

Obituaries

Lorance ‘Rance’ Harvery

Lorance “Rance” Harvery, 84, of Midland, died Sunday, Feb. 8, 2009 in a Midland nursing home. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Police blotter

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

- Note: According to the dispatcher on duty Monday morning, no new arrests were made or reported during the weekend period. An arrest log was not made available by press time this morning.
- **THEFT** was reported:
 - in the 300 block of Owens.
 - in the 1200 block of 11th Place.
 - in the 300 block of Owens.
 - **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported:
 - in the 1200 block of Mobile.
 - in the 500 block of Sixth Street.
 - **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 1200 block of Pennsylvania.
 - **ASSAULT CAUSING BODILY INJURY** was reported in the 100 block of Third Street.
 - **ASSAULT BY CONTACT** was reported:
 - in the 1900 block of Highway 87.
 - in the 1900 block of Martin Luther King Blvd.
 - in the 1300 block of State.
 - in the 1900 block of Highway 87.

Fire/EMS

- The Big Spring Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services reported the following activity:
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 2500 block of Hunter. Service refused.
 - **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported near the intersection of 17th Street and Lancaster. Service refused.
 - **MEDICAL** was reported in the 700 block of E. 11th Place. Service refused.
 - **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.
 - **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1200 block of Harding. One person was transported to SMMC.
 - **TRAUMA** was reported in the 2900 block of W. Eighth Street. Service refused.
 - **TRAUMA** was reported approximately 18.5 miles N. on Highway 669. Service refused.
 - **AUTOMOBILE FIRE** was reported in the 18000 block of Gail Highway.
 - **GAS LEAK** was reported in the area of Interstate Highway 20.
 - **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. Service refused.
 - **TRAUMA** was reported in the 2200 block of Loop Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
 - **MEDICAL** was reported in the 500 block of S. Benton. One person was transported to SMMC.
 - **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
 - **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1900 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
 - **MEDICAL** was reported in the 400 block of Young. One person was transported to SMMC.
 - **MEDICAL** was reported in the 700 block of Andre. One person was transported to SMMC.
 - **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2000 block of S. Monticello. One person was transported to SMMC.
 - **GRASS FIRE** was reported in the 500 block of Channing.
 - **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1400 block of Settles. Service refused.
 - **MEDICAL** was reported in the 400 block of Young. One person was transported to SMMC.
 - **MEDICAL** was reported near the intersection of Second Street and Johnson. One person was transported to SMMC.
 - **MEDICAL** was reported in the 4800 block of Wasson. One person was transported to SMMC.
 - **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1900 block of Simler. One person was transported to SMMC.
 - **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1300 block of Lexington. Service refused.
 - **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1900 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
 - **GRASS FIRE** was reported near the 174 mile marker of Interstate Highway 20.
 - **GRASS FIRE** was reported in the area of N. Birdwell Lane.

Support Groups

TUESDAY

- Grief share, sponsored by Home Hospice and the First Presbyterian Church, Seventh and Runnels (north end door), meets at 6 p.m.. Drop-ins are welcome. For more information, contact Sherry Hodnett at 264-7599.

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Sheriff

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 51 inmates at the time of this report.
- **JESSE LENDELL WOODRUFF**, 23, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of contempt of court – disobedience of a court order.
 - **TONY JUAREZ**, 40, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal mischief.
 - **MARTY W. HUCKABEE**, 28, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
 - **JONATHAN JOEL GUTIERREZ**, 18, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.
 - **ALFREDO PAREDEZ**, 46, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.
 - **MOISES PEREZ-PACHECO**, 32, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of failure to appear.
 - **ANGELA CASTANEDA**, 48, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
 - **TONY CASTELLANO**, 35, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on charges of interfering with an emergency phone call and burglary of a habitation – assault.
 - **JERRICK DECOVA STRAUGHTER**, 36, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on charges of bondsman off bond for assault causing bodily injury, bail jumping – failure to appear and possession of a controlled substance.
 - **CHARLES RAY FUSON**, 32, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a Tom Green County warrant.
 - **KRISTI M. BARNES**, 37, was arrested Saturday by DPS on charges of possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.
 - **GEORGE R. PATTON**, 53, was arrested Saturday by DPS on charges of possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.
 - **ANDRES LEE JUAREZ**, 27, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid – enhanced.
 - **SHANE ANDERSON**, 37, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid.
 - **RICHARD WILLIAM ALCANTAR**, 29, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
 - **ADAM MICHAEL EDENS**, 27, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on a charge of interfering with public duties.
 - **FLOYD RAY POPE**, 32, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.
 - **TIMOTHY JOSEPH MAJOR JR.**, 35, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on charges of driving while intoxicated – second offense and driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.
 - **BOBBY KLUG**, 36, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on charges of assault causing bodily injury – family violence and unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon.
 - **MARIANO GRANADOS**, 34, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
 - **JOANNA LEE CRUZ**, 35, was arrested Sunday by DPS on a charge of theft by check.
 - **JACOB DANIEL PETROWSKI**, 19, was arrested Monday by DPS on charges of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension and driver not secured by a safety belt.

Take Note

- Saturday, Canterbury/Canterbury North will host a Senior Sweetheart Dance. 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. Burritos and dessert will be for sale starting at 3 p.m. and during the dance.
- Scenic Mountain Medical Center’s Relay for Life team is selling cookbooks to raise funds for the American Cancer Society. The cookbooks can be purchased at the PBX operator’s booth for \$10 apiece. For more information, contact Beverly Grant at 268-4952.

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Your Local Weather

Tue
2/10

70/37

Mostly sunny skies. Becoming windy during the afternoon. High around 70F.

Wed
2/11

65/36

Sunny and wind. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the mid 30s.

Thu
2/12

72/39

Clouds giving way to sun. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the upper 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
- 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.
 - Big Spring Band Boosters meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Big Spring High School band hall.
 - Coahoma Lions Club meets at 6 p.m. in the Coahoma Community Center at 306 North Ave.
 - The Concerned Citizens Council meets at 7 p.m. at the Howard County Library. For more information, call 264-6116.
 - Archeology Society for Howard and Borden counties meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library Community Room in the basement. Call 270-2615 for more information.
 - Prospector’s Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.
 - Big Spring Society of the Order of Beacieants meets at 6:30 p.m. for a meal with meeting that begins at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.
 - Big Spring Commandry meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.
 - The Christian Motorcyclists Association meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Dragon Restaurant, 1300 S. Gregg. Everyone is welcome. Call 263-3869 for more information.

- TUESDAY
- Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
 - The Big Spring chapter of the American Cancer Society meets at Home Hospice, located at 111 E. Seventh St. at noon. Lunch is provided. For more information, contact Sherry Hodnett at (432) 264-7599.
 - The Powwow Committee of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church annex, 809 Scurry, or the fellowship hall at 810 Scurry. Call Robert Downing at 263-3255 for information.

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

BIG SPRING HERALD

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH			
♠	K J 8 6 4		
♥	Q 7 4 2		
♦	A K 8 3		
♣	—		
WEST		EAST	
♠	A	♥	7 2
♥	A K J 10	♦	9 6 5 3
♦	Q 4	♣	J 10 9 6
♣	K Q 9 8 6 2	♥	7 5 3
SOUTH			
♠	Q 10 9 5 3		
♥	8		
♦	7 5 2		
♣	A J 10 4		

The bidding:
South West North East
Pass 1 ♠ Dble Pass
2 ♠ 3 ♥ 4 ♠ 4 NT
Dble 5 ♣ 5 ♣ Pass
Pass Dble

Opening lead — ace of hearts.

This deal occurred in the semi-final of the 1996 United States Open Team trials. The match brought together two powerhouse squads captained by Howard Weinstein of Chicago and Zia Mahmood of New York.

The final contract was five spades doubled at both tables, but only one of the declarers got home safely.

