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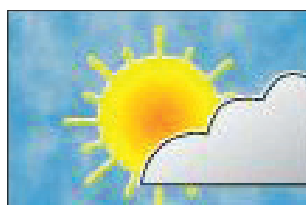


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TUESDAY

MARCH 3, 2009



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Lawmakers take first crack at budget

By **STEPHEN OHLEMACHER**
 Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama is sending his Treasury secretary and budget director to Capitol Hill on Tuesday to defend his proposed tax increases, which are being met with misgivings by both Republicans and Democrats in Congress.

Lawmakers in both parties question Obama's call to reduce high-income earners' tax deductions for the interest on their house payments and for charitable contributions. Also drawing fire is his proposal to start taxing industries on their greenhouse gas pollution — a move sure to raise consumers' electric rates.

Obama and his top aides have been promoting the budget package since unveiling an outline last week, but Tuesday will provide the lawmakers their first opportunity to publicly question top officials about the details.

Administration officials say the nation's economic crisis requires bold action to right the economy and expand access to health care while providing tax breaks to middle- and low-income families.

The economy took another hit Monday when the Dow Jones Industrial Average plunged below 7,000 for the first time since 1997.

Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner

was scheduled to appear Tuesday before the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee, which also is likely to question him about Obama's declaration last week that he may be asking Congress this year for another \$750 billion bailout for troubled banks.

Meanwhile, White House Budget Director Peter Orszag was to testify Tuesday before the House Budget Committee on Obama's spending priorities in the administration's \$3.5 trillion budget blueprint for the 2010 fiscal year beginning Oct. 1.

Obama has been careful throughout the presidential campaign and since being elected to say he would impose

higher taxes only on the wealthiest. Republicans, however, say Obama's energy proposal amounts to a tax that would increase energy costs for all Americans.

"This massive hidden energy tax is going to work its way through every aspect of American life," said Rep. Dave Camp of Michigan, the top Republican on the Ways and Means Committee. "How we light our homes, heat our homes and pay for the gas in our cars, in every phase of our daily lives, we will be paying higher costs."

Under the energy plan, Obama

See **BUDGET**, page 3

Runway upgrade on track

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

With approximately half of the runway at the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark upgraded to 11-inch concrete by the end of the week, city officials say the project is expected to be completed by June, giving one of the city's greatest assets a very functional facelift.

According to retired Air Force Col. Jim Little, director of the Airpark, work on the southern portion of the 8,800-foot runway should be completed by the end of the week, with contractors ready to begin work on the northern half.

"There's concrete on the

See **RUNWAY**, page 3



HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins

Contractors work Monday afternoon to pave a 15-foot-wide section of the runway at the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark. The runway, which is receiving an 11-inch thick concrete upgrade, will be able to accommodate planes as large as a 737 once the project is complete.

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Program aims to streamline aid to needy

'Servant or Sucker' goal: Find, eliminate panhandling

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

In these hard economic times, many people legitimately need help.

Some, however, like to prey on people's emotions.

To tell the difference between those honestly needing help and those just trying to make a quick buck, Joel Miller, senior chaplain of the Emergency Services Chaplain Corps, is hosting "Servant or Sucker" classes through Thursday at the Howard College Student Union Building.

Miller said the three-hour seminar instructs church employees on how to handle request for help, identify those who seek legitimate

"This program will let the organizations keep track of recipients by computer ... and will help them use their resources more efficiently."

Joel Miller
 Emergency Services Chaplain Corps

help and hopefully eliminate abuse of the system.

"The purpose of this program is to help people help themselves by providing supplementary food, encouragement and a way to get started again," Miller said. "It also tells how to know professional panhandlers, with their tragic stories, from people who really need the help and have a desire to overcome their immediate problems."

Miller said an identification system of this sort has been needed for years but has only recently been devised.

"This program will let the organizations keep track of recipients by computer ... and will help them use their resources more efficiently," he said.

While the majority of people seeking help are sincere, some abuse the system to make a quick buck to get

cash to support drug habits. And the problem has worsened with the economy.

By pooling their resources, local churches and relief agencies can more quickly identify abusers, he added.

"We have the local resources to make this a successful program, but they must be used in a cooperative manner to be successful," he said. The Big Spring Police Department, Scenic Mountain Medical Center, Texas Workforce System, Salvation Army and other local agencies and churches have agreed to help with the program, Miller added.

For more information, contact Miller at 267-4082 or 213-1221.

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Obituaries

Eulah Godwin

Eulah B. Godwin, 93, of Big Spring, died Sunday, March 1, 2009, in a local hospital. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 4, 2009 at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Dennis Teeters officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

She was born July 11, 1915, in Bowie County and married T. J. Godwin July 11, 1936 in Texarkana, Texas. He preceded her in death Feb. 2, 1998.

Eulah came to Knott in 1936 and had worked in the school cafeteria at both Ackerly and Klondike, retiring in 1989. She moved to Big Spring in July 1998.

Survivors include two daughters, Charlotte Holcomb of Lamesa and Doris Wink and husband, Charles of Alamogordo, N.M.; two sisters, Penny Copeland and Wilma Stephens, both of Big Spring; four grandchildren, Randy Holcomb, Kelly Holcomb, Russell Wink and Melynda Weddle; and nine great grandchildren, Heather Holcomb, T. J. Holcomb, Lacey Lloyd, Zack Weddle, Sharee Layton, Kristi Wink, Samantha Holcomb, Marshall Hardman and Jameson Hardman.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; nine brothers and sisters; and a son-in-law, Mike Holcomb.

The family suggests memorials be made to a favorite choice.

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

Paid obituary

Ann R. Nalls

Ann R. Nalls of San Angelo passed away peacefully Feb. 27, 2009. Ann was born to Lucille and Edward Meredith in Fort Worth on July 25, 1929. She was later adopted by her stepfather, Charles Rader.

Ann attended TCU and business college in Fort Worth. Ann's career was in the insurance industry, but her focus was always on being a mother. Ann loved to cook, crochet, attend baseball games and play contract bridge, where she delighted in achieving master points.

She was preceded in death by her son, Robley. Ann is survived by her brother, Dr. Thomas Rader and his wife Juni of Albuquerque, N.M.; her son, Coleman and wife Cookie of Columbus; son Scott and wife Margaret of San Antonio; and a son — not by birth, but by love — Jerry Knous and wife Debbie, of Midland. Grandchildren include Brian Nalls and wife Thelma of Roswell, N.M., Tracey Menges of Big Spring, Steven Nalls and wife Amy of Fort Collins, Colo., Leisa Nalls of Las Vegas, Nev., Tina Bell and husband Brian Dell of Columbus, Dr. Jeremy Knous of Saginaw, Mich., and D'Lynn Price and husband Cooper of San Angelo. Great-grand children include Miranda Menges of Big Spring and Harley and Cody Bell of Columbus.

A memorial service was held at 4 p.m. Monday, March 2, 2009, at Johnson's Funeral Home Chapel in San Angelo. The family requests that in lieu of flowers memorial contributions be made to Christian Village of San Angelo, located at 4225 Billie Bolin Drive, San Angelo 76904.

Paid obituary

Mary Kincade

Mary Kincade, 85, of Big Spring, died Monday, March 2, 2009 in a local nursing home. Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Isidrio Melendez Jr.

Isidro Melendez Jr., 72, of Big Spring, died Monday, March 2, 2009 in a Midland hospital. Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Claudine McMurray

Claudine McMurray, 91, of Big Spring, died Monday, March 2, 2009 in Ranger. 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 7 a.m. Monday and 7 a.m. today:

- PAULA LEOS, 27, of 1803 S. Owens, was arrested Monday on a charge of possession of marijuana.
- JOSE MENDEZ CUELLAR, 46, of 3000 Old Highway 80, was arrested Monday on a charge of possession of marijuana.
- OSCAR HERNANDEZ, 42, of 1405 S. Benton, was arrested Monday on four local warrants.
- THEFT was reported in the 1700 block of FM 700.
- INJURY TO A CHILD was reported in the 2600 block of Fairchild.
- EVADING ARREST/DETENTION WITH A VEHICLE was reported in the 400 block of Gregg Street.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported:
 - in the 700 block of 12th Street.
 - in the 700 block of 14th Street.
- BURGLARY OF A BUILDING was reported in the 2600 block of Gregg Street.

Sheriff

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 54 inmates at the time of this report.
- TRAVIS SORRELLS, 20, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.
- JAMES LYNN PARKER, 28, was arrested Monday on a judgment/sentence for possession of a controlled substance.
- LANCE WAYNE BIDDLE LAND, 19, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of theft.
- JOHN DEE ROMAN, 39, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported near the intersection of Interstate Highway 20 and Tubb Road. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 400 block of E. Fourth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported in the 1500 block of S. Gregg Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 200 block of W. Marcy. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2300 block of Wason. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of Hamilton. One person was transported to SMMC.

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.

- The Path, faith-based addiction recovery, meets at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Tabernacle Ministeries, 1209 Wright St.

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. and closed discussion meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

- Al-Anon, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.




WEDNESDAY

- RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at (432) 517-9207 for more information.

THURSDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

Your Local Weather

Wed 3/4	Thu 3/5	Fri 3/6
		
83/46	87/51	90/53
Shine. Very warm. High 83F. Winds S at 10 to 20 mph.	More sun than clouds. Highs in the upper 80s and lows in the low 50s.	Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the low 50s.

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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

- Coahoma Senior Citizen luncheon is set for 11 a.m. in the Coahoma Community Center.
- Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Alzheimer's Association, the Greater West Texas Chapter meets at 2 p.m. in the Howard County Library conference room, 500 S. Main.
- VFW Post 2013 meets at 7 p.m. in the VFW Hall, 500 Driver Road.
- Gospel Singing in the Kentwood Activity Center at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.
- The Howard County Sheriff's Posse meets at 7 p.m. at the Sheriff's Posse building on the Andrews Highway. For more information, call Bert Sheppard at 263-4483.
- Order of the Eastern Star No. 67 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

WEDNESDAY

- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Free blood pressure screenings from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Salvation Army, 811 W. Fifth St., provided by InHome Care.
- Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.
- Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge at 703 W. Third.

THURSDAY

- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. The public is invited.
- Genealogy Society of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.
- Big Spring Masonic Lodge No. 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

FRIDAY

- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until about 3 p.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.
- AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.

Lottery

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 6 - 13 - 32 - 35. Bonus Ball: 9.
Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 0.

The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Monday by the Texas Lottery: 6-17-19-34-35.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 6-4-0-4. Sum It Up: 14.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 9 - 4 - 7. Sum It Up: 20.

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News in brief

Memos show Bush officials believed president's power during wartime had few constraints

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks, the Bush administration determined that certain constitutional rights would not apply as the U.S. stepped up its response to terrorism, according to documents released to the public for the first time.

