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THURSDAY
JANUARY 20, 2011



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More join search for Dunn

Volunteers asked to gather daily at Civic Center

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

COLORADO CITY — Two more organizations have joined the search for 13-year-old Hailey Dunn in hopes of unifying volunteers currently scouring the small West Texas town and outlying areas.



Officials from the Laura Recovery Center for Missing Children and the Klaas Kids Foundation reported this week they have joined the search for the 13-year-old Colorado Middle School student who was reported missing to police by her mother Dec. 27.

The Laura Recovery Center works to prevent abductions and runaways and to recover missing children by working with law enforcement, communities and the families of missing children, according to information provided by the organization. Headquartered in Friendswood, the center was founded by Bob and Gay Smither shortly after the murder of their 12-year-old daughter, Laura Kate Smither.

According to Dawn Davis, a Laura Recovery Center official working on the Dunn disappearance, the organization hopes to coordinate volunteer search efforts currently underway.

"Volunteers are needed to search help for Hailey," Davis said. "Search volunteers are asked to wear comfortable,

See **MISSING**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Brian Sweeney, the new district executive for Boy Scouts of America programs in Big Spring, stands outside the local BSA office Wednesday. Sweeney hopes to reverse a recent trend of decreased enrollment in Scouting programs in this area.

New director heralds adventure of Scouting

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

Being a Boy Scout was more than just a personal choice for Brian Sweeney. It was a family tradition.

Sweeney, the son and grandson of Eagle Scouts, was recently named Lone Star District Executive for the Buffalo Trails Council of the Boy Scouts of America, meaning the 23-year-old Raleigh, N.C., native will oversee all Scouting programs in Big Spring.

"My father, grandfather, brother and two uncles were Eagle Scouts," Sweeney said. "Growing up, I knew I wanted to be involved in Scouting in a professional capacity. I always felt I wanted to give back for what Scouting did for me."

When the local office had an opening, the recent University of Florida graduate jumped at the chance.

"I've always wanted to move to Texas," he said. "This all happened so quickly and worked out so perfectly."

Boy Scouts has a long tradition in Big Spring — Troop 1 is one of the oldest Scout troops west of the Mississippi River — but membership has dwindled in the past several years. Reversing that trend, Sweeney said, is his top priority.

"It's fun to have meetings and hang out with your friends, but it's even more fun getting out and doing things, having new adventures."



Sweeney

"The first thing I want to do is get out there and meet some of the volunteers and other people in the community, get to know them and let them get to know me," Sweeney said. "Overall, my goal is to rebuild Scouting in Big Spring. I know membership has kind of diminished in the past few years."

In convincing youngsters to try Scouting, Sweeney will draw on his own personal experiences.

"I'll tell them about camping — every kid likes to do that — and I'll tell them about some of my experiences," he said. "There's just a lot of things I wouldn't have been able to do without Scouting."

"It is a lot of fun," he added. "It's fun to have meetings and hang out

See **SCOUTS**, Page 3A

New focus, new teacher

Changes taking place in elective humanities course

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

Apparently reversing his stance from earlier in the day, Big Spring Independent School District Superintendent Steven Saldivar announced Wednesday afternoon that the elective Bible course offered at the high school will undergo a number of changes, including the instructor teaching it.

According to Saldivar, the school district was notified Dec. 15 by Robert Scott, commissioner of education for the Texas Education Agency, new rules relating to the "Elective Courses on the Bible's Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) and New Testament and Their Impact on the History and Literature of Western Civilization" were being adopted by TEA.

Saldivar said those rule changes, along with outside pressure believed to be coming from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), led the district to make a number of changes to the course.

"Consequently, beginning Friday the district will begin using The Bible and Its Influence curriculum for its elective Bible courses, which is published by Bible Literacy Project," Saldivar announced in a press release Wednesday afternoon. "This curriculum is currently being used in more than 100 school districts across Texas."

"The course will be taught by Charlie Crisp, who is fully certified to instruct the course in accordance with State Board of Education rules and existing legal precedent. In accordance with the commissioner's adopted rules, student expectations for the courses will align with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for 'Special Topics in Social Studies' and/or 'Independent Study in English.'"

See **COURSE**, Page 3A

INDEX

Comics 6B
 Classified 3-5B
 Legislature 5A
 Obituaries 2A
 Opinion 4A
 Sports 1-2B

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www.bigspringherald.com

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 Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 6 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. Sunday.

Help on hand for new businesses

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

People wanting to start a new business in Howard County will soon have another helping hand.

The Big Spring Economic Development Corp. announced it has contracted with Entrepreneur Alliance of Amarillo to provide start-up help to those wishing to open their own businesses in the area.

Terry Wegman, BSEDC executive director, said the firm will open a

temporary office in the Chamber of Commerce building around the first of February. Plans call for consultants to be available to the public approximately four days a month.

"We can't incentivize small retail businesses," Wegman said. "But this is a tool we can use to help those kind of businesses get started. We have a lot of people come in and want us to help them get their businesses started. The consultants will be able to take them through the

process."

One of the biggest advantages of the program is its cost, or lack thereof, to customers.

"They will provide all these services free of charge," Wegman said. "It will definitely be a benefit to the entire community, because they'll not only help with start-ups, but with existing businesses, as well."

Big Spring will become the fifth

See **HELP**, Page 3A

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Obituaries

James Edward Brooks



James Edward Brooks died Jan. 18, 2011, in Austin.

He was born Nov. 18, 1928, in Big Spring to Judge and Mrs. James T. Brooks. He attended Howard County Junior College, Texas Tech University, North Texas University and the University of Texas at Austin. James was an architect and an artist who had worked in Austin since

1967. He married Jo Jackson Brooks in 1961.

James is survived by his wife and three children, Meg, Shannon and Jason Brooks; his granddaughter, Bridget Brady; and niece and nephew David and Janet Byrnes.

He took wonderful care of not only his wife and children, but also of his grandmother, his mother and his sister.

James will be remembered for his kindness and his love for his family and friends. We will also remember watching the enjoyment he found in inventing and building things and drawing and painting. He had a wonderful, creative mind and a dry sense of humor. We will miss him very much.

Graveside services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 22 at Austin Memorial Park Cemetery.

Arrangements are by Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home, 3125 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin, 78705 (512) 452-8811. Obituary and memorial guestbook available online at www.wcfish.com

Paid obituary

James Richard Doggett

James Richard Doggett left his uncooperative earthly body behind and went to join many beloved family members and friends in Heaven on Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2011.

Richard was born Jan. 25, 1925, to Hayes and Emma Doggett. He proudly served his country in the Navy Sea Bees in World War II. On May 15, 1950, Richard married Verla Rae Anderson. He was a master carpenter for many years, then traded his hammer for a tractor and became a Martin County cotton farmer. After he retired, Richard put many miles on his pickup truck, hitting the coffee drinking spots to catch up on all the news.

Richard was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Raymond and Doyle. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Verla, and two daughters, Doyla Haislip and Dinah Doggett, and the one and only grandson, Bobby Haislip. He also leaves behind sister-in-law Juanita Lindsey and husband Bud, one uncle, Floyd Huckaby and wife Pauline, and several nieces and nephews.

The family would like to extend heartfelt thanks to all the loving staff of the Stanton Care Center and Home Hospice. A special thanks goes out to W.A. Ringener, who kept Richard supplied with Hershey bars, and to niece Debra Trantham for making sure Verla got to the care center every morning, and to Richard's ever faithful "sidekick," Devry Kidd and his family.

Funeral services will be held Friday, Jan. 21, 2011, at 2:00 p.m. at the Downtown Church of Christ with Van Pendergrass officiating and Kendall Tomlinson assisting. Interment will follow at Evergreen Cemetery. The family will receive friends at Gilbreath Funeral Home in Stanton on Thursday, Jan. 20, 2011, from 5 to 7 p.m.

Arrangements are under the direction of Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton. Online condolences can be made at www.npwelch.com

Paid obituary

Alvin Gluege

Alvin Gluege, 83, of Big Spring died in Lubbock on Saturday, Jan. 15, 2011. His remains were graciously accepted by Texas Tech University School of Medicine.

The family suggests memorials to the American Heart Association or the Alzheimer's Association.

Mary Alice Anderson

Mary Alice Anderson, 85, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2011, at her residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Mildred 'Millie' Sevey



Mildred "Millie" Sevey, 84, of Big Spring, died Monday, Jan. 17, 2011, at Select Specialty Hospital in Midland. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. Joel Miller and Pastor Johnnie Sevey officiating. Burial will be at Gail Cemetery in Gail.

She was born June 13, 1926, in Kenna, N.M., to Mamie and Woody Southard. She graduated from Elida High School. She attended Methodist Hospital School of Nursing. She married John Walter Sevey on Oct. 11, 1945, in Portales, N.M. They moved to Big Spring in 1960 from Charles City, Iowa. She worked for the State of Texas as an alcoholism counselor. She retired after 30 years of service. She was a Methodist.

She is survived by four daughters, Joanne Parker of Big Spring, Kay Wilson and her husband David of San Marcos, Jacque Hendricks and her husband Bo of Gail and Jan Rios and her husband Roby of Coahoma; two sons, Johnnie Sevey and his wife Dee of Lubbock and Jimmie Sevey and his wife Sherry of Nacogdoches; one sister, Lois Tingle of Willcox, Ariz.; grandchildren, JaNa' Cordes and her husband Larry, Anna Milson and her husband Shannon, Brian Jones and his wife Sharon, Sammy Sevey, Nicholas Sevey, Kristen Wells and her husband Jeremy, Tisa Sanderson and her husband Jason, Kaleigh Sevey, Jeremy Sevey, Blaine Downs, Ashley Sevey, Matthew Sevey and his wife Nikki; and great-grandchildren, Alexandra Cordes, Zachery and Joshua Milson, Robyn Castle, Jarek and Kasen Wells, Mireille, Erik and Lauren Sanderson.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband, two brothers and one sister.

The family suggests memorials to Methodist Children's Home, 1111 Herring Ave., Waco 76708 or online at www.methodistchildrenshome.org

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersand-smith.com

Paid obituary

Police blotter

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

- GEOVANNI MIRANDA ORNALAS, 20, of 1206 Mesquite, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of no driver's license – when unlicensed.
- ROBERT RIVERA, 39, of 2538 Langley St., was arrested Wednesday on warrants from another agency (two counts), possession of drug paraphernalia (two counts) and speeding.
- STEVEN VALENCIA, 51, of 107 N.E. Eighth St., was arrested Wednesday on a warrant for failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- SHAWN DWAYNE BLYTHE, 37, of 804 Settles, was arrested Wednesday on warrants for driving without a safety belt, failure to maintain financial responsibility (two counts), driving while license invalid (two counts), no driver's license – when unlicensed and wrong license plate.
- CRIMINAL TRESPASS was reported in the 700 block of 11th Place.
- ASSAULT was reported:
In the 500 block of S. Birdwell Lane.
In the 400 block of E. Fourth Street.
- THEFT was reported in the 700 block of W. Interstate Highway 20.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 1600 block of E. 16th Street.

