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FRIDAY

MARCH 16, 2012



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VOLUME 107, NUMBER 130

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While area students may have enjoyed some time off, work on the new Washington Elementary school continued during the Spring Break holiday. The new school building is expected to be completed by August in time for the 2012-2013 school year and is part of a district-wide re-vamp of Big Spring Independent School District campuses.

HERALD Photos/Thomas Jenkins



United Way apps are due May 4

Local organizations invited to apply now

By **AMANDA MORENO**
Staff Writer

Just as the community is important to the continuance of the United Way, the agencies are important to the purpose supported by the local charitable organization.

"We wouldn't be able to provide the help we do if it weren't for the community support, but then again we wouldn't be needed if there weren't agencies needing our support," Executive Director Sandy Stewart said.

However, despite the community support, there just aren't enough dollars to go around to everyone. Each year, local agencies providing support to the community are asked to submit applications if they want to be considered a United Way agency.

"There are certain requirements the agencies have to meet," Stewart said.

Some of those requirements: The organization must be a health and human services organization in good standing having complied with all applicable state and federal laws; must be governed by a functioning volunteer board and maintain sound financial and administrative management.

See **UNITED WAY**, Page 3A



Feds to halt Texas Women's Health Program funding

By **WILL WEISSERT**
Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — The federal government on Thursday began making good on its promise to cut off all funding for the Texas Medicaid Women's Health Program amid an escalating fight over the state's ban on funding for clinics affiliated with abortion providers.

In a letter to state officials, Cindy Mann, director of the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, said her agency regretted the move.

"We had hoped not to be at this point. But, unfortunately,

"Medicaid law is clear. Patients, not state government officials, are able to choose the doctor and health care providers that are best for them and their family."

—Cindy Mann, director of the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services



as we've made clear to the state at all points in this process, we don't have a choice," Mann said on a conference call with reporters after sending the letter.

"Medicaid law is clear," she said. "Patients, not state government officials, are able to choose the doctor and health care pro-

viders that are best for them and their family."

The standoff stems from a law passed by the Legislature last summer and took effect Wednesday. It bars state funding for clinics affiliated with abortion providers. The Obama administration had pledged to stop funding the Women's Health Program because federal law requires women to be able to choose any qualified clinic.

Gov. Rick Perry counters that

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Swingers wanted

Players, sponsors sought for UW golf tournament

By **AMANDA MORENO**
Staff Writer

Getting in a round of golf isn't just for fun anymore, but a way to support 15 local agencies.

For those looking for a good excuse to get out on the green, the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County is providing one — the third annual United Way Golf Tournament. The three-man scramble is set for Saturday and Sunday, March 24-25 at the Big Spring Country Club. Both days will begin with a shotgun start at 1 p.m.

"This is a great way for the community to get involved in helping support our local agencies," Executive Director Sandy Stewart said.

The golf tournament has proven to be a success

See **TOURNEY**, Page 3A

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Obituaries

M.L. Bertran

M.L. Bertran, 84, of Big Spring died Thursday, March 15, 2012, in an Odessa hospital. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Gerry Marino

Gerry Marino, 60, of Big Spring died Friday, March 16, 2012, at her residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Support Groups

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.

SUNDAY
• Alcoholics Anonymous closed meeting from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 7 p.m. until 8 p.m.

MONDAY
• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, noon-1 p.m., 615 Settles.

• PEP — Parent Education Program for CPS participating and non-participating parents, single parent, grandparents, adoptive or fostering parents. Every first and fourth Monday of the month from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Northside Community Center. Classes are free. For information, call 263-2673.

• Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting, 8-9 p.m., fourth floor, VA Medical Center.

• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 6 p.m. Call 213-1342 or 263-6819.

TUESDAY
• Big Spring Parkinsons Support Group meeting at the Big Spring Senior Center at 10:30 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month. This is a group for those with Parkinson's Disease, Young Onset Parkinson's, caregivers, and those interested in learning more about the illness. There is time for socializing and information. For more information about the support group or about Parkinson's Disease, contact Jody at 432-699-6640 or midlandparkinsons@yahoo.com or Jo Bidwell at the Lubbock APDA office at 806-785-2732.

• Special Parents for Special Children support group meets the first Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m. at Elbow Elementary. Contact Kerri Rosenbaum at 432-816-3320 or kerriroosenbaum9488@msn.com

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; closed discussion meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

• Al-Anon, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.

Police blotter

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

• VIVIANA DANIELLA SARMIENTO, 29, of 1405 Park St., was arrested Thursday on charges of hindering officers discharging official duties and possession of a controlled substance.

• NOELIA CARRILLO, 38, of 1733 Purdue, was arrested Thursday on a warrant from another agency.

• MONA ALICIA SALDANA, 26, of 1400 Virginia, was arrested Thursday on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid with a previous conviction.

• DANIEL FREDDRICK BEBEE, 26, of Antonito, Colo., was arrested Thursday on a warrant from another agency.

• FELICIA DAWN MILLER, 20, of 605 E. 13th St., was arrested Thursday on warrants for public intoxication, failure to appear (two counts) and driving without safety belt.

• JOHN DAVID FERRELL, 40, of 702 Craigmont Dr., was arrested Thursday on a warrant from another agency.

• DERRICK TODD DRAKE, 25, of 2102 Runnels, was arrested Thursday on warrants for driving while license invalid, failure to appear (two counts) and assault by contact.

• CHRISTOPHER WAYNE BURNETT, 22, of 1502 Stadium, was arrested Thursday on a warrant from another agency.

• JOHNNY GARCIA, 38, of San Antonio, Texas, was arrested Thursday on warrants for open container – passenger and no driver's license – when unlicensed.

• JIMMY JUAREZ, 19, of 1103 E. 13th St., was arrested Thursday on charges of assault causing bodily injury – family violence, assault causing bodily injury, resisting arrest, search or transportation and evading arrest or detention.

• FORGERY was reported in the 700 block of E. FM 700.

• THEFT was reported:

In the 500 block of Johnson.

In the 1800 block of S. Benton.

In the 1400 block of Tucson.

• ASSAULT was reported in the 1900 block of Wasson Drive.

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 67 inmates at the time of this report.

• NOELIA CARRILLO, 38, was booked into the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of failure to appear – theft, more than \$1,500 and less than \$20,000.

• MONA ALICIA SALDANA, 26, was booked into the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.

• BYRON ANTHONY MILLER, 29, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a charge of bondsman off bond – possession of a controlled substance.

• DANIEL BEBEE, 26, was booked into the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a Colorado warrant for aggravated theft by check.

• DERRICK TODD DRAKE, 25, was booked into the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on municipal warrants for driving while license invalid, failure to appear (two counts) and assault – physical contact.

• JOHN DAVID FERRELL, 40, was booked into the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a TDCJ parole warrant.

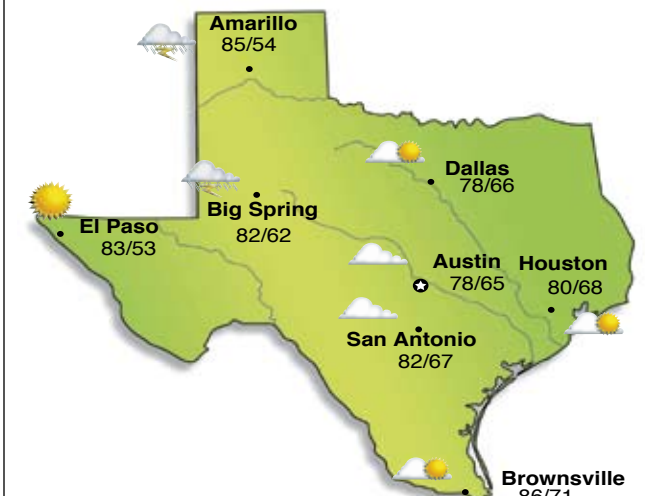
Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Sat 3/17	Sun 3/18	Mon 3/19	Tue 3/20	Wed 3/21
82/62	83/63	84/60	73/46	68/42
Mostly cloudy early, then afternoon sunshine. Near record high temperatures.	Windy, isolated thunderstorms. Potential for severe thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy and windy. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the upper 40s.	Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the low 40s.	Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the upper 40s.
Sunrise: 7:54 AM Sunset: 7:55 PM	Sunrise: 7:53 AM Sunset: 7:56 PM	Sunrise: 7:52 AM Sunset: 7:57 PM	Sunrise: 7:50 AM Sunset: 7:57 PM	Sunrise: 7:49 AM Sunset: 7:58 PM

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Texas At A Glance



City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	79	65	pt sunny	Kingsville	85	69	cloudy
Amarillo	85	54	t-storm	Livingston	82	64	pt sunny
Austin	78	65	cloudy	Longview	81	65	pt sunny
Beaumont	80	67	pt sunny	Lubbock	82	57	t-storm
Brownsville	86	71	pt sunny	Lufkin	83	65	pt sunny
Brownwood	81	66	cloudy	Midland	82	62	t-storm
Corpus Christi	80	70	cloudy	Raymondville	87	69	pt sunny
Corsicana	77	64	pt sunny	Rosenberg	80	67	pt sunny
Dallas	78	66	pt sunny	San Antonio	82	67	cloudy
Del Rio	82	66	windy	San Marcos	80	65	cloudy
El Paso	83	53	sunny	Sulphur Springs	78	65	pt sunny
Fort Stockton	84	59	t-storm	Sweetwater	79	63	cloudy
Gainesville	75	63	pt sunny	Tyler	81	65	pt sunny
Greenville	75	63	pt sunny	Weatherford	78	63	pt sunny
Houston	80	68	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	79	63	pt sunny

• FELICIA DAWN MILLER, 20, was booked into the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on municipal warrants for public intoxication, violation of a promise to appear, no seat belt – driver and failure to appear.

• CHRISTOPHER WAYNE BURNETT, 22, was booked into the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• JIMMY JUAREZ JR., 19, was booked into the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on charges of assault causing bodily injury – family violence, assault causing bodily injury, evading arrest or detention and resisting arrest, search or transportation.

• JOHNNY GARCIA, 38, was booked into the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of no driver's license – when unlicensed and a municipal capias warrant for open container – passenger.

• PAUL WILLIAM SCHLIPF III, 48, was arrested Friday by DPS on charges of possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

• JAMES RYAN VILLANUEVA, 26, was booked into the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

What's Happening

March 24-25
Rattlesnake Round Up
Howard Co. Fair Barn
For more info contact
Dennis Burns at 432-270-3409
or **Ray Alexander**
432-212-3533

March 24-25
3rd Annual United Way Golf Tournament
Big Spring Country Club
For more info contact the
United Way Office at
432-267-5201

March 30
Hoops, Goals and Dreams Basketball Tournament
Dorothy Garrett Coliseum
Sponsored by West Texas Center,
MHMR For more info
contact **Amy Vidal** at
432-263-0007 ext. 256

March 31
Big Spring Symphony presents "Pops Celebration" w/special guest Paul Williams, songwriter.
Municipal Auditorium, 8 pm
For more info contact the symphony office at 432-264-7223

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Texas briefs

Arrest made in missing barista case

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — A man who owns a construction company in Anchorage has been arrested in Texas on charges related to the disappearance of an 18-year-old barista, authorities said Thursday.

Israel Keyes, 34, was arrested this week in Lufkin in the disappearance of Samantha Koenig, Anchorage police said. "He's the only person we charged, and the only person of interest. And the biggest thing at this time is that we haven't found Samantha Koenig and we don't know her whereabouts," Detective Slawomir Markiewicz told the Anchorage Daily News.

