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BIG SPRING HERALD

THURSDAY
 JANUARY, 19, 2012



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George H. O'Brien's grandson, Sgt. George Matthew Puryear, speaks on behalf of the O'Brien family during Wednesday's renaming ceremony at the VA Medical Center. Also pictured from left are Daniel Marsh, director of the VA Center, U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, Jerry Worthy and former Pfc. James Meineke, a member of O'Brien's battalion.

HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno



O'Brien name graces VAMC

By **AMANDA MORENO**
 Staff Writer

The Big Spring VA Medical Center officially became the George H. O'Brien VA Medical Center Wednesday, as dignitaries, veterans and others gathered to pay tribute

to a man who was praised as a husband, father, grandfather, friend, patriot and an American hero.

O'Brien, who died in 2005 at the age of 78, is the only Big Spring resident to receive the Medal of Honor, the most prestigious award that can be bestowed on a U.S. serviceman, according to Daniel Marsh, medical center director.

"This center embodies the spirit and service that George demonstrated throughout his combat career and afterwards," Marsh said. "How

"May we all hold this as a dear reminder for the ages to come to being an American who knew the value of his country and inspired others to follow those values."

—Friend, fellow veteran Jerry Worthy



appropriate it is that it bears his name."

O'Brien was presented with the medal Oct. 27, 1953, a year after he spearheaded the capture of an enemy-held hill while wounded by enemy fire in Korea.

In attendance for the renaming ceremony were several members of the O'Brien family, including his widow, Sandra O'Brien, their three children, Terrye, Rob and Mike O'Brien, as well as his grandson, Sgt. George Mat-

thew Puryear. Jerry Worthy, who commissioned the statue honoring O'Brien which stands in front of the center, and former Pfc. James Meineke, who served with O'Brien in Korea, were also in attendance. U.S. Rep. Mike Conaway and U.S. Rep. Randy Neugebauer were unable to attend the ceremony due to a House of Representatives session. However, U.S. Sen. John Cornyn was also on hand for the ceremony.

"I am honored to join them

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HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins

A paramedic with the Big Spring Fire Department shows this woman her infant child is uninjured following a harrowing rollover accident near the 174 mile marker of Interstate Highway 20 this morning. The woman was transported to the emergency room at Scenic Mountain Medical Center, while a second child, believed to be 4 years old, was airlifted from the scene by Air-Evac to University Medical Center in Lubbock.

4-year-old airlifted after wreck

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

A 4-year-old child was airlifted to University Medical Center in Lubbock this morning following a rollover accident on Interstate Highway 20 near the 174 mile marker.

The accident was reported shortly after 8 a.m. when emergency responders were dispatched to a location on the north service road near Interstate Highway 20 across from the Big Spring Department of Public Safety Office.

According to DPS Trooper

See **ROLLOVER**, Page 3

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HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins

Paramedics with the local Air Evac team load a 4-year-old girl into the helicopter following a rollover accident near the 174 mile marker of Interstate Highway 20 shortly after 8 a.m. today. The girl was transported to University Medical Center in Lubbock.

ROLLOVER

Continued from Page 1

Matt Munsell, who was helping to investigate the wreck, the rollover occurred when an 18-wheel tractor-trailer attempted to change lanes on the interstate highway without checking the adjacent lane.

"The vehicle that was involved in the rollover was traveling west on Interstate Highway 20 when another vehicle — an 18-wheel truck — tried to change lanes

into it and didn't see it," Munsell said. "The driver of the vehicle that rolled took evasive action to miss being hit by the truck and lost control, causing the vehicle to roll into the north service road."

The name of the driver of the car involved in the accident — a Dodge sedan — was not available following the crash, according to emergency responders.

"There were three people in the vehicle, two of which were injured in the crash. One of them

was airlifted from the scene," Munsell said. "The driver was a female and there were two female children. The driver was injured and one of the children, a 4-year-old girl, was injured in the crash. It's still under investigation, but it appears at this time there is a good chance the child (4-year-old child) was ejected (from the vehicle)."

"Emergency medical services personnel considered her injuries to be pretty severe and the child is being airlifted;

however, we don't have any other information on the extent of her injuries at this time. The driver was transported to the emergency room at Scenic Mountain Medical Center."

According to Munsell, it's unclear at this time if the driver of the tractor-trailer has been cited for failure to safely change lanes.

"The driver of the 18-wheel truck was located and the investigation into the accident is ongoing," Munsell said.

O'BRIEN

Continued from Page 1

in paying tribute to a Marine's Marine, a patriot's patriot, a genuine American hero," Cornyn said.

Representatives on hand from Conaway's and Neugebauer's offices read letters written by each expressing their thoughts on O'Brien as along with their regret of not being able to be in attendance.

"I am sure that the story of O'Brien's heroic action on that day nearly 60 years ago will be retold many times today, as they deserve to be. Lest we fail to remember the incredible difference just one man can make," read Lisa Brooks, representative for Neugebauer.

In his letter, Neugebauer referred to the Big Spring Veterans Affairs Medical Center as an enduring testament to the dedicated men and women of the armed forces.

"For more than 60 years, you have been an institution helping veterans young and old recover from wounds suffered on the fields of battle and in service to their country," Neugebauer stated in his letter.

He said without this facility rural veterans would be at a significant disadvantage in receiving the specialty care they have earned through their service to

this great nation.

"By providing the care they deserve, you honor not only the memory of George H. O'Brien, but all those who have served. It is only fitting that we gather here today to honor our fellow West Texan's memory as we dedicate this facility."

Neugebauer also indicated he will visit Big Spring in order to present an official copy of the legislation signed by President Barack Obama as well as the pen it was signed with.

Corbette Padilla, regional director for Conaway, was on hand to deliver a letter written by the congressman.

"The renaming of the VA hospital will serve as a reminder of George H. O'Brien's courage on the battlefield and the proud legacy he leaves behind," Conaway wrote. "Throughout his life, O'Brien became a number of things, a man, husband, father, grandfather and friend to many. As a patriot, he became not only a soldier, but a war veteran and ultimately an American hero. Nonetheless he became to most of us what we call a good West Texan."

Congressman Mac Thornberry also sent a letter, which was read by Marsh at the ceremony.

"Our nation owes George H. O'Brien an enormous debt of gratitude for his service and the sacrifices he made

for our country," Thornberry wrote. "His exceptional bravery and selfless acts in combat will not be forgotten."

Thornberry went on to express how the dedication and renaming of the VA facility will serve as a constant reminder of the acts made by O'Brien. After letters were read from various dignitaries, stories of O'Brien were shared by his comrade, Meineke.

