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12 die in theater rampage

THOMAS PEIPERT
 Associated Press
 AURORA, Colo. — A gunman in a gas mask barged into a crowded Denver-area theater during a midnight premiere of the Batman movie on Friday, hurled a gas canister and then opened fire, killing 12 people and injuring at least 50 others in one of the deadliest mass shootings in

'I thought it was showmanship.

recent U.S. history. When the gas began to spread, some moviegoers thought it was a stunt that was part of the "The Dark Knight Rises," one of the most highly anticipated films of the summer. Then they saw a silhouette of a person in the smoke

I didn't think it was real.'

near the screen, first pointing a gun at the crowd and shooting. "There were bullet (casings) just falling on my head. They

were burning my forehead," Jennifer Seeger said, adding that the gunman, dressed like a SWAT team member, fired steadily except when he

stopped to reload. "Every few seconds it was just: Boom, boom, boom," she said. "He would reload and shoot and anyone who would try to leave would just get killed." The suspect was taken into custody and identified by federal law enforcement officials. See **THEATER**, Page 3A



Would you like to glide?

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

The McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark will quickly turn into a beehive of activity this weekend, as the U.S. Hang Gliding and Paragliding Competition looks to take to the skies Sunday through Saturday, July 28. The Big Spring Airport and local airpark have been the backdrop for a number of world and national championship hang gliding competitions hosted by the U.S. Hang Gliding Championships, drawing hundreds of competitors from

See **GLIDE**, Page 3A

Fight against MS bound for Big Spring

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer
 A-pedalin' they will go. This weekend, a sizable number of cyclists will make a grand tour of sorts of West Texas, pedaling from Midland to Big Spring to Post as part of the 20th annual Cactus and Crude Bike Ride to raise

money for Multiple Sclerosis research. Riders will leave Midland Saturday morning and reach Big Spring in stages beginning at 10:30 a.m. Riders will be treated to a luncheon provided by the Howard County Volunteer Fire Department and will have the option of either staying in a local hotel or being housed at South-West Collegiate Institute for

the Deaf for the evening. That evening's meal will be provided by Halliburton. Sunday morning, the cyclists will complete the final leg of the event — a 75-mile trek to Post. Organizers are hoping for around 200 entries this year, a far cry from the 25 participants who entered the first Cactus and Crude ride 20 years ago. Registration is \$20

with riders required to secure pledges of at least \$250 to go toward MS research and educational efforts. Cactus and Crude raised about \$200,000 for the MS Society in 2011 and is the largest fundraiser of the year for the society's West Texas chapter, which stretches from El Paso east to Sweetwater and from Lubbock south to San Angelo.

MS is a neurological disease which affects the brain stem and spine. The most common symptoms of the disease include loss of sight and motor control. About 10,000 people are diagnosed with MS annually. For more information on the bike ride, call 432-699-1718. You can register for the event online at www.nationalmssociety.org/racemap.aspx



Plenty of local activities upcoming

By **BILL McCLELLAN**
 Managing Editor
 If you read the articles on this page, you'll quickly realize there are a lot of local and area events to get involved in. Hopefully, some local residents will take advantage of the glider rides Saturday

or the fight against multiple sclerosis by participating in the Cactus and Crude bicycle ride. With those in mind, there are plenty of other upcoming activities Howard County residents might want to consider getting involved with, beginning in August.

A rave? Probably not what you are thinking, but yes, Big Spring will be having at least two raves in the near future — Moonlight Rave Runs at Big Spring State Park. Two have been held previously this year, with the third and fourth runs of the series set Aug. 3 and 31.

Local businesses take note: The Texas Plains Trail Roundup will be in Big Spring Aug. 9-10. It's not so much an opportunity for entertainment as it is for education. The purpose is to market Big Spring and other areas of the

See **EVENTS**, Page 3A

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EVENTS

Continued from Page 1A

Texas Plains.

United Way of Big Spring and Howard County will hold its annual kickoff Aug. 18.

September brings the Comanche Warrior Triathlon to Comanche Trail Park. Competitors come from all over the state, New Mexico and

Oklahoma to run, bicycle and swim their way to prizes. That event will be held Sept. 8.

September is also time for area schoolboy football and volleyball. Remember to get your season tickets.

Another activity is the Walk to End Alzheimer's, slated Sept. 15.

Indoors, the Howard College Foundation will feature Krickitt Carpenter on Sept. 24. Krickitt and her husband, Kim, are the actual couple behind the box office hit, "The

Vow."

And don't forget, the Howard County Fair is Sept. 27-29. It's a good time to start planning what categories to enter.

A glance at October shows the Big Spring Symphony will begin its season with "A Night in Vienna" on the 6th; Discover Big Spring will be on the 7th; ag appreciation day is the 11th; and Heritage Museum will host a Halloween extravaganza on ... you got it, Oct. 31.

Take Note

• American Legion Post 506 will have a fish fry from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the post home, 3203 W. Highway 80. Delivery will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. by calling 263-2084. Everyone is welcome.

• Nichols Road is closed for repairs through Tuesday.

THEATER

Continued from Page 1A

officials as 24-year-old James Holmes. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss an ongoing investigation.

Authorities did not release a motive. The FBI said there was no indication that the shooting is tied to any terrorist groups.

Victims are being treated for chemical exposure apparently related to canisters thrown by the gunman. Some of those injured are children, including a 3-month-old infant who was shot.

Aurora police spokesman Frank Fania on ABC's "Good Morning America" said he didn't know yet if all the injuries were gunshot wounds. He said some might have been caused by other things such as shrapnel.

The movie opened across the world Friday, with midnight showings in the U.S.

The shooting prompted officials to cancel the Paris premiere, with workers pulling down the red carpet display at a theater on the famed Champs-Elysees Avenue.

President Barack Obama said he was saddened by the "horrific and tragic shooting," pledging that his administration was "committed to bringing whoever was responsible to justice, ensuring the safety of our people, and caring for those who have been wounded."

It was the worst mass shooting in Colorado since the Columbine High School massacre on April 20, 1999. Students Eric Harris, 18, and Dylan Klebold, 17, opened fire at the school in the Denver suburb of Littleton, about 15 miles west of Aurora, killing 12 classmates and a teacher and wounding 26 others before killing themselves.

