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BIG SPRING HERALD

MONDAY
MARCH 8, 2010



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50 CENTS DAILY/$1.25 SUNDAY

Cars and Stars invitations mailed to more than 400

By VALERIE AVERY
Special to the Herald

You can't miss 'em, and you won't want to.

If you are a past contributor to the Volunteer Services Council at Big Spring State Hospital, chances are your mailbox contains a brightly colored orange envelope with an invitation to the social event of the season — the Fourth Annual Cars, Stars & Handlebars. And this time it's going Hollywood, according to co-chairman Stacy Barr.


Moughon

"Every year we give it a different theme from the year before, and this year we decided that we were going to 'Go Hollywood!'" Barr said. "We thought it would be appropriate to shine big, bright Hollywood lights on this event because we like our patients to shine. We just think they are really special."

This year's "Cars, Stars and Handlebars Goes Hollywood!" will be Saturday, April 17, at the Big Spring Country Club. Invitations are $100 apiece and give patrons and a guest entry into the event, which includes hors d'oeuvres and an opportunity to win a new vehicle.

The event begins at 5 p.m. and hors d'oeuvres will be served an hour later. Proceeds from the event and all volunteer fund-raisers and donations fund everyday patient activities and needs, such as clothing and toiletry items, as well as for celebrations, such as Christmas and Summer Fun Day, but it also funds long-range projects such as the construction of two Family Visitation Centers.

"The Family Visitation Centers are something we really need," said Ed Moughon, Big Spring State Hospital superintendent.

In the past, the Volunteer Services Council has funded construction of the Animal Assisted Therapy Building, the Meditation and

See **EVENT**, Page 3

NATIONAL TOURNAMENT BOUND



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Howard College's Hawks and cheerleaders celebrate Howard's Region V Championship after the Hawks beat Midland, 76-66, Sunday at Lubbock Christian University's Rip Griffin Center. The Hawks move on to the NJCAA national tournament in Hutchinson, Kan., next week. For full story, see Page 7.

Council set to OK COs

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

The city of Big Spring will look to move forward with certificates of obligation to finance a new $4.2 million aquatics center in Comanche Trail Park during its meeting Tuesday night, as the city council looks to replace the municipal swimming pool.

The council is set to consider an ordinance authorizing the issuance and sale of combination tax and surplus revenue certificates of obligation — which would keep the tax rate the same as last year — during the meeting, a move that will not require a second or final vote, according to Assistant City Manager Todd Darden.

"The council gave the go-ahead to move forward with the certificates of obligation during its Jan. 26 meeting," said Darden. "At that time, anyone who opposed the certificates had 20 days to put together a petition to force

See **CITY**, Page 3

INDEX

Comics	10
Classified	8-9
Features	5
Obituaries	2
Opinion	4
Sports	6-7

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54414 79720 9

KBSB dedicates first bench in park project

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

The first of what organizers hope are many new stone benches has been dedicated at Comanche Trail Park.

The 400-pound bench, purchased by Cornell Corrections, was unveiled near the park's Old Settlers Pavillion Friday afternoon.

Members of Keep Big Spring Beautiful, which initiated the bench program about a year ago, hopes it is the first of many at the park.

"This is the culmination of a lot of effort on our parts, but we still have a long way to go," KBSB member Joann Staulcup said. "This is just the first step ... We're going to try to sell a lot more of these benches in the years to come.

See **KBSB**, Page 3




Christina Barnard, Au.D., CCC-A
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Obituaries

Alice 'Merle' Roman

Alice "Merle" Roman, 78, of Midland died March 7, 2010. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 10, 2010, at Kelview Heights Baptist Church with the Rev. Jerry Berry officiating. Interment will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Trinity Memorial Park in Big Spring. The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 9.

She is survived by her daughter, Sharon Marcum and husband, David, of Midland; son, Alan Roman and wife, Cathey, of Midland; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; three sisters, Louise Willborn, Hazel Barnes and Shirley Paige, all of Big Spring; and many nieces and nephews and a multitude of friends.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Midland.

Helen McDaniel

Helen McDaniel, 76, of Big Spring died Saturday, March 6, 2010, at her residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Gloria Hernandez

Gloria Hernandez, 40, of Big Spring died Sunday, March 7, 2010, at her residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Richard Schroeder

Richard Schroeder, 60, of Big Spring died Sunday, March 7, 2010, at his residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Armando Reyes

Armando Reyes, 61, of Big Spring died Monday, March 8, 2010, in a local hospital. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Take Note

The winning numbers drawn in the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night:

19-26-39-40-43-52

Estimated jackpot: $57 million

Next Lotto Texas game: Wednesday night.

•••

The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Saturday by the Texas Lottery:

1-9-11-12-35

•••

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Saturday night, in order:

0-6-9-9. Sum It Up: 24.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 9 a.m. Saturday and 7 a.m. today:

• BRANDON WINTERS, 31, of 434 Dallas, was arrested Saturday on a local warrants.

• JENNIFER ROSE PEREZ, 30, of 1002 N. Main St. Apt. 64, was arrested Saturday on two local warrants.

• EDNA GALLARDO ORTEGON, 28, of 1002 N. Main St. Apt. 54, was arrested Saturday on two local warrants.

• HECTOR RUBENM CASTANEDA, 25, of 538 Westover Rd. Apt. 248, was arrested Saturday on a local warrants.

• KIMBIERLIE APRYLE LOHRDING, 37, of 1002 N. Main St. Apt. 57, was arrested Saturday on a local warrants.

• DOMACIO RODRIGUEZ, 59, of Colorado City, was arrested Saturday on a charge of public intoxication.

• MURRAY CLARK JONES, 48, of Houston, was arrested Saturday on a charge of public intoxication.

• KELLY CONWELL, 50, of Arizona, was arrested Saturday on a charge of public intoxication.

• SHAWN MICHAEL OVERTON, 22, of 1203 Stanford, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.

• CARLETON KEITH SPIVEY, 32, of 2602 Chanute, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.

• ROBERT LEE LOPEZ, 33, of 501 E. 18th St., was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.

• JOSHUA MOISES BASURTO, 17, of 2501 W. Highway 80, was arrested Sunday on charges of failure to identify and possession of drug paraphernalia.

• JUAN MANUEL NIETO, 35, of 1901 Hilltop, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.

• CHELSI NICOLE CHAVARRIA, 19, of 2105 Runnels, was arrested Sunday on two local warrants.

• JUANITA GARCIA, 36, of 1401 N. Highway 87 Apt. 601, was arrested Sunday on four local warrants.

• REBECCA COMSTOCK, 26, of 1612 Settles, was arrested Monday on two local warrants.

• UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE was reported in the 600 block of Holbert.

• CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 1400 block of Johnson.

• ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported:

In the 1000 block of Main Street.

In the 2400 block of Alabama.

• ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the 1900 block of N. Highway 87.

• ARSON was reported in the area of FM 669.

• UNATTENDED DEATH was reported in the 600 block of Ridgelea.

Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Tue 3/9	Wed 3/10	Thu 3/11	Fri 3/12	Sat 3/13
71/45 Mainly sunny. High 71F. Winds WSW at 20 to 30 mph.	**67/43** Windy with sunshine. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the low 40s.	**64/38** Partly cloudy and windy. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the upper 30s.	**64/38** Sunny. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the upper 30s.	**66/37** Sunny. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the upper 30s.
Sunrise: 7:04 AM Sunset: 6:50 PM	Sunrise: 7:02 AM Sunset: 6:50 PM	Sunrise: 7:01 AM Sunset: 6:51 PM	Sunrise: 7:00 AM Sunset: 6:52 PM	Sunrise: 6:59 AM Sunset: 6:53 PM

Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	71	44	sunny	Kingsville	80	61	t-storm
Amarillo	65	33	sunny	Livingston	75	54	t-storm
Austin	76	51	pt sunny	Longview	74	55	pt sunny
Beaumont	71	58	t-storm	Lubbock	70	41	sunny
Brownsville	80	62	pt sunny	Lufkin	77	57	t-storm
Brownwood	75	47	sunny	Midland	72	48	sunny
Corpus Christi	75	61	t-storm	Raymondville	81	61	pt sunny
Corsicana	72	50	sunny	Rosenberg	74	58	t-storm
Dallas	73	50	sunny	San Antonio	79	55	mst sunny
Del Rio	81	50	sunny	San Marcos	77	52	mst sunny
El Paso	63	40	mst sunny	Sulphur Springs	71	53	mst sunny
Fort Stockton	74	45	windy	Sweetwater	73	45	sunny
Gainesville	71	45	sunny	Tyler	73	54	mst sunny
Greenville	70	49	mst sunny	Weatherford	72	45	sunny
Houston	73	59	t-storm	Wichita Falls	72	43	sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	61	45	rain	Minneapolis	48	35	rain
Boston	50	31	pt sunny	New York	54	37	sunny
Chicago	51	44	rain	Phoenix	51	40	rain
Dallas	73	50	sunny	San Francisco	56	44	mst sunny
Denver	51	33	rain	Seattle	49	37	cloudy
Houston	73	59	t-storm	St. Louis	58	51	rain
Los Angeles	63	43	sunny	Washington, DC	63	46	sunny
Miami	77	63	pt sunny				

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 57 inmates at the time of this report.

• JOHN WAYNE POWELL, 45, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• VERONICA CHRISTINE WHITE, 23, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of tampering with government records.

• RAYMOND LYNN KEMPER, 44, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on charges of displaying expired registration, failure to appear and no driver's license.

• TERRY ALAN COLLINS, 38, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for theft by check.

• MARIA DOLORES RESENDIZ, 24, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• FREDDY HINOJOSA, 32, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for theft by check and warrants for indecency with a child – sexual contact and theft.

• JENNIFER ROBLEDO, 29, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for child support.

• NICHOLAS COY HERNANDEZ, 29, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on charges of no driver's license and driving while license invalid.

• JESSE ACOSTA TARIN, 49, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of no driver's license.

• WINDLE ARLIE BIDDLE JR., 50, was arrested Friday by DPS on a charge of possession of marijuana – more than two ounces, less than four ounces.

• TERRY SAVOY MOSLEY, 58, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal trespass.

• REX FLYNN FREE, 50, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of public intoxication.

• TOMMIE LEO FREEMAN, 55, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a parole warrant.

• LUIS JULIAN MARQUEZ, 36, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of failure to appear – child support.

• JUAN JOSE ACUNA JR., 26, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.

