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BIG SPRING HERALD

WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 29, 2012



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HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno

State Rep. Jim Landtroop discusses redistricting, school funding and other topics at Hall Center for the Arts on the Howard College campus.

Rep discusses redistricting, talks about school funding

By **AMANDA MORENO**
 Staff Writer

Redistricting may have been the scheduled focus of Tuesday's town hall meeting at the Hall Center of the

Arts, but it was by no means the only topic addressed.

State Rep. Jim Landtroop opened the meeting by honoring Howard County Volunteer Fire Chief Tommy Sullivan and Fire Marshal Carl Condray with flags flown over the capitol.

The presentation was made as a way to recognize the service demonstrated during the past year's fire season.

After the presentation, Landtroop covered the top-

ic of redistricting, but was unable to shed much light on any new advancements. Later in the day, a three-judge panel drafted the redistricting maps for the 2012 election, preparing the stage for the twice-delayed Texas primaries to be held May 29. However, the panel's action is not set in stone at this point.

"If we have our primary on May 29 we will be the

See **REP**, P.16

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



Man charged with harming two children

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

A Big Spring man was arrested and charged with two counts of injury Tuesday evening after allegedly assaulting two children, according to officials with the Big Spring Police Department.



Alvarado
 Ray Martinez Alvarado, 34, of 1500 Lincoln Ave., was arrested on charges of injury to a child with intent to cause bodily injury (two counts) after police officials say he physically assaulted the children, who are members of his household.

According to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer for the BSPD, Alvarado was arrested at his home after officers were dispatched

to the scene at approximately 8:45 p.m. Tuesday.

"The police department will not release any information regarding the victims other than they are part of the same household," Everett said. "Child Protective Services has been notified and is actively involved, however, I can not confirm at this time if the children have been removed from the home."

Everett was unable to comment on the extent of injury to either child involved in the alleged assault. According to BSPD records, an ambulance was dispatched to the scene of the incident, however, Big Spring Fire Department and EMS logs show no record of anyone being transported from the scene.

Alvarado was booked into the Howard County Detention Center and was awaiting arraignment this morning.

State of Community Series to return in 2012

By **AMANDA MORENO**
 Staff Writer

Being involved and up to date with goings on in the community is the main focus of the State of the Community Series, sponsored by the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce.

The second annual community series will kick off at noon March 27 and once again be in four installments. The first of the series will take place in the east room at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum and concentrate on city and county government.

"This is an opportunity for residents to meet the CEO, the county judge, the mayor and it provides information about the community," Chamber Executive Director Debbye ValVerde said. "It's good education."

The series started last year as a way to involve the community and offer an opportunity for residents to stay involved and up to date on what is happening Howard County. Chamber board members decided to bring the series back for another year, based on positive attendance last year.

See **SERIES**, Page 3

Council OKs Atmos suspension

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

Big Spring City Council approved final reading Tuesday night of an order suspending a rate change proposed to go into effect March 13 by Atmos Energy, effectively putting off a proposed rate increase totaling more than \$11 million.

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.

The council approved first reading of the resolution on a unanimous vote during its Feb. 14 meeting, and approved final reading of the measure Tuesday night on

a unanimous vote Tuesday night.

"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 during the Feb. 14 meeting.

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

Walker said systemwide rate increases such as these are



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Obituaries

Deidra Whatley



Deidra Whatley, 84, of Bandera, formerly of Big Spring died Monday, Feb. 27, 2012, at Bandera Rehab and Health Center. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Deidra was born July 10, 1927, in Texon, Texas, to Mildred and A.O. Vanderford. She married Tommy Whatley Jan. 29, 1947, in Big Spring. He preceded her in death on Jan. 6, 1992.

She was a resident of Big Spring since 1938, graduating from Big Spring High School in 1943. She served in the Nurses Cadet Corps from 1943 until 1946. She was a registered nurse at Malone and Hogan Hospital and Scenic Mountain Medical Center for more than 50 years. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church.

Deidra is survived by two sons, Van Tom Whatley and wife Cindy of Bandera and Jan Tom Whatley and wife Cynthia of Dallas; one daughter, Dana Tom Whatley and husband Kerry Hall of St. Joseph, Mich.; seven grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by one infant son, Sam Tom Whatley in 1950.

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

Support Groups

WEDNESDAY

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

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

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.

FRIDAY

• AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

• Celebrate Recovery, a Christ-centered recovery program, is held at Cornerstone Covenant Church, 706 E. 12th St. at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call at 264-0015 or visit www.cccbigspring.org

SATURDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m. Covered dish supper at 7 p.m.

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Police blotter

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

• ALBERTO HOLGUIN MENDOZA, 67, of 406 N.W. 11th St., was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.

• MICHAEL DON FULBRIGHT, 47, of 900 Runnels, was arrested Tuesday on warrants for public intoxication, speeding in a school zone and a warrant from another agency.

• RAY MARTINEZ ALVARADO, 34, of 1500 Lincoln Ave., was arrested Tuesday on charges of injury to a child with intent to cause bodily injury (two counts).

• SETH DAVID MITCHELL, 28, of 1705 Hilltop Rd., was arrested Tuesday on a charge of assault – family violence.

• THEFT was reported:
In the 700 block of W. Interstate Highway 20.
In the 400 block of E. Fourth Street.
In the 400 block of E. Fourth Street.

• BURGLARY OF A BUILDING was reported in the 800 block of S. Gregg Street.

• ASSAULT was reported in the 1600 block of Martin Luther King Blvd.

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 72 inmates at the time of this report.

• SABRINA VALENCIA MADRID, 27, was arrested Tuesday on a municipal capias warrant for driving while license invalid.

• OSCAR MANUEL MADRID JR., 30, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on municipal warrants for driving while license invalid and failure to appear.

• MELVIN KEITH BROWNFIELD, 68, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for driving while intoxicated – blood alcohol more than 0.15.

• AVELARDO CASTILLO JR., 22, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.

• ALBERT HOLGUIN MENDOZA, 67, was booked into the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• MICHAEL DON FULBRIGHT, 47, was booked into the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on municipal capias warrants for speeding in a school zone – 40 mph in a 20 mph zone, public intoxication and a Dawson County warrant for driving while intoxicated – with two or more offenses.

• SETH DAVID MITCHELL, 28, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of assault – family violence.

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Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Thu 3/1	Fri 3/2	Sat 3/3	Sun 3/4	Mon 3/5
76/46 Partly cloudy skies. High 76F. Winds W at 5 to 10 mph.	85/50 Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the low 50s.	71/38 Mainly sunny and windy. Highs in the 70s and lows in the upper 30s.	58/36 Sunny. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the mid 30s.	70/41 Sunshine. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the low 40s.
Sunrise: 7:14 AM Sunset: 6:43 PM	Sunrise: 7:13 AM Sunset: 6:44 PM	Sunrise: 7:12 AM Sunset: 6:45 PM	Sunrise: 7:10 AM Sunset: 6:46 PM	Sunrise: 7:09 AM Sunset: 6:46 PM

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Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	76	50	pt sunny
Amarillo	67	38	sunny
Austin	75	58	t-storm
Beaumont	78	65	t-storm
Brownsville	83	70	cloudy
Brownwood	79	53	pt sunny
Kingsville	84	67	t-storm
Livingston	79	61	t-storm
Longview	74	51	t-storm
Lubbock	70	38	sunny
Lufkin	79	62	t-storm
Midland	76	50	pt sunny

• RAY ALVARADO, 34, was booked into the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of injury to a child with intent to cause bodily injury (two counts).

Fire/EMS

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

• MEDICAL was reported in the 800 block of Aylesford. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported near the intersection of 11th Place and Goliad. Four people were transported to SMMC.

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

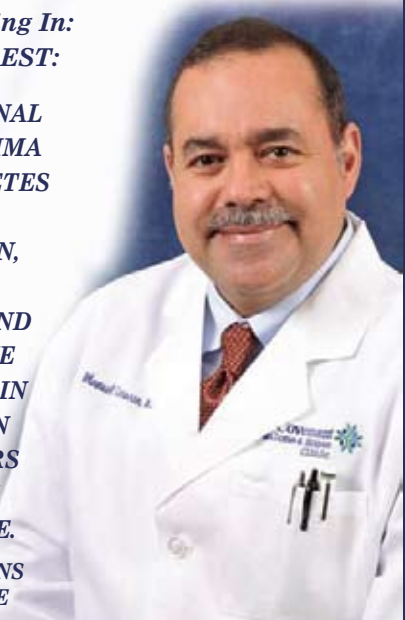
• MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.

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HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno

Fire Marshall Carl Condray and Howard County Volunteer Fire Chief Tommy Sullivan were on hand to receive flags presented by State Rep. Jim Landtroop in honor of their service, especially during this past fire season. Landtroop held a town hall meeting at Howard College on Tuesday afternoon.



Courtesy photo

State Sen. Kel Seliger, center, and Kevin Warren, deputy commissioner over Veteran State Homes and Cemeteries, visited the Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home recently to meet and greet James Kendall, the new executive director.

REP

Continued from Page 1

seventh to the last state to vote in the presidential primary," Landtroop said. "However, if we have to move it to the June 26 date, we will be one of the last two voting in the primary."

With the lines of the new redistricting map, Texas received four new congressional seats, but one of the issues is finding a place to put the new seats.

"It's a good problem to have, but it's still a problem trying to determine where to place those seats," Landtroop said. Also, due to redistricting, Landtroop will be moving out of the West Texas region and Big Spring would fall into Drew Darby's district while Landtroop moves north.

Other topics addressed in the town hall meeting included the new budget, imminent domain and public education.

"We have been talking about ways to reduce

the strains of the budget in regards to verifying qualifications in medicaid, which could save in the billions to two million (dollars)," Landtroop said.

The topic of federal government involvement in regards to state dollars was an issue raised by the audience. One example of federal involvement was \$65 million being spent for abortion clinic funding. Due to legislation, that portion of funding was able to be stopped for that particular use, but

the federal government is now trying to provide the threat of withholding federal dollars unless that money is put back, it was said.

"It's our money and the federal government has no right to be telling us how to spend that money, our constituents' money," Landtroop said. "We should be able to spend it in the best interest of our constituents."

The meeting concluded on the topic of public education and the funding situation's current

stance.

"The equity issue needs to be addressed and when that happens I am going to make sure that rural schools have a place at that table," Landtroop said.

School funding has been an issue that has been facing government officials for a long time, but one they will continue to look at and do their best to improve, he said.

"This is something we have tried to do for years, but hopefully next time we can do it

better," Landtroop said.

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

SERIES

Continued from Page 1

"We figured it's better for the community to hear from each entity instead of one person reporting for everyone," ValVerde said.

During the first part of the series, attendees will

hear from the mayor of Big Spring and Terry Wegman of Big Spring Economic Development Corporation. Other representatives will be on hand from the Colorado River Muncipal Water District and the county.

The second part of the series, a breakfast, will take place June 28 in the

Howard College Cactus Room and will be based on education. Reports will be given from area school representatives. The third part of the series will also be a breakfast meeting and will take place Aug. 16 in the Cactus Room. The focus will be based on informing residents about the

medical industry in the community. The final part of the series will focus on industry and will take place Nov. 6 at the Dora Roberts Community Center.

Tickets will go on sale March 5 for the first part of the series and can be purchased at the Chamber of Commerce build-

ing, located at 215 W. Third St.

To find out more information, call the chamber office at 263-7641.

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

CITY

Continued from Page 1

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 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."

Walker said the matter is expected to come before the council once again once the steering committee has an-

nounced its findings.

Contact Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232

or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

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Rise & Shine

Southern cookbook author Virginia Willis shares recipes from her latest, *Basic to Brilliant, Y'all*.

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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

OUR VIEWS

Fishing time is here for the kids

Comanche Trail Lake has been stocked, restocked and stocked again and is ready for some fishing action.

More than 6,000 fish were brought in by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department over the past few months just in time for the Kid's Fishing Tournament, sponsored by the local Rotary club.

