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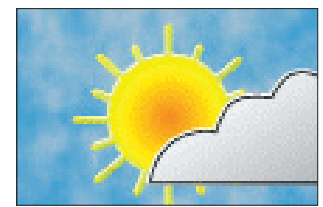
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# BIG SPRING HERALD

**TUESDAY**  
 FEBRUARY 22, 2011



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# Fire threat on the rise

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
 Staff Writer

If Howard County Volunteer Fire Chief Tommy Sullivan and his band of firefighters seem a bit weary these days, there's good reason. The volunteer fire department has been called to nu-

merous grass fires — despite an ongoing county-wide burn ban. "The level of wildfire danger right now is very, very high," said Sullivan. "There's just so much dead grass and brush out there, and there's no moisture to help keep conditions from getting worse.

We've been in need of rain for quite some time now, and while the snow a few weeks ago might have helped for a short period of time, it was immediately absorbed by the ground, so it's no help to us at all right now." See **FIRE**, Page 3A



Courtesy photo  
 Brady and Jennifer Hedges have formed the Ballsy Cancer Society to inform others about testicular cancer.

# Cancer survivor forms foundation

By **AMANDA MORENO**  
 Staff Writer

It may be a touchy subject, but they are Ballsy enough to handle it — pun intended. The Ballsy Cancer Society of America is a new foundation aimed at educating the public, especially males ages 15-40, about testicular cancer. "At this point, there is nothing else like this out there," Jennifer Hedges, founder of Ballsy, said. "There is nothing in America that focuses on research and education." Hedges understands the need for education on this issue, after witnessing the journey her husband, Brady has had to travel.

*"I've cried about it a lot. I've spent enough time crying about it, though. The way I get through it is by making jokes and laughing about it."*  
 —Brady Hedges

"If he was anyone else, it's sad to say it, but he wouldn't be here with us today," Hedges said. At the age of 23, Brady was diagnosed with stage 4 testicular cancer. Since then, See **CANCER**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno  
 Big Spring police responded to a wreck, on the corner of 14 th and Johnson Monday afternoon. Two vehicles were involved, with the fire department and EMS also responding.

# Elementary honor choir to perform in free concert

Herald Staff Report

Big Spring Independent School District Elementary students will show off their singing skills during the annual All-City Choir concert, set for 7 p.m. today in the high school auditorium. Admission is free to the event. The All-City Choir is comprised of 120 BSISD

students in grades 4 through 6 who were selected for the honor by their respective music teachers, BSHS Choir Director Anna Castaneda O'Brien said. The group, which will be conducted by Junior High Choir Director Randall Capshaw, will perform about seven American folk music selections, she added.

**Department of Public Safety troopers and EMS were at the scene of a one-vehicle accident along Interstate 20 this morning that resulted in a fatality. The accident occurred shortly before 10 a.m. near the Moss Creek Lake exit.**

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

# Youth prison abuse case ends in principal's acquittal

By **BETSY BLANEY**  
 Associated Press

LUBBOCK — The second criminal trial stemming from a sex abuse scandal at a West Texas juvenile prison that upended the state agency overseeing young offenders ended in an acquittal for the facility's

former principal. After two weeks of testimony and about six hours of deliberations, jurors late Monday acquitted John Paul Hernandez on 14 counts in 11 indictments that alleged he sexually abused five inmates at in 2004 and 2005.

"Six years I've been waiting to hear those words," Hernandez said. "I've already served a six-year punishment and finally a weight has been lifted." The allegations of abuse and See **ACQUITTAL**, Page 3A

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## Obituaries

### Juanita Joyce Adams



Juanita Joyce Adams, 77, of Big Spring died Sunday, Feb. 20, 2011, in an Odessa hospice facility. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2011, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Wade Cobb officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2011, at the funeral home.

She was born Sept. 18, 1933, in Brownfield and married Billy Dean Adams on March 13, 1953, in Lovington, N.M. He preceded her in death July 14, 2004.

Her joy in life was her grandchildren and great-grandchildren and she enjoyed giving to others. Juanita was a member of Knott Baptist Church.

Survivors include her daughter and son-in-law, Diana and Byron Hill of Stanton; three grandchildren, Rebecca Mathews and husband Ryan of Gruver, Danielle Burrow and husband Tim of New Home and Brent Hill and wife Aimee of Stanton; eight great-grandchildren, Coley Ruebush, Cagan Mathews, Briggs Hill, Colt Mathews, Cason Mathews, Addisyn Burrow, Jayton Burrow and Adley Hill; seven brother and sisters, Jim Newsom and wife Georgie of Big Spring, Bob Newsom and wife Donna of Midland, Nancy Phernetton and husband Gus of Big Spring, Pennie Lemire and husband Clay of Sacramento, Calif., Tommy Newsom and wife Sherry of Big Spring, Donald Newsom and wife Kay of Amarillo and Marilyn Grigg and husband Walter of Houston.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; and one brother, Kenneth Newsom.

The family suggests memorials be made to Home Hospice House of Odessa, 903 N. Sam Houston, Odessa 79761.

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

*Paid obituary*

### Jessie Olivares

Jessie Olivares, 40, of Big Spring died Sunday, Feb. 20, 2011, at Midland Memorial Hospice Inpatient Unit. No services are scheduled.

Survivors include his wife, Malinda Olivares; children, Joseph, Gina and Melanie Olivares and Phillip Nunez; grandchildren; her mother, Catarina H. Boyles; sisters, Lucy Ybarra, Marylu Raspberry, Janie Morales and Cruista Corral, brothers, Johnny, Jimmy and Joe Olivares.

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

### Tomasa Regalado

Tomasa Regalado, 60, of Big Spring died Monday, Feb. 21, 2011, at her residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

### Claudie Aaron

Claudie Aaron, 70, of Midland, formerly of Big Spring died Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2011, at Midland Memorial Hospital. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

## Lottery

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 8-22-27-29. Bonus Ball: 26.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 20-24-26-31-34.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 3-6-1-4. Sum It Up: 14.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 5-1-9. Sum It Up: 15.

## Police/Sheriff

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

- EVAN RAY GOODWIN, 21, of Midland, was arrested Monday on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid with a previous conviction.
- EVELYN FRANCO, 31, of Colorado City, was arrested Monday on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid with a previous conviction.
- RICHARD DEAN ANDERSON, 22, of 4103 Parkway, was arrested Monday on two warrants from other agencies.
- THEFT was reported in the 2500 block of Gregg Street.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported: In the 400 block of E. Fourth Street. In the 2600 block of Langley.
- ASSAULT was reported in the 400 block of E. Fourth Street.

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 57 inmates at the time of this report.
- MANDY DIANE JENKINS, 35, was arrested Friday by DPS on charges of speeding, expired driver's license, no valid inspection certificate and violation of a promise to appear.
  - ANNA MAE MIEARS DAVES WHITE, 23, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on municipal warrants for speeding and violation of a promise to appear.
  - NATHAN HOUSTON CAHOON, 49, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for driving while intoxicated — third or more offense.
  - ANGEL GARCIA, 54, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on municipal warrants for no driver's license, failure to maintain financial responsibility and failure to appear.
  - ROBERT ALLEN WRIGHT, 48, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a Pike County warrant for failure to appear — unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon.
  - TOKA RENEE VAN, 36, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on municipal warrants for no vaccination or license for animal and failure to appear.
  - HAROLD RAY OTT, 55, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.
  - JAMES DWAYNE TURNBO, 32, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a Scurry County warrant for burglary of a habitation.
  - ALEX FRANKLIN MINTER, 18, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal mischief.
  - CHRISTOPHER RYAN CASTANUELA, 26, was arrested Saturday by DPS on municipal warrants for driving while license invalid and failure to appear.
  - JACEN BRADLEY STOTT, 54, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of being in city park after hours.
  - TONY CASTELLANO, 37, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.
  - DAVID LEVON HUMPHREY III, 46, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated — third or more offense.
  - JOE GUZMAN, 45, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
  - BRYAN JOSEPH GILES, 27, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
  - JORDAN DEAN BALIOS, 20, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of

consumption of alcohol by a minor.

- MARTHA FINA LOPEZ, 39, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- CYNTHIA MELISSA GARZA, 41, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- JASON PAUL NORRIS, 39, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated — third or more offense.
- JACEN BRADLEY STOTT, 54, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of being in the city park after hours.
- ROBERT RUBIN SANCHEZ, 46, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- ALONZO VELASCO, 59, was arrested Sunday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated second offense.
- PAUL MENDEZ MORENO, 48, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on charges of possession of marijuana — two ounces or less and assault — family violence.
- TERRY LEE TRAHAN, 53, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of being in the city park after hours.
- OLGA PERCHES, 53, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.
- PAULENAR RIOS TORRES, 43, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.
- ROBERTO VALDEZ BALTAZAR, 37, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- JOHN SLAUGHTER FINLEY, 42, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- JIM BOB WHITE, 43, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.
- ANGELA CASTANEDA, 50, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of hindering officers discharging official duties.
- PERRY LEE WHITE JR., 46, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.
- ALEJANDRO FRANCO JR., 44, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of issuance of a bad check and a municipal warrant for failure to appear.
- ROD LEE PUGA, 48, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on bondsman off bond for driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension, driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension, failure to identify — giving false information and municipal warrants for driving while license invalid and violation of a promise to appear.
- GARY LEON JETTON, 56, was arrested Monday by DPS on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction.
- JOE ALBERT DEANDA JR., 50, was arrested Monday by DPS on an attorney general warrant for violation of community supervision, a charge of theft and municipal warrants for expired registration (capias warrant) and failure to maintain financial responsibility (capias warrant).
- EVAN RAY GOODWIN, 21, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.
- EVELYN FRANCO, 31, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.
- RICHARD DEAN ANDERSON, 22, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of speeding and violation of a promise to appear.

