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# BIG SPRING HERALD

**THURSDAY**

**FEBRUARY 17, 2011**



VOLUME 106, NUMBER 66

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## Early out earns \$1,000 at BSISD

By **STEVE REAGAN**

Staff Writer

In an effort to make up for an anticipated budget shortfall, Big Spring public school officials are offering personnel a de facto early resignation bonus.

Any Big Spring Independent School District employee who announces his or her resignation prior to March 1 will receive a one-time pay-

ment of \$1,000, BSISD Chief Financial Officer Sandra Waggoner said.

This action is being taken to help the district get a head start on dealing with an anticipated drop in state aid. Texas legislators are expected to drastically cut revenue to school districts as a result of a budget shortfall estimated at almost \$20 billion.

"We're doing this simply

for budgetary reasons," Waggoner said. "We'll look at the vacancies that result (from the early resignations) at that particular point and see if they need to be filled."

Reducing the number of personnel is the last option for BSISD, Waggoner said, but with payroll accounting for more than 75 percent of the district's budget, officials are looking for any solution short

of handing out pink slips.

"When you're looking at trimming the budget, you've got to look at payroll," she said. "This is not to encourage anyone to quit, but if they are going to, we want them to let us know as early as they can so we can plan ahead ... This is one way for us not to have a reduction in force later on because we'll know what's coming."

While payroll accounts for most of the district's budget, it is not the only area officials will look for cuts, Waggoner promised.

"We'll go through the budget, line item by line item," she said. "We're looking at everything."

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



HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins

Employees with Lubbock-based Berg Studios work to remove a stained glass window from First Presbyterian Church Wednesday afternoon. The 80-year-old treasures will be shipped to Lubbock, where they will be restored to their original glory, according to the Rev. Craig Holstedt, a process that will take nearly a year. The work is part of a \$250,000 renovation project at the local church.



## Chamber reviews upcoming activities

By **AMANDA MORENO**

Staff Writer

Mark your calendars, numerous events are coming up in the next two months. Upcoming events were the main focus of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce board's meeting Wednesday.

This weekend, the Big Spring Symphony presents "Time Travels", with Sarah Beckham as a guest artist at the Big Spring High School Auditorium.

A world-renowned pianist will be making a special performance for Big Spring residents to enjoy. The concert will take place at the Hall Center for the Arts on the

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## Wife's nudge makes author out of officer

By **STEVE REAGAN**

Staff Writer

Mike Eggleston had lots of stories from his days as a Texas peace officer, but it took a nudge from his wife to put those stories on paper.

Eggleston, whose career in law enforcement included a stint with the Big Spring Police Department, was at the Heritage Museum Wednesday to sign copies of "Distorted Pillars," a fictionalized account of some of the events in his career.

Written under his pen name, Mike McKee, the book follows the career of Mike Evans, who strikes out at any-

thing he considers unethical, unfair or unpatriotic.

According to a synopsis of the book, Evans continuously deals with exciting, dangerous situations, some of which result in death, while others become hilarious and end with the unexpected.

Eggleston, who is now retired and living near Dunn, said a second career as a book author was not on his list of things to do after he retired from law enforcement.

"I never dreamed of writing a book," he said. Pointing to his wife, Kathie, he jokingly

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HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Mike Eggleston talks to a person while signing copies of his book, "Distorted Pillars," at Heritage Museum Wednesday afternoon. The book is a fictionalized account of some events from Eggleston's law enforcement career.



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## Obituaries

### Cory Lee Puga



Cory Lee Puga, 19, of Big Spring died Sunday, Feb. 13, 2011, at University Medical Center in Lubbock. Rosary will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral mass will be held at 1 p.m. Friday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Cory was born Sept. 18, 1991, in Big Spring. He is survived by his fiancé, Tori Johnson; stepchildren, Jacob and Carmen; his mother, Pam Puga; father, Chuck Cahorn; stepfather, Paul Silva; sister, Crystal Puga; and brother, Chad Puga. He was the grandson to Judy (deceased) and Johnny Lee Puga. His immediate family included Uncle Rod Puga; cousins, Loren, Julie and Aron Puga; Uncle Johnny R. Puga; Uncle Wayne Holland; Melissa Puga, the other mother; Uncle Shannon Beaudreax; and cousins, Brandon Bollier and Summer Beaudreax.

Cory resided in Big Spring and worked for Basic Energy Drilling Division. He loved his job very much and was a very hard worker. He was a jokester. He was a very fun-loving, good-hearted kid. He liked fishing and spending time with his family. He will be greatly missed.

Pallbearers will be Chad Puga, Shannon Beaudreax, Brandon Bollier, Jeremy Balios, Kyle Gerstenberger, David Valdez, Mark McBeth and Cody Nall.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersandsmith.com](http://www.myersandsmith.com)

*Paid obituary*

### Sandra De La Garza Ramirez



Sandra De La Garza Ramirez, 44, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2011, at Midland Memorial Hospital. Vigil services will be at 4 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Friday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

She was born Jan. 8, 1967, to Maria Dolores and Eliseo De La Garza Jr. in Edinburg. She moved to Big Spring 17 years ago and lived most of her life here. She was a Certified Nurse's Assistant at Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home. She was a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

She is survived by her husband, Jesus Ramirez Sr. of Big Spring; two sons, Jesus Ramirez Jr. and his wife Victoria of Midland and Justin Ramirez of Big Spring; one daughter, Kayleen Ramirez of Big Spring; parents, Dolores and Eliseo De La Garza of Big Spring; three sisters Irma Chapa, Leticia Dominguez and Marisa Barrientes, all of Big Spring; and several nieces and nephews.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersandsmith.com](http://www.myersandsmith.com)

## Take Note

• United Blood Services will hold a blood drive from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday in the Big Spring City Council Chambers, 307 E. Fourth St. Walk-ins are welcome or call 264-2347 to schedule an appointment. Bring your identification.

• American Legion Post 506 will host a fish fry from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the post home, 3203 W. Highway 80. Carry out is available. Delivery will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. by calling 263-2084.

• The Department of State Health Services is offering the Shingles vaccine in the month of February. The vaccine will be administered free from 1-4 p.m. Feb. 22-23 only. If you are 60 years or older and have had chicken pox sometime in your life, this vaccine is recommended. Please call 263-9775 if you have questions.

• The Kiwanis Club of Big Spring will hold its annual pancake supper from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. March 11 at the Howard College Cafeteria. Tickets are \$5 per person and can be obtained from any Kiwanis Club member or by contacting Don McGonagill at 267-7601.

• Mobile Meals is in need of volunteers to deliver meals to the homebound elderly in Big Spring. If you can donate at least one hour a week, call Macaria Cantu at 263-4016 and leave a message.

• An account has been set up to help Bob and Jeanine Fishback with Bob's medical and travel expenses: Bob Fishback Medical Account 915967, Big Spring Education Employees Federal Credit Union, 1110 Benton, Big Spring 79720. For more information, call 263-8393.

## Police blotter

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

• RICKY BOB YANEZ, 25, of 1302 Sycamore, was arrested Wednesday on a warrant from another agency and a warrant for resisting arrest, search or transportation.

• ZACKARY BENNETT WATKINS, 25, of 908 Mountain Park, was arrested Wednesday on warrants for expired license plate and failure to appear.

• JACOB DANIEL PETROWSKI, 21, of 2803 Apache, was arrested Wednesday on a warrant from another agency.

• THOMAS RIOS, 29, of 1321 Mulberry, was arrested Wednesday on a warrant for possession of a controlled substance.

• STEPHANIE LYNN CISNEROS, 36, of 1321 Mulberry, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.

• THEFT was reported:  
In the 1600 block of Martin Luther King Blvd.  
In the 1900 block of S. Gregg Street.  
In the 600 block of Caylor.

## Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 65 inmates at the time of this report.

• RICKY BOB YANEZ, 25, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a motion to revoke probation for manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance and a charge of resisting arrest, search or transportation.

• THOMAS RIOS, 29, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance.

• ZACKARY BENNETT WATKINS, 25, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on municipal warrants for violation of a promise to appear and expired driver's license.

• JACOB DANIEL PETROWSKI, 21, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a motion to revoke probation for theft.

• STEPHANIE LYNN CISNEROS, 36, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.

• ROBERT RUBIN SANCHEZ, 46, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

## Fire/EMS

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

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1000 block of Sycamore. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAUMA was reported in the 100 block of E. 21<sup>st</sup> Street. 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 300 block of N.W. 11<sup>th</sup> Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

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

• MEDICAL was reported in the 400 block of Hillside. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 2600 block of Ann Drive. One person was transported to SMMC.

## Support Groups

### THURSDAY

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

### FRIDAY

• AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

## Today's Weather

### Local 5-Day Forecast

Fri 2/18	Sat 2/19	Sun 2/20	Mon 2/21	Tue 2/22
<b>82/51</b> Sunshine. Near record high temperatures. High 82F. Winds NE at 5 to 10 mph.	<b>82/54</b> Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the mid 50s.	<b>85/43</b> Morning clouds followed by afternoon sun.	<b>74/41</b> Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the low 40s.	<b>81/45</b> Sunshine. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the mid 40s.
Sunrise: 7:26 AM Sunset: 6:35 PM	Sunrise: 7:25 AM Sunset: 6:35 PM	Sunrise: 7:24 AM Sunset: 6:36 PM	Sunrise: 7:23 AM Sunset: 6:37 PM	Sunrise: 7:22 AM Sunset: 6:38 PM

## Texas At A Glance



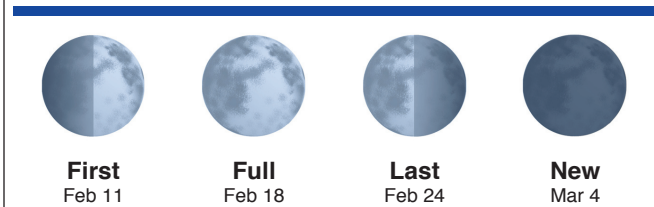
### Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Ablene	80	55	pt sunny	Kingsville	79	62	pt sunny
Amarillo	63	37	mst sunny	Livingston	75	53	cloudy
Austin	76	57	cloudy	Longview	76	58	cloudy
Beaumont	72	54	cloudy	Lubbock	73	40	mst sunny
Brownsville	81	65	pt sunny	Lufkin	78	56	cloudy
Brownwood	81	57	pt sunny	Midland	80	52	mst sunny
Corpus Christi	73	62	pt sunny	Raymondville	82	62	pt sunny
Corsicana	77	59	cloudy	Rosenberg	75	56	cloudy
Dallas	78	60	pt sunny	San Antonio	77	60	cloudy
Del Rio	80	58	pt sunny	San Marcos	76	57	cloudy
El Paso	78	45	mst sunny	Sulphur Springs	73	59	cloudy
Fort Stockton	83	52	mst sunny	Sweetwater	80	53	mst sunny
Gainesville	76	56	pt sunny	Tyler	75	57	cloudy
Greenville	74	57	cloudy	Weatherford	78	56	pt sunny
Houston	73	56	cloudy	Wichita Falls	78	50	mst sunny