"I went down pretty early in the battle. I think in my own heart O'Brien is the one who dug me out and pulled another guy off of me and sent me back to the first aid," Meineke said. "Thanks to Jerry Worthy for putting up that bronze down here, I got to see a man that I truly, truly admire. Had you seen him charging that hill ... that man was unbelievable in the face of action that morning."

Worthy, a friend of O'Brien and a veteran, recalled the first time he met Meineke. He also shared stories of O'Brien from when he was growing up.

"We are here today because of this statue. Who knew it would result in

this worthwhile name changing," Worthy said. "May we all hold this as a dear reminder for the ages to come to being an American who knew the value of his country and inspired others to follow those values."

O'Brien's grandson and member of the U.S. Marines, Sgt. George Matthew Puryear, spoke on behalf of the family.

"In our lives we have a hero, whether it be a mom, dad or fictional character ... my hero is my Papa. I strive everyday to be just as good of a man as he was."

Puryear said he considered his grandfather to be a giant inspiration in his life. He was honored on numerous occasions for his courage and heroism during the Korean War.

"My Papa was a humble man and on each occasion rather than boast about his award, he would always say he would only accept each honor received on behalf of his men who did not come home from Korea. I am certain if he were here today he would say the same thing."

Puryear said his grandfather would never

Take Note

- An organizational meeting for Visual Awareness Support Group will be held at 5:30 p.m. today at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1001 Goliad St. VASG is forming to provide help to individuals who have poor or deteriorating vision. The meeting is open to everyone but will focus on people who have significant vision problems, their family members, friends and caregivers. For more information, call 263-2501 or email eyeassocone@ccrom.net.

- American Legion Post 506 will have a fish fry from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the post home, 3203 W. Highway 80. Plates are \$10 each. Delivery will be available from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. by calling 263-2084. Everyone is welcome.

- As the 8th annual Powwow is coming near, organizers are seeking people interested in native American culture. The group is a family oriented organization that is looking to expand. You do not have to be native American to join. For comments, questions and answers, call Richard "Indio" Lesser at 432-935-0125 or Connie Lesser at 432-816-6772.

- Mitchell County Senior Citizens Dance will be held at the Colorado City Civic Center, 157 E. Second St. Jan. 26 from 7-10 p.m., \$5, snacks are welcome. Mike Potter and friend Kevin Rainwater will be performing. Everyone is welcome.

- Crossroads Friends of NRA Banquet will be held at 6 p.m. Jan. 28 at the Dora Roberts Community Center. Tickets are \$25. Funds raised at this and other FNRA events in West Texas support local youth shooting groups (Boy Scouts, 4-H, JROTC, etc.) law enforcement, education, safety and many other areas. Giveaways, games, and live and silent auctions will be held. For more information, call Melanie Gambrell at 432-270-7384.

er speak of the Medal of Honor he received or his time in Korea. However, Puryear stumbled upon a video recorded a few years ago, for the Medal of Honor, where his papa was talking about both. He said for him it was a very moving video. In watching that video, one quote struck a cord with Puryear in regards to the Medal of Honor.

"This medal is not mine. It belongs to those kids who never grew up to be grandfathers, I just hold in trust. It's a trust that I wear and I hope I wear it well," O'Brien said.

Puryear ended with a thought held by all the O'Brien family, and most likely all those who knew him:

"In our eyes he was always a true hero, not

only in the military but as a dad and a grandfather."

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Linda Tubbs, 69, died Monday. Funeral services were at 10 a.m. today at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial was at Trinity Memorial Park.

Mary Ferrell, 74, died Sunday. Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. today at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

Penny Linebaugh, died Thursday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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AN ENCOURAGING WORD

By Eddy Pitchford

There seems to be a lot of people struggling with coughs, congestion and allergies. They do not feel bad enough to go to the doctors but they most certainly do not feel their best. They need to be careful so they will not make others sick.

I know some people, who try to "tough it out" when their attitudes are not right. They are not flagrantly disobedient to God but they share sarcasm, cynicism and snarly comments with folks around them.

Most of us know that physical sickness needs to be closely monitored and the doctor consulted if symptoms persist. In like manner, if your anger and bad words persist, you need to spend one on one time with The Great Physician.

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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Managing Editor

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

Steve Reagan
Staff Writer

Amanda Moreno
Staff Writer

Thomas Jenkins
Staff Writer

OTHER VIEWS

Home Country

Thinking about axes

These days we don't think much about axes. They're kinda old fashioned and they are too closely associated with manual labor for them to be very popular. It's a shame, because there is lore to an ax. There are proper and improper ways to sharpen one, for instance.

There are proper and improper ways to fell a tree with an ax, to limb a fallen tree with an ax, to split firewood with an ax.

Replacing the handle on an ax could be the subject of a very interesting small book, even.

Marvin always puts a coating of fiberglass around the handle just below the head to keep firewood from chewing up the handle, for instance.

Ol' Jasper Blankenship, up at the diggin's, has been known to soak an ax handle in kerosene before using it to give it longer life.

In fact, Jasper has made ax work into something of an art form.

If you need your ax sharpened, he's the guy to see.

He has an old-fashioned grindstone with a water drip.

He'll tell you it's important not to get the steel too hot and therefore take the temper out of it. And when he finishes sharpening your ax, you can shave with it. If you really want to.

If they gave doctor's degrees in ax use, Jasper would get the first one in the valley.

He built his cabin with just an ax.

The whole thing. It was while Jasper was showing his new cabin to some tourist ladies, in fact, that his ax became legendary around here.

"You see that ax?" he asked them. "That was George Washington's ax. Yep, the same one he used to chop down the cherry tree. 'Course it's been through 42 handles and six heads since then."

Brought to you by Slim's award-winning book (and stocking stuffer) "A Cowboy's Guide to Growing Up Right." Learn more at <http://www.nmsantos.com/Slim/Slim.html>.

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The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

- 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.

- 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

May we give our puzzling problems a good jolt of prayer and faith, Lord.

Amen

What I'm giving up this year

I generally make New Year's resolutions in hopes of becoming a better person — more disciplined, healthier, or, at the very least, less pathetic. Some of these resolutions last until nightfall. Some don't. None ever sees February.

This year, I'm taking a different approach. I'm going to concentrate on giving up things. Not things like smoking — been there, done that. I mean giving up on ideas I have pursued through the years into one blind alley after another.

Ideas like climate change, for example.

You and I both know that the earth is heating up, right? Everybody knows that, with the possible exception of oil executives, the owners of coal mines, and Republican politicians.

Yet no number of hurricanes, droughts, floods, wild fires, melted glaciers, or columns by granola liberals like me has inspired a somnolent Congress to confront the problem.