Saturday morning kids — under the age of 17 years old — will have an opportunity to try their luck at catching one of those 6,000 rainbow trout recently added to the lake.

Rotary club members will start setting up around 11:30, which is when registration can begin and the tournament will kick off around 1 p.m.

This year's tournament marks the fourth year for the fishing contest.

The contest offers the kids in the community an opportunity to get outdoors, enjoy the spring-like weather as well as spending time in recreational activity that might otherwise not be enjoyed on a regular basis.

The fishing tournament offers community members the opportunity to come out and enjoy the offerings of Comanche Trail Park. With no entry fee being required, more attendees are hoped to be gained.

Kids, once registered, will be able to fish for three hours until 4 p.m. During the tournament, there will be prizes awarded.

The tournament not only offers one of the first chances of the season to get out and enjoy the park and the lake, but also a time for families to spend together.

Memories can be made and stories that just might continue to grow as they are retold over the years have the opportunity of being made.

Hold on to your seats for awhile

For the next few months we are going to need to have our seats in the upright position and be buckled in securely because the journey is certainly going to be turbulent. The arrival of November is going to seem like an eternity before this political season mercifully comes to its inevitable conclusion. When the dust settles and the endless rhetoric, brutal character attacks and tortuous stream of meritless promises pass into oblivion, somebody is going to be elected President of the United States.

As we navigate the troubled waters of the democratic process of political persuasion, every American citizen is being bombarded with lies and calls to tolerate, accept, even endorse and support ideas and actions that are totally unacceptable to anyone who loves and appreciates truth. And the heart of the corruption will be dressed in a seemingly innocent, yet sinister disguise called compromise.

There are many words in our everyday vocabulary that would not be readily identified as curse words, but nonetheless qualify as such by virtue of their application. Compromise is one of those words. Tyron Edwards, a 19th century theologian said, "Compromise is but the sacrifice of one right or good in the hope of retaining another — too often ending in the loss of both."

It isn't a vile word in and of itself. Everyone does it and sometimes it is an unavoidable and valuable necessity.

Every spouse will learn to compromise or a marriage is doomed for failure. Businessmen and leaders have to learn there is a time to give a little in order to accomplish the desired goal. Sometimes personal opinions and ideas must be laid aside to further a greater vision or

purpose.

Where it earns the designation of profane is when integrity and truth are sacrificed on the unholy altar of compromise so that a corrupt policy or ideology may be promoted. It is unacceptable to me that people will desecrate the principles our country was founded upon in order to achieve their selfish, destructive and even damning agendas, and it's time the honorable majority restores integrity and truth to their rightful positions in America.

Whether you want to accept it or not it happens every day in the courtrooms and legislative halls of our country, and the malignancy of malfeasance is gaining momentum like a runaway train as more and more people are placed in leadership whose only passion is for their own viewpoints to be forced upon the masses with no regard for whether it is ultimately beneficial or destructive.

An army of counterfeit shepherds who embrace moral and ethical compromise as acceptable means of achieving a goal are driving us like sheep into corrals of corruptive thinking by capitalizing upon the gullibility of intellectually anemic and desperate people who are more impressed with style than substance and are easily persuaded to believe that compromise of truth is acceptable in order to receive some temporary satisfaction.

The inevitable result of that condition is that many will essentially sell their souls to the demons of demanded tolerance and will lose their moral and ethical compass, ending up being driven to the slaughter pens of liberal injustice and social slavery.

When men and women who are devoid of moral conscience speak for all of us, we cannot be surprised when disaster strikes.

Too often in America, political figures and the Supreme Court decide what is right and wrong for everyone. Yet their decisions are oftentimes saturated with

moral and ethical compromise, reflective of nothing more than their personal opinions and a total disregard for the truth of God or the opinions and beliefs of a majority of Americans.

Christianity, which for generations has been the centerpiece of America's belief system, has long been a target for liberal politicians and talking heads in the mainstream media, but there has never been a more concentrated and strategic attack being launched against her than under today's administration. Because liberal opposition and attacks are so popular and litigation is so desirable to vicious opponents of truth, America's churches, ministers and Christian counselors are no longer allowed to preach, teach, advise or give counsel based upon the Bible without malpractice insurance as a safety net.

It is blasphemous that immoral sex education and distribution of condoms is acceptable in America's schools and even funded by our tax dollars, while Bibles and prayer are prohibited on those same campuses. Drugs, violence and fear reign on our streets and in our schools and yet the mouths of those declaring liberating truth are labeled as intolerant and silenced by the leaders and laws of our nation because moral compromise has been the foundational political and social doctrine of the past few generations. May we never forget the Biblical truth that we shall inevitably reap what we sow, whether good or bad.

I am desperate to see real change take place from Main Street to Wall Street and from my house to the White House. Truth always wins in the end and I'm going to anchor my ship in that harbor.

You may not agree with anything I've said, but I column as I see'em.

Eddy Prince is senior pastor at Grace Fellowship Church in Big Spring. He can be reached by email at pastorprince@msn.com.



EDDY PRINCE



ILLUSTRATION BY GARY MANN

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

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

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to newsdesk@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we be at peace with the world,
Lord, through Your love.

Amen

To Newt, Cheap gas is good

Newt Gingrich presented a stark contrast between

Republicans and Democrats on gasoline prices Saturday at the California GOP convention in Burlingame. Gingrich promised that if elected, he would bring gasoline prices below \$2.50 per gallon.

A day earlier, in a signature speech on energy, President Barack Obama told the University of Miami that there "are no silver bullets short term when it comes to gas prices." Indeed, the problem of gasoline price spikes "won't be solved in one year; it won't be solved in one term; it may not be completely solved in one decade." (Just what you wanted to hear. Even given two terms, Obama doesn't expect to do much about high gasoline prices.)

Obama scoffed at Republicans' "three-point plan for \$2 gas": "Step one is to drill. Step two is to drill. And then step three is to keep drilling." That's how savvy this president is; many Americans have paid more than \$4 per gallon for gasoline this month, yet he mocked the common-

sense notion that more product would lower prices.

To Obama, more domestic oil production is a "gimmicky" fix.

Democrats have been arguing that gas price spikes happen — and they have a point. But so did Gingrich when he charged that high gasoline prices are part of a "deliberate strategy of the left to punish the American people and get them to drive the kind of cars they want you to." Gingrich charged that Obama "believes in small cars" and "high prices" and "government control."

Though the president gave lip service Friday to "an all-of-the-above energy strategy," he always has been contemptuous of old-school fossil fuels.

One minute, he argues that America can't drill its way to lower gasoline prices. The next minute, he talks up the stimulative effects of experimental energy technologies. If algae-based fuels can replace imported oil, Obama said Friday, "that means greater energy security. That means lower costs. It means more jobs. It means a stronger economy."

Well then, wouldn't more domestic oil drilling do likewise? And do likewise faster? What is more, unlike the unproven technologies that Obama favors, oil is a known commodity.

President Obama campaigned

for office on the promise of "green jobs." In May 2010, he came to a Fremont, Calif., solar-power plant, where he declared, "The true engine of economic growth will always be companies like Solyndra." Last year, after receiving \$528 million in taxpayer funds, Solyndra filed for bankruptcy.

The president's \$787 billion 2009 stimulus project included \$500 million to train workers for those much-ballyhooed jobs of the future. Last fall, the Department of Labor's inspector general released an audit that found that of the participants trained by June 30, only 2 percent — 1,336 participants — had held jobs for six months or longer.

Last month, Obama denied the Keystone XL pipeline, which would have created an estimated 6,500 construction jobs. Last week, Obama was talking up algae.

As Gingrich said in a campaign video, "it's almost as though anything which succeeds, anything which enables Americans to have a better life, with more income, with less expensive energy, is somehow bad."

Email Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfchronicle.com. To find out more about Debra J. Saunders visit www.creators.com.



DEBRA SAUNDERS

Why not check this out? At the library

While books are coming in, I wanted to remind you of good material that we still have available. Excellent material still lurks on the shelves, begging to be checked out. So don't pass them by; bend down to the lower shelves. Use one of our stools to sit on and pull



HOLLIS
McCRIGHT

out a forgotten volume. Remember when we had rain and the pastures looked so nice — full of good, green grazing, wildflowers blooming and trees decked out in blooms with leaves on the branches? Back in those days, ranchers might have had to worry about the following: Golden Corydalis, Jimmyfern, Silktree (or mimosa) and Wild Onion. What is the common denominator? If a horse or cow ate any of these plants, then quite possibly they could die. When Golden Corydalis is eaten, these symptoms appear within a few hours: uneasiness, rapid respiration, staggering and convul-

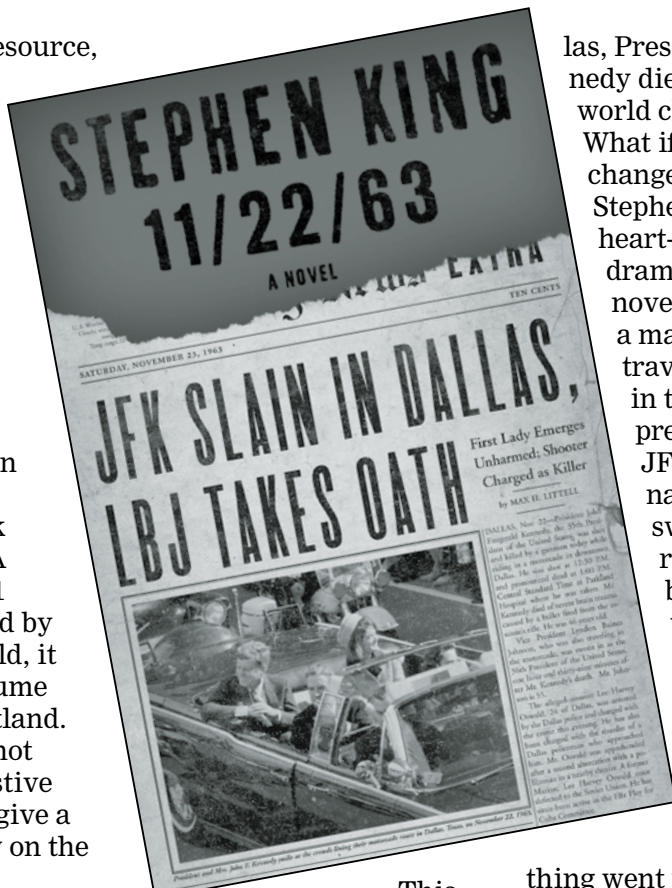
sions. When consumed in lethal amounts the animal will die. In milder cases, the animal recovers quickly. "Toxic Plants of Texas" (636.089 HAR C), edited by Charles R. Hart of the Texas Cooperative Extension, lists in some detail plants that while they may look pretty, can be lethal to livestock. This is an excellent resource for both the experienced rancher or stockman and the amateur who keeps only a few head of stock. Meanwhile, pray for rain.

Have you had a dull headache just above your eyes? I have, and it seems like nothing will take it away. My eyes haven't been itchy, but they have been dry. That time of year is coming, when the spring breezes cause the dust to blow. Allergens are in the air, aimed directly at your eyes and nose. Here is a resource that can help to calm the air: "The Allergy Sourcebook" (616.97 ZEL M) by Merla Zellerbach. In her book, she describes common allergic reactions, finding a health care professional, treatment and test choices, and simple steps that can be taken to alleviate allergic retains. This is

an excellent resource, especially for dusty, windy West Texas.

The library and staff do try to fulfill requests of patrons as we can. In addition, many times patrons identify gaps in our collection. One such book is "Scotland: A History" (941.1 WOR J). Edited by Jenny Wormald, it is a single volume history of Scotland. While it does not go into exhaustive detail, it does give a good overview on the subject.

When visiting my mother, she always grabs the section of the *Fort Worth Telegram* newspaper that contains the obituaries. When I visit my sister in San Antonio, I always read the obituaries. This is not a morbid pastime, but a discovery of lives that have been lived to their fullest. Marilyn Johnson's "The Dead Beat" (070.449 JOH M) is a funny and touching book that has expanded my knowledge of an unsung yet immensely popular literary form.



