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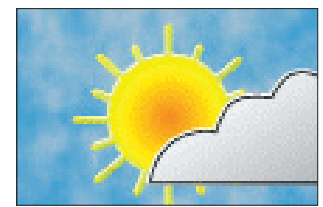
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H BIG SPRING HERALD

WEDNESDAY
MARCH 16, 2011



VOLUME 106, NUMBER 89

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Challenge: Master the Mountain

Annual race is on at
Big Spring State Park

By **AMANDA MORENO**
Staff Writer

It's time to Master the Mountain again. For two and a half hours April 9, all those who are interested will be able to take on the hill in the Master the Mountain Fun Run/Walk at Big Spring State Park. "It's the same every year; we have the majority of the people sign up the day of the event," Ron Alton, event coordinator and park manager, said. "Registration will be taken up to the day of the event again." For 13 years, participants have been able to take on the challenging course of



Master the Mountain annual fun run/walk will be held April 9 in Big Spring State Park. The event draws runners from throughout West Texas and eastern New Mexico.

See **RUN**, Page 3A

Snakes alive! Now they're hunting varmints

By **AMANDA MORENO**
Staff Writer

It's time for snakes ... and other varmints. This year, the 47th Annual Rattlesnake Roundup has an addition to the festivities — the Ambucs Area Wide Varmint and Hog Hunt. For those wanting to take part in the varmint and hog hunt, teams are limited to four members and the registration fee is \$125 per team and category. There will be



Fuller

winners, determined by number of animals and weight, in both categories. "There is no restriction on the hunting area," Bill Fuller, assistant vice president of the Roundup, said. "As long as they have permission to be on the property, they can hunt wherever they choose." Registration will take place

two days; March 25 from noon to 6 p.m. and March 26 from 10 a.m. until noon. The varmint hunt includes cougars, bobcats, raccoons and coyotes. Participants will have two days to hunt, with all turn-ins due by 4 p.m. March 27. "Rules will be distributed to participants when they register," Fuller said. "One of the main rules is that animals must be called during the designated contest times, by an electric or mouth call,

and shot." Fuller said there will only be one winner in each category, but there will be a "Big Cat" and "Big Dog" contest that can be entered as well. The contest has a 75 percent payout, with the club retaining the other 25 percent to fund next year's event and other club necessities. Of course, while the hunt is on for varmints and hogs, the Ambucs won't forget the snakes. Snake turn-in for

purchase will start at 1 p.m. Friday, March 25. Snakes can be turned in until March 27 at 4 p.m. Snakes will be purchased by the pound. "This year the snakes are being purchased by people in Georgia and the price will be determined by them," Fuller said. On top of selling the snakes by the pound, there will be a contest for the heaviest

See **VARMINTS**, Page 3A

INDEX

Comics	8B
Classified	5-7B
Features	5A
Obituaries	2A
Opinion	4A
Sports	1-4B

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54414 79720

Guns on campus bills get hearing in House

AUSTIN (AP) — Proposals that would give Texas college students and professors the right to carry guns into the classroom are scheduled to get their first hearing in the Legislature today. The proposals would allow concealed handgun license holders to carry their weapons around campus, including in buildings and classrooms. Supporters say it's a gun-rights issue and critical self-defense measure to prevent

violent crime and mass shootings such as the Virginia Tech massacre in 2007. Opponents, including some university administrators, say guns will only make campuses more dangerous. The House Committee on Homeland Security and Public Safety has scheduled a hearing to listen to public testimony and possibly vote on a bill. Texas has become a prime battleground for a national campaign to open campuses

to firearms because of its gun culture and its size, with 38 public universities and more than 500,000 students. Texas would become the second state, following Utah, to pass such a broad-based law. Colorado gives colleges the option and several have allowed handguns. The Texas Senate passed one such bill in 2009, but it died without a vote in the House. This year, more than half of the 150 members in the

Republican-leaning House have signed as on co-authors of one of the bills, and the issue is supported by Gov. Rick Perry, boosting its chances of becoming law. Similar firearms measures have been proposed in about a dozen other states, but all have faced strong opposition, especially from college leaders. The chancellor of the University of Texas system

See **GUNS**, Page 3A



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Obituaries

Dolores 'Dosie' Pearce

Dolores "Dosie" Pearce, 79, of Big Spring died Tuesday, March 15, 2011, at her son's residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Ed Wilkerson

Ed Wilkerson, 87, died Tuesday, March 15, 2011, in Arkansas. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Police blotter

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

- SHANE EDDIE ANDERSON, 39, of 806 E. 18th St., was arrested Tuesday on warrants for speeding and failure to appear.
- SALENA MARIE TAYLOR, 31, of 1005 S. Nolan, was arrested Tuesday on warrants for failure to identify as a fugitive from justice – giving false information, speeding and failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- AMBER RAY ALEXANDER, 31, of 1907 S. Runnels, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- BOBBY LENN SIMMONS, 42, of Arlington, was arrested Tuesday on warrants for dog or cat running at large (two counts), failure to appear (two counts), failure to maintain financial responsibility, no inspection certificate, possession of drug paraphernalia and a warrant from another agency.
- TAMMY EVONNE MAXWELL, 49, of 914 E. Sixth St., was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- TERRY WILLIAM SAWYERS, 49, of 1504 S. Main St., was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- MANUEL SOSA, 18, of 2510 Ent, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of consumption of alcohol by a minor.
- ASSAULT was reported in the 400 block of E. Fourth Street.
- THEFT was reported:
In the 400 block of E. Fourth Street.
In the 1800 block of N. Highway 87.
In the 400 block of E. Fourth Street.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 1500 block of E. 11th Place.

Sheriff

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.

• SALENA MARIE TAYLOR, 31, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of failure to identify as a fugitive from justice – giving false information and municipal warrants for speeding and failure to maintain financial responsibility.

• AMBER RAY ALEXANDER, 31, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• BOBBY LENN SIMMONS, 42, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on warrants for dog or cat running at large (two counts), failure to appear (two counts), failure to maintain financial responsibility, no inspection certificate, possession of drug paraphernalia and a warrant from another agency.

• TAMMY EYVONNE MAXWELL, 49, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• TERRY WILLIAM SAWYERS, 49, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• PAUL HAGLAND, 64, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.

• MANUEL SOSA IV, 18, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of minor in consumption of alcohol.

• JACKIE JOE-KYLE KIRKHAM, 17, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on charges of minor in consumption of alcohol and no driver's license.

Fire/EMS

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

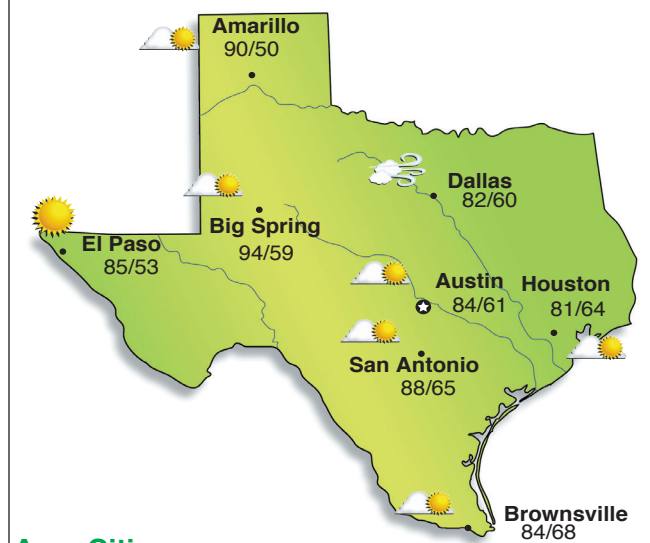
- TRAUMA was reported in the 500 block of W. 17th Street. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of W. 17th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 600 block of Driver Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of Donley. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported near the intersection of U.S. Highway 87 and Hearn. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2600 block of Chanute. One person was transported to SMMC.

Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Thu 3/17	Fri 3/18	Sat 3/19	Sun 3/20	Mon 3/21
94/59 Cloudy early, becoming mostly sunny in the afternoon.	93/58 Abundant sunshine. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the upper 50s.	83/60 Isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the low 60s.	85/56 Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the mid 50s.	83/55 Sunny. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the mid 50s.
Sunrise: 7:54 AM Sunset: 7:55 PM	Sunrise: 7:53 AM Sunset: 7:56 PM	Sunrise: 7:51 AM Sunset: 7:57 PM	Sunrise: 7:50 AM Sunset: 7:57 PM	Sunrise: 7:49 AM Sunset: 7:58 PM

Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abiene	90	61	pt sunny	Kingsville	86	66	pt sunny
Amarillo	90	50	pt sunny	Livingston	82	60	pt sunny
Austin	84	61	pt sunny	Longview	81	61	pt sunny
Beaumont	80	63	pt sunny	Lubbock	91	52	pt sunny
Brownsville	84	68	pt sunny	Lufkin	82	62	pt sunny
Brownwood	89	59	windy	Midland	94	60	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	81	67	pt sunny	Raymondville	87	65	pt sunny
Corsicana	80	59	windy	Rosenberg	81	64	pt sunny
Dallas	82	60	windy	San Antonio	88	65	pt sunny
Del Rio	87	62	pt sunny	San Marcos	85	62	pt sunny
El Paso	85	53	sunny	Sulphur Springs	79	61	windy
Fort Stockton	92	58	pt sunny	Sweetwater	92	60	windy
Gainesville	80	58	windy	Tyler	80	61	pt sunny
Greenville	78	58	windy	Weatherford	83	58	windy
Houston	81	64	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	88	61	pt sunny

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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Take Note

COLORADO CITY — Railhead Trade Days will be held Saturday and Sunday at the Railhead Building here.

The two-day event will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Booths inside and outside will be offering crafts, jewelry, sports memorabilia, candles, antiques, home décor and more.

For more information, contact Amanda Ritchey at 325-728-3403 or the chamber at chamber@cityofcoloradocity.org

• West Texas Opportunities is holding its community meeting Friday at 3 p.m. at the Howard County Library. The public is invited. This month's special speaker will be Sandra Price, lead driver of the Howard County TRAX Program. Sandra will be sharing information about the public transportation system for Howard County. For more information, call Connie Baca, center director, at 432-267-9536.

• Region 18 Education Service Center is presenting a free workshop titled "Parent/School Relationships: The ARD/Parenting Tips" from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 22. The workshop is a combination of helping parents understand their role in the ARD process and learning how to help young students achieve their highest potential. Topics of discussion will include the ARD agenda, accommodation and modification, communi-

cation, behavior, parenting tips and bullying. A light lunch and water will be provided. ESC 18 is located at 2811 LaForce Blvd. in Midland. For more information, contact Leslie Wilson at 432-563-2380. To register online, go to www.esc18.net

• The Salvation Army has funding for Texas Military Personnel now serving or has served in Iraq or Afghanistan. The military member or their family member may apply at 811 W. Fifth St. or call 267-8239. The grant is funded by the TRIAD Fund of Permian Basin Area Foundation.

• The HCV Section 8 waiting list for the Big Spring Housing Authority is open. The authority is accepting new applications. The office is located at 201 NE Seventh in Big Spring.

• 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.

• A fund has been established at

Citizen's Credit Union for the Lupe Chavarria family, which lost all of its possessions in a house fire. For more information, contact the credit union at 267-6373.

• Do you have a minute? An hour? How about making a difference in someone's life? Become a hospice volunteer. One hour a month can make a difference. Whether it visiting a patient, or working in the office, or helping with a craft, you can make a difference. We can work around your schedule. If interested, please call Michelle Coutermarsh, at Compass Hospice, 263-5999 or apply in person at 1003 E. FM 700 in Big Spring.