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Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 64 inmates at the time of this report.

• ROBERT RIVERA, 39, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of driving while intoxicated – second offense, bondsman off bond for burglary of a building, possession of drug paraphernalia (two counts), speeding and failure to appear.

• GEOVANNI MIRANDA ORNALAS, 20, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of no driver's license when unlicensed.

• SHAWN D. BLYTHE, 37, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of no seat belt, failure to maintain financial responsibility (two counts), driving while license invalid (two counts), no driver's license when unlicensed and displaying wrong license plate.

• STEVEN VALENCIA, 51, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of failure to maintain financial responsibility.

• TRINITY LEWIS OWEN, 31, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.

• SARAH OUIDA ARNOLD, 25, was arrested Thursday on a charge of bail jumping – failure to appear.

• PEDRO AGUILAR, 49, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.

• ANTHONY THOMAS MCGRUDER, 40, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.

Fire/EMS

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

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

• MEDICAL was reported in the 13000 block of Old Colorado City Highway. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 700 block of N. Aylesford. One person was transported to SMMC.

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

• TRAUMA was reported in the 1600 block of Lancaster. Service refused.

• TRAUMA was reported in the 700 block of E. 12th Street. Service refused.

• TRAUMA was reported in the 1300 block of Johnson. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of W. 17th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

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Texas news in brief

Texarkana man gets 20 months over rehab bomb hoax

TEXARKANA (AP) — A 30-year-old northeast Texas man must serve 20 months in federal prison over a phoned bomb hoax that forced evacuation of hospital patients.

Brandon Forsyth of Texarkana was sentenced Wednesday. Forsyth in November pleaded guilty to providing false information and hoaxes.

Prosecutors say Forsyth last April 27 and May 29 called Health South Rehabilitation Hospital in Texarkana and made a false bomb threat.

Law officers on May 30 located a fake explosive device linked to Forsyth and left at the hospital.

Southlake halts gas drilling for 6 months

SOUTHLAKE (AP) — A North Texas city has imposed a six month moratorium on new natural gas drilling and pipeline applications.

Southlake leaders are considering revising the drilling ordinance. Some say the Fort Worth suburb needs stricter rules to protect air and water quality and reduce drilling noise.

The Southlake City Council's vote Tuesday doubled the proposed three-month drilling moratorium, but it doesn't affect XTO Energy's two pending drilling requests.

On Thursday, the Southlake Planning and Zoning Commission was to discuss XTO Energy's request to drill up to 27 wells on one resident's property. A vote has been postponed until next month.

XTO's request to drill up to 18 wells has been tabled three times, once by the zoning commission

and twice by the Southlake City Council.

2 face up to life over East Texas double slaying

BEAUMONT (AP) — No sentencing dates have been set for two members of the Aryan Brotherhood of Texas who face up to life in prison over a 2007 double slaying in East Texas.

Prosecutors say the attack at a lake house in Nacogdoches (na-kuh-DOH'-chis) County left a fellow member of the white supremacist group and his girlfriend dead.

The shooting victims were David Mitchamore and Christie Rochelle Brown

Carl Carver of Lufkin pleaded guilty Wednesday, before a federal judge in Beaumont, to committing a violent crime in aid of racketeering activity.

Investigators believe the killings involved a debt owed to Carver.

Charles Cameron Frazier of Nacogdoches pleaded guilty Friday to the same charge.

Departing passenger struck, killed by DART bus

DALLAS (AP) — A passenger who had just stepped off one Dallas Area Rapid Transit bus died after being struck by another.

DART spokesman Mark Ball says the accident happened Thursday morning.

Ball says the injured man was transported to Parkland Memorial Hospital, but died. The name of the victim was not immediately released.

Ball told KRLD radio that the man had a hooded

coat pulled over his head when he stepped off one bus and into the pathway of another bus that was pulling out of the transfer center.

Perry names Austin's Hicks to tech fund panel

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Rick Perry has named Austin businessman Robert S. Hicks to the advisory committee of the Emerging Technology Fund.

Hicks on Wednesday was appointed to replace William E. Morrow on the 17-member panel.

Morrow was the subject of a 2010 Texas Rangers investigation into a stock deal with the tech fund's former director. The Dallas Morning News reports the review found no wrongdoing.

The committee makes recommendations to Texas leaders on which start-up technology projects should be funded with taxpayers funds.

A preliminary state budget plan released Tuesday, as Texas faces a projected shortfall of at least \$15 billion, proposes slashing Emerging Technology Fund spending from \$109 million to \$21 million.

Man convicted in machete killing in San Antonio

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A jury in San Antonio has convicted a man of murder in a 2008 machete attack during an argument at a homeless campsite.

The penalty phase was scheduled Thursday for 36-year-old Thomas Ahrens.

Ahrens faces up to life in prison over the killing of 23-year-old Christopher Duncan, who had been known to help the homeless.

MISSING

Continued from Page 1A

warm clothes with appropriate walking shoes or boots. Volunteers must be 18 years old or older and have a picture ID with them. Volunteers are asked to report to the Colorado City Civic Center — located at 157 West Second Street in Colorado City — or call 325-728-2072 at 10 a.m. beginning Wednesday and on each day after. Look for a Laura Recovery Center banner at the Civic Center.

"Volunteers will be briefed, organized into search teams and given an area to search. Those not wanting to search may be asked to help in the search center. Search teams will be debriefed after they return to the search center and all information gathered will be shared with local law enforcement."

The Center has organized numerous community led searches for abducted children, including those for Danielle Van Dam, Elizabeth Smart, and Morgan Harrington.

The Klaas Kids Foun-

dation was established in 1994 in Sausalito, Calif., by Marc Klaas, father of kidnap and murder victim Polly Hannah Klaas. Polly Klaas, 12, was kidnapped at knife point from her mother's home during a slumber party in Petaluma, Calif., on Oct. 1, 1993. She was later strangled, according to police records.

Dunn was last seen walking from her home in northern Colorado City to a friend's house about 1 p.m. Monday, Dec. 27. According to police reports, the last person to see her was

her mother's live-in boyfriend, Shawn Adkins, who told investigators the young girl told him she was going to walk to her father's house a block away, then spend the night with a friend.

Adkins was named a "person of interest" in the case Friday by investigators, which totals more than 30 law enforcement agents from local, state and even federal agencies. According to police records, the girl's mother, Billie Dunn, and Adkins both failed polygraph tests administered by investigators.

A recent search of the Dunn home turned up disturbing evidence, as both Adkins and Billie Dunn had researched a number of macabre items, including "serial killers, ax murders, sexual sadistic activities, the occult, sex and death topics, motives for murder and mass murderers — including the killing of family members," according to affidavits filed in the case.

Searches have been conducted in the city and outlying counties — including the Dunn community, Scurry County, Howard Coun-

ty, Abilene and other nearby places — by volunteers and law enforcement.

Anyone with information concerning the girl's whereabouts or circumstances concerning her disappearance are asked to call authorities at 325-728-5294 or 325-728-3161. A reward of \$25,000 is now being offered for information in the case.

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

COURSE

Continued from Page 1A

The course's current instructor, Dr. Bill Welsh, could not be reached for comment this morning.

The announcement comes only hours after Saldivar said no changes had been made to the course amid rumors Welsh had been dis-

missed.

"We still have the course," Saldivar said Wednesday morning, prior to the press release. "No changes have been made. Claims we have done away with the Bible class are not correct."

Saldivar said he feels the course, which has been fiscally supported by the Howard County Bible Board for many years, is necessary, but

must be taught within the confines of federal law.

"Big Spring students cannot be fully literate in American history, literature, art, or culture without having a working knowledge of the influence of the New and Old Testaments on those disciplines," Saldivar said. "Big Spring ISD is committed to equipping its students with every tool that they

need to be successful citizens in an increasingly competitive society. Ensuring that the district provides these elective courses, within the confines of state and federal law, is part of that commitment to the students, parents, and tax payers it serves."

Saldivar confirmed earlier this week that several open record requests had been made by the ACLU.

"The ACLU made the request through the Open Records Act and we turned it over to them," he said. "The request was made at the beginning of the school year and included a myriad of questions that were general in nature."

Contact Staff Writer

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Mildred "Millie" Sevey, 84, died Monday. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. this evening at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel with Rev. Joel Miller and Pastor Johnnie Sevey officiating. Burial will be at Gail Cemetery in Gail, Texas.

SCOUTS

Continued from Page 1A

with your friends, but it's even more fun getting out and doing things, having new adventures."

Boy Scouts has programs open to youngsters from ages 7 on up, Sweeney said.

For more information, contact him by e-mail at brian.sweeney@scouting.org

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

HELP

Continued from Page 1A

West Texas community to utilize the program.

"I talked to (representatives from the other communities) and they said this was one of the best things they ever did," Wegman said. "After that, I thought, 'This is something we need in Big Spring.'"

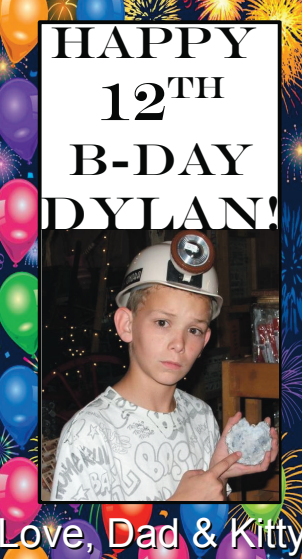
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10 Things You Need to Know About Hospice

Question: Isn't Hospice a place?
Answer: No. Hospice is a service that brings care into your own home.

Question: What does Hospice provide?
Answer: Medication, equipment (such as oxygen) and supplies.

Question: When do you qualify for Hospice Care?
Answer: Most people get hospice care too late. **You can qualify as much as 6 months earlier!**

Question: Don't most people die at home?
Answer: 70-80% of Americans die in facilities. Hospice patients get their wish to die at home.

