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Candidate filing period not making much noise

By **AMANDA MORENO**
 Staff Writer
 School board elections are on the horizon for area districts, including Big Spring, Coahoma, Forsan, Stanton, Sands and Grady. Glasscock County ISD will not be holding school board elections until November. Candidate filing began Tuesday throughout the Crossroads, but districts re-

port little activity. Sands ISD has three at-large positions up for election this year. Currently, Tommy Staggs, Amy Parker and Bill Barnes hold the positions. According to Sands ISD business manager Chris Gaskins, there has only been one person filing for the at-large positions. Michael Wigginton is the lone candidate. For those wanting to throw

their name in the hat, filing can be done at the Sands ISD business office through March 5. Early voting will begin April 30 and will also take place at the high school business office. Coahoma ISD has three at-large positions also up for grabs. Board President Brian Moore, Jody Reid and

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U.S. Army/AP photo
Army Spc. Monica Brown, a medic from the 782nd Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, in Khost, Afghanistan, earned the Silver Star medal for her gallant actions in combat.

How does your garden grow? Master Gardeners set classes

By **AMANDA MORENO**
 Staff Writer
 For those who want to be a Master Gardener, the chance is coming. The first class of the year will take place from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Feb. 21 in Horace Garrett Building Room 204 at Howard College for those wanting to receive certification to be a Master Gardener. "They have the opportunity to register until the beginning of the class, but if they miss the first class they will have to wait until next year's sessions," Walter Ward, Howard County Master Gar-

deners president, said. Registration for the classes is \$150, with \$50 being refundable after the required community service has been completed. In order to complete the requirements, participants must attend the 17 classes — which will wrap up in June — provided in the session, which includes 50 hours of training and 50 hours of community service. "Anyone wanting to become a part of the Master Gardeners or become a certified Master Gardener is welcome to attend the classes," Ward said. This year, the class will not only be held in a different place — Howard College rather than the county library — but will be venturing into distance learning. "The Howard County Mas-



Ward

ter Gardeners are the first to utilize distance learning for the sessions," Ward said. "It is better for the instructors and helps with cost and it's greener." Some of the topics discussed in the sessions will include soil and fertility, plant science, trees and vegetables and landscape design. The local organization has 22 members and has been active since 2000. According to Ward, the goal of the group is to enhance knowledge of horticulture in the area. "Our goal is to beautify the locale and state, with an emphasis on Howard County," Ward said. To register in advance or to find out more information, contact Ward at 432-466-4138 or Julie Coates at 432-213-6553.

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



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What makes your sweetheart so sweet?

To find out, go to www.bigspringherald.com and look to the right of the masthead.

Necklace flushed down toilet returned

SAN RAFAEL, Calif. (AP) — A California woman has her gold necklace back months after she accidentally flushed it down her toilet. San Rafael sanitation district employees were performing routine cleaning work on a pipeline last month when they came across Ann Aulakh's necklace. Aulakh's friend had left a message with the district after the chain was lost. Sewer Maintenance Supervisor Kris Ozaki said workers remembered the message and used it to trace the necklace back to Aulakh. A worker dropped it off at her home. Aulakh said the necklace was a gift from her husband on their first Christmas together in 1993. She said she was convinced it was gone for good.

Pentagon rules shift on women to front lines

By **LOLITA C. BALDOR**
 Associated Press
 WASHINGTON — Pentagon rules are catching up a bit with reality after a decade when women in the U.S. military have served, fought and died on the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Today, the Pentagon is recommending to Congress that women be allowed to serve in more jobs closer to the front lines. The change would open up about 14,000 additional jobs to women. According to defense officials, the new rules are expected to continue the long-held prohibition that prevents women from serving as infantry, armor and special operations forces. But they will formally allow women to serve in other jobs at the battalion level, which until now had been considered too close to combat. In reality, however, the necessities of war have already propelled women to the front lines — often as medics, military police or intelligence officers. So, while a woman

couldn't be assigned as an infantryman in a battalion or in a company going out on patrol, she could fly the helicopter supporting the unit, or move in to provide medical aid if troops were injured. The officials said the new rules will formally allow women to be assigned to a battalion and serve in jobs such as medics, intelligence officers, police or communications officers. The changes would have the greatest effect on the Army and Marine Corps, which ban women from more jobs than the Navy and Air Force do, largely because of the infantry positions. Defense officials spoke about the report on condition of anonymity because it had not yet been publicly released. Though numbers vary by service branch, women make up more than 14 percent of the nation's armed forces — that's 200,000 women in the active duty force of 1.43 million. There long has been opposition to putting them in

See **COMBAT**, Page 3A

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LeRoy Headrick



LeRoy Headrick, 87, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2012, in a local nursing home. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11, 2012, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Walter McCall officiating. Entombment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park Mausoleum.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 10, 2012, at the funeral home.

He was born Aug. 10, 1924, in Seward County, Kan., and married Emma Jane Wallace on Aug. 28, 1943, in Montezuma, Kan.

LeRoy served in the U.S. Navy from April 1944 until March 1946 and was honorably discharged as an aviation ordnance-man third class.

He farmed in the Plains, Meade County, Kan., area for several years and worked in the oil fields in Meade, Seward and Morton counties in Kansas and in the Oklahoma panhandle. LeRoy worked for Coastal Oil for 28 years, retiring in 1986 as a production foreman. He moved to Howard County in 1968. He loved to bowl and was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

He was Past Master and 50 year member of Masonic Lodge #367 in Plains, Kan., was Past Patron and 50 year member of the Eastern Star #444 in Plains, Kan., and was also a life member of the Liberal Eastern Star #104. He was a member of First United Methodist Church of Coahoma.

Survivors include his wife, Jane Headrick of Big Spring; four sons, Wayne Headrick and wife Barbara of North Las Vegas, Nev., Wallace Headrick of Guymon, Okla., Gary Headrick and wife Janet of Rago, Kan., and Robin Headrick and wife Lorraine of Friendswood; two daughters, Becky Rau and husband Sid of Big Spring and Melanie Ussery and husband Jimmy Sherrod of Garden City, Texas; 13 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; two brothers, Raymond Headrick and wife Lela of Garden City, Kan., and Larry Headrick and wife Barbara of Wichita, Kan.; and one sister, Kay Clodfelter and husband Dannie of Meade, Kan.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one brother, Gary Headrick; one granddaughter, Melissa Ussery; and one great-grandson, Andrew Dickens.

The family suggests memorials be made to Compass Hospice, 1003 E. FM 700, Big Spring, TX 79720; or to Kansas Masonic Home, 401 S. Seneca, Wichita, Kan. 67213.

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

Paid obituary

Aubrey Dale Armistead

Aubrey Dale Armistead, 78, native son of Big Spring, Texas, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2012, in Houston, Texas, surrounded by his loving family.

Aubrey was born in Big Spring on March 16, 1933, of Jesse Carrol and Ruby Hazel Armistead, Daniel and Dora Armistead of Big Spring and Aubrey Aquilla and Lela Long of Rising Star, Texas. Aubrey, his brother J.C. and sister, Betty, attended Big Spring High School. Aubrey was a member of the Church of Christ and long-time employee of Cosden Oil and Chemical Co.

After moving to Houston, he continued working as an engineer in the petrochemical industry, retiring from Bechtel Engineering. Throughout his career, Aubrey, along with his wife of 60 years, Mary Jane Collins Armistead, enjoyed working in Kuwait after Operation Desert Storm; Paris, France; Singapore; Chicago; West Virginia; and on the Alaskan pipeline.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Jane; four children, John Armistead of Arkansas, Sheela Armistead of Virginia, Jesse Armistead of Houston and Jane and spouse Steven Edwards and two grandchildren Sarah and Laura Edwards of Houston; one great-granddaughter, Haley Dalton of Pflugerville; his brother, J.C. Armistead of Fort Worth; his sister, Betty Weber of Arnold, Mo.; and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held at the Vanderveer Church of Christ in Burnet, Texas, on Friday, Feb. 10 at 1 p.m. and burial at Lakeland Hills Memorial Park at 2:30 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Diabetes Association (diabetes.org), Cherokee Home for Children (chc4kids.com) or your favorite charity.

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Obituaries

Jimmy Lee Newsom



Jimmy Lee Newsom, 80, went home to Heaven on Feb. 7, 2012. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 10, 2012, at Trinity Baptist Church with Dr. Randy Cotton and the Rev. Wade Cobb, nephew, officiating.

The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 9, 2012, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

Jimmy was born Jan. 1, 1932, in Brownfield, Texas. He graduated from Big Spring High School in 1950 and entered the U.S. Air Force, where he served from 1950 until 1954. In 1953, he married Georgie Harrison, his wife of 58 years. He then attended Howard College.

During his life, Jimmy co-owned Newsom-Shaffer Construction, raised cotton and retired from Fina. He also played an active part in helping the Big Spring community, volunteering with Christmas in April, Meals on Wheels, Festival of Lights and Keep Big Spring Beautiful. He was awarded the "Paul Harris" award by the Rotary Club, one of the organization's highest honors.

Jimmy was also a dedicated member of his church. He served as a deacon at Trinity Baptist Church for 38 years. He also spent many years teaching in the Junior High Sunday School Department.

Though he loved and played all sports, he was an avid golfer. He won the Big Spring City Championship several years and he had 10 hole-in-ones on record. He had many golfing friends, and often played with his family.

Survivors include his wife, Georgie Newsom of Big Spring; daughter, Tammy DePauw and husband Jim DePauw of Big Spring; son, Jimmy Newsom Jr. and wife Irene Newsom of Big Spring; three granddaughters, Alex Newsom of Lubbock, Regan Newsom of Lubbock and Darby DePauw of Big Spring; three sisters, Nancy Phernetton and husband Gus Phernetton of Big Spring, Pennie Leimire and husband Clay Leimire of North Highland, Calif., Marilyn Grigg and husband Walter Grigg of Houston; three brothers, Bob Newsom and wife Donna Newsom of Midland, Donald Newsom and wife Kay Newsom of Amarillo and Tommy Newsom and wife Sherry Newsom of Big Spring; four step-grandchildren, Branden Halfmann of Ballinger, Katelin Steadman of Midland, Callie Williams of Big Spring and Tara Williams of Abilene; and finally by many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Welcoming him to Heaven will be his parents, Evelyn and R.L. Newsom; brother, Kenneth Newsom; sister, Juanita Adams and her husband, Bill Adams; and granddaughter, Dorre DePauw.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials to Trinity Baptist Church Mission Fund, P.O. Box 1448, Big Spring, TX 79721, or to a charity of your choice.

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

Paid obituary

Support Groups

THURSDAY

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

• Spring Tabernacle Ministries has a faith-based support group for those who need help finding and continuing to walk down the path God has for each of us. Meetings are at 11 a.m. until noon and again at 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.. The classes take place at Spring Tabernacle Ministries, located at 1209 Wright St.

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- Certified Public Accountant



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501 Gregg St.
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Police blotter

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

• MARCUS ARMENDAREZ, 48, of 1008 N. Gregg St., was arrested Wednesday on charges of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less and possession of drug paraphernalia.

• ANGELA MARIE ROBINSON, 29, of 1600 S. Nolan, was arrested Wednesday on a warrant for tattoos prohibited for persons under 18 years of age.

• MARTY WAYNE HUCKABEE, 31, of 1309 Wright St., was arrested Wednesday on warrants for driving without being secured by a safety belt and failure to appear (three counts).

• GIORGIO ALEXANDER TAYLOR, 21, of 1308 Wright St., was arrested Wednesday on a warrant from another agency.

• MONICA RENAEPOLK, 37, of 1103 W. University in Odessa, was arrested Wednesday on warrants for assault by contact and failure to identify – giving false information.

• TERRANCE LASHON ESSIX, 39, of 1304 Ridgeroad, was arrested Wednesday on two warrants from other agencies.

• TRACIE ANN LEE-MERCER, 28, of 3117 W. Illinois in Midland, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance and a warrant from another agency.

• STEVEN VALENCIA GAMBOA, 28, of 506 N. Nolan St., was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.

• SHANNON LOUISE BEELER, 32, of 1418 Stadium St., was arrested Wednesday on warrants for accumulated items/weeds/rubbish (two counts).

• BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported: In the 300 block of W. 19th Street.

In the 100 E. 17th Street.

In the 2200 block of Johnson Street.

In the 2100 block of Runnels.

• THEFT was reported in the 100 block of Richardson.

Sheriff

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

Note – Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 60 inmates at the time of this report.

• ANGELA MARIE LEATON, 29, was booked into the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of tattoo/body piercing regulation requirement.

• MARTY WAYNE HUCKABEE, 31, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a motion to adjudicate guilt on a charge of possession of a controlled substance, a charge of possession of a controlled substance and municipal warrants for no seat belt – driver, failure to appear (two counts and violation of a promise to appear).

• SHANNON LOUISE BEELER, 32, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on municipal capias warrants for weedy lot – first offense and accumulated items – first offense.

• GEORGIO ALEXANDER TAYLOR, 21, was booked into the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal trespass.

See SHERIFF, Page 3A

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Take Note

- Hangar 25 Air Museum is hosting a patch workshop for kids Feb. 18 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Registration is \$4 per child. To register, call the Hangar at 264-1999.
- Mobile Meals is in need of volunteer delivery drivers. If you can donate one hour per week to help deliver meals to the elderly, call Macaria Cantu at 263-4016.
- 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,

FILING

Continued from Page 1A

Alan Wright are incumbents in those positions. According to Judy Dobbs, assistant to the superintendent, there has not been anyone file

for the open positions. Forms can be picked up at the Coahoma ISD administration office. Early voting will begin April 30 in the Howard County Courthouse.