In nine legal opinions disclosed Monday by the Obama administration, the Justice Department under President George W. Bush claimed exceptional search-and-seizure powers. Within two weeks of the 2001 attacks, government lawyers were discussing ways to wiretap U.S. conversations without warrants.

Also revealed by the Obama administration in court documents Monday: The CIA destroyed nearly 100 videotapes — far more than previously known — of interrogations and other treatment of terror suspects. Congressional Democrats and other critics have charged that some of the harsh interrogation techniques amounted to torture, a contention that Bush and other officials rejected.

The Bush administration eventually abandoned many of the legal conclusions, but the documents themselves had been closely held. By releasing them, President Barack Obama continued a housecleaning of the Bush administration's most contentious policies.

"Too often over the past decade, the fight against terrorism has been viewed as a zero-sum battle with our civil liberties," Attorney General Eric Holder said in a speech as the documents were being prepared for release. "Not only is that school of thought misguided, I fear that in actuality it does more harm than good."

Gunmen attack Sri Lankan cricket team in Pakistan, wounding several players

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP) — At least a dozen men attacked Sri Lanka's cricket team with rifles, grenades and rocket launchers Tuesday ahead of a match in Pakistan, wounding seven players and an assistant coach from Britain in a brazen assault on South Asia's most beloved sport. Six policemen and a civilian were killed.

The players' and the coach's injuries were not life-threatening, officials said.

In a coordinated attack, the assailants ambushed the convoy carrying the squad and match officials at a traffic circle 100 yards (meters) from the main sports stadium in the eastern city of Lahore, triggering a 15-minute gunbattle with police guarding the vehicles.

None of the attackers was killed or captured at the scene, city police chief Haji Habibur Rehman said. Authorities did not speculate on the identities of the attackers or their motives.

The attack reinforced perceptions that nuclear-armed Pakistan is veering out of control and will

end any hopes of international cricket teams — or any sports teams — playing in the country for months, if not years. Even before the incident, most cricket teams choose not to tour the country because of security concerns.

Clinton meets with Israeli leaders; Netanyahu to say peace talks will continue

JERUSALEM (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton promised Tuesday to work with the incoming Israeli government, easing tensions ahead of a meeting with the country's hardline prime minister-designate, Benjamin Netanyahu.

Clinton, opening her first visit to the region as the top U.S. diplomat, arrived during a transition period in Israel.

Netanyahu is putting together a new coalition government and is expected to be sworn in as prime minister within weeks. His criticism of U.S.-led Mideast peace talks before Israel's recent election has raised fears that his government could clash with the Obama administration.

Clinton sought to play down such concerns, saying the U.S. is ready to work with any Israeli government.

U.S. military monitoring North Korean missile activity from bases in Japan

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan (AP) — The U.S. military is closely monitoring activities in North Korea from its bases in Japan ahead of the expected launch of a long-range missile that could be capable of striking U.S. territory, officials said Tuesday.

North Korea said last week that it would launch a communications satellite into orbit. But neighboring governments believe the satellite claim may be a cover for a missile launch and have warned the regime not to carry out any "provocative" actions.

Analysts say satellite images reveal brisk activity at a launch pad in North Korea's northeast.

U.S. military officials at Misawa Air Base, which is on Japan's northern fringe just across the Sea of Japan from North Korea, said they are closely watching the situation but refused to provide any details about the possible timing of the launch.

"U.S. Army forces in Japan are always vigilant and more than capable of defending Japan from any threat, including ballistic missiles, and as always we are working closely with our Japanese allies," Maj. James Crawford, a spokesman for the U.S. Army in Japan, said Tuesday.

Lobbyists who aided families of Pan Am bombing victims earn \$2 million fee

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two decades after a bomb blew Pan Am Flight 103 from the skies over Lockerbie, Scotland, the victims' families have finally received the full compensation Libya prom-

ised. And a lobbying firm that helped them collect is getting its share: A tidy \$2 million.

The payout to Quinn Gillespie & Associates is rare, even for Washington's lucrative influence business. Of 18,989 reported lobbying fees collected last year, just 24 hit the \$1 million mark, according to the nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics, which traces political influence in Washington.

A report the lobbying firm filed in January and interviews with participants illuminate a little-noticed side of the long battle the victims' families waged in Washington, including how they were guided behind the scenes by experts in the capital's ways.

Quinn Gillespie's payment covers work it did from 2006 through 2008 helping the relatives plot strategy, generate publicity and arrange meetings at the State Department and elsewhere.

Raul Castro's leadership shake-up raises question about future Cuba-U.S. relations

HAVANA (AP) — Cuban President Raul Castro's decision to ouster powerful officials close to his brother Fidel raises questions both about who will succeed him and how the biggest government shakeup since he took power a year ago will impact U.S.-Cuba relations.

Monday's changes replaced some key Fidel loyalists — including the foreign minister widely thought of as a possible successor — with men closer to Raul.

But they appeared to have little to do with hopes for closer U.S.-Cuban ties now that both countries have new presidents.

"There is nothing that indicates it's a reaction to anything in the United States," Phil Peters, a Cuba specialist at the Lexington Institute near Washington, said, noting that Raul Castro has long spoken of streamlining Cuba's government.

Peters said it is too early to tell whether the changes could affect relations with the new administration of President Barack Obama, whose proposals for easing U.S. restrictions on Cuba have created hopes that negotiations will resume on ending decades of hostility.

Fallon's debut as host of 'Late Night': He got the job, now he needs to relax

NEW YORK (AP) — As Jimmy Fallon prepared to debut as host of NBC's "Late Night," he found his predecessor, Conan O'Brien, in his dressing room, still packing up.

"I'm about to start my first show," Fallon told him eagerly.

"Oh, is that tonight?" O'Brien replied. "I was gonna TiVo it, or something."

A new era began Monday in the time slot commonly known as "12:30" (more accurately, 12:37 a.m. EST) as Fallon arrived with a new-era version of "Late Night," flush with his wired-up personality.

RUNWAY

Continued from Page 1

ends of the runway, and it's still good," said Little. "So what we're doing is replacing all of the asphalt in the middle with concrete. So, when the project is complete, we'll have 8,800 feet of concrete runway, which will greatly increase the capabilities of it. It will support an airplane up to a 737.

"The southern portion of the primary runway has been torn out and is being paved, with the concrete work done today, and the rest of the necessary work done by the end of the week. After that they will begin work on the north end, and since the portion of the runway where the crosswind runway is located is finished, we'll be able to open up that crosswind runway. And it should be open for the balance of the project, which should carry us into June."

Originally, plans to resurface the runway had called for a rebuilt asphalt surface expected to cost an estimated \$6,260,312, which would be funded by the Texas Department of Transportation on a 90/10 financial split, with the city's portion coming to approximately \$1.5 million.

However, city officials agreed last year the Airpark would be better served by upgrading the asphalt runway to an 11-inch concrete slab, an additional cost TxDOT declined to extend the 90/10 split to, bringing the city's part to \$2.5 million. However,

such as solar and wind power.

Orszag has acknowledged that the energy proposal would increase costs for consumers, but

he argues that the vast majority of consumers will get tax breaks elsewhere in Obama's budget package.

ing about four or five of them, it would very quickly have an impact on the runways. "The surface we'll have when this project is complete will support continued use by the 737 and other, larger airplanes without a problem. And, as we begin to get commitments and utilization, then improving the capabilities of the taxi ways and the ramp in front of the terminal. If we were to get a contractor or company that wanted to use a particular portion, we would reinforce and protect the runway and taxi ways so that businesses could use and have them where they need to be to support it. "We've had a good number of people show an interest in setting up operations here," he added. "However, like

for painting or for plane maintenance, they want to be able to start off with the small airplanes and then grow. Without the capability of growth — which would require an increase in the capability of the runway, they simply weren't interested. The runway is long enough to accommodate just about anything. It's one of the longest runways in this part of the state. However, once you're able to handle the weight of the larger aircrafts, it begins to open a lot more doors."

BUDGET

Continued from page 1

wants to reduce the emissions blamed for global warming by auctioning off carbon pollution permits. The proposal, known as cap and trade, is projected to

raise \$646 billion over 10 years.

Most of the money would be used to pay for Obama's "Making Work Pay" tax credit, which provides up to \$400 a year to individuals and \$800 a year to couples. The plan also would raise money for clean-fuel technologies,


such as solar and wind power.


Orszag has acknowledged that the energy proposal would increase costs for consumers, but

he argues that the vast majority of consumers will get tax breaks elsewhere in Obama's budget package.

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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OTHER VIEWS

Time to address state's shortage of physicians

Texas struggles to train and recruit an adequate supply of physicians to treat its burgeoning population.

After the 2003 legislature enacted tort reform to limit physician liability, about 12,000 new doctors have either moved to Texas or begun practicing.

The good news: The physician supply grew 17 percent between 2000 and 2007. The bad news: The state's population grew by 16.6 percent during the same period.

Texas ranks 43rd in the ratio of physicians to population. Some of the specialty shortages include surgeons, emergency room physicians, geriatric and pediatric specialists to treat the old and the young, dermatologists and psychiatrists.

But the most critical need is for primary-care physicians.

Texas has 68 PCPs for every 100,000 people, compared to the national average of 81. More than half of Texas counties have a primary care shortage.

Studies have shown that increasing primary care doctors lowers hospital admissions, emergency room visits and surgeries. Almost half of the 8.6 million Texas emergency-room visits in 2003 could have been dealt with in a primary-care setting at a fraction of the cost.

Texas medical schools are attempting to meet these shortages by increasing enrollment 30 percent by 2015.

But that is only part of the equation.

After medical school, physicians must complete graduate medical education, or residency. The number of those slots has not grown along with the medical school slots. The result is that, according to the Texas Medical Association, the state lost \$27.4 million by educating medical students who had to leave the state for graduate medical education and physicians tend to practice where they completed their education.

In 2007, the legislature authorized \$62.8 million to fund new graduate medical education slots and faculty costs, but it fell short of the necessary growth. The state will need to add 250 slots in each of the next four years, or 1,000 total slots, to retain Texas medical students.

To place primary care doctors into areas where they are needed most, the legislature should consolidate and increase funding for loan repayment programs.

A new physician completes training with an average debt of \$131,000. That debt has been forcing physicians into lucrative specialties in affluent areas, at the expense of primary care in low-income and rural areas.

The state's current program, used to recruit physicians into underserved areas, only covers about one-third of the current debt and has not been updated in more than 20 years.

The time to address this is long overdue.

THE STAR-TELEGRAM
FORT WORTH

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- 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.
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- 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

When we can't tell the difference between the good guys and the bad, Lord, may we be cautious and trust in Your guidance.