The arrest warrant remains sealed and police have revealed few details in the incident that began Feb. 1 when Koenig was seen on a surveillance tape at about 8 p.m. being led away against her will by a man with a weapon from the coffee hut where she worked.

The case has attracted strong interest in Alaska's largest

city. Koenig's family distributed thousands of flyers showing pictures of the missing woman. Her face continues to be displayed on posters attached to cars, telephone poles and buildings.

Police spokeswoman Anita Shell confirmed that few details would be immediately released.

"Because of the sensitivity of the case, they sealed it so it didn't compromise the case," Shell told The Associated Press.

A charging document filed in at an East Texas federal courthouse charged Keyes with access device fraud, which in the past has been used to prosecute people who illegally use another person's bank or credit card to steal money.

Texas teacher accused of sex with 2 boys

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A 32-year-old Central Texas middle school teacher has been arrested after being accused of having sex with two students.

Travis County Jail records show Holly Marie Lopez of Pflugerville was in custody Fri-

day on charges of aggravated sexual assault.

Bond is \$100,000 for Lopez, who was booked Thursday. Online jail records did not list an attorney for her.

Officials say Lopez allegedly gave condoms to the 13-year-old and 14-year-old boys and had sex with them at the older child's home on Feb. 11.

The Lexington Independent School District says Lopez was put on administrative leave about two weeks ago when the allegations became public. Supt. Frances McArthur says Lopez later resigned. Lopez was special education math teacher in Lexington, located 50 miles east of Austin.

Gallagher recovering after heart attack

LEWISVILLE, Texas (AP) — The comedian Gallagher is hospitalized in stable condition after suffering a heart attack at a North Dallas bar before going on stage for a show.

Gallagher's promotional manager, Christine Scherrer, says the 65-year-old is sedated and "slowly recovering" after collapsing Wednesday night.

UNITED WAY

Continued from Page 1A

practices; must demonstrate a history of measurable community impact through successful programs; and must maintain a physical presence within the local UW's geographical service area.

"We want to know the agencies we are helping are providing a valuable, needed service for the community," Stewart said. "We want the community to benefit from the dollars they are supporting us with, while supporting as many organizations as possible."

For those agencies wanting to apply for consideration as a United Way supported agency, applications are due by 5 p.m. May 4. Each application should be filled out completely and provide as much information as possible about the agency.

"We want to know what the agency does, why it's important to the community and any other important piece of information the board needs to consider when voting on approval of an application," Stewart said.

Applications will be presented to the board May 9, with agency presentations being made May 16 and 18. An official announcement will be issued May 18, listing the United Way agencies for 2013 and award notification letters will be mailed out May 21.

"Many of our agencies have been with us for many years and we are happy to provide continuous support to them. At the same time, in the past year we were able to add a couple new agencies, which is something we like to do also," Stewart said. "It's nice to know there is something we can do to help provide much needed services to the community we live in."

To find out more information or apply, contact Stewart at 267-5201 or stop by 215 W. Third Street.

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

HEALTH

Continued from Page 1A

states have the right, under federal law, to determine qualified providers in the program.

The program provides care to about 130,000 women between the ages of 18 and 44 earning less than \$20,000 a year or less than \$41,000 for a family of four — with federal funds paying 90 percent of its cost and Texas covering the rest. Mann said that last year it cost about \$41 million, and about \$34 million of that came from Washington.

About 29 other states have programs similar to the one in Texas, and all of them except Texas are continuing to participate in their programs with federal support, Mann said.

Perry, who slammed the federal government constantly during his short-lived bid for the Republican presidential nomination, has directed state health officials to find the funding to keep the program going from other parts of the budget, but he has promised not to raise revenues to cover the costs.

Planned Parenthood issued a statement criticizing the actions taken by Perry and the Texas Legislature.

"Perry's comments to the right-wing political group Empower Texans that he would take the funding from the already devastated Health and Human Services budget show just how insincere his claims are that he will continue to protect this program for the women and families

in our state that rely on it," the statement said.

The law is part of a long-running campaign by conservatives in the Texas Legislature to shut down abortion providers by imposing strenuous regulations and cutting off state and federal funds for their non-abortion services. Perry and Republican state lawmakers specifically don't want Planned Parenthood clinics, which treat 40 percent of the program's patients, to get any state funding, even when that money is not spent on abortions.

"It is the height of political posturing for the Obama administration to put the interests of abortion providers and their affiliates, like Planned Parenthood, over the well-being of more than 100,000 low-

income Texas women," Perry said in a statement Thursday. "I will not stand by and let this administration abandon these Texas women to advance its political agenda; Texas will fund these services with or without the federal government."

Perry had indicated that state officials were discussing the possibility of losing federal funding for the Women's Health Program for weeks. But asked if state leaders and their federal counterparts had been discussing a compromise prior to Thursday's letter, Mann said, "there hasn't been any negotiations on that, nor could there be."

Mann said the phase-out of federal funding will be gradual so women do not suddenly find themselves with-

out health care. Texas will continue to receive funding for three more months, and if it assumes control of the program during that time, all federal funding would cease. If not, federal support would continue to be decreased over the next six months.

She said an entirely Texas-run program would not be subject to federal guidelines, but that Texas must present a plan to assume control of — or entirely phase-out — the Women's Health Program by April 16, and that the plan must be approved by federal authorities. Until then, Mann said, the state should continue enrolling women into the program to ensure those eligible aren't left without health care coverage.

Perry's spokeswoman Catherine Frazier challenged Mann's contention the state was to blame for ending the standoff.

"It is hypocrisy for CMS to say the state needs to ensure women are not left without health care coverage when they are ones responsible for attempting to end this coverage," she said.

TOURNAMENT

Continued from Page 1A

the past couple of years when it comes to raising extra funds for the agencies. Registration for this year's tournament is \$70 per person and will be accepted until March 23.

For those wanting a little extra practice, a practice round can be played March 23.

Stewart said for those not interested in playing, but who still want to be a part of the tournament, there are other ways. Sponsorships are still being accepted. Hole sponsors can be purchased for \$100, special sponsors are avail-

able for \$250 and eagle sponsors are available for \$1,000.

"Our campaign runs from September through November, but that doesn't mean we stop working for these agencies," Stewart said. "The agencies work all year long and anything we can do to help raise funds for them throughout the year, we will continue to do."

Those registered for the tournament will be provided a barbecue lunch at noon Saturday and will be able to attend the 19th hole party at 6 p.m. that night. Justin Kaczyk and his band will be providing the entertainment and snacks and beverages will be

available. One person will be able to take home a gas or electric powered Yamaha golf cart. To find out more information on how to take home the golf cart, contact any United Way board member or contact Stewart at 267-5201.

"This provides a great way for the community to get involved in helping these agencies that play such a vital role in our community," Stewart said.

To register a team for the tournament, contact the pro shop at 267-5354.

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

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Amy Jennifer Phillips, 31, died Sunday. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. tonight at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Memorial Mass will be Saturday at 10 a.m. at Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

Peggy Atchison, 82, died Monday. Graveside services were at 10 a.m. today at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Gerry Marino, 60, died Friday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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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	

We salute:

Each week, the Herald salutes individuals and groups from our community and area who have been recognized for special achievements or accomplishments.

We recognize these special people for working to help make our region a better place to live, work and play

This week we salute:

- Herman's Restaurant for providing 52 years of great service to the Big Spring community and helping create several memories along the way.

- Transport Handling Specialists for working with the city of Big Spring in preparing and submitting the application for the Federal Railroad Administration Rail Line Relocation and Improvement grant which will be used for the Big Spring Rail System.

- Former Big Spring and Howard County law officer Mike Eggleston for his book signing at the Howard County Library this past week for his book "The True Story of the Sharpest Ever."

- All sponsors of the 30th annual Health Fair, which will be held April 14.

- All who have purchased booth space for the upcoming Health Fair.

- Craig Ferguson for receiving the Star employee of the month for March. He was recognized for his work in filling out necessary paperwork allowing for FEMA reimbursement.

Is there an individual or organization in our community that you feel should be saluted? If so, please send us their name and why you think they should be recognized. We must have your name and telephone number and you must provide it in writing.

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

**You see our future clearly, Lord, may we trust completely in You for our future.
Amen**

The year belongs to the woman

I've been through enough "year(s) of the woman" to be more than a little skeptical when someone tries to sell me the story that this is really it. Whenever there are more women running (or, as in 1984, woman singular), we hear about "the year of the woman."

For my money, it really will be the year of the woman when women exercise their majority power as voters and as consumers, and we can, once and for all, stop talking about it. After all, when was the last time anyone sold a story based on the "year of the man"?

When men exercise power, we don't call it "men's day" or "men's year." We call it Tuesday.

Even so, there are signs that this year might actually be different — and I don't mean because of the number of women on the ticket.

President Obama clearly made a gross miscalculation in thinking that because the overwhelming majority of Catholic women use contraception, they wouldn't mind his picking a fight with the Church about their obligation to provide it to their female workers. Some people say it was his female advisers who thought this was a good fight to pick, or even a just one; I have no idea. But if it was, it's probably because most women under the age of 60 take the right to use contraception as a given. After all, it was in 1965 that the United States Supreme Court held that the right to contraception was, at least for married women, within the zone of privacy that was later the basis for *Roe v. Wade*.

In any event, it was the president's problem, even after he came to his senses and said it was the insurance companies,

not the church-related employers, who had the duty not to discriminate. Some people might say that's a distinction without a difference, but since contraception costs less than pregnancy, and since we all know that it's private insurers and not employers (or the government, for that matter) who effectively control access to health care benefits, it did make a difference. And as for religious liberty, that's a right that belongs to each of us, not a license for insurance companies to invade our bedrooms.

But it was Republicans who really saved the president. Grabbing defeat from the jaws of victory, they decided to make an issue out of contraception anyway.

Contraception, not insurance. And once Rush Limbaugh got into it, the battle was on.

For Rick Santorum, the un-Romney, it made perfect sense. Mitt Romney is not a good candidate. Stiff and wooden, a guy who knows owners not workers, whose wife drives two Cadillacs, who as a candidate in Massachusetts wooed and won the votes of liberals, he is never going to be the choice of conservative Republicans, even if he is their only realistic choice. But he does have some credibility on the issue that should, by every rule of politics, decide this election — the economy — and that one would expect any Republican interested in winning to focus on.

Santorum can't expect to match Romney on the economy. His only hope is to play old-fashioned wedge politics, to focus on social issues, to woo the ideological base that has never had as much power as it does in this "reformed" Republican nominating process. So Santorum has every reason in the book to play contraceptive politics, and Romney just doesn't seem to be deft enough to stand up there and say: Hey, guys and gals, that is just not what this election is about. Instead, he flails.

Limbaugh has been saying outrageous things for years, which is why his critics, and sometimes even his supporters, dismiss or describe him as an entertainer. So, sure, why wouldn't he venture into the contraception waters in a big (if stupid) way that was sure to get him quoted by friend and foe and unleash a storm? He's used to storms. He thrives on them. Rather, he used to.

What made this storm different wasn't the criticism from the usual suspects. It was advertisers, feeling the heat of social media, pulling the plug. True, Limbaugh apologized twice, but does anyone doubt why? His first instinct, his old pre-social media instinct, was to stand his ground, as he has so many times before. But the world has changed.

Meanwhile, the pollsters and pundits are pointing to polling data suggesting that Republicans could be in real trouble with both independent and Republican women who just can't believe these men are really calling people names for using contraception, much less arguing that it should be up to the insurance company and not the individual woman. How un-libertarian is that?

2012: the year advertisers figured out that, unless you're selling power tools and lawn mowers, you're probably selling to women, the year candidates realized that women voters actually think they should be the ones making decisions about their personal lives. Could happen. Sex and power. They just might go together.

