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VOLUME 107, NUMBER 114

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HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno

Author Janie Harrison speaks to Bobby Kizer during her book signing for "God, Guns and Texas" at the Heritage Museum. The book is available at the museum gift shop and on Amazon.

Sex assault of a child goes to trial

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Jury selection in the trial of a 60-year-old Big Spring man indicted on charges of indecency with a child and aggravated sexual assault of a child began this morning in 118th District Court.

Ernesto Dutchover Garcia, 1300 E. 11th Place, was indicted Nov. 18, 2010, on four counts of indecency with a child (second-degree felony), three counts of aggravated sexual assault of a child (first-degree felony) and

a charge of continuous sexual assault of a child (first-degree felony).

Garcia faces 5 to 99 years to life in prison and a fine not to exceed \$10,000 on each of the first-degree felony charges and two to 20 years in prison and a fine not to exceed \$10,000 on the second-degree felony charge.

According to court records, the alleged attacks go as far back as 2003, listing dates of offense as Dec. 31, 2003, Feb. 26, 2004, and the most recent being Aug. 29, 2010.

The case was investigated by the Big Spring Police Department.

See **TRIAL**, Page 3



Garcia

No surprise, gasoline prices continue to rise

Average retail gasoline prices in Texas have risen 8.4 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$3.55/g Sunday. This compares with the national average that has increased 11.3 cents per gallon in the last week to \$3.64/g, according to gasoline price website TexasGasPrices.com.

Including the change in gas prices in Texas during the past week, prices Sunday were 33.0 cents per gal-

lon higher than the same day one year ago and are 28.3 cents per gallon higher than a month ago. The national average has increased 26.6 cents per gallon during the last month and stands 29.8 cents per gallon higher than this day one year ago.

"2012 is looking increasingly like 2008," said Gregg Laskoski, senior petroleum analyst for GasBuddy.com. "Gasoline prices are climbing aggressively as speculation drives crude oil higher; and once again, it's an election year."

Landtroop at Hall Center this Tuesday

State Rep. Jim Landtroop of Plainview, who serves House District 85 in the Texas Legislature, will be in Big Spring at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Hall Center for the Arts on the Howard College campus to conduct a Town Hall meeting. The main purpose of the meeting is to address the concerns of constituents regarding redistricting in Texas.



Landtroop

Sponsors sought for benefit concert

By **AMANDA MORENO**
Staff Writer

Rockin' and rolling, two-stepping and a little bit of 1980s, all in one show. Something for everyone is what Kaleb Hill, local benefit-concert organizer, is trying to bring to Big Spring.

The concert is set for April 27 at the McMahan-Wrinkle Airpark north hangar building 1162 — recent venue of the Kyle Park concert benefitting Relay For Life. However, before he can bring the concert to Big Spring, he is asking the

community for help.

"The main goal is to help as many organizations as possible," Hill said. "I also want to be able to have money set back in case a need comes up after the event I will be able to help."

At this point, Hill is trying to find sponsors for the concert. The sponsorship at this point will be divided among the band payment, venue fees, stage and lighting expenses and other necessities.

See **CONCERT**, Page 3

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Routine items for city council

Atmos Energy rate hike request, board minutes on Tuesday agenda

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

The Big Spring City Council will face a rather routine agenda when it meets Tuesday evening, as the panel is expected to give final approval of an order suspending a rate change proposed to go into effect March 13 by Atmos Energy.

The council approved first reading of the resolution on a unanimous vote during its Feb. 14 meeting.

The resolution, which calls for the suspension of the

March 13 effective date of the Atmos Energy requested rate change, does so in an effort to give the city time to study the request, according to City Finance Director Peggy Walker.

"This will give the steering committee time to look at the rate change and determine what, if any of it, is valid," Walker told the council previously.

Since the old GRIP (gas reliability infrastructure program) tool — which was used by Atmos to increase rates for



Walker

years — was eliminated, Walker said systemwide rate increases such as these are now the only way for the gas provider to increase its rates.

"The proposed increase — not including the cost of gas to Atmos — is approximately 14.8 percent across the board," Walker said.

"If you factor in their cost for the natural gas, the increase is about 18.17 percent,

and it affects the entire West Texas region. Overall, the rate increase will total \$11.6 million, excluding the cost of gas."

Walker said this isn't the city's first time deferring to the steering committee. In fact, since doing away with the GRIP system, it's pretty much been par for the course.

"We've gone through this same process every year. They propose a rate increase

See **COUNCIL**, Page 3

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Obituaries

Cynthia Watts

Cynthia Watts, 68, of San Angelo died Sunday, Feb. 26, 2012. Services are pending with Johnson's Funeral Home.

Janet Sue Harrington

Janet Sue Harrington, 58, of Big Spring died Sunday, Feb. 26, 2012, at her residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Felipe Lerma Villa

Felipe Lerma Villa, 69, of Big Spring died Saturday, Feb. 25, 2012, at his daughter's residence. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 9 a.m. Saturday and 7 a.m. today:

- CASEY DON ROBERTS, 18, of 5300 N. County Rd. 57, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.
- JAVIER MANZANA PINEDA, 31, of 821 W. Sixth St., was arrested Sunday on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- BRYSON ONEIL VANDERBILT, 27, of 2506 Albrook, was arrested Sunday on charges of possession of marijuana – more than two ounces and less than four ounces, possession of a controlled substance, failure to maintain financial responsibility and driving while license invalid.
- JAMES BURLIN WILLIAMS, 25, of 800.5 S. Nolan, was arrested Sunday on warrants for driving while license invalid, failure to appear (two counts) and driving while license invalid.
- JEFFERY LEE SHAVER JR., 30, of Weatherford, Texas, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.
- AUDEN RICO GARCIA, 31, of Odessa, Texas, was arrested Sunday on charges of evading arrest or detention using a vehicle or watercraft and driving while intoxicated – second offense.
- TYRONE QUINTIN CHILDERS, 30, of 609 Holbert, was arrested Sunday on a warrant for driving while intoxicated.
- THEFT was reported:
In the 500 block of Westover Road.
In the 200 block of Merrick.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 1500 block of Sycamore.

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 74 inmates at the time of this report.

- CHRISTOPHER JAMES DUFORAT, 24, was booked into the county jail Friday by the BSPD on charges of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension, expired registration, failure to maintain financial responsibility and municipal warrants for failure to maintain financial responsibility and failure to appear.
- PRISCILLA ANN LIVESAY, 25, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for possession of a controlled substance.
- COURTNEY BUCK, 36, was booked into the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a municipal warrant for driving while license invalid.
- TIMOTHY D. TAYLOR, 53, was booked into the county jail Friday by the BSPD on an Austin parole violation.
- FRANSISCO ALVAREZ JR., 39, was booked into the county jail Friday by the another agency on Glasscock County warrants for driving while intoxicated – third or more offense and driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.
- ROBERT LOPEZ, 38, was booked into the county jail Friday by the BSPD on charges of possession of a controlled substance, burglary of a habitation and a municipal warrant for assault – family violence.
- JOHN MORRIS VILLARREAL JR., 49, was booked into the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of theft of service.
- LONNIE MALCOLM JOHNSON, 36, was booked into the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of theft by check and municipal warrants for failure to maintain financial responsibility – second offense, failure to appear, expired motor vehicle inspection displaying expired registration and failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- ISABEL GONZALEZ LOMAS, 55, was booked into the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on municipal warrants for no driver's license and failure to maintain financial responsibility.

ure to maintain financial responsibility.

- FREDDIE RAMOS, 26, was booked into the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a Martin County warrant for burglary of a habitation.

- CHRISTOPHER MONTEZ VIERA, 25, was booked into the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on municipal warrants for failure to appear (four counts), driving while license invalid, violation of a promise to appear (two counts), no driver's license, child safety seat violation and theft.

- ADAM VIERA, 27, was booked into the county jail Saturday by DPS on a charge of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.

- VIRGIL DOUDLAS PAXTON JR., 28, was booked into the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated and municipal warrants for failure to maintain financial responsibility and failure to appear.

- ERNEST WILLIAM CLARK, 71, was booked into the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal trespass.

- MARTY WILLIAM EGERER, 30, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.

- CASEY DON ROBERTS, 18, was booked into the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

- BRYSON O'NEIL VANDERBILT, 27, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on charges of possession of marijuana – more than two ounces and less than four ounces, possession of a controlled substance and municipal warrants for failure to maintain financial responsibility and driving while license invalid.