At the first table, Michael Rosenberg of the Zia team wound up as declarer after the auction shown. The

Tomorrows: Good technique pays off.
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Biologists hunt for rare lizards

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Missing: a spot-tailed earless lizard.

CITY

Continued from Page 1

have a full-time grant writer working on county-wide projects.”

Howard County, Big Spring ISD, Big Spring EDC and Howard College have already agreed to fund the project.

“I’ve learned so much about education since we started meeting, and the challenges facing our educational systems are beyond comprehension,” said Mayor Russ McEwen. “I know one of the things we’re really looking for, and benefits us all, would be the development of some type of vocational training in our high schools — all three high schools, as well as Howard College. Believe it or not, there is no vocational training in the city of Big Spring right now, at any level whatsoever. There are a lot of kids that are dropping out of high school and not progressing because we don’t offer avenues other than core curriculum type situations.”

McEwen said the grant writer would also allow the agencies to take advantage of federal stimulus funds, many of which are expected to be directed at something the city of Big Spring has a huge stake in: infrastructure.

“Additionally, as you look at stimulus packages that are coming down from the federal government, we need to be in a position where we can put our

lizards are no longer in their historic range, the non-profit and several Texas universities have set up a lizard hunt this spring, and they’re looking for help. They’re hoping to recruit ranchers, farmers and hikers to keep their eyes peeled

for the lizard and report back so the group can submit a report to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in November. The lizards are most active from March to June. The lizard is not listed as threatened or endangered.

best foot forward and try to be part of that,” said McEwen. “Everything we’re reading is it will be about infrastructure, and as we all know, we have plenty of problems and we could do untold amounts of water line, sewer line and street work.

“We believe this will be a positive thing for us, but beyond that, I truly believe that if any one of the entities receives a grant because of this particular position, then it will benefit the entire community. If Howard County has money for bridges, we’re going to benefit. If the school districts gets money for education, we’ll all benefit. It’s my expectation the city of Big Spring will get direct benefit from this, but even if we don’t get any direct money, it’s still going to be beneficial to our community. It’s something we need to do.”

First reading of the agreement was approved unanimously, with Councilwoman Stephanie Horton not present.

Also during Tuesday’s meeting, the council will hold public hearings on a possible ordinance effecting freight and portable storage containers in the city, as well as a sign ordinance, and hold first reading on the matters.

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

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

NISSAN

Continued from Page 1

2009, everybody is suffering,” Ghosn, also chief executive at Renault, said at Nissan’s Tokyo headquarters.

MUMMIES

Continued from Page 1

older site in Saqqara that dates back to the 4,300-year-old 6th Dynasty, he said.

Most of the mummies are poorly preserved, and archeologists have yet to determine their identities or why so many were put in one room.

The name Badi N Huri was engraved into the opened sarcophagus, but the

Nissan now expects a 265 billion yen (\$2.9 billion) net loss for the fiscal year through March — joining a raft of other Japanese corporate giants, including Toyota, Toshiba and Sony, in slashing jobs and projecting annual losses.

As a key step in weathering

the downturn, Ghosn said Nissan will cut 20,000 jobs worldwide, or 8.5 percent of its 235,000-strong global work force, by March 2010.

Some 12,000 of the job cuts will be in Japan, including group companies, and the rest will be overseas. The

company did not give a further regional breakdown.

The maker of the Z sports car and the March compact sank to a loss of 83.2 billion yen for the October-December period from a 132.2 billion yen profit a year earlier.

Mamoru Katou, analyst

with Tokai Tokyo Research, remained pessimistic about Nissan’s recovery prospects.

Toyota and Honda, which both have gas-electric hybrids going on sale this year, are better positioned to boost sales when the recovery kicks in, he said.

wooden coffin did not bear a title for the mummy.

“This one might have been an important figure, but I can’t tell because there was no title,” Karar said.

Karar also said it was unusual for mummies of this late period to be stored in rocky niches.

“Niches were known in the very early dynasties, so to find one for the 26th Dynasty is something rare,” he said.

Excavations have been ongoing at Saqqara for 150 years, uncovering a necropolis of pyramids and tombs

dating mostly from the Old Kingdom but also tombs from as recent as the Roman era.

In the past, excavations have focused on just one side of the site’s two most prominent pyramids — the famous Step Pyramid of King Djoser and that of Unas, the last king of the 5th Dynasty. The area where the current tomb was found, to the southwest, has been largely untouched by archeologists.

In December, two tombs were found near the current discovery of mum-

mies. The tombs were built for high officials — one responsible for the quarries used to build the nearby pyramids and the other for a woman in charge of procuring entertainers for the pharaohs.

In November, Hawass announced the discovery of a new pyramid at Saqqara, the 118th in Egypt, and the 12th to be found just in Saqqara.

According to Hawass, only 30 percent of Egypt’s monuments have been uncovered, with the rest still under the sand.

JOBLESS

Continued from Page 1

from the job search. But two jobless friends in North Carolina who’ve played plenty of golf together say enough is enough: they’re ready again for the joy of earning a paycheck.

All of these people said they would give up their newfound free time in a heartbeat if they could land jobs. And most spend hours each day trying. But as unemployment spells drag on longer than anticipated, they have allowed themselves to enjoy activities not directly related to the job hunt without feeling guilty.

Alex Swain, 36, of Leesburg, Va., said his fruitless search for work has been discouraging. Since losing his job last April at a wireless communications company, Swain has applied for more than 200 jobs, gone on 10 interviews and has not had a single offer.

But rather than sulking in front of the television when he’s not searching online job postings, Swain forces himself to keep up with hobbies like playing music,

painting and hiking.

“You can’t stay in the house all day or you’ll lose your mind,” he said.

Others are spending time in the classroom.

Andre Lovato, 55, of Waukesha, Wis., who was laid off from his job at a signmaking company in 2006, earned a degree in printing and publishing from a technical college in December. Lovato, who has applied for 35 jobs since then without any luck, devotes his free time to woodcarving, sketching and computer illustrations.

But as his unemployment drags on, he longs for interaction with colleagues and getting praise for a job well done.

“I miss showing my work and having people say, ‘Hey man, you did pretty good stuff,’” he said.

Brad Palzkill, 39, was laid off from the Gen-

eral Motors plant in Janesville, Wis., last June. This means the family can’t afford to eat out as often, and the kids’ Christmas gifts were less extravagant last year. But he doesn’t miss installing hundreds of consoles in trucks every night, which took a toll on his knees and wrists; and it’s nice to have more free time to spend with family and strumming his guitar — when he’s not looking for work.

“Before, I used to go to work at 4 p.m. and I’d just see my kids on the weekends. But this is not the way you want it to happen,” he said.

In the suburbs of Raleigh, N.C., golf buddies Eddie Shearon and Wes Davis — both of whom have been jobless for more than a year — say they feel an urgency to get back to work so they can have incomes again. But they’re not eager to give up the perks of be-

ing unemployed.

In addition to rounds of golf, Shearon, 52, now gets to walk his dog every afternoon and make dinner for his wife. “I’ve reacquainted myself with my wife,” he said. “We haven’t seen each other that much for 20 years.”

For others, the appreciation of extra free time is fleeting.

Diane Rohan, 37, said she enjoyed her early months of unemployment after giving up her job as a baker to move to Los Angeles with her husband. She scanned photo negatives onto her computer and, truth be told, enjoyed sleeping late.

“That wore off after about a month,” she said.

David Pemberton, of Smyrna, Tenn., is using his July layoff from Catholic Charities of

Tennessee as an opportunity to forge a new career in health care. “I know God has something in store down the road for me,” he said.

Capelle, 60, gets depressed and angry when he dwells on the loss of his job at a plant that manufactures boat motors. But he is often appreciative that he can now offer more help to his wife, who is recovering from knee surgery.

He even found a silver lining to the June flood that ruined his base-

ment, the red truck he loved and some of his video equipment. He received a \$35,000 insurance settlement, which he has used to pay bills.