### National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	72	49	pt sunny	Minneapolis	30	21	pt sunny
Boston	52	32	rain	New York	61	38	pt sunny
Chicago	47	27	pt sunny	Phoenix	69	51	cloudy
Dallas	78	60	pt sunny	San Francisco	51	41	rain
Denver	52	32	pt sunny	Seattle	39	30	mixed
Houston	73	56	cloudy	St. Louis	57	39	pt sunny
Los Angeles	63	47	rain	Washington, DC	71	44	pt sunny
Miami	81	61	pt sunny				

### Moon Phases



### UV Index

Fri 2/18	Sat 2/19	Sun 2/20	Mon 2/21	Tue 2/22
5	4	6	6	6
Moderate	Moderate	High	High	High

## Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 3-4-7-21-28-30.  
Number matching six of six: 0.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 10-19-20-29-37.  
Number matching five of five: 0.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 1-7-2-8. Sum It Up: 18.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 0-1-8. Sum It Up: 9.

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# Health care bills to change Texas payment system

AUSTIN (AP) — Two bills introduced into the Texas Senate would change health care billing procedures to encourage doctors to focus on patient outcomes, best practices and maintaining good health, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst and Sen. Jane Nelson said on Wednesday.

Dewhurst said the U.S. health care system was the most expensive in the world, yet produced poor results. He said Senate Bills 7 and 8 would create free-market incentives for doctors and hospitals to

work together to make care more efficient and effective.

“In Texas, we don’t have health care, we have sick care,” Dewhurst said. “America, almost exclusively, pays doctors based on how many procedures are done, versus paying for good medical outcomes and paying for following best practices.”

Senate Bill 7 would overhaul the Medicaid and Child Health Insurance Program payment systems, while Senate Bill 8 would focus on other health care plans

for state employees and others. Both would create incentives for doctors and hospitals to provide better health care at a lower cost, Dewhurst said.

“The research shows that in this model, as implemented by the Mayo Clinic, it decreases acute care costs by 28 percent, while increasing the quality of medical outcomes, using the Intermountain example in Salt Lake City, by 40 percent,” Dewhurst said.

Representative from the Texas Medical As-

sociation and the Texas Hospital Association appeared with Dewhurst and Nelson to endorse the bills.

“The current system of paying for health care is based on volume, not quality,” said Dan Stultz, president of the Texas Hospital Association. “Payment reform is needed to change the incentives and reward ‘right behaviors,’ such as using best practices and evidence-based protocols to improve quality.”

Nelson, R-Flower Mound, said the bill

would move Texas “toward a payment system that rewards quality outcomes rather than quantity of services.”

“I guarantee you, it’s not only going to save us money, it will improve and we’ll have healthier Texans,” Nelson said.

Among other things, the bill would allow doctors and hospitals to collaborate on billing practices, something forbidden under current law.

“Texas hospitals are ready to embrace the concept of health care collaboratives where

physicians, nurses and hospitals work together to achieve the best quality results for their patients,” Stultz said. Removing antitrust barriers and creating financial incentives . . . will help drive the movement to improve quality, and over time lead to tangible cost savings and better outcomes.”

Rep. Lois Kolkhorst R-Brenham, plans to introduce a companion bill in the House. The Senate bills will now go to committees for public hearings.

# Advocates: Texas budget slashes legal aid for poor

AUSTIN (AP) — Tens of thousands of poor Texans wouldn’t have access to lawyers under the preliminary state budget that cuts legal aid by \$23 million, advocates said Wednesday.

Legal organizations have seen a steep drop in interest rates, a deteriorating economy and escalating poverty, leaving them with a revenue shortfall they say they can’t bridge alone. Supporters are urging state lawmakers to continue funding ser-

VICES that help the poor and abused get representation.

The Legislature provided a \$20 million grant in 2009 that helped mitigate the crisis. Texas Supreme Court Justice Nathan Hecht said legal organizations will need another \$20 million — or possibly more — this session.

But the state faces its own crisis with a budget deficit of at least \$15 billion. As lawmakers propose deep spending reductions across the board, legal or-

ganizations are looking to other funding options.

James Sales, chair emeritus of the Texas Access to Justice Commission, said advocates hope that proposed bills designed to boost revenue will help bring in the money needed.

The bills would increase fees associated with filing in district court and for creditors in the mortgage foreclosure process. Sen. Jose’ Rodriguez, D-El Paso, authored a bill that would

establish a Judicial Access and Improvement Fund. This would fund civil legal services, electronic filing and indigent defense by charging recording fees and other court costs.

“This is not an area we should hold back on,” Rodriguez said.

“If we’re going to live up to the promise of our justice system, we’re going to have to, as a society, invest in the system.”

## OFFICER

Continued from Page 1A

added, “She pestered me into doing it.”

Kathie Eggleston didn’t totally deny

her husband’s comments.

“I wanted him to write down the stories for his grandkids, so they’d know some of the things he’d done,” she said.

Although he’d never attempted to write a book, the exercise wasn’t too

daunting a challenge, Mike said.

“I just wrote it from memory,” he said. “It didn’t take too long.”

Although the book is a work of fiction, he said it is based on actual events.

“I wrote in as fiction because I was

worried about being sued,” he said. “But everything is based on true stories.”

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

## CHAMBER

Continued from Page 1

Howard College campus on Feb. 25 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available for \$25 and can be purchased at the chamber, the Herald and at Churchwell Insurance. According to Terri Johansen, president of the chamber board, the money will go to the Big Spring Community Foundation CARE fund. The CARE fund provides help for cancer patients.

If gems are what you’re looking for, the Howard County Fair Barns will be the place to find them. The 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Gem and Mineral Show will be the weekend of March 5 and 6. For more information, call 263-3340.

For those concerned about educating themselves on health issues, the health fair will be on April 9 at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum from 8 a.m. to noon. For more information, call the chamber at 263-7641. That same day is the Master the Mountain 5K Run, at the Big Spring State Park. For more information, contact Ron Alton at 263-4931.

On top of already scheduled events, the chamber has several activities in the works.

There are no specified dates at this time, but ideas are flowing for an art walk and community luncheon. A Howard County community guide is also in the works.

“We really want this to be a show stopper for the community,” Debbye ValVerde, executive director of the chamber, said. “We really want it to show off Coahoma, Forsan and Big Spring.”

Ideas are being welcomed from chamber board members concerning stories and layout. Chamber members interested in hosting a Business Before Hours or Business After Hours are encouraged to call the chamber. Oncor has confirmed a date for Business After Hours, May 5 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Local employers will receive education on hiring handicapped employees. SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf will be the location of a job fair and presentation put on by Workforce Solutions on April 19. The school will provide interpreters for those participating in the event. Participating employers will have access to a luncheon before the job fair.

Bond issues are a big

topic for area school districts, including Howard College. The community college is beginning to reap the benefits of its \$21 million bond as completion nears on multiple projects. A rededication has been scheduled for Sept. 30 at 1 p.m. The rededication will take place the same weekend as Big Spring High School’s homecoming.

“We want the community to come out and see how we’ve spent our money,” said Jan Foresyth, director of institutional advancement for Howard College.

HC is also celebrating 65 years of education, which is a milestone as a community college according to Foresyth.

“There are only a handful of us that have 65 years in the community college world,” Foresyth said.

The rededication will include refreshments and tours for those wanting to see the work that has been done.

The Big Spring VA Medical Center understands what it means to be done with construction, or at least nearing

the end of construction. According to Iva Jo Hanslik, public relations director, the VA’s recently constructed facility has yet to accept patients. A ribbon cutting was held for the new facility, but no occupants have been moved into it at this time.

Another topic brought up Wednesday was a reminder of the Feb. 28 meeting concerning the possible joined housing of the police and sheriff’s department. County Judge Mark Barr reminded chamber members that the meeting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on the third floor of the courthouse. The meeting will also air on the local public access station, channel 17.

“We want to hear what the community thinks because this is a big expenditure,” Barr said.

The project is estimated to cost \$2.7 million. The city currently has a \$1.7 million budget for a new police station, but according to Barr, that is not sufficient enough funds for the project. The possibility of moving the municipal court to the courthouse is also

being considered.

There were a few action items listed on the agenda, as well. Flo-Lite Screen Print & Embroidery was accepted as a new member to the chamber. The financial report from chamber treasurer Mark Morgan reported a profit of \$32,000, for the month of January.

“January always is a good revenue month,” Morgan said. “It will go down from here.”

Contact Staff Writer Amanda Moreno at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at life@bigspringherald.com

## MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Sandra De La Garza Ramirez, 44, died Wednesday. Vigil services will be at 4 p.m. today at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Friday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

Cory Puga, 19, died Sunday. Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. tonight at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Friday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

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**AN ENCOURAGING WORD**



By Eddy Pitchford

Watching the Green Bay Packers win this year’s Super Bowl reminded me of a conversation I had over forty years ago. I commented to a man working on our house that Elijah Pitts was a good football player.

I knew very little about professional football and preferred the Dallas Cowboys over Elijah Pitts and the Packers. I was merely repeating what others had told me and was simply attempting to sound grownup. I was surprised when the man replied, “Yeah, but he’s black.”

The lesson I heard but rejected was that people are to be judged by the color of their skin. The lesson I learned and accepted was that words are very powerful. Indeed they can be recalled over forty years later.

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

219702

## EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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**Ron Midkiff** Publisher  
**Steve Reagan** Staff Writer  
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## OTHER VIEWS

## Who really runs state's power grid?

As Texans without power shivered through one of the worst cold snaps in years this month, the icicles of blame pointed in a number of directions. Temperatures plummeted, ice and snow fell, and the state's power grid lost 7,000 megawatts of capacity, forcing waves of controlled blackouts statewide.