Friday's attack began shortly after midnight at the multiplex theater at a mall in Aurora, the state's third-largest

city.

The film has several scenes of public mayhem — a hallmark of superhero movies. In one scene, the main villain Bane leads an attack on the stock exchange and, in another, leads a shooting and bombing rampage on a packed football stadium.

It was the final installment of the "Dark Knight" trilogy directed by Christopher Nolan, starring Christian Bale as Batman. The series has a darker tone than previous Batman incarnations. It is the follow-up to "The Dark Knight," which won Heath Ledger a posthumous Oscar for his searing portrayal of The Joker.

The gunman released a gas that smelled like pepper spray from a green canister with a tag on it, Seeger said.

"I thought it was showmanship. I didn't think it was real," she said.

Seeger said she was in the second row, about four feet from the gunman, when he pointed a gun at her face. At

first, "I was just a deer in headlights. I didn't know what to do," she said. Then she ducked to the ground as the gunman shot people seated behind her.

She said she began crawling toward an exit when she saw a girl about 14 years old "lying lifeless on the stairs." She saw a man with a bullet wound in his back and tried to check his pulse, but "I had to go. I was going to get shot."

Then the man began firing, starting with a shot toward the ceiling.

Witness Shayla Roeder said she saw a young teenage girl on the ground bleeding outside the theater. "She just had this horrible look in her eyes ... We made eye contact and I could tell she was not all right," Roeder said.

Police, ambulances and emergency crews swarmed on the scene after frantic calls started flooding the 911 switchboard, officials said. Officers came running in and telling people to leave the theater, Salina

Jordan told the Denver Post. She said some police were carrying and dragging bodies.

Hayden Miller told KUSA-TV that he heard several shots. "Like little explosions going on and shortly after that we heard people screaming," he told the station. Hayden said at first he thought it was part of a louder movie next door. But then he saw "people hunched over leaving theater."

Officers later found the gunman near a car behind the theater.

"A gas mask, rifle, handgun (and) at least one additional weapon (were) found inside," Aurora police Chief Dan Oates said, adding that there was no evidence of any other attackers. The suspect spoke of "possible explosives in his residence. We are dealing with that potential threat," Oates said.

A large truck lettered "bomb squad" arrived near an Aurora apartment complex where the suspect is believed to have lived, about four miles from the theater.

Dozens of police squad cars, vans and other vehicles were already at the scene, along with black-clad officers carrying automatic weapons.

Police evacuated residents of the building. Oates did not say whether any explosives had been found. He said police also checked for explosives in the parking lot and at the Century 16 theater and secured those areas.

At least 24 people were being treated at Denver area hospitals.

The youngest victim reported was a 6-year-old being treated at Children's Hospital Colorado, where a total of six victims were taken. Their condition wasn't known. Two people in critical condition were rushed to nearby Swedish Medical Center, a spokeswoman said.



GLIDE

Continued from Page 1A

all over the world.

According to Airpark Director Col. Jim Little, this year's competition has drawn approximately 40 pilots, with more expected to sign up in the days leading up to the event.

"This year, they decided to move the date up because last year they were competing with another event," Little said. "They wanted to avoid the scheduling conflict this year,"

Marking the 11th year in a row the U.S. Hang Gliding Championship — including the World Championship competition, which was also held in Big Spring in 2007 — has been held in Big Spring, what ex-

actly keeps the winged heroes coming back to the Crossroads of West Texas?

"There are three main reasons we love coming back to Big Spring each year," said championship coordinator David Glover. "The first is the consistent weather. The second is the airport terminal facility, which is just amazing. It's the best for this kind of hang gliding competition. And the third is the townspeople, who are really so warm and welcoming.

"We're not winded or weathered out. The sun hits the ground and the ground heats up, so thermal layers of air go up. The base of the clouds are really high, which means we can fly up really high into the air and the thermals are strong,

so you don't have to fly around too much before you hit a thermal that pushes you up.

"Our desire is to see how long we can stay up and then fly around a course as quickly as we can. It just has the right combination of meteorology and geography to allow us to fly for a long time and fly fast. The men and women who come here just love the flying. It's excellent."

The weekend isn't just about competition, however. Saturday, pilots will be offering tandem flights for area residents wanting to experience the freedom of hang gliding for them-

selves. Flights can be scheduled throughout the week of competition for \$100, however, the best time to set up a tandem flight would be the day before competition starts. To schedule a flight, call Lori Brown at 352-874-5742.

For those wanting to come out and see the participants take off, there will be a spectator area marked by signs. Take off usually starts after lunch between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m.

"Take off and the traveled routes are all determined day by day. The weather conditions determine if they are not only able to take off, but

how far they are able to travel," Little said. "One of the most exciting times is what they considered to be bad weather, but it resulted in a neat site of 40 or 50 of them circling around Big Spring."

Cloud build-up and clear weather serves for the best flight weather, according to Little.

"This is a great thing for the community to have. It has drawn national and worldwide publicity not only for the city of Big Spring, but for West Texas," Little said.

For more information, contact the airport at 263-4362.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Alice Loraine Baker Rueda, 64, died Monday. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. today at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Marlene Riffe, 58, died Tuesday. The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Graveside services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Coahoma Cemetery.

Ulysses Mathews, Jr., 55, died Monday. The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. Sunday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

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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	Amanda Duforat Staff Writer	Steve Reagan Staff Writer
Brian McCormack Sports Editor	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:

- All those who have joined the effort of bringing Big Brothers Big Sisters to the Howard County and Big Spring community.

- All community residents who are adhering to the water restrictions and helping ensure the water supply is sufficient for continued use.

- Seth Trevino and Shawn Adams, 2012 Big Spring High School graduates, for being accepted as members of the newly formed debate program at Ranger College.

- Veterans Family Fund for presenting a check to the family of Marine Cpl. Orin Romine. The checks are made possible from the donations of the Big Spring residents.

- New Big Spring Fire Department Fire Chief Craig Ferguson who will be taking over for previous fire chief Brian Jensen who retired in January.