Question: Can Hospice patients die in a hospital?
Answer: **If the patient chooses to, the hospice staff will make the arrangements.**

Question: Will entering a Hospice make you die sooner?
Answer: Statistical studies show that **Morphine eases pain but does NOT shorten life.**

Question: Do patients admitted to hospice ever improve?
Answer: **Yes, some patients actually improve and in time, are discharged from hospice.**

Question: Isn't Hospice only for Cancer patients?
Answer: **Hospice services are available for anyone who has a life-limiting illness.**

Question: Is Hospice care expensive?
Answer: **Medicare and most Medicaid insurances cover hospice at 100%.**

Question: Does this mean "giving up"?
Answer: **Hospice focuses on living...living as fully as possible up until the end of life.**

Hospice care is a necessary service that many people never receive.
There are myths about hospice that keep people from getting this specialized and compassionate care when they need it most.
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For any additional info or questions, please contact us.

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AN ENCOURAGING WORD



By Eddy Pitchford

Peer pressure is powerful. It prompts teens to use alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs. It motivates young people to cuss and laugh at immorality. It dresses youth in clothing that is deemed favorable by fellow students despite parental preferences.

Of course, peer pressure is not limited to youth. Peer pressure often drives adults to dress a particular way and to engage in particular behaviors. Peer pressure is a common instigator for living beyond one's means. It can even be a factor in religious choices.

Before you allow the crowd to determine your choices, remember the words of Jesus, "Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it. For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it." (Matthew 7: 13-14).

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Sunday Class.....9:30 AM
Sunday Worship.....10:20 AM
Sunday Worship.....5:00 PM
Wednesday Class.....7:00 PM

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

Proposed state budget nothing short of insane

All right, enough already! Texas' Republican leaders have vowed they won't be raising taxes, even though the state is facing a \$15 billion revenue shortfall that some say will be more like \$27 billion. Instead, the preliminary spending plan submitted to the Texas House on Tuesday calls for all sorts of new fees, designed to raise millions.

Oh, yes, there's also going to be a lot of cutting — like a proposed \$5 billion cut to public schools!

And there would also be cuts to the state's contributions to the state employee retirement fund and the state's teacher retirement fund, eliminate financial aid for incoming freshmen and cuts to Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program and other health and human services.

But perhaps the most disturbing revelation in the proposal released Tuesday was the draft calling for the closure of four community colleges — Odessa College, Frank Phillips College in Borger, Ranger College and Brazosport College in Lake Jackson. In all, the proposal calls for cutting \$145 million in state funding for Texas community colleges.

Although Texas Association of Community Colleges officials, among them Howard College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks, were planning on reduced state spending during the next biennium, there's no way they saw such a draconian proposal coming.

As a matter of fact, HC officials had already sliced 7.5 percent of its current budget preparing for what they knew was going to be a decrease in state funding, but now lawmakers are attempting to cut state funding by 12 to 15 percent.

Tuesday morning, Sparks admitted that news of the planned closures came as a complete surprise. "We did anticipate we'd have reductions, but we did not know there was a plan to de-fund any community colleges," she said, adding that the closures, if they are approved, would adversely effect the communities served by the colleges.

"Those four colleges do great work for the areas they serve," she said. "They play very important roles in their respective areas of the state, and we will work together with officials from those schools to try to restore funding."

Rep. Jim Pitts, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, said last week "there are no sacred cows for this next biennium for our introduced bill."

Sacred cows?

From our jaundiced view, the GOP leadership in Austin has lost its collective mind!

Cuts to some programs, perhaps, but we can't help but have somewhat the same take as Rep. Pete Gallego, D-Alpine, had. "It's a catastrophe," he said. "No financial aid for kids to go to college. No pre-kindergarten ... health and human services slashed. No Texan can be proud of this."

Indeed.

We most certainly are not!

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 make You, Lord, our long-range plan.
Amen

More dangerous than they seem

They are the champions of the Constitution — at least, that's what they tell us — yet they keep looking for ways to violate it. They hold the patent on family values — at least, that's the impression they try to give — yet they believe in punishing children for the conduct of their parents. They claim to be fiscal conservatives, yet they are willing to waste millions on dead-end lawsuits. They say they are only against illegal immigrants, yet now they are waging war on U.S.-born babies.



MIGUEL PEREZ

Those who support the movement to deny citizenship to the U.S.-born children of undocumented immigrants are not only America's biggest hypocrites but also downright un-American!

On this issue, the Constitution couldn't be clearer. The 14th Amendment, ratified in 1868, says, "All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside."

That's it!

Case closed, right?

Nah! Not if you are a xenophobia-baiting constitutional hypocrite.

They are willing to bend the Constitution until it breaks, as long as they can continue to pursue their Draconian, immigrant-bashing agenda.

How else could we explain the Birthright Citizenship Act of 2011? This legislation, introduced in the House of Representatives by four Republican right-wing extremists Jan. 6 (the first day of the 112th Congress), is a blatant effort to tweak the Constitution without having to amend it!

Many pundits, Democrats and even immigrant rights advocates seem to be unaware of the real danger this bill represents. They

assume — as sane people would — that a new constitutional amendment would be necessary to overturn the 14th Amendment and take away citizenship from the U.S.-born children of illegal immigrants. Thus — because that's an arduous and nearly impossible process, requiring three-quarters of the 50 states to ratify a joint resolution of Congress — they don't take the threat very seriously.

But that's not what the birthright extremists want. They want to overturn the Constitution without having to amend it — an end run around the 14th Amendment — and amazingly, they could actually get away with it!

Their game plan is to change the interpretation of "subject to the jurisdiction thereof" and use another part of the 14th Amendment to justify their Machiavellian intentions to take away the citizenship rights of U.S.-born children.

Section 5 of the 14th Amendment notes that "the Congress shall have power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article," and the birthright bigots intend to use "appropriate legislation" to redefine the interpretation of "subject to the jurisdiction thereof" and make sure it excludes the U.S.-born children of undocumented immigrants — the ones they call anchor babies.

The bill notes that "a person born in the United States shall be considered 'subject to the jurisdiction' of the United States" only if at least one of the parents is a U.S. citizen, a legal permanent resident or "an alien performing active service in the armed forces."

It would not be retroactive and would not affect the many Americans who were already born of two undocumented parents.

But they will argue that from now on, illegal immigrants should somehow bequeath their illegal status to their U.S.-born children.

Isn't that special? Some Americans now are thinking of clever

ways to deprive other Americans of their citizenship.

Of course, the words "subject to the jurisdiction" need no clarification because they were well-understood during the post-Civil War debate that led to the 14th Amendment. In spite of the current media-promoted myth that the amendment was meant solely to address the status of former slaves, in spite of the right-wing extremists who want us to believe it had one single purpose, the phrase "subject to the jurisdiction" also was meant to settle the status of the children of diplomats, Native Americans and former Confederate soldiers who had renounced their U.S. citizenship to serve in the Confederate army.

For practical reasons, the 14th Amendment was a "bright line" and inclusive compromise, consistent with our best American traditions.

Yet now, un-American xenophobes claim that it was only meant to affect former slaves and that our 143-year history of recognizing all U.S.-born children as Americans must be overturned.

However, they have no intentions of seeking a constitutional amendment, not when they think they can achieve the same mean-spirited objective merely by changing a statute.

The birthright citizenship bill, with 33 co-sponsors, is now in the House Judiciary Committee, where it could linger indefinitely but from where it could suddenly emerge, tucked into some huge and necessary spending bill, forcing reasonable legislators to go along with it.

Beware. Alert citizens can stop this from happening, but only if they remain vigilant of the Machiavellian maneuvers of the extreme right.

This should be about Americans protecting other Americans from having their most precious constitutional right taken away by shoddy legislative tricks.

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Climate change is here to stay

It wasn't long ago that climate change was all the rage. Newspaper headlines were touting the Kyoto Protocol. Scientists and citizens alike were discussing Al Gore's documentary An Inconvenient Truth. Individuals were offering personal pledges of reform. Folks were downright scared.

No more. The danger remains, but the fear has vanished. Climate talks in Cancun, far from securing any meaningful international agreement to reduce carbon emissions, ended in December a whimper. The New York Times put that story on page 16. Perhaps that's because failure was long predicted even before the meeting began. The general public and the media just don't seem to care that much anymore.

That's ironic. Last year was the hottest year ever recorded, aside from 2005 — which was just as hot as 2010.

However, big polluters have poured a fortune into junk science and junk scientists to downgrade the whole concept of

climate change. Still more cash has gone to junk politicians. Climate denial proved to be the main qualification for a Republican Senate nomination last year.

Out-of-state oil moguls spent \$8.2 million on a California referendum to overturn that state's emission-control legislation. In the Northeast, several state governments have looted the funds generated by that region's experimental "cap and-trade" program.

Even the House-approved national cap-and-trade bill was so polluted by lobbyists that its failure in the Senate wasn't worth a bucket of warm spit.

One reason the energy industry is able to successfully downgrade this truly alarming issue is that people now realize that reform requires sacrifice.

Less air conditioning? Less heat? Higher gas prices? Smaller cars? More taxes? No thanks!

Sure, I'll install those curly light bulbs and fix the storm door. But nothing that will be costly or inconvenient.

In America, it's especially easy to say "no" to the energy crusade since most of our country isn't on the global firing line. The press long ago stopped pondering whether major weather events might be connected to

climate change.

Why should the media risk needless grief from investors, advertisers, politicians, pundits and letter-writers?

So if the Southwest fries, Norfolk sinks, or California runs out of water, it's just God's will. We've always had hurricanes, droughts, heat waves and deep freezes. So what if more parts of Africa become deserts, lowland Asia becomes a lake, or the Seychelles sink like Atlantis? That's not really our problem. In the United States, we'll have a longer growing season so we can help feed the world.

So what did you expect, altruism? Americans are like people everywhere. Our job is to look out for No. 1. We'll send aid to suffering nations. But we're not about to inconvenience ourselves over some half-baked fad that says we're damaging the world's atmosphere.

In 50 years, we'll know what we should have done today. But you and I will be dead by then and we'll have fully enjoyed our lives. The kids can move to tropical Fairbanks.

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

Dems, some Republicans unhappy with cuts

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas' proposed \$73.2 billion state spending plan that makes large cuts to education is just a starting point, but the final version will be no less painful if lawmakers keep rejecting tax increases and tapping the Rainy Day Fund, the lead House budget writer said Wednesday.

Lawmakers got their first glimpse of what the next state budget might look like late Tuesday, as the state faces a revenue shortfall of at least \$15 billion for the next two years. Adhering to promises of no tax increases and no money from the Rainy Day Fund, the revenue was mainly made up with about \$14 billion in cuts to state programs. The Texas Constitution requires a balanced budget.

Proposed cuts so far include almost \$5 billion to public education and the closure of four community colleges. The base budget does not pay for an estimated 160,000 new students who are expected to enroll in public schools over the next two years.

Republican Rep. Jim Pitts, who chairs the House Appropriations Committee, outlined the plan to lawmakers Wednesday and took some pointed questions.