Big Spring ISD has three positions open. Those seats are three-year terms for District

questions and answers, call Richard "Indio" Lesser at 432-935-0125 or Connie Lesser at 432-816-6772.

- Spring Tabernacle Ministries, 1209 Wright St., has a brief, inspirational message before giving away food and clothing on Thursday mornings. It's a great way to work off community service and get help, too. Be there at 9 a.m.-11 a.m. and get two for one plus a rehab meeting.
- American Cancer Society will have its board meetings at noon on the second Tuesday of the month through April. Lunch will be furnished. Meetings will take place at Home Hospice, located at 111 E. Seventh.
- Home Hospice is seeking volunteers. Training will be provided and geared to your time frame. Volunteers are needed for in office duties as well as sitters, deliveries and crafts. To find out more in-

formation or to volunteer contact Sherry Hodnett at Home Hospice by calling 264-7599.

- The Salvation Army is holding its heater drive and is in need of heaters. Community members can donate new or used heaters. Monetary donations are also welcomed. Donations can be made at the main office, located at 811 W. Fifth St., Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- The Homeownership Preservation Foundation (HPF) is an independent national nonprofit dedicated to helping distressed homeowners navigate financial challenges and avoid mortgage foreclosure. If you are in need of foreclosure help, the time to call 888-995-HOPE is now.

Obituaries

Marty Lane Nixon

Marty Lane Nixon of Denton, Texas, passed away at his residence after a long illness Saturday, Feb. 4, 2012. He was 47 years old.

Marty was born Sept. 8, 1964, in Big Spring, Texas. He enjoyed cooking, working in the yard and building things.

A visitation will be held from 2 p.m. until 3 p.m. Friday, Feb. 10, 2012, at Denton Funeral Home. A graveside service will directly follow at 3:30 p.m. at Sanger Cemetery in Sanger, Texas.

Survivors include his mother, Faye Jacobson of Denton; son, Justin Michael Nixon of Denton; twin brother, Michael Shane Nixon of Denton; brothers, David Buchanan of Big Spring, Texas, and Joseph Patrick Nixon Jr. of Allen, Texas; sister, Teresa Mehmken of Parker, Texas; and numerous nephews, nieces, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Joseph Patrick Nixon.

Services are under the direction of Denton Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Paid obituary

Gail Whitney Legg



Gail Whitney Legg, 94, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2012, at Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Graveside services will be held at 10 a.m. Friday at Trinity Memorial Park Peace Chapel.

She was born Nov. 19, 1917, in Denison, Texas, to Loy Grace and George W. Whitney. She graduated from St. Xavier Academy and Our Lady of Victory College in Fort Worth, Texas. She came to Big Spring in 1933 from Ft. Worth.

She was a professional musician, having played the accordion, piano and organ. She taught music for many years in Big Spring. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church.

She is survived by one son, Bill Bonner of Austin.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Lonnie Legg on June 21, 2001; and a brother, George Whitney Jr.

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

Federico 'Fred' Salgado

Federico "Fred" Salgado, 62, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2012, at his niece's residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Bob G. Hicks

Bob G. Hicks, 72, of Coahoma died Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2012, at his residence. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

COMBAT

Continued from Page 1A

combat, based on questions of whether women have the necessary strength and stamina, or whether their presence might hurt unit cohesion. There also have been suggestions that the American public would not tolerate large numbers of women coming home from war in body bags.

But the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, where battlefield lines are scattered and blurred, and insurgents can be around every corner, have made it almost impossible to keep women clear of combat. Some 280,000 women have been sent to Iraq, Afghanistan or to jobs in neighboring nations in support of the wars, roughly 12 percent of all those who have served there. Of the more than 6,300 who have been killed, 144 were women.

Retired Army Lt. Col. Robert Maginnis, speaking from his home in Virginia, said he doesn't see how the new policy helps the national secu-

rity of the country.

"This does not dismiss the sexual tension issues, nor does it dismiss the differences physiologically between men and women in terms of cardiovascular fitness," Maginnis said.

The Service Women's Action Network's response was mixed.

"On the plus side, this is a huge step in the right direction," said Anu Bhagwati, former Marine Corps captain and executive director of the network. However, she said it was "extremely disappointing" that the ban would continue on women becoming infantry.

"To continue such a ban is to ignore the talents and leadership that women bring to the military, and it further penalizes servicewomen by denying them the opportunity for future promotions and assignments that are primarily given to personnel from combat arms specialties."

"It's time military leadership establish the same level playing field to qualified women to enter the infantry, special forces and other all-male units," Bhagwati said.

The Pentagon report, which initially was due out last spring, comes nearly a year after an independent panel called for the military to lift its ban on women in combat. The Military Leadership Diversity Commission said the Pentagon should phase in additional career fields and units that women could be assigned to as long as they are qualified.

A 1994 combat exclusion policy bans women from being assigned to ground combat units below the brigade level. A brigade is roughly 3,500 troops and is made up of battalions, which can be about 800 soldiers.

So while a woman serving as a communications or intelligence officer can be formally assigned to a brigade, she can't be assigned to the smaller battalion. The military has gotten

2, held by Maria Padilla and District 4, held by Tony Kennedy, and a one-year unexpired term in District 3, held by Ken McIntosh. Early voting will begin April 30, with the location yet to be announced.

No information was

available this morning from officials with the Forsan, Grady or Stanton ISDs.

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

around those rules by "attaching" women in those jobs to battalions, which meant they could do the work but not get the credit for being in combat arms.

And since service in combat gives troops an advantage for promotions and job opportunities, it has been more difficult for women to move to the higher ranks.

While the new rules won't open up the Navy SEALs or the Army Delta Force to women, some defense officials have said the military may eventually be open to that. Former Defense Secretary Robert Gates told North Carolina ROTC students in 2010

that at some point there would be careful steps in that direction.

Already, however, women are serving with special operations forces in support jobs such as intelligence analysts, legal specialists, builders and administration assistants.

In a new program gaining popularity in Afghanistan, women are serving on so-called cultural support teams that go out with commando units. The women on the teams are used to do things that would be awkward or impossible for their male teammates, such as talking to or frisking burqa-clad women.

SHERIFF

Continued from Page 2A

- JASON PAUL NORRIS, 40, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for driving while intoxicated - third or more offense.
- TERRANCE LASHON ESSIX, 39, was booked into the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on Tarrant County warrants for delivery of a controlled substance and conspiracy to distribute cocaine.
- TRACIE LEE MERCER, 28, was booked into the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance and an Ector County warrant for theft by check.
- MONICA R. POLK, 37, was booked into the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of failure to identify - giving false information and a municipal warrant for assault by contact.
- STEVEN GAMBOA, 28, was booked into the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of S. Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2000 block of Rickabaugh Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 800 block of Andre. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1600 block of Nolan. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported in the area of Interstate Highway 20 East. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 700 block of W. Interstate Highway 20. One person was transported to SMMC.

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Gail Whitney Legg, 94, died Tuesday. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. tonight at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. Friday at Trinity Memorial Park Peace Chapel.

Federico "Fred" Salgado, 62, died Wednesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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AN ENCOURAGING WORD

By Eddy Pitchford

Community Love Feast
Coahoma Church of Christ Fellowship Hall
February 11, 2012
11:30 - 1:30 P.M.
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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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'Hatred' driven

Some men grow in office, and others just swell.

Sam Rayburn said it, and Newt Gingrich proves it. During his 20 years in Congress, Gingrich swelled from a conservative pioneer to a disgraced speaker of the House. In resigning both his speakership and House seat, Gingrich said in 1998, "I'm willing to lead, but I'm not willing to preside over people who are cannibals."

The "cannibals" of whom Gingrich was speaking, by the way, were his fellow Republicans.

Now Gingrich seeks the Republican nomination for the presidency, displaying the same qualities he has shown previously: venom, vitriol, vengeance and vanity.

The one v-word that is almost certain to escape him is victory.

Yet Gingrich is fun to watch, in the same way buildings are fun to watch when they get blown up and collapse in slow motion. He is good TV. The race would be duller without him.

And he remains a pioneer. Most candidates simply make victory or concession speeches after an election contest. But after the Nevada caucuses on Saturday, Gingrich decided to hold a self-destructive news conference instead.

Beaten by Romney by an incredible 29 percentage points (a 10 percentage point victory is considered a landslide), Gingrich decided that he had not lost because he had run a very sloppy campaign — he missed a scheduled meeting with the state's popular governor, he made few appearances, and he seemed disconnected from the outside world — but because of his evil archenemy, Mitt Romney.

Gingrich said he had lost because Romney was "fundamentally dishonest." Further, Romney is "pro-abortion, pro-gun control and pro-tax increase" and doesn't believe in Newt's plan for the poor to "turn the safety net into a trampoline." (I am guessing Newt has never been on a real trampoline. On a trampoline, you go up and then you come down. Is that what the poor need?)

Newt could have delivered a prepared speech, but he decided to wing it, instead. As a result, even when he tried to be positive, his rhetoric was incredibly mushy.

"Our commitment is to seek to find a series of victories which by the end of the Texas primary will leave us about at parity with Gov. Romney," Gingrich said, "and from that point forward to see if we can actually win the nomination."

To seek to find? To see if we can actually win? Wow. That ought to fire up the troops. (Not that there are many troops, another problem Gingrich has besides archenemies.)

Then Gingrich turned on Barack Obama, but not by presenting a superior jobs or economic plan to help the middle class.

"The Obama administration has declared war on religious freedom in this country," Gingrich said. "As the average American comes to understand that, they will be repulsed by the arrogance and anti-religious bigotry of the Obama administration."

Gingrich believes this is why he would make a better nominee than Romney, whom he denounces as "timid." Gingrich believes that the "average American" wants over-the-top, scorched-earth attacks, and this is why he will destroy Obama in debates and stomp his way into the Oval Office.

Gingrich presumably decided to do all this at a news conference because he thought he could joust successfully with reporters, having been denied the opportunity to joust with Romney because there was no debate in Nevada.

Earlier on Saturday, a major story by Jeff Zeleny and Jim Rutenberg appeared in The New York Times about Gingrich's chief donor. About midway in the story, the two noted that Gingrich's staff had advised Gingrich to rest up, "getting Mr. Romney's attacks out of his head."

So at the news conference, Zeleny asked Gingrich if he could go forward with Romney "still in his head."

"I am sure that with a psychiatric degree that will get you a tremendous opportunity to have new clients," Gingrich sneered in reply.

Maybe that would have gone over in front of a boisterous, partisan debate crowd, but at the news conference it just fell flat.

Gingrich soon ended the news conference, but not before pledging he would keep up his attacks because of the "the level of ruthlessness and the level of dishonesty" of Mitt Romney.

The overall impression the event left was best summed up by CNN senior analyst David Gergen, who said he could not remember a candidate for national office "so driven by personal hatred" as Gingrich.

Later, in a tweet, Gergen said: "can't remember candidate so driven by ambition AND by personal hatred. ... Newt wants revenge."

When you fool other people, it's called politics. When you fool yourself, it's called delusion. And that may be the true state Gingrich is in.

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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Trusting can be hard to do

Trust ... As much as we want to deny it, trust, one simple four letter word is such an important part of all of our lives.

Without it our lives wouldn't be the same. Without trust we wouldn't be able to form relationships, friendships, connections.

In order for us to form a connection or even attempt to connect we have to feel a sense of security ... a sense of trust in that the person we are trying to connect with is ... in a sense ... worth it.

In light of recent events my mind has kicked into overdrive and started analyzing a lot of things, but especially, trust.

Trust in its definition is a firm belief in the reliability, truth, ability or strength of someone or something. To trust is defined as to believe in the reliability, truth, ability or strength of.

Trust is synonymous with, confidence, faith, credit, reliance, rely, entrust and hope. Each synonym a word we associate with connections we form. It is our faith that allows us to see the good; hope is what gives us the strength to seek the good and in seeking that trust we rely on ourselves to know the truth from a lie. It is our confidence in ourselves that allow us to move forward with the connections we form ... in building our lives.

As I analyzed the importance of trust in my life, trust in others and trust in myself, I realized that trust can be defined as this ... Truly Realizing the Utmost Simple Truths.

To trust someone is to have a belief in what is right in front of us ... sometimes we ignore the simple truths and sometimes we are blind to those truths and at times, there are situations that simply have nothing behind them and is exactly as it

appears.

However, there are those instances when the truth is hidden from sight and it is our choice to believe that there truly is no more story to discover and it is when we lose trust or lack trust that we don't take things at face value and find ourselves digging deeper.

To often we are focusing on trusting someone else. Trusting that our other half is being faithful; trusting our friends are there to support us; trusting others we have yet to meet to be kind when a connection is pursued. However, it is then that we too often forget to focus on the most important trust we need in our lives ... trust in ourselves.

To trust in ourselves may seem foolish and unnecessary to some, but in reality it is the most important foundation each of us can lay. We have to have trust in ourselves to make decisions that will lead us in the right direction; to form friendships, pursue relationships that will build us up and move our lives forward. We must trust in ourselves we will be able to see trouble before we walk into it and have the ability to protect those we love.

It is when we are faced with an act, a situation that cracks that trust ... even in the slightest bit That we begin to allow ourselves to doubt our choices and ability to notice what needs to be noticed.

Just as it is difficult to built trust for another person it is difficult to trust ourselves after we have found ourselves deceived. The doubt and uncertainty of not being able to see what we feel we should have seen can cause a rift in our own self-worth and self-esteem. It can cause a rift so great it can not simply be patched, but must completely be rebuilt.

Once someone has pulled the wool over our eyes, no matter how small the deceit, we are left to repair the damage. Nobody can mend the trust once it's destroyed except ourselves. At the same time, it is completely our choice to let that trust be built with that person.