• Weight Watchers meets at 6 p.m. Thursdays at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m. Weigh-in is confidential and you don't have to talk if you don't want to. Flexible payment options.

• Big Spring Band Boosters meet the second Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the BSHS Band Hall. All band parents are welcome.

• The mission of CASA of West Texas is to promote and support quality volunteers who speak for the best interest of abused and neglected children in court in an effort to find each child a safe, nurturing and permanent home. We currently have 55 children in foster care without a volunteer. We need your help. If you're interested in

volunteering please contact Suzy Miliken at 1-877-316-8346 or visit www.BecomeaCASA.org or www.casawtx.org.

• Big Spring and surrounding counties are in critical need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected. For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 263-9669.

• HATS (Hope After The Sadness), an American Cancer Society Resource Room is available at First Methodist Church. This center provides information and valuable resources for those affected by cancer. This HATS ministry, established in memory of the late Rev. Dr. Shane Brue, maintains a room with free hats, wigs and head coverings available for check-out by those dealing with hair loss due to cancer treatment. Other services and resources are also available. Contact the "Hat Lady," Marci Lykken, at 267-2915 or the local ACS office at 432-683-6375.

• Christ Community Fellowship is collecting infant car seats and carriers. These are given to new mothers who cannot afford them. To donate your old or new car seats and carriers, call Karen Allen at 263-3517 or leave a message at Christ Community Fellowship, 263-love.

RUN

Continued from Page 1A

steep terrain and enjoy the Trans-Pecos scenery. The course follows a 200-foot bluff, at the northern limit of the Edwards Plateau.

Registration is \$19 per person for those who register before April 3 and \$20 after. Pre-registration is recommended. Registration can be done online or at the event. Registration at the park begins at 8 a.m. on the 9th. Competition begins at 9 a.m.

The money raised will benefit the park and its operation. With

the recent situation of the park responsibility possibly changing hands, Alton said it is a good time to support the park.

"This money goes into the local funds to help operate the park," Alton said. "It goes towards upkeep and purchasing any materials that are needed."

According to Alton, the state monitors the traffic that goes through the park. The numbers are monitored not only by the number of events held at the park, but the number of attendees. It's always good to show an increase in numbers; it shows the state that the local community is

using the park.

"We are encouraging anyone and everyone to take part in the event," Alton said. "Those under 18 will need a waiver signed by their parents, but there is no limitation on who can participate."

This year, one difference is going to be the way the race is timed. According to Alton, TimingSpecialist will be providing timing chips for the racers. Awards will be presented to the first through third place finishers, for men and women. All participants will receive a t-shirt.

"The chips will start timing once the racer starts and will stop tim-

ing as soon as they cross the finish line," Alton said. "It makes for a more accurate time."

After the fun run/walk, participants can take advantage of the health fair that will be at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. The health fair will provide free health screenings of all types and educational information and demonstrations from 8 a.m. until noon.

Online registration forms can be found at timingspecialist.com and on the Permian Basin Running Club website. Paper forms can be found at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. Registration

forms and entry fee can also be mailed to Big Spring State Park, 1 Scenic Drive, Big Spring 79720.

"Our next three events are also set," Alton said. "After the Master the Mountain we have the stargazing, movie on the mountain and the hay ride on the mountain."

The stargazing event is set for the last Saturday of June, the movie on the mountain will take place the last Saturday of August and the hay ride will be the last Saturday of September.

For more information, contact Alton at 432-263-4931.

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

VARMINTS

Continued from Page 1A

snake, most pounds caught, and snake with the most rattles. Winners will be determined and announced Sunday, March 27 at 4

p.m. "There will be a first and second place for most pounds caught and heaviest snake," Dennis Burns, chairman of the Roundup said.

The roundup will kick off Saturday, March 26 at 10 a.m., with snake shows, demonstrations

and races. There will also be an arts and craft show. Admission to the arts and craft show is free and admission to the Roundup is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children, ages 4-11.

"Come out and see some snakes," Burns said. "We will have a

few." All registration, check-in and weigh-ins will be conducted at the Howard County Fair Barns.

For more information on the varmint and hog hunt call Fuller at 213-6802.

Contact Staff Writer

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

GUNS

Continued from Page 1A

recently wrote Perry and state lawmakers telling them school administrators do not want guns on campus.

Until the Virginia Tech killings, the worst college shooting in U.S. history occurred at the University of Texas at Austin, when sniper Charles Whitman went to the top of the administration tower in 1966 and killed 16 people and wounded dozens. Last September, a University of Texas student fired several shots from an

assault rifle on a campus street before killing himself.

Texas enacted its concealed handgun law in 1995, allowing people 21 or older to carry weapons if they pass a training course and a background check. The state had 461,724 license hold-

ers as of Dec. 31, according to the state Department of Public Safety.

Businesses, schools and churches can set rules banning guns on their premises. On college campuses, guns are prohibited in buildings, dorms and certain grounds around them.

Opponents of campus gun rights say students and faculty would live in fear of their classmates and colleagues, not knowing who might pull a gun over a poor grade, a broken romance or drunken argument.

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Bill McClellan Managing Editor	Ron Midkiff Publisher	Steve Reagan Staff Writer
Adam Coleman Sports Editor	Amanda Moreno Staff Writer	Thomas Jenkins Staff Writer

OUR VIEWS

Go ahead and let the green shine through

Spring break sure does seem to be flying by, but it's not over until it's over. To add a little bit of fun, St. Patrick's Day is thrown in the mix.

Tomorrow is a day of green. Even if you didn't get a chance to get away for the week, the opportunity for fun is still there.

St. Patrick's Day is the one day of the year that its okay to wear as much green as you want; actually, it's safest to wear as much green as you can find.

Since the 17th century, green has been associated with the holiday. The shamrock was used by St. Patrick to explain the Holy Trinity and has since become the recognized symbol for the holiday.

What once started as a religious holiday has turned into, at least in the United States, a day of simple fun and "relaxation."

The celebration has been aimed toward a different cause, but along the way the government recognized the importance that the holiday held. In 1991, the U.S. Congress declared March as Irish-American Heritage Month.

All across the nation there will be people doing their best to come up with ways to make green more prominent, at least once a year. There have even been reports of green lakes, rivers and fountains.

Restaurants and sports bars tend to see an increase in business on St. Patrick's Day. The emphasis of the holiday has slowly faded, but it's never too late to bring it back.

Even if green isn't your color, you might want to go ahead and slip a little on. Remember, there are those that are looking for the ones not wearing green just so they can give a little pinch.

One more way to celebrate, even after the day is done, is to take a few moments and look a little into Irish history. After all, you have a whole month to look into it.

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

LETTER POLICIES

- The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.
- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to newsdesk@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

The right demeanor can mean everything, Lord, and we have the right demeanor when we have You.

Amen

Who loses most in shutdown

Those of you who are looking forward to a government shutdown because it will release your inner-self, punish lazy bureaucrats or cause general chaos will be disappointed.

It's not that I think a shutdown is unthinkable. It's tough to make predictions, especially about the future (hat tip: Yogi Berra), but I predict the U.S. government has at least a fair chance of shutting down later this month or in September, if House Speaker John Boehner agrees to extend the agony to the latter date and the Democrats go along.

President Barack Obama and Congress must agree on a spending plan by then, or large parts of the government will shut down. But that won't be the real story.

The real story will be who gets the blame.

A shutdown will not lead to paralysis. The military will continue to fight in Afghanistan, transportation security officers will continue to make you take your shoes off in airports, air traffic controllers will continue to make sure planes don't bump at 30,000 feet, the IRS will continue to check all those zany deductions you took off your taxes, and federal prison guards will make sure Bernie Madoff stays locked up. And you will still get your mail — your bills always have a way of finding you.

President Obama said recently that during a shutdown, "People don't get their Social Security checks." But in 1995 and 1996, when there were two shutdowns, people did get their Social Security checks, and the government has become more automated since then.

What I remember from those shutdowns are stories of people who were basically inconvenienced: tourists who couldn't get into federal museums or national parks, government workers who had their paychecks delayed (they got paid back after the shutdown ended) and people who couldn't apply for new passports. I am sure there were other, perhaps worse, stories, but nobody starved, there was no

rioting in the streets and nothing even close to panic.

People treated it as more Washington shenanigans, just another reason they hated politics.

At the time, however, was the great unknown: Who would the public blame for the shutdown, the Democrats or the Republicans?

The Democrats were represented by Bill Clinton, who vetoed a Republican spending bill, causing the government to shut down. This was the persuasive and charismatic Bill Clinton of 1995. Monica Lewinski and lying to his family, his Cabinet, Congress, federal investigators and the American people was still a few years down the road.

The Republicans were represented by Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich. Back then, Newt was not the dazzling charmer he is today. Back then, at the time of the crisis, Gingrich complained that he was insulted at being forced to fly way in the back of Air Force One with Bob Dole on flights to and from the funeral of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

(It may be that the real insult Gingrich felt was his being forced to sit next to Bob Dole for all that time.)

In any case, the public blamed the Republicans, Bill Clinton was re-elected, and the Democrats got a net gain of eight seats in the House in 1996.

In retrospect, that was predictable. The Democrats had one compelling figure — Clinton — around whom to rally support, while the Republicans had the frosty Gingrich and 229 other competing Republican voices to sell their program.

But would the results be the same this time?

The speaker of the House is now John Boehner, and while he does not exactly ooze personality, he avoided the trap of flying on Air Force One (going so far as to refuse to go to the memorial service for those killed in Tucson in January rather than fly on the president's plane). And, much more importantly, he and his party have come to represent an issue much more significant now than in 1995 and 1996: slashing the budget and cutting the deficit.

The Republicans have long portrayed Democrats as "tax and spenders," while they claim to be the party of "fiscal responsibility"

(a trait often not shown by their presidents).

But this year, cutting the deficit has become nearly a mania, and the tea partyers and Republicans are well-positioned, while the Democrats are forced to defend spending on groups that are not always popular: the poor, the underprivileged and the needy — a category that includes kids who want to go to college on Pell grants.

OK, but here is where the single, forceful personality with great powers of oratory and a huge bully pulpit comes in: Barack Obama.

Is he really capable of playing the role that Bill Clinton played during the last government shutdowns?

Obama's Gallup approval is around 48 percent. Clinton's approval in early November 1995, just the first shutdown, stood at 52 percent.

But the numbers don't tell the story. What has the Democrats worried is that not only are they on the unpopular side of a national argument over spending, but their chief spokesman and leader sometimes appears to disengage when the battle gets the hottest. Democrats mumble and grumble over his giving up the fight for a health care public option and not standing up to the Republicans over tax breaks for the rich.

"So much is at stake if this great government shuts down," House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi said recently. But she is one of the few people who would attach the adjective "great" to the noun "government" these days.

Government is unpopular, spending is unpopular, and the last election indicated Democrats are unpopular.

But Republicans leaders are worried. They don't want to blow their popularity on a risky shutdown in 2011. They want to save their popularity for the critical elections of 2012.

And that is about the only thing that might scare them into a compromise with Democrats.

To find out more about Roger Simon, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate webpage at www.creators.com.

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Obama at the wheel of his father's, father's oldsmobile

At Friday's news conference, President Obama tried to connect with the common man coping with rising gasoline prices. Instead, the president left little doubt that he is clueless about cars.

"You may want to buy a fuel-efficient car," quoth Obama, "but you may not be able to afford it. And so you're stuck with the old clunker that's getting eight or 10 miles a gallon."

Eight to 10 mpg? Which clunker would that be? I wondered. An old Hummer? Your father's father's Oldsmobile? A late-model Lamborghini? It takes a luxury brand, a boat-sized machine and/or a few decades to approach those dismal mileage numbers.

An 11-year-old Pontiac minivan, for example, gets 17 mpg in the city, 24 mpg on the highway.