"There's nothing in this

bill that's not painful," Pitts said in response to questions from a lawmaker upset about a community college targeted for closure. "I wish I had a crystal ball that said what's going to happen by May."

In education alone, the proposed budget would cut money for arts education, pre-kindergarten programs, teacher incentive pay and dozens of other programs. Financial aid programs like Texas Grants would be closed to new students and funding to colleges and universities would be decreased.

The proposal would make public school finance reform legislation almost inevitable, because there's not enough money allotted for schools based on funding formulas in the law.

And even though Republican leaders have vowed not to raise taxes, the budget proposes millions of dollars in new fees. For instance, state employees and retirees who smoke would pay a \$30-a-month "tobacco user monthly premium surcharge" for their health insurance and the attorney general's office would charge an "annual child support service fee," a "monthly child support processing fee" and an "electronic filing of documents fee."

The budget draft, which is expected to be filed as legislation in the House this week, would spend \$73.2 billion in state money and \$156.4 billion in all funds.

The proposal would further reduce reimbursement rates by 10 percent for physicians, hospitals and nursing homes that participate in Medicaid — a decrease that could eventually dry up participation in the health care program for poor and disabled Texans. In all, \$2.3 billion would be cut from Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program and other health and human services.

The plan would eliminate 9,600 state jobs over the next two years, including more than 1,500 jobs in the prison system. The Department of Criminal Justice faces \$459 million in cuts, including a 14 percent reduction in psychiatric and pharmacy care for inmates.

Democrats immediately attacked the budget as inhumane.

"We're already as a state 50th in per capita in spending," said Rep. Joaquin Castro of San Antonio. "So you've got to ask yourself when you see a base budget like this, at what point is this budget akin to asking an anorexic person

to lose more weight?"

The draft is just the beginning of a long process, which probably won't be finalized until next summer when Gov. Rick Perry expects to sign the Texas budget for 2012-13. Perry has downplayed the state's budget woes, telling The AP recently that the shortfall is "not the end of the world" and saying the cuts would not be "apocalyptic."

Some analysts say the true shortfall could be closer to \$27 billion when accounting for enrollment growth in public schools and on Medicaid rolls, cost increases and other variables. That figure amounts to almost a third of discretionary state spending in the current budget.

About a third of the revenue shortfall was caused by lower-than-expected sales tax receipts during the recession. But most of it was created by the loss of one-time revenue used in the last budget to pay for recurring expenses. Along with some state savings, federal stimulus money was used to plug a hole that was created when the state overhauled the business tax structure and the school finance system in 2006. The new tax structure did not generate enough money to offset decreases in school property

tax rates.

The plan would slash \$772 million for Texas colleges and universities, including nearly \$100 million for flagship schools Texas A&M University and the University of Texas at Austin. The two-year colleges that would be closed are Brazosport College in Lake Jackson, Frank Phillips College in Borger, Odessa College and Ranger College.

The state's contribution to the state employee retirement fund would be reduced from 6.95 percent to 6 percent, less than what is needed to maintain the fund, according to the Legislative Budget Board. The base budget proposes a similar cut in contributions to the Teacher Retirement Fund.

While almost every other state agency would see a reduction in employees, the average number of full-time employees in Perry's office over the next two fiscal years would go to 132 from an average of 120.

The base budget does not use money from the state's Rainy Day Fund, expected to have a balance of \$9.4 billion at the end of the next biennium. Democrats and advocates for poor and needy Texans have advocated using balances in the fund.

Almanac: Senate rules fight fizzles

AUSTIN (AP) — Fears of a nasty fight over state Senate rules fizzled Wednesday when members declined to even take up a proposal to end the hallowed "two-thirds rule" that gives the minority party — in this case the Democrats — a bigger voice in what happens in the chamber.

State Sen. Dan Patrick, a Houston Republican and conservative talk show host, has forged close links to tea party activists. He said he favored majority rule over the supermajority procedures that require two thirds of the body to agree before bills can be brought up for consideration. But Patrick acknowledged he didn't have the support to change the rules enshrining filibuster rights.

"I do not have the votes to change the rule but I know I don't stand alone. I stand on the shoulders of our founding fathers," Patrick said. "The majority should not be blocked by one-third of our body."

Sen. John Whitmire, D-Houston, warned Republicans, who hold a 19-12 majority in the Senate, that they would regret it if they gutted the longstanding tradition that forges compromise. He said that unlike the more raucous House, where the majority does rule, the Senate allows the Legislature to collectively "cool things down, to be cautious."

The Senate rules do have an exception to the two-thirds rule already built in, and members voted to keep that. It allows a simple majority to consider changes to voter identification laws.

Republicans got that pushed through two years ago, and this year

they expect to pass legislation strengthening voter ID requirements. The new rules, adopted Wednesday on a straight party-line vote, also requires more time be given to senators when major budget changes are proposed toward the end of a legislative session.

ANOTHER INAUGURAL APOLOGY

In case Spark Energy didn't make it clear already, the company is really, really sorry for disrupting Gov. Rick Perry's swearing-in ceremony. The Houston-based electricity provider hired a plane to buzz the Capitol during Perry's speech, but pulling that "God Bless

Texas" banner made the aircraft's engine howl so loud that participants could hardly hear what the governor was saying.

The company had already apologized on its

Facebook page right after the event on Tuesday. Several hours later, Spark Energy president Keith Maxwell issued a press release that sounded almost like a campaign endorsement.

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GLASSCOCK COUNTY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2010

Data Control Codes	10 General Fund	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:			
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$11,319,420	364,202	11,683,622
5800 State Program Revenues	926,096	12,070	938,166
5900 Federal Program Revenues	-	369,052	369,052
5020 Total Revenues	12,245,516	745,324	12,990,840
EXPENDITURES:			
Current:			
0011 Instruction	2,054,181	269,200	2,323,381
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	34,153	-	34,153
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	3,982	-	3,982
0021 Instructional Leadership	-	15,595	15,595
0023 School Leadership	200,422	-	200,422
0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	64,537	-	64,537
0033 Health Services	46,553	-	46,553
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	187,303	-	187,303
0035 Food Services	868	232,542	233,410
0036 Extracurricular Activities	217,748	-	217,748
0041 General Administration	219,880	-	219,880
0051 Facilities Maintenance and Operations	791,020	-	791,020
0053 Data Processing Services	17,442	-	17,442
Debt Service:			
0071 Debt Service - Principal on Long Term Debt	-	80,000	80,000
0072 Debt Service - Interest on Long Term Debt	-	207,650	207,650
Capital Outlay:			
0081 Facilities Acquisition and Construction	54,121	-	54,121
Intergovernmental:			
0091 Contracted Instructional Services Between Schools	7,250,950	-	7,250,950
0093 Payments to Fiscal Agent/Member Districts of SSA	56,095	-	56,095
0099 Other Intergovernmental Charges	69,386	-	69,386
6030 Total Expenditures	11,268,641	804,987	12,073,628
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	976,875	(59,663)	917,212
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):			
7912 Sale of Real and Personal Property	380	-	380
7915 Transfers In	-	96,652	96,652
8911 Transfers Out (Use)	(96,652)	-	(96,652)
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(96,272)	96,652	380
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	880,603	36,989	917,592
0100 Fund Balance - September 1 (Beginning)	4,957,241	82,458	5,039,699
1300 Increase (Decrease) in Fund Balance	(244,718)	-	(244,718)
3000 Fund Balance - August 31 (Ending)	\$5,593,126	\$119,447	\$5,712,573

NOTICE OF RATE CHANGE REQUEST

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC (Oncor) publishes this notice that on January 7, 2011, Oncor filed with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) its Petition and Statement of Intent to Change Rates, a copy of which is kept at Oncor's office at 1601 Bryan St., 23rd floor, Dallas, TX 75201. This notice is being published pursuant to Commission Procedural Rule 22.51(a)(1).

Oncor's rate filing, based on the system-wide financial results for a 12-month test year ending on June 30, 2010, adjusted for known and measurable changes, supports a net increase in transmission and distribution rates of approximately \$353 million over adjusted test-year revenues, or approximately a 12.6% increase over adjusted test-year revenues of \$2,809.2 million. Test-year revenues have been adjusted to annualize the rate increase from Oncor's last base rate case, to normalize billing units, to remove the revenues associated with Oncor's Advanced Metering Cost Recovery Factor, Energy Efficiency Cost Recovery Factor, and Rate Case Expense surcharge, and to increase test-year revenues to reflect Transmission Cost of Service (TCOS) and Transmission Cost Recovery Factor (TCRF) adjustments approved or pending after June 30, 2010. If the approved or pending TCOS and TCRF adjustments are excluded from the adjustments to test-year revenues (and thus included in proposed base rates), the total base rate increase over adjusted test-year revenues is approximately \$441 million, or approximately a 16.2% increase over adjusted

test-year revenues of \$2,720.6 million. If approved, the increased rates will be charged to Oncor's direct customers, all retail electric providers (REPs), in those portions of Oncor's service area under the original jurisdiction of the Commission. Each such REP is potentially affected by the proposed change. Depending on the REPs' actions, the end-use customer classes of such REPs are potentially affected by the proposed change. In addition, the result could be a change in Oncor's transmission cost of service rates, which would impact all load serving entities in the Electric Reliability Council of Texas. Oncor has requested a February 14, 2011 effective date for its proposed rate change.

Persons who wish to intervene in or comment upon these proceedings, in Docket No. 38929, Application of Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC for Authority to Change Rates, should notify the Commission as soon as possible, as an intervention deadline will be imposed. A request to intervene or for further information should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the Commission at (512) 936-7136. The deadline for intervention in the proceeding is 45 days after the date the application was filed with the Commission.

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DEADLINE
FEBRUARY 4, 2011

(TEAM PHOTOS MUST BE TAKEN TO QUALIFY FOR PRIZES)

Mail form or drop off along with \$50 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:** _____

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IRS opts not to mail tax forms

CAROLE FELDMAN

Associated Press
WASHINGTON — The start of tax season used to be heralded by the arrival of tax forms in the mail.

No more. The Internal Revenue Service decided this year not to automatically mail them to individual and business taxpayers.

"It's a sign of the times," said Terry Lemons, IRS senior spokesman. "More people are going electronic. We're interested in saving taxpayers money."

He said the agency realizes that not everyone has access to the Internet or to computers.

"We think most people are going to have options to get this information,"

he said. Forms will be available at many public libraries, post offices and other community sites.

They also can be ordered through the IRS Web site, www.irs.gov. In addition, there are programs such as Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly, Lemons said.