This book isn't about the paid obituaries by friends and relatives of the deceased. It's about the life (and death) stories written by newspaper staff writers. They are tributes to celebrities, ordinary folks and those who had a peripheral role in a historic or social context of their day. Besides presenting the story of a life, they are history as it is happening.

From Amazon's product description: On Nov. 22, 1963, three shots rang out in Dal-

las, President Kennedy died, and the world changed. What if you could change it back? Stephen King's heart-stopping dramatic new novel is about a man who travels back in time to prevent the JFK assassination. King sweeps readers back in time to another moment, "a real life moment" when every-

thing went wrong. And he introduces readers to a character who has the power to change the course of history. Jake Epping is a 35-year-old high school English teacher in Lisbon Falls, Maine, who makes extra money teaching adults in the GED program. He receives an essay from one of the students. It's a gruesome, harrowing first-person story about the night 50 years ago when Harry Dunning's father came home and killed his mother, his sister and his brother with a hammer. Harry

escaped with a smashed leg, as evidenced by his crooked walk. Not much later, Jake's friend Al, who runs the local diner, divulges a secret: his storeroom is a portal to 1958. He enlists Jake on an insane "and insanely possible" mission to try to prevent the Kennedy assassination. So begins Jake's new life as George Amberson and his new world of Elvis and JFK, of big American cars and sock hops, and of a troubled loner named Lee Harvey Oswald. A tribute to a simpler era and a devastating exercise in escalating suspense, "11/22/63" (F KIN S) is Stephen King at his epic best.

The library is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. with the Internet/video room closing during lunch (noon to 2 p.m.) and at 5:30 in the evening. Saturday hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with the Internet/video room closing at 1:30.

The library is located at 500 S. Main St. Our phone number is 264-2260.

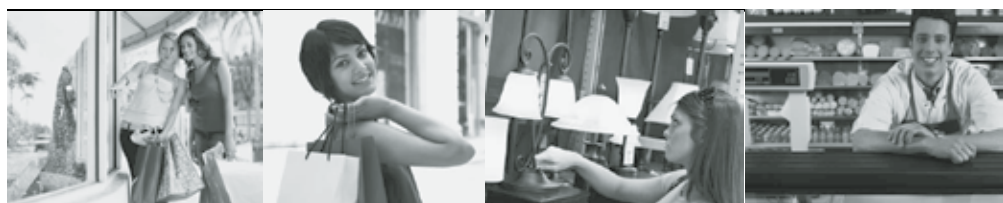
Hollis McCright is director of the Howard County Library.

Spelling bee winners throughout BSISD



The following students were overall winners at their respective school spelling bees. Each student competed in the regional spelling bee in Midland Feb. 25. Pictured left to right: Alex Sotelo, son of Juanita Garcia and Paul Sotelo, representing Big Spring Junior High, (winning word "potassium");

Trinity Galloway, daughter of Melissa Galloway, representing Marcy, (winning word "stomach"); Anthony Sarmiento, son of Tony and Jennifer Sarmiento, representing Moss, (winning word "microphone"); Dillan Guzman, son of Stephanie and Tony Guzman, representing Washington, (winning word "treadmill"); Kenra Thibeault, daughter of Lawrence and Karen Thibeault representing Kentwood, (winning word "mortar"); Rocky Ramirez, son of Rocky and Nina Ramirez representing Bauer, (winning word "skillet"); Tristan Huckabee, son of Heather Matile, representing Goliad, (winning word "hostile")



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World briefs

A week before Super Tuesday, Romney trying to capitalize on twin primary victories

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP) — Mitt Romney is trying to capitalize on twin victories in Arizona and Michigan as the GOP nomination race expands to the 10 states that vote on Super Tuesday. Rival Rick Santorum, who narrowly lost in Michigan, faces splitting the conservative vote with Newt Gingrich as the former House speaker counts on Southern primaries to revive his campaign.

Texas Rep. Ron Paul remains a factor as he attempts to mine delegates in caucus states like North Dakota, where his campaign team says the process plays to his strengths.

Super Tuesday is March 6, just three days after Saturday's Washington state caucuses.

Romney's slim victory — 41 percent to Santorum's 38 percent — in his native Michigan raised questions about whether he would change his strategy. He acknowledged Tuesday that he had made personal mistakes in recent weeks and said he was trying to "do better and work harder."

All four candidates face financial strains as they try to advertise in a series of expensive states to campaign. It would cost about \$5 million to run a week's worth of heavy ads across all the states that vote on Super Tuesday.

GOP regulars give Romney a victory in Michigan; Romney uniformly strong among Arizona voters

WASHINGTON (AP) — Mitt Romney drew strength from Republican loyalists and all but the most conservative voters on Tuesday to claim victory in a grueling GOP presidential primary in his native state of Michigan, an exit poll of voters showed.

Rick Santorum was bolstered by the most ardent conservatives and people whose political views are strongly colored by their religious beliefs, the survey showed. But with Michigan viewed as a solid opportunity for the former Pennsylvania senator to weaken Romney's candidacy, Santorum failed to win more than a modest margin among blue-collar voters — those without college degrees — despite wooing them with populist, made-in-America fervor and his grandfather's coal miner roots.

Romney, the former Massachusetts governor, also cruised to an easy victory in Arizona's GOP presidential contest by winning across nearly all categories of age, income, education and ideology, exit poll results showed there.

In both states, the economy was the dominant issue on voters' minds, as it has been in every state to vote so far. And as he has in every state where voters have been surveyed but South Carolina, Romney triumphed decisively among people who named the economy as their chief concern.

Six in 10 Michigan voters Tuesday were Republicans, with the rest allowed to vote under rules opening the party's primary to others as well. Among those Republicans, Romney prevailed over Santorum, 48 percent to 37 percent.

Dow Jones industrials close above 13k for first time since 2008, but coast is far from clear

Now that the Dow Jones industrial average has closed above 13,000, an all-time high is in sight — just 1,160 points away. But the coast is not quite clear for the markets or the economy.

The Dow's final push above the milestone came from a report that Americans feel better about the economy than they have in a year.

But other economic data Tuesday were downright grim: Orders for big-ticket factory goods dropped

by the most in three years, mainly because the government withdrew a key tax subsidy. And home prices are stuck at 2002 levels.

"I don't think 13,000 guarantees 14,000," said John Manley, chief equity strategist for the Wells Fargo funds group. "I do think there still is a lot of skepticism about the short term."

The next big test comes Friday, when the government releases the number of jobs added by the country in February and updates the unemployment rate.

Teen suspect's court hearing offers little explanation for Ohio school shootings that killed 3

CHARDON, Ohio (AP) — The 17-year-old suspect in a deadly shooting rampage at an Ohio high school appeared briefly in juvenile court as residents of the shaken community offered sympathy and support for families and friends of the three students who were killed and two who were wounded.

A prosecutor described suspect T.J. Lane as "someone who's not well" and said the teen didn't know the victims but chose them randomly.

Lane admitted taking a .22-caliber pistol and a knife to the 1,100-student Chardon High School and firing 10 shots at a group of students sitting at a cafeteria table Monday morning, prosecutor David Joyce said.

Authorities offered their own condolences Tuesday and shared a nugget of welcome news, announcing that an 18-year-old girl who was hurt in the shootings had been released from the hospital and was home with family. The second injured teen remained in serious condition at a suburban Cleveland hospital.

Those trying to understand what prompted the shootings got few answers from the court hearing, which came hours after the death toll rose to three.

Maine GOP Sen. Snowe announced she's not seeking re-election, cites polarization

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — With centrists becoming few and far between, Republican Sen. Olympia Snowe cited the increasingly polarized climate of Washington in abandoning the U.S. Senate after three terms, giving Democrats new hope of winning the longtime GOP-held seat.

Sometimes criticized as a RINO — short for Republican in Name Only — Snowe continued to express as she prepared to end 33 years of public service her desire for the national parties to find middle ground to get things accomplished, saying she was frustrated by "my way or the highway" ideologies.

Her announcement Tuesday came as shock to both parties, leaving an empty seat, throwing the Senate race into disarray in Maine and dealing an immediate blow to Republicans hoping to take control of the Senate in November.

"It makes this seat one of the top Democratic targets in the country, from not being a Democratic target at all," said Sandy Maisel, director of the Goldfarb Center for Public Affairs at Colby College.

While earning a reputation as an independent voice, Snowe became frustrated by the sharp partisanship and gridlock that has come to characterize the upper chamber recently. She was the only Republican who voted for a version of President Barack Obama's health care overhaul, joining Democrats and casting a vote for the plan in the Senate Finance Committee.

AP Exclusive: Arrest of Iranian scientist, like covert struggle with Iran, shrouded in secrecy

WASHINGTON (AP) — For one 55-year-old professor, what started out as an overseas trip to the doctor has become part of the shadowy U.S. struggle with Iran.

The arrest in Los Angeles in December of Seyed Mojtaba Atarodi, a U.S.-educated electrical engineer who teaches at a leading Iranian university, comes as the U.S. uses export controls to try to restrict Iran's acquisition of U.S. technology, including for its military and nuclear programs.

But the Atarodi case bears another hallmark of the long-running U.S.-Iran conflict: It's cloaked in secrecy.

U.S. officials won't discuss the case or confirm that Atarodi has been charged. He has appeared in federal district court in San Francisco at least twice, but both proceedings were closed. The indictment against the Iranian microchip expert, who holds a U.S. green card, remains sealed nearly three months after his arrest at Los Angeles International Airport as he arrived from Iran.

Both governments have "a political stake in the outcome," said Atarodi's lawyer, Matthew David Kohn. He added that he was not at liberty to discuss the case further.

Official: Passengers on disabled cruise ship to fly to Rome after arrival at Seychelles port

VICTORIA, Seychelles (AP) — A disabled cruise ship being towed to the Seychelles' main port is expected to arrive at about dawn on Thursday — three days after the ship lost power and began drifting in the Indian Ocean. An aviation official said passengers would begin flying to Rome within hours after arrival at port.

Three planes with a seating capacity of at least 580 passengers were lined up to fly the passengers of the cruise ship Costa Allegra back to Rome, Gilbert Faure, the chief executive of the Seychelles Civil Aviation Authority said Wednesday. He said the first plane is tentatively scheduled to leave Thursday afternoon.

"It could all depend because they have been at sea for three days. They may want to take a shower, we are not sure," Faure said, adding later: "I can assure you that we are doing our best to ensure that they have a nice few hours in the Seychelles."

The Costa Allegra lost power Monday after a fire broke out in its generator room, setting the Italian cruise ship adrift in a region where Somali pirates have long been active. A French fishing vessel began towing the Costa Allegra, at first to a small, nearby island, but later to the Seychelles main port — Victoria. Two Seychelles tug boats are escorting the cruise ship.

Officials indicated that the more than 1,000 passengers and crew are on board the Costa Allegra would have overwhelmed the resources on the tiny resort island Desroches.

Texas medical group owner among 7 indicted in alleged \$375 million health care fraud scheme

DALLAS (AP) — Years after Jacques Roy started filing paperwork that would have made his practice the busiest Medicare provider in the U.S., authorities say they've found most of his work was a lie.

They accused Roy on Tuesday of "selling his signature" to collect Medicare and Medicaid payments for work that was never done or wasn't necessary. Others charged in the scheme are accused of fraudulently signing up patients or offering them cash, free groceries or food stamps to give their names and a number used to bill Medicare.

Roy, 41, a doctor who owned Medistat Group Associates in DeSoto, Texas, faces up to 100 years in prison if he's convicted of several counts of health care fraud and conspiracy to commit health care fraud. Six others, including the owners of three home health service agencies, are also charged. More than 75 agencies linked to Roy have had their Medicare payments suspended.

Roy's attorney, Patrick McLain, said he had yet to review much of the evidence but that Roy maintained his innocence.

A host of top officials from the Justice and Health and Human Services departments announced the investigation Tuesday in Dallas. They argued that the announcement was proof that changes in how Medicare data is analyzed had worked. The scheme was the largest dollar amount by a single doctor uncovered by a task force on Medicare fraud, authorities said.