To find out more about Susan Estrich and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com.

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Fueling the Syrian massacres

Just when you begin to feel sorry for Hugo Chavez, when his bouts with cancer make you feel compassion for a man who doesn't deserve any, when you begin to tell yourself that you don't wish anyone's death, the president of Venezuela reminds us he deserves no sympathy.

As the world watches in dismay how the Syrian government is massacring its own people, Chavez came out of a Cuban hospital, where his second cancerous tumor was removed, and pledged solidarity with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. Obviously, he wants to remain as obnoxious as possible — all the way to the end.

While many of us complain that our U.S. government should be doing much more to assist the Syrian people, Chavez already is blasting us for allegedly interfering.

"We continue lamenting the aggressions against Syria," Chavez said, "and the pressure of the United States government and many European countries, failing to recognize the sovereignty of a people such as the Syrian people."

This man is so repulsively cynical that you feel like shouting back at him: "What about your failure to recognize the massacring of the Syrian people?"

On our television, we see innocent Syrians — men, women and children — getting butchered by the Assad regime. And while we feel frustration and impotence for our inability to stop it, Chavez is literally fueling the Syrian government's firepower.

As Assad intensifies his bombardment against urban areas

and the world hardens sanctions against him, as the United Nation says more than 7,500 civilians have been killed, the Venezuelan state oil company is sending diesel to Syria. Two shipments have been sent since last fall and a third one reportedly is readying to leave Venezuela.

In a recent exchange with reporters, when he was asked whether Venezuelan oil could be used to fuel the Syrian military, Chavez had the shameless gall to compare the oil he sends to Syria and to the United States.

"Have we by any chance asked the United States what it does with the fuel we sell to the United States?" he asked.

"Have we by any chance allowed anyone to impose conditions on our sale of petroleum to the United States?"

Of course, the United States is not using Venezuelan fuel to wage war on the American people, and Chavez is smart enough to know the difference. But as the chief spokesman for his so-called international "anti-imperialist" alliance that includes Iran, Syria and Cuba, Chavez has to keep portraying these tyrannical regimes as the victims of imperialist aggression, just as he did with Moammar Gadhafi when he was killing the Libyan people.

He has replaced Cuba's Fidel Castro, his mentor and idol, as the world's leading critic and antagonist of the United States, taking any position that is anti-American, even if it means supporting genocide.

In spite of his illness and his long stays in Cuban hospitals, Chavez, who has ruled Venezuela for 13 years, is vowing to seek another six-year term in the Oct. 7 presidential election. Many Venezuelans are hoping to replace him with sole opposition candidate Henrique Capriles, who is believed to have better

chance of defeating Chavez than other opposition challengers in the past.

Given the growing dissatisfaction with his government, perhaps the time has come for Chavez to be removed at the ballot box. But given his track record for circumventing the democratic process and manipulating the congress, the courts and the elections, don't count on it.

Unless cancer takes him, Chavez will find a way — a violent auto coup if necessary — to stay in power. That's why there can be no sympathy for ailing Venezuelan president, even when we suspect he may be months from dying.

Thanks to Chavez, and his control of Venezuela's rich oil reserves, democracy and the rule of law have been undermined throughout Latin America, Venezuelans have lost many rights and civil liberties, Colombian rebels and terrorists still are causing havoc, Cuba's tyrannical regime has been able to stay in power, Venezuela's oil subsidies have propped up socialist demagogues throughout Latin America, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has gained a foothold in our hemisphere, and Venezuela has been unwilling to help lower our gas prices.

Let's face it: Chavez puts us in a difficult position. We may not wish his death, but we know the world will be a better place without him.

To find out more about Miguel Perez and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Church News

Cornerstone Covenant Church

Cornerstone Covenant Church family (CCC) will continue the series entitled "Now Is The Time To Worship" on Sunday. January was the month of praise. February was the month of prayer. We are dealing with the subject of worship in the month of March.

We meet Wednesdays at 7 p.m. for Discipleship Bible study and Sundays at 10:30 a.m. for worship. CCC offers nursery and children church for Wednesday and Sunday services. CCC is located at 706 E. 12th St.

For more information, contact our office at 264-0015. Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CCCBigSpring or visit us on the web www.cccbigspring.org.

Spring Creek Fellowship

Our next family movie will be "Facing the Giants" on Saturday. Free tickets are available at Johanson's Nursery, Sportz & Trinketz, KBYG, Slaton Insurance Agency, the Firehouse Grill and the church office.

The sermon series for March is "CSI: Jerusalem."

"The school of the spirit" and "Financial peace university" are meeting weekly. "Weird: Because normal isn't working" and "The secret to the marriage you want" begin Sunday. Contact the church office for more information.

Spring Creek Fellowship has formed a Relay For Life team called "The Cure Connection." Our first event is scheduled for Sunday, March 25 from 2-5 p.m. We will be helping sponsor the second annual Relay For Life "Bowl-A-Thon" at Big Spring Bowl-A-Rama. Bowl for three hours (including shoes) for a donation of any size.

Sunday school classes/Connection Groups meet from 9:15-10:15 a.m. "Holy Grounds Café" is open from 10:15 a.m.-10:45 a.m. with snacks and fellowship. Worship is scheduled from 10:45 a.m. until noon.

Wednesdays there is a meal at 5:30 p.m., Bible study, youth and children's activities at 6 p.m. and praise team practice is at 7:15 p.m.

Men's Prayer Breakfast and Fellowship is scheduled at 7:30 a.m. Saturday in the dining room at the church.

"Between the Lines" women's ministry will meet today.

To help our "Manna House" food pantry, contact Casie Fillingim and Jennifer Boyd for more information.

If you would like any further information regarding any of our ministries or events, contact the church office.

Spring Creek Fellowship meets at the College Park Shopping Center at 501 Birdwell Lane. Contact us at 432-714-4584 or visit our website at www.springcreekfellowship.org

Baptist Temple Church

Baptist Temple Church is located on the corner of Goliad and 11th Place.

Rick Wilson and his wife Janice accepted the call as Pastor and have been serving the church for the past two months.

Worship is at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday and at 7 p.m. Wednesday.

The church is in the process of building up the choir.

Pastor Rick is preaching.

First United Methodist Church

By Sunday services our three groups of mission team members should be safely home from their trips to Nicaragua. We welcome them home and await news of their medical, educational and construction projects while away. Our local team members joined those from Western Hills United Methodist Church in El Paso.

Pastor Bill, just arrived from his trip with the youth mission to Nicaragua and will bring the message at both services of worship at 8:30 a.m. and 10:50 a.m. His sermon title will be "Know thy disease know thy cure" with scripture readings from Numbers 21:4-9 and John 3:14-21.

The Children's Day Out program and all regularly scheduled activities are back on their regular times beginning Monday. Wednesday, First Methodist will play host to the Lenten luncheon at noon in Garrett Hall.

Guest speaker for this weeks series will be Msr. Bernard Guley of Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

The final in the series of Lenten luncheons will be held Wednesday, March 28, at First Presbyterian

Church with the Rev. Barbara Kirk-Norris leading the worship.

Real Life Wednesday gets back in full gear at 5:30 p.m. with the serving of the meal followed by Bible study for adults, Epic youth, Beth Moore and the all new "Man Alive" study for men being led by James Bell. Remember to make reservations if you plan to be there for the meal.

Our missionaries to India, Dustin and Mallory Covington will speak in both morning worship services Sunday, March 25. Adult Sunday school classes are invited to hear them speak at length in Garrett Hall at 9:45 a.m. We will be having a covered dish luncheon at noon in Garrett Hall so our congregation will have an opportunity to get to know the Covingtons in a more informal way. Be sure to bring one or two of your favorite dishes to share with others.

Easter is just around the corner. There will be a Good Friday Tenebrae service at 7 p.m. The church van will pick up any of those wanting to attend who do not drive at night. Just call the church office, leave your name and telephone number. The van will start picking up at 6 p.m. Easter morning we will again be filling the cross with fresh flowers so start saving any blossoms you might have. Be sure to have them by 8 a.m. for the first service and 10 a.m. for the second. Beginning at 9:30 a.m. Easter morning between the two services of worship, we will have an all church brunch. Your breakfast/brunch goodies will be welcome.

A single candle on the altar table continues to burn at each service to remind us of those serving in the armed forces away from loved ones to protect our freedoms.

First Church of the Nazarene

First Church of the Nazarene is having an Easter egg hunt Saturday, April 7 at 11 a.m. at the Old Settlers Pavilion in Comanche Trail Park. Come hunt for 30,000 candy-filled eggs and enjoy a bounce house, games and more. The Easter Bunny will be making an appearance.

Biker Sunday is May 6 and Baby Day is May 20. There is also church prayer time Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. and our adult/children/youth groups meet at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday evening.

Sunday morning youth and children's classes are at 9 a.m. with children's church following. Adults are welcome for fellowship with coffee and snacks prior to 10 a.m. service. Kaylha Martin also keeps the youth energized with IMPACT on Sunday evening activities at 6:30 p.m.

First Church of the Nazarene is located at 1400 Lancaster.

For more information, contact the church office at 432-267-7015. Visit us on the web at www.nazfamily.org where you can view a live service. We are also on Facebook and Twitter.

Alive in Christ Lutheran Church LCMS

We are located at 2805 Lynn Drive. Our church phone number is 432-264-7818. Our website is www.m2ctexas.org/chweb/aliveinchrist/. Our e-mail address is aliveinchrist@crcom.net.

Sunday service is at 9 a.m. with Sunday school following around 10:15 a.m.

Pastor Carroll Kohl will conduct the worship service Sunday. Communion will also be served.

Phillip Reid will be reading the liturgy. The readings are Numbers 21:4-9, Psalm 107:1-9, Ephesians 2:1-10 and John 3:14-21. Anyone interested in reading, contact Doline Budke.

The flowers on the altar are given by Shyrlee and Phillip Reid in honor of all of the March birthdays.

The theme for our Lenten services will be "God's Gift of forgiveness" and will be based on what are known as "Penitential" Psalms.

The remainder of Lenten services will be held Sunday at 6:30 p.m. Mark your calendars for Lenten services held Sunday and March 25.

The remaining sermon titles for Lenten services are Lent 4, Sunday: "But you, O Lord, are enthroned forever" from Psalm 102; Lent 5 March 25: "Teach me to do your will, for you are my God" from Psalm 143; Maundy Thursday: "Delivered" from Psalm 116; Good Friday: "Divine Forgetfulness" from Psalm 130; Easter Vigil: "Destroying the enemy" from Psalm 118 and Exodus 14; and Easter: "The path of life" from Psalm 16 and Mark 16:1-8.

Wednesday mid-week school is for all ages. The meal is served from 6 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Bible studies are at 6:30-7:15 p.m.

March 26, there will be a pot luck hosted by the Board of Assimilation followed by our quarterly voters' meeting.

Saturday, March 31, there will be a prayer vigil between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. This will be hosted by

the Board of Elders and the Board of Assimilation. There is a sign up sheet on the door leading into the kitchen and special prayer requests need to be turned into the church office.

Saturday, April 7 between 10:30 a.m. and noon the Board of Education will have their Easter Egg-Extravaganza.

A women's conference has been scheduled for Saturday, May 19 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Howard College Cactus room. This conference, "Be still and know I am God," is a free event for women of all faiths. A meal will be available for purchase for \$8 through Howard College. RVSP for the meal by calling Bean's World Café 432-263-1133 by noon May 11.

The Board of Assimilation will meet Tuesday, March 27, at 7 p.m. at the church.