Kathy Pickering, executive director of the Tax Institute at H&R Block, said the decision against mass mailing of forms has another benefit. "With late passage of the tax bill, the IRS did not have to send out forms that were obsolete," she said. "It provided them with some agility."

Congress passed a tax

Howard County Library reports having "very few" forms as of Wednesday afternoon. Big Spring Post Office also has a limited number of forms. The Senior Center had no forms as of Wednesday afternoon.

bill, which included extension of the Bush-era tax cuts, during a post-election session that ended just before Christmas.

Lemons said only 8 percent of individual taxpayers got paper tax packages in the mail last year.

Those people were mailed postcards last fall informing them about the decision against mass tax-form

mailings and telling them where they could get the required forms. Still, some may have missed the postcard.

"Some people are just waiting for their forms to come before they file," said Barbara Weltman, author of some of J.K. Lasser's tax publications. "Don't wait," she said. "It's not coming."

Electronic filing of tax returns is gaining in popularity.

The IRS said nearly 99 million returns were filed electronically last year, up 3 percent from 2009.

While nearly two-thirds of the electronic returns were filed by professional preparers, the biggest growth - 8 percent - was among those who did their

taxes themselves.

Last year, 34.8 million self-prepared tax returns were received electronically by the IRS.

Tax experts expect the trend to continue.

The IRS on its Web site says benefits of filing electronically include faster refunds and greater accuracy.

J.K. Lasser's "Your Income Tax 2011" says that with electronic filing, taxpayers can expect a refund within one to two weeks if they choose direct deposit, or in three weeks if they opt to have a check mailed to them.

Under the IRS' Free File program, taxpayers earning less than \$58,000 a year can use tax preparation software and file electronically at no cost.

Some of the tax preparation software companies also provide no-cost filing for taxpayers under certain income levels.

The government also provides forms that can be filled out online and filed electronically by taxpayers of all income levels.

The "Free File Fillable Forms" service does basic math calculations for taxpayers but does not include any tax preparation software.

Taxpayers who must submit certain documentation with their return, such as those claiming the homebuyer tax credit or the adoption credit, will still have to file paper forms.

Online: www.irs.gov

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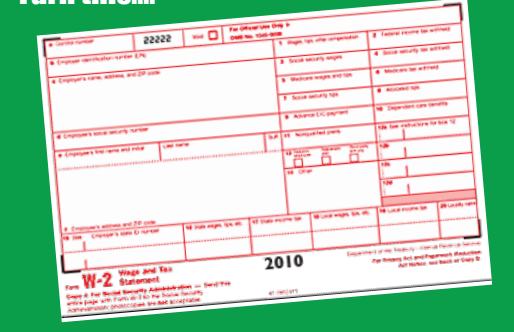
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Tax Time Never Felt So Good



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News in brief

Obama says U.S. should not fear China's rise, points to \$45B in new business deals for firms

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama is looking to assure Americans that they should not fear China's economic rise, using Chinese President Hu Jintao's high-profile state visit to announce job-creating business deals worth billions of dollars to U.S. companies.

On another big American concern, human rights, Hu conceded that "a lot still needs to be done" to improve China's record.

The business deals and Hu's human rights comments were among the highlights of a ceremony-packed day seen as key to building trust between the world's top two powers.

Five years after his last visit to the White House, one that was marred by protocol blunders, Hu was feted Wednesday with the full pomp of a state visit, including a lavish dinner with some of Washington's most powerful figures and other luminaries.

The two sides played down differences and stressed areas of cooperation, ranging from a plan to cooperate on nuclear security to an extension of the loan of two Chinese pandas to Washington's zoo.

House GOP's health care repeal is only a first step; what's the replacement?

WASHINGTON (AP) — Now comes the hard part.

One day after voting to repeal President Barack Obama's landmark expansion of health insurance coverage, House Republicans go to work on replacing it.

Out with mandates, the requirements in the law to carry health insurance coverage. In with special purchasing pools for people whose medical conditions render them uninsurable.

Out with cuts to Medicare Advantage, the private

alternative to the traditional health program for seniors and disabled people. In with limits to jury awards in medical malpractice cases and stricter restrictions on taxpayer funding for abortions.

The House will vote Thursday on a measure directing four committees — Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, Education and Workforce, and Judiciary — to work out the Republican vision for health care.

Tunisian army fires warning shots during protest march in the capital

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP) — The Tunisian army has fired warning shots during a protest march in the North African country's capital.

Protesters were marching toward the headquarters of the longtime ruling party, which was founded by ousted President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

Demonstrators have criticized the new unity government announced Monday for being mostly made up of old guard politicians from the ruling party. Members of the government have been trying to distance themselves from Ben Ali, who fled to Saudi Arabia on Friday.

Giffords standing on own feet, headed to Houston for rehab to relearn basic skills

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — In the latest milestone in Gabrielle Giffords' recovery from a bullet wound to the brain, the congresswoman stood up and looked out a window even as preparations got under way for a move to Houston, where she'll undergo extensive mental and physical rehabilitation.

Her swift transition from an intensive care unit to a rehab center is based on the latest research, which shows the sooner rehab starts, the better patients recover.

Giffords' family hopes to move the Arizona congresswoman on Friday to TIRR Memorial Hermann hospital in Houston, where her husband lives and

works as an astronaut.

"I am extremely hopeful at the signs of recovery that my wife has made since the shooting," Mark Kelly said in a statement released by Giffords' congressional office. The staff at University Medical Center in Tucson "has stabilized her to the point of being ready to move to the rehabilitation phase."

Her progress was evident Wednesday as she stood on her feet with assistance from medical staff, hospital spokeswoman Janet Stark said.

DA: Pa. had 'utter disregard' for poor women seeking abortions from deadly Philadelphia doctor

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A doctor accused of running a filthy "abortion mill" for decades in an impoverished Philadelphia neighborhood delivered babies alive, killed them with scissors and allowed a woman who had survived 20 years in a refugee camp to be overmedicated and die at his clinic, prosecutors said.

Dr. Kermit Gosnell, 69, was charged Wednesday with eight counts of murder for the deaths of seven babies and one patient.

Prosecutors described the clinic as a "house of horrors" where Gosnell kept baby body parts on the shelves, allowed a 15-year-old high school student to perform intravenous anesthesia on patients and had his licensed cosmetologist wife do late-term abortions.

Four months after Karnamaya Mongar reached the United States after spending nearly two decades in camps in Nepal she was dead at Gosnell's clinic. The 41-year-old mother of three died of cardiac arrest when she was given too much Demerol and other drugs, prosecutors said.

"Pennsylvania is not a third-world country. There were several oversight agencies that stumbled upon and should have shut down Kermit Gosnell long ago. But none of them did, even after Karnamaya Mongar's death," city prosecutors charged in a nearly 300-page grand jury report.



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HERALD Photo/Tony Claxton

Corey Stern hopes to lead the short-handed Howard College Hawks past Midland College at 7:45 p.m. today in Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.



HERALD Photo/Tony Claxton

Zeslie Johnson and the Howard College Hawks need a big win over No. 6 Midland College today at 5:45 p.m. today in Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Howard men face Midland with 5 players

Howard women try to bounce back from overtime loss

BY ADAM COLEMAN

Sports Editor

The 2010-2011 season for Howard College men's basketball continues to be one of the more unusual ones.

The No. 8 Hawks have lost seven players to suspensions this season, whittling the roster down to five players heading into one of the biggest games of the year. No. 15 Midland College visits at 7:45 p.m. today in Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

"I cannot remember a more challenging season than what we've had here," head coach Mark Adams said. "We keep thinking surely, it's going to start getting better."

The season started with the dismissals of Phillip Jackson, Jonathon Landry and Fabyon Harris following a shoplifting incident. Then Will Bunton was suspended for breaking team rules halfway through the season.

Now the Hawks (15-2, 3-0 in Western Junior Col-

lege Athletic Conference play) are without Jermaine Winnfield, Jerry Dixon and Johnnie Lacey, who are suspended indefinitely for violating team rules.

So it'll be Corey Stern, Shavon Coleman, Joe Bright, Tramel White and Carlos Emory taking the floor tonight and it won't be against any slouch.

Midland College (17-2, 3-0) is one of three undefeated teams in conference play so far, including Howard and Odessa College.

Adams said tonight's game is all about separating from the pack. However, while Howard is dealing with suspensions and depth issues, Midland College has all the experience. Adams pointed out how a lot of the Chaparrals' key players are sophomores and they should challenge for not only a conference title, but a regional title as well.

Adams expects to learn a lot about his team after this game. Good teams such as Midland College expose weaknesses.

This is one of the games that gets a little more attention than most, too, Adams said. The proximity between the two schools and the success of both programs has created a good rivalry in men's and women's basketball. For the men, there are two national championships between the schools in the last four seasons.

"I think everyone likes to put a little more hype to it because if you look at the history of these teams, they both have a winning tradition and it makes for an exciting game for fans to come watch," Adams said. "It's still early in the year. Both teams are going to prove a lot between the next time we play each other and the regional tournament."

But there's still the underlying fact the Hawks will most likely only have five players suited up. However, the Hawks did beat New Mexico Military Institute 68-58 Monday with those same five play-

See **HAWKS**, Page 2B

Anna Smith newest WJCAC Hall Of Fame member

BY CINDY SMITH

Special to the Herald

Big Spring's own Anna Smith was among those recognized as the Western Junior College Athletic Conference (WJCAC) recently announced their latest inductees to the WJCAC Hall of Fame. Smith, who retired from Howard College in 1977, was nominated by Howard College for her direct impact on both high school and collegiate sports in the region as well as the state.

A recognition ceremony will be held

to honor Anna Smith between the men's and women's Hawk basketball games against Midland College today at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum on the campus of Howard College.

The women's game begins at 5:45 p.m. with the ceremony following at approximately 7:30 p.m. prior to the men's game which is slated to begin at 7:45 p.m.

Howard College inducted Smith into the Hawk Athletics Hall of Fame in April 2010. She served as the Director of Women's Physical Education,

Dean of Women and eventually Dean of Students throughout her tenure with the Hawks.

"Anna Smith not only played a very important role within our athletic program at Howard College, but she also served as a crucial role model for our students," said Dr. Cheryl T. Sparks, President of Howard College. "We are honored to recognize her legacy and the impact that she has had on our college and our athletic programs as well as the athletic programs in the region and state."

Smith served on various committees and boards on both a local and state level. She served on the Executive Board for the Texas Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation and was a member of the committee that was instrumental in getting health education recognized on all levels in our public schools. She was selected as a regional member of the Governor's Council on Lifetime Sports and has been the recipient of five meritorious sports awards from the Kiwanis club of Big Spring.