- JAMES BURLIN WILLIAMS, 25, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on municipal warrants for driving while license invalid (two counts) and failure to appear (two counts).

- JAVIER M. PINEDA, 31, was booked into the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

- JEFFERY LEE SHAVER JR., 30, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.

- AUDEN RICO GARCIA, 31, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on charges of evading arrest or detention with a vehicle and driving while intoxicated – second offense.

- TYRONE QUINTIN CHILDERS, 30, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on a charge of bondsman off bond for driving while intoxicated.

- GERARDO ULIN BAUTISTA, 31, was booked into the county jail Monday by the Glasscock County Sheriff's Office on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

- HERBER OSORIO, 18, was booked into the county jail Monday by the Glasscock County Sheriff's Office on a charge of public intoxication.

- VICTOR RAMOS LOPEZ, 36, was booked into the county jail Monday by the Glasscock County Sheriff's Office on a charge of public intoxication.

- RENE PEREZ SALAZAR, 26, was booked into the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

- BIANCA CHRISTINE RODRIGUEZ, 22, was booked into the county jail Monday by the BSPD on municipal warrants for no driver's license and failure to appear.

Fire/EMS

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

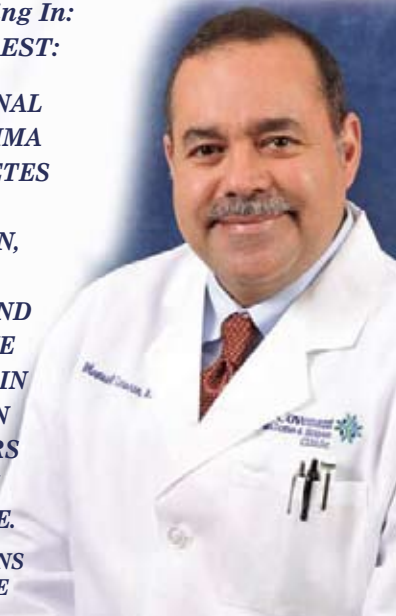
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1500 block of E. Fourth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1500 block of Sycamore. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of Ave. G. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported near the intersection of Third Street and Gregg. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 600 block of Tubb Loop Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported near the intersection of Third Street and Gregg. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1000 block of N.

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Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Tue 2/28	Wed 2/29	Thu 3/1	Fri 3/2	Sat 3/3
59/52 Cloudy early with showers for the afternoon hours. High 59F.	78/43 Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the low 40s.	71/45 Sunshine. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the mid 40s.	79/47 Sunshine. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the upper 40s.	70/39 Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the upper 30s.
Sunrise: 7:16 AM Sunset: 6:42 PM	Sunrise: 7:15 AM Sunset: 6:43 PM	Sunrise: 7:14 AM Sunset: 6:43 PM	Sunrise: 7:13 AM Sunset: 6:44 PM	Sunrise: 7:12 AM Sunset: 6:45 PM



Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	60	54	rain	Kingsville	76	65	t-storm
Amarillo	48	41	rain	Livingston	70	57	cloudy
Austin	66	58	rain	Longview	69	57	pt sunny
Beaumont	68	60	rain	Lubbock	52	48	rain
Brownsville	78	68	t-storm	Lufkin	71	58	pt sunny
Brownwood	62	57	rain	Midland	61	54	rain
Corpus Christi	73	65	t-storm	Raymondville	79	66	t-storm
Corsicana	65	56	rain	Rosenberg	69	62	rain
Dallas	65	57	rain	San Antonio	68	60	t-storm
Del Rio	67	61	rain	San Marcos	67	59	rain
El Paso	75	48	sunny	Sulphur Springs	67	57	pt sunny
Fort Stockton	71	53	windy	Sweetwater	60	53	rain
Gainesville	62	53	rain	Tyler	67	56	pt sunny
Greenville	65	54	pt sunny	Weatherford	62	54	rain
Houston	69	62	rain	Wichita Falls	62	54	rain

Gregg Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

- STRUCTURE FIRE was reported in the 5600 block of the N. Service Road. Fire was out on arrival.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. Service refused.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 600 block of W. 18th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

- TRAUMA was reported in the 3100 block of Mountain Shadow Drive. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1200 block of Marijo. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1500 block of Wood. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of W. 17th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 2700 block of Coronado. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 4000 block of Vickie. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of Cardinal. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 700 block of E. 13th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1500 block of E. 17th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1500 block of E. 17th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 100 block of Brown. Service refused.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1100 block of N. Aylesford. Service refused.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1100 block of Highway 176. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 700 block of E. 13th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

- TRANSFORMER FIRE was reported in the 2500 block of Gregg Street.

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News in brief

Nostalgia rules as 'The Artist,' 'Hugo' dominate safe, predictable Academy Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Nostalgia ruled at the Oscars, with the classic film homages "The Artist" and "Hugo" dominating with five awards each, Meryl Streep winning her first best-actress prize in nearly three decades and longtime favorite Billy Crystal returning as host.

It was a rather safe, predictable affair all around, with the winners who've heard their names throughout awards season being called up on stage one last time Sunday night. "The Artist," a black-and-white love letter to silent film, won best picture, best director for France's Michel Hazanavicius and best actor for Jean Dujardin as an actor who finds his career in danger with the arrival of the talkies. It also earned prizes for costume design and original score.

"Hugo," Martin Scorsese's 3-D mixture of family adventure and plea for film preservation, collected its prizes in the technical categories: cinematography, art direction, sound mixing, sound editing and visual effects.

Streep, the most celebrated actress of our generation, found herself in the unusual position of playing the sentimental, underdog favorite. Many (including AP's film writers) had chosen Viola Davis as the likely favorite to win best actress for her formidable portrayal of a maid in the 1960s South in "The Help." But Streep, who's been nominated more than any other actor in Oscar history — 17 times — hadn't won since 1982's "Sophie's Choice."

The glittering crowd in the theater (and journalists in the press room alike) erupted in gasps and cheers when Streep's name was called for her uncanny performance as former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in "The Iron Lady." Streep was quick to thank her longtime makeup artist J. Roy Helland, who was also a winner Sunday night, for transforming her for the past 37 years.

Academy Award winners

List of the 84th Annual Academy Award winners announced Sunday:

1. Best Picture: "The Artist."
2. Actor: Jean Dujardin, "The Artist."
3. Actress: Meryl Streep, "The Iron Lady."

Insurgents killed in failed attempt to attack base with rocket

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — An Afghan official says four insurgents were killed by a rocket that they were trying to fire into an Afghan-run military base in the east of the country.

Nazian district administrator Mohammad Issa says the insurgents clashed with Afghan soldiers outside the base on Monday.

He says they were killed when the rocket they were trying to shoot into the base instead exploded among them.

White House grant money paid for surveillance of Muslims, mosques

WASHINGTON (AP) — Millions of dollars in White House money has helped pay for New York Police Department programs that put entire American Muslim neighborhoods under surveillance.

The money is part of a little-known grant intended to help law enforcement fight drug crimes. Since

the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the Bush and Obama administrations have provided \$135 million to the New York and New Jersey region through the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area program, known as HIDTA.

Some of that money — it's unclear exactly how much because the program has little oversight — has paid for the cars that plainclothes NYPD officers used to conduct surveillance on Muslim neighborhoods. It also paid for computers that store even innocuous information about Muslim college students, mosque sermons and social events.

When NYPD Commissioner Raymond Kelly was filled in on these efforts, his briefings were prepared on HIDTA computers.

The AP confirmed the use of White House money through secret police documents and interviews with current and former city and federal officials. The AP also obtained electronic documents with digital signatures indicating they were created and saved on HIDTA computers. The HIDTA grant program is overseen by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Red Cross delivers urgent aid to Syrian city of Hama

GENEVA (AP) — The International Committee of the Red Cross says its teams have succeeded in entering the central Syrian city of Hama for the first time in over a month.

A Red Cross spokesman in Geneva says a joint team of the ICRC and Syrian Arab Red Crescent brought an emergency delivery of food and other items for 12,000 people.

Spokesman Hicham Hassan told The Associated Press on Monday that it is the first time the aid group has been able to enter the city since Jan. 17.

Hassan says efforts to re-enter the embattled Homs neighborhood of Baba Amr continue.

He says the humanitarian situation in Baba Amr after days of fierce fighting is increasingly dire.

Ohio looms as next big Romney-Santorum battleground

FLINT, Mich. (AP) — Regardless of the outcome of Republican presidential primaries in Michigan and Arizona on Tuesday, Mitt Romney and Rick Santorum appear headed for a showdown next week in Ohio.