Amen

Many profiteers in health care

Because the United States has assigned so little of its health care operation to government, many patients find themselves adrift in a tiny medical raft on a huge unfriendly corporate sea. Sharks and monsters abound; some obvious, others subtle.

For starters, need we mention the insurance industry? It lures us in as customers, until of course, we get sick. Then it seeks divorce. Its corporate heroes are those staff who find ways to deny us payment. And for that job it hires lots of doctors and nurses whose talents might be better utilized curing people.

Hospitals, conversely, have split personalities. On the one hand, their emergency rooms are big money losers. Not only must they treat our sudden afflictions, but nowadays they also get stuck treating the cumulative chronic conditions of those who can't afford either insurance or regular treatments.

But before you get all weepy over hospitals, they have big profit centers too. In our state, nearly every one wants to do angioplasty, and later on, heart surgery. That's where the big bucks are for staff doctors and administrators. Lobbying and political pressure are fierce on state regulators to allow all expensive procedures to be

conducted everywhere. Once approved, these duplicative costs are essentially recouped through higher insurance premiums or bailouts.

The pharmaceutical companies, or Pharma as they are known as an industry, make the most money of all. They coddle doctors, Congress members, the FDA, and academics. They spend more on advertising than on research. They also hire lawyers who help ward off generic drug competition as long as humanly and legally possible.

Then there are the shrewd operators, some doctors, some not, who open specialized testing clinics with all the latest equipment. Most physicians want their patients to benefit from all those latest tests, especially if insurance is paying. Maximizing tests also insulates docs from negligence claims. This sends rates up some more.

Advertising is another big health care cost, even beyond the shameful full page pitches by Pharma. Our local hospital has for years bought a promotional strip across the bottom of page 1 of the daily paper. A nearby hospital used to compete on page 3 but has lately given up. Private clinics and specialized practices, however, have more than made up the difference. Then there are the flyers that come from equipment suppliers who will eagerly show you how to get Medicare or Medicaid to pay for everything you want.

Nor need you cry for the nearby hospital either. After all,

it just bought up 35 neighboring homes, mostly tenements, to implement its expansion plans. That all adds into its billings for health care, over which there is very little agency control.

Other nations are appalled at this Wild West system of care. Each of them has problems of its own, but all keep costs under much tighter control than we do, and make sure that everyone has affordable coverage. The Obama team is working on those issues right now, as are many states. The Clinton team tried too, but failed. The combined clout of Pharma, HMOs, medical societies and related special interests was too much. Maybe it still is. Further, many American hospitals and doctors don't even want their patients' charts to be computerized. They fear a permanent record of their screw-ups.

Employers, too, want to avoid any system to which they'll be forced to contribute, even though many do pony up now.

If necessary, they want the right to stop.

Sorry guys. Most reformers grasp the need for bosses as well as workers and government to pay their share. No slackers allowed. Luckily several reform formulas are already in the works.

The question is, will any of them make it across that deadly sea of political special interests.

Columnist William A. Collins is a former state representative and a former mayor of Norwalk, Conn.

ADDRESSES

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

• BARACK OBAMA

President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

• KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON

U.S. Senator
703 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: 202-224-5922

• JOHN CORNYN

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

• RANDY NEUGEBAUER

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

STATE GOVERNMENT

• RICK PERRY

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

• JOE HEFLIN

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

• KEL SELIGER

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

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JIMMIE LONG — Home: 466-0793.

GARY SIMER — Home: 263-0260.

Question: Do you hold grudges?

I admit it. I've been a grudge holder. But I'm not proud to say so. Holding a grudge has never proven to be a good thing in my life.

Plenty of medical studies confirm grudge holding is not good for you — increasing stress, raising blood pressure, causing ulcers and producing a multitude of other harmful side effects. I suspect we all would admit to the lousy way we feel when we're angry with another person.

I've never held a grudge toward someone that I've not eventually regretted.

Holding onto a grudge has generally proved to be the greatest waste of my time and I suspect caused me more grief than it did the person I felt injured by. I've never found holding a grudge to serve any good purpose, and it often has cost me a good friend. In fact, I've had friendships that never fully recovered, and for that, I'm sad and sorry that I ever let anything permanently hurt my feelings toward a friend.

When I think about where and how some grudges began, I usually can't understand why I took offense in the first place. Nineteenth century philosopher and author, Mary Baker Eddy, has a short writing she titled, "Taking Offense" that I've referred to when I've found myself feeling irritated by someone's words or actions. She quotes English religious writer and philanthropist, Hannah More, in the opening paragraph: "If I wished to punish my enemy, I should make him hate somebody."

Holding on to resentment, bitterness, hard feelings or hatred is emotionally draining and

physically destructive. So why do we do it?

Once upon a time my defense for a grudge came when I felt a friend stuck her nose in where it didn't belong. I not only didn't want her opinion — I disagreed with it. And I guess my arrogance took precedence over patience and tolerance, and I lost a good friend. Another time with another friend, deep-seated hurt feelings led to my suffering with chest pains and headaches.

Eddy says we let pride, self-will and egotism cloud our reasoning and determine our reactions. But she wisely cautioned, "Well may we feel wounded by our own faults; but we can hardly afford to be miserable for the faults of others."

We can't be responsible for the behavior of others, but we are responsible for how we respond back to them. Every action we take has its consequence. And as with any action, we should think more carefully about the consequences before we act.

Of course, in any relationship there are times when honest and sincere discussions of feelings are needed. My grandmother advised me before I married to never go to bed mad. I've not always heeded her instruction, but I have tried. No doubt she got her wisdom from the Bible, "Let not the sun go down upon your wrath." (Ephesians 4:26) And I've learned that this is good wisdom for all relationships — not just with my husband.

Eddy's message in "Taking Offense" is helpful to those who feel someone has "wronged" them. She wrote:

"We should remember that the world is wide; that there are a thousand million different human wills, opinions, ambitions, tastes, and loves; that each person has a different history, constitution, culture, character, from all the rest; that human life is the work, the play, the cease-

less action and reaction upon each other of these different atoms. Then, we should go forth into life with the smallest expectations, but with the largest patience; with a keen relish for and appreciation of everything beautiful, great, and good, but with a temper so genial that the friction of the world shall not wear upon our sensibilities; with

an equanimity so settled that no passing breath nor accidental disturbance shall agitate or ruffle it; with a charity broad enough to cover the whole world's evil, and sweet enough to neutralize what is bitter in it, determined not to be offended when no wrong is meant, nor even when it is, unless the offense be against God."

Some say it's human nature to hold grudges. Perhaps so, but even still, we always have a choice.

We can choose to brood, ruminate and rehash the details of how we've been hurt or disappointed by someone — torturing ourselves by playing the same scene over and over in our heads. Or we can implement a simple, ancient practice — the practice of forgiveness — and dismiss painful memories and move forward with our lives and our relationships.

I've found life made more meaningful and happy by this practice.

Hurt and anger should never have the last word. And they won't when forgiveness frees you from their venom. I've found it easier to forgive when I remember I too have need of being forgiven.

Annette Bridges is a freelance writer who lives in a North Texas. Her columns are published weekly on United Press International's ReligionAndSpirituality.com and numerous newspapers. E-mail her at annettebridges@gmail.com.



WILLIAM A. COLLINS



ANNETTE BRIDGES

Bird Poop: Social graces

Swinging over the mesquites in the back lots, the birds landed in the top of our red oak. When we reached 55, we stopped counting. Their arrival during the week of Thanksgiving was a welcome sight.

This specie is not consistent in making seasonal plans. Some years we've seen none. Another year, maybe two. Their current numbers demanded that we keep an ample supply of niger seeds and water for their enjoyment.

In the back and side yards they entertained us with their rising crescendos, shreeeee, as they perched near the top of our trees. Seeing their agility and speed during sudden bursts of flight reminded me of another year when the birds had been so numerous.

On the first day of March, a caller had left a message about an injured bird. When I asked the woman to describe it, she said she didn't know much about birds even though she had feeders. "It can fly but not fly. It just doesn't get far off the ground. Smaller, shorter, and thinner than those chunky sparrows. Its mingles with those cute little goldfinches. We're not accustomed to seeing this kind of bird. Oh, and it's striped!"

While she might have discounted her abilities to identify species, she had been very observant. My next questions were about color. Overall, what was her impression? "Grayish-brown." Underneath she de-

scribed as whitish or buff. To my query about any white markings on the wings, she said there were two. When I asked if there was any other color, she readily replied, "Yes, yellow, when it's flying. It's on the tail, too!"

Since she had seen it try to fly, I asked if she had noticed anything else about the tail. "It's like it has a little V in it," was her reply. Telling her she had a pine siskin, I added that through her descriptions had come an easy identification.

Not being able to elevate indicated a possible hairline fracture. The bird's social graces were evident in its intermingling with the flocks of smaller goldfinches. Her description of the brown-streaked plumage had led to my questions regarding color. By the time she had described the bird's yellow markings and notched tail, the woman had summarized the essence of a siskin.

In the woman's backyard were several feeders and available water. One of her feeders was designed exclusively for goldfinches and pine siskins. Few other birds would have the ability to feed while hanging upside down.

After capturing the bird with a pole net, I pointed to the deeper, yellow hues of a male siskin. A female would not have been as colorful. Since the injured bird had held his wings equally, I felt



Courtesy photo

Munching on a seed, a pine siskin enjoys a treat from a feeder. With its undulating flight, it will join the company of flocks that seem to flow from one tree to another.

a stay at the Midland sanctuary would enable it to heal and be releasable.

Before leaving, I encouraged the woman to watch for other siskins. In early spring, with their tails pointing skyward, they would be nibbling emerging buds from her elm trees.

Both tree and ground feeders, the winter migrants would also avail themselves of thistle and weed seeds. As warmer days prompted insects to emerge, the siskins would search for small caterpillars, scale insects, aphids, spiders, flies, and gall insects.

Leaving the neighborhood of old growth trees, I understood why my passenger had chosen the woman's backyard. With the care and knowledge of wildlife volunteers, the pine siskin could return to Canadian forests and its heritage.

Bebe McCasland is federally and state licensed to rehabilitate wild birds.



BEBE McCASLAND

First aid classes keep pets safe

By LINDA LOMBARDI

For the Associated Press

Taking a pet first aid class could save your pet's life. Instructor Lynne Bettinger knows this from personal experience.

Her emergency happened on a weekend when the vet was closed, as these things seem to do.

"One Sunday evening, my 15-year-old cocker was acting weird — pacing, restless, drooling, dry vomiting," says Bettinger, a Red Cross pet first aid instructor.

Those symptoms could have meant many things, but then she noticed that the dog's belly was distended.

When she felt it, it was hard as a rock — a sign of bloat, a life-threatening gastric condition that is common in some larger breeds, but rare in cockers.

"If I had not taken pet first aid, I would not have recognized the symptoms," she says. "I might have said let's wait and see how he's doing. If I had waited any longer, he would have died."