Sports in brief

Big Spring Little League Baseball

Sign-ups for little league baseball for ages 4-15 begin Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Big Spring Mall. Sign-ups will take place at those hours every Saturday until Feb. 12 at the mall. They also will take place from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Feb. 7 through Feb. 11 at the mall.

Participants can also sign up at Gartman Refrigeration on 3206 East FM 700 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Jan. 24 through Feb. 11. Registration is \$80 and it includes jersey, pants, socks and belt. Be sure to bring the child's birth certificate.

For more information, contact Paige at 213-2062 or Robert at 816-8161.

Big Spring Lady Steer Softball-Mandatory Parent Meeting

The meeting is at 7:30 p.m. Monday in the ATC. If there are any questions, please contact Coach Sparks at (432) 270-2711.

Garden City football

The 2010 Six-Man Football Division I state champions and their families will host a meal Sunday, January 30, 2011, at the St. Lawrence Parish Hall, 2400 FM 2401, near Garden City. The meal will begin at 11:30 a.m. and will include Country Style Ribs, beans, potatoes, salad and dessert, followed by a 2011 highlights video. Proceeds will help the

team members pay for their State Champion Rings. Everyone is invited.

For more information please contact Carol at 432-354-2654.

2011 MAYB River City Shootout

Registration is ongoing for the 2011 MAYB River City Shootout Basketball Tournament to take place on Feb. 19-20.

The tournament is for boys and girls, grades 3 through 8.

Please e-mail wardca@yahoo.com or call (979) 417-3721 for additional information. Online registration is available at www.otcybc.com.

Nadal close to another Grand Slam win

The Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — If Rafael Nadal is getting nervous as he eases closer to winning his fourth consecutive Grand Slam, he sure isn't showing it.

After his 6-2, 6-1, 6-1 win Thursday over American qualifier Ryan Sweeting, the Spanish star appeared as comfortable talking about his next match — against 18-year-old Australian Bernard Tomic — as he was in beating Sweeting so convincingly.

"Practice a little bit tomorrow, rest in the hotel, maybe going to the aquarium — I go every year. Nothing different," Nadal said, when asked about his preparations for Saturday's match.

Shrugging his shoulders and smiling, he added: "If I start getting nervous two days before a match, I have a big problem."

Nadal hasn't had any real problems in recent Grand Slams — Thursday's win was his 23rd in a row in majors

going back to the first round of the French Open last year. Since then, he's carted back to his home in Majorca trophies from Roland Garros, Wimbledon and the U.S. Open.

A fourth from the Australian Open — the Norman Brookes Challenge Cup that he won in 2009 — would make him the first man since Rod Laver in 1969 to hold all four major titles at once.

He's off to an impressive start at Melbourne Park, conceding only four games in two matches, although his opener against Marcos Daniel was cut short when the Brazilian had to retire with a knee injury trailing 6-0, 5-0.

Nadal seems so relaxed that he even played the comedian. Asked how he thought Tomic should approach the match, those muscular shoulders shrugged again and, to laughter, he replied: "Play very, very bad please. ... That's what I'd tell him."

The other player looking as impressive as Nadal this week is U.S. Open

champion Kim Clijsters, who is fast becoming a favorite for the women's title in the absence of defending champion Serena Williams with a foot injury.

Clijsters dumped former No. 1-ranked Dinara Safina out of the tournament in the first round, 6-0, 6-0. On Thursday, she beat Carla Suarez Navarro of Spain 6-1, 6-3.

"I tried to play both sides of the court, tried to be aggressive and dictate the points," Clijsters said. "And it worked."

Her 6-0, 6-1 third-round loss to Nadia Petrova last year was her worst in a major. It's a defeat she claims she doesn't dwell on and doesn't think will influence her preparations for the same stage this weekend, which is just as well. She could meet Petrova in the fourth round.

"I don't think I've ever played a match like that. So it was very easy in a way to also forget about it," Clijsters said.

Second-seeded Vera Zvonareva overcame a shaky start to beat Bojana Jovanovski of Serbia 2-6, 6-3, 6-1. Zvonareva was a finalist at the last two Grand Slams, losing to Williams at Wimbledon and Clijsters at the U.S. Open, and started off against Jovanovski like she had no hope of even getting that far at Melbourne Park.

A series of unforced errors gave her opponent an easy first-set win, before Zvonareva kicked into gear in the second. She got an early break and won the deciding set in 30 minutes.

Joining her in the third round from the bottom half of the draw were No. 10 Shahar Peer, who beat Sorana Cirstea 6-3, 6-2, and No. 22 Flavia Pennetta.

Seventh-seeded Jelena Jankovic lost 7-6 (3), 6-3 to China's Peng Shuai, continuing an unimpressive streak of seven losses in eight matches. It was former world No. 1 Jankovic's worst result at a major since the 2009 U.S. Open.

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

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

HAWKS

Continued from Page 1B

ers.

The Hawks have been trying to add Big Spring native and transfer Jason Walker to the roster, but Adams said even though he is eligible, he is not certified to play yet, as of Wednesday night.

Adams said the suspensions of Winnfield, Dixon and Lacey are indefinite, but it's a situation coaches are examining every day.

Adams refused to go into detail of why the three were suspended, citing the students' privacy as a reason.

The remaining players on the team are looking forward the challenge, though. Adams said his team's attitude is still positive following the suspensions.

"It's a little frustrating for them, but they have good attitudes," he said. "We've had the spirit to workout, so we're ready to go. We're all looking forward to getting out there and playing the Chaparrals."

Howard women

The Howard College women aren't counting on a hangover from the overtime loss at New Mexico Junior College last week. If anything, they expect games like that.

"I told our team once we enter conference play, I would say almost every game is going to come down between three and five possessions," head coach Earl Diddle said. "I think we did a lot of good things in New Mexico. We were down a couple times, then

we came back. Even in overtime we had the first two stops and then came down and turned it over.

"If we wouldn't have turned it over, who knows what would've happened."

The Hawks are hoping to avoid those mistakes when No. 6 Midland College visits at 5:45 p.m. today in Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Midland (18-3, 3-0) was one of the teams the Howard women saw in the WJCAC Pre-Conference tournament, taking a loss to the Lady Chaps in the second round.

But Diddle stresses this is a huge game for both squads. The Hawks (15-4, 1-1) have a chance to knock off the No. 6 team in the nation at home.

Diddle said this game certainly gets more hype than others, considering the proximity of the two schools and the winning tradition. But the same could be said when Howard faces other teams in the area, too.

"I think anytime it's Midland-Howard, Howard-Odessa, Howard-South Plains and even Howard and Western (Texas College), I think the proximity is a lot like the ACC, Tobacco Road," Diddle said. "All those schools are really close to each other. I don't think there is one (game) more important than the other. It's just that they're really close and there are people who work in our communities, Big Spring people work over there. It's really good for college basketball that we have such proximity and such good rivals."

Diddle expects a Midland College team without any weaknesses tonight. The Lady Chaps have the ability to score inside the paint and from the perimeter. But their real strength is depth. Diddle said the Lady Chaps substitute a lot because they have a handful of players who can produce.

Nets owner tells team to drop Anthony deal

The Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. — Mikhail Prokhorov was a day away from a sit-down with Carmelo Anthony when he decided to call the whole thing off.

And not just the meeting. The New Jersey Nets' entire pursuit of Anthony, too.

Prokhorov stunningly yanked the Nets from trade discussions they'd spent months engaging in, telling the team Wednesday to end the

long, drawn-out trade talks with the Denver Nuggets.

"There comes a time when the price is simply too expensive," Prokhorov said in a news conference before the Nets faced the Utah Jazz. "I am instructing our team to walk away from the deal."

It wasn't just the price that bothered the Russian billionaire, who apparently conducts his business in quieter ways.

"Really, I am not happy with the way the deal has gone until now," said Prokhorov, who fielded questions in English and Russian. "It has taken too long. It has been played out in public. The uncertainty has taken a toll on the players ... and I believe it has cost us several games."

Prokhorov canceled a planned meeting with Anthony on Thursday and said there was no

chance — that's a big nyet — that the trade would be resurrected. The Nets had lost six straight before beating Utah 103-95 at home after Prokhorov pronounced the Anthony deal dead.

Anthony said following his 35-point performance in Denver's 112-107 win over Oklahoma City that he would have liked to meet with Prokhorov.

"Yeah, he's a very interesting man. So, for me to just be in the room with him and just have a conversation with him, I would have loved that," Anthony said.

Denver general manager Masai Ujiri declined to answer questions about the Nets' decision.

beyond saying the Nuggets have been in talks "with plenty of teams" regarding Anthony and insisting he harbored no ill will toward the Nets for calling off talks.

Nuggets coach George Karl said he wasn't surprised that Prokhorov pulled the plug.

"I've been one of the guys who have been kind of hinting to you that this is a lot farther away from happening than you all think it's going to be," Karl said. "But we've got a fun game, a hell of a team to play against tonight ... and I'm more excited about that than my billionaire friend from Russia kind of throwing another curveball or knuckleball into the process."

"If it's true, it's true. If it isn't true, it isn't true," Karl added. "If it's a ploy in the negotiation, that's for the guys upstairs to figure out."

There were reports Wednesday that Anthony's representatives had let the Nuggets know that the 26-year-old forward was interested in playing for the Chicago Bulls.

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

The Case of the Missing Damsel

North dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A K J 5
♥ K 9 8
♦ K 6
♣ 10 7 4 3

WEST
♠ 10 9 7 3
♥ 5
♦ 10 8 4
♣ K Q J 8 2

EAST
♠ Q 4
♥ 7 4 2
♦ J 9 7 5 3 2
♣ 9 6

SOUTH
♠ 8 6 2
♥ A Q J 10 6 3
♦ A Q
♣ A 5

The bidding:
North East South West
1♠ Pass 3♥ Pass
4♥ Pass 6♥

Opening lead — king of clubs. Declarer obviously cannot control the distribution of the defenders' cards, which may or may not be favorable to his cause. What he can do, however, is to try to find a way to improve his chances on those hands where an unfavorable lie of the cards may exist.

Take this case where South went down one but should have made the slam. He won the club lead, cashed three trumps and the ace of spades, then led a diamond to the queen and finessed the jack of spades.

East took the queen and returned a club, and that was the end of that. Of course, had declarer seen East's

spade holding, he would have cashed the king and made the slam. But it would not be fair to criticize South for failing to guess that East had the doubleton queen of spades.

Declarer's real error came earlier, when he missed an opportunity to give himself an extra chance. He should have drawn trumps and then led a club. There was no need to try an early spade finesse; it could be taken just as well later on, if necessary.

