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- 1964: THE BEATLES MAKE THEIR FIRST APPEARANCE ON "THE ED SULLIVAN SHOW."
- 1991: LITHUANIANS VOTE FOR INDEPENDENCE FROM THE SOVIET UNION.



RESEARCH INDICATES THAT THESE, WHEN ADEQUATELY STAFFED AND WELL-FUNDED, IMPROVE STUDENTS' ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE.

ANSWER: LIBRARIES



**LEND**

grant someone the use of something that will be returned

*How they SAY that in...*

- ENGLISH:** Borrow
- SPANISH:** Pedir prestado
- ITALIAN:** Prestare
- FRENCH:** Emprunter
- GERMAN:** Leihen

**Did you know?**

THE DEWEY DECIMAL SYSTEM IS A LIBRARY CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM CREATED BY MELVIL DEWEY AND FIRST USED IN 1876.



**GET THE PICTURE?**



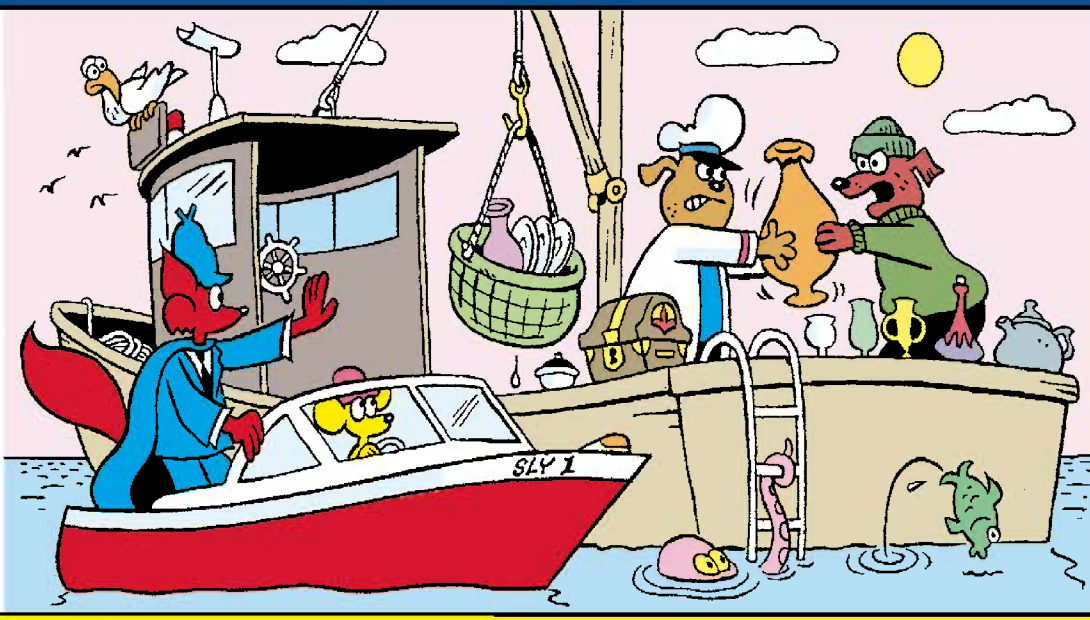
Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: BOOK

**SLYLOCK FOX and COMICS FOR KIDS**

**BY BOB WEBER JR.**

Two treasure hunters are trying to divide items they retrieved from an undersea shipwreck. How does Slylock Fox suggest the quarreling shipmates arrange their split so each feels equally satisfied?

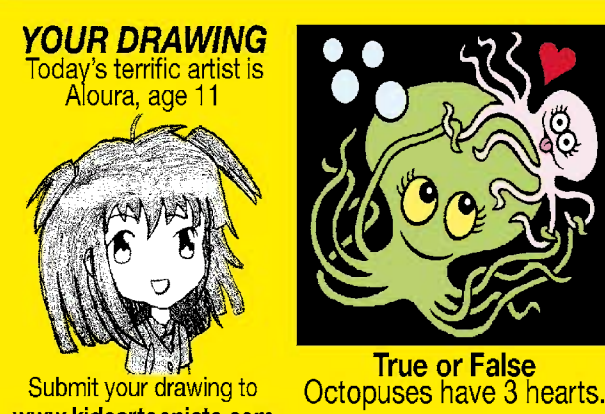
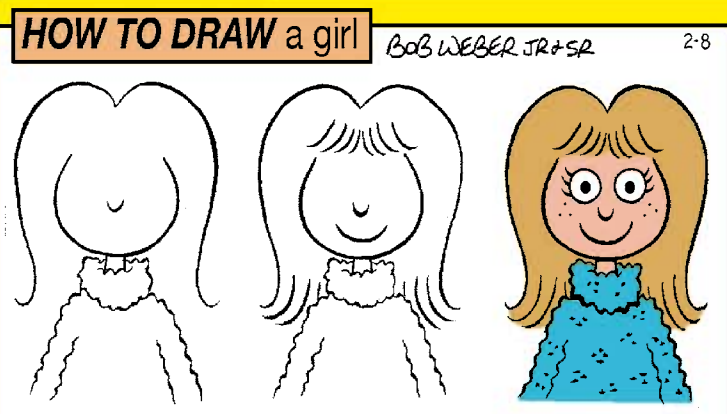


Solution -- Slylock suggests one partner divide the items into two piles, and the other partner be given first choice of which pile he wants.

Spot six differences between these panels.



www.facebook.com/SlylockFox



**True or False**  
Octopuses have 3 hearts.

Answer -- True

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

# Bird Poop: Take these broken wings

The last week of January was a lesson in contrasts. With mid-week temperatures in the 70s came clusters of midges. Highlighted by the glare of afternoon sunshine, the tiny insects swirled in circles over our yard. When our cat pounced on a mound of fresh, green growth in the side yard, Art

went to see what she had discovered. Burying itself underneath slender shoots was a grasshopper. Not far from that spot was an adventurous array of yellow wildflowers.

Then Thursday arrived. As a precursor of yet another cold snap, winds vented their frustration with sustained blowing of 31 miles per hour. Exceeding this affront were gusts of 41 and more.

Anticipating "riding it out" inside was interrupted by a phone call. Having found an owl in their pasture, the caller from Westbrook said it was banged up pretty bad on its left side.

