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BIG SPRING HERALD

FRIDAY

FEBRUARY 25, 2011

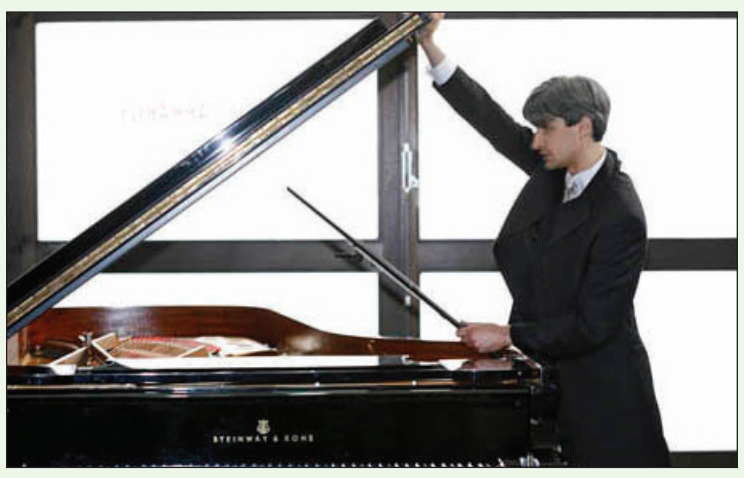
VOLUME 106, NUMBER 73

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50 CENTS DAILY/$1.25 SUNDAY

Benefit concert tonight

A benefit concert featuring internationally acclaimed pianist Francesco Attesti is slated for 7:30 p.m. tonight in the Hall Center for the Arts, located on the Howard College campus. Tickets are $25 and all proceeds will benefit the local CARE Fund, an endowment intended to help residents pay for medical costs not covered by insurance. For more information on the concert or the fund, contact Tommy Churchwell at 432-267-3857.



Nationals bound

BSHS students qualify for top NFL tourney

By JENNNIFER ADAMS
Special to the Herald

Two Big Spring High School Speech and Debate team members qualified for the National Forensic League National Tournament, June 13-18 in Dallas.

Senior Jessica Rubio qualified in Foreign Extemporaneous Speaking and Shermila Kher qualified in Lincoln-Douglas Debate.

For Rubio, this will be her third year in a row to attend the national tournament.

"I'm really excited about going to Nationals again," she said "Meeting and competing against people from around the country and the world is an awesome experience."

Her previous trips were in Public Forum debate and Foreign Extemporaneous Speaking. Jessica also was named the Tall Cotton NFL District Student of the Year.

"Being awarded the Tall Cotton Student of the Year was unexpected," Rubio said. "There are a lot of good competitors in this district."

Kher qualified for the national tournament for a second year in a row. Her previous trip was in public forum debate.

"I learned a lot at last year's national tournament in Kansas, and I hope my results will be better for going last year," Kher said.

Also attending the recent district tournament were

See **DEBATE**, Page 3A



Courtesy photo

From left, Coach Jennifer Adams poses with Big Spring High School students Shermila Kher and Jessica Rubio, and Clint Adams, coach and Tall Cotton District chair.

Times of trouble

At FISD, they are hoping for the best, but preparing for the worst

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

FORSAN — School district officials are planning for a leaner future, financially speaking.

With Texas facing a multi-billion dollar shortfall, it stands to reason that schools will have to make do with less state aid for the next few years, and Forsan Independent School District officials are already taking steps to prepare for that eventuality.

It is unknown exactly how much state aid Forsan will lose this coming fiscal year, but even conservative estimates place the figure north of $900,000, which would represent a significant financial hit, Superintendent Randy Johnson said.

"Hopefully, the news will turn out a little better by the time the state legislature adopts its budget … but we're looking at and preparing for the worst-case scenario now," Johnson said.

While the district is hoping to avoid a reduction in the number of teachers, other personnel areas will not be so lucky. Johnson said the district will allow some positions to be eliminated through attrition.

"We will not fill some positions when they become open," he said.

FISD has already taken steps in that direction. Johnson said he has received resignation notices from a maintenance worker and instructional aide, and those positions will not be filled in the coming fiscal year. Two other positions — special education aides whose salaries

See **FISD**, Page 3A

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www.bigspringherald.com

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Belated isn't the word for it

Christmas card arrives 11 years, two months late

By AMANDA MORENO
Staff Writer

Christmas comes but once a year, however, Christmas cards sometimes show up a few years and a couple months late.

Big Spring resident Mamie Lee Dodds received an unexpected gift two days after Valentine's Day — a Christmas card from her late brother Brady.

"I recognized the handwriting before I ever opened it," Dodds said. "I knew that it was from Brady. I figured it was something he had done before he passed away."

Brady died eight years ago.

The card was postmarked Feb. 14, 2010, but the date on the inside showed that the card had been written in December 2000. It took 11 years for the card to make its way to its rightful place.



Mamie Lee Dodds

"The postmark says nothing about where it was mailed from," Dodds said. "The only mark that shows anything is the postmark for Feb. 14."

There is no way of telling when the letter was mailed or by whom. Dodds has consulted with the post office and was informed that the stamp on the letter was issued about 20 years ago, but is one that never lost its value.

"They told me that if anyone had found a letter with a stamp on it they would have to mail it," Dodds said. "It's possible that the people living in Brady's house found it and mailed it."

The note that was included in the card reflects that it was written not long after the

See **CARD**, Page 3A

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Obituaries

Robert Adkins

Robert Adkins, 60, of Big Spring died Thursday, Feb. 24, 2011, at his residence. The family will receive friends from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. Sunday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Ronald Suggs

Ronald Suggs, 67, of Big Spring died Friday, Feb. 25, 2011, at Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Take Note

• A Mardi Gras dance for junior high and high school age students will be held from 8 p.m. to midnight tonight at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church hall, 1009 Hearn St. Admission is $3 per person or $5 per couple. Mardi Gras beads and mask are $1 per set. The event is sponsored by the Holy Trinity Catholic Youth Group.

• The Salvation Army has funding for Texas Military Personnel now serving or has served in Iraq or Afghanistan. The military member or their family member may apply at 811 W. Fifth St. or call 267-8239. The grant is funded by the TRIAD Fund of Permian Basin Area Foundation.

• The HCV Section 8 waiting list for the Big Spring Housing Authority will be open effective March 1. The authority will be accepting new applications. The office is located at 201EN Seven in Big Spring.

• The Kiwanis Club of Big Spring will hold its annual pancake supper from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. March 11 at the Howard College Cafeteria. Tickets are $5 per person and can be obtained from any Kiwanis Club member or by contacting Don McGonagill at 267-7601.

• An account has been set up to help Bob and Jeanine Fishback with Bob's medical and travel expenses: Bob Fishback Medical Account 915967, Big Spring Education Employees Federal Credit Union, 1110 Benton, Big Spring 79720. For more information, call 263-8393.

• A fund has been established at Citizen's Credit Union for the Lupe Chavarria family, which lost all of its possessions in a house fire. For more information, contact the credit union at 267-6373.

• Weight Watchers meets at 6 p.m. Thursdays at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m. Bring this note when you join and receive a box of Weight Watchers snacks through Oct. 31. Weigh-in is confidential and you don't have to talk if you don't want to. Flexible payment options.

• Big Spring Band Boosters meet the second Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the BSHS Band Hall. All band parents are welcome.

• The mission of CASA of West Texas is to promote and support quality volunteers who speak for the best interest of abused and neglected children in court in an effort to find each child a safe, nurturing and permanent home. We currently have 55 children in foster care without a volunteer. We need your help. If you're interested in volunteering please contact Suzy Milliken at 1-877-316-8346 or visit www.BecomeaCASA.org or www.casawtx.org.

Police blotter

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

• RYAN WAYNE NORMAN, 19, of 2902 Parkway, was arrested Thursday on a charge of public intoxication.

• FRED ALLEN PERRY, 46, of Lamesa, was arrested Thursday on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.

• MOSES OLIVARES, 21, of 2602 Carleton, was arrested Thursday on two warrants from other agencies.

• ROBERT RAMIREZ GONZALES, 45, of 707 Scurry, was arrested Thursday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.

• DALE THOMAS MITCHELL, 36, of Coahoma, was arrested Thursday on a warrant for theft.

• ROBERT RUBEN SANCHEZ, 46, of 1023 Stadium, was arrested Thursday on a charge of public intoxication.

• EUFEMIO ORTIZ, 18, of 1401 S. Aylesford, was arrested Thursday on charges of burglary of a vehicle and evading arrest or detention.

• ALESHA KAY PACE, 35, of Sweetwater, was arrested Thursday on a warrant from another agency.

• DANIELLE IREAN PACE, 18, of Sweetwater, was arrested Thursday on a warrant from another agency.

• ASSAULT was reported in the 400 block of E. Fourth Street.

• FORGERY was reported in the 400 block of E. Fourth Street.

• BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 1000 block of S. Nolan.

• THEFT was reported in the 1100 block of S. Nolan.

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 59 inmates at the time of this report.

• FRED ALLEN PERRY, 46, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.

• SERGIO MORALES MENDOZA, 42, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a charge of assault of a family/household member with a previous conviction.

• MOSES OLIVAREZ, 21, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a Dawson County motion to revoke probation for burglary of a habitation and a Dawson County warrant for bondsman off bond for cruelty to non-livestock animals – failure to provide.

• ROBERT RAMIREZ GONZALES, 45, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance and municipal warrants for failure to maintain financial responsibility and failure to appear (two counts).

• FRANKLIN KYLE CASEY, 49, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on warrants for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon (two counts).

• DALE THOMAS MITCHELL JR., 36, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a Taylor County warrant for theft of property – more than $1,500 and less than $20,000.

• EUFEMIO ORTIZ, 18, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on charges of burglary of a vehicle and evading arrest or detention.

• DANIELLE IRENE PACE, 18, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a Lubbock County warrant for bondsman off bond for theft.

• ALESHA PACE, 35, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of issuance of a bad check.

• ROBERT RUBIN SANCHEZ, 46, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

Fire/EMS

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

• MEDICAL was reported in the 3200 block of Wasson. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 2200 block of Alabama. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAUMA was reported in the 700 block of Capri. Service refused.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 2600 block of Carol. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 5200 block of Sterling. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAUMA was reported in the 2600 block of Carol. Service refused.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1500 block of Vines. Service refused.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 400 block of Kenneth Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.

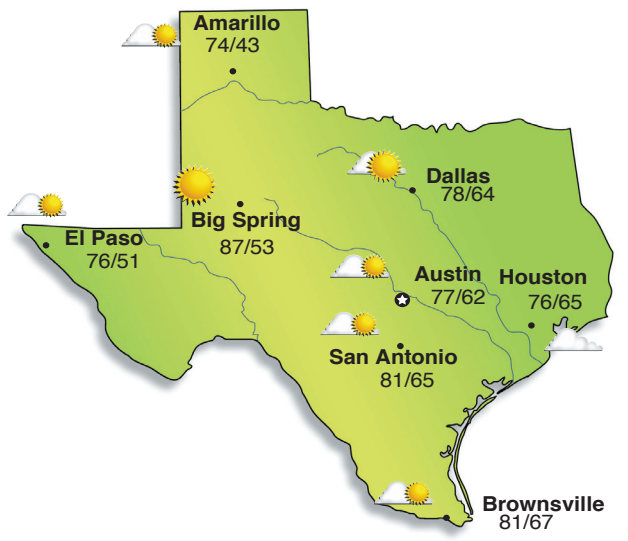
• MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.

Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Sat 2/26	Sun 2/27	Mon 2/28	Tue 3/1	Wed 3/2
87/53 Mainly sunny. Near record high temperatures. High 87F.	**80/41** Partly cloudy and windy. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the low 40s.	**74/38** Windy with sunshine. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the upper 30s.	**78/40** Abundant sunshine. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the low 40s.	**82/48** Mainly sunny. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the upper 40s.
Sunrise: 7:17 AM Sunset: 6:41 PM	Sunrise: 7:16 AM Sunset: 6:42 PM	Sunrise: 7:15 AM Sunset: 6:43 PM	Sunrise: 7:14 AM Sunset: 6:43 PM	Sunrise: 7:12 AM Sunset: 6:44 PM

Texas At A Glance



What's Happening

March 5-6
42nd Annual Gem & Mineral Show.
Howard County Fair Barn
Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun. 10am-5pm
Call **(432) 263-3340** for more info

March 25
MHMR Hoops, Dreams & Goals.
Basketball Tournament
Dorothy Garrett Coliseum
Contact **Amy Vidal**
(432) 263-0007 ext. 256

March 26-27
Big Spring Rattlesnake Roundup
For more info contact
Dennis Burns (432) 263-3409
or **Ray Alexander (432) 212-3533**

March 26-27
United Way 3 Man Scramble
Golf Tournament
For more info please contact
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220029 Big Spring Texas Convention & Visitors Bureau
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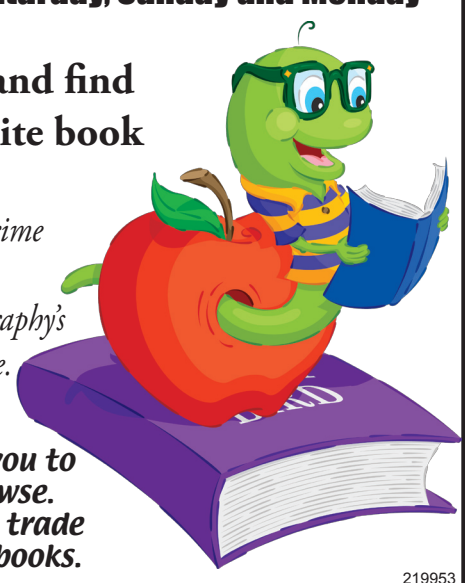
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News in brief

Wis. Assembly passes bill taking away union rights, sends measure to Senate

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Republicans in the Wisconsin Assembly took the first significant action on their plan to strip collective bargaining rights from most public workers, abruptly passing the measure early Friday morning before sleep-deprived Democrats realized what was happening.

The vote ended three straight days of punishing debate in the Assembly. But the political standoff over the bill — and the monumental protests at the state Capitol against it — appear far from over.

The Assembly's vote sent the bill on to the Senate, but minority Democrats in that house have fled to Illinois to prevent a vote. No one knows when they will return from hiding. Republicans who control the chamber sent state troopers out looking for them at their homes on Thursday, but they turned up nothing.

"I applaud the Democrats in the Assembly for earnestly debating this bill and urge their counterparts in the state Senate to return to work and do the same," Assembly Speaker Jeff Fitzgerald, R-Horicon, said in a statement issued moments after the vote.

The plan from Republican Gov. Scott Walker contains a number of provisions he says are designed to fill the state's $137 million deficit and lay the groundwork for fixing a projected $3.6 billion shortfall in the upcoming 2011-13 budget.

Anti-Gadhafi forces call for new push to oust leader in Libya

BENGHAZI, Libya (AP) — Libyans braced for mass protests Friday as the rebel movement called for a new push to oust Moammar Gadhafi after a day of fierce fighting in which rebels made new gains and advanced closer to his stronghold in Tripoli while pro-government forces attacked two nearby cities in battles that killed at least 17 people.

International momentum also has been building for action to punish Gadhafi's regime for the bloodshed.

The European Union's foreign policy chief, Catherine Ashton, said Friday that the bloc needs to consider sanctions such as travel restrictions and an asset freeze against Libya to achieve a halt to the violence there and move toward democracy.

NATO's main decision-making body also planned to meet in emergency session Friday to consider the deteriorating situation, although Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen has said the alliance has no intention of intervening in the North African nation.

The U.N.'s top human rights official, Navi Pillay, meanwhile, said there are reports of mass killings of thousands in Libya that should spur the international community to "step in vigorously" to end the crackdown against anti-government protesters.

5 killed as Iraqis protest in 'Day of Rage' anti-government rallies across country

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraqi security forces trying to disperse crowds of demonstrators in northern Iraq killed 5 people Friday as thousands rallied in cities across the country during what has been billed as the "Day of Rage."

The Iraqi capital was virtually locked down, with soldiers deployed en masse across central Baghdad, searching protesters trying to enter Liberation Square and closing off the plaza and side streets with razor wire. The heavy security presence reflected the concern of Iraqi officials that demonstrations here could gain traction as they did in Egypt and Tunisia, then spiral out of control.

Iraqi army helicopters buzzed overhead, while Humvees and trucks took up posts throughout the square, where a group of about 2,000 flag-waving demonstrators shouted "No to unemployment," and "No to the liar al-Maliki," referring to Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

Saudi man planned attack for years

LUBBOCK (AP) — Moved by 9/11 and speeches by Osama bin Laden, Khalid Ali-M Aldawsari for years had secretly planned to launch a terrorist attack in the U.S., prosecutors allege.

In his journal, the college student from Saudi Arabia who studied chemical engineering in Texas described a plan to travel to New York City, place bombs in several rental cars for remote detonation and leave the vehicles in different places during rush hour, according to court documents released Thursday.

"After mastering the English language, learning how to build explosives and continuous planning to target the infidel Americans, it is time for jihad," or holy war, Aldawsari wrote in the journal, according to the documents filed by prosecutors.

Aldawsari was expected to appear in federal court today, two days after his arrest on a charge of attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction.

The 20-year-old bought explosive chemicals online as part of a plan to hide bomb materials inside dolls and baby carriages to blow up dams, nuclear plants or the Dallas home of former President George W. Bush, the Justice Department saidy.

"As we lay out in this affidavit, there were a range of targets being contemplated," Robert Casey, the FBI special agent in charge of the case, said. "I can't speak to his state of mind or the priority in his mind of any of the range of targets we think we discovered."

Aldawsari, who was legally in the U.S. on a student visa, studied chemical engineering at Texas Tech University until January.

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Freddie Mae White, 97, died Saturday. Funeral services were at 10 a.m. today at Baker's Chapel AME Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Ruby Atkinson, 87, died Sunday. Funeral services were at 2 p.m. today at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Robert Adkins, 60, died Thursday. The family will receive friends from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m.. Sunday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m.. Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Ronald Suggs, 67, died Friday.Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

DEBATE

Continued from Page 1A

David Rios and Kymberly Gonzales, who were the alternates in Public Forum Debate, and Shawn and Kyle Adams, Forrest McJunkin, Shiloh Creswell, Taylor Digby and Victoria Gonzales.

The Tall Cotton District ranges from as far north as Borger to San Angelo in the south with Monahans and Abilene being the western and eastern-most points.

Clint Adams, Tall Cotton District Chair and Big Spring High School co-coach, commented, "In NFL there are no classifications. You're competing with students from the smallest schools in the areas to the largest schools in the area."

The National Forensic League (NFL) is a nonpartisan, not-for-profit educational honor society established to encourage and motivate high school students to participate in and become proficient in the forensic arts: debate, public speaking and interpretation.

The NFL National Tournament is held annually, featuring competition in a number of events, including Policy Debate, Lincoln Douglas Debate, Congressional Debate, Public Forum Debate, United States Extemporaneous Speaking, International Extemporaneous Speaking, Original Oratory, Dramatic Interpretation, Humorous Interpretation, Duo Interpretation, Commentary, Impromptu Speaking, Prose Reading, Poetry Reading, Expository Speaking, Storytelling and Supplemental Debate. Top students take home more than $200,000 in college scholarships at each national tournament.

FISD

Continued from Page 1A

were paid through federal stimulus funds that will not be available after this year — also will be axed, he noted.

"We knew that (stimulus) money was going away, but we had to plan for it, anyway," he said.

In the coming months, district officials will keep a keen eye on the budget, looking for areas to trim, Johnson promised.

"When you're talking about losing up to $1 million, we'd be cutting into areas we'd prefer not to," he said. "But we're going to do everything we can to protect the integrity of the educational environment."

Areas that will likely see severe budgetary cuts include construction projects, extra-curricular activities and travel expenses for conventions and seminars, he added.

"There are a lot of areas (of the budget) that we've tried to protect in the past that we just won't be able to do anymore," he said.

While Forsan is preparing for the worst-case scenario, Johnson remains optimistic that the news coming out of Austin will improve as the legislative session progresses.

"I really think that, in the long run, it will be better than the picture we're painting right now," he said. "But we need people contacting our representatives to ensure … that our children receive the highest possible quality of education we can provide."

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

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CARD

Continued from Page 1A

start of her brother's third marriage.

"One of the things that impressed me about the letter was that it talked about how great the marriage was," Dodds said.

In the card, Dodds' brother and sister-in-law both compiled a letter, but it was his letter that impressed Dodds; it was the scriptures that he had included. According to Dodds, her brother and his wife had read the Bible from cover to cover together two times in their marriage.

"I'm 91 years old and still teaching Sunday school," Dodds said. "Next year at Christmas, I am using these scriptures for Sunday school. He wanted them to be shared."

The sentiment in the card held even more importance as it was signed, "Love you, love you, love you." According to Dodds, her and her brother were the closest of all the siblings.

"I am going to write a letter to the people living in Brady's former residence and see if they know anything about the letter," Dodds said.

There is no way of telling where the card came from, but one thing is certain – it's a card that Dodds will treasure and never forget.

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

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Bill McClellan Managing Editor
Ron Midkiff Publisher
Steve Reagan Staff Writer
Adam Coleman Sports Editor
Thomas Jenkins Staff Writer

We salute:

Each week, the Herald salutes individuals and groups from our community and area who have been recognized for special achievements or accomplishments.
We recognize these special people for working to help make our region a better place to live, work and play

• The Screamin' Sloppy Joes for being such good sports and participating in the Harlem Ambassadors game, which in turn supported a good cause.

• Jennifer and Brady Hedges for going where nobody has yet gone and starting a foundation focused on spreading educational information about testicular cancer.

• Sierra Mancha, Jocelyn Chagoya, Hannah Jensen, Rachel McCalister, Gabriella Medina, Austin Fair and Jeremiah Cooley for advancing to the regional spelling bee, which will take place in Midland Saturday morning.

• Howard County volunteer fire fighters for spending such tireless hours fighting all the recent grass and structure fires that have come up in the past week and their efforts to educate the public on fire safety and encouraging residents to adhere to the burn ban.

• Big Spring, Stanton, Grady and Garden City for winning their basketball playoff games this past week and advancing to the next level.

Is there an individual or organization in our community that you feel should be saluted? If so, please send us their name and why you think they should be recognized. We must have your name and telephone number and you must provide it in writing.

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

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

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

• Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
• Sign your letter.
• Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
• We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
• We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
• Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
• Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to newsdesk@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

A mother's search for meaning



SUSAN ESTRICH

There has been a whole spate of memoirs lately by young mothers searching for meaning. They go off looking for happiness in yoga and personal trainers and spiritual gurus. These are intelligent women, women with fancy educations who either don't work or make a living as writers, which is (if you ask me) pretty great when your kids are little. I wrote five books while my kids were young without having to leave my house, which is my definition of a good deal for a mother with young children.

So why are these women so unhappy? Why are they trying to find "happiness" in home-improvement projects and exercise and deep breaths? Not that there is anything wrong with any of those things. But from where I sit, these women are in the middle of the most wonderful years of their lives, and they are wasting them whining.

Believe me, I empathize with the trials of raising children. I remember being so tired I couldn't think straight, feeling like I had not a minute to myself, wondering what happened to the woman I used to be. I spent years worrying about money after getting divorced, worrying about how to provide a secure home for my children while I was trying to figure out how to pay the mortgage. I love my children more than life, which gives them the power to hurt me like no one else. Being a mother is not easy.

But there is a reason why women who have everything in the world want children even more. There is a reason why we keep giving up promising careers and pursuits we love to be mothers. We say we are doing it for our children, but let me tell you the secret, as one who was once there: We do it for ourselves. We do it because, for all its pain, being a mother with her children in her arms is the very best thing in the world, or at least the best thing I ever found. When I gave up politics to have children, I used to say that I would rather be woken up in the middle of the night by a crying child than by a powerful politician.

I meant it.

The problem is that it doesn't last forever. Please, God, I will always be my children's mother. Please, God, they will outlive me by a hundred years. A mother, my friend Annie says, is always only as happy as her least happy child. I want happiness and good health for my children far, far more than I want them for myself. You don't love your children any less as they grow older, but you do come to realize, painfully sometimes, that they don't belong to you. They have a right to their own lives, and a parent's job is not to hold on, but to let go.

