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Grisly scene processed

Authorities await forensic results



HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins

Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer for the Big Spring Police Department, fields questions regarding human remains found on the McMahan-Wrinkle Airpark during a press conference held Wednesday morning at the Hangar 25 Air Museum.

By THOMAS JENKINS
 Staff Writer

Officials with the Big Spring Police Department say an FBI evidence recovery team has wrapped up its part in the investigation of human remains discovered Tuesday and now it's a matter of waiting.

"That's basically the end of their involvement in the case," Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the BSPD, said. "They come in, process the scene and then leave. Now the evidence has been sent to the medical examiner's office in Tarrant County and is in the hands of the pathologists."

Unfortunately, there's no way to know how long it will

take to receive results, Everett said.

Law enforcement officials were called to the grisly scene — located near the 2500 block of Apron Drive on McMahan-Wrinkle Airpark — Tuesday afternoon when employees of Desert Tank made the discovery.

"Dispatch received a call that human remains had been found in a pasture. The remains were found by workers in the area," Everett said. "Investigators have confirmed the remains are human, however, due to the condition of them, nothing else can really be established at this time, including age or gender."

"The area where the re-

mains were found was fenced and gated, but it could have been accessed. The body was obscured, but at least part of it was visible, which is what the workers saw, causing them to call 911. It was an area that isn't often traveled."

Everett said the lid from one of the large tanks at the scene was placed over the remains shortly after the discovery was made.

"We knew there was a storm coming in and we needed to protect the scene as much as possible," Everett said. "The lid was placed over the remains until the FBI team from Dallas could arrive."

See **REMAINS**, Page 3

Voter registration cards in the mail

By THOMAS JENKINS
 Staff Writer

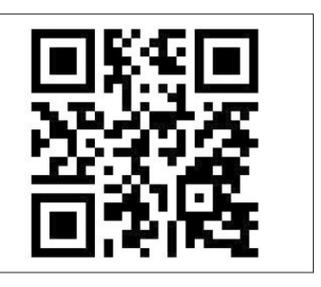
As the maelstrom surrounding state redistricting begins to come to a close and the May 29 date for the political party primaries looks more

and more like it will be a reality, officials with the Howard County Elections Office continue to get ready.

County Elections Administrator Saundra Bloom said her office will likely be mailing out voter certificates by the end of this week, cards that would have normally been in the hands of Crossroads voters months ago if not for the recent hold up in Washington due to conflicts regarding newly drawn state district lines.

"Voters should receive them in the mail no later than the

See **CARDS**, Page 3



INDEX

Comics	11
Classified	8-10
Briefs	5-6
Obituaries	2
Opinion	4
Sports	7,12

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HERALD file photo

The crowd looks on as snake handlers do their thing at the Big Spring Rattlesnake Roundup. The 2012 show opens Saturday and runs through Sunday.

Snakes may be scarce

Officials: But show will be top-notch

By BILL McCLELLAN
 Managing Editor

Got snakes? The American Business Club is hoping for a good turnout of the slithery creatures in time for its annual Rattlesnake Roundup this weekend at the Howard County Fair.

See **SNAKES**, Page 3

Emergency responders prepare to transport a woman to the emergency room at Scenic Mountain Medical Center following a two-vehicle accident in the 3600 block of N. U.S. Highway 87 Wednesday afternoon shortly after 2 p.m. The woman was a passenger in a black sport-utility vehicle, which was involved in a crash with a blue sedan in the northbound lane. According to witnesses at the scene, the sport-utility vehicle was towing a trailer at the time of the accident, however, it's unclear if that played a roll in the crash.

HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins



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Obituaries

Verl Dero Shaw



Verl Dero Shaw, 83, of Big Spring died Wednesday, March 21, 2012, at his residence. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 24, 2012, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Rick Cunningham and Craig Shackelford officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. Friday, March 23, 2012, at the funeral home.

Verl Dero Shaw was born to Summer and Angeline Peterson Shaw on Dec. 14, 1928, in Howard County. He married Lillian Faye Witt on June 16, 1950, and she preceded him in death Oct. 27, 1973. Verl then married Ioma Heard Aug. 7, 1976, in Midland and she preceded him in death March 5, 2012.

Verl was a lifetime resident of Howard County, having farmed in the Knott area for 40 years before retiring and moving to Big Spring. He was president and board member of the Knott Coop Gin for many years.

Verl enlisted in the United States Marine Corps on Aug. 15, 1946, in El Toro, Calif. He served as an aircraft engine mechanic until he was honorably discharged at the rank of corporal Dec. 21, 1950. He then came back to Knott, where he worked at Webb Air Force Base until his retirement.

He was a member of 14th and Main Church of Christ where he served as an elder for many years.

Survivors include one son and daughter-in-law, Dero and Jeanine Shaw of Knott; four daughters and sons-in-law, Angela and Tony Gillespie of Knott, Sheree and LeRoy Denny of Midland, Marsha and Mark McHan of Abilene and Brenda and Lynn Keith of Arlington; 12 grandchildren, Heath Gillespie, Steven Gillespie, Andrea Hataway, Brent Denny, Lisa Wester, Sloan Shaw, Stephanie Cross, Kim Gordon, Keely Loomis, Casey Biffle, Blaine Boulter and Brianne Boulter; 16 great-grandchildren; four brothers, Larry Shaw of Big Spring, Franklin Shaw of Seminole, Roosevelt Shaw of Big Spring and Ronald Shaw of Smyer; two sisters, Nelda Tobias of Brownwood and JoAnn Peugh of Stanton; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; four brothers, Summer Lee Shaw, Marlin Shaw, Gene Shaw and Delano Shaw; and one sister, Rhodell Shaw Kirby.

The family suggests memorials be made to the Johnny Peugh Memorial Scholarship Fund, c/o Permian Basin Foundation, 200 N. Loraine, Suite 500, Midland, Texas 79701; or Compass Hospice, 1003 E. FM 700, Big Spring, Texas, 79720.

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

Paid obituary

Donna N. Smith



Donna N. Smith, 86, of Midland passed away Wednesday, March 21, 2012. She was born in Duchesne, Utah, on March 27, 1925, to Alonzo C. and Fern (Gordon) Fitzwater. Donna had a passion for flowers and was a longtime member of the Green Thumb Garden Club.

She is survived by her husband, Darrell E. Smith; her children, D. Craig Smith, Kirk E. Smith and wife Debbie, Shelley F. Smith and

husband Russell Erwin and Christine H. Vest and husband Steve; her seven grandchildren, Ann Marie Smith, D. Bryan Smith, James G. Smith, Micheal K. Smith, G. Ryan Peckham, S. Keith Vest and Donna Nicole Vest; and five great-grandchildren.

Also left to cherish her memory are her brothers, Jay Gordan Fitzwater and wife Henrietta, Stan Smith and wife Leola and Ted Smith and wife Beverly.

Special thanks to the Carlos and Yolanda Jimenez family for all of their love and support.

Family will welcome friends at Ellis Funeral Home (801 Andrews Highway) Friday, March 23, 2012, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Graveside services are planned for Saturday, March 24, 2012, at 11 a.m. at Resthaven Memorial Park (4616 N. Big Spring Street). Arrangements are under the direction of Ellis Funeral Home of Midland. Condolences may be made at: www.ellisfunerals.com.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Hospice of Midland, P.O. Box 2621, Midland, Texas 79702.

Paid obituary

Police blotter

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

• **ASHLEY VALENCIA**, 21, of 908 Nolan, was arrested Wednesday on a warrant for consumption of alcohol by a minor.

• **RICKY LEE ALCORTA**, 34, of 1405 Dixie, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.

• **WILLIAM LANE ROTHELL**, 35, of 9500 Ranch Rd. 33, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• **JAMES ODELL PERRY**, 46, of 538 Westover Rd. Apt. 249, was arrested Wednesday on a warrant from another agency.

• **DANIEL LEE USSERY**, 34, of 300 Tulane Apt. 15, was arrested Wednesday on a warrant from another agency.

• **RUBEN JAMES GONZALES**, 25, of 1009 W. Eighth St., was arrested Wednesday on warrants for failure to appear (two counts), failure to maintain financial responsibility and driving while license invalid.

• **STEVEN LOYD BATEMAN**, 32, of 207 Washington Blvd., was arrested Thursday on a charge of public intoxication.

• **CHARLENE ELIZABETH STORIE**, 31, of 207 Washington Blvd., was arrested Wednesday on a warrant for theft of service - more than \$500 and less than \$1,500.

• **TERRY LEE CARTER**, 36, of 9118 Kay, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of livestock or fowl at large.

• **PATRICK MICHAEL SHARP**, 43, of 3706 Connally St., was arrested Wednesday on four warrants from other agencies.

• **MELISSA RENEE HUFF**, 46, of 6321 Ranch Rd. 33, was arrested Wednesday on a warrant for

See **POLICE**, Page 6

Jerelene Bell



Jerelene Bell, 89, of Big Spring died Sunday, March 18, 2012, at Parkview Nursing Home. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 24, 2012, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Elder William T. Hickman officiating.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. Friday, March 23, 2012, at the funeral home.

Jerelene was born Sept. 14, 1922, in Pittsburg, Texas, to Augusta Turner and Arthur Bell. She lived for a short time in Levelland before moving to Big Spring to be close to her brother.

