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Auditorium shut down

Historic facility to be shuttered in response to an ADA lawsuit

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

After 28 years of performing in the Municipal Auditorium, the Big Spring Symphony Orchestra will have to find a new home — at least temporarily — as the Big Spring City Council voted Tuesday night to close down the historic facility because of a lawsuit alleging ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) shortfalls.

The council voted unanimously in favor of the measure, which also calls for tem-

“If the lawsuit had not been filed, we could have shown good intent. But since the lawsuit has been filed, we’re now in a situation where the doors have been shut and we have to comply with the federal law and do what they say.”



—Gloria McDonald, city council member

porary fixes at City Hall and the Municipal Swimming Pool, which have also been identified as having serious

barriers to people with disabilities.

See **COUNCIL**, Page 3A



HERALD file photo

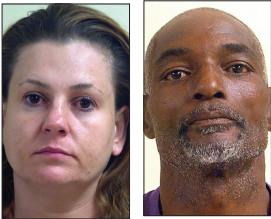
Saying they had no recourse, Big Spring City Council members voted to shut down the Municipal Auditorium.

2 jailed for TCA robbery

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

Two local residents were arrested late Tuesday night following a robbery at the Travel Centers of America truck stop located in the 700 block of Interstate Highway 20.

Lana Dower Martinez, 35, of 1905 Wasson, was arrested on charges of aggravated robbery and possession of a controlled substance. Garland Green Jr., 53, of 705 Wyoming, was arrested on



Martinez Green

See **ROBBERY**, Page 3A

Gregg Street renovation targeted; public hearing set Thursday night

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

Public input is wanted concerning an impending renovation of much of Gregg Street.

A pre-construction meeting will be held Thursday in the Dora Roberts Civic Center. Registration and viewing of exhibits will be at 6:30 p.m., while the meeting will start at 7 p.m.

“This meeting will give local business owners and other residents a heads-up on what’s about to happen,” said Matt Evans, a transportation engineer for the Texas Department of Transportation, which will oversee the renovation project.

TxDOT is expected to begin repavement of Gregg between FM 700 and E. Fourth within the next two months. The project is expected to

What: Public hearing on plans to renovate Gregg Street from E. Fourth south to FM 700.

Where: Dora Roberts Civic Center, 100 Whipkey Drive.

When: Thursday, 6:30 p.m. viewing; 7 p.m. hearing.

last 10 months.

“As you drive up and down Gregg, it’s pretty clear that it’s not up to the standards of what a U.S. highway should be,” Evans said.

“It’s starting to show its age. Some failures are starting to show up ... We really need to replace the pavement.”

Evans said work crews will pave Gregg Street with “hot mix” coat-

ing, except at intersections with 10th, 15th, 17th and 18th streets, where concrete will be used. In addition, some sidewalk work will be done — including installation of wheelchair ramps — and street illumination will be upgraded.

Evans said crews plan to keep three lanes (one lane in each direction, plus a turn lane) open at all times during the project, which is expected to be completed in early 2010.

Evans and TxDOT Area Engineer Roy Dill will be on hand Thursday evening to answer questions.

For more information on the meeting, call 263-4768.

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

City OKs sea containers, billboards

Some conditions will have to be met, council decides

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

In what can best be described as harried discussions Tuesday night, the Big Spring City Council approved the first reading of ordinances that will update municipal codes pertaining to the use of sea containers and billboards within the city limits.

The council agreed to allow the use of sea containers — large metal structures used by freight lines and railroads to ship goods — within the

city limits, giving the go-ahead for both commercial and non-commercial use. The containers are sometimes used in the place of sheds or other storage receptacles.

However, just how to govern the use of the containers — seen as some as eyesores, and by others as reliable storage space — by residential homeowners took some time to arrive at.

In the end, however, the council approved an ordinance that will allow the use of the structures in



McEwen

residentially zoned areas with just a few conditions.

“They will have to paint the containers to remove any advertising on it, and it has to be painted to either match the structure it’s adjoined to, or it has to be painted tan or beige,” said Mayor Russ McEwen as the council

See **CONTAINERS**, Page 3A

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**Look In Friday, February 27th Edition
 Of The Big Spring Herald For The
 Health & Fitness Section**

Information Related To YOUR Health!





HERALD photo/Tony Claxton
Big Spring's Valerie Ross (20) and Bridgette Tuitt (32) defend San Angelo Lake View's Christina Moses as she attempts to bring the ball up the court in Tuesday at Big Spring Gym. The Lady Steers routed Lake View, 43-24, forcing a play-in game with the Maidens set for 8:30 p.m. Friday.

Staying alive

Lady Steers force play-in game after routing Lake View, 43-24

By JONATHAN HULL
Sports Editor
Girls basketball postseason play started Tuesday night for the Big Spring Lady Steers — a week earlier than it's starting for most playoff-eligible squads in the state. Big Spring was put in a must-win situation against San Angelo Lake View's Maidens, needing a victory to keep playing this season. The Lady Steers responded to the pressure, pulling out a 43-24 victory. "I'm speechless about how hard

these girls played. I'm so proud of them," said Big Spring Head Coach Mike Warren. The win forced the Lady Steers into an immediate rematch with Lake View with the final playoff spot available out of District 4-4A on the line at 8:30 p.m. Friday in Sterling City. It's a game the Lady Steers will enter with loads of confidence according to Warren.

See **LADY STEERS**, Page 3B



Courtesy photo/Bob Fishback
Forsan's Jeremy Robbins fights for a rebound with Stanton's Tyler Fulton in Forsan's 49-26 victory at Buffalo Gym Tuesday. With the win, Forsan clinched a District 7-A title.

Forsan claims District 7-A title

By BRANDON HALLFORD
Special to the Herald
FORSAN — Whatever Head Coach Terry McDonald said or did during halftime needs to be bottled up and sold. The Forsan Buffaloes (22-3, 5-1) blew open a 19-17 game with a 20-2 third quarter run, claiming the District 7-A crown with a 49-26 win over the Stanton Buffaloes. "I am so proud of our boys," McDonald said. "We went in and made some adjustments and the boys came out and played hard on both ends of the court. These boys went out and earned the district title tonight." "You have to give them credit," Stanton Head Coach Kenny Van Curen said. "In the second half they came out and took us out of the game offensively. They had us outsized on the wings and that was the big difference in the game. They forced us to turn the ball over a lot in the third

See **FORSAN**, Page 3B



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton
Big Spring's Xavian Parnell (40) avoids Lake View's John David Baker (4) as he draws the foul while attempting a shot in action from the Steers' 58-51 victory in District 4-4A play Tuesday at Steer Gym. The Steers improved to 3-3 in district play, giving them sole possession of third place in the standings.

Steers scalp Chiefs

By JONATHAN HULL
Sports Editor
Big Spring's Steers looked like a completely different team Tuesday night when compared to the one that was a part of the debacle that took place at Abilene Cooper last week. The Steers played a complete four quarters of basketball in a 58-51 victory over San Angelo Lake View, moving into sole possession of third place in District 4-4A — just a half-game back of Abilene Cooper. "We broke a three-game losing streak with this win and we found a way to get the win without blowing a 10-point lead," said Steers Head Coach Marcus Morris. "This shows the kids that they can pull out a tight game and play

See **STEERS**, Page 3B

District 4-4A boys basketball standings		
Team	District	Overall
Big Spring	3-3	10-16
Lake View	2-4	10-16
Frenship	6-1	21-9
Cooper	4-3	17-13
Plainview	1-5	12-16

Coahoma girls end season with win over Grape Creek

Herald Staff Report
COAHOMA — Coahoma's Bulldogettes closed out the 2008-2009 regular season with a win Tuesday night. The Bulldogettes overcame a 1-point halftime deficit to pull out a 56-50 victory over the Grape Creek Lady Eagles. Coahoma finishes the season with a 9-19 overall record with a 3-7 mark in District 7-2A play. Koryle Gee led the Bulldogettes in scoring with 17 points. The game got a little heated as several technical fouls were handed out, including one on Coahoma's

Berkley Iden and Grape Creek coach Tim Howard. Coahoma led by 4, 20-16, after the first frame, but went cold from the floor in the second, scoring just eight points and allowing Grape Creek to take a 1-point advantage. See **COAHOMA**, Page 4B

Sports in brief

Big Spring & Coahoma Little League sign-ups start Saturday

Big Spring and Coahoma Little League baseball organizations have merged this year and sign-ups for the community are set to begin Saturday at 10 a.m. and last until 5 p.m. at the old Athletic Supply Store in the Big Spring Mall. Registration will last through Feb. 21. Available times for sign-ups are as follows:
Monday (Feb. 16) through Friday (Feb. 20): 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 21: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Cost is \$60 with no raffle and parents should bring their child's birth certificate with them. For more information, contact Robert Smith at 263-7331 or 263-3333.

Everyone wearing red or black at HC game Monday gets in free

Howard College will be hosting Odessa College in doubleheader basketball action Monday starting at 5:30 p.m. All fans wearing red or black will be admitted free of charge. Halftime entertainment will be SHOUT — a dance team from Odessa.