At the heart of the disruption was a handful of relatively new coal-fired power plants in Central Texas operated by Energy Future Holdings, whose units succumbed to the cold. Since older coal plants at more northern locations run by the same company continued to function, the immediate suspicion was that the newer plants had not been adequately insulated. (Those facts made nonsense of claims by conservative talk show hosts and politicians that the Obama administration's anti-coal environmental policies caused the blackouts.)

While the storm that swept the state was the coldest in years, it was by no means a record breaker. The chief executive of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT), the agency responsible for supervising the state's power grid, conceded that the plants may have been inadequately insulated. Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, a former power generation executive, told reporters, "This is not rocket science. You ought to be able to adequately winterize these plants."

A secondary difficulty arose when natural gas supplier Atmos Energy, which serves much of North Texas, reacted to peaking demands by shutting off supplies to commercial customers, including backup gas-fired power units needed to fill the electricity shortfall.

Atmos officials said they were simply following guidelines set in 1972 by the Texas Railroad Commission, which regulates natural gas pipelines in the state, to put residential customers first.

According to former Houston Mayor and Deputy U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Bill White, when Texas deregulated the electricity market a decade ago, it inadvertently eliminated requirements for power producers to maintain adequate reserve capacity for emergencies. In an op-ed on today's Outlook page,

White argues that deregulation eliminated incentives for operators to maintain expensive excess capacity. Because the price of electricity soars during emergencies, the elimination of incentives has a costly side effect: Operators whose plants continue to produce can make millions of dollars more. That happened this time, as wholesale prices for electricity jumped from roughly \$70 per megawatt to over \$3,000 at the height of the storm.

There will be multiple autopsies of the causes for the latest power breakdowns by state legislative committees as well as ERCOT and the Railroad Commission. We'd like to know who profited off this near-meltdown and what can be done to incentivize power producers to maintain adequate reserve capacity for emergencies rather than waiting for emergency windfalls.

If ERCOT is going to be the master of the grid, it must be able to enforce adequate insulation and operational standards for plant operators. Lastly, ERCOT and the Railroad Commission need to align their policies so that gas, coal, wind and solar power generators complement rather than undercut each other in a crunch.

Houston Chronicle

## 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 [newsdesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:newsdesk@bigspringherald.com)

## Saying something that matters

Saying something that matters is more important than simply saying something.

When it comes to writing my column, I don't write about government issues or religion. I stay away from the political arena because it's far too complicated and hostile for me. Instead, when I go to let my column flow, I put pen to paper and tell about what I know — life.

Some may say it's irrelevant, unorthodox or just the easy way out. For those that think that, who knows, maybe they are right, but maybe they aren't.

I have found that there are numerous people willing to voice their opinions on political issues, the government and which religion is better or worse. I read those columns; I get relevant information from them, but I don't get what I'm looking for from them.

All those columnists are ready to voice their opinions and not worry about who will get offended, but when it comes to writing about life you just don't find that many people who are willing to take the risk and talk about life. I want to read something that gives me understanding, gives me meaning or a lesson.

Writing about life is sometimes just as complicated as writing about religion and politics. The difference between them is that with life, there are

mistakes, but they can't be corrected by a simple fact check or spelling change.

Life happens and when that moment is gone nothing can be done about it. When it comes to politics, mistakes are made and kind of like life, people spend so much time trying to undo them or change them, but end up missing even more because of the time spent on a past issue. As with life, moving forward and learning from mistakes is the best way to fix something.

Even on the topic of life, there will be those who don't agree and who will get angry. I have come to understand that anything and everything is going to generate some response; I simply look at it this way, at least they are noticing what I said and it struck a cord.

I never write a column expecting everyone to like it; however, I expect to reach at least one person. I want to reach that one person who thinks there is nobody out there thinking or feeling like they do. I want to get to the point of letting that one person know that no matter what the case, the hurt, pain or insecurity will pass and someone understands.

I have been that person who thought nobody cared, nobody understood, and there was no way to make it through.

I remember the desperation, the loss of faith and the bitter sadness and wishing that just one person could tell me that they have been there and that it would be alright. After all, that much hurt and sadness had to lead to something better right? Right. It did and it does.

In writing my columns, I have



AMANDA MORENO

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## Don't shoot those guns in the air just yet, Egypt

Congratulations people of Egypt. After a mere 30 years of oppression, having your country as the president's personal piggy bank and plenty of religious-zealotry-fueled villainy, you managed to cast aside Hosni Mubarak.

On the plus side, you did this largely through non-violent means — mostly by standing in the street and rioting politely. On the negative side, as a people, you seem more than willing to trade this evil, thieving dictator for another one or some even worse religious nut job.

America, of course, did an awful lot to support Mubarak, mostly because Egypt has always been friendly to Israel (friendly in the way you hung out with the weird kid in fifth grade because your mom made you). Of course, not openly vowing to destroy Israel and actually believing that Jews have a right to not be murdered because they believe in a slightly different flavor of religion are entirely different things, but when dealing

with the Arab world an ally is apparently anyone who doesn't openly threaten you.

Though Egypt has long-pretended that Mubarak was a democratically elected leader, the elections had less validity than American Idol voting. In addition, during Mubarak's entire reign the country has been living under "emergency law" which legalizes censorship, outlaws any non-government political activity and allows the government to imprison anyone it wants for virtually any reason.

In addition to this specific governmental tyranny Egyptians live under the same preposterous religious restrictions that all Muslim nations abide by. Say a bad word about Allah or make a joke about Mohammed and you're likely to be stoned to death. Make the mistake of being a woman who expects the rights we give a house cat in the United States and, well, you will learn quickly where you stand.

Currently, Egypt still lives under "emergency law" and the military has taken over — the same military that propped up Mubarak and has held an awful lot of power. The military leaders say they support democratic elections in about six months, but getting a military to leave

learned that sometimes the person you are reaching is in your community going unnoticed. Sometimes they are a big name, and every now and then they are even a world away.

When I started writing, my intention was to reach someone my age, maybe someone younger.

However, I never thought that I would be making a difference or striking a cord with someone older than me. Every now and then it turns out that the words write and the experiences I have bring back a memory or spark a dwindled ember.

The person who is seeing the deeper meaning isn't always who I thought they would be, but that only makes it better. It only motivates me more.

There are times that my columns even end up helping me, more than I ever imagined. There are those times when I write a column which I thought had gone unnoticed, and then someone pops up telling me how that forgotten column made a difference.

There are times when a column makes someone so angry, but yet they share an experience or a lesson I never would have gathered.

Either way, good or bad, like or dislike, the reader is noticing and there is an impact.

After all, it's not about saying something that will be well accepted by everyone, it's about saying something that matters.

*Amanda Moreno is a Herald staff writer. She can be contacted at t 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at [life@bigspringherald.com](mailto:life@bigspringherald.com)*



DANIEL B. KLINE

power is a lot like the process it took to get Larry King to step down at CNN.

Though there's a lot to celebrate in Egypt finally getting rid of its dictator, the country's people have done very little to show that they want actual democracy. Democracy means a total freedom to believe things that aren't popular. It also means having other really unpopular things in the Muslim world like free speech and free press.

In a true democracy women have equal rights and Jews get to vote too. In a democracy you can wear revealing outfits, listen to pop music and not go to the mosque. You can also kick back with a beer and a rack of pork ribs while you watch blasphemous television programs.

I'll celebrate Egypt when its people fight for real freedom. This wasn't a revolution, it was a trade — one mean dictator for a few nicer ones who still oppress the people, but less so.

*Daniel B. Kline's work appears in more than 100 papers weekly. He can be reached at [dan@notastep.com](mailto:dan@notastep.com) or you can see his archive at [dbkline.com](http://dbkline.com). You can listen to his podcast or buy his upcoming book, *Worst Ideas Ever*, at [WorstIdeasEver.com](http://WorstIdeasEver.com).*

## News in brief

### Riot police storm Bahrain protest in main square with tear gas, clubs

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — Armed patrols prowled neighborhoods and tanks appeared in the streets for the first time Thursday after riot police with tear gas and clubs drove protesters from a main square where they had demanded sweeping political change in this tiny kingdom. Medical officials said four people were killed.

Police cars with flashing blue lights encircled Pearl Square, the site of anti-government rallies since Monday. Barbed wire was set up on streets leading to the square, where police cleaned up flattened protest tents and trampled banners. The Interior Ministry declared the protest camp "illegal" and warned Bahrainis to stay off the streets.

The island nation was effectively shut down since workers in the capital could not pass checkpoints or were too scared to venture out. Banks and other key institutions did not open.

The protesters' demands have two main objectives: force the ruling Sunni monarchy to give up its control over top government posts and all critical decisions, and address deep grievances held by the country's majority Shiites who claim they face systematic discrimination and are effectively blocked from key roles in public service and the military.

Tiny Bahrain also is a pillar of Washington's military framework in the region. It hosts the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet, which is a critical counterbalance to Iran's efforts to expand its clout in the region.

### Battles continue on House spending bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Conservatives are trying to cut arts funding while Democrats seek to restore family planning and health research funds as the House enters a third day of debate on a sweeping spending bill cleaning up last year's budget mess.

Despite working past midnight once again, lawmakers still intended to offer a raft of amendments to the \$1.2 trillion legislation, which funds the Pentagon and the operating budgets of every Cabinet agency and provides \$158 billion for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The House sent mixed signals Wednesday, canceling \$450 million for a costly alternative engine for the Pentagon's next-generation F-35 warplane but then turning around and approving amendments by Democrats to ease cuts to economic development grants and popular grant programs for local fire departments and for hiring police officers.

The showdown 233-198 vote on the engine was a win for President Barack Obama and Defense Secretary Robert Gates and was fueled by the votes of many GOP conservatives against the program, including 47 Republican freshmen elected last fall on promises to cut the budget.

Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, and other House GOP leaders backed the funding for the alternative engine for the F-35 — as does the Democratic-controlled Senate — so it still has a big chance as the sprawling measure makes its way through the Senate and on to Obama.

### Boat filled with sleeping tourists sinks in Vietnam's Ha Long Bay

HA LONG BAY, Vietnam (AP) — An anchored boat packed with sleeping travelers sank early Thursday in Vietnam's scenic Ha Long Bay, killing 12 people from nine countries in the deadliest tour boat accident since the country opened to foreign visitors 25 years ago.