- Welcome to all those participating in the 2012 National Hanggliding and Parascending Competition which will take place all week at the McMahan-Wrinkle Airpark.

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.

- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- 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

We are lighter on our feet and in our hearts, Lord, when we walk with You. Amen

Join me now: Condi! Condi! Condi!

Blame Drudge. That's what some Republicans I know are saying.

Sure, Condoleezza Rice brought down the house at the recent big-money Romney retreat in Utah. Sure, Dick Morris was saying years ago that she would be the best Republican candidate for president.

But how dare Matt Drudge suggest that Condi was on Mitt Romney's VP list — along with all those guys no one has ever heard of such as Tim Pawlenty and Rob Portman. And how dare he, in suggesting it, make it so.

Oh, yes, she's smart and charismatic, more experienced in national security than all of them (plus Romney) combined, and uniquely able to change the dynamic of the election among women and minorities. Oh, yes, she would make a debate with Joe Biden worth watching. Actually, she would be the only one of the group who could go toe-to-toe (and then some) with Biden on national security.

But get serious: She's pro-choice!

Frankly, as a Democrat, I can't help but feel relieved at the outpouring of shock and horror among conservative Republicans at the suggestion that Romney would choose Rice as his running mate. Thank goodness Sarah Palin (Here I am praising Palin; it is a strange day.) seems



SUSAN
ESTRICH

to be the only one of the crowd who can get past her (right) knee-jerk reaction to see the brilliance of such a choice.

Condi is the only one of the boys (OK, to be accurate, the only one who is not one of the boys) I can see appealing across party lines, convincing swing voters that Romney really is a moderate and not some risky right-winger, changing the subject from how many jobs Romney outsourced to how his election could make history.

Most vice-presidential choices change nothing. Most of the time, that's the whole idea: Do no harm. Choose someone whose greatest moment of prominence is the day before their selection is announced, and then let them fly off into the sunset to launch grenades and raise money.

The easiest way to ensure this is to choose someone who ran for president themselves. That way, you know that whatever dirt they have in their life has already come out and is therefore old news.

The worst choices, obviously, are the ones where it turns out there are things you didn't know about your No. 2 — things like electroshock treatment (poor Tom Eagleton, a very good man who got picked and bounced in 1972) or a shaky draft record and problems with spelling (Dan Quayle in 1988). Of course, Quayle didn't cost Bush that election any more than the later-convicted Spiro T. Agnew cost Richard Nixon the presidency. But bad choices are a distraction (at best) and reflect negatively

on the judgment of the candidate who made them.

The most dangerous choices are the Hail Mary passes. Think Palin. In fairness, her mistakes were not really her fault. She had no business being chosen in the first place. She was supposed to rescue John McCain, which is too much to ask of any No. 2.

Romney doesn't need a Hail Mary pass. The polls are close. That's one of the reasons the people around him will be telling him to pick a safe, nondescript white guy who will be forgotten moments later. At the same time, a betting woman would still bet on President Obama. And Rice is no Palin. She has spent her career in the line of fire and in the public eye, and she handles herself with intelligence and grace at all times.

The only good reason not to pick Condi Rice is that her selection would revive issues about the Iraq invasion. If that were the reason Republicans were worried, I'd understand. It isn't.

Years ago, the late Lee Atwater said that the Republican Party had to be a "big tent" when it came to the abortion issue. If that tent is not big enough to include one of the most talented and exciting women in American politics, then the truth is that it is still too small. And so are those who are blocking its expansion.

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

The real privilege: Voting is a right

Just when we think Republican talking points can't get any more ridiculous and insulting, out they come with a new one that takes insolence to a higher level.

Did you hear the one about voting?

According to some GOP spinners, voting is no longer the fundamental right of every American, no longer the precious right our soldiers fight to defend.

Their new talking point: "Voting is a privilege."

If you are taken back by that statement, if you grew up believing that the real privilege as an American is that voting is a right, you are not alone. Some who have heard these talking points already are expressing indignation.

"If voting was a privilege, this would not be a democracy of any sort," one TV viewer noted on an Internet blog after listening to the latest GOP diatribe.

"I heard that," noted another blogger who saw a GOP talking head making the "privilege" argument "and I wanted to reach in the TV screen and yank him out by his hair roots and explain citizenship to him."

I had a similar reaction when I thought of the many Americans who have given their lives defending the freedom guaranteed by our right to vote. I felt offended for them. Calling voting a privilege dishonors their sacrifice and their memory.

Nevertheless, this is the excuse some Republicans now are using to try to justify their mean-spirited and highly undemocratic efforts to keep millions of likely Democrats from voting in November.

As they disenfranchise the young, the elderly, and the racial and ethnic minorities with voter roll purges and unnecessary voter ID laws, they tell us that the right to vote now has to be earned, by jumping through hoops!

If you can't get a photo ID, perhaps because they are unaffordable or inaccessible, they say you should not have the privilege to vote — even if you have been voting for a half-century.

Of course, this latest spin was started on Fox News, where far right spokesman Jay Sekulow defended the controversial Texas voter ID law by making the privilege argument. But it was quickly followed by GOP strategist Alice Stewart on CNN. "Look, voting is a privilege in this country and there are certain, you know, requirements that we all have ... in order to cast a ballot," Stewart said.

Luckily, on CNN, someone was there to challenge her.

"You know what?" snapped commentator Roland Martin. "What she just said ... is shameful."

It also makes a mockery out of the 15th Amendment to the Constitution, which asserts that the "right of citizens of the United State to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude."

Yet, in their obsession to turn the clock back to the time of the Founding Fathers, some conservative extremists and tea party leaders have been making the privilege argument for several years.

Some have said we should put "certain restrictions on who gets the right to vote." Others have argued that voting should be limited only to property owners.

And yet others would love to go back, at least to the early 1960s. After all, although the 15th Amendment was ratified in 1870, it took nearly a century — until the Voting Rights Act of 1965 — for black Americans to fully realize their right to vote without poll taxes, literacy tests and other impediments created to keep them from voting.