You have to go back to the Carter administration years or earlier to find Obama's idea of a gas-guzzling family car — and even that vehicle would have been a van, light truck/SUV or luxury model. And yet he is behind the wheel of Washington's energy policy.

Can you blame me for believing Team Obama was pushing the pedal to the metal in a rush

for higher gas prices?

On March 11, Obamaland pushed back against the perception that its anti-drilling policies — implemented in the wake of the April 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon blowout — have contributed to high prices at the pump. The cost of filling one's gas tank has risen uncomfortably close to \$4 per gallon in the Bay Area of California.

The administration rightly notes that domestic oil and natural gas production have increased since 2008, while imports have decreased.

OK, but: Erik Milito of the American Petroleum Institute told Environment & Energy Publishing, "The increased production levels in 2010 are a credit to the vision of previous administrations." Milito credited the 1995 Deepwater Royalty Relief Act signed by Bill Clinton and passed by a GOP-controlled Congress.

To his credit, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar had supported offshore oil drilling in the Gulf of Mexico.

But after an oil platform explosion left 11 workers dead and coated beaches with oil, he reacted. Then Salazar overreacted.

Democrats like Sen. Mary Landrieu of Louisiana saw their home states suffer first from the oil spill, and then the oil-job shutoff. Landrieu came to vigorously oppose what had evolved into a de facto moratorium on

drilling permits.

Clinton himself lamented "ridiculous delays in permitting when our economy doesn't need it." The administration didn't issue a permit since the blowout until last month — and then only after a federal judge's prompting.

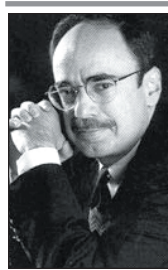
Not to mention the steady job-killing creep of climbing gasoline prices.

There always has been a corner of Obamaland that doesn't appreciate the job-creating properties of cheap fuel. Now-Energy Secretary Steven Chu told the Wall Street Journal, "Somehow we have to figure out how to boost the price of gasoline to the levels in Europe." Chu said that in September 2008 — and still Obama picked him for the slot.

Then again, if you think there are a lot of Americans cruising Main Street in gas-guzzling monstrosities, you probably wouldn't even notice the high price of gasoline — until your approval ratings started to approach, well, Jimmy Carter levels.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@schronicle.com. To find out more about Debra J. Saunders, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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ROGER SIMON



DEBRA SAUNDERS

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Even though schools are closed, we are open for business! Remember that we have books, DVDs, BOCDs, newspapers, magazines and computers available. While we won't have story time this week, it will resume next Wednesday at 10:15 a.m.



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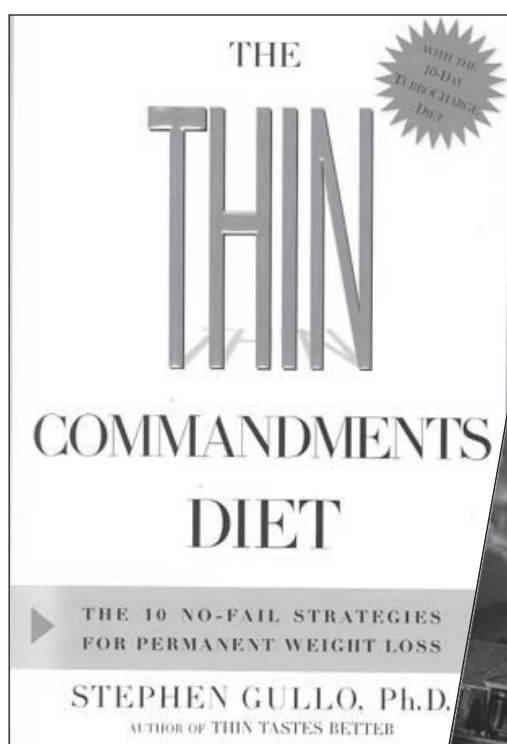
National Geographic, in conjunction with the Smithsonian Museum, has just published a superb autobiography of the National Air and Space Museum. It is edited by Michael E. Neufeld and Alex M. Spencer and is beautifully illustrated. "National Air and Space Museum: An Autobiography" (629.107 NAT G) is composed of five chapters, each written by curators of the museum, and explain in detail the collection and stories of many of the artifacts. It is truly a treasure to look at, and I expect you will need to have it checked out for the full three week period to do justice in reading it.

It is nearing summertime — temperatures are supposed to be in the 80s this week and thoughts are turning to swimsuits. Is it time to lose those pounds that crept on during the winter? Dr. Stephen Gullo, in "The Thin Commandment

Diet" (613.25 GUL S) lets you in on his unique program which has a success rate almost 15 times higher than the national average and has helped patients lose more than 100 pounds and maintain the weight loss for more than five years. His program, incorporating his more than 25 years of clinical experience, features "commandments" that govern eating habits. Among them: identify trigger foods that can undermine weight loss; slips should teach you, not defeat you; and success is about substitution, not denial. There are some really good, commonsense points in his book.

Jonathan Kellerman's "Twisted" (F KEL J) features Hollywood detective Petra Connor. Connor has assisted psychologist Alex Delaware in past cases, but this one is a doozy. Four bodies lie dead in a parking lot, victims of a drive by shooting; one remains a Jane Doe. Refusing to let the case grow cold, Petra descends into the gritty backstreets. A longtime predator is hunting and Petra is in the crosshairs.

From Nevada Barr, comes "Borderline" (M BAR N). Anna Pigeon, diagnosed with



PTSD, is persuaded by her new husband Paul, to take a raft trip on the Rio Grande. The beauty of the Chihuahuan Desert, hot sun and cool nights all seem to work, making the memories fade. When the rapids take a raft into a tangle of brush and a nearly dead woman is found; questions arise. The trail will lead from the river to Austin and back again.

Here are some large print mysteries: "Fatal Error" (LP F JAN J) from J.A. Jance. Ali Reynolds is the sole 40-something female in a six-week-long training course. When Brenda Riley, an old friend, shows up with an

alcohol problem and missing fiancée and asks for Ali's help, she agrees. The fiancée is found dead and guess who is accused of murder? From Stuart Woods, a Stone Barrington novel, "Stra-



tegic Moves" (LP M WOO S). Stone is at Elaine's when his boss from Woodman and Weld comes in, sits down and hands Stone a \$1 million bonus and a partnership. The deal is not done until an impending scandal arises. Can you say "Bernie Mad-off?" Is Stone's new client a Ponzi schemer?

While not a new book, you might enjoy checking out "The Search for John F.

Kennedy's PT 109" (940.545 BAL R) by Robert D. Ballard. The book is published by National Geographic. Ballard is an eminent undersea explorer and this is the story of his search for PT 109. At 2:20 a.m., Aug. 2, 1943, JFK's boat is cut in half by a ship racing at 40 knots to Rabaul. Kennedy must swim for his life, sustaining a back injury that would plague him all of his life. This is an absorbing account of the war in the Pacific that many people participated in.

Here are some cookbooks to try: "Mom's Secret Recipe File" (641.5 HYP B), edited by Chris Styler; "Best Recipes from the Backs of Boxes, Bottles and Jars" (641.5 DYE C) by Ceil Dyer; "Treats for Diabetics" (641.563 FIN M) from Mary Jane Finsand; "Cooking Thin with Chef Kathleen" (613.25 DAE K) by Kathleen Daelmans; and "Down Home with the Neely's: A Southern Family Cookbook" (641.597 NEE P) from Patrick and Gina Neely.

The Howard County Library is located at 500 S. Main St. Our phone number is 264-2260. The website is www.howard-county.lib.tx.us

Hollis McCright is director of the Howard County Library.

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Missing Texas woman's family hopes for answers

ANGELA K. BROWN

Associated Press

FORT WORTH — Since Martha Martinez Maxwell vanished nearly 20 years ago, her relatives have been left without answers, without a body to bury, without evidence of any crime — just their suspicions of a husband they say repeatedly abused her.

Now that investigators have reopened the missing Texas woman's 1992 case following her former husband's weekend arrest on charges of abducting and torturing another woman, Martinez Maxwell's relatives believe they may finally find out what happened to her.

"It's been emotional and brings some comfort that justice is finally taking place ... but I feel bad for the person that had to go through that," Martha's brother, Javier Martinez of Denver, said of the woman authorities say was

recently rescued after being tortured for two weeks on a rack used for skinning deer.

Jeffrey Allan Maxwell, who divorced his wife in 1995, has never been charged in Martinez Maxwell's disappearance. But since his arrest Saturday, authorities have indicated he's under investigation in that case, as well as one involving a woman who went missing in 2000.

Parker County Sheriff Larry Fowler said Tuesday that Maxwell did not yet have an attorney.

Martinez told The Associated Press that his sister wouldn't leave Maxwell despite repeated abuse after they married in 1981 because she was afraid he would take their young son.

Then in 1987, Martinez Maxwell disappeared from her Fort Worth-area home and was found near Ardmore, Okla., her throat slashed from ear to ear. The severely injured woman told po-

lice that her husband bound her with duct tape, drugged her and sexually assaulted her, although she said she couldn't remember details of the attack that happened after she was drugged.

Martinez said that after his sister's ordeal, she and her son stayed in Mexico with their parents for a few months. But after Maxwell wrote letters saying he was sorry and missed her, she returned to Texas with their son, although "everybody tried to convince her not to go back," Martinez said.

Maxwell had been charged with aggravated assault, but his wife was no longer cooperating with authorities and a grand jury in Fort Worth later declined to indict him.

After that, Martinez Maxwell kept in touch with her relatives by phone and visits, Martinez said, so her parents knew something was

wrong in May 1992 when they received a letter saying she was leaving her husband. They figured the letter couldn't have been hers or that she was forced to write it, Martinez said.

"It was odd because she would have just called us, and where would she go?" Martinez said. "We got worried and I talked to Jeff. He said she left, and he hung up on me. I knew then that he did something to her."

Martinez said he flew to Texas and filed a missing persons report. A detective worked hard but could find no evidence, Martinez said.

Through the years, Martinez said, he lost touch with his sister's son, now in his late 20s. But a few years ago, Martinez found his nephew and re-established the relationship by sharing happy memories of the young man's mother. He said he didn't discuss his suspicions of the young man's father — until Maxwell's recent arrest.

"He called me and told me that his dad had been arrested, and he said, 'I need you to be honest about what happened to my mom,'" Martinez said.

The son did not return a phone message from The Associated Press on Tuesday.

Maxwell, 58, remains jailed in Parker County on two counts of aggravated sexual assault and one count of aggravated

kidnapping with bond set at \$400,000.

According to a probable cause affidavit, Maxwell told a Texas Ranger after his arrest that he abducted the woman at gunpoint from her Parker County home about 50 miles west of Fort Worth, handcuffed her and drove her more than 100 miles east to his Corsicana home. Maxwell said he "strung her up" on a homemade rack in his garage and sexually assaulted her, according to the affidavit.

Fowler, the sheriff, said the rack was an electric device that enabled

Maxwell to hoist the woman off the ground. Fowler declined to elaborate on other details in the affidavit, including Maxwell's alleged claim that he was paid \$2,500 from unnamed individuals to make the woman "go away." Authorities have not indicated that they're investigating anyone else.

Authorities say Maxwell moved to Corsicana from Parker County in 2007 and had a history of harassing the woman. In addition, investigators believe he set her house on fire after he abducted her.

Police investigate death of girl, 2

FORT WORTH (AP) — An emergency call about a toddler's possible drowning has led to a search of a Fort Worth house in an investigation into how the girl died.

Police early Wednesday were seen going through the trunk of a car outside the home where the 2-year-old's body was discovered.

The Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office identified the girl as Jazmine Howard. The coroner's preliminary report listed the place of death as the house's "front walk." A cause of death is pending. Further details were not immediately released.