Jerlene attended Mt. Bethel Baptist Church and the Senior Center until her health declined.

She is survived by her brother, the Rev. J.B. Hardeman of Big Spring; four nieces; one nephew; two great-nieces; three great-nephews; four great-great-nieces; one great-great-nephew; and many friends.

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

Teresa (Walker) Polk



Teresa (Walker) Polk, 54, of Big Spring died Sunday, March 18, 2012, at University Medical Center in Lubbock. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 24, 2012, at Mount Bethel Baptist Church with Apostle Ken Loudermill, Rev. Abraham Loudermill Jr. and Minister Kim Byrd officiating.

She was born Aug. 8, 1957, in Dallas, Texas, to Laura and

Abraham Loudermill. She was a veteran of the U.S. Navy and was stationed in Bahrain. She had been a resident of Big Spring off and on for more than 15 years. She was a Baptist.

She is survived by two sons, Tyrone "Tai" Walker of Texarkana and Jason Walker of Hopkinsville, Ken.; mother, Laura Pollard of Big Spring; seven grandchildren; five brothers, Apostle Ken Loudermill and the Rev. Abe Loudermill, both of Arkansas, Terry Loudermill of Big Spring, Vince Loudermill of Arkansas and Gerald Loudermill of Big Spring; and two sisters, Pat Walker of Big Spring and Kim Byrd of Dallas.

She was preceded in death by fathers Abraham Loudermill and the Rev. James Pollard.

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

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- Served as Howard County Attorney, Big Spring City Attorney
- Member of Howard County Bar Assoc., State Bar Assoc., American Bar Assoc.



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Take Note

• Visual Awareness Support Group (VASG) will meet at 5:30 p.m. today in St. Mary's Episcopal Church Parish Hall. Guest speaker will be Dr. Larry Fish, who will speak on the subject of macular degeneration. The goal of VASG is to provide a sense of hope to people with vision problems and help them and their caregivers cope with vision loss. VASG is open to the public but specifically aimed for people who suffer from vision problems and their caregivers. For more information, call us at 263-2501.

• Mobile Meals is in need of volunteer delivery drivers. If you can donate one hour per week to help deliver meals to the elderly, call Macaria Cantu at 263-4016.

• Home Hospice is seeking volunteers. Training will be provided and geared to your time frame. Volunteers are needed for in office duties as well as sitters, deliveries and crafts. To find out more information or to volunteer contact Sherry Hodnett at Home Hospice by call-

REMAINS

Continued from Page 1

There are at least three high-profile missing person cases in the Crossroads area, all three of which are being thrust into the media spotlight with word of Tuesday's discovery.

Arlin Bynum, who was 40 years old at the time of his disappearance, was last seen Aug. 14, 2003, in the vicinity of the San Franciscan Bar and Grill, located in downtown Big Spring. According to police reports, witnesses claim he left the establishment late in the evening, supposedly accompanied by another man who has never been identified.

Bynum's truck was later found near the bar.

Repeated searches of Big Spring fields, pastures and scrublands have yet to turn up any indication what happened to Bynum, according to Big Spring police officials.

Also missing is Hailey Dunn of Colorado City, who was 13 at the time she disappeared. The teen was last seen in Colorado City on Dec. 27, 2010, when she told a family friend — former Big Spring resident Shawn Adkins — she was going to her father's home nearby and then on to spend the night at a friend's home.

According to investigators, she did neither. Billie Dunn, the girl's mother, said she last

saw her daughter at home the night of Dec. 26, nearly two days before she was reported missing.

The oldest of the three cases, is that of Bobby Marquez Jr., who has been missing approximately 14 years. In December 2006, the Texas Rangers, assisted by the BSPD and other law enforcement agencies, excavated a cement slab in the 1000 block of N.W. Second Street in hopes of recovering Marquez's remains. However, no body was found during the search, according to BSPD officials.

While numerous news outlets across the Permian Basin have already linked the discovery of the human remains Tuesday with the Dunn

missing person case, Everett said it is too early in the investigation to make any kind of conclusion regarding the identity of the remains.

"There is simply no way to know right now," Everett said. "We don't know what gender the remains are, so to speculate whether or not they are Hailey Dunn is pointless. Until the pathologists give us more information to go on, trying to say these remains belong to any of these missing persons is merely speculation."

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

CARDS

Continued from Page 1

middle of next week," Bloom said. "It's quite a relief for us to finally be able to get these to our local voters."

The U.S. Supreme Court on Jan. 20 threw out judge-drawn voting districts for this year's state and federal elections in Texas in a ruling that may help Republicans keep control of the U.S. House of Representatives. The justices unanimously told a lower court panel comprised of U.S. District Judge Orlando Garcia and two other judges to create maps more similar to the Republican-controlled state Legislature's plan.

The dispute stems from maps drawn last year by the Republican-controlled Texas Legislature after the 2010 census. Gov. Rick Perry signed the maps into law. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled Jan. 20 that federal judges in Texas overstepped their authority by drawing up interim voting plans.

In the meantime, Bloom said area residents should keep an eye on their mailboxes for their voter certificate — sometimes referred to as a voter registration cards — to make sure they are prepared for the primaries.

"If they don't receive them, they should call us so we can check the status," Bloom said. "Also, if they receive a card for someone who no longer

resides at that address, they should mark it 'return to sender' and mail it back. This is how we clean up the registration rolls."

Bloom said the redistricting issues aren't likely to have an effect on Howard County come election day, although at least one key piece of legislation has changed since this time last year.

"Last year, when folks were coming in to vote we were told to inform them about the Voter ID law, which was set to go into effect in time for these elections," Bloom said. "It would have required voters to present a photo ID before they could cast their ballot, and we wanted to prepare our local voters so it wouldn't come as a

big surprise this year.

"However, the Department of Justice has since rejected the state's Voter ID law, meaning it will not go into effect. Voters will be able to cast their ballot in the same manner they did last year. They are still required to register, as before, but the requirement to present a photo ID will not be in place."

Seats up for election in the 2012 election include 118th Judicial District Attorney, currently held by Hardy Wilkerson; Howard County sheriff, currently held by Stan Parker; county attorney, held by Joshua Hamby; tax assessor collector, held by Kathy Sayles; Precinct 3 county commissioner, held by Jimmie Long; and Precinct 1 county commissioner,

held by Emma Brown.

Parker has filed to run for re-election, as have Long, Green and Wilkerson. Parker has drawn an opponent in local resident M.O. Horton. The two will face off on the Republican ticket, according to election officials.

Brown has drawn a trio of challengers, as Howard County Jailer Larry Torres, former Big Spring Council member Oscar Garcia and Ed Ware, who has attempted to unseat the longtime commissioner previously, will face off for the Precinct 1 seat on the court.

Brown will face Torres in the Democratic primary, while Garcia and Ware will have to compete for the Republican nomination for

the seat.

Longtime Tax Collector and Assessor Kathy Sayles announced she will not be running for re-election. However, Diane Carter, an employee of tax collection office, will be running unopposed for the office on the Republican ticket.

Also running unopposed are Long, Green and Wilkerson. All three are running on the Republican ticket.

For more information on the upcoming elections, contact the Howard County Elections Administration at 432-264-2273.

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

SNAKES

Continued from Page 1

Barns. The show, held in the east barn, will be running from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. It's the 48th edition of the event.

AMBUCS will be purchasing rattlesnakes all day Friday and on show days until about 4 p.m. Sunday. The process is pretty simple, according to long-time club member Dub Day.

"Hunters bring them in and we weigh them and put them in the holding pen," he said.

The payout this year

is \$9 a pound for anything longer than four-foot and \$6 a pound for anything shorter. The club also awards prizes of \$100, \$75 and \$50 for the biggest snakes and \$100 for the snake with the most rattlers. To enter, however, the snakes must be donated.

Organizers are anticipating a slow year this time around.

"We don't have the hunters like we used to because no one is picking it up as the hunters get older," said Day. "We usually just have two or three who bring them in anymore."

Day has been with the club and part of the roundup since 1980.

"One year we had

6,500 pounds of snakes but we've had as few as 200 pounds," he said. "This year, Sweetwater got way lower than they normally get and Brownwood was down, too, so I anticipate a down year.

That won't have any impact on the shows, though, Day assured.

"Oh no. We'll have plenty of snakes. We put on a good show. It's really something to see if you haven't been before," he said.

Jackie Bibby, "The Texas Snake Man," will be providing entertainment for those in attendance. He holds several world records, including being in a bathtub with the most snakes

and holding the most snakes in his mouth.

On an educational level, club members will be explaining what to do and what not to do when encountering a snake, as well as giving (venom) milking demonstrations.

Those attending will be able to purchase snake skins, mounted snakes and even snake meat, cooked up on the spot.

Tickets will be available at the door and are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children age 4 to 11.

An arts and crafts show will be held adjacent to the snake show and is free to the public.

One other important fact for anyone con-

sidering bringing in snakes to make a little extra cash — a hunting license and a non-game permit are required. They are available at Wal-Mart.

Bill McClellan can be reached at 432-263-7331, ext. 230 or by email at editor@bigspringherald.com

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AN ENCOURAGING WORD



By Eddy Pitchford

There seems to be an abundance of television programs focused on food. You can watch shows about preparing gourmet food, southern cuisine, and a seemingly endless buffet of other cooking programs.