Both candidates plan to dash there later this week. The candidates and their allies already are spending heavily on advertising in the Buckeye State. It's one of 10 that vote a week from Tuesday, with 419 delegates to the Republican National Convention at stake.

"An awful lot of Ohioans are just tuning in to this," said Terry Casey, a veteran Republican campaign strategist in that state. "It's going to be a sprint."

Beyond Ohio, Romney was looking to contests in the West while Santorum focuses on the South.

Rival Newt Gingrich, seeking to inject momentum into his struggling bid, was working to make his stand in his former home state of Georgia and nearby Southern states that also vote on the mega-contest day of March 6.

The former House speaker told reporters Sunday: "We hope to win in Georgia, we hope to do well in Oklahoma and Tennessee. We may surprise people in Idaho. We think we have a real fighting chance in Ohio."

CONCERT

Continued from Page 1

involved. "In order to make any event a success, it has to have the help and funding from local businesses," Hill said. "There are many costs to putting together a show like this." Hill has set his profit goal at \$5,000. This amount will allow him

to help out and make donations to his selected organizations — Toys for Tots, Little League youth sports and Relay For Life. Each organization has been selected based on the services they provide the community and the impact they have.

"Toys for Tots helps kids all over the state. Little league youth sports gives kids the opportunity to learn

sportsmanship and how to work together as a team and build self-esteem. And Relay For Life is an organization that reaches all across the United States and beyond," Hill said.

Sponsorships are being accepted in any interval, according to Hill. However, for every \$100 sponsorship, two tickets will be received to the concert and the sponsor's name will ap-

pear on a banner to be hung inside the venue. Sponsorships more than \$1,000 will include a meet and greet with all bands as well.

"This is a chance to think about how you can help make a difference in this town," Hill said. "I'm not asking for any specific amount of donation because I know each business can contribute differently."

To make a donation to

As Gulf oil spill trial is delayed, BP and plaintiffs step up talks

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Nearly two years after his brother Gordon was killed in the Deepwater Horizon oil rig explosion, Chris Jones had planned to drive in from Baton Rouge with other relatives to attend the start of the federal trial over the nation's worst offshore oil disaster.

But Jones learned Sunday that a judge had delayed the start of the trial from Monday to March 5 because oil giant BP PLC was making progress in settlement talks with a committee overseeing scores of lawsuits. Jones said he has mixed feelings about the prospect of a settlement, adding that he would be disappointed if BP manages to "write a check to solve their problems."

"I was ready to go to trial and see their feet held close to the fire," he said Sunday. "It seems like the easy way out to pay whatever the plaintiffs are willing to take."

Two people close to the case told The Associated Press the decision to postpone was made Sunday during a conference call between parties in the Gulf of Mexico oil spill case and U.S. District Judge Carl Barbier. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the call.

They said the judge told those on the call that BP and the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee were "making some progress" in their settlement talks. The steering committee is overseeing lawsuits filed by individuals and businesses following the explosion on the Deepwater Horizon rig on April 20, 2010. The blast killed Gordon Jones and 10 other workers and led to 206 million gallons of oil spewing from the blown-out well, soiling miles of coastline.

Russia's Putin strongly warns against military intervention in Syria, attack on Iran

MOSCOW (AP) — Prime Minister Vladimir Putin warned against military intervention in Syria or an attack on Iran in scathing criticism of the West on Monday as he laid out his foreign policy priorities ahead of Russia's presidential vote.

Putin said the West had backed the Arab Spring to advance its interests in the region, and that instead of promoting democracy the revolts had given rise to religious extremism.

The lengthy article, brimming with criticism of the United States and its Western allies, was the latest in a series of manifestos Putin has published in Russian newspapers ahead of Sunday's election, which he is all but certain to win.

Putin defended the Russia-China decision earlier this month to veto a United Nations resolution condemning Syrian President Bashar Assad's crackdown on protests, saying that Moscow wouldn't allow a replay of what happened in Libya, where NATO airstrikes helped Libya's rebels oust Moammar Gadhafi's regime.

TRIAL

Continued from Page 1

The prosecution is being presented by Assistant District Attorney Robin Orr, while Garcia is being represented by Big Spring attorney

Robert D. Miller. Testimony in the case is expected to begin as soon as Tuesday at 9 a.m.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1

and we suspend it, just like we're doing now," Walker said. "The steering committee will look at it, and when it's all said and done, the number agreed upon by both sides will be a lot lower than what's being thrown around right now. It's a lot like buying a car. That's really the only analogy I can think of to compare it to."

Also Tuesday, the council is to consider final reading of the McMahan-Wrinkle Airport and Industrial Park Development Board of Directors minutes from its regular meeting Jan. 19. In new business, the

council is to consider first reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 19 of the Code of ordinances to update procedures for permitting of wrecker companies to be placed on a rotation list for non-consent tows within the city limits.

The ordinance also allows the city to contract with the wrecker service to provide ser-

vices for for city-owned vehicles.

Also during Tuesday's meeting, the council is to consider first reading of the Big Spring Economic Development Board of Directors minutes from its regular meeting Jan. 17 and special meeting from Feb. 13.

Tuesday's meeting is to get under way at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council

Chambers, located at 307 E. Fourth Street. For more information, call 264-2401. Also, a complete copy of the meeting agenda can be found online at www.mybig-spring.com

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

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the benefit concert funding, contact Hill at 432-213-5761.

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

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Derwood Zant, 96, died Friday. Funeral services were at 10:30 a.m. today at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial with Military Honors followed at Trinity Memorial Park.

Janet Sue Harrington, 58, died Sunday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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Sun. 8a.m.-10a.m.)

Ron Midkiff Publisher... Ext. 250
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Robert Smith Circulation Manager... Ext. 252
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The Big Spring Herald is a member of The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Texas Press Association, West Texas Press Association, Texas Daily Newspaper Association, The Associated Press.

Published afternoons Mon. thru Fri. and Sunday mornings, except July 4, Memorial Day, Labor Day and Christmas Day, except if Christmas Day falls on a Sunday. All materials copyrighted.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas.

USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6811

BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: \$8.85 monthly; \$95.58 yearly (includes 10% discount). MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$14.58 monthly Howard; \$18.33 elsewhere.

Permian Basin of West Texas seeing oil boom

DALLAS (AP) — The Permian Basin of West Texas is experiencing an oil boom, leading some of the region's top oilmen to predict that Texas oil production will double within five to seven years.

Oil drillers over the last eight years have found that the dense oil rock of the basin surrounding Midland and Odessa responds well to hydraulic fracturing, releasing lush yields. Total oil production last year in Texas averaged

more than 1 million barrels per day for the first time since 2001.

"Right in the basin, we could get up to 2 million barrels a day," Jim Henry of Midland-based Henry Resources said.

"I've been totally surprised by the amount of oil we're finding out in the shale zones," Scott Sheffield, chairman and chief executive of Irving-based Pioneer Natural Resources Co., added.

"We have 30 billion barrels of new oil dis-

coveries," said Tim Leach, chairman and CEO of Midland-based Concho Resources. "It can be hard to get your mind around that."

The cloud on the horizon is the persistent drought that has gripped the region. Hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," requires massive amounts of water to pump into the ground under high pressure.

Drillers also worry about the prospect of tax increases and limits placed on land use by

the presence of such endangered species as the dunes sagebrush lizard.

But as long as crude oil prices remain high, around \$100 per barrel, drilling will remain profitable.

Similar booms are under way in the Eagle Ford Shale of South Texas and the Bakken Shale of North Dakota and Montana. Production also is climbing rapidly in western Alberta Canada, which is now the largest source of U.S. oil imports.

"I could paint a scenario for you where we are producing 3 million more barrels per day by 2016, which would almost get us to the point where we could eliminate 60 to 70 percent of our OPEC imports," Texas Railroad Commissioner Barry Swann said. "With that greater control over our own energy security, we could care less about what happens in the Strait of Hormuz."

The narrow straight between the United Arab

Emirates and Iran is considered strategically vulnerable to blockade by Iran's revolutionary regime.

The United States still imports 45 percent of the 19 million barrels of petroleum that it consumes, but that is a sharp reduction, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. In 2005, about two-thirds of all liquid fuels the United States consumed was imported.

"Classic" Ann Landers®: Reader's send in favorite clippings

Editor's Note: Hundreds of Ann Landers' loyal readers have requested that newspapers continue to publish her columns. These letters originally appeared in 1999.