Police late Tuesday received a call to a home about a child's possible drowning.

Texas Historical Commission still expected to get their funding

AUSTIN (AP) — Some legislators have rejected calls to eliminate state funding for the Texas Historical Commission.

Gov. Rick Perry has proposed no longer funding the commission as lawmakers face a projected \$15 billion shortfall in the next two-year budget.

House Appropriations Committee Chairman Jim Pitts of Waxahachie said the commission will be included in the chamber's version of a budget proposal. Pitts didn't provide an amount.

The Austin American-Statesman reported the Texas Historical Commission's budget for the current fiscal year tops \$100 million.



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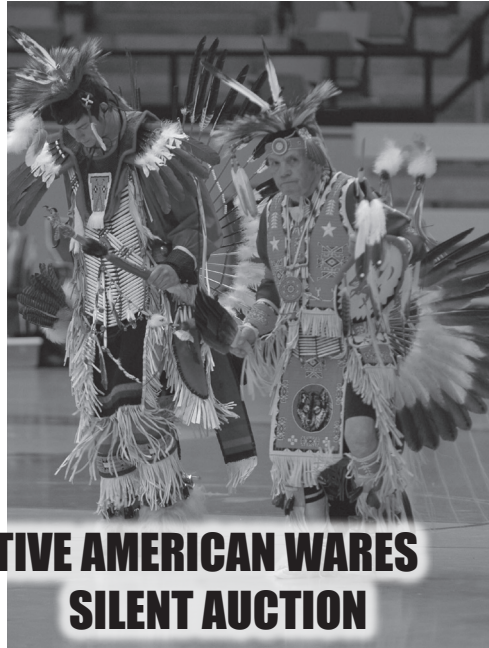
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NURSING HOME ABUSE:

Department on Aging (DADS) (800) 458-9858

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Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (800) 252-8011

- Abuse includes involuntary seclusion, intimidation, humiliation, harassment, threats of punishment, deprivation, hitting, slapping, pinching, kicking, any type of corporal punishment, sexual assault, sexual coercion, sexual harassment, verbal abuse, or any oral, written, or gestured language that includes disparaging or derogatory terms, regardless of the person's ability to hear or comprehend.
- Neglect means the failure of a caretaker to provide the goods or services, including medical services, which are necessary to avoid physical or emotional harm or pain.
- Exploitation includes a caretaker's illegal use of a senior's resources for monetary or personal benefit, profit, or gain. Seniors may need help with their finances, but unless they hand control over to another person, they have the same right as anyone else to receive, spend, invest, save or give away their money. A family member, "friend" or nursing home may not take control of a senior's money without that person's permission.
- If you are being abused, or suspect that someone else is being abused, do not remain silent. If you are aware of a specific act of abuse, neglect or exploitation, you are required by law to report it.

If the victim is in immediate danger, call 9-1-1 or your local law enforcement agency.

If the victim is in a nursing home or assisted living facility, or is in his or her home and relies on a home health provider, call the Texas Department of State Health Services at (800) 458-9858.

If the victim is a resident of a long-term care facility, that receives Medicaid funding, report the criminal abuse, neglect or exploitation to the Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit at (512) 463-2011 (Austin), toll-free at (800) 252-8011 or by e-mail at mfcu@oag.state.tx.us.

Abuse of a senior who is not in a health care facility can be reported to Adult Protective Services at (800) 252-5400.

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Petraeus backs U.S. troop drawdown in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON (AP) — The top U.S. commander in Afghanistan insists the military can boost Afghan security forces to fight the Taliban, begin a troop drawdown this summer and fulfill President Barack Obama's goal of a long-term partnership with the Kabul government.

Facing a skeptical Congress and a war-weary public, Army Gen. David Petraeus is trying to build support for the continued and costly U.S. involvement in Afghanistan, telling lawmakers the conflict is turning around despite concerns about the viability of President Hamid Karzai's government and the dedication of neighboring Pakistan to root out terrorism.

The general testifies before the House Armed Services Committee on Wednesday.

His first day of Capitol Hill testimony Tuesday came as a new Washington Post-ABC poll found that nearly two-thirds of Americans consider the war no longer worth fighting.

"I think it is understandable that the American people could be frustrated that we've been at this for 10 years and, you know, we haven't won yet," he said.

Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, said the Afghans — and by extension the American people — may find it difficult to reconcile the Obama administration's objectives.

"On the one hand, we hear the president — and Gen. Petraeus has repeated it today — that we're going to start withdrawing our troops this summer in order to underscore the urgency and undermine the Taliban narrative

that we're going to be there forever," Collins told Petraeus and Michele Flournoy, the undersecretary of defense for policy. "On the other hand, both of you have said how important it is that ... we do need a long-term relationship. I would just suggest that I think that's part of the confusion that we see reflected in the polls about exactly what is our long-term strategy."

Petraeus said he didn't see the objectives as "mutually exclusive strands of logic."

"I think ... it's appropriate to talk about getting the job done," he said. "I think it's also appropriate to talk about the commencement of transition ... while even beyond that, discussing the initiation of discussions on a strategic partnership with our Afghan partner."

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Japan prepares to restart work at nuclear plant

ERIC TALMADGE
SHINO YUASA

Associated Press
FUKUSHIMA, Japan — Surging radiation levels forced Japan to order emergency workers to temporarily withdraw from its crippled nuclear plant Wednesday, losing time in a desperate operation to cool the overheating reactors — the most urgent crisis from last week's devastating earthquake and tsunami.

The technicians were dousing the nuclear reactors with seawater in a frantic effort to cool them when they had to retreat in the late morning. The plant's operator

ordered the technicians back to the site in the evening after radiation levels subsided.

In the hours in between, it was not clear what if any operations continued. Officials gave only sparse information about reactors.

But conditions at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant appeared to be worsening. White steam-like clouds drifted up from one reactor which, the government said, likely emitted the burst of radiation that led to the workers' withdrawal. The plant's operator reported a fire at another reactor for the second time in two days.

At one point, national broadcaster NHK showed military helicopters lifting off to survey radiation levels above the complex, preparing to dump water onto the most troubled reactors in a desperate effort to cool them down. The defense ministry later said those flights were a drill, and it had no plans to make an airborne water drop.

"The anxiety and anger being felt by people in Fukushima have reached a boiling point," the governor of Fukushima prefecture, Yuhei Sato, fumed in an interview with NHK. He criticized preparations for an evacuation if con-

ditions worsen and said centers already housing people moved from nearby the plant do not have enough hot meals and basic necessities.

The nuclear crisis has triggered international alarm and partly overshadowed the human tragedy caused by Friday's 9.0-magnitude earthquake and the subsequent tsunami, a blast of black seawater that pulverized Japan's northeastern coastline. The quake was one of the strongest recorded in history.

Millions of people struggled for a fifth day with little food, water or heat, and already chilly temperatures turned to snow in many areas. Police say more than 452,000 people are staying in temporary shelters, often sleeping on

IF YOU WANT TO HELP

There are four ways people can contribute money to The Salvation Army's disaster relief efforts in Japan:

- Text the words "JAPAN" or "QUAKE" to 80888 to make a \$10 donation.
- By phone: 1-800-SAL-ARMY
- On-line at: <https://donate.salvationarmyusa.org>

• By mail: Send your check, marked "Japan earthquake relief" to The Salvation Army World Service Office International Relief Fund P.O. Box 630728, Baltimore, MD 21263-0728

At this time, The Salvation Army is not accepting donations of goods or household items (gifts-in-kind) from the general public for disaster relief operations in Japan.

the floor in school gymnasiums.

Nearly 3,700 people are officially listed as dead, but officials believe the toll will climb over 10,000 since several thousand more are

listed as missing.

In an extremely rare address to the nation, Emperor Akihito expressed condolences and urged Japan not to give up.

"It is important that each of us shares the difficult days that lie ahead," said Akihito, 77, a figure deeply respected across the country. "I pray that we will all take care of each other and overcome this tragedy."

He also expressed his worries over the nuclear crisis, saying: "With the help of those involved I hope things will not get worse."

Since the quake and wave hit, authorities have been struggling to avert an environmental catastrophe at the Fukushima Dai-ichi complex, 140 miles north of Tokyo. The tsunami knocked out the backup diesel generators needed to keep nuclear fuel cool at the plant's six reactors, setting off the atomic crisis.

In the city of Fukushima, about 40 miles (60

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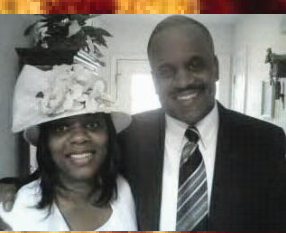
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The Annual Friends of Scouting Leadership Dinner is given in honor of major contributors. This year we are privileged to have join us retired Army Air Corps and Eagle Scout, Edward (Shannon) Covington



Colonel Covington was born July 31, 1921 in Ardmore, Oklahoma, but spent much of his youth in Goodrich, Texas. He earned his Eagle Scout in Troop 47 on January 21, 1941 in Livingston, TX. Covington attended Sam Houston Teachers College in Huntsville, TX. In 1942 he joined the Army Air Corps. In 1946 he got out of the service and resumed studies at Sam Houston Teachers College. In 1948 he received in BS and Masters in Education. In 1948 he moved to Houston, TX and did advanced studies for 32 years. In 1981 he retired and became active in the Confederate Air Force (now called Commemorative Air Force), which is flying museum for WWII aircrafts. He presently resides in Colorado City where he stays active with his friends and family.

The registration fee is \$20, which includes the cost for the dinner and money raised goes into the districts FOS campaign. Funds raised will provide the Scouting program to more-than 500 youth members in the Lone Star district. Scouting continues to thrive in our area largely due to friends like you who support the mission "to instill values in young people that will last a lifetime.

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Steers sweep SA Lake View

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

A quick lesson from Baseball 101: When your pitcher throws strikes, the game becomes a lot easier.

Two varying examples of this rule were on display during the Big Spring Steers' doubleheader vs. San Angelo Lake View Tuesday afternoon. In game one, both the Steers and the Chiefs had trouble finding the strike zone and the end result was a 13-12 marathon win for the Steers. In the nightcap, however, Big Spring pitcher Jacob Acosta consistently got ahead of the opposing batters and the Steers cruised to a relatively easy 7-3 victory.

With the sweep, the Steers improved to 10-7 for the season.

Game 1: Big Spring 13 SA Lake View 12

It certainly wasn't art, but the Steers will definitely take it.

Both teams struggled mightily on the mound and in the field, combining for 16 walks and six errors.

But what the game lacked in technical merit, it more than made up for in intensity. It was a classic case of a cliché coming to

life — literally, no lead was safe. The lead swapped hands six times before the Steers finally escaped with the win.

Trailing 12-10 in the bottom of the sixth inning, the Steers started their winning rally when Joseph Morelion reached second on a fielding error, then came home thanks to a Zach Hernandez single to center field. Garrett Stuteville followed with a walk, both he and Hernandez advanced on a wild pitch, then the two scored on a single to left from Jarred DoPorto to give Big Spring a 13-12 lead.

Max Poppajohn, the last of three BSHS pitchers, hurled a scoreless seventh to pick up the win.

"We didn't play very well, but we still came back and won the game," BSHS Coach Burt Otto said. "Any time you can do that, it's always good."

Lake View 012 063 0 — 12 8 2
Big Spring 102 162 x — 13 8 4
WP — Poppajohn; LP — Lopez.

Game 2: Big Spring 7 Lake View 3

Apparently, no one was in the mood for a repeat of the first game, least of all Acosta. The

See **BSHS**, Page 3B



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Big Spring's Jacob Acosta thrown to first base to record an out during the first game of the Steers' doubleheader sweep of San Angelo Lake View Tuesday in Steer Park.