If cooking is not your interest, you can learn about restaurants that do the cooking for you! You can watch people eat lobster in Maine, grits in Georgia and gumbo in Louisiana. You can watch all these programs while eating a sandwich in Texas!

While it appears that a lot of folks are focused on food, these programs really prove that people are focused on watching television! If watching folks cook and eat is fulfilling to your stomach, does that mean owning a Bible or listening to praise music means you've satisfied your hunger for righteousness?

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EDITORIAL

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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Managing Editor

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

Steve Reagan
Staff Writer

Amanda Moreno
Staff Writer

Thomas Jenkins
Staff Writer

OUR VIEWS

Coming home for the Big Spring Symphony

After more than a year of renovation, anticipation and waiting ... the Big Spring Symphony will be returning home for its final concert performance of the season, March 31.

That final performance of the 2011-2012 season will not only mark a long awaited day, but it will also mark the end of the 30th season of the Big Spring Symphony and the 10th year under the direction of Dr. Keith Graumann.

However, it seems the night just keeps getting better. The symphony returns home and Paul Williams, singer and songwriter, returns to Big Spring. Williams is also a Grammy and Oscar award winner. Some of the hits recognized by the audience will include "An Old Fashioned Love Song," "Rainy Days and Mondays," and "We've Only Just Begun."

The magical performances presented to the public and the unveiling of the renovated municipal auditorium will follow the Instrument Petting Zoo, sponsored by the Symphony Guild.

The petting zoo was cancelled last concert, due to a lack of space for the event, but with the re-opening of the auditorium, the Guild figured it was perfect timing and spacing to finally host it.

Members of the symphony and orchestra, along with students from Howard College and area high schools, will do their best at representing each of the musical instruments in an open venue for the community. The petting zoo is free to the public and will be held at the edge of the stage before the concert.

The concert will begin at 8 p.m. and the petting zoo will be from 7 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. Those attending can see the instruments up close, ask questions and maybe a history lesson on each one.

Take the time to celebrate an evening of notable moments, hear some amazing music and learn about the instruments making that music.

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

Thank You, Lord, for all Your blessings in our life.

Amen

I don't like the memorial for Ike

When they decided to honor Dwight Eisenhower with a memorial in Washington, they did it up right. They hired perhaps our most famous architect, Frank Gehry, to design it. They picked out a place in the middle of the National Mall to put it. They bankrolled it at a cool \$112 million. Top shelf all the way.

The project only has one flaw: Nobody likes it.

The Eisenhower family in particular takes offense at the fact that its only statue of Ike portrays him as a young boy in Abilene, Kansas.

I can see their point. Eisenhower wasn't merely a two-term president, he was the military commander who led the Allied forces to victory over Nazi Germany — and he was the president of Columbia University, for crying out loud. And the best you can come with for his memorial is a statue of him as a kid?

My main objection to the project, however, is its size. It's big. It's hard to tell from the drawings, but it looks as though it's going to straddle the Mall down at the Capitol end, right around the Air and Space Museum.

The design calls for transparent woven metal tapestries that portray the Kansas plains to be hung between 80-foot columns,

sheltering young Ike as he dreams of future accomplishments.

It sounds like schlock to me, but it might be better than it sounds. Gehry really is a great architect, famous for his designs for the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao in Spain and the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, among other works.

But if you're going to do something that big, don't put it on the Mall, which is in danger of falling victim to grandiosity. As a matter of fact, it's already fallen.

When I came to Washington in the 1970s, there were three major monuments on or near the Mall — the Washington, the Lincoln, and the Jefferson. They were all big, yes, but not that big.

There were many smaller memorials scattered around the area — statues of Ulysses S. Grant, James Garfield, George Mason, John Paul Jones, as well as a World War I monument that was no bigger than a backyard gazebo — but the big three were dominant.

Then we remembered that we hadn't paid much attention to Vietnam vets when they came home, so they built the gorgeous Vietnam memorial in the shadow of the Lincoln Memorial: a long, black marble tombstone with the name of each American who died in the war. It remains the most moving memorial on the Mall or anywhere else.

But many felt it short-changed the contribution of women to the war, so they added a Vietnam Women's memorial nearby —

again a very good piece of work, resembling Michelangelo's Pietà. But that didn't satisfy the men, who demanded and got a handsome statue of soldiers in combat, also nearby.

Well, you can't honor Vietnam veterans and forget about Korea, can you? No. The Korean War Memorial was next, featuring a black marble wall, statues of a patrol of wary troops, and a reflecting pool. Each well done, but the effect is a little busy.

"What about us?" World War II veterans said. "World War II wasn't chopped liver, you know." So a huge Albert Speer-like plaza was plopped down at the end of the Lincoln reflecting pool, breaking the sight line between the Lincoln and Washington memorials.

Soon gigantic memorials you can land an airplane in were built down the block from the Jefferson to honor President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Martin Luther King, Jr.

Stop already. Does the Mall really need yet another monument the size of Pittsburgh?

Eisenhower was a great man, no question. But couldn't we make do with a nice, tasteful statue in a nice, quiet glade?

I shudder to think what they'll come up with when they get around to honoring Ronald Reagan.

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

Wanted for upcoming election: New nominee for the GOP - You

Do you need a job? Or are you in a dead-end job with little chance of advancement?

Are you bored? Fidgety?

Disconnected from reality and possessing certain delusional tendencies?

Do you believe in a moon colony?

Would you like NASCAR, NFL team owners and other Ne'er-do-wells to suck up to you?

Or are you just eager to impose your own personal religious beliefs on the rest of the American people?

In that case: Would you like to be the presidential nominee of the United States Republican party?

This is no joke, scam or phishing swindle! Send no money to foreign princes. No hookers will call.

On the contrary, vast sums of money will be sent to you by super pacs.

The second oldest political party in the United States, with 158 years of proven experience and a proud history that counts among its members Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt and Karl Rove, needs you.

This party is a fixer-upper but with unlimited potential.

All it needs is vision, purpose, organization, the ability to connect with ordinary people, proof that it does not hate women, Latinos, the poor, the ill, the downtrodden and other lazy bums who leach off society.

This person can be you.

There are no background checks required.

Have an excess of former spouses?

A penchant for fanaticism?

Or even past cruelty to animals?

This is not a deal-breaker.

A team of professionals, the same people who vetted Sarah Palin, will work with you, bring you up to speed and even pro-

vide you with a fabulous wardrobe.

Nervous? Do not be!

Your competition is not that tough.

On Tuesday, in an interview with CNN's Wolf Blitzer, GOP front-runner Mitt Romney said, "Sen. Santorum is at the desperate end of his campaign."

Within a few hours, Sen. Santorum would win the primaries in Alabama and Mississippi, and Romney would come in third.

So ask yourself: Could I be smarter than Mitt Romney?

Would I not have waited for Santorum to actually lose before announcing the desperate end of his campaign?

But wait! There's more.

Romney also said Santorum "is trying in some way to boost his prospects. And, frankly, misrepresenting the facts is not a good way of doing that."

Does it occur to you that this statement is more than a little dim?

Does it occur to you that misrepresenting the facts is an excellent way to get the Republican nomination?

So remember: This is your competition for the nomination! Feel better? Less nervous?

As an added benefit, it will be possible for you and your crack-jack staff to speak in tongues.

Alice Stewart, the Santorum press secretary, said on CNN, "Romney is not resonating the base."

Do not worry.

We will make sure you have your base resonated every 5,000 miles.

And do not be nervous about making broad, sweeping statements that will come back to haunt you in the general election in November. All you have to do is win the Republican nomination and coast from there.

So Mitt Romney made no gaffes when he told a Missouri TV station this week: "Planned Parenthood, we're going to get rid of that. The subsidy for Amtrak, I'd eliminate that, the National Endowment for the Arts (and) the National Endowment for the Humanities."

These savings should help pay for Romney's plans to cut taxes on the super rich.

But think there is no time to still enter and win? Wrong!

The nominee will need 1,144 delegates at the Republican National Convention — and yes, as the Republican nominee you will get a free trip for you and your family to Tampa, Fla., in late August, where we will arrange 10 percent off tickets to Adventure Island, where you can "splash your way through more than 700 feet of twists and turns, water mines and a grand finale plunge into a refreshing pool."

But will somebody beat you to those 1,144 delegates? No!

In an effort to become more like the Democratic party, the Republican party adopted rules this year guaranteeing total chaos because the democrats always seemed to have so much more fun with their total chaos.

This is why Newt Gingrich believes nobody can get a majority of the delegates before the convention, which will lead to a wild, possibly suicidal, floor fight.

"When the primaries are over and it is clear nobody has won, who will do the best job against Barack Obama?" Gingrich asked this week.

The answer may be you!

If in November, gasoline is \$12.99 per gallon, unemployment is 15 percent and even Mitt Romney is forced to sell one of his bicoastal Cadillacs, the United States may descend into a state of chaos, turmoil and zombie attacks, making the Republican nominee look marginally acceptable.

So you have a chance to enter, run and win it all.

We even have your campaign slogan ready for you:

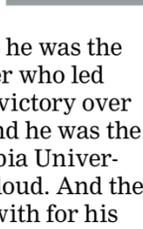
Vote for me. How much worse can I be than the rest of them?