Monday, April 9, the LWML will serve coffee/juice/refreshments at the VA. The Board of Education will meet April 10 at 7 p.m. at the church. The LWML will meet April 12 at 7 p.m. at the church. The elders meet April 19 at 7 p.m. at the church. The board of assimilation will meet April 24 at 7 p.m. at the church.

First Christian Church

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is located at 911 Goliad. Sunday starts with fellowship at 9:30 a.m. before Sunday school at 9:45 a.m. Church starts at 10:50 a.m.

Sunday the Rev. Ken McIntosh message is "The In-N-Out Christian!" from John 3: 14-21.

Elders will be Carol Stephens and Frank Sickles. Deacons will be Laura Sickles, Marla Rainwater,

See **CHURCH**, Page 6A

God doesn't give white elephants

We've all received them. Perhaps we are guilty of giving them. From time to time we give or receive gifts that are of no use to the person who receives them. These white-elephant gifts clutter the tables and shelves of our homes until they eventually make their way into garage sales or donation boxes.

Those trinkets and other useless bric-a-brac infiltrate our houses and offices when we least expect to be invaded. Yet, we all anticipate those white-elephant gift exchanges that bring temporary excitement into our lives and take up valuable cupboard space in our homes. Sometimes we even treasure our white elephants because they represent great sentimental value, or we feel obligated to hang on to them because they were gifts.

While we are easily amused by white elephants in our closets, the tradition of giving white elephants once was a serious matter. The story goes that the kings of Siam often gave a white elephant to court attendees who pleased or displeased them.

While the receipt of a white elephant was considered a blessing associated with peace and prosperity, such a gift might well be the curse of a scheming monarch who knew full well the cost of feeding an elephant.

Since white elephants were considered sacred, laws prevented their disposal or use for labor. Yet the impoverished owner of a white elephant was required to provide for its upkeep, including its hearty appetite. The valuable, useless white elephant was the embodiment of both curse and blessing.

In opposition to the gift-giving habits of the Siamese kings, the Bible records that the Heavenly Father knows how to give good gifts to His subjects: "Would any of you who are fathers give your son a snake when he asks for fish? Or would you give him a scorpion when he asks for an egg? As bad as you are, you know how to give good things to your children. How much more, then, will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" (Luke 11: 11-13 TEV).

While the recipient of a white elephant was both cursed and blessed, God only gives blessings to those who ask to receive His precious gift, the Holy Spirit. He never gives white elephants.

Bonnie Wheat is an author and a minister's wife. She can be contacted at brwheat@suddenlink.net.



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3	1	4	7	6	9	5	2	8
8	2	6	4	3	5	7	9	1
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Reader's Corner

From a boy to a man

*A mischievous child running wild
with ways of the unknown.
Who always seem to fail and be left
in this world all alone.*

He never considered that he was being held in God's hands.

*From a boy to a man
he failed to understand.*

*A man's pride is rooted deep inside
full of pleasures of the world,
but never satisfied.*

*Remembering the affliction and the pain
held in the boy inside.*

*All the sacrifices made the man
swallow his pride.*

*With faith in the Lord
From a boy to a man.*

*He was never alone,
he was held in God's hands.*

Tony Watters

My best friends

*I wonder where my life would be without my best friends in my life.
I wonder where I would have gone in my coldest darkest nights?
You have your own families but managed to bet there in my time of need.
By the grace of God I'm blessed to have four beautiful sisters as spiritual
seeds.*

*As I look back on our past, all the wonderful times we shared.
Though my style of living made it seem like "I didn't care."*

Through my ups and downs you'll stuck right by my side.

While I was selling my soul to the devil for my ungodly life.

Not only your my sisters, you'll are my best friends.

A love and bond so strong,

"I have to put that on my skin."

Last, but not least, let's give thanks to our mom and dad.

Besides God and my own two kids; you'll are the best friends I could have.

I love you'll thanks.

Tony Watters

When God Seems Far Away

When we experience God's nearness we feel his forgiveness, acceptance, comfort and peace. Our hearts are filled with joy and songs of praise for His goodness and beauty. But what about the times when God seems far away?

King David sometimes felt this way. Repeatedly he asked, "Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me?" (Ps 42:5, 11; 42:5).

"O Lord, why do you reject my soul? Why do you hide your face from me?" (Ps 88:14). After confronting the prophets of Baal, "Elijah was afraid and ran for his life ... he went a day's journey into the wilderness ... and prayed that he might die. 'I have had enough, Lord,' he said. 'Take my life, I am no better than my ancestors.'" (1 Kings 19:3).

Going through times when we feel God is far away is a normal human experience. The prophets felt it. God even allowed his own Son to experience it. At the moment He paid the penalty for our sins, He cried out, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46). So, when those times come, what are we to do?

We are to remember that the feeling of God being distant is temporary. We will again feel his presence and His joy. This is what sustained King David in his dark times. In

every case, he declared, "Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him." When we feel God is far away, we are often filled with worry, uncertainty, doubt and despair. But this will not last. We will yet feel His presence again and praise Him.

We must rely on God's promises and not on our feelings. Even when we don't feel His presence, He is near. Repeatedly God has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." (Deut. 31:6,8; Joshua 1:5; Hebrews 13:5). Jesus said, "I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20). David wrote, "Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend to heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the dawn, if I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, even there Your hand will lead me, and Your right hand will lay hold of me. If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me, and the light around me will be night," Even the darkness is not dark to You, and the night is as bright as the day." (Ps. 139:7-12).

We must continue to do everything that is right and good in His sight. One of Jesus' favorite parables was the story of a wealthy landowner who left for a long trip. In his absence, some of his servants decided he wasn't coming back and began to abuse his property, doing things they knew the landowner would never condone. But the landowner returned, and when he did, there was

See **TINSLEY**, Page 8A



BILL TINSLEY

CHURCH

Continued from Page 5A

Josh Hamby and Michelle Hamby. Worship leader will be Seth Hamby and communion prep will be Laura Sickles and Marla Rainwater. Greeter will be Frank Sickles and homebound communion will be Carol Stephens.

Saturday we will have our next men's breakfast at Crispy's Café at 8:30 a.m. Also at 10 a.m. the worship committee will meet at the church.

Monday at 6:30 p.m. Pastor Ken wants to meet with all the church elders.

Wednesday the fourth Lenten luncheon will be held at First Methodist Church at noon.

Each week Isaiah 58 is open at 4:30 p.m. Mondays and 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays. We also need workers Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. to help with sorting and cleaning items from Wal-mart.

Wednesday at 6 p.m. there will be choir practice in the choir room. Also, the youth will meet at the church at 6 p.m. for their weekly meeting.

Samaritan Counseling takes place at our church Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. each week.

For questions or further information, call the church office 432-517-4821 or view our website at www.fcbs125@yahoo.com or email to fcbs125@yahoo.com

First Presbyterian Church, Big Spring

The Lectionary Bible study, led by Craig Holstedt and Tom Koger, meets Wednesdays at 5:17 p.m. in the church library. The children's choir meets at 4:45 p.m. Wednesday. The chancel choir practices at 6 p.m.

The ecumenical Lenten lunch March 14 was at Immaculate Heart Catholic Church with Tom Koger, First Presbyterian Coahoma, speaker; Wednesday the lunch will be at First United Methodist Church with Father Bernard Gulley, Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, speaker and March 28 at First Presbyterian Big Spring with the Rev. Barbara Kirk-Norris, St. Mary's Episcopal, speaker.

The regular monthly session meeting will be at 6

p.m. Tuesday in the church library.

All Presbyterian Women are invited to help in the annual church cleanup Tuesday, March 27. We are gathering in the parlor at 10:30 a.m., where we will divide into work groups. We will have a pizza lunch in the fellowship hall and conclude with Marj Carpenter leading the Bible study on Lesson 7 "Greatly honored are the peacemakers." The offering will go to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Covenant class meets in the library and will begin a study called God's creative word with focus on the Gospel of John. The first unit will be a study for Lent entitled "The word was in the beginning."

The youth are studying a video series by Katie Brazelton: "The way I'm wired."

Ellen Austin is in charge of "Take Ten" refreshments this week.

Liturgist for March is Danny Kennemur. Ushers are Christine and Don Boling, Nancy Hale and Sarah Burch.

The lectionary is Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21. The chancel choir will offer the anthem "Wondrous love" by Paul Christianson and sing "A God of love" by Marilyn Rinehart for the offertory. The Rev. Craig Holstedt will deliver the sermon.

Listen on KBST 1490 AM at 11 a.m. To have a printed bulletin for Sunday services, call the church office at 263-4211. See what's happening at the church by visiting our website at www.fcbs.org.

First Baptist Church

This week, 15 students from Baptist University of the Americas (BUA) are in Big Spring helping Bro. Petro Tobias and other Hispanic pastors with an evangelistic event to reach the Hispanic community.

Sunday, March 25 at 1 p.m. we will celebrate the first anniversary of the Mission Center with an open house. We are in the middle of our annual Annie Armstrong Easter offering for North America missions. This money goes throughout North America to support missionaries and helps start new churches and serves the physical and spiritual needs of people through inner-city Baptist centers. Our church goal is \$10,000.

Sunday school is 9:30 a.m. and worship is at 10:50 a.m. Pastor Mark's sermon this week is "The pro-

nouncement of thirst", words from the Cross. John 19:28.

sudoku

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

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net



By Steve Becker
Bidding Quiz

You are South, and the bidding has gone:

North	East	South	West
1♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	?	

What would you bid now with each of the following five hands?

- ♠KJ♥95♦KJ8♣AQJ1096
- ♠AJ7♥J73♦10♣KJ9643
- ♠AK6♥854♦Q9♣AQ872
- ♠Q8♥AJ♦962♣KJ8652
- ♠K94♥QJ8♦Q10♣AJ963

1. **Four diamonds.** There is certainly at least a game somewhere, as you have values well beyond a minimum opening bid opposite partner's opening bid. Indeed, it might even be possible to make a slam despite partner's minimum rebid.

Ordinarily, minor-suit games are to be avoided, since it is usually easier to make nine tricks in notrump than 11 tricks in a minor. However, a notrump contract here looks much more dangerous than a suit contract, so a jump-raise of partner's diamonds (forcing) is therefore best. The double raise also leaves room for partner to use Blackwood or make a cuebid in hearts if he is interested in a slam. If he actually does bid four hearts next, you should take a stab at six diamonds.

2. **Pass.** In view of partner's mini-

mum rebid, game is now unlikely. Trying to improve matters by bidding again might easily result in making them worse. Partner will probably make no more than eight or nine tricks in diamonds, so there is no good reason to bid again.

3. **Two spades.** It is unusual to bid a three-card suit, but there is no better way of inducing partner to bid notrump if he has a heart stopper. If he does not bid notrump at his next turn, you will have to settle for game in diamonds.

4. **Three diamonds.** You can't very well give up without making at least a mild game try, even though partner made the weakest possible rebid. He might pass three diamonds, but even so it is better to offer him a shot at game in case he has a maximum (around 15 points) for his two-diamond rebid.

Two notrump rather than three diamonds is an alternative possibility, but it would be a bit more dangerous.

5. **Three notrump.** Here you have ideal notrump distribution and strength in the unbid suits, so you have no real choice other than to bid three notrump. It would be wrong to bid only two notrump, which is not forcing in this sequence. If you did, you might find yourself left at the post.

Tomorrow: A first-rate performance.

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World Briefs

Seattle lawyer: Soldier accused in Afghan killings saw friend's leg blown off the day before

SEATTLE (AP) — The day before the rampage that killed 16 Afghan villagers, the U.S. soldier accused of the mass killings saw his friend's leg blown off, his lawyer said.