Area roundup: Bulldogettes claim first district win

Herald Staff Report

SLATON — The Coahoma Bulldogettes earned their first district win of the season with a 6-0 whitewashing of Slaton in softball action Tuesday afternoon.

Kyla Clanton was masterful on the mound for Coahoma, striking out 16 and walking none while allowing only two hits in picking up the complete-game victory. Slaton starter Melissa Martinez was tagged with the loss.

Offensively, the Bulldogettes managed only five hits, but they definitely made them count. Breanna Hilario had a triple and two RBI, while Jo Anna Gonzales and Emily Brumley each had doubles for Coahoma, which improved to 8-16 overall, 1-2 in district.

"Kyla pretty much took care of things for us," Coahoma Coach Tracy Tadlock said. "Offensively, we only had five hits ... but we had a bunch of hard-hit balls that, unfortunately, were right at the defenders."

This has been a rough season so far for the Bulldogettes, who have been dealing with both inexperience and injury issues, but Tadlock believes the team is showing improvement.

"We're getting better," he said. "At times, we've played very well, but at other times, we'll make some errors, and that's what happened when we lost our first two district games. We've only got one senior, plus we've been dealing with injuries. That's a deadly combo."

The Bulldogettes returned to action at noon today vs. Midland Christian in Midland.

Forsan evens district record

POST — The Forsan Buffaloes rode the pitching and hitting of Dylan Lowery to a 7-2 victory over Post to earn their first district win of the 2011 baseball season.

On the mound, Lowery went the distance, striking out 10 and scattering four hits to pick up the victory. He helped his own cause offensively,

See **AREA**, Page 3B

Mavs falter vs. Trail Blazers

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — BRANDON ROY'S ongoing process for dealing with his knees is not to get too excited when things go well — as they did against the Mavericks.

Roy came off the bench to score 21 points, including a key jumper with less than a minute to go, in Portland's 104-101 victory against Dallas on Tuesday night.

Roy, a three-time All-Star, had arthroscopic surgery on both knees in January because of too little cartilage, a condition that will likely bother him the rest of his career.

Since the surgery, he has come off the bench and his minutes have been closely

monitored.

"It's a process. I try to stay even keel with everything going on," he said. "Tonight, I felt great."

The Blazers led 100-94 with 3:50 left, but Jason Terry's basket narrowed it to 100-99. Roy hit a pair of free throws before a pull-up jumper that made it 104-99 with 47 seconds left.

Dirk Nowitzki hit a pair of free throws, but after a timeout with 8.8 seconds on the clock, he missed a 3-point attempt from the corner and time ran out for the Mavericks.

"That's the best I've seen him this year," coach Nate McMillan said of Roy, who went on his own personal

10-4 run for the Blazers midway through the second half.

Nowitzki finished with 28 points and 11 rebounds for Dallas, which shot 59.7 percent.

LaMarcus Aldridge led the Blazers with 30 points and eight rebounds. Wesley Matthews added 18 points.

The Mavericks had a tense moment in the first half when Nowitzki left the court with what appeared to be a shoulder injury. He returned to the bench a short time later, however.

Dallas made its first 10 shots and didn't miss until Brian Cardinal's failed 3-point attempt with 3:25

left in the first quarter. The errant shot earned applause from the Rose Garden crowd. The Mavs shot 73 percent in the first quarter.

Dallas led by eight points early, but Portland narrowed the gap to 24-21 on Aldridge's dunk. Portland briefly took the lead when Matthews' 3-pointer made it 45-43. But Dallas quickly reclaimed the lead on Terry's 3-pointer and the Mavericks were up 56-53 at the break.

The Mavericks extended the lead to 71-62 on Tyson Chandler's dunk. The Blazers kept up the pressure, and Aldridge tied it

See **MAVS**, Page 3B

Long-range threat has changed defenses

By STEPHEN HAWKINS
AP Basketball Writer

BYU's Jimmer Fredette and Vanderbilt's John Jenkins rarely get to the 3-point line before they are being hounded by a defender.

Leave them alone, they're likely to take a long shot and score. Pay too much attention, they're likely to find an open teammate closer to the basket.

A quarter-century of 3-pointers in college basketball and deep-shooting threats like Fredette, Jenkins, Ohio State's Jon Diebler and Ben Hansbrough at Notre Dame have certainly changed how coaches prepare their defenses.

"Our motto is defend the 3-point line," Arizona guard Lamont Jones said.

That is an emphasis for the Pac-10 champions under second-year coach Sean Miller, who led Xavier to four consecutive NCAA tournaments before moving to the desert. The Wildcats are among the nation's best, allowing opponents to make only 29 percent of their 3-pointers.

"You've just got to be relentless. Coach, that's what he preaches and preaches every day," Jones said. "When we don't do it, he gets on

us and makes us do things that we don't want to do. ... It works to our advantage and I think that once we saw that, we bought into it."

While Vanderbilt has one of the nation's top individual 3-point shooters in Jenkins (3.1 per game), the Commodores are tenacious defensively beyond the arc.

"When there was no 3-point line, you really wanted to defend the basket and you wanted to defend the lane area," Vandy coach Kevin Stallings said. "The 3-point line has changed some philosophies defensively."

In their opening NCAA tournament game, the No. 5-seeded Commodores will get their long-range defense tested by Richmond, which is 10th nationally making 40 percent of its 3-pointers.

Arizona, BYU and Vanderbilt are all in different regions for this year's NCAA tournament, the 25th since the 3-point shot was instituted by the NCAA. That bracket separation is probably good news for the Wildcats, also a No. 5 seed and opening against Memphis.

Fredette had a career-high nine 3-pointers against Arizona in a 49-point game in December 2009. He

had another 33 points vs. Arizona this season, though he had only three 3-pointers in that game.

Fredette, the nation's leading scorer with 28.5 points and 3.3s a game, will take shots from well beyond the arc. He will make it from deep left on one possession, then come down and hit a similar shot from the other side.

"I feel like I've always been able to shoot those types of shots," Fredette said. "But this year I'm having more of a green light to shoot them because coach saw that I can make them and my teammates have confidence that I can make them, and (defenses) have to guard me out there."

BYU opens the NCAA tournament against Wofford, which is sixth nationally making 41 percent of its 3-pointers.

With defenders picking up shooters outside the 3-point line, more space opens up and can provide the opportunity for more offensive options.

Jenkins has worked to become more than a 3-point shooter because of some of the ways opposing teams

See **THREAT**, Page 3B

Negotiator: NFL proposed 1-year CBA

WASHINGTON (AP) — Had enough of the he-said, he-said rancor between the NFL and players? Don't expect it to go away anytime soon.

The outcome of the league's first work stoppage since 1987 could be decided in court; the first hearing on the players' request for an injunction to block the owners' lockout was scheduled for April 6. In the meantime, there probably will be more of the same as Monday, when Kevin Mawae — president of the NFL Players Association, the now-dissolved union — accused the league of spreading "complete falsehoods and complete lies."

New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees, on the same conference call as Mawae, said the owners' final offer Friday "was all a front."

"I think it was all a show, with no real intent to get a deal done, other than just to say they made a proposal — that was no different than anything else that they proposed over the last couple years, couple months, couple weeks," said Brees, a named plaintiff in the players' an-

titrust lawsuit against the league.

Brees and Indianapolis Colts center Jeff Saturday, also a member of the players' executive committee, complained that the players were not given enough time to assess and ask questions about the proposal owners made Friday morning.

"It just seems odd you would wait until Friday to put out a 20-point proposal, when each point has a number of different details in it," Saturday said.

The NFL's lead labor negotiator, Jeff Pash, said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press that Friday's proposal contained various new provisions. He said owners offered a 10-year deal.

"I was frankly surprised that the (owners' labor) committee supported an offer as forthcoming as that was," Pash said.

He also said the league would have been willing to agree to a third extension to the collective bargaining agreement, which originally was due to expire at the end

"I think it was all a show, with no real intent to get a deal done, other than just to say they made a proposal ..."

Drew Brees
New Orleans Saints

of March 3, before two delays. But another extension, he said, "wasn't really discussed in a serious way, because it was perfectly obvious they weren't interested."

By the end of Friday, talks broke off, the union announced it no longer would represent players, Brees and others filed suit, and the owners imposed a lockout at midnight.

"If they were saying they were not going to negotiate, under any circumstance, after 4 p.m. on Friday, don't you think you have to ask yourself: Who was it who was in Washington putting on a show?" Pash said.

"We answered all the questions they had at the time, and we never put a deadline on it. We're not the ones who were filing a lawsuit at 5 o'clock," Pash said.

For all the things the owners and players disagree on, the two main sticking points are clear: how much money owners would get up front before dividing the rest of \$9 billion in annual revenues with players, and the union's demand for full financial disclosure.

"If we're going to talk about 'trust,' maybe you should ask the owners if they trust each other to see each other's books," Mawae said. "I think that's a greater issue than the players trusting the owners."

Under the old CBA, owners received more than \$1 billion to cover certain operating expenses, before other money was split with players. When negotiations began on a new deal, the owners sought an additional \$1 billion off the top. Both sides acknowledge there was movement in that area.

But as the NFLPA's lead spokesman, George Atallah,

put it Monday: "The perception is that we were really, really close. The reality is we really, really weren't."

Because the NFLPA says it no longer is a union, but rather a trade association — a distinction the NFL calls a "sham" — Atallah said any decision to return to negotiations would be up to the lawyers representing the players, rather than NFLPA executive director DeMaurice Smith. Asked whether there would be talks before the April 6 hearing, Atallah replied: "As of now, no."

The league, meanwhile, would prefer to return to the negotiating table. Starting Feb. 18, the sides met 16 times at federal mediator's office.

"We would get back together with them tomorrow if they wanted to. We're not the ones who walked out. We're not the ones who renounced our status. We're not the ones who filed litigation," Pash said. "So we would get back together with them tomorrow. And if they have questions about our proposal, we'd answer them."

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The Truth About the Muslim Brotherhood

Is it a moderate Egyptian party committed to democracy . . . or a jihadist group seeking to create an Islamist empire?

Many Western pundits claim the Muslim Brotherhood has little power and simply wants to play a peaceful role in Egyptian democracy. But what do the Muslim Brotherhood's history and its leaders' pronouncements tell us? Is their goal to create a free democratic system . . . or is it to hijack democracy in the service of an autocratic Islamist revolution?

What are the facts?

Founded in Egypt in 1928, the Muslim Brotherhood has been an immensely powerful force in Middle East politics, now boasting chapters in 80 countries. Its mission statement: "Allah is our objective; the Quran is our constitution, the Prophet is our leader; Jihad is our way; and death for the sake of Allah is the highest of our aspirations."

The Brotherhood's founder, Hassan al-Banna, stated that the group's goal was to assert Islam's manifest destiny and create an empire governed by Islamic religious law and unified in an autocratic caliphate. He claimed "It is in the nature of Islam to dominate, not to be dominated, to impose its law on all nations and to extend its power to the entire planet."

In 1948, a member of the Muslim Brotherhood assassinated the Egyptian Prime Minister, and the group has been banned in Egypt since 1954, after it attempted to assassinate Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser. A Brotherhood splinter group assassinated President Anwar Sadat in 1981.

The Muslim Brotherhood's most influential leader was Sayyid Qutb, a racist, anti-Semite, misogynist and hater of the United States. His pro-Islamist and anti-Western hatred had enormous influence on Ayman Zawahiri, who went on to become a key mentor of Osama bin Laden and is today the number-two leader of al-Qaeda.