Red Cross pet first aid classes, which last about four hours, are a combination of lecture, discussion, video presentation and live demonstration. They can be taught for dogs, cats or both, and topics include actions to take in an emergency — such as CPR and controlling bleeding — and how to recognize one, as in the case of the bloated cocker.

Students learn how to perform CPR and rescue breathing on stuffed animals modified to simulate lungs and airways.

Breathe into a tube in the stuffed animal's mouth (covered with a sanitary mouthpiece), and its chest expands and contracts.

Real animals aren't quite so cooperative, and there are risks — like cracking a rib — that make sense if your pet isn't breathing, but not if it's done for practice.

The pet mannequins are also used to practice making emergency muzzles out of cloth strips. These can be necessary for human safety when an animal is in pain — "dealing with a sick or injured animal, even the nicest animal may bite you," she says — but students also learn when not to muzzle, when the emergency involves choking or difficulty breathing.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Intellectual pursuits are lucky under the bright Gemini moon. Because of the twin nature of Gemini, people are more open to checking out the flip side of the coin, hearing the other side of the story and generally being receptive to the equal and opposite reactions that are a part of life.

And just for now, thinking is favored over doing.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). It is impossible to find a truthful reflection of yourself while gazing into river rapids. It's the same with a chaotic mind. Reduce your number of thoughts. Get serene. Then your perception of your current dilemma will be accurate.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll learn more from someone who is not so easy to get along with. There is a valuable lesson you will glean from your dealings with this person, which will require your virtuous patience.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're stronger, braver and willing to live more forcefully. Life comes at you with velocity. And you could even experience the pleasure of having someone rush into your arms.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your whimsy is a gift. You can mesmerize others as they watch you, entranced by your odd sense of timing. You can disarm people and get them to open up to you.

You are a gracious comedian. You don't have to come up with all your own material, you know. Share the things that make you laugh, perhaps a joke retold, a newspaper clipping or an e-mail forward.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You have the delicious power to influence your group today and will find immense satisfaction in doing so — just as long as you are influencing them to do what is truly best for everyone.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You are willing to pull out all of the stops to please someone or to make a deal. But you don't have to. Be wary of overdoing things. Research and find out the one thing that is needed and do that.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll encounter much of what you already know, but you're in a place to receive it differently. You're no longer fearful about putting changes into effect. You're open and ready for an adventure.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Be aware. Go into situations with your eyes and ears wide open. There's an opportunity for love and riches. You'll see it clearly when you lose your ego in favor of observing others closely to learn what they want and need.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your beliefs could be challenged. What right does your challenger really think they have? It might be best to blow the whole thing off. You respect that everyone is entitled to their way of sorting out the world. To each his own.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). If you feel

shy about making a change, don't worry. It will probably go unnoticed by anyone but you. No one is currently analyzing you. Most people are too busy thinking about themselves. It's your ideal moment to try things out.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll be dancing through gray area in your dealings. Pride is an unnecessary impedance, especially when it's this difficult to tell which is the correct answer. Choose happiness over being "right."

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "An astrologer told me that when I was born, Venus was retrograde. That explains why my love life is so backward! I seem to have the worst timing with relationships, always wanting someone when they

have no interest in me or are dating someone else. Then what usually happens is things will turn around and by the time they do, I'm the one who is no longer interested. Will my love karma ever change? I'm an Aquarius."

Well, you're in luck. Venus goes retrograde March 6 through April 17, which will be your perfect opportunity to improve your life. Consider that this issue of timing might just be an ingenious plan you've created for yourself in order to stay gloriously unattached. Because, admit it — sometimes the idea of love is so delicious to you, but at the same time, the prospect of actually getting into a relationship just seems at some level to be so messy, risky and disruptive. Changing your

love karma will include agreeing to face your fear, give up staying in control of your feelings in favor of going along for the journey of love. A Scorpio, Cancer or Pisces might be the perfect partner in this romantic experiment!

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Jessica Biel played the oldest daughter on the television series "7th Heaven," which has the distinction of being the longest-running family drama on American television. This Pisces got an early start as a singer, having played in musicals as a child. Pisces is an

extremely musical sign and though Biel is concentrating on movie stardom, I predict her singing talents will emerge once more.

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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HOLIDAY MATHIS

sudoku

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

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Score One for the Defense

North dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ J 9 8 4
♥ K Q 6
♦ K Q
♣ K J 6 5

WEST
♠ A Q
♥ 8 7 4
♦ J 8 6 2
♣ 10 7 4 3

EAST
♠ 7 6 5 2
♥ 10 9 3 2
♦ A 9 5
♣ 8 2

SOUTH
♠ K 10 3
♥ A J 5
♦ 10 7 4 3
♣ A Q 9

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♣ Pass 2 NT Pass
3 NT
Opening lead — two of diamonds.

The right time to win a trick is crucial in many hands, and this applies just as much to the defenders as it does to the declarer.

Consider this deal from a team-of-four match. At both tables, the final contract was three notrump, but the contract was made at one table while at the other it was defeated.

At the first table, West led a dia-

mond, East taking the queen with the ace and returning the nine to the king. South had eight cashable tricks at this point, and in an effort to gain a ninth he led a low spade to the ten.

West took the queen but had no satisfactory return. When he led a heart, declarer won in dummy and played a spade to the king. West took the ace and cashed the jack of diamonds, which he would otherwise have lost, so South made exactly three notrump.

At the second table, the defense was far more effective. A diamond was led here also, but instead of winning with the ace, East signaled with the nine.

Declarer could not prevail against this play. He also led a spade and finessed the ten, but West took the queen and returned a diamond.

East won the king with the ace and returned the five, West's J-8 gobbling up South's 10-7, so here the defense scored three diamonds and two spades to put declarer down one.

At the second table, East recognized that it would be better to take the ace of diamonds later in the play, when he could more effectively lead through whatever values South might have in the suit.

Tomorrow: Triumph of mind over matter.

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Wacky Facts

- Five of the top names for females dogs are Maggie, Molly, Lady, Sadie and Daisy. Max, Jake, Buddy, Sam and Bear are top names for male dogs.
- A group of kittens is called a "kindle" or "kendale" of kittens.
— *World Almanac for Kids*

KID NEWS

Chatter Box



"Happiness is a warm puppy."
— "Peanuts" creator
Charles M. Schulz

IMAGE FROM THE BOOK
"HAPPINESS IS A WARM PUPPY"

Pet reality

Think twice before you ask for a pet — it's more work than you might imagine

BY EMILIE LE BEAU

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

The White House will get a new resident this spring: A dog for the Obama family.

President Obama's daughters, Malia and Sasha, campaigned for years to adopt a dog. On Election Day, Obama conceded during his acceptance speech that the girls had won.

Immediately, the nation buzzed. What type of breed would become first dog?

Who would walk it? The president wouldn't clean up after the dog himself, would he?

At the same time, many kids began their own campaign for a pet. Except they won't have White House staff to walk the dog on cold days. And they also won't have a presidential budget to cover vet and food bills.

Adopting an animal can be a lot of work, said Mollie Lesser, 18, of Chicago, who recently adopted a standard poodle named Bart.

Bart is not Lesser's first dog. The family had another poodle that passed away over the summer. They adopted Bart last fall at the age of 6 months.

"We forgot how much energy a puppy has," Lesser said. "It can be very time-consuming. My parents compare it to having a baby. We were eating dinner and my parents were like, 'Where is Bart? What is he doing?'"

Bart needs to be walked or let into the backyard several times a day. His dog trainer, Lisa Collins of Collins Canine in Chicago, said a small puppy actually needs to be let outdoors every two hours.

"Having a dog is not just about playing with the puppy," Collins said.

New puppy parents should expect their puppy to bite and jump until the behavior is corrected through proper training. Collins said that animals can learn to obey commands from both adults and kids.

Having a pet also means providing fresh food, water and attention every day. Animals should also be vaccinated and spayed or neutered, said Kim Intrino with the Humane Society of the United States.

"What people overlook is the mental stimulation the animal needs," Intrino said. "Loving the animal. Playing with the animal."

Patience and training is also necessary. Lesser said her dog has already chewed a pair of her shoes. They've been working with Collins to stop the dog from unwanted behaviors like chewing or jumping on people.

Adopting an older animal can be a good option for families who do not have the time or desire to train a puppy. Intrino said an older animal would be a great fit for the White House and the Obama girls.

"It doesn't always have to be a puppy. There are sweet, 2-, 3-year-old dogs who would love to play with little girls, sit on their lap or walk by the side," Intrino said.

Every animal has its own personality and Intrino said there are counselors at animal shelters who work with families to decide what type of animal fits their lifestyle best.

A busy family, for example, might have their heart set on a border collie. But these dogs are bred to work all day, not lounge around the couch.

Heading to a shelter and working with a counselor also prevents a homeless animal from being euthanized. Intrino said about 8 million to 10 million cats and dogs enter shelters each year and half are euthanized.

"There is an animal overpopulation problem in this country," Intrino said.

The overpopulation problem is one reason why many animal advocates want the Obama family to adopt a shelter dog.

While having a pet means a lot of work, Lesser said it is also a lot of fun.

"I would say he's a lot of work but I love him."



MICHELLE
ARCAND/MCT

THINK YOU'RE READY FOR A PET? TIME TO CONVINCE YOUR PARENTS

Desperate for a dog? Better not whine, growl or snap at your family. Parents deciding whether a pet can join the family are watching to see if kids are mature enough to handle the responsibility.

Begging, crying or pitching a fit won't convince Mom and Dad. Instead, kids are best to negotiate what they want, just like an adult.

Here is a quick guide on how to negotiate:

- Pick a quiet time or place to talk to your parents. Tom Hayman, owner and president of Negotiation Expertise in Peoria, Ariz., recommends the kitchen because it's a warm and familiar spot.
- Explain what's in it for your parents. Most likely, your parents want you to be more responsible. Suggest that having a pet will make you more responsible.

- Be ready to hear objections. Expect money and time to be two big concerns. Respond with a plan on how you are going to contribute.

- If the answer is still no, propose a compromise such as taking on more chores for six months to prove you can handle a dog. "Make it easy for the other side to say yes," Hayman said.

- Have a backup plan. "In negotiations, you always have to think, what is my next best option if this negotiation fails?" Hayman said. A back-up plan might mean adopting a goldfish instead of a golden retriever while you prove to your parents that you're pet ready.

- Even if your parents refuse, try to stay positive and calm. "If you bring negative emotions it makes it much more difficult," Hayman said. — *Emilie Le Beau*

In The News



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NEWSEUM

The Newseum is located in Washington, D.C., on Pennsylvania Avenue between the Capitol and the White House.

Newseum hosts the first puppy vote

The Newseum is a museum in Washington that is dedicated to giving us a better understanding of how the news is made and of the important role it has in our world.