Seattle attorney John Henry Browne told The Associated Press that his client's family provided him with details of the injury to another U.S. soldier. The details have not been independently verified.

"His leg was blown off, and my client was standing next to him," he said.

It isn't clear whether the incident might have helped prompt the horrific middle-of-the-night attack on civilians in two villages last Sunday. Browne said it affected all of the soldiers at the base.

The suspect had been injured twice during his three previous deployments to Iraq, and didn't want to go to Afghanistan to begin with, Browne said.

Officials disclose new case of American killed by Afghan soldier

WASHINGTON (AP) — An Afghan soldier shot to death a 22-year-old Marine at an outpost in southwestern Afghanistan last month in a previously undisclosed case of apparent Afghan treachery that marked at least the seventh killing of an American military member by his supposed ally in the past six weeks, Marine officials said.

Lance Cpl. Edward J. Dycus of Greenville, Miss., was shot in the back of the head on Feb. 1 while standing guard at an Afghan-U.S. base in the Marja district of Helmand province. The exact circumstances have not been disclosed, but the Dycus family has been notified that he was killed by an Afghan soldier. Marine officials discussed the matter on condition of anonymity because it is still under investigation.

When the Pentagon announced Dycus' death the day after the shooting, it said he died "while conducting combat operations" in Helmand. It made no mention of treachery, which has become a growing problem for U.S. and allied forces as they work closely with Afghan forces to wind down the war.

The Associated Press inquired about the Dycus case after Maj. Gen. John Toolan, the top Marine commander in Afghanistan at the time, said in an AP interview March 7 that the Afghan government has been embarrassed by recent cases of Afghan soldiers turning their guns on their supposed part-

ners.

"I had one just a month ago where a lance corporal was killed, shot in the back of the head, and the Afghan minister of defense was here the next day" to discuss custody of the shooter, Toolan said, speaking from his Regional Command-Southwest headquarters at Camp Leatherneck.

North Korea says it will launch long-range rocket; U.S. calls plan 'highly provocative'

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — North Korea announced plans Friday to blast a satellite into space on the back of a long-range rocket, a provocative move that could jeopardize a weeks-old agreement with the U.S. exchanging food aid for nuclear concessions.

The North agreed to a moratorium on long-range launches as part of the deal with Washington, but it argues that its satellite launches are part of a peaceful space program that is exempt from any international disarmament agreements. The U.S., South Korea and other critics say the rocket technology overlaps with belligerent uses and condemn the satellite program as a disguised way of testing military missiles in defiance of a U.N. ban.

The launch is to take place three years after a similar launch in April 2009 drew widespread censure.

In Washington, the U.S. State Department called the announcement of the launch "highly provocative."

"Such a missile launch would pose a threat to regional security and would also be inconsistent with North Korea's recent undertaking to refrain from long-range missile launches," State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said in a statement, calling on Pyongyang to abide by its international obligations.

An Obama campaign film comes with some fiction; GOP rivals stretch energy claims

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rick Santorum says oil drillers in the Gulf of Mexico are being slammed by "worse and worse and worse" delays in getting federal approval even as gas prices go through the roof. Actually, the wait for permits is getting better and better. Newt Gingrich boasts that small donors are powering his Republican presidential campaign. In reality, one deep-pocketed financial angel

and other big money people have been doing loads of heavy lifting, too.

The claims of the Republican presidential rivals are not getting the exposure they once did, ever since the crackling series of debates drew to a close. But in smaller venues or turns on TV, the assertions still fly, as do exaggerations, oversimplifications and outright mistakes.

So, too, on the Democratic side. A polished new film from President Barack Obama's campaign, out Thursday night, pushes the gauzy hero worship beyond what has really happened in recounting the auto industry bailout and recovery. Called "The Road We've Traveled," the fundraising film takes Republican front-runner Mitt Romney out of context in the process.

A look at recent claims from the campaign trail and how they compare with the facts:

OBAMA CAMPAIGN on the automakers' recovery: "With business booming, they repaid their loans."

Asian Apple fans snap up new iPad with faster processor, better screen on first day of sales

HONG KONG (AP) — Apple-mania gripped Asia on Friday as the company's latest iPad went on sale, drawing hordes of die-hard fans to shops selling the highly anticipated tablet.

Gadget fans lined up in Tokyo, Hong Kong and Singapore so they could be among the first to get their hands on the device.

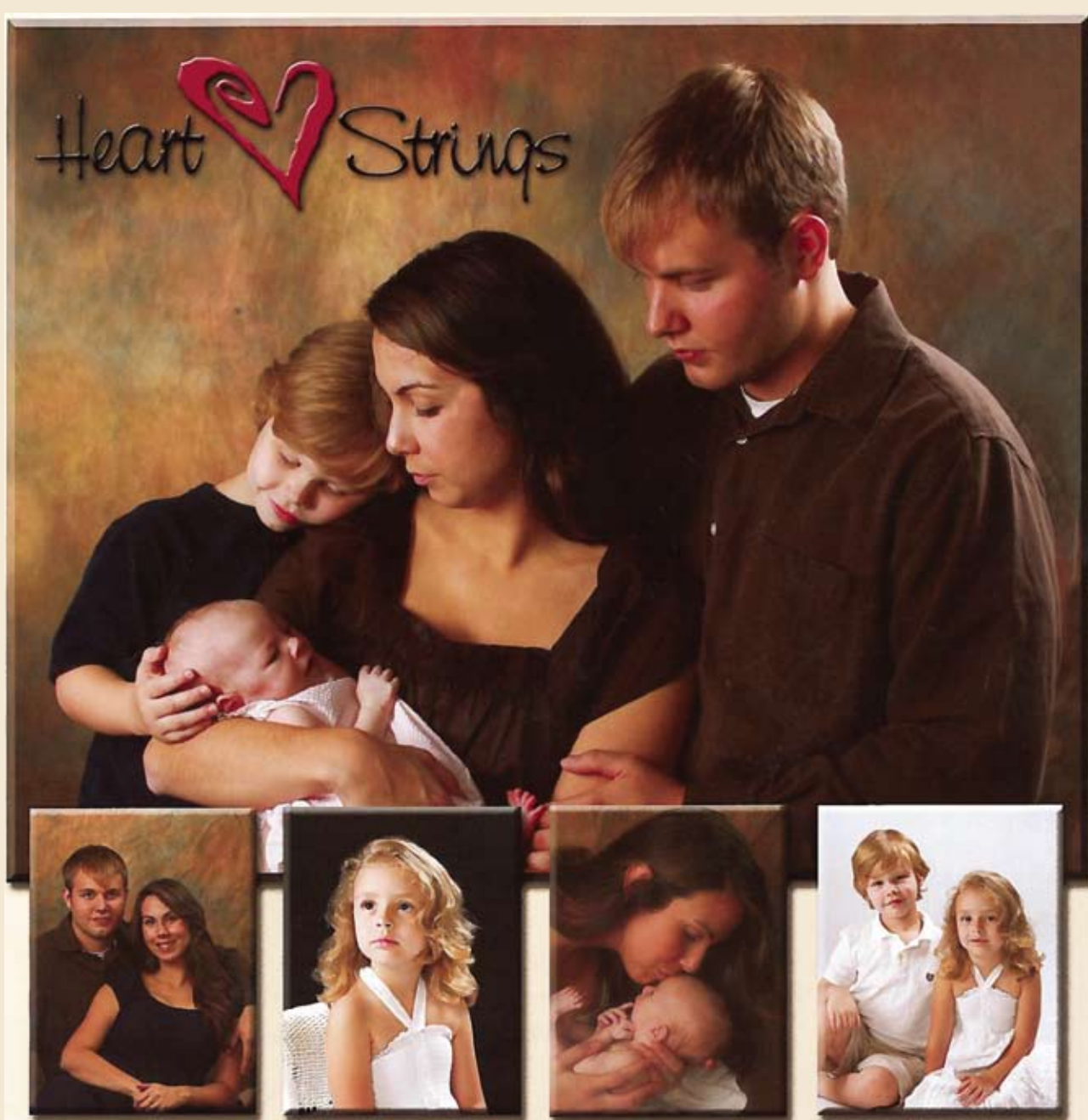
The third version of Apple's iPad also went on sale in Australia and it will be available in the U.S. and five other countries beginning at 8 a.m. local time, with 25 other countries getting it a week later. The new model comes with a faster processor and a much sharper screen. It also boasts an improved camera, similar to that of the latest iPhone.

TINSLEY

Continued from Page 7A

a reckoning. The real evidence of our faith is not what we do when we feel His presence and know He is near. The real evidence of our faith is what we do when we feel God is far away. He will return.

Bill Tinsley has served as pastor, church planter and missions leader in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Texas. He has international experience in South America, Australia, New Zealand, Africa, Asia and Europe. Tinsley has authored ten books and won first place awards in poetry. Contact bill@tinsleycenter.com.



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Steers split doubleheader



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Big Spring's Gunnar Kennedy connects with a hit during the first game of the Steers' doubleheader against Seminole at Steer Park Thursday.

By **BRIAN MCCORMACK**
Sports Editor

Mix baseball with a prize fight and you'd have an idea how the Big Spring-Seminole baseball doubleheader went Thursday.

The Steers and Indians traded leads instead of haymakers, and the end result was a split decision — Big Spring came from behind to win game one, 11-10, before dropping game two 6-2.

With the results, Big Spring's record now stands at 10-9.

Game One

The Steers started off strong in Thursday's opener, scoring the game's first two runs in the bottom of the first inning.

Gunnar Kennedy, who doubled, and Max Pappajohn, who drew a walk, scored the first two runs for the Steers when Joseph Morelion hit a double of his own.

Seminole battled back, however, scoring seven runs in the top of the second inning.

The third inning was all Big Spring, as a pair of walks and a Kennedy single loaded the bases with only one out. Morelion also walked, allowing Haegon Rodriguez to score, making it 7-3 Seminole. Jarred DoPorto then hit a grounder into right field, picking up two RBI and cutting the Indians' lead to two runs. Garrett Stuteville then walked before Brett Brorman's two-run single tied the game at 7-7.

The Steers retook the lead in the bottom of the fourth after Rodriguez, who got on base by a walk, was driven home by Morelion to make the score 8-7.

Neither team was done, however.

Seminole tied the game again in the fifth after a double and a well-placed bunt that resulted in a RBI. In the sixth, the Indians tacked on two more runs, increasing their lead to 10-8.

Then, it was the Steers' turn.

See **STEERS**, Page 2B

Baylor opens NCAA with win

By **ARNIE STAPLETON**
AP Sports Writer

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — The Baylor Bears started out looking like they were the NCAA tournament novices, not South Dakota State.

Baylor came out jittery and fell behind 19-7 in the first 7 minutes, had to ditch its zone defense and finally started to use its superior strength and size to wear down the 14th-seeded Jackrabbits in a 68-60 win at The Pit on Thursday night.

"I know our guys were prepared for a very good game," Baylor coach Scott Drew said. "South Dakota State coming in, we had a lot of respect. We knew they were a great team and we're

pleased to get the win. I think in the beginning of the game we showed our jitters a little bit, then after that, I was very pleased with how we calmed down and got back to playing basketball."

Although the Jackrabbits were in it until the end, they never regained the lead after Pierre Jackson, who led the Bears with 18 points, sank a 3-pointer that put Baylor ahead 24-22 with 5:45 left in the first half.

"They came out there swinging, knocking down open shots, knocking down contested 3s. Coach called a timeout, and we had to re-gather ourselves, and we switched to man," Jackson said. "A.J. (Walton) came in and brought the defen-

sive punch that we needed, and we got stops and got the lead."

And never relinquished it.