Despite its murderous history, the Muslim Brotherhood claims to have renounced violence—but it makes notable exceptions, including approval of terrorist acts by its Palestinian wing, Hamas, whose charter calls for the murder of Jews and the obliteration of Israel. What's more, former Muslim Brotherhood Supreme Commander Muhammad Madhi Akef declared he was "prepared to send 10,000 jihad fighters immediately to fight at the side of Hezbollah" during the Lebanese terrorist group's 2006 war against Israel.

Given its history of murder and warlike declarations, the Brotherhood's claim to non-violence rings false. Consider finally a September 2010 sermon by Muslim Supreme Guide Muhammad Badi, who explained that the "change that the [Muslim] nation seeks can only be attained through jihad . . . by raising a jihadi generation that pursues death just as our

enemies pursue life."

Many commentators assert that the Brotherhood is a weak fringe group—yet the facts contradict this. Despite the Brotherhood's illegal status in Egypt, it is immensely influential—controlling the country's main lawyers and physicians associations and numerous welfare organizations. In the 2005 election, even under intense persecution by the Mubarak regime, the group's "independent" candidates won 20 percent of the seats in parliament. Indeed, the Muslim Brotherhood is the best-organized, best financed political group in Egypt, second only to Mubarak's deposed ruling party.

We know that the Bolsheviks in Russia, Nazis in Germany, Islamists in Iran, and Hamas in the disputed Palestinian territories all started out as minority parties whose rise to power during political upheaval began democratically and ended in dictatorship—following the insidious pattern of "one man, one vote, one time." Given the Muslim Brotherhood's Islamist philosophy and goals, we can expect the same in Egypt, now or in the next few years.

How would the Brotherhood govern if it came to power? In 2006, the Muslim Brotherhood demanded that Egypt develop nuclear weapons. Recently a Brotherhood leader told interviewers that the Egyptian peace treaty with Israel would be abolished as soon as a provisional government is formed and that Egypt should prepare for war with Israel.

While Christians make up 10 percent of the Egyptian population and are already victims of discrimination and violent attacks, rule by the Brotherhood would be a nightmare, diminishing their rights to worship publicly or hold high office. As for women, the Brotherhood insists that they be segregated, their bodies completely covered in public, and that girls undergo genital mutilation.

To assess the Muslim Brotherhood's commitment to democracy, we should heed the words of its Spiritual Leader Yusuf al-Qaradawi, who maintains that "The civilizational-jihadist process . . . is a kind of grand jihad in eliminating and destroying the Western civilization from within and 'sabotaging' its miserable house . . . so that it is eliminated and God's religion is made victorious over all other religions."

While some pundits minimize the Muslim Brotherhood's threat, there's no doubt that the group fanatically opposes the United States, Israel and Western values, or that it will use both democratic and violent means to defeat them. Nor should we doubt that the Brotherhood is a powerful, well-organized political force that, if given enough power, would use it to crush the democratic process and turn Egypt into an anti-Western, fundamentalist Islamic state. Can we afford this risk?

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MAVS

Continued from Page 1B

at 76 with a turnaround jumper late in the third quarter. Portland took a 78-76 lead on Roy's layup.

It was the first of 10 straight points for Roy that put Portland up 86-80 early in the fourth quarter.

"He made some tough shots. He looked like the Brandon Roy of old," Nowitzki said. "If he shoots the ball like that, they've got two legit go-to guys with Aldridge, who is playing phenomenal, and him. They're going to be tough to beat in the playoffs whoever they play."

McMillan said Roy's

"He made some tough shots. He looked like the Brandon Roy of old. If he shoots the ball like that, they've got two legit go-to guys with Aldridge, who is playing phenomenal, and him. They're going to be tough to beat in the playoffs whoever they play"

Dirk Nowitzki,
Dallas Mavericks

effort against Dallas doesn't mean that his "process" in coming back this season will change.

"We've talked to him about his minutes. He's feeling good with the minutes that he's been getting and we need to keep him there," the coach said. "That's

working. We haven't had any setbacks."

Roy said that half of what he's dealing with is mental.

"I've got to challenge myself to push through, and know that my body's OK," he said.

The Mavericks were without Brendan Haywood, who was sit-

ting with lower back stiffness. Peja Stojakovic missed his fourth straight game with a stiff neck.

The Blazers switched things up by starting Gerald Wallace in place of Marcus Camby. Wallace, an All-Star last season, came to the Blazers in a trade with Charlotte at the deadline last month.

Cambyhadarthroscopic knee surgery in January and his minutes have been limited since his return. McMillan did not say whether the change was permanent.

Portland was home after two straight losses on the road.

The Mavericks were coming off a 96-91 loss at home to the Lakers on Sunday.

THREAT

Continued from Page 1B

work to defend him. That may include driving to the basket more often when he sees an open gap.

The sophomore shooter who leads the SEC in scoring (19.5) is picked up by defenders "in weird areas, probably areas that most people don't get picked up." And not only when he has the ball.

"They do whole bunch of things. I can't name them all, but it's crazy. ... I've gotten a box and one, stuff like that. Basically, they try to eliminate any shots I can have," Jenkins said. "Like, if someone drives, they won't leave me to give help. They'll stay on me, basically just shadowing me wherever I go."

In the event that Vanderbilt and Syracuse match up in the national championship game — the only way they could meet in this tournament — Jenkins is the kind of shooter that the Orangemen would spend a lot of time preparing to defend.

Opponents have taken 743 3-pointers against Syracuse — only three of the other 345 Division I teams have had more long-range shots attempted against them. But the Orangemen with their nasty 2-3 zone have

allowed only 31 percent of those to go in because of their preparation.

"We do a great job rotating and identifying the shooters, knowing who is going to get the ball, identifying who's been hot and who's been making shots," Syracuse guard Scoop Jardine said. "We talk about all that stuff in practice and before the game."

The Orangemen, who play Indiana State in their NCAA opener, spend extra time in practice defending 3-pointers because of all the switching they do in their zone.

"The biggest thing is rotation and communication," Jardine said. "We're always talking out there, always communicating with each other."

AREA

Continued from Page 1B

going 3-for-4 at the plate with a pair of doubles and three RBI. Bryson Phillips and Payton Parker each added a

pair of hits for Forsan, which improved to 10-2 overall, 1-1 in district play.

"It was good to get that first district win," Forsan Coach Jason Phillips said. "And it was good that we hit the ball so well, especially the

bottom half of the lineup."

Although happy with the win, Phillips knows the Buffaloes will be in a dogfight to return to the playoffs this season, especially after moving up in classification.

"It's just one of those

things where we know we can't just show up and expect to win," he said. "We're going to have to come to play every time."

Forsan returns to action Thursday at home vs. Denver City. Game time is 4 p.m.

BSHS

Continued from Page 1B

righthander overcame a shaky first inning, scattering seven hits while striking out nine and walking only one in his complete-game effort.

His teammates, meanwhile, gave him all the offensive support he needed by scoring five runs in the first inning.

Once again, the Steers were beneficiaries of Lake View generosity. The Chiefs' starter, Ricky Anderson, walked the first two batters he

faced and Poppajohn made him pay by crushing a triple to deep left field that scored DoPorto and Brett Borman. Poppajohn then gave the Steers the lead for good when he came home on a sacrifice fly from Morelion. Both Morelion and Hernandez later scored on a double to left by Stuteville.

Given that cushion, Acosta took care of the rest. Except for a brief hiccup in the sixth, he pitched shutout ball the rest of the way.

"Jacob was throwing strikes, plain and simple," Otto said. "We always tell our pitchers

to throw strikes. If we're throwing strikes and the other team is hitting them, that's something we can live with. Also, when you're throwing strikes, that helps keep everybody alert and cuts down on errors."

The Steers travel to Seminole Thursday afternoon to end the non-district portion of their schedule. Otto said his team will have to have more effort along the lines of Tuesday's second game if they are going to have success in league action.

"It's going to be tough," he said. "Brownwood returned their top two

starters, plus the district MVP at shortstop. Snyder's always Snyder — they always play well. Wylie's always Wylie — they find ways to win. And Sweetwater's off to their best start in years. So this is going to be a very competitive district. All I know is that two good teams are going to be left out of the playoffs."

Lake View 200 001 0 - 3 7 3
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WP - Acosta; LP - Anderson.

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

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sudoku

ANSWERS

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

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4.7L V8, 4X2 #BG523779
MSRP.....\$31015
Rebate.....\$2000
Engine Bonus.....\$1000
BB Disc.....\$2127
Truck Month.....\$1100
Farm Bureau.....\$500

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'11 Ram 2500 Crew-Cab

6.7L I6 Cummins Turbo, Longhorn #BG567390
MSRP.....\$57460
Rebate.....\$1500
Engine Bonus.....\$1000
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BB Disc.....\$1598
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A guide to the new Madness

The Associated Press

The NCAA tournament has a new look this year, with a 68-team bracket and a matchup of First Four teams vying for spots in the main draw.

If you're in a bracket that ignores that first batch of games, the tournament doesn't really start until Thursday. For those who had to pick the First Four games, too, here's hoping you're not already behind in the standings.

Based on UNC Asheville's 81-77 overtime victory over Arkansas-Little Rock in Tuesday's bracket breaker, it figures to be a wild ride either way.

Yep, the madness is here and this March is filled with great teams, great players and some intriguing matchups.

To get you ready for the main event, here's a rundown of what to look for:

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Jimmer Fredette, BYU. When it comes to exciting players, this year's tournament starts with The Jimmer. The nation's leading scorer had 37 points in a double-overtime win over Florida last year and had 52 against New Mexico in the Mountain West tournament.

Kemba Walker, Connecticut. The dynamic guard opened the season by single-handedly carrying UConn to the Maui Invitational title and had a memorable five-game-in-five-days performance in the Big East tournament. King Kemba is the East Coast version of Jimmer — or is it the other way around?

Nolan Smith, Duke. The first player to lead the ACC in scoring and assists, he's one of those players who's hard to take your eyes off, he does so many things well.

Derrick Williams, Ari-

zona. Flew under the radar a little playing out West, but is a dynamic player who can finish with either hand and is good for 1-2 highlight-reel dunks a game.

Jared Sullinger, Ohio State. Losing a national player of the year should have hurt the Buckeyes more than this. Ohio State did just fine without Evan Turner, thanks to this dynamic freshman.

Keith Benson, Oakland. Not many people know much about Benson because of where he plays, but this guy's a legitimate NBA prospect.

NUMBERS

1-12 — Temple coach Fran Dunphy's record in NCAA tournament games, worst among coaches with at least eight appearances.

175-1 — Odds for Memphis to win the national championship, worst among teams not lumped into the "field" category.

4 — Number of teams with bears for mascots: Belmont, Northern Colorado, Oakland, UCLA.

5 — Number of 14-loss teams, one fewer than the previous 26 years combined.

9 — Wins in a row by Butler, which was in danger of missing the tournament a year after getting to the title game.

11 — Bids by the Big East, most in the country.

14.5 — Rebounds per game by Morehead State's Kenneth Faried, best in the country.

15 — Consecutive NCAA tournament appearances by defending national champion Duke.

21 — Years since Arkansas-Little Rock qualified for the NCAA tournament.

24.3 — Number of 3-point attempts per game by Louisville.

30 — Point spread between Ohio State and Alabama State, widest in the tournament.

INTRIGUING MATCHUPS

Memphis vs. Arizona, West Regional, Tulsa, Okla. Tigers coach Josh Pastner looked as if he'd be the heir apparent to Lute Olson at Arizona after spending four years playing there and serving as an assistant. Instead, he was passed over and ended up at Memphis. He's said there's no hard feelings, but it's an interesting mix nonetheless.

Temple vs. Penn State, West Regional, Tucson, Ariz. Two schools close in proximity who rarely play each other head across the country to meet in a defensive dogfight in the desert. Makes sense.