Vacationers from the U.S., Britain, Australia, Japan, Russia, France, Sweden and Switzerland have been confirmed dead, along with a Vietnamese tour

guide, the government said. Another nine foreigners and six locals were rescued by other tour boats in the bay's emerald waters.

Ha Long Bay is one of the country's top tourist attractions, drawing more than 5 million visitors a year to see the stunning jagged rock formations that dot the coastline. Many visitors stay overnight on wooden boats equipped with sleeping cabins.

Survivors reported seeing a wooden plank on their ship ripping away at around 5 a.m. as the vessel was anchored for the night, followed by gushing water inundating the boat and quickly pulling it under near Titov island, said Vu Van Thin, chief administrator of Quang Ninh province.

"Crew members tried to stop the water from coming in and alerted the tourists who were sleeping, but the water came in and the boat sank quickly," he said. "All of the 12 people who died were in the cabins."

### Wisconsin Senate to vote on passing bill taking away collective bargaining rights for workers

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Wisconsin lawmakers are prepared to pass a momentous bill that would strip government workers of nearly all collective bargaining rights over the loud objections of thousands of teachers, students and prison guards who packed the Capitol for two days of protests.

The nation's most aggressive anti-union proposal has been speeding through the Legislature since Republican Gov. Scott Walker introduced it a week ago. After clearing a major legislative hurdle Wednesday night, it was headed to votes in the Senate and Assembly.

Up to 20,000 people filled the Statehouse on Wednesday, cheering, singing and chanting in demonstrations unlike any seen in Madison for decades. Their numbers included many families and teachers from the Madison school district, which was forced to close after more than 40 percent of its 2,600-union covered employees called in sick.

The Legislature's budget committee passed the bill on a partisan vote just before midnight. Several opponents in the crowd broke into tears as Democrats on the committee encouraged them not to give up the fight.

"I'm sad. Scared. Disappointed," said Kelly Dzurick, a 31-year-old fifth-grade teacher in Elkhorn, who came to the Capitol on Wednesday night. "Nobody's listening to what people say."

### Romantic gay beach commitment ceremonies planned in Hawaii once civil unions go into law

HONOLULU (AP) — For years, the Rev. Fay Hovey has held romantic ceremonies on the sand for gay partners who want to pledge their love in Hawaii. The couples take photos and memories with them, but they lack a legal and binding recognition of their relationship.

That will change when same-sex civil unions soon become law in the Rainbow State.

"They have that fantasy just like any other couple, to come and have a wedding and a honeymoon," said Hovey, of Aloha Maui Gay Weddings, who hopes for an increase in commitment ceremonies. "When they come to Hawaii, everybody can relax in their spirits and feel included."

Hawaii lawmakers gave final approval to civil unions Wednesday and sent the legislation to Democratic Gov. Neil Abercrombie, who plans to sign it into law within 10 business days. Civil unions would begin Jan. 1, 2012, making the state the seventh in the nation to grant virtually the same rights of marriage to same-sex couples without authorizing marriage itself.

### Democrats say thousands will lose work under GOP plans

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans won sweeping victories last November by taunting Democrats with "Where are the jobs?" Democrats are now throwing those taunts back, saying it's Republicans who will knock thousands of Americans out of work with their demands for deep cuts in federal spending.

The attacks have caught Republicans at an awkward moment, as they shift their chief emphasis from creating jobs to reducing the size of the government and its deficits. They are finding it hard to claim they can do both at the same time.

Republicans say a smaller government eventually will spur private-sector job growth. Many economists challenge that claim, noting that the government helps pay for research, infrastructure, education and other programs that provide both public- and private-sector jobs. GOP leaders already acknowledge that thousands of government workers would lose their jobs in the short run under the \$61 billion cost-cutting bill House Republicans are pushing this week.

### Israeli government angers Palestinians with plan for school field trips to West Bank hot spot

JERUSALEM (AP) — At a time when peace talks with the Palestinians are stalled over Jewish settlements, the Israeli government plans to send schoolchildren on field trips to a disputed holy site in one of the West Bank's most volatile flash points.

Education Minister Gideon Saar says the visits to Hebron, burial site of the biblical patriarch Abraham and home to some of Israel's most radical settlers, are part of a plan to acquaint Israeli youngsters with their heritage.

"It is a place of emotional, religious and historical power," Saar, a leading member of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud Party, told Israel Radio on Wednesday.

"It is the place where our ancestors are buried and it is part of our history. Whoever objects to this, in my view, is trying to disconnect us from our roots."

Palestinian and Israeli critics both call it an exercise in indoctrination that will ignore the thousands of dispossessed Palestinians living nearby.

"Palestinian children in Hebron are forbidden to walk on the street (leading to the tomb compound) and visit the area — but Israeli schoolchildren can? It's incitement against the Palestinians," said Issa Amro, a Palestinian activist in Hebron.


### Study says crib-related injuries harm nearly 10,000 infants yearly; new ban may reduce numbers

CHICAGO (AP) — Almost 10,000 infants and toddlers are hurt in crib and playpen accidents each year, according to the first nationwide analysis of emergency room treatment for these injuries.

Most injuries were from falls in toddlers between ages 1 and 2 — generally old enough to attempt climbing out of a crib or playpen.

Researchers who studied 19 years of ER data say better prevention efforts are needed, but that recent safety measures including a ban on drop-side cribs likely will reduce those numbers.

The study found a gradual decrease in the injury rate between 1990 and 2008. But overall, even in the most recent years examined, an average of 26 infants daily were injured in crib-related accidents, said lead author Dr. Gary Smith, director of the Center for Injury Research and Policy at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio.



**Compass Hospice** *Guiding You on Your Final Journey*

### 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%.**

*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.  
Compass Hospice will guide you through this journey.  
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## Saturday, February 19th

*Benefit for*

# Marty & Lori Kirby

## \*Hog Chapter Fun Run

Registration: Noon @ American Legion

# Eagles Lodge

\* Hamburger & Chili Dog Plates  \$5

4-6 pm

\* Auction @ 6:30 p.m.

\* Dance @ 8:30 p.m. - \$3/person or \$5 per couple

**All Proceeds Go To Family For Medical Expenses**

For more info, call: **432-263-6862** after 5 pm



HERALD Photo/Tony Claxton

Porsche Young and the Howard College women's basketball team need a win to keep pace in the WJCAC. Western Texas College is on tap at 5:45 p.m. today at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. The men play at 7:45 p.m.

## HC Hawks face Western Texas at home tonight

BY ADAM COLEMAN

Sports Editor

Both Howard College basketball teams are in action tonight, coming off road stints at Midland Monday.

The Howard women face Western Texas College at 5:45 p.m. today and the men play at 7:45 p.m. in Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

The men are coming off possibly one of the biggest wins of the season with an upset over No. 6 Midland College.

The Chaps had the Hawks down for virtually the whole game, but Carlos Emory's late 3-pointer with 15 seconds left capped off a Howard comeback and the Hawks won 76-74.

The Howard women weren't so fortunate in Midland.

The Hawks couldn't make it a

sweep when the No.15 Lady Chaps rode a second-half run to a 62-56 win. Kali Jerrell was the leading scorer with 12 points. Tasha Tubbs had 10.

A win would do service for the Howard women tonight. They sit at 5-4 in the Region 5-West standings, right behind South Plains, Odessa and Midland. They'll be going for the season sweep again tonight after beating the Lady Westerners in Snyder.

The win at Midland was huge for the men. They sit a game back in the standings with a 9-2 conference record. Midland is 10-1.

They don't want to look past Western Texas College, though. Deverell Biggs led the Westerners past the Hawks last time in Snyder.

## Kidd leads Mavs past Kings for win

The Associated Press

DALLAS — As Rodrigue Beaubois sat out the first 54 games recovering from a foot injury, his potential grew exponentially to Dallas Mavericks fans. The season debut of the young, energetic guard belovedly dubbed "Roddy B" was so ridiculously anticipated that team owner Mark Cuban joked Beaubois would enter wearing Superman's cape, accompanied by the Mighty Mouse theme.

Well, maybe it wasn't all that overblown.

Baubois had 13 points, six assists, three steals and all sorts of highlights in his first 21 minutes, providing a spark that sent the Mavericks to a 116-100 victory over the Sacramento Kings on Wednesday night.

"This night is a great feeling," said Beaubois, a native of the island of Guadeloupe. "I didn't have any expectations — just to enjoy it because I've been waiting for it for a long time. I think I'm ready to go."

Baubois' speed and athleticism were on display as soon as he entered — to a standing ovation, of course, just 2 minutes into the game — and again during a gamebreaking run in the third quarter. Jason Kidd actually paved the way with 17 points in that period, all on long shots, many set up by the defense backing up to prevent Beaubois from soaring to the basket.

"He's going to get us a lot of wide-open looks," said Kidd, who made his first six

See **MAVS**, Page 11

## Holiday leads Sixers to 114-105 over Rockets

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — The Philadelphia 76ers were unaware — and unconcerned — that they equaled last season's win total in their 114-105 victory over the Houston Rockets on Wednesday night.

The Sixers are starting to set higher goals.

Jrue Holiday scored 20 points, Andre Iguodala earned his fifth career triple-double and Philadelphia rallied from an early 12-point deficit to go into the All-Star break with a 27-29 record. Philly was 27-55 last year.

"We have to start believing that we're a really good team," said Iguodala, who had 13 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists. "The last 40 games, we've seen that we can compete with anybody. We've just got to stay consistent and beat the teams we're supposed to (beat). That's the biggest thing."

Lou Williams and Thaddeus Young scored 19 points apiece, and Spencer Hawes had 17 points and 10 rebounds for the Sixers, who shot 55 percent (48 of 87) from the field and had a 50-40 rebounding edge.

Philly is 24-16 since a 3-13 start under first-year coach Doug Collins. The Sixers have the seventh-best record in the Eastern

Conference heading into All-Star weekend.

"Just to feel the energy in the locker room after the game, the guys were really happy and that makes me feel good," Collins said. "I don't know that I would see this joy this year with this group, the way we started. But they deserve all the credit in the world. These guys, they're really pros, I'm really proud of them."

The Sixers have won six of their last nine games and face three of the worst teams in the East — Washington, Detroit and Cleveland — immediately after the break.