With its injured head and wing, she was realistic in accepting that the bird might have to be put down.

Since she was agreeable to bringing it, we agreed on Tractor Supply as a meeting place. When the young woman and her traveling companion stepped out of their truck, I thought I was seeing double.

Obviously, the girls were sisters. As I kept



BEBE McCASLAND

looking back and forth at each individual, one of them said, "We're twins!" Rather than transporting the great horned owl in the bed of the pickup, they had thoughtfully put their pet carrier in the cab. Nestled on a towel inside was the battered and weakened raptor. After telling them we had already alerted Highland Animal Hospital, we again expressed our gratitude for their help.

Nearing the vet clinic, we checked Comanche Trail Lake as a matter of habit. Standing atop the abandoned spray platform near the middle of the lake were seven cormorants. In the windblown choppy waters were numerous ring-billed gulls bob-

bing up and down like corks on fishing lines. They reminded me of an individual who had helped one of their specie during a February morning two years ago.

While waiting for the arrival of a game warden with an injured hawk, our phone rang. A familiar voice said there was one of those city park gulls standing in the middle of the road under the overpass on FM 700. "Its wing is badly broken."

We both realized it could potentially cause a collision by someone trying to avoid it. "It'll have to be put down, but I can't stand the idea of someone hitting it," Betty continued.

Her wanting us to come and get it was impossible since the

officer was due any minute. After asking where she was and discovering she had pulled over and was keeping an eye on the bird, I told her I'd call Animal Control. Their personnel could slow or stop traffic and retrieve the bird. Unfortunately, its condition and the necessity of euthanasia would prevent this member of a flock from returning to the lake in the evening.

To remember that ring-bill was to think of its specie's soft and bold colors. With white heads, under parts, and tails, in contrast with gray wings, they are aptly named because of the black band on the outer part of their yellow bills. By extending their wings, one easily

sees black primaries with white spots on outer feathers. Yellow legs and feet complete their colorful costumes.

Noticeable on the back of their heads and down their necks are light gray streaks and spots that indicate non-breeding status at this time of the year. Their plumage identifies them as adults.

Daily, November through February, ring-billed gulls leave the lake to fly to the man-made hills of waste at the city landfill. After foraging for food items, mice, and insects, they return later in the day to the lake provides a safe haven for a restful night near or on water.

Gliding downward over the dam with their long, narrow wings

extended, each has, for a brief moment, become stationary in the air. Then with their wings held high above, their webbed feet break the calm of the lake.

As we drove home from Highland, the most recent delivery of the great horned owl by the Westbrook twins and Betty Cox's determination to stay with the injured ring-billed gull prompted a renewed appreciation of the kindness of people. Over 41 years, they have been an integral part of and have augmented our rescue work.

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

## I've been everywhere, man

I received a letter recently that gave me some possible travel plans for 2015, and I would like to share them with you, just in case you may have a desire to do some travelling throughout the year.

I have been in many places, but I've never been in Cahoots. I am told that you can't go alone. You have to be in Cahoots with another person.

I've also never been in Cognito. It sounds like an interesting place and I hear that no one recognizes you there.

I have, however, been in Sane. They don't have an airport; you have to be driven there. I have made several trips there, thanks to my children, friends, family and work.

I would like to go to Conclusions, but to arrive there you have to jump, and I'm not too much on physical activity anymore. I have found that if I use up a lot of energy I don't seem to enjoy my stay as much as if I can relax and arrive at my

destination refreshed. I have also been in Doubt. That is a sad place to go, and I try not to visit there too often.

I've been in Flexible, but only when it was very important to stand firm.

Sometimes I'm in Capable, and go there more often as I'm getting older.

One of my favorite places to be is in Suspense! It really gets the adrenalin flowing and pumps up the old heart! At my age I need all the stimuli I can get! I have been in Sincere a couple of times but I found it wasn't a very promising place to visit.

I may have been in Continent, but I don't remember what country I was in. It's an age thing. They tell me it is very wet and damp there. I may take a side trip and visit Active. I've been in Active a time or two but not much gets done there.

Therefore, as you plan your travel for the next year, you may want to join me in a journey or two. We don't have to travel together since arriving at any of these destinations is rather personal and accommodations vary in each location.

But as you make your plans you may want to include Appropriate.

I've been in Appropriate a couple of times and it has brought a laugh or snicker but usually a smirk.

You also may want to go to Accurate. I've been in Accurate many times in my life and every time I felt that I was in Error.

I may have gotten my

destinations mixed up on those trips.

So, whatever you decide, I hope you make some good plans and enjoy your trips as much as I plan to enjoy mine.

*Darrell Ryan is director of school safety for Big Spring Independent School District.*



DARRELL RYAN

### 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.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

To submit a feature story, call 263-7331, ext. 232

## Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

### Steppingstone to Success

South dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.  
NORTH  
♠ 9 8 4  
♥ K J 10 4  
♦ 8 6 2  
♣ K 3 2

WEST  
♠ A J 10 7  
♥ 7 2  
♦ K 10 4  
♣ 10 9 8 6

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

SOUTH  
♠ K 6  
♥ A Q 9 6 3  
♦ A Q 9 7  
♣ A 5

The bidding:  
South 1♥ West Pass North 2♥ East Pass  
4♥  
Opening lead — ten of clubs.  
The term "endplay" refers to a situation where a defender on lead cannot avoid handing declarer an extra trick whatever he returns. Despite its name, an endplay need not occur at the end of a hand. Quite often it comes in the middle of the play, and there are even cases where it occurs on the opening lead!  
Although an endplay may come about by accident, most of the time declarer consciously creates the setting that gains him a trick he might not otherwise make.

Take this case where South is in danger of losing two spade tricks and two diamond tricks at four hearts if the opposing cards are unfavorably situated. But if he is a reasonably good declarer, he recognizes that there are certain steps he can take to overcome a potentially unfavorable lie of the cards.

Accordingly, he wins the club lead with the ace, continues with a club to dummy's king and ruffs a club with the heart nine. The A-K of trumps are then played, leaving South in a position to assure the contract regardless of how the defenders' cards are divided.