Michigan State vs. UCLA, Southeast Regional, Tampa, Fla. Early in the season, the Spartans were a favorite to win the national title. After struggling for good chunks of the season, Michigan State got into the NCAA tournament and could give the Bruins, not to mention other teams all kinds of problems.

Clemson, Asheville off to good starts

DAYTON, Ohio (AP) — Jerai Grant scored a career-best 22 points and fast-starting Clemson built a double-figure lead and never backed off in beating Alabama-Birmingham 70-52 on Tuesday night in an NCAA tournament "First Four" game at the University of Dayton Arena.

In a matchup of No. 12 seeds, part of the expanded tournament's new look, the Tigers (22-11) went on a 21-2 run in the first half and never let the big lead slip away, as they had in several recent games.

Clemson hurried out after its first NCAA tournament victory in 14 years to catch a flight to second-round game against fifth-seeded West Virginia (20-11) on Thursday afternoon in Tampa, Fla.

Milton Jennings added 11 points and Tanner Smith and Devin Booker each had 10 for Clemson, picked to finish seventh in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Jamarr Sanders had 19 and Dexter Fields 12 for UAB, regular-season champions of Conference USA.

Ahead 39-27 at the break, Clemson never let the Blazers draw closer than eight points in the second half.

UAB's hopes wilted when, already trailing 61-42, it lost point guard Aaron Johnson.

Johnson, leading the nation in assists at 7.7 per game, was injured while trying to prevent an easy layup by Grant.

Both teams were among the final four at-large teams to get into the tournament. Each had spells when they didn't look as though they deserved berths — but UAB's bad spell lasted a lot longer.

As if to take a slap at doubters who didn't think they belonged in the field, the Tigers came out smoking.

Grant, who had opened the scoring, rebounded his own miss and hit the follow with 6:34 left to swell the Clemson lead to 31-11.

UNC-Asheville 81 Arkansas-Little Rock 77

DAYTON, Ohio (AP) — Matt Dickey and North Carolina-Asheville injected a little customary March drama into the NCAA's new-look tournament.

Dickey led a late run that brought overtime, and J.P. Primm hit five free throws and had a decisive steal in the closing seconds Tuesday night, sending UNC Asheville to an 81-77 victory over Arkansas-Little Rock in a dramatic "First Four" opener.

"We don't have any quit in this team," UNC Asheville coach Eddie Biedenbach said.

The Bulldogs (20-13) will play Pittsburgh, the top seed in the Southeast, on Thursday in Washington, D.C.

UNC Asheville pulled it out with a tournament-worthy performance by its best player. The Bulldogs led for only 51 seconds in regulation, before Dickey asserted himself.

He scored 14 of the Bulldogs' last 18 points in regulation, including a 3 with 10.5 seconds to go that tied it.

"I hit one in the corner and it was a good time for it to fall," Dickey said.

Primm and Dickey had 22 points apiece.

Alex Garcia-Mendoza matched his career high with 21 points for Arkansas-Little Rock (19-17). The Trojans played overtime without Solomon Bozeman, the Sun Belt's player of the year who fouled out in the final minute of regulation. He finished with 18 points.

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

All It Takes Is the Will to Win

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 7 5 4
♥ Q 4 2
♦ J 7 3
♣ 8 6 5 3

WEST
♠ Q 10 8 6 3
♥ J 7 5
♦ K 8
♣ 9 7 2

EAST
♠ K J
♥ 10 9 8 6 3
♦ 10 9 5 4
♣ 10 4

SOUTH
♠ A 9 2
♥ A K
♦ A Q 6 2
♣ A K Q J

The bidding:
South West North East
3 NT Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead — six of spades.

Take today's deal, for example. It is not an unusually difficult hand to play correctly, but many declarers would go down at three notrump — largely because they might proceed without giving the matter much thought.

The natural line of play appears to be to duck the first two spade leads and win West's next spade with the ace. After cashing four clubs and the A-K of hearts, South plays the ace and a low diamond toward the jack. But when it turns out that West has the king of diamonds instead of East, declarer winds up down one.

Actually, the contract is virtually a sure thing from the outset. There is no reason for declarer to run the risk that West has the king of diamonds. South can avoid that trap by ducking the king of spades at trick one but winning East's return of the jack. He then cashes four clubs and two hearts, as before, to bring his total to seven tricks. His five remaining cards consist of four diamonds and the nine of spades, while dummy has a spade, the queen of hearts and three diamonds.

Instead of playing a diamond at this point, South exits with the nine of spades. West takes three spade tricks, but is then forced to return a heart or a diamond, handing declarer his ninth trick.

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

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

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ARIES (March 21-April 19). You will accomplish what you couldn't quite finish yesterday. The timing wasn't right, or you just weren't comfortable enough to open your mind to the possibilities.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If that thing you are holding on to "just in case" doesn't find said "case" today, you should let it go. Something has to give in order for you to make way for the future.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll want to keep track of the beauty in this day. Take a photo of the view that pleases you, or record that nature sound that your mind interprets as music. Share your discovery with friends.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). A project is turning into more than you wanted to take on, but it's all doable. You may "hit the wall," but it's not going to stop you. Take a break, and come back to it later. You'll have success the second time around.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You will overhear something that wasn't intended for your ears. This will turn out to be fortunate, indeed. It's as though you were meant to get the information, even if others didn't want you to know.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Pay careful attention to your work, focusing on only one task at a time. A slip of the finger is all it takes to send an accidental e-mail, erase your work or worse. You'll stay alert, and all will go well.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your even temper isn't a steadfast rule. You are occasionally prone to sudden outbursts of passion, both surprising and impressive to those around you. When you care, you really show it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Each decision you make gives birth to a new reality, even the small gestures. Cleaning up stray litter from a public space or smiling at a stranger will bring utopia closer to hand for everyone.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You are adventurous and fun-loving and will meet those who enjoy lively social contact as much as you do. Some of the day will be spent planning your participation in clubs, parties and travel.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You have a zesty approach to work, and others get a refreshing boost of energy being around you. You are multidimensional, and your talent reflects this.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-

Feb. 18). You have a vision of the ideal future. You'll meet with those who share your strong desire to make a difference in the world. You'll discuss current affairs and work together to make a brighter tomorrow.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You are willing to put in effort and ideas whether or not others appreciate and build on your contributions. However, it always feels better when they do — which is what you experience today.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 16). This year is exciting and very different from last year. Work opens your horizons. You will gain levels of refinement and be accepted into exclusive situations. A June romance is just the beginning. In July, people learn from you. Your luck extends naturally into areas of writing, teaching or health care. You have a special spark with Cancer and Scorpio people. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 42, 25, 49 and 44.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I never have been curious about my birth parents until now. What makes this so strange is that I'm 63 years old. My adoptive parents are both gone, and I'm wondering about my genetics and also about whether my birth parents are alive. My problem is that I feel guilty for even wanting to research this. My adoptive parents were the most wonderful, generous angels who ever walked the earth, and they would not appreciate my disloyalty in looking up

people who deserted me at infancy. As a result of my birthmother's negligence, I do not even know what day or time I was born! But I'm reasonably sure I am a Pisces."

It's only natural and practical for you to want to know about the people with whom you share DNA. I believe that even if your adoptive parents would not have approved of this curiosity in their lifetime, death offers a more peaceful and accepting perspective. You have a right to your history, and you deserve to go forward without an ounce of guilt. You should also feel free to choose the astrological associations that resonate the best with you.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Public Enemy rapper and reality television star Flavor Flav recently opened Flav's Fried Chicken in Clinton, Iowa, and he's serious about keeping his tasty recipe a secret. This entertaining Pisces was born when the moon and Mars were in Gemini. Both Pisces and Gemini are complex signs of duality. People with these aspects clown around when they're sad and cry when they're happy.

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

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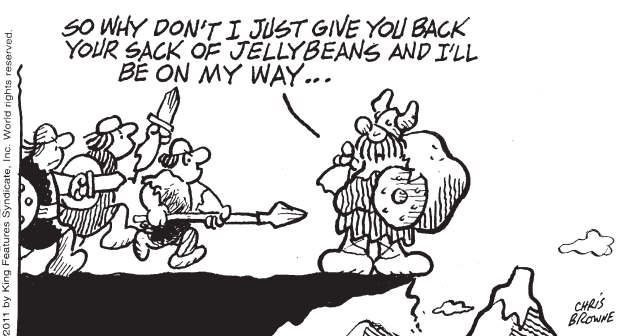
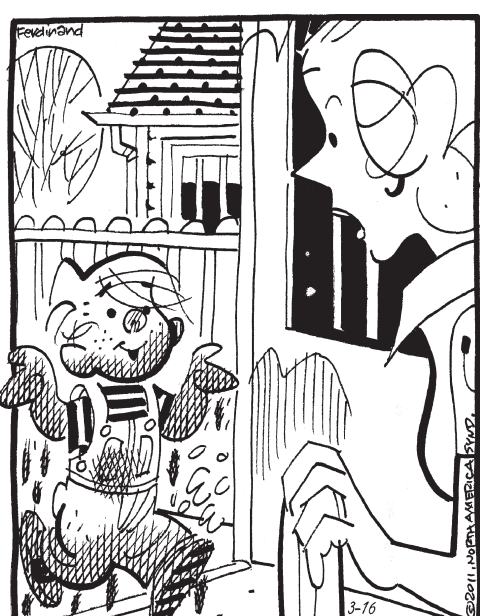
BBB A+ RATING

	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KPBT (13)	KWTT (14)	DISC (20)	AMC (21)	SPIKE (22)	TNT (23)	BET (26)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)
	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Atlanta	Odessa	Odessa	Odessa	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney	Sports	Sports
6:30 PM	Jeopardy!	Llena de Amor (SS)	Two Men Two Women	News Ent	Caso Cerado	News Millionaire	King King	McGee Dr. Diana	PBS News-Hour	70s Show	MythBusters	Endgame	Ways Die	Bones	Live	Shake It	College Basketball	Boston NBA
7:30 PM	Middle Middle	Eva Luna (SS)	American Idol	Survivor-Island	Aurora (SS)	Minute to Win It	Fam. Guy	Upd Bill Cloud	Nature (DVS)	Top Model	Sons	Movie: The Chronicles of Riddick	1,000 Ways to Die	Bones	Crews	Wizards	NBA Basketball: Thunder at Heat	
8:30 PM	Family Sunshine	Triunfo del Amor	Simpsons	Criminal Minds	Herederos-Monte	Minute to Win It	There	Light of the Southwest	NOVA (DVS)	Shedding for	Sons	Movie: Love Don't Cost a Thing	Ways Die	Bones	Wizards	College Basketball		
9:30 PM	Off the Map	Rosa de Guadalupe	How I Met	C.M.: Suspect	La Reina del Sur	Law & Order: SVU	Browns Payne	Eden at the End	Married Married	Desert Car Kings	Movie: Demolition Man, Sandra Bullock	3 Sheets	Ways Die	Bones	Wizards	NBA Basketball: Mavericks at Warriors		
10:30 PM	News Nightline	Impacto	How I Met	Noticias	Noticias	News	Conan	Bill Cloud	King	Sons	Auction	Auction	CSI: NY	The Mo'Nique	Phineas	SportsCenter	NBA Basketball: Warriors	
11:30 PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Para Volver a Amar	Law & Order: SVU	Late	Decisiones (SS)	Late Night	Lopez Tonight	Cortes	World	South Pk	Sons	Sons	CSI: NY	Wendy Williams	Hannah	Final	NFL Live	
12:30 AM	Extra	Tontas Cielo	Paid	Insider	Pagado	News	Conan	Upd	Cops	Desert Car Kings	Breaking Bad	Focus 4	CSI: NY	Movie: The Mannsfield 12, Garette Henson	Wizards	NBA	SportsCenter	
1:30 AM	Paid	Mujer...	TMZ	Ent	Pagado	Poker After Dark	Lopez Tonight	Light of the Southwest	Gospel	Overhauled	(:02) Breaking Bad	Tripp	Disorderly Conduct	Leverage	Wizards	NASCAR	SportsCenter	
2:30 AM	(:06) ABC World News	Casos de Familia	RENO 911	(:37) Up to the Minute	Pagado	The Dr. Oz Show	Movie: The Bank Job	Light of the Southwest	Study	Paid	(:04) Movie: Moonstruck	Hayford	Entourage	Cold Case	Hell Date	Phineas	SportsCenter	NBA Basketball: Warriors