Yet with today's voter ID laws — forcing Americans to spend money or give up a day of work to get an identification that will allow them to register to vote — Republicans are creating new poll taxes and other legal impediments to keep blacks, Latinos, and the young and elderly — the base of the Democratic Party — from voting.

Everyone knows this is a farce, a solution looking for a problem, because incidents of voter fraud in this country — thank God — are miniscule. And yet, the spinners go on television, stare at the cameras with straight faces and tell us that voter fraud is a seri-

ous problem that is threatening our democracy.

"No," I shout at my TV "you are!"

While studies have shown that more than 20 million Americans - 1 in 10 eligible voters — lack the kind of photo IDs required by some of the new GOP-driven state laws and could be prevented from voting, you hear the spinners arguing that they know of 50 cases of alleged voter fraud in Texas. Other states where these laws are being passed can't come up with even that many fraudulent voters.

Out of 300 million votes cast in this country between 2002 and 2007, one report noted that "federal prosecutors convicted only 86 people for voter fraud — and many of the cases involved immigrants and former felons who were simply unaware of their ineligibility." Another report noted that, "It is more likely that an individual will be struck by lightning than that he will impersonate another voter at the polls."

Republicans want us to believe our democracy is threatened by make-believe voter fraud. But if there is a threat here, it comes from those who are willing to disenfranchise millions of voters to stop voter fraud by the dozens. Their remedy is much worse than the illness.

So who is the real fraud?

These voter suppression measures are now being challenged in federal court, where the 15th Amendment and the Voting Rights Act surely will prevail. But the GOP persistence in pushing these measures, and their willingness to justify it by turning a precious right into a privilege, is only serving to expose their ulterior motive, which is to retake the White House at any cost.

When you are purging eligible voter from the rolls, as they have in Florida, or when you are passing voter ID laws and bragging that it will give your state to Mitt Romney, as they have in Pennsylvania, you are exposing your ulterior motives.

It's not voter fraud that drives these people; it's an undemocratic, unquenchable thirst for power. And it's scary.

For more about Miguel Perez, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.



MIGUEL
PEREZ

Church news

First Presbyterian Church, Coahoma

We meet at 11 a.m. Sunday to share the scriptures, sing, pray and worship, led by Commissioned Ruling Elder Tom Koger.
Following worship Sunday, July 29, which will be Tom Koger's last Sunday as pastor, we will have a barbecue lunch and fellowship.
The lectionary is II Samuel 7:1-14; Psalm 89:20-37; Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56.

College Baptist Church

The mission team from College Baptist Church returned this week from a small village in the Ukraine.
We are looking forward to hearing all about their time there this coming Sunday.
There were 26 youths and adults that made the trip as well as the Youth Minister Josh Mensinger.
The 3 G's, an older adult group of the church, met this past week for a pot-luck meal and to share readings such as poems and short stories, some serious, some funny.
Though it will surprise some of the younger crowd, a lot of us older folks check out Facebook and send e-mails and like to share some of the stuff we get.
The men of College Baptist will have a meeting in the fellowship hall of the church on July 27 at 7 p.m. They will share a meal and continue the Bible study in the book, "The Man I Want to Be." All men 18 and older are invited to attend.
The children's department which includes children in grades one through five will have a pizza party Aug. 4 in the CBC Gym.
More details on that later.

Cornerstone Covenant Church

Cornerstone Covenant Church family would like to invite you to join us Sunday at 10:30 a.m. as Pastor Michael Willard continues on the series entitled "A Dynamic Fellowship."
Last week, we discussed three points in helping you to keep your "Fellowship with God."
(1) Be Humble — Do not deny that you have sins; acknowledge them. "If you fake it, you won't make it."
(2) Be Honest — (a) Go to God, (b) confess your sin, (c) ask for forgiveness and (d) repent. God says He will forgive you and cleanse you from sin. And don't forget to ask for the restoring of joy;

(3) Be Smart - Recognize that God has something special in store for you.
This week, our title will be "Fellowship with the Word." How exactly do we have fellowship with the Word? John 1:1 states:
"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."
Hmm...very interesting. If you feel that tugging on your heart, and would like to know more, then please come join us Sunday as we continue on our topic of fellowship.
Cornerstone Covenant Church is a unified, spirited, purpose-driven church, which cultivates an atmosphere of faith so lives can be transformed by Jesus Christ.
We meet Wednesdays at 7 p.m. for Discipleship 101 Bible Study and Sundays at 10:30 a.m. for worship.
CCC offers nursery and children church for both mid-week and Sunday services.
CCC is located at 706 E. 12th Street.
For office hours or more information, contact our office at 264-0015 or visit us on the web at www.cccbigspring.org

Alive in Christ Lutheran Church

An installation service was conducted July 15 for Pastor Lannon Martin. He began his study at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind., in August 2008.
He served his vicarage at Saint Paul Lutheran Church in Albion, Mich. He was ordained into the office of the Holy Ministry on June, 3. We are truly blessed to have Pastor Martin with us!
Our motto is "Celebrating and Sharing God's Love and Grace in our lives."
We are located at 2805 Lynn Drive. Our church phone number is 264-7818. Our new website is http://www.m2ctexas.org/chweb/aliveinchrist/. Our e-mail address is aliveinchrist@crcom.net.
We would love to have you join us for church on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. with breakfast treats following and Sunday school around 10:15 a.m.
This week's sermon is entitled "Not Just a Shack." Richard Knocke will be reading the liturgy this Sunday.
The readings for this week are Jeremiah 23: 1-6, Psalm 23, Ephesians 2: 11-22 and Mark 6: 30-44.
Lutheran Night at the Ballpark will be on Aug. 5,
See **CHURCH**, Page 7

Separating the geeks from the non-geeks

I'm not exactly sure when I first heard the word, "geek." I think the term came into my vocabulary around the time that the first computer came through the front door of our home. Since then, I have heard a lot about those absurdly intelligent people known as geeks.

exactly sure about the qualifications for non-geek classification, I knew I probably fell into that category. Since I only understood about every third word of his blog, I was sure I didn't meet the requirements for geek status.