Both teams nearly made Seth Davis look like a sage, however. The TV analyst proclaimed on the CBS Selection Show that the Jackrabbits would knock off third-seeded Baylor in their inaugural NCAA tournament appearance — much to the dismay of both squads.

Sure enough, the Jackrabbits jumped out to a 12-point lead early and then fought back from a double-digit deficit themselves in the closing minutes before finally falling.

Baylor guard Brady Heslip said the Bears never started

to worry that maybe Davis would be taking a bow by night's end.

"No, not at all. We've started games sloppy before this year, and we found the resolve to come back," Heslip said. "Today was no different. We knew that was a great team, and we didn't think they were going to come out there and just give the game to us. We were ready for a 40-minute fight."

They got one. "They really came out swinging and knocking down shots and making some great plays and playing unselfish," Heslip said. "So none of that (upset talk) crossed our minds."

See **BAYLOR**, Page 2B

Sports Calendar

TODAY

Baseball
Slaton at Coahoma, 4:30 p.m.

Softball
Big Spring at Sweetwater, 6:30 p.m.
Howard College at Casa Grande, Ariz. tournament, TBA.

SATURDAY

Softball
Coahoma Girls' Alumni Game, TBA.

To submit a calendar item, please call 263-7331, ext. 237, or e-mail reporter@bigspringherald.com

Manning watch continues, four teams still in the hunt

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**
AP Pro Football Writer

Your move, Peyton. This year's top NFL free agent heard four teams' pitches in person. Owners squirmed around the country on private jets. Politicians have weighed in. Fans are growing restless.

Now Peyton Manning needs to decide what happens next.

The Denver Broncos, Arizona Cardinals and Tennessee Titans are awaiting word from Manning, and indications Thursday were that all believed they were still in the running to sign the quarterback who is the only four-time MVP in NFL history.

There's been no tangible sign of any of them dropping out of the Manning Sweepstakes — though the chances of the fourth team the star QB met with, the Miami Dolphins, reportedly were less certain.

ESPN and other media said Thursday that another free-agent QB, Matt Flynn, was planning to visit the Dolphins after his trip to see the Seattle Seahawks. That might mean the Dolphins know they won't get Manning or that team officials want to have options

in case they fail to sign him.

Chad Henne, who began last season as Miami's starting QB but signed with the Jacksonville Jaguars this week, made it sound as if the Dolphins' pursuit of Manning was serious. Henne said Thursday he had "some talks" with the Dolphins before leaving, but added: "I think they are on the 'Peyton Manning Street' right now, so they are going to wait a while. In my position, there wasn't much time to wait. I kind of wanted a new start, a fresh start, and find a team where I feel comfortable. I just want to be on a team that wants to win games."

If there's no word from Manning by Friday, the Cardinals might wind up having to move on. That's because Arizona will decide by 4 p.m. EDT on Friday whether or not to release quarterback Kevin Kolb, who would be due \$7 million if he is on the roster Saturday.

Kolb's not the only player whose future is being affected by Manning, who became a free agent March 7, when the Indianapolis Colts decided to cut him to avoid paying a \$28 million

bonus.

In a move that the Titans can only hope will help their efforts to attract Manning, they improved their offensive line by signing free-agent guard Steve Hutchinson on Thursday. He is a five-time All Pro who spent the past six seasons with Minnesota before being released Saturday.

It also wasn't clear whether a surprise suitor could emerge, the way it's happened in baseball recently, with Prince Fielder signing with the Detroit Tigers, Albert Pujols going to the Los Angeles Angels or Cliff Lee winding up with the Philadelphia Phillies.

Set aside all of those face-to-face meetings that lasted six hours or more, and the cross-country trips, and look instead to the way government figures are getting involved.

"I'm the governor; I'm not supposed to be getting involved in sports issues. Although I did hear that my buddy (Tennessee Gov.) Bill Haslam was calling Manning, trying to call Manning, to encourage him to come to Tennessee," Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper said in a telephone interview.

Nowitzki scores 27, Mavs beat Bobcats

DALLAS (AP) — The Dallas Mavericks don't care about style points at the moment. Any victory is welcome for the defending NBA champs.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 27 points and the Mavericks rallied from 14 points down in the second quarter to beat the Charlotte Bobcats 101-96 on Thursday night.

Dallas won its second straight — improving to 15-0 all-time against the Bobcats — although the victories have come against lottery-bound Washington and Charlotte. Jason Terry added 18 points and Rodrigue Beaubois 14 for the Mavs, who had lost eight of their previous 11.

"The most important thing is to come out of it with a win," said Dallas' Vince Carter, who finished with 11 points. "When we're playing against a better basketball team, we'll have to be better."

Corey Maggette scored 21 points and Tyrus Thomas had 14 for the league-worst Bobcats (6-36).

The upcoming schedule gets a lot more challenging for the Mavs, who face playoff contenders in their next 10 games starting with Saturday night's home date against San Antonio.

"It's two (straight) wins and we're doing good things, but if you look at our schedule, it gets significantly more difficult."

Mavericks coach Rick Carlisle said.

After trailing most of the first half, Dallas took control with a third-quarter surge led by consecutive 3-pointers from Nowitzki.

Nowitzki scored eight straight points while his team was on a 17-8 run capped by Carter's 3-pointer, giving Dallas a 74-68 edge entering the final quarter.

The Mavs turned up the defensive pressure in the third with the second unit on the floor for much of the 12 minutes, going to a zone and limiting Charlotte to 5-for-21 shooting from the field.

"We played as well as we could play," Bobcats coach Paul Silas said. "The third quarter gives us problems. They put a zone on us and we couldn't make a shot."

Beaubois connected on consecutive layups early in the fourth to stretch Dallas' lead to 83-72, and Nowitzki's 3-pointer from the top of the key gave the Mavs a 14-point lead with 6:41 to play.

Charlotte was behind by 17 before pulling to 99-96 on D.J. Augustin's layup with 19 seconds left. But Nowitzki converted two free throws on his team's next possession to clinch the victory.

Charlotte tied the score at 23-

See **MAVS**, Page 2B

Norris grand slam in ninth lifts A's

SURPRISE, Ariz. (AP) — Oakland manager Bob Melvin wasn't surprised by Jemile Weeks' power display.

Weeks homered from both sides of the plate, Cliff Pennington added four hits and Derek Norris capped a five-run ninth inning with a grand slam in the Oakland Athletics' 11-7 victory over the Texas Rangers.

"He stays within himself and he's got a little juice," Melvin said. "In certain counts, if you get the ball a little up he can take the ball out of the park."

Weeks was surprised by how he hit the two homers.

"Off the top of my head, I'd

have to say it's the first time," said Weeks said of homering from both sides of the plate. "It's definitely tough to do, not to say even getting an at bat from the other side."

He homered from the right side leading off the game against Martin Perez and then homered from the left in the fourth off Neil Ramirez.

"It's a testament to my approach right now," said Weeks, who hit two home runs in 97 games and 406 at-bats last season. "I've been able in the past to power up on some balls out there, which might be surprising to everyone here."

Weeks also flashed his

speed, reaching on an infield single in the second, before walking and striking out in his final two plate appearances.

Oakland trailed 7-6 entering the ninth but tied the game on an error before Norris' grand slam gave the Athletics their tenth win in 14 games.

"Winning's important," Melvin said. "I don't care if it's spring training, an intrasquad game or whatever. Winning matters. That's the environment we're trying to create here."

Texas was without manager Ron Washington, who left the team following a death in the family. He's expected to

return for the Rangers' week-end series in Las Vegas.

Both starting pitchers struggled.

Oakland's Brad Peacock lasted only 2 1-3 innings, giving up five runs on five hits and three walks with one strikeout and needing 61 pitches to get eight outs.

Perez went two innings, giving up two runs on five hits and a pair of walks. The left-hander struck out three.

"Sometimes I just got in my head a little bit," Perez said. "You ask me what I need to do, and that's what I need to do. When I struggle I get a little overanxious and that's been my problem when I'm

behind in the count. I tried to locate my pitches but I was a little desperate and anxious."

Ian Kinsler homered in the fourth inning for the Rangers.

NOTES: Rangers OF Josh Hamilton, who left Wednesday's game after jamming his right heel chasing down a double, returned to the lineup and went 0 for 3. Hamilton has three hits in 21 at-bats this spring. . A's CF Yoenis Cespedes went 1 for 4 with a strikeout. . Rangers C Mike Napoli missed his sixth straight game with a strained left groin muscle but resumed some catching activities.

Cowboys active in free agency despite cap woes

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**

AP Sports Writer

The Dallas Cowboys are sticking to their plans in free agency, acquiring primary targets even after being penalized by the NFL with a salary cap reduction.

Free agent safety Brodney Pool and linebacker Dan Connor agreed to deals Thursday, a day after the Cowboys reached a five-year deal with cornerback Brandon Carr and signed quarterback Kyle Orton, fullback Lawrence Vickers and offensive lineman Mackenzy Bernadeau to multiyear

contracts.

"Obviously we've taken a big step," Cowboys executive vice president Stephen Jones said. "Getting the cap hit, you have to deal with it and there's ramifications of that, but it's not going to stop us from being able to do the things we have to do to be a championship-caliber football team in 2012."

Dallas lost \$10 million in salary cap space, and Washington lost \$36 million, after the two teams were cited this week by the NFL for paying exorbitant amounts in the uncapped 2010 season to

get more spending room for the upcoming season. The teams, which have denied any wrongdoing, can split the loss over two seasons.

Jones said the Cowboys would split the reduction, taking a \$5 million salary cap hit this year and another \$5 million in 2013.

What Jones wouldn't address Thursday was whether there is any way the team could appeal to regain the cap space.

He also wouldn't say how much the team was under its salary cap of \$115.6 million, assum-

ing a \$5 million reduction.

"That's irrelevant. What we have on a given day really doesn't relate to what you ultimately are going to have and how you're going to manage it," Jones said. "All I can tell you, we can make the moves we need to make."

When free agency began Tuesday, Cowboys coach Jason Garrett and defensive coordinator Rob Ryan were among team officials who immediately flew to Kansas City to pick up Carr and bring him to Texas for a visit to team head-

quarters and Cowboys Stadium.

Carr eventually agreed to a \$50 million deal, including a \$10 million signing bonus that is part of more than \$26.5 million in guaranteed money

"I was blown away, from the initial plane ride to pick me up, to see the big star on the jet," Carr said in a video interview posted on the team's website. "I got to the stadium and it was everything that I imagined. Everybody's genuine and everybody's eager to get this thing going again. That's what

I like and that's why I'm here."

A fifth-round pick in 2008 by Kansas City, Carr had 45 tackles and a career-high four interceptions last season. Carr, who turns 26 in May, started all 64 games for the Chiefs the past four years.

The deal with Carr came a day after two-time Pro Bowl cornerback Terence Newman, a starter all nine of his seasons in Dallas, was released.

"Terence had a great career here, but it was time for us to move on from that," Jones said.

MAVS

Continued from Page 1B

all after one quarter when Augustin banked in a desperation 3 from

the right wing just ahead of the buzzer.

Rookie Kemba Walker scored eight of his 12 points — including two 3-pointers — during his team's 14-2 spurt midway through the second

quarter as the Bobcats built a 42-32 lead.

"We are probably the oldest starting lineup in the history of the league so we've got to hype ourselves up a little more and get a little more pep

in our step to start the game," Nowitzki said of his team's slow start. "We let them hang on and they got some confidence."

Charlotte's halftime advantage was 54-48 af-

ter Dallas finished the second quarter with a 9-2 run.

Once again, the third quarter proved the Bobcats' undoing. Walker said his team was simply too passive against

Dallas' zone.