Howard College hosting practice game Saturday

Howard College will be playing host to Sudan and Sonora at 2 p.m. Saturday for a girls basketball game as both squads prepare for the postseason.

Coahoma softball alumni needed for annual game

The 7th Annual Coahoma Softball Alumni Game has been scheduled for 1 p.m. Saturday and will be played at the Coahoma High School field. Any former player interested in participating should call Amy Dunn at 263-2228 or 394-4323.

BSCC hosting 4-person scramble Feb. 21-22

The Big Spring Country Club is hosting a 4-person scramble tournament Feb. 21-22 with a 1 p.m. shotgun start both days. Entry fee is \$75 per player plus cart, although private carts are welcome. Entry includes barbecue on the course both days and practice rounds on Friday.

Obituaries

Gus W. Jacobs Sr.



Gus W. Jacobs Sr., 85, of Coahoma died Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2009, in a Midland hospital. Graveside funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12, 2009, at the Coahoma Cemetery with Russ Mullins officiating and Eddy Pitchford assisting.

The family will receive friends from 7:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

He was born May 11, 1923, in Indian Gap and married Georgia Mae Simpson Aug. 5, 1950, in Colorado City. She preceded him in death June 16, 1999.

Gus was raised in Indian Gap and came to Coahoma in 1965. He was a truck driver and rancher most of his life before retiring. He was a member of the Coahoma Church of Christ.

Survivors include three daughters and two sons-in-law, Andeen Halbrook of Woodville, Ala., Beverley and Jon Scribner of Big Spring, and Darlene and Bill Gressett of The Colony; one son and daughter-in-law, Wayne and Teresa Jacobs of Coahoma; seven grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

He was also preceded in death by his parents; one sister; and a grandson, Tybo Jacobs.

The family suggests memorials be made to Coahoma Church of Christ, P.O. Box 198, Coahoma 79511; or to Medina Children's Home, 21300 State Highway 16 N., Medina 78055.

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

Lorance 'Rance' Harvery

Lorance "Rance" Harvery, 84, of Big Spring died Sunday, Feb. 8, 2009, in a Midland nursing home. Graveside funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13, 2009, at the Colorado Cemetery in Smithville with Ulis Johnson officiating.

He was born Oct. 1, 1924, in Smithville. He was a retired gin worker and a Baptist.

Survivors include his sister, Jewel Green of Denver, Colo.; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death by a daughter; his parents; two brothers; and two sisters.

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

Dorothy Anderson

Dorothy Anderson, 85, formerly of Big Spring died Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2009, at her residence in Tulsa, Okla. Graveside funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 14, 2009, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park in Big Spring with the Rev. Dr. Randy Cotton, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, officiating.

Family will receive friends at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home in Big Spring from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13, 2009.

Dorothy was born April 12, 1923, in Cisco and married Ray D. Anderson March 25, 1946, in Midland. He preceded her in death Aug. 28, 2007.

She was a longtime member of Wesley United Methodist Church in Big Spring, where she taught the Dorcas Sunday School class for many years and was involved in numerous other church activities. She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Steve and Phyllis Anderson of Tulsa, Okla.; her sister and brother-in-law, Jane and Bob Womack of Lubbock; her brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Bo Anderson and Patsy Anderson of Big Spring; two granddaughters; and numerous nieces and nephews.

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

Take Note

• Canterbury/Canterbury North will host a Senior Sweetheart Dance Saturday. The dance will be held at 1700 Lancaster from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. and is open to all seniors. Admission is free and music will be provided by RC Entertainment. Burrito and dessert will be for sale starting at 3 p.m. and during the dance.

• The mission of CASA of West Texas is to promote and support quality volunteers who speak for the best interest of abused and neglect children in court in an effort to find each child a safe, nurturing and permanent home. CASA currently has 10 active volunteers to serve the 55 plus children of Howard County in foster care. A class is forming in Howard County and 20 volunteers are needed. For more information on becoming a CASA volunteer, please contact Robyn LaForge at (432) 683-1114.

Police blotter

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

- **JESSE FIERRO**, 18, of 4204 Muir, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less in a drug free zone.
- **SANDRA SHAEFFER**, 25, of 1513 S. Main St., was arrested Tuesday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance in a drug free zone.
- **LANA MARTINEZ**, age not provided, of 1905 Wasson, was arrested Tuesday on charges of aggravated robbery and possession of a controlled substance in a drug free zone.
- **GARLAND GREEN**, 53, of 705 Wyoming, was arrested Tuesday on charges of aggravated robbery and possession of drug paraphernalia.
- **THEFT OF A FIREARM** was reported in the 200 block of Union.
- **THEFT** was reported:
 - in the 800 block of Interstate Highway 20.
 - in the 900 block of Willia.
 - in the 1200 block of 11th Place.
 - in the 400 block of Birdwell Lane.
- **POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA – TWO OUNCES OR LESS IN A DRUG FREE ZONE** was reported in the 700 block of 11th Place.
- **POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE IN A DRUG FREE ZONE** was reported in the 500 block of Sixth Street.
- **FAILURE TO IDENTIFY – GIVING FALSE INFORMATION** was reported in the 1800 block of Goliad.
- **DISORDERLY CONDUCT – LANGUAGE** was reported in the 600 block of Sixth Street.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 2800 block of FM 700.
- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 200 block of Union.
- **ASSAULT CAUSING BODILY INJURY** was reported in the 2600 block of Gregg Street.
- **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported: in the 1000 block of Bluebonnet. and in the 400 block of Dallas.
- **ASSAULT BY CONTACT** was reported in the 600 block of State.

Sheriff

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 50 inmates at the time of this report.
- **ADAM MARCUS ORRANTIA**, 21, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on charges of driving while license invalid and violating promise to appear.
 - **JOSHUA ALLEN NOBLE**, 22, was arrested by deputies on a charge of debit card abuse.
 - **CHRISTOPHER LEE STROTHER**, 25, was arrested on a judgment/sentence for driving while intoxicated/second offense.
 - **MARY BRITO ROJAS**, 54, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of DWI/second offense.
 - **CACEE DELANE CORBELL**, 25, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on charges of speeding and violating promise to appear.
 - **JODY KYLE ROGERS**, 49, was arrested by deputies on a parole violation warrant.
 - **SHAWN MICHAEL OVERTON**, 21, was arrested by BSPD on charges on no valid inspection certificate and violating promise to appear.

Fire/EMS

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

- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported at the intersection of Parkway and Wasson Road. Service was refused.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported at the intersection of Parkway and Wasson Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1900 block of Simler. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1300 block of Johnson. Service was refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1300 block of Johnson. One person was transported to SMMC.

Your Local Weather

Thu 2/12	Fri 2/13	Sat 2/14
 75/41 Cloudy skies early will become partly cloudy later in the day. Warm.	 69/32 Sunny. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the low 30s.	 66/34 Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the mid 30s.
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Bulletin Board

If you have items for the Bulletin board, contact the Herald news room at 263-7331 or email editor@bigspringherald.com

TODAY

• Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.

THURSDAY

- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Friends of the Library meets at noon in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.
- Big Spring Main Street meets at noon in the Railroad Museum located at Second and Main streets.
- League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. The public is invited.
- American Legion Auxiliary meets at 6 p.m. at 3203 W. Highway 80.
- The Prospector's Club meets at 7:30 p.m. at 606 E. Third St. The public is invited to these meetings. For more information contact Lola Lamb at 263-3340.
- Neighbors and Newcomers Club meets. New members are welcome. Call 263-2005 for more information.

FRIDAY

- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281.
- AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
- Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Dance at the Senior Center, 1901 Simler, from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

- Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.

MONDAY

- The Big Spring-Howard County Retired Teacher's Association meets in the Cactus Room at Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 213-1342 or 263-6819.
- Evening Lions Club meets at 6:45 p.m. at Dragon China Buffett.
- DAV and Auxiliary Chapter 47 meets at 6:30 p.m. at 610 Abrams St.
- Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

TUESDAY

- Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Big Spring Band Boosters meets at 5:30 p.m. in the high school band hall. All band parents are invited to attend.



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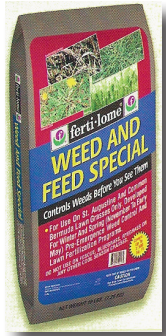
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Area roundup: Grady clinches 10-IIA title

Herald Staff Report

LOOP — Grady’s Wildcats clinched the District 9-IIA title Tuesday night with a 52-27 victory over Loop’s Longhorns.

The Wildcats won the championship in a very competitive district that included Borden County and Sands, which had both been ranked in the state’s Top 20 poll at times this season.

Grady used dominant performances in the second and third periods to pull out the victory. The Wildcats outscored Loop, 31-10, in that time span.

Dylan Cox led all scorers with 15 points, while Jacob Rodriguez added 14.

Grady will receive a first-round bye in the postseason due to winning its district.

Grady 9 12 19 12—52

Loop 7 2 8 10—27

Grady (22-5, 9-1): Shane Teague 8, Dylan Cox 15, Tyler Matthews 2, Joe Cook 4, Geoffrey Schuette 2, John Ramirez 2, Johan Wiebe 3, Casey Shands 2, Jacob Rodriguez 14.