• MARK DANIEL GARZA, 27, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• JERROD LEE HESSON, 27, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• JESSICA NICOLE DUCKWORTH, 30, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• JERROD LEE LANGSTON, 23, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• JENNIFER ROSE PEREZ, 30, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on charges of failure to control speed and failure to appear.

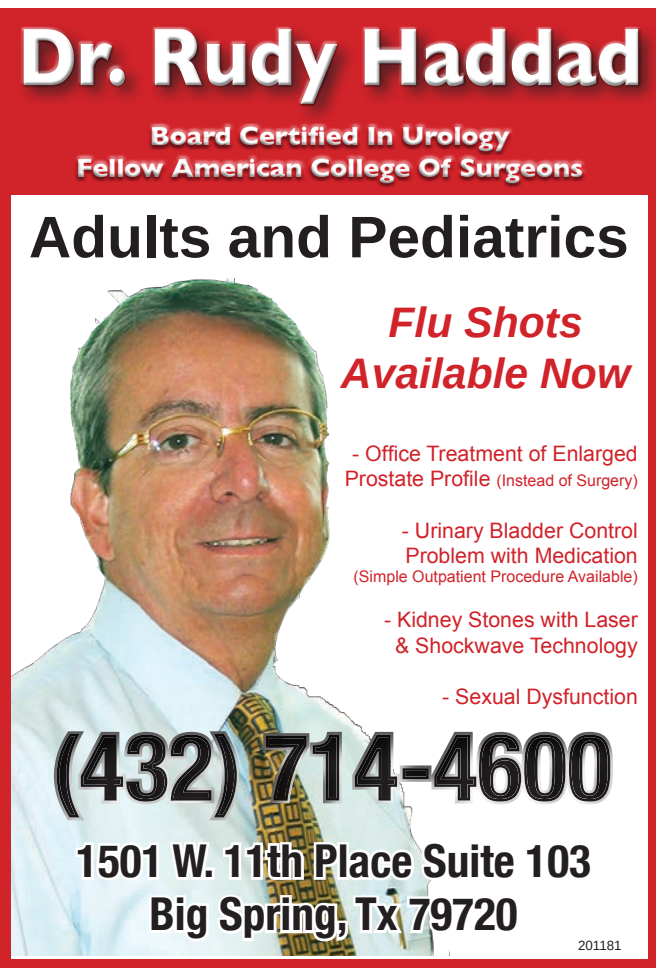
• ARALY SOTO MARTINEZ, 31, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on charges of speeding and violation of a promise to appear.

• BRANDON HEATH WINTERS, 32, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• ROBIN RENEE PORTER, 26, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of unrestrained child under five years old.

• KEMBIERLE APRYLE LOHRDING, 37, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of failure to maintain financial

See **SHERIFF**, Page 3







Texas News Briefs:

Polygamist group man to face trial

SAN ANGELO (AP) — A member of a polygamist group was expected to go on trial Monday in West Texas for sexual assault of an alleged underage bride.

Merrill Leroy Jessop is the fourth member of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints to be tried for sexual assault of a child since Texas authorities raided the group's ranch in April 2008.

The 35-year-old faces up to life in prison if convicted in the trial scheduled to start in San Angelo.

Jessop has also been charged with bigamy but will be tried on that separately.

Suspected gunman killed outside Walmart

COMMERCE (AP) — A man walked into a Walmart carrying at least two guns before engaging in a shootout with police outside the store, authorities said. The man was killed and an off-duty officer in the store who had tried to stop him was injured.

The shootout Sunday in the east Texas city of Commerce began when police received a call that shots had been fired from a car in nearby Greenville, said City of Commerce spokeswoman Marty Cunningham.

Commerce police intercepted the car just outside the city limits, where the man exchanged gunfire with officers, Cunningham said. He then drove to Walmart and entered the store "carrying a long gun and pistol," the spokeswoman said.

Cunningham said an off-duty officer from another agency was in the store and saw the man leave. The officer tried to stop the suspect in front of the store, where the officer and Commerce police exchanged gunfire with the man.

The off-duty officer was taken to a hospital with unknown injuries, Cunningham said.

Two die in La Salle County 'copter crash

COTULLA (AP) — A helicopter crash during a hunting trip on a ranch in south Texas left the pilot and a passenger dead.

The Texas Department of Public Safety identified the victims as Brian Faglie of Uvalde and Dale Jones of Houston.

The cause of Saturday's crash of a Robinson R22 is sought. The accident happened at a ranch about 13 miles north of Cotulla, in the Dilley area. The small helicopter went down in a field.

Investigator Tim LeBaron with the National Transportation Safety Board says Faglie was the pilot during the hog hunting trip. LeBaron says the weather was not bad at the time of the crash late Saturday morning.

Airman with shotgun disarmed at base

WICHITA FALLS (AP) — An airman in training at Sheppard Air Force Base was in military custody Monday after toting a shotgun outside a dormitory.

George Woodward, a spokesman for base, said no shots were fired and nobody was hurt during the incident Sunday night.

Woodward had no details on how the airman, whose name was not immediately released, acquired the shotgun.

SHERIFF

Continued from Page 2

responsibility.

• EDNA ORTEGON, 28, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on charges of driving while license invalid and failure to maintain financial responsibility.

• HECTOR CASTANEDA, 25, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of open container in vehicle.

• MARINA CRESENCIA FAIR, 26, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on charges of parent contributing to the non-attendance of a minor (three counts), public intoxication, disorderly conduct – fighting and failure to appear.

• CHRISTOPHER WOOTEN, 49, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on charges of theft and interfering with an emergency phone call.

• JENNIFER JAMES METCALF, 24, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on a charge of harassment.

• JOE MORRIS HAYS, 54, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on a charge of failure to display driver's license.

• VANESSA ALVAREZ, 23, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of bondsman off bond for criminal mischief.

Fire/EMS

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

• MEDICAL was reported in the 3500 block of Gail Highway. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 200 block of E. Seventh Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAUMA was reported in the 500 block of Owens. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 400 block of Hillside. Service refused.

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

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1400 block of E. Sixth Street. Service refused.

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

• MEDICAL was reported in the 200 block of Texas. Service refused.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1100 block of Ridgeroad. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of Purdue. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of Martin Luther King Blvd. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1200 block of Ridgeroad. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 200 block of Rocco. One person was transported to SMMC.

CITY

Continued from Page 1

them to an election. However, we haven't been notified of or heard anything about any petition on the matter, so we expect to be able to approve them tonight and move forward with the water park project. There's no second or final vote on the matter required by Texas law."

The council gave the order not to open the existing swimming pool — located in Comanche Trail Park — at the end of the school year in May 2009 after city officials learned the facility failed to meet federal requirements laid out in the Virginia Graeme Baker Act, which requires public swimming pools to have measures in place to prevent drain entrapment, a situation where a swimmer becomes trapped by the suction force of a pool drain.

According to city officials, the facility also failed to meet ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) requirements, many of which were identified when the city was sued by a local resident for not meeting the federal requirements.

Councilwoman Stephanie Horton made the motion, which was seconded by Councilman Manuel Ramirez Jr., to begin the notification and publication requirements for the city to issue the certificates during the Jan. 26 meeting.

According to city officials, the $4.2 million facility — which does away with the concept of a rectangular swimming pool in favor of a water park concept — will not require a tax hike, fitting the construction and eventual operation and maintenance of the proposed facility into the current tax rate of $1.013243 per $100 valuation.

Despite the lack of a tax hike to finance the new water park, the city recently had a lawsuit filed against it that could throw the matter into turmoil, as the local Concerned Citizens Council is looking to rollback the tax rate, alleging the municipality violated the Texas Open Meetings Act in January.

The lawsuit — which was filed on behalf of the Concerned Citizens Council with local residents Shannon Thomason, Steve Campbell, Thomas Tafuro, John Huckabee, Joe Hernandez and Mary Musik named as plaintiffs — alleges an emergency meeting of the Big Spring City Council held Jan. 7 violated the act, which requires 72 hours notice of meetings.

At the heart of the lawsuit is a rollback tax petition filed by Thomason, which failed to garner the 1,200 signatures needed to force a rollback election. The petition, which contained only one name — Thomason's — was determined to be invalid during the Jan. 7 emergency meeting.

If the lawsuit succeeds, Thomason said he hopes the court forces the city to hold a rollback tax election.

"We've felt all along that on a project of this size the citizens should have a vote," said Thomason. "Had the city followed the Texas Open Meetings Act it wouldn't be an issue. However, they decided to violate the law to take away the right of the citizens to have a vote on this issue. This is the only response we have."

Had the rollback petition been successful, the tax rate would have fallen back to 97.9398 cents per $100 property value — the roll back rate set by the state of Texas. The rollback would have left the city's current budget with a shortfall of about $180,000, according to officials.

The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday in the City Council Chambers, located at 307 E. Fourth Street.

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
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Helen McDaniel, 76, died Saturday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Gloria Hernandez, 40, died Sunday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Richard Schroeder, 60, died Sunday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

KBSB

Continued from Page 1

We envision this as an ongoing project from now on."

The bench program was instituted as a way to help people enjoy the park, KBSB member Gloria McDonald said.

"We decided about a year ago that that one of the things the park needed was more benches," McDonald said. "And TexStone was kind enough to assist us on this project."

The benches cost $400 apiece and can be purchased by individuals, groups or organizations. They can be emblazoned with company logos or individual names, making them perfect for memorials, McDonald said.

Another park project KBSB is involved with is the purchase of steel dome lids to sit atop trash barrels.

The lids, heavy enough to keep the West Texas wind from blowing trash across the park, can be purchased for $80. Staulcup said KBSB hopes to secure at least 60 lids in the near future.

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

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EVENT

Continued from Page 1

Butterfly Garden and the walking track. "We could not do what we do without the help of the Volunteer Services Council," Moughon said. "They are invaluable to this hospital."

The Family Visitation Center buildings would provide a comfortable and safe space for families who want to visit their relatives who are undergoing treatment at Big Spring State Hospital, said Billie Christie, director of community relations.

If you did not receive an invitation and would like to attend Cars, Stars and Handlebars Goes Hollywood! or would just like to make a donation, call the Community Relations Office at 268-7271 or 268-7536.

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.

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OTHER VIEWS

Special delivery

Like that unwanted advertising flyer that appears regularly in your mailbox, Postmaster General John Potter again delivered bad news Tuesday: The U.S. Postal Service lost $3.8 billion in the last fiscal year, is expected to lose another $7 billion this year and is projected to hemorrhage $238 billion over the next 10 years if Congress doesn't allow it to substantially change its business operations.