To find out more about Roger Simon, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate webpage at www.creators.com.

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DONALD KAUL



ROGER SIMON

News in brief

Former FLDS leader's trial starts

MIDLAND, Texas (AP) — The bigamy trial of a former lieutenant to polygamist sect leader Warren Jeffs is set to begin.

Wendell Loy Nielsen is charged with three counts of bigamy. Opening arguments are scheduled for Thursday morning in Midland. Nielsen was one of 12 members of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints who were indicted after a 2008 raid on their West Texas compound.

Nielsen faces up to 10 years in prison if convicted.

Nielsen was once FLDS president and counselor to Jeffs, who is now serving a life sentence after being convicted last year of sexual assault.

FLDS teachings hold that polygamy brings exaltation in heaven. The mainstream Mormon church abandoned the practice of taking multiple wives more than a century ago.

Court upholds ban on Texas immigrant housing law

DALLAS (AP) — A federal appeals court Wednesday upheld a lower court ruling that stopped a Dallas suburb's ban on illegal immigrants seeking housing.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that Farmers Branch overstepped its authority in 2008 when it passed a law calling on the city's building inspector to check the immigration status of anyone wanting to rent an apartment who wasn't a U.S. citizen.

Under the law, illegal immigrants would have been barred from rental housing, and landlords who knowingly allowed them to stay could have their rental licenses barred.

The appellate court said the city was seeking to exclude illegal immigrants, particularly Latinos, under the guise of policing housing.

"Because the sole purpose and effect of this ordinance is to target the presence of illegal aliens within the City of Farmers Branch and to cause their removal, it contravenes the federal government's exclusive authority over the regulation of immigration and the conditions of residence in this country," the court's opinion stated.

The city had appealed the decision of U.S. District Judge Jane J. Boyle, who ruled two years ago that the law is unconstitutional after a lawsuit was filed by apartment owners and tenants.

William Brewer, the lead attorney for the plaintiffs, said he sensed a "strong undercurrent" throughout the appellate court's decision that Farmers Branch was engaged in discrimination. The ruling is particularly meaningful because the 5th Circuit has a reputation for conservatism, he said.

Brewer noted that the ruling affirms Boyle's decision that Farmers Branch must pay the plaintiffs' attorney fees, which before the appeal were nearly \$2 million. He called that portion of the decision "a strong deterrent" against other cities seeking to pass similar laws.

"Clearly, both the trial court and the appellate court recognize that this ordinance was discriminatory," Brewer said.

Police: Suspect in killings planned mass shooting

WALLER, Texas (AP) — Authorities said Wednesday that a 22-year-old man charged with the fatal shootings of his parents and brother in their southeast Texas home had been planning a Columbine-style attack at a local school.

Houston television station KHOU reports (<http://bit.ly/GFKTFC>) that investigators said Trey Sesler confessed to killing his family members in the town of Waller because he didn't want them to be ashamed of what he planned to do.

Sesler was taken into custody Tuesday evening following the discovery earlier in the day of the bodies of his family members. He is being held in the Waller County Jail on \$3 million bail.

Authorities said Sesler claimed he had been shooting livestock to build up courage for the mass shooting he was planning. Investigators did not say what school Sesler was allegedly targeting and they were looking into whether he had any supporters or accomplices.

Waller police did not immediately return phone calls from The Associated Press.

Sesler maintained an active YouTube account on which he posted reviews of Japanese animation in which he called himself "Mr. Anime." There were also several videos that showed Sesler firing weapons.

"If you come to that point, what do you have on your mind?" Waller County Sheriff R. Glenn Smith told the television station. "I certainly don't think it was something that just happened, all of a sudden, in one bad argument. These kinds of things, probably something had been going on with this young man for a while."

Authorities were called to the family's home Tuesday afternoon after relatives grew worried because they hadn't heard from family members.

Police officers found the bodies of three people who appeared to have been killed by shots from a high-powered rifle, authorities said.

Waller Police Chief Phil Rehak said there was a tremendous amount of damage inside the home.

The victims were identified as Lawton Ray Sesler, Rhonda Wyse Sesler and 26-year-old son Mark Alan Sesler.

Waller is located about 40 miles northwest of Houston.

Liberty County standoff: 1 arrest, ammo seized

CLEVELAND, Texas (AP) — Officials say a standoff at a Southeast Texas mobile home has ended with one man arrested and the seizure of ammunition.

The Liberty County Sheriff's Office says the standoff near Cleveland ended peacefully Wednesday night. Sheriff's Capt. Rex Evans says a sweep of the residence turned up ammunition, wires and pipes.

Officers negotiated for a few hours to get several people in the residence to come out. Authorities then arrested one man on a felony warrant.

Further details on the warrant were not immediately available.

Moonshine operation broken up in East Texas

NEW CHAPEL HILL, Texas (AP) — Investigators say an alleged moonshine operation has been broken up in rural East Texas.

Smith County authorities on Wednesday confiscated two stills at a site near the town of New Chapel Hill and questioned a property owner. Authorities seized about 50 gallons of suspected homemade alcohol, propane tanks and glass containers.

Constable Dennis Taylor says a pint jar of moonshine sells for about \$100.

The Smith County Sheriff's Office did not immediately provide further information Thursday on any charges against the property owner.

The investigation began four months ago when a teenager was found passed out on the side of a road after allegedly drinking moonshine. Authorities say a tip led to some property where the stills were discovered.

New Chapel is located 100 miles southeast of Dallas.

Ex-South Texas deputy gets 11 years in drug case

McALLEN, Texas (AP) — A former sheriff's deputy in South Texas has been sentenced to 11 years in prison for trying to acquire and sell marijuana.

A federal judge in McAllen on Wednesday sentenced 41-year-old Heriberto Diaz of San Juan.

Jurors in October convicted the former Hidalgo

County sheriff's investigator of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute marijuana.

Authorities say Diaz lied on numerous offense reports to hide his drug activity. Prosecutors say he also stole more than 350 pounds of marijuana from an alleged dealer by threatening to expose the operation.

Santorum to speak at San Antonio insurance company

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Rick Santorum is taking a breather from furious campaigning in Louisiana to address an insurance company and hold a fundraiser in Texas.

The former Pennsylvania senator and Republican presidential hopeful is holding a series of Louisiana events ahead of that state's Saturday primary.

But he's heading into neighboring Texas today to address USAA in San Antonio.

USAA is a financial services and insurance giant that primarily serves military veterans and their families.

Santorum also has a fundraiser scheduled in Dallas before heading back to Louisiana.

White supremacist gang member guilty in beating

HOUSTON (AP) — A member of the white supremacist Aryan Brotherhood of Texas has been convicted of racketeering and aggravated assault charges in connection with the 2008 beating of a prospective gang member.

David Harlow and 11 other members of the brotherhood were accused of participating in the beating at the home of a gang leader. The other 11 pleaded guilty to violent crimes in aid of racketeering.

U.S. District Judge Ewing Werlein Jr. found the 43-year-old Harlow guilty Wednesday after a bench trial. Authorities say Harlow faces up to 20 years in prison.

Authorities say the Aryan Brotherhood of Texas was a prison gang formed in the early 1980s.

Southeast Texas man dies on flooded road

ORANGE, Texas (AP) — A 75-year-old man has died after driving off a road in Southeast Texas and into a ditch filled with water.

Beaumont television station KFDM reports that Appleton Lonnie Stroud is believed to have driven off a road in Orange sometime between Tuesday night and Wednesday morning.

The road and a nearby ditch were filled with water after storms that covered much of the state with rain.

Orange police found Stroud's car Wednesday morning. After relatives called to report him missing, authorities began searching for him and found his body about 100 feet away from his car.

Orange is about 110 miles east of Houston.

Students facing felony charges over alleged prank

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — Authorities say seven teenagers near El Paso face felony organized criminal activity charges after they allegedly broke into their high school dressed in penguin costumes and vandalized the building as part of a senior prank.

El Paso sheriff's office spokeswoman Eileen Lopez says six teenagers were arrested Monday and a seventh Tuesday.

A spokeswoman for the Clint school district says surveillance video captures the pranksters dressed as penguins, drawing graffiti on walls and putting glue in doors and light switches.

The students are charged with organized criminal activity-burglary of a building related to breaking into the school because the act involved three or more participants. Lopez says each student faces up to three years in prison, but a judge could impose stiffer sentences.

All the students are free on bond.

President in New Mexico to visit oil fields

MALJAMAR, N.M. (AP) — President Barack Obama traveled to the outskirts of a no-stop-light town in solid Republican territory Wednesday evening to promote his administration's commitment to continued increases in domestic oil and gas development.

Flanked by an idle oil pumpjack on federal lands in southeastern New Mexico's Permian Basin, Obama told a crowd gathered in a cold wind that his administration has opened millions of acres of public lands in 23 states to production, has increased access to potential offshore resources by 75 percent and recently approved drilling of a field in the Gulf of Mexico that has the potential to produce 400 million barrels of oil.

"If you hear anybody on TV saying that somehow we are against drilling for oil, then you'll know that they either don't know what they are talking about or they are not telling you the truth," he said. "We are drilling all over the place."

The president, who was accompanied by Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, also reiterated his commitment to bringing down gas prices through an "all-of-the-above" energy strategy that includes an increased focus on renewable energies.