"We've got our minds on something else, and that's the playoffs," Holiday said. "To start off 3-13 and kick butt from there on, it's scored for us."

Kyle Lowry scored a career-high 36 points and Luis Scola added 26 points and 13 rebounds for the Rockets. Lowry went 15 for 18 from the field, including a career-high six 3-pointers.

But Houston leading scorer Kevin Martin scored only nine points on 3-for-12 shooting and made only two 3-pointers. Patrick Patterson was the only other Rocket in double-figures, scoring 10.

Houston coach Rick

See **ROCKETS**, Page 11

## Area basketball playoff schedule

Girls, area

**Friday**  
Grady vs. Paducah at 6:30 p.m. at Post High School -Post

Boys, bi-district

**Monday**  
Grady vs. New Home at 6:30 p.m. at Borden County High School -Gail

**Tuesday**  
Big Spring vs. Bowie at 6 p.m. at Cisco High School -Cisco

Stanton vs. Kermit at 6:30 p.m. at Odessa College -Odessa

Sands  
BYE  
Next opponent will be Petersburg or Spur on Feb. 25th

Garden City  
TBA

## Rangers RHP Beltre needs surgery for spine problem

The Associated Press

SURPRISE, Ariz. — Texas Rangers pitcher Omar Beltre has been diagnosed with a genetic narrowing of the spine and will have surgery next Tuesday.

Rangers assistant general manager Thad Levine said Beltre has a condition called spinal stenosis. Beltre will spend a few days in Texas after surgery before flying to Arizona to be with the team.

"Rehab is about six-to-eight weeks before he will commence with baseball activities. This is going to

be a little work in progress," Levine said Wednesday. "We have historically not found a baseball player who had this surgery, so we don't know exactly what recovery time is."

Or if the 29-year-old right-hander will even be able to pitch again.

"It's unknown at this point," Levine said. "It's a condition more known in older people. This is something of uncharted waters for a professional athlete."

Pitchers and catchers reported to spring training

Wednesday for the AL champions. The reporting date for the rest of the players is Saturday, a day before first full-squad workout, and the Rangers expect Michael Young to be there if they are unable to fulfill his request for a trade before then.

"We're operating on the assumptions and expectations he'll be here," general manager Jon Daniels said. "If anything happens after that point, we'll address it."

See **BELTRE**, Page 11

## Sports in brief

### Spring football sign-ups

Sign-ups are taking place through March 5. For more information or details, contact Kevin Boyce at (432) 816-3855.

### Chicano Golf Association

The association's Membership Drive Tournament takes place Sunday at Comanche Trail Golf Course. It is a four person scramble and golfers select their own foursome. Membership fee is \$25. The tournament is scheduled for a 10 a.m. shotgun start and 9:30 a.m. sign-up deadline. For more information, contact Bobby Cordova at (432) 935-0410.

### Big Spring Girls Softball Association

The Big Spring Girls Softball Association will conduct sign-ups for girls ages 4 to 14 to play. Sign-ups are each Saturday through March 12 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. at the Big Spring Mall. The registration fee is \$80 with no fundraiser. It will cover the full uniform. Late registration after March 12 is \$10 extra. For more information, contact Lucy Ramirez at 466-3670.

### Coahoma girls softball sign-ups

Coahoma girls softball will be conduct-

ing signups for girls ages 3 to 18 for three weekends in March — check local newspaper and radio station for times and locations. Call Billy Newton at (325) 207-2640 or (432) 394-4294 or Amy Overton at (432) 816-1968 for more information.

### Playoff games at Howard College

The first game features Smyer vs. Reagan County at 6 p.m. Friday in girls' Class A, Division I area championship action.

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Legals

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Sealed proposals addressed to Mr. John Grant, General Manager of the Colorado River Municipal Water District, will be received at the office of the Colorado River Municipal Water District, P.O. Box 869, 406 E. 23rd Street, Big Spring, Texas 79721, until 3:00 PM, Thursday, March 17, 2011, for construction of 40'x75' metal building.

At this time and place the proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud. Any bid received after closing time will be returned unopened.

This project consists of construction of a metal shop at the District's Terminal Pump Station located at 1400 S FM 1788, Midland Texas. Specifications are available and may be examined without charge in the office of the Colorado River Municipal Water District, 406 E. 23rd Street, Big Spring, Texas 79720 during normal business hours.

Inquiries regarding project specifications are to be directed to **Ryan Sayles, Staff Engineer**, telephone (432)267-6341, email: rsayles@crmwtd.org. #6891 February 17 & 24 and March 3, 2011

In the past few weeks, there have been many opportunities to reach out and help someone, especially those who cannot help themselves. Also, new friends and associations have entered the scene. This is the last full day of the Aquarius sun this year, and it's a time to celebrate the good that's come from our heartfelt efforts.



HOLIDAY MATHS

ARIES

(March 21-April 19). You'll be busy with the kind of job you do

exceptionally well. You seem to accomplish results with hardly any effort at all, while others exert themselves and get results that are dim in comparison.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). It might help to learn how people just like you

learn how to use a certain kind of software or work a new machine. Each individual has peculiarities. Be patient, and understand that trial and error is a natural process.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Making assumptions got you into trouble in the past. You will be careful not to take a stance until all of the facts are in. What you know, you know for sure.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). Your ability to read people will save you time and energy. Beware: If someone has to tell you how good they are at something, it usually means they're not so good at it.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). You will look into mixing with a new social group. Take it slow. Observe from afar before you decide to fully join this circle. Do the members of this group treat one

another with kindness and respect?

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Just because you're grown up doesn't mean you have to lose your sense of magic. You'll revert to a belief system of your childhood. Some of this still works for you, so why change it?

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You are both diplomatic and tolerant. You wouldn't dream of imposing your will on a group of people who do things differently than you do. That's why your contribution and leadership are so necessary to your team.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's important that you do a job right, but it's even more important that it's the right job to do. Open the communication channels with your boss, customers and colleagues, and make sure you are all on the same page.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It is helpful in some situations to bluff. You will recognize when it suits you to appear more confident than you really are and when it benefits you to tone down your game.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The person who must talk endlessly about his accomplishments and worth is trying to compensate for how he really feels about himself. Your compassion is required there, though you may find it difficult to give.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll be inclined toward actions that will only bring you success if you do them often. Build repetition into your life to a greater degree. It's not what you do on a whim but what you do consistently that matters.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). You notice how people appear, and you also notice how they try to appear. Your observations lead you to understand how people feel inside, and you will speak to their private needs and wants.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (Feb. 17). This year sparks your love life. You

will find a partner extremely attractive, and you'll have many wonderful times together. You'll make money with your mind in March. There's a big bonus in June. You'll see new parts of the world and make friends there in

May and August. Business booms in September. Cancer and Leo people have a special fondness for you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 21, 23, 6 and 30.

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sudoku

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

9x9 Sudoku grid with some numbers pre-filled: Row 1: [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [5] [2] [ ]; Row 2: [3] [8] [2] [9] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]; Row 3: [ ] [ ] [7] [4] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [6]; Row 4: [ ] [6] [9] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [1] [4]; Row 5: [5] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [3]; Row 6: [2] [3] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [8] [7] [ ]; Row 7: [9] [ ] [ ] [ ] [7] [8] [ ] [ ] [ ]; Row 8: [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [5] [2] [4] [ ] [8]; Row 9: [4] [5] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

A Different Game

North dealer. East-West vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ Q 10 8 3  
♥ 10 9 7  
♦ K 9  
♣ A K J 2

**WEST**  
♠ —  
♥ J 6 2  
♦ Q 8 7 3 2  
♣ 9 8 6 4 3

**EAST**  
♠ K J 2  
♥ A K 5 4 3  
♦ 10 6 4  
♣ Q 5

**SOUTH**  
♠ A 9 7 6 5 4  
♥ Q 8  
♦ A J 5  
♣ 10 7

The bidding:  
North 1♠ East 1♥ South 1♠ West Pass

Opening lead — two of hearts.

Those who play matchpoint duplicate — where a single overtrick can make the difference between a good result and a poor one — sometimes find themselves doing something that would make rubber-bridge players cringe. Those of you who don't play matchpoints should steel yourselves for what follows.

The deal occurred at a regional tournament. Virtually every North-South pair reached four spades on the bidding shown, and after a heart lead, East played the K-A and another heart, ruffed by South.

No doubt most declarers were aware of the standard safety play with the spade combination shown. At rubber bridge, declarer would

cross to dummy and lead any spade but the queen, intending to let it ride. This protects against three spades in either opponent's hand (if East shows out on the first spade, declarer puts up the ace and returns a spade toward the queen) and so assures no more than one spade loser.

But many Souths, knowing that East had started with five hearts and West with only three, thought it very unlikely that East could have all three spades and West — who had not bid — none. These declarers thought West had to have at least one spade, and if it was the singleton king, they could make an overtrick. So they laid down the ace of spades and were flabbergasted when West showed out. All of these Souths — about two-thirds of the field — thus went down in an ice-cold contract.

Without any revealing bidding by East-West, the expectancy that East would have all three spades is 11 percent. Since East was known to have started with five hearts, this percentage is slightly lower.

As opposed to this, the chance that West would be dealt the singleton king — normally 13 percent — was also lessened slightly by the fact that he had only three hearts.

It would therefore seem that trying to make an overtrick had about a 2 percent better chance of succeeding than the safety play. But does that justify going down in a cold contract? Such, dear reader, are the types of questions that keep matchpoint players up all night.

Tomorrow: Test your play.  
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Legals

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TxDOT) CONTRACTS

Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TxDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

CONSTRUCTION/ MAINTENANCE/ BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)

Dist/Div: Abilene Contract 6216-44-001 for INSTALLATION OF RAISED PAVEMENT MARKERS in HOWARD County will be opened on March 24, 2011 at 1:30 pm at the District Office for an estimate of \$276,333.00.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.txdot.gov and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor. NPO: 35649

State Office

Constr./Maint. Division  
200 E. Riverside Dr.  
Austin, Texas 78704  
Phone: 512-416-2540  
Dist/Div Office(s)

Abilene District  
District Engineer  
4250 N. Clack

Abilene, Texas 79604-0150  
Phone: 325-676-6800

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TXDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin. #6895 February 17 & 18, 2011

Legals

The Colorado River Municipal Water District is requesting proposals for the construction of the following project:

Raw Water Production Facility- Big Spring Plant  
TWDB Project No. 21663  
Loan No. L100064

Sealed proposals must be addressed to Mr. John Grant, General Manager, Colorado River Municipal Water District (CRMWD) Big Spring, Texas 76033 and will be received at the District's offices located at 400 East 24th Street, P.O. Box 869, Big Spring, Texas 76721 until 2:00 p.m. local time, Thursday March 3, 2011 to be accepted. The proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud at this time and place. Proposals received after this time will be returned unopened.