This is essentially the same pessimism Potter preached last year, only the situation has gotten worse. The USPS has for years seen its volume of mail decline as Americans switch to electronic correspondence. E-mail, online bill payments and banking, Internet retailing and social media haven't quite made envelopes and stamps obsolete, just terribly unprofitable.

That trend has been exacerbated by the economic recession, which has further reduced the post office's business deliveries. The number of items handled by the USPS fell from 213 billion in 2006 to 177 billion last year, and volume is expected to shrink to 150 billion by 2020. However, the number of places where mail must be delivered is increasing. That's a recipe for insolvency that can't be fixed by rate hikes alone.

A private business facing such a 1-2 punch would radically restructure to meet the changing landscape — reduce payroll, cut expenses, improve efficiency and find new ways to meet consumer demand. It would do whatever it took to survive, or it would die.

The USPS has tried to follow that strategy but has encountered resistance from its employees' union and Congress.

Potter this week took another crack at real reform, unveiling a 10-year plan that involves eliminating Saturday delivery, closing post offices, opening more postal facilities in convenience stores and supermarkets and reorganizing processing centers. His agency needs the same kind of flexibility that other businesses have.

Yet, when the USPS last year attempted to consolidate about 3,000 post offices it was met with outrage from federal lawmakers and the public.

Everyone agrees the postal service is in dire financial straits, they just want somebody else to make the sacrifice. The hometown operation is always vital and must be protected, while the neighbor's is always ripe for the plucking. There's a reason why government programs are virtually impossible to eliminate: Each has a constituency that will fight much harder to protect it than others will battle to cut it. The same applies to postal operations.

Ideally, the USPS would be privatized, its monopoly on First Class mail delivery eliminated and opened up to competition — the direction already taken by Germany, Japan and the European Union. The postal service would no longer be subject to political meddling that prevents it from doing what must be done.

THE NEWS HERALD
PANAMA CITY, FLA.

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 develop an appreciation of You, Lord, and Your word.

Amen

Down and out ... in America

Returning from Haiti makes life in America look pretty sweet… briefly. Until you read the data. The poverty rate here is up to 12 percent, or 39 million people. Unemployment hovers around 10 percent (not even counting the underemployed or those who have given up), 14 percent lack health insurance, and 15 percent endure hunger.



WILLIAM A. COLLINS

Well, what do you expect? It's a recession. Indeed, it's The Great Recession. When the economy is down, people suffer. That's why we have safety nets: unemployment compensation, food stamps, TANF (welfare), heating assistance, etc. Each of these is now overloaded, with not enough heating fuel to go around. But at least the stigma is reduced. Most families today have someone on unemployment, and people have grown less ashamed of taking food stamps. Sam's Club, BJ's and Costco now welcome them. Poverty is becoming clubby.

Unfortunately, some misleading statistics hint that this economic rough spot has battered our nation fairly evenly across the board. Median family income — the best measure of economic well-being — plummeted in 2008 from $52,000 to $50,000, an unheard-of one-year drop, suggesting that we all took a serious lick.

Uh-uh. Not the rich. Sure, plenty of hedge-funders had to close down the family pool, but overall the top 1 percent of families are doing just fine. They siphoned off for themselves two-thirds of the nation's income growth over the past five years. The Roaring '20s ride again.

But an even more revealing wrinkle is that not all this gloom is due to the Great Recession. The past five years, that bonanza period for the rich mentioned above, go back well before these bad times. We're looking at a long-term growth in income disparity between rich and middle-class, which has since been mostly obscured by the recent meltdown.

For example, a Census Bureau survey back in 2005 found that 20 percent of Americans even then needed help from their families or others just to pay basic expenses. And not everyone got it. But now it's worse. In point, an Indiana trucking company recently reported 300 applicants for a single $13/hour job. No wonder social service caseloads are booming.

So what's up? If it isn't just the collapsed real-estate bubble, then what is it? Well, times change. Most employers used to provide health insurance, but now that's become so expensive that many are pulling out. The same with rehiring. When business improves these days, many bosses simply outsource the work or rely on long-term temps rather than bringing back the old employees. Some use the opportunity to begin buying abroad. Free trade agreements have made that easier.

Employers that abuse immigrant workers are holding down wage rates, and union-busting has also made great strides under Washington's glassy eye. Productivity may improve, but there's no union in the shop to demand that workers get more of the fruits of their work. Thus the "race to the bottom" is not confined to foreign sweatshops. It's healthy and growing right here at home.

To alleviate this malignant poverty requires money.

Luckily there is plenty out there. One promising proposal for raising needed revenues is to slap tiny taxes on trades of stocks, derivatives and currency.

European governments are asking the United States to join them in adopting such taxes as a way to make the big-time financial speculators pay for pressing economic needs.

We can also fight poverty by embracing fair trade instead of free trade, providing Medicare for all, and making it easier to form unions. Those would be fundamental actions to get us out of our downward spiral.

Minuteman Media columnist William A. Collins is a former state representative and a former mayor of Norwalk, Conn.

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Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Fantasyland

The villain in "A Time to Run," Sen. Barbara Boxer's first novel, is a conservative writer for The San Francisco Chronicle. A salvo at moi? Hardly. His name is Greg Hunter, and Boxer's alter ego, Ellen Fischer, also a Democratic senator from California, has a personal history with the scribe, including one special night when they were both students at UC Berkeley.



DEBRA SAUNDERS

Alas, Hunter never got over Fischer's rejection of him in favor of his best friend, Josh Fischer, who winds up marrying Ellen. Years later, Hunter still carried a torch. He would ask himself, "Why did she choose Josh and not me?"

Did the perceptive Fischer see a flaw in Hunter that made him undeserving of her love? Or did her rejection move him from his enlightened youthful liberalism to the dark right side of politics and into the service of evil GOP Sen. Carl Satcher?

When chick lit turns into chick lib lit, the answer is: Whatever makes the liberal look pure and mistreated. Hence a story, co-written with Mary-Rose Hayes, of how the beloved Boxer/Fischer enters politics after Hunter digs up dirt on Josh Fischer, who was running against Satcher. Josh Fischer, in a rush to drive home in the tule fog to confess about a long-ago infidelity, dies in a car accident. The Democratic Party unites — so you know the book is fiction — to persuade a reluctant Fischer to run in her late husband's place.

You also know that the tale is fictional because Boxer/Fischer decides to run for office out of anger that the columnist and GOP politician "dug up the worst dirt and invented the worst lies to force" her husband out of the race.

In real life, Boxer first won her Senate seat in 1992 after a Democratic Party official confronted Republican rival Bruce Herschensohn at a campaign rally and asked him, "Is it typical for the voters of California to elect someone who frequently goes to strip joints in Hollywood?" Herschensohn — who might not have won but was closing in on Boxer's lead — lost.

Now you might think that after that dubious start, Boxer would hesitate to paint her alter ego as a squeaky-clean victim of political dirty tricks. Wrong. The fictional Chronicle conservative tells her, "Politics is not for the likes of you. It's dirty."

Apparently, Washington is the great sanitizer. And apparently, no one close to Boxer was able to warn her off of putting her name on books that smack of every liberal conceit.

You can forget the Bush-era lectures about how the right only sees the world in terms of black and white.

In Boxerdom, all the villains are Republicans and all the Democrats are virtuous.

Her second book, "Blind Trust," also co-written with Hayes, is even more self-laudatory. Her new husband, Ben Lind, is a former "liberal Republican" congressman, who fell in love with his "cunning little vixen" after "she had changed his mind" on her legislation to confiscate guns from child abusers. When he proposed, Lind told her, "Listen, ever since I saw you across that room fighting for your children's bill with every nerve in your body, I've loved you and wanted you and I can't stand the thought of losing you."

Fischer heartily berates the Republican administration, which, she charges, has "trampled on individual liberties and jeopardized the Bill of Rights" in trying to prevent another large-scale terrorist attack. She dismisses them as "the fear detail."

So what does her husband do when he learns that someone has hacked into their blind trust? He had someone comb through the political affiliations, travel history, phone calls and "uncharacteristic behavior" of the many people who might have access to the Lind/Fischer finances. Now, he's not the government; he's just a rich lawyer. But it's amazing how Fischer is convinced it is wrong to use invasive surveillance techniques when Republicans want to prevent American deaths — but it's OK if her career is on the line.

In the real world, Boxer is known as a far-left Democrat who has had her share of YouTube moments. Remember the one when she told a brigadier general to call her senator instead of ma'am? Her environmental committee has been hemorrhaging key staff and she has failed to produce an energy bill that can pass the Senate.

In the novels, Fischer is a solon in Washington's more deliberative body. Or as the Senate Democratic leader tells Fischer, she would be the right Democrat to fight the mean Republicans' nomination as Homeland Security secretary, because, "You're an inspirational leader who can think on her feet, and you've always had support from the party and so many of the American people — which, of course, has been justly earned. You've proven yourself to be honest, tough and energetic, with the courage of your convictions."

And: "You've personally raised the integrity bar. People are asking themselves, if they can't trust you, then who can they trust?"

In the first book, Fischer's chief of staff reminds the petite senator of her role as "the conscience of the liberals."

Does Boxer think people really talk like that? If so, she has spent too much time on her pedestal in Washington.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfchronicle.com.

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Obama to appeal for support on health care

JULIE PACE
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — With the fate of his signature legislative initiative far from certain, President Barack Obama is taking his last-ditch push for U.S. health care overhaul on the road.

In a speech Monday in Philadelphia, Obama will try to persuade the public to back his plan to remake the U.S. health care system, while also urging uneasy lawmakers to cast a "final vote" for the massive legislation in an election year.

Obama's pitch in Philadelphia, along with a stop in St. Louis Wednesday, comes as the president begins an all-out effort to pass his health care proposals. Though his plan has received only modest public support, Obama has implored lawmakers to show political courage and not let a historic opportunity slip away.

Despite staunch Republican opposition, Democratic leaders are cautiously optimistic they can pass a bill without GOP votes.

"I think the trend is in the right direction because people see that the status quo is absolutely broken," Rep. Chris Van Hollen, a Democrat, said Sunday on CNN television's "State of the Union".