But he said there is "no connection between the amount of oil and gas we drill in this country and the price of gas" because global demands from countries like Chi-

na are behind the rising prices.

Rep. Steve Pearce, R-N.M., and others disputed Obama's assertion

that his policies have increased production on federal lands.

"While oil production on private lands has in-

creased, according to the Institute of Energy Research, oil production on federal land was down 11 percent in

2011," Pearce said. Obama made the stop en route from a tour of the nation's largest solar plant in Nevada.

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

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News in brief

French terror suspect shot in head by police

PARIS (AP) — A French prosecutor says that a gunman who claimed responsibility for a radical Islam-inspired killing spree was shot in the head by police.

Francois Molins says Mohamed Merah, a 23-year-old Frenchman of Algerian origin, filmed all three of his attacks in recent days that killed three Jewish schoolchildren, a rabbi and three paratroopers. Molins said Thursday that "everything was done to try to arrest him alive."

Police entered his apartment following a 32-hour standoff. Molins says the gunman came out of the bathroom shooting wildly and aggressively and was shot in the head as he jumped out of the window.

'Stand Your Ground Law' in Fla. gives people leeway to use deadly force; law being questioned

MIAMI (AP) — Florida is among 21 states with a "Stand Your Ground Law," which gives people wide latitude to use deadly force rather than retreat during a fight. The self-defense law helps explain why a neighborhood watch captain has not been arrested in the shooting death of an unarmed teenager.

The Florida law lets police officers on the scene decide whether they believe the self-defense claim. In many cases, the officer's defer to making the arrest, letting the courts work out whether the deadly force is justified. In this case, however, police have said they are confident they did the right thing by not charging 28-year-old George Zimmerman, a white Hispanic.

The shooting's racial overtones have sparked a national outcry and debate over whether the shooting was warranted. And like many self-defense cases, two sides of the story have emerged.

Zimmerman told police he was attacked by 17-year-old Trayvon Martin after he had given up chasing the boy and he was returning to his truck.

He had a bloody nose and blood on the back of his head, according to police. Martin's family questions Zimmerman's story, and believes if their races were reversed, there is no doubt a black shooter would be jailed, even if he claimed self-defense.

Americans, feeling pain at the gas pump unsure who to blame but want a government solution

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Families canceling vacations. Fishermen watching their profits burn up along with their boats' gasoline. Drivers buying only a few gallons of gas at a time because they can't afford to fill the tank.

From all corners of the country, Americans are irritated these days by record-high fuel prices that have soared above \$4 a gallon in some states and could top \$5 by summer. And the cost is becoming a political issue just as the presidential campaign kicks into high gear.

Some blame President Barack Obama. Some just cite "the government," while others believe it's the work of big, greedy oil companies. No matter who is responsible, almost everyone seems to want the government to do something, even if people aren't sure what, exactly, it should or can do.

A Gallup poll this month found 85 percent of U.S. adults believe the president and Congress "should take immediate actions to try to control the rising price of gas." An Associated Press-GfK poll last month showed 71 percent believe gas prices are a "very" or "extremely" important matter.

U.S. says 5 nations have cleared out their stocks of weapons-grade uranium ahead of Seoul summit

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. has helped five nations completely clear out their stocks of highly enriched uranium since President Barack Obama outlined his plans for securing all weapons-usable materials worldwide, officials say, citing it as progress in the administration's efforts to prevent nuclear weapons from getting in terrorists' hands.

Anne Harrington, the National Nuclear Security Administration's nonproliferation chief, said that since Obama's April 2009 speech in Prague announcing his plans, the U.S. has helped remove enough material from about a dozen countries to make almost 30 warheads.

She added that several global leaders are expected to use a nuclear security summit in Seoul, South Korea, which starts Sunday, to announce similar advances.

Arms control experts say the most difficult part of building an atomic bomb is acquiring the weapons-grade uranium or plutonium needed for the explosive core of the weapon.

Locking up or eliminating these materials is crucial to preventing nuclear-armed terror.

Harrington said that's the administration's top national security concern: "Issue No. 1 ... above anything else, keeping this material out of the hands of terrorists," she said.

Over the past three years, officials say, the U.S. has helped Romania, Libya, Turkey, Chile and Serbia completely clear out their stockpiles of weapons-usable uranium.

They join 13 other nations that did so previously — Brazil, Bulgaria, Colombia, Denmark, Greece, Latvia, the Philippines, Portugal, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden and Thailand.

Standoff between Egypt, Hamas leads to Gaza's worst energy crisis in years

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — A dispute between Egypt and Gaza's Hamas government has produced the worst energy crisis here in years: Gazans are enduring 18-hour-a-day blackouts, fuel is running low for hospital backup generators, raw sewage pours into the Mediterranean Sea for lack of treatment pumps and gas stations have shut down.

The fuel and electricity shortages, which have escalated over the past two months, are infuriating long-suffering Gazans who say their basic needs, perhaps more than ever, are being sacrificed for politics.

• MELISSA RENEE HUFF, 46, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of failure to report change of address.

• CHARLENE ELIZABETH STORIE, 31, was booked into the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of theft of service — more than \$500 and less than \$1,500.

• STEVEN LOYD BATEMAN, 32, was booked into the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• PATRICK MICHAEL SHARP, 43, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on U.S. District Court charges of disorderly conduct, trespass-entry into area closed to public, entering premises under the influence of alcohol and a Tom Green County warrant for bondsman off bond — misdemeanor Class B.

Fire/EMS

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

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of E. FM 700. One person was transported to SMMC.

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

• MEDICAL was reported in the 2200 block of Cecilia. One person was transported to SMMC.

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

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

• TRASH FIRE was reported in the 1100 block of N.W. Second Street.

POLICE

Continued from Page 2

failure to report change of address or name.

• CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 1500 block of Sycamore.

• THEFT was reported in the 1400 block of E. 18th Street.

• ASSAULT was reported in the 1000 block of N. Lamesa.

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 70 inmates at the time of this report.

• RUBEN JAMES GONZALES, 25, was booked into the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of failure to maintain financial responsibility, violation of a promise to appear, failure to appear and driving while license invalid.

• DANIEL LEE USSERY, 34, was booked into the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of violation of a promise to appear and no driver's license.

• STEPHANIE JUAREZ, 18, was arrested Wednesday by DPS on a charge of bail jumping — failure to appear.

• TERRY LEE CARTER, 36, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of livestock or fowl at large.

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.

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

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Ingenuity Knows No Bounds

North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ 5 4 3
♥ 7 2
♦ A K Q J 10
♣ J 10 8

WEST
♠ 10 8 7
♥ 4
♦ 7 5 4 3 2
♣ K 7 6 5

EAST
♠ 2
♥ K Q J 10 9 3
♦ 9 8 6
♣ 9 3 2

SOUTH
♠ A K Q J 9 6
♥ A 8 6 5
♦ —
♣ A Q 4

The bidding:
North East South West
1♦ 3♥ 3♠ Pass
4♦ Pass 4♥ Pass
4♠ Pass 5♣ Pass
5♦ Pass 6♣ Pass

Opening lead — four of hearts.

Assume you're in six spades and West leads his singleton heart. You win East's nine with the ace and cash the A-K of trumps, hoping to find the suit divided 2-2. In that case, you could concede a heart and easily make the rest of the tricks.

But when East shows out on the second trump lead, you have to abandon this method of play because you

would automatically go down one after East took the heart at trick four and returned a heart, allowing West to score a trump trick.

One way of trying to salvage the contract would be to lead the queen of clubs at trick four, hoping West had the king and would be kind enough to take it. This would create a club entry to dummy's beautiful diamonds. But when you consider that West will almost surely see through your scheme and duck the queen, you should dismiss that idea.

Another possibility is to lead a low club toward dummy instead of leading the queen. This would succeed if West also played low, but if he put up the king and returned a trump, you'd eventually find yourself down three.

By far the best possibility, though not easy to think of, is to lead the six of trumps at trick four, purposely conceding a trick to West's ten!

This unusual play — deliberately losing a trump trick that you don't have to lose — has everything to recommend it. It is a perfect Greek gift, since it guarantees the slam. After taking the ten, West is forced to return a club or a diamond. Either way — and no matter who has the king of clubs — you are sure to score the rest of the tricks.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.

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Unemployment applications hit 4-year low

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of people seeking U.S. unemployment aid fell to a four-year low last week, bolstering the view that the job market is strengthening.

The Labor Department said Thursday that weekly applications dropped 5,000 to a seasonally adjusted 348,000. That's the lowest level since March 2008, just months into the Great Recession. The four-week average of applications, a less volatile measure, dipped to 355,000, matching a four-year low.

Applications have steadily declined since last fall. The drop has coincided with the best three months of hiring in two years. From December through February, employers added an average of 245,000 jobs per month. That's pushed down the unemployment rate to 8.3 percent, the lowest in three years.

The report suggests that employers added a similar level of jobs this month. This week's figures cover the same week that the Labor Department surveys companies about hiring in March.

Applications are slightly lower this week than in February's survey week, which points to more job growth.

"U.S. employment growth looks to have continued in March at a respectable pace," Jennifer Lee, an economist at BMO Capital Markets.