BONNIE WHEAT

According to Wikipedia, my favorite online encyclopedia, a geek is an odd or near mainstream individual. The word "geek" carries several connotations ranging from an expert or enthusiast, usually in the field of science, mathematics, or technology, to a person heavily interested in a hobby.

Having given considerable thought to the differences between geeks and non-geeks, I offer these observations:

- Geeks have a passion for learning. They are constantly trying to expand their knowledge of technology. They earnestly care how it works and are concerned about future possibilities. Non-geeks just want to check their email and play Solitaire.
- Geeks know the correct terminology. They

Although, I have been aware of geeks for quite some time, I just recently saw the term "non-geek" in print. The depicter was tossed out by a blogger who is a self-proclaimed geek on the subject of social media. He was recommending some software that even non-geeks could use. Although I wasn't

See **WHEAT**, Page 7

Seeing clearly in the storm

Often when we think of the subject of "evil, pain and suffering," our minds tend to think about the actual act that caused the suffering and that is understandable. When we hear about a car wreck we immediately think about the person in the car wreck or our minds will focus on the evil that was experienced at the hand of a violent criminal. We will begin to ask questions like, "Why did this happen to me? Or "How could God let this happen?"
As a result of being consumed by these questions, disappointment and confusion set in.
Yet the key is what should we do when we are in these types of situations? In the book of Habakkuk, we find a



KENNETH GARCIA

The king was taking the gold and silver not only from religious realm, but also from the people. On top of the financial thievery, we also read that violence and strife were very prevalent during this time. To make matters even worse, the people during this time could not even turn to those who were supposed to be serving God because even that area was polluted spiritually.

situation where great injustice rained in the land. The king at the time was sending both silver and gold from Judah to Egypt.

Eventually, Habakkuk started to cry out to God, wondering what was happening in the land.
He wanted to know how much longer he needed to cry out until God would hear and he was wondering why God is not saving His people.
God eventually did respond and told Habakkuk that the problem would be solved in the near future by sending in a foreign force to deal with the injustice in the land. Even after being told this, Habakkuk still did not fully understand what God was going to do, but in chapter 3:17-18 he says, "Though the fig tree should not blossom and there be no fruit on the vines, though the yield of the olive should fail and the fields produce no food, though the

flock should be cut off from the fold and there be no cattle in the stalls, yet I will exult in the Lord, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation." So, according to Habakkuk, when we are going through the storms of life, the key to making it through them is to trust in God and realize that he is in control.

Kenneth Garcia is the gospel preacher for the Birdwell Lane Church of Christ. These articles are meant to cover practical topics that will enlighten and encourage each and every one of us in our daily lives. TheLordschild33@yahoo.com is my email address and if you can put in caps "questions for Kenny" in the subject line that would be great. Please contact me directly.

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.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net



By Steve Becker

Bidding Quiz

- Some bidding sequences are regarded as impossible — that is, you can't have a hand that fits the bid or bids you've made. In each of the following five cases, specify whether South's last bid is Possible or Impossible:
- North** 1♥ **East** Dble **South** Redble **West** 1♠
Pass Pass Pass
 - North** 1♠ **East** Pass **South** 2♠ **West** Pass
3♣ Pass Pass
 - South** 1NT **West** Pass **North** 3NT **East** Pass
4NT
 - South** 1♣ **West** Pass **North** 1♥ **East** Pass
1♠ Pass Pass **South** 2♦ **West** Pass
Pass
 - North** 1♦ **East** Pass **South** 1♥ **West** Pass
2♣ Pass Pass

- Impossible.** North and South have agreed on spades as trumps, so South can hardly pass three clubs. North is probing for a game or slam and cannot suddenly be left high and dry in three clubs. The least South can do is bid three spades.
- Impossible.** North's three-notrump bid says, "We have enough points for game, but not enough for a slam, even if you have a maximum." South therefore cannot bid four notrump.
- Impossible.** It is a fundamental principle of bidding that a new suit bid by responder is 100 percent forcing. South must therefore bid again. North's two-diamond bid implies a reasonable hand of at least 10 high-card points and could be much stronger.
- Possible.** A new suit bid by opener is not forcing, so responder may pass with minimal values (six or seven points) and a preference for opener's second suit. With more (or the same number of) cards in opener's first suit, responder must return opener to that suit regardless of how weak his hand might be.

1. **Impossible.** The redouble promised 10 or more points, so South must bid over one spade, since his side has substantially more than half the 40 points in the deck. Note also that North's hand is unlimited; he could have a very good hand and

Tomorrow: A difficult assignment.

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Reflections: Flying upside down

Thirteen years ago this week, John F. Kennedy Jr. took off on his fateful flight from Essex County Airport, New Jersey. Heir to the legendary Kennedy good looks, charm and fortune, the young Kennedy possessed unlimited potential for political and commercial fame. But, in less than two hours, his young life would be cut short along with his wife and sister-in-law, who were passengers. Flying at night without instrument ratings, the young Kennedy was dependent



BILL
TINSLEY

Jesus' instructions sound incredulous in a world that operates on systems of revenge and retaliation, of greed and self-interest.

upon visual contact with the ground in order to land the Piper Saratoga safely at Martha's Vineyard Airport 200 miles away. Unknown to Kennedy, he was flying into a night fog. Choosing to fly over open water, he became disoriented with no visual horizon and apparently pulled the plane into a deadly spiral. Their bodies were discovered in the wreckage eight miles off the coast of Massachusetts. Kennedy's tragic death underlines the dangers of spatial disorientation in flight, something commonly referred to as "flying upside

down." The pilot thinks he is flying right-side up, but is, in fact, "flying upside down," so that when he thinks he is pulling up, he is instead flying into the ground. Dallas Willard used this metaphor to introduce his book, "The Divine Conspiracy," drawing the conclusion that Jesus was the only person who ever lived who knew how to fly right-side up. The rest of us, left to our own devices, inevitably fly upside down. This is the reason Jesus' instructions sound so counter intuitive:

- "Give and it shall be given to you, good measure, pressed down and running over."
- "Whoever would save his shall lose it, and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it."
- "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. ... If you love those who love you, what reward do you have?"
- "If anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, let him have your coat, also. Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two. Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him

who wants to borrow from you." • "Do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also." Jesus' instructions sound incredulous in a world that operates on systems of revenge and retaliation, of greed and self-interest. Perhaps that is the reason our world seems to be out of control, gripped in a death spiral destined for destruction. Only when we learn to trust the one who alone can see the horizon are we able to "right our plane" and fly right-side up. *Bill Tinsley reflects on current events and life experience from a faith perspective. Visit www.tinsleycenter.com. Email bill@tinsleycenter.com*

CHURCH

Continued from Page 5

with the picnic beginning at 5:30 p.m. and the game starting at 6 p.m. Our pastor, Carroll Kohl, is on KBYG every morning for a devotion, sponsored in part by the Lutheran Hour. Tune in to 106.3 FM or 1400 AM between 6:45 and 6:50 each morning for these wonderful devotions: "Morning Meditation Thoughts." A website offered by The Lutheran Hour Ministries is available. The site, www.jcplayzone.com, promises fun and Christian educational-based games and videos. The website is offered in several languages and is a safe internet site is something to check out.

First United Methodist Church

Saturday morning there will be an all-church shower honoring Heather Barr and Randall Capshaw, who will be married Aug. 4 in the sanctuary. The event will be from 10-11:30 a.m. in the church parlor. Sunday, guest preacher, and former pastor the Rev. Ed Williamson will lead both services of worship at 8:30 a.m. and 10:50 a.m. Special feature of the 10:50 a.m. service will be the baptism of Ian Duncan Williams, infant son of Heather and Ryan Williams. Ian is the fifth generation of the Howard family to be baptized in this church. Children's Day Out and Kids With a Purpose will meet Monday and Wednesday. with Wednesday being the last day of the summer sessions. Noon Bible study and luncheon is held Wednesdays with serving beginning at 11:50 a.m. Just Peachy will be catering the meal this week. Vacation Bible School is just around the corner. "Sky, All things are Possible thru God" will begin Aug. 6. The meal will be served at 5:30 p.m. with Bible school activities from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Molly and Maury Smith, this year's co-chairmen of The Lord's Acre, are calling a brief organizational meeting for Monday, July 30 at 6:30 p.m. in the Pathmaker's classroom. Pastor Bill Ivins has proclaimed Sunday, Aug. 26 as "Kick-Off Sunday," a great way to start the fall season. He suggest you wear a T-shirt with your favorite school colors and plan to stay for a "tail gate" lunch following the late service in the air conditioned comfort of Garrett Hall. Saturday, Sept. 29 and Sunday afternoon, Sept. 30, First Methodist will play host to Jimmy Nunn, who will be leading our congregation in a local study called "The 12 Keys to an Effective Church." For complete weekly schedules and special events, go to our website www.fumcbs.org. First

United Methodist Church is located in the heart of downtown Big Spring at Fourth and Scurry.

First Presbyterian Church, Big Spring

Kelli Schaedel and Charlie Boling, accompanied by Christine and Don Boling, will join other youth from Tres Rios Presbytery to attend Synod Youth Workshop in Tulsa, Okla. leaving Sunday. Members of the congregation are reminded of the annual Back-to-School Supplies Drive. Please bring paper, pens, pencils, crayons, red pens, rulers and spiral notebooks and leave them in the Narthex Sunday, July 22 or July 29. The Service Committee will distribute these to the schools. The lectionary is II Samuel 7:1-14; Psalm 89:20-37; I Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56. The Rev. Craig Holstedt will deliver the sermon. If you cannot attend worship, listen on KBST 1490 AM., beginning at 11 a.m. If you wish to have a printed bulletin for Sunday services, call the church office at 263-4211. You may also see what's happening at the church by visiting our website: www.fpcbs.org. On our website, you can find a link that will enable you to listen to several recent sermons by The Rev. Holstedt.

First Baptist Church, Coahoma

"Space Quest," this year's Vacation Bible School, will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday. VBS is open to students in grades pre-kindergarten through 6. Dinner will be served daily at 5:30 p.m.

North Birdwell Lane United Methodist Church

North Birdwell Lane United Methodist Church meets each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. with Pastor Billy Bates leading the services and Jacque Mauch leading the singing. There will be no evening services during the summer months. Sunday school for all ages begins at 9 a.m. The Adult Class will continue their study in unit two, "Justice Enacted," with Guy Teague leading the discussion on "A King Acts on a Widow's Behalf," taken from Second Kings 4:1-37 and 8:1-6. The regular Fifth Sunday Fellowship luncheon will be held July 29 following the worship service. An Administrative Council meeting will be held following the luncheon. It was decided to send money for a scholarship to Camp O Cumberland, located in the Red Bird Missionary Conference in Southeastern Kentucky. The recipient will be chosen from the Red Bird Conference. Please remember to continue to pray for rain and

for those who have suffered from disasters and for the safe return of mission participants.

North Birdwell Lane United Methodist Church is located at 2702 N. Birdwell and welcomes all who wish to worship with us. For more information on the church or the use of the food pantry, call 267-2203 or 267-3241.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

St. Mary's Holy Eucharist service begins at 9:30 a.m. Sunday. St. Andrew's Brotherhood meeting and breakfast will be at 8:30 a.m. Saturday at Crispy Cafe on Birdwell Lane. The Brown Bag Book Bunch will meet Wednesday at 6 p.m. in the library. The group will discuss the book, "The Wind in the Willows." Bring your "brown bag" supper and come share your thoughts and ideas. For more information about St. Mary's Episcopal Church, call 267-8201. The church is located at 1001 S. Goliad St.