Why? Money, of course.

If money is the mother's milk of politics (and it is), then the oil and coal industries are the biggest mothers on the block. They own our political system lock, stock, and sleazebag.

As a result, our energy policies are crafted largely by the extrac-

tion industries, which care little if at all about global warming, clean water, or breathable air. Meanwhile, the Earth's poorest nations, who sat back for 200 years while the countries known as "the West" burned forests, polluted the air and water, and made a lot of money, now want their turn at the trough.

It's hopeless. Even if we suddenly got serious about the issue, it's probably too late. We've reached a point where the warming already out there is producing a dynamic that will produce more warming.

So I'm giving up on writing about climate change. You can start the next oil spill without me.

I'm also giving up on gun control.

Over the years, I've written I don't know how many columns urging that some control be placed on the sale of weapons that go bang. Dozens probably, possibly even scores of them.

Every time some clown would go berserk and mow down a baker's dozen of his fellow citizens, I would deliver a rant about the idiocy of our failure to do something about the proliferation of guns in our society.

Did it do any good? Even less than my global warming columns. There are more guns out there now than ever, and states have grown increasingly permissive about where and how people can pack heat.

In other words, the battle has been lost. The absurd arguments

of the National Rifle Association and the Merchants of Death lobby have carried the day.

Why? Money, of course. Too many politicians have learned that to deviate even the slightest degree from the NRA's absolutist positions is to invite a truckload of money into your opponent's campaign, ensuring your electoral defeat.

The argument I find most absurd, by the way, is the constitutional one. Yes, the Constitution guarantees the right to bear arms. But "arms" back then had as much resemblance to modern weapons as an 18th-century schooner has to a nuclear submarine.

Do you think our founding fathers would have looked at an assault rifle that can fire at a speed of 400 rounds a minute and said: "Oh yeah, that's a good thing to have around the house"? Or "Everybody should have one"?

Get real. The Constitution is a wonderful document, but it's outmoded in many ways. Consider the preposterousness of North Dakota having the same number of senators as California. But it's not going to change any time soon, at least not for the better.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Forces of Darkness are in the saddle, and they're wearing spurs.

OtherWords columnist Donald Kaul lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan. otherwords.org



SLIM RANGLES



Obama should pardon Marines

President Barack Obama should pardon the four Marines who were captured on video as they urinated on three corpses, presumably dead Taliban.

After the video went viral last week, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton declared that the wisecracking troops may have committed war crimes. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta called Afghan President Hamid Karzai to assure him that the incident would be thoroughly investigated. Panetta told The Washington Post he wanted "an investigation into what happened here, what laws were violated by what took place, who these individuals were." Karzai in turn called for Washington to "apply the most severe punishment to anyone found guilty in this crime."

In short order, the Marine Corps and the Naval Criminal Investigative Service identified and questioned Marines serving with the 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marines infantry unit, based at Camp Lejeune, N.C., as part of a criminal investigation into the incident.

Because the federal government never does anything just

once, there will be a second investigation. Obama says he wants to streamline government to make it smaller and smarter. Cutting the number of investigations per incident would be a great start.

Better yet, let the president pardon the Marines to spare them and their families the ordeal of an extended investigation, mounting legal bills and possibly prison time.

I do not defend what they did. As Army Lt. Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti informed NATO troops last week, "defiling, desecrating, mocking, photographing or filming for personal use" the bodies of dead insurgents is a "grave breach" of combat law that breaks "faith with the Afghan people, who trust us to uphold standards of law and decency, and to treat the living and the dead with dignity and respect."

Civilized societies don't have a taboo against defiling corpses simply out of an over-refined sense of delicacy.

If you want to bury your dead in peace, you have to treat enemy casualties with the respect you want for your own people.

Obama could use this episode as a teaching moment about the need for respect — not to mention discretion — in the era of the camera phone.

It also is a moment for Washington to consider that these Marines have made sacrifices

in service to this country that noncombatants cannot begin to understand. These men have had to carry out the commander in chief's orders on the ground; that's a far more daunting duty than ordering a drone attack that kills the enemy and civilians remotely.

As Sebastian Junger wrote in The Washington Post, American troops "are very clear about the fact that society trains them to kill, orders them to kill and then balks at anything that suggests they have dehumanized the enemy they have killed."

Political science professor P.S. Ruckman, whose "Pardon Power" blog is the source for information on the presidential pardon, confirms that Obama has the authority to pardon the Marines today.

Washington politicians and bureaucrats are great at making other people pay for their mistakes. Want change? How about answering an act of thoughtless inhumanity with an act of unusual mercy?

Email Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfchronicle.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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DEBRA SAUNDERS

They got Yu

Rangers, Darvish agree to \$60 million, six-year deal

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**

AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON — Yu Darvish impressed the Texas Rangers with his big body, durability and desire.

The two-time defending AL champions were so impressed that they have invested more than \$111 million to acquire Japan's best pitcher. They made a record posting bid and then used just about every minute of a 30-day negotiating window to reach an agreement Wednesday with Darvish on a \$60 million, six-year contract.

"The thing that stood out probably is just that passion for the game and trying to be the best he can possibly be," said Rangers President Nolan Ryan, a Hall of Fame pitcher. "He's probably the most upside player I've ever seen come out of Japan."

Darvish had a 93-38 record with a 1.99 ERA in 167 games the past seven seasons in Japan. The 25-year-old right-hander, who is 6-foot-5, was already a two-time MVP of Japan's Pacific League and a five-time All-Star. He led the league in strikeouts three times and ERA twice, and averaged 205 innings pitched over the last five seasons.

"It's all about winning," general manager Jon Daniels said. "We saw a guy that we felt was built to pitch innings. It's a classic pitcher's build. He has a real

commitment to his conditioning and work ethic and a lot of intangibles that we think will lend him to pitch innings and at a high caliber for a period of time."

In addition to the salary, Texas will pay a posting fee of \$51,703,411 to the Hokkaido Nippon Ham Fighters of the Pacific League. The last two figures in that amount represent the jersey numbers of Ryan (34) and Darvish (11).

When that bid was accepted by the Fighters on Dec. 19, an exclusive window opened for Texas to negotiate a deal that got finished only minutes before a 4 p.m. CST deadline Wednesday. If not, the pitcher would have stayed in Japan.

"He's really thrilled to be coming here," said Arn Tellem, one of Darvish's agents. "This is where he wanted to be, and he was hoping when the posting began that the Rangers would win the post."

The Rangers scouted Darvish for more than two years, building a personal relationship that Tellem said was significant to the pitcher.

While agents Don Nomura and Tellem were in Texas finishing the deal, including negotiations until about 4:30 a.m. Wednesday before resuming a few hours later, Darvish was in Japan.