Nobody in this life is perfect and as great as it would be, to my knowledge, there are no psychic abilities instilled in us. There is no way of knowing all the details of another's life, even if they are a friend, a family member or our other half. There will be moments when the whole truth is not told. There will be moments when stories will get told and it is up to us to determine if we are going to believe those stories or stick by the ones we have chosen to trust.

In the end if we find out our trust has been taken advantage of it is our choice to repair that trust and allow it to possibly be tampered with again. It is our choice to continue to build trust, repair trust or demolish it all together. Trust is a very fragile and valuable thing, with only one person truly in control.

As a professor told me in my ethics class, there will come a point when we are faced with having to choose if we are going to follow our morals or our ethics (and yesthere is a difference). She said in order for us to make the right choice, the choice we would truly want, we have to determine from day one what will be more important and which route we will take if faced with a certain situation. In preparing our answer ahead of time is allowing ourselves to see a situation without bias and without emotions. Little did I know that piece of advice was valuable in more areas of life than just my career.

It is up to us to decide what we will believe, what we will trust and what route we will follow. We are the only ones who can decide if we will stand by someone and in what situations that loyalty extends. When it comes down to that moment, emotions are high and our minds are as scattered as can be.

The choice should be simple, but then again when it comes to trust, nothing is ever simple.

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Time for cutting the budget

Washington's talking about cutting the military budget. Whoopee.

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta recently revealed plans to cut hundreds of billions of dollars from the Pentagon's budget in the next decade, with possibly more reductions on the way.

We're going to have fewer soldiers, fewer warplanes and ships, and not so many missiles. We'll cut back a bit on nuclear weapons. If Congress buys this plan, the Pentagon's \$530 billion-a-year base budget, which excludes extras like the wars we're actually fighting, would shrink to a mere \$472 billion by 2013. Double whoopee.

Not everyone is happy with the plan. Critics say that so piddling a sum as \$472 billion would leave us naked to our enemies. We wouldn't even be able to fight two wars at a time, they say.

To which Panetta replies, maybe not. But we'll be able to fight one major war and have enough strength left over to "spoil" a second enemy's malign intentions elsewhere. Half a whoopee.

F-35 Joint Strike Fighter I've always been suspicious of the two-war strategy. To me, it's like having a two-car garage. You may not really need two cars, but if you have a two-car garage, chances are you'll own two cars sooner or later. One-and-a-half wars are plenty. If we have more enemies than that, let

them take a number and form a line.

There's also a contingent of critics who complain that cutting troop levels might leave us unprepared to fight a grinding and long land war in Asia.

Oh darn, and that's what I wanted for my birthday this year — another protracted land war in Asia. Now I'm going to have to settle for diplomacy, sanctions, and boring stuff like that. Buck up, folks. Even with those cuts and more like them we will still be — by far — the most militarily powerful country on earth by several orders of magnitude. We just can't go off and invade a country anytime we had a hint of a suspicion that they might be planning to do something bad to us.

Which is what we do. We're the most war-prone people on earth. Over the past 60 years we've invaded, bombed, or sought to subvert more countries — Korea, Vietnam, Lebanon, Cuba, Somalia, Ethiopia, Panama, Iraq (twice), Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Chile, Laos, Cambodia, the Balkans, Grenada, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Indonesia, Guyana, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Brazil, Greece, and Libya, as well as Guatemala, Nicaragua, Angola, and El Salvador by proxy — than our bean counters can count. Some of these operations transpired under a NATO or United Nations umbrella, but most didn't.

One of the chief targets of the budget cutters is the new F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, a stealth model that theoretically eludes radar detection and is presently budgeted at \$400 billion for 2,500 planes, or \$160 million-a-pop.

And if past history is any indication, it won't work.

Which won't matter, because very little of this is about "defense." It's about the money and political profit to be gained from the building of ever more expensive weapons systems of dubious utility.

A friend of mine, Nick Kotz, once wrote a book on the development of a similar weapons system, the B-1 bomber.

Built in the 1980s, it cost \$28 billion (not chump change in those days) and hardly ever saw combat. It was designed for nuclear war, you see, and we haven't had one of those yet (unless you count Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which no one does). A few can still fly, but they're hideously expensive to operate, so they don't.

Toward the end of his book Kotz takes us through a B-1 assembly line in Palmdale, California. First we learn about the forward fuselage, which was made in Ohio, then the middle and rear elements (Texas), the tail section (Maryland), and the nose landing gear (California) with tires from Ohio. And so it went. Before the plane was fully assembled, more than 70 manufacturing sites were accounted for, each represented by a pious member of Congress with a handout.

That's what military spending is all about and why it's so difficult to cut. It's called the military-industrial complex.

Other Words columnist Donald Kaul lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Visit otrwords.org to find more of Kaul's columns.



AMANDA MORENO



ROGER SIMON



DONALD KAUL

Banish the burn

Do you or a loved one suffer from chronic acid reflux, also known as gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD)?

What may have seemed like science fiction, surgery without an incision, is now a reality for patients suffering from severe heartburn or other symptoms of reflux such as regurgitation, chronic cough, hoarseness and dental erosions.

The new Transoral Incisionless Fundoplication procedure, or TIF, performed completely without incisions, is available at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. The public is invited to join general surgeon

Ladd Hoffman, M.D., M.B.A., for a free informational seminar on Thursday, Feb. 16th at 5:30 p.m. in the Fourth Floor Classroom at SMMC.

According to Dr. Hoffman, "GERD is an anatomical problem which needs an anatomical solution."

Reflux medications, like PPIs (proton pump inhibitors), can help relieve heartburn symptoms but don't solve the underlying anatomical problems or prevent further disease progres-



Hoffman

sion. Even on PPIs, many people are still unable to eat the foods they want or have to sleep sitting up to reduce nighttime reflux. Recent studies have shown that long term use of PPIs can lead to inadequate absorption of minerals, such as calcium, and can result in bone fractures. After the TIF procedure, clinical trials show most people can eat and drink foods they have avoided for many years.

"Reflux no longer impacts their life like it

previously did," said Hoffman.

The TIF procedure is based on established principles of surgical repair of the antireflux barrier, except that it is "surgery from within" performed transorally (through the mouth), said Hoffman. The procedure reduces small hiatal hernias and creates a valve between the stomach and esophagus, restoring the natural, physiological anatomy to prevent reflux. Because the procedure is incisionless, there is reduced pain, reduced recovery and no visible scar.

The TIF procedure represents the next

step in the evolution of surgery, Hoffman said. Laparoscopy, a form of "minimally invasive surgery," typically requires three-to-five port holes and the same internal incisions and organ dissection as open surgery. TIF requires neither abdominal incisions nor internal dissection, making it a truly "minutely invasive" surgical procedure to effectively treat GERD. With millions of Americans suffering with daily symptoms of reflux and many not fully satisfied with their current treatment therapy, TIF offers an excellent alternative, he said.

"Recent studies show

that TIF can reduce patients' dependency on medications, with 79 percent of patients remaining off their daily medications after two years and experiencing a dramatic improvement in their quality of life," explained Hoffman.

If you are tired of taking pills to manage the pain of heartburn, ask your doctor if this minimally invasive surgery is right for you. To RSVP for the free heartburn seminar, call Hoffman's office at 432-263-6018. Or visit www.smmccares.com/heartburn and take the reflux symptom self-test.

Try these delicious chicken breasts

American Institute for Cancer Research

Add a new twist to your next chicken meal. This simple stuffing in a chicken breast not only tastes great, but helps maintain a nice moist quality to the meat as well.

Combining a bit of yogurt with the cheddar cheese gives the stuffing a smooth, creamy texture. The yogurt also ensures that the poultry remains moist - solving the common problem of a "too dry" chicken breast. A little lemon juice and dash of hot sauce provide some zest. Greek yogurt is very

thick because the whey has been drained away. You can make your own by spooning plain yogurt into a cheese cloth lined colander and letting the yogurt drain for several hours in the refrigerator.

For a tasty, satisfying meal, add some colorful vegetable side dishes; for example, try pairing the chicken with steamed green beans with toasted almonds. To round out the meal, roast sweet potatoes with a touch of olive oil for a naturally sweet side. This meal follows the research-based New American Plate principles developed by the American Institute for

Cancer Research - at least 2/3 of your plate contains plant-based foods and 1/3 or less with animal foods. So for health, flavor and something a little unique put stuffed chicken breasts on your menu.

Stuffed Chicken Breasts

- Canola oil cooking spray
- 1 lb. boneless, skinless chicken breast, four thick pieces
- 3/4 cup low-fat shredded cheddar cheese
- 2 Tbsp. green onions, finely chopped, including the stems
- 1 medium red bell pepper, 1/2 diced, 1/2 sliced

- 1 Tbsp. plain Greek yogurt (canola mayonnaise may be substituted)
- 2 tsp. fresh lemon juice
- 1/2 tsp. hot sauce (optional)
- 1 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley or 1 Tbsp. dried parsley
- Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray 7 x 11-inch pan with cooking spray. Carefully cut about a 1 inch wide slit into the thick end of each chicken breast. Insert knife to create a fairly deep pocket.

Combine cheese, green onions, red pepper, yogurt, lemon juice and hot sauce in mixing bowl. Divide mixture into 4 portions and use a spoon to stuff breasts. Secure openings with wooden toothpicks inserted at an angle so meat lays flat. Place in prepared pan.

Brush olive oil over top of chicken and sprinkle with parsley, then pepper and salt, if using.

Bake for 30-35 minutes or until chicken is cooked through. Let stand about 5 minutes. Garnish with red pep-

per slices and serve. Makes 4 servings.

Per serving: 200 calories, 6 g total fat (1.8 g saturated fat), 2 g carbohydrate,

sudoku

ANSWERS

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

HEALTH TALK HEALTH TALK HEALTH TALK

Q: I'm totally confused by the conflicting things I'm hearing about whether Vitamin D can reduce cancer risk. What's the current advice about vitamin D?



KAREN COLLINS MS, RD, CDN

A: The current national recommendations for vitamin D from the Institute of Medicine (IOM) are 600 IU/day for adults up to age 70 and 800 IU for older adults, but these are based primarily on evidence for bone health.

The IOM report concluded that research on whether vitamin D reduces cancer risk is inconsistent. In cell studies, researchers have identified ways that vitamin D can keep cancer in check, and in other studies they've shown that animals deficient in vitamin D show early signs of prostate cancer and develop faster growing colon cancer.

Some large human studies do link lower blood levels of vitamin D with greater risk of certain cancers, but overall these studies show mixed results.

In fact, there are also studies that link very high blood levels of vitamin D (achievable only with supplements) with greater risk of pancreatic and prostate cancer. A new analysis involving more than 2,400 women followed for 10 years shows no link between blood levels of vitamin D and cancer-related or overall deaths.

Individuals taking the same amount of vitamin D can end up with different blood levels of the nutrient, so researchers are working to identify what blood levels seem to bring most protection without raising health risks.

According to JoAnn Manson, MD, DrPH, Professor at Harvard Medical School, "Before we assume there's any cancer protection from higher amounts, we need rigorous controlled testing." She is directing the VITamin D and Omega-3 Trial

(VITAL), the first large-scale randomized trial of vitamin D (2000 IU daily) in the prevention of cancer and cardiovascular disease (www.vitalstudy.org), and other trials are underway as well. Meeting the current RDA for your age is smart for overall health. If you choose to go slightly higher (4000 IU is the highest dose considered safe) - which most likely requires either a supplement or highly fortified food - it should be safe, but don't assume there's added cancer protection.

Q: You've talked about tuning in to hunger signals to guide my portion sizes. But what can I do when I feel like eating even though I'm not hungry? I think that's the root of my excess weight.

A: Great job at tuning in to hunger signals! People can feel like eating - despite lack of hunger - for a variety of reasons. The next step, when you realize that you are not hungry, but feel an urge to eat anyway, is to tune in again.

Can you figure out what's behind the urge? Maybe you are actually thirsty and simply need to drink more water. Or is more sleep what you really need? You might be trying to address feelings such as stress, anger, loneliness or boredom with food. Set aside time when you are not in the midst of one of these urges to make a list of things other than food that might meet the need.

For example, you could take a crossword puzzle break from challenging work, do deep breathing or phone a good friend when feeling stressed. Here's a little trick: behavioral therapists often note that this desire to eat when not hungry tends to come in a wave.

If you aren't truly hungry, the urge will usually pass if you can distract yourself with something else for a little while.

So when the urge comes to eat and you are not hungry, check your pre-planned distraction ideas list and try one of the possibilities there before you head for food.

Hey There

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World Briefs

Deputies were dispatched to Powell home nearly 8 minutes after call came in

TACOMA, Wash. (AP) — Emergency call logs show that nearly eight minutes elapsed between when a social worker called 911 to report that Josh Powell's children were in danger and when sheriff's deputies were dispatched. By the time officers were on their way, the home was exploding in a gas-fueled inferno, with Powell and his two young boys inside.

The priority of the dispatch Sunday was "routine" instead of "emergency," which cost several minutes of response time, and when the deputies arrived 14 minutes later, there was nothing they could do.

The Associated Press obtained the logs Wednesday night under a public records request.

Recently released audio recordings of the 911 calls raised questions about how the dispatch center handled the social worker's call regarding Powell, who was a person of interest in the disappearance of his wife two years ago.

The worker detailed how Powell had locked her out of his house during what was supposed to be a supervised visit with his sons, that she could smell gas, and that she feared for their lives.

Analysis: Obama birth control policy has political cost, angering supporters and critics

The Obama administration's new mandate that religious organizations pay for their workers' birth control has become a bludgeon for Republican culture warriors, as social issues have surged to the forefront in the presidential campaign.

Conservatives who believe religious freedom always trumps gender equity in the public arena are outraged. But so too are Roman Catholic and evangelical moderates who have stuck with President Barack Obama, an abortion rights supporter, because of his 2008 pledge to reduce the abortion rate and find common ground among religious and secular Americans. These backers say the administration could have easily avoided the controversy by including broader religious exemptions already in place at some federal agencies.