## Support Groups

WEDNESDAY

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

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; open 12 & 12 study meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

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### Today's Weather

#### Local 5-Day Forecast

Wed 2/23	Thu 2/24	Fri 2/25	Sat 2/26	Sun 2/27
<b>81/51</b> Some clouds in the morning will give way to mainly sunny skies for the after.	<b>74/41</b> Windy with clouds giving way to sun.	<b>80/47</b> Abundant sunshine. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the upper 40s.	<b>84/45</b> Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the mid 40s.	<b>75/39</b> A few clouds. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the upper 30s.
Sunrise: 7:20 AM Sunset: 6:39 PM	Sunrise: 7:19 AM Sunset: 6:40 PM	Sunrise: 7:18 AM Sunset: 6:40 PM	Sunrise: 7:17 AM Sunset: 6:41 PM	Sunrise: 7:16 AM Sunset: 6:42 PM

### Texas At A Glance

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Amarillo	73	42	sunny
Big Spring	81	51	cloudy
El Paso	73	44	cloudy
Dallas	71	63	drizzle
Austin	77	63	drizzle
Houston	74	64	drizzle
San Antonio	81	66	drizzle
Brownsville	81	67	pt sunny

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	75	59	pt sunny
Amarillo	73	42	sunny
Austin	77	63	drizzle
Beaumont	73	64	drizzle
Brownsville	81	67	pt sunny
Brownwood	76	62	cloudy
Corpus Christi	76	66	drizzle
Corsicana	70	62	drizzle
Dallas	71	63	drizzle
Del Rio	80	60	pt sunny
El Paso	73	44	mst sunny
Fort Stockton	80	50	pt sunny
Gainesville	69	59	cloudy
Greenville	68	60	drizzle
Houston	74	64	drizzle
Los Angeles	61	43	mst sunny
Miami	83	64	mst sunny

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	63	45	sunny
Boston	37	14	sunny
Chicago	41	31	cloudy
Dallas	71	63	drizzle
Denver	50	23	mst sunny
Houston	74	64	drizzle
Los Angeles	61	43	mst sunny
Miami	83	64	mst sunny

## Take Note

- 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.
- A Mardi Gras dance for junior high and high school age students will be held from 8 p.m. to midnight Friday at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church hall, 1009 Hearn St. Admission is \$3 per person or \$5 per couple. Mardi Gras beads and mask are \$1 per set. The event is sponsored by the Holy Trinity Catholic Youth Group.

- 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.

## FIRE

Continued from PAGE 1A

Sullivan encouraged residents to do what they can to lessen the chance of their home being destroyed by a wildfire. "One of the most important things they can do is clear at least a 50-foot area around their house. Personally, with the high winds we have out here in West Texas, I suggest a 100-foot circle," said Sullivan. "Make sure the grass is scalped down as low as you can get it within that area, because fire can move really fast through it. "Also, if you have trees, it's not necessary to get rid of all of them, just make sure they aren't touching. You don't want the fire to be able to jump from one

tree or bush to the next. It's possible to make your property look good and still make it safe." With a burn ban already in effect, Sullivan said it's important for area residents to know the requirements if they plan to burn, whether it's garbage or a controlled burn. "People are still allowed to burn in burn barrels. They have to be barrels with no holes in them and they have to have a tight screen on them," he said. "They are also required to have a fire extinguisher or water hose, and they have to stay with the fire from the time it's started until it's completely out. If someone calls in and sees someone is burning, and a deputy or fire department shows up and no one is out there watching it, that's a violation of the burn ban and they could be fined

up to \$500." Sullivan said the same rules apply to welders, and while a \$500 fine is nothing to scoff at, violation of the ban can get much more expensive, especially if the fire spreads beyond their property. "If the fire gets away from them and gets onto someone's personal property, then they will not only get a fine for failure to adhere to a burn ban, they will also be fined for reckless endangerment, which makes that fine \$1,000," said Sullivan. "Like I've said, \$5 to go to the landfill is a lot easier on the wallet than a \$1,000 fine, not to mention a lawsuit if the fire damages someone else's property." County Judge Mark Barr said there are exceptions to the ban, but area residents considering burning anything outdoors should make

sure they have a good reason for doing so. "This burn ban does not prohibit outdoor burning activities related to public safety that are authorized by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, firefighter training, public utility, gas lines and pipelines or the planting or harvesting of agricultural crops," said Barr. "Also, burns that are directed by prescribed burn managers are not prohibited by the burn ban. There are some exclusions from the ban. However, if you're going to burn something, you better have a really good reason. And if anyone has any questions, they can call my office or call Tommy." *Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com*

## CANCER

Continued from Page 1A

he has had to endure numerous surgeries and undergone several rounds of chemo and a leg amputation while learning how to deal with it all. Six years later, he is cancer free and sharing his story. "I've cried about it a lot," Brady said. "I've spent enough time crying about it, though. The way I get through it is by making jokes and laughing about it." Jennifer said that they understand it's a serious issue, which they do take seriously, but she

knows the main reason they have come through it the way they have is because of the laughter and the jokes. The foundation is still in the early stages, but already has its wheels in motion. The state requires at least a three-member board and the foundation has six. A certification of formation has already been submitted and accepted, stating Brady as the board president. Jennifer is listed as the founder and CEO. Their mission statement has been established and a request to achieve public charity status is awaiting approval.

"There are a lot of steps to take, but we are on our way," Jennifer said. "We still need to finalize our bylaws and wait for public charity status, which could take around six months." Foundation members aren't going to just hang around and wait; instead the board is working on planning and raising funds for the upcoming documentary that Brady is a part of. The group has teamed up with Canadian filmmaker Thomas Cantley to help educate the nation through a traveling documentary. "Right now, our main focus is raising funds

for the film, then it will be raising money for the post-production costs and travel expenses," Jennifer said. "Eventually, we want to start some public service announcements." The documentary will take a small group through nine states and raise conversations with doctors and other survivors, according to the Hedges. "They are going to stop in every place that will let them tell their story," Jennifer said. "It's going to be about telling their stories and raising money for the cause." On top of the docu-

mentary, Brady plans on telling his story locally. Another focus of the foundation is going to be scheduled speaking events. Currently, Brady is scheduled to speak in Snyder, on April 12. While in Snyder, he will also do an on-air interview. "It doesn't hurt to tell this story to anybody," Brady said. "Anyone who wants to hear our story, we will tell it." Those interested in hearing Brady's story and learning more about testicular cancer and what can be done to prevent it, may contact the Hedges through Facebook. Log in to Fa-

cebook and search for Ballsy Cancer Society of America. If you are interested in helping with funding, contact the Hedges at 213-0257.

### MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Freddie Mae White, 97, died Saturday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Ruby Atkinson, 87, died Sunday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Tomas Regalado, 60, died Monday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Claudie Aaron, 70, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

## ACQUITTAL

Continued from Page 1A

subsequent investigations at the Texas Youth Commission's West Texas State School in Pyote prompted the resignations or firings of several top officials with agency responsible for overseeing the state's juvenile prison system. Lawmakers eventually ordered an overhaul of the system. Prosecutors declined to comment after the verdict. A call to Jerry Strickland, a spokesman for the Texas Attorney General's Office, was not immediately returned early Tuesday. Jurors also declined to comment as they filed out of the deliberation room.

The state's attorney general's office took over the prosecution of both former officials after the Ward County district attorney was accused of not acting quickly. All of Hernandez's accusers testified against him, telling jurors that Hernandez talked to them about pornography and fetishes before fondling them and performing oral sex. "I'm elated," said Albert G. Valadez, Hernandez's attorney, who hugged his client once jurors left the courtroom after the verdicts were announced. "We're very happy that this jury in Lubbock paid as close attention to the testimony as they did." Members of Hernandez's family had attended the whole trial and

cried and hugged one another after hearing the outcome. Hernandez took the stand in his own defense last week and denied the inmates' allegations, saying the young men lied in their statements to Texas Rangers investigators. Valadez has said the former inmates made up the allegations so they'd be released from the facility, which closed last summer. A former corrections officer at the prison testified that she heard two inmates — one of them an accuser in the case — talking about fabricating allegations of sexual

abuse so they could go home. Valadez told jurors in his closing argument that prosecutors had no physical evidence — no DNA, no fingerprints, no crime scene photos and no witnesses. Prosecutor Lisa Tanner told jurors that Hernandez was the one with "a clear-cut, obvious motive to lie." A report from Texas Rangers investigators in 2005 said Brookins and Hernandez summoned young male inmates from their dorms late at night or pulled them from classrooms. The report stated that

for at least two years the teens went with the men to ballfields, darkened conference rooms, and offices for sex. The initial investigator, Texas Ranger Brian, after he respected the jury's decision. "Our job is to get it to the trial and we did," he said. Hernandez and Brookins were allowed to quietly resign amid the Rangers' investigation.

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# EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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# Responsible adults can't ignore these numbers

I knew we were in for real budgetary trouble with Obama, but his recent statements on the subject make me wonder whether he is so brainwashed with liberal ideology as to be divorced from reality — or worse.

Based on his tireless rhetoric, it would appear that he thinks — contrary to all evidence, including the failure of his \$868 billion stimulus package to create jobs — that even more spending would finally lead to jobs. This, though even his economic advisers have warned us not to expect unemployment levels to reduce to acceptable levels for years.

In the meantime, as wrong-headed as he is about government spending's creating jobs, he's outright delusional about what he's doing to the national debt — and that's giving him the benefit of the doubt.

On our current course of runaway discretionary and entitlement spending, we will bankrupt the nation, yet Obama refuses to get serious about meaningfully curbing discretionary spending and is obstructing and demagoguing entitlement reform.

If this doesn't get your attention, then you are asleep, in denial or irresponsibly apathetic. For if you were engaged, you would have heard or read about Obama's stunning statements on the budget last week.

He said, with a startling degree of casualness, "We will not be adding more to the national debt. ... We're not going to be running up the credit card any more."

Now juxtapose that sentence with the facts, even as he presents them. He has pledged to freeze — at already unacceptably high levels — domestic spending for five years. What cuts he would make over the next 10 years would only total \$1.1 tril-

lion — an average of just over \$100 billion a year.

Look at Obama's own budget deficit projections for the next decade, beginning with 2012. 2012: \$1.101 trillion, 2013: \$768 billion, 2014: \$645 billion, 2015: \$607 billion, 2016: \$649 billion, 2017: \$627 billion, 2018: \$619 billion, 2019: \$681 billion, 2020: \$735 billion, 2021: \$774 billion. Total for 10 years: \$7.205 trillion — an average deficit of \$720 billion per year.