Darvish returned home after his first and only visit to Texas two weeks ago, when he met Ryan and some of his new teammates, toured Rangers Ballpark

See **DARVISH**, Page 14



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Zeslie Johnson shoots during Howard College's victory over Western Texas earlier this week. Wednesday, the Hawks defeated Clarendon, 96-49, in non-conference basketball action.

Sports Calendar

TODAY

Men's basketball

New Mexico Military Institute at Howard College, 6:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

Girls' basketball

Big Spring at Snyder, 6 p.m.

Post at Coahoma, 6 p.m.

Forsan at Colorado City, 6 p.m.

Boys' basketball

Big Spring at Snyder, 7:30 p.m.

Post at Coahoma, 7:30 p.m.

Forsan at Colorado City, 7:30 p.m.

MONDAY

Women's basketball

Howard College at Midland College, 5:45 p.m.

Men's basketball

Howard College at Midland College, 7:45 p.m.

To submit a calendar item, please call 263-7331, ext. 235, or e-mail reporter@bigspringherald.com

Late 3-pointer sinks Mavs

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Dallas Mavericks left town feeling snake-bit — and then some — after a couple frustrating losses that ended with opponents making clutch 3-pointers in the final moments.

Chauncey Billups provided the latest with a second left on the clock, giving the Los Angeles Clippers a stunning 91-89 victory over the defending NBA champions on Wednesday night.

"I was so open, I was able to take my time and shoot the shot," Billups said. "They got a contest on it late, but by that time it was gone. I got a great look at it and it felt good for it to go down."

Mo Williams made his first seven shots and finished with 26 points off the bench in his return to the lineup from a sore right foot. DeAndre Jordan had 19 points and nine rebounds for the undermanned Clippers, playing their third game in three days after a 101-91 win over New Jersey on Monday afternoon and a 108-79 loss at Utah Tuesday night.

Clippers point guard Chris Paul missed his third straight game because of a left hamstring strain, and Brian Cook sat out his third

in a row with a sprained left ankle. But three of the Clippers' last five games have included wins over Miami, the Lakers and the Mavericks — who had beaten them 10 straight times and won 16 of the previous 17 meetings.

"We beat a good team tonight without our best player, so it was big for us, confidence-wise," Williams said. "I mean, you're going to have your games like Utah, where we just didn't get off the bus and wasted jet fuel. But for us, to be able to do these things that we're doing, we've got veteran guys that relish these moments. We don't call Chauncey 'Big Shot' for nothing."

Blake Griffin had 17 rebounds along with 14 points and seven assists — the last setting up Billups' rainbow from the right of the key.

"Griffin is very explosive and always looking to attack," Dirk Nowitzki said. "He's the future of the league and he's fun to watch. We actually thought we did a decent job on him tonight."

It was the third time already this season that the Mavs lost on a 3-pointer with less than 5 seconds to go. On Monday night at Staples Center, Derek Fisher connected

with 3.1 seconds remaining to give the Lakers a 73-70 win. On Dec. 29, Oklahoma City's Kevin Durant made one at the buzzer to beat Dallas.

"We've got to keep on fighting," Nowitzki said. "Nobody said it was going to be easy, but we can't keep losing on 3s that end the game."

Jordan's dunk and Griffin's layup gave the Clippers an 88-33 lead with 1:29 remaining. Dallas' Ian Mahinmi missed both free throws at the other end, but Jason Terry hit the first of his two 3-pointers to cut the margin to 88-86.

Billups missed a 12-footer, and Griffin forced a jump ball with Nowitzki on the ensuing rebound with 14.9 seconds to play. Griffin got the tip to Billups, who caught it off-balance and lost it out of bounds. Terry then hit his second trey with 5 seconds left, and Clippers coach Vinny Del Negro called a timeout to set up what proved to be the winning basket.

"Again we lost on a 3 from the right side — the same spot Fish made his shot the other night," Dallas' Jason Kidd said. "The Clippers

See **MAVS**, Page 14

Thames potential security threat for Olympics

PAISLEY DODDS

Associated Press

LONDON — It is Britain's best-known river immortalized in the novels of Charles Dickens, and a waterway once so putrid that it shut Parliament because of its stench.

Now, the River Thames is getting the Olympics treatment as a potential security concern ahead of the games.

London's Marine Policing Unit and Royal Marines are conducting training tests

Thursday to make sure the police and military know how best to work together on the river that snakes some 210 miles (338 kilometers) across England and could give would-be terrorists a foothold for attacks.

Policing the vast territory for the games in July and August won't be easy. The security detail around the Olympics has grown to one that will involve the military and hundreds of security guards.

The tests this week have involved some 44 police officers and 94 military personnel in the run-up to the games, which start July 27th and end Aug. 12th. Exercises have involved patrol vessels, inflatable boats and helicopters.

Some recent terror attacks like the Mumbai shooting spree in 2008 were launched from virtually unpatrolled waterways. Terrorists in the Indian metropolis arrived on small high-speed boats prior

to their deadly attack that killed 166 people.

British authorities want to make sure the same type of attack doesn't happen in London.

Security officials have expressed concerns over would-be attackers using the river as a means of access into the games. But they are also concerned that attacks from the river could be launched against London's financial center, which sits close to the

banks.

Security officials say they worry about scares away from the Olympic Village that could divert resources away from a real attack.

Security has long been a high priority for the Olympics. A terror attack at the 1972 Olympics in Munich killed 11 Israeli athletes and coaches.

And London was the first

See **THAMES**, Page 14

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

There's tension in the air as the sun says goodbye to Capricorn at a meaningful angle to Saturn, otherwise known as Father Time. It's hard to argue with tradition, but argue we do, partly because we realize that the future is up to us. The Sagittarius moon suggests that change is given and expansion is a requirement.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll lead conversations and influence others strongly with your words. You have the power to bring a mood up or down with your chosen topic of conversation.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Misunderstandings and losses will occur if you hurry into anything now. What's the rush? Take your time and do your research. Avoid major financial decisions and risks for the time being.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). All that you need to learn is readily available to you in your current situation. Maybe you think the energy will change if you seek a new position, but it won't. So instead, work your current scene to the best of your ability.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Hone your talents by exploring what captures your interest and quickly move past what doesn't. You'll find friends and group activities especially fun tonight.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your social network could use some attention. It's an excellent time to remember those who have supported you in the past with a kind gesture. Also, make a list of potential future supporters.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). When you like something, you often like it so much that it's hard to keep from selling others on it as well. Perhaps it's about time you made a commission. Consider becoming an affiliate.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It will be very difficult for you to assess your own situation. You need a