Party leaders are narrowing in on a strategy that calls for House Democrats to go along with a health care bill the Senate passed in December. Obama would sign it into law, but senators would promise to make numerous changes on issues that have concerned House Democrats. Because Senate Democrats lost the 60-seat majority needed to stop Republican procedural delays with the Massachusetts Senate race, the changes would have to be made under rules that require only simple majority votes of 51.

That strategy would put lawmakers on track to meet Obama's goal of the House passing a health care bill by March 18, when he leaves on a trip to Indonesia and Australia. White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said Obama would sign a bill "shortly thereafter."

But full Democratic support is far from certain. Some party moderates are uneasy about the cost of the $1 trillion bill and its language on abortion, and some House Democrats are suspicious of whether their Senate colleagues would follow through on promises to work out the differences in the bills.

"The Senate has given us a lot of reason not to trust them," Rep. Jason Altmire, a Democrat, said on Fox News Sunday. "There has to be some certainty that the Senate is going to follow through on their part."

The Democratic plan includes greater consumer protections and a ban on discriminating against customers with pre-existing conditions. Small businesses also would receive a tax credit this year. The White House hopes the immediate changes created by the bill would give Democratic candidates a strong platform on which to campaign in the runup to the November election.

Though Obama has included some Republican proposals in his plan, Republicans have called for the existing bills to be scrapped and for the process to start anew. Party leaders insist they are on the side of an American public that does not want the government-controlled health care they maintain the president's plan would create.

"The American people are saying to us, stop this job-killing health care bill. We know it will drive taxes up and that will not be good to help us get out of the recession," Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell said Sunday on ABC television's "This Week."

The Obama administration and its allies are continuing to pressure the health insurance industry as it underscores the president's calls to pass a health care overhaul urgently.

Annie's Mailbox ®



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

Dear Annie: My neighbors, "The Smiths," are new members in the community. Recently, their 8-year-old son went to play at a classmate's home. The classmate, "Johnny," closed his bedroom door and then told Mrs. Smith's son to take his pants off, threatening him if he told anyone. The Smith boy told his parents anyway, and they went to speak to Johnny's parents, who denied everything and refused to accept that the incident ever happened.

Johnny's mother is the school mouthpiece and is telling every parent in the class that my neighbor's son is a pedophile. Now everyone avoids them. The Smiths love this area, have spent tens of thousands in renovations and just want this woman to stop lying. They have tried to talk to other parents, but apparently, the damage has been done.

I know the Smiths' son needs counseling, but they seem to be paying a high price for his victimization. How can you convince such a big group of people that someone is lying? Is there anything she can do legally? Please help them. Every day seems to get worse. — Shocked in Saskatoon

Dear Saskatoon: A certain amount of "experimentation" is normal with children that age, but having an adult label the Smith boy a pedophile is extremely damaging. Suggest to your neighbor that she speak to an attorney about suing Johnny's mother for defamation. Even if the case never goes to court, a strongly worded letter from a lawyer can make the woman think twice about spreading more lies. Your neighbor should also speak to the principal of the school, as this is a form of bullying and the school should put a stop to it immediately.

Dear Annie: I have a strong and constant fear that my house will be broken into. It's so bad that I cannot live alone. I lock all the doors and shut all the windows, but I haven't gotten a good night's sleep in weeks.

When I'm alone, I tend to hear things that don't exist — like someone breathing or a window breaking. It frightens me so severely that my body becomes incredibly heavy and I cannot move. Why is this happening? Please help. — Scared To Be Alone

Dear Scared: You seem to have developed a debilitating phobia, which can often be helped through therapy and/or medication. Talk to your doctor about this and ask for a referral. You also can contact the Anxiety Disorders Association of America (adaa.org), 8730 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910, for additional information and assistance.

Dear Annie: This is in response to "Don't Want To Be a Sailor," who tends to blurt out swear words at the drop of a hat and wanted to stop.

Years ago, I had to have a hot water tank replaced. The work space was very small, and the repairman constantly scraped his knuckles on the plaster. Every time this happened, he spat out the word "sugar." I asked him why he did that, and he replied that ladies don't like to hear the four-letter alternative, and "sugar" works just as well. I have discovered that "phooey" and "Christopher Crunch" also do the trick. — No Sailor Talk Around Me, Please

Dear No Sailor: Substituting another, more acceptable word and using it with regularity can help break the swearing habit. Although one of us rather takes exception to using "sugar," we think the basic idea is a good one.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Ste. 700, Los Angeles, Calif. 90045.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope



HOLIDAY MATHIS

With all of the astrological changes that went on yesterday, it takes a while for things to settle. The morning grog hovers around longer than welcome. Stretch your body, jump up and down, and get your breath flowing. By noon, you're likely to feel more grounded. And by evening, you may decide that this was a pretty productive day, after all.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll interpret funny looks better than anyone around. Furthermore, you don't even need to see a person's face to know what he or she is thinking — that's how well you read vibes and body language.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Money issues arise, and this will stress some people out. Not you. To some degree, you can influence the hotheads to stay as calm as you are. Keep control of a situation by using your reasoning powers.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You know where you'd like to go with your career, so start telling people. You're ready — more ready than you think. A powerful colleague can pull strings behind the scenes to help you into an excellent position.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There's something about you that a loved one finds irresistible. Know your strengths and play to them, and you'll continue to shine. If you don't know what's so special about you, take the time to learn. It's OK to ask!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You capture the attention of a certain someone by doing something absolutely remarkable and rare — just being yourself. Of course, it's not rare for you, but few are as comfortable in their skin as you are.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your self-confidence helps you get the sort of attention you want from your preferred person. Unfortunately, you'll also get attention from a lot of other people. Stay courteous, but protect your time.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There are giggling fits in your future — the kind that can only come from a light heart. Your laughter is the happiest sound that someone near you has heard in a long time — and it will be infectious.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Hide the spoons. Your mind is so powerful today, it could bend silverware. Use your powers to figure out a path to greater financial resources. There's a way to work smart so you don't have to work so hard.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your eyes pop open to opportunities that weren't there yesterday. And here's the remarkable truth: You can make yourself happy with about the same amount of effort it would take to do anything else.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're absolutely prolific. Whatever it is you love to produce — smiles, phone calls, cookies, kind words, doodles, deals, whatever your special product — you'll turn out record amounts of it in the days to come.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Just because you love someone doesn't mean you have to agree with everything that person does or says. In fact, you'll find that there is much you don't agree on today, and yet your love will stand strong.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You have major creative mojo now. Your imagination is fertile, your resources endless. You might even create a scenario that will achieve the impossible: make everyone happy at once.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 8). You have a healthy approach to work and relationships and will put in the right amount of effort to maintain an optimal state of being. Your stellar sense of balance creates an enjoyable environment around you, and friends flock to you. This month brings a surprise check. June brings travel opportunities. Aries and Gemini people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 25, 41, 13 and 48.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm developing feelings for someone I work with. He is a very private person, and I'm afraid that if I come on too strong, I will scare him away. Also, I'm not sure where the professional boundaries are, and I don't want to mess up anything having to do with our work. There's another problem: I don't know that I am the kind of person he might be attracted to. He's a Capricorn, and I'm a Sagittarius."

You're over-thinking this. And as you turn it over in your mind and churn out all the frightening things that might go wrong, you are forgetting who you are. A Sagittarius! You are a risk-taker, an adventurer. You're the type to fly by the seat of your pants, unnerved by danger. Your moxie is exciting and attractive! As for those who can't return your affections for whatever reason, it's no concern of yours. You move quickly through life, always on to the next thrill. Before you do anything concerning this possible love interest, do something to get back in touch with your true nature. Sky dive, travel or take a daring social risk. Shake it up and get your moxie back!

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Pisces natives are famous for knowing their career paths early in life. Celebrity tattoo artist Kat Von D quit school at the age of 14 and decided she wanted to be a tattoo artist. It takes confidence to create art that people will wear permanently! With Mercury and aesthetic Venus in the progressive sign of Aquarius, Von D is inclined to fearlessly express her imaginative and eclectic artistry.

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

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Grady headed to state tourney

Herald Staff Report

ABILENE — The Grady Wildcats are a never-say-die type of group.

They've had their moments, too.

The Wildcats faced a 10-point deficit with five minutes remaining in Saturday's regional final against Lipan, and things were looking grim.

But just like they rebounded in overtime against No. 3 Ira on Friday, Grady mustered a comeback and scored the last 14 points of the game to outpace Lipan 53-48 and punch its ticket to Austin.

"We've never been known as a comeback team," Grady coach Shawn Harrison said. "I called a timeout and told the kids, "We just have to go get it.' We got a turnover and scored and the kids got rolling, and it just kind of snowballed."

Grady kicks off the state tournament Friday in Austin, where the Wildcats will take on Leggett at 2 p.m. at the Frank Erwin Center.

Dylan Cox scored 18 points and grabbed nine rebounds in the win for Grady. Shane Teague had 15 and Jacob Rodriquez scored 12.

"He's long-armed, long-bodied, and if he gets in the lane where he can get balanced, he can rise up and get that shot off, but he can also knock down a three on you," Harrison said of Cox. "He's a valuable weapon. Right now he's just willing us to win."

Lipan jumped out to an early 9-6 lead after both teams struggled to score in the early going. Grady struck back with a strong second quarter to and went into the locker room down one at 21-20.

"We were just a little tense to start, but they

See **GRADY**, Page 7

CHAMPS!



HERALD PHOTO/Tony Claxton

Jae Crowder holds the NJCAA Region V Championship trophy as Howard Hawks, from left, Damion McGee (45), Carlos Emory, Crowder and Dante Mentor (15) celebrate a Region V Championship on Sunday at the Rip Griffin Center at Lubbock Christian University. Howard defeated Midland 76-66 for a trip to the national tournament in Hutchinson, Kan.

Hawks best Midland for Region V title

BY JOE ZIGTEMA
Sports Editor

LUBBOCK — The Hawks are Kansas-bound.

No. 2 Howard outlasted No. 1-ranked Midland College 76-66 in a heavyweight battle Sunday for the Region V Championship, wrapping up a berth in the NJCAA national championship to be played next week in Hutchinson, Kan.

Howard saw a 14-point first half lead dwindle to a two-point deficit in the second half, only to recapture the lead with 10 minutes to go and hold off the Chaps for their first trip to Hutchinson since 2006 in front of a raucous Rip Griffin Center crowd in Lubbock.

Due to foul trouble, the Hawks played much of the second half without leading scorers Josh Watkins, who fouled out with seven minutes to go, and Jae Crowder, who played less than 22 minutes in the game.