Now that my children are grown (one in college and one starting in the fall), I'm ready to look for (OK, maybe in need of) some other source of (lesser) happiness, and I'm happy to take inspiration from anywhere I can find it. My favorites are the books by older women, who have the perspective of life's joys and losses, something I have learned painfully over the years. But frankly, many of them are just too sad, and sadness is something I don't need to read about. So I pick up the memoirs of the young mothers, figuring there will be fewer deaths and tragedies in them. And they are, for sure, not nearly as sad. But they make me want to shake their authors.

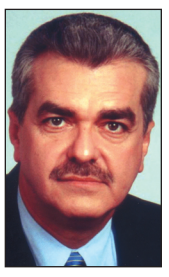
Why do you need a "happiness project" when you have a husband who loves you, plenty of money and two beautiful and healthy children?

Why do you need to "escape" your family when, before you know it, they will be gone? I'm all for deep breaths, but can't you take them at home?

Did someone tell me this 10 or 15 years ago? I can't remember. Maybe you just can't hear. But in case you are one of those mothers and you're reading this, let me try: Wait until you are my age. Wait until your children are my children's age. I promise that you will look back and realize that heaven was right there in your house, right there looking at you.

To find out more about Susan Estrich and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.

Watching others realize my dream



MIGUEL PEREZ

When we see people protesting all over the Arab world — liberating themselves from oppressive dictators, using social media to come together and taking amazing risks in order to regain their freedom — most of us cringe a little. We admire their courage and their yearning for democracy, but we worry for their safety.

Not I. I'm a Cuban-American. I've spent most of my life waiting to see a popular uprising on the streets of Havana. I can't think of anything I rather would see than the day of my own people's liberation. When I see people regaining their freedom in other parts of the world, all I feel is envy.

I know our day is coming. But frankly, watching other people realize my dream is very painful, especially when we Cubans have waited longer than anyone else. We are the victims of the world's longest dictatorship — 51 years! — and now it is becoming clearer than ever that it is also one of the world's most repressive.

Let's face it; Cuba is not as free as some of the Arab states with dictatorships. There is repression, and then there is Cuban repression, which is about absolute control and intimidation.

There is repression like the kind we saw in Egypt, where the opposition used computers, mobile phones, Facebook and Twitter to organize massive demonstrations, and then there is Cuban repression, which restricts the people's access to the Internet. And in Cuba, potential organizers of a popular uprising are constantly watched, harassed, physically abused and thrown in jail even for planning a protest.

You've heard of preventive medicine, right? Well, in Cuba, the Castro brothers practice preventive repression. Unlike Egypt's Hosni Mubarak, the Fidel and Raul Castro regime has made limiting the Cuban people's access to the Internet and social networking technology a top priority.

These things are hard to explain to anyone who has not lived under Cuba's Stalinist brand of totalitarian communism. Many of my American friends simply don't understand me when I try to illustrate the reasons the Cuban people have tolerated so many atrocities for so long. And I don't blame them. Unless you have lived in Castro's Cuba, unless you feel the profound fear that has become part of Cuban culture, it's incomprehensible.

But the Cuban people do live in deep fear. They find the Castro brothers much more intimidating than the sharks in the Caribbean. Mind you, if Cuba and the United States were to open the floodgates and allow Cubans to flee from the island on flotillas to Florida — as has occurred in the past — surely thousands would risk their lives crossing the Florida Straits on anything that floats to regain their freedom. And yet they find demonstrating against the government a lot more life-threatening. Doesn't that say something?

No one turned out Monday for a Havana demonstration that was organized from the United States to follow the example of the people of Egypt, Tunisia and Libya.

It was obviously an underestimation of the absolute control of the Castro regime.

So why, you ask, don't the Cuban people run out to the streets and do what we have seen recently throughout the Middle East and North Africa? Well, first, because most of them have not seen it. The government-controlled Cuban media obviously want to prevent the domino effect from happening and show the Cuban people very little of what is actually happening in the rest of the world.

But even if they had clearly seen the examples of other popular uprisings, Cubans would not take to the streets, because they lack the cell phones, computers and other communication technology that has armed and strengthened other dissidents around the world.

Cell phones were not even allowed in Cuba until 2008, and they are still unaffordable to the overwhelming majority of the Cuban people. Only 14 percent of Cubans have access to the Internet, and most of them are government officials and Communist Party loyalists. When dissidents use social media to organize any kind of protest in Cuba, most of the people they are notifying are Castro's goons.

Cuban dissidents are better-known abroad than they are within Cuba because, though they can communicate with the outside world, they have no way of reaching or mobilizing the masses within the island.

Yet perhaps motivated only by wishful thinking, Cuban-Americans have started Facebook pages calling on their compatriots on the island to heed the call for freedom coming from the Middle East. One page is called "If Egypt did it, why not Cuba?" Another such page, "For the Popular Uprising in Cuba," already has more than 4,500 members, calling for "a popular and peaceful uprising in Cuba, without bloodshed, without violence, with people taking to the streets ... igniting the spark of freedom in order to cause a social and political change that will lead Cuba to a democracy."

As they waited for some kind of news from Cuba Monday and realized that the uprising they expected had failed to materialize, Cuban-Americans sadly began to acknowledge that the conditions for a popular uprising still don't exist in our homeland.

Perhaps the time will come when communication technology can be used to drive the Castro regime out of power, but expecting it to happen immediately — just because other dictatorships have become technologically vulnerable — is extremely naive. It's OK for others to wonder why the Cuban people can't liberate themselves from the choking grip of the Castro brothers. If they have not lived under their regime, the extent of Cuban repression may be hard to grasp.

But Cuban-Americans who know the Machiavellian ways of the Castro brothers should know better. We know they'd do anything to remain in power.

The Arab countries have shown us the weapon that can liberate Cuba — social media — but first we have to find a way to arm the Cuban people. If we want to realize our own dream of freedom, if we want to see our people dancing in the streets of Havana, it's time to declare a cyberwar.

To find out more about Miguel Perez and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

The many faces of courage



Bonnie Wheat

Defining courage is one of those as-difficult-as-nailing-Jell-O-to-a-wall tasks. While some may view courage as facing a life-threatening situation without fear, others see courage as facing the same situation in spite of fear. Others attach an emotional or mental spin to courage that has little to do with physical threat or danger.

The late Erma Bombeck said, "All of us have moments in our lives that test our courage. Taking children into a house with a white carpet is one of them."

Most of us would agree that there are times when we tiptoe into a situation with trepidation. Yet, we admire those who have the courage to stand against the tide of popular opinion.

Several years ago, I heard about a high-school student in the heart of Denver Bronco territory who wore a Dallas Cowboy sweatshirt to school on Orange Crush day. Although her motives and timing might have been questioned, her unspoken loyalty was heard clearly because she had the courage to face opposition.

Other faces of courage can be seen in the mirrors of adventure and flexibility. I once owned a poster with a picture of a beginning trombone player trying out his new instrument. The caption under the picture said, "Courage is the strength to try something new."

We sometimes fear the unknown and dread the thought of stepping outside our comfort zones into the abyss of uncertainty. Courage, however, challenges us to extend our boundaries and stretch beyond our self-imposed limitations.

Although there are many faces of courage, the brave men and women in the Bible who performed acts of courage always had a source of strength greater than themselves.

When Moses knew that he was about to die and God had chosen Joshua to lead the Israelites through the lands of their enemies into the Promised Land, he admonished the people with these words: "Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the Lord your God is the one who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you" (Deuteronomy 31:6 NASB).

While most of us will probably never receive a Purple Heart badge of courage or risk losing our lives in the line of duty, we are all called upon to be courageous at times.

Whatever face of courage we are appointed to wear, we can wear it with the assurance that our God will never fail us or forsake us.

Bonnie Wheat is an author and a minister's wife. She can be contacted at brwheat@suddenlink.net.

Church News

Community Ash Wednesday service and luncheon series

On Wednesday, March 9 at 6 p.m., several congregations will come together for an ecumenical Ash Wednesday service. The community service will happen at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, located on the corner of 10th and Goliad. The service will include several clergy and lay members from St. Mary's, First Presbyterian, First Presbyterian in Coahoma, First United Methodist and First Christian. The time together will include special music, dispensation of ashes and communion.

Then, starting March 16, seven congregations will participate in a weekly Lenten Luncheon series to be held at noon on Wednesdays.

The schedule is as follows:

• March 16 at First United Methodist Church featuring the Rev. Barbara Kirk-Norris.

• March 23 at First Presbyterian Church featuring the Rev. Sharon Wiese.

• March 30 at Immaculate Heart featuring the Rev. Craig Holstedt and the Rev. Tom Koger.

• April 6 at St. Mary's Episcopal Church featuring Monsignor Bernard Gulley.

• April 13 at the Salvation Army featuring the Rev. Ken McIntosh.

• April 20 at First Christian Church featuring Capt. Ed Cheshire.

The lunches and programs are open to the public.

First United Methodist Church

Our hearts and prayers have gone out to our mission team this week as they continued their spiritual, educational and medical journey in Nicaragua. The group is made up of two dozen volunteers from Big Spring and the El Paso area, including pastors, lay persons and medical staff. They are due to arrive back in the states, landing at Midland about midnight Saturday. Our pastor, the Rev. Sharon Wiese, who is among those making the long trip home, will be bringing the messages at both services of worship Sunday morning at 8:30 and 10:50.

Sunday evening, there will be a special snack supper served in Garrett Hall beginning at 5:30, followed by a cake-decorating contest. This fun-filled activity is for fathers and their children, boy or girl, no age limit. We could still use some more plain, un-iced cakes for the contest; all the decorating supplies will be provided.

There are openings in our Children's Day-Out program. Classes meet Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., for ages two weeks through 4 years old. This is a Christ-centered program of socialization, games, crafts and Bible activities are available in most classes. Contact Brenna Hoff at the church office for additional information.

You are invited to join the young families in a six-week study "The Art of Marriage." The group will meet Wednesdays at 6 p.m. beginning March 9. The class will not meet on the week of spring break. Study books are $35 and childcare will be available.

March 9 is Ash Wednesday. There will be a short, special service in the sanctuary prior to the serving of the regular noon Bible luncheon in Garrett Hall. Wednesday, March 16, First Methodist will play host to the first of the community lenten lunch series which will continue through April 20.

Spring is just around the corner and it's a wonderful time to share in God's love and fellowship at First Methodist. We're located at Fourth and Scurry in the heart of downtown Big Spring.

Signal Mountain Emmaus Community

Signal Mountain Emmaus Community meets at Spring Creek Fellowship, located at 501 Birdwell Lane the second Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. The babe chick meeting is at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting is March 10. Please mark your calendar. Bring a dish and join us at 6 p.m. for a potluck fellowship. For more information see our website www.signal-emmaus.org.

The Path

Spring Tabernacle Ministries has started a faith-based support group for those of us who need a little help finding and continuing to walk down the path that God has for each of us. We will be having two meetings every Thursday, starting March 3. The meetings will be at 11 a.m. and noon, each lasting an hour. The classes will take place at Spring Tabernacle Ministries, located at 1209 Wright St.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church News

Everyone is invited to attend worship services at St. Mary's this Sunday. Sunday school for all ages begins at 9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist will be at 10:30 a.m. in the church. The Daily Grind with God – coffee hour meets every Wednesday at 10 a.m., in the parish hall. Also, a special class called SignChiDo is being offered at 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays in the parish hall.

All youth from sixth to 12th grades are encouraged to join us for our youth group at the First Christian Church, Wednesday, March 2 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. For more information about St. Mary's Episcopal Church, call 267-8201. St. Mary's is located at 1001 S. Goliad.

Chapel of Faith

You are invited to attend Chapel of Faith church, located at the corner of E. 14th and Goliad streets, as we learn more about God's word and His love for

See **CHURCH NEWS**, Page 7A

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Midland Center
Ladies Luncheon*
featuring Darren McGrady
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Friday, February 25
12 p.m.
Hilton Grand Ballroom
SHOPPING HOURS
February 25 - 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
February 26 - 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
February 27 - 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.
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Contact us at 432.682.4732 or www.jlweb.org/midland for more information.
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God offers his peace to you. A peace that will "guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

(Phillippians 4:7)

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Pray about everything. And don't skip Paul's ingredient of gratitude. "Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done."

(Phillippians 4:6)

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Church Directory



This Devotional and Directory is made possible by these businesses who encourage all of us to attend worship services

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4204 Wasson Rd. 267-8438
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1512 Birdwell Lane
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1200 W. 4th. 263-4242
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Gatesville Street 263-4883
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1108 E. 6th 267-1915
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FIRST BAPTIST
Sand Springs 393-5565
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Remember this: "God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners."