HOLIDAY MATHIS

knowledgeable and objective person to give you perspective, tell you where you're going right and what you're doing wrong.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Who you are on the inside will make a certain reality outside of you come into being. Be clear about what you're creating. Feel the energy of what you want your future to be, and you'll naturally begin to move toward it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your desire for greater peace on the subject of relationships will manifest itself in quiet moments of reflection. You'll notice your true feelings with great specificity.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your mind loves to complicate things because unraveling the puzzle keeps you sharp. All the while, you know that you're playing a game and when you want to see the situation in an uncomplicated way, you will.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There are many reasons you should invest in yourself. For one, you deserve it. Also, the world will be a better place because you make personal development a priority.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The difference between being extraordinary and being ordinary is the "extra." You'll push yourself to do more than what's expected. Then suddenly doing more is the new normal.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 19). You'll approach life with new creativity and a gleeful heart. Potential mates and business partners find you attractive in February. March brings the opportunity to put your faith in a loved one, and this person will make you proud. You'll find money in April. Special training in the fall will increase your financial bottom line. Leo and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 14, 39, 20 and 6.

GEMINI YEAR AT A GLANCE 2012

JANUARY: There will be many options on the career front promising you "next level" access. They can't all be right. Take your time in deciding

the right fit. **FEBRUARY:** You'll be focused on self-improvement, but stay involved with loved ones, too. Make sure they know you care. **MARCH:** The full moon on the 8th brings romance, drama and excitement. **APRIL:** Venus amps up your confidence. Taking big risks increases your chances for substantial reward. **MAY:** Have faith and tenacity. What is really yours has always and will always be yours. **JUNE:** It's one of your luckiest months in years. The sun, Venus and Jupiter will all be smiling on you. **JULY:** It's almost unfair how lucky you continue to be in matters of love and money. **AUGUST:** You'll welcome the chance to focus on your professional and financial life. **SEPTEMBER:** You will put something in the world that didn't exist before. **OCTOBER:** You'll take achievement over comfort and stretch into a new role. **NOVEMBER:** The lunar eclipse in your sign on the 28th will cause you to reprioritize. **DECEMBER:** Turn up the heat on your physical fitness goals. Strength training that works your body and mind will get you ready for the challenges ahead.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Famous for being a country music super star and entertainment mogul, many children, all over the world, know Dolly Parton best as the woman who sent them a free book every month from birth to kindergarten. The Dolly Parton Imagination Library distributes more than 2.5 million free books every year. Parton was born with her sun, Mercury and Venus in down-to-earth Capricorn.

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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: I am in a relationship with a widower. He is a thoughtful person and works two jobs. His two adult sons live in his home with their girlfriends.

Neither of the boys pays rent. Nor do they buy groceries or cleaning supplies.

They never offer to take their father out to dinner or do anything special for him. Their father buys their vehicles and pays their insurance.

The house is in shambles. The boys' only responsibility is to take the trash to the dump and mow the yard in the summer.

They do this grudgingly and not very well. The boys show little respect for their father.

They leave beer bottles and dirty dishes all over the kitchen and their shoes, dirty clothes and trash all over the house.

No one cleans a bathroom or vacuums a

floor. They are busy working out, doing what they want with their friends or going out drinking.

One of the girlfriends is always broke and looking for a handout, but she has money to get hammered every weekend.

She doesn't lift a finger around the house and has the nerve to tell my boyfriend what he needs to buy to make her more comfortable.

My boyfriend thinks that this is normal behavior and that I am the one with the problem. He believes it is his responsibility to take care of them, because they don't have "good" jobs that pay a lot of money. He would never kick them out.

We don't live together and never will under these circumstances. My boyfriend reads your column every day.

Will you tell him I'm not the only one who thinks this situation



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

stinks? — Kick 'Em Out!

Dear Kick: Some parents have such soft spots for their children that they become enablers, allowing the kids to postpone adulthood. This is unfortunate for the children. They never learn to support themselves or manage their money and are forever dependent on others to take care of them.

However, these are not your children, and

how your boyfriend chooses to deal with them is only your business if you marry him. Right now, we don't recommend it.

Dear Annie: I have been at my job for more than 20 years and will be retiring soon. Co-workers have been asking whether I would like a party and gifts. I've made it clear that I want absolutely nothing and politely suggested that they donate to the local food bank.

I don't like these people. I will not "keep in touch." I am happy to leave this miserable job. So if they give me a cake or gifts, is it OK to simply express my thanks, or do I have to send a thank-you note?

All gifts will end up in the trash, and I have no intention of participating in any celebration. — New York Grouch

Dear Grouch: Verbal thanks are sufficient for

an office cake or party. If you are given a gift, however, a thank-you note is in order. We think you can manage it, especially because it's likely to be the last communication you will have with these people. It never hurts to depart on a gracious note.

Dear Annie: Our experience as an over-50 couple has been entirely different from that of the couple who were having the problems with intimacy.

When my husband and I retired, we both got back in shape after 40 years behind desks. I felt better and younger than I did at 25.

I took up belly-dancing, and even though I can't seem to make it past the beginner level, my husband thinks it is very sexy.

I try to build up his confidence in the bedroom even when things are less than perfect,

and he does the same for me. We both have loads of fun trying new things, and after this many years, there is absolutely no pressure to perform. Sex after 50 is awesome. — Flirtin' in Florida