West would win the club and, let's say, return a spade. Declarer takes the ace and ruffs a club, on which East shows out. South now cashes the Q-A of diamonds and a trump, producing this position:

North
♠ K J
♣ 10

West
♠ 10 9
♣ Q

East
♠ Q
♦ J 9

South
♠ 8 6
♦ 10

Declarer plays his last trump, West discarding a spade, dummy a club and East a diamond. South now leads a spade, and West follows with the ten. Thanks to the earlier plays in the club suit, declarer knows that West's remaining card is the queen of clubs, so a spade finesse can't possibly succeed. He therefore puts up dummy's king, catches East's queen and so makes the slam.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.
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ANSWERS

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

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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: My husband has several friends he's known for years. All of them are heavy drinkers. "Tom" is not a big drinker, but when he is with these friends, he gets sloppy drunk.

We are in our 60s, and for medical reasons, Tom should not be drinking at all.

Worse, he drives home after these binges. It often happens around sporting events.

His friends will get him tickets, and although we discuss the drinking ahead of time, it doesn't help.

When I call his cell phone and get no response, I know he's getting drunk. I pace the floor until he arrives home safely.

This behavior is taking a toll on me and our relationship. Tom knows how dangerous the drinking is, but his male ego and his friends are apparently more important than his health or anything else.

These guys know Tom has medical problems, but they don't care.

Tom is not an alcoholic. He rarely drinks at home and has no difficulty leaving booze in the refrigerator for months.

I have nothing against him having a beer, but drinking and driving or drinking heavily with all the medications he's on worries me to death.

Last night he came home smashed after attending a basketball game, and it was the last straw.

I told him I don't want him attending any more sporting events. Is there a better way to handle this? — *No Name, No Place*

Dear No Name: Tom may not be an alcoholic, but he certainly has a drinking problem.

He has difficulty controlling his liquor intake with these friends, even though he knows it is destroying his health and could wreck his marriage.

Al-Anon is an organization dedicated to helping friends and family of those who have problems with alcohol. Please give them a try at 1-888-4-AL-ANON (1-888-425-2666) (al-anon.alateen.org). They will have suggestions for you.

Dear Annie: Our mother is an awesome person, and we enjoy spending time with her,

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but it has to be limited.

She has to direct everything, and it has to be done her way or not at all. She is very good at couching criticism in small, underhanded comments, and she knows how to push everyone's buttons.

The problem is, Mom has asked us to take her on a cruise or road trip, and we all know we will be nuts before the first day is done.

Is there a way to tell her that while we love her, we don't want to travel with her? — *Avoiding Travel Brochures*

Dear Travel: Adult children are not obligated to travel with their parents, and it is OK to say you prefer to keep your vacations separate.

But some parents are in the habit of bossing their kids around, and although you are grown and capable of making your own decisions, Mom's behavior toward you is ingrained.

She may not realize how it prevents you from enjoying her company. If you don't tell her when she does annoying things, she won't have the opportunity to change.

But tell her nicely. With love. And humor, if you can manage it.

Dear Annie: When "My Two Cents' Worth" suggested that you might want to solicit some male input about women changing their names, you said, "When men are expected to take their wife's surname upon marriage, we'll be happy to ask for their input."

You and I know that will never happen, and that made your response narrow-minded.

So, I'm going to give you a dose of your own medicine. As a guy, I will never need advice from a couple of feminists with their noses in the air. — *Content*

Dear Content: Oh, get over yourself. We've printed plenty of opinions from men on this subject, but we don't believe the decision to change one's maiden name belongs to those who don't have to experience it. That would be like letting a woman decide how a man should feel about his erectile dysfunction.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Ste. 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Temptation looms large. If there's a button to be pushed, there will be a finger to push it. Under these skies, it's "out with the old, in with the new" as the sun returns to Aquarius, a place of altruism, philanthropy and rebellion. The Leo moon augments the effects of this transit, as the theatrical lion has a way of exaggerating things.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You will please others by feeding them. You could become legendary for one of the recipes you come up with, so pay attention to how you're putting everything together. Better yet, write it down.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll get a present. Maybe it comes as a surprise, but it really shouldn't be. This happens because you already gave up what you no longer needed or wanted, leaving room for something new to

drop in. **GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Love can and will turn your life in unexpected directions. You'll discover capacities you didn't know you had as you interact with your loved one today.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You don't have to worry about doing a great job. That will happen easily and naturally if you show up with a nice attitude and in a punctual manner. Being on time helps get everything off to a good start.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Friends will ask you for advice because they have a feeling that you will be able to see possibilities beyond their current viewpoint. Your broad interests and open mind allow for this.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Someone rubs you the wrong way. You can't put your finger on the real reason for this, though the discord has been consistent. It will help you if you inwardly agree to disagree.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You might be crazy about someone, but if you were with this per-

son all the time, you would quarrel. Even the best relationships need breathing room.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Get more involved with yourself. This will feel strange to you because for the last week you've been focusing on everyone else to the exclusion of your own needs and wants.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's something terribly inconvenient and time consuming that's on your list of things to do. Take solace from the fact that your ancestors got water from wells and killed their own food.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll see how all the reading you do is paying off. You'll know an answer and will save yourself and your loved ones time and money because of this knowledge.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll be sympathetic to another person's plight, but be careful not to take your sympathy too far. You can extend your kindness without giving money or signing up for

whatever the person is selling.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You have a strong appetite for life today, and also for food. It's a good time to feed yourself what you really want (but rarely get) without a shred of guilt about it.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 20). The action you take, no matter how small, will transform the landscape of your life. This is because you are so persistent and focused. You are like the ocean tides that, over time, beat down a rocky shore into fine sand. Declarations of love come next month. You will have big news for your friends in April. Travel in October. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 26, 33, 19 and 41.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I got in trouble at work for the comments and photos I put up on a social network. There is talk that I might be fired. I'm a Libra. Honestly, I don't

know what I was thinking — I just wasn't aware that my co-workers would be interested enough in my personal life to look me up. In a weird way, I'm flattered, although right now I'm facing the big problem of possibly being fired for my actions. Any advice? The boss who makes the decisions about my job is a Capricorn."

Oh, boy. It will be hard to change the mind of a Capricorn once it is made up. So your best bet is to run damage control before your Capricorn boss has decided what to do. Delete, retract and take down whatever virtual madness you can. In its place, construct your virtual image in a more conservative, traditional and professional manner. In the future, consider that your free-thinking Libran ways, however fun and magnetic they may be, are probably not suitable for every environment. Going forward, tap into your natural sense of diplomacy instead of

shooting from the hip. **CELEBRITY PROFILES:** Known for his role as the megalomaniacal Dwight Schrute in the television comedy "The Office," Rainn Wilson has also directed episodes of the popular series. Depending on their location and time of birth, some babies born today will be Capricorns, though Wilson's sun, Venus and Mars are nestled in Aquarius. His stars report a brilliantly unconventional and open-minded intellectual nature.

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. © 2011 CREATORS.COM

John Paul II's blood to be relic in Polish church

By **MONIKA SCISLOWSKA**
Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — A vial containing blood drawn from Pope John Paul II shortly before he died will be installed as a relic in a Polish church soon after his beatification later this year, an official said Monday.

Piotr Sionko, the spokesman for the John Paul II Center, said the vial will be encased in crystal and built into the altar of a church in the southern city of Krakow that is opening in May.

The exact date of the opening is not yet known, but it should be shortly after John Paul's beatification at the Vatican on May 1.

Sionko said the idea came from Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, the archbishop of Krakow and the longtime friend and secretary of the late Polish-born pontiff.

The blood was drawn for medical tests at

Rome's Gemelli Polyclinic shortly before John Paul's death on April 2, 2005, and is now in Dziwisz's possession, he said.

"It was the cardinal's proposal," Sionko said. "He is of the opinion that this is the most precious relic of John Paul II and should be the focal point of the church."

The church in the Lagiewniki district is part of a center that will be devoted to cultivating the memory and the teaching of the late pope — who was born Karol Wojtyla in Wadowice, southern Poland, and spent decades in Krakow.

Many Catholics in the world are rejoicing over Pope Benedict XVI's announcement last week that he will beatify John Paul on May 1. Beatification is the last major step before possible sainthood.

The idea of displaying the pope's relics has met with some reservations,

even inside the Catholic Church.

"The tradition of relics comes from medieval practices of teaching the Bible through images and symbols," said the Rev. Krzysztof Madel, a Jesuit priest in Nowy Sacz who has publicly questioned the usefulness of displaying John Paul's blood. "But in today's rationalized world the message should rather come through teaching about someone's life."

After John Paul's death, some Polish officials said they hoped John Paul's heart would be removed from his body and returned to his homeland for burial.

However, church officials dismissed any possibility of dismembering the body, saying the age had passed for that practice.

Dziwisz said Friday that he has always been against dividing of the body, but that "relics have always existed and will always exist."



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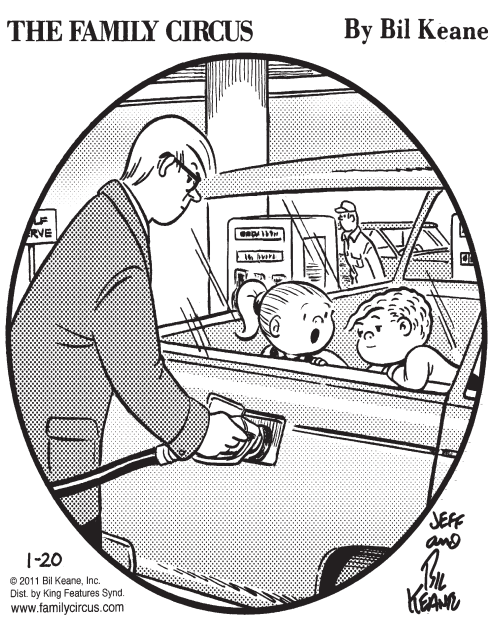
	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports	
5:PM :30	News ABC	Alma Notic.	Lopez News	News	Noticias Noticiero	News	King	Granger Brad	World Business	Lyrics! Lyrics!	Cash Cab	Crocodile Dundee II, Charles	Gangland	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Sonny Fish		SportsCenter	
6:PM :30	Jeopardy!	Llena de Amor (SS)	Two Men	News	Caso Cerrado	News	Seinfeld	Sala Charles	PBS News-Hour	70s Show	Man vs. Wild		Gangland	Bones		Good	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	
7:PM :30	Wipeout	Eva Luna (SS)	American Idol	Big Bang Dad Says	Aurora (SS)	Commun Couples	Movie: Save the Last Dance	Upd Sid Roth	Aviators Parks	The Vampire Diaries	Man vs. Wild	Movie: Once Upon a Time in Mexico	Gangland	NBA Basketball: Dallas Mavericks at Chicago Bulls.	Together Together	Sonny Shake it			
8:PM :30	Grey's Anatomy	Triunfo del Amor	Bones	CSI: Crime Scene	Herederos-Monte	Office Parks		Light of the Southwest	Antiques Roadshow	Nikita	Masters of Survival		TNA Wrestling		Movie: Booty Call, Vivica A. Fox	Deck Good	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	
9:PM :30	(:01) Private Practice	Mujeres Asesinas 3	Simpsons How I Met	The Mentalist	Alguien te Mira (SS)	30 Rock Out	Fam. Guy		Pioneers, Television	Married Married	Dual Survival	Movie: Demolition Man, Sandra Bullock		NBA Basketball: Clippers at Trail Blazers	The Mo'Nique	Sonny	Tennis: Australian Open, Day 5.	SportsCenter	
10:PM :30	News Nightline	Impacto Noticiero	How I Met Raymond	News Letterman	Noticias Titulares	News Jay Leno	Conan	Alewine Van Impe	Charlie Rose	King King	Man vs. Wild		MAN		Wendy Williams	Hannah	NFL Live	SportsCenter	
11:PM :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	La Verdad Oculta	Law & Order: SVU	Late	Decisiones (SS)	Late Night	Lopez Tonight	Bill Cloud Swallow	World T. Smiley (Off Air)	South Pk	Masters of Survival	Movie: Crocodile Dundee, Mark Blum	Trailers	Inside the NBA	Movie: Booty Call, Vivica A. Fox	Wizards			
12:AM :30	Extra	Tontas Cielo	Raymond	Insider	Pagado	News	Lopez Tonight	World		South Pk	Dual Survival		MAN	Leverage	Suite Life	Suite Life		SportsCenter	
1:AM :30	Paid																		