Advertisement and information for the Project can be found at the following web site:  
<http://construction.freese.com>

Contract Documents may be downloaded or viewed free of charge at this web site. It is the downloader's responsibility to determine that a complete set of documents, as defined in the Instructions to Offerors are received. Printed copies of the Contract Documents may be purchased at the website for the cost of printing. The cost for printed Contract Documents is not refunded.

Contracts are also available for viewing free of charge at the District's Headquarters, 400 E. 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas.

A non-mandatory pre-proposal conference for the project will be held on February 17, 2011, at 2:00 p.m. at 400 East 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas 76721.

This project consists of the construction of a new membrane building that will treat 2.5 MGD of treated effluent from the Big Spring WWTP. The work includes the construction of a new diversion structure and pump station at the City's WWTP site, a 1.0 MG Source Water Tank, a Treatment Building, a 0.5 MG Product Water

Tank, a Product Water Pump Station, approximately 5,700 LF of PVC Piping, Electrical and Instrumentation.

Offerors must submit a cashier's check, certified check, or acceptable bid bond with their Proposal as a guarantee that the Proposer will enter into a contract for the project with the Owner within fifteen (15) days of Notice of Award of the contract. The security must be payable to the Colorado River Municipal Water District in the amount of five (5%) percent of the proposed Contract Price. Proposer must execute the contract, bonds and certificates of insurance on the forms provided in the Contract Documents. Contractors for this Project must pay no less than the prevailing wage rates for the area established by the Owner and included in the Contract Documents. Performance and Payment Bonds are required.

This contract is contingent upon release of funds from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). Any contract or contracts awarded under this Request for Proposals are expected to be funded in part by a loan from the TWDB. Neither the State of Texas nor any of its departments, agencies or employees is or will be a party to this Request for Proposals or any resulting contract.

Equal Opportunity in Employment - All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap or national origin. Offerors are required to comply with the President's Executive Order No. 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375, and as supplemented in Department of Labor regulations 41 CFR Part 60.

Proposals are to remain in effect for 90 days from the date on which Proposals are received.

Colorado River Municipal Water District  
John Grant  
General Manager  
#6874 February 3, 10, & 17, 2011

BUSINESSES & SERVICES

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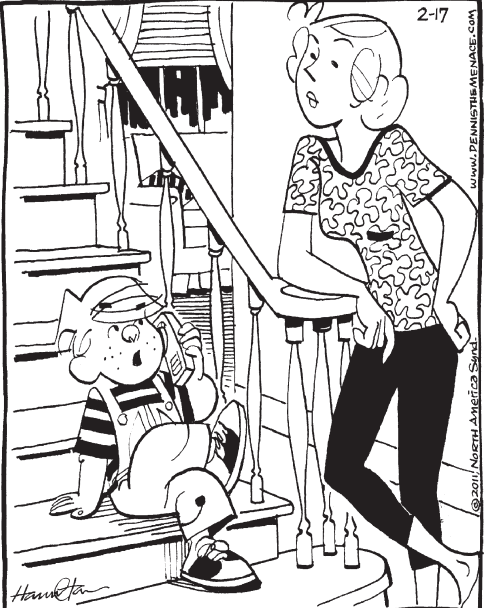
Advertisement for Big Spring Herald subscription. Includes text: 'For Award Winning Local News & Hard Hitting Crossroads Sports', 'Subscribe To The Big Spring Herald GET HOME DELIVERY TODAY!!!', and '245 High Tech Software Development', '250 Sales Careers Company Employed', '251 Help Wanted CONSTRUCTION PROJECT', '252 Help Wa SOCIAL SERVICE - HO'. Includes a small image of a newspaper page.

HOUSE LEVELING/MOVING

Advertisement for B&B House Leveling & Foundation Repair. Includes text: 'B&B House Leveling & Foundation Repair', 'LOCALLY OWNED & FAMILY OPERATED FOR 67 Years', 'Foundation Repair is Our Specialty & Only Work Our Company Does!', 'If it's not a deep driven steel pier, it's not a steel pier. Capable of 90 ft. in depth!', 'The Big Country's only provider for non-corrosive Steel Piers', 'Repairs on Solid Slab, Pier & Beam Foundations', 'Void Filling & Mud Jacking', 'Landscape Friendly', 'LIFETIME TRANSFERABLE GUARANTEE', '325-675-6613 • Abilene, TX • 800-335-4037', 'Owner: Rick Burrow', 'Licensed & Bonded for Home Owner's Protection', 'Insurance Claims Welcome • Free Inspections • Senior Citizens & Military Discounts'. Includes a photo of Rick Burrow and a BBB A+ Rating logo.

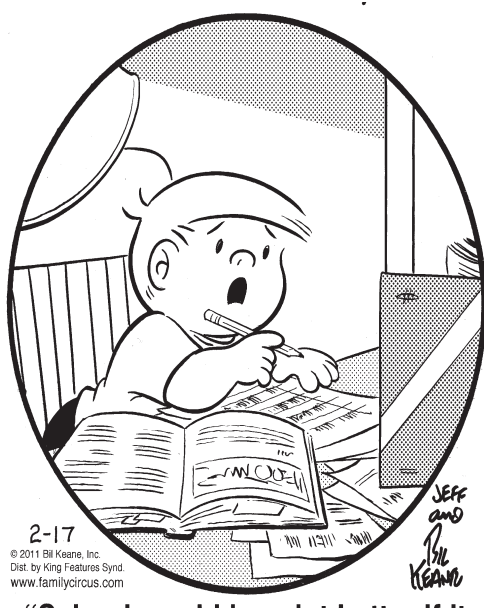
	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5:PM ABC	News	Alma Notic.	Lopez News	News	Noticias Noticiero	News	King	Granger	World	Lyrics!	Cash Cab	Lombard	Gangland	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Sonny Shake It	Nation Pardon	SportsCenter
6:PM 30	Jeopardy!	Noche de Estrellas	Two Men Ent	News	Caso Cerado	News	King	Brad	Business	Lyrics!	Cash Cab		Gangland	Bones		Wizards	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	College Basketball: Teams TBA.
7:PM 30	Wipeout	Premio lo Nuestro 2011 (SS)	American Idol	Big Bang Dad Says	Aurora (SS)	Millionaire	Seinfeld	Charles	PBS News-Hour	'70s Show	Man vs. Wild					Wizards	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	College Basketball: Teams TBA.
8:PM 30	Grey's Anatomy		Bones	CSI: Crime Scene	Herederos-Monte	Commun Couples	Movie: Fun With Dick & Jane	Upd Sid Roth	Aviators Parks	The Vampire Diaries	Gold Rush: Alaska	Movie: The Shawshank Redemption, Bob Gunton	Gangland	NBA Basketball: San Antonio Spurs at Chicago Bulls.	Game Game	Movie: Hannah Montana: The Movie	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	College Basketball: Teams TBA.
9:PM 30	(:01) Private Practice		Simpsons How I Met	The Mentalist	Alguien te Mira (SS)	30 Rock Out	Fam. Guy		This Old House Hr	Married Married	Wild: Venezuela			NBA Basketball: Dallas Mavericks at Phoenix Suns.	Phineas	Wizards	E:60	SportsCenter
10:PM 30	News	Impacto	How I Met	News	Noticias	News	Conan	Alewine	Charlie Rose	King	Gold Rush: Alaska	Movie: The Shawshank Redemption, Bob Gunton	MAN		The Mo'Nique	Wizards		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	Man vs. Wild		MAN		Wendy Williams	Hannah Now	NASCAR	NFL Live Final
12:AM 30	Extra	Tontas Cielo	Paid	Insider	Pagado	News	Conan	Upd World		South Pk	Man vs. Wild		MAN	Trailers	Inside the NBA	Wizards	SportsNation	SportsCenter
1:AM 30	Paid	Clasicos	TMZ	Ent	Pagado	Poker After Dark	Lopez Tonight	Light of the Southwest		Wild: Venezuela		Movie: Bowfinger, Heather	(:10) The Shield	Leverage	Suite Life Suite Life	2010 Poker	SportsCenter	

DENNIS THE MENACE



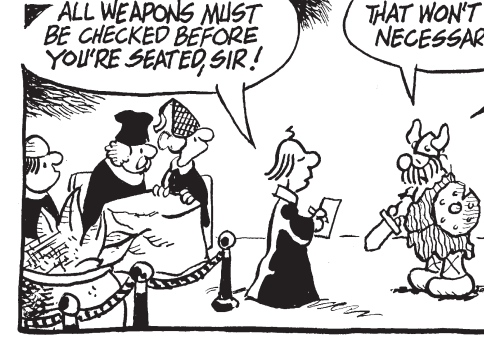
"MR. WILSON PUT ME ON HOLD ABOUT AN HOUR AGO."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



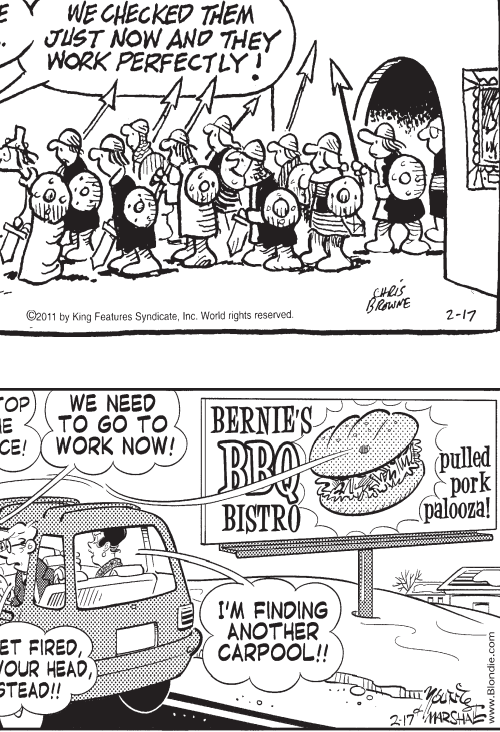
"School would be a lot better if it didn't have all this paperwork."