(Romans 5:8)

Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

(Psalm 91:1)

I will wait for the Lord to help us... My only hope is in him.

(Isaiah 8:17)

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CHURCH NEWS

Continued from Page 5A

each of us. Sunday services are at 10:30 a.m. each week and 5 p.m. Sunday evenings. We are starting a new Bible study on the book of Matthew. The Rev. Scott Willis will be preaching this Sunday. The title of his sermon, "What Would Jesus Say?" is based on Matthew 6:24-34.

Encouraging Words: "Never undertake anything for which you would not have the courage to ask the blessings of Heaven." — George Christof Lichtenberg.

We encourage you to attend the church of your choice. However, if you are looking for a church home, we invite you to visit the Chapel of Faith. You will be warmly welcomed. Remember, God loves each of us so much that He sent His son to die for our sins that we might live for Him now and with Him eternally.

First Presbyterian Church, Coahoma

The friendly folks at First Presbyterian Church, Coahoma invite anyone to come and worship with us. We meet at 11 a.m. Sunday to share the scriptures, sing, pray and worship, led by commissioned lay Pastor Tom Koger.

The weekly Lectionary Bible Study, led by Tom and Craig Holstedt, meets at FPC Big Spring at 5:17 p.m. Wednesday. The 90th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Tres Rios will be at St. Mark Presbyterian Church in San Angelo today.

Our next family frolic will be Saturday, March 12, at 7 p.m. in the church social hall. We encourage everyone to prepare to present her or his talent for our mutual enjoyment. The lectionary for the eighth Sunday in ordinary time is Isaiah 49:8-16; Psalm 131; I Corinthians 4:1-5; Matthew 6:24-34.

College Baptist Church

Women Walking and Reaching Out will meet Tuesday, March 1 at 6:30 p.m. There will be a cooking demonstration by one of the ladies as well as testimonies, praise and good food. Ladies are encouraged to come and bring a friend.

The youth of College Baptist will have a burrito sale March 6 at the church to raise funds for the Spring Break mission trip as well as other youth activities. You can eat at the church or order frozen burritos to take home for $2 each. They will be barbecue brisket burritos.

The series of sermons, Family Matters, will continue Sunday with Model for the World. Last Sunday's sermon was The Family that Prays Together. God has a plan for families, a plan that they stay together, respecting and loving each other. That is what these sermons are about.

Come and hear God's plan for marriages and families. Sunday school is 9:45 a.m. and worship service is 11 a.m.

Our Wee Singers, children from ages 2 to 4-year-olds, sang for us this past Sunday morning and really put their hearts, hands and feet into it, not to mention facial expressions. We were blessed!

First Presbyterian Church, Big Spring

The Lectionary Bible Sudy, led by Craig Holstedt and Tom Koger, met at 5:17 p.m. Wednesday and the Chancel Choir practiced from 6 to 7 p.m.

The combined youth group with our youth and those from St. Mary's Episcopal and First Christian met Wednesday from 6 to 8 p.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal.

The encouragers support group met in Fellowship Hall Monday, Feb. 21. The Presbyterian Women held their Bible study Tuesday at 2 p.m. in the church library.

Tres Rios Presbytery will have its 90th stated meeting today at St. Mark Presbyterian Church in San Angelo.

Deborah Jones will provide refreshments for "Take Ten" Sunday. Liturgist is Mark Morgan. Don Boling, Charlie Boling and Donavon Salinas served as liturgists last week. Ushers for February are Paula Farquhar, Susan Holstedt, Anne Sinclair, and John Yater.

The lectionary for the eighth Sunday in ordinary time is Isaiah 49:8-16; Psalm 131; I Corinthians 4:1-5; Matthew 6:24-34. The Rev. Holstedt will deliver the sermon. The choir will offer "Praises Let Us Sing" by J.J. Mauret; during the offertory they will sing "Rejoice, the Lord is King" by Vicki Hancock. The Noisy Offering, which is used to alleviate hunger in our community and abroad, will be taken during the worship service.

If you cannot attend worship, listen in on KBST 1490 AM at 11 a.m. If you wish to have a printed bulletin for Sunday services, call the church office at 263-4211. You may also see what's happening at the church by visiting our website: www.fpcbs.org. On our website, you can find a link that will enable you to listen to several recent sermons by the Rev. Holstedt.

Cornerstone Covenant Church

Cornerstone Covenant Church family would like to invite all our un-churched citizens to join us Sunday at 10:30 a.m. for our current series, entitled "Fruit of the Spirit." Join us as we take a journey through the word of God to discovering the attributes of the spirit-filled believer. We will continue with the powerful subject of faith. This series will empower every believer with the knowledge that has been created so someone can eat from the fruit of their life.

Cornerstone Covenant Church is a unified, spirit-led, purpose-driven church that cultivates an atmosphere of faith so lives can be transformed by Jesus Christ. We meet Wednesdays at 7 p.m. for mid-week Bible study, Friday's for Celebrate Recovery at 6:30 p.m. and Sundays at 10:30 a.m. for worship. CCC is located at 706 E. 12th St. For more information, contact our office at 264-0015 or visit us on the web www.cccbigspring.org

Alive in Christ Lutheran Church LCMS

We would love to have you join us for church Sundays at 9 a.m. with Sunday school following at 10:15.

Pastor Bob Boyce will be preaching this Sunday. His sermon will be titled "God & Mankind" (The Christian Perspective) from today's lessons.

Angela Newton is our organist. This week's acolyte will be McKenna Alsobrooks. Our elders are Bobby Roever and Phillip Reid.

The liturgy will be read by Richard Knocke. The readings are Isaiah 49:8-16a, Psalm 115: (1-8)9-18, 1 Corinthians 4:1-13, and Matthew 6:24-34.

The flowers this week are given by Bob and Jaunell Roever in celebration of their 54th wedding anniversary Feb. 16.

Sundays, the adults and youth are studying from the "Growing in Christ" series. This Sunday, the topic will be "Jesus Teaches Us to Pray" from Matthew 6:25-34. Feel free to join our Sunday school classes to learn more about our Lord and Savior.

Sunday, directly after Sunday school, there will be a voters' meeting followed by a pot luck. Plan on at least staying for the meeting. We need your input and attendance.

Mid-week school is beginning a study preparing us for Jesus' last days of his ministry. Last Wednesday evening we studied "The Great Commandment" from Mark 12:28-34. This Wednesday, we will study "Signs, End of the Age and Tribulation" from Matthew 24:3-28. We would love to have your children join us.

The meals are being served from 6:30-7 p.m. The meal Feb. 23 was prepared by Breanna Conner. We still need volunteers to sign up for the preparation of next Wednesday's meal. If you are interested in helping with a meal, please contact Dana Byrd.

Remember, on Saturday, March 5, the Circuit 4 Convocation will be hosted by the mission of Higher Things Inc.

Calling all laity (yep, that's us, all of us) with a heart for our youth. The following event is designed for you ... as well as pastors to support you. The event is "Christ on Campus." This is a campus ministry – West Texas style.

Circuit 4 Convocation will be March 5 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church (3000 West Golf Course Road in Midland). Call 432-697-3221 for reservation. The cost, lunch and childcare are free.

The mission of Higher Things Inc. is to assist parents, congregations and pastors with cultivating and promoting a Lutheran identity among youth through conferences, retreats, publications and the internet. For more information see http://higherthings.org.

Last Monday evening, several of our members had the opportunity to brain storm about our call to evangelism. Pastor Don Roesentreter gave us some insight as we discussed today's church attendance problems, the world's problems in general and other issues. Thank you to the Board of Evangelism for arranging this meeting of enlightenment. We are looking forward to the next meeting.

The LYF is selling notepads, calendars and all occasion greeting cards. These items can be found in the hallway. Please look them over and help the youth with this activity.

The LYF will be hosting dance lessons starting in March. They will be meeting every other week. If interested, sign up on the sheet placed on the Youth Room door. Come learn how to waltz, the electric slide, fox trot, cupid shuffle, etc. This will be a fun-filled time.

Mark your calendars for Lent beginning Ash Wednesday, March 9 and ending with Easter, April 24. More details of the various activities scheduled during the Lenten season are coming.

The Board of Education will meet Tuesday, March 8, at 7 p.m. The LWML will meet March 10, at 7 p.m. Monday, March 14, the LWML will serve refreshments at the VA. The elders meet March 17 at 7 p.m. The Board of Assimilation will meet March 22 at 7 p.m.

We are located at 2805 Lynn Drive in the Kentwood subdivision. Our church phone number is (432) 264-7818. Our website is www.lutheransonline.com/aliveinchristbstx.

First Church of the Nazarene.

Do you feel it? Can you see it? It's Revival! Join us Sunday through Wednesday, March 2 at 6:30 p.m. to hear the Rev. John Hicks. Your heart will be revived and your soul will be renewed.

Also, on Saturday, Feb. 26, Angel Food will be delivered to the church gym. If you placed an order please be sure to come and pick it up from 11 a.m.-noon.

We welcome you to come love God, love others and love our community. Our Sunday services begin at 10 a.m. and Wednesday evening group meetings are at 6:30 p.m. We also have small groups throughout the week for all different interests.

First Church of the Nazarene is located at 1400 Lancaster. For more information, contact the church office at (432) 267-7015. You can visit us on the web at www.nazfamily.org where you can view a live service. We are also on Facebook and Twitter.

Holy Trinity Catholic Church

Holy Trinity Catholic Church would like to invite you to receive the word of God with us this weekend and every weekend at 5 p.m. Saturday and 8:30 a.m. (bilingual) and 10:30 a.m. Sunday. The masses are all at the Immaculate Heart of Mary campus, located at 1009 Hearn. We welcome newcomers and visitors with open arms and a small gift, a Holy Trinity pin, at all masses.

Holy Trinity Catholic Church is getting ready for a very busy time — Lent.

The Holy Trinity Youth Group would like to invite all junior high and high school students to a Mardi Gras dance today from 8 p.m. To 12 a.m. at Immaculate Heart of Mary hall. Entrance is $3 per person or $5 per couple. The youth group will have beads and a mask available for $1 a set. Join the youth for an evening of fun and dancing.

Holy Trinity will be having a pro-life mass March 6 at 10:30 a.m.; this mass is being offered to pray for anyone who has been involved with abortion, to pray for abortion to stop, and to pray for the leaders of our country to make the right decisions when it comes to abortion. Please join us.

Ash Wednesday is March 9. Holy Trinity would like to invite everyone to join us for the distribution of ashes.

We are offering the ashes at different times of the day to accommodate as many people as possible. Call the office for the exact times.

The way of the cross and stations of the cross will be conducted every Friday during Lent, starting March 11 at 6 p.m. followed by a fish fry in the hall at Immaculate Heart of Mary campus. Join us for fellowship and good fish.

See **CHURCH NEWS,** Page 8A

sudoku

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

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

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Bidding Quiz

Your right-hand opponent opens One Spade, neither side vulnerable. What, if anything, would you bid with each of the following four hands?

1. ♠ A62 ♥ J8653 ♦ A8 ♣ A75
2. ♠ AJ8 ♥ Q5 ♦ KQJ6 ♣ A973
3. ♠ 10 ♥ AKJ974 ♦ A73 ♣ KJ2
4. ♠ 107 ♥ 6 ♦ AJ1082 ♣ AQJ84

* * *

1. Pass. Passing will prove to be the best action in the long run. To overcall in hearts with such a weak suit is like sitting down on a barrel of gunpowder, since you could get doubled and go for a huge number.

Overcalls on the two-level are usually based on how many tricks you can take, not on how many points you have. Safety is the chief consideration. Although your hand qualifies for an opening one-heart bid as dealer — before the strength of any of the other three hands is known, and where you are highly unlikely to be doubled for penalties — it becomes extremely risky to bid with it after your right-hand opponent has opened one spade.

A takeout double is a bit more cautious but is also unsafe, since your partner is likely to respond in a minor suit.

2. One notrump. This is the best way to tell your partner the type of hand you hold. A one-notrump overcall indicates approximately the same kind of hand you'd have for an opening notrump bid as dealer — with the added proviso that you must have the opponents' suit stopped. It would be wrong to double instead, since you'd be badly placed if your partner responded two hearts.