Loop (3-9 in district 10-A): Armdndariz 9, Bell 1, Sellers 3, Foster 9, Boggan 5,

Free throws: Grady 6-12, Loop 9-12. 3-point goals: Grady 2 (Dylan Cox 2), Loop 2 (Armdanariz, Bogan).

Garden City 47, Water Valley 39

WATER VALLEY — Garden City’s Bearkats moved within one game of finishing the 2008-2009 boys basketball season undefeated.

The Bearkats defeated Water Valley, 47-39, Tuesday, improving to 9-0 in District 10-IIA. The Bearkats clinched the district title Friday.

Brett Chudej played his usual role as leading scorer, posting 23 points.

The Bearkats play Robert Lee at 6:30 p.m. Friday to wrap up the regular season and then receive a first-round bye in the postseason.

Garden City 10 14 11 12—47

Water Valley 5 13 5 16—39

Garden City (15-8, 9-0): Brett Chudej 23, Hayden Halfmann 9, Cole Schwartz 4, Aaron Long 4, Travis Gully 3, Michael Clarke 2, Jesse Montes 2.

Water Valley: Doss 12, Franke 11, Armond 7, Hahn 4, Gray 2, Williams 3.

Free throws: Garden City 2-5, Water Valley 9-14. 3-point goals: Garden City 1 (Gully), Water Valley 2 (Doss). Total Fouls: Garden City 15, Water Valley 9. Fouled Out: None.

Girls basketball Garden City 58, Water Valley 23

The Schwartz connection has been

money for Garden City’s Lady Bearkats all year and Tuesday’s regular season finale wasn’t any different.

The No. 10 Lady ‘Kats got 18 points from Morgan Schwartz and 15 from Macy Schwartz as the cousins led Garden City to a 58-23 win over Water Valley. The victory means the Lady ‘Kats finish District 10-IIA play undefeated.

The Lady ‘Kats dominated from the tip, leading 18-10 after one period and 32-12 at the break. The Lady ‘Kats truly put the game away in the third, outscoring Water Valley 16-2 in the frame for a 48-14 advantage heading into the fourth.

Garden City receives a first-round bye in the Class A, Division II playoffs.

Garden City 18 14 16 10—58

Water Valley 10 2 2 9—23

Garden City (27-3, 10-0 district): Morgan Schwartz 18, Macy Schwarz 15, Melissa Hirt 7, Britten Avery 5, Kate Halfmann 6, Paige Nieheus 5.

Water Valley (19-9, 8-2): Hutchins 9, Rogers 7, Glass 5, Ham 2.

Free Throws: Garden City 6-14, Water Valley 3-12. 3-point goals: Garden City 6 (Ma. Schwartz 4, Hirt, Nieheus 1). Water Valley 2 (Hutchins, Rogers 1). Total Fouls: Garden City 16, Water Valley 16.

Fouled Out: None.

Grady 44, Loop 40

LOOP — Grady’s Lady Wildcats held off a late Loop Lady Longhorns rally to finish their season with a 44-40 victory.

Grady had an outside shot at the postseason, but needed some help from Dawson, which needed to beat Klondike if the Lady Wildcats were to have a shot. However, Klondike defeated Dawson 48-33 to clinch the final playoff spot available out of District 9-IIA.

The Lady ‘Cats were led by Eva Dyck’s 13 points and finish the season 16-13 overall with a 4-6 mark in district.

Grady 6 12 11 15—44

Loop 0 10 9 21—40

Grady (16-13, 4-6): Eva Dyck 13, Lauren Robinson 8, Katie Meeks 7, Maegan Blocker 6, Kelly Cook 5, Kaitlyn Blocker 3, Julia Schuelke 2.

Loop (3-7 district): Karli Cartwright 21, Dolores Ramirez 8, Teresa Ramirez 7, Kelly Young 4, Kaytlin Isbell 1.

Free throws: Grady 8-12, Loop 10-16. 3-pointer goals: Grady 2 (Dyck, K. blocker 1) Loop 3 (Cartwright 2, D. Ramirez 1). Total fouls: Grady 17, Loop 16. Fouled out: Young.

Astros’ shortstop Miguel Tejada pleads guilty to lying to Congress about steroids

By NEDRA PICKLER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Houston Astros shortstop Miguel Tejada pleaded guilty Wednesday to lying to Congress about the use of performance-enhancing drugs in professional baseball.

Tejada was the American League’s Most Valuable

Player in 2002 while playing for the Oakland Athletics.

The misdemeanor charge of making misrepresentations to Congress can lead to as much as a year in jail. But federal guidelines call for a lighter sentence.

Tejada’s guilty plea grew out of statements he

made to House investigators denying that he knew anyone in baseball who used performance-enhancing drugs.

His assertions in 2005 were contradicted by evidence that he had talked to an Oakland teammate

See **TEJADA**, Page 4B

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BSISD to officially hire Saldivar Thursday

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Big Spring school trustees are expected to give the official OK to hiring of new superintendent Steven Saldivar when they hold their regular monthly meeting at 5:15 p.m. Thursday in the high school



Saldivar

board room. Trustees named Saldivar as the finalist for the post Jan. 20, but were forced by state regulations to wait at least 21 days before mak-

ing the hire official. Saldivar will replace interim superintendent Dr. Michael Stevens, who has been leading the district since former superintendent Michael Downes resigned in June 2008. The new CEO of Big Spring

ISD was selected over 33 other applicants for the position. He came to BSISD in May 2007 when he was named assistant superintendent. Prior to that, he served as assistant superintendent at Lamesa ISD for four years. In addition, he has served as a classroom

teacher, coach and principal during his education career. Stevens, the former superintendent at Hereford ISD, will remain interim chief of BSISD until June 30, then will assume a part-time advisory role with the district until December.

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1A

Non-compliant restrooms, inadequate parking and inaccessible seating are just a few of the problems facing city officials in bringing Municipal Auditorium up to federal guidelines, according to City Attorney Linda Sjogren. Symphony Conductor and Director Keith Graumann addressed the council, speaking to the uniqueness of the facility and pleading with the government body to let the orchestra finish its final performance of the season March 21 in the auditorium. “We’re certainly sympathetic to those with special needs,” said Graumann. “During our 2004-2005 season, I had two performers that needed accessibility to the stage. Our final concert of this series is March 21, and we advertised this for a full year. It would be very difficult

to change places at this point, as it’s been suggested. Approximately 5 percent of our attendance comes from outside of Big Spring, so it would be very difficult to change at this point. “Also, this time of the year is when I need to set the dates for the 2009-2010 concert season, which would roughly follow the school year, and I would ask for some sort of exemption for the four dates set for next season. And of course, the Symphony Association would be able to take care of financial responsibilities for the four performances (next season).” Unfortunately, the matter is well out of the Big Spring City Council’s hands, according to Mayor Russ McEwen. “The bottom line is we would love to grant an exemption, and we’re working toward getting the auditorium completely ADA compliant,” said McEwen. “The problem is that is not within our abil-

ity. The federal government says these are the things you need to do, and although we have somewhat addressed the problem... we have to have accessibility. Anywhere an ambulatory person can get in, we have to have accessibility for a person in an ADA situation.” Sjogren agreed with McEwen’s assessment, saying there’s no way to fix enough of the ADA-related problems with the facility to remove the bullseye the federal government has painted on its doors. “The gradient between the different levels of seating within the auditorium is also a problem,” said Sjogren. “We can temporarily fix the restroom problem with some portable toilets, but there’s no way to fix the accessibility into the building. We have more issues with the auditorium than we have with the swimming pool. I’ve talked with the TML (Texas Municipal League) attorneys,

and they agree with me the best way to handle this is to close the auditorium.” Symphony Board Member Phyllis Graumann also addressed the council, pointing out that she is disabled and has had trouble as well — specifically with the auditorium’s restrooms — but implored the council to keep the facility open through the end of the symphony’s 2008-2009 season. “It’s not that we’re not sympathetic, the problem is we don’t have the ability to grant that exemption,” said McEwen. “We have had a lawsuit filed against us, and we’ve been visited by people from the federal government and they have told us what we have to do.” According to Sjogren, of the three city buildings in question, City Hall will trump the other two in urgency to be ADA compliant because it is used for city business and is open on a daily basis.

The council voted to keep City Hall and the Municipal Swimming Pool — which is set to open in June — open by making temporary changes to the facilities. According to Sjogren, an intercom will be placed in an ADA accessible area near City Hall, with city employees going out to the area to help those with special needs with their business. At the Municipal Swimming Pool, portable toilets will be brought in, with use of the building — which is not ADA compliant — eliminated, according to city officials. “If the lawsuit had not been filed, we could have shown good intent,” said Councilwoman Gloria McDonald. “But since the lawsuit has been filed, we’re now in a situation where the doors have been shut and we have to comply with the federal law and do what they say.” The council voted unanimously to close

Municipal Auditorium, make the temporary changes to City Hall and the Municipal Swimming Pool, and contract with engineering firm Parkhill Smith & Cooper to conduct a feasibility study to determine what must be done — and how much it will cost — to bring the facility within federal guidelines, with the cost of the study not to exceed \$20,000. *Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com*

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ROBBERY

Continued from Page 1A

charges of aggravated robbery and possession of drug paraphernalia. According to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the Big Spring Police Department, the offense was reported shortly after 11 p.m.