HAGAR



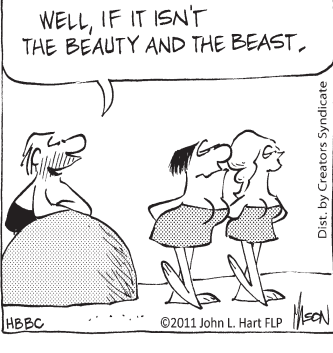
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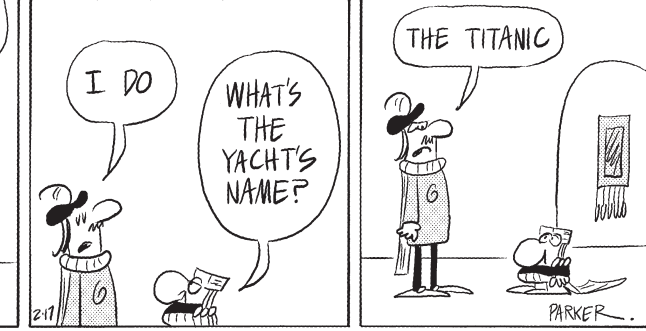
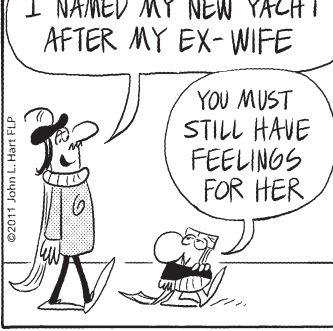


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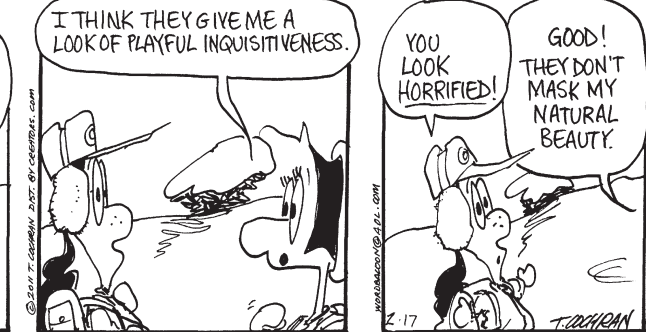
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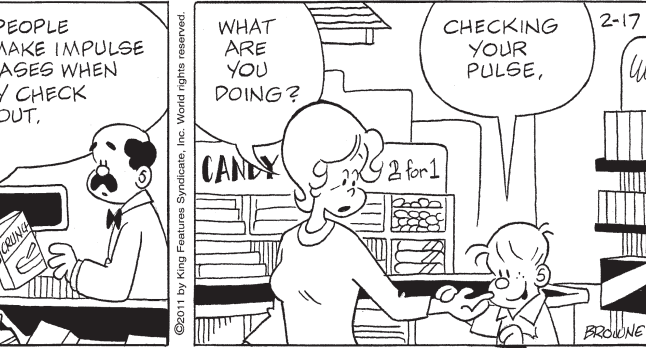
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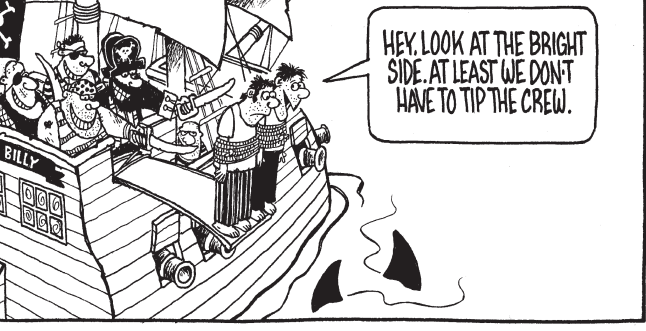
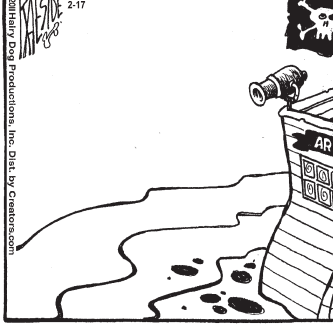
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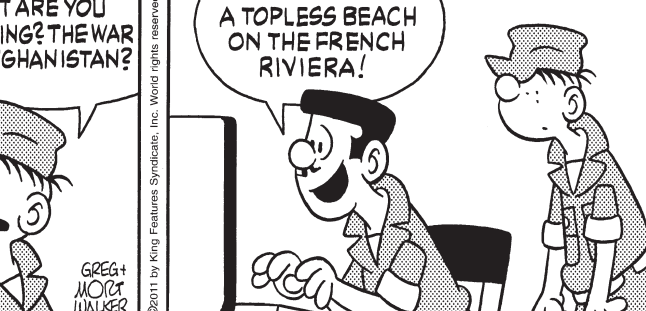
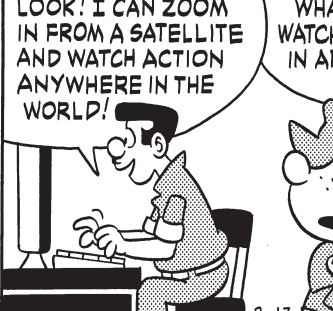
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Feb. 17, the 48th day of 2011. There are 317 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 17, 1801, the U.S. House of Representatives broke an electoral tie between Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr, electing Jefferson president; Burr became vice president.

On this date:

In 1809, the Ohio legislature voted to establish Miami University in present-day Oxford. (The school opened in 1824.)

In 1864, during the Civil War, the Union ship USS Housatonic was rammed and sunk in Charleston Harbor, S.C., by the Confederate hand-cranked submarine HL Hunley, which also sank.

In 1865, Columbia, S.C., burned as the Confederates evacuated and Union forces moved in. (It's not clear which side set the blaze.)

In 1897, the forerunner of the

National PTA, the National Congress of Mothers, convened its first meeting, in Washington.

In 1904, the original two-act version of Giacomo Puccini's (JAH'-koh-moh poo-CHEE'-nee)opera "Madama Butterfly" was poorly received at its premiere at La Scala in Milan, Italy.

In 1947, the Voice of America began broadcasting to the Soviet Union.

In 1959, the United States launched Vanguard 2, a satellite which carried meteorological equipment on board.

In 1964, the Supreme Court, in Wesberry v. Sanders, ruled that congressional districts within each state had to be roughly equal in population.

In 1972, President Richard M. Nixon departed on his historic trip to China.

In 1986, Johnson & Johnson announced it would no longer sell over-the-counter medications in capsule form, following the death of a woman who had taken a cyanide-laced Tylenol capsule.

Today's Birthdays: Bandleader Orrin Tucker is 100. Actor Hal Holbrook is 86. Mystery writer Ruth Rendell is

81. Singer Bobby Lewis is 78. Comedian Dame Edna (AKA Barry Humphries) is 77. Country singer-songwriter Johnny Bush is 76. Actress Christina Pickles is 76. Football Hall-of-Famer Jim Brown is 75. Actress Mary Ann Mobley is 72. Actress Brenda Fricker is 66. Actress Rene Russo is 57. Actor Richard Karn is 55. Actor Lou Diamond Phillips is 49. Basketball Hall of Famer Michael Jordan is 48. Actor-comedian Larry, the Cable Guy is 48. TV personality Rene Syler is 48. Movie director Michael Bay is 46. Singer Chante Moore is 44. Rock musician Timothy J. Mahoney (31) is 41. Actor Dominic Purcell is 41.

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Answer to previous puzzle

JULY	SPECK	USES
FREE	TEXAN	PODS
KIAS	ARISE	NYET
SPILL	STHE	BEANS
KILO	LAX	
SIGNS	NFL	STAMP
ALLOTS	LAS	CAR
BLOWSTH	WEH	STLE
EBB	UAE	ENTITY
REEFS	TSP	ARIAS
	AIR	ROPE
TALKSOUT	TOFTURN	
ISEE	AGENT	SEAT
MINI	SLATE	EDGE
EAST	TYSON	LOSE

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 SAG member
  - 6 Go on and on
  - 10 Fish dish
  - 14 Two-time Nobel
  - 15 Zero, in tennis
  - 16 Noted lithographer
  - 17 Spinning records
  - 18 Operatic prince
  - 19 Well-executed Muppet
  - 20 Voracious
  - 23 Plans, with "out"
  - 24 Wipes clean
  - 27 College Station athletes
  - 31 Squirrel, for one
  - 32 Empty promise
  - 36 Automne preceder
  - 37 Light touches
  - 38 401(k) kin
  - 39 Calamitous
  - 40 Ending for differ
  - 41 One with dependents
  - 45 "Changing the subject . . ."
  - 47 What you see
  - 48 Stair parts
  - 49 Contemplator's sound
  - 51 Hypothetical reward
  - 57 Urban-renewal target
  - 59 Ages and ages
  - 60 Functions
  - 61 Now partner
  - 62 Touring org.
- DOWN
- 1 Electrical letters
  - 2 King canine
  - 3 Small band
  - 4 Pen plaint
  - 5 Healthful routine
  - 6 Super Bowl sight, often
  - 7 Corporate symbols
  - 8 Stratford's river
  - 9 Frenzied
  - 10 Singer O'Connor
  - 11 Running
  - 12 Grazing area
  - 13 Approximate fig.
  - 21 Cardinal point
  - 22 Iliad setting
  - 25 Principal course
  - 26 Guides rides
  - 27 Pop up
  - 28 Designer
  - 29 Versace background of 1863
  - 30 \_\_\_ for Innocent (Grafton novel)
  - 33 Get a move on
  - 34 Chapter of history
  - 35 Deplorable
  - 39 Crime-lab sample
  - 41 Small municipality, for short
  - 42 Ufology center
  - 43 Timid type
  - 44 Lacking principles
  - 46 Olympian messenger
  - 49 Depend (on)
  - 50 Colorado Plateau
  - 52 Slangy denial
  - 53 Scintilla
  - 54 Cub or Dodger, briefly
  - 55 Termite-resistant wood
  - 56 Retired fliers
  - 57 Yonder yawl
  - 58 Trip part

BAKE SHOP by Robert A. Doll Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15				16			
17					18				19			
20					21				22			
					23				24		25	26
27	28	29	30						31			
32									33	34	35	
37									38			39
40					41	42			43	44		
45					46							
48									49	50		
					51						53	54
57	58								59			
61									62			63
64									65			66

# No. 3 Texas rides Johnson's double-double vs OSU

**The Associated Press**  
AUSTIN — The secret to Texas' winning streak is simple: don't fall behind.  
Not for a minute, not even for a second.  
For the sixth straight game, the No. 3 Longhorns never trailed in cruising to a 73-55 win over Oklahoma State on Wednesday night that tightened their grip on first place in the Big 12.  
Texas hasn't fallen behind any opponent since the last time the Longhorns and Cowboys

played back on Jan. 26. And that came in the first half of what ended up being a 15-point Texas win.  
"Our biggest concern is trying to keep the foot on the pedal," said senior forward Gary Johnson, who had 17 points and 10 rebounds Wednesday night. "We haven't been in a situation where we've been behind. We don't want to start it now."  
The Cowboys had their split-second chance to grab a lead when they

won the opening tip, but Markel Brown's shot was blocked by Texas freshman Tristan Thompson.  
Oklahoma State made it 2-all a minute later, but Texas' Jordan Hamilton answered with a 3-pointer and the Longhorns were off and running.  
Texas (23-3, 11-0 Big 12) has won 11 in a row overall and holds a two-game conference lead over No. 1 Kansas with five games left in the regular season.