Erykah Badu accepts Malaysia concert ban amid criticism of body art with Arabic word for Allah

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Soul singer Erykah Badu said Wednesday she holds no grudge against Malaysia's government for barring her from performing after a photograph of her body art offended some Muslims.

More than 1,500 people had bought tickets to watch the Grammy-winning American singer at

a Kuala Lumpur auditorium Wednesday, but Malaysia's information minister announced on the eve of the concert that it could not proceed because a promotional photo of Badu with the Arabic word for Allah painted on her bare shoulders was "an insult to Islam."

"It's sad, because we traveled a long way," Badu told a news conference.



Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

First Things First

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

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

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass

Opening lead: queen of spades.

When declarer is playing a slam, he should give the hand more tender, loving care than when he is playing, say, two clubs, trying to make eight tricks. The stakes are bigger and therefore justify extra thought.

Take this case where South was in six diamonds and West led the queen of spades, won by declarer with the king. It did not take South long to go down one. He played a low diamond at trick two, whereupon West took the ace and led the jack of spades, and East ruffed to sink the slam.

It was obvious from the start that only a spade ruff could beat the contract. Declarer's thoughts should therefore have been focused on finding some way to stop the potential ruff. Instead of leading a trump at trick two, South should have cashed the ace of hearts and continued with the ace of clubs and a club ruff in dummy.

After discarding his seven of spades on the king of hearts, South could then safely lead a trump to force out the ace. Declarer couldn't lose more than a trump trick on this line of play against virtually any lie of the opposing cards.

The governing principle that applies is the same as it always is when the contract seems easy to make. Before proceeding with the play, declarer asks himself, "What can defeat me?" If he finds a threat, he then takes every step he possibly can to overcome the hypothetical danger.

Tomorrow: Self-preservation.
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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.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

sudoku

ANSWERS

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

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'Kats scratch way to regionals

Garden City rallies to take 71-52 playoff win over Ira

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

For the Garden City Bearkats, it was a matter of simple math — two is greater than one.

The Bearkats rode the hot shooting hands of Sam Miller and Corbin Davis to a 71-52 victory over Ira in their Class 1A Div. II regional quarterfinal showdown in Garrett Coliseum Tuesday night.

Garden City's formula for success? Miller and Davis out-aced Ira's Lance Morris.

The 'Kats (23-11) were unable to slow down Morris, who ended the night with 23 points, so they decided to out-produce him. To do that, they turned to their sophomore duo of Miller and Davis, who scored 24 and 18 points, respectively.

It was Miller and Davis who helped Garden City dig its way out of an early 8-0 hole and take the lead for good in the second quarter, and they seemingly had an answer for every charge Ira made thereafter.

"They've been getting big baskets for us all year," GCHS Coach Koby Abney said after the game. "I guess that's just a part of being sophomores — they don't realize how tough this game is."

In the early going, however, it appeared that if Morris was going to single-handedly lead the Bulldogs to victory. The 5-foot-10 junior scored half of his team's first 18 points to give Ira the lead after one quarter.

But Morris picked up

See **GCHS**, Page 13



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Garden City fans show their support for the Bearkats during their Class 1A Div. II regional quarterfinal matchup with Ira at Garrett Coliseum Tuesday night. Garden City won, 71-52.

Sports Calendar

THURSDAY

Baseball

Big Spring at Snyder tournament, TBA.

Coahoma at Crane tournament, TBA. Midland Classical at Forsan, 1 p.m.

Softball

Big Spring and Forsan at Big Spring tournament, TBA.

Women's basketball

Frank Phillips College at Howard College, 5:45 p.m.

Men's basketball

Frank Phillips College at Howard College, 7:45 p.m.

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

In brief

Greenwood downs

Lady Steers

GREENWOOD — Kendall Maddox pitched a four-hit shutout to lead the Greenwood Rangerettes to a 4-0 victory over Big Spring in non-district softball action Tuesday.

Maddox struck out nine and walked two, and helped her cause at the plate by going 2-for-3 with an RBI.

Tiffany Gonzales took the loss for the Lady Steers, allowing 11 hits in six innings of work.

Logan Yarbar had a double for the Lady Steers.

Big Spring returns to action Thursday when it hosts its annual tournament at the Roy Anderson Complex.

Big Spring 000 000 0 — 0 4 1
Greenwood 202 000 x — 4 11 1

Tennis team

shines in Midland

The Big Spring High School varsity tennis team tied for first in their division at this past weekend's Tall City Invitational in Midland.

Big Spring tied Hobbs, N.M. for the team title in the 20-team division.

BSHS players won 11 medals during the tournament, including:

- Alex Byrd and Kie Jones, boy's doubles champions.

- Josh Brown and Isaiah Ludington, boy's doubles fourth place.

- Andrea Cansino and Tyler Avant, mixed doubles second place.

- Katie Newton and Chris Hughes, mixed doubles third place.

- Alexis Johnson and Reba Smith, girl's doubles third place.

- Liz Rodriguez, girl's singles consolation champion.

"They played their best overall tennis of the season at the tournament," BSHS Coach Dana Jones said of his team's performance. "We should have good momentum going into the team regional tournament."

The regional tournament will be held Friday and Saturday at several sites in Midland and Odessa.

Grady boys heading to regional tournament

WOLFFORTH — The Grady Wildcats earned a spot in the Region I-1A Div. II basketball tournament with a 53-47 win over Valley in the regional quarterfinal round of the playoffs Tuesday night.

The Wildcats trailed early in the final quarter before closing with a rush to take the victory, which improved their record to 26-3.

See **BRIEFS**, Page 13

Rangers' OF Cruz healthy, ready to go

By **JANIE MCCAULEY**

AP Baseball Writer

SURPRISE, Ariz. — Nelson Cruz grins as he envisions the player he might be for Texas if only he can stay on the field.

Cruz tweaked his offseason routine in hopes of not tweaking his hamstring. Or quadriceps. Or any other body part, for that matter.

The Rangers would be thrilled if he could bring that big bat on a regular basis.

"I think a lot about that," Cruz said of his 2012 potential. "I have to do it. I think this year could be the year. I don't know what I could do. The main thing is to contribute daily and then go from there."

The 31-year-old slugger is so determined to stay off the disabled list and play a full season this year for the two-time AL champion Rangers that he worked to drop 12 pounds from his previous playing weight of 240 and take some pressure off his lower body.

"I feel my hamstrings are strong and flexible. I don't know the last time they felt this way. I've just got to go out there and play, and make sure I stay there for 150-160 games."

Nelson Cruz

He did more jumping drills to strengthen his troublesome legs. He met up with teammate Mike Napoli in Miami to work out this winter and find a program he believes will work — finally.

"I feel my hamstrings are strong and flexible. I don't know the last time they felt this way," Cruz said. "I've just got to go out there and play, and make sure I stay there for 150-160 games."

See **CRUZ**, Page 13

Nets edge Mavericks, 93-92

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**

AP Sports Writer

DALLAS — Brook Lopez missed almost the first two months of the season because of a broken right foot, and the New Jersey Nets eased him back into the lineup.

While the 7-foot center finally played his first two games last week, his minutes were somewhat limited and he was even inactive for the game in between those. There was more rest during the All-Star break over the weekend before the Nets finally let him loose.

Lopez scored 38 points, including the go-ahead free throws with 42 seconds left, and the Nets held on for a 93-92 victory over the Dallas Mavericks on Tuesday night.

"We kind of took the handcuffs off him. We weren't putting him on a minute restriction," New Jersey coach Avery Johnson said. "He got a pretty good rest over the break, and we kept feeding him."

The two free throws by Lopez came right after the

Mavericks had taken the lead with a 13-2 run after missing 14 consecutive field goals.

Jason Kidd's 3-pointer from the right wing only 6 seconds earlier had put Dallas ahead 92-91.

Jason Terry forced a turnover with 18 seconds left, and Dallas called timeout. Kidd then had the ball in the left corner, but it was knocked loose by DeShawn Stevenson. Kidd got it back but his desperate heave at the buzzer was short.

Stevenson, who got his NBA championship ring from the Mavericks before the game, thrust both arms in the air as it ended. He was scoreless, but part of the game-ending play.

"It's tough with Dirk (Nowitzki). I've seen that move about 1,000 times, so I kind of cheated that way, and he passed to Jason Kidd," said Stevenson, who left Dallas in free agency. "I was going to jump, and I got my hand on the ball and got a win off of that."

The 38 points by Lopez, one short of his career high,

were the most against the Mavericks since LeBron James scored 37 for Miami in the season opener on Christmas Day.

Anthony Morrow had 15 points for the Nets, while Deron Williams had 12 points and 12 rebounds.

"Brook was a monster tonight. He carried us from the start. With him back, we're a different team," Williams said. "I just wasn't feeling it and Brook was."

Nowitzki had 24 points despite shooting 7 of 19 from the field and 7 of 11 from the free-throw line. Brendan Haywood had 18 points and 10 rebounds for Dallas, which shot only 36 percent (32 of 89).

"It was brutal, like the whole game. We were off. We couldn't make a shot," Nowitzki said. "It was ugly, ball-handling and shooting. Everything was sloppy. It was a tough night. It wasn't the way we wanted to start this off, with a loss at home."

The Mavericks played the

See **MAVS**, Page 13

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Helena Chemical Company, a national agricultural-chemical company, has an immediate opening for spray applicator driver. Class A- CDL license and farm experience helpful; but will consider training. Requires high school diploma or equivalent. We offer an excellent working environment and outstanding compensation and benefits package. For consideration, please apply in person:

Helena Chemical Company
 100 S. St. Peter
 Stanton, TX 79782
 Pre-employment drug
 screen required.
 EOE
 M/F/V/H

Help Wanted

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.

BUFFALO COUNTRY taking application for Assistant Manager & Sales Clerk (all shifts). Experience required. Must apply in person 4911 South Hwy. 87 ask for Salitta. No Phone Calls.

CARING HEARTS Home Health is accepting resumes for a RN. We offer Freedom of flexible scheduling, paper work made easier with lap top and a pleasant environment. Bilingual a plus. One year of experience required. Prior Home Health experience preferred. Fax resumes to (432)714-4511 or come by 1900 Scurry Street.

COASTAL TRANSPORT is seeking **Owner-operators** with a Class A CDL. Must be 23 years, X endorsement with one year tractor trailer experience. **For More Information, Call 877-314-0700 between 9am-4pm, Monday-Friday.**

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\$2000.00

Sign On Bonus!

We are now hiring drivers to deliver petroleum products in and around the Permian Basin. Qualifications:
 *Class A CDL drivers w/hazmat and tanker endorsements
 *23 years of age or older
 *1 year verifiable tractor/trailer experience
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 *Home Everyday
 Please contact
 1-888-527-7221

COCKTAIL WAITRESSES. Outgoing & Enthusiastic? No experience necessary. Must be 18 or older. Call 432-213-0946 for application, San Franciscan Bar & Grill.

Help Wanted

COMET CLEANERS Full-time Mon-Fri. Needs a Presser, Male or Female. Apply in person at 1500 East Marcy.

DAY CAMP Worker Needed at The Boys & Girls Club. Must have outgoing personality, patience, & love children. Apply at The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club, 811 West 5th.

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

DELIVERY, ASSEMBLY, clean-up, etc. Must have valid driver's license & good driving record. Apply at Branham Furniture, 2004 West 4th.



Due to our growth, we have a continuing need in the Big Spring field office for:

Well Servicing Rig Operators

We offer competitive pay; 401(k) with company match; affordable medical, dental, and life insurance; paid time off based on length of service; and paid holidays.

To learn more about specific opportunities, visit our Big Spring location

at: **Basic Energy Services**
 2206 North Highway 87
 Big Spring, Texas 79721
 EOE-M/F/D/V
 Drug Free Environment

EXTRA MONEY Work 5:00A.M. -7:30AM or 6:30AM -1:30 PM at Jack & Jill Child Care. Later hours also available. Apply in person at 1708 Nolan.