3. Double. Your hand is a little too strong for a two-heart bid, as partner may pass with a hand good enough to produce a game. Overcalls on the two-level represent good hands, but there's a limit to how powerful they can be. After doubling, you plan to bid hearts at your next turn to show that your hand was too strong for an ordinary overcall.

Two hearts would be OK if you had the diamond queen instead of the ace. The double makes it possible for your partner to distinguish between a competitive bid for a partscore and one where you're interested in getting to game.

4. Two notrump. This hand provides an illustration of one of the game's more popular conventions, the "unusual notrump." The bid announces that you have at least five cards in each minor suit and asks partner to choose which of them he prefers. Two notrump does not necessarily indicate enough points for an opening bid, but offers the advantage of interfering with the opponents' bidding while making it easier for you to reach your best contract.

Tomorrow: Go with the flow.

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CHURCH NEWS

Continued from Page 7A

During this time of preparation, the pro-life committee is sponsoring a congregational baby shower, March 19 and 20.The baby shower is being organized to help expectant mothers who are in need with Pampers and clothes for the baby. If you would like to participate, bring your gifts to the masses that weekend or you can bring them to the church office.

We will also be having the blessing of the expectant mothers March 25 during the mass for the Feast of the Annunciation. The expectant mother is blessed so that she may have a healthy pregnancy and a healthy baby. The pro-life committee also gives the expectant mother a small gift and a St. Gerard's medal, the patron saint of expectant mothers. We would like to invite expectant mothers to join us this weekend so that you may receive the blessing of the Lord for a healthy pregnancy and delivery.

The Lenten luncheons will be hosted this season by six different churches in the community on Wednesdays at noon. March 30, Holy Trinity will host the luncheon at Immaculate Heart of Mary church campus. Join us for these luncheons and enjoy fellowship with our Christian brothers and sisters from the community.

Holy Trinity would love to invite you to participate in all of these events this coming month. If you have any questions, contact the church office at 714-4930, they will be happy to help. The office is located at 610 S. Main, if you would like to contact them in person.

First Christian Church

You are invited to attend the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), located at 911 Goliad. Each Sunday starts with a time of fellowship at 9:30 a.m. before Sunday school for all ages at 9:45 a.m. The worship service begins at 10:50 a.m. Our pastor, the Rev. Dr. Kenneth McIntosh, will deliver the message "What Does Esther Show Us?" based on Esther 4:14.

We celebrate the Lord's supper each week. Our communion table is open to all who believe in Jesus Christ, regardless of denomination.

The board will meet immediately following church services Sunday. The CWF will meet Wednesday, March 3, at 11:30 a.m. For the business meeting, followed by the program and luncheon at noon. Other weekly opportunities include TOPS (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly) meetings on Mondays at 5:30 p.m., volunteering at the Isaiah 58 food pantry on Mondays and Tuesdays and choir practice at 6 p.m. each Wednesday. O

ur youth group meets with youth from First Presbyterian and St. Mary's Episcopal churches each Wednesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Youth meetings will be at the First Christian Church beginning March 2.

We believe the church is built by people worshipping together. We welcome you to visit with us at any time. For questions or further information you may call the church office at 432-517-4821 or view our website at www.fcbs125@yahoo.com.

Coahoma First United Methodist Church

Coahoma First United Methodist Church is located at 401 N. Main in Coahoma. Our phone number is 432-394-4432.

We have children's, youth, Seekers and Wesley Sunday school classes at 10 a.m. each Sunday, followed by worship service at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.

The youth, grades sixth through 12th, meet each Wednesday at 7 p.m.

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ANSWERS

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

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GOOD LUCK TO ALL THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE BEST LOSER CONTEST 2011!!!
220375

Shoppers wary of genetically modified food find it's everywhere

WASHINGTON (AP) — You may not want to eat genetically engineered foods. Chances are, you are eating them anyway.

Genetically modified plants grown from seeds engineered in labs now provide much of the food we eat. Most corn, soybean and cotton crops grown in the United States have been genetically modified to resist pesticides or insects, and corn and soy are common food ingredients.

The Agriculture Department has approved three more genetically engineered crops in the past month, and the Food and Drug Administration could approve fast-growing genetically modified salmon for human consumption this year.

Agribusiness and the seed companies say their products help boost crop production, lower prices at the grocery store and feed the world, particularly in developing countries. The FDA and USDA say the engineered foods they've approved are safe — so safe, they don't even need to be labeled as such — and can't be significantly distinguished from conventional varieties.

Organic food companies, chefs and consumer groups have stepped up their efforts — so far, unsuccessfully — to get the government to exercise more oversight of engineered foods, arguing the seeds are floating from field to field and contaminating pure crops. The groups have been bolstered by a growing network of consumers who are wary of processed and modified foods.

Many of these opponents acknowledge that there isn't much solid evidence showing genetically modified foods are somehow dangerous or unhealthy. It just doesn't seem right, they say. It's an ethical issue.

"If you mess with nature there's a side effect somewhere," says George Siemon, CEO of Organic Valley, the nation's largest organic farming cooperative, which had more than $600 million in sales last year. "There is a growing awareness that our system makes us all guinea pigs of sorts."

The U.S. government has insisted there's not enough difference between the genetically modified seeds its agencies have approved and natural seeds to cause concern. But Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, more so than his predecessors in previous administrations, has acknowledged the debate over the issue and a growing chorus of consumers concerned about what they are eating.

"The rapid adoption of GE crops has clashed with the rapid expansion of demand for organic and other non-GE products," Vilsack said in December as he considered whether to approve genetically modified alfalfa. "This clash led to litigation and uncertainty . . . Surely, there is a better way."

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Ready for Region V

Both Howard men, women headed to postseason

BY ADAM COLEMAN
Sports Editor

Howard College women's basketball head coach Earl Diddle clearly was in a better mood by the end of Thursday night than he was before the regular season finale against Frank Phillips College started.

At one point, all he knew was New Mexico Junior College and Odessa College needed to lose and his team had to win if the Hawks wanted to return to the Region V Tournament. They could only control the latter.

However, with all the odds in the world against them, the Hawks took care of business and so did New Mexico and Odessa's opponents. By the end of the night, Diddle was a happy man.

"I'm excited. I'm very excited, I'm happy for our team," Diddle said following a 73-67 win over Frank Phillips at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum, which helped the Hawks clinch the fourth and final spot for the Region V Tournament out of Region 5-West. "I'm happy to go up there with our men's team. We've always played well in the regional tournament. I know our kids are excited, so we'll go up there and represent Hawk basketball to the fullest."

Frank Phillips did everything it could to end Howard's season early.

After a closely contested first half — Howard was up 34-31 on a team that hasn't won a conference game all year — the Hawks took control.

They opened the second half on a 25-10 run for a 59-41 lead, sparked by Kali Jerrell, Zeslie Johnson and Tasha Tubbs, among others. Meanwhile, the Plainsmen were losing the rebound battle, turning the ball over and missing shots. The energy they had in the first half went missing in the second.

That didn't last long, though.

Frank Phillips battled back and made the Hawks sweat toward the end of the game. A score from FPC's Shardena Hudson made it 64-57 Howard with 2:48 left. Consecutive scores from Frank Phillips' LaChrista Nash and Erica Jones made it 67-63 with 32 seconds left. After two free throws from Jerrell, Amy Elliot hit a 3-pointer and suddenly, Frank Phillips was down 69-66 with 23 seconds left.

However, the Plains-

See **HAWKS**, Page 2B



HERALD Photo/Adam Coleman

Kali Jerrell takes a jumpshot during the Howard College Hawks'win over Frank Phillips College Thursday. She had a team-high 18 points.



HERALD Photo/Adam Coleman

Luke Adams tries to fend off a Bowie defender in the Big Spring Steers' bi-district playoff game Tuesday. No. 4 Kennedale is on tap in the boys' Class 3A area championship game at 8 p.m. today in Breckenridge.

Underdogs:

Steers face No. 4 Kennedale in area championship game

BY ADAM COLEMAN
Sports Editor

The Big Spring Steers are trying not to put too much pressure on themselves as today's area championship matchup against No. 4 Kenndale at 8 p.m. in Breckenridge approaches.

After the Steers won Tuesday's bi-district playoff game against Bowie, head coach Cliff Thompson mentioned if Big Spring beats Kennedale, there won't be any movies made labeling it as the greatest upset of all time.

The message has been simple: Don't be nervous, just believe.

"Just believe you can hang," Thompson said. "Everyone know they're a good team and we're the underdog. Nobody's ever gone and upset someone

See **STEERS**, Page 2B

Sports in brief

Big Spring Girls Softball Association

The Big Spring Girls Softball Association will conduct sign-ups for girls ages 4 to 14 to play. Sign-ups are each Saturday through March 12 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. at the Big Spring Mall. The registration fee is $80 with no fundraiser. It will cover the full uniform.

Late registration after March 12 is $10 extra. For more information, contact Lucy Ramirez at 466-3670.

Coahoma girls softball sign-ups

Coahoma girls softball will be conducting early bird sign-ups for girls ages 3 to 18 (3 to 6 will be co-ed) from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday at the Coahoma Community Center and at the Big Spring Mall. This is a one day special $10 discount.

Regular sign-ups are March 10-12, 17-19 and 24-26. Times for those days are 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and the locations are the same. The fee is $60, no fundraiser. Shirts and shorts will be provided. There will be a tournament hosted for every age group. Call Billy Newton at (325) 207-2640 or (432) 394-4294 or Amy Overton at (432) 816-1968 for more information.



Area basketball playoff schedule

Boys, Area

Today

Grady vs. Anton -7:30 p.m. Rip Griffin Center Lubbock

Big Spring vs Kennedale -8 p.m. Breckenridge High School

Stanton vs. Bushland -6 p.m. Rip Griffin Center Lubbock

Garden City vs. Dell City - 8 p.m. Monahans High School

Sands vs. Spur - 6:30 p.m. Post High School

HAWKS

Continued from Page 1B

men were forced to keep fouling, sending Jerrell to the line and she didn't miss. It helped stave off the comeback.

"They played pretty well," said Tubbs, who had 12 points in her last game as a Hawk at Dorothy Garrett. "We have to come out and play harder every game. If we would've lost, we wouldn't have had anything. But we fought pretty hard and we won the game."

Diddle wasn't surprised by Frank Phillips' feistiness, either. It's a team without a conference win this season, but that doesn't mean the Plainsmen lack talent.

"It's a tough game. It was tough for us up there. We played extremely well up there. I thought we were a little sluggish here. I have to give Frank Phillips all the credit in the world."

With the Hawks' season extended, Grayson County Community College awaits in the first round of the Region V Tournament. This is the Hawks' return to the postseason after missing it last season.

HOWARD COLLEGE 73, FRANK PHILLIPS COLLEGE 67

Frank Phillips 31 36 - 67

Howard 34 39 – 73

Howard — Porsche Young 8, Kali Jerrell 18, Sarah Johnson 2, Leona Allen 6, Zeslie Johnson 12, Taniqua Ards 12, Tasha Tubbs 12, Brushea Daniels 3

Frank Phillips — Nancy Castillo 12, Shardena Hudson 9, Tarah Turner 11, Erica Jones 11, Kinjita Kelly 5, LaChrista Nash 19, Amy Elliot 6, Courtney Turner 5

3-point field goals — Howard 5 (Young 2, Jerrell 1, Tubbs 2), Frank Phillips 9 (Castillo 2, Hudson 1, Jones 1, Kelly 1, Nash 1, Elliot 2, C. Turner 1)

Free throws — Howard 10-14, Frank Phillips 6-9

Total fouls — Howard 10, Frank Phillips 14

Records — Howard (21-9, 6-6), Frank Phillips (4-26, 0-12)

Next game: Howard vs. Grayson County Community College at 7 p.m. Thursday in the Rip Griffin Center in Lubbock

Howard men

The Howard men needed Odessa to upset Midland for a share of the conference title, but the Hawks weren't too concerned with that heading into Thursday's game against Frank Phillips.

Head coach Mark Adams is just glad his Hawks have the second seed, a 12-2 conference record and everyone healthy.

"This is one of those games that didn't maybe mean a whole lot to us," he said following an emphatic 69-51 win over the Plainsmen. "We're proud of that second seed. It was just kind of, honor the sophomores and defend our homecourt."