Dear Florida: Good for you! We love your attitude.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Annie's Mailbox column. Please email your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 737 3rd Street, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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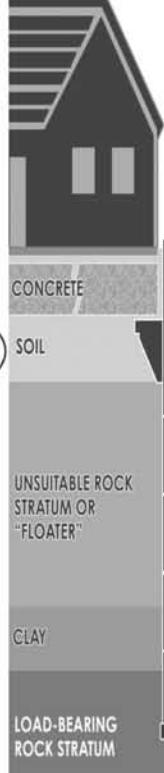
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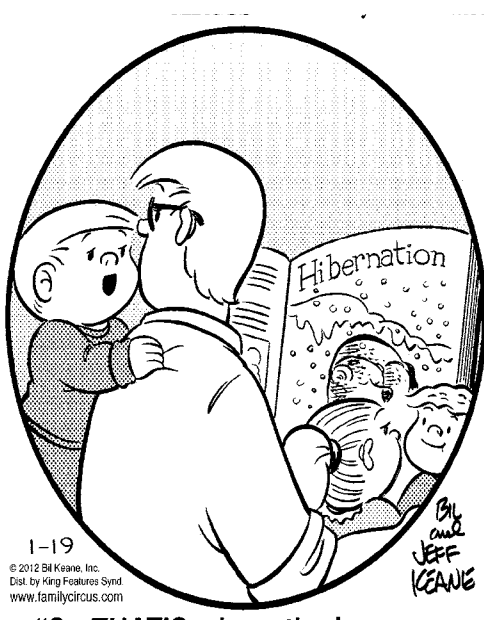
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5:PM	News ABC	Alma Notic.	Big Bang	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News CBS	King King	Israel Dr. Wil	Charlie Rose	Til Death King	Cash Cab	CSI: Miami	Jail	Bones	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Shake It Good	NFL32	SportsCenter
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Una Familia con Suerte (SS)	Two Men Two Men	News CBS	Caso Cer-rado	News CBS	Seinfeld	Chevalme Alan Lee	PBS News-Hour	Seinfeld	Dual Survival	CSI: Miami	Jail	Bones	Movie: Fat Albert	Wizards Austin	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	College Basketball: Teams TBA.
7:PM	Wipeout		American Idol	Big Bang	Una Maid en	30 Rock	Fam. Guy	Upd Sala	Travel	The Vampire Diaries	Dual Survival	Movie: The Fugitive, Sela Ward	Jail	NBA Basketball: Los Angeles Lakers at Miami Heat.	Movie: Roll Bounce, Mike Epps	Wizards Place	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	College Basketball: Teams TBA.
8:PM	Grey's Anatomy	La Que No	The Finder	Person of Interest	Flor Salvaje (SS)	Office All Night	Big Bang	Light of the Southwest	Independent Lens	Cops	Man, Woman,	Jail	IMPACT Wrestling	NBA Basketball: Dallas Mavericks at Utah Jazz.	Wendy Williams	Wizards	2012 Australian Open Tennis: Third Round.	SportsCenter
9:PM	(:02) Private Practice	Dale con Ganas (SS)	Simpsons How I Met	The Mentalist	La Casa de al Lado	The Firm	Big Bang	Conan	Independent Lens	Til Death	Man, Woman,	Jail	NBA Basketball: Dallas Mavericks at Utah Jazz.	Wendy Williams	Wizards	2012 Australian Open Tennis: Third Round.	SportsCenter	
10:PM	News	Impacto	How I Met	News	Noticias Titulares	News	Conan	Dr. Diana Van Impe	Charlie Rose	King	Man, Woman,	Jail	NBA Basketball: Dallas Mavericks at Utah Jazz.	Wendy Williams	Wizards	2012 Australian Open Tennis: Third Round.	SportsCenter	
11:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Hasta-Dinero	Law Order: CI	Late	Sin Senos	Late Night	Office	Scrivner	World	South Pk	Man, Woman,	Jail	NBA Basketball: Dallas Mavericks at Utah Jazz.	Wendy Williams	Wizards	2012 Australian Open Tennis: Third Round.	SportsCenter	
12:AM	Extra	Mañana-Siempre	Raymond Fam. Guy	Insider	Decisions (SS)	Late Night	Office	Moving for Christ	T. Smiley (Off Air)	Roseanne	Dual Survival	Jail	NBA Basketball: Dallas Mavericks at Utah Jazz.	Wendy Williams	Wizards	2012 Australian Open Tennis: Third Round.	SportsCenter	
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DENNIS THE MENACE



"HE TOLD HIS TEACHER NOT TO SEND ME ANY MORE NOTES BECAUSE I CAN'T READ."

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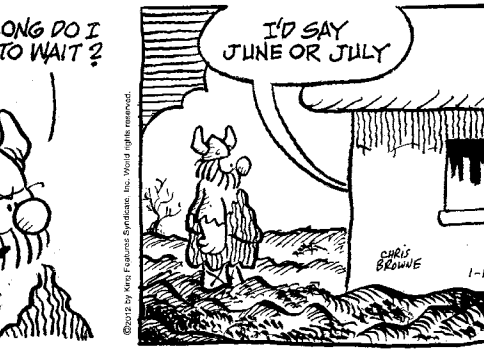


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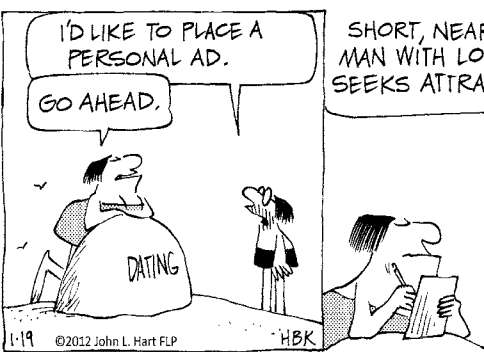
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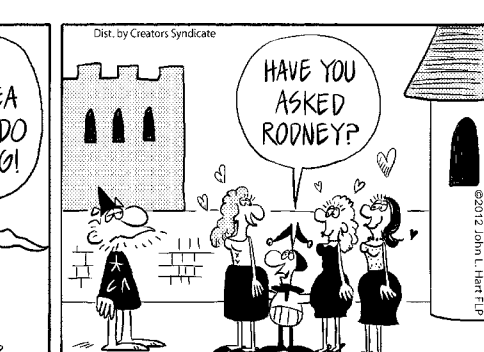
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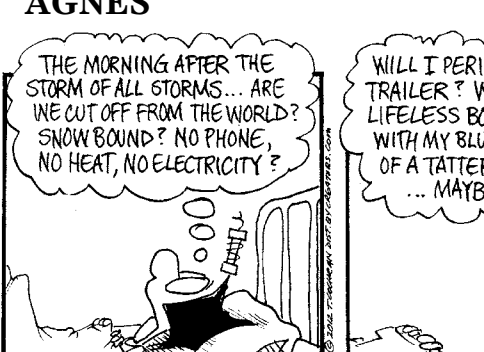
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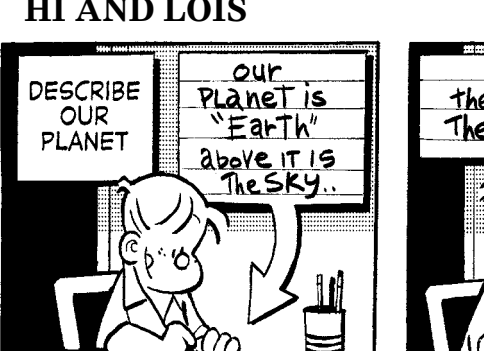
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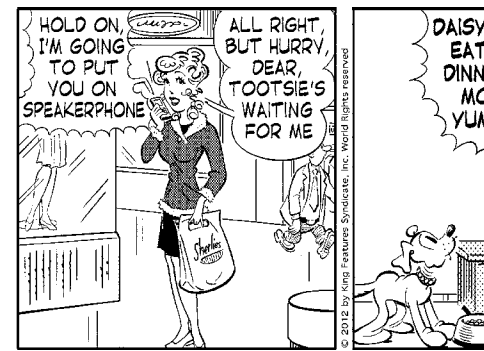
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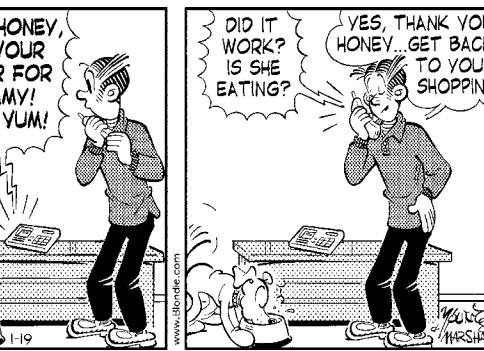
BEETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