Dear Ann Landers: I recently came across this newspaper clipping from The Ledger in Lakeland, Fla., which I had saved from a few years back. I kept it to show to friends because I thought it was hilarious. I'm hoping you will agree and print it as one of your "unusual lawsuit" letters. The story originally appeared in La Stampa and La Repubblica newspapers in Italy, but you don't have to be Italian to appreciate it. — *Snowbird from Ithaca, N.Y.*

Dear Snowbird: Thanks for my laugh of the day. A while back, I wrote, "In America, the land of the brave and home of the free, anybody can sue anybody for anything." Well, it looks like the same can be said of some countries outside of the United

States. Here's the story:

It seems a couple of car-crossed lovers are suing for damages, claiming an unplanned pregnancy resulted from an automobile accident in Naples' "love park." The lawsuit is the result of an accident involving a medium-sized Regata and a small Panda car. The accident occurred in a park that nightly attracts dozens of lovers who make love in their cars.

The young man claimed he and his girlfriend were engaged in amorous activity in their small car when the larger car hit them from behind. The impact momentarily caused them to lose control, resulting in the pregnancy.

Meanwhile, dear readers, since we are on the subject of strange happenings, how do you like this one sent in by Betty of Wood River, Ill.:

A 58-year-old Tallahassee, Fla., woman was released from prison after serving one year for

manslaughter. She was sentenced in 1981 to eight years in prison for fatally shooting her boyfriend. But because of a bureaucratic mix-up, no one arrived to take her away. She continued to live quietly at home and never hid from the law.

Finally, a tip led prison officials to the forgotten convict's door in May 1997, and the Florida woman began serving time. It seems the letter notifying her that she would be going to jail went to the wrong address. So, for the next 16 years, she raised her children, helped raise her grandchildren, went to church and spent many hours sitting on her front porch. Her sentence was commuted by the state clemency board after her lawyer argued successfully that she had essentially served probation at home.

To find out more about Ann Landers and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

ANN LANDERS® © 2012 CREATORS.COM

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.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Tomorrow's Horoscope

The Taurus moon is a pleasure-seeking influence that captures the imagination and quickly links it to an appetite. Ruled by Venus, Taurus energy gravitates toward all things beautiful, natural and luxurious. Note that luxury has to do with the integral values of an item. The most luxurious aspects of life are not always the most expensive.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Usually, in order to let something grow, you have to let it go. This is very true of a relationship now. Doing everything together and staying mired in the minutiae have a stifling effect. Give it some space.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Quite aware that your social image is an important predictor of your success in life, you'll endeavor to spiff things up a bit now. You'll make changes to your manner and style.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). A popular song by the artist Gotye, a fellow Gemini, suggests that one could "get addicted to a certain

kind of sadness." Whatever your weakness is in the sadness department, you'll buck the habit today.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). What you can't do forcefully, you can do with creativity. It's your best tool now, but it only can come about when you're relaxed. Loosen up and let your imaginative powers emerge.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Being stressed out is always an option, but you don't have to let this day wind you up. Most problems that come up will solve themselves in one way or another. Think about that before you get involved.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Sometimes you're afraid to pause and take stock of a situation because you don't want others to think you're not being productive. Avoid staying busy for the sake of it. Stopping to get perspective is only smart.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You are once again put in a position to persuade others, and you're the perfect person for the job. You'll relate easily to others, create a steady rapport and, when the time is right, ask for what you want.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). What matters is a subjective

choice. A loved one will be concerned with something that doesn't mean much to you, and yet, out of love and emotional maturity, you are able to be empathic.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's an old Southern saying that a frog doesn't know how far it can jump until it's kicked. Superintense circumstances always bring out the best in you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You are halfway between two different ideas, and you're unlikely to find favor with either side. People will try to get your approval. They'll want you to join their cause. If anyone can walk the line, it's you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You approach life with a style and humor all your own. Your joy and spontaneous expression will draw in a kindred spirit. This person is not very much like you but has a complementary energy.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). A new passion is building inside you. At first, you don't even realize what you really want. But the yearning gets stronger, and you can no longer ignore its message.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 27). You feel free to play and explore

this year. Accidental creations and inventions will be featured in the first half of your year. There's an ease that comes from being organized and using your resources well. May brings reunions. Social success leads to financial success in August. Your love signs are Aries and Gemini. Your lucky numbers are: 50, 41, 22, 39 and 19.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Josh Groban started out as an actor, but his career trajectory changed when his voice did. His vocal coach recognized the talent and passed a demo to mega-hit producer David Foster, and the rest is history. Groban now enjoys working in both artistic mediums. His sun and Mars are in empathic Pisces, while Mercury and Venus are in musical Aquarius.

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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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

East dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ Q 9
♥ Q 7 3
♦ J 5 4
♣ K 9 8 6 2

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

EAST
♠ 7 6 5
♥ A K 4
♦ A 9
♣ Q J 10 7 3

SOUTH
♠ A K J 10 4 3
♥ 9
♦ K Q 6
♣ A 5 4

The bidding:
East South West North
1♣ Dbble 1♥ Pass
Pass 2♣ Pass 3♣
Pass 4♣

Opening lead — two of hearts.

This deal was played in the 1935 national pair championship held at Skytop, Pa. The hand received wide publicity at the time because it was one of the first published examples of the ruffing convention that B. Jay Becker introduced into tournament play at this event. The convention has since become accepted standard defensive procedure and is known by most players as the suit-preference signal.

The idea was a simple one. By making judicious use of spot cards in a ruffing situation, a defender could indicate which suit he wanted returned after his partner ruffed. Becker held the East hand, and his partner, Waldemar von Zedtwitz, led the two of hearts. After seeing dummy, Becker concluded that his partner had not led a club — the suit he had opened the bidding with — because he did not have one to lead. Furthermore, the deuce of hearts, supposedly West's fourth-best heart, could not be on the level because von Zedtwitz would not have bid one heart over South's double with only a four-card suit headed by the jack. So Becker read the heart deuce as being a request for him to return the lower-ranking side suit, clubs.

Accordingly, he won the heart with the king and returned the three of clubs. This asked von Zedtwitz to return the lower-ranking suit (as between hearts and diamonds) after he ruffed the club.

Everything worked out as planned. Waldy ruffed the club and, in conformance with his partner's request, returned a diamond. Becker won with the ace and gave his partner another club ruff. They got no more tricks, but the contract was down one.

The mechanics of the suit-preference signal are very simple. A low card calls for a return of the lower-ranking side suit, and a high card calls for a return of the higher-ranking side suit.

Tomorrow: No time to relax.
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sudoku

ANSWERS

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

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Rain washes out Daytona

NASCAR postpones 500-mile race until today (weather permitting)

By MARK LONG

AP Sports Writer

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — NASCAR has raced on the beach at Daytona, under the lights and even around a pesky pothole.

But never on a Monday — until now.

The Daytona 500 was postponed Sunday for the first time in its 54-year history after heavy rain saturated Daytona International Speedway.

NASCAR officials spent more than four hours working for a window to dry the famed track, but it never came. When the latest storm cell passed over the speedway around 5 p.m., they had little choice but to call it a day.

The 500-mile race was rescheduled for 11 a.m. Monday. It will be aired on Fox (local cable channel 5).

"This is one of the toughest things for us drivers," pole-sitter Carl Edwards said. "It's now who can really stay focused. That's not just the drivers, that's the pit crews, the crew chiefs, everyone, the officials. But I think we'll be just fine."

But Monday might be another test for both drivers and fans.

The forecast calls for more rain, and officials are prepared to wait all day and into the night to avoid a Tuesday race, which would strain teams that must get to Phoenix for next week's race.

"The longer runway we have tomorrow to get in the Daytona 500, the greater the likelihood for us to start and finish the

event on Monday," NASCAR spokesman Kerry Tharp said. "There are certainly a lot of considerations that go into the start time decision, and we believe scheduling it for now gives us the best opportunity for us to get the race in tomorrow."

Eight previous Daytona 500s have endured rain delays, the latest in 2009. But never before had storms forced NASCAR's premier event to be moved.

"I think that's a pretty good record for NASCAR," Edwards said. "They've been living right to have 53 of these and never have one postponed. That's pretty spectacular. ... I think NASCAR, they're doing the right thing, you know, not dragging this out."

Noontime showers sent fans scattering for cover and leaving everyone in wait-and-see mode. Puddles of water formed in parts of the infield, and many fans got drenched as they tried to make the best of a less-than-ideal situation.