Considering the type of season the Hawks have had, they're in a good place right now.

The beginning of the season was riddled with the suspensions of three incoming freshmen. Then more suspensions occurred, leaving the Hawks even more short-handed midway through the season. Injuries and depth have been somewhat of a concern, too.

But since an upset on the road against Midland, the Hawks have found their stride and head into the Region V Tournament with some momentum.

On sophomore night, no one was bigger than Joe Bright and Carlos Emory. Emory scored 17 against Frank Phillips and Bright had 14.

Those two were on last year's national championship team and Adams said they've been the backbone for this year's team.

"It has been a year of adversity," he said. "This team has shown a tremendous amount of toughness and character to not let this be a huge distraction for us. We have a lot of ugly wins, but that's what we do. We grind it out. That's our personality and that seems to kind of be the label that we've taken on."

Grayson is the No. 3 seed in Region 5-North, setting up a matchup between the two squads to open the Region V Tournament in Lubbock.

HOWARD COLLEGE 69, FRANK PHILLIPS COLLEGE 51

Frank Phillips 19 32 – 51

Howard 31 38 – 69

Howard — Jerry Dixon 9, Jason Walker 2, Tramel White 3, Shavon Coleman 12, Corey Stern 4, Jermaine Winfield 8, Carlos Emory 17, Joe Bright 14

Frank Phillips — Jerrod Brown 3, Kaleb Knight 2, James Boonstoppel 3, Tim Johnson 5, Jonathan Pittman 9, Trevor Niles 9, Kyler Nelson 6, Marlon Ford 11, Mike Evans 3

3-point field goals — Howard 6 (Dixon 3, Emory 1, Bright 2), Frank Phillips 4 (Johnson 1, Boonstoppel 1, Nelson 2)

Free throws — Howard 15-22, Frank Phillips 4-15

Total fouls — Howard 15, Frank Phillips 14

Records — Howard (22-6, 12-2), Frank Phillips (11-19, 3-11)

Next game: Howard vs. Grayson in the Rip Griffin Center in Lubbock

STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

not believing. I think we have a pretty good game plan. If we execute and keep it close, you never know what'll happen."

It'll be Luke Adams, Tristian Clay, Marc Segundo and company against Kennedale's towering post players and solid guard play.

Thompson said the key in this one is the first quarter. The Steers won't necessarily have to set the tone as much as they have to make sure Kennedale doesn't have a big first quarter and get into rhythm.

Kennedale has size in the post, with a player listed at 6-foot-5 and another at 6-foot-10. The Wildcats have the ability to score in the paint consistently and can dominate the glass, too. They also have a freshman point guard, who Thompson said may be their best player with his ability to create his own offense.

Kennedale's strong post play means it should be a busy night for Chazzell Robinson and Devante Lloyd.

"They've played against some guys in our district who are not quite his size," Thompson said. "They've seen size this year. It's not like it's anything they're unaccustomed to. This guy might be a little bit more skilled than what they've seen, but I feel comfortable knowing that they've played against taller guys and held their own a little bit."

The Steers are little banged up heading into tonight's game, though. During Tuesday's game, Devante Lloyd took a hit to the face, forcing him to leave the game, but returned rather quickly. Thompson said the senior hasn't has any headaches this week in practices, but trainers will make sure it's safe for Lloyd to play tonight and there isn't any concussion.

Robinson will wear a mouthpiece tonight, in order to protect a loose tooth. He took a hit to the mouth in Tuesday's game. Mike Menefield and Adams are a little sore with leg bruises, too. However, no one is expected to miss tonight's game.

While the Steers are trying to approach tonight's game like every other one, Lloyd didn't deny how big a win this would be for the program.

"Earlier this season, I said this is going to be the best basketball team Big Spring has seen," he said. "We get past this round, I guess my point was proven."

Men's Caprock Report

At the end of the twenty fifth week United Country gone into first place. The top seven teams are: 1st. United Country with 48 points won and 16 points lost, 2nd. The Real Deal with 46 points won and 18 points lost, 3rd. Frickin' Ten Pin with 42 points won and 22 points lost, 4th. Culligan with 40 points won and 24 points lost, 5th. H&S Construction with 40 points won and 24 points lost, 6th. The Veterans with 38 points won and 26 points lost, and 7th. Pollard with 34 points won and 30 points lost.

Bowlers of the week are: Ronnie Midkiff 211 game, Tony Saldana 243, 248, 219 games with a 710 series, Brain Whitford 204 game, Luis Davila 214, 216 game with a 629 series, Don Ewing 224, 223, 200 games with a 647 series, Ray Gutierrez 215, 212, 237 games with a 664 series, Roger Ewing 213 game, Richard Rowden 256, 225 game with a 674 series, James Gaither 206, 236 games with a 633 series, Greg Clarke 203 game, Jeff Kellner 218, 248 games with a 658 series, Daniel Mata 247 game with a 617 series, Jared Ringener 204, 235 games with a 605 series, Charles Garcia 248, 221 games with a 661 series, Phillip Ringener 225, 213, 230 games with a 668 series, Fred Gutierrez Jr. 201 game, Adrian Zarate 210 game, John Dodd 232 game, Jackie Lecroy 210, 213 game with a 614 game, Kyle Lacey 203, 200 games, Tim Helmstetler 214 game, Josh Helmstetler 203, 203 games, and Jay Woolf 226 game.

Rockets trade Brooks to Suns, Battier to Memphis

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — The Rockets sent point guard Aaron Brooks to Phoenix and forward Shane Battier to Memphis in separate deals Thursday that brought guard Goran Dragic, forward DeMarre Carroll and center Hasheem Thabeet to Houston.

The Rockets also get first-round draft picks from both teams, although the one from the Suns for this year is lottery protected. Houston also shipped rookie Ish Smith to the Grizzlies.

Memphis owner Michael Heisley told The Associated Press that he swapped potential for a chance to reach the playoffs by dealing away the Grizzlies' top two picks from the 2009 draft.

"It is important to us that we make the playoffs, that we do go to the playoffs," Heisley said. "Quite bluntly, we think that Shane at this point in time would be more productive."

The Grizzlies are 32-27 and eighth in the West. Their last playoff berth came in 2006, when Battier was still on the roster. He played five seasons and helped the Grizzlies to three playoff appearances before being traded to the Rockets in July 2006 for Stromile Swift and the draft rights to Rudy Gay.

The 6-foot-8 Gay, the Grizzlies' second-leading scorer (19.8), is expected to miss about three more weeks after dislocating his left shoulder Feb. 15.

The Grizzlies also tried to swap guard O.J. Mayo to Indiana in a deal that wasn't concluded before Thursday's trade deadline. Heisley said it was bittersweet because Memphis was trying to ease a crowd at guard and add help at the 2-3 position.

"Quite frankly, it might turn out for the better for us," Heisley said.

Houston (28-31) is 11th in the Western Conference, and general manager Daryl Morey had said recently that virtually his entire roster was in play leading to Thursday's trade deadline.

"Our goal is to win a championship," Morey said. "Our goal at this deadline was to make significant upgrades and that's our goal constantly. These moves position us better in the future. The big move that helps us now and in the future did not materialize, but we feel like this positions us better to make that move down the road."

Phoenix entered Thursday night two games behind Memphis for the final playoff spot in the West. Suns president of basketball operations Lon Babby hailed the addition of Brooks, saying he is "confident that he will upgrade our backcourt now and in the future."

"He should add scoring to our second unit, which is important to our success," Babby said.

Coach Alvin Gentry, who did not return a phone message, plays a 10-deep rotation.

Dragic, a Slovenian who is fluent in four languages, had been considered the heir apparent to Steve Nash but has struggled in his third NBA season. His average of 7.4 points is similar to a year ago, but he is shooting just 42 percent from the field, 28 percent from 3-point range.

He has been back a week after missing seven games because of a cut on his left foot, the result of an accident at home. The 24-year-old has a contract with a team option for 2011-12.

Nash, in a Twitter post, said he learned of the trade when the team landed in Toronto.

"Just landed in the T Dot and found out we traded my good friend Goran Dragic," Nash wrote. "Great teammate and person. Has a chance to be great."

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HOWARD COUNTY will be accepting applications for the position of Maintenance/Custodial worker until February 28, 2011. You may apply in the County Treasurer's Office on the second floor of the Courthouse, 300 S. Main St. Room 201, Big Spring, TX. EOE.

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TOP JOBS

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Apply at Workforce Center (in the Post Office), KEYWORD: PARAGON. EOE.

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TOP JOBS

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Tomorrow's Horoscope



HOLIDAY MATHIS

The law of supply and demand is a driving principle of commerce. So many sales techniques hinge on the belief that the things that are most desirable are in limited supply. Think twice when you're urged to "buy now because there are only three left." This could be a lie. Jupiter and Pluto square off to challenge our ideas about abundance.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll be nudged into new territory. You can get grounded by affirming that you are still the same you. In all matters you take on, get your own approval first, and then it won't be so hard to get anyone else's.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Imagined limitations are to blame for many problems. Get some help with accomplishing a difficult task, and you'll find out that it's not so hard, after all. An expert will demystify the process.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Taking on too grave a tone could hinder your ability to attract certain people and keep their attention. Luckily, you have a talent for levity and fun, and you'll need it in today's interactions.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There is no need to be self-conscious and overly concerned about what others think. It's very likely that what you believe is a shortcoming is all in your mind. Forget about it, and everyone else will, too.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Drop the unimportant stuff so that you can focus on what means the most to you. There's plenty of work to do if you want it, though leisure well spent is even more important to your thriving life right now.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Having a strong opinion can sometimes increase your power, though right now so many of your thoughts and emotions on a topic are unresolved. Stay open-minded.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You may be building up an event to be much bigger than it should be in your mind. This is not an end-all-be-all situation. There will always be another opportunity. Try hard, but don't take yourself too seriously.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Second chances abound, and so do third and fourth chances. Tests can be retaken, mail can be resent, relationships can get a new start. Knowing this, ease up on yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). People trying to sell you something will lead you to believe that there is not very much of it left in the world. This is probably untrue. Relax and take the long view of things.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your sign mate Isaac Newton noted that objects in motion tend to stay in motion, and objects at rest tend to stay at rest. You'll tune into the nature of those around you and adjust your expectations accordingly.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Find a way to get sunshine and fun into your life, even if you have to look at pictures of the beach to accomplish this. The sun's rays will dissolve your inner barriers to feeling fantastic and living the life you really want to live.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Presume that your ailment has an easy remedy. With that mindset, you will quickly discover the solution, and otherwise, you'll spend too much of your time and energy in "search" mode.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 25). You have intense energy and vitality and will focus them well this year. You'll benefit from advanced training of some kind in March. Your skillful management of funds will bring a higher degree of freedom to you and yours. In May, you will deepen your relationships through improved communication. You have a fan in Sagittarius and Aquarius people. Your lucky numbers are: 24, 3, 22, 39 and 16.

WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST: ARIES: You'll discover a way to advertise your strengths without talking about them. TAURUS: You will be clever and resourceful when it comes to getting the romantic attention you desire. GEMINI: You'll be put in charge of joint responsibilities. It feels great to know that your partner trusts and relies on you. CANCER: You will find love while enjoying cultural exchanges and/or travel. LEO: You'll work with a loved one to accomplish a task that is meaningful to both of you. VIRGO: Your assessment of your own attractive qualities is far more modest than a loved one would conclude. LIBRA: You'll suddenly shift gears in a relationship. You are in charge of the pacing of this journey. SCORPIO: You may take the opposite point of view from that of your loved one, just to keep things interesting. SAGITTARIUS: You'll accept the rules of a loved one's game and play it well. CAPRICORN: You may fantasize about certain aspects of the object of your affection. AQUARIUS: Someone finds your unorthodox ideas and methods both fascinating and wildly attractive. PISCES: Share your philosophy with a loved one, and see where his or her beliefs connect with yours.

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INVITATION FOR BIDS

Sealed proposals addressed to Mr. John Grant, General Manager of the Colorado River Municipal Water District, will be received at the office of the Colorado River Municipal Water District, P.O. Box 869, 400 E. 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas 79721, until 3:00 PM, Thursday, March 10, 2007, for the purchase of ***Pump Control Valves with Hydraulic Controller Systems.***

At this time and place the proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud. Any bid received after closing time will be returned unopened.