DENNIS THE MENACE



"HE'S A SELF-STARTER, BUT HE NEEDS SOMEONE ELSE TO STOP HIM!!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Grandma told me they used to have waiters who served your gas."

HAGAR



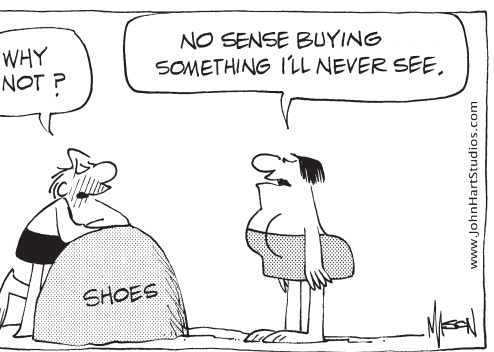
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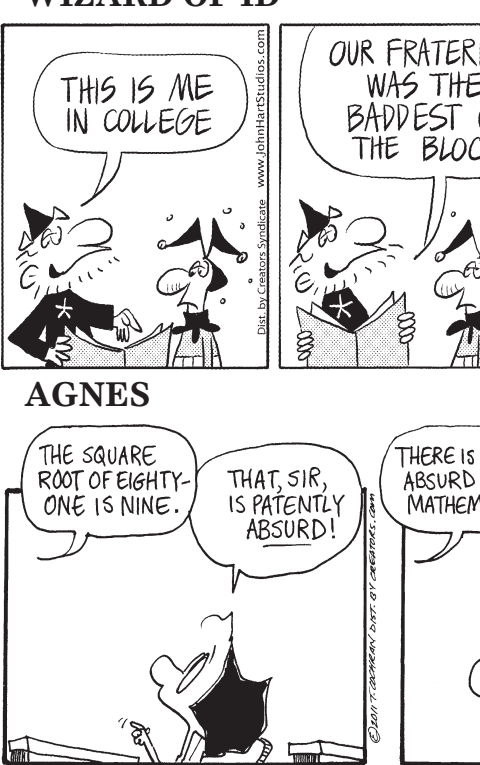
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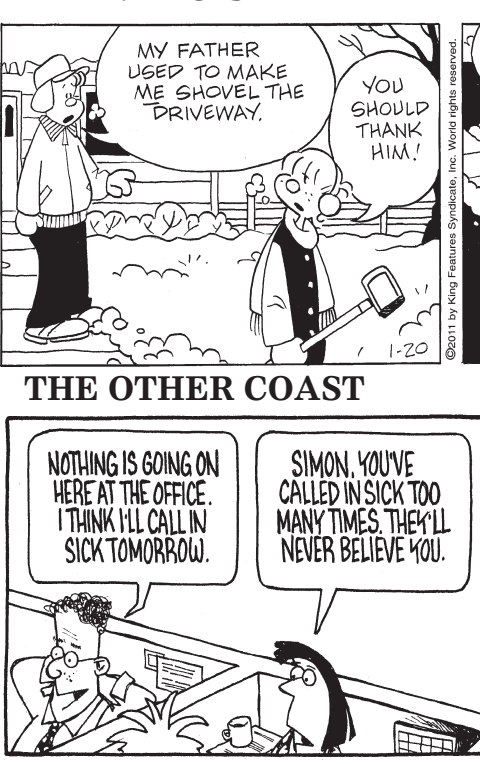
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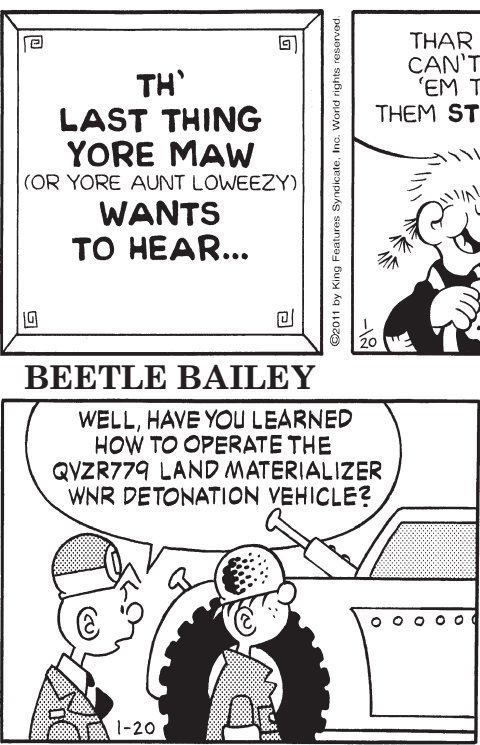
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
- 1 Prospector's filing
- 6 Model in a bottle
- 10 Attire
- 14 Divide evenly
- 15 Writer Morrison
- 16 Time for caroling
- 17 Befuddled Fudd
- 18 Minuscule amount
- 19 Volver actress Penélope
- 20 Sousa march honoree
- 23 Basic building block
- 24 Sphere
- 25 Fries source, informally
- 28 Tour guides?
- 31 Bush successor
- 35 Business with many decks
- 37 Took it on the chin
- 39 Rack item
- 40 Newspaper feature
- 43 Certain sister
- 44 Monopoly payment
- 45 Baby's bodysuit
- 46 Raring to go
- 48 Well-kept
- 50 Service charges
- 51 Greek letters
- 53 "Get lost!"
- 55 Detective's illumination source, perhaps
- 62 Like-minded group
- 63 Sub ___ (secretly)

This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Jan. 20, the 20th day of 2011. There are 345 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 20, 1961, John F. Kennedy was inaugurated as the 35th President of the United States; in his inaugural address, Kennedy declared, "Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty."

On this date:

In 1801, Secretary of State John Marshall was nominated by President John Adams to be chief justice of the United States (he was sworn in on Feb. 4, 1801).

In 1841, the island of Hong Kong was ceded by China to Great Britain. (It returned to Chinese control in July 1997.)

In 1936, Britain's King George V died; he was succeeded by

Edward VIII.

In 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt became the first chief executive to be inaugurated on Jan. 20 instead of March 4.

In 1942, Nazi officials held the notorious Wannsee conference, during which they arrived at their "final solution" that called for exterminating Jews.

In 1949, President Harry S. Truman was sworn in for a second term of office.

In 1969, Richard M. Nixon was sworn in as the 37th president of the United States; Spiro Agnew took the oath of vice president.

In 1981, Iran released 52 Americans it had held hostage for 444 days, minutes after the presidency had passed from Jimmy Carter to Ronald Reagan.

In 1986, the United States observed the first federal holiday in honor of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

In 2009, Barack Obama was sworn in as the nation's 44th, as well as first African-American, president.

Today's Birthdays: Country singer Slim Whitman is 87.

Comedian Arte Johnson is 82. Former astronaut Buzz Aldrin is 81. Olympic gold medal figure skater Carol Heiss is 71. Singer Eric Stewart is 66. Movie director Stuart Lynch is 65. Country-rock musician George Grantham (Poco) is 64. Actor Daniel Benzali is 61. Rock musician Paul Stanley (KISS) is 59. Rock musician Ian Hill (Judas Priest) is 59. Comedian Bill Maher (MAHR) is 55. Actor Lorenzo Lamas is 53. Actor James Denton is 48. Rock musician Greg K. (The Offspring) is 46. Country singer John Michael Montgomery is 46. Sophie, Countess of Wessex, is 46. Actor Rainn Wilson (TV: "The Office") is 45. Actress Stacey Dash is 44.

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Answer to previous puzzle

STAG	MAGIC	CPAS
ORNO	ERODE	ALMA
OUTLET	ALL	RUMS
NEEDLE	DEL	EGOS
MOO	SIREN	
HACKERS	STRIPS	
OTHER	CASTE	CEO
IRAN	PAILS	SKEW
SIR	CARLO	SIEW
TAGSUP	TRIPLED	
ELDER	HAT	
BOCA	ROD	ROSTER
IMAC	CURRENT	ERA
DARK	USUAL	ERIN
ENDS	PEGGY	PICK

SUPPORT GROUP by Doug Peterson Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- 9 Saloon music maker
- 10 Babe Ruth rival
- 11 Sharers' pronoun
- 12 Overabundance
- 13 "___ who?"
- 21 "That's enough!"
- 22 Particle in a stack
- 23 Across
- 25 Movie sequence
- 26 City near Venice
- 27 Calling into play
- 29 One in a kitchen
- 30 Sun, in Seville
- 32 Crack up
- 33 Ike's spouse
- 34 Moorehead of Bewitched
- 36 Action star
- 38 Rob Roy liquor
- 41 Country stopover
- 42 Paris district
- 47 Win-and-place wager
- 49 Odin's realm
- 52 Mole relative
- 54 Mythical burden bearer
- 55 Furnace duct
- 56 Have a hankering
- 57 Serenade subject
- 58 "That clears it up"
- 59 Logician's transition
- 60 Golden ___ (senior citizen)
- 61 Soften
- 62 Comic-book sound

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