“Officers arrived on the scene and learned that a white female and a black male had robbed the clerk and fled the scene,” said Everett. “The victim said the female suspect approached the counter and displayed a handgun, demanding money. She took an undetermined amount of money and she and the male suspect fled the store in

a red vehicle. “Minutes later Howard County Sheriff’s Deputies spotted and stopped a red four-door vehicle matching the clerk’s description. The vehicle was occupied by a white female and black male, both matching witnesses’ descriptions. They were taken into custody at that time.” Everett said a search of the vehicle turned up

the cash allegedly stolen in the heist, as well as narcotics. “Money was recovered from the suspects, but the weapon was not located,” said Everett. “During the search, Martinez was found to be in possession of a controlled substance and Green possessed drug paraphernalia. As of this morning, both are still being held in

the city jail awaiting arraignment.”

CONTAINERS

Continued from Page 1A

attempted to boil down the ordinance. “Stacking the containers is prohibited, but other than that, they will be treated like any other metal storage building and follow the same guidelines already laid down.” One of the stipulations originally in the ordinance that called for residents to secure a special use permit was rejected by the council. Also Tuesday, the council approved first reading of an overhauled billboard code that was originally developed to address the use of LED billboards in the city limits. “We looked at this and decided the best course of action was to overhaul the entire ordinance, not just what pertains to the electronic billboards,” said Assistant City Manager Todd Darden. The new ordinance will allow the LED billboards in certain city zones, but calls for an end to all off-premise signs — signs that are not located on the businesses’ property — on

Gregg Street between Interstate Highway 20 and FM 700, as well as on FM 700, according to city officials, but will allow existing signs to be grandfathered in. However, lively discussion regarding size limitations and how the billboards would be displayed drew the majority of the council’s attention, not how to handle more technologically advanced electronic signs. The ordinance, as it was originally presented to the council, would have cut the maximum square footage of the billboards from the existing 300 square feet to 150 square feet, a step local billboard merchant Skip Burcham said would hurt businesses. Council members agreed, nixing the

150-square-foot limitation in favor of the existing 300 square feet. However, disagreements regarding how the signs — sometimes displayed in one 300-square foot sign or in two 150-square-foot signs stacked vertically or horizontally — can be stacked brought proceedings to a halt. With motions made and then rescinded, the council met a 3-3 deadlock on an ordinance that would allow two 150-square-foot signs, stacked vertically, with Mayor Russ McEwen and council members Stephanie Horton and Manuel Ramirez Jr. voting against it. With the prospect of starting over on the issue during the next council meeting at hand, Councilwoman Gloria McDonald

changed her vote, defeating the motion 4-2. A second motion was then made to allow the signs — at a maximum of 300-square-feet — to be divided or stacked however the sign owner sees fit. The measure was approved by a unanimous vote.

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Howard County Awarded Federal Funds Through FEMA
HOWARD COUNTY HAS BEEN AWARDED FEDERAL FUNDS UNDER THE EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER NATIONAL BOARD PROGRAM. Howard County has been chosen to receive **\$15,299.00** to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in the county.

The selection was made by a National Board that is chaired by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and consists of representatives from The Salvation Army; American Red Cross, United Jewish Communities; Catholic Charities, USA; National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA; and, United Way of America. The Local Board was charged to distribute funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs in high-need areas around the county.

A local Board, made up of the County, City, United Way and other local charitable organizations will determine how the funds awarded to Howard County are to be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local service organizations in the area. The Local Board is responsible for recommending agencies to receive these funds and any additional funds under this phase of the program.

Under the terms of the grant from the National Board, local organizations chosen to receive funds **must:** 1) be private voluntary nonprofits or units of government 2) have an accounting system, 3) practice nondiscrimination, 4) have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and / or shelter programs, 5) if they are a private voluntary organization, they must have a voluntary board, and 6) never been debarred or suspended from receiving Federal funds. Qualifying organizations are urged to apply.

Howard County has distributed Emergency Food and Shelter funds previously with The Salvation Army, Isaiah 58, Northside Community Center and St. Vincent DePaul Society participating. These agencies were responsible for providing over 8,000 meals, 8,000 pounds of food and over 300 nights of lodging.

Public or private voluntary organizations interested in applying for Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds must contact **Nancy Foster at the United Way of Big Spring at (432) 267-5201** or come by **215 W. 3rd Street** for an application. The deadline for the submission of applications is **February 17, 2009.**

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LADY STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

"I think getting this win is tremendous for this team's confidence," he said. "These girls came out and put together a great performance in front of the home crowd. We're going to head into the game in Sterling City believing we can win."
With the score tied at 6 just four minutes into the game, the Lady

STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

smart down the stretch. Lake View came here to win. They didn't just roll over. They had me scared near the end, but the guys found a way to win it."
Big Spring stayed one step ahead of Lake View for a majority of the game, using an 8-0 run early in the first period to take an 11-6 advantage. Lake View's final lead of the game came at the end of the first period, when Rigo Muro sank a three at the buzzer, giving the Chiefs a 20-17 lead heading into the second.
Big Spring opened the second stanza with an 11-2 run, taking the lead for good at 28-22.
However, the end was not without drama.
Big Spring led 53-46 with 2:29 to play as Lake View began to make its

Steers embarked on a 10-0 run that didn't end until early in the second period to put all the separation they needed from Lake View.
Big Spring led by 9, 19-10, at the intermission and went on an early 6-0 run in the third period to move the lead into double digits. The Lady Steers led by as many as 20 and Lake View couldn't cut the deficit to anything less than 12.
Taylor Seaton led Big Spring's early charge, scoring 10 of her game-high 12 points in the first period.
"Taylor is capable of doing that.

charge. Matt Ritchey was able to stave off the Chiefs' initial run, turning and hitting a jumper from the elbow, picking up a foul in the process.
However, it was Ritchey's play on the defensive end that made the final difference.
Lake View pulled with 4, 55-51 with 29.1 seconds to play, when Ritchey stood strong in the lane and drew a charge from Matt Hummingbird. The foul put Hummingbird out of the game and gave Big Spring possession.
The Steers couldn't add to the lead, though, and Lake View once again attempted to cut into the deficit. However, after a John David Baker miss for the Chiefs, Lake View appeared to have secured an offensive rebound for another attempt, when Ritchey knocked the ball out of Paul Mesta's hands from behind.
He quickly passed the ball up the court where Darius McCalister put in a free throw and drew the foul. McCalister converted the 3-point

She's got a nice shot," said Warren. "We're usually having to settle for a layup when we get into a break, but if Taylor can give us a consistent outside shot then that's just another weapon for us to utilize."
Valerie Ross had eight, while Linzee Yarbar posted seven.
Lake View was led by Christina Moses, who had six points — all coming from the free throw line.
The winner of the play-in game in Sterling City Friday will face No. 3 Canyon in the bi-district round of the playoffs.

play, giving Big Spring the final tally, 58-51.
"Matt hit a big shot, pulled down a big rebound and took a big charge," said Morris. "We he gets his big hands on the ball, he's not going to lose it. Sometimes I think that if Jerrell got hurt, then Matt could be our point guard. He's really competitive and just wants to win."
McCalister led all scorers, posting a season-high 17 points.
"Darius was fantastic. We always tell him to look for his shot, but he really had it going tonight," said Morris. "I guess late in the year the seniors start wanting it more when they realize the season is almost over."
The Steers can clinch a playoff berth with a win over Frenship at 6:30 p.m. Friday. The time was changed from 7 p.m. in order to allow the student body time to travel south to Sterling City following the game.
The Lady Steers will be facing San Angelo Lake View at 8:30 p.m. in

Lake View 6 4 6 8-24
Big Spring 14 5 15 9-43
Lake View (9-20, 1-7): Bri Portillo 1 0-0 2, Christina Moses 0 6-10 6, C-Anne Bendanillo 1 1-2 3, Jaelyn Williams 1 1-2 3, Mercedes Reyes 1 2-3 4, Mitzi Salgado 1 0-1 2, Allyson Frost 1 0-0 2, Priscilla 1 0-1 2, Yvonne Montalvo 0 0-2 0. Totals 7 10-21 24.
Big Spring (10-19, 1-7): Linzee Yarbar 2 3-3 7, Taylor Seaton 5 0-0 12, Valerie Ross 3 0-0 8, Desiree Anderson 1 2-4 4, Bridgette Tuitt 2 0-3 4, Cerbi Ritchey 1 2-4 4, Lauren Porras 2 0-0 4. Totals 16 7-14 43.
3-point goals: LV 0, BS 4 (Ross 2, Seaton 2). Total fouls: LV 17, BS 19. Fouled out: Montalvo, Ritchey.