"When Josh fouled out and we felt like momentum went the other way, we had to dig deep and show some character and substance, and we did that," said Howard coach Mark Adams, who is taking his second Howard team to Hutchinson. "This team has done that all year long, and that's why we only lost two games."

Joe Bright and Crowder led the Hawks with 16 points apiece in the game. Howard connected on 33-of-46 free throws. Carlos Emory scored 11 points, and Watkins finished with 14 before he left the game.

"I was thinking, 'Oh Lord,'" Watkins said about fouling out. "But we've been playing tough all year. I knew my teammates were going to do their things, and once one person came out, the next person came in and gave the same minutes."

Crowder played the last 12 minutes with four fouls, contributing mainly on the offensive end.

"I knew there was going to be a tough point in the second half I was going to have to step up my game, and I did," said Crowder, who gave the Hawks the lead back for good at the 10:50 mark. "I trust my teammates. I never doubted them. I knew they were going to fight, and that's all we did was keep fighting."

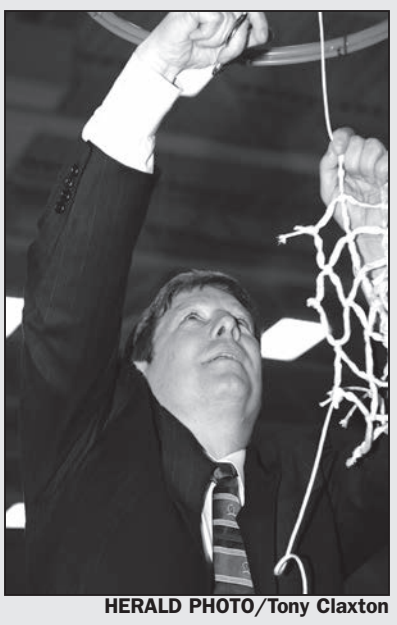
Midland was led by Brockeith Pane's 25 points. Jonathon Simmons was the other Chap in double figures with 12.

Bright was 9-of-11 from the free-throw line and 3-of-6 from the floor, including a 3-pointer to open the game that was his first of the year.

"I knew we had a chance for things to go our way when Joe hit that 3-pointer," Adams said.

For Bright, it was his highest-scoring game of the year, and it came at the right time.

"I've been in this situation plenty of times and never took advantage of it, but this time I took advantage," he said. "It feels great."



HERALD PHOTO/Tony Claxton

Hawks coach Mark Adams cuts down the net Sunday at the Rip Griffin Center.

Howard led by as many as 14 in a first half it never trailed. The two teams traded buckets for the first five minutes before the Hawks took off on a 12-0 run with six

See **HOWARD**, Page 7

Monahans wins Crossroads tourney; Lady Steers take consolation

BY MATT PRICE
Special to the Herald

Monahans captured the inaugural Crossroads Tournament this weekend at the Roy Anderson Sports Complex, besting Early for the tournament title Saturday.

Monahans outlasted Early in the late innings in a game plagued by rain. The Lady Loboes picked off a runner at second base for a key second out to win the tournament

"This has been a great weekend and tournament for our school and the Big Spring community," said Big Spring head coach and tournament director John Sparks. "All of the credit goes to the Lady Steers Softball Boosters, who worked hard to make this a great experience for everyone."

This was the first tournament of any size played at the new facilities at the Roy Anderson Park Sports Complex and with the addition of an extra ball field, Big Spring hopes to attract even more teams next year.

Lady Steers win consolation bracket

The Big Spring Lady Steers had their hopes of winning the Crossroads Tournament dashed Saturday in their first game of the day against Clyde High School.

Big Spring settled for the "Gold Bracket"consolation prize in the tournament.

Behind the great pitching of Kenzie Hunt, the Lady Steers defense was perfect through the first three innings ,— it faced the minimum nine batters.

The problem was that Big Spring's bats were ice cold for the entire game — they got one hit in the first inning and one hit in the seventh inning, but managed just one run in a 2-1 loss.

"Our bats were just not working in that game," Sparks said.

See **SOFTBALL**, Page 7

Sports in brief

Big Spring Country Club holding United Way fund-raiser

Big Spring Country Club and the United Way invite the public to participate in a 3-person scramble March 27-28 at the Country Club.

Entrance fee is $60 per player plus a cart. Private carts are welcome.

The event will begin with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. Enry includes barbecue on the course Saturday at noon and a 19th hole party on the patio.

Softball signups under way

The Big Spring Girls Softball Association is holding signups for the upcoming 2010 season for girls ages 4-14 as of Jan. 1.

Signups will be held this Saturday at the Big Spring Mall. It is the last singup to take place.

Registration fee is $75, including a full uniform. Late registration after March 13 will cost $10 extra.

For more info, contact Lucy Ramirez at 466-3670.

Hawk baseball sweeps Odessa

The Hawk baseball team swept four games with Odessa to open Region V play over the weekend.

Howard (16-4) won both games in Odessa on Friday by run-rule, 10-0 and 17-5. In the second doubleheader Saturday at Jack Barber Field, The Hawks squeezed out a 9-8 win before taking the final game 9-3

Howard has won five straight games. The team will take on Seward at home this weekend.

SOFTBALL

Continued from Page 6

Clyde broke through against Hunt in the fourth inning, rapping out three hits and scoring the game's first run.

In the top of the seventh inning, Clyde batters pushed across another run.

As cold as the Lady Steers' bats were in the first game, they were just as hot in their second game rematch with the Forsan Lady Buffaloes.

Hunt was back toeing the rubber for the second game and after giving up a run in the first inning, she shut down Forsan the rest of the way.

At the plate, Big Spring banged out nine hits and took every advantage of five Forsan errors to score in all but one of the innings, winning going away 10-1.

In the consolation fifth place game, the Lady Steers faced off against Greenwood as raindrops started to fall intermittently throughout the game. Sparks sent freshman Logan Yarbar to the pitching circle and she threw a complete game, giving up two runs and four hits.

The Lady Steer offense was slow starting and was behind 1-0 going into the top of the fourth inning, when Big Spring exploded for three runs on three hits and a walk. The Lady Steers would add one more run in the top of the fifth to take the consolation prize home, beating Greenwood High School 4-2.

"While I wish we could have won all of the games, we showed good focus in coming back after that loss," said Sparks. "The Clyde loss really hurt but I think we grew up a little bit and gained a lot of experience."

The Lady Steers will be back on the diamond at Brownwood on Tuesday.

Forsan runs into tough Saturday slate

The Forsan Lady Buffaloes went into Saturday as the team to beat in the Crossroads Tournament. They left with seventh place after dropping two games against tough competition on the tournament's final day.

The day began with a game against Monahans High School. The game was a monumental defensive struggle with neither team scoring a run or getting many base runners for four innings.

In the bottom of the fifth inning, Monahans managed to sneak a run across that came via a defensive error by Forsan. The Lady Buffaloes were the visiting team and the game was called on account of time.

"We really took a morale blow when that game ended," said Forsan head coach Shanna Roberts. "Later on I learned that the umpires had called the game after an hour instead of waiting until the full 80 minutes were up, but by then it was too late to do anything about it."

Monahans would go on to win the championship.

In the second game of the day a deflated Forsan team saw Howard County rival Big Spring explode at the plate and score 10 runs to its 1 for another defeat.

In the Lady Buffaloes' final game of the long day, their long dormant bats finally game alive and they had a slugfest with the Colorado City. Forsan scored one run in the first inning, six runs in the second inning and four more runs in the third inning.

Colorado City opened the game with two runs, scored two in the third inning and three runs apiece in the fourth and fifth innings. The game was finally called for time and Forsan came out on top 11-10.

Forsan is back in action today at Iraan in district play.

Tournament scores

Monahans 1, Forsan 0; Clyde 2, Big Spring 1; Early 7, Greenwood 2; Midland JV 8, Colorado City 1; Big Spring 10, Forsan 1; Greenwood 6, Colorado City 1; Forsan 11, Colorado City 10; Big Spring 4, Greenwood 2; Monahans 3, Clyde 2; Early 7, Midland HS JV 4; Clyde 4, Midland HS JV 2;

Austin gets high tender

IRVING — The Dallas Cowboys gave restricted free agent Miles Austin the highest possible tender offer, requiring any team that signs the Pro Bowl receiver to give up a first- and third-round pick as compensation.

The move on the day before the NFL's salary cap expired, which was expected, likely means Austin will return to Dallas next season. He's essentially been offered a one-year deal for $3.168 million, but team owner Jerry Jones has said he'll consider giving Austin a longer, more lucrative contract.

In Washington, the Redskins said goodbye to seven players 30 or older: receiver Antwaan Randle El, defensive tackle Cornelius Griffin, guard Randy Thomas, kick returner Rock Cartwright, cornerback Fred Smoot, running back Ladell Betts and backup QB Todd Collins.

GRADY

Continued from Page 6

were too," Harrison said. "I started getting a little worried, but when we got back to within one, I felt good at half."

Grady fired on all cylinders in the third quarter, scoring 19 points and taking a one-point advantage into the final quarter. That's when trouble struck.

Lipan scored the first 10 points of the fourth quarter, leaving Grady down nine with five minutes to go and time running out.

"We'd been working on a halfcourt trap, which we hadn't shown but about twice all year. We jumped into it, and when we got it to within three, I knew we were back in it."

Grady 53, Lipan 48
GHS 6 14 19 14 -- 53
LHS 9 12 17 10 -- 48

Grady (30-4) — Dylan Cox 18, Shane Teague 15, Jacob Rodriquez 12, Tyler Matthews 3, Bryley Pinkerton 3, Johan Wiebe 2

Lipan — Pittman 16, Waldrop 10, Drake 9, Williams 6, Nelson 5, Martinez 2

3-point goals — LHS 5, GHS 3; Free throws — LHS 8-12;, GHS 12-20;

HAWKS

Continued from Page 6

six points apiece from Crowder and Watkins.

Howard led 26-12 at that point, but the Chaps responded with an 8-0 spurt of their own to close the gap. Midland got to within four at the four-minute mark, a deficit Howard extended to eight at the break with the score 34-26.

Howard made just one field goal in the last 10 minutes of the first half, a 3-pointer from Dante Mentor at the 1:47 mark.

Midland came storming back in the second half, pulling within three at the 15:49 mark with an 8-0 burst. Midland took its first lead at the 13:52 mark with a Simmons jumper.