Declarer next leads a diamond from dummy and inserts the nine after East follows low. West wins with the ten but is endplayed. If he returns a diamond, it goes into South's A-Q, while if he returns a spade, South's king becomes a trick.

If West returns a club instead, declarer ruffs in dummy and discards a spade from his hand. West eventually scores another diamond and the ace of spades, but South ends up with 10 tricks and the contract.  
Observe that even if East plays the jack on the first diamond lead from dummy, South simply covers with the queen to produce the same ending. With careful play, all roads lead to 10 tricks for declarer.

Tomorrow: High-level thinking.  
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## News in brief

### Congress edging closer to vote on new war powers; Obama to send his version to Capitol Hill

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama is expected — as early as Tuesday — to ask Congress for new war powers, sending Capitol Hill his blueprint for an updated authorization for the use of military force to fight the Islamic State group.

Haggling then begins on writing a new authorization to battle the Sunni extremists, who have seized territory in Iraq and neighboring Syria and imposed a violent form of Sharia law.

That will lead to the first war vote in Congress in 13 years — one of the most important votes faced by members of the House and Senate.

To get Congress to approve his request, Obama must find a balance between lawmakers who want wide authority to fight the Islamic State group and

others, including members of his own party, who worry that a new authorization to use military force will lead to U.S. entanglement in another protracted war.

In 2002, Congress passed a resolution authorizing President George W. Bush to use force against Iraq — a vote that scores of Democrats have regretted and then-candidate Barack Obama used as a cudgel against his rivals to win the Democratic presidential nomination.

### Ukrainian army said to be on advance in eastern Ukraine, rebels also report gains

DONETSK, Ukraine (AP) — Government forces and Russia-backed rebels were each trying to make gains in eastern Ukraine on Tuesday ahead of long-anticipated peace talks.

The intense fighting, which the U.N. says has killed more than 5,300 people since April, comes ahead of a crucial summit including Western leaders on Wednesday as well as peace talks later Tuesday.

The volunteer Azov battalion said on social media on Tuesday that it captured several villages north-east of the strategic port of Mariupol, pushing the rebels closer to the border with Russia.

Rebel military spokesman Eduard Basurin said in a televised news conference on Tuesday that the fighting in that area is continuing and that the rebels have not retreated.

The rebels reported advances, too. Basurin said late Monday that they have surrounded the railway hub of Debaltseve, the focus of fierce fighting in the past weeks, cutting it off from a major highway. A video posted online by a rebel-sympathizing website showed the separatists moving along the highway while the bloodied bodies of Ukrainian soldiers lay on the side of the road.

### Malaysia's top court upholds opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim's sodomy conviction

PUTRAJAYA, Malaysia (AP) — Malaysia's top court on Tuesday upheld opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim's sodomy conviction and sentenced him to five years in prison, a verdict he slammed — while standing in the dock — as the “murder of judicial independence” and the result of a political conspiracy.

The case was widely seen at home and abroad as politically motivated to eliminate any threats to the ruling coalition whose popularity has slowly been eroding since 2008 after more than five decades of unquestioned dominance. Anwar is the most popular, vocal and visible symbol of the opposition's resurgence and had become a potent political threat to Prime Minister Najib Razak.

This was Anwar's final appeal, and once the proceedings ended he was led by police out of the court, presumably to immediately start serving time on charges of sodomizing a then 23-year-old aide who worked in his office.

“I have to go. Time's up,” the 67-year-old politician told his supporters inside the court. “I will miss you all,” he said bowing to them before walking out.

Anwar was accused of sodomizing Saiful Bukhari Azlan, who was working as a lowly functionary in the opposition election campaign office, in 2008. Anwar was acquitted by the High Court in 2012 but the Appeals Court overturned the acquittal in March last year and sentenced him to five years in prison.

### As cyberattacks become more severe, experts say let go of illusion hackers can be kept out

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Ever since the Internet blossomed in the 1990s, cybersecurity was built on the idea that computers could be protected by a digital quarantine. Now, as hackers routinely overwhelm such defenses, experts say cybersecurity is beyond due an overhaul.

Their message: Neutralize attackers once they're inside networks rather than fixating on trying to keep them out.

First they need to convince a conservative business world to gamble on a different approach. And having sold generations of defensive systems that consistently lagged the capabilities of the most advanced hackers, the industry itself must overcome skepticism it's flogging another illusion of security.

According to U.S. cybersecurity company FireEye, 229 days is the median length of time attackers lurk inside their victim's computers before being detected or revealing themselves, underscoring the weakness of conventional tools in identifying sophisticated intruders.

The traditional defenses must “have a description of the bad guys before they can help you find them,” said Dave Merkel, chief technology officer at FireEye Inc. “That's just old and outmoded. And just doesn't work anymore,” he said.

### A new servitude: Homeowners across central Europe see dreams vanish with Swiss franc loans

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — Elvis Constantin Cluci and his wife had planned a second child, their dreams set on a little brother for their 2 ½ year-old daughter. But due to a surge in the Swiss franc that caused the Romanian couple's mortgage payments to rise, not only is another child out of the question but they have had to send their daughter to live with grandparents 100 kilometers (60 miles) away.

Now they see her only once or twice a month. They simply cannot afford both day care and their mortgage on a small studio apartment in Bucharest. They can barely even scrape together the gas money to drive to see her.

“I can hardly smile anymore,” said Cluci, 37. “My wife is completely destroyed. As the man I have to be strong and bear it.”

On Jan. 15, the Swiss national bank ended a policy meant to limit the franc's value against the euro — causing the franc to surge.

That move by one of Europe's richest countries is adding to the financial despair of hundreds of thousands of people across some of the poorest regions of the continent due to mortgages taken out years ago in Swiss francs.

Many of the borrowers were in their 20s and 30s who took out loans in the boom years before the crisis of 2008.

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### Western Junior College Athletic Conference

# Hello, win column!



Herald photo/Tommy Wells

Former Howard College assistant coach Addie Lees has Clarendon College in the chase for a berth in the Region V Basketball Tournament. Clarendon, despite a 63-62 loss to Howard College, on Monday, is just one game out of fourth in the conference standings. Prior to taking over the Clarendon coaching job, Lees spent two seasons at Howard College as an assistant under Lady Hawks' head coach Earl Diddle.