BLONDIE



This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Jan. 19, the 19th day of 2012. There are 347 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 19, 1862, Union forces won a victory over the Confederates in the Civil War Battle of Mill Springs in southeastern Kentucky.

On this date:

In 1807, Confederate general Robert E. Lee was born in Westmoreland County, Va.

In 1853, Giuseppe Verdi's opera "Il Trovatore" premiered in Rome.

In 1861, Georgia became the fifth state to secede from the Union.

In 1937, millionaire Howard Hughes set a transcontinental air record by flying his monoplane from Los Angeles to Newark, N.J., in 7 hours, 28 minutes and 25 seconds.

In 1942, during World War II, Japan invaded Burma (Myanmar).

In 1955, a presidential news

conference was filmed for television for the first time, with the permission of President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

In 1960, the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between Japan and the United States of America was signed by both countries in Washington, D.C.

In 1966, Indira Gandhi was elected prime minister of India.

In 1970, President Richard M. Nixon nominated G. Harrold Carswell to the Supreme Court; however, the nomination was defeated because of controversy over Carswell's past racial views.

In 1977, in one of his last acts of office, President Gerald R. Ford pardoned Iva Toguri D'Aquino, an American convicted of treason for making wartime broadcasts for Japan.

In 1981, the United States and Iran signed an accord paving the way for the release of 52 Americans held hostage for more than 14 months.

In 1992, German government and Jewish officials dedicated a Holocaust memorial at the suburban Berlin villa where the notorious Wannsee Conference had taken place.

Today's Birthdays: Former U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar is 92. Actress Jean Stapleton is 89. Actor Fritz Weaver is 86. Actress Tippi Hedren is 82. Former PBS newsman Robert MacNeil is 81. Movie director Richard Lester is 80. Singer Phil Everly is 73. Actor-singer Michael Crawford is 70. Actress Shelley Fabares is 68. Country singer Dolly Parton is 66. ABC newswoman Ann Compton is 65. TV chef Paula Deen is 65. Rock singer Martha Davis is 61. Singer Dewey Bunnell (America) is 60. Actor Desi Arnaz Jr. is 59. Actress Katey Sagal is 58. Comedian Paul Rodriguez is 57. Conductor Sir Simon Rattle is 57.

Answer to previous puzzle

ELBOW	HATS	BVDS
TORAH	ICON	RARE
ANITA	TALL	IRON
LIGHT	TRAIL	EGYPT
LES	SHAH	
SLOW	LANE	OTTAWA
WITH	LAX	WETBAR
ATTIC	GAL	NAIVE
THETAB	MOB	IDEA
SERENE	SPOTLESS	
WOES	SOW	
CACHE	WRITEMAIL	
HULA	READ	PREEN
ORAL	EAVE	RISE
PANE	FRED	SEWED

Newsday Crossword

REST ASSURED by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 ___ and aahs
 - 5 Mineral springs
 - 9 Gin flavoring
 - 13 Posture problem
 - 15 Eat like a bird
 - 16 Furnace output
 - 17 Physician's pledge
 - 20 "In my opinion . . ."
 - 21 Wall of sandbags, maybe
 - 22 Heavy weight
 - 23 Letter after upsilon
 - 25 Mess up
 - 26 Italian auto
 - 30 Response to a bad pun
 - 32 Fancy ties
 - 35 Give off
 - 36 Séance sound
 - 39 Word of some candidates
 - 42 Watch closely
 - 43 Alum
 - 44 Become suddenly aware
 - 45 Feel the presence of
 - 47 Curb, with "in"
 - 48 Links tour org.
 - 51 Hulk director Lee
 - 52 Cancels, with "out"
 - 55 Befitting a monarch
 - 57 Like some grins
 - 62 Appliance purchase incentive
 - 65 Zilch
 - 66 Be hopping mad
 - 67 Across-the-board
- DOWN**
- 1 Dept. of Labor arm
 - 2 Elevator pioneer
 - 3 Arizona Indian
 - 4 Absorbs, with "up"
 - 5 Pogo-stick part
 - 6 Fuel source from bogs
 - 7 Take steps
 - 8 Snowboard cousin
 - 9 Loafer or mule
 - 10 Hit the road
 - 11 Horse opera
 - 12 Old anesthetic
 - 14 Coffeehouse performer
 - 18 Boardroom bigwig
 - 19 Obama cabinet member
 - 23 Splendor
 - 24 What nitpickers split
 - 26 Look directly at
 - 27 Exeter exclamation
 - 28 High point
 - 29 High point
 - 31 Tears to shreds
 - 33 Weekend classified listing
 - 34 Ambulance sound
 - 36 Ready to pluck
 - 37 Italian wine region
 - 38 Lowly worker
 - 40 Group of buddies
 - 41 Scratch up
 - 46 Sigh, for example
 - 48 Lying face-down
 - 49 Hometown of Columbus
 - 50 Insurance seller
 - 53 Always, in verse
 - 54 Balkan native
 - 56 Roll-call votes
 - 57 Drink from a flask
 - 58 Prefix for legal
 - 59 A party to
 - 60 Doctor's "Now!"
 - 61 Literary alter ego
 - 63 Grandpa Simpson
 - 64 Curtain support

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
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68													70

In brief

Premont ISD cancels sports to focus on academics

PREMONT (AP) — An academically struggling South Texas school district has decided to cancel student sports and use the money for improving education.

Trustees of the Premont (PREE'-mahnt) Independent School District last week signed an agreement with the Texas Education Agency allowing the underperforming district to stay open through December.

Premont is a town of nearly 2,700, located 65 miles southwest of Corpus Christi. The district has about 700 students.

The Corpus Christi Caller-Times reported Wednesday that Premont in 2011 earned the state's lowest rating, of unacceptable, for the second time in three years.

Superintendent Ernest Singleton says the ban on athletics will start following the end of the basketball season.