Howard went down three at the 11:44 mark when Guy Landry scored, but the Hawks then kicked off an 8-0 run capped off by a bucket and foul on an offensive rebound from Bright that gave the Hawks a five-point lead at the 8:39 mark.

"We knew it was going to come down to the last shot," Adams said. "They are too good a team to roll over. That's why they are the No. 1 team. They've done what it's taken all year and kept games close, they have great athletes and they play hard."

The Hawks' defense put the clamps on down the stretch, and Howard stretched its lead as the game winded down.

"It's what got us here," Adams said. "The No. 1 defense in the country."

Without Crowder and Wakins due to foul trouble, the Hawks relied on replacements such as Prince Obasi and Damion McGee to fill their shoes.

"Our bench players stepped up and played well for us," Adams said. "Some of the other guys that have taken a backseat all year, they stepped up tonight."

The Hawks took to the stands after the game to celebrate the win with a large contingent of Howard fans that made the 110-mile trip.

"We're going to go up there and take care of our business, and we're going to bring home that title for the town of Big Spring and for Howard College," Watkins said.



HERALD PHOTO/Tony Claxton

Josh Watkins is fouled as he goes up Sunday over a Midland defender. Watkins scored 14 points.

Midland College (66)
Rodney Milum 0-1 0-0 0, Ty Nurse 3-4 0-0 7, Guy Landry 2-7 3-5 7, Brockeith Pane 8-16 8-8 25, Tyshwan Edmonson 0-2 0-0 0, Kenny Moore 0-1 2-2 2, Caleb Dean 0-0 0-0 0, Jonathon Simmons 3-8 6-6 12, Darrell Williams 4-8 1-2 9, Jordan Walker 2-3 0-1 4. Totals 22-50 20-24 66

Howard College (76)
LaMont Austin 1-6 6-8 9, Moses Sundufu 0-0 0-0 0, Dante Menter 1-1 1-1 3, Stefan Tica 0-0 0-0 0, Prince Obasi 0-1 5-8 5, Shad O'Garro 0-0 0-0 0, Josh Watkins 5-9 3-6 14, Jae Crowder 6-8 3-5 16, Carlos Emory 2-5 7-8 11, Joe Bright 3-6 9-11 16, Damion McGee 1-3 0-0 2. Totals 19-39 33-46 76

Halftime — HC 34, MC 26. 3-point goals — MC 2-15 (Nurse, Pane), HC 5-14 (Austin 1-4, Watkins 1-2, Crowder 1-3, Bright 1-2, Menter 1-1, Emory 0-1, McGee 0-1). Total fouls — MC 32, HC 22. Fouled out — Williams, Nurse, Pane, Simmons, Watkins. Rebounds — MC 26 (Williams 6), HC 30 (Emory 7). Assists — MC 3 (Simmons 2), HC 7 (Watkins 3). Turnovers — MC 16, HC 18. Steals — MC 5 (Nurse 2), HC 7 (Bright 3).

su|do|ku

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Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box. Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

East dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 5
♥ A Q 8 4
♦ Q J 10 8 6
♣ 10 6 3

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

EAST
♠ K J 6 4 2
♥ K J 10
♦ 4
♣ Q 9 7 2

SOUTH
♠ A 9 8 3
♥ —
♦ A K 9 7 5 2
♣ K J 8

The bidding:

East	South	West	North
Pass	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥
1 ♠	2 ♦	3 ♠	5 ♦
Pass	5 ♠	Pass	6 ♦

Opening lead — five of hearts.

On this deal from the 1989 world team championship finals, the United States picked up a substantial swing when Chip Martel and Lew Stansby bid a slam that was missed by their Brazilian counterparts at the other table.

Martel was North and Stansby South in the auction shown. Stansby's two-diamond rebid was a bit conservative, but he made up for it later by carrying on to slam after Martel's leap to five diamonds. Indeed, Stansby's five-spade cuebid was an attempt to reach a grand slam if his partner had the right hand. But Martel understandably decided that he had already done his all, so he signed off at six.

West led a heart, and declarer tried dummy's queen. Stansby ruffed East's king, cashed the ace of spades and ruffed a spade. He then led a trump to the king, ruffed another spade, ruffed a heart and ruffed his last spade. A club was discarded on the ace of hearts, and a club was led toward the K-J.

Declarer might seem to have a pure guess as to whether to play the king or jack of clubs after East follows low. In actuality, though, Stansby had much more to go on. The play to this point had revealed that East started with five spades to the K-J and the K-J-10 of hearts. If he also held the ace of clubs, he would surely have opened the bidding rather than pass initially. So Stansby played the jack of clubs, and the slam was home.

At the other table, the Brazilian North-South pair rested quietly in five diamonds, giving the Americans a 500-point (11-IMP) gain on the deal.

Tomorrow: The power of visualization.

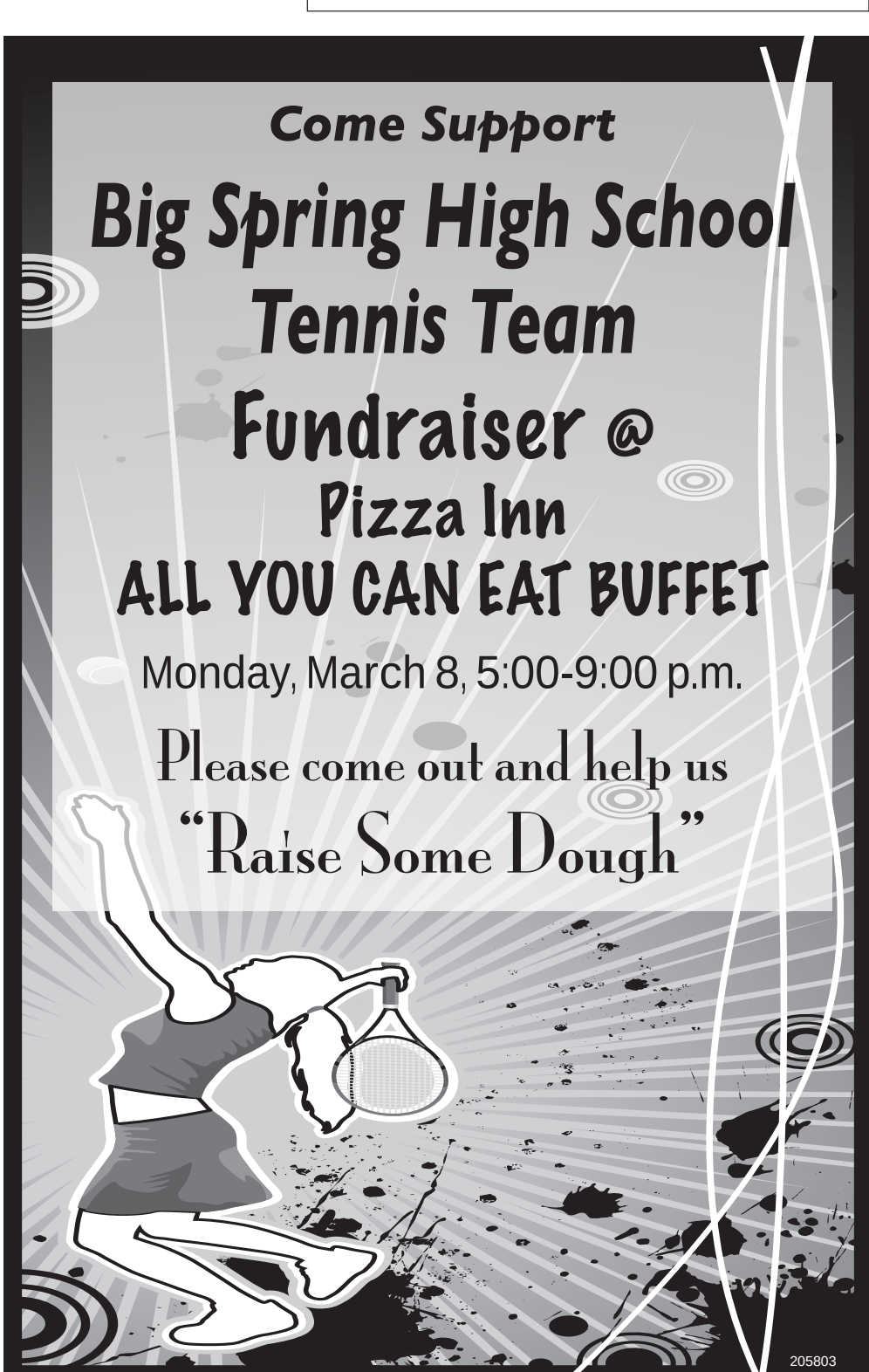
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ANSWERS