Companies are hiring more because the economy is picking up. The economy grew at an annual rate of 3 percent in the final three months of last year. That was better than the 1.7 percent rate in the previous quarter.



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Saints' Payton suspended for season

HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Pro Football Writer

The New Orleans Saints' crush-for-cash bounty system already cost them head coach Sean Payton for all of next season and general manager Mickey Loomis for half of it, plus two second-round draft picks and a \$500,000 fine.

Former Saints defensive coordinator Gregg Williams, who oversaw and contributed money to the illegal fund, was suspended indefinitely.

Unforgiving and unprecedented penalties Wednesday from an NFL determined to rid its sport of hits that aim to knock opponents out of a game.

Now Commissioner Roger Goodell will turn his attention to possible punishments for two dozen or so defensive players the league's investi-

gation found were involved in the extra payouts that he called "particularly unusual and egregious" and "totally unacceptable."

"We are all accountable and responsible for player health and safety and the integrity of the game. We will not tolerate conduct or a culture that undermines those priorities," said Goodell, whose league faces more than 20 concussion-related lawsuits brought by hundreds of former players. "No one is above the game or the rules that govern it."

The league is reviewing the case with the NFL Players Association before deciding what to do about players who were part of the Saints' scheme from 2009-11.

"While I will not address player conduct at this time, I am profoundly troubled by

the fact that players — including leaders among the defensive players — embraced this program so enthusiastically and participated with what appears to have been a deliberate lack of concern for the well-being of their fellow players," Goodell said.

Targeted players included quarterbacks Aaron Rodgers, Cam Newton, Brett Favre and Kurt Warner. "Knockouts" were worth \$1,500 and "cart-offs" \$1,000, with payments doubled or tripled for the playoffs.

According to the league, Saints defensive captain Jonathan Vilma offered \$10,000 to any player who knocked then-Vikings QB Favre out of the 2010 NFC championship game. The Saints were flagged for roughing Favre twice in that game, and the league later said they should

have received another penalty for a brutal high-low hit from Remi Ayodele and Bobby McCray that hurt Favre's ankle. He was able to finish the game, but the Saints won in overtime en route to the franchise's only Super Bowl.

"The bounty thing is completely unprofessional. I'm happy the league has made it known it won't be tolerated," said left tackle Jordan Gross, Newton's teammate on the Carolina Panthers. "To think that something like that would happen — guys trying to hurt someone to make a few extra bucks — is just appalling. I mean we have a lot of us. ... You don't want to see anyone taken out a game."

All payouts for specific performances in a game, including interceptions or causing fumbles, are against NFL

rules. The NFL warns teams against such practices before each season, although in the aftermath of the revelations about the Saints, current and former players and various teams talked about that sort of thing happening frequently — just not on the same scale as was found in New Orleans.

In a memo to the NFL's 32 teams, Goodell ordered owners to make sure their clubs are not offering bounties now. Each club's principal owner and head coach must certify in writing by March 30 that no pay-for-performance system exists.

Payton is the first head coach suspended by the league for any reason, while Loomis is believed to be the only GM.

See **SAINTS**, Page 12

Sports Calendar

TODAY

Rodeo
Howard College at Odessa College, TBA, (Through Saturday).

FRIDAY

Baseball
Brownwood at Big Spring, 7p.m., Steer Park
Howard College at Midland College (DH), noon.

Softball
Brownwood at Big Spring, 6:30 p.m., Steer Park
Slaton at Forsan, 5:30 p.m.
Colorado City at Coahoma, TBA.
Howard College at El Paso CC (DH), 1:00 p.m. and 3 p.m.

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



K.C. Fryer wrestles a steer in a rodeo earlier this year. Odessa College will be hosting Howard College March 22-24.

Bryant, Gasol too much for Mavs

DALLAS (AP) — The Los Angeles Lakers expect offensive production from Kobe Bryant and Pau Gasol. Now they're learning what newcomer Ramon Sessions can do.

Bryant scored 30 points, Gasol added 27 points and nine rebounds, and the Lakers stopped the Dallas Mavericks' four-game winning streak with a 109-93 victory on Wednesday night.

Sessions contributed 17 points and nine assists in his fourth game since he was acquired in a trade with Cleveland on March 15.

Sessions' ability to penetrate into the heart of the defense led to points for himself and easy shots for teammates.

"The kid Sessions made the game easy for everybody," Lakers coach Mike Brown said. "He had a very good all-around game. You can see how his speed can help us, his ability to ... turn the corner and get into the teeth of the defense."

Gasol said Sessions brings something fresh to the mix.

"He definitely is a point guard that creates a lot of pick-and-rolls, and gets us in transition, too," said Gasol, who went 13 for 16 from the field. "He gets into the lane, and he can knock down the shot himself."

Sessions is learning the Lakers' offense on the fly.

"(Tuesday) night was the first time I was really in the game down the stretch, and I didn't feel I really knew the plays," Sessions said. "I went over them today, and I feel more confident now."

Dirk Nowitzki had 26 points and 10 rebounds, and Jason Terry scored 23 points for the defending NBA champion Mavericks, who fell to 0-3 against the Lakers this season.

The Lakers ended a two-game skid and have won six of eight overall. They were on the second leg of a back-to-back following Tuesday night's 107-104 loss at Houston.

The Lakers broke open the game with a 24-6 spurt in the second quarter, capped by consecutive 3-pointers from Matt Barnes and Sessions for a 51-38 advantage.

Barnes and Bryant added 3-pointers during the decisive run, with the Lakers building a 57-44 halftime edge.

Los Angeles shot 57 percent (25 for 44) in the first half, led by Gasol's 6 for 7 and Sessions' 5 for 6.

Bryant pulled off a spectacular three-point play midway through the third quarter, first spinning in a no-look reverse layup after Gasol's alley-oop pass. He was fouled on the attempt by Jason Kidd, and Bryant added a free throw that put his team in front, 69-55.

Dallas finished the third quarter with a 12-6 run to narrow the deficit to 80-72.

But the Lakers took control by opening the final quarter with a 10-4 spurt, capped by Gasol's 3-pointer with 8:04 left for a 90-76 lead.

"It was tough all night," Nowitzki said. "You give up (58 percent shooting by the Lakers) on your home floor, that won't cut it. Every time we made a little push, they answered."

Mavericks starters Shawn Marion

See **MAVS**, Page 12

Woods' health still in question

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

ORLANDO, Fla. — Three times in talking about his left Achilles tendon, Tiger Woods said he was "good to go."

How good?

Woods said it felt the same as it did before he had to withdraw midway through the final round at Doral two weeks ago, back when his health was not a popular topic. He had closed with a 62 in the Honda Classic. His game was on an upward trend, minus the winning.

How long can he go?

Not even Woods can answer that question.

One week after tightness in his Achilles caused him to grimace in pain, limp and then pull out after 11 holes at a World Golf Championship, Woods teed it up at Augusta National for a practice round. Turns out it was a mild strain, and a few days of treatment had him back to feeling normal.

Then, he played a two-day exhibition at Lake Nona, followed by the pro-am Wednesday at Bay Hill. He begins the Arnold Palmer Invitational on Thursday, and likely will wind up playing eight straight days.

Could the Achilles flare up again on Thursday at Bay Hill? Thursday at the Masters?

"It could," Woods said. "But hopefully, it won't."

The next step starts at Bay Hill, on a course where he has won six times. Woods is playing Thursday

morning alongside Ernie Els, who witnessed his 62 at the Honda Classic, and Hunter Mahan, with whom he shares a swing coach.

Since his return to golf after the crisis in his private life, Woods withdrew from The Players Championship in 2010 with a neck injury, though he didn't miss any time. Then, he spoke of a "minor injury" to his left leg suffered in the third round of the 2011 Masters that caused him to miss Quail Hollow. He returned at The Players Championship, felt problems in his left Achilles tendon on the opening tee shot and withdrew nine holes and 42 shots later.

He wound up missing three months, including two majors.

Woods had his third WD in as many years at Doral. In the previous 14 years on the PGA Tour, he had withdrawn from tournaments only twice — at Riviera in 2005 when he had the flu, and at Pebble Beach in 1998 when he chose not to return seven months later to complete the rain-plagued tournament.

"It was just tight when I was warming up," Woods said about Doral. "And I did my normal warm-up routine in the gym and everything, and everything was fine. I got to the range, started warming up, started getting tight. And as I said before, I've been through this before. I recognize the signs."

What gave him a sense of calm about the most recent calamity is having been down this road before.

See **WOODS**, Page 12

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- 4) And have either;

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(B) One year of work experience in case work, counseling, community corrections, group work with offenders or other disadvantaged persons.

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

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Annie's Mailbox®

Dear Annie: Five years ago, an encounter with a large, vicious dog put me in the ER and left me with lasting scars, physical and otherwise. I'm almost 20 now.

I can pet and play with small, quiet dogs, but larger ones strike panic in me. I cringe when I hear barking. I still have nightmares and sometimes feel phantom pains where I was attacked. Spending time with my parents' medium-sized dog doesn't help, especially since it has bitten people before, and my family still treats it like the best dog in the world.