You simply cannot square these numbers with Obama's statement that he wouldn't be adding to the debt, unless he's actually confused about the difference between "deficits" and "debt," and that's almost as scary a thought as the numbers themselves.

That is, when you operate at staggering deficits that will add almost three-quarters of a trillion dollars to the debt each year, you are adding to the national debt; you are continuing to run up the national credit card.

A third-grader could understand that.

So tell me: What do you make of a man who presents a projected 10-year budget that, best case, would add \$7.205 trillion to the national debt but simultaneously tells you he won't add to the debt?

What would it take to startle this man into reality? He can't blame this on Bush anymore. He owns the record 2011 debt and his 10-year budget. President Bush's deficits before the extraordinary 2008 one — with the Troubled Asset Relief Program, etc. — averaged about \$300 billion, and the deficit was just \$161 billion in 2007. That's right; just four years ago, our deficit was 10 percent of what it is today, \$1.65 trillion.

A fiscally prudent president on the heels of that monstrous TARP year deficit of \$1.3 trillion (it was more like \$800 billion when you factor in TARP repayments) would have said, "We're going to drastically cut back and never have another deficit fiasco

like that again."

But Obama saw the Bush 2008 deficit not as a warning sign to restore fiscal responsibility, but as an excuse to ratchet up federal spending to record levels in order to redistribute wealth and advance pet liberal causes — and that's precisely what he's done. Many of us warned that much of the spending he engineered in the stimulus was not a one-time affair, but new self-perpetuating programs. Sure enough, here we are at \$1.65 trillion.

When Republicans proposed to cut just \$100 billion from the continuing resolution, Obama and his shameless party called their proposal "Draconian," as if to say that it's immoral unless it bankrupts the nation. Is it Draconian not to spend \$65 million on a tribute to the late Sen. Ted Kennedy? Is it not Draconian to impoverish our children and grandchildren?

Regardless of Obama's deeper motives, the reality is that he doesn't want to be responsible with our money because he intends to continue to play mad economic scientist with his failed experiments and keep throwing mega-dollars at walls, such as with this high-speed rail boondoggle, until there's nothing left to hurl.

Frankly, it's hard to comprehend why there's as little outrage and noise about this as there is. It's as if we are all walking the nation off the plank while our pied piper president tells us everything is going to be fine.

*David Limbaugh is a writer, author and attorney. His new book, "Crimes Against Liberty," was No. 1 on the New York Times best-seller list for nonfiction for its first two weeks. To find out more about David Limbaugh, please visit his website at [www.DavidLimbaugh.com](http://www.DavidLimbaugh.com). To read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).*

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# Don't buy talk on simple budget

In politics, simple phrases can hide complex agendas. The budget debate offers the perfect stage for mouthing "home truths" that are not quite true. Let's air a few examples.

— Big government, not the Bush tax cuts, created the deficits. Yes, higher spending — including the wars plus a deep recession — helped fuel the deficits, but so did the schemes to lighten rich people's tax burdens.

The Bush tax cuts were scheduled to expire on Jan. 1. Had Congress let that happen, projected deficits for the next 10 years would be \$3.3 trillion lower than they are, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

That's a good chunk of change. President Obama's new budget plan, despite deep slashes in spending, is projected to add \$7.2 trillion to the national debt through 2021.

Congress extended the Bush tax cuts for two years. But after that time is up, lawmakers can fix much of the deficit problem by doing nothing — that is, sitting back and letting the Bush tax cuts go poof.

But aren't these tax cuts necessary for long-term economic growth? Hardly. Economists have found "virtually no evidence in support of the Bush tax cuts as an economic elixir," writes former Reagan Treasury

official Bruce Bartlett. And, he concludes, "no one should delude themselves that continuing tax cuts that did nothing for growth over the last 10 years will do anything to stimulate growth in the future."

— Social Security is now driving up deficits. Ohio Republican Sen. Rob Portman said that on "PBS NewsHour," noting, "This year, Social Security will pay out more than it brings in."

True ... but. Like others intent on privatizing the program, Portman ignores the Social Security Trust Fund. For more than a quarter century, American workers have been paying extra taxes into the fund to cover this very situation.

The fund's assets are invested in U.S. Treasury securities.

Portman's claim is like parents saying that when they tap their college savings account to pay tuition that they couldn't afford with that year's earnings, they are spending money they don't have.

Portman then argues that, anyhow, the Social Security Trust Fund is empty. "For years," he says, "the Social Security trust fund has been used for everyday government spending."

Well, that is true of all the money that the U.S. government borrows — which it does by selling Treasury securities to investors across the globe. If the U.S. government defaulted on these bonds, the world economy would rapidly collapse into a pile of smoking ashes.

Is Portman suggesting that the U.S. Treasury must honor its debt obligations to the Chinese

government but can stiff the American workers who loaned it money through the Social Security Trust Fund? I think he is.

I know the accounting is screwy, but for purposes of determining the financial health of Social Security, our politicians should just tack the money the Treasury owes the trust fund onto the money it owes everyone else.

— You can't tax your way to prosperity. How many times have you heard that? And how appealing to those who don't like paying taxes, which is about everybody.

Listen to Rep. Paul Ryan's reaction to Obama's budget plan: "You really can't borrow and spend and tax your way to prosperity, but unfortunately, that is exactly what this budget does."

It must have slipped the Wisconsin Republican's mind that in 2003, he voted for the famously reckless \$1 trillion Medicare drug benefit, every penny of the cost borrowed. As chairman of the House Budget Committee, Ryan surely knows that one way to avoid borrowing is to pay for things the old-fashioned way, with taxes.

Now that's simplicity we can believe in.

*To find out more about Froma Harrop, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).*

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The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

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- By e-mail Managing Editor Bill McClellan at [newsdesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:newsdesk@bigspringherald.com).
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

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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)

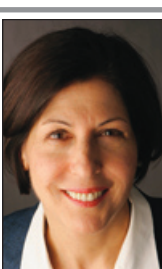
## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we overlook others flaws, Lord, and give them Your Heavenly benefit. Amen



DAVID LIMBAUGH



FROMA HARROP

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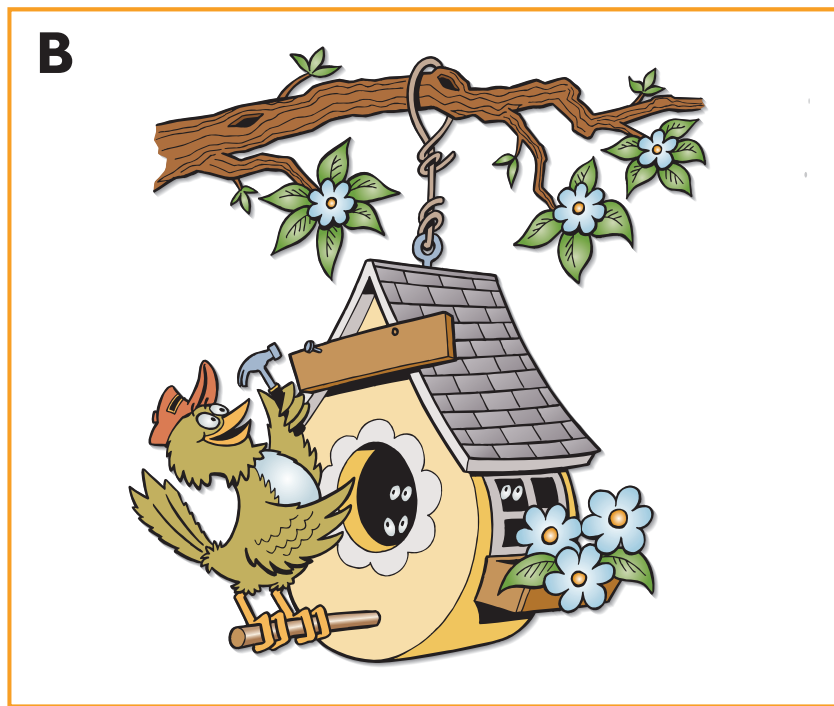
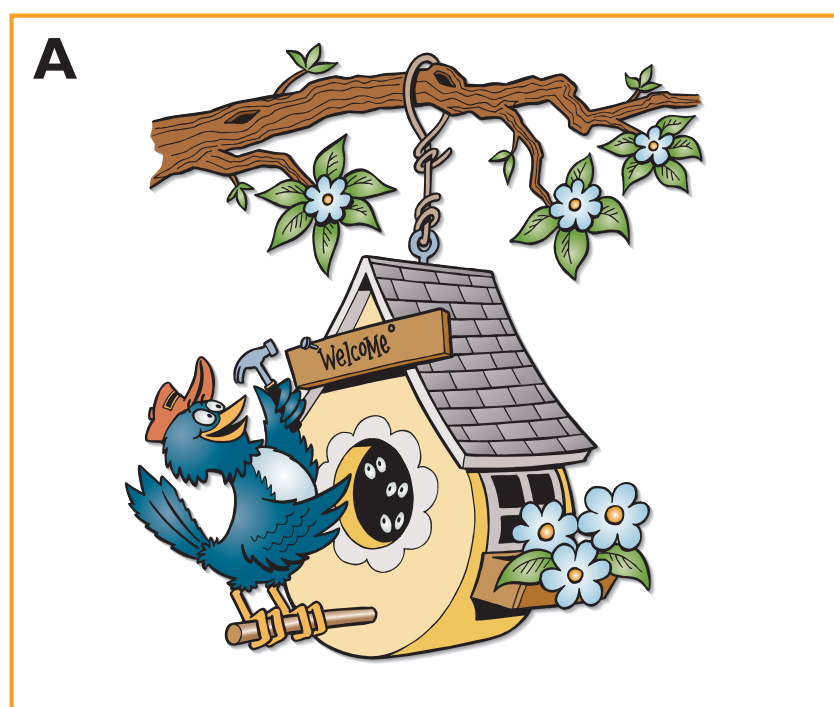
**Burrito Express I & II**

**Troy Tompkins,**  
CMFC Financial Planner  
The Prudential Insurance  
Company Of America



**What's the Difference?**

There are four things different between Picture A and Picture B. Can you find them all?