Drivers retreated to their motorhomes, relaxing while keeping an eye on developments. Edwards, Brad Keselowski and others took naps. Former Daytona 500 winners Jamie McMurray and Trevor Bayne did in-studio interviews with Fox. Another previous race winner, Ryan Newman, played with his daughter in the motorhome lot.

"I guess I'm gonna have to win the first Monday Daytona 500," driver Greg Biffle said. "As you can tell, I'm still in

See DAYTONA, Page 10



File photo/Tony Claxton

Howard College forward Calvin Godfrey (20) attempts a shot earlier this season. The Hawks can clinch second place in the Western Junior College Athletic Conference standings when they face New Mexico Junior College tonight in Hobbs. Action starts with the women's game at 5:45 p.m., followed by the men's contest at 7:45 p.m.

Mahan tops McIlroy for match play title

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

MARANA, Ariz. — Even as Hunter Mahan motored his way through the Match Play Championship by beating one tough opponent after another, he had reason to feel he was just along for the ride in the final match Sunday afternoon.

All the chatter was about U.S. Open champion Rory McIlroy and his march to No. 1 in the world.

All the chants Mahan heard as he walked down the first two holes at Dove Mountain were for McIlroy.

With a little extra motivation he didn't need, Mahan won three straight holes on the front nine to seize control and answered McIlroy's charge with birdies of his own for a 2-and-1 victory.

"Deep down, you wanted to postpone that crowning of the No. 1 player in the world for Rory," Mahan said. "He'll get there. I mean, he's phenomenal. He's really talented. He'll be No. 1 eventually. But yeah, when you're a player, and I listen to Johnny Miller and Nick Faldo and all those guys, they had him picked to win. And that's what every-

body was talking about.

"There was absolute motivation in that."

It proved to be too long of a day for McIlroy, the 22-year-old from Northern Ireland, who put so much energy into a high-stakes semifinal match against Lee Westwood earlier Sunday. If either of them won the tournament, they would go to No. 1 in the world.

McIlroy, explosive as ever, ran off seven birdies in a 10-hole stretch to overcome an early deficit and beat Westwood. He looked flat in the championship match, made a series of mistakes to lose

back-to-back holes, and fell too far behind to catch Mahan.

"To me, it was like my final in a way," McIlroy said of his win over Westwood. "That was the one I wanted all week and I got. And that's what I got myself up for. Yeah, maybe mentally and emotionally it did take a little bit out of me. But it still doesn't take away from the fact that Hunter played very, very solid golf."

"Even though I threw a few birdies and an eagle at him in the back nine, he still re-

See MATCH, Page 10

Rangers' Hamilton: My loyalty is here

SURPRISE, Ariz. (AP) — When it comes to the Texas Rangers, star Josh Hamilton wants to make this clear: "My loyalty is here."

A couple days after his comments led some to wonder about his future, the former AL MVP clarified his remarks Sunday. Hamilton is eligible for free agency after this season.

"If it does go to free agency, the first place I'm coming is here," Hamilton said. "If I owe anything, it is that."

Hamilton has helped the Rangers win two straight AL pennants. His agent and Rangers recently put off talks on a new deal after Hamilton had a relapse with alcohol.

The outfielder has been troubled by drugs and alcohol throughout his professional career.

On Friday, Hamilton said: "The Rangers have done a lot for me, but I've got a question for y'all: Have I done a lot for the Rangers? I think I've given them everything I've had."

"I love Texas. I love my fans. I love fans of the Rangers. I love the organization. I love my teammates. I love everything about it," he said then.

"But I'm not going to sit here and say that I owe the Rangers. I don't feel like I owe the Rangers."

On Sunday, Hamilton left

no doubt about where he wants to play.

"This is where I've been. This is where my family's been, so obviously I would love to stay here more than anywhere else. First of all, they get a chance to do what they need to do to keep me here," he said.

Hamilton was the 2010 AL MVP, leading the league with a .359 batting average and .633 slugging percentage while hitting 32 home runs. He hit .298 with 25 home runs last year in an injury-interrupted season.

If there are contract talks once the Rangers get past opening day, Hamilton said agent Mike Move would han-

dle them.

"If it's during the season, I'm not going to know about them because I've asked not to know about them," Hamilton said.

"I trust my agent. He's not just my agent, but a close friend and mentor of mine, somebody I go to for advice and I really trust. I leave that up to him. I just say call me when there is something worth talking about."

"I'm just going to leave it up to him. If they approach him and he feels like it is something to go forward with, I'll leave it up to him. It's not going to be something I'm focusing on, concentrating on," he said.

Sports Calendar

MONDAY

Women's basketball
Howard College at New Mexico Junior College, 5:45 p.m.

Men's basketball
Howard College at New Mexico Junior College, 7:45 p.m.

TUESDAY

Baseball
Big Spring at Abilene High School, 4 p.m.
Crane at Coahoma, TBA.

Softball
Big Spring at Midland Greenwood, 6:30 p.m.
Coahoma at Post, TBA.
Colorado City at Forsan, 6:30 p.m.

Boy's basketball
Garden City vs. Ira, Class 1A Div. II regional quarterfinal, TBA.
Grady vs. Valley, Class 1A Div. II regional quarterfinal, Wolfforth (time TBA).

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

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Announcements

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Now buying for Big Spring, Rattlesnake Roundup. We will be buying Fridays at 6PM. Call (432)213-6802 or (432)270-8783 for directions or more information.

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BIG DOG RIG Movers is looking for Truck Pusher, Fork Lift Operator, Gin Truck Driver, Poll Truck Driver & Slickback Driver. Great Pay with benefits. Must live in Howard County. Apply in person at 309 East IH-20, Big Spring. EOE.

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Help Wanted

DAY'S INN needs Housekeeping person. Apply at Front Office @ 2701 South Gregg Street.

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Now hiring kitchen staff. Apply in person at 802 West I-20 or call 432-264-7686. TEACHING POSITION- \$14/hr. Mon.-Fri. CDA required. Apply at Jack & Jill, 1708 Nolan.

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OIL COMPANY looking for an experienced lease pumper to operate 3 small fields. Must have computer experience using Excel. Must have min. of 5 yrs experience taking care of disposal systems, pumping wells, chemical pumps, heaters, FWKO's, handle call out's, must turn in daily production & work with P.O. system. Please call Bruce @ 832-613-3809. Experienced only need apply.

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PIZZA INN

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THE COLORADO River Municipal Water District, regional raw water supplier for the Permian Basin, is accepting applications for following position in the Big Spring Area.

Operations Technician- Responsible for maintaining the District's raw water pipelines, pump stations, and wells in the Big Spring Area. Entry to Intermediate level position. CRMWD is an equal opportunity employer. Benefits include health insurance, retirement plans, and sick, vacation and holiday leave. Applications are required and are available at the District's office, 400 E. 24TH Street, Big Spring, Texas 79720, by calling (432)267-6341 or our website www.crmwd.org

THE SALVATION Army boys & girls club is seeking Program Coordinator Monday-Friday. Child development experience necessary. Apply at 811 West 5th.

THE SALVATION Army boys & girls club is seeking Program Coordinator Monday-Friday. Child development experience necessary. Apply at 811 West 5th.

THE SALVATION Army boys & girls club is seeking Program Coordinator Monday-Friday. Child development experience necessary. Apply at 811 West 5th.

HOWARD COUNTY Appraisal District Full-time Receptionist. Requirements: High School Diploma or GED. Ability to work with Microsoft word and Excel. Salary is contingent on experience. Comprehensive benefits package included. Interested person needs to apply: Ronny Babcock, Chief Appraiser 315 S. Main Street, Big Spring, TX 79720 (432)263-8301 Position opened until filled.

UMPIRES NEEDED Ages 15 and up. No experience necessary. Will train, if interested. Call (432)213-1300

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Keyword Search: Russell Cellular

RUSTY'S OILFIELD Service In Stanton has immediate openings for Mechanic, CDL Driver, Roustabout Pushers and Helpers. Must have valid drivers license. Apply in person at 3327 W I20 in Stanton. 432-756-2821.

Secretary/ Receptionist with Quick Book experience preferred, but will train. Salary DOE. Please send resume/application to P.O. Box 2684, Big Spring TX. 79721.

SECURITY OFFICERS Needed for Hospital Federal Inmate Protection detail. All positions are Part-time and PRN.

Physical Requirements: Must be in general good health and vision must be correctable to 20/30 (SNELLEN) in one eye. The ability to distinguish basic colors is required. Emotional and mental stability is required.
Other Requirements: Must be able to pass State and Federal Backgrounds and Credit Checks.