I never got professional help, because I was told shortly after the attack that I needed to "get over it." I feel no one understands my fear because it's an American tradition to love dogs. Besides, I

don't have money for therapy. What can I do? — *Terrified*

Dear Terrified: People who tell you to "get over it" do not understand the extent of the problem. Your fear is not irrational. You were viciously bitten, and such a trauma is difficult to overcome. The fact that you can pet and play with small dogs is quite an achievement, all considered. If you regularly encounter larger dogs and wish to work on your fear, please know that low-cost therapy is available. Ask your doctor, and check your church and United Way. You can even search online for tips on overcoming phobias.

Dear Annie: I own property out of state. I use it mostly in the summer, but it's checked on

at least once a month. My neighbor there is married to a woman who is no longer friends with me, but we are civil to each other. The problem is, the wife thinks she's entitled to dig up and take or remove any of my plants, shrubs, gravel, etc. Every season, I check the garden to make sure nothing else is missing.

I took great pride in my garden of perennials and enjoyed the fruits of my hard work. Last fall, I noticed the daylilies were pulled right out of the ground. She also dug up a hosta that had been in that spot for years —



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

and looked great. She obviously does her dirty work when her husband isn't home. She simply helps herself to my garden.

I went to the police, and they suggested I discuss this with the neighbor. The officer said if the police dropped by, it would be considered a threat, and besides, the husband may not know anything.

This has been going on for years. Every season gets more frustrating. I bought an outside camera (not installed) and left her a note saying I had contacted the police, but it

hasn't made any difference. She ignores all the "Keep Out" and "No Trespassing" signs. Any suggestions? — *At the End of My Rope*

Dear End: Are you sure the wife is doing this? Could it be local animals or some other culprit? We strongly recommend you install that camera and find out what's going on. If you get proof, talk to the husband and ask him to discuss it with his wife. You also can take it to the police. This is trespassing and theft, and it's against the law

Dear Annie: I need to respond to "It's Only Hair." As a former businessperson, my company hired only employees who were well groomed to represent our establishment. If a prospective employee appeared looking like something

the dog brought home from a weekend fling, there was no way he would be considered.

Tattoos, long hair, whiskers or a junkyard of iron piercings on their face and ears are simply not appropriate when looking for an emissary for your business. Young adults looking for employment might consider presenting a better image of themselves. — *Oregon*

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

Tomorrow's Horoscope

The new moon in Aries is as new a moon as it gets. The sun, the moon, Mercury and Uranus are all in the realm of fresh beginnings, and this is not a moment you want to miss. Beginner's luck is alive and real. So decide how it's going to be from here on out, and embark. If you have no idea what you're doing, all the better.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll offer a kind heart to those who don't think they deserve it. You're compassionate because you, too, have failed and come to an understanding with yourself and those around you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Add more people to your crew. Tell people what you're working on. Your projects will feel less arbitrary and lonely. People will know what you are up to and will ask you about it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Maybe you are reading and studying for the pure pleasure of learning. Well, it's time to change your intention. Read and study with the intention of taking action on what you know.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Popular opinion won't appeal to you today, as you'll be off in your own little world. Or more likely, it's a big world and your influence will affect many. So maybe let the popular opinion affect you some...

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It's not so much that you're preoccupied as that you have a big responsibility to fulfill. The one who understands what you're trying to accomplish will have your heart.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll benefit financially by polishing and improving your things. You're the neat freak of the zodiac, so this may have to do with making your possessions the cleanest and best they can be.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). One of those moods may strike, the mood that has you looking for lost loves, past acquaintances and also people you want to know in your future life.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). This you can be sure of: Your life, as familiar as it is to you, is a weird

world as far as someone else is concerned. And in a weird world, your audacity is what will propel you forward.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll encounter people from other parts of the world who stretch your comfort zone and challenge your reality. Differences in culture will cause you to think beyond the structures of your known world.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You could spend a lifetime trying to create great works. Or you could believe that your works are great simply because you are the one who created them. Both points of view are valid.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You have a talent for making people feel special, probably because you truly believe it's so. You'll speak to a group of people, and each individual will believe that you are connecting specifically with him or her.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You may think of yourself as a rookie in some regard. Everyone you admire in this field was in your position at some point in the game. You don't need much more than courage to do what you want to do.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 22). You'll renew your commitment to a person or project in the next three weeks. A restless spirit has you making changes and improvements through April. You'll set up deals in May and get praise and attention for it in the months to follow. June and October are lucrative. July brings magical nights. Scorpio and Sagittarius people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 30, 2, 33 and 17.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Happy birthday to musical master Stephen Sondheim, who has been called a national treasure and a

living legend. He even has a Broadway theater named after him — a present for his 80th birthday. This Aries artist, born when Mercury was in imaginative Pisces, has won nearly every award there is to win in the entertainment industry — and a Pulitzer Prize to boot.

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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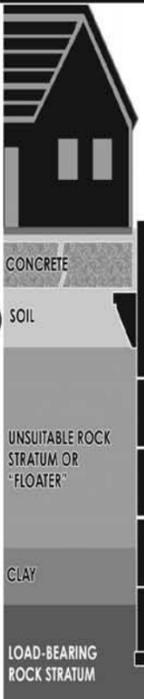
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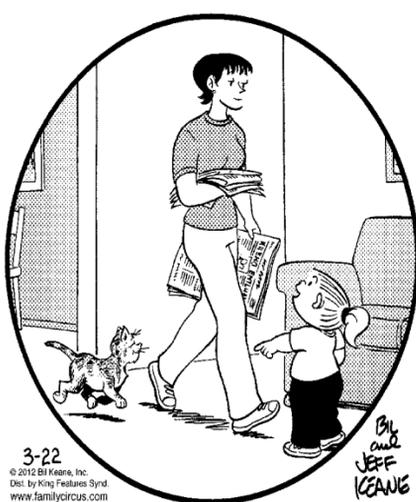
	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWTT (14) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5:PM :30	News ABC	Alma Notic.	Two Men	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News News	NCAA Basketball	Israel Andrew	Charlie Rose	Til Death King	Cash Cab	CSI: Miami	Jail	Bones	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Austin Good	NFL32	SportsCenter
6:PM :30	Jeopardy!	Una Familia con Suerte (SS)	Big Bang	2012 NCAA Basketball Tournament	Caso Cerado	News Millionaire	2012 NCAA Basketball Tournament	Dr. Wil Baruch	PBS News-Hour	Seinfeld	MythBusters	CSI: Miami	Jail	Bones		Jessie	Cheerlead	MLB Preseason Baseball: Yankees at Red Sox
7:PM :30	Missing		Big Bang American Idol		Una Maid en	Commun 30 Rock		Upd Mark Blitz	Travel Parks	The Vampire Diaries	MythBusters	Movie: The Shawshank Redemption, Bob Gunton	Jail	Bones	The BET Awards 2011	Austin	Cheerleading	
8:PM :30	Grey's Anatomy	El Talismán (SS)	Touch		Corazón Valiente	Office All Night		Light of the Southwest	This Old House Hr	The Secret Circle	MythBusters		iMPACT Wrestling			Beauty and the Beast	Cheerleading	
9:PM :30	(:02) Private Practice	La Que No	Simpsons How I Met	2012 NCAA Basketball Tournament	Relaciones Peli	Awake	2012 NCAA Basketball Tournament	Frontline (DVS)	Cops	Doomsday Bunkers			Movie: Four Brothers		Jessie	Cheerleading	Baseball Tonight	
10:PM :30	News Nightline	Impacto Noticiero	How I Met Raymond		Noticias Titulares	News Jay Leno		Dr. Diana Van Impe	Charlie Rose	King South Pk	MythBusters	Movie: The Shawshank Redemption, Bob Gunton	MMA Am Dig		Austin	NFL Live	SportsCenter	
11:PM :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Hasta-Dinero	Law Order: CI	News Letterman	Sin Senos Decisiones (SS)	Late Night	Basket Conan	Scrivner Sala	World T. Smiley (Off Air)	South Pk Roseanne	Doomsday Bunkers		Jail	CSI: NY	Wendy Williams	Wizards	MMA Live	SportsCenter
12:AM :30	Extra Paid	Mañana-Siempre	Raymond Fam. Guy	Late	Pagado	News		Upd Dr. Wil		Roseanne	MythBusters		(:35) Jail	CSI: NY	Movie: Hair Show, Gina Torres	Good	College GameDay	SportsCenter
1:AM :30	Paid	La Jaula Par Ases	American TMZ	Insider	Pagado	(:06) Today	Office	Light of the Southwest		ACTIVE Influence	MythBusters	CSI: Miami	Entourage	Leverage	ANT Farm	Good	NFL Live	SportsCenter

DENNIS THE MENACE



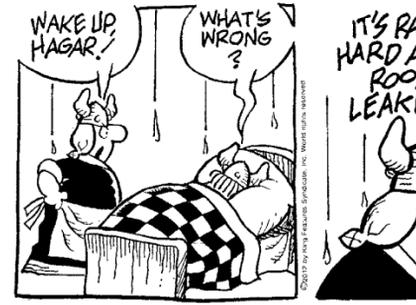
"I CALLED MARGARET JUST SO I COULD HANG UP ON HER."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

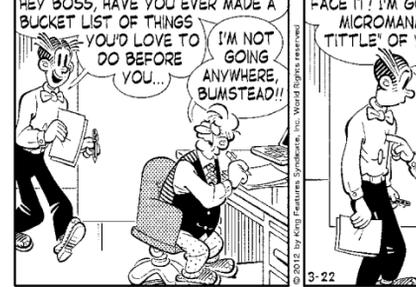


"You need to sit down, Mommy. Kittycat is lookin' for a lap to lie on."