Answers: 1. Welcome sign 2. missing eyeballs in center hole 3. eyeballs in side window 4. bird a different color

**THIS DAY IN...**



**HISTORY**

- **1495:** KING CHARLES VIII OF FRANCE ENTERS NAPLES TO CLAIM THE CITY'S THRONE.
- **1819:** SPAIN SELLS FLORIDA TO THE UNITED STATES FOR FIVE MILLION U.S. DOLLARS.
- **1994:** ALDRICH AMES AND HIS WIFE ARE CHARGED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE WITH SPYING FOR THE SOVIET UNION.



THESE ARE AMONG THE MOST POPULAR TYPES OF SEEDS USED IN BIRD FEEDERS.

ANSWER: BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER SEEDS



**millet**

fast-growing cereal plant used for bird food

*How they SAY that in...*

**ENGLISH:** To fly

**SPANISH:** Volar

**ITALIAN:** Volare

**FRENCH:** Voler

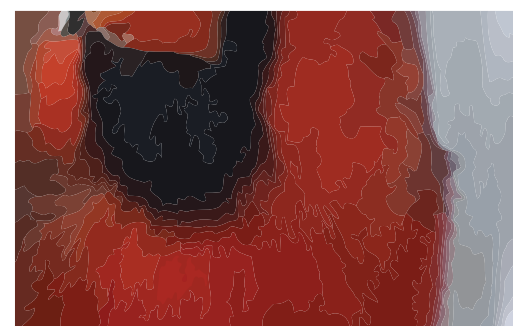
**GERMAN:** Fliegen

**Did You Know?**



FEEDING BIRDS A HIGH-FAT SUPPLEMENT, SUCH AS SUET, CAN HELP THEM SURVIVE THE WINTER SEASON.

**GET THE PICTURE?**



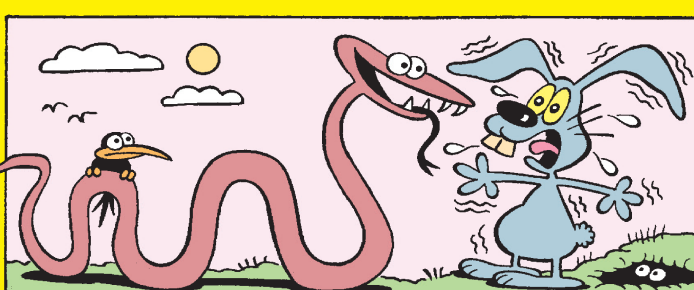
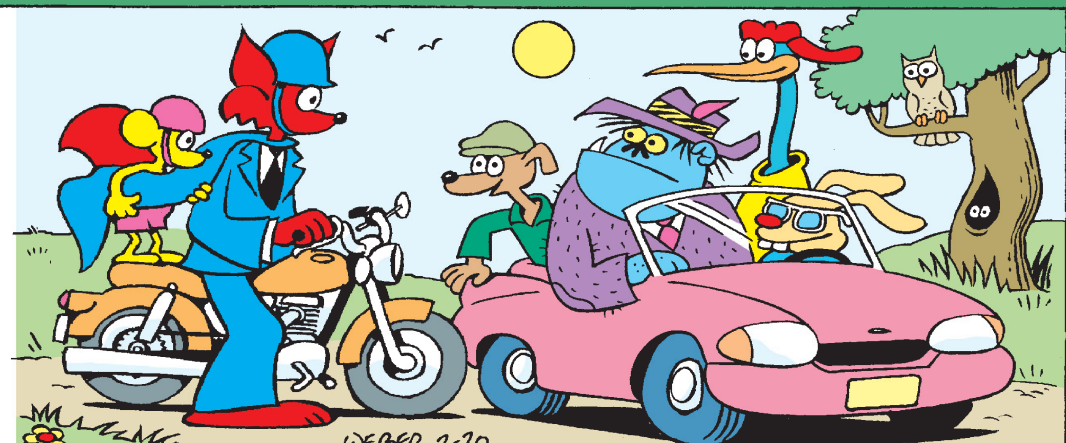
Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: CARDINAL

**SLYLOCK FOX and COMICS FOR KIDS**

**BY BOB WEBER JR.**

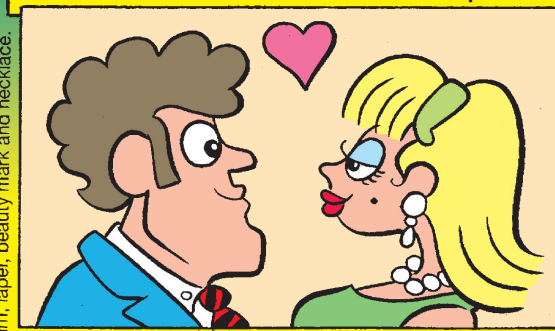
The Forest Bank was robbed two hours ago. Harry Ape and his thugs are suspects. But Danny Dog says they were in a restaurant being served a tasty meal at the time of the robbery. Slylock asked a question and told each of them to whisper an answer in his ear. What did Slylock ask that disproved Danny's alibi?



**True or False**  
1) Snakes use their forked tongues to smell.  
2) Newborn cobras do not have venom.  
3) Snakes are completely deaf.

**YOUR DRAWING**  
Today's artist is Fiona Daidy, age 7, of Arlington, VA

Find six differences between these panels.



The fourth Find the six differences is here. Send \$4 (check/money order in U.S. funds made payable to King Features) with your name and address to Six Differences No. 4, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

# The best reward we could receive

Having weathered two severe cold spells in February made me think back to the latter part of January. A predicted wintry blast and drop in temperature had justified its forecast.

Leaves scurried southward down the street as I watched from a front window. Then the phone rang.

"The trapper says he has a baby cormorant. Can you take it?" asked the game warden.

After telling him we'd be ready, I had my doubts about the bird.

Howard County shares its lakes and ponds with cormorants that arrive in late fall to escape frozen lakes further north. However, the Permian Basin is not known as a breeding area.

Twenty minutes later, slowly passing our house, then coming to a stop in front of our side yard, was a truck pulling a horse trailer. After thinking the driver might be visiting another neighbor, I was surprised to see a man walking back to the south. With his arms slightly extended, he

was holding a wiggling bird.

Grabbing a coat, I hurried out the front door. By the time I reached the driveway

moment, I envied its thick coat.

As I approached the driver's door, it opened. Dressed for the weather, the man,



Courtesy photo

**Found on a ranch road, the pied-billed grebe relished its return to a watery world. Diving without a ripple, it resurfaced on the windswept surface. The bird has been called a "water witch" because of its vanishing act.**

the man was gone. Could he have returned to his truck?

Once in the street, I could see the driver sitting inside the cab. Occupying the trailer was a horse with saddle. From my quick glance and lack of equine lineage, I thought it part pinto, part mule. At the

whom I assumed to be the trapper, handed me his plump little bird. With its feet and legs imitating a dog paddle in fast-forward, I told him he had a grebe. "Never seen one," he exclaimed. Having noticed numerous cormorants in late fall and winter, he had assumed this smaller creature might be one of their offspring. After I compared it to loons and coots, he quickly understood that this was a diving bird.

On the ranch where he had been working,

he had seen from a distance two ravens harassing something in the middle of a dirt road. Knowing how they were inclined to kill what they thought they could dominate, he decided to intervene.

After I told him grebes seldom leave the water except to migrate and preen, he still couldn't understand what it was doing in such a lonely spot.

As we talked about its webbed toes, he understood that not only did it propel itself on and under the water. With its legs toward the rear of its body, it would have to use those feet to run on the surface and become airborne.

Because it was tired could have been a possibility for the grebe's landing where it did. It had to set down before being able to find a pond or lake. When I asked him if the ranch had any fairly large stock tanks, I could tell from his puzzled look that with our drought conditions, the land offered little respite for a weary traveler.

With its thick, chicken-like bill, this grebe wore the plumage of a juvenile. To make sure as to its identification, I told him I'd call once I had checked my favorite bird book.

As we began to be pelted with snow flurries, he and I noticed the arrival of the game

warden. Having remained in the warmth of the cab, the trapper's dog suddenly jumped to the street to greet the officer.

Following this formality, the dog shared its cordial personality with me. With Art joining our group, the neighbors must have wondered why we were all standing outside in frigid, blustery weather. Saying we would test the bird's ability to use its feet and legs before a release, we left the two men and hurried to the garage.

After filling a deep plastic bin with water, we watched as the grebe gracefully propelled itself in a large circle. Quickly diving and resurfacing, the bird seemed elated over having been placed in the container.

No longer was there any question as to its identification. While other grebes have long, narrow, pointed bills, the pied-billed grebe had a short, unadorned thick bill. In its juvenile plumage, the bird wore typical streaks on the sides of its neck and throat. Its drab appearance overall was one of tawny to dusky brown.

As an adult in breeding season, two features would be outstanding. The grebe's whitish beak would have a black stripe wrapped

## BIRD POOP

BY BEBE McCASLAND



around it and its throat would be accented in black.

When placed on the surface of an area lake, the pied-bill rose above the water to flap its wings. Then it slowly paddled its way from shore. Confident in its surroundings, it dove beneath the surface. Reappearing, the bird dove again. Each time it moved further into the lake and away from us.

Offering small fish, this body of water would suffice until the grebe decided to leave. On other bodies of water it might find tadpoles, small frogs, and crayfish. Lush, shoreline vegetation would provide a place to hide.

With numb fingers and noses, we watched the visitor until it was barely a spot. Over the years we have learned that remembering a successful release is the best reward we could ever receive.

*Bebe McCasland is author of The Scoop from Bird Poop. She is federally and state licensed to rehabilitate wild birds.*

## 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.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

## Jefferson's legacy

I was recently reading about a very remarkable man who led our country in a difficult time. It was Thomas Jefferson. He wanted to learn and began his educational pursuits early in life. When he was 5 he began studying under his cousin's tutor; at 9 he was learning Latin, Greek and French then began studying classical literature and additional languages. When

he was 16, he entered the College of William and Mary and by age 19 he was studying law.

He opened up his own law practice when he was 23 and was elected to the Virginia House of Burgesses by the time he was 25. At 31 he wrote the widely circulated "Summary View of the Rights of British America" then left his law practice to become a delegate to the Second Continental Congress.