## Former HC assistant putting bite back in Clarendon College program

By TOMMY WELLS  
Sports Editor

Addie Lees always knew her road would lead her back to Howard College. In fact, the day she accepted the head coaching position with the Clarendon College Lady Bulldogs last year, she looked on the calendar and mentally circled Feb. 9.

That day, she knew, would be her first standing on the visitor's baseline in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

"It is a different perspective," said Lees prior to the Lady Bulldogs' Western Junior College Athletic Conference match-up against her mentor and friend, Earl Diddle. "It is fun coaching against one of the greatest coaches, and a guy that did so much for me."

Prior to Lees' arrival in Clarendon, she spent two seasons as an assistant coach with Diddle on the staff of the Lady Hawks' coaching staff. Following last season, the Plainview High School standout was offered the head coaching position at Clarendon, a team that had struggled to a 12-15 mark during the season, and finished 4-10 in WJCAC play.

It hasn't taken Lees long to make an impact at Clarendon College. Through the Lady Bulldogs' first 26 games, the former collegiate basketball standout has Clarendon playing .500 ball. Despite a 63-62 loss to Diddle and the HC Lady Hawks on Thursday, Clarendon is 13-13 for the year and, even more impressively, find themselves fighting for a top four

### WJCAC Standings

Women		
Team	Conf.	Overall
New Mexico JC.....	10-0	23-1
Odessa.....	8-2	22-4
Midland.....	8-2	17-8
Frank Phillips.....	4-6	17-7
South Plains.....	4-6	8-16
Clarendon.....	3-7	13-13
Western Texas.....	2-8	10-13
Howard.....	1-9	7-18

finish in the conference – and a possible playoff berth.

Diddle, for his part, isn't shocked Lees has Clarendon on the fast-track to success.

"She's a very, very talented coach," said Diddle. "As I told our president (Dr. Cheryl Sparks) when we hired her, I think she is a rising star in this business. She's very competitive and tenacious, and she has a great career in front of her."

Lees, despite the team's woes a year ago, said she is pleased with the Lady Bulldogs success. Not surprised .. but pleased.

"It (the team's improvement) hasn't surprised me," she said. "I knew they would turn it on. I thought some of them would get it early on, and some would figure it out as we go along. Their work ethic has been great, and that has been a big thing for us."

Moving from an assistant coach to running her own program hasn't been a huge adjustment, she said. The biggest challenge has been more personal than anything.

"It's just been me all alone," she said. "The main difference is that it's just me making things happen, but it has been fun. I've enjoyed every minute of it."

A graduate assistant at Eastern New Mexico University prior to joining the Lady Hawks program in 2013, Lees said she remains thankful to Diddle for helping her break into the coaching ranks, and hopes to one day pass along the favor.

"I knew I wanted to be a coach a long, long time ago," she said. "Coach Diddle and Howard College gave me that chance. I am so grateful to them and, hopefully, one day I can do the same thing for someone else."

For now, however, Lees is determined to help Clarendon snap a 4-game slide and make a run at the Region V Basketball Tournament in March. Clarendon closes its regular season with games against South Plains, Frank Phillips, Western Texas and New Mexico Junior College.

"I love seeing her have success," said Diddle. "It has certainly made my job harder, but I couldn't be happier for her."

"She added a lot to our program while she was here, and she'll do the same there," he added.

## Lady Hawks snap 9-game losing streak with victory

By TOMMY WELLS  
Sports Editor

The streak is over ... finally.

The Howard College Lady Hawks finally turned could have and should have into did on Monday night in front of a large crowd in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum by grinding out a nail-biting 63-62 victory over the Clarendon College Lady Bulldogs.

With the win, the Lady Hawks notched their first Western Junior College Athletic Conference victory of the season and improved to 1-9. Howard College's last WJCAC victory came almost a year ago when, on Feb. 28, 2014, the team ended the season with a 59-50 win over Western Texas College.

Howard College, now 7-16 for the season, cemented the come-from-behind win with a clutch effort from freshman guard Bria McCullough in the final seconds. With HC down 62-61 in the closing moments, McCullough buried a pair of free throws with 4 seconds left and sent the Lady Hawks' bench into triumphant cheers and jumps.

The win didn't look too cer-

See **VICTORY**, Page 13

## Hawks sink 15 treys in 94-51 rout of Clarendon

By TOMMY WELLS  
Sports Editor

I-M-P-R-E-S-S-I-V-E.

There is no better way to describe the Howard College Hawks' 45-point win over the Clarendon College Bulldogs on Monday night in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Unless, of course, you use the term, easy.

Howard College knocked down a season-high 15 three-point shots and cruised to a convincing 94-51 romp over Clarendon in Western Junior College Athletic Conference play. As a team, the Hawks shot better than 55 percent from behind the three-point arc against the Bulldogs.

The win was an important victory for the Hawks, who remained in a tie with South Plains for first place in the WJCAC standings with a 9-2 record.

The Hawks, now 18-6 over-

See **HAWKS**, Page 13

## BSCC to hold 4-person scramble on Feb. 21-22

The Big Spring Country Club will be holding a 4-person scramble on Feb. 21-22.

The entry fee for the event is \$120 per player, plus the cost of a cart rental. Private carts are welcome on Saturday and Sunday.

The scramble is scheduled to get under way on both days with a shot-

gun start.

Entry includes a multi-day event as well as barbecue on Saturday. Practice rounds are available on Friday.

The field will be flighted by first round scores. The number of flights will be determined by the number of entries.

For more information call 432-267-5354.



Herald photo/Tommy Wells

### In action ...

The Howard College Lady Hawks will host Ranger College in a doubleheader at Foundation Park this afternoon. Games will begin at 1 p.m.

## BSHS girls to close our regular season in Sweetwater

The Big Spring High School Lady Steers will close out their 2014-15 regular season this evening with a crucial District 2-4A showdown against the Sweetwater Lady Mustangs tonight.

With a win, the Lady Steers can set up a one-game district playoff with either Estacado or Lamesa to determine

the No. 2 playoff representative team.

Big Spring, 13-13 for the year, has already clinched a postseason berth.