Experience Requirements: One year (2040) hours of experience in the armed forces or coast guard which involved significant performance of guard duty of detainees or prisoners; or the equivalent experience in a federal, state, or local government, or private organization which involved protecting/police duties, or college level training in courses such as corrections or police science may be substituted for experience at the ratio of two hours of instructions for one hour of experience.

Apply at Workforce Center (1001 Birdwell Ln., Howard College- Charles Warren Bld. 106), KEYWORD: PARAGON. EOE.

SEEKING ELECTRICIAN with oilfield and/or plant experience to work at natural gas plant NE of Big Spring, TX. Must provide references. Excellent benefits. Paid medical insurance, paid vacation and 401K. Must have valid Texas driver's license. Must be able to pass drug screen. Send resume to: Plant Supervisor, 11703 E. FM 846, Coahoma, TX 79511 or email mwool@wtggas.com or fax (432)399-4290.



SNACK SHACK is now taking applications for Manager, grill cook, wait staff, drive thru cashier. Apply at 910 Lamesa Hwy. No phone calls please.

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Here are some helpful tips and information that will help you when placing your ad. After your ad has been published the first day we suggest you check the ad for mistakes and if errors have been made we will gladly correct the ad and run it again for you at no additional charge. If your ad is inadvertently not printed advance payment will cheerfully be refunded and the newspaper's liability will be for only the amount received for publication of the advertisement. We reserve the right to edit or reject any ad for publication that does not meet our standards of acceptance.

Legals

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of KENNETH PRUITT, Deceased, were issued on February 22, 2012, in Cause No. P-14044, pending in the County Court of HOWARD County, Texas, to: WAYNE PRUITT.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: WAYNE PRUITT
2502 Ann

Big Spring, Texas 79720
DATED the 22nd day of February, 2012.

GLYNNA MOUTON
Attorney for
WAYNE PRUITT
State Bar No.: 14606500
MOUTON & MOUTON, PC
200 West Third Street
Big Spring, TX 79720
Telephone: (432)263-8397
Facsimile: (432)263-8686
#7278 February 27, 2012

Legals

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

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

CONSTRUCTION/ MAINTENANCE/ BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)

Dist/Div: Abilene
Contract 6230-40-001 for BRIDGE JOINT AND SPALL REPAIR in HOWARD County, etc will be opened on March 22, 2012 at 2:00 pm at the District Office for an estimate of \$188,164.46

Contract 6240-07-001 for ON CALL MBGF CONTRACT in HOWARD County, etc will be opened on March 22, 2012 at 2:00 pm at the District Office for an estimate of \$187,547.50

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.txdot.gov and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.
NPO: 39330

State Office

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

Abilene District
District Engineer
4250 N. Clack

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

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TXDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.
#7273 February 26 & 27, 2012

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Legals

Sale of Vehicles

The Howard County Appraisal District, 315 S. Main Street, Big Spring, Texas will accept sealed Bid proposals for the sale of one (1) 2001 Nissan Exterra for a minimum bid of \$4,500. The odometer mileage reads 70,830, or; one (1) 2005 Ford Truck, for a minimum bid of \$8,000. The odometer mileage reads 99,700. Sealed bids will be accepted until 3:00 P.M. Wednesday, March 14, 2012. Sealed bids will be opened at the Howard County Appraisal District Board of Directors regular meeting on Wednesday, March 14, 2012.

The vehicles will be sold "as is" without any warranty. The vehicles can be seen at 315 S. Main Street, Big Spring, Texas weekdays between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. If you desire to bid on these vehicles, please send a sealed bid with the envelope clearly marked "BID FOR THE PURCHASE OF VEHICLE". Any bid received without being clearly marked will be rejected.

Address your bid to: Howard County Appraisal District Board of Directors
P.O. Box Drawer 1151
Big Spring, TX 79721-1151
OR bring it by 315 S. Main Street, Big Spring, Texas before 3:00 P.M. March 14, 2012.
#7274 February 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, and 29, 2012

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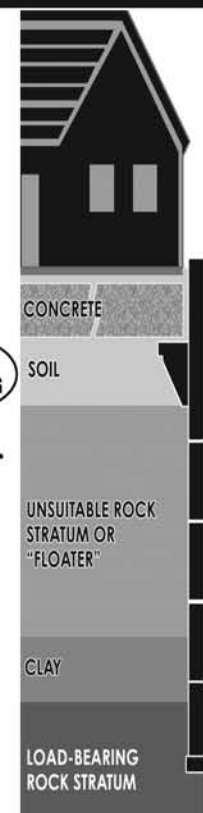
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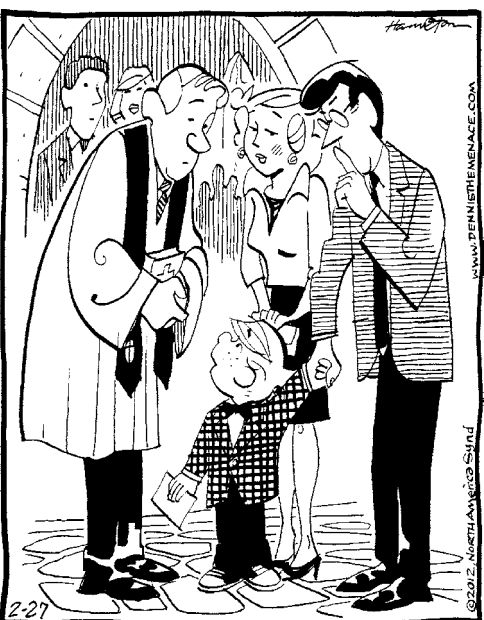
Owner: Rick Burrow

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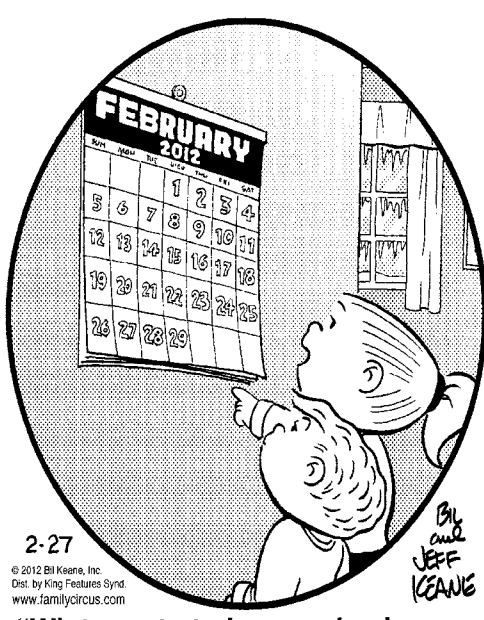
TV schedule table with columns for station (KMID, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLE, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, KWWT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN) and time slots (5:PM, 6:PM, 7:PM, 8:PM, 9:PM, 10:PM, 11:PM, 12:AM, 1:AM).

DENNIS THE MENACE



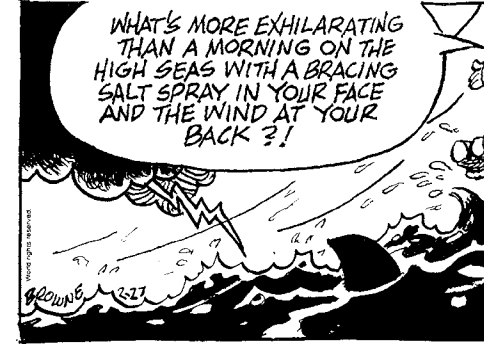
"IF THE MEEK INHERIT THE EARTH, WHAT DO GUYS LIKE YOU GET?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



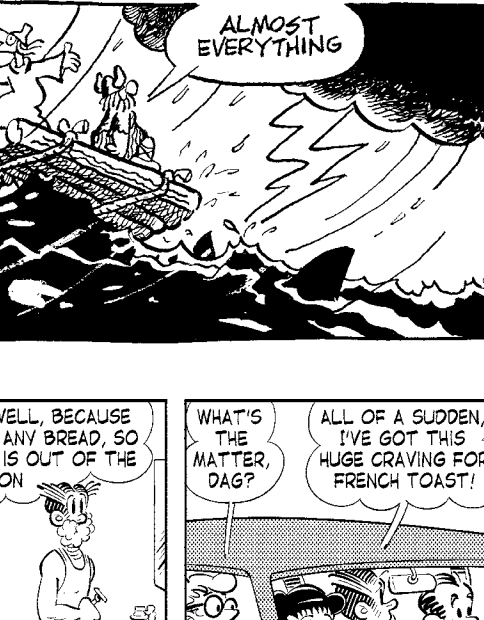
"Winter gets to be one day longer this year."