He was 33 when he wrote the Declaration of Independence. He soon began working to revise Virginia's legal code and wrote a public education bill and a statute for religious freedom. When he was 36 he was elected the second Governor of Virginia, succeeding Patrick Henry. He served in Congress for two years; was the American minister to France and negotiated

## PARENT'S CORNER

BY DARRELL RYAN



commercial treaties with European nations along with Ben Franklin and John Adams and served as the first Secretary of State under George Washington.

He served as vice president under John Adams; was elected president of the American Philosophical Society; drafted the Kentucky Resolutions and became the active head of Republican Party by the time he was 55.

He was elected as the third president of the United States when he was 57. At age 60 he obtained the Louisiana Purchase, doubling the nation's size and was elected to a second term as president.

At age 65 he retired to Monticello and continued his writing and inventing. He assisted President Monroe in shaping the Monroe Doctrine and almost single-handedly created the University of Virginia and served as its first president. At 83 he died on the 50th anniversary of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence along with John Adams.

He understood government, laws and the nature of man. Once, when John F. Kennedy held a dinner in the white House, he made

## Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

### Keep Your Eye on the Ball

South dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.  
NORTH  
♠ A J  
♥ A K J 10 8 5  
♦ 9 7 2  
♣ 5 3  
WEST  
♠ 9 5 2  
♥ 6  
♦ Q 10 8 6 3  
♣ Q 10 7 4  
EAST  
♠ 8 6 4 3  
♥ Q 7 4 2  
♦ A 5  
♣ K 8 2  
SOUTH  
♠ K Q 10 7  
♥ 9 3  
♦ K J 4  
♣ A J 9 6

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

Opening lead — six of diamonds.  
There are often two sides to a story, and the same can be said of many bridge hands. Consider this case where West led the diamond six against three notrump, taken by East with the ace. East returned the five of diamonds, South's jack losing to the queen, and at this point West — a very fine defensive player — realized that it would be futile to continue the suit.

Accordingly, he switched to a low club at trick three, having decided that the best chance of stopping three

notrump was to find his partner with the king of clubs and queen of hearts. That holding was entirely possible on the bidding.

No truer arrow was ever shot! East's king forced declarer's ace, and South could do no better than attempt a heart finesse. When he did, East took his queen and returned a club, and declarer went down one, losing two diamonds, a heart and two clubs.

After giving West full credit for his club shift at trick three, the unalterable fact remains that failing to make the contract was South's own fault — and that's the other side of the story.

Declarer blundered badly when he finessed the jack of diamonds at trick two. He was playing with fire, and he ultimately got burned. South could have assured making three notrump by winning the second diamond with the king and finessing the nine of hearts.

If the finesse lost and East did not have a diamond to return, South would make five notrump. If the finesse lost and East did have a diamond to return, that would mean West had started with only a four-card suit, so South would wind up making three notrump.

The normal-looking diamond finesse at trick two thus turned out to be both a snare and a delusion.

Tomorrow: Partnership cooperation.

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## 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.

For any additional info or questions, please contact us.

**Compass Hospice \* 1003 E. FM 700 \* 432.263.5999**

219824

# State news in brief

## No textbook funds in Texas budget proposals

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas lawmakers dealing with a projected \$15 billion shortfall in the next two-year spending period have offered base budget proposals without any bucks for new textbooks.

Before a 2009 Texas curriculum overhaul, children were working with science textbooks most recently updated in 1997, the Austin American-Statesman reported late Monday.

Texas, with 4.6 million public school students, is facing tougher testing. The State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness focuses on college readiness and will count toward graduation requirements. A dozen mandatory exams for high school students will be phased in over four years.

The State Board of Education last fall, anticipating a possible state revenue shortfall, asked the Legislature for supplemental science materials accessible online, at a cost of about \$60 million. Books would have pushed the cost to \$347 million.

Education Commissioner Robert Scott is asking for about \$520 million in updated instructional materials for the fall, for online science and new language arts materials based on recently updated standards.

## Nobody hurt in Texas A&M engineering building fire

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — Nobody has been injured in a fire that damaged part of the third floor and the roof of a building on the Texas A&M flagship campus.

The Zachry Engineering Center reopened Tuesday morning.

Building proctor Troy Stepan told The Associated Press that damage was mostly contained to a men's restroom. No damage estimate was immediately available.

College Station Fire Department spokesman Bart Humphreys says the cause of Monday afternoon's blaze is under investigation.

More than 2,000 students, staff and faculty safely evacuated. Classes were canceled Monday night.

## Hindu guru faces indecency trial

SAN MARCOS (AP) — An elderly Hindu guru faces trial in Central Texas on 20 counts of indecency with a child by sexual contact.

The trial of 82-year-old Prakashanand Saraswati was scheduled to begin Tuesday in San Marcos.

The founder and spiritual leader of the Barsana Dham ashram in Hays County is accused of misconduct with two girls in the 1990s when their families lived at his religious complex.

A Texas judge last October revoked the passport of the spiritual leader, known as Shree Swamiji. He was arrested in April 2008 at Washington Dulles International Airport after arriving on a flight from Europe.

Ashram officials have denied the allegations. Attorneys for Saraswati previously claimed he was too frail for trial and has back trouble.

## SE Texas teacher dies after shooting at home

ORANGEFIELD (AP) — A Southeast Texas teacher who was shot in the head while at her home has died.

The Orange County Sheriff's Office says nobody has been arrested over the death of 46-year-old Staci Lisenby of Orangefield.

The sheriff's office says Lisenby died Monday at a hospital. She was 46.

Authorities say the teacher at Orangefield Junior High School was shot Sunday night.

Investigators spoke with Lisenby's 14-year-old son, who was at home with his mother, and he told them an intruder shot her.

Counselors have been made available to school staff and students in the community of 700, located about 100 miles northeast of Houston.

## Nearly 1,000 mourners gather for slain ICE agent

BROWNSVILLE (AP) — The killing of a U.S. federal agent in Mexico brought nearly 1,000 mourners to pray for him Monday night in his hometown on the Texas border, where a family member recalled the agent telling his mother shortly before his death that he was going to be a hero.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement Special Agent Jaime Zapata left "the entire country" wanting to help his family after the 32-year-old was gunned down on the job a week ago, said Bishop Daniel Flores, who presided over a rosary in a ballroom packed with ICE and Border Patrol agents.

"It is time for us to remember we must fight the good fight," Flores said.

Zapata was gunned down a week ago when U.S. officials say drug cartel gunmen ambushed his car in the San Luis Potosi state. Fellow agent Victor

Avila was also in the car but survived the attack after being shot twice in the leg.

Among the first to leave the service was a man on crutches who was surrounded by federal agents and helped into a waiting SUV. ICE spokeswoman Nina Pruneda said she did not immediately know whether the man was Avila.

Family members filled the first rows in front of Zapata's open coffin. An American flag was draped over the closed part of the casket and two honor guard members stood on either side.

## Film of JFK on eve of assassination surfaces

DALLAS (AP) — A color home movie of President John F. Kennedy's appearance in Houston on the eve of his 1963 assassination has surfaced.

The silent film captures Kennedy and first lady Jacqueline Kennedy in their appearance at a League of United Latin American Citizens at the Rice Hotel in Houston on the night of Nov. 21, 1963.

Roy Botello of San Antonio, who shot the film with his home movie camera, has donated the film to the Sixth Floor Museum in Dallas. A statement of the museum's website says the film captures Kennedy arrival, welcoming dignitaries, a mariachi band and both Kennedys addressing the crowd — the first lady speaking extemporaneously in Spanish.

The museum collects artifacts related to Kennedy's fateful five-city trip to Texas.

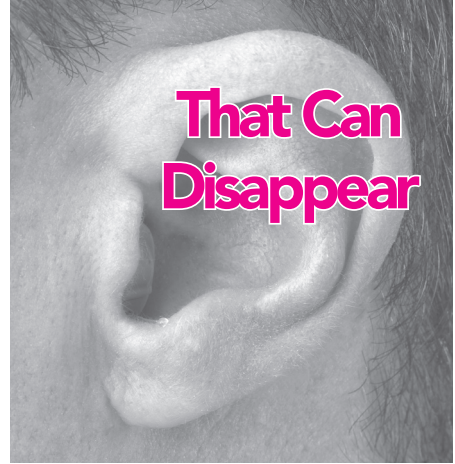


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## RYAN

Continued from Page 6A

this statement: "This is perhaps the assembly of the most intelligence ever to gather at one time in the White House with the exception of when Thomas Jefferson dined alone."

We should pay attention to the comments of this great voice of the past to lead us into the future. He is credited with the following statements:

"When we get piled upon one another in large cities, as in Europe, we shall become as corrupt as Europe.

"Our democracy will cease to exist when we take away from those who are willing to work and give to those who will not.

"It is incumbent on every generation to pay its own debts as it goes.

"I predict future happiness for Americans if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them.

"My reading of history convinces me that most bad government results from too much government.

"No free man shall ever be debarred the use of arms.

"I believe that banking institutions are more dangerous to our liberties than standing armies. If the American people ever allow private banks to control the issue of their currency, first by inflation, then by deflation, the banks and corporations that will grow up around the banks will deprive the people of all property until their children wake up homeless on the continent their fathers conquered."

I wonder what Mr. Jefferson would say if he could see our situation today? I wonder what advice he would give us as we look to the future?

Darrell Ryan is director of federal programs for the Big Spring Independent School District.

## News in brief

### Residents in Libyan capital stay home after night of killings

CAIRO (AP) — A Libyan opposition activist and a Tripoli resident say the streets of a restive district in the Libyan capital are littered with the bodies of scores of protesters shot dead by security forces loyal to longtime leader Moammar Gadhafi.

Mohammed Ali of the Libyan Salvation Front and the resident say Tripoli's inhabitants are hunkering down at home Tuesday after the killings and warnings by forces loyal to Gadhafi that anyone on the streets would be shot.

Ali, reached in Dubai, and the Tripoli resident say forces loyal to Gadhafi shot at ambulances and some protesters were left bleeding to death.

The resident spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals.

Western media are largely barred from Libya and the report couldn't be independently confirmed.