The boys' basketball team will also be in action tonight, beginning at approximately 8 p.m.

Games can be heard live on KBST and KBYG radio stations.

# CLASSIFIEDS

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### Help Wanted



**APPLICATIONS NOW being accepted at the Big Spring Herald for Full time Staff Writer**

Successful candidate will possess good communication skills, customer service attitude, be dependable, honest and reliable. Get experience working with city and county commissioners, school board, community groups and a wide range of social events and local festivals. Requirements include proficient computer skills, typing, photography and writing. Ability to multi-task is a must. Employee must have a valid driver's license and dependable vehicle. Employee will work about 40 hours per week and will include some evenings and/or weekends. Pay will vary depending on experience. Knowledge in InDesign is a plus.

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**APPRAISAL TRAINEE - Howard CAD**  
Howard County Appraisal District is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Appraisal trainee. The successful applicant will do office and field work associated with the appraisal of residential, rural, commercial and personal property in HCAD. Candidates must have organizational skills, along with effective communication and people skills. A high school diploma is the minimum educational requirement, college preferred. RPA registration with Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation is preferred. Previous appraisal experience and knowledge of a CAMA software system is preferred. Must be physically able to complete on site measurement and inspection of property over rough and uneven terrain, as well as stand and/or sit for extended periods of time. Position requires bending, reaching, lifting heavy file boxes and moving up and down steps and steep grades. Salary will be commensurate with experience. The Appraisal District provides excellent Health Insurance, Life Insurance, Long Term Disability and 401A Retirement Plan, and optional 457b Deferred Comp. Retirement Plan.

Howard County Appraisal District is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Resumes will be accepted until position is filled. Mail resume to: Ronny Babcock, RPA, RTA/C Chief Appraiser Howard County Appraisal District PO Drawer 1151 Big Spring, TX 79721-1151

**LITTLE CAESARS** Pizza is expanding to Big Spring and seeking a new Area Supervisor! The Area Supervisor is responsible for the total operation of multiple restaurants. The ideal candidate will have more than 1 year experience in multi-unit management. For consideration, please email your resume and salary requirements directly to shane@viberestaurants.com

**THE COLORADO** River Municipal Water District is accepting applications for the following position: Information Technology System Administrator- Responsible for overall planning, organization, and execution of Information Technology functions for the District, including maintaining computer hardware, software, and networks. For additional information visit [www.crmwd.org](http://www.crmwd.org)

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Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE  
CITY OF FORSAN  
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DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

City of Forsan is giving notice of the City's intent to submit Texas Community Development Block Grant Program grant application for a Community Development Fund grant request of \$350,000.00 for water improvements for low to moderate income persons for the entire City of Forsan. The application is available for review at City Hall during regular business hours. Para obtener una copia en español, comuníquese con Steve Park, Mayor at 432-457-2355. #8613 February 10, 2015

Legals

ATTENTION PROPERTY OWNERS  
Property owners have certain rights that may reduce their property tax burden.

HOMEOWNERS  
Persons who own their residence on January 1, 2015, may claim their home as a residential homestead. The filing of this document is only necessary if the homeowner has changed homesteads since January 1, 2014, or has become eligible for additional exemptions since last year. Homeowners may also defer the portion of the tax on their residence homestead if the value of the home was raised more than 5% above the previous year. Although the tax collection is deferred, interest continues to run on the unpaid portion of tax at a rate of 8% per annum and the deferred tax remains a lien on the property. To apply for the deferral, the owner should contact the appraisal district which appraised the property in question and complete an application.

DISABLED PERSONS  
Persons who are disabled under Social Security law are entitled to additional exemptions on their residential homestead. Disabled applicants must apply with the appraisal district and furnish a determination letter from Social Security. Disabled persons now receive all benefits on their home

Legals

that are available to over 65 persons (see below)

PERSONS WHO ARE OVER 65 YEARS OF AGE  
Persons who are over 65 years of age or disabled persons may file for additional exemptions and a ceiling on school taxes for their residential homestead if they become 65 during 2014. Over-65 persons should apply for this exemption at the appraisal district office in their area. Over-65 persons are also eligible to defer paying the tax on their residential homestead if they wish. The taxes continue to accrue during the deferral along with an interest rate of 8% annually, but no attempt will be made to force payment during the deferral. Details and an application may be obtained from any appraisal district or the State Comptroller.

DISABLED VETERANS  
Persons who have been declared by the Veteran's Administrations are eligible for additional exemptions on property they own. The declaration letter from VA is mailed annually, but the appraisal district only needs a copy in the first year of eligibility or if the percentage of disability changes.

FARM AND RANCH OWNERS  
Farmers and ranchers may be entitled to receive an alternate method of appraisal determined by the farm income to the property. This method is available to farms

and ranches commercially raising crops or livestock or which are used as a wildlife habitat under State guidelines. An application for agricultural use value and additional information is available from your appraisal district. Re-filing is only necessary if requested to do so by the Chief Appraiser.

EXEMPTION APPLICATIONS  
Exemption applications for all property tax exemptions including total exemptions for charitable, religious, and other total exemptions may be obtained from an appraisal district nearest you or through the State Comptroller's Office at 1/800-252-9121.

BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY OWNERS

State law now requires the filing of a rendition declaring what types of business personal property that a person or company owns. Failure to file the rendition will result in a 10% penalty. If a fraudulent rendition is filed, a 50% penalty is mandated. A rendition can be obtained from the appraisal district office where the property is located. A 30 day filing extension is available by written request. This is a public service announcement by Howard County Appraisal District, 315 South Main, PO Box 1151, Big Spring, TX 79720 #8588 January 22, 2015

Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: My fiance and I have been together for three years. "Justin" shares custody of his 13-year-old daughter, "Chrissie."

The problem is, Chrissie will not sleep in her own bed. Until recently, she used to sleep on the floor in our room, but two months ago, Justin started sleeping in her bed. I couldn't take it, so I went back to live at my place. Now that I am no longer in Justin's house, Chrissie sleeps with him in his bed. This bothers me.

Justin and his ex-wife tried sending Chrissie for therapy, but she told them it wasn't working, so they stopped. We have discussed this, but he continues to allow her in his bed. He doesn't believe there is anything wrong with it and also says he doesn't know what else to do. Chrissie is quite manipulative, conniving and sly. Even her hugs are fake. She is obviously competing with me for her father's attention.