He says the district should save \$50,000 this spring by dropping sports and using the money for two new science labs.

TCU starts shaky in 101-78 loss to No. 14 UNLV

LAS VEGAS (AP) — TCU's shot at contending with No. 14 UNLV on Wednesday night was gone moments after the opening tip.

The Runnin' Rebels scurried to an 18-2 lead, and the Horned Frogs failed to get closer than 13 points in a 101-78 loss Wednesday night.

"The start of the game was a lack of focus on our side — we could have done a little better," said Kyan Anderson, who led TCU with 20 points. "They got out in transition, especially (Mike) Moser and (Chace) Stanback."

TCU coach Jim Christian said he takes full blame for the loss.

"We did some good things offensively," he said. The Horned Frogs' output was below its season

average of 89 points heading into the contest.

"We need to take care of the basketball," Christian said.

Anthony Marshall had a career-high 27 points — besting the 26 he scored at then-No. 22 San Diego State on Saturday — and nine assists and three blocks in the Rebels' Mountain West home opener.

"Anthony Marshall may be playing better than any guard in America," UNLV coach Dave Rice said.

"Right now, I'm feeling pretty confident," Marshall said. "Credit goes to my teammates — they're letting me in the lane and creating."

Moser added 16 points and 15 rebounds.

Waltrip headlines NASCAR's third Hall of Fame class

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Darrell Waltrip has made a living from running his mouth, with a trash-talking style that helped him become a NASCAR superstar and led to a second career as a television analyst.

Now the three-time champion is headed into NASCAR's Hall of Fame.

And he's at a loss for words.

Waltrip says he's struggled through 10 versions of a prepared speech for Friday night's induction ceremony.

He finally gave up and plans to wing it.

Waltrip is the headliner of the five-member class. He'll be inducted with Cale Yarborough, crew chief Dale Inman, modified driver Richie Evans and NASCAR pioneer Glenn Wood.

It's the third class for NASCAR's Hall, and many believed Waltrip's polarizing personality caused voters to overlook him last year.

Report: PSU fired Paterno over lack of action

NEW YORK (AP) — Penn State's trustees agonized over the future of legendary football coach Joe Paterno but ultimately decided to fire the Hall

of Famer in part over what they said was his failure to go to authorities with a report of alleged sexual assault of a child by an assistant coach nearly a decade ago, according to a report published Thursday in The New York Times.

Some of the 13 trustees interviewed by the Times said they were also troubled by Paterno greeting fans and supporters on his front lawn — and leading them in school cheers — just after the release of a scathing grand jury report detailing child sex abuse allegations against retired assistant coach Jerry Sandusky.

The trustees said they were also concerned about Paterno's ability to lead the team during the scandal that also resulted in the ouster of university President Graham Spanier, but most jarring was the feeling the coach had failed to do enough after learning of a 2002 incident involving Sandusky and a boy in an on-campus shower.

"Every adult has a responsibility for every other child in our community. ... We have a responsibility for ensuring that we can take every effort that's within our power not only to prevent further harm to that child, but to every other child," said trustee Kenneth Frazier.

Manning misses practice with stomach illness

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — New York Giants quarterback Eli Manning missed part of Wednesday's practice session with an illness that coach Tom Coughlin called "a stomach bug, hopefully a 24-hour deal."

Manning was placed on the Giants' injury report for the first time this season as a limited participant in practice, though he missed the majority of it. The team is preparing to play the San Francisco 49ers on Sunday for the NFC championship.

"If there is one guy who can miss a practice Wednesday mentally, it's No. 10," guard Chris Snee said of Manning, who has had his best pro season. "He was probably in here on Monday and Tuesday looking at film."

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MAVS

Continued from Page 8

drew up a good play. We knew Billups and Griffin were going to have the ball at some point, and Billups made the shot. We were in a position to win the game, and we just couldn't get a stop.

"We must lead the league in last-second shots made by our opponents, so we've got to figure out a way to close the door," Kidd added. "We left it open, but there were a lot of plays that led to that just to get us back in the ballgame. And those two shots Jason Terry made were huge."

Nowitzki and Delonte West each scored 17 points for Dallas. Kidd, playing his third game after missing the previous four because of back spasms, played 15 scoreless minutes in the first half and finished with five points and 10 assists.

The 17-year veteran was 1 for 9 from the field against the Lakers, including 0 for 8 from 3-point range.

Terry made his only two 3-point baskets of the game in the final 37 seconds, the second coming with 5 seconds to play after losing Jordan on a switch and getting himself all alone at the top of the lane.

DARVISH

Continued from Page 8

and completed a physical.

On his website, Darvish posted a note acknowledging his new team, which anticipates a Friday night news conference to formally introduce him.

Darvish's deal surpasses what Daisuke Matsuzaka got when he left Japan and signed with the Boston Red Sox in December 2006. Dice-K got a \$52 million, six-year deal and the Red Sox paid a \$51.111 million posting fee that was the previous high

for a Japanese player.

Matsuzaka is 49-30 with a 4.25 ERA in 106 games (105 starts) over five seasons in Boston since his high-profile move from the Seibu Lions when he was 26. He missed most of last season after right elbow surgery and is going into the final year of his contract, worth about \$10 million.

When Ichiro Suzuki used the posting system in 2000 to get to the majors, the Seattle Mariners won the right to negotiate with a bid of about \$13 million, then signed the outfielder to a \$14 million, three-year contract.

Daniels described the

move as a "step-out deal" for the Rangers, and said negotiations were never contentious. He said there were good reasons for wanting a six-year deal.

"You tend to look at things a little differently when you look at somebody that age and the years of the deal take him into his prime," Daniels said. "And secondly, with the nature of the posting process and the size of the post, size of our bid, it made sense to amortize it out over a longer period."

Darvish, the son of an Iranian father and a Japanese mother, went 18-6 last season in Japan with a 1.44 ERA.

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THAMES

Continued from Page 8

European capital to be struck by suicide bombers in 2005 — the day after the city won its bid to host the games. Some 52 commuters were killed during the rush-hour attack in July 2005.

Chris Allison, the national Olympic security coordinator, has said the Thames is a key part of security preparations.

About 12,000 police officers will also be on duty on the busiest days of the games — together up to 13,500 troops

deployed on land, at sea and in the skies.

A huge presence of private security guards will also safeguard Olympic venues.

The Thames is a less than enticing vantage point for the Olympics — even for would-be attackers.

Although it has been cleaned up since the "Great Stink" of 1858 that forced the House of Commons to stay at home, its muddy reputation precedes itself. Comedian David Walliams battled diarrhea after doing a charity swim along the River Thames last year.

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