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

You are invited to attend our church, located at 911 Goliad St. Each Sunday starts with a time of fellowship at 9:30 a.m. and Sunday School for all ages is at 9:45 a.m. The worship service begins at 10:50 a.m. This Sunday, the Rev. Kenneth McIntosh will deliver the message, "Who Gets the Gold?" Our communion table is open to all who follow Jesus Christ, regardless of denomination. Upcoming activities include Breakfast With The Guys at 8:30 a.m. Saturday at Crispy's Cafe and the stewardship committee meeting at 12:15 p.m. Wednesday. Volunteers are needed at Isaiah 58 to help unload the truck Monday mornings and to assist clients. Client hours are Mondays from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Isaiah 58 is located at 107 Runnels. Call 268-9530 or the church office to help or for more information. Samiritan Counseling is available for anyone from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursdays and from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Fridays. You do not have to be a member of First Christian Church to use this service. We believe the church is built by people worshipping together. We welcome you to visit with us anytime. For questions or further information, call the church office at 432-517-4821, email fcbs125@yahoo.com or view our website at www.fcbsbigspring.org.

WHEAT

Continued from Page 5

speak of gigabytes and megapixels. They use "geekology" which means nothing to non-geeks. Non-geeks

assume that geeks are speaking in unknown tongues. • Geeks contact technical support and spend hours to solve a problem. Non-geeks only need the phone number of a good computer repairman.

In the broader sense of the term, the early followers of Christ may have been geeks. They were given the derogatory name of "Christians" because of their devotion to the teachings of Jesus. A follower named Barnabas

brought Saul, who was also known as Paul, to Antioch to help train new believers. The Scripture records: "... For an entire year they met with the church and taught considerable numbers; and the disciples were first called

Christians at Antioch" (Acts 11:26 NASB). Since the term Christian literally means "belonging to Christ," those who studied at Antioch probably seemed a little odd to the non-believers of the day. If there had been

geeks in Antioch, the enthusiastic Christians might have been called "Geeks for Jesus." *Bonnie Wheat is an author and a minister's wife. She can be contacted at brwheat@suddenlink.net.*

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Nation/world news in brief

Syria's national security chief dies of wounds from rebel blast

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Syrian TV says the country's national security chief has died of wounds suffered in a rebel blast.

Gen. Hisham Ikhtiyar is the fourth member of President Bashar Assad's inner circle to die in Wednesday's bombing that targeted security chiefs meeting in the national security headquarters in Damascus.

The TV report says Ikhtiyar died Friday morning.

The others killed in the blast were Gen. Assef Shawkat, the deputy defense minister who was married to Assad's elder sister, Defense Minister Dawoud Rajha and Hassan Turkmani, a former defense minister.

Bulgarian prosecutor: Bomber who attacked bus full of Israeli tourist had tried to rent car

SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP) — A man believed to have carried out a suicide attack on a bus full of Israeli vacationers had a short haircut, not the long hair seen in a security video, and tried to rent a car in the days before the bombing but was turned down because his ID appeared suspicious, a Bulgarian prosecutor said Friday.

Authorities looking for clues as to the identity of the man suspected of killing himself and six others are using his fingerprints, his DNA and his fake Michigan driver's license.

Security camera footage from before the attack showed the suspected bomber wandering in and out of the terminal, wearing a baseball cap over long hair, and a T-shirt, and plaid shorts, with a bulky backpack believed to contain the bomb.

Israel was quick to blame Iran and its Lebanese ally Hezbollah for the attack and a U.S. official told The Associated Press on Thursday night that Hezbollah was believed to be behind the attack. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because it was a sensitive intelligence issue.

Prosecutor Kalina Chapkanova said in a TV interview that before the attack a man believed to be the bomber tried to rent a car in the town of Pomorie, near the site of the bombing. She said the owner of the rental agency, whom she would not identify, become suspicious of his license and refused to conclude the deal.

Obama, Romney seek advantage on health care and the economy

MANALAPAN, Fla. (AP) — President Barack Obama is warning Florida retirees that Republican challenger Mitt Romney would undercut the new health care law and alter Medicare, a play for voters in one of the nation's top swing states.

Obama wraps up a two-day trip to Florida on Friday with stops in Fort Myers and suburban Orlando, where he is pressing the case that retirees would be hurt by Romney's opposition to the health care law and by Republican-led efforts to turn Medicare into a "voucher program." Romney is keeping his focus on the economy, charging that Obama remains more concerned about holding onto his own job than creating more jobs for Americans.

In pre-convention summertime campaigning, Obama and Romney are locked in a tight contest and seeking advantages in about a dozen toss-up states that could help decide the election. None is more prominent than Florida, which narrowly decided the 2000 election and could provide a major boost to whoever prevails here.

Obama, addressing elderly residents of a sprawling South Florida condominium complex on Thursday, jumped on Romney's opposition to the health care law. He said repeal of the law, which was recently upheld by the Supreme Court, would force more than 200,000 Floridians to pay more for their

prescription drugs.

The president charged Romney with seeking to turn Medicare into a voucher program, drawing jeers from retirees at West Palm Beach's Century Village, home to thousands of reliably Democratic voters.

Not just smiling in devotion: Ann Romney, Michelle Obama are showing off their campaign skills

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's no coincidence that Michelle Obama and Ann Romney are showing up a lot more as the tight presidential race barrels into the final few months.

The rival campaigns are rolling out their top assets in a big way. The first lady is the public face of a new grass-roots mobilizing effort for Team Obama. And Mrs. Romney's recent interviews have put her on display cutting through the campaign din — including her blunt statement Thursday that her husband has provided everything that "people need to know" and won't be releasing more tax returns.

Although Mrs. Romney is still largely unknown to a large swath of the public, both women are well regarded by voters in their own parties, and the campaigns are going all-out to use their appeal in ways that go well beyond the traditional presidential cookie bakeoff.

"They really do appear to be in it to win it, both of them, and sincerely in it to win it," says Anita McBride, who served as Laura Bush's chief of staff in the White House.

Mrs. Obama on Thursday made her debut as the leader the Obama campaign's new "It Takes One" program, which asks supporters to do one thing to promote the campaign — and to engage someone else to do likewise.

Ex-chair of Penn State trustees board resigns; 1st member to do so following sex abuse scandal

A member and former chairman of the Penn State board of trustees has resigned, saying his presence on the board had become "a distraction and an impediment" to the university's efforts to move forward following the Jerry Sandusky child sex abuse scandal.

Steve Garban's resignation Thursday night made him the first board member to leave since the crisis engulfed Penn State.