I feel guilty not liking this girl. I understand that divorce is hard on children, but this is ridiculous. -- Soon-To-Be Stepmom

Dear Soon: Chrissie may be manipulating her parents out of insecurity and because she can get away with it. But her parents are the real problem. They are allowing Chrissie to control the family dynamic. This is terribly unfair to everyone, but

especially to Chrissie. She desperately needs her parents to be in charge, and instead, they have given her the reins. All of them should be in family counseling together so that Chrissie cannot claim it's "not working," and so that Justin and his ex understand how much effort and consistency are required for their daughter's sake. If you intend to marry Justin, insist on this.

Dear Annie: I read your answer to "Grandma-To-Be" regarding a baby shower for a child born of a surrogate. Why did you say, "Of course, it is better if the shower is given by friends and not immediate family"? I thought baby showers were supposed to be given by the aunts. Has this changed?

Also, what about "sprinkles" -- those baby showers for second and third kids? This is a very sore subject for those of us who have been on the receiving end of the invitations. Unless there are several years between babies, or the new baby is from a different marriage, it is asking too much of friends and family.

Today's generation thinks nothing of asking people to dish out money over and over. What a greedy world we have become. -- Also a Grandma-To-Be

Dear Also: Baby showers (also bridal showers) generally should not be given by

immediate family members, because they, too, benefit from others giving gifts. Hosting it then seems self-serving. (There are exceptions to this rule.) Aunts, cousins, sisters-in-law, etc., however, are not immediate family and, of course, can host showers.

"Sprinkles" are fine if there is a big age gap and the new baby has fewer hand-me-downs, or if the couple has moved to a new city. Otherwise, they are OK only for close family and extremely close friends, or for those who didn't attend a previous shower. As you said, it is unkind to keep burdening the same people with gift-giving over and over.

Dear Annie: In my 70 years of living in New Orleans, I've been called honey, sweetie, sugar and baby by clerks and waitresses, always with a helpful air of appreciation and never in a condescending way. Maybe it's a southern thing, but I like it. Why would I be rude to someone who is focused on helping me? I hope that charm never goes away. -- Happy in NOLA

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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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Last Day of Mercury Retrograde

Hang on through the traffic, the machine that won't start, the computer that won't do the one thing you're asking it to do. These trials of your patience are about to cease with tomorrow's Mercury direct. So what have you learned through this? Possibly it was heartening to find out you don't need as much as you thought you did to get a job done.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). It's not who you know, but how well you know them that matters now. Let your sharp social instinct guide you toward deepening the relationships that will enrich you the most -- a Libra will be high on the list.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). What could have been? The prospects are interesting to ponder if

you have the right attitude. Keep that optimism. You chose the way you chose for a good reason, even if you've forgotten it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). This might be an awkward transition period; however, you can trust that soon all involved will settle into a mutually agreeable role. More specifically, they get used to you being the leader. Don't apologize.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your joie de vivre is appreciated by those with similar gusto. This could be the start of a beautiful, fruitful and lucrative partnership. Follow through. Do whatever you said you would, even if what you said was a social nicety.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You have fans, and then you have super-fans. In fact, you are everything to someone. Nurturing is easy for you when you remember that you don't need to do anything. Just be loving.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). New job, business deal, hot date -- whatever

the occasion, it behooves you to Google yourself, recheck your Facebook page with new eyes and/or generally sweep social media for the impression you make.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Though you're mostly nurturing, selfless and accommodating, your inner star wants to shine. The situation calls for you to perform, protect what's yours and fight for what you want.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Work will bring disputes. The banter is exactly what's needed to improve your project or product. Having to cater to a variety of needs will make you stronger, smarter and wealthier.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You don't want to dish it out; nor do you want to get served. And yet you may still find yourself in the middle of the argument. Back away slowly.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Make no mistake -- you're a powerful force in this world. What you want during this time will reveal your

character. You'll learn something about yourself and also be shown a direction to grow in.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There are those who will discount your contribution. This is a test. To pass, you must disagree with them and come to your own defense. Speak up. Be loud. Affirm that you're the master of your fate.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Can you put up with a nagging neighbor or a family member who constantly needs money? Well, you'll certainly give it a shot. While you're at it, try to tolerate your friend's partner with a smile if you can muster it.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 10). Your best is more than good enough. This is your year to get on your own side, celebrate your uniqueness and work with your talents. Your personal life gets easier in March when petty differences no longer seem important. April brings a deep connection. June will sound off the wedding bells. Capricorn

and Sagittarius people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 11, 13, 33, 39 and 50.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "There were many in my church who believed that the world was going to end in December of 2014. Just in case the biblical Rapture was to occur, I made a hasty last will and testament document with an online legal service. I had been meaning to create such a document for some time and figured the Rapture was as good occasion as any to complete it, even though I now realize such a document must mean very little in the context of the end of the world as we know it. Obviously, the world did not end, but something strange has come out of this event for me. I was looking at my will yesterday, and I noticed that I would certain ex-boyfriends and friends much more than a sane person would have, and then there were people I unintentionally left out completely. What should I make of this? I'm a Capricorn."

That's the thing about wills: You can always

rewrite them. It sounds like in your hurried state you wrote the document from an irrational head space and were thus influenced by the passion you felt for certain people. However, a Capricorn's sense of duty and responsibility is strong and will likely override the impulses of an "enraptured" moment.

CELEBRITY PROFILE: Amazingly versatile Aquarius actress Elizabeth Banks can be practically unrecognizable from one role to the next. She's as convincing in the hilarity of "30 Rock" or "The 40-Year-Old Virgin" as she is in the disturbingly grave "The Hunger Games." Her natal Mercury in empathetic Pisces is an excellent aspect for actors because it lends a talent for total immersion in a character.