Sterling City for the final playoff spot available from District 4-4A.
Big Spring almost topped Frenship in the first meeting between the two teams, but fell behind late in the fourth, eventually falling 57-51.
"We'd love to beat Frenship. We beat them for three and a half quarters up there and let it get away," said Morris. "We always get up to play Frenship, but this one is going to be that much more intense. We've got a good chance to beat them."

Lake View 20 6 10 15-51
Big Spring 17 15 13 13-58
Lake View (10-16, 2-4): Rigo Muro 1 0-1 3, John David Baker 1 1-2 3, Seth Riddle 1 3-4 5, J.D. Smith 1 0-0 2, Chris Blair 3 1-4 7, Matt Hummingbird 4 0-0 8, Roy Garcia 1 0-0 2, Paul Mesta 3 5-6 12, Remington Garcia 2 5-6 9. Totals 17 15-23 51.
Big Spring (10-16, 3-3): Darius McCalister 6 1-1 17, Jerrell Williams 3 3-4 11, Matt Ritchey 6 0-1 12, Sidney Parker 3 0-0 6, Zamir Linton 1 0-0 2, Xavian Parnell 1 2-4 4. Totals 20 6-8 58.
3-point goals: LV 2 (Muro, Mesta), BS 8 (McCalister 4, Williams 2, Clemons 2). Total fouls: LV 17, BS 17. Fouled out: Blair, Hummingbird.

FORSAN

Continued from Page 1B

quarter and then on the other end they just lobbed it over the top and were able to beat us that way."
Jeremy Robbins scored 15 for Forsan matching Garrett Fulton's 15 for Stanton for game high honors with Tristan Clay adding 14 to the FHS total.

Forsan 12 7 20 10-49
Stanton 7 10 2 7-26
Forsan (22-3, 5-1): Jeremy Robbins 15, Tristian Clay 14, Evan Burton 10, Nathan Atkerson 8, Alex Huckabee 2.
Stanton (8-6, 3-3): Tyler Fulton 15, David Erives 6, Justin Hinojosa 5.

Girls game
Stanton 38,
Forsan 33
In a game that was close throughout, it was the Lady Buffaloes from Stanton, using a 9-3 run to begin the third quarter, opening up a 26-13 lead before withstanding a furious Forsan rally to claim a share of the District 7-A title.
"They just beat us," Forsan Head Coach Robert Hillger said. "They just played better than us, that is all there is to it."
After a first quarter that saw Stanton scratch out a 6-5 lead, the quickness of the Stanton team started to take hold on the defensive side as the visiting Lady Buffs forced FHS into seven turnovers in the stanza.
Because of the defensive pressure, Forsan was again only able to manage five points while Stanton scored 11 over the time span for the 17-11 halftime lead.
Forsan finally found a sense of urgency midway through the third as Amanda Longorio began to assert herself inside, scoring eight points in the final three minutes of the period to close the Stanton lead to 29-21 entering the final quarter.

Stanton was able to extend their lead to 33-22 with six minutes remaining in the game before Forsan mounted its last rally, outscoring Stanton 11-2 in the final five minutes. However, it was too little, too late as Laci Luna hit two free throws with 10 seconds left to ice the win.
Longorio seized game-high honors with 19 points for Forsan while Amber Beasley led Stanton with 15.
Stanton 6 11 12 9-38
Forsan 5 5 11 12-33
Stanton (15-14, 4-2): Amber Beasley 15, Adrian Carrasco 10, Laci Luna 6, Ruby Salazar 5, Kelsey Coggins 2.
Forsan (21-8, 4-2): Longoria 19, Faith Belew 4, Shelby Jones 4, Shelby McDonald 2, Tori Gauer 2, Kelsey Jones 2.

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In Sunday's Big Spring Herald
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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEW

‘Dessert theater’ sounds like real bargain to us!

Are you interested in the arts — not the fancy stuff, mind you, but something along the lines of dinner theater? How would you like to combine that taste with a little romance for your love on Valentine’s Day?

Well, maybe not dinner, but the best combination of all of Feb. 14 — romance and chocolate.

That’s exactly what’s available when the Howard College Drama Department stages “Odd Couples for Valentines,” a production featuring snippets from several Broadway comedies, at the Hall Center for the Arts Saturday.

The “dessert theater” production offers theatergoers a wide variety of sweets, such as chocolate covered strawberries and “Chocolate Decadence” cake. Desserts are served at 7:30 p.m., and the production begins at 8 p.m.

Tickets for the show are \$10 each, but there is now a waiting list for tickets.

Contact Cynthia Weeks at 264-5161 for ticket information.

Kirk Davidson, head of the college drama department, said the event will satisfy the sweet tooth and tickle the funny bone.

“Odd Couples For Valentines” will feature scenes from 14 Broadway plays, with the majority being Neil Simon favorites such as “Barefoot in the Park,” “Chapter Two” and “The Odd Couple.”

“We call it ‘Love through the Ages,’” Davidson said. “We show it in old age with ‘On Golden Pond,’ with newlyweds in ‘Barefoot in the Park’ and in first-date situations like in ‘Last of the Red-Hot Lovers.’”

Davidson is handing the directorial reins over to Jason Worthington, a HC sophomore, who said running through 14 scenes in less than two hours means a fast-paced production.

“We’re not going to leave the audience any time to be bored,” he promised. “At the same time, it won’t be so fast that they can’t keep up.”

It sounds like a good time to us and we think your valentine will agree.

Let’s see ... chocolate, romance and a show. That’s nothing short of a win-win-win situation.

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 John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News 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 editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we act on heavenly sound business principles, Lord.

Amen

Chavez running for dictator

Imagine what would happen if President Barack Obama started campaigning to end presidential term limits and if he told us we should amend the Constitution so he could run for re-election indefinitely.

We would think he went crazy, right?

Then imagine that because of his popularity, he managed to organize a national referendum and that we soundly rejected his greedy power grab.

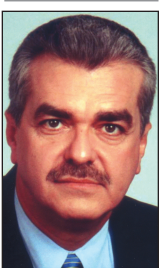
You would think it would be all over, right? But what if the president insisted on yearly referendums until he got his way? Would we be worried about the state of our democracy?

To us Americans, this scenario sounds too hypothetical. Most of us would dismiss it as incredible and far-fetched fiction.

But it is very real to the people of Venezuela. On Sunday, Feb. 15, they will vote on the second such referendum in less than two years. In December 2007, they rejected President Hugo Chavez’s efforts to prolong his stay in power beyond 2013, when his current six-year term expires, but now they have to vote on the same question again!

Chavez says he doesn’t know how much time he will need to finish the “socialist revolution” he started 10 years ago. In 2013, he will have been in power for 14 years. Not surprisingly, he says that’s not enough, especially because he has been trying to build a Venezuela in the image of socialist Cuba, where the Castro brothers have ruled for 50 years.

While driving Cuba into economic devastation, Fidel and Raul Castro also argued that they needed time to finish the work of their misguided revolu-



MIGUEL PEREZ

tion. Because they had limited natural resources with which to buy the loyalty of the masses, they had to stay in power through repression — a one-party system in which “elections” are a mockery to human intelligence and civil and human rights are nonexistent.

Amazingly, until Chavez’s efforts to become president for life were rejected in the 2007 referendum, he had been taking Venezuela down Cuba’s destructive path, and he had been doing it with voter approval. Using Venezuela’s oil wealth to buy voter support, for a while it seemed as if he was bound to become the world’s first democratically elected dictator!

His referendum defeat 14 months ago showed that Venezuelans finally were rejecting the Cuban model and signaled that Chavez’s days in power finally were numbered.

In local elections last year, although Chavez’s candidates won most gubernatorial and mayoral races, they lost in Venezuela’s three most populous states, as well as in its two biggest cities, Caracas and Maracaibo.

But not so fast! Although tens of thousands of opposition protesters marched against the referendum in Caracas Saturday, next Sunday, polls say, Chavez still could pull it off.

“No is no,” the protesters chanted in an effort to make Chavez understand that they already rejected the notion that he is the only person who can rule Venezuela. Some protesters wore shirts proclaiming that they, too, want to be president.

But if he doesn’t succeed Sunday, Chavez says he intends to keep asking that referendum question again and again. He makes no bones about all his unconventional maneuvers to stay in power, and because he already controls a good portion of the media — as well as every political institution, from the

National Assembly to the Supreme Court — no one doubts that he will keep trying.

But what happens when all his democratic options are gone? Will he stop holding elections and impose himself as dictator, or will he go away peacefully? Obviously, the latter is not likely, especially considering Chavez’s dictatorial tendencies and his government’s frequently violent methods for dealing with the opposition.

Following the path of Cuba, where mobs of government-propped vigilantes beat up on political opponents, Chavez’s followers often resort to destruction and violence. In the weeks leading up to Sunday’s referendum, pro-Chavez vigilantes have attacked the Caracas mayor’s office, the headquarters of a leading opposition party, the Vatican’s diplomatic mission, and Caracas’ oldest synagogue.

Incredibly, Chavez’s hatred of the United States has led him to align himself with Iran and against Israel and to conduct a campaign of anti-Semitism against the 15,000 Venezuelan Jews.