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



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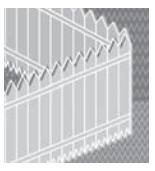
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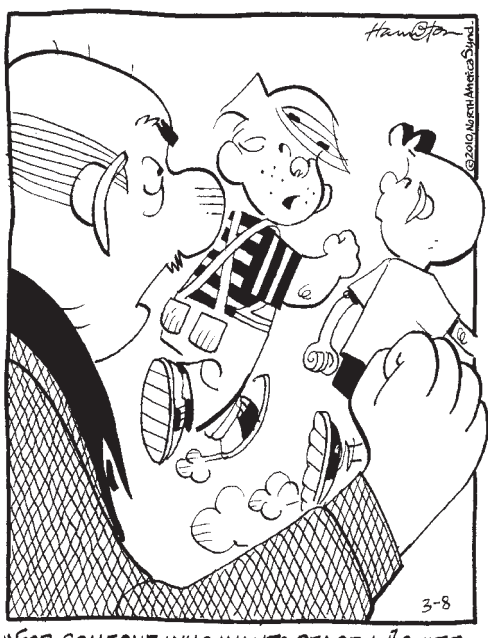
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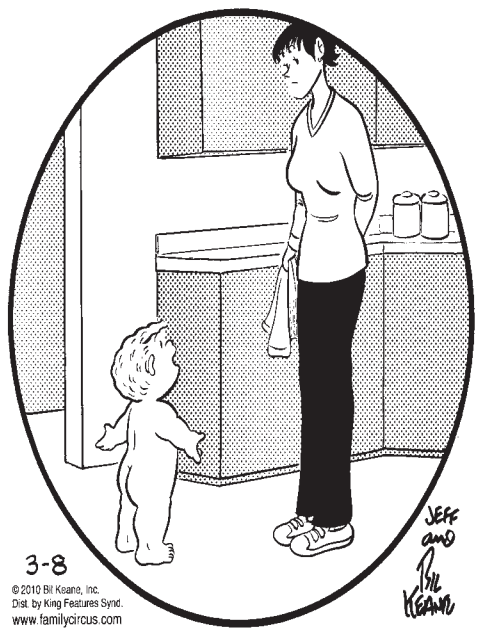
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			cana	Gyllenhaal														
5 :PM	News 8	ABC			At-Movies	Camara	Inside Ed.	**Movie:** *Dumb & Dumber, Lauren Holly*	*Bill Cloud*	*Texas*	*Bear Attack!*		*Ways Die*	*Terminator 2: Judgment Day*	*Sunday Best*	*Montana*		*SportsCenter*
:30	News	Methodist			CBS	Camara	NBC		*Faye H.*	*Bill Cosby: Twain Prize*			*Ways Die*			*Montana*	*Women's College Basketball*	
6 :PM	*Walters Spcl*	*Walters Spcl*	*Nombre-Amor*	*'Til Death*	*60 Minutes*	**Pelicula:** *Rescate en la Antartida*	*Dateline NBC*		*Door-Wis-dom*		*Pig Bomb*		*Ways Die*		*Sunday Best*	*Montana*		
:30				*'Til Death*									*Ways Die*			*Montana*		
7 :PM	*Oscars*	*Oscars*	*En Nombre del Amor (SS)*	*Simpsons*	*Amazing Race*			**Movie:** *Old School, Vince Vaughn*	*Rabbi Ralph Messer*	*Nature*	*Superswarm*	**Movie:** *GoodFellas, Joe Pesci*	*Ways Die*	**Movie:** *Saving Private Ryan, Tom Sizemore*	*Sunday Best*	**Movie:** *Starstruck*		*NBA Basketball: Wizards at Celtics*
:30	*The 82nd Annual Academy Awards*	*The 82nd Annual Academy Awards*		*Simpsons*			**Movie:** *Bad Boys II, Jordi Mollà*						*Ways Die*				*College Basketball*	
8 :PM				*Fam. Guy*	*Undercover Boss*	**Pelicula:** *El Rey Escor-pión*			*Light of the Southwest*	*American Experience*			*Ways Die*		*Crews*			
:30				*Fam. Guy*									*Ways Die*		*Crews*	*Phineas*		
9 :PM			*Imágenes de*	*The Show*	*Cold Case*			*(8:48)* **Movie:** *Old School*		*Morris.*	*Monsters in Alaska*		*Entourage*		*Crews*	*Wizards*		
:30				*3 Wide*									*Entourage*		*Crews*	*Montana*	*College Basketball*	*NBA Basketball: Trail Blazers at Nuggets*
10 :PM	*News*	*News*	*Noticiero*	*House*	*News*	*Noticias*	*News*		*Moody*	*Austin City Limits*	*Superswarm*	**Movie:** *The Untouch-ables, Robert De Niro*	*Entourage*		*Inspira*	*Wizards*		
:30					*Sports*	*Camara*	*Reporter*		*Van Impe*				*Entourage*	**Movie:** *Die Hard, Bonnie Bedelia*	*Popoff*	*Montana*		
11 :PM	*Hansen*	*Jimmy Kim-mel Live*	*Archivos-Don*	*CSI: NY*	*Legend Seeker*	*Nadie Te Querrá Como Yo*	*Bones*	*(10:48)* **Movie:** *American Wedding*	*Heart of City*	*Nature*			*(:09)* **Movie:** *New Police Story, Charlie Young*		*Power*	*Suite Life*		
:30	*Gametime*						*Storms*		*How Can*	*(Off Air)*	*Monsters in Alaska*	**Movie:** *The Silence of the Lambs, Scott Glenn*			*BET's Weekend Inspiration*	*So Raven*		
12 :AM	*Jimmy Kim-mel Live*	*(12:05) Bos-ton Legal*	*Al Punto (SS)*	*Paid*	*Without a Trace*	**Pelicula:** *Mujer de Fuego*	*Storms*		*Enarson*							*Cory*	*NBA Basketball: Trail Blazers at Nuggets*	*SportsCenter*
:30	*Grey's Anatomy*	*Paid*	*Aquí y Ahora*	*Two Men*	*Stargate Atlantis*		*Sports*	*(12:48)* **Movie:** *Eurotrip*	*Light of the Southwest*		*Pig Bomb*			**Movie:** *Die Hard 2, William Atherton*		*Kim*		
1 :AM		*Paid*			*Monk*		*MyDest.*									*Replace*		*NBA Basketball: Wizards*
:30																*Emperor*		

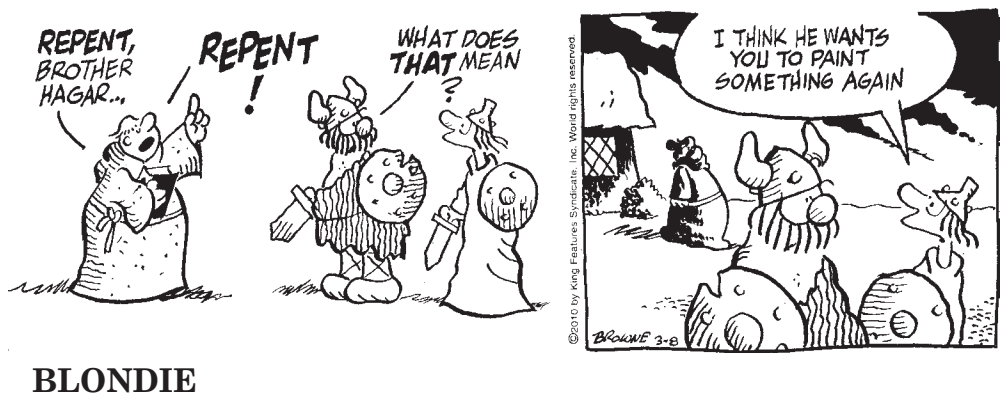
DENNIS THE MENACE



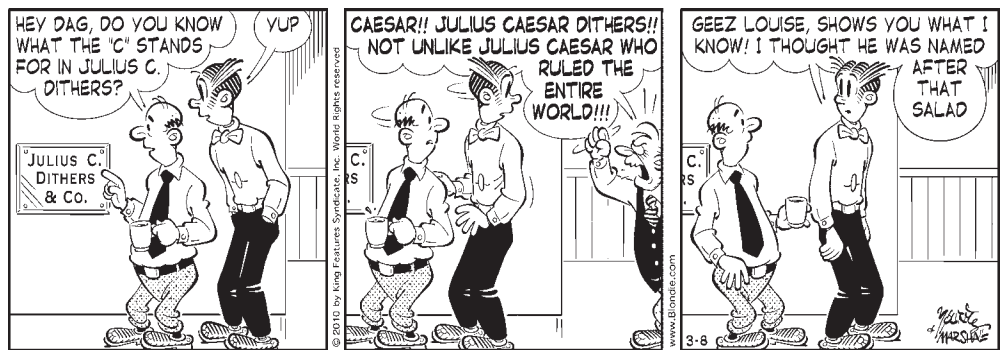
THE FAMILY CIRCUS



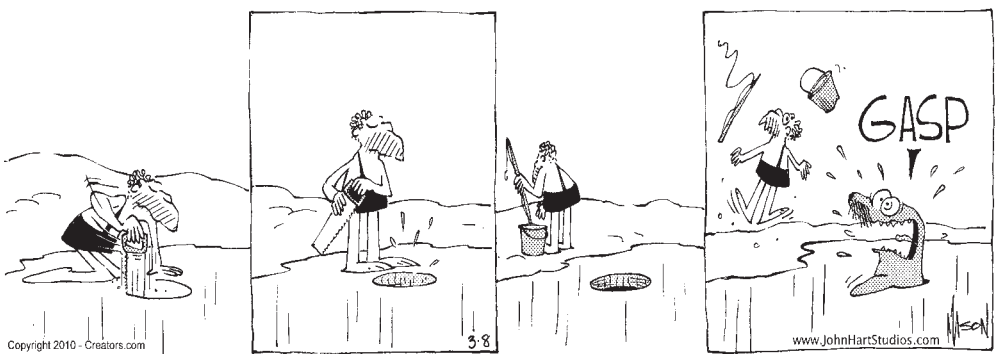
HAGAR



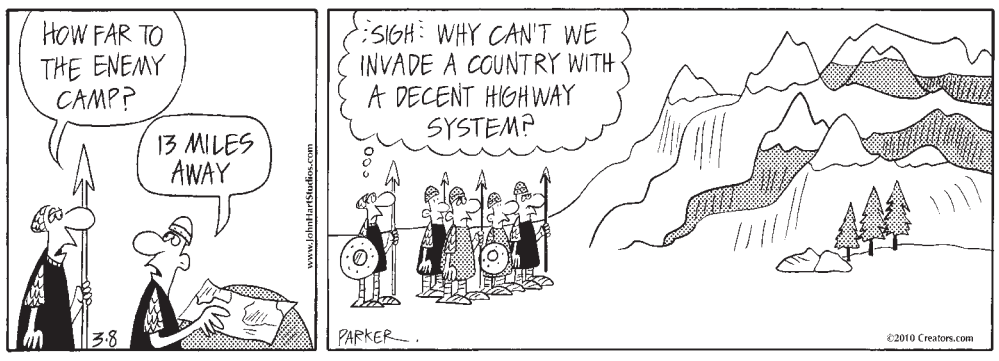
BLONDIE



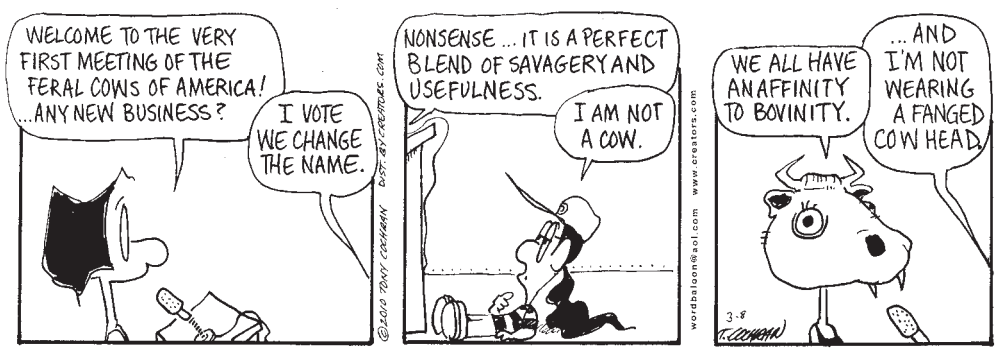
BC



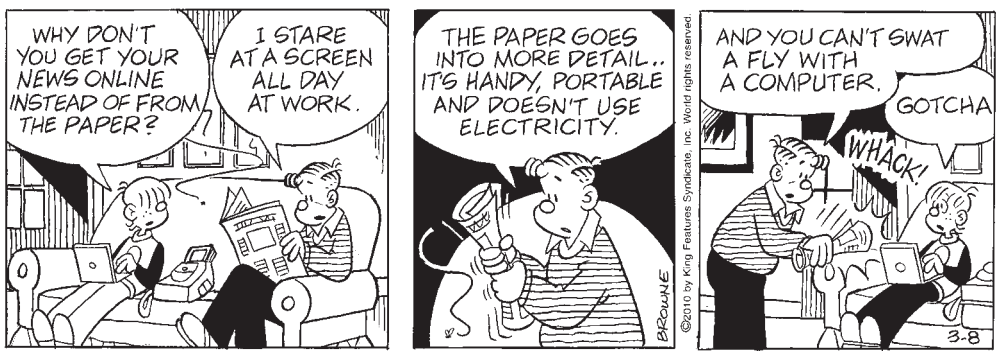
WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