This project consists of supply and delivery of two 16-inch diameter Metal Seated Rotary Cone Valves and associated Hydraulic Control Systems. Specifications are available and may be examined without charge in the office of the Colorado River Municipal Water District, 400 E. 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas 79720 during normal business hours.

Inquiries regarding equipment specifications are to be directed to ***Jim Coley, P.E., Senior Engineer***, telephone (432) 267-6341, email: jcoley@crmwd.org.

#6890 February 4, 11, 18 & 25, 2011

Dear Margo: When something is above your pay grade



MARGO HOWARD

Dear Margo: I have an ethical dilemma. I work in an industry where many people telecommute, which lends itself to subcontracting work to offshore vendors (e.g., India). Sending work offshore is a very controversial and polarizing issue in the industry. Although there's a significant cost savings, it's not unusual for our clients to insist on contracts that prohibit offshoring.

My company utilizes offshore labor but keeps it very low profile. I don't have particular issues with it and actually enjoy getting to know some of my counterparts in other countries.

The company, however, calls itself "American based" (true of the corporate headquarters), and while we do not send work offshore when contracts prohibit it, I've realized lately that we do come just short of being untruthful about our use of the practice.

For example, while interviewing a job candidate, I asked my routine question, "Why are you considering working for us?" and the response was, "I want to work for a company that does not send work overseas, and the recruiter assured me your company does not."

I am fairly low in the corporate hierarchy and have no input on these decisions. There's no question that it would cost me my job if I were to tell clients or candidates that we do, in fact, send work offshore.

Losing my job would be a financial disaster, and I'm at an age where finding new, equivalent employment would be next to impossible. However, I am increasingly uncomfortable about being party to this lie of omission.

Do you think there's any hope of keeping both my job and a clear conscience? — *Increasingly Uncomfortable*

Dear Inc: I am sympathetic, but for my own reasons. When speaking to people in other countries, although they speak English, it is not, shall we say, always English-English, and it's often difficult to understand.

I agree that you should not tell a candidate the information that your company apparently wishes to keep quiet.

I would, however, go to a superior and say that, in addition to feeling as though you are not being truthful with potential employees, you have realized that because your America-only policy is considered a plus, it would be ruinous if word got out that this was untrue — especially because so many people tell you it is one reason they do business with your company. Whether or not you can make yourself heard, you will have made the effort, which should salve your conscience. You will have tried. — *Margo, conscientiously*

Two Friends, Same Shrink

Dear Margo: I have a weird issue. I have a great girlfriend, but she's had emotional problems in the past, for which she is getting therapy.

While I'm not the cause of these past issues, I am sure she talks about me to her therapist. That's not the problem. My cousin, who's my best friend, has also started seeing a therapist. Recently, while giving one of them a ride to the doctor, I discovered that they are seeing the same therapist, and this has me very nervous.

Obviously, I've said things in confidence to each of them about the other, and I'm worried they might find out by the therapist's putting two and two together.

Should I go see their shrink and discuss my concerns, or am I overreacting? I can't tell this to anyone else because I don't want to reveal that my best friend and my girlfriend are seeing a therapist. — *Anxious*

Dear Anx: You can relax. Therapists are bound by rules of confidentiality not to say anything to anyone. In addition, they are trained to be objective. Shrinks often, unavoidably, see patients who know each other and encounter acquaintances of patients, especially if they practice in small communities or for an organization with a limited cohort (like the Navy or a university). As for your thought of going to the therapist about your concerns, bag that idea. I doubt s/he would even have that discussion. And P.S. from an old analysand: These days seeing a therapist has no stigma whatsoever and may even be borderline chic. — *Margo, calmingly*

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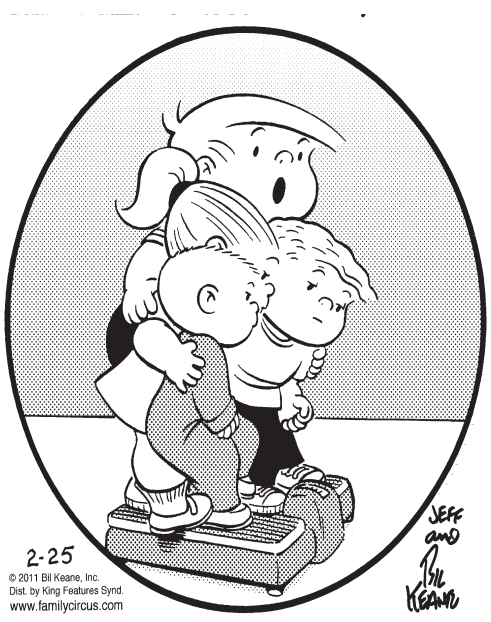
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5 :PM	News	Alma	Lopez	News	Noticias	News	Seinfeld	Faye H.	World	Lyrics!	Cash Cab		UFC 127 Countdown	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Shake It	PBA Bowling	SportsCenter
5 :30	ABC	Notic.	Lopez	News	Noticiero	News	King	Holmes	Business	Lyrics!	Cash Cab					Shake It		
6 :PM	Jeopardy!	Llena de Amor (SS)	Two Men	News	Caso Cerrado	News	King	Door-Wisdom	PBS NewsHour	'70s	Gold Rush: Alaska		Ways Die	Bones		Movie: Bolt, Susie Essman	College Basketball: Siena at Fairfield.	Boston
6 :30	Wheel		Two Men	Ent		Millionaire	King			'70s			Ways Die					NBA
7 :PM	Supernanny	Eva Luna (SS)	Kitchen Nightmares	The Defenders	Aurora (SS)	Who Do You	Movie: Diary of a Mad Black Woman	Upd	Wash.	Smallville	Gold Rush: Alaska	Movie: GoodFellas, Joe Pesci	Ways Die	Bones	Game			NBA Basketball: Thunder at Magic
7 :30								Alewine	Need to Know				Ways Die		Game	Fish		
8 :PM	Primetime: What	Triunfo del Amor	Fringe	CSI: NY	Herederos-Monte	Dateline NBC		Light of the Southwest		Supernatural	Flying Wild Alaska		Ways Die	Movie: Air Force One, Glenn Close	Together	Take Two	Boxing: Friday Night Fights.	
8 :30									Daytrip				Ways Die		Together	Phineas		
9 :PM	20/20	Rosa de Guadalupe	Simpsons	Blue Bloods	Alguien te Mira (SS)				Faces of America	Married	Gold Rush: Alaska		1,000 Ways to Die		Movie: I Do... I Did!, April Scott	Hannah		
9 :30			How I Met				Movie: Meet the Browns, David Mann			Married						Hannah		NBA Basketball: Nuggets at Trail Blazers
10 :PM	News	Impacto	How I Met	News	Noticiero	News		Church	Charlie Rose	King	Gold Rush: Alaska	Movie: GoodFellas, Joe Pesci	CSI: Crime Scene			Hannah	SportsCenter	
10 :30	Nightline	Noticiero	Raymond	Letterman	Boxeo Telemundo	Jay Leno		Cortes		King				Movie: A Time to Kill, Matthew McConaughey		Shake It		
11 :PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	La Verdad Oculta	Law & Order: SVU	Late		Late Night		Charles	World	South Pk	Flying Wild Alaska		Movie: Cobra, Reni Santoni		Wendy Williams	Shake It	MMA Live	
11 :30							Movie: How Stella Got Her Groove Back	McGee	T. Smiley	South Pk						Shake it	Final	
12 :AM	Extra	Tontas Cielo	Paid		Camara			Upd	(Off Air)	Cops	Gold Rush: Alaska				Movie: Down in the Delta, Mary Alice	Shake it	NBA	SportsCenter
12 :30	Paid		Faith	Insider	Pagado	News		CCM		Drive TV						Shake It	NFL Live	
1 :AM	Paid	Mujer...	TMZ	Ent	Pagado	Poker After Dark		Best of Light of the Southwest		Youthbyt	The Colony	Movie: Predator, Jesse Ventura				Shake It	SportsNation	SportsCenter
1 :30	Paid	Cero	King-Hill	Jewelry	Pagado		Harvey			Passion			MAN	Movie: Troy, Orlando		Movie: Tuktabaa		

DENNIS THE MENACE



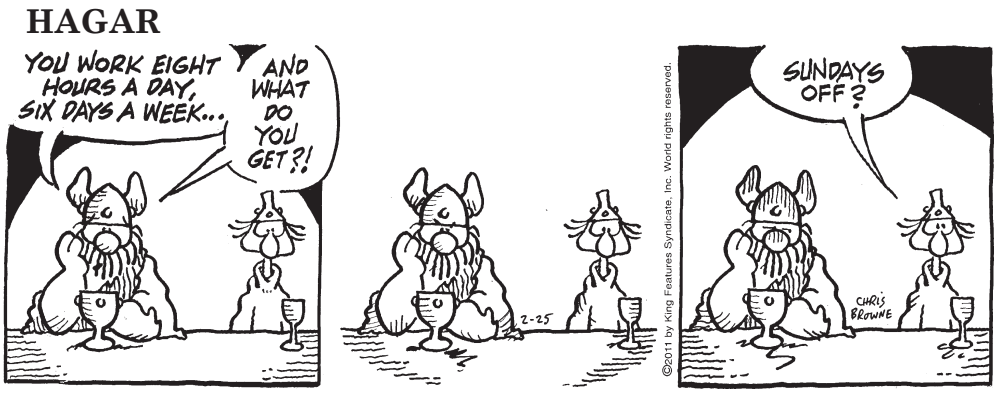
"How can Mr. Wilson have a virus? He's not a computer."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

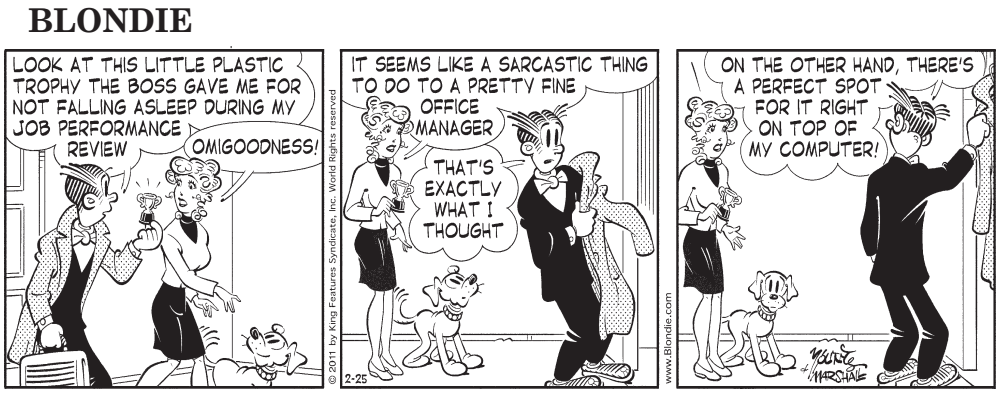


"Mommy, guess how much children you have?"