IMMEDIATE OPENING for Driver/ Delivery Warehouseman. Must have Texas Drivers License and Clean Record. **APPLY IN PERSON** Allan's Gallery of Furniture, 202 Scurry, Big Spring.

Help Wanted



Full Time Positions Rent-A-Center

\$10.85 per hr./Start

\$16.27 per hr./OT

Now hiring! 48 hours per week guaranteed. Customer Service & sales skills a plus. Apply in person at 1900 Gregg St., Big Spring, Texas 79720 or apply online at www.rentacenter.com

Full-time **TELLER POSITION.** Experience Preferred. Apply in person at Cosden Federal Credit Union, 400 East Marcy, Big Spring, Tx.

GENERAL MAINTENANCE: Must have a desire to work in a team environment and the ability to follow directions. Must have at least 1 yr maintenance experience. Abilities to include: painting experience; general plumbing, general sheetrock repair and texture and HVAC skills. Must have own tools, ability to take afterhours and weekend calls; valid TX drivers license and liability insurance. Apply in person at Bent Tree Apartments, 1 Courtney Place.

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IPREMS IS looking for fugitive emission technicians to work in Big Spring refinery. Pay start at \$11 to \$12 an hour. Go to website www.iprems.com to download an application and fax it to 281-488-9729.

NOW HIRING Concrete Finishers in Big Spring (local project). Contact Tony Alvarez Construction 1-806-548-2335 for more info..

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Join our professional cleaning team! \$12/Hrs. & advancement opportunities. We provide paid training, all necessary supplies & uniform. Must have own transportation & speak English. All cleaners are drug tested & background checked. Bonded and insured. Call **J. Williams Management** at 432-699-2090 M-F 8-4.



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MANAGER/ TRAINEE person needed for local Furniture and Appliance Store. Bilingual and outgoing personality a plus. All inquiries are to be made in person at 1611 South Gregg, Big Spring.

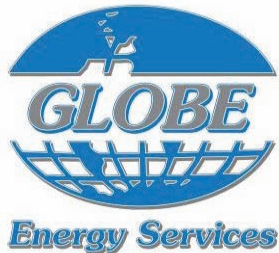
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Globe Energy Services is seeking Motivated and Hard Working Vacuum & Kill Truck Operators.

Seeking full time Class A CDL drivers with a clean record that have experience, or willing to learn vacuum or pump truck skills in the oil and gas industry. Competitive pay, health insurance, vacation and retirement benefits are all included. Hiring immediately, training provided. Apply at 3112 N Hwy 87, Big Spring, TX 79720.

231938



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231746

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231937



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- AA or technical school training.
- Background in high CO2 plant/reinjection experience
- Expert knowledge of compressor packages and/or process equipment.

FIELD SERVICE TECHNICIAN

- High school diploma or equivalent
- 2-3 years experience in engine, compressor mechanics, production equipment and gas compression, preferred
- Valid driver's license with good driving record
- Must be able to provide own hand tools up to 1 1/4"
- Knowledge and experience of high speed equipment, preferable Waukesha Engines
- Knowledge and experience on process and production equipment, electrical systems, panel boards, skid wiring, etc.
- 3-5 years of verifiable mechanical experience will be considered in lieu of compression experience.

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Please apply online at www.exterran.com or submit an application to Exterran, 9704 W. I-20 Midland, TX 79706.

231936

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NEED ACCOUNTANT for Independent Oil and Gas Company in Big Spring. Prefer experience and degree. Competitive pay & benefits. Please send resume to P.O. Box 1888 Big Spring, TX 79721.

NEED Backhoe Operator with CDL. Must pass drug test. Call 432-394-4161.

NEED CDL Driver- Home Nightly, Local Run, Full-time. Call (432)267-4700.

NEIGHBORS CONVENIENCE Store now hiring cooks, cashiers, stockers. All Shifts. Apply at 3315 E. FM 700.

NEW HOPE Christian School is hiring substitute and part time teachers at this time. Apply in person at 118 Cedar Road. Prefer at least 1-year experience in a licensed child-care facility. Also are looking for someone to work in Church nursery on Wed. evenings and Sunday mornings. Apply at 118 Cedar Rd.

NEWSPAPER DELIVERY Big Spring Area Routes Midland Reporter-Telegram The Midland Reporter-Telegram has delivery positions available in the Big Spring Area for both Home Delivery and Retail Outlet distribution. Good organization for customer tracking, a reliable vehicle and a dependable commitment to early morning deliveries ranging from 2:00am-6:00 am. If interested please call Linda McCumber 432-967-4150

NOW HIRING Cosmetologist. Booth rent. Please call 432-816-6588 or 432-714-4445.

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NOW HIRING Experienced CDL Drivers, Operators, Derrick and Floor Hands. Health Insurance and Good Pay. You may pick up apps at 5212 I-20 South Service Road.

Now hiring kitchen staff. Apply in person at 802 West I-20 or call 432-264-7686.

NOW HIRING Positions available in the Restaurant for the following: Grill Cooks, Prep Cooks and Buffet Cooks. Excellent Benefits. Training Provided. Experience Will Get You More \$\$\$
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NURSERY WORKER needed at FBC Coahoma; Sundays and Wednesdays. Please inquire at 201 South Avenue or call 432-394-4348.

PART-TIME MAINT Tech needed for property in Big Spring. Applicant must have strong organizational skills and enjoy working outdoors. 20 hrs/week plus Vacation. Fax resume to (432)264-1761.

Help Wanted

TOP JOBS

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 outs, must turn in daily production & work with P.O. system. Please call Bruce @ 832-613-3809. Experienced only need apply.

TOP JOBS

PARKS FUELS needs Car Wash Attendant. Good Starting Salary plus tips. Apply at 303 East 1st Street.

PECOS GATHERING and Marketing L.L.C. is hiring Crude Oil Haulers. \$15,000.00 sign on bonus. Need hazmat and CDL. Pay is at the top of the industry (will match written offers), full benefits and matching IRA. 5 day work week, 3 days off, home every night! Will train qualified candidates. For more information call Jack Merrill at 432-557-8249.

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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 Maintenance 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

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.

STORE CLERK needed Wason Rd. Fast Stop, Apply in person at 1700 Wason Rd.

Help Wanted

THE COLORADO River Municipal Water District, regional raw water supplier for the Permian Basin, is accepting applications for following position for Lake Thomas area. **Park Maintenance Technician-** Responsible for general maintenance of park and facilities. 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 St., Big Spring, Texas 79720, by calling (432)267-6341 or www.crmwd.org

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

TOP JOBS

RUSSELL CELLULAR in Big Spring Texas is hiring for a store manager and wireless sales representatives. To learn more about Russell Cellular and to apply please go to: www.careerbuilder.com Keyword Search: Russell Cellular

SATELLITE TECHNICIANS needed for Big Spring, Midland, Odessa, Pecos areas. These are subcontractor positions. You must have your own truck or SUV. You must be able to pass a thorough background check and drug screen. You must be willing to travel within a 100 mile radius. Experience is preferred but not necessary. We are looking for dependable people who can work a 6 day work week. We will train the right individuals. There is a potential to earn up to \$2000 every 2 weeks. If interested, please contact Sonny 432-230-2075 or Angie 432-238-9748. Please leave a message.

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.

Help Wanted

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 mwcol@wtggas.com or fax (432)399-4290.

T N C NEEDS LVN'S, RN'S, CNA'S. Must be willing to travel. (325)670-0090. texasnurseconnection.com

TEACHING POSITION- \$14/hr. Mon.-Fri. CDA required. Apply at Jack & Jill, 1708 Nolan.

TRUCK DRIVER Helena Chemical Company, a national agricultural-chemical company, has an immediate opening for an experienced truck driver. This position will make deliveries, load and unload product, utilize a forklift, and perform general warehouse duties. The position requires high school diploma or equivalent, CDL with HAZMAT endorsement. We offer an excellent working environment and outstanding compensation and benefits package. For consideration, please apply in person: Helena Chemical Company 100 S. St. Peter, Stanton, Texas Pre-employment drug screen required. EOE M/F/V/H

VAN DRIVER/CAREGIVER- Apply in person at Jack & Jill, 1708 Nolan.

Items for Sale

FOR SALE Mesquite Firewood. \$160.00 for half cord. 50 pound sacks-\$20.00. Call Terry Jenkins at 432-270-3122.

Lost and Found

FOUND A lost small dog in the vicinity of the 7-11 on 11th Place. Call to claim and describe 432-213-3674.

Pets

HOT ITEMS

RUSSIAN BLUE Kitten, Pure Breed, Has papers. All shots & neutered. Great with all ages. Litter box trained. Has litter box, food bowl and scratching post/toy. Call Aaron at 432-517-5397. \$700 firm.



This link www.petfinder.com connects people to pets up for adoption from the Big Spring Animal Control (432)264-2372.

Real Estate for Rent

Swimming Pool
Carports,
Most Utilities Paid,
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KENTWOOD APARTMENTS
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403 GALVESTON large shop with fenced yard. \$1250. month, \$1250 deposit. Call (432)213-2319.

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Real Estate for Sale

3/2 PLUS Bonus Room. 2403 Carleton. Under Remodel. Owner will Finance. \$15,000.00 Down. WILL NOT RENT. Call (432)264-9907 or 517-0062.

BY OWNER/ No Owner Finance. 1202 Buena Vista. 3 Bdrm, 2 bath, 2 car garage, shop, 1 acre of land. Coahoma ISD. Call 432-413-7400.

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Sat & Sun
March 3rd-4th
1:00-4:00

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PRICE REDUCED--- \$45,000
3/2 1999 Town & Country Double Wide Mobile Home Info and Pictures on Craigslist- Call Mitzi 806-893-2951

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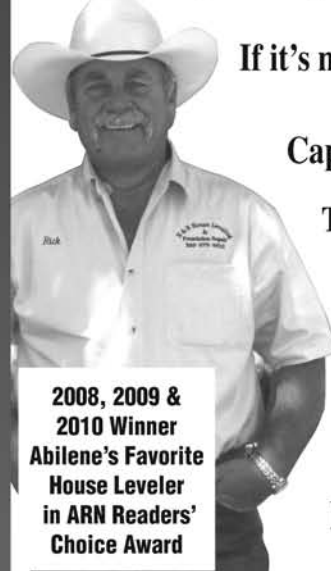
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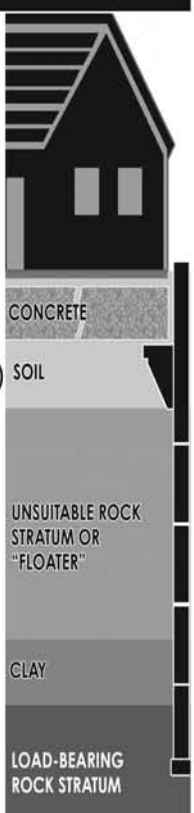
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Happy leap day! This year, the February 29th adjustment shifts the calendar so that in 2012 the equinoxes and solstices occur earlier than they have in any year since 1896. The soulful, creative and very special Pisces people born on the 29th can celebrate an uncompromised birthday

this year under a giddy Gemini moon.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You like people who can keep a secret. You also like people who can't keep a secret and are careful to forewarn you of their inability. You'll enjoy a connection with someone who falls into one of those categories today.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your brain did amazing things last night



HOLIDAY MATHIS

Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE OF CHANGES IN ELECTION PRECINCTS

Pursuant to §42.035, Texas Election Code, the Commissioners court of Howard County, Texas, herein provides notice of changes in County political boundaries as adopted by the Commissioners Court, and as precleared by the United States Department of Justice on the 30th day of January, 2012.

Interested individuals may review the adopted changes in the office of the County Clerk during regular business hours.

The changes in county election precincts were necessitated by re-districting of County Commissioners Court precincts in compliance with the United States Constitution and 42 U.S.C. §1973, also known as the Voting Rights Act, following the release of 2010 census data. Changes in county election precincts were designed to achieve numerical balance between the four commissioners court precincts, and to insure the voting rights of all citizens of Howard County, Texas.