I interviewed Joe Urschel, who is the executive director and senior vice president of the Newseum. The Newseum is a fun place to visit and a fun place to vote. Read on!

DISPLAYING THE INAUGURATION

The Newseum is located on Pennsylvania Avenue between the Capitol and the White House. It has lots of windows so you can enjoy a wonderful view of the Capitol and other historic landmarks.

Because of its picturesque location, numerous news organizations have used the building to do their broadcasts. Because President Barack Obama's inauguration was held at the Capitol, the Newseum played an important part in setting the scene that the world saw on television, on the computer and in newspapers.

"For the inauguration, we had six different networks broadcasting from the Newseum," Urschel said. "CNN built a huge tent on the top of the building. FOX, ABC, NBC, Bloomberg TV, radio broadcasters, print reporters and still photographers (used the Newseum)."

The Newseum has interactive games and activities. You can experience what a real reporter does by standing on a set and reading a script while being filmed. And, you can vote.

THE PRESIDENTIAL PUPPY

The Newseum regularly changes its exhibits based on changing news, so you will see something new every time you visit.

One of the current exhibits is on presidential dogs. Urschel says the Newseum "did a photographic show looking at all the presidents who were dogs owners, looking all the way back to George Washington."

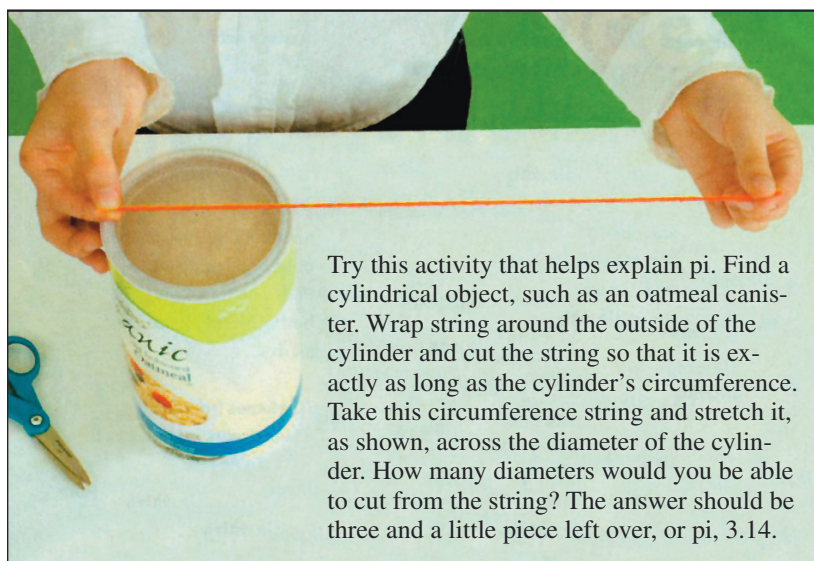
A picture of the Obamas' dog will be added when they select it. "We had a vote so that Newseum visitors could vote for the dog the Obamas should get," Urschel said. "We gave the voters a choice of a number of hypoallergenic dogs and a shelter dog." The shelter dog won by a wide margin.

Urschel gave me the exclusive scoop on the puppy situation in the Obama family. "Both Malia and Sasha took a tour of the Newseum, including the presidential dogs exhibit, and they voted," Urschel explained. "Malia voted for one of the small dogs, but then she said, 'But we're not going to get that dog because my dad wants a big dog.'" — *Sydney Turner*



The Newseum's exhibit includes this David Hume Kennerly photo of Gerald Ford with his dog, Liberty.

Who doesn't love π Day?



Try this activity that helps explain pi. Find a cylindrical object, such as an oatmeal canister. Wrap string around the outside of the cylinder and cut the string so that it is exactly as long as the cylinder's circumference. Take this circumference string and stretch it, as shown, across the diameter of the cylinder. How many diameters would you be able to cut from the string? The answer should be three and a little piece left over, or pi, 3.14.

FAMILYFUN MAGAZINE

For every single circle, the distance around the edge, or circumference, is about 3.14 times longer than the distance straight across (the diameter). This constant, known as pi, is a mathematically fascinating number that math fans celebrate on March 14 (3/14).

There are many ways to celebrate Pi Day. Here are about 3.14 of them:

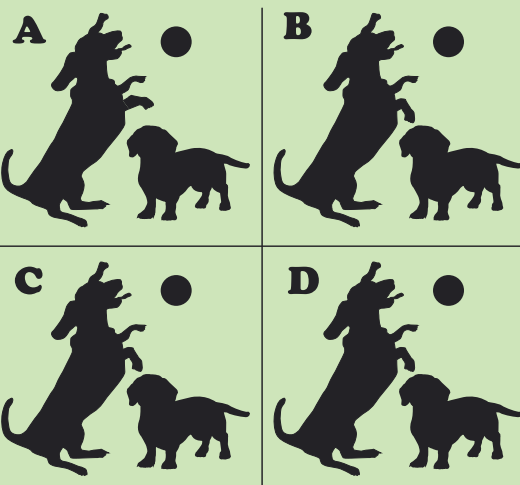
π Bake pies with the pi symbol on the top crust — or eat pi-neapple.

π Write a pi-ku, a three-line poem with three syllables in the first line, one in the second and four in the third.

π See who can memorize the most digits of pi. The first 12 numbers are 3.14159265358, but the decimals go on infinitely. The official world record is 67,890 digits. To see the first million digits, visit piday.org. — *FamilyFun magazine*

Dog differences

One of these pictures is a little different than the others. Can you find the oddball?



MARTY WESTMAN/ISTOCK

ANSWER: IN A, THE DOG'S PAW IS IN A DIFFERENT POSITION.

Anderson sets BSHS lifting mark

Herald Staff Report

SWEETWATER — An impressive display of strength was shown by a Big Spring High School junior Saturday.

Derek Anderson broke a school record by squatting 605 pounds at the Arlon Barnes Classic powerlifting meet in Sweetwater, helping him win his weight class.

In all, Anderson racked up 1,420 pounds over three lifts — bench press, squat and dead lift — and is one of 12 athletes to qualify for the regional meet



Anderson

John Flores will represent at 148 pounds, while

March 12 at Permian High School in Odessa.

Anderson will lead the qualifiers in the 242-pound class alongside Justin Yanez and Johnny Zambrano.

Ben Merworth is the lightest Steer heading to Permian in the 132-pound class.

Jake Hernandez and Josh Urias is the lone

competitor in the 165 range.

Anthony Garcia provides Big Spring with a rep in the 181-pound class and Antwone White, who finished fifth in Sweetwater Saturday, is in the 198-pound range.

Kyler McGee and Devon Davis-Locke are the 275-pound representatives and Big Spring's biggest competitor comes in the body of Jonathan Molina, who qualifies in the super heavyweight division.

The top two lifters in each weight class qualifies for the state meet, which is set for March 28 in Abilene.

Forsan meets Sudan in quarters

By JONATHAN HULL

Sports Editor

FORSAN — Forsan's boys basketball team has been a mainstay in the postseason for most of this decade. However, so has the Buffs' next opponent.

Forsan meets Sudan in the Class A regional quarterfinals at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at Frenship High School in Wolfforth.

Sudan is fresh off a 44-32 win over Stanton Friday and enters the game with a 20-12 record. The Hornets are led by 6-7 post B.J. Davis, who scored 15 points against Stanton. Davis averages a double-double with 16 points and 10 rebounds a game.

"They're huge, but we've got some good size as well," he said. "Sudan is a good, solid program. They're like us and have been in the playoffs for several seasons in a row. This should be a good matchup."

Forsan (23-3) defeated No. 18 Seagraves, 59-47, thanks in large part by a strong showing from senior Jeremy Robbins.

Robbins scored a game-high 20 points and ripped over 17 boards. He was complimented by Evan Burton's 18 points, while Nathan Atkerson scored nine and pulled down nine rebounds.

"It's all about matchups in the playoffs," said McDonald. "We're entering this game on an even playing field. If you play bad in the playoffs, you're going to lose no matter who the team is. We've got to show up and do what we know how to do."

The winner will meet either Gruver or Boys Ranch in the semifinals in the Region I Tournament, which is set to be played at South Plains College's Texan Dome in Levelland Friday.

See AREA, Page 8

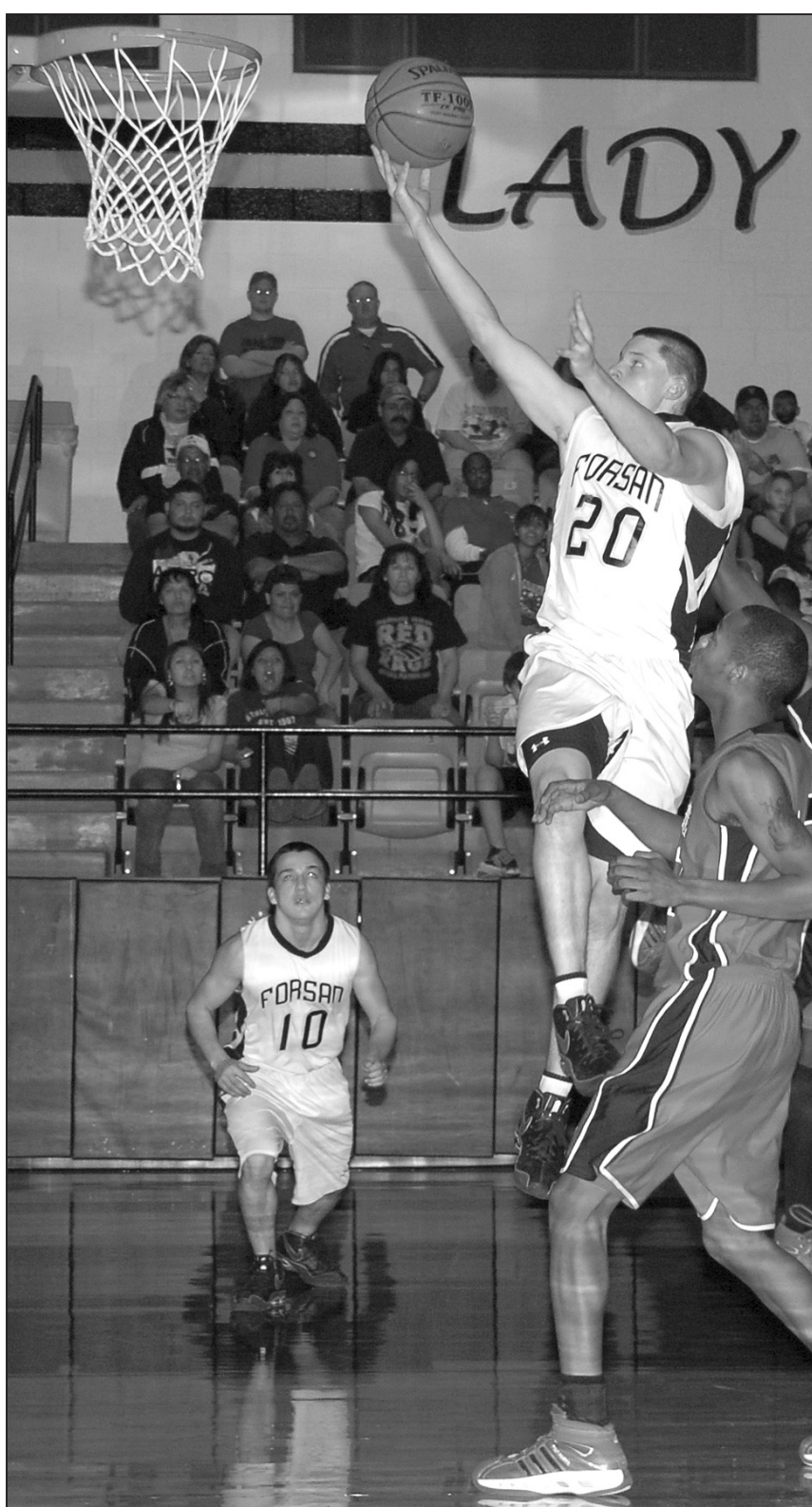
Local boys basketball playoff schedule

Wednesday

Forsan vs. Sudan, 6:30 p.m. in Wolfforth.