After two weeks of unrelenting condemnation led by the nation's Catholic bishops, the White House has responded by hinting at some compromise in how the requirement is enforced. Administration officials insist any accommodation for religious groups will leave in place contraceptive coverage, although they haven't said how. But even the suggestion of a revision, no matter how limited, has infuriated Democrats the president hoped to please with the regulation. As the debate rages, women's groups, liberal religious leaders and health advocates are rallying in favor of the broadest contraceptive coverage that would include Catholic employers.

"We believe that women and men have the right to decide whether or not to apply the principles of their faith to family-planning decisions, and to do so they must have access to services," read a statement Wednesday from liberal religious leaders representing Reform and Conservative Jews, Methodist and Episcopal groups, among others. "The administration was correct in requiring institutions that do not have purely sectarian goals to offer comprehensive preventive health care."

The conflict is erupting as GOP candidates compete for the title of the true conservative in the presidential race. The contraception debate is tailor-made for the fight.

Ticking clock, rising Israeli fears and the price of gas push Iran to top of U.S. worry list

WASHINGTON (AP) — The prospect of conflict with Iran has eclipsed Afghanistan as the key national security issue with head-spinning speed. After years of bad blood and an international impasse over Iran's disputed nuclear program, why does the threat of war seem so suddenly upon us?

The short answer is that Iran has used the years of deadlock over whether it was pursuing a bomb to get within roughly 12 months of being able to build one. Iran claims its nuclear program is not aimed at building a bomb, but it has refused to drop suspect elements of the program.

Time is running short for Iran to back down without a fight. Time is also running short for either the United States or Israel to mount a preemptive military strike on Iran's nuclear sites, something that seemed far-fetched until fairly recently. It is still unlikely, and for the U.S. represents the last worst option to stop an Iranian bomb.

The United States has a "very good estimate" of when Iran could produce a weapon, President Barack Obama said this week. He said that while he believes the standoff with Iran over its nuclear program can still be resolved through diplomacy, the U.S. has done extensive planning on a range of options.

"We are prepared to exercise these options should they arise," Obama said during an interview with NBC. He said Israel has not made a decision about whether to launch its own strike.

Source denies Athens has been granted a deadline extension to agree to €300M in pension cuts

BRUSSELS (AP) — A person close to Greece's international debt inspectors is denying that the country's politicians have been given an extra 15 days to agree to a 300 million cut in pensions.

Greek party leaders earlier Thursday failed to agree on the cuts in all-night talks. A Greek parliamentarian claimed later that the politicians had been given 15 days to find an alternative way to save this amount.

But a person close to the so-called troika said that claim was "not correct."

He said instead the country has to agree 325 million in savings on top of the 300 million in pension cuts and that it has been given 3 weeks to identify how to do that.

The person was speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the talks.

Disturbing sex charges at Los Angeles elementary school prompt tricky discussions at home

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Sinister allegations of abuse by at least two teachers in a Los Angeles school have forced awkward discussions as parents warn youngsters that people they trust — pastors, teachers, even relatives — might do things that could hurt them.

It was a grim reminder of risks faced by kids, even within the safety of school walls.

Sergio Vasquez, 30, said he talked with his daughter for 45 minutes after she watched a news report about the disturbing cases that prompted the Los Angeles Unified School District to replace every employee at Miramonte Elementary School, located in a poor neighborhood about 8 miles from downtown.

With his 8-year-old daughter Hayley at his side, he said he told her to speak up if she sees anything suspicious, or if any teacher tries to manipulate her by giving her candy, or touching her hair or shoulders.

"We told her her body is private and nobody has the right to touch her," said Vasquez, as he stood outside an elementary school near downtown. "No teacher should put his hands on you and tell you 'Oh how beautiful you are.'"

Gingrich hopes his experience, fundraising and 'big ideas' can hold off Santorum in GOP race

CLEVELAND (AP) — Newt Gingrich, suddenly in danger of losing his perch as Mitt Romney's strongest GOP challenger, is fine-tuning his presidential campaign to place more emphasis on raising money, guarding his home turf and trying to avoid nasty quarrels with the front-runner.

Rick Santorum's stunning success in this week's elections in Colorado, Minnesota and Missouri has fueled his claim that he, not Gingrich, is best qualified to rally conservatives who feel Romney is too moderate and unreliable.

Gingrich, the former House speaker, again faces a dilemma that has dogged him for much of the election. Should he show his feistier, meaner side at the risk of turning off voters who want pragmatic solutions more than expressions of anger? Or should he use a tamer, high-minded tone and risk losing economically anxious, resentful Republicans such as those who handed him his only victory, in South Carolina?

His aide R.C. Hammond said Gingrich favors the second option, at least for now.

"We need to go hard at demonstrating we are the one campaign of leadership," Hammond said in an interview in Cleveland, where Gingrich spoke Wednesday without mentioning Santorum, Romney or his own poor showing in Tuesday's voting.

GOP report questions release of terror suspects from Guantanamo

WASHINGTON (AP) — Facing domestic political pressures, the Bush and Obama administrations released or transferred 600 terror suspects deemed an acceptable threat from the U.S. prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, only to find that 27 percent re-engaged in terrorist or insurgent activities, according to a report by Republicans on the investigations panel of the House Armed Services Committee.

The report, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press, provides the GOP perspective on an issue that has divided Washington since the start of the Afghanistan war and the opening of the Navy prison for those captured. And it split the White House and Congress last year over how to write rules on handling detainees.

The report comes as Obama administration officials have acknowledged they are considering whether to release several Afghan Taliban prisoners from Guantanamo and send them to a third country as an incentive to bring the Taliban to peace talks. The step is certain to create an uproar on Capitol Hill, especially among Republicans. The 93-page study is likely to be part of the GOP effort to influence the ongoing debate.

In a rare break on a committee that typically is bipartisan on defense issues, Democrats dissented from the report despite efforts to reconcile their differences, with four members of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee calling the study incomplete and declining to sign it.

The report cites testimony before the committee last year that 27 percent of former detainees "were confirmed or suspected to have been re-engaged in terrorist or insurgent activities," up from 25 percent the previous year. Intelligence officials had indicated that the number would increase.

Model's gender-bending visage transfixes fashion industry and passers-by, but can it last?

NEW YORK (AP) — On a chilly winter afternoon, Andrej Pejic settles into a Manhattan cafe with a cup of Earl Grey tea, sitting gracefully, long legs crossed. The blue-eyed fashion model gazes out a window, unaware that almost every man sitting at surrounding tables is transfixed.

A man in a black leather jacket walks up to the window, presses his face against the glass and kisses it. Pejic giggles and admits: "I find it flattering."

The admirers are likely unaware that the beautiful blonde is actually a man.

As Fashion Week gets under way in New York City, Pejic is one of the most recognizable — and controversial — faces in the industry. He's the only top-tier fashion model who can walk down the runway as either a man or a woman. And his androgynous beauty has turned him into a trendsetter in an industry that's always seeking to push the envelope.

"He's just this beautiful thing that everyone wants a piece of," says stylist Ken Anderson, who dressed Pejic for a German magazine cover.


China says Syria opposition delegation visited

BEIJING (AP) — China's Foreign Ministry says that a Syrian opposition delegation visited Beijing and met Vice Foreign Minister Zhai Jun.

Ministry spokesman Liu Weimin told a news briefing Thursday that China wants to maintain contacts and communication with Syrian opposition groups.

China and Russia drew the wrath of the United States, Europe and much of the Arab world for vetoing a U.N. Security Council resolution on Syria.

The U.S. and others say the veto blocked a U.N. attempt to end the bloodshed and raises fears the violence will escalate.



Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

The Case of the Missing Damsel

North dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH			
♠ Q 9 8 5			
♥ Q 2			
♦ K 9			
♣ K 10 8 7 3			
WEST		EAST	
♠ 7 4	♥ 2	♠ 8 7 4	♥ 8 7 4
♥ K 10 9 6 3	♦ 2	♦ A 8 7 5 3 2	♦ Q 6 5
♦ Q J 10 6 4			
♣ 2			
SOUTH			
♠ A K J 10 6 3			
♥ A J 5			
♦ —			
♣ A J 9 4			

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

Opening lead — queen of diamonds.

Assume you're in six spades and West leads a diamond. Obviously there's a chance of going down if the heart finesse loses and you also misjudge how to play the clubs, so all your thoughts should be riveted on how to handle the club suit.

Fortunately, there's a way to play the hand that virtually assures the slam. The correct approach is to ruff the diamond lead, draw trumps, ruff

another diamond and then play a club to dummy's king.

Let's say that both opponents follow suit, and, when you continue with a low club from dummy, East plays low again. You can now guarantee the slam by finessing the jack, not concerned with whether West wins with the queen or shows out.

If West shows out, you have 12 sure tricks, and if he wins with the queen, you also have 12 sure tricks. In the latter case, West will have to return a heart or a diamond, and either return hands you the slam.

The outcome would be exactly the same if it turned out that West originally held three clubs to the queen. In that event, after East failed to follow to the club lead from dummy, you'd go up with the ace, throw West into the lead by conceding the jack of clubs to the queen and also make the slam.

From the start, the aim is to deal with the clubs in a manner designed not so much to guess the location of the missing damsel as it is to make sure that if you misguess, you still have the slam safely in tow. It is far more important to make the contract than to concentrate solely on trying to make the maximum number of club tricks.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.
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sudoku

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

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

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Broadway actress creates show to help friends at Mission Waco

CARL HOOVER

WACO TRIBUNE

New York actress Elizabeth Davis' Valentine's Day show at the Jubilee Theatre will reveal the different strands of love in her life.

Love of theater. Love of family and friends. Love of her husband Jordan Richard. Love of Mission Waco and the people it serves.

It's the latter, particularly her long-running friendship with Joe Lightfoot Gonzales, a former homeless Waco man nicknamed Indian Joe, that brings her back to Waco with a freshly written show only weeks before she appears in the Broadway debut of the play "Once."

Davis, 31, who worked with Mission Waco from 1999 to 2003 while studying theater at Baylor University, returned to Waco last year to visit Indian Joe when she learned he had cancer.

During her brief stay, she met with Mission Waco executive director Jimmy Dorrell and came up with the idea for her Tuesday night performance, held at the Jubilee Theatre at 7:30 p.m. World Cup Cafe, located next to the theater, will offer a Valentine's Day dinner between 5:30 and 8 p.m., with three choices of entrees.

"I'm creating this from scratch," she confessed last week in a phone interview from New York. "It's my own personal journey, of how a small-town Texas girl gets to Broadway . . . and how musical theater carries her through the journey."

While one woman drives the story, it's not exactly a one-woman show: She'll have five guests to provide musical accompaniment, harmony singing and more as she travels from her first violin lesson to her final audition for a Broadway show.

The piece contains nine songs, a little singing, a little violin playing and some excerpts from plays in which the Channing, Texas, native has acted. There's also the chance that Indian Joe may attend.

Davis' performance brings her back to the place

where her theatrical career and her compassion for the underprivileged started to take form. The daughter of two Channing school teachers with a love for the arts, Davis recalled the day when the view from her Baylor dorm began to gnaw at her conscience.

The Baylor freshman could see the Interstate 35 bridge where homeless people stopped for rest or shelter. "I wondered why all the Baylor students were on one side of the bridge and the rest of Waco and the homeless people on the other," she said.

That led her to Mission Waco, Dorrell and the start of connecting with a community that many ignore. The Baylor student got involved with Mission Waco's Friday Morning Breakfast and started Bridging the Gap, a program that fed and cared for Waco homeless that's now in its 11th year.

"Elizabeth was so unique. She was such an aggressive personality to go out and serve the Mission Waco community well," Dorrell recalled.

Davis continued her work with the poor and homeless after graduating from Baylor and going to Cleveland for graduate study at the Cleveland Play House and Case Western Reserve University. In addition to her theatrical studies and performances, she tried to replicate Bridging the Gap in Cleveland, but found a different environment.

"It was much more difficult," Davis remembered. "The church infrastructure was different and I didn't have a partner to look up to like Jimmy."

She managed to partner with Cleveland State University and worked with students to serve lunch to the homeless, an experience that showed her new ways of making a difference. "I found I was able to inspire and equip other students to carry the torch," she said.

Her career took her to New York and a sobering look at city life with little money. "When you graduate with a BFA and an MFA in theater performance, you're guaranteed unemployment at best," the actress said.

She was on food stamps for a time during her first

two years in New York and found herself talking with her friend Indian Joe on a pay phone. Then things began to turn for the better, thanks to what she termed "real financial miracles" and a renewed acquaintance with former Baylor classmate Jordan Richard, whom she later married.

Her career, too, took off with acclaimed performances in "EMILY," Baylor graduate Chris Cragin's play on Emily Dickinson; Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey's "The Misanthrope," in which she played the female lead; and Off-Broadway productions last fall of "Dally With the Devil" and "Once."

The latter introduced her to the grueling schedule that's behind an Off-Broadway or Broadway show. "You don't have a life outside the show. 'Once' has 71 performances Off-Broadway and I was onstage for the entire play, three hours plus a 20-minute preshow," she said.

Davis will continue in "Once's" transition to Broadway's Jacob's Theatre later this month and says she's ready for the move. "Broadway is the next natural step," she said.

The Baylor graduate also has a play of her own that The Cherry Lane theater in New York will stage in 2013. That work, she says, shows how her work in theater and with the poor are beginning to meld.

"The older I get, I find my passion for those less fortunate and for theater are fusing, becoming closer together," she said. "They don't have to be two separate entities as I had previously thought, but one feeds the other."