### Earthquake strikes New Zealand, killing at least 65

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand (AP) — A powerful earthquake struck one of New Zealand's biggest cities Tuesday at the height of a busy workday, toppling tall buildings and churches, crushing buses and killing at least 65 people in one of the country's worst natural disasters.

It was the second major quake to hit Christchurch, a city of 350,000, in five months, though Tuesday's 6.3-magnitude temblor caused far more destruction than a stronger September quake that struck before dawn on a weekend.

More than 100 people, including as many as a dozen visiting Japanese students, were thought to be trapped in the rubble as darkness — and drizzling rain — fell Tuesday night.

"It is just a scene of utter devastation," Prime Minister John Key said after rushing to the city within hours of the quake.

He said the death toll was 65, and may rise.

"We may well be witnessing New Zealand's darkest day," he said.

The spire of the city's well-known stone cathedral toppled into a central square, while multistory buildings collapsed in on themselves and streets were strewn with bricks and shattered concrete.

Sidewalks and roads were cracked and split, while thousands of dazed, screaming and crying residents wandered through the streets as sirens and car alarms blared.

Ambulance services were quickly overwhelmed, and groups of people helped victims clutching bleedings wounds, and others were carried to private vehicles in makeshift stretchers fashioned from rugs or bits of debris.

### Impasse over Wisconsin union rights proposal enters second week

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Republican backers of Gov. Scott Walker's plan to eliminate collective bargaining rights for most public employees are trying to move the explosive proposal closer to reality, even as Democrats remained on the run and protesters filled the halls of the Capitol for a second week.

The Republican-controlled Assembly planned to debate and possibly vote on the measure Tuesday, but Democrats said they would offer more than 100 amendments in an attempt to improve the bill or at least drag it out in the hopes concessions will be made.

Things are even more chaotic in the Senate, where Democrats have halted the measure with a dramatic decision not to show up since Thursday.

That has left Republicans, who control the chamber, one vote shy of the quorum needed to take up the plan, officials said.

Republicans planned to forge ahead with other business Tuesday, including a resolution honoring the Green Bay Packers for winning the Super Bowl and a bill extending tax breaks to dairy farmers.

Those bills have bipartisan support, but Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald has tried to put pressure on Democrats by threatening to take up more controversial matters.

It's a high-stakes game of political chicken that has riveted the nation and led to ongoing public protests that drew a high of 68,000 people on Saturday.

Neither Republicans nor Democrats are budging: Walker says he won't negotiate, and the 14 missing Senate Democrats say they won't return until he does.

### No Daley on the ballot as Chicago voters choose a mayor

CHICAGO (AP) — The campaign to replace Mayor Richard Daley has unfolded unlike any in Chicago's history, and almost certainly will end with a mayor unlike anyone who's run City Hall before.

Voters in Tuesday's election will cast ballots that for the first time in more than two decades do not have Daley's name on the list. And they may select the city's first Jewish mayor, Rahm Emanuel.

Or the first black woman, former U.S. Sen. Carol Moseley Braun.

Or the first Hispanic mayor — either former Chicago public schools president Gery Chico or City Clerk Miguel del Valle.

Emanuel has been the clear front-runner in both the polls and fundraising since he resigned as President Barack Obama's chief of staff last fall.

But he or one of the other five candidates on the ballot must win 50 percent of the votes plus one vote to avoid a runoff on April 5.

The five-month campaign took all kinds of unusual turns, even for a city where voting from six feet under is part of election lore.

But after a race that included a challenge of Emanuel's right to call himself a Chicagoan going all the way to the Illinois Supreme Court and Braun accusing another candidate of being strung out on crack cocaine, some voters complained they had not heard enough about where the candidates stood on the issues.

Some said they were focused more on the candidates' resumes and influence.

### Hit by aging population and poor economy, 1 in 4 U.S. counties are dying

WELCH, W.Va. (AP) — Nestled within America's once-thriving coal country, 87-year-old Ed Shepard laments a prosperous era gone by, when shoppers lined the streets and government lent a helping hand. Now, here as in one-fourth of all U.S. counties, West Virginia's graying residents are slowly dying off.

Hit by an aging population and a poor economy, a near-record number of U.S. counties are experiencing more deaths than births in their communities, a phenomenon demographers call "natural decrease."

Years in the making, the problem is spreading amid a prolonged job slump and a push by Republicans in Congress to downsize government and federal spending.

Local businesses in Welch began to shutter after U.S. Steel departed McDowell County, which sits near Interstate 77, once referred to as the "Hillbilly Highway" because it promised a way to jobs in the South.

Young adults who manage to at-

tend college — the high-school dropout rate is 28 percent, compared with about 8 percent nationwide — can't wait to leave.

For some reason, the fish in nearby Elkhorn Creek left too.

"There's no reason for you to come to Welch," says Shepard, wearing a Union 76 cap at a makeshift auto shop he still runs after six decades. "This is nothing but a damn ghost town in a welfare county."

### After the storm: Tourism operators in Queensland struggling against perception of damage

SYDNEY (AP) — Dream holiday destination Queensland has a new nightmare. The flood waters have receded, the cyclone's fury is long spent — the welcome mat is out again. But tourists are staying away in droves.

"We saw all the floods and thought we might be in danger," said Ben Davis, 21, who's in Australia on a year-long work and holiday visa with his girlfriend, Danielle Hodgson.

The English couple planned a short jaunt to Sydney before heading to the tropical paradise of Australia's northeast coast. But one week has turned into six — and counting — as they watched first one, then a second natural disaster unfold in Queensland state and decided Sydney was a safer bet.

The sudden change of plans is a small example of a bigger problem for Queensland as it recovers from weeks of deadly flooding and from a massive cyclone.

The disasters have caused an abrupt image malfunction for the state, which includes some of the main drawcards in Australia's \$40 billion a year tourism industry.

Almost 6 million tourists visited Australia last year, and more than half of them went to Queensland, lured by Great Barrier Reef, thousands of miles of pristine beaches and year-round warm weather.

### How many bureaucrats to carry out health overhaul? Budget provides clues

WASHINGTON (AP) — How many federal bureaucrats does it take to carry out President Barack Obama's health care overhaul? Don't expect to find an easy answer in his new budget.

It has no line item for health care implementation, a task delegated to agencies in several government departments, each with its own procedures — and quirks — to account for spending and hiring.

Republicans suspect a dodge to make it harder for them to track the money as they strategize over how to block the law by shutting off the spigot of federal funds.

"They are absolutely hiding the ball with this budget," complained Rep. Dave Camp, R-Mich., chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, which oversees Medicare and tax laws.

"We don't know the cost of the health care bill or how many people they are going to hire. All of this needs to be flushed out."

Administration officials say the \$3.7 trillion budget may be hard to read, but it's all in there. Somewhere.

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

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# Playoffs 2011

## Steers dive into playoffs, Bowie on tap



File Photo

Devante Lloyd (left) fights with a player for the ball in the Big Spring Steers' game against Abilene Wylie earlier this season. The Steers face Bowie in the bi-district round of the Class 3A boys' basketball playoffs at 6 p.m. today at Cisco High School.

BY ADAM COLEMAN

Sports Editor

What does a head coach who's never been to the playoffs tell his players about the playoffs?

It's something the eight seniors on this team can relate to.

"I've talked to a lot of coaches who have been in my position and I just try to heed their advice and make it fun for the guys," BSHS boys' basketball coach Cliff Thompson said. "For a lot of them, I just make sure they're enjoying it because it's the last time they'll get to do this. For me, it's a learning process, for them it's the only chance they get."

Today's matchup will be the first playoff game Thompson has ever been a part of as a coach in his career, which is a young one. He's hoping to lead his senior-laden squad past a Bowie team that's seemed to find its stride at the right time.

The Steers face Bowie at 6 p.m. today at Cisco High School in Cisco.

A week ago, the Steers were expecting to face either Graham or Iowa Park in the bi-district round of the playoffs, but all that changed when Bowie — a team picked to finish last in its district — beat both of those teams to clinch a berth. Bowie is an underdog of sorts.

Thompson said a team like that at this point in the season is dangerous, but he believes the Steers have everything in place to win today's game.

With this being his first playoff game, Thompson said he's had to learn a few new lessons himself, besides scouting Bowie.

"I've got nerves," he said. "I'm trying to figure out how to keep the focus on this team, but at the same time prepare for the next since we've only got a couple of days. That's been kind of an interesting dynamic for me. Focus on Bowie, but at the same time, I've got to make sure I'm getting film ready this week if we end up winning."

At this point in the season, standout guard Luke Adams is a targeted man and Thompson expects Bowie to defend him like most teams have all season: the box-and-1 defense.

This is where Marc Segundo and Tristian

See **STEERS**, Page 2B

### Area basketball playoff schedule

**Boys, bi-district Tuesday**  
Grady 71  
New Home 33

**Today**  
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

Garden City vs. Hermleigh at 8 p.m. at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum - Big Spring

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

## Grady blasts New Home, No. 2 Anton awaits

BY ADAM COLEMAN

Sports Editor

GAIL — The No. 11 Grady Wildcats didn't want to during the regular season — win the District 8A Division II crown.

However, before Monday's Class A Division II bi-district playoff game against New Home, Grady head coach Thomas Clay reminded his players they don't need that for a return trip to state.

"District was a long drive, 14 games is a long time and we came up a little short of what we wanted to do there," Clay said. "Now, I told them before the game 75 percent of all the teams in Texas are done. We're one of the few left playing and we want to continue to do that."

The Wildcats got an emphatic start to their hopeful run back to the state championship with a 71-33 thrashing of New Home.

Shane Teague had a game-high 21 points for the Wildcats. Zeke Clay chipped in 14.

The Wildcats were just too fast for the Leopards. Grady jumped out to a 20-6 lead in the first quarter and a 40-9 lead at halftime with a 40-9 lead. Their largest lead of the game was 44 points midway through the fourth.

This game was all about forcing turnovers and turning those into points, which Grady did often. It's a style of play Teague hopes takes this team far in the playoffs.

"This is a good win for us because at the end of district. We weren't playing well," he said. "For us to win this big, for us to do well offensively and defensively, it's pretty good for us."