Grady vs. Paducah, 6:30 p.m. in Jayton.

Sands vs. Valley, 6:30 p.m. in Slaton.



Courtesy photo/Bob Fishback
Forsan Buffaloes guard Jeremy Robbins (20) lays in two points as teammate Jeremy Freitag (10) prepares to crash the boards in Forsan's 59-47 victory over Seagraves Friday. The Buffs face Sudan in the regional quarterfinals at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Steers take third place in Fort Stockton

Herald Staff Report

FORT STOCKTON — Big Spring's Steers started their baseball season at their first tournament in Fort Stockton over the weekend and brought home some hardware.

The Steers went 2-2 at the tournament, winning third place in a field featuring several playoff teams.

Big Spring opened bracket play against the Andrews Mustangs, who were regional semifinalists a year ago and are currently ranked No. 10 in the state by the Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association Class 3A poll.

The Mustangs routed Big Spring, 17-0. Martin Yanez took the loss on the mound, pitching just two-thirds of an inning. Colby Landis threw the other 5.1.

Jeremy Solis was 2 for 3 with a double, while Kaegan Hunt had the Steers only other base knock of the game.

The Steers quickly recovered, pulling off a rout of their own in a 16-0 win over Marfa.

Jacob Acosta pitched all five innings, throwing a one-hitter with nine strikeouts.

Hunt shined at the plate with four hits, including a triple, and two RBI.

Yanez had two triples with an RBI and Rance Terry hit two doubles and knocked in three runs.

In all, eight different players had RBI in the game.

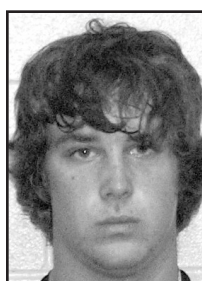
The Steers continued their winning ways in the third game, holding off Lubbock Christian, 6-3.

Cade Hollandsworth was the winning pitcher, working seven innings. Hollandsworth allowed three runs — one earned — on seven hits and four walks, while striking out eight batters.

He helped his own cause with two RBI. Hunt, Solis, Steven Islas and Jon Benavides knocked in one run each.

The Steers closed the tournament with a 13-6 loss to host

See STEERS, Page 8



Hunt

Hypothermia a grim concern for missing NFL players

By CHRISTINE ARMARIO and MITCH STACY

Associated Press Writers

CLEARWATER, Fla. — Two NFL players and a third man missing since their boat capsized off the Florida coast face dwindling odds of survival after more than two days in the water, though their size and good health could help them fend off hypothermia, authorities said.

Coast Guard officials wouldn't speculate on the men's chances of being rescued alive as the search continued Tuesday morning. There was some hope, even though hypothermia can set in after 18 hours in 64-degree water. Water temperatures were in the mid- to upper-60s.

"With all of these men being past, present football players, they do have a much larger physique than a lot of people," Petty Officer Robert Simpson

said. "So their odds are going to be definitely in their favor."

The lone survivor so far, Nick Schuyler, was conscious but appeared weak as he was loaded onto a stretcher Monday. His father, Stuart Schuyler, said the former University of South Florida player was bruised and dehydrated but "looks OK." He said his son was in serious but stable condition.

Crews had narrowed their search Monday for Oakland Raiders linebacker Marquis Cooper, 26, who owned the 21-foot boat; free-agent defensive lineman Corey Smith, 29; and former South Florida player William Bleakley, 25. Cooper is 6-foot-3, 230 pounds, and Smith is 6-foot-2, 250 pounds. Bleakley had played tight end.

Nick Schuyler told rescuers that the boat the four good friends were aboard was anchored when it flipped Saturday evening in rough seas, said Coast

Guard Capt. Timothy M. Close. Schuyler, who was wearing a life vest, had been hanging onto the hull that a Coast Guard cutter discovered 35 miles off Clearwater.

"He was able to help us refine our search a little bit," Close said on ABC's "Good Morning America" Tuesday. He said Schuyler told them where the boat was anchored and when it capsized.

The men's families have said they had life vests and flares aboard.

Schuyler's mother, Marsha Schuyler, said her son told her he survived by thinking about how he didn't want her to go to his funeral.

The family's joy at him being found alive was tempered by the search for his friends.

See MISSING, Page 8

Sports in brief

BSGSA registration continues Saturday

The Big Spring Girls Softball Association is holding sign-ups for the 2009 season continues at 10 a.m. Saturday at the Big Spring Mall.

Subsequent sign up date is the following Saturday, March 14, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Girls ages 4-14 are eligible to play with a registration fee of \$65.

The fee covers full uniform.

Late registration after March 14 will include a \$10 extra charge.

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

Moss Creek hosting ATV and side-by-side races

The Texas Crossroads Racing Circuit is having an event hosted by Moss Creek Lake March 22.

Events feature a variety of ATV and side-by-side vehicles.

Registration starts at 7 a.m. with the first races taking place at 8 a.m. A required \$15 for TCRC membership will be charged along with entrance fees for each individual race.

For more information or directions to to event, visit www.texasrcr.com.

BSCC hosting 3-person scramble April 4-5

The Big Spring Country Club is hosting a 3-person scramble tournament April 4-5 with a 1 p.m. shotgun start both days.

Entry fee is \$60 per player plus golf cart. Private carts are welcome.

Entry includes barbecue on the course April 4 and practice rounds the day before.

Field will be flighted by first round score with number of flights being determined by the number of entries.

Call the Pro Shop at 267-5354 for more information or to enter a team.

Westbrook's triple-double helps OKC stun Mavs

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — With his team trying to protect a thin lead for the last playoff spot in the West, Rick Carlisle didn't see the kind of fight he'd hoped for from the Dallas Mavericks.

Instead, it was the last-place Oklahoma City Thunder providing some unexpected punch without Kevin Durant or Jeff Green in the lineup.

Russell Westbrook had the first triple-double of his rookie season with 17 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists, and midseason pickup Nenad Krstic added a season-high 26 points as the undermanned Thunder beat Dallas 96-87 Monday night without their two leading scorers.

Westbrook, chosen the Western Conference Rookie of the Month earlier in the day, got the final assist and rebound he needed in the last 45 seconds to seal the franchise's first tri-

ple-double since it moved from Seattle in the offseason.

"He was big. He's been big," said guard Thabo Sefolosha. "He's a great player and he showed it tonight with two of our main guys out. He really stepped up."

Dirk Nowitzki scored 16 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter to lead Dallas back from 23 points down, cutting the deficit to 88-84 with his 3-pointer from the right wing with 4:13 to play.

The Mavericks then went scoreless for the next 4 minutes to take a costly loss in the playoff race.

Dallas now leads Phoenix by only 1½ games for the last playoff spot in the West.

"If anybody thinks it's going to be easy, I don't know where they've been for the first 60 games because nothing's come easy for us," Carlisle said.

"The guy I feel for is (owner) Mark Cuban tonight. He lives and dies with this team, and to see the way we played the first three quarters, we should all be ashamed."

Jason Terry scored 20 points for Dallas in his second game back after surgery on an injured finger.

The Mavericks played the second half without small forward Josh Howard, their third-leading scorer, after a troublesome left ankle flared up again.

He missed 11 games earlier this season because of the injury.

Carlisle wasn't looking for any excuses, though.

"I just thought that the first three quarters were just a pitiful display for a team that has aspirations to be in the playoffs and try to move up in the standings," Carlisle said. "We've seen this before, too many times."

"We (mess) around for two to three

quarters and then we want Jason Kidd to bail us out with steals and hustle plays and fast-break opportunities. It's just too much to ask."

The late surge was almost enough for a team that overcame a 12-point deficit in the fourth quarter of an overtime win against the Thunder only three days earlier.

"Losing the last game against them after overtime, we felt like we really had to come big tonight and prove to them and prove to our fans that we could beat them," Sefolosha said.

Westbrook joined 13 other players in franchise history with a triple-double.

Earl Watson was the last, on Feb. 6, 2008 at Sacramento.

"It feels good, especially with a win," Westbrook said. "I think if I keep coming out and playing aggressively, I'll get another one — hopefully."

AREA

Continued from Page 7

Sands vs. Turkey Valley

6:30 p.m. Wednesday in Slaton

ACKERLY — The Sands Mustangs have been dominant in both of their postseason contests so far.

The Mustangs obliterated Robert Lee, 63-44, then crushed Vernon Northside, 65-47, claiming an area championship.

Up next is Turkey Valley's Patriots (23-4), who might be Sands' toughest playoff opponent to date. The two squads meet in a Class A, Division II regional quarterfinal to be played at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday in Slaton.

Valley is coming off a 59-54 win over Garden City and feature some lethal ability from the 3-point line. The Pats scored eight 3-pointers against the Bearkats Saturday with four coming off the hand

of Isaac Smith, who had 19 points in the game.

Valley has four players averaging double figures scoring and all four of them scored close to their average against Garden City. Smith leads all of Valley's players with 16.1 points a game, while Dalton Allen and Jacob Hancock get 12 with Brady Ramsey averaging 11.

Sands is led by a balanced scoring attack with several players stepping up and leading the Mustangs in points over the season. However, it's Seth Fry who has this season's scoring title for Sands, averaging 15.4 points per game. Ethan Zant picks up 11 per contest, while Xavier Elizondo leads the Mustangs' charge on the boards with 13.8 a game.