Yet instead of condemning Chavez’s anti-Semitic propaganda, his violent ways of dealing with opponents, his unquenched thirst for power, and his persistence on imposing himself as Venezuela’s president for life, other democratically elected Latin American leaders — seemingly afraid of Chavez’s sharp tongue — have been reluctant to criticize him.

And what about Obama? We know he would not dare try to stay in power beyond a second term in office. But will he condemn those who do? Will the American president stand up for democracy and against anti-Semitism in our hemisphere? His silence could send the wrong message!

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ADDRESSES

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

• **BARACK OBAMA**
President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

• **KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON**
U.S. Senator
703 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: 202-224-5922

• **JOHN CORNYN**
U.S. Senator

517 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: 202-224-2934

• **RANDY NEUGEBAUER**
U.S. Representative
19th Cong. District
1510 Scurry
Big Spring
Phone: (432) 264-0722

STATE GOVERNMENT

• **RICK PERRY**
Governor
State Capitol, Room 2S.1
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, 78711
Phone: (512) 463-2000

• **JOE HEFLIN**
State Representative
Texas 85th District
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, 78768
Phone: (432) 213-2897 or (512) 463-0604

• **KEL SELIGER**
State Senator
Texas 31st District
401 Austin, Suite 101
Big Spring, 79720
Phone: (432) 268-9909

BIG SPRING CITY COUNCIL

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— Home: 263-0907; Work: 267-1413.

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STEPHANIE HORTON — Home: 264-0306; Work: 263-7361.

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GLORIA MCDONALD — Home: 263-4835. Work: 263-7615.

TROY TOMPKINS — Home: 267-8769. Work: 263-0180.

Harry takes down Goliath

Back in May 2000, Harry Markopolos, a Massachusetts fraud investigator, provided detailed evidence to the Securities and Exchange Commission that financier Bernard Madoff was a fraud. Eight years later, the SEC figured that out -- albeit after Madoff told federal authorities he had defrauded investors of up to \$50 billion.

Last week, Markopolos testified before the House Subcommittee on Capital Markets about how he and three associates figured out what a \$906 million bureaucracy failed to uncover.

Asked to replicate Madoff’s investment strategy in 2000, Markopolos had begun to look at various Madoff funds. Within five minutes of examining one fund, he suspected fraud, as the returns seemed impossible for the investment strategy. Oddly, another document showed that Madoff “was not a sophisticated enough fraudster to get his portfolio construction math correct” or to mirror market performance.

Markopolos concluded, “You had to have no brains whatsoever to invest into such an unbelievable performance record that bears no resemblance to any other investment managers’ track record throughout recorded human history.” And: “In less than four hours, I knew I had proved mathematically that (Madoff) was a fraud.”

Markopolos went to the SEC in 2000, but the SEC failed to act. Madoff’s operation could have been shut down when it had less than \$7 billion under management, Markopolos testified.

Markopolos tried the SEC again in 2001. Again, no dice. In October 2005, he met with SEC Boston branch chief Mike Garrity, who referred him to the New York office, which failed to act. He kept prodding investigators through 2006 -- offering names and leads -- but the SEC failed to act. “If the SEC had bothered to pick up the phone and spend even one hour contacting the leads, then (Madoff) could have been stopped in early 2006,” Markopolos said.

But, he lamented, the “financial illiteracy among the SEC’s securities lawyers was pretty much universal.” While many on the political left have blamed the 2008 financial meltdown on a lack of regulation, the Madoff story shows that regulation, too, can fail — big time.

As Rep. Ed Royce, R-Fullerton, who is on the subcommittee, told me over the phone Monday, even though Markopolos spelled out Madoff’s problems in painful



DEBRA J. SAUNDERS

detail, SEC staff “were incapable of unraveling” the Madoff mess. And the SEC and other regulators investigated Madoff at least eight times over 16 years — without matching the findings of Markopolos and friends.

Royce wants to re-engineer the SEC, using as a model the British Financial Services Authority, which hired investigators with experience in the financial sector after the collapse of big bank Northern Rock in 2007.

Our Betters in Europe also got caught in Madoff’s snare. Markopolos said that he realized Madoff was operating a Ponzi scheme during a 2002 trip with French and Swiss bank and hedge fund biggies who “bragged” about how Madoff had closed his funds to new investors, but granted their money “special access.”

Madoff’s “masterful use of a ‘hook’ by playing hard to get and his false lure of exclusivity” had them gulled.

And so no one listened to Harry Markopolos — even the people who were paid to.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfcchronicle.com. To find out more about Debra J. Saunders, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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16254

Why not check this out ... at the county library

The library will close Friday for the President's Day holiday. We will reopen Tuesday at 10 a.m.

I am a sucker for mystery and suspense novels. I remember reading Alistair MacLean and Phyllis Whitney, M.M.



HOLLIS
MCCRIGHT

Kaye, Dorothy Sayers, Agatha Christie and Mary Stewart early in my reading career. Now, Lee Child, D.W. Buffa, Vince Flynn, Brian Haig (Alexander Haig's son), Tim Green (not Judge Tim Green), and I even read Clancy and W.E.B. Griffin. Anything in print, I will read. Books on CD or tape haven't tripped my trigger very much. Having said that, there is the distinct possibility that I will succumb to it, especially since my favorite authors also show up in the audio format.

New audio books on CD that have come in are two from Lee Child: "Persuader" (AUCD F CHI L) and "Tripwire" (AUCD F CHI L). In both of these, you have Jack Reacher as a "Shane." He is the man who takes care of his own, with no regard to the legality of his actions. Excellent books

— although one might think the characters are stereotypical in nature.

In Vince Flynn's books, it is more of an ensemble cast. Mitch Rapp and Mike Nash work in the counterterrorism department of some unnamed government agency. Both have lied to almost every person they care about to pursue the greater good. The political winds are changing in Washington D.C. and they are to be "reined in." However, when the Capitol is bombed, the rules change again. We have both print and audio versions of "Extreme Measures" (AUCD F FLY V). It is really a suspenseful book whether you read it or listen to it.

I am not familiar with Warrick Dunn, other than reading that he is a running back for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. In "Running For My Life" (B DUN W), he writes how football has taught him many things. In reading the book flap, when his mother was shot and killed, War-

rick took over the care of five siblings. He enrolled at Florida State University and had a very successful college football career which then rolled on into a successful professional football career. Very inspirational.

New fiction that has come in: "The Fire" from Katherine Neville; another one from Philippa Gregory, "The Other Queen;" Nicholas Sparks' "The Lucky One;" "The Grift" by Debra Ginsberg; "An Irish Country Doctor" by Patrick Taylor; and several romance novels from Debbie Macomber.

Stephanie Kallos has written "Sing Them Home." It is the story of the Jones children, who, after the loss of their mother, grow into adulthood under the shadow of unresolved grief and become encased in a town myth. Everyone in Emlyn Springs, Neb., knows the story of Aneira Hope Jones, the woman swallowed up by a tornado, never to return to earth, and of the painful legacy bestowed on

her children, always longing for the gift of their mother's bones, for a release from the past and their identities as motherless children. They have, both knowingly and unknowingly, condemned themselves to the task of interpreting and paying homage to the story of their mother's life; thus they have never claimed their own. This review is from Amazon.Com.

From a review in Booklist, in Ted Bell's rousing thriller "Tsar," Alex Hawke fights the leaders of a new and invigorated Russia. Vladimir Putin has been locked up in a lethal

prison built over a massive radioactive waste site and Count Ivan Korsakov (aka the Dark Rider) is determined to return Mother Russia to her rightful place in the world order by reacquiring her former colonies.

Korsakov will then conquer Europe and reign as the new tsar. The only thing standing in his way is Hawke, who is more than up to the task of thwarting those who try to take over the globe. Life throws Hawke a curve when he finds himself falling in love with the astoundingly beautiful Anastasia, who just

happens to be Korsakov's daughter.

As always, Bell pulls out all the stops with terrific action scenes, fiendish murders, diabolical villains, dramatic rescues and all the cool weaponry the reader could possibly hope for.

I wrote about Philippa Gregory's "Wideacre" in last week's column. In Gregory's "The Other Queen," she presents a new and unique view of one of history's most intriguing, romantic and maddening heroines, Mary, Queen of Scots. Biographers have

See **LIBRARY**, Page 7A



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16367

I Got Flowers Today

I got flowers today!

It wasn't my birthday or any other special day;

We had our first argument last night;

And he said a lot of cruel things that really hurt,
I know that he is sorry and didn't mean to say the things he said;

Because he sent me flowers today

I got flowers today!

It wasn't our anniversary or any other special day;

Last night he threw me into a wall and then started choking me;

It seemed like a nightmare, but you wake up to find they aren't real;

I woke up this morning sore and bruised all over - but I know he must be sorry;

Because he sent me flowers today

I got flowers today!

And it wasn't Valentines Day or any other special day;

Last night he beat me and threatened to kill me,
Make-up and long sleeves didn't hide the cuts and bruises this time;

I couldn't go to work today because I didn't want anyone to know - but I know he's sorry;

Because he sent me flowers today.