DENNIS THE MENACE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

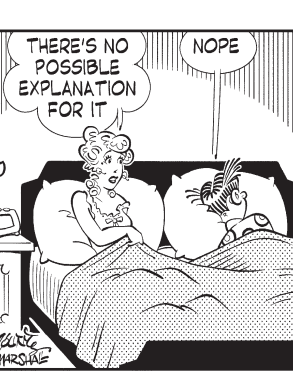
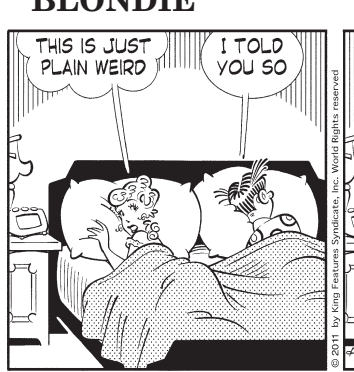
HAGAR



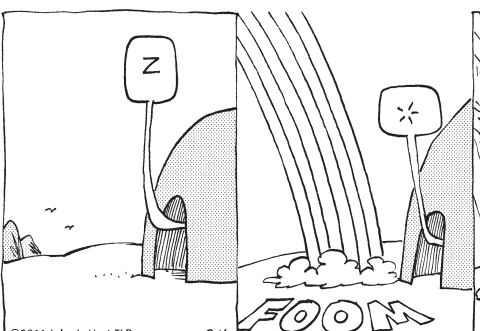
"We had a contest to see who could get the dirtiest! I won!"

"We're checking all our books for bookworms."

BLONDIE



BC



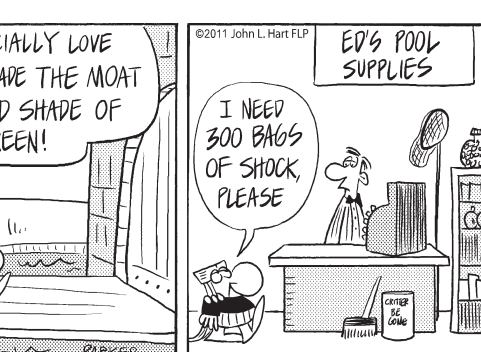
This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, March 16, the 75th day of 2011. There are 290 days left in the year.

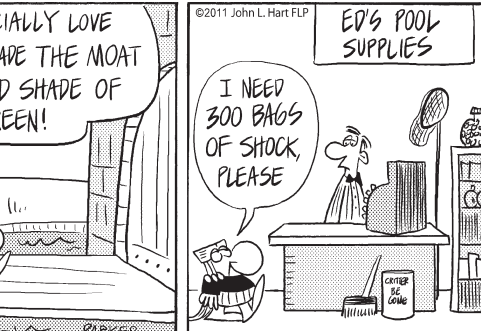
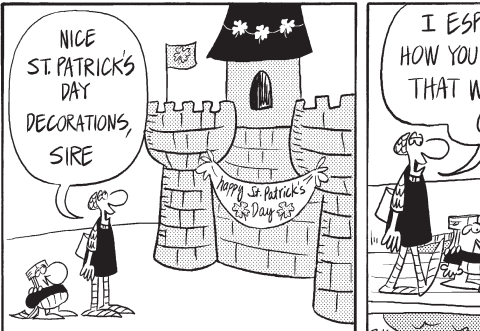
In 1971, former Republican presidential candidate Thomas E. Dewey, 68, died in Bal Harbour, Fla.; American actress Bebe Daniels, 70, died in London.

is 85. Country singer Ray Walker (The Jordanaires) is 77. Movie director Bernardo Bertolucci is 70. Game show host Chuck Woolery is 70. Singer-songwriter Jerry Jeff Walker is 69. Country singer Robin Williams is 64. Actor Erik Estrada is 62. Actor Victor Garber is 62. Actress Kate Nelligan is 60. Country singer Ray Benson (Asleep at the Wheel) is 60. Rock singer-musician Nancy Wilson (Heart) is 57. Golfer Hollis Stacy is 57. Actress Isabelle Huppert is 55. Actor Clifton Powell is 55. Rapper-actor Flavor Flav (Public Enemy) is 52. Rock musician Jimmy DeGrasso is 48. Folk singer Patty Griffin is 47. Country singer Tracy Bonham is 44.

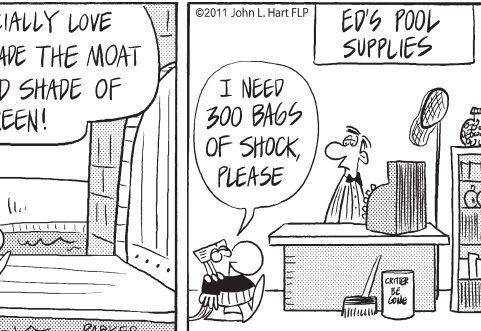
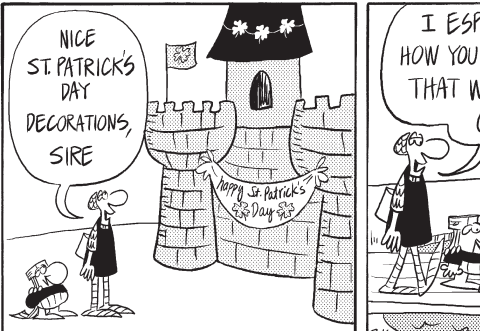
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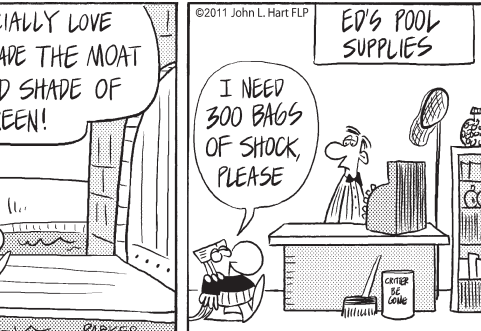
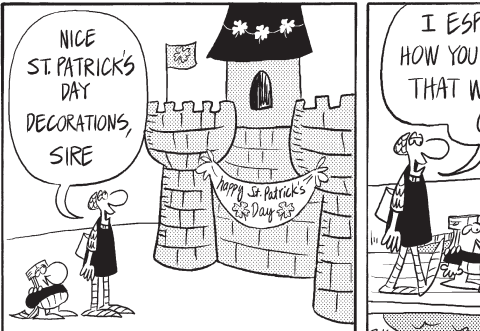
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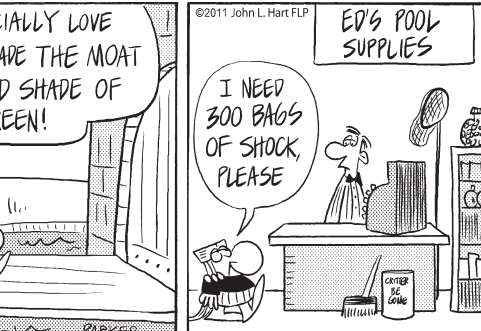
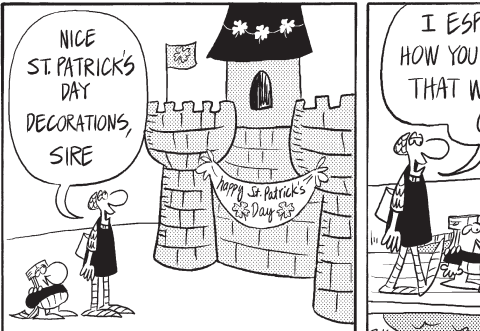
HI AND LOIS



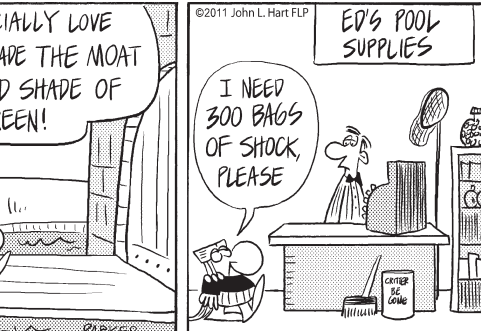
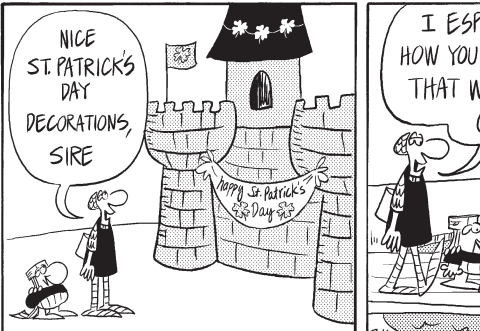
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



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TEX TORO		
SLOWLY	BUTSURE	LY
HOSE	GILT	RATIO
OGLE	ELSE	FRANK
TOOT	NEAR	MELKE

Newsday Crossword

COUNTDOWN by Fred Piscop

- ACROSS
- 1 Exploded
- 5 Dreadlocks
- 10 Totally absorbed
- 14 Charismatic glow
- 15 Actor Hawke
- 16 Bassoon relative
- 17 Do perfectly
- 18 Time to punt, in football
- 20 Outing with decoys
- 22 Lent a hand to
- 23 Co. name abbr.
- 24 Collects
- 26 Harsh interrogation
- 31 Show with skits
- 32 de Janeiro
- 33 Asked earnestly
- 37 Solemn assent
- 38 Ivy League school, for short
- 40 Franc's replacement
- 41 Fine spray
- 42 Min. fraction
- 43 Cathedral instrument
- 44 Criticize in hindsight
- 47 Laundromat lineup
- 51 Musical asset
- 52 From the East
- 53 Concur with
- 58 Initial consideration
- 61 Bone-dry
- 62 Genesis setting
- 63 Prove false
- 64 Type of evergreen
- 65 Sign a lease
- 66 Autumn beverage
- 67 Zoo attractions

- DOWN
- 1 Musical group
- 2 Big Island bash
- 3 British comedian
- 4 Take a stroll
- 5 Money back
- 6 Right away
- 7 Securely sealed
- 8 64 Across product
- 9 Busy bug
- 10 The Thinker sculptor
- 11 "Humble" dwelling
- 12 Knowledge, it's said
- 13 Sees to
- 19 Aesopian also-ran
- 21 Keep under wraps
- 24 Happy look
- 25 Extremely long time
- 26 Studio-tour transport
- 27 Prefix for sphere
- 28 Currier's partner
- 29 Pipsqueak
- 30 El __ (Spanish painter)
- 33 Lima's land
- 34 Winter Olympics sled
- 35 Time-line divisions
- 36 Slips into
- 38 Software purchaser
- 39 Muscles above abs
- 43 Foul-tempered one
- 44 Dropped in the mail
- 45 Loch beast, in tabloids
- 46 One of Santa's team
- 47 Thin cookie
- 48 Theatrical whisper
- 49 Warning sound
- 50 Lacks, for short
- 53 Word in a 1/1 song title
- 54 California wine valley
- 55 Go sprawling
- 56 Trident prong
- 57 Keats creations
- 59 London TV network
- 60 Neckwear at a 2 Down

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