Donna Wright
County Clerk

A VISO PUBLICO DE CAMBIOS EN ELECCION RECINTOS

De conformidad con §42.035, Código Electoral de Texas, la Corte de Comisionados del condado de Howard, Texas, este documento proporciona la notificación de cambios en los límites del Condado de política adoptadas por la Corte de Comisionados, y como precleared por el Departamento de Justicia el día 30 de enero, 2012.

Las personas interesadas pueden revisar los cambios adoptados en la oficina del secretario del condado durante las horas regulares de trabajo.

Los cambios en los precintos electorales del condado fueron necesarios por la redistribución de los distritos del Condado de la Corte de Comisionados de conformidad con la Constitución de los Estados Unidos y 42 USC §1973, también conocida como la Ley de Derechos Electorales, tras la publicación de los datos del censo 2010. Los cambios en los precintos electorales del condado fueron diseñados para lograr un equilibrio numérico entre los cuatro distritos electorales comisionados judiciales, y papa asegurar los derechos de voto de todos los ciudadanos del condado de Howard, Texas.

Donna Wright
Oficial de Condado
#7267 February 15, 22 & 29, 2012

while you were sleeping. You were healed, rebuilt and refreshed. New ideas were assimilated into who you are now — someone different from who you were yesterday.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Wouldn't it be wonderful to see and create humor in more areas of your life? Understanding what's so funny will help you reduce stress, be joyful and keep the good times coming.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Even the most devout, enlightened people on the planet don't stay connected with their joy at every moment of every day. But you're doing better and better with this challenge all the time.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll have a good sense of your own attention span, which is on the short side right now. You'll find brief, to-the-point instructions quite helpful, and you'll avoid complicated solutions.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your opportunities will seem to sit quietly, not wanting to draw attention to themselves. Don't be fooled! New prospects open up to the one who is savvy enough to recognize them as such and act.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). People motivate themselves. You cannot assume responsibility for making anyone's motivation happen. You

can, however, inspire people, and that is just what you'll do.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). When you smile at someone, you give that person a gift. You'll be generous in this way, delivering something bright and lovely to friends and strangers alike.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll influence others from a distance. Your process is undetectable (even you don't know exactly how you are able to be so persuasive), but the results are undeniable.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Hiding your true emotions only causes stress and strain. Honesty sets you free. Say what you feel, if not with words, then with your facial expressions, body language and actions.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You treat others with kindness, but you don't let them take advantage of you. For many, this would be a difficult balance to strike, though it comes quite naturally to you today.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The way you relate to others is an act of creativity. Exercise your social muscle, especially through humor. Keeping things light will be the best way.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 29). This truly special birthday is the start of a passionate year. You'll have to make a

conscious effort toward moderation, as personal connections will have great intensity and situations will bring out heightened emotions. Work becomes far more interesting in March. May brings commitments and lucrative contracts. Aries and Taurus people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 24, 12, 49 and 10.

COSMIC CONFIDENCE: In the age of Facebook and YouTube, there are more opportunities than ever before to project yourself in a public forum. Whether in interpersonal dealings or in presenting yourself to the world at large, your astrological sign offers unique insight to help you gain the confident edge that will make others take notice and give you the right kind of attention. So what's your cosmic advantage?

GEMINI: The old "fake it 'til you make it" adage doesn't work for you at all. As the sign of communication, your gift for accurately portraying the way you feel on the inside makes it extremely challenging to project a sense of confidence you're not experiencing. Luckily, your self-esteem set-point is naturally on the high side.

For those times when you're feeling less than brilliant, you can regain

your footing by establishing a rapport with the person or people you're trying to reach. Thinking of their needs and wants instead of your own takes the pressure off of you and gives you purpose. It takes an essentially secure person to make the unselfconscious effort to listen to others and learn about their lives. When you are socially and intellectually engaged, your confidence soars.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Pisces business guru Tony Robbins was born on this unusual day in the year 1960. Mercury, the communication planet, was also in Pisces, indicating a vivid imagination and the ability to sense what others are thinking and feeling. The moon was in gallant Aries, lending the fearlessness required for public speaking in stadium-sized rooms!

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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Legals

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT

ConocoPhillips Company, P.O. Box 358, Borger, Texas 79008-0358 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas.

The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the San Andres formation, Settles, W.R. -A- No. 56. The proposed injection well is 6 miles East of Forsan located in the Howard Glasscock Field, in Howard County, Texas. Fluid will be injected into the subsurface depth interval from 1533 to 2685 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas. Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711. (Telephone (512)463-6792).

#7279 February 29, 2012

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

Dear Annie: I have been friends with "Laura" since my husband and I moved here 22 years ago. She is financially better off than I am (and flaunts it), but it never bothered me until she decided we should exchange Christmas gifts a few years back.

Laura can be very judgmental, and finding the right present for her was difficult. Costume jewelry would be rejected, and the real stuff was out of reach. Meanwhile, whenever Laura was selling Tupperware or purses, I always bought something in order to be supportive.

Last year, she started a baking business, so I bought her a cupcake holder for Christmas.

However, she had a Christmas party a few days before the actual holiday, so instead of giving her the holder, I gave her a hostess gift of a cookbook, intending to give her the cupcake holder at our personal gift exchange.

The day after her party, she called and told me off. She said my presents were "cheap."

I tried to explain about the hostess gift, but she would hear none of it. I was angry, and so was she. On her birthday two weeks later, I texted, "Happy birthday," but she didn't respond. In fact, Laura has not spoken a word to me for more than a year.

Last summer, I tried to mend things. I sent a letter saying I was sorry I'd hurt her feelings, but a Christmas gift seemed like a silly reason to end a 20-year friendship.

I heard nothing back. I'm still upset about it. My husband says I am better off without her if she measures a friendship by the quality of the gifts.

The problem is, when Laura was selling real estate, she helped my son purchase his first home. He is getting married in July. Should I send her an invitation? — California

Dear California: You

are not obligated to invite Laura to the wedding. But if you do and she chooses to attend, it creates the opportunity to renew the friendship (if that's what you want). Unless you cannot afford to have her as a guest, there is no downside to sending an invitation.

Dear Annie: Whenever my husband makes a mistake, does something incorrectly or doesn't know the answer, he uses a very whiny voice and says, "I guess I'm just stupid."

Our children and I have reminded him on numerous occasions that he is not stupid. We have asked why he thinks a simple mistake is so terrible.

We have tried ignoring the comment, asking him whether he is looking to garner sympathy or attention, and requesting point-blank that he stop saying that. Nothing seems to work.

Lately, he is using this comment more and more often. Is this type of self-deprecating behavior normal? — Mary from Missouri

Dear Mary: This sounds like a pattern from childhood combined with a need to be constantly reassured. If everything else about your husband seems

normal, we'd ignore this, perhaps patting him on the shoulder and saying, "It's OK, dear."

But if you notice other unusual behaviors, or if this particular annoyance gets out of hand, please suggest he see his doctor. Sometimes, when behavior becomes repetitive and obsessive, it requires medical attention.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Life Isn't Easy," whose wife ran off with another man but refuses to sign divorce papers. He says he can't afford a lawyer. He should check his state law.

I am a judge in Michigan, and in this state, he only needs to file a complaint, and if his wife fails to respond or appear, he can obtain a divorce. If she does show up or file papers, he can still proceed on his own but may need some limited legal advice. — Michigan Judge

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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Annie's Mailbox



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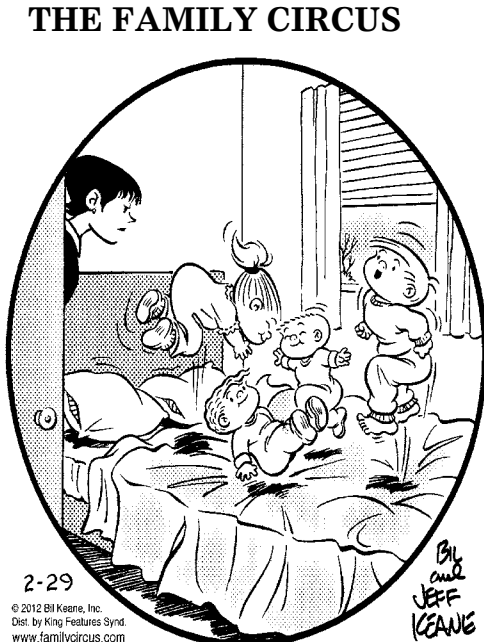
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5:PM	News ABC	Alma Notic.	Two Men	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News News	King King	Swallow House	Charlie Rose	Til Death King	Sons of Guns	CSI: Miami	CSI: Crime Scene	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Shake It Good	NFL32	SportsCenter
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Familia Suerte	Big Bang	News Ent	Caso Cer-rado	News Millionaire	Seinfeld Seinfeld	Dr. Diana CCM	PBS News-Hour	Seinfeld Seinfeld	Sons of Guns	CSI: Miami	Movie: Seven, Gwyneth Paltrow	Law & Order	Movie: Roll Bounce, Mike Epps	Good Random	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	College Basketball: Teams TBA.
7:PM	Middle Suburg.	Fútbol: México vs. Colombia. (SS)	American Idol	Survivor: One World	Una Maid en	Whitney Chelsea	Fam. Guy Fam. Guy	Upd Baruch	Nature (DVS)	One Tree Hill	Sons of Guns	Movie: The Godfather, James Caan	Law & Order	Law & Order	Movie: 101 Dalmatians	Good Random	College Basketball: Oklahoma at Texas.	NBA Basketball: Chicago Bulls at San Antonio Spurs.
8:PM	Family Happy			Criminal Minds	Flor Salvaje (SS)	Rock Center	Fam. Guy Fam. Guy	Light of the Southwest	NOVA	America's Next Top	Sons of Guns		Law & Order		Good Random	College Basketball: Oklahoma at Texas.	NBA Basketball: Chicago Bulls at San Antonio Spurs.	
9:PM	Revenge	Fútbol	Simpsons How I Met	CSI: Crime Scene	Relaciones Peli	Law & Order: SVU	Big Bang	Conan	McGee	Cops	Top 10 Shootouts		Law & Order	Movie: Dr. Dolittle, Oliver Platt	Good Random	College Basketball: Oklahoma at Texas.	NBA Basketball: Chicago Bulls at San Antonio Spurs.	
10:PM	News Nightline		How I Met	News Letterman	Noticias Sin Senos no	News Jay Leno	Conan	McGee	Charlie Rose	Til Death King	Sons of Guns		Southland		Good Random	College Basketball: Oklahoma at Texas.	NBA Basketball: Chicago Bulls at San Antonio Spurs.	
11:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Impacto Noticiero	Law Order: CI	Late	Decisiones (SS)	Late Night	Office	Yohanan	World	South Pk	Top 10 Shootouts	Movie: The Godfather, James Caan	CSI: NY	Wendy Williams	Wizards	Wizards	Basket	
12:AM	Extra	Mañana Siempre	Raymond Fam. Guy	Insider	Pagado	News	Office	Dr. Denis	T. Smiley	Roseanne	Sons of Guns		CSI: NY	Movie: Roll Bounce, Mike Epps	Wizards	Wizards	NBA	
1:AM	Paid	La Jaula	American	Ent	Pagado	(.06) Today	Seinfeld	Light.		Wretched	Sons of Guns		Rizzoli & Isles		Wizards	Wizards	NBA	
1:AM	Paid	Par Ases	TMZ	Paid	Pagado		Seinfeld	Light of the Southwest		Tripp	Sons of Guns				Wizards	Wizards	NBA	



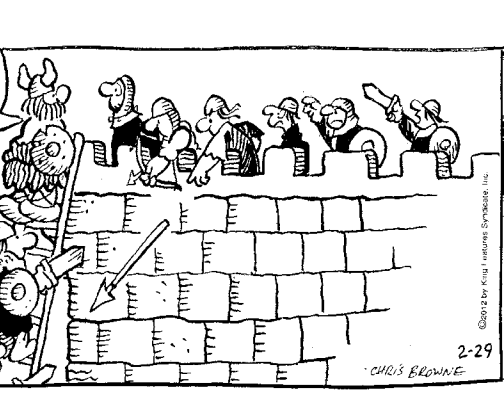
"IF I HAD BEEN A LEAP YEAR BABY, I'D STILL BE A TEENAGER."