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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	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	P. Luche	Two Men	News CBS	Tele Noticias	News	Seinfeld	Justice Called	Focus Business	CHiPs	Amish Mafia	Ulamona, Djonon Hounsou	Bar Rescue	Castle (DVS)	Movie: Why Did I Get Married?, Jill Scott	Austin Austin	Around Pardon	SportsCenter
6:PM	Jeopardy!	La Gata (SS)	Big Bang	News	Caso Cerado	News	Seinfeld	McGee HaYesod	PBS News-Hour	M*A*S*H	Amish Mafia	Bar Rescue	Castle (DVS)			K.C. College Basketball	College Basketball: Kentucky at LSU.	
7:PM	Fresh-News	Mi corazón es tuyo	MasterChef	NCIS (DVS)	Los Mis-erables (SS)	Parks	Big Bang	Upd	Genealogy Rd	Griffith Griffith	To Be Announced	Movie: The Departed, Jack Nicholson	Bar Rescue	NBA Basketball: Houston Rockets at Phoenix Suns.	Being Mary Jane	Austin	College Basketball	College Basketball
8:PM	Agent Carter	Hasta el Fin	New Girl	NCIS: New Orleans	Tierra de Reyes (SS)	Mary Me About-	Big Bang	Light of the Southwest	Forgot-Plague	Heroes	Amish Mafia	Bar Rescue			Being Mary Jane	Jessie		
9:PM	Forever	Que te Perdona	Mod Fam	Person of Interest	Dueños del Paraíso	Chicago Fire	Ground Cougar		Frontline	Taxi	Big Giant Swords	Framework			Being Mary Jane	I Didn't	Basket Experts	SportsCenter
10:PM	News	Impacto	Cleveland	News	Tele	News	Conan	With Scholars	Charlie Rose	C. Burnett	Amish Mafia	Bar Rescue	NBA Basketball: Nuggets at Lakers	Being Mary Jane	Dog	Good	30 for 30	SportsCenter
11:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	La Que No	How I Met	Letterman	Titulares	Tonight Show	Ground	Ministerios Vida	T. Smiley	Perry Mason	Big Giant Swords	Bar Rescue			Wendy Williams	Good	30 for 30	SportsCenter
12:AM	Extra	Un Refugio	TMZ	The Late Late Show	Dueños del Paraíso	News	Conan	Upd	McMillan and Wife	Off Air	To Be Announced	Bar Rescue	Inside the NBA	The Real	Deck	Deck		SportsCenter
1:AM	Paid	Alma	Law & Order: SVU	Ent	Paid	De: (07) Today	Movie: My Baby's	Light of the Southwest	Gallery			Movie: Blood	Bar Rescue	NBA Basketball: Houston	Game One Mic	Wizards	Wizards	SportsCenter

### DENNIS THE MENACE

2-10

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"AND IF YOU EVER NEED TO GET OUT OF THE DOGHOUSE, MY DOOR WILL ALWAYS BE OPEN TO YOU, DAD."

### THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

2-10

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"If we all sing together, we can call ourselves a three-o."

### HAGAR

YESTERDAY I CARRIED A SACK OF SILVER FROM A RAID, AND THIS MORNING I HAVE A SPLITTING HEADACHE!

A SACK OF SILVER CAN BE VERY UNHEALTHY!

REALLY?!

SURE... ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU SPEND IT ON BEER!

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### BLONDIE

I'M SORRY, HONEY, BUT DINNER WON'T BE READY FOR ANOTHER HOUR.

OH, NO!

IN THE MEANTIME, WHY DON'T YOU CHEW ON THIS PIECE OF CELERY TO FOOL YOUR STOMACH?

OH, LIKE MY STOMACH WOULD EVER FALL FOR A SCAM LIKE THAT!

CRUNCH

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### WIZARD OF ID

NICE STACHE, THOR!

THIS IS GETTING ABSURD.

SLAP

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### AGNES

IT'S LONELY AT THE TOP.

SIGH

IT'S NO #782!! PARTY AT THE BOTTOM, EITHER!

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### HI AND LOIS

I DON'T WANT ANY VALENTINE'S DAY CARDS.

ACCEPTING A VALENTINE'S DAY CARD COULD COMMIT ME TO HORRIBLE THINGS LIKE COMMITMENTS!

SIGH... WITH MY BEAUTY, IT WILL BE HARD TO AVOID.

YOU'RE RIGHT. LET'S UGLY YOU UP GOOD AND PROPER.

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### THE OTHER COAST

UGH, RAINY DAYS CAN BE SO DEPRESSING...

BUT SOMETIMES SUNBEAM BRINGS ME A RAINBOW TO CHEER ME UP!

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### SNUFFY SMITH

KOKO, STOP BARKING!

BARK! BARK! BARK!

I'M NOT BARKING.

HUH, THERE'S A DOG OUT THERE WHO SOUNDS JUST LIKE YOU.

I'M A VICTIM OF IDENTITY THEFT.

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### BETLE BAILEY

EV'RY TIME TH' LORD CLOSES A DOOR, HE OPENS A WINDOW !!

AIN'T THAT JUST LIKE A MAN, ELVINEY-- ALWAYS FOOLIN' WIF TH' TEMPERATURE !!

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### BETLE BAILEY

YOU DROPPED SOMETHING, SIR.

THAT'S MY NOTEBOOK, WHERE I WRITE DOWN ALL MY IDEAS

IT'S EMPTY

I'VE ONLY HAD IT SINCE CHRISTMAS

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### This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Feb. 10, the 41st day of 2015. There are 324 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Feb. 10, 1940, MGM released the animated short "Puss Gets the Boot," the debut of Tom and Jerry (although in this cartoon, the cat is called "Jasper" by its owner while the mouse was dubbed "Jinx" by creators William Hanna and Joseph Barbera). On this date: In 1763, Britain, Spain and France signed the Treaty of Paris, ending the Seven Years' War (also known as the French and Indian War in North America). In 1840, Britain's Queen Victoria married Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha. In 1841, Upper Canada and Lower Canada were proclaimed united under an Act of Union passed by the British Parliament. In 1933, the first singing telegram was introduced by the Postal Telegram Co. in New York. In 1949, Arthur Miller's play "Death of a Salesman" opened at Broadway's Morosco Theater with Lee J. Cobb as Willy Loman. In 1959, a major tornado tore through the St. Louis area, killing 21 people and causing heavy damage. In 1962, the Soviet Union exchanged captured American U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers for Rudolf Abel, a Soviet spy held by the United States. Republican George W. Romney announced his ultimately successful candidacy for governor of Michigan.