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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

OUR VIEW

Time to be planning for Health Fair 2009 booth reservations

Almost all of us agree that nothing is as important than one's health. Unfortunately, far too many of us fall woefully short of being conscientious when it comes to making sure we're in good health.

Some of us tell ourselves we're too busy to schedule a doctor's appointment for a check up. Even worse, sometimes we ignore symptoms of potentially life-threatening conditions.

That's why it's important that we all make plans to take advantage of free health screenings that will be offered April 18 at Health Fair 2009.

Doors to Howard College's Dorothy Garrett Coliseum will be open from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. that day.

More importantly, if you're in the health care business, it's important that you have a booth at the Health Fair.

The theme for this year's fair is "Know Your Numbers." Booth spaces are now available, and there's plenty of time to decide what you're going to do during the fair because the deadlines for booth reservations are March 20 and April 3. The 10x10 booths are \$80 if reserved by March 20. After that date, the booths are \$100 and no reservations will be taken after April 3.

Corporate sponsorships for this, the 27th annual edition of the Health Fair, are also still available.

To reserve a booth or lock in a corporate sponsorship, contact Debbye ValVerde, executive director of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, at 263-7641.

We encourage everyone — from our community's healthcare professionals to the average man, woman or child on the street — to make plans to be involved that weekend and pay a little attention to healthy living.

As we've noted before, there's little doubt in our minds it just might be the best and most important fun you'll ever have.

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 never turn a cold shoulder to someone's needs, Lord, but help them and pray for them showing Your love.

Amen

Put shortly: Get 'er done

In the day that Moses lived, the world was a completely different place. Egypt was just learning how to make transparent glass and a city called Troy was being fooled by a wooden horse. Right here in Texas a bunch of Caddo Indians formed a confederacy to establish an agricultural based civilization in the big thicket.

Meanwhile, corn farmers settled near Presidio, in the desert of Big Bend, establishing what would be the oldest continuously cultivated farmland in Texas. Some 3,500 years of plowing, planting and picking goes on today.

That feller Moses left his mark on the world. He's been a hero to many people for many centuries and I want to tell you why he's my mine. I love how he talked with God face to face. I love how he confronted Pharaoh and demanded an end to 400 years of slavery. I love how he parted the waters and crossed the Red



TROY
BREWER

Sea on dry land but none of those things put him on the Brewer's top 10 list of amazing Biblical people.

There is one thing about Moses which makes him stand out and makes me want to stand up and applaud; but it is easily overlooked.

While it seems less spectacular, it's just as supernatural.

The Bible says in lots of places (Heb. 8:5; Acts 7:44; Ex. 25:9 Ex. 26:30; Num. 8:4.) this amazing statement....Moses built the tabernacle according to the plan that was shown him on the mountain.

This might not seem like a big deal to you, but it is to me. The brother could carry out the plan. Even though he was surrounded by knuckleheads and had very limited resources, he accomplished his God-given vision. What a man!

I think God tells most of us great things to do all the time but there are very few who actually carry out those plans.

Accomplishing vision is a big deal these days.

The King James boys translated 1 PETER 1:13 to say we should "gird up the loins of your

mind." The authorized Brewer version of this verse would say we should "Prepare your mind for action."

I think it's about time a lot of us decided to actually do something.

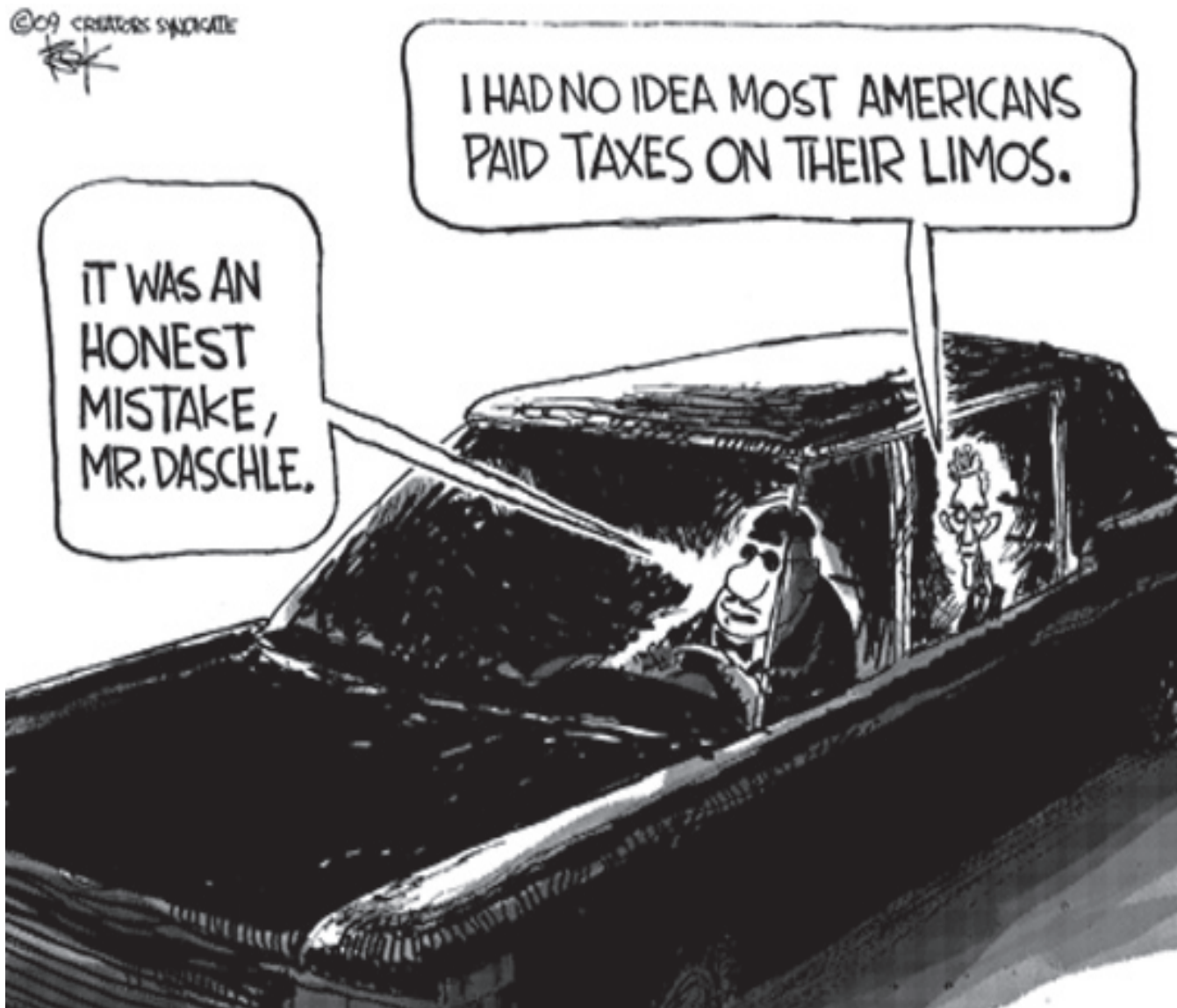
God isn't asking us to take charge over things. He's asking us to take action and take responsibility.

Accomplishing vision is all about fulfilling God's heart, and if we had more action and fewer committees, opinions and politics, the world would be a better place.

So let the Brewer encourage you to get off your blessed assurance and put action to what's in your heart to do. I think it's a year of accelerated advancement and rapid response. What didn't work before is likely to work now if you'll just be willing to carry out the plan.

Commit your works (actions) to the Lord, and your thoughts (plans) will be established. (succeed) Proverbs 16:3 (NKJV)

The Rev. Troy Brewer welcomes your comments. To contact him, go to his Website at www.FreshFromTheBrewer.com.



Stimulus in 'Spend City'

Back in October, after the Obama economic stimulus plan had grown from \$60 billion to \$175 billion and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi had doubled the amount she wanted to spend to \$300 billion, I asked, "Do I hear \$450 billion?"