HAGAR



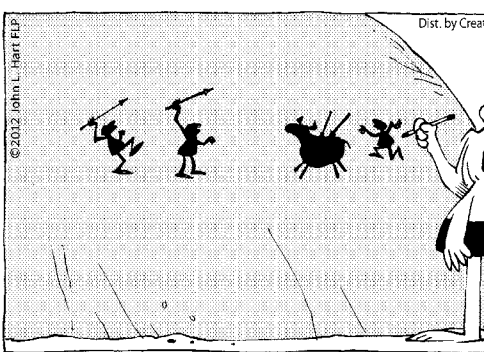
WHAT'S MORE EXHILARATING THAN A MORNING ON THE HIGH SEAS WITH A BRACING SALT SPRAY IN YOUR FACE AND THE WIND AT YOUR BACK?!

BLONDIE



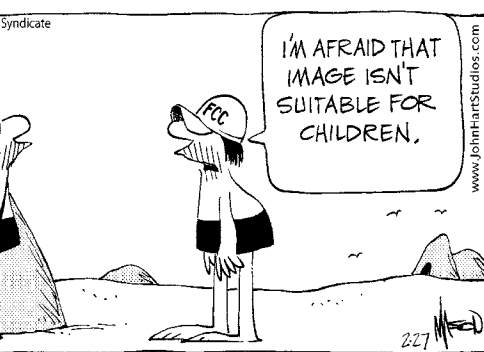
SWEETHEART, I HOPE YOU DON'T HAVE YOUR HEART SET ON FRENCH TOAST THIS MORNING

BC



I'M AFRAID THAT MAGE ISN'T SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN.

WIZARD OF ID



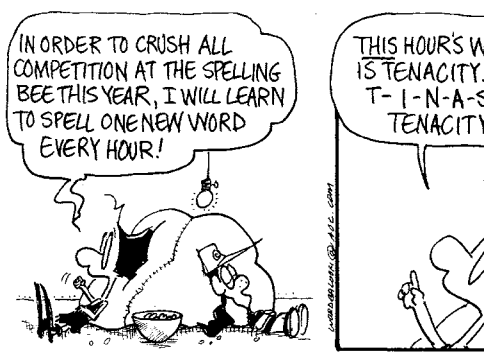
WOW, LOOK AT THIS... THE FEMUR OF A T-REX WAS STOLEN FROM THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

This Date In History

Today is Monday, Feb. 27, the 58th day of 2012. There are 308 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Feb. 27, 1942, the Battle of the Java Sea began during World War II; Imperial Japanese naval forces scored a decisive victory over the Allies.

which guaranteed the right of women to vote. In 1933, Germany's parliament building, the Reichstag (RYKS'-tahg), was gutted by fire. Chancellor Adolf Hitler, blaming the Communists, used the fire as justification for suspending civil liberties.

AGNES



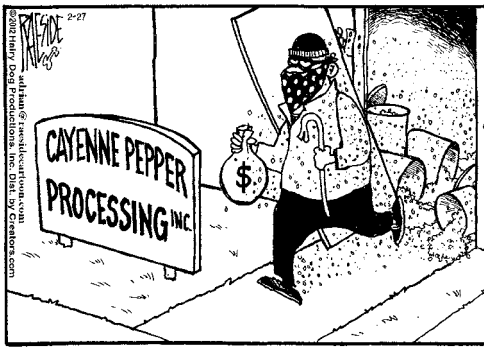
IN ORDER TO CRUSH ALL COMPETITION AT THE SPELLING BEE THIS YEAR, I WILL LEARN TO SPELL ONE NEW WORD EVERY HOUR!

HI AND LOIS



THIS IS NICE. ALL OF US EATING TOGETHER FOR A CHANGE.

BEETLE BAILY



HEY, SARGE! THAT CLOUD LOOKS JUST LIKE YOU! BIG, FAT AND FLUFFY!

SNUFFY SMITH



...AN' IF YA RE-ELECT ME...

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS 1 Prop up 6 Give off 10 Chess or charades 14 Take it easy 15 Space shuttle org. 16 Adam and Eve's garden 17 Licorice flavoring 18 Movie 19 Motion of the ocean 20 Native American carving 22 Starting squad 23 Golfer's standard 24 In a constricting way 26 First day of summer or winter 31 Service charge 32 Holier-than- 33 Minister, for short 34 Equally split 38 Irrate 40 Not well-lit 42 Copier ink 43 Make a mistake 45 Scoundrel 47 ___-day (vitamin dose) 48 Boxing decision: Abbr. 49 Deceit 51 Chessmen that move diagonally 55 Prefix meaning "equal"

GO FISH by Billie Truitt

Edited by Stanley Newman

www.stanxwords.com

- 6 Carried out, as laws 7 Postal delivery 8 Dot in the ocean 9 Scottish cap 10 Be forced offstage 11 On ___ (trying to lose weight) 12 Hero's award 13 Foe 21 Two of a kind 22 Author's representative 25 "See ___ care!" 26 Without a date 27 Cry of dismay 28 Company's symbol 29 Browse online 30 Oust 35 Diarist ___ Frank 36 Impolite look 37 Wear out at the edges 39 Western Canadian territory 41 Sailors 44 Burst open 46 Checker or puck 50 Help run, as a party 51 Formal dances 52 Has left for lunch 53 Be unselfish 54 Malice 58 Group of troops 59 Gospel writer 60 "Get ___ writing!" 61 Require 62 Makes a mistake 64 Recipe amt.

Crossword grid with numbers 1-71 indicating starting positions for clues.

Answer to previous puzzle

Word search grid with words like WHELKS, ASWELLAS, HOGANS, NEAREST, ANGLER, GARDENIA, TOTAL, ROTTERDAM, ALI, THALES, EGO, HUMS, EGAD, MSDOS, ALEUTIAN, DIA, MURMURS, HORNETS, ABS, MONEYPIIT, CIRCE, VETO, OHNO, ABU, SINEWS, ESP, SEMIRURAL, CAMEL, BROMIDIC, POMELLO, AIREDALE, TWIRLS, HASTENED, ASSAYS.

OT goal lifts Stars over Vancouver

DALLAS (AP) — Down a goal with less than a minute left in regulation, the Dallas Stars appeared to have little more than a slim chance against NHL points leader Vancouver.

Moments later, Mike Ribeiro and Loui Eriksson provided a stunning boost to the Stars' playoff chances.

Ribeiro scored the tying goal in the final minute of regulation and Eriksson netted the winner at 3:52 of overtime to give the Stars their fourth consecutive victory, 3-2 over the Canucks on Sunday.

"It took us 59 minutes to get the second goal, but I thought we stuck with it for 60 minutes and we showed some resolve," Stars coach Glen Gulutzan said. "We got a result at the end and it's a big win for our hockey team going down the stretch."

With a shootout looming late in overtime, Steve Ott carried the puck deep in the Vancouver end and passed to Trevor Daley at the left circle. Eriksson skated to the net and knocked Daley's goal-mouth pass by Roberto Luongo.

"I was looking at (Daley)

and it was a great pass," Eriksson said after his 21st goal of the season. "I was open there ... so it was pretty easy to put home."

Ribeiro's goal with 52.5 seconds left in regulation pushed the game into extra time.

With goalie Kari Lehtonen on the bench in favor of a sixth skater, Ribeiro deflected Alex Goligoski's shot from the point for his 14th of the season.

Michael Ryder added a power-play goal for the Stars, who hadn't won four in a row since Oct. 29 to Nov. 8.

"They're a desperate team," Luongo said. "They're playing for their lives. They're in playoff mode right now. Got to give them credit, they battled to the end and came away with a win."

Ryan Kesler scored in the opening minute of the second period for the Canucks, who were 8-1-1 in their previous 10 road games. But the Canucks were playing their sixth game in nine days and they seemed to be dragging a bit by the overtime.

"Logically, six games in 8½ days in six different cities,

"It took us 59 minutes to get the second goal, but I thought we stuck with it for 60 minutes and we showed some resolve. We got a result at the end and it's a big win for our hockey team going down the stretch."

Greg Gulutzan
Dallas coach

that's a lot of hockey," coach Alain Vigneault said. "But that being said, we had the game where we wanted it, going into the third with a one-goal lead. Unfortunately, we lost it."

Mason Raymond added a goal and Chris Higgins had two assists for Vancouver, which improved to 87 points. The Canucks were 12-1-3 in their previous 16 games overall.