The Wildcats' reward for winning Monday's game doesn't look like much of one. No. 2 Anton awaits at 7:30 p.m. Friday in Lubbock.

Clay is hoping the playoff warm-up games and Monday's win



HERALD Photo/Adam Coleman

Grady's Johan Wiebe goes up for the score during the Wildcats' 71-33 win over New Home in Monday's Class A bi-district playoff game. The No. 11 Wildcats face No. 2 Anton in the area championship at 7:30 p.m. Friday in the Rip Griffin Center in Lubbock.

springboards his team during the most crucial part of the season, but the coach was blunt: tak-

ing down Anton won't be easy.

"We have a massive match up Friday, No.

2 team in the state," he said. "Last year, if they had been in our division, they might've won

state. They're way good.

See **GRADY**, Page 2B

### Sports in brief

#### 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 conducting 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.

# BSHS baseball opens season with victory

The Big Spring baseball team took care of business Monday night, beating Monahans 8-2 to open the 2011 season.

Max Pappajohn was on the mound for the win.

Head Coach Bert Otto was impressed with his team's performance. He said this is about where the Steers were at last year, but he will learn what type of team he has quickly.

The Steers immediately dive in to

their first tournament of the year at Lubbock Cooper High School. The tourney starts with Cooper at 10 a.m. and Hereford at 3 p.m. Otto said the Steers should also have Monahans again and Andrews.

The Steers actually will be away from home for a week or so. They come back against Brownfield at 7 p.m. on March 8, then two days later they host their own tournament before a doubleheader against San Angelo Lake View.

# Melo goes to Knicks

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The New York Knicks finally landed Carmelo Anthony, ending a trade saga and their quest for a second superstar with one blockbuster deal.

The Knicks beat out the rival New Jersey Nets to win the Anthony sweepstakes by agreeing to a trade with the Nuggets on Monday, a person familiar with the deal told The Associated Press.

The deal that would finish the season-long trade speculation involving Denver's All-Star forward and send him to his desired destination can't be finalized until Tuesday, after a conference call with the NBA office. Assuming it goes through, it puts Anthony alongside Amare Stoudemire in a potentially explosive frontcourt — at a heavy cost to the Knicks, who hoped in July to sign two top stars but came away with only one.

The person provided no other details of who was in the deal, which was first reported Monday by The Denver Post. The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to comment publicly on the trade.

The Post, citing a league source, said the Knicks would send Wilson Chandler, Raymond Felton, Danilo Gallinari, Timofey Mozgov and a 2014 first-round draft pick to the Nuggets, who would get additional picks and cash.

Along with Anthony, New York would acquire Chauncey Billups, Shelden Williams, Anthony Carter and Renaldo Balkman, according to the Post.

The Minnesota Timberwolves are also involved in the three-way deal, getting Eddy Curry and Anthony

Randolph from the Knicks for swingman Corey Brewer, a person with knowledge of the deal confirmed to the AP. The Wolves will also get about \$3 million in the deal to buy out Curry's contract. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the trade has yet to be made official by the NBA.

The Nuggets have explored an Anthony trade since he refused to sign the three-year contract extension worth nearly \$65 million they offered him last summer. They appeared on the verge of sending him to the Nets on multiple occasions, but the Knicks increased their offer enough to land Anthony, who was believed to prefer New York all along.

"All trades for coaches are sad, there's happy and sad. I'm glad it's over, I'm glad it's an opportunity to reinvent," Denver coach George Karl said as he got into his SUV outside the Pepsi Center on Monday night. "I think everybody handled it as classy as you can handle it. There's some sadness to it, there always will be. In the same, it's time to move on, reinvent."

The Knicks would hope Anthony could be in uniform Wednesday when they host the Milwaukee Bucks.

Anthony led the Nuggets to the playoffs in each of his first seven seasons in Denver after winning a national title at Syracuse as a freshman and had them positioned for another playoff run this year. But Denver advanced out of the first round just once in that time.

He stood to become the headliner of the 2011 free agent class, but didn't want to risk free agency, knowing a new collective bargaining agreement could cost him millions.



HERALD Photo/Tony Claxton

Tasha Tubbs and the Howard College women's basketball team needs to beat Frank Phillips at home Thursday and a New Mexico Junior College loss at South Plains to make the postseason.

# Hawk women fall in Odessa

ODESSA — Thursday's game against Frank Phillips College for the Howard College women's basketball team is now do or die.

The Hawk women fell to Odessa College Monday in WJCAC action, 66-45. The loss makes the regular season finale the biggest game of the year. Howard needs to beat Frank Phillips at 5:45 p.m. Thursday at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum and a New Mexico Junior College loss at South Plains in order to clinch a berth in the Region V Tournament. Frank Phillips has already been eliminated.

The Hawk women are 20-9 overall and 5-6 in conference play. Before this

loss, they took a tough loss at home to a Western Texas team they beat in Snyder.

The Howard men needed overtime to take down Odessa College, 65-62. The win gives Howard an 11-2 record in conference play. The Hawks have already clinched a berth in the Region V Tournament. While this was a tough game for both Howard and Odessa, both teams are already in the Region V Tournament.

Midland College, who sits a game ahead of the Hawks in the standings, clinched at least a share of the conference title with a win over Western Texas College Tuesday.

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## STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

Clay come in. Thompson said their performances will be key the more teams try to limit Adams in the playoffs.

The Steers saw what that could be like in the second game against Snyder in district play. Segundo got hot and scored 29 points, thanks in part to the attention

placed on Adams. Thompson believes good shooting nights from those three make Big Spring tough to beat.

Those three also have some experience their teammates haven't really had yet: the playoffs.

While this team is packed with seniors, some of them are new faces to the team.

The junior Segundo and seniors Clay and Adams were on last year's playoff team that reached the area championship round in

Class 4A.

Thompson said what happened last year isn't much of a topic, but he has talked to his players about going as deep as they can in the playoffs.

"I try to talk to them about having high expectations, but a lot of these guys weren't on varsity last year, so this is kind of a new experience for them — except for Marc and Tristian and Luke," he said. "I think they're just kind of enjoying it, which is good."

## GRADY

Continued from Page 1B

... It's unfortunate we have to match up this early, but it is what it is. We're going to do it and see what happens."

The Wildcats got a little scare when Jacob Rodriguez — one of the key senior standouts on this team — left the game in the second quarter after an injury. He did return to the game in the third, but finished with just two points. Clay isn't concerned, though. He said Rodriguez should be fine.

Zeke Clay is trying to work his way back on the floor from his injury. The junior all-state selection has missed part of the season, but Monday's game was his fifth back. Thomas Clay said Zeke is not as

mobile as he wants to be, but is getting healthier.

No. 11 GRADY 71, NEW HOME 33

Grady 20 20 18 13 - 71

New Home 6 3 12 12 - 33

Grady — Shane Teague 21, Zeke Clay 14, Bransen Richards 7, Michael Jimenez 3, Johan Wiebe 7, Carsten Russell 3, Bryley Pinkerton 8, Jacob Rodriguez 2, Zane Robinson 4, Uziel San Juan 2

New Home — Josh Paul 6, Zach Paul 9, Zach West 14, Zach English 2, Oscar Zuniga 2

3-point field goals — New Home 3 (Paul, West 2),

Gardy 6 (Teague 3, Richards 1, Jimenez 1, Wiebe 1)

Free throws New Home 4-10, 17-22

Total fouls New Home 14, Grady 16

Next game: Grady vs. No. 2 Anton at 7:30 p.m. Friday

in the Rip Griffin Center on Lubbock Christian University's campus in Lubbock

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**Tomorrow's Horoscope**

Mercury is off on a fresh exploration. His excursion through Pisces opens a strong current of creativity. This energy may be expressed in artistic ways, such as song, poetry and visual arts, but it will not be limited to those outlets. Creativity is a force that can elevate any endeavor at all, however logic-based it may be, to the level of an art form.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). You haven't done anything wrong, and yet you still would benefit from a purification process. The residue of normal life can be messy on emotional and spiritual levels. Take deep cleansing breaths.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). You will have an enlightening conversation with a person you negotiate and interact with on a daily basis. You will learn that this person is deeper — and funnier — than expected.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). You help others see the bigger picture in their lives, but sometimes it's hard to do this for yourself. That's why it's so important to step back and do a new activity today. It will help you get perspective.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). You'll be dealing with the mistakes of others. It's easy for you to do this without passing blame, because you have made similar mistakes in the past. You'll focus on fixing the problem, learning from it and moving on.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). Your optimism comes naturally today, and you'll gravitate toward the upside in every situation. Your example will be followed. You will give hope to someone who isn't feeling so hopeful.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll be bargaining for what you want. It is only when you are really willing to lose the deal that you are in a good place to negotiate. Remind yourself how strong you are on your own.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It could take you much longer than usual to get into the groove of working. You'll have your head in the clouds, but at least they are white, puffy clouds. The storms know to avoid you.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There's no benefit to busying yourself without first making a clear plan. Being productive is about doing one thing at a time and completing each task before you go on to the next one.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll think about all the things you could do instead of what you're supposed to be doing. Perhaps it's time to configure your schedule differently to stave off that old ennui.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The right kind of failure can be as impressive as success. Anyone who is moving forward is going to falter — that's part of the growth process. You will be in a forgiving mood.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). As a rule, you like to be as straightforward as possible. That's why you will be prone to sharing your unfiltered thoughts and stating your intentions outright, even if you don't think the other person would approve.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). You may try to take yourself out of a game, not because you think you'll lose but because you'll win. You either don't want the prize, or you don't want to hurt the feelings of the other players.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (Feb. 22). You find balance this year and are able to create satisfac-

tion in several areas of your life at once. Before the week is over, you'll receive a special gift to commemorate your progress. The next six weeks show you in romantic settings, sharing your heart. You'll make deals and impress your family in May. Capricorn and Gemini people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 24, 11, 40 and 30.

**ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS:** "I've had a string of bad luck, and I hope it's over now. In the past year, I've lost three family members, a cat I had for 16 years, half of my income and a 10-year relationship. I don't think I can take any more. Tell me that

it's going to be over soon. I need some good luck! My birthday is January 14."