### Newsday Crossword

AT THE RODEO by Billie Truitt  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- Starts in on
- Fly sky-high
- Baby's bed
- Sharp, as vision
- Whittle down
- Vein of ore
- Optimistic time on Wall Street
- Kitchen hot spot
- Annoy
- Tissue-paper layer
- "Nothing to it!"
- Graduation cap dangle
- British noble
- Pleasant scent
- Very unfortunate
- Fuse metal with a blowtorch
- Distort
- Make a swap
- Corrosive chemical
- Fathered
- Stare at rudely
- Turtle's covering
- Oral history
- Takes advantage of
- Pretend to be
- Choose to take part
- Radiator heat source
- Emphatic agreement
- "Be my guest"
- Zero
- Earth-friendly prefix
- "Do \_\_\_ others..."
- Lightweight descending aid

DOWN

- Snappy comeback
- Act silly
- Roam about
- Inventor's starting point
- Flexed
- Gives permission for
- Alphabetize, perhaps
- Fashionable '50s footwear
- Tavern
- Postal delivery
- One-liners
- Not working today
- Mediocre grades
- Stinging insect
- Rebounding sound
- Untruths
- Criminal, to a cop
- Report fully
- Not on time
- Scorched
- Trailing everyone
- Be very fond of
- Row of bushes
- Whale's home
- Fret
- US Pacific territory
- Formerly
- S&L cash dispensers
- Hatchling's home
- Skillet
- "With all \_\_\_ respect..."

Answer to previous puzzle

EACH	SALAD	EGGS
EROO	ALIBI	CROP
LEAN	FIELD	LANE
SAXOPHONE	WANTED	
RAIN	ARID	
WAFER	SHARPEN	
OGRES	STOOP	IRE
ORES	FILLY	CARE
DEN	DANCE	TONED
SECRETS	IPODS	
HOME	OBEY	
ACHOO	ACCORDION	
SLOT	BLOTS	ERGO
PURE	LOBES	SALT
SEND	TESTY	KNEE

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VICTORY

Continued from Page 7  
tain only 7 seconds earlier when Clarendon's Alesha Higgins converted two free throws and staked the Lady Bulldogs to the lead.

"I was proud of how they fought back," said HC head coach Earl Diddle. "This was a big win for us."

The Lady Hawks dominated Clarendon early in the game. Howard College, thanks to the perimeter shooting of Rosemary Rits and Ra-faella Angelidou, started the game with a staggering 19-9 run.

Clarendon College, coached by former HC assistant Addie Lees, rallied back late in the first half. The Lady Bulldogs reeled off a 12-0 run during a 6 minute span late in the frame and grabbed a 39-34 lead with 1:07 left.

Rits refused to let the Lady Hawks get down. The freshman from Estonia scored five straight points in the final 1:06, including a right-handed hook in the paint in the closing seconds, to knot the game at 39-39 at the half.

Rits, one of four Lady Hawks to reach double figures offensively finished the game with 13 points. She just missed a double-double effort with nine rebounds.

The Lady Hawks looked to have regained control of the game midway through the second half. Angelidou pushed in a fall-away jumper with 6:34 left in regulation to cap a 18-13 run that staked HC to a 57-50 advantage.

Clarendon rallied back again. The Lady Bulldogs scored an 8-0 run later in



Herald photo/Tommy Wells

The Howard College bench reacts to Bria McCullough's game-winning free throws with joyous approval on Monday. McCullough's free throws lifted HC to a 63-62 win and snapped a nine-game WJCAC losing streak.

the frame and fought to within one, at 61-60 with 43 seconds left.

Just 32 seconds later, Higgins staked Clarendon to the lead.

McCullough, who had missed her previous two free throw attempts in the contest, saved the day for the Lady Hawks from there.

McCullough finished the game with 12 points, Monica Perez and Courtney Jeffcoat also hit double digits in the victory, netting 11 and 10, respectively.

Jeffcoat also pulled down nine rebounds and had a team-high three assists.

Tamara York led a

dominating effort by the HC women on the boards. She had 11 of the Lady Hawks' 53 boards. Clarendon finished with just 36 rebounds.

HC will travel to Frank Phillips on Thursday.

HAWKS

Continued from Page 7  
all, broke open a tight game with a late first-half barrage. After Clarendon had battled to within 22-16, Howard went on an 18-6 run in the final 5:30 of the half and rolled into the half with a 40-22 cushion.

Niels Bunschoten all but put Clarendon away in the first 10 minutes of the second half. The 6-foot-9 sharpshooter knocked down four three-point shots in the first 9:53 of the half and ignited a staggering 30-9 spree.

Rob Gray and Sam Finley also added treys in the run.

As a team, the Hawks shot better than 62 percent from beyond the three-point arc in the second half, hitting 10 of their 16 attempts.

Bunschoten finished

WJCAC Standings

Men		
Team	Conf.	Overall
South Plains	9-2	19-5
Howard	9-2	18-6
New Mexico JC	9-3	20-6
Odessa	6-6	18-7
Midland	6-6	16-10
NMMI	6-6	12-10
Frank Phillips	4-7	15-10
Western Texas	2-10	11-13
Clarendon	1-10	4-20

the game with 12 points.

Gray led all HC scorers in the contest with 17 points. He also completed the double-double trick with 10 boards and a team-high five assists.

Finley added 16 points, while Lis Shoshi chipped in 12.

Overall, HC picked up points from 13 different players in the game.

As a team, the Hawks dominated the boards against Clarendon, out-rebounding the Bulldogs by a 54-33 margin.

BSGSA to hold sign-ups

The Big Spring Girls Softball Association will be holding sign-ups for the 2015 season on Saturdays, beginning on Feb. 14 until March 7. Registration will be held from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. in the Springtown Plaza.

The league is open to

players ranging in ages from 4-14 (age as of Jan. 1, 2015) The cost is \$90, with discounts available for families with additional siblings in the same family.

For more information contact Ron Shafer at 432-213-3747.

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King Set	\$597

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King Set	\$697

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# VALENTINE'S DAY GIFT GUIDE



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251714

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