"This is allowed today! We're celebratin' leap year!"



CLIMBING THESE LADDERS CAN BE REALLY DANGEROUS!



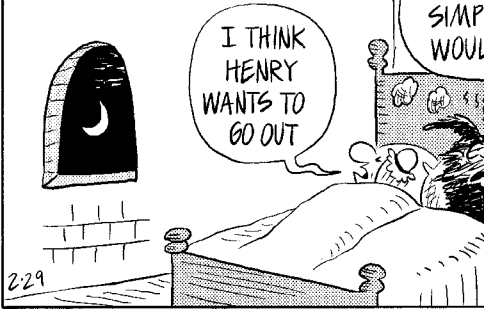
DO YOU HAVE AN INSIDE SET OF STAIRS WE CAN USE?



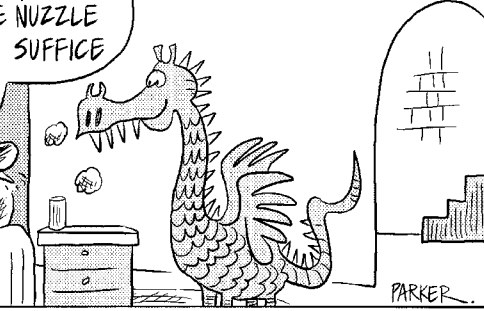
I'M LOOKING FOR A GUY WITH SIX-PACK ABS.



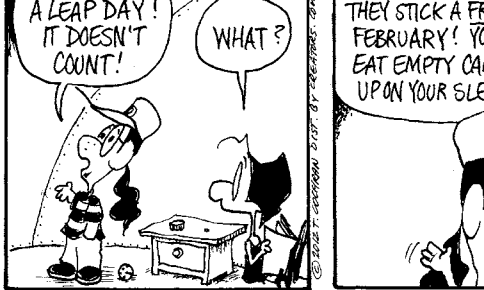
YOU'RE IN LUCK.



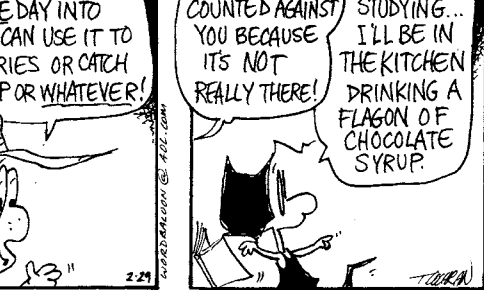
I THINK HENRY WANTS TO GO OUT



YOU KNOW, BUD, A SIMPLE NUZZLE WOULD SUFFICE



TODAY IS A LEAP DAY! IT DOESN'T COUNT!



EVERY SIX OR SEVEN YEARS, THEY STICK A FREE DAY INTO FEBRUARY! YOU CAN USE IT TO EAT EMPTY CALORIES OR CATCH UP ON YOUR SLEEP OR WHATEVER!

This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Feb. 29, the 60th day of 2012. There are 306 days left in the year. This is Leap Day.

Today's Highlights in History:

On Feb. 29, 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson's National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders (also known as the Kerner Commission) warned that racism was causing America to move "toward two societies, one black, one white - separate and unequal." The discovery of a "pulsar," a star which emits regular radio waves, was announced by Dr. Jocelyn Bell Burnell in Cambridge, England. At the Grammy Awards, the 5th Dimension's "Up, Up and Away" won record of the year for 1967, while album of the year honors went to The Beatles' "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band."

On this date:

In 1504, Christopher Columbus, stranded in Jamaica

during his fourth voyage to the West, used a correctly predicted lunar eclipse to frighten hostile natives into providing food for his crew.

In 1792, composer Gioachino Antonio Rossini was born in Pesaro, Italy.

In 1796, President George Washington proclaimed Jay's Treaty, which settled some outstanding differences with Britain, in effect.

In 1892, the United States and Britain agreed to submit to arbitration their dispute over seal-hunting rights in the Bering Sea. (A commission later ruled in favor of Britain.)

In 1904, President Theodore Roosevelt appointed a seven-member commission to facilitate completion of the Panama Canal.

In 1908, the artist Balthus was born in Paris.

In 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a second Neutrality Act as he appealed to American businesses not to increase exports to belligerents.

In 1940, "Gone with the Wind" won eight Academy Awards, including best picture of 1939; Hattie McDaniel won for best supporting actress, the

first black performer so honored.

In 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower announced he would seek a second term of office.

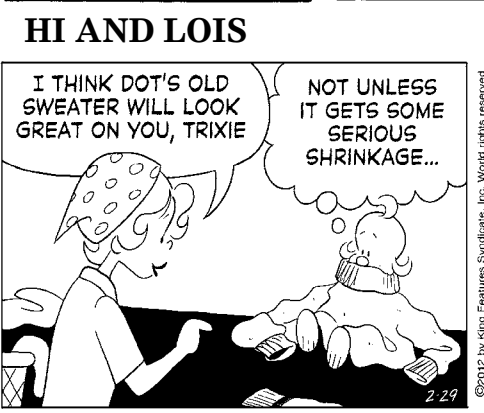
In 1984, Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau announced he was stepping down after more than 15 combined years in power.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Michele Morgan is 92. Former All-Star baseball player Al Rosen is 88. Actor Joss Ackland is 84. Former space shuttle astronaut Jack Lousma is 76. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I of Constantinople is 72. Actor Dennis Farina is 68. Actress Phyllis Frelich is 68.

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Answer to previous puzzle

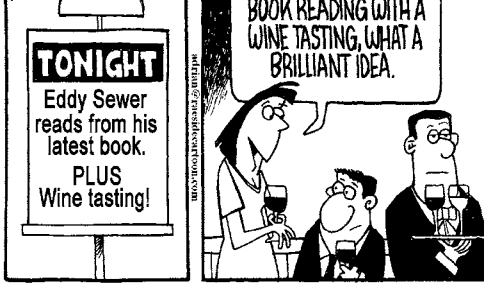
LAWNS	JAMS	NAIL
ARIOT	ALOE	ONCE
MENSA	POOL	EYED
BAGELS	SANDLOX	
LANES	VICE	
LATEST	LET OFF	
ADOS	TAPER	UFO
CHICAGO	WHITESOX	
EEL	TUNED	WIRE
DRESSY	AGENTS	
ERIE	CABLE	
CARDBOARD	BOX	
ACTI	IRON	MOLAR
DUEL	LOUD	ANERA
STAY	EMTS	NEWSY



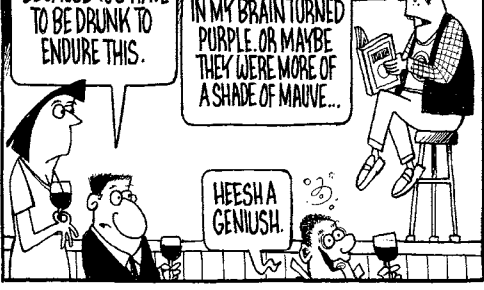
I THINK DOT'S OLD SWEATER WILL LOOK GREAT ON YOU, TRIxie



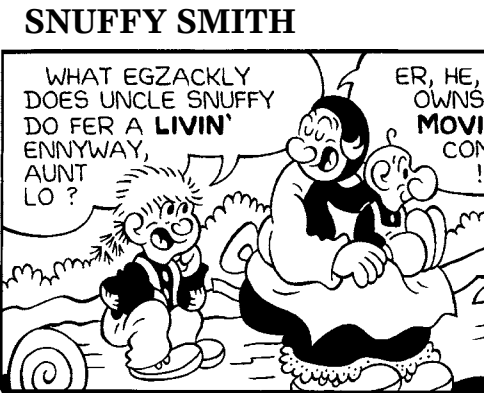
OR I GET SOME GINORMOUS GROWTHAGE



TONIGHT Eddy Sewer reads from his latest book. PLUS Wine tasting!



BECAUSE YOU HAVE TO BE DRUNK TO ENDURE THIS.



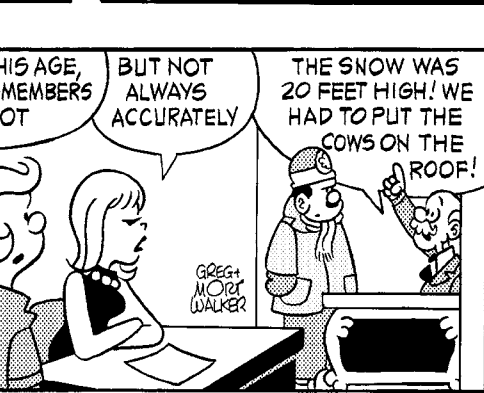
WHAT EXZACKLY DOES UNCLE SNUFFY DO FER A LIVIN' ENNYWAY, AUNT LO?



HE RELOCATES CHICKEN !!



THAT WAS SOME STORM WE HAD LAST NIGHT!



THE SNOW WAS 20 FEET HIGH! WE HAD TO PUT THE COWS ON THE ROOF!

Newsday Crossword

ACTIVE ANATOMY by Charles Slack

- Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com
- ACROSS**
- 1 Charitable donation
 - 5 Farm storage buildings
 - 10 Bring home the bacon
 - 14 Paint layer
 - 15 Portion
 - 16 On vacation
 - 17 Something scary
 - 19 Campus military org.
 - 20 Make beloved
 - 21 Not a lost cause
 - 23 Falafel bread
 - 25 Africa's longest river
 - 26 Bodybuilder's pride
 - 29 Have the nerve
 - 31 Bit of fireplace residue
 - 35 Student's jottings
 - 37 Fellow, informally
 - 39 Neighborhood store
 - 40 "Battleship" shade
 - 41 Shoe sections
 - 42 All square
 - 43 Like some excuses
 - 44 Get ready, for short
 - 45 Overly precise ones
 - 46 Smoke out
 - 48 Stood up
 - 50 Caustic chemical
 - 51 Typeface size
 - 53 Oolong and pekoe
 - 55 Not to be repeated
- DOWN**
- 1 Feel sore
 - 2 Provide temporarily
 - 3 Hotel employee
 - 4 Throat-culture finding
 - 5 Ancient foe of Athens
 - 6 George ___ (Revolutionary War-era king)
 - 7 Not as much understanding
 - 8 Neptune's realm
 - 9 Helpful activities
 - 10 Nonstop talker
 - 11 GI offense
 - 12 Miles per hour, e.g.
 - 13 Big Apple, briefly
 - 18 Sudden assaults
 - 22 ___ Baba
 - 24 Intense devotion
 - 26 Hidden agenda
 - 27 Common cleanser
 - 28 Slam one's foot down
 - 30 Swiss mathematician
 - 32 Mischievous one
 - 33 Somber poem
 - 34 Dentist's request
 - 36 Source of sudden understanding
 - 38 Train stop
 - 41 Sample to examine
 - 45 Oyster product
 - 47 Take a load off
 - 49 8 Down's bottom
 - 52 ___ acid (protein part)
 - 54 Struck down
 - 55 "Yikes!"
 - 56 Supreme Court count
 - 57 Brings to a close
 - 59 Dumbfounded
 - 60 Proof of ownership
 - 61 West Point team
 - 62 Special attention, for short
 - 64 Expected

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
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40				41						42		
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65				66						67		
68				69								70

CRUZ

Continued from Page 7

Last year's AL Championship Series MVP has played 128 games or fewer in each of the past three seasons because of injuries, and has never played more than that number of games during his seven-year big league career. He has five stints on the dis-

abled list since 2010 and last year was sidelined for 29 games because of a strained left hamstring and strained right quadriceps muscle.

Now, Cruz also is taking pride in backing up his new incentive-laden \$16 million, two-year contract.

"Yeah, more security, you know, security for my family. That's all about it," he said. "Go out there now and enjoy my game and try to do

my best."

He earned it, all right.