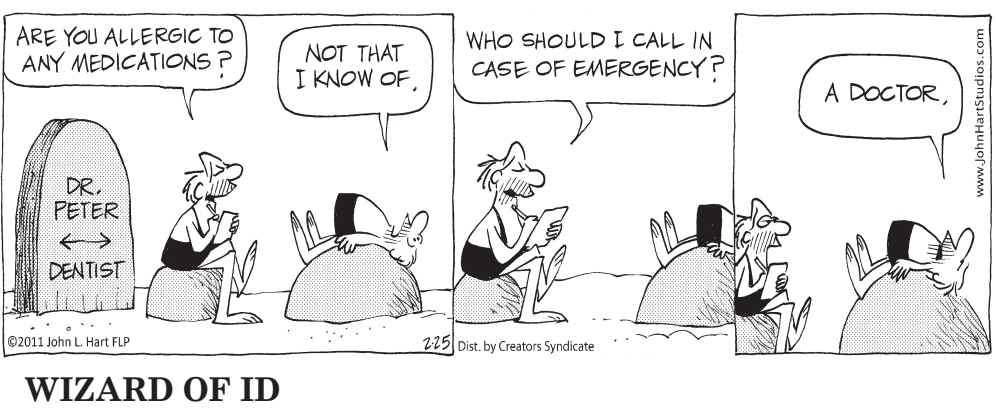
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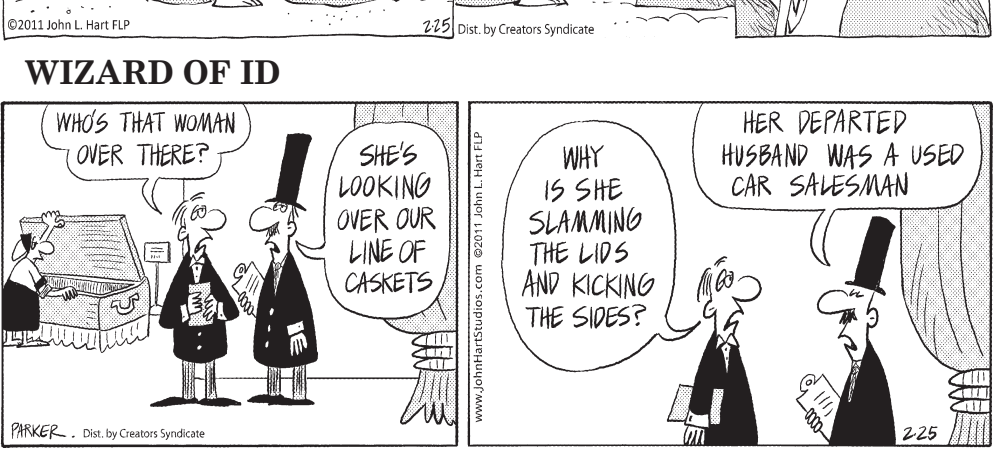
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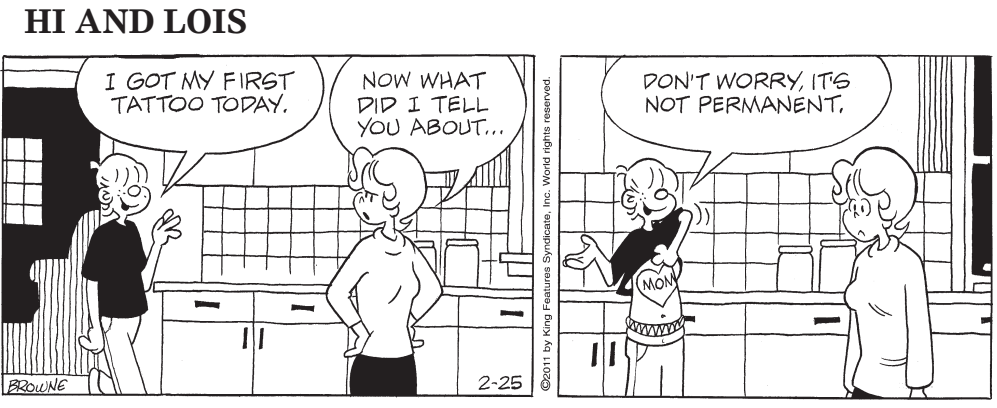
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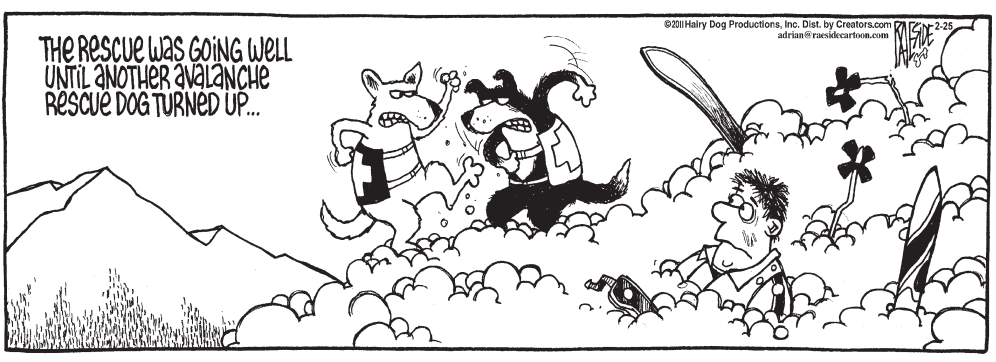
AGNES



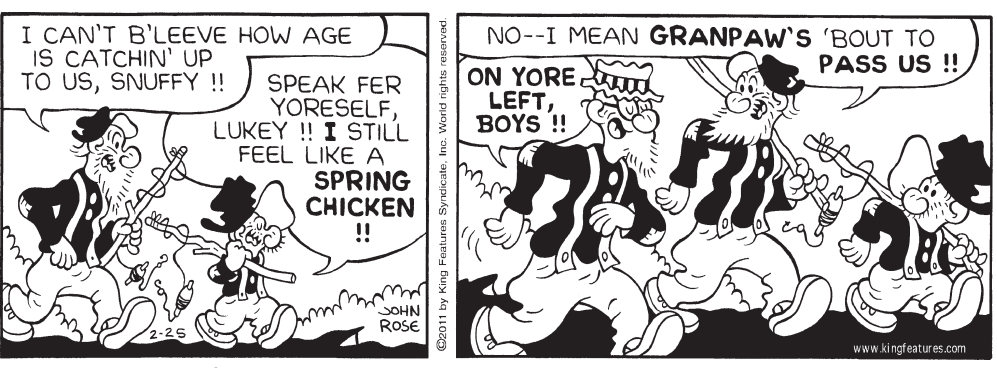
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SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Friday, Feb. 25, the 56th day of 2011. There are 309 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 25, 1913, the 16th Amendment to the Constitution, giving Congress the power to levy and collect income taxes, was declared in effect by Secretary of State Philander Chase Knox.

On this date:

In 1836, inventor Samuel Colt patented his revolver.

In 1901, United States Steel Corp. was incorporated by J.P. Morgan.

In 1919, Oregon became the first state to tax gasoline, at one cent per gallon.

In 1940, a hockey game was televised for the first time, by New York City station W2XBS, as the New York Rangers defeated the Montreal Canadiens, 6-2, at Madison Square Garden.

In 1948, Communists seized power in Czechoslovakia.

In 1950, "Your Show of Shows," starring Sid Caesar, Imogene Coca, Carl Reiner and Howard Morris, debuted on NBC-TV.

In 1964, Cassius Clay (later Muhammad Ali) became world heavyweight boxing champion by defeating Sonny Liston in Miami Beach.

In 1986, President Ferdinand Marcos fled the Philippines after 20 years of rule in the wake of a tainted election; Corazon Aquino assumed the presidency.

In 1990, Nicaraguans went to the polls in an election that resulted in an upset victory for the alliance opposed to the ruling Sandinistas.

In 1991, during the Persian Gulf War, 28 Americans were killed when an Iraqi Scud missile hit a U.S. barracks in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

Today's Birthdays: Country singer Ralph Stanley is 84. Actor Tom Courtenay is 74. CBS newsman Bob Schieffer is 74. Actress Diane Baker is 73. Actress Karen Grassle is 67. Humorist Jack Handey is 62. Movie director Neil Jordan is 61. Rock musician Dennis Diken (The Smithereens) is 54. Rock singer-musician Mike Peters (The Alarm) is 52. Actress Veronica Webb is 46. Actor Alexis Denisof is 45. Actress Tea (TAY'-ah) Leoni is 45. Comedian Carrot Top is 44. Actress Lesley Boone is 43. Actor Sean Astin is 40. Singer Daniel Powter is 40. Latin singer Julio Iglesias Jr. is 38. Comedian Chelsea Handler is 36. Actress Rashida Jones is 35. Actor Justin Berfield is 25. Actors James and Oliver Phelps ("Harry Potter" movies) are 25. Rock musician Erik Haager (Carolina Liar) is 24.

Thought for Today: "He who never leaves his country is full of prejudices." — Carlo Goldoni, Italian playwright (born this date in 1707, died 1793).

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Answer to previous puzzle

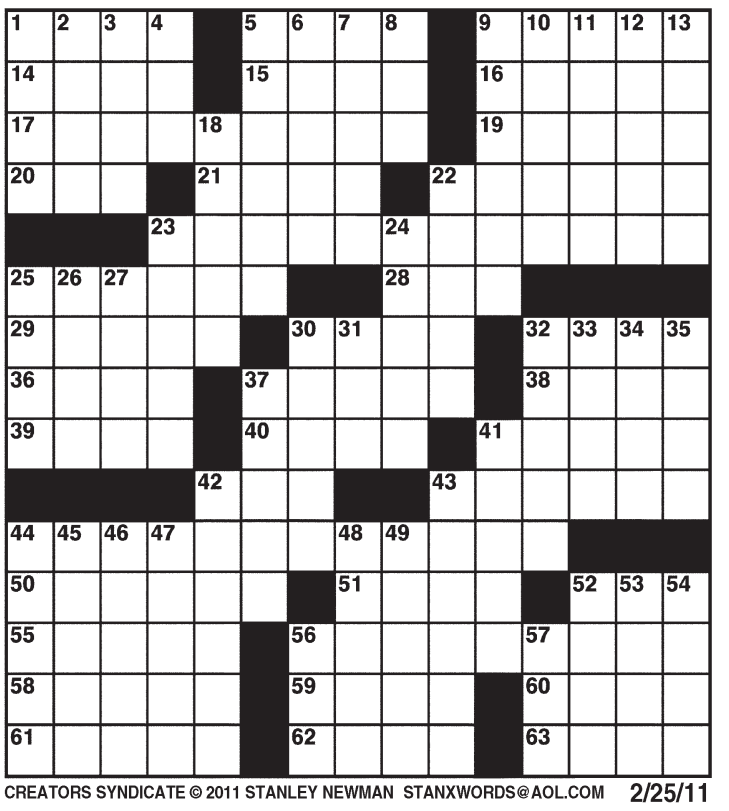
C	A	R	P		S	T	R	U	M		B	O	G	S
A	R	E	A		A	R	O	S	E		I	M	O	K
L	I	E	S		T	I	M	E	D		A	N	T	I
F	A	L	S	E	I	M	P	R	E	S	S	I	O	N
			I	N	N			A	T	E				
F	A	C	T	S		A	M	S		I	S	L	E	T
A	F	R	O		B	R	U	T	A	L		O	L	E
C	O	U	N	T	E	R	F	E	I	T	C	O	I	N
E	R	E		H	E	A	T	E	D		A	S	T	O
D	E	L	H	I		Y	I	P		S	N	E	E	R
			E	E	L				F	A	A			
A	R	T	I	F	I	C	I	A	L	G	R	A	S	S
R	O	O	F		M	O	O	L	A		I	C	O	N
T	O	R	E		B	A	T	E	S		E	M	M	A
S	T	I	R		S	T	A	S	H		S	E	E	P

Newsday Crossword

ADVANCE by Richard Silvestri
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Channel
5 Sow chow
9 Sitcom mom since '89
14 Piece of land
15 Gospel singer Winans
16 Dumas dueler
17 Sad whetstone user?
19 Controlling power
20 Parker played it
21 Sundance Kid's girlfriend
22 Brown shade
23 Not as good as element #10?
25 Mideast capital
28 Sacred seat
29 Certain league members
30 FDR's dog
32 It means "half"
36 Beck's partner
37 LP
38 Commercial
39 Joint for jerks
40 Detriment
41 Yellow shade
42 Tree with needles
43 Golf coups
44 Single order of tutti frutti?
50 Advance, and the explanation of the puzzle theme
51 Too suave
52 Antagonist
55 Thin nails
56 Where Ms. Anderson plays golf?
58 Finish by
59 Nettles
60 City in Tuscany
61 Garment workers
62 Gusto
63 ABA member

DOWN
1 Smidgens
2 Pac-10 school
3 Pivotal point
4 Place for a ball
5 Bar order
6 Slow tempo
7 Vast quantity
8 Part of dpi
9 Blood-cell source
10 Used as a dining table
11 Bonn's river
12 Eccentric
13 German industrial city
18 Listens to
22 Second-stringers
23 Deep black
24 Barely passing
25 Pool accessory
26 OPEC member
27 Cylinder-lock inventor
30 Regional plants
31 Pecs' neighbors
32 Old West transportation
33 Iniquitous
34 Bureaucracy, to some
35 Midmonth day
37 Not at all familiar
41 November parade sponsor
42 Tops with icing
43 Obtain as a volunteer
44 Fix firmly
45 Banal
46 Keep away from
47 Wood used for pencils
48 "Night Before Christmas" poet
49 Pen sounds
52 Dart about
53 Depose
54 Where many surfers shop
56 *Garfield* girlfriend
57 Books expert



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