The winner will meet either No. 5 Ira or No. 9 May in the semifinals of the Class A, Division II, Region II Tournament Friday at Abilene Christian University.

Grady vs. Paducah

6:30 p.m. Wednesday in Jayton

LENORAH — Grady's Wildcats escaped an upset

big by Spur Friday and now face their most notorious opponent of the season.

The Wildcats meet the No. 2 Paducah Dragons at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday in Jayton.

Paducah (26-5) is on a 20-game win streak and all five of their losses came against teams in higher classifications.

The Dragons are led by David Smart, who averages 14.7 points and 10.7 rebounds a game. Rigo Pina and Trey McGruder average 12, while Maurice Hurd picks up 10 a contest along with 5.4 assists.

Paducah blasted Grady's district foe Borden County, 69-28, in the area round.

Grady (23-5) is coming off a 44-41 win over one of Paducah's district opponents, Spur. The Dragons defeated Spur by 31 and 25 points in two regular season games.

Grady is led by the dual scoring threat of Dylan Cox and Shane Teague, who each average more than 12 points a game.

The winner meets either No. 16 Lipan or Zephyr in the semifinals of the Class A, Division II, Region II Tournament Friday at Abilene Christian University.

MISSING

Continued from Page 7

"We still have three men missing, and we're not going to talk too much until we find these guys," said his father, Stuart Schuyler.

"We're all praying for them. These guys are all very close friends."

Searchers had previously covered 16,000 square miles of ocean but the area being searched was much smaller since they found Schuyler, Close said.

Bruce Cooper, the

father of Marquis Cooper who is also a prominent sportscaster for KPNX-TV in Phoenix, told Fox News in a phone interview Tuesday that his family was holding on to hope and optimism. He and other family members were in Tampa awaiting news on the search.

"He's just a fighter. He's an undersize linebacker ... and he just doesn't back down. He accepts the fight, and I know that's what he's doing in the water. He's not quitting," Cooper said about his son.

Smith's family had to drive to Florida from Richmond, Va., after a snow storm in the East

made getting a flight impossible, said Yolanda Newbill, one of Smith's sisters. She said they have been in contact with the Coast Guard every few hours since the search began.

"We have total faith that (he) will be coming home," Newbill said.

Newbill told "Good Morning America" that Smith "is one of the good guys, without question."

"He's an ordinary guy who loves football. Very family oriented. Would do anything, literally would give you the shirt off his back," Newbill said on the ABC program.

James Allen, a marine

safety consultant who once worked search and rescue operations with the Coast Guard, said the chances of finding survivors diminish after people have been in the water three days.

Survivors have been found who were floating for days, but he added "you just can't swim forever."

The four men left Clearwater Pass early Saturday in calm weather, but heavy winds picked up through the day and the seas got heavy, with waves of 7 feet and higher, peaking at 15 feet on Sunday. A relative alerted the Coast Guard early Sunday after the men did not return as expected. The Coast Guard said it did not receive a distress signal.

The men were aboard an Everglades-manufactured boat, which is built with compressed foam encased in Fiberglas, making it difficult to sink. The weather had improved, with waves subsiding to

6 to 8 feet, National Weather Service meteorologist Todd Barron said.

However, Bob Zales, president of National Association of Charter Boat Operators, said waves that high can capsize a boat the size of Cooper's.

"A boat that size, personally, I wouldn't get out any farther than 20 or 30 miles offshore," Zales said. "But I see people all the time 40, 50 miles offshore."

Smith had 30 tackles, including three sacks, and an interception in 12 games last season for the Detroit Lions. He also played for the San Francisco 49ers and was a standout at North Carolina State.

Cooper, 26, played college ball at Washington, and has spent five seasons with five different teams, appearing in 26 games with the Buccaneers in 2004 and 2005. He's played sparingly since.

The Raiders and Lions said in separate statements that the teams hope the men will be rescued and that their thoughts and prayers go out to their families.

Associated Press Writer Ileana Morales in Miami contributed to this report.

STEERS

Continued from Page 7

Fort Stockton.

Benavides took the loss, pitching three innings with Solis working the other four.

Isas led Big Spring with 2 RBI, while Hunt, Terry and Solis doubled in the game.

Hunt ended up leading the Steers with 10 total hits in the fourth games the Steers played at the tournament. Solis had two hits in every game.

Big Spring travels to Lubbock today for a game against Cooper High School scheduled for 7 p.m.

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Advertisement for Sealed Bids The Howard County Junior College District is now accepting bids for the following:
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Legals

Advertisement for Sealed Bids The Howard County Junior College District is now accepting bids for the following:
RFB#09-003 Dental Chairs Documents may be obtained from Jason Mims, Director of Business Services, Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720, (432)264-5167. Sealed proposals will be accepted through 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17, 2009, in the Practical Arts Building, room 105A, Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720, at which time they will be read into record. Vendors are instructed that a formal opening will not occur. The college will negotiate with qualified vendors concerning the bids submitted. The final determination of bid award will be made at a future board meeting. All questions should be directed to Jason Mims, Director of Business Services, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720, e-mail jmims@howardcollege.edu. (432)264-5167. Howard County Junior College District reserves the right to reject any and all bids. #6074 February 27 and March 3, 2009

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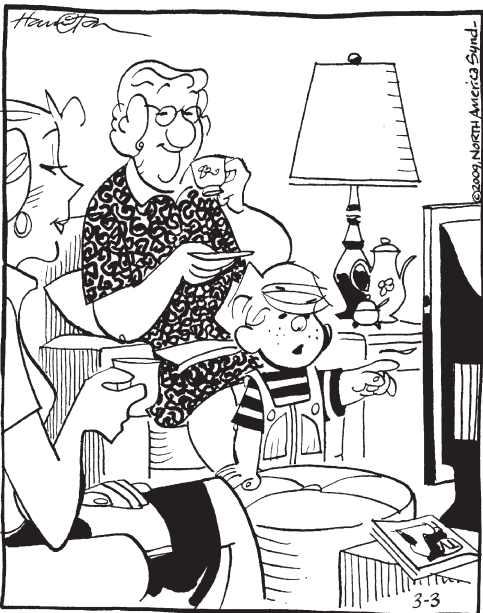
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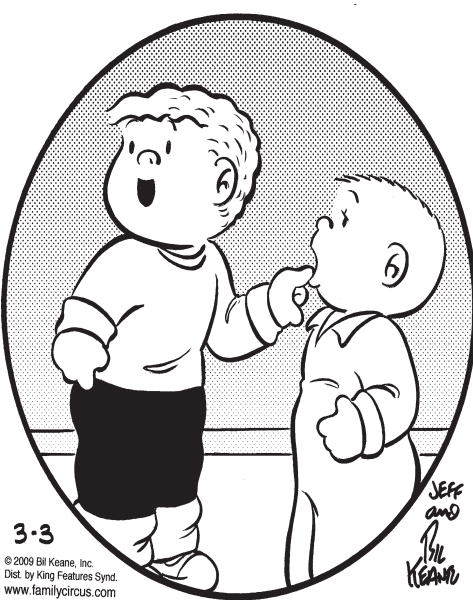
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5 :PM	News ABC	News ABC	Locura Noticiero	Lopez Lopez	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News NBC	Raymond Friends	Scrivner Uri Harel	BBC Business	Cash Cab	Kevin Bacon	CSI: NY	Movie: The Wedding Date	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas Phineas	Horn Interrupt	Spor	
6 :PM	News ABC	Jeopardy!	Tontas Cielo	Two Men	News CBS	12 Cora-zones	News NBC	Friends Seinfeld	Dr. Young	News-Lehrer	Cash Cab	Kevin Bacon	CSI: Crime Scn	Movie: Wedding Crashers; Christopher Walken	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas Phineas	Horn Interrupt	Spor	
7 :PM	HomeLand-USA	HomeLand-USA	Cuidado-Angel	American Idol	NCIS	Doña Barbara	The Biggest Loser	Fam. Guy	Israel	Best of Red Skelton	Dirty Jobs	Movie: Thelma & Louise, Harvey Keitel	CSI: Crime Scn	Movie: Wedding Crashers; Christopher Walken	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas Phineas	Horn Interrupt	Spor	
8 :PM	Scrubs	Scrubs	Mañana es	The Mentalist	El Rostro de Analia	Sin Senos	Law & Order: SVU	Fam. Guy	Light of the Southwest	Red Green Story: We're	Wreck. Nation	Movie: It Could Happen to You	CSI: Crime Scn	Movie: King's Ransom, Kellita Smith	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas Phineas	Horn Interrupt	Spor	
9 :PM	The Bachelor	The Bachelor	Aquí y Ahora	TMZ	(:01) Without a Trace	Law & Order: SVU	Office	Office	Office	Charlie Rose	Made	Movie: Working Girl, Sigourney Weaver	Real Vice	Saving Grace	Hatchett	Suite Life	Basket	Spor	
10 :PM	News	News	Impacto	Raymond	News	Noticias	News	Sex &	Israel	Charlie Rose	Made	Movie: Working Girl, Sigourney Weaver	Real Vice	Saving Grace	Hatchett	Suite Life	Basket	Spor	
11 :PM	Nightline	Nightline	Noticiero	King-Hill	Late Show	Decisiones de	Tonight Show	Sex &	Cortes	Smiley	Dirty Jobs	Movie: King's Ransom, Kellita Smith	Real Vice	Saving Grace	Hatchett	Suite Life	Basket	Spor	
12 :AM	Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live	Extra	Contra Viento	RENO 911	Consumer	Pagado	News	News	Light of the Southwest	Wreck. Nation	Movie: Mars Attacks!, Annette Bening	Disorderly Con.	Cold Case	The Deal	Emperor Dragon	Boxing			
1 :AM	Paid	Paid	Humor	Consumer	Paid	Pelicula: Las													