"We didn't penetrate enough, didn't put a man in the middle enough and we weren't cutting," Walker said. "We were just standing."

BAYLOR

Continued from Page 1B

We knew we were going to re-gather ourselves and rebound from it."

Jackson and Heslip, who scored 17 points, both sank two free throws in the final 23 seconds after the Jackrabbits had pulled to 64-60 and Brayden Carlson misfired a 3-pointer that would have made it a one-point game.

The Jackrabbits got 19 points from Nate Wolters and 15 from Chad White.

Their coach, Scott Nagy, said on the eve of the game that the Bears were "the best team that we've ever played" and predicted that "in order to just stay in the game, we'll have to play the game of our lives."

They got their 15 minutes of fame instead — actually, 14 minutes, 15 seconds. That's how

long it took on the game clock for the Bears to take their first lead.

The Jackrabbits came out like, well, jackrabbits, scoring the game's first eight points and surging ahead 19-7 on Wolters' drive to the basket.

After that, the Bears switched from a zone to man defense and things didn't go as well for the Jackrabbits, who reached the tournament in just their fourth year

of eligibility and only five seasons removed from a 6-24 train wreck.

Led by Jackson and Anthony Jones (11 points), the Bears went on a 29-11 tear to take a 36-28 halftime lead.

The Jackrabbits were left lamenting their uncharacteristic 13 turnovers.

"They thrive in transition, so that was a big part of the loss," said Wolters, who coughed it up five times. "I wasn't

nervous. I just lost the ball a couple times."

Then there was the Bears' 35-23 advantage on the glass.

"We came into this game expecting to win, and we had our chances," White said. "They just beat us up on the rebounds."

Baylor pushed its lead to double digits in the second half but the Jackrabbits kept coming, pulling to 64-60 with 1:14 left on back-to-back

3-pointers by Griffan Callahan and White.

"The thing about it is even though things didn't go well for us and weren't going well for us most of the game, and most of our guys just didn't play at the top of their game, our kids didn't quit," Nagy said. "I was really proud of them of that. But, you know, that's of little consolation when you're talking to kids after a game like that."

STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

Big Spring began its winning rally when it was needed most — in the Steers' final at-bat in the bottom of the seventh, Pappajohn singled and went to third on a ground-out by Morelion, then scored on DoPorto's grounder to first, making the score

10-9 with two outs.

Zach Hernandez kept the Steers alive with a base hit, Stuteville reached base when he was hit by a pitch, setting the stage for Brorman, who capped off the rally with a game-ending double.

BSHS Coach Bert Otto enjoyed watching his team's comeback win.

"We came out, scored two runs, but (Seminole) answered back," he said.

"(Seminole) has nine seniors, we knew they would be tough, but we kept throwing strikes and we had a great seventh inning. It was the most exciting finish we have had around here in a long time."

Adam Franco picked up the complete game win for the Steers, striking out one Seminole batter and giving up zero bases on balls during his mound appear-

ance.

Game Two

The nightcap didn't end as nicely for Big Spring.

As they did in the first game, the Steers struck first. Pappajohn reached base after a single and went to third on Morelion's double, before scoring on a groundout from DoPorto. Another groundout, this one by Hernandez, drove Morelion home to give the Steers the 2-0 lead.

Unfortunately for the Steers, that was the extent of their offensive

highlights.

Seminole took the lead for good in the fourth, scoring four runs, then tacked on another two runs — one in the sixth inning and one in the seventh.

BSHS starter Max Pappajohn picked up two strikeouts and allowed no walks in two innings pitched. Jarred DoPorto struck out one Indian batter and gave up four walks in the remaining five innings.

Otto was disappointed with the loss, but believes the Steers will be a factor in district play which opens Tuesday

on the road against Snyder at 7 p.m.

"I thought we competed well," he said. "It is what it is, we all learn from our mistakes. I think we can compete in district, and we feel we will be right there in the thick of things. But, every night will be a dog fight. The Steers are one game above .500 with an overall record of 10-9 on the season."

Contact Sports Editor **Brian McCormack** at 263-7331 ext. 237 or by e-mail at sports@big-springherald.com

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In spite of Mercury's retrograde and the wishy-washy emotional weather radiating from a highly sensitive Pisces sun, problems can be averted and complications can be sorted out with minimal drama during this highly practical Capricorn moon cycle. Work and relationship matters can be handled unemotionally and to excellent results.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Be willing to ask yourself intriguing questions, such as: What are you looking forward to? The answer will be

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

like an arrow pointing to your talents, personal strengths and life ambitions.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Telling and hearing too much may be a problem. The good news is that it means people want to share with you, and you want to share with them, too. The bad news is that too much sharing gets tedious.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Be patient

enough to do what it takes to solve a problem. Go deeper. The first answer that's given to you may not be the best. Keep asking "What else?" and "How else?"

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It's a good time for introspection, honesty and attention to the quieter needs of your soul. The outside world has no other choice but to reflect back to you what's happening with your inner life.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Children have to learn that life is better with fewer sweets, less television and more fresh air. And you, playful Leo, are childlike enough now to need and heed the same lessons.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You may not be entirely pleased with yourself, but punishment is unnecessary and, in fact, would be counterproductive. Emphasize your positive characteristics, and try to ignore the behaviors you'd like to be rid of.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You may feel caught in between short- and long-term thinking. It's actually a wonderful place to be. Too much long-term thinking is no fun, and thinking only in the short term is foolish. So enjoy this in-between state for now.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There's an event coming up, and it will go better for you if you start

making plans now. Let yourself free-associate about how you want this to go. Gather influences and talk with others about what's coming.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Boundary issues may arise. You may feel like someone is giving unwanted advice or infringing on your privacy. Stand up for yourself. Quite simply, you want to be around people who let you be yourself.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Gather information. Get clarity on all communication. You are mighty intuitive now, but you'll learn more by asking than by assuming you already have the answers.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You will get the chance to practice the fine art of compassionate detachment. You will show that you care about another person without getting overly caught up in the person's life.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Moodiness can be a sign of a controlling person. If you can avoid those who ride a mood rollercoaster, do it. If not, then at least be aware of your reaction to those who use their moods to manipulate others.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 16). You have an amazing gift of adaptability this year, and you'll stretch, flex and grow yourself in order to meet the changing patterns of life. April shows you making money in a different way. You'll love the artsy and intellectual influences that come in May. July brings your chance to show the world your talent. Gemini and Sagittarius people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 39, 17, 26, 12 and 4.

WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST: ARIES: Discover one of your love's favorite childhood memories. TAURUS: You'll slowly become more like the person you want to attract, and this person will feel increasingly comfortable around you. GEMINI: Needy, clingy people

make you nervous, so you will extract yourself from suffocating situations.

CANCER: Someone will pass your test and prove worthy of your attention. LEO: Let a loved one win an argument whether or not this person is correct. It's not worth the fight. VIRGO: You have an increased need for entertainment. Funny, lively people interest you most. LIBRA: You are successfully anchored in the mind of a potential love, and this person will definitely be thinking of you this weekend.

SCORPIO: Someone has a crush on you, and you have an inkling who. SAGITTARIUS: You may have to constantly reassure someone of your love. How tiring. CAPRICORN: You really don't have to prove anything to a potential love. You've already won this person over. Don't sell it when it's sold. AQUARIUS: You may grow impatient with a loved one who can't make up his or her mind. PISCES: Your magical, optimistic energy shows in all you do.

COUPLE OF THE WEEKEND: Pisces and Capricorn hit a nice groove now that the sun and the moon are in those signs respectively. Venus is also in Capricorn, amplifying the attraction. Capricorn's even nature is ever so pleasantly upset in regard to Pisces, who has a way of reaching into Capricorn's world and waking up a dormant sense of romance. This weekend, it will be as though each soul sings the other's favorite song.

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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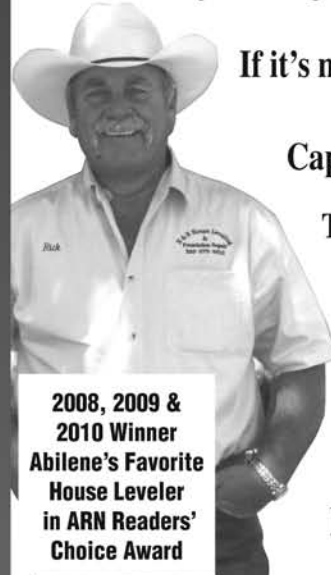
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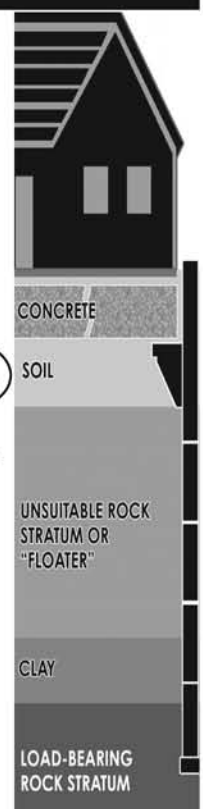
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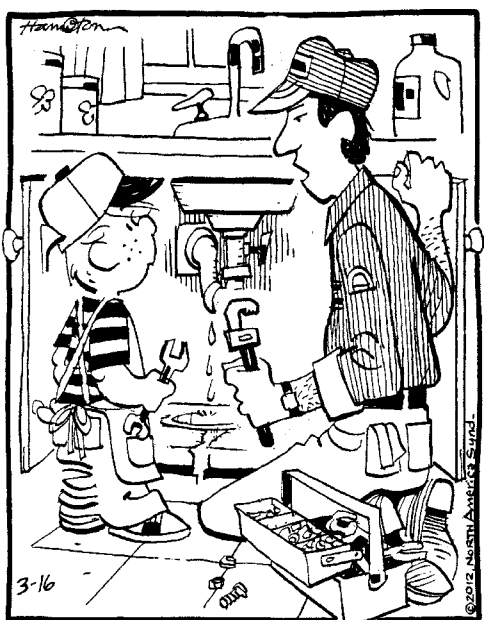
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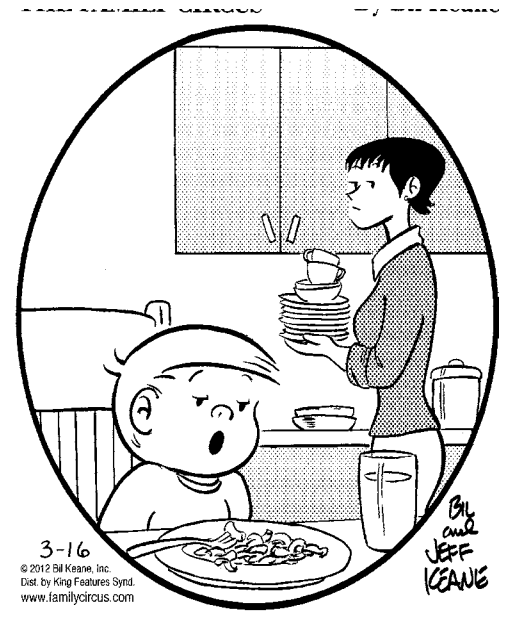
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5:PM	News ABC	Alma Notic.	Two Men	News CBS	Noticias	News	2012 NCAA Basketball Tournament	Bible Enerson	Charlie Rose	'Til Death King	Bering Sea Gold	CSI: Miami	Gangland		106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Shake It Good	NFL32	SportsCenter
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Una Familia con Suerte (SS)	Big Bang	2012 NCAA Basketball Tournament	Caso Cerado	News Millionaire		Dr. Denis Upd	PBS News-Hour	Seinfeld	Bering Sea Gold	CSI: Miami	UFC Unleashed	2012 NCAA Basketball Tournament		Movie: The Luck of the Irish	To Be Announced	NBA Basketball: Miami Heat at Philadelphia 76ers.
7:PM	Shark Tank	El Talismán (SS)	Kitchen Nightmares		Una Maid en	Who Do You		Door-Wisdom	Best of Pledge	Nikita	Bering Sea Gold	Movie: Thinner, Michael Constantine	UFC Unleashed		Movie: Like Mike 2: Jonathan Lipnicki	Lab Rats	Dewey Bozella	Philadelphi 76ers.
8:PM	Primetime: What	La Que No	Simpsons	2012 NCAA Basketball Tournament	Corazón Valiente	Grimm	2012 NCAA Basketball Tournament	Best of Light of the Southwest	Best of Pledge	Supernatural	Bering Sea Gold	The Walking Dead	The Ultimate Fighter	2012 NCAA Basketball Tournament		Phineas	Boxing: Tim Coleman vs. Kendall Holt.	NBA Basketball: Spurs at Thunder
9:PM	20/20	How I Met	How I Met		Relaciones Pelig	Dateline NBC		Upd Alewine	Best of Pledge	Cops	Bering Sea Gold	Comic Book Men	The Ultimate Fighter		Wizards			
10:PM	News Nightline	Impacto	Raymond		Noticias	News		Baruch Dr.		King South Pk	Bering Sea Gold	Movie: A Bronx Tale, Lillo Brancato	Movie: Friday Night Lights, Jay Hernandez	Movie: Like Mike 2: Streetball	Wizards	College GameDay	SportsCenter	
11:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Hasta-Dinero	Law Order: CI	News Letterman	Boxeo Telemundo (SS)	Late Night	Movie: The Mummy Returns, John Hannah	Yohanah CCM	(Off Air)	South Pk	Bering Sea Gold	Movie: Christine, Alexandra Paul			Wizards			
12:AM	Extra Paid	Mañana-Siempre	Fam. Guy	Late	Camara Pagado	(:36) News		Best of Light of the Southwest		Roseanne Ramp	Bering Sea Gold	The Walking Dead			Wizards			
1:AM	Paid	Par Ases	TMZ	Insider	Pagado	Today	Movie: Snider-Man			Passion	Bering Sea Gold				Wizards			