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This Date In History

Today is Thursday, March 22, the 82nd day of 2012. There are 284 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 22, 1765, the British Parliament passed the Stamp Act of 1765 to raise money from the American colonies, which fiercely resisted the tax. (The Stamp Act was repealed a year later.)

On this date:

In 1312, Pope Clement V issued a papal bull ordering the dissolution of the Order of the Knights Templar.

In 1638, religious dissident Anne Hutchinson was expelled from the Massachusetts Bay Colony for defying Puritan orthodoxy.

In 1820, U.S. naval hero Stephen Decatur was killed in a duel with Commodore James Barron near Washington, D.C.

In 1894, hockey's first Stanley Cup championship game was played; home team Montreal defeated Ottawa, 3-1.

In 1912, Academy Award-winning actor Karl Malden was born. Malden George Sekulovich in Chicago.

In 1933, during Prohibition, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a measure to make wine and beer containing up to 3.2 percent alcohol legal.

In 1941, the Grand Coulee hydroelectric dam in Washington state went into operation.

In 1958, movie producer Mike Todd, the husband of actress Elizabeth Taylor, and three other people were killed in the crash of Todd's private plane near Grants, N.M.

In 1962, the musical "I Can Get It for You Wholesale," featuring the Broadway debut of 19-year-old Barbra Streisand, opened at the Shubert Theater.

In 1978, Karl Wallenda, the 73-year-old patriarch of "The Flying Wallendas" high-wire act, fell to his death while attempting to walk a cable strung between two hotel towers in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

In 1992, 27 people were killed when a USAir jetliner crashed on takeoff from New York's LaGuardia Airport; 24 people survived.

In 1997, Tara Lipinski, at age 14 years and 10 months, became the youngest ladies' world figure skating champion in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Today's Birthdays: USA Today founder Allen H. Neuharth is 88. Composer-lyricist Stephen Sondheim is 82. Evangelist broadcaster Pat Robertson is 82. Actor William Shatner is 81. Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, is 78. Actor M. Emmet Walsh is 77. Actor-singer Jeremy Clyde is 71. Singer-guitarist George Benson is 69. Writer James Patterson is 65. CNN newscaster Wolf Blitzer is 64. Composer Andrew Lloyd Webber is 64. Actress Fanny Ardant is 63. Sportscaster Bob Costas is 60. Country singer James House is 57.

Answer to previous puzzle

BARER	FLEW	PART
ACUTE	LASH	ISEE
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HES	EBBS	SPIELS
	DYES	WORSE
ARGOSY	SARAN	
LEAN	BALER	BOA
FAREWELL	ADDRESS	
ALP	HAULS	EELS
	SORRY	RUNSON
GECKO	POND	
ELFISH	ARTS	OLD
TOLLHOUSE	COOKIE	
OPAL	PRIX	LURES
NETS	SLAY	DRANK

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- SWAP SHOP by David W. Cromer
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- ACROSS**
- 1 Construction-site machine
 - 6 Yale athletes
 - 10 Places for pampering
 - 14 Omega alternative
 - 15 Globetrotter's purchase
 - 16 "One-L lama" poet
 - 17 In between, quaintly
 - 18 Solemn assent
 - 19 "___ way to go!"
 - 20 Book intended for bookstores
 - 23 Put another way
 - 26 Chaperon
 - 27 Stake a stand against
 - 28 "Like, that's obvious!"
 - 30 Wet tar, for instance
 - 31 Architect Pei's first name
 - 33 They mean nothing
 - 37 Pupil from abroad
 - 41 Little shavers
 - 42 Be visibly elated
 - 43 Baton Rouge sch.
 - 44 Take ___ (decline to participate)
 - 46 Noticed
 - 49 Lively wit
 - 52 Opts for
 - 53 Versatile batter
 - 56 Author Morrison
 - 57 Take the train
 - 58 Old Testament patriarch
- DOWN**
- 1 Flatscreen ancestor
 - 2 Word on a theater ticket
 - 3 Common Arab given name
 - 4 Right beside
 - 5 Optional equipment
 - 6 Duck and dodge
 - 7 Bar garnish
 - 8 "Aha!"
 - 9 Prepared for painting, perhaps
 - 10 Seized suddenly
 - 11 Outdoor dining spot
 - 12 New York Public Library benefactor
 - 13 Definitely will not
 - 21 Ordered out
 - 22 Japanese automaker
 - 23 Physician/synonymist
 - 24 Strong adhesive
 - 25 Star Trek character
 - 28 Christmas carols
 - 29 Extremely
 - 32 Metaphorical basket contents
 - 34 Ancient artifact
 - 35 First stage
 - 36 Wall supports
 - 38 More vigorous
 - 39 Savory jelly
 - 40 Twitter message
 - 45 Each
 - 47 Santa's transport
 - 48 Athens' foe at Marathon
 - 49 Perfumery ingredient
 - 50 Took an oath
 - 51 Ship of 1492
 - 52 Not at all lenient
 - 54 Hub of activity
 - 55 Bit of creativity
 - 59 Early hrs.
 - 60 Qty.
 - 61 Corp. bigshot

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WOODS

Continued from Page 7

"I've had tightness before, but not to that extent," Woods said. "But treatment afterwards always get it right back to where it should be. And that's one of the reasons why

I wasn't really that concerned about it, that I would come back and play these events."

Injuries have been such a big topic recently that Woods caused a stir in his pro-am when he backed off a tee shot on the par-5 sixth hole. He paced behind the ball, grabbed at his lower back and stretched. Then, he took his

hand off the club before finishing his swing, though the ball went long and straight.

The concern didn't last long.

Turns out it was a camera click that made Woods flinch.

"I guess one of the so-called professional photographers took a picture right in the

middle of my downswing," Woods said. "I stopped it, and then felt a pretty good twinge in my back. Walked it off and then tried to hit one down there. Hit it in the fairway, but didn't feel very good. But after a couple of holes, it loosened up. And I'm good to go now."

Woods has never missed

Bay Hill except for when he was returning from the crisis in his personal life in 2010. It typically is his final tuneup before the Masters, where he is a four-time champion.

Another four-time Augusta winner — and the tournament host at Bay Hill — is curious to see if Woods has the game for the first major.

SAINTS

Continued from Page 7

Goodell also suspended assistant coach Joe Vitt for the first six games.

Payton, whose salary this season was to be at least \$6 million, ignored instructions from the NFL and Saints ownership to make sure bounties weren't being paid. The league also chastised him for choosing to "falsely deny that the program existed," and for trying to "encourage the false denials by instructing assistants to 'make sure our ducks are in a row.'"

All in all, Goodell's ruling is a real blow to the Saints, a franchise that Payton and quarterback Drew Brees revived and led to an NFL championship after decades of such futility that fans wore paper bags over their heads at home games.

Brees reacted quickly to the

news on Twitter, writing: "I am speechless. Sean Payton is a great man, coach, and mentor. ... I need to hear an explanation for this punishment."

The Saints now must decide who will coach the team in Payton's place — his suspension takes effect April 1 — and who will make roster moves while Loomis is out. There was no immediate word from the Saints, but two candidates to take over coaching duties are defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo and offensive coordinator Pete Carmichael Jr. Spagnuolo has NFL head coaching experience; Carmichael does not, but has been with the club since 2006.

When the NFL first made its investigation public on March 2, Williams admitted to — and apologized for — running the program while in charge of the Saints' defense. He was hired in January by the St. Louis Rams; head coach Jeff Fisher said

Wednesday he'll probably use a committee of coaches to replace Williams in 2012.

Goodell will review Williams' status after the upcoming season and decide whether he can return.

"I accept full responsibility for my actions," Williams said in a statement issued by the Rams. "I will continue to cooperate fully with the league and its investigation and ... I will do everything possible to re-earn the respect of my colleagues, the NFL and its players in hopes of returning to coaching in the future."

While some players who played for Williams elsewhere said he oversaw bounty systems there, too, the league said its interviews didn't find evidence that "programs at other clubs involved targeting opposing players or rewarding players for injuring an opponent." But Goodell could reopen the case if new information emerges.

MAVS

Continued from Page 7

(sore left knee) and Brendan Haywood (sprained right knee) each missed their third straight game. Dallas is also minus a third starter, Delonte West, who sat out his 18th straight game with a fractured right ring finger.

Marion tried to talk his way back into the lineup, but was overruled by coach Rick Carlisle and team medical personnel. Carlisle said it wouldn't be fair to Marion "to throw him out there against Kobe Bryant" after a layoff.

The Mavericks especially missed Marion's

defense against Bryant. In the first two meetings, Bryant went 11 for 37 from the floor and scored a total of 29 points with Marion as the primary defender.

This time, Bryant went 11 for 18, although Carlisle refused to use Marion's absence as an excuse.

"We can't bellyache about guys being out with injuries," Carlisle said. "It's one of the realities of the season. I'm not into that."

It was another tough night for former Laker Lamar Odom, who finished with one point, one rebound and one assist in almost 24 minutes.

"I'm not going to blame it on anything," Odom said.

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