Clearly Washington has moved beyond parody. President Obama's stimulus package started at \$775 billion; the House enhanced the bill to the \$819 billion mark; senators have been toying with a bill that flirts with \$900 billion.

Tuesday, Obama told CNN that he thought the House was "remarkably disciplined" in putting together a stimulus package.

Two weeks in office, and already Obama is talking as if he's been in Washington for too long.

Granted, Obama rightfully is concerned with containing the recession — which he inherited. His first priority must be to staunch the loss of American jobs. Obama has little choice but to propose spending taxpayer money that Washington does not have.

Now the issue is how much.

Two schools of thought are at play. One side believes that the biggest danger is that Washington won't spend enough money to end the downward trend. Because this recession looks to last longer than your average nine-month slump and unemployment nationwide already is at 7.1 percent, only a huge swell

can raise the boat.

They don't worry about how the accumulation of deficit spending will affect the economy in five or 10 years because, as economist Chad Stone of the nonpartisan but left-leaning Center on Budget and Policy Priorities explained, "We don't really have a choice. If we don't do the actions that produce the short-term run-up in debt now, then we just have the problem we're trying to avoid" — more debt and misery.

If Washington acts to reduce federal debt after the economy stabilizes, Stone added, public debt will shrink to manageable levels.

The other philosophy was plainly stated by Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., in the Wall Street Journal on Wednesday: "As a nation, we got into this mess by spending and investing money that didn't exist.

We won't get out of it by doing more of the same." Aide John Hart noted that Coburn believes the stimulus bill "is about spending money we don't have on things we don't need." Sens. Susan Collins, R-Maine, and Ben Nelson, D-Neb., are talking about shaving as much as \$200 billion from the Senate stimulus package.

"I'm not a big fan of the current stimulus bill," Bob Bixby of the fiscal watchdog group the Concord Coalition told me. "They should spend more time worrying about where to spend the TARP (Troubled Asset Relief Program) money and how to spend TARP II. I think that's much more important for the future of the economy than what's in the stimulus bill."

Some of the tax cuts and spending make sense, Bixby noted, as they're directed at "people who could use help, people who are out of work, or stuff that will be pretty quickly injected into the economy." Put together a plan with the right tax cuts and quick spending, and the total "might add up to \$400 billion," he said.

As for the billions that go to "green" buildings, federal hiring and other programs — that money should be allocated during normal appropriations.

Two more points.

First, Obama was right to argue with those who think that "tax cuts alone will solve all our problems." For one thing, some tax cuts won't stimulate the economy. "You lose the revenue, but you lose the revenue to people who don't spend it," Stone noted. For another, they add to the deficit. And worse, then you've got the problem of shutting them off.

Second, if Obama really wants to create good jobs, the stimulus package should advocate opening up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and Outer Continental Shelf to oil and gas drilling, as Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla., suggested. It wouldn't cost taxpayers a dime, would raise federal revenue, create good jobs and decrease American dependence on foreign oil.

The very fact that Obamadom hasn't even thought to push for more drilling tells you that maybe this stimulus package isn't about jobs. It's about politics.

*E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfcronicle.com.
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HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull

Howard College shortstop Bryan Johns turns a double play against McLennan Community College as teammate Andrew Collazo (right) looks on at Jack Barber Field Saturday. The Hawks, currently ranked sixth in the nation, swept McLennan in a doubleheader to open the season.

No. 6 Hawks open with pair of wins

By JONATHAN HULL

Sports Editor

After a season in which the Howard College Hawks baseball team was ranked as high as second in the nation, expectations are high for the 2009 season.

The Hawks got off to a good start on the year Saturday, sweeping a doubleheader from McLennan College, 11-1 and 9-8.

The Hawks rolled McLennan in the first game as Anthony Collazo pitched a gem, allowing one run on two hits in six innings.

However, the Hawks finished the day with a bit of drama.

Up 9-2 in with one out in the fifth inning, Howard had placed runners on first and third and were one swing of the bat from racking up a second run-rule victory. However, a runner caught stealing between third and home gave McLennan two outs in the inning and then a strike out retired the side, forcing the Hawks to retake the field.

McLennan turned around two innings later and put a six-spot on the Hawks, powered by two

See **HAWKS**, Page 12

Bulldogs defend their turf, win powerlifting meet

Big Spring claims second at Coahoma Invitational

Herald Staff Report

COAHOMA — Coahoma's Bulldogs defended their territory Saturday as they claimed the overall championship at the 8th annual Coahoma Invitational powerlifting meet.

The Bulldogs, powered by first-place performances by Isiah Hernandez, Andy Metcalf and Damian Bailey, totaled 42 points, winning by seven over Big Spring, which finished with 35 points.

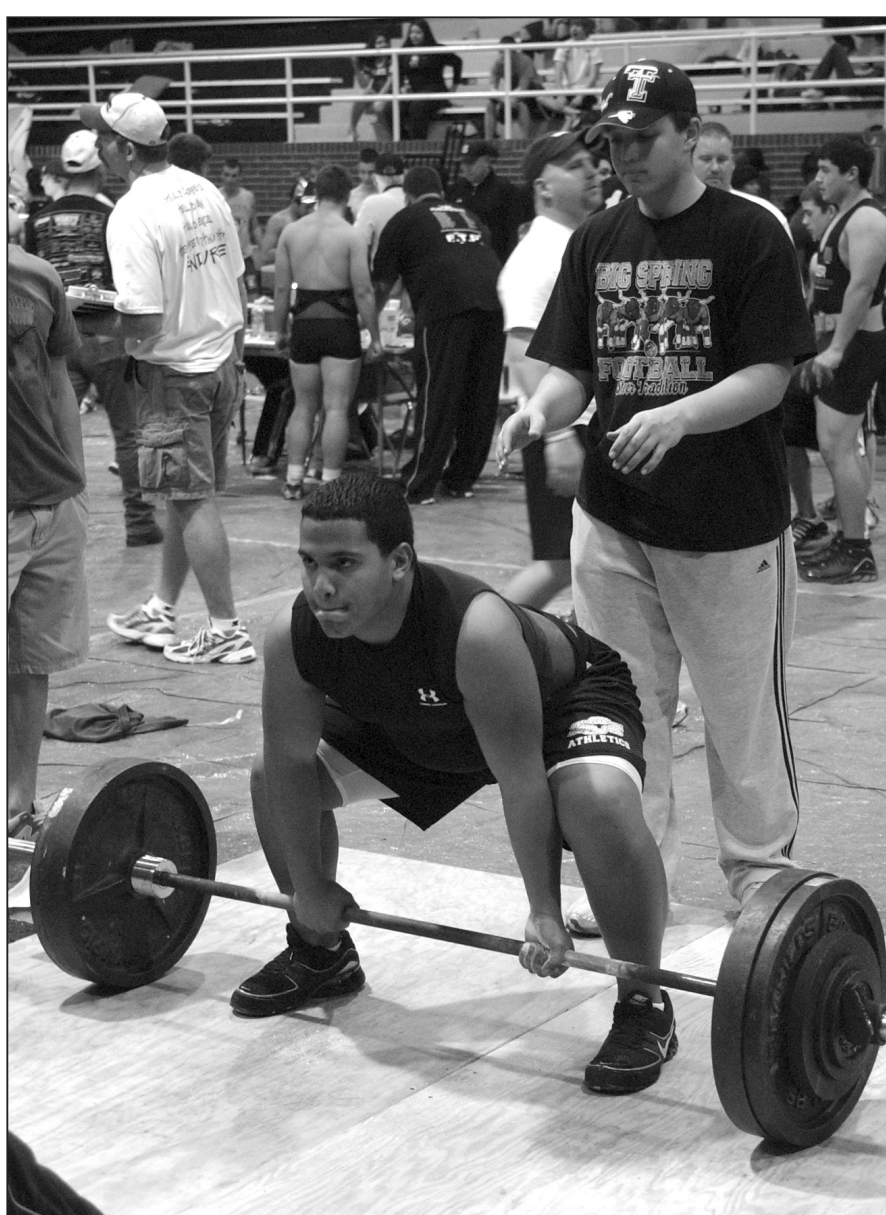
It's the second week in a row the Steers have finished second at a meet. They took silver as the host of the Big Spring Invitational Jan. 31.