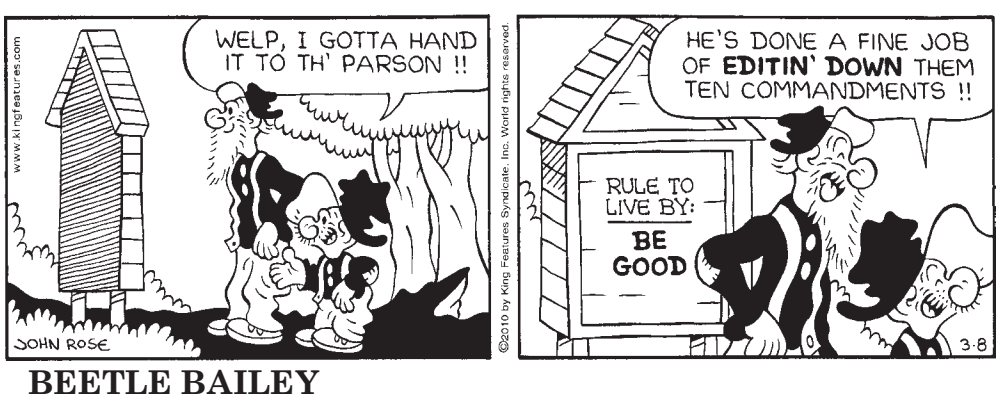
HI AND LOIS



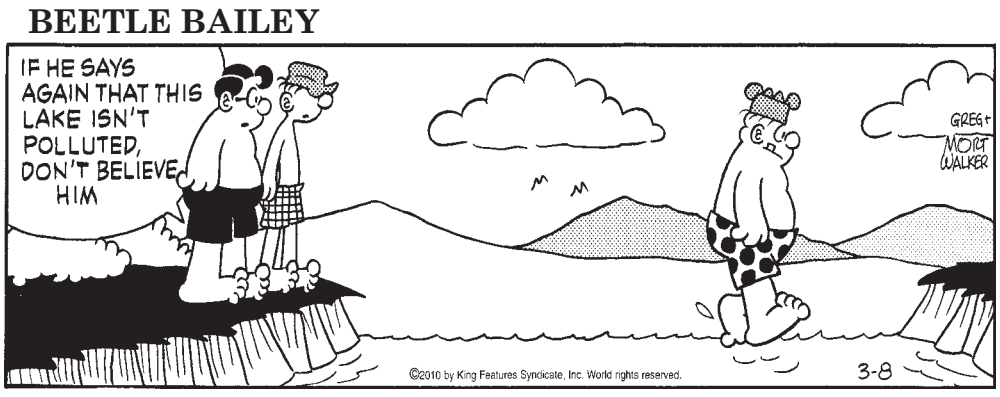
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Monday, March 8, the 67th day of 2010. There are 298 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 8, 1862, during the Civil War, the ironclad CSS Virginia (formerly USS Merrimack) rammed and sank the USS Cumberland and heavily damaged the USS Congress, both frigates, off Newport News, Va.

On this date:

In 1702, England's Queen Anne acceded to the throne upon the death of King William III.

In 1782, the Gnadenhutten (jih-NAY'-duhn-huh-tuhn) massacre took place as more than 90 Indians were slain by militiamen in Ohio in retaliation for raids carried out by other Indians.

In 1854, U.S. Commodore Matthew C. Perry made his second landing in Japan; within a month, he concluded a treaty with the Japanese.

In 1874, the 13th president of the United States, Millard Fillmore, died in Buffalo, N.Y., at age 74.

In 1917, Russia's "February Revolution" (so called because of the Old Style calendar being used by Russians at the time) began with rioting and strikes in Petrograd. The U.S. Senate voted to limit filibusters by adopting the cloture rule.

In 1930, the 27th president of the United States, William Howard Taft, died in Washington at age 72.

In 1944, two days after an initial strike, U.S. heavy bombers resumed raiding Berlin during World War II.

In 1960, Democrat John F. Kennedy and Republican Richard M. Nixon were the victors of the New Hampshire presidential primary.

In 1965, the United States landed its first combat troops in South Vietnam as 3,500 Marines were brought in to defend the U.S. air base at Da Nang.

In 1988, 17 soldiers were killed when two Army helicopters from Fort Campbell, Ky., collided in mid-flight.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Sue Ane (correct) Langdon is 74. Baseball player-turned-author Jim Bouton is 71. Actress Lynn Redgrave is 67. Actor-director Micky Dolenz is 65. Singer-musician Randy Meisner is 64. Pop singer Peggy March is 62. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Jim Rice is 57. Singer Gary Numan is 52. NBC News anchor Lester Holt is 51. Actor Aidan Quinn is 51. Country musician Jimmy Dormire is 50. Actress Camryn Manheim is 49. Actor Leon (no last name) is 47. Rock singer Shawn Mullins (The Thorns) is 42. Actress Andrea Parker is 40. Actor Boris Kodjoe is 37. Actor Freddie Prinze Jr. is 34. Actor James Van Der Beek is 33. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kameelah Williams (702) is 32.

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Answer to previous puzzle

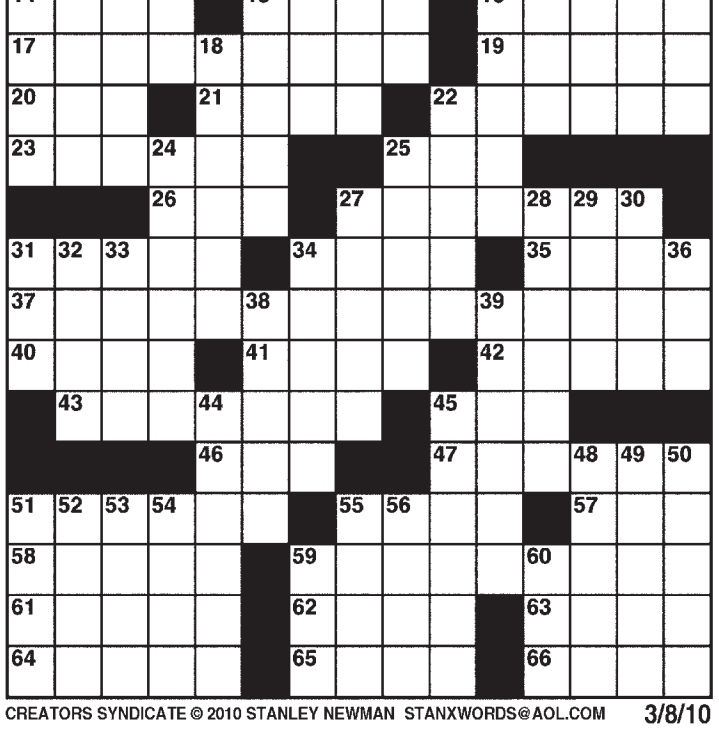
P	A	S	S	E	D		M	A	M	A	C	A	S	S
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			K	Y	O	T	O		T	O	W	N	I	E
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L	O	O	K	A	T	M	E		I	O	N	I	A	N
A	U	R	E	V	O	I	R		C	R	O	S	S	E
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Newsday Crossword

TITLEHOLDERS by Gail Grabowski
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Farmland unit
5 Badminton barriers
9 Dapper
14 Make a sketch
15 Fairy-tale monster
16 Spooky
17 Get into a fistfight
19 Sports complex
20 Take advantage of
21 Wall Street org.
22 Stocks-and-bonds seller
23 Sentence segment
25 Wrestling surface
26 Dog doc
27 "Make up your mind!"
31 Take up a hem, perhaps
34 "Positively!" in Acapulco
35 Roof overhang
37 Move on, after a big defeat
40 Brown hosiery hue
41 Depend (on)
42 Listens to
43 Got ready to propose
45 Improve, as wine
46 Neither's partner
47 Teen's wall hanging
51 Crocheted blanket
55 Bugler's evening call
57 Day before a holiday
58 Bride's fellow
59 Jazz pianist nicknamed "Fatha"
61 Form of a verb
62 Pinnacle
63 "You __ be serious!"
64 Iron alloy
65 Mix, as salad
66 CPR specialists

DOWN
1 Total, as a column of figures
2 Hug very tightly
3 Leaf gatherer
4 Ram's mate
5 "Wait a little longer"
6 Self-images
7 Factual
8 Stage background
9 Not far from
10 Prefix for dynamic
11 Difficult journey
12 Fork prong
13 Calendar period
18 Newspaper supplement
22 Pesto herb
24 Street crosser
25 Sloppy
27 Triangular traffic sign
28 Watches again
29 Shuttle-launching org.
30 More than
31 Top playing card
32 Door-securing device
33 Go right or left
34 Scornful smile
36 Letter before tee
38 Synthetic fiber
39 "Jeepers!"
44 Glossy paint
45 Pie fruits
48 Coffee-break hr.
49 Major happening
50 Takes a breather
51 FBI employees: Abbr.
52 Worry nervously
53 No longer around
54 Firefighter's need
55 Mexican snack
56 Upper limbs
59 Have a snack
60 Frozen cubes



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