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Slive: Few BCS changes likely in 2012

By **TERESA M. WALKER**
AP Sports Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Mike Slive helped propose the plus-one plan to find a national champion in football and says actual change remains a couple years away even if everyone can agree on changes to the Bowl Championship Series.

The Southeastern Conference commissioner said Wednesday a decision could be made later this year but cautioned it's premature to speculate on what changes might be made. He says they need time to sit down and analyze plans with discussions needed among the conferences.

"Really a lot of this discussion is premature, and I want to respect the process that we're in," Slive told members of the Nashville Sports Council during a question-and-answer session. "We've had four-year formats since we started."

"We've done it on the basis of four years, so each four-year period you have to sit down and decide what format is going to be going forward. So we have decided to sit down and talk about this from every different side."

Slive said they started discussions the day after Alabama beat LSU for the SEC's sixth consecutive national championship in January with another meeting scheduled later this month.

He said there will be several meetings on the topic after he saw no interest from his col-

leagues or other conferences in pursuing a four-team play-off to decide the BCS champ back in 2008.

The format of pairing four teams playing two semifinals plus the title game was proposed by Slive and the commissioner of the Atlantic Coast Conference only to be shot down by leaders of the Big Ten, Pac-10, Big East, Big 12 and Notre Dame.

Now the Big Ten is expressing interest in changes, Slive noted.

"What would it look like and whether it's actually going to happen, all of that is premature," Slive said. "I think we need the time to sit down and analyze it. We need time to take ideas from our respective conferences and ... a decision to be made sometime later this year as we begin to talk about the ... next format."

The SEC commissioner said they also need to look very carefully at how any changes affect traditions like bowl games. Before the session, he said they have two years left in the current format, leaving plenty of time to work through any changes.

He's not sure what prompted the current interest in the plus-one plan.

"It's been an enormous success for us to have four different teams win the national championship over the last six years has been incredible and unusual. It's a record that'll never be broken," Slive said. "Whatever it is that brings people to the table, I'm glad they're coming."



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton
Howard College's Jerry Dixon (10) shoots a layup during action earlier this season. The Hawks' men's and women's teams will be in action tonight when they host Western Texas College at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Game times are 5:45 p.m. for the women and 7:45 p.m. for the men.

Sports Calendar

TODAY

Baseball

Howard College vs. Vernon College, 2 p.m., Abilene.

Women's basketball

Western Texas College at Howard College, 5:45 p.m.

Men's basketball

Western Texas College at Howard College, 7:45 p.m.

FRIDAY

Baseball

Northeast Texas CC vs. Howard College (DH), noon.

Coahoma at Jim Ned (scrimmage), 4 p.m.

Softball

Howard College at Cisco College (DH), 1 p.m.

Coahoma at Midland Lee (scrimmage), 4:30 p.m.

Girl's basketball

Odessa Permian at Big Spring, 6 p.m.

Boy's basketball

Denver City at Coahoma, 6:30 p.m.

Forsan at Lubbock Roosevelt, 6:30 p.m.

Abilene Wylie at Big Spring, 7:30 p.m.

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

Jayhawks top Baylor

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**

AP Basketball Writer

WACO — One of the first things Baylor coach Scott Drew talked about after another loss to Kansas was wanting his team to now imitate the Jayhawks.

"Kansas did a tremendous job bouncing back after their tough game with Missouri," Drew said. "We need to do the exact same thing this Saturday."

Or the sixth-ranked Bears will have consecutive losses again. Baylor lost 68-54 on Wednesday

night, its second lopsided loss in just more than three weeks against the seventh-ranked Jayhawks, who were coming off a loss at fourth-ranked Missouri. That is where the Bears play Saturday.

Jeff Withey scored a career-high 25 points for the Jayhawks (19-5, 9-2 Big 12), who never led until a 14-3 spurt over the final 4½ minutes of the first half with Thomas Robinson sitting on the bench with two fouls. Kansas then scored 14 points in a row early in the second half, with half of those coming on

one possession.

"We're all embarrassed and disappointed by our play," Drew said.

The Jayhawks lost 74-71 at Missouri on Saturday, when the 7-foot Withey missed his only shot and was scoreless. They now have a share of the Big 12 lead with the Tigers and haven't lost consecutive games in more than six years — a span of 228 games since January 2006.

See **BAYLOR**, Page 2B

Dirk scores 25 in Mavs' win

DENVER (AP) — Dirk Nowitzki helped the Dallas Mavericks put an end to two slumps at once.

Nowitzki scored 25 points and the Mavericks snapped a three-game skid by beating the undermanned Denver Nuggets 105-95 on Wednesday night. It was also Dallas' first victory in five tries against the Nuggets.

"A win. A much needed win," Nowitzki said. "We worked hard the last three games in our preparation, trying to keep them out of the lane, trying not to let them get into transition. I liked some of the stuff that we did. We rebound-

ed the ball well. We out-rebounded them (46-38) on the road, and that is definitely a plus when we do that."

Vince Carter added 17 points, and Shawn Marion and Rodrigue Beaubois added 13 points each for the Mavericks, who beat Denver for the first time since coming out on top 102-101 on Nov. 3, 2010.

"If you make a defensive mistake, they have a way of punishing you," Nuggets coach George Karl said. "I'm not saying we had a bad defensive game, but three or four times we're scrambling and we leave Dirk

Nowitzki wide open. I don't understand that, but when you're frustrated and playing in a bad stretch those things happen. I just think it's the process of the season. We're banged up."

Rudy Fernandez and Al Harrington each had 17 points off the bench to lead the Nuggets, who lost their fourth straight. Nene had 16 points and 10 rebounds and Ty Lawson had 16 points along with 10 assists for Denver.

Arron Afflalo (left ankle) and Nene (left heel) returned to the Nuggets' lineup after sitting out Monday night's loss to Houston, but Denver

was still without leading scorer Danilo Gallinari (left ankle), along with Timofey Mozgov (left ankle). Corey Brewer took a leave of absence to be with his family this week following the death of his father.

Dallas was without Jason Kidd, who missed his sixth game because of a strained right calf. He remains day to day.

"We play better when we push the ball, when we run, but we didn't see a lot of fastbreaks today and in our last four games," Fernandez said. "In the second half,

See **MAVS**, Page 2B

Duke stuns No. 5 North Carolina

By **AARON BEARD**

AP Basketball Writer

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Austin Rivers and his Duke teammates kept hanging around, doing just enough to keep North Carolina from blowing the game open until the Tar Heels finally gave them an opening.

The freshman took advantage, burying a shot that will live on in the lore of this fierce rivalry.

Rivers hit a 3-pointer at the horn to give the No. 10 Blue Devils an 85-84 win over the fifth-ranked Tar Heels on Wednesday night, snapping the UNC's school-record 31-game home winning streak.

Rivers scored a season-high 29 points and hit six 3s, the last over 7-footer Tyler Zeller with the Blue Devils (20-4, 7-2) trailing by two in the final seconds. The ball swished

through the net, sending Rivers running down the court in celebration while the rest of his teammates gave chase before mobbing him in front of a stunned UNC crowd.

Rivers' 3 also sent his father, Boston Celtics coach Doc Rivers, into jubilant celebration from the stands. And it capped a wild rally for the Blue Devils from 10 down in the final 2½ minutes.

"Obviously this is my favorite win I've ever had in my entire life," Rivers said. "And it's because we were down the whole game. The whole game, we were down. They just kept it on us — 10-point lead, 10-point lead. And then there was 3 minutes left and probably everybody thought we were going to lose, and we just kept fighting. To get a W, it's amazing."

Harrison Barnes scored 25 points for the Tar Heels

(20-4, 7-2), while Zeller finished with 23 points and 11 rebounds. But Zeller had just four points in the second half and missed two free throws in the final minute, including one with 13.9 seconds left that set up Rivers' winner.

It was a finish befitting the rivalry, from Rivers' shot to Barnes' second-half surge to a strange play in which Zeller accidentally batted the ball into the Duke basket on a rebound attempt to bring the Blue Devils within a point with 14.2 seconds left after trailing all second half.

"They're really good and they can knock you out," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "And we didn't get knocked out. And as a result, we hung in there and we won the last round. I'm not sure we won the whole fight, but the last round, we did, and we won the game. But we fought

the entire time. We fought a really good fight."

North Carolina charged out of halftime to build a 13-point lead and seemed in control. But the Tar Heels never could land the finishing blow to a Duke team that had looked a bit lost in recent weeks, including its own crushing loss to Florida State on a last-second 3-pointer that snapped a 45-game winning streak at Cameron Indoor Stadium on Jan. 21.

Duke was coming off an overtime home loss to Miami over the weekend, but the Blue Devils — and Rivers, in particular — played with plenty of confidence all night against the Tar Heels. They shot 44 percent and matched a season high with 14 3-pointers.

And with Florida State's loss at Boston College earlier Wednesday, the Blue Devils,

Tar Heels and Seminoles are all tied again atop the ACC standings.

"We believe in our players, we believe in our coaching staff and they believe in us," said Ryan Kelly, who had 15 points for Duke. "Not everything went perfectly, but when it came down to it, we made the biggest play."

From the start, the Blue Devils seemed determined to rely on the 3-point shot to offset the Tar Heels' dominance inside. They hit plenty early and led by eight in the first half, then cooled off as the Tar Heels charged out of halftime.

In the end, however, the Blue Devils' shooters warmed up just in time to stop North Carolina's long home winning streak.

"It really hurts just because of how we played the whole game," said John Henson.

MAVS

Continued from Page 1B

we're down by eight, and on our faces, it was like we were down by 20. We have to fight for 48 minutes."

Fernandez conceded it's difficult to maintain the Nuggets' up-tempo style while missing key players.

"But it's no excuse," he said. "We have a lot of young talent and a lot of players with experience. We have a long bench and at this moment with the injuries, we have to find a way to play better and more ag-

gressively."

Dallas took that very approach to finally beat Denver.

Carter hit successive 3-pointers, putting Dallas up 81-64 with 6:08 left in the third quarter. Denver, though, outscored the Mavericks 12-4 heading into the fourth quarter, pulling to within 87-78.

Afflalo made a basket for the Nuggets to start the final period, but the Mavericks responded with a layup by Brandan Wright and a jumper by Nowitzki and maintained a double-digit lead the rest of the way.

"This game was about

our approach and attitude," Dallas coach Rick Carlisle said. "One of the big challenges tonight was to sustain our first half effort and we did that. The second half was terrific and a lot of guys contributed."

The Mavericks led by as many as 17 in the second quarter, but settled for a 64-53 advantage at halftime. The Nuggets closed the gap by scoring nine of the last 13 points in the second quarter, including a pair of baskets by Fernandez.

Dallas was in front 33-25 after the first period and pulled out to a 58-41 lead after Carter hit

a baseline jumper with 3:57 left in the second quarter. The surge was fueled in part by a 10-2 burst by Dallas earlier in the second quarter that included a breakaway dunk by Wright.

Notes: Dallas' 64 first-

half points were two off its season high and a season high by a Nuggets opponent. ... Marion is the only Mavericks player to start all 26 games. ... Denver was held under 100 points for the 12th time this

season and dropped to 4-8 in those games. ... Chris Andersen made his first start of the season for Denver in place of the injured Mozgov. ... Nowitzki has scored 25 or more points 437 times in his career.

BAYLOR

Continued from Page 1B

"Of all the things that these teams have accomplished, that may be one of the more impressive ones," Kansas coach Bill Self said.

Baylor (21-3, 8-3) was 17-0 with the longest winning streak in school history before a 92-74 loss at Kansas on Jan. 16. The Bears followed that with a one-point home loss to Missouri.

In the Jan. 16 game against Baylor at home, Tyshawn Taylor and Thomas Robinson had combined for 55 points and both matched career highs for field goals made. Taylor had a career-best 28 points in that game and Robinson had 27.

Taylor finished with 19 points this time, his ninth consecutive game with at least 15. Robinson, the only Big 12 player averaging a double-double, had 15 points with 11 rebounds.

Pierre Jackson led Baylor with 16 points, while Quincy Acy and Cory Jefferson had 11 each.

Baylor worked the already raucous sellout crowd of 10,344 into a frenzy by scoring the first seven points. Self called timeout less than 2 minutes into the game.

The opening play was an alley-oop pass from Jackson to Perry Jones

III for a slam dunk. Jackson then penetrated for a short floater, and the Bears were up 7-0 when Jackson had another assist, a bounce pass to Quincy Miller for a 3-pointer from the right wing.

Neither Jones, the preseason Big 12 player of the year, or Miller had another field goal. Miller came out for good after a flagrant foul with 16:38 left.

After making its first three shots, Baylor missed the next five and Kansas got even at 7-all when Withey made two free throws. But the Bears pushed back ahead 19-9 after Jackson's alley-oop pass to Acy for another rim-rattling dunk that reignited the fans, before Jackson stole the ball from Withey and scored on a baseline floater.

"Up 10 with 9:41 to go, and really the end of the first half was the beginning of the turning point," Drew said. "We should have finished with momentum going into the locker room. We didn't. ... And then the beginning of the second half, we get a steal to start the second half. And then from there, nothing went right."

Withey had a turnover to start the second half before Jackson came away from a scrum on the floor with the ball for a Baylor layup.

Kansas then scored 14 points in a row, a stretch started by Withey's

layup before he added a three-point play.

Withey then had consecutive steals that led to jumpers by Robinson, who fouled making the second basket. He converted the three-point play and it became a seven-point possession when Quincy Miller's foul during the free throw was called flagrant after officials looked at replay.

After Withey made the technical free throw, Tyshawn Taylor's 3-pointer with 16½ minutes left pushed Kansas to a 47-32 lead.

"That seven-point possession took a lot out of us," Jackson said. "We just didn't answer back after that."