Still, Big Spring got strong performances from Antwone White, Derrick Anderson and Jonathan Molina, who each won their respective weight class.

Anderson finished third in the best lifter ratings for the heavier classes, while Coahoma's Bailey grabbed second by three-tenths of a point over Anderson. Andy Metcalf was second in the best lifters in the smaller classes with Big Spring's Jake Hernandez being rated third.

Big Spring's next meet is set for Feb. 21 in Seminole.

Team standings
1. Coahoma 42, 2. Big Spring 35, 3. Grape Creek 24, 4. Sweetwater 23, 5. San Angelo Lake View 23, 6. Colorado City 15, 7. Seagraves 13, 8. Ballinger 3.

See **INVITATIONAL**, Page 12

HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull

Big Spring powerlifter Derrick Anderson prepares to complete a dead lift at the Big Spring Invitational at Steer Gym Jan. 31. Anderson helped lead the Steers to a second-place finish at the Coahoma Invitational Saturday. The host Bulldogs won the meet.

HC softball drops final two at Galveston Tourney

Herald Staff Report

Howard College softball is well into the start of its season, posting a 6-5 record through the first 11 games.

The Hawks went into Saturday with a 6-3 mark, but dropped two games at the Galveston Tournament they had been taking part in since Friday.

In the first game of the day, the Hawks fell to Blinn College, 3-1.

They followed up that loss with another defeat at the

hands of Alvin College, 7-2.

Howard College returns to action Thursday with a doubleheader at Cisco College in Cisco.

The Hawks then take part in the Cowtown Classic in Fort Worth starting Friday and continuing through Saturday.

Howard's next home game isn't until Feb. 23, when the Hawks will host Lubbock Christian University's junior varsity at Foundation Field.

Rangers agree to deal with Jones

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON — The Texas Rangers have agreed to a minor league contract with center fielder Andruw Jones, who was released by the Los Angeles Dodgers last month.

The deal was disclosed Sunday by a person familiar with the agreement who spoke on condition of anonymity because the Rangers had not yet announced it. It was reported earlier by several media outlets.

Rangers general manager Jon Daniels said Sunday night that a deal could be announced as early as Monday.

If added to the major league roster, Jones would receive a \$500,000, one-year contract and the chance to earn about \$1 million more in performance bonuses based on plate appearances.

That money would be offset against remaining money owed by the Dodgers, whose deal with Jones called for a \$15 million salary in 2009.

Jones agreed to a \$36.2 million, two-year contract with the Dodgers in December 2007, then was released on Jan. 15 after agreeing to defer much of the remaining money he was owed over six years.

A five-time All Star who won 10 straight Gold Gloves with the Atlanta Braves, Jones was injured last season and hit only .158 with three home runs and 14 RBIs in 75 games.

He had knee surgery in May and asked to be traded, but the Dodgers found no one interested.

AP Baseball Writer Ronald Blum in New York contributed to this report.

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 and parents should bring their child's birth certificate with them.

For more information, contact Robert Smith at 263-7331 or 263-3333.

Lady Steers boosters meeting today

The Big Spring Lady Steers Booster Club is meeting at 5:45 p.m. today at the Athletic Training Center.

All parents of Lady Steer athletes from the junior high to the varsity levels are encouraged to attend.

Two aces hit at municipal course

Two local golfers knocked in aces at the municipal course at Comanche Trail Park Jan. 25.

Terry Whetzel hit the second hole-in-one in his lifetime, using an 8-iron to ace the 147-yard 15th hole. Witnesses were Jim Roger, Gary Burton, Daniel Silen and John Slentz.

Laura Hughes hit her first ace on Hole 3, using a 7-iron to cover 122 yards. The feat was witnessed by her husband Mike Hughes.

Free junior tennis league starts today

Big Spring tennis pro Ted Olesen is starting a free Junior Tennis League today at the Figure Seven Tennis Center in Comanche Trail Park.

The league is for boys and girls 8-12 years old or in grades four through six.

It will be held every Monday from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Just bring a racket or one will be provided.

At 5:15 each Monday before the league starts, Olesen will accept challengers who believe they can throw a football farther than he can. Anyone able to do so will win a free 30-minute tennis les-

son.

For more information, visit www.bigspringtennis.com.

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.

The field will be flighted by first-round score.

Call the Pro Shop at 267-5354 for more information.

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Announcements

CONCEALED HANDGUN class scheduled for Feb. 28th is rescheduled. Have two classed available Feb. 21st and March 7th. Call (432)394-4492 to confirm Tommy Scott.

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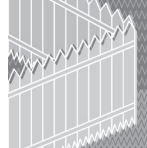
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

The full Leo moon brings the party. And though Valentine's Day is only a few days away, this party is short on romance, long on playful fun. Exaggerated stories dramatically told will be a highlight. It is also the first of four lunar eclipses this year. Though much is revealed, there are some things that will remain a mystery for the ages.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). One or two stressful happenings can cause a downward slide of negative thoughts. Stop the trend by nipping it in the bud. You will feel a lot better when you list your considerable blessings.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There will be an illuminating and surprising twist in the plot of a relationship. If there has been a misunderstanding, it can be quickly sorted out. Where there's communication there's health.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Try to discern the kinds of details that will make an important difference in your end product from the kind that are merely superfluous distractions. The winner will be the one who tends to the bottom line.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Mentally disassemble the situation that is clearly not working. You'll figure out just what needs to be done. You have particularly powerful thought waves tonight. What you think about is coming ever nearer.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). In order to get out of an unfavorable pattern of thinking you must interrupt and distract your mind. This can be accomplished by helping someone selflessly for an hour or two. By doing so you immerse yourself in another world.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The one who has what you want is no happier than you are right now. That shouldn't

keep you from striving for your goal. Just remember to be joyful all along the way, as the thrill of achievement may be short-lived.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). While some pretend to have patience, you actually have it. You really feel that everyone is entitled to use their time as they see fit to use it. Your tolerance of those going faster or slower than you creates ease in an uneasy world.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your artistic mind is keen, your creativity set to fire off at any moment. You are in the right place with the right tools to enable you to capture the kind of fleeting moment that you wish could last forever.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). A new project draws you immediately in and suddenly the rest of your schedule gets reprioritized to accommodate it. Completion of this could take an hour or a lifetime, depending on how involved you want to get.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The danger now is in thinking too small. Do some investigative research before you decide what focus will benefit you the most. When you put your mind to it you can do anything you can dream up — anything at all.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You need fear. It is, after all, your chief survival mechanism. Make friends with your fear and get to know it so you're not intimidated by the alarming tone of its voice. You always have a choice about how to react.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You may be able to save yourself a considerable amount of money doing things the environmentally friendly way. For instance, buying used instead of new is good for the planet and your "cool quotient" goes up, too.

THE LEO LUNAR ECLIPSE: Lunar eclipses always happen when the moon is full, and this time the moon is full in Leo, the sign of storytelling and drama. A good drama plants questions in the mind of the audience and then

explores and eventually answers those questions — most of them.

But the best dramas leave something unexplained. It's the briefcase in "Pulp Fiction." What was in it? Something that glows. We'll never know. It's the secret that was whispered in Scarlett Johansson's ear by Bill Murray at the end of "Lost in Translation."

What did he say that made her eyes sparkle so? One can only guess. During this lunar eclipse and full moon is the perfect time to let such open-ended mysteries live in your own story.

It's effective to leave question marks dangling in someone else's mind. Refrain from giving too much information. Guard the sacred silence of private matters.

Let yourself have delightful secrets that only you know, especially ones that make you giggle to yourself. Each person is a world and yours, though it's familiar to you, to someone else is as exotic as any world could be. There is much to gain from letting others discover your world extremely slowly.