Hamilton finished with 15 points and Thompson scored 14 for Texas, which has won 10 of the last 11 meetings with Oklahoma State (16-9, 4-7). The Longhorns have seldom been challenged in conference play, winning 10 of their 11 league games by 10 or more points.  
Brown scored 14 points to lead Oklahoma State.  
The Texas winning streak has followed a typical pattern: The Longhorns race to a big early lead and then set

the game on cruise control in the second half.  
Hamilton scored all of his points in the first, hitting his first three 3-point shots before his shooting touch mostly disappeared. Thompson's block on Oklahoma State's first shot started another stellar defensive effort by the Longhorns. Texas forced the Cowboys into 12 first-half turnovers.  
Thompson had an alley-oop dunk on a feed from Hamilton to start a 13-4 Texas run. The

Longhorns built the lead as high as 33-19 when Hamilton made a short jumper in the lane. Texas held a double-digit halftime lead, 36-25, for the fifth straight game.  
"We just dug ourselves a hole and were fortunate to just be down by 11," Oklahoma State coach Travis Ford said. "We were allowing too many points in transition. You just can't do that against Texas."  
Texas has sometimes

See **TEXAS**, Page 12

## MAVS

Continued from Page 6

3-pointers and finished with 20 points in 28 minutes. "The big thing is just for him to get more minutes and to get more comfortable."  
The Mavericks won for the 12th time in 13 games, although this one was a bit weird. The starters didn't take a single free throw, Dirk Nowitzki didn't score a single point in the second half and they let a 13-point halftime lead melt away a few minutes into the third quarter.  
Then Kidd and Beaubois put together a 13-0 spurt that eventually stretched to 24-4. Dallas led by 26 before settling for tying its biggest margin of victory. The Mavs had eight players score in double figures, with five of them reserves. That included Brendan Haywood having a season-high 12 points with 10 rebounds, and J.J. Barea having 11 points and 10 assists.  
Still, this night was all about Beaubois.  
He got things going shortly after

checking in, grabbing a loose ball near the foul line and turning it into a scooping layup. Soon after, he out-jumped 7-foot teammate Tyson Chandler for a rebound and zoomed ahead of everyone else for a hardly contested layup.  
Fans were still oohing and aahing when he reminded everyone that he's still a raw player by throwing a pass straight to a Sacramento player on Dallas' next possession. He did it again on the next possession. Then he bounced back with a steal and another breakaway layup, only this time he added some sizzle by smartly switching the ball to his left hand when a defender cut across to his right side reaching for the steal.  
He finished 6 of 13, making 1 of 4 on 3-pointers. He had only one more turnover after those back-to-back giveaways.  
"I thought it was, all things considered, pretty solid," Mavs coach Rick Carlisle said. "Predictably, there were some ups and downs, but the important thing was he was able to get involved."  
As a rookie last season, Beaubois scored 16 points in 21 minutes in the

playoff finale, leading to an offseason of him being hailed as the team's budding star. Then he broke his left foot during a practice with the French national team before the world championships and had a much longer than expected recovery.  
With the NFL season done and baseball not yet cranked up, his return has been the talk of the town for days. He was greeted by a pregame video clip from the movie "Rudy," with his head superimposed on the lead character and chants of "Rod-dy! Rod-dy!" Then came the standing ovation.  
"I just want to keep getting better and just show them that I really appreciate it," Beaubois said.  
He spoke with a bucket of ice next to his left foot. Perhaps it was telling that he hadn't bothered yet to soak it.  
"The foot is good," he said. "I have to get my legs into it. The cardio is kind of tough."  
Jermaine Taylor scored a career-high 17 points, but Sacramento lost for the seventh time in eight games. The Kings were playing their second straight game without Tyreke Evans, their leading scorer at 18.3 points per game, because of a foot injury.

Evans' ball-handling was especially missed. Sacramento had 26 turnovers, which led to 38 points for Dallas.  
"When he doesn't play, teams tend to score a lot more on us and we tend to turn the ball over a lot more," coach Paul Westphal said. "He's a big part of us being competitive."  
Sacramento led by six in the opening minutes, but Dallas tied it at the end of the quarter and were up by 13 at halftime. The Kings tied it quickly, then faded just as quickly, making the entire fourth quarter garbage time.  
Notes: The previous Wednesday, the Mavericks beat the Kings by only two points in Sacramento. Evans' absence and Beaubois' return certainly were part of the difference. ... With speculation about the Mavericks being involved in the Carmelo Anthony trade talks, Cuban joked that his only proposal is for him and Anthony to try buying the New York Mets. ... Fans cheered loudly when it was announced that the Cavaliers beat the Lakers. Dallas started the day percentage points ahead of Los Angeles for second in the Western Conference.

## ROCKETS

Continued from Page 6

Adelman was more upset with Houston's defense than he was about the lack of offensive balance.  
"If we are going to do anything, guys who scored points for us and everything else, they've all got to take some pride at the other end," Adelman said. "This team (Philly) shot 55 percent and that's not good enough to win games in this league."  
The Rockets hit four 3-pointers in the first 5 minutes and jumped to an 18-6 lead. The Sixers answered with a 12-0 run, capped by Elton Brand's dunk at the end of a fast break. Brand had 10 points and 11 rebounds.

Lowry sank his third 3 and Houston's sixth early in the second quarter. The Rockets came into the game ranked sixth in 3-pointers made this season (449).  
Philadelphia hit seven of its first nine shots in the second quarter, and the Sixers moved ahead. Iguodala banked in a shot from near midcourt at the halftime buzzer to put Philadelphia up 55-52.  
The Sixers shot 61.5 percent (24 of 39) from the field in the first half. Houston stayed closed by going 8 for 19 from 3-point range in the half.  
But the Rockets went 1 for 13 from long range in the second half, while the Sixers continued to shoot well and stretched their lead.  
Late in the third quarter, Evan Turner scored in the lane, then finished a fast break with a layup to put the Sixers up 79-71.

**sudoku**  
ANSWERS

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

## BELTRE

Continued from Page 6

Daniels said he is still looking at the possibilities for a trade for Young, though the GM said team officials meeting this week in Arizona "went through our club and how it sets up with the expectation he'll be an integral part of it."  
Without elaborating, Young has said he was "misled" and "manipulated" by the team.  
Young, their longest-tenured player going into his 11th season, requested a

trade last month. The Rangers expect him to be their primary designated hitter and super utility player after the January acquisition of two-time Gold Glove third baseman Adrian Beltre. It would be Young's third position change in eight springs.  
Daniels said the team would reach out to Young "before then" if no trade is made by Saturday.  
Omar Beltre made two starts for Texas last season. He's been in the Rangers organization since 2000, and made his major league debut last June 30. He was put on the 60-day disabled list in September with a right ankle injury.

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TEXAS

Continued from Page 11

struggled to keep up the pressure in the opening minutes of the second half and let opponents rally. The

previous three opponents had either outscored or stayed even with Texas in the second half. Baylor cut a 19-point

Texas lead to three in the final minutes. Not this time. Johnson wouldn't allow it.

"When you play with as much energy and passion as he does, good things happen," Ford said.

# Pujols arrives in Cardinals' camp

The Associated Press

JUPITER, Fla. — When Albert Pujols arrived for St. Louis Cardinals spring training Thursday morning, he pulled his black pickup truck into a parking spot reserved for owners.

Odds are, no one will complain. Pujols arrived at 7:35 a.m. for his first formal workout of the 2011 season, which the Cardinals desperately hope will not be his last in St. Louis. He showed up, as expected, one day after he and the team failed to reach an agreement on a new contract by a deadline the three-time MVP imposed.

Still, he was all smiles as he lugged two boxes and a backpack into the Cardinals' spring clubhouse.

"Better than ever," Pujols said, when asked how he was feeling.

He half-seriously asked for some help when one large box filled

with bats fell out of the driverside back door of his tricked-out truck, then loaded his arms with his gear and made the short walk inside. A few teammates had already showed up for work, and Pujols' Thursday arrival was no surprise to the team.

Also not a surprise: That Wednesday came and went with no deal.

"Once the 2011 season is over, we hope to revisit those talks," Pujols said in a statement late Wednesday.

With the talks off until after the season ends, Pujols is now fixated on winning.

"The last thing anyone in this clubhouse needs to worry about, is what's going to happen to me after the season," he added.

His teammates aren't willing to let it become a distraction, either. They simply want to see their first baseman again, and start the

process of getting ready for another year.

"I don't think it's changed for anybody in here," Cardinals' pitcher Kyle Lohse said. "Everybody's excited to get going. Albert's going to take care of himself. He's going to be here and doing what he's always done. I don't see why anything would be different."

When — and if — talks resume, it's unclear if St. Louis will increase its offer to Pujols' liking.

The Cardinals would not reveal their offer, though it was believed to be somewhere around \$200 million for eight years, possibly with an opportunity for Pujols to obtain an ownership stake in the franchise once his playing days are complete.

"A difference of opinion in determining Albert's value simply could not be resolved," said Pujols' agent, Dan Lozano.

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