Withey had already matched his previous career high of 15 points on a free throw with 2½ minutes left in the first half to get Kansas within 30-25. He then blocked a shot, which led to a 3-pointer by Conner Teahan. Withey then made a tying layup with 1:34 left.

The Jayhawks finally led on Teahan's 3-pointer in the final minute for a 33-30 halftime lead.

"I'm very disappointed we lost at home," Acy said. "We made a couple of mental mistakes at the end of the first half, and the second half, we started out with a good stop then let one mistake lead to two. They got some easy transition buckets and we couldn't answer back."

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Good News from the Middle East

Israel's Prospects Have Never Been Brighter

We are used to and almost inured to the daily bad news from the Middle East — bloodshed, riots, car bombings and more. But there is one spot of shining light in the area — a country forged in almost unending wars, a country that has absorbed millions of immigrants: Israel — its prospects have never been brighter.

What are the facts?

A robust and growing economy. The standard of living and the GDP (Gross Domestic Product per capita) of Israel are on the level of most European countries and ahead of quite a few. Israel is a fount of accomplishment and innovation. Almost all major U.S. high-tech companies, such as Microsoft, Intel, Apple, Cisco, Oracle, and many others, have established production and research facilities in Israel. None other than Warren Buffett (and he certainly knows where to put his money) has just recently placed a multi-billion dollar investment in Israel. Next

only to Canada, Israel has the largest number of companies listed on American stock exchanges.

One of the important reasons for Israel's economic success is the high level of education of its population, of which Israel's world-class universities and its Technion (the fount of Nobel Prize winners) are the driving force.

A cohesive society. Israel, a country of immigrants, has a cohesive society cemented by its common faith and by the miraculously resuscitated Hebrew language. The bulk of its population are descendants of immigrants from Middle Eastern countries — all the way from Morocco to Iraq and Iran. Over a million Russian "olim" (those who have "ascended" to Israel), most of them highly educated, are now also an important segment of the populace.

The Israeli Arabs (about one-fifth of the population) are not yet fully integrated. But even they are becoming a full part of Israeli society, while maintaining their culture and their different beliefs. Another segment that is not yet fully absorbed are the immigrants from Ethiopia, because they come essentially from a medieval culture and have still some difficulty in integrating into a modern high-tech society. Finally, the "haredim" (the ultra-orthodox) are still not fully accepting the essentially secular nature of Israel's society.

In contrast to all other Middle Eastern countries, women play a full role in Israel. The Chief Justice of Israel's Supreme Court is a woman. Women pilots fly the fighter

planes of the IAF. Women are prominently represented in the Knesset (Israel's parliament). A woman (Golda Meir) has been prime minister of her country. The fact that women occupy high-level leadership roles both in business and in government is a reflection of the egalitarian nature of Israeli society.

Militarily, Israel is in an excellent position. There is much speculation that Egypt, with its new military leadership, might abrogate its peace treaty with Israel. But the Egyptian military are realists, however much they may rattle their sabers.

There is no way that they will doom themselves by attacking an overwhelmingly powerful Israel. Syria is in total disarray and no threat to Israel for the foreseeable future. The only real threat — and it is a serious one — is Iran in its quest for a nuclear weapon. One hopes that it can be stopped by sanctions or, if necessary, even by military means. But if it could indeed produce a nuclear weapon and would launch it against Israel, chances are excellent that Israel's advanced missile defense shield would abort it. But even the obsessed ayatollahs realize that Israel's response to such an attack, whether or not successful, would be overwhelming and would inevitably devastate their country and decimate its population.

Energy resources of Israel, the best news of all. Energy has always been the weak link in Israel's economy. Virtually all of its hydrocarbons have to be imported. Most of its natural gas comes from Egypt, a most unreliable supplier. But here is perhaps the best news of all: Gigantic gas fields, containing trillions of cubic feet, accompanied by a substantial amount of oil, have been discovered off Israel's coast. These fields will begin to be exploited in 2013 and will, in one swoop, make Israel not only energy independent, but a major exporter. It will bring billions of dollars in yearly revenue. Wags have said mockingly that Moses took the children of Israel 40 years through the desert to bring them to the only place without oil. Well, the wags were wrong and Moses was right.

"The outlook for Israel is excellent... [its] future has never been brighter."

The outlook for Israel is excellent. Its economy is in prime condition and growing from month to month. Its society, composed of many disparate elements, is thriving and cohesive. It is prosperous, strong and secure. It has now been blessed with an abundance of mineral wealth, soon to be exploited. Israelis have been outstandingly successful so far — what with all the wars and having absorbed millions of immigrants. Just think of its wonderful future, with all the wealth of natural gas and oil soon falling into its coffers. Yes, Israel's future has never been brighter.

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Facts and Logic About the Middle East
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Gerardo Joffe, President

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No. 15 A&M women top K-State

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP) — Texas A&M has had trouble maintaining its intensity once it gained big leads this season.

On Wednesday night they finally fixed that problem.

Kelsey Bone and Karla Gilbert scored 14 points apiece to lead No. 15 Texas A&M to its fourth straight win, 67-36, over Kansas State.

Texas A&M led 39-19 at halftime and used a 12-5 run early in the second half to extend its advantage to 51-24. Tyra White had five points to lead the Aggies in that span.

"We talked about not taking our foot off their throats," Bone said. "(associate head) Coach (Vic Schaefer) told

us at halftime: 'You want to wake some people up and get some people's attention, hold them to 19 more points.'"

Instead they limited the Wildcats to just 17 to leave them with their lowest point total of the season.

"We're getting mentally tough," coach Gary Blair said.

The win leaves the Aggies (17-5, 8-3 Big 12) in second place in the Big 12 entering Saturday's game against league-leader and top-ranked Baylor. It will be the first meeting between the teams since A&M's win in the regional final last season en route to its first national championship.

Brittany Chambers had 11 points and was the only player with double digits for Kansas State (15-8, 6-5).

Blair rotated the 6-foot-4 Bone and 6-5 Gilbert and the duo proved to be a nearly unstoppable combination inside. The two helped the Aggies outscore Kansas State 44 to 6 in the paint.

"The play in the first half of Kelsey Bone and Karla Gilbert was really significant, just establishing how much they wanted to own the paint on both ends of the floor," Kansas State coach Deb Patterson said.

"Those two stepped up their game and took control."

Blair was impressed with

the dominance of Bone and Gilbert.

"That's the best we've looked all year at that position," he said. "They both played very well and they were aggressive."

The Aggies also took advantage of 23 turnovers which they turned into 29 points.

"They played a great defensive game," Chambers said. "We just didn't play tough tonight at all. We let them dictate every aspect of the game."

White added 13 points and had 10 rebounds and Adaora Elonu had eight points for Texas A&M.

Kansas State won this year's first meeting 71-69 in overtime

in the Big 12 opener for both teams. On Wednesday the Aggies were in control from the start and the Wildcats never got closer than 18 points in the second half.

Patterson raved about how much Bone had improved since that first meeting, but the player gave her team credit for the change.

"I think it just goes into the chemistry that we're building with one another," Bone said.

The Aggies led by five points in the first half before using a 16-2 to extend their lead to 33-14 with three minutes remaining in the first half. Alexia Standish had two 3-pointers early in that run.

Parker's 37 paces Spurs

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Of all the impressive numbers on Tony Parker's stat sheet, perhaps the most eye-popping was zero fouls.

Parker scored 37 points, Gary Neal added 18 off the bench and the San Antonio Spurs beat the Philadelphia 76ers 100-90 in a match-up of division leaders Wednesday night.

Tim Duncan had 16 points and 11 rebounds and Tiago Splitter scored 15 for the Southwest Division-leading Spurs.

Parker shot 12 for 24, made all 13 of his free throws and handed out eight assists. He played 38 minutes and never got whistled for a foul.

"I play team defense," Parker said with a smile.

Lou Williams led Philadelphia with 22 points. Andre Iguodala had 17 and Thaddeus Young scored 16.

The Atlantic Division-leading Sixers fell to 4-2 during a seven-game stretch that coach Doug Collins termed "Death Row" because of the

quality of their opponents. After building a strong record early in the season against lesser competition, they beat Orlando, Chicago, Atlanta (on the road) and the Los Angeles Lakers. Their other loss was at home to Miami.

"This is a team that when you make a mistake, they will make you pay dearly for it," Collins said. "I have great admiration for them. Gregg Popovich is one of the best coaches in all of sports. They've done a great job without (Manu) Ginobili."

The Spurs are a much different team on the road. But they outplayed the Sixers throughout to improve to 5-8 away from home. They're 13-1 in their own building.

Down 83-71 near the midpoint of the fourth quarter, the Sixers scored seven straight points and had the crowd rocking after Jrue Holiday's 3-pointer. But Neal answered with his fourth 3-pointer of the night and his free throw a minute later after Williams got a technical

foul gave the Spurs an 89-80 lead.

Williams hit a 3 to cut the deficit to 95-90 with 1:46 left. But Parker nailed a jumper and Philadelphia couldn't get any closer.

"Just one of those games everything was working for me," Parker said. "My shot was feeling good and everything was going."

Starting center Spencer Hawes didn't play for the Sixers. Hawes had missed 10 games with an Achilles injury before returning to play the previous two. Elton Brand returned to the lineup after sitting out two games with a sprained thumb, and had 11 points and 13 rebounds.

The Sixers missed Hawes' presence in the middle as the Spurs repeatedly drove to the basket for layups and finished with 54 points in the paint.

"They share the ball and Tony's been special," Popovich said. "He's playing unselfish basketball and good defense."

The Sixers committed just four turnovers to help them overcome a 55-30 rebounding deficit in a 95-90 win over Kobe Bryant and the Lakers on Monday night. They had four turnovers in the first 11 minutes against the Spurs, and 10 in the game.

Matt Bonner's 3-pointer capped a 17-6 run and gave San Antonio its biggest lead, 71-59, to that point. Williams hit a pair of 3s of his own and the Sixers got within 75-67.

Iguodala kicked off a 10-0 run with a jumper and Young finished it off with a layup that put the Sixers up 38-36 in the second quarter.

Parker scored 10 of San Antonio's next 12 points and the Spurs took a 48-45 lead at halftime. All of San Antonio's 22 points in the second quarter were either on layups or free throws.

Neal, who averages 8.5 points per game, had 12 in the first quarter on three 3-pointers and 4-for-4 shooting — all in the last half of the period.

Gonzaga's title streak threatened

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — Gonzaga's streak of 11 consecutive West Coast Conference regular-season titles, the second-longest run in Division I history, is in danger of being snapped.

With only six games left, Gonzaga (18-4, 8-2 WCC) is three games behind No. 16 Saint Mary's heading into Thursday night's showdown between the league's top two teams.

Saint Mary's (22-2, 11-0) crushed Gonzaga at home 83-62 a month ago. The Zags realize this is a must-win game if they want to keep their faint hopes of a 12th consecutive league title alive.

"We have a lot to lose," Gonzaga center Sam Dower said. "They (Saint Mary's) really don't have anything to lose."

While a Saint Mary's loss would still leave the Gaels in first place, a Gonzaga loss could drop the Bulldogs into third in the WCC.

UCLA holds the Division I record by winning 13 consecutive regular-season titles from 1967-79. After Gonzaga's 11, Connecticut and UNLV are tied for third with 10 each.

The current Zags were in elementary school or younger when the team launched the streak in the 2000-01 season with a squad that featured Gonzaga greats Dan Dickau and Casey Calvary. The Zags have owned the WCC since, going undefeated in the league three times.

This year has been a struggle because the WCC is tougher and because the Zags are starting two freshmen at guard and getting uneven play from their front line.

Bench leads Rockets past Blazers

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Houston's bench was doing so well that it allowed coach Kevin McHale the luxury of resting his starters on the front end of a back-to-back.

Chase Budinger led the way with a season-best 22 points for the Rockets in a 103-96 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers on Wednesday night.

Courtney Lee added 16 as the Houston reserves accounted for 66 points.

"They deserved to be out there because they played well," McHale said. "It's just one of those things where if they're rollin' we're going to let them go."

Lee played nearly 31 minutes and Budinger was just over 29.

"The chemistry level is up for us right now," Budinger said.

The Rockets had a scare late in the third quarter when starting guard Kyle Lowry injured his right elbow and left the game. The team later said it was a strain.

"It's a little bit sore but we're just going to treat it," Lowry said. "I

don't want to sit out any games, so I'll see how it feels in the morning."

Lowry had 12 points when he left.

On the other side, Portland forward LaMarcus Aldridge said he was fighting an illness. Averaging 23.7 points going into the game, Aldridge finished with 13.

Houston led by as many as 19 in its second straight win on the road. The Rockets were coming off a 99-90 victory at Denver on Monday night. They continue a six-game road trip Thursday night in Phoenix.

Jamal Crawford came

off the bench to score 21 points for the Blazers, who rallied to tie the game at 77 on Aldridge's dunk in the fourth quarter. Portland hung close for a while before the Rockets had an 8-0 run to go up 90-82.

It was Portland's second straight loss at the Rose Garden and its third at home this season.

The Blazers were coming off an emotional 111-107 overtime defeat at home against Oklahoma City on Monday. Portland led 103-101 with 6 seconds left when Aldridge was called for goaltending on Kevin Durant. That tied the

game, which went to overtime, and the defeated Blazers were outshot by the Thunder.

The next day, the NBA posted a statement on its website that officials in the game had made an incorrect call.

Crawford's 3-pointer pulled the Blazers to 39-38 in the second quarter, but the Rockets pulled away, going up 58-44 on Lowry's 3. Luis Scola was 5 for 5 from the floor to start the game, but spent a lot of the second quarter watching while the Rockets' reserves built the lead to as many as 14 points.

Houston led 60-46 at the break.