CELEBRITY PROFILES:

Grammy Award-winning country music star Travis Tritt is an Aquarius self-taught musician with his sun and Mars in the theatrical sign of Leo. Tritt is an occasional actor and has shown his stellar sense of drama both in his outstanding concerts and in innovative videos. Tritt released a video trilogy in which he developed the story of one character: a wheelchair-bound veteran, Mac Singleton.

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

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Annie's Mailbox ®

Dear Annie: I was adopted at birth. I was a "daddy's girl," and although he always stood up to my Mom on issues of discipline, it was very clear that Mom and I were oil and water. As the family therapist put it, Dad was the glue that held us together.

When Dad died two years ago, Mom wasted no time appointing an attorney as financial guardian who allowed NO contact between us. She recently died and I want only one thing — a piece of artwork that one of Dad's graduate students made for him.

Dad had promised it to me, but died without a will saying so. It has no market value whatsoever, and I cry imagining it going for a dollar at

somebody's yard sale. My husband formed a very real bond with my father and cares about this issue almost as much as I do.

How do we approach the estate? I don't want to make the hurt worse. — *San Diego*

Dear San Diego: Talk to the executor of the estate or go to the probate court. Your request for the artwork will be treated respectfully.

If you are the only child, you may have a legal claim to this property unless Mom put other specific arrangements in writing. The most painful outcome is if Mom already disposed of the piece, but then you are no worse off than you are now, so it can't hurt to ask.

Dear Annie: My girlfriends and I recently attended a baby shower for a single gal, given by her mother. It was lovely, except for one of the games.

Guests were asked to write down the answers to 15 questions such as "When is the due date?" and "What is the sex of the baby?" As an afterthought, the hostess added question 16: "What was the date of conception?"

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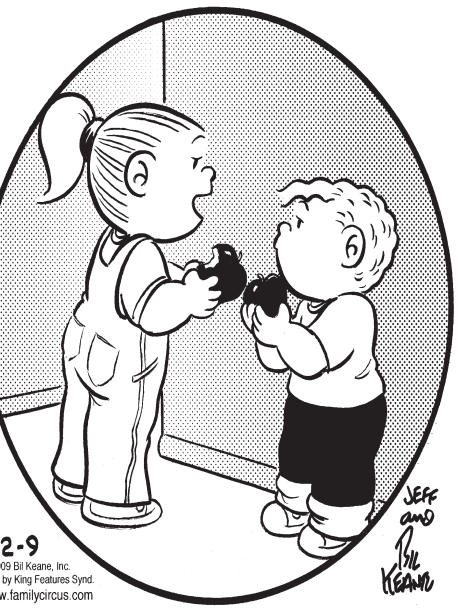
	WFAA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5 :PM :30	News ABC	News ABC	Locura	Lopez	News CBS	Noticias	News NBC	Raymond	CCM	BBC	Cash Cab		CSI: NY	Bones	SmartGuy	Suite Life	Horn	SportsCenter
6 :PM :30	News ABC	Jeopardy!	Noticiero	Lopez	CBS	Noticiero	NBC	Friends	Granger	Business	Cash Cab		CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	Movie: Diary of a Mad Black Woman	Suite Life	Interrupt	College Basketball: W.Va. at Pittsburgh
7 :PM :30	The Bachelor	The Bachelor	Tontas Cielo	Two Men	Entertain	12 Cora-zones	News Millionaire	Seinfeld	Hagee	News-Lehrer	Made		CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order		Montana	NFL Live	
8 :PM :30			Cuidado-Ángel	House	Big Bang	Doña Bar-bara	Chuck	Fam. Guy	Israel	Antiques Roadshow	Destroyed	Movie: Saturday Night Fever, Barry Miller	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order		Twiches	Women's College Basketball	
9 :PM :30	True Beauty	True Beauty	Fuego en la Sangre	24	Two Men Worst	El Rostro de Analía	Heroes	Fam. Guy	Light of the Southwest	American Experience	1 Way		Movie: Terminator 2: Judgment Day, Edward Furlong	The Closer	The BET Honors	Phineas	E:60	College Basketball: Kansas at Missouri
10 :PM :30	News Nightline	News Nightline	Noticiero	Raymond	News	Noticias	News	Seinfeld	Israel	Charlie Rose	Made	Movie: Thelma & Louise, Harvey Keitel	CSI: NY	The Closer	Post	Life De	College Football All-Star Challenge	SportsCenter
11 :PM :30	Insider Jimmy Kim-mel Live	Insider Jimmy Kim-mel Live	La Hora de la Risa	King-Hill	Late Show	Decisiones de	Tonight Show	Sex & Uri Harel	Sala	Smiley	Made		Disorderly Con.	Trust Me	Baldwin	So Raven	NASCAR Now	NFL Live
12 :AM :30	News	Extra	Contra Viento	RENO 911	Late Late Show	Decisiones de	Late Night	Deuce Bigalow: European	Mark	Smiley	Destroyed	Movie: Sleeping With the Enemy	Amazing Video	Law & Order	Movie: Diary of a Mad Black Woman	Replace	Kim	Final SportsCenter
1 :AM :30	Paid	Paid	Clasicos	Friends	Entertain	Programa Pagado	Poker After Dark	Movie: The Ice Harvest	Light of the Southwest	Man vs. Wild	1 Way				The Deal	Emperor Dragon	College Basketball	SportsCenter

DENNIS THE MENACE



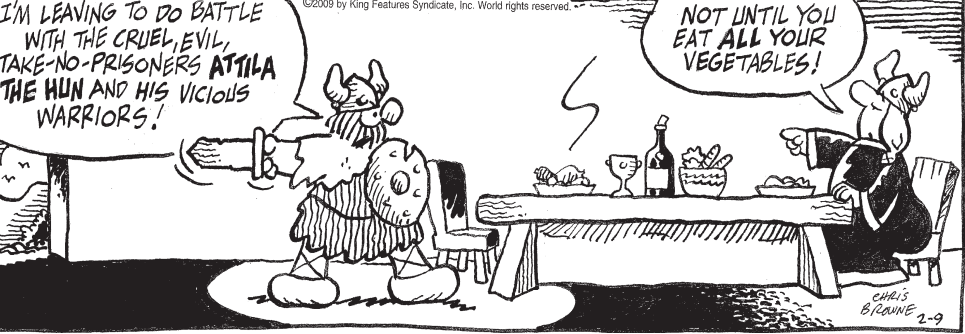
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HAGAR



BLONDIE



This Date In History

Today is Monday, Feb. 9, the 40th day of 2009. There are 325 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 9, 1943, the World War II battle of Guadalcanal in the southwest Pacific ended with an Allied victory over Japanese forces.

On this date: In 1773, the ninth president of the United States, William Henry Harrison, was born in Charles City County, Virginia Colony.

In 1825, the House of Representatives elected John Quincy Adams president after no candidate had received a majority of electoral votes.

In 1861, Jefferson Davis was elected the provisional president of the Confederate States of America.

In 1870, the U.S. Weather Bureau was established.

In 1909, Dean Rusk, secretary of state under Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B.

Johnson, was born in Cherokee County, Ga.

In 1933, the Oxford Union Society approved, 275-153, a motion "that this House will in no circumstances fight for its King and Country," a stand that was widely denounced. (On this date in 1983, the Oxford Union Society rejected, 416-187, a motion "that this House would not fight for Queen and Country.")

In 1942, daylight-saving "War Time" went into effect in the United States, with clocks turned one hour forward.

In 1950, in a speech in Wheeling, W.Va., Sen. Joseph McCarthy, R-Wis., charged the State Department was riddled with Communists.

In 1971, the crew of Apollo 14 returned to Earth after man's third landing on the moon.