I got flowers today

Today was a very special day -

It was my funeral;

Last night he finally killed me - I was beaten to death;

If only I would have gathered the courage and strength to leave him;

The Women's Shelter could have helped me, but I didn't ask for their help;

So I got flowers today ... for the last time.

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March 6, 2009

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Announcements

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This is by far the best day to plan your Valentine's shenanigans. An organized Virgo moon shines a light on the clear-cut route to pleasing those you love. A helpful conjunction of the sun and Neptune (which will be exact tomorrow) lends inspired creative ideas about how to deliver the romance with a personal touch all your own.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). When you're ready for a change you want it to happen sooner rather than later. The others involved in the transition may need more closure. Let others take the time they need and all goes gracefully.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Plan your next soiree. Once you make a few arrangements you will be inspired to elaborate. You won't be satisfied until you have created the kind of fun that people line up to be a part of.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll be among supportive people, some of them too supportive for your taste. When a friend behaves more like a bossy sibling, the best way to deal is to smile and agree, then do whatever you want.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). When you're doing it right, whoop it up. When



HOLIDAY MATHIS

Tomorrow's Horoscope

you're doing it wrong, shrug and try again. Keep wracking up the good feeling throughout the day and tonight you'll have abundant energy to share with your nearest and dearest.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll be asked to put in a more intense effort than you have in a long while and you'll probably be more than willing. The potential rewards are simply too juicy to pass on! Afterward, give yourself the time you need to recover.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The order of the day is so tall, you're not sure if you can fill it. The truth is that you can, but only with great disruption to your usual life. It will save you a great deal of trouble if you just say "no."

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Weaknesses are strengths, and strengths are weaknesses. So there's no reason to feel embarrassed and nothing to boast about either. Instead, march on toward your golden destination.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Things you do for love will also be favorable for your finances. It's as though the universe feels the sincerity of your devotion and rewards you in many ways at once. Tonight brings stellar social opportunity.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Everyone wants more contact with you. You'll hear your name called so many times this morning that you'll tire of answering. Spend your

extra minutes with those who will benefit most from your attention.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It's like you're suddenly new in town. People want to take you under their wing because they want to show you what they think is fun. You'll notice for the first time bits of beauty and novelty that were there all along.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). If you wait for someone to give you the green light you'll be waiting a long time—possibly forever. Act without permission. Chances are no one will question your authority since you are so comfortable in every situation.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). What you are doing now is so of the moment it couldn't have happened at any other time in history. You may get an amazed reaction from an older generation. You have opportunities that your parents only dreamed about.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "How can two siblings be more different? I'm a city girl who dated a lot of different men and didn't get married until age 33. I've always been a hard and ambitious worker. My sister married a month after she graduated from high school and proceeded to have 10 children with her husband. She now lives in the country and is having, understandably, a hard time making ends meet. We

came from the same parents and are less than two years apart. Is it because of our signs? I'm a Sagittarius and she is a Libra."

Just because you share DNA doesn't mean you have the same ideas about what it means to live a successful, fulfilling life. Libras do tend to be motivated by partnership and Sagittarius is traditionally the sign that needs to explore the world. But obviously not every Sagittarius is a career-driven city girl and not every Libra falls in love young and concentrates on raising a large family. I believe that the stars do not dictate what happens to us, though they may present certain possibilities. We always have free will. Our personal astrological makeup is part of our story and can help us find meaning in the choices we make.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Brandy may seem too young to have a comeback, but then again this multi-hyphenated talented Aquarius got started with public performances at the ripe age of 6. Her latest album is titled "Human," an apt name for an Aquarian collection of works. Brandy is hopeful by nature with her natal sun, Mercury and Mars all free flying through the sign of philanthropy and possibility.

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Legals

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR INJECTION WELL PERMIT
SHERIDAN PRODUCTION COMPANY, LLC, 200 N. LORAIN, SUITE 530, MIDLAND, TEXAS is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas. The applicant proposes to inject

fluid into the San Andres formation, in the West Howard Glasscock (G-S) Unit Lease Well Number 1326. The well is located 6.4 miles northeast of Forsan, TX in the Howard Glasscock Field in Glasscock County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 2000 to 2690 feet. LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27

of Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil & Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas. Requests for public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any

aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil & Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, TX 78711-2967 (Telephone (512)463-6792). #6048 February 11, 2009

Legals

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR INJECTION WELL PERMIT
SHERIDAN PRODUCTION COMPANY, LLC, 200 N. LORAIN, SUITE 530, MIDLAND, TEXAS is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas.

The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the San Andres formation, in the West Howard Glasscock (G-S) Unit Lease Well Number 1518. The well is located 6.4 miles northeast of Forsan, TX in the Howard Glasscock Field in Glasscock County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 2000 to 2690 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil & Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas. Requests for public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for

further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil & Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, TX 78711-2967 (Telephone (512)463-6792). #6051 February 11, 2009

Legals

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR INJECTION WELL PERMIT
SHERIDAN PRODUCTION COMPANY, LLC, 200 N. LORAIN, SUITE 530, MIDLAND, TEXAS is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas.

The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the San Andres formation, in the West Howard Glasscock (G-S) Unit Lease Well Number 1407. The well is located 6.4 miles northeast of Forsan, TX in the Howard Glasscock Field in Glasscock County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 2000 to 2690 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil & Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas. Requests for public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for

further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil & Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, TX 78711-2967 (Telephone (512)463-6792). #6049 February 11, 2009

Legals

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR INJECTION WELL PERMIT
SHERIDAN PRODUCTION COMPANY, LLC, 200 N. LORAIN, SUITE 530, MIDLAND, TEXAS is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas.

The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the San Andres formation, in the West Howard Glasscock (G-S) Unit Lease Well Number

1410. The well is located 6.4 miles northeast of Forsan, TX in the Howard Glasscock Field in Glasscock County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 2000 to 2690 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil & Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil & Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, TX 78711-2967 (Telephone (512)463-6792). #6053 February 11, 2009

Legals

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR INJECTION WELL PERMIT
SHERIDAN PRODUCTION COMPANY, LLC, 200 N. LORAIN, SUITE 530, MIDLAND, TEXAS is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas.

The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the San Andres formation, in the West Howard Glasscock (G-S) Unit Lease Well Number

1411. The well is located 6.4 miles northeast of Forsan, TX in the Howard Glasscock Field in Glasscock County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 2000 to 2690 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil & Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil & Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, TX 78711-2967 (Telephone (512)463-6792). #6052 February 11, 2009

Legals

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR INJECTION WELL PERMIT
SHERIDAN PRODUCTION COMPANY, LLC, 200 N. LORAIN, SUITE 530, MIDLAND, TEXAS is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas.

The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the San Andres formation, in the West Howard Glasscock (G-S) Unit Lease Well Number

1408. The well is located 6.4 miles northeast of Forsan, TX in the Howard Glasscock Field in Glasscock County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 2000 to 2690 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil & Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil & Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, TX 78711-2967 (Telephone (512)463-6792). #6050 February 11, 2009

Legals

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR COMMERCIAL OIL AND GAS WASTE DISPOSAL WELL PERMIT

McDonnold Operating, Inc., 505 N. Big Spring, Suite 204, Midland, TX 79701, is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to commercially dispose of produced salt water or other oil and gas waste by well injection into a porous formation not productive of oil or gas. The applicant proposes to dispose of oil and gas waste into

the San Andres, the Rogers B Lease, Well Number 1. The proposed disposal well is located 1 mile West of Coahoma, TX in the Signal Peak (Wolfcamp) Field, Howard County, Texas. The wastewater will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 2510 feet to 4001 feet. Legal Authority: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rule of the Oil and Gas Divi-

sion of the Railroad Commission of Texas. Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, TX 78711 (Telephone 512/463-6792). #6054 February 11, 2009

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- Contest prizes determined on number of teams.
- To join the Best Loser Spring Challenge, fill out the form below and return to us with a check or money order for \$40 no later than March 6, 2009.

Questions? Call 432-263-7331.
Ask for Rick.

Team Photos must be taken at The Big Spring Herald
Prior to March 9th
FINAL PHOTO MUST BE TAKEN BY MAY 15TH
(TEAM PHOTOS MUST BE TAKEN TO QUALIFY FOR PRIZES)

Mail form or drop off along with \$40 team fee to:
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Sign us up for the Best Loser Challenge!