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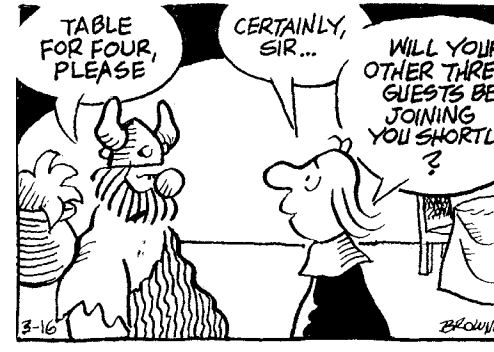
"THANKS, KID. WITH YOUR HELP, I SHOULD FINISH THIS JOB IN TWICE THE TIME."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"I think this has too much 'mac' and not enough 'roni.'"

HAGAR



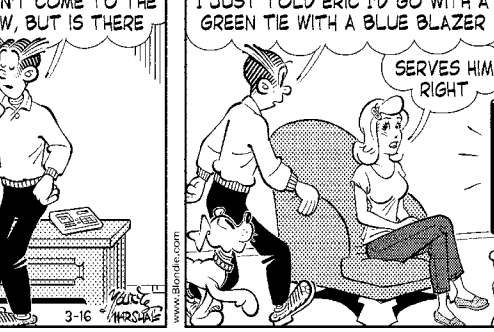
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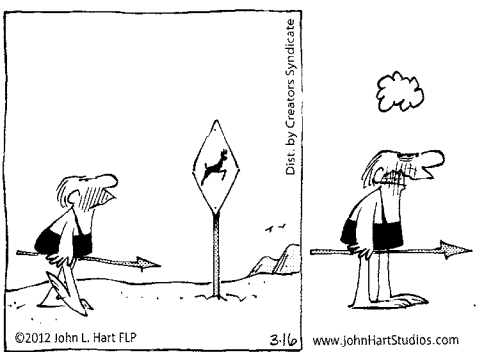
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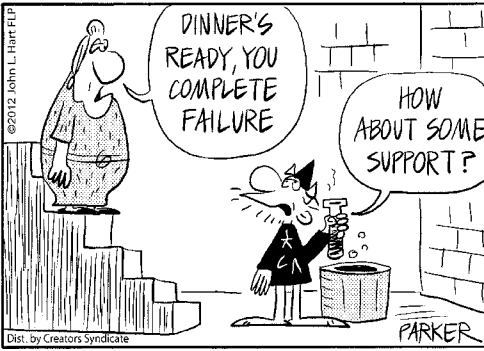
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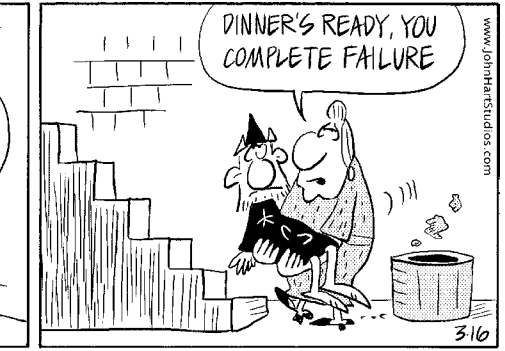
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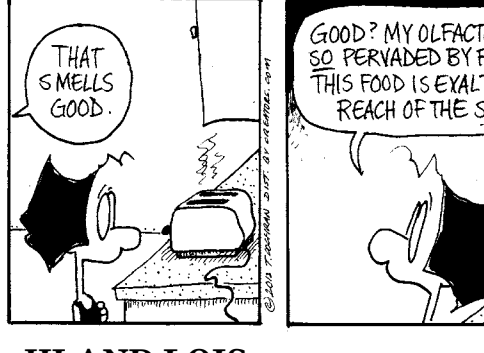
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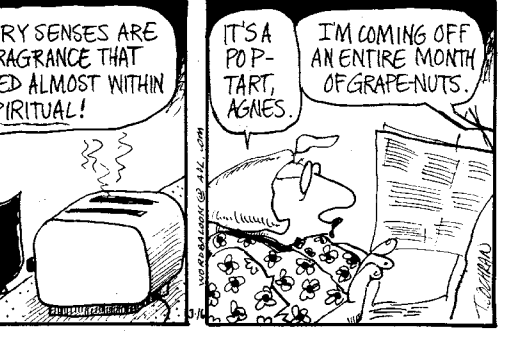
HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEETLE BAILY



WIZARD OF ID



This Date In History

Today is Friday, March 16, the 76th day of 2012. There are 290 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 16, 1912, future first lady Pat Nixon was born Thelma Catherine Ryan in Ely, Nev.

On this date:

In A.D. 37, Roman emperor Tiberius died; he was succeeded by Caligula.

In 1521, Portuguese navigator Ferdinand Magellan reached the Philippines, where he was killed by natives the following month.

In 1751, James Madison, fourth president of the United States, was born in Port Conway, Va.

In 1802, President Thomas Jefferson signed a measure authorizing the establishment of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y.

In 1850, Nathaniel Hawthorne's novel "The Scarlet Letter" was first published.

In 1926, rocket science pioneer Robert H. Goddard successfully tested the first liquid-fueled rocket, in Auburn, Mass.

In 1935, Adolf Hitler decided to break the military terms set by the Treaty of Versailles (vehr-SY) by ordering the rearming of Germany.

In 1945, during World War II, American forces declared they had secured Iwo Jima, although pockets of Japanese resistance remained.

In 1968, during the Vietnam War, the My Lai (mee ly) Massacre of Vietnamese civilians was carried out by U.S. Army troops; estimates of the death toll vary between 347 and 504.

In 1972, in a nationally broadcast address, President Richard M. Nixon called for a moratorium on court-ordered school busing to achieve racial desegregation.

In 1982, Claus Von Bulow was found guilty in Newport, R.I., of trying to kill his comatose wife, Martha, with insulin. (Von Bulow was acquitted in a retrial; his former wife, who was also known as "Sunny," died in December 2008.)

In 2003, American activist

Rachel Corrie, 23, was crushed to death by an Israeli military bulldozer while trying to block the demolition of a Palestinian home in the Gaza Strip.

Today's Birthdays:

Comedian-director Jerry Lewis is 86. Country singer Ray Walker (The Jordanaires) is 78. Movie director Bernardo Bertolucci is 71. Game show host Chuck Woolery is 71. Singer-songwriter Jerry Jeff Walker is 70. Country singer Robin Williams is 65. Actor Erik Estrada is 63. Actor Victor Garber is 63. Actress Kate Nelligan is 61. Country singer Ray Benson (Asleep at the Wheel) is 61. Rock singer-musician Nancy Wilson (Heart) is 58.

Answer to previous puzzle

BALL	TACT	CSPAN
AREA	OSLO	HIPPO
SETS	LOON	OGDEN
KNITTING	YARN	
SANTAFE	ZEALOT	
IRE	AFT	LIZA
SCAMP	STIES	NOR
TAKE	INTO	ACCOUNT
APR	TAINT	APSES
IRON	ORE	CPA
NINEPM	BEERMAT	
	ALIKELY	STORY
OHARA	NEIL	ISMS
DERBY	ELMO	SHOO
EMMYS	ESPN	TIERN

Newsday Crossword

VOWEL PLAY by Bruce Venzke

- ACROSS
- 1 *Aquí se* ___ español
 - 6 Crash-probe org.
 - 10 Commercial
 - 14 Preceder of a time
 - 15 Tot's boo-boo
 - 16 Former Security Council member
 - 17 Human dynamo
 - 19 Upswing
 - 20 One who takes panes on the job
 - 21 Swings in a ring
 - 22 Give a wok a workout
 - 23 Cathedral features
 - 26 1980 Super Bowl team
 - 29 "Jellied" British dish
 - 30 Mudhole
 - 31 Evoke a smile
 - 32 Married woman
 - 35 Arcade machine
 - 38 Paltry
 - 39 Family member
 - 42 Downed dinner
 - 45 Assay specimen
 - 46 Shade of pink
 - 47 Cotton-picking pest
 - 51 Further
 - 52 Something a thief might take
 - 53 Ready to engage
 - 56 Send a quick message to
 - 57 Period of investor confidence
- DOWN
- 1 Prefix for goblin
 - 2 Supersonic, to percussion
 - 3 Terrier treat
 - 4 "Deck the Halls" syllables
 - 5 Full-spectrum account
 - 7 Dance move
 - 8 Title for Anthony Hopkins
 - 9 Small buzzer
 - 10 *Innocent* author
 - 11 Some auto engines
 - 12 Declare
 - 13 For formals
 - 18 Minor misstatements
 - 21 Sandwich filler
 - 22 St. with a panhandle
 - 24 Allowed to reach
 - 25 Fork-tailed flier
 - 27 Sale disclaimer
 - 28 Chills out
 - 32 John D. MacDonald sleuth
 - 33 "That feels great!"
 - 34 Creator of Oscar and Felix
 - 36 Former capital of Italy
 - 37 Commented
 - 40 Battle it out
 - 41 Maze objective
 - 42 Drops off
 - 43 City on Lake Erie
 - 44 Panacea
 - 46 Sudden impact
 - 48 Mocha alternative
 - 49 Saab competitor
 - 50 Wedding acquisition
 - 54 Bringing up the rear
 - 55 *Alphabet Suite* artist
 - 57 Phileas Fogg emulator
 - 58 Its cap. is Abu Dhabi
 - 59 Canine classification

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