My deepest condolences go out to you. Capricorns sometimes feel like it's necessary to always be doing something, even in times of great trial. Your work ethic is strong, and so is your need to keep up a powerful public persona. It will be challenging for you to take time for yourself to grieve and regain your sense of normalcy. Remind yourself to take life slow. Healing is a process. Be gentle with yourself, allowing for the full range of feelings that you might experience. Instead of trying to control your emo-

tions, flow with them — even if that means breaking down and crying. Trying to hold it all in will be draining and will diminish your power. Let yourself go through the sad feelings as they come, and know that they are a bridge in your healing — you will feel better when you get to the other side.

**C E L E B R I T Y PROFILES:** Actress, producer and model Drew Barrymore has been working in Hollywood since the age of 5. Though she comes from a long line of esteemed actors, she still had to create her own success and then re-create it in adulthood. With her sun,

Venus and Jupiter in the sign of old souls, Barrymore follows her keen intuition to box-office gold. Mercury in Aquarius emphasizes philanthropy.

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**Annie's Mailbox**

**Dear Annie:** I have been married to "Brook" for more than 20 years, and we have a loving relationship. However, lately I am lonely because my wife is addicted to the Facebook game "Farmville."

We used to spend our evenings together. Now she spends her time online.

When I ask her to join me in watching what used to be a favorite TV show, she says, "Just a minute," and if I'm lucky, she'll show up an hour later.

I've tried using my computer skills to clandestinely monitor, limit or block access to these websites.

But each time, she called our Internet provider's tech support and reset everything.

I've tried gently chiding her that all the so-called "friends" she has on these games are only monopolizing her time, but she shrugs this off and insists she doesn't spend that much time online.

She is lying to herself. I've tracked it. In a single day, she spent eight hours on this site. I've caught her online at 3 a.m.

Our house is a disaster. I do a lot of housework, but Brook is distracted when she tries to "help" and takes a lot of breaks — which means she's online again.

How can I get her to spend more time with me? — *Fed Up with a Farmville Fanatic*

**Dear Fed Up:** These online games encourage constant participation, and many provide virtual social communities.

Your wife fears that if she stops playing for an extended period, she will lose out. She doesn't realize that she is already losing out — with you.

Like any addiction, your wife may need professional help to stop. In the meantime, insist that she shut off the computer at a specified time each day.

Plan dates that will interest her enough to get out of the house. She needs to get back into the real world.

**Dear Annie:** I work in a small office and regularly interact with my boss. My performance reviews are uniformly excellent, and I am liked, respected and trusted by my co-workers.

The problem is, after I take a vacation to which



KATHY MITCHELL  
MARCY SUGAR

I am perfectly entitled, I find my inbox filled with petty requests and busywork from the boss.

I rarely get such requests otherwise, and it makes

me think he somehow feels I am slacking off because I am not there.

I am hotly offended by this behavior and would like to find an amicable but firm way to end it without permanently damaging our office relationship. Any thoughts? — *Seething in St. Louis*

**Dear Seething:** Your boss, in his inappropriate, controlling way, is telling you that he has a hard time managing without you.

These petty requests are punishment for leaving him. Unless you can schedule your vacations to coincide with his, we recommend you ignore this petulant behavior.

Even if the requests are busywork, they are part of your job. This, too, shall pass.

**Dear Annie:** The letter from "Disturbed"

brought back several years of bad memories for me. My husband is a great person with a deep love for family. However, he, too, had an explosive temper. There would be months without a problem, and then out of the blue, he would blow up at the children or me.

In desperation, we went to a family counselor. She suggested he see his physician. He did. After a lengthy explanation of the problem, the doctor prescribed an antidepressant.

What a difference! I strongly recommend that anyone who has this problem talk to their doctor and ask if such a treatment might help. — *Grateful in California*

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, long-time editors of the *Annie Landers* column. Please e-mail your questions to [anniesmailbox@creatorsyndicate.com](mailto:anniesmailbox@creatorsyndicate.com), or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Ste. 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).  
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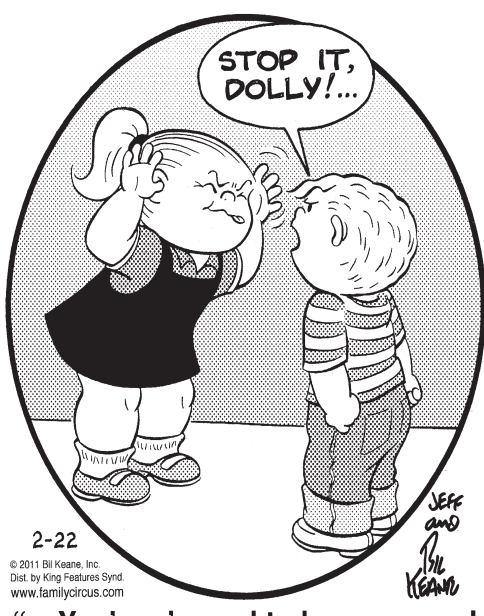
TV schedule grid with columns for channel and time slot, listing various programs like News, Seinfeld, and UFC.

DENNIS THE MENACE



Wow! I hope it snows forever, don't you, Mr. Wilson?

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



... You're s'posed to be sugar and spice and everything nice.

HAGAR



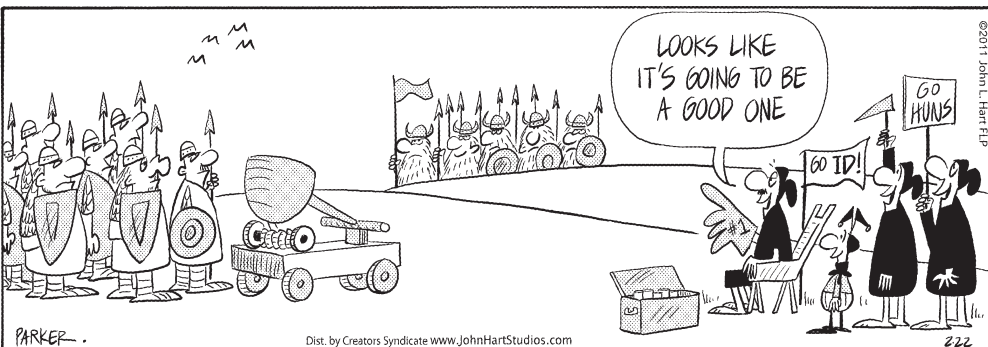
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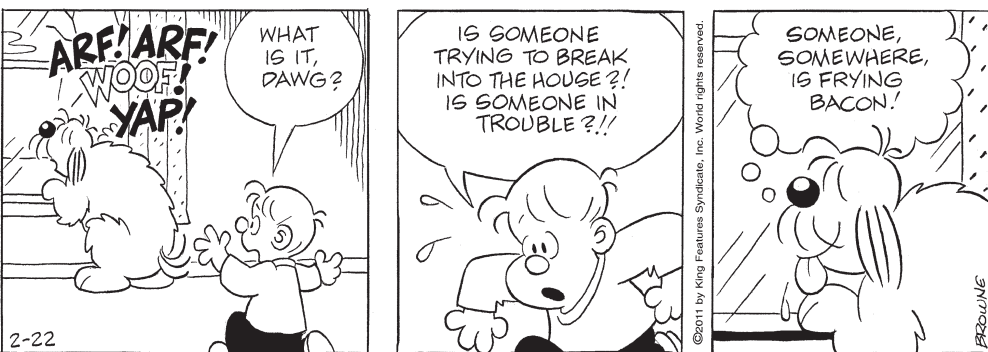
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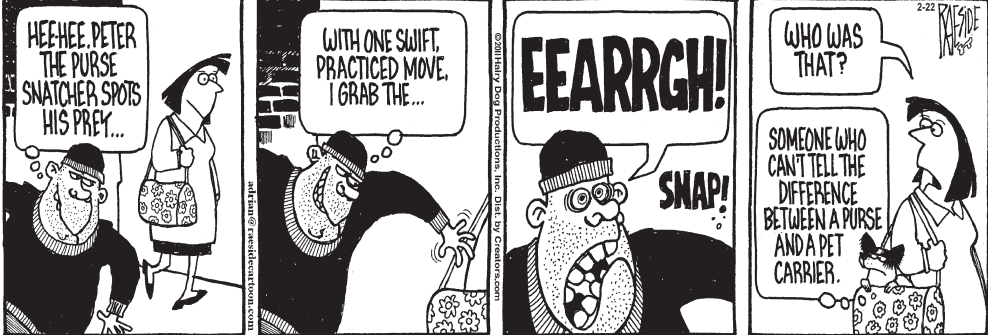
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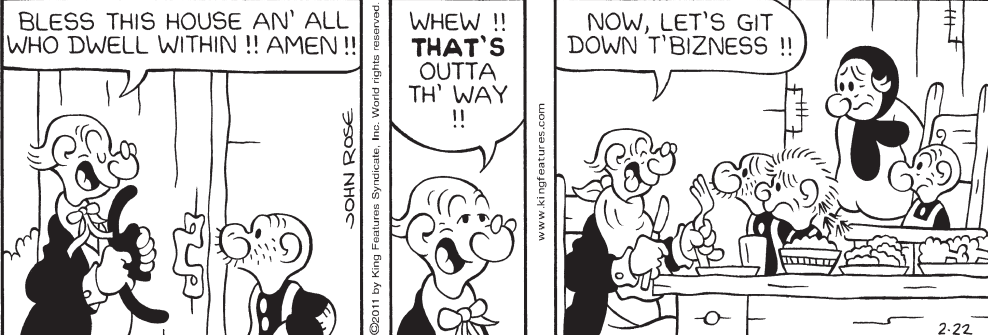
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This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Feb. 22, the 53rd day of 2011. There are 312 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Feb. 22, 1732 (New Style date)...

President Theodore Roosevelt, returned after more than a year at sea. In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge delivered the first radio broadcast...

Marni Nixon is 81. Movie director Jonathan Demme (DEH-mee) is 67. Actor John Ashton is 63. Actress Miou-Miou is 61...

Newsday Crossword

BY GEORGE? NOPE by S.N. Edited by Stanley Newman

- ACROSS 1 Ink stain 5 Service charges 9 Pinnacles 14 Very uncommon 15 Poor, as an excuse...

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-61 indicating starting positions for clues.