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Harrington trying to return to elite

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. (AP) — Pdraig Harrington has been coming to the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am for a half-dozen years, for reasons that cause some players to stay away.

The potential for a nasty mix of wind and rain? He's from Ireland.

Rounds that stretch past six hours?

He's in the company of good friends, Irish businessmen J.P. McManus (his partner) and Dermot Desmond.

The difference this year is that Harrington needs to have more than a good time. The three-time major champion has been sliding since that magical 2008 season when he captured the British Open and PGA Championship. He now is No. 93 in the world, meaning he is not yet eligible for a pair of World Golf Championships over the next month.

That becomes more critical because this is a Ryder Cup year. Harrington was a surprise captain's pick for Wales in 2010. Considering this might be the toughest Euro-

pean team ever to make, he's not at the top of anyone's list.

He'll need world ranking points — a lot of them — and that means playing well.

"There's no doubt I'm behind the eight-ball at this stage," Harrington said Wednesday. "I haven't got very many points. It's not going to be a year that I can play well and get into it. I'm going to have to play great to get into the team. I'm not going to be able to pick up easy points and qualify that way. I'm going to have to actually really play well to force my way in."

The cause of this slump can be traced to swing changes, though Harrington says that's not the case. He says he discovered last summer that the game had simply become stale.

So why does the swing change get so much attention.

"I talk too much," he said. "It's an Irish trait. I did what I normally do. I talked."

As for the swing, he always is changing that.

Harrington said he re-

vamped his swing after he first got his European Tour card. He adjusted his swing after winning his first major at Carnoustie in the 2007 British Open. He did it again after winning two majors a year later.

"I made a massive change with Bob Torrance in '99," he said. "When I won in Carnoustie, I was playing with a draw. When I won in Birkdale, I was trying to play with a fade. So I continually changed. But after 2008, I talked about it.

"I think it's interesting what I'm doing, and I hope other people think it's interesting," he said. "Maybe it's my ego, but I like to tell people. But the difference is, there were more people listening. I had a bigger platform. So over the other years when I talked, I didn't get as much noise back."

This will be his third tournament of the year, on his third continent. He tied for 10th in South Africa at the Volvo Champions, then tied for 35th in Abu Dhabi.

On Thursday, he gets start-

ed in the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am on the Shore Course at Monterey Peninsula, far away from the celebrity circus.

Tiger Woods is the big show this week, back at Pebble for this event for the first time in 10 years. He's playing with Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo, with the other pro his good friend Arjun Atwal. The big names, such as Woods and Harrington, still have some say in their partners. Woods also managed to avoid part of the celebrity scene.

When he eventually gets to Pebble Beach for the Saturday show, he'll be teeing off on the back nine. That leaves the likes of Bill Murray, Ray Romano, Andy Garcia and Huey Lewis on the other side of the course. The sports figures mixed in with celebrities include New England Patriots coach Bill Belichick and 49ers coach Jim Harbaugh, college coaches Nick Saban (Alabama) and Bob Stoops (Oklahoma), and former Houston Rockets star Clyde Drexler.

No matter where they are, expect a glorious week.

The worst of the weather — which wasn't even that bad — left on Tuesday, leaving a forecast of sunshine along the Monterey Peninsula, coupled with strong surf that leaves the vistas simply breathtaking.

"If you have a bad experience here, it can feel like the longest week of your life," Geoff Ogilvy said as he walked up the fourth fairway at Pebble, his head turned to the right to gaze at the sea. "If it's a good experience, it's enjoyable. And if it's like this, it can feel like the greatest week of the year."

It proved to be a tonic for Spencer Levin.

Only four days ago, Levin was poised to win his first PGA Tour event when he took a six-shot lead into the final round of the Phoenix Open. He found himself rushing, just wanting the final round to be over, and he kept dropping shots. A double bogey on the 15th hole doomed him, and Kyle Stanley rallied from eight shots behind to win.



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The Colorado Municipal Water District and Garney Companies are soliciting General Contractor, Subcontractor and supplier participation including those that qualify as SWMBE's for the following: Bid Package 6 Above Slab Work for the Ward County Water Supply Expansion Project. Bid Deadline is March 1, 2012 at 3:30 p.m. Bid will be received at CFMWD 400 E. 24th Street, Big Spring, TX 79721-0869. For more information contact Marcus Grace at (816)536-6485 or email mgrace@garney.com Garney Companies, Inc is an Employment/ Opportunity Employer. #7254 February 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 2012

Legals

Notice of Proposed Acquisition of Certain Bank Assets And Assumption of Liabilities

Notice is hereby given that The Pecos County State Bank, Fort Stockton, Texas has made application to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for its written consent to acquire certain assets of and to assume certain liabilities to pay deposits made in the Van Horn, Texas branch (located at 1800 W. Broadway) of Western Bank, Coahoma, Texas. Following consummation of this transaction, The Pecos County State Bank will operate the above mentioned location as a branch of The Pecos County State Bank. Any person wishing to comment on this application may file his or her comments in writing with the Regional Director (DOS) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation at 1601 Bryan Street, Dallas, TX 75201 no later than 30 days after notice. The non-confidential portions of the application are on file in the Regional Office and are available for public inspection during regular business hours. Photocopies of the non-confidential portion of the application will be made available upon request. #7264 February 9, 16 & 23, 2012

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

The transits came fast and furious during Tuesday's full moon. The sun and Mercury aligned to present a technological carnival of wonders. Saturn went retrograde to test our discipline. Venus entered Aries to turn up the passion. And we're still in the cosmic whirl, trying to regain equilibrium. The grounded Virgo moon comes to the rescue.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You think you are explaining yourself well. What you can't account for is the level of distraction that others encounter inside their own heads. Your patience will be required.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll do all you can to maintain an appealing atmosphere. You won't let anyone encroach on your space, freedom and peace, and you'll protect those you love from invasion, as well.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Movement is essential to your growth process. As you physically move through your environment, you mentally move through obstacles, troubles, fear and anything else holding you back.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The one who catches you off guard also captures your interest, attention and affection. You may find yourself thinking of this person well into the evening.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Life is like rock climbing. When you know you have a strong measure of security in your connection with the rock, it is easier for you to swing out and savor an adventurous piece of sky.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You have a gift for making people cooperate, even when they think the task at hand is tedious. You help everyone see the benefit to living in an orderly, cheerful and efficient manner.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Anyone who's achieved greatness knows that a lot of effort, forethought, insight, planning and practice go into turning the ordinary into the extraordinary.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You can stroke a person's ego without doing what the person is asking you to do. You have a clever way of dealing with the one who is notoriously hard to manage.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll wonder at the curious turn-

arounds of the day. For instance, enjoyment turns out to be more work than working. You're determined to make the best of things, and that's just what you'll do.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll be in the mood to initiate the action. Small won't count. Sweeping, grand gestures will go over well, if only because not many people have the guts to make such a strong statement.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You love it when an idea comes together, and right now you're working on one that could transform your world. That stated, it's the practical moves you make now that will bring you the most satisfaction.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Arguments will shake up the day, and the future will seem uncertain. Your powers of empathy will be tested, and you'll come through with flying colors. If anyone can find a compromise, you can!

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 9). You have a killer instinct for business. In the next six weeks, you'll make more money for doing the same amount of work. A turn of events in March may be hard to assimilate at first, but ultimately it's what allows your heart to be most fulfilled. You love a mystery, and the one in your own family tree will be riveting this summer. Aries and Virgo people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 25, 2, 15 and 30.

COUNTDOWN TO V-DAY: The Valentines will be flying next Tuesday, and if you haven't already figured out how you're going to express your heart, you still have enough time to come up with something good. If you're an earth sign — Taurus, Virgo and Capricorn — you'll be wise to focus on the

senses, both yours and your loved one's. You truly have a gift for homing in on just the scent or taste that will most capture the attention and imagination of your love. Of course, your highly tuned eye and your musical ears will also play a part, but none so important as your sense of touch.

It's the assuring pats, loving nudges and soft caresses that bond you with your loved ones. As you deliver your notes or gifts, remember that the warmth of your hug and the sweetness of your kiss will make the difference between a nice gesture and a truly memorable encounter.

Ideas for gifts: dinner and music, a night on the town, gourmet food, zingy, hand-printed notes, a thoughtful and sentimental playlist, body lotions and scents, pajamas or sheets.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Carole King's memoir, "A Natural Woman," is scheduled for release in April of this year. This chronicle of King's rise from her Brooklyn beginnings to superstardom as one of the most iconic songwriters of all time comes on the heels of her first holiday album. King was born when the sun, Mercury and Venus were all in musical Aquarius and Mars, Saturn and Uranus were in Taurus, the sign of the voice.

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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HOLIDAY MATHIS

Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: My wife, "Jane," and I have been married for five years, and she is the love of my life.

She has an identical twin sister named "Jordan." The two women are best friends. Jordan is at our house four or five times a week, but does not impose on our marriage. She is a great sister-in-law and gives us our space.

Jane has an 8-year-old son from a previous relationship whose middle name is also Jordan, after his aunt.

I've watched the boy grow up and have gotten to know him well over the past several years. I love him as if he were my own.

Recently, Jane discovered she is pregnant with our first child. Naturally, I'm thrilled. However, despite my objections, she is determined to name the child Jordan, regardless of gender.

Ordinarily, I wouldn't care, because Aunt Jordan is a good role model. But there are already two people in the family who have that name.

Am I right, or should I be more sensitive to my wife's wishes? — *Steve in Ohio*

Dear Steve: You need to be sensitive to hers, but she also needs to be sensitive to yours. Ask her to compromise. Point out how confusing it could be

if both your child and Aunt Jordan are in the same room.

And some children are highly sensitive to being named for a relative of the opposite sex. You also can agree wholeheartedly to have it as a less-used middle name instead.

But if your attempts prove futile, it may not be worth the damage a protracted argument would cause.

Children somehow manage to grow up just fine in families where multiple people are named for the same relative. And if the confusion is too great, you can call your child by a nickname.

Dear Annie: My daughter is 27, and her fiance is 29. Several months ago, they announced their engagement and set a wedding date for November.

However, her fiance has medical issues, and they wanted him to be covered under her plan, so they decided to get married earlier.

I was told about this, and it was OK with me, provided it was legal.

As it turns out, they had a

nice little wedding in a park with guests and family members who live nearby. My wife and I were out of town, so I was allowed to call in and hear it via teleconference.

Now that they are legally married, however, they still want a "real" wedding in November.

My daughter's mother died four years ago, so it's just my new wife and I who would be



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

handling it. Should we call it a wedding or just an event or something else? — *Robert*

Dear Robert: We hope your daughter and her fiance are financing and arranging their own wedding, regardless of what they call it.

Fortunately, it's not your job to come up with a title for the event. Your safest bet is to call it whatever your daughter prefers, be it "wedding," "renewal of vows," "marriage reception," "wedding party" or anything else.

Dear Annie: Like "Unhappy Husband," I am confused and disappointed that my wife

enjoys sex but will not initiate it.

I would feel happier if I knew she was sexually attracted to me. This may sound silly, but it isn't simply the act of sex that is important. It's the feeling of connectedness and the belief that she wants to be emotionally joined to me.

It's particularly discouraging when she says, "Do we have to do it now?" What man is going to say he needs sex? I feel rejected.

On those occasions when she changes her mind, she will say, "I suppose we can have sex now." This is not exciting, supportive or romantic.

I have told her how I feel, and we have discussed it to the point where I will not talk about it anymore. — *Also Unhappy*

Dear Unhappy: Professional counseling may help your communication issues. Please try.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers 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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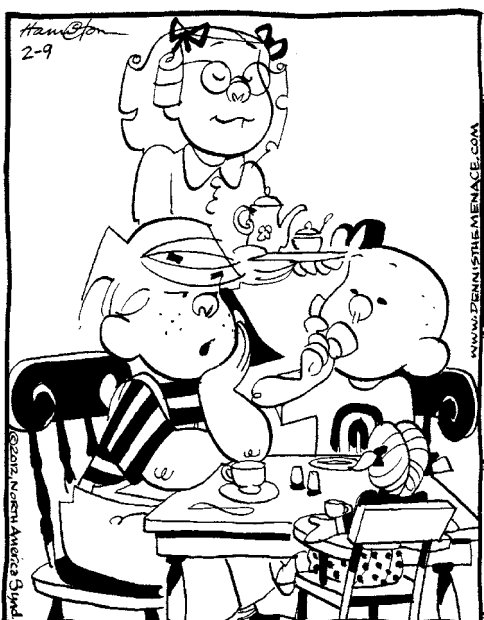