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Team Member 2: _____ **phone:** _____

Team Member 3: _____ **phone:** _____

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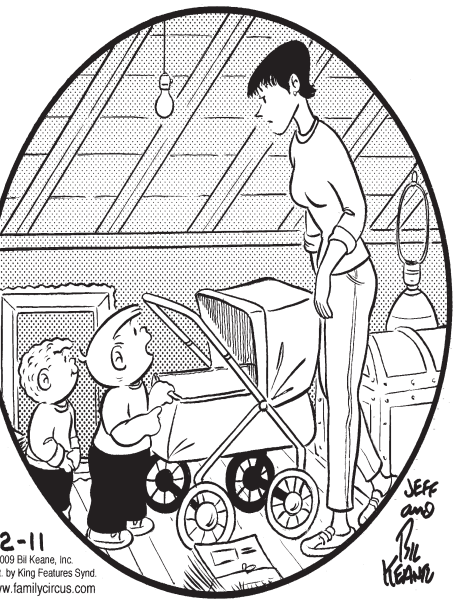
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5 :PM :30	News ABC	News ABC	Locura Noticiero	Lopez Lopez	News CBS	Noticias	News NBC	Raymond Friends	Cortes Harris	BBC Business	Cash Cab	Movie: First Blood, Brian Dennehy	CSI: NY	Bones	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	So Raven So Raven	NASCAR Now	SportsCenter
6 :PM :30	News ABC	Jeopardy! Fortune	Fútbol: USA vs. Mexico.	Two Men	News CBS	12 Cora-zones	News NBC	Seinfeld	Mark	News-Lehrer	Made		CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	Movie: Lean on Me, Beverly Todd	Suite Life Montana	Soccer: World Cup Qualifier	College Basketball
7 :PM :30	Lost	Lost		American Idol	Christine Gary	Doña Bar-bara	Knight Rider	Payne	Israel Scott	Monarchy-Royl	The Detona-tors	Movie: Rambo: First Blood Part II	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order			College Basketball: Oklahoma at Baylor.	College Basketball
8 :PM :30	Lost	Lost	Cuidado-Angel		Criminal Minds	El Rostro de Analia	Life	Payne	Light of the Southwest	Looking for Lincoln	MythBusters		UFC's Ultimate Fight Night	Law & Order		Wizards		
9 :PM :30	(:02) Life on Mars	(:02) Life on Mars	Fuego en la Sangre	TMZ	CSI: NY	Sin Senos El Cartel	Law & Order	Payne			What Ani-mals Think	Movie: Road House, Sam Elliott		Cold Case	Played	Wizards		
10 :PM :30	News Nightline	News Nightline	Impacto	Raymond	News	Noticiero	News	Seinfeld	Israel	Charlie Rose	Made		Ways Die Ways Die	Trust Me	Hatchett	Suite Life Montana	College Basketball	SportsCenter
11 :PM :30	Insider Jimmy Kim-mel Live	Insider Jimmy Kim-mel Live	La Hora de la Risa	Law Order: CI	Late Show	Decisiones de	Tonight Show	Sex & CCM	Smiley	The Detona-tors	Made	Movie: The Skulls, Hill Harper	CSI: NY	Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story	Movie: Lean on Me, Beverly Todd	Replace Kim	NFL Live	Final
12 :AM :30	News	Extra	Contra Viento	RENO 911	Late Late Show	Decisiones de	Late Night	Movie: The Prince & Me, Ben Miller	Israel	Sanchez	MythBusters		Disorderly Con.					
1 :AM :30	Paid	Paid	Clasicos Humor	Friends Consumer	Insider Entertainment	Programa Pagado	News					Movie: The Amazing Video	Amazing Video	Cold Case	The Deal	Emperor Dragon	Poker	SportsCenter

DENNIS THE MENACE



"If the note says I sassed the teacher back, that means she sassed me first!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"This is still in good shape, Mommy. We could have a lot more babies."

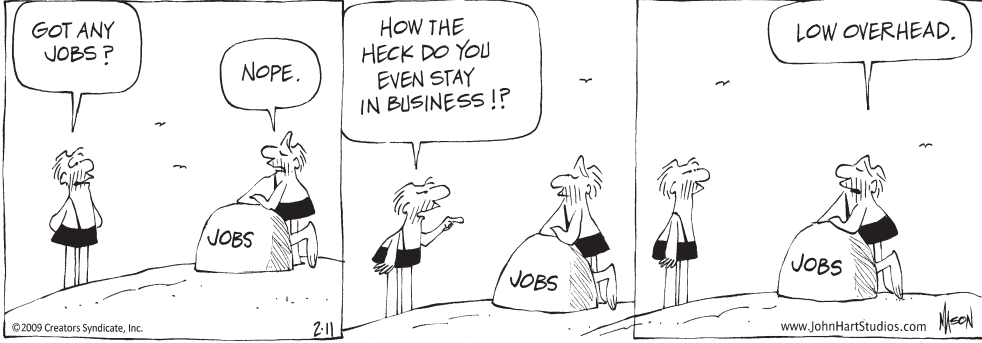
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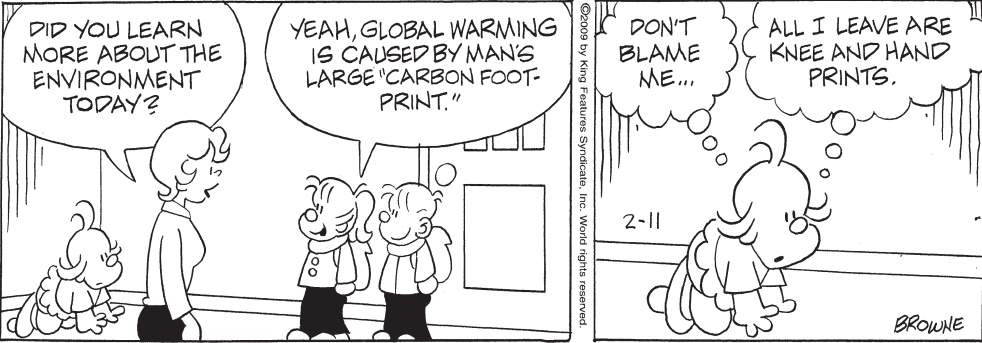
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AGNES



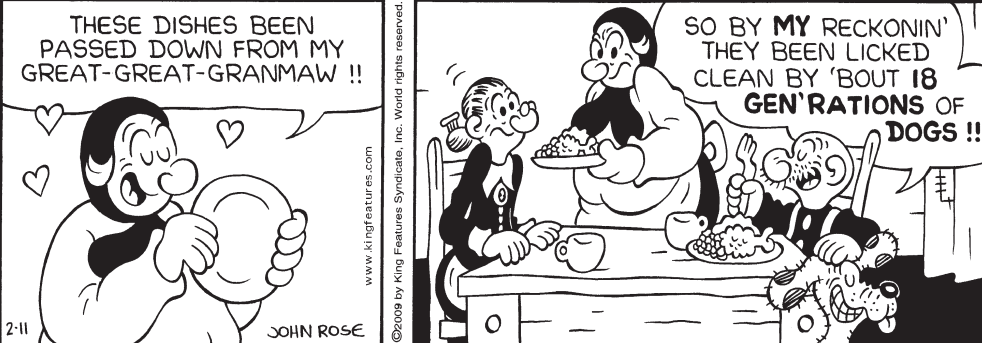
HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Feb. 11, the 42nd day of 2009. There are 323 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 11, 1858, French teenager Bernadette Soubirous reported the first of 18 visions of a lady dressed in white in a grotto near Lourdes. (The Catholic Church later accepted that the visions were of the Virgin Mary.)

On this date:

In 1812, Massachusetts Gov. Elbridge Gerry signed a redistricting law favoring his party, giving rise to the term "gerrymandering."

In 1861, President-elect Abraham Lincoln departed Springfield, Ill., for Washington.

In 1909, heavyweight boxer Max Baer was born in Omaha, Neb.; Oscar-winning writer-producer-director Joseph L. Mankiewicz was born in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

In 1929, the Lateran Treaty was signed, with Italy recognizing the independence and sovereignty of Vatican City.

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS**

1 Very much

5 Sheet-music symbol

9 Brazilian dance

14 Something forbidden

15 Capital of Italia

16 Beet variety

17 Wizard of Oz dog

18 Norse explorer

19 Couldn't stand

20 Means of deception

23 Ocelot, for one

24 "So long!"

25 Modern artist Mark

27 Discourages

30 Captain Marvel's magic word

32 Sch. near Hartford

33 Little legumes

34 Look (at)

37 Make a mistake

38 Ticked off

41 Reunion attendees

42 Desi Jr.'s mom

44 Goes (for)

45 Revise

47 Mercury's Greek counterpart

49 Looks fiercely

50 A Chorus Line character

52 Remains unused

53 Mexican gold

54 July 3rd purchase, perhaps

60 Kidney-related

62 High-tech music player
- 63 Start a pot

64 Vantage point

65 Paltry

66 Go through a mag

67 Stays awhile

68 Crystal-ball user

69 Beltmaking tools

DOWN

1 Little pests

2 Weaving machine

3 Aware of

4 Had a quick 12 Down

5 Wave tops

6 Federico Garcia (Spanish poet)

7 Qatar's ruler

8 Clock part

9 Nose, so to speak

10 "I get it!"

11 Marriage specialist

12 Time for coffee

13 Increase

21 Gets a salary

22 Help the teacher, perhaps

26 Size-and-price site

27 One-on-one battle

28 Brown shade

29 Sad ballads

30 Does an usher's job

31 Scenery chewers

33 Toon skunk

35 Online periodical
- 36 Stops

39 My Cousin Vinny Oscar winner

40 Mississippi River feature

43 Thumbs-up response

46 Lash enhancer

48 Carbines, for example

49 Building support

50 Reef material

51 Concert venue

52 Avoid being shut out

55 Edges

56 Fencing need

57 Had no doubts

58 Footnote abbr.

59 Some wines

61 Computer-keyboard key

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