Dallas has 70 points, eighth in the Western Conference.

The teams played the first of four meetings this season. Last season, Vancouver swept the four-game series by a combined score of 20-5.

"They're the top team in the league for a reason, a (Stanley

Cup) finalist (last season)," Gulutzan said.

Vancouver held an 8-6 shots advantage in a scoreless first period.

"Coming into this building, where they play real tight-checking hockey, you've got to work and take what they give you, and they don't give you a lot," Vigneault said.

The Canucks picked up the pace at the start of the second and were rewarded when Kesler notched his 19th goal of the season.

Kesler's shot from the top of the left circle came off a 3-on-2 break 56 seconds into the period, glancing into the net off Lehtonen's glove.

Lehtonen allowed another shaky goal when Raymond's

sharp-angle shot from the left boards went in between the goalie and the right post at 13:11 of the second. Raymond's eighth of the season gave the Canucks a two-goal lead.

Ryder scored his team-high 25th of the season on Dallas' second power play of the game with a one-timer from the left circle at 18:04 of the second.

NOTES: Dallas rookie D Philip Larsen was in the lineup despite a cut on top of his head sustained in Friday night's 4-1 home win over Minnesota.

Larsen's helmet was cracked when he was struck by a Minnesota slap shot. ... Lehtonen has started 16 of Dallas' last 18 games. ... C Jamie Benn (leg), LW Brenden Morrow (neck, shoulder) and C Jake Dowell (finger) are out for Dallas. ... Vancouver is without D Keith Ballard (concussion), LW Andrew Ebbett (collarbone) and LW Aaron Volpatti (shoulder). ... As Monday's deadline approaches, several Stars have been trade targets, including Morrow, Ribeiro and Ott.

MATCH

Continued from Page 5

sponded well and held on," he said. "I think during the course of the week, he had played the best golf and deserved to win."

Mahan can easily make a case for that.

The six guys he had to beat at Dove Mountain were Zach Johnson, Y.E. Yang, Steve Stricker, Matt Kuchar, Mark Wilson and McIlroy. Three of them have won majors. Five of them have made Ryder Cup or Presidents Cup teams. The exception was his semifinal match against Wilson, who has won three times on the PGA Tour in the last 14 months.

It required his best golf, and Mahan delivered with 35 birdies in 96 holes over six matches.

"It feels good because you're going against the game's best," Mahan said. "I played well from

tee-to-green, putting to chipping to driving, irons, everything was there. I needed everything to win. I'm very proud of how I played. It feels great. It really does."

Mahan won for the fourth time in his career, two of them World Golf Championships. He also won the Bridgestone Invitational at Firestone in 2010. He joins Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson, Ernie Els, Geoff Ogilvy and Darren Clarke as the only players to win multiple WGC titles since these events began in 1999.

And he was the first American to win the Match Play Championship since Woods in 2008. He moves to No. 9 in the world, the first time in his career that Mahan has cracked the top 10.

Luke Donald stays at No. 1, though McIlroy is closing in quickly. McIlroy, who rejoined the PGA Tour this year, plays the Honda Classic next week against

a strong field, and then has another WGC at Doral.

He never led in the championship match against Mahan, losing an opportunity on the opening hole when he missed a 4-foot par putt. Mahan took the lead with a 9-iron into 2 feet for a conceded birdie on the par-3 sixth.

On the seventh hole, with Mahan already in trouble in a deep collection area left of the green,

McIlroy pulled his short iron and joined him there. But it took McIlroy two chips to get on the green, and he lost the hole with a double bogey.

Then McIlroy's sand wedge hopped over the green on the par-5 eighth and he lost that hole with a bogey.

Mahan's big lead was enough to withstand the McIlroy charge. McIlroy played the opening six holes on the back nine in 5-under par, but still picked up only one hole on Mahan.

"I tried to claw myself back, but I left myself too much work," McIlroy said.

He also got off to a slow start against Westwood, 3 down through four holes, before roaring past him. McIlroy didn't have the shots, and didn't appear to have the energy, to do that twice in one day.

That was always his concern. There was so much anticipation about his semifinal match with Westwood.

"Maybe the intensity wasn't quite as much as it was this morning going out," McIlroy said. "I think that's a little understandable after going through a match like that, thinking about it all last night and this morning."

"I don't think I'd do anything differently," he said. "Because if I didn't play with the same intensity in the morning, I might not have been in the finals."

The last time Mahan was in a pressure situation against a player

from Northern Ireland was in the Ryder Cup at Celtic Manor, when U.S. Open champion Graeme McDowell made a 15-foot birdie putt on the 16th hole of the decisive match.

Even so, the memories of that match are Mahan duffing a chip on the last hole, though McDowell was likely to win the match, anyway. Mahan has worked hard on his chipping, and he feels it carried him this week.

Two shots were pivotal.

McIlroy won his first hole by chipping in for eagle from about 60 feet on the par-5 11th. Two holes later, McIlroy was safely in for birdie and Mahan had to get up-and-down from a bunker to avoid losing another hole. He blasted out to 6 feet and made the putt.

McIlroy birdied the 14th from 7 feet to cut the lead to 2 up, and on the 315-yard 15th, he hit driver to 30 feet for an eagle attempt. Mahan was short of the green,

and elected to use his putter.

Club selection was never in doubt.

"I thought that was the best play," Mahan said. "My touch with my putting has been pretty awesome this week. And at that time, where Rory is, I felt that gave me the best chance to make it."

He nearly did, rolling it right on line, just short. McIlroy missed his putt and Mahan stayed 2 up.

McIlroy looked like the world's best player, but only on Sunday morning.

In the most anticipated match of the week, Westwood birdied two holes and won another when McIlroy missed a 5-footer for par to build a 3-up lead through four holes. As quickly as Westwood took the lead, he lost it.

McIlroy was simply sensational.

With the trophy on the line, however, he didn't have enough left for Mahan.

DAYTONA

Continued from Page 5

my uniform because I was optimistic that this weather was gonna get out of here and we were going to get this thing going. But I'll have to

save my energy for tomorrow.

"I know a lot of race fans are disappointed and a lot of people at home on TV, but we just hope they tune in tomorrow."

The last shortened Daytona 500 was Matt

Kenseth's victory three years ago, when rain stopped the event 48 laps from the finish. He was declared the winner while the cars were parked on pit road.

The 2010 race had more than two hours in delays as NASCAR twice stopped the event to fix a pothole in the surface. Jamie McMurray held off Dale Earnhardt Jr. to win that race.

This time around, drivers didn't even get in their cars.

"I didn't know when to eat. I didn't know when to rest. I didn't know what to do," Bobby La-

bonte said. "I never took my uniform off. I took a nap. I think we cleaned out the refrigerator snacking on things."

Now, NASCAR must deal with the downside of moving its biggest race. Ratings and attendance will suffer, falling short of what the series expected.

Fans surely will have complaints, too.

Daytona president Joie Chitwood said he understood fans were frustrated about the scheduling change that pushed the race back one week later than usual. NASCAR and the track made the

decision to move the start of the season to address an awkward early off weekend and to avoid potential conflicts with the Super Bowl.

Had the race been run on its traditional Sunday, it would have been completed under a bright, blue sky.

"I'm sure I'm going to have some customers tell me about the date change and the challenges that we have with it," Chitwood said. "But I think weather is unpredictable. I think based on the NASCAR schedule, the TV schedule on whole, this was the right move for the industry. We'll continue to work with the last weekend of February."

"It's unfortunate that this had to happen the first year after we made that change. I'm sure I'll be talking to a number of customers in the next weeks ahead about that situation."

Chitwood also said trying to wait out the rain any longer Sunday wasn't an option, because the Daytona 500 deserves better than being crammed into the

late evening hours.

Pointing to several intriguing story lines, NASCAR was hoping to capitalize on the success of last season's captivating championship race.

The Daytona 500 is the first of 10 scheduled Sprint Cup Series events this season for Danica Patrick, who left IndyCar behind for a full-time move to NASCAR. She will race for the Nationwide Series championship driving for JR Motorsports.

Three-time and defending NASCAR champion Tony Stewart is trying to snap an 0-for-13 losing streak in the 500. Stewart's 17 victories at Daytona include everything but the 500, ranking him second on the all-time list behind the late Dale Earnhardt's 34 wins.

Stewart will start third when the race goes green.

Earnhardt Jr., the 2004 Daytona 500 champion, takes a 129-race losing streak into the event. His last victory was in 2008, his first season with powerhouse Hendrick Motorsports.

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