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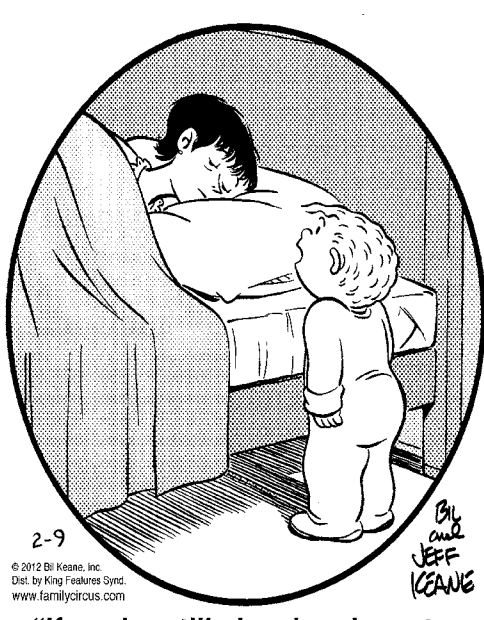
	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWTT (14) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5:PM :30	News ABC	Alma Notic.	Two Men	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News News	King King	Israel Andrew	Charlie Rose	Til Death Cash Cab	Cash Cab	CSI: Miami	Jail	Bones	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Shake It Good	NFL32	SportsCenter
6:PM :30	Jeopardy!	Una Familia con Suerte (SS)	Big Bang	News Ent	Caso Cer-rado	News 30 Rock	Seinfeld	Dr. Wil Chevalme	PBS News-Hour	Seinfeld	Gold Rush	CSI: Miami	Jail	NBA Tip-Off	Wizards	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	
7:PM :30	Wipeout	American Idol	Big Bang	Ent	Una Maid en	Millionaire	Seinfeld	Fam. Guy	Travel Parks	The Vampire Diaries	Secrets of the FBI	Movie: Christine, Alexandra Paul	Jail	NBA Basket-ball: Lakers at Celtics	Movie: Training Day, Scott Glenn	Good	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	College Basketball: Teams TBA.
8:PM :30	Grey's Anatomy	La Que No	The Finder	Person of Interest	Flor Salvaje (SS)	Office All Night	Big Bang	Light of the Southwest	Antiques Roadshow	The Secret Circle	Cops & Coyotes	Movie: Christine, Alexandra Paul	Jail	NBA Basket-ball: Thunder at Kings	Movie: Caught Up, Joseph Lindsey	Good	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	College Basketball: Teams TBA.
9:PM :30	(02) Private Practice	Dale con Ganas (SS)	Simpsons How I Met	The Mental-ist	Relaciones Peli	The Firm	Big Bang	Conan	Independent Lens	Til Death King	First Week In	Movie: Christine, Alexandra Paul	Jail	NBA Basket-ball: Thunder at Kings	Movie: The Marine 2, Lara Cox	Good	College Basketball	SportsCenter
10:PM :30	News Nightline	Impacto	How I Met	News Letterman	Noticias Titulares	News Jay Leno	Conan	Dr. Diana	Sky Is World	South Pk	Cops & Coyotes	Jail	NBA Basket-ball: Thunder at Kings	Wendy Williams	Good	College Basketball	SportsCenter	
11:PM :30	Jimmy Kim-mel Live	Hasta-Dinero	Law Order: CI	Late	Sin Senos	Late Night	The Office	Scrivner	Sala	South Pk	First Week In	Tales From the Darkside: The Movie	Jail	Wendy Williams	Good	College Basketball	SportsCenter	
12:AM :30	Extra	Mañana-Siempre	Raymond	Insider	Decisions (SS)	Late Night	Conan	Upd	T. Smiley (Off Air)	Roseanne	Gold Rush	GTTV	Inside the NBA	Movie: Training Day, Scott Glenn	Good	Basket	SportsCenter	
1:AM :30	Paid	La Jaula	American	Paid	Paid	Paid	Seinfeld	Light of the Southwest	CSI: Miami	Cops & Coyotes	CSI: Miami	Jail	To Be An-nounced	ANT Farm	ANT Farm	SportsNation	SportsCenter	

DENNIS THE MENACE



"PLAYIN' WITH MARGARET IS ABOUT AS MUCH FUN AS EATIN' BROCCOLI."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

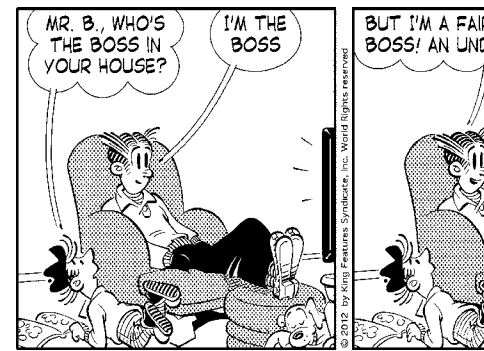


"If you're still sleeping, I can try askin' Daddy first."

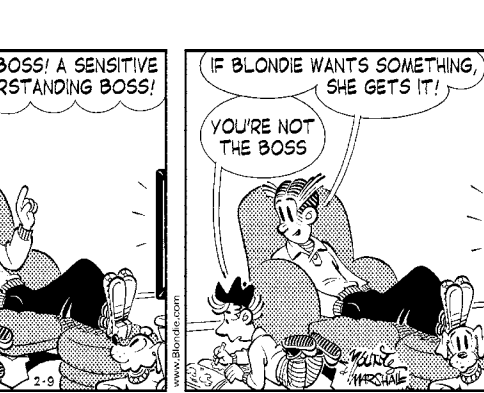
HAGAR



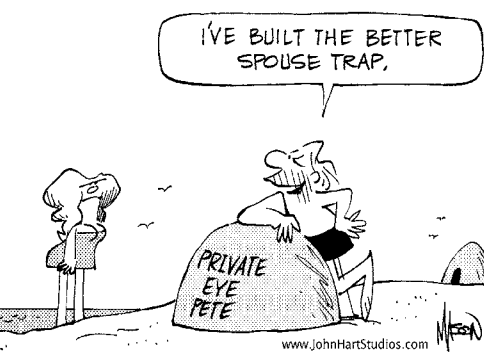
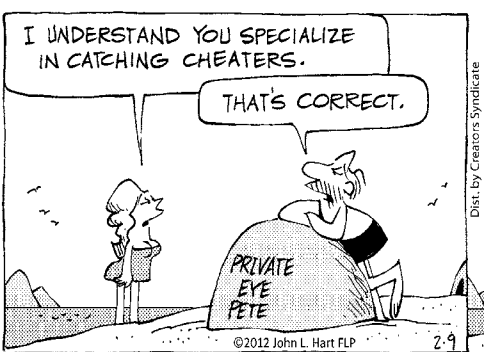
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BLONDIE



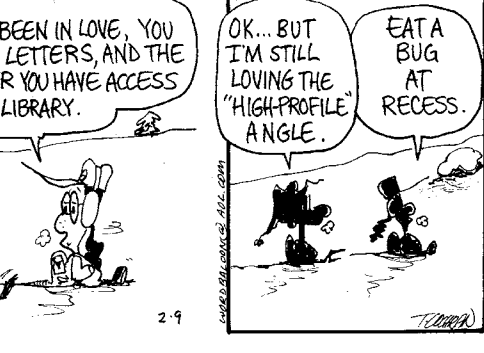
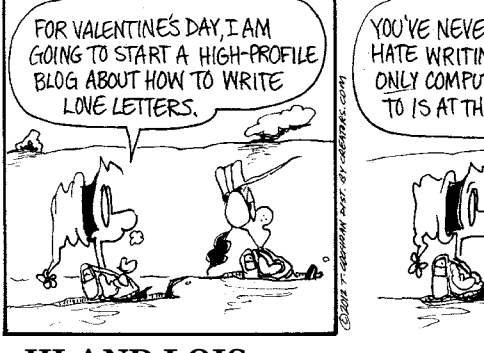
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WIZARD OF ID



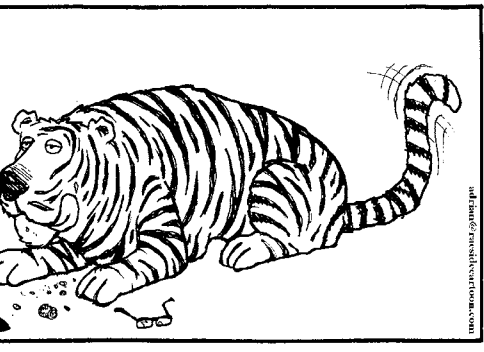
AGNES



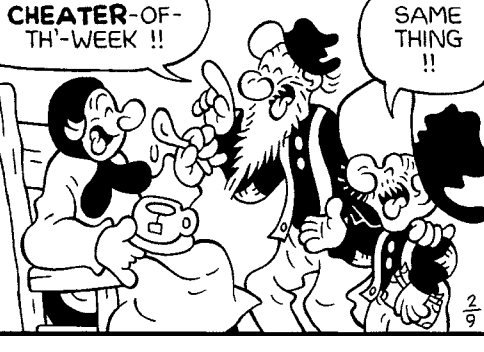
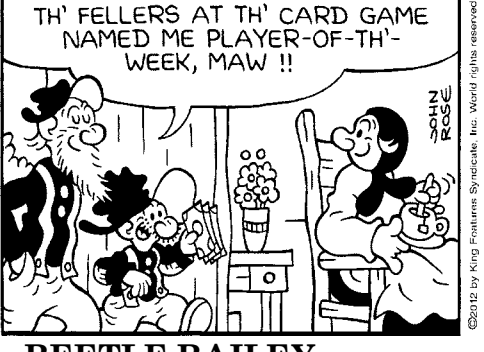
HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Feb. 9, the 40th day of 2012. There are 326 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 9, 1942, the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff held its first formal meeting to coordinate military strategy during World War II.

On this date:

In 1773, the ninth president of the United States, William Henry Harrison, was born in Charles City County, Va.

In 1825, the House of Representatives elected John Quincy Adams president after no candidate received a majority of electoral votes.

In 1861, Jefferson Davis was elected provisional president of the Confederate States of America at a congress held in Montgomery, Ala.

In 1870, the U.S. Weather Bureau was established.

In 1942, daylight-saving "War Time" went into effect in the United States, with clocks

turned one hour forward.

In 1943, the World War II battle of Guadalcanal in the southwest Pacific ended with an Allied victory over Japanese forces.

In 1950, in a speech in Wheeling, W.Va., Sen. Joseph McCarthy, R-Wis., charged the State Department was riddled with Communists.

In 1962, an agreement was signed to make Jamaica an independent nation within the British Commonwealth later in the year.

In 1964, The Beatles made their first live American television appearance on "The Ed Sullivan Show," broadcast from New York on CBS.

In 1971, a magnitude 6.6 earthquake in California's San Fernando Valley claimed 65 lives. The crew of Apollo 14 returned to Earth after man's third landing on the moon.

In 1984, Soviet leader Yuri V. Andropov, 69, died less than 15 months after succeeding Leonid Brezhnev; he was followed by Konstantin U. Chernenko (chehr-NYEN'-koh).

In 2001, a U.S. Navy submarine, the USS Greeneville, collided with a Japanese fishing boat, the Ehime Maru (eh-hee-

mee mah-roo), while surfacing off the Hawaiian coast, killing nine men and boys aboard the boat.

Today's Birthdays: Television journalist Roger Mudd is 84. Actress Janet Suzman is 73. Actress-politician Sheila James Kuehl (kyool) ("The Many Loves of Dobie Gillis") is 71. Singer-songwriter Carole King is 70. Actor Joe Pesci is 69. Singer Barbara Lewis is 69. Author Alice Walker is 68. Actress Mia Farrow is 67. Sen. Jim Webb, D-Va., is 66. Singer Joe Ely is 65. Actress Judith Light is 63. Rhythm-and-blues musician Dennis "DT" Thomas (Kool & the Gang) is 61. Actor Charles Shaughnessy is 57.

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Answer to previous puzzle

SHIM	GIST	SICEM
CATO	OMAR	USAGE
ARID	TACO	PEROT
RESEARCH	PAPER	
MILLI	SILL	ETC
	TIDY	CLEANER
SKI	BOAT	TITNO
MAGNIFYING	GLASS	
OPUS	POOR	LES
CUECARD	WEED	
KTS	IOUS	SEEDY
SPRINKLING	CAN	
DENIM	DION	RENO
EVOKE	ELMO	ELKS
EATEN	ELAN	ELSE

Newsday Crossword

AUDUBON SOCIETY by David W. Cromer
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS
- 1 Farm soil
 - 6 Offended
 - 10 Door buster
 - 13 Hawaiian hi
 - 14 Sullen one
 - 15 Praiseful verse
 - 16 Daughter on *The Cosby Show*
 - 18 Cave dweller
 - 19 Legal claim
 - 20 Oscar-winning rapper
 - 21 Wall St. news
 - 22 Change color again
 - 24 Broach, as a subject
 - 26 Insurance-claim detail
 - 29 Untamed
 - 30 401(k) alternative
 - 31 Exotic flower
 - 34 Nerd
 - 37 Salon jobs
 - 39 Yahoo! rival
 - 40 Italian wine
 - 41 Overfill
 - 42 Service-station supply
 - 44 Tuna holder
 - 45 Computer data
 - 47 Electronic dance-music genre
 - 49 Two-person
 - 51 Film music
 - 53 Place for a plug
 - 54 Actor Kutcher
 - 56 Tibetan priest
 - 60 3-D exam
 - 61 *Cheers* star
 - 63 Poker winnings
 - 64 Michaels of *Saturday Night Live*

- 65 Largest African urban region
 - 66 Explosive initials
 - 67 Idea's beginning
 - 68 Shakespearean forest
- DOWN
- 1 Title equivalent to count
 - 2 Jai
 - 3 Don't stay in one place
 - 4 Major DC lobby
 - 5 Solo of *Star Wars*
 - 6 Pal in the 'hood
 - 7 Conversant with
 - 8 Went back on one's word
 - 9 Seismological event
 - 10 ...*Rich and Famous* host
 - 11 Make needed adjustments
 - 12 Copycat's comment
 - 14 "Goodness!"
 - 17 Meal with matzo
 - 23 Swelled heads
 - 25 Othello's adversary
 - 26 Minor declines
 - 27 Sector
 - 28 *Norma Rae* director
 - 29 Nike competitor
 - 32 Online shopper's basket
 - 33 Groundbreaking tool
 - 35 Actress Rachel Wood
 - 36 Casino game
 - 38 Do darn
 - 40 Futures dealer?
 - 42 Private eye
 - 43 Sculpting medium
 - 46 They may be cultured
 - 48 Last place, so to speak
 - 49 Entice
 - 50 Brother of Moses
 - 51 Place to testify
 - 52 Make needed adjustments
 - 55 Roll-call response
 - 57 Surrounded by
 - 58 Stable dweller
 - 59 Soon, to Shelley
 - 62 HDTV brand

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