DENNIS THE MENACE



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THE FAMILY CIRCUS



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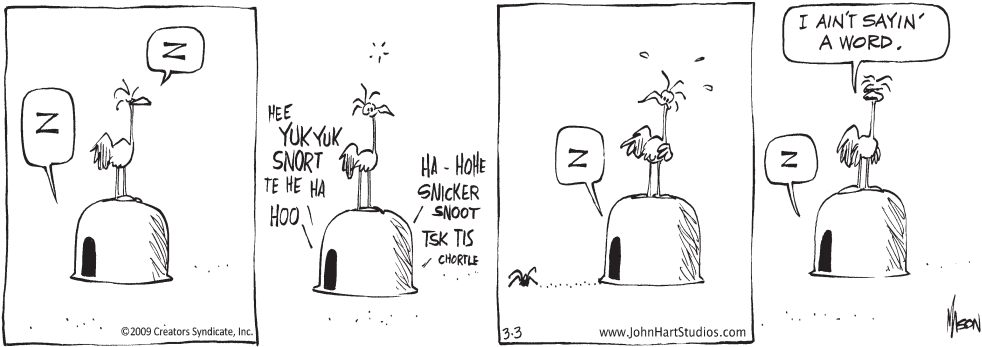
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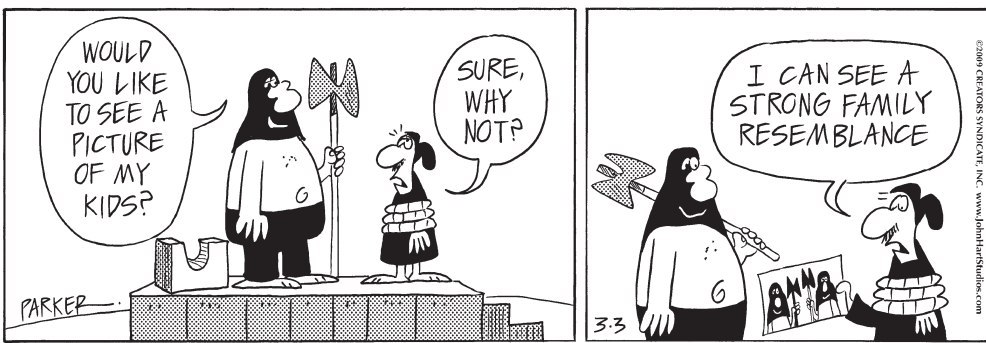
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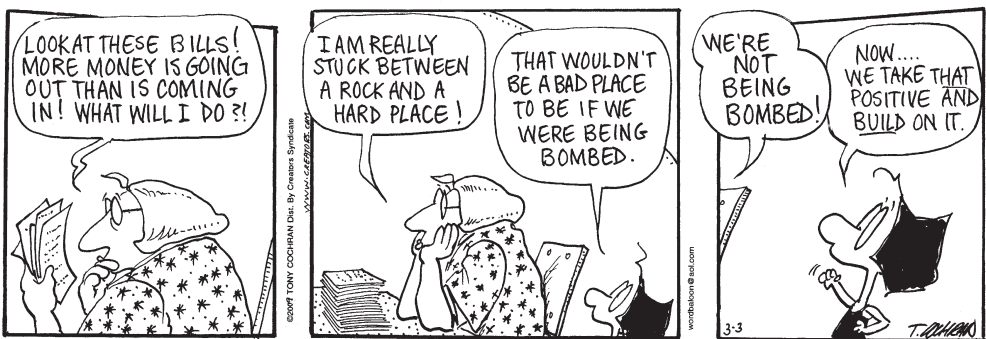
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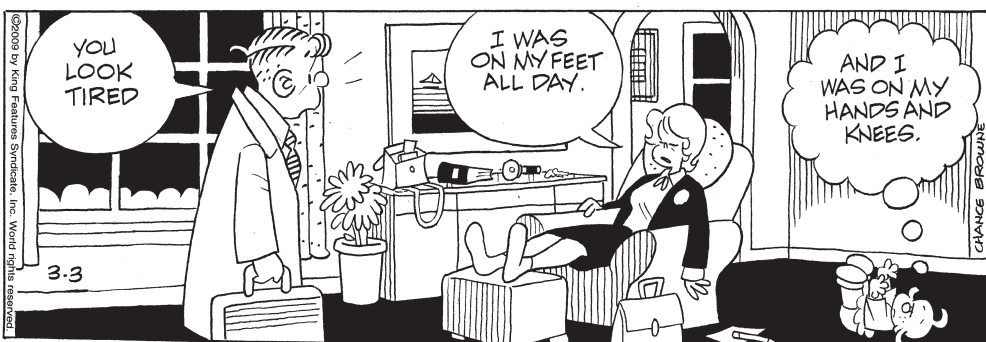
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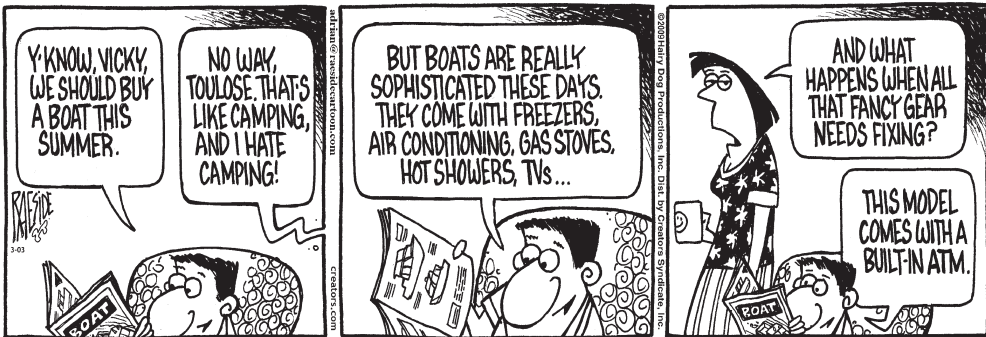
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HI AND LOIS



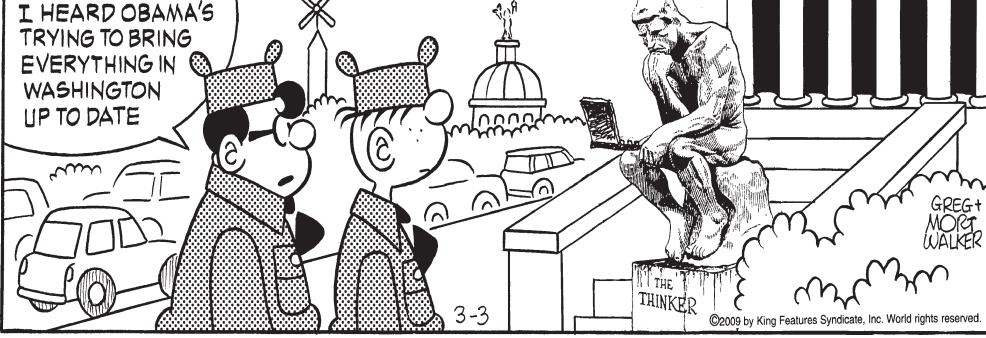
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, March 3, the 62nd day of 2009. There are 303 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 3, 1931, President Herbert Hoover signed a measure making "The Star-Spangled Banner" the national anthem of the United States.

On this date:

In 1845, Florida became the 27th state.

In 1849, the U.S. Department of the Interior was established.

In 1887, Anne Sullivan arrived at the Tuscomb, Ala., home of Captain and Mrs. Arthur H. Keller to become the teacher for their blind and deaf 6-year-old daughter, Helen.

In 1894, British Prime Minister William Gladstone submitted his resignation to Queen Victoria, ending his fourth and final premiership.

In 1918, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, the Ottoman Empire and Russia signed the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, which ended Russian

participation in World War I.

In 1945, the Allies fully secured the Philippine capital of Manila from Japanese forces during World War II.

In 1959, the United States launched the Pioneer 4 spacecraft, which flew by the moon.

Comedian Lou Costello died of a heart attack in East Los Angeles, Calif., three days before his 53rd birthday.

In 1969, Apollo 9 blasted off from Cape Kennedy, Fla., on a mission to test the lunar module.

In 1974, a Turkish Airlines DC-10 crashed shortly after takeoff from Orly Airport in Paris, killing all 346 people on board.

In 1991, motorist Rodney King was severely beaten by Los Angeles police officers in a scene captured on amateur video. Twenty-five people were killed when a United Airlines Boeing 737-200 crashed while approaching the Colorado Springs, Colo., airport.

Today's Birthdays: Socialite Lee Radziwill is 76. Movie producer-director George Miller is 64. Actress Hattie Winston is 64. Singer Jennifer Warnes is 62. Actor-director Tim Kazurinsky is 59. Singer-

musician Robyn Hitchcock is 56. Rock musician John Lilley is 55. Actress Miranda Richardson is 51. Radio personality Ira Glass is 50. Actress Mary Page Keller is 48. Olympic track and field gold medalist Jackie Joyner-Kersey is 47. Football player Herschel Walker is 47. Rapper-actor Tone-Loc is 43. Country singer Brett Warren (The Warren Brothers) is 38. Actor David Faustino is 35. Singer Ronan Keating (Boyzone) is 32. Rapper Lil' Flip is 28. Actress Jessica Biel is 27.

Thought for Today: "A good man can be stupid and still be good. But a bad man must have brains." — Maxim Gorky, Russian writer (1868-1936).

Answer to previous puzzle

SCIS	ABCS	POSSE
MADE	BRAT	OCCUR
ANTE	AARP	SCALE
LOADING	BAY	ARK
LEGEND	TEASE	
DROVE SKICAP		
ASP	ENEMY	AORTA
LAIR	TIE	NOEL
UMPED	STORY	WEE
MESSUP	SWEAR	
QUOTE DRAFTS		
CUB	ALMOND	BARB
SEEMS	AERO	BLUE
PLAIN	TABS	ISEE
ASKTO	ELSE	TEST

Newsday Crossword CELEBS OF THE MONTH by Sally R. Stein Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15				16				
17				18				19				
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57						58			59			
60						61			62			
63						64			65			

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2009 Best Loser Fat to Fitness Spring Challenge!



We are seeking teams (of 4 people any age) ready to take part and lose weight in March, April and May competing to claim

“The Best Loser” Spring Title and A Grand Prize Worth \$500 - \$1,000*!

If you are ready to start losing weight, sign up for **The Best Loser Spring Challenge!**

We are seeking teams (of 4 people any age) ready to take part in this fitness/lifestyle change, and compete for a Grand Prize Package!
Team fee: \$40 (Only \$10 per person any age). Individuals or corporate sponsor

- Three official weigh-ins with the professional at YMCA where your progress will be monitored and recorded.
Weight-In Dates: First March 9-13, Second, April 6-10
Third, May 11-15

- Team photos and updates will be published. Here you'll be able to follow along with the progress of each team, and see how your team measures up.

- We will only provide your team's **total percentage** of weight loss not individuals.

- At the end of the 3-month program, the winning team will be determined by the highest percentage of weight lost, and receive the "Grand Prize."

- Contest prizes determined on number of teams.

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

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

Team Photos must be taken at The Big Spring Herald
Prior to March 9th

FINAL PHOTO MUST BE TAKEN BY MAY 15TH

(TEAM PHOTOS MUST BE TAKEN TO QUALIFY FOR PRIZES)

Mail form or drop off along with \$40 team fee to:

The Best Loser
C/O Big Spring Herald
P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721



Sign us up for the Best Loser Challenge!

Team Name (Be Creative) _____

Team Captain 1: _____ **phone:** _____

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

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

Team Member 4: _____ **phone:** _____

Corporate Challenge

Business Name: _____

Sponsored by

BIG SPRING HERALD AND  **Of Big Spring**

*Grand Prize Predicated on number of teams