Cruz is one of the main reasons the Rangers returned to the World Series for a second straight year. He hit six homers and drove in 13 runs during the ALCS against Detroit — both major league records for a postseason series. That included the first game-ending grand slam in postseason history. Cruz became the first player with extra-inning

homers in two games of one series.

In 33 career playoff games over the last two years, he batted .270 with 14 home runs and 27 RBIs.

Cruz has long since proven himself, and knows that gives him some clout around the clubhouse. Not that he plans to alter his focused approach or flaunt anything. At the start of spring training, he said he had yet to treat him-

self to anything new with the money.

"I come here to get ready. There are different years when you come to make the team. It changes the way you think, the way you come and do your job," he said, noting with the new contract, "Probably come and play harder and try to do better. I've got to play the same way I played before. Nothing's going to change."

MAVS

Continued from Page 7

first of nine games in 12 days, a stretch that will take them to seven different cities and three time zones. They have

lost three of their last four games.

When Lopez scored with 5:23 left, the Nets had an 89-79 lead and Dallas still hadn't made a field goal in the fourth quarter.

Terry drove for a

right-handed layup with 1:22 left to get the Mavs within 91-89. He then blocked a shot by Morrow. When Kris Humphries rebounded the miss, Terry stole it. That led to Kidd's go-ahead 3-pointer.

Williams, a free agent at the end of the season who is from the Dallas area, got off to a fast start in his only game this season against the Mavericks. He had 10 points, four assists and two rebounds in the first

9 minutes while New Jersey built a 24-18 lead.

Williams missed his last 10 field-goal attempts in the game, adding only two more points after his early surge.

"Deron wanted those shots to go down like he was in his backyard," said Johnson, who before the game said he believes Williams has every intention to re-sign with the Nets but isn't surprised by free agency speculation. "He's a guy who can hit 30 and

15 on a night."

Lopez scored 13 consecutive points for the Nets during over a more than 9-minute span of the second quarter.

"The guys got the ball to me in spots where I could lay it up and score," Lopez said.

NOTES: Terry took over sixth place on the NBA career list for 3-pointers made. He has 1,720, which is 40 shy of Peja Stojakovic at No. 5. ... The only member of Dallas' 2010-11 team

who hasn't received his ring is Tyson Chandler. His new team, the New York Knicks, are in Dallas next Tuesday night. ... Nets G Jordan Farmar missed his fourth straight game with a strained right groin. Johnson said Farmar could be back Friday at Boston or Sunday at Charlotte. ... Lamar Odom missed his second straight game for Dallas for personal reasons. He will also be out Wednesday night at Memphis.

BRIEF

Continued from Page 7

Branson Richards scored 19 points and Zeke Clay added 13 for Grady, which opens play at the regional tournament Friday.

Grady 14 9 12 18 — 53
Valley 14 14 9 10 — 47

CGA to hold meeting Tuesday

The Chicano Golf Association will hold a members meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the Comanche Trail Golf Course clubhouse.

GCHS

Continued from Page 7

two quick fouls late in the first quarter and was forced to the bench for the remainder of the half. That's when the Bearkats went to work.

"He was the best player on the court," Abney said of Morris. "So, when he went to the bench, that made a major difference in the game."

Miller was the main instigator behind the rally, scoring eight points during a three-minute stretch of the second quarter to bring Garden City level with Ira, then he and Davis scored on consecutive possessions to give the 'Kats the lead for good.

Once Morris returned to the game in the second half, however, the Bulldogs (24-6) began whittling away at the lead and started the fourth quarter only two back of the Bearkats.

Enter Davis and Miller.

With Garden City holding a slim 51-47 lead three minutes into the final quarter, Davis sank three-pointers on consecutive possessions and Miller followed that with a pair of two-pointers to push the Bearkats'

edge up to 12 points with 3:29 remaining.

Abney said his team has exceeded just about everyone's expectations this year.

"At the beginning of the year, I thought that if everything went well for us, we might make a run for the playoffs," he said. "I knew the talent was there, but I wasn't sure if they had the mental toughness. But they've come through all year long."

Garden City begins play at the Region II-1A Div. II tournament Friday at Abilene Christian University.

GARDEN CITY (71) — Dillon Koenning 2 7-8 13; Sam Miller 10 1-2 24; Corbin Davis 4 8-12 18; Reggie Halfmann 2 3-6 7; Peyton Schaefer 1 2-3 5; Austin Odom 1 0-0 2; Michael Lopez 1 0-0 2; totals 21 21-31 71.

IRA (52) Logan Morris 3 5-6 11; Jared Cotton 1 0-1 2; Tyler Goodwin 6 0-0 14; Lance Morris 10 2-11 23; Cristian Ornelas 1 0-0 2; totals 21 7-18 52.

GCHS 11 20 13 27 — 71

IRA 18 7 17 10 — 52

Three-point goals — Garden City 8 (Koenning, Miller 3, Davis 2, Schaefer), Ira 2 (Goodwin 2, La. Morris); total fouls — Garden City 18, Ira 22; Fouled out — Lopez, Goodwin; Technical — Ira bench.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 235 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com



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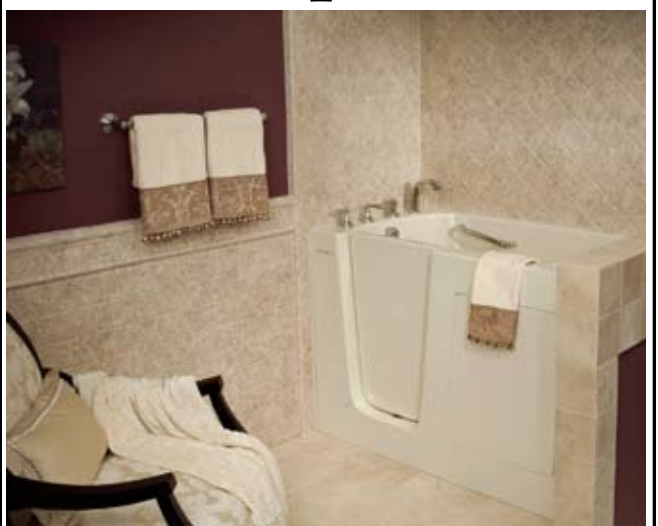


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Lowry scores 26 to carry Rockets

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Rockets are winning the close ones with a rugged schedule ahead.

Kyle Lowry scored 26 points, Luis Scola had 15 points and 10 rebounds and the Rockets beat the Toronto Raptors 88-85 on Tuesday night.

Houston has won four in a row, and five of its last six to move seven games over .500 for the first time this season.

The Rockets have had to sweat out the last three wins, coming through with clutch baskets and key defensive stops at the end to hang on.

"We've built on it so much, and our team has come together so well," Lowry said. "We have the faith in each other to make the plays, make the right plays and right decisions for each other and win games."

Kevin Martin scored 14 points, though he missed a free throw with 11.7 seconds left that gave the Raptors a chance to tie it.

But Linas Kleiza missed a long 3-point try, Martin cor-

ralled the rebound and the Rockets won for the 18th time in the last 25 games.

"The last possession was huge," said rookie Chandler Parsons, who came up with a key offensive rebound that led to Martin's late free throws. "We all switched, we all communicated, and we made them take a tough shot."

The Rockets finished a 5-1 homestand and now face another demanding stretch, with games against Denver and the Los Angeles Clippers this weekend before a week-long road trip.

"We're not going to make the playoffs just by winning home games," Scola said. "We need to win on the road, we need to win big games."

DeMar DeRozan scored 17 points, James Johnson had 16 and Ed Davis tied a career-high with 15 rebounds for the Raptors.

Toronto outrebounded Houston 47-37, but went 2 for 17 from 3-point range and committed 17 turnovers.

The Raptors have lost eight

of their last 10 games.

"I liked our effort and we competed as a team," Toronto coach Dwane Casey said. "Basketball plays and basketball decisions have to get better."

The Rockets have won 25 consecutive games when holding their opponent below 90 points, and they're 13-0 in those games this year.

Scola scored eight points in the first seven minutes, and Houston took advantage of Toronto's poor shooting to build an early lead. The Raptors started 2 for 11.

The Rockets, meanwhile, played efficiently at the start, opening 10 for 21 from the field to lead 27-15.

Houston led 45-36 at the break, despite getting out rebounded 27-19.

The Raptors hurt themselves with 11 first-half turnovers.

The Raptors continued to control the boards in the third quarter, and trimmed the deficit to three on DeRozan's dunk with 1:53 left. Goran

Dragic beat the clock with a driving one-hander to put the Rockets up 69-64 heading to the fourth.

Lowry swished a 3 with just under five minutes left for an 81-73 Houston lead. The Raptors answered with a quick 6-0 run, capped by Amir Johnson's layup.

"We got the game under control," Scola said, "and then we started making a lot of mistakes. They even got back in the game, and we were lucky."

Toronto trailed only 85-83 when Parsons grabbed an offensive rebound off a Martin miss. Martin got Anthony Carter in the air on a head fake and drew the shooting foul with 11.7 seconds left.

"We believe in ourselves and we were right there at the end, but we couldn't get it done," Raptors guard Jose Calderon said. "We have to try and learn to win possessions at the end of the game."

Martin, an 88.6 percent free-throw shooter, made the first try, but missed the second,

and Houston led only 86-83. The Rockets guarded Toronto's inbound play well, Kleiza was forced to take a 30-foot 3-pointer from a bad angle, and Martin rebounded.

Notes: The Rockets have been outrebounded in seven consecutive games. ... Houston is 8-2 against the Eastern Conference this season. ... The home team has won the last nine meetings. ... The Rockets honored members from their teams of the 1980s in a pre-game ceremony, including John Lucas, Robert Reid, Rodney McCray and Ralph Sampson, the first overall pick in the 1983 draft. The 7-foot-4 Sampson was one of 12 finalists for induction into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. "It's only an accolade that my teammates and this organization can appreciate as well," Sampson said, "that they have somebody who loved the game, loved the city, loved the fans. And if that happens, we'll all go in together, so it works out."

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Woods' agent criticizes book

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. (AP) — Tiger Woods' agent lashed out Tuesday against Hank Haney's book, saying his "armchair psychology" about Woods was "ridiculous" and that it was clear the former swing coach only cares about self-promotion.

Haney's book about his six years as Woods' coach is titled, "The Big Miss."

It is to go on sale March 27, a week before the Masters.

Golf Digest began releasing small excerpts Tuesday on its tablet applications and on its website.

Haney's book was written with help from Jaime Diaz, a senior writer at the magazine who has covered Woods more extensively than anyone over the past several years.

In one of the excerpts, Haney, a McKinney, Texas, golf guru, said his job became more difficult in 2007, when Woods had 12 majors and was getting closer to the record 18 won by Jack Nicklaus.

"There was more urgency and less fun. ... He never mentioned Nicklaus' record, but it started to weigh more heavily at every major," the excerpt said. "And Ti-

ger's actions indicated he believed he had less time to do it than every-one thought."

Haney said the objective of revamping his swing was to preserve his left knee.

He also said Woods was seriously considering becoming a Navy SEAL. Woods' father, Earl, was a green beret in the Army who did two tours during the Vietnam War.

Mark Steinberg, Woods' agent at Excel Sports Management, said in a statement that excerpts show Haney's claim of the book being about golf is "clearly false."

"His armchair psychology about Tiger, on matters he admits they didn't even discuss, is ridiculous," Steinberg said.

"Because of his father, it's no secret that Tiger has always had high respect for the military, so for Haney to twist that admiration into something negative is disrespectful."

Haney said he was in the kitchen when Woods returned from a long run wearing Army boots. He said Woods told him he's worn the boots before on the same route and told Haney, "I beat my best time."

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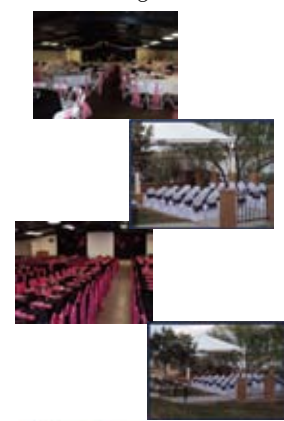
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