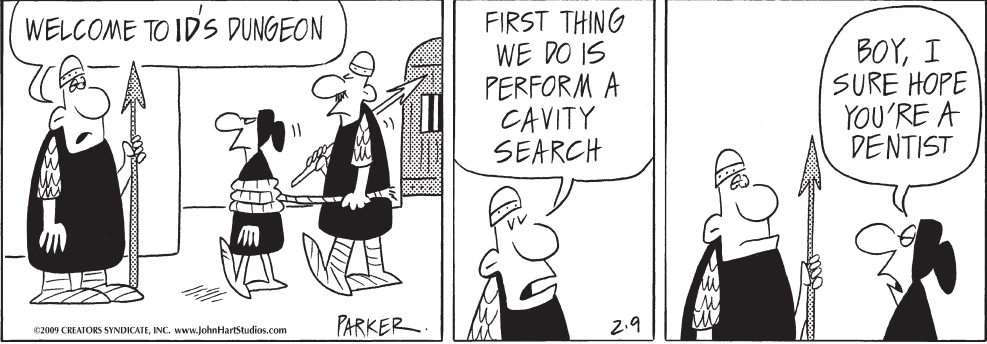
In 1984, Soviet leader Yuri V. Andropov died at age 69, less than 15 months after succeeding Leonid Brezhnev; he was succeeded by Konstantin U. Chernenko.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Kathryn Grayson is 87. Television journalist Roger Mudd is 81. Actress Janet Suzman is 70. Actress-politician Sheila James Kuehl ("The

Many Loves of Dobie Gillis") is 68. Singer-songwriter Carole King is 67. Actor Joe Pesci is 66. Singer Barbara Lewis is 66. Author Alice Walker is 65. Actress Mia Farrow is 64. Singer Joe Ely is 62. Actress Judith Light is 60. Rhythm-and-blues musician Dennis "DT" Thomas (Kool & the Gang) is 58. Actor Charles Shaughnessy is 54. Country singer Travis Tritt is 46. Actress Julie Warner is 44. Country singer Danni Leigh is 39. Actor Jason George is 37. Actor-producer Charlie Day is 33. Rock singer Chad Wolf (Carolina Liar) is 33. Actor A.J. Buckley (TV: "CSI: NY") is 32. Rock musician Richard On (O.A.R.) is 30. Actress Ziyi Zhang is 30.

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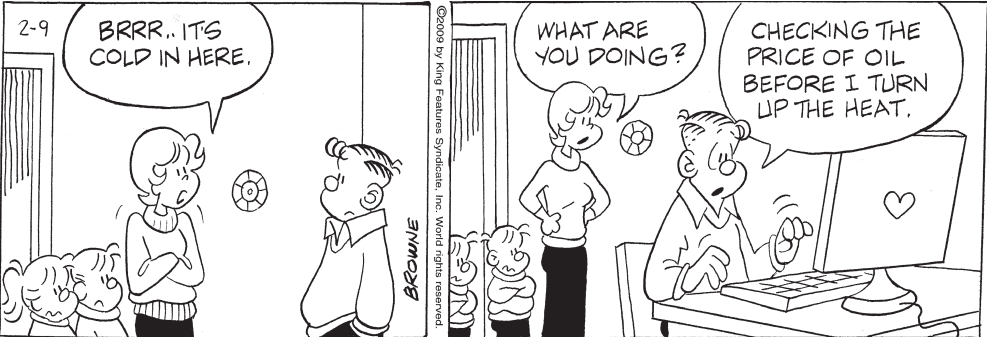
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AGNES



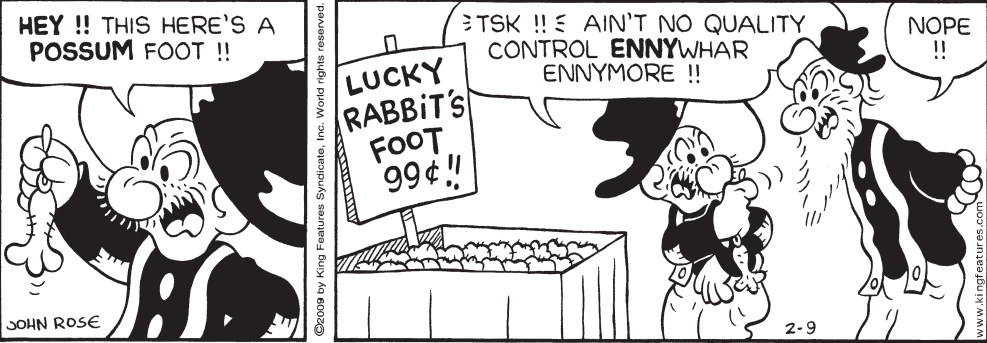
HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



Newsday Crossword

WHAT, NO BELL? by Gail Grabowski
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**

1 Go out with

5 Library loans

10 Lose traction

14 Makes mistakes

15 Blacksmith's iron block

16 May auto race, for short

17 Defeat in a match

18 Connect with

19 Ration (out)

20 Listen in on calls secretly

22 Sliced into cubes

23 Most high-schoolers

24 Savings institution

25 Widen

28 Cut-rate purchase

31 "How sad!"

32 ___ of lemon (drink garnish)

34 Sis' sibling

35 Once around a track

36 Takes long steps

38 Cereal grain

39 Room coolers: Abbr

40 Horses' gaits

41 Adorable

42 Ruby's color

44 Said

46 Really saturate

47 Stain-free

49 Walk casually

51 Dessert selection

55 Just ___ (slightly)

56 Watchful
- 57 Airline to Israel

58 Way in

59 Passover feast

60 Take it easy

61 Counting-out word

62 Smart-mouthed

63 Gets a glimpse of
- DOWN**

1 Money owed

2 Region

3 Golf hazard

4 Ritzy residences

5 Used the tub

6 Burger topper

7 Pizzeria appliances

8 Toy with a tail

9 ___-mo replay
- 10 Home's aluminum exterior

11 Do nothing

12 Doing nothing

13 Tinted

21 Pod veggie

22 Pub projectiles

24 Military installation

25 Course with lettuce

26 Location

27 Informal discussion

28 Auctioneer's quests

29 Furious

30 Well-known

32 Walked heavily

33 Clever one

36 Leave the path
- 37 Difficult journey

41 Calls off

43 Limericks and sonnets

44 Military guard

45 Little bit

47 Sorority members

48 Fishing aids

49 Constructed instrument

50 Woodwind

51 "Not guilty," for one

52 Moisturizer ingredient

53 Cabbagelike plant

54 Letters after keys

56 Beast of burden

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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61					62					63		

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You deserve a factual look at . . .

Israel's Defensive Response to Gaza
Was Israel using "disproportionate force?"

Having absorbed over 10,000 rockets aimed at its towns and cities and having issued innumerable warnings, Israel finally decided to defend its citizens. It bombarded Gaza by air and by sea and ultimately invaded it. The "world community" is concerned and enraged about Israel's having used "disproportionate force" in its response. Is that a valid complaint?

What are the facts?

Some History: In order to understand what is happening, some historical review is in order. Israel captured Judea/Samaria (the "West Bank") and the Gaza Strip in June 1967, in a defensive war against three Arab states. Since then, Israel signed peace treaties with Egypt and with Jordan. It has returned the vast Sinai to Egypt. Attempts at peace with Syria

have been unsuccessful so far. Although there have been many attempts to make peace with the Palestinians, Israel's most immediate neighbors, that has

until now proven to be elusive. There have been any number of "interim" agreements, but a final peace agreement covering all aspects and all demands has not yet been reached.

With the concurrence and support of the US and of Israel, the Palestinians installed a Palestinian Authority (PA) to represent and to govern them. In order to move the peace process forward, former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon decided to unilaterally disengage from Gaza. It was a very difficult and wrenching decision because 9,000 Israeli citizens who had been living there for generations had to be evacuated. Twenty-one communities had to be dismantled. Since then, there is absolutely no Israeli presence – civil or military – in Gaza.

In June 2007, Hamas wrested control over the Gaza Strip from the PA in bloody fighting. Hamas, classified as a terror organization by the United States and by most civilized nations, is openly dedicated to the destruction of Israel and for "carrying the banner of Allah over every inch of Palestine." Immediately after seizing power, Hamas began to fire rockets into Israel. It is estimated that so far close to 10,000 rockets have been launched, 3,000 alone in 2008. Even one rocket would be considered an act of war by any country. Constant barrages of rockets on Israel by Hamas are obviously intolerable. If a neighboring country would fire rockets against our cities we would respond with massive force. And that is exactly what Israel is doing.

Was Israel's Response Disproportionate? Article 51 of the

Israel cannot possibly conclude a peace agreement with those who are sworn to destroy it and continue on that path. The PA, though still nursing impossible dreams of the division of Jerusalem and the "return" of the 1948 refugees, is amenable to diplomacy and can be dealt with. Final solutions have so far been unavailable, but there is indeed hope for ultimate success. The US government will wish to play a positive role in that. But before that, terrorist Hamas must be totally eliminated. That is the principle and the main goal of Israel's action against Gaza.

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UN Charter is quite clear that any nation has the right to engage in self-defense against armed attack. The response has indeed to satisfy the principle of proportionality. But it is not correct to claim that Israel has violated that principle by killing more Hamas terrorists than the number of Israelis killed by Hamas rockets. There is no legal equivalence between the deliberate killing of civilians, which is what

Hamas is doing by lobbing its rockets into Israeli cities without strategic significance, and the targeted killing of Hamas militants. The law is clear that any number of combatants can be killed to prevent the killing of even one innocent civilian.

In its air and ground operations against Gaza Israel went to unprecedented lengths to avoid killing civilians. In an area such as Gaza, one of the most densely populated areas in the world – and in view of Hamas's custom of locating its rocket launchers and other military installations in the middle of residential areas and even in mosques, using civilians as shields – that becomes particularly difficult. In what is certainly unique in the history of warfare, Israel, in its respect for human rights, dropped tens of thousands of leaflets over Gaza and placed telephone calls to warn residents of non-military installations to get out of the way of military action. The accusation that Israel is using "disproportionate force" is absurd.

What were Israel's war aims? The "world" most insistently demanded that an immediate cease fire be arranged. Remarkably, that same "world" did not utter a word or lift a finger when thousands of rockets fell on Israel. Israel cannot be expected to terminate its defensive action in Gaza until a comprehensive solution to the crisis can be reached. One can only surmise what Israel's war aims were, but in all likelihood, at the very minimum the following: • Full dismantling of all military power of Hamas, including destruction of stockpiles of rockets and other weapons. • Increased Egyptian supervision of the border crossings between Gaza and Egypt. • Return of kidnapped Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit.

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INVITATIONAL

Continued from Page 6

Best lifters

114 to 165 classes (Schwartz ratings)

1. Juan Casas, Seagraves 846.74; 2. Andy Metcalf, Coahoma 752.25; 3. Jake Hernandez, Big Spring 750.06.

181 to Super heavyweight classes (Schwartz ratings)

1. Cory Hill, Lake View 748; 2. Damian Bailey, Coahoma 744.74; 3. Derrick Anderson, Big Spring 744.44.

114 class

1. Juan Casas, Seagraves 875; 2. Dusty Salmon, Coahoma 605.

123 class

1. Isiah Hernandez, Coahoma 640; 2. Robert Gonzalez, Grape Creek 600.

132 class

1. Samuel Williamson, Colorado City 860; 2. Justin Coker, Coahoma 855; 3. Sean Boren, Coahoma 790.

148 class

1. Andy Metcalf, Coahoma 1025; 2. Jake Hernandez, Big Spring 935; 3. Zeke Ensenia, Sweetwater 935; 4. John Esquivel, Ballinger 930; 5.

John Flores, Big Spring 900.

165 class

1. Brandon Torres, Grape Creek 1030; 2. David Aguirre, Lake View 995; 3. John Brown, Lake View 945.

181 class

1. Britt Bowen, Sweetwater 1190; 2. Cory Hill, Lake View 1180; 3. Anthony Garcia, Big Spring 1080.

198 class

1. Antwone White, Big Spring 1200; 2. Cole Rhoades, Sweetwater 1180; 3. Joey Pena, Seagraves 995; 4. Paden Cornett, Seagraves 990; 5. Nathan Gomez, Coahoma 945.

220 class

1. Damian Bailey, Coahoma 1310; 2. Robert Roman, Lake View 1080; 3. Raul Napoles, Lake View 1020; 4. Mike Holm, Coahoma 950.

242 class

1. Derrick Anderson, Big Spring 1355; 2. Rufus, McCann, Sweetwater 1350; 3. Justin Yanez, Big Spring 1260.

275 class

1. Tanner Holt, Grape Creek 1310; 2. Chase Clanton, Coahoma 1255; 3. Frankie Atkinson, Colorado City 1200; 4. Devin Davis-Locke, Big Spring 1160.

Super heavyweight

1. Jonathan Molina, Big Spring 1385; 2. Randy Moffett, Colorado City 920.

HAWKS

Continued from Page 6

2-run homers by Matt Bruer and Hunter Bailey, cutting the deficit to 1.

The Hawks held on for the victory as Blake Barnes picked up the save.

To the casual eye, one might think there was reason for alarm based on Howard's performance in the second game. However, Howard Head Coach Britt Smith sees things differently and was happy about the way the day played out.

"This was a perfect way to win a doubleheader," said Smith. "We came out and really took care of business in the first game. We played really well in all three phases. Then, the second game, we got to learn a lesson about not thinking the game is over early.

"That's a big thing. We were on first and third with one out," he continued, "and needed just one of swing of the bat to pull off the run rule. Then, we get a runner picked off and the batter strikes out. You could see it on the guys' faces in the dugout. They were let down and didn't want to go back out to their positions on the field and finish the game. Then, in the next inning, McClellan rolls up six on us and got back in the ball game."

Zach Neal picked up the win for Howard in the second game. Howard got 2-RBI showings in Game 2 from Runey Davis and Andrew Collazo.

Davis also had a RBI in the first game. Game 1 was highlighted by strong hitting performances from

Miles Hamblin, Joe Leftridge and Bryan Johns, who each knocked in two runs. Johns ended the first game on a single in the sixth inning, scoring Collazo.

A change from last season, Howard did not hit a home run Saturday after the team led the nation in scoring in 2008.

"We've said it all along, this team is built on pitching and defense," acknowledged Smith. "We're going to hit our fair share of home runs, but it's not going to be like last year's squad. We're going to win games with pitching and defense and I'm fine with that. We can beat teams in so many ways this season. Last year, we were just going to outscore you. This team can do that, but they can do it in many different ways."

Howard travels to Abilene today, facing Cisco Junior College in a nine-inning game at 2 p.m. The Hawks are back at Jack Barber Field Friday and Saturday, playing a pair of double-headers against Lon Morris College with first pitch coming at noon each day.

Game 1

McClellan 000 001— 1 2 2

Howard 120 152—11 8 0

WP – Anthony Collazo (1-0).

2B: MC – None.; HC – Miles Hamblin, Nick Popescu, Runey Davis. 3B: MC – None; HC – Andrew Collazo. HR: None. RBI: MC – NePauw 1; HC – Hamblin 2, Popescu, Joe Leftridge 2, Bryan Johns 2, Davis. SB: MC – None; HC – Collazo.

Game 2

McClellan 100 010 060—8 8 3

Howard 001 150 20x—9 13 1

WP – Zach Neal (1-0). S – Blake Barnes (1).

2B: MC – NePauw, Dylan Langhomer; HC – Caleb Nine, Popescu, Collazo 2, Davis, William Calhoun 2. 3B: MC – None; HC – Collazo, Davis. HR: MC 2 (Matt Bruer, Hunter Bailey), HC – None. RBI: MC – Langhomer 2, Kel Pressley, Michael Pair



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