Garban, who had stepped down as board chairman after Sandusky's November arrest but had remained a board member, was harshly criticized over his handling of the Sandusky case. Fellow board members and alumni had called for him to resign.

Garban didn't immediately return a call seeking comment Thursday night. In his resignation letter, he said he had "devoted" his adult life to Penn State.

"It has been a privilege and an honor to serve the university that has done so much for me," the letter stated. "Indeed, it is precisely because of my deep gratitude to and respect for my beloved alma mater that I now step aside."

Hundreds of millions of Muslims prepare for Ramadan in scorching summer heat

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Muslims from Morocco to Afghanistan are steeling themselves for the toughest Ramadan in more than three decades. No food or drink, not even a sip of water, for 14 hours a day during the hottest time of the year.

The test of self-restraint is made only harder by daily power cuts in some parts of the Muslim world such as Iraq, Pakistan and tiny Gaza.

With temperatures in the region routinely climbing above 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) and

days at their longest of the year, governments are trying to alleviate the hardships of the monthlong sunrise-to-sunset fast. Morocco resets the clock so believers can break the fast an hour early. Pakistan promises to reduce daily blackouts, which can last up to 22 hours. Public servants are allowed to work fewer hours.

Despite the hardship, for many Muslims it's the most anticipated part of the year — a time of family togetherness and religious devotion, a break from routine. Muslims believe God revealed the first verses of their holy book, the Quran, to the Prophet Muhammad during Ramadan.

The Muslim lunar calendar moves back through the seasons, so Ramadan starts 11 days earlier each year under the Western calendar. The last time Ramadan started in mid-July was in 1980. Winter fasts are easier because of cooler temperatures and shorter days. This year, Ramadan starts in most parts of the Muslim world on Friday, though some mark the beginning on Saturday.

Government study: Private student loans parallel boom-bust of subprime mortgages

WASHINGTON (AP) — Risky lending caused private student loan debt to balloon in the past decade, leaving many Americans struggling to pay off loans that they can't afford, a government study says.

Private lenders gave out money without considering whether borrowers would repay, then bundled and resold the loans to investors to avoid losing money when students defaulted, according to the study, which is being released Friday.

Those practices are closely associated with subprime mortgage lending, which inflated the housing bubble and helped bring about the 2008 financial crisis.

"Subprime-style lending went to college, and now students are paying the price," said Education Secretary Arne Duncan, whose department produced the report with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Duncan said the government must do more to ensure that people who received private loans enjoy the same protections as those who borrow from the federal government.

Feds: Traveling hospital tech could have spread hepatitis C beyond NH; 6 states investigating

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — Authorities in at least six states are investigating whether a traveling hospital technician accused of infecting 30 people with hepatitis C in New Hampshire also exposed earlier patients to the liver-destroying disease.

David Kwiatkowski, a former technician at Exeter Hospital, was arrested Thursday morning at a Massachusetts hospital where he was receiving treatment. Once he is well enough to be released, he will be transferred to New Hampshire to face federal drug charges, said U.S. Attorney John Kacavas, who called Kwiatkowski, 33, a "serial infector" who worked in at least half a dozen states.

Authorities believe Kwiatkowski stole drugs from a hospital operating room in another state, but they declined to name any of the other states, saying only that they are not clustered in one part of the country. They would not say in what hospital Kwiatkowski was being treated at so he couldn't be contacted for comment.

"We are closer to the beginning of our investigation than the end," Kacavas said.

Investigators believe Kwiatkowski, 33, stole syringes containing fentanyl, a powerful anesthetic more potent than morphine, and injected himself with them. They said he then put another liquid, such as saline, into the syringes, which were later used for patients. They said a search of his vehicle found an empty fentanyl syringe and several needles.

Presidential campaign becoming accented in Spanish

WASHINGTON (AP) — The race to the White House is now available in Spanish, and it's no surprise.

With Latinos projected to be nearly a third of the U.S. population by 2050 and already making up a crucial voting bloc in battleground states from Florida to Nevada, the campaigns of Mitt Romney and President

Barack Obama have gained a Spanish accent.

Romney's son Craig, for example, has become his father's personal translator, explaining in skillful Spanish in targeted TV ads that his dad is a man "con grandes convicciones," or "with strong beliefs." He will fight "para en-caminar nuestro pais y

crear empleos," or "to guide our country and create jobs," Craig Romney says.

The Obama campaign has recycled its 2008 campaign slogan, "Si, se puede," or "Yes, we can," for this year's run.

The catchphrase has special meaning as the motto of the late Cesar Chavez and the United

Farmworker's Union and has become a ubiquitous staple of the president's attempts to identify with and retain the Latino support he received the last time he ran.

After English, Spanish is the country's most-used language. Nearly 37 million U.S. residents speak Spanish at home, about 12 percent,

according to the U.S. Census Bureau. First- and second-generation Latinos might be less likely to speak Spanish daily, but this is countered by newly arrived Spanish-speaking immigrants.

But language alone won't do it, say some Latino advocates.

Clarissa Martinez de Castro, director of civic engagement and immi-

gration for the National Council of La Raza, said that beyond publishing ads in Spanish, both campaigns need to tailor their outreach to respond to the challenges of engaging Latinos politically.

Latinos are more likely to be new voters. Overall, the median age for Latinos is 27.6 years, compared with 42 years for non-Hispanic whites.

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sudoku

ANSWERS

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net



Matt Downs connects for a slow-roller during the fourth inning of Astros' 1-0 loss to the Padres on Thursday. San Diego's Edinson Volquez threw a one-hitter, with Downs' hit being the only one recorded by Houston during the outing.

AP photo

Padres blank Astros 1-0 on strength of Volquez's one-hitter

SAN DIEGO (AP) — While the Houston Astros were relieved not to fall victim to another no-hitter on Thursday night, they had little else to celebrate.

Edinson Volquez threw a one-hitter — an infield single in the fourth inning that bounced off his glove — for the first complete game and shutout of his career as the San Diego Padres beat the Astros 1-0 on Thursday night.

Houston dropped three of the four games in the series and is batting .197 over the past 15 games. San Francisco's Matt Cain threw a perfect game against the Astros on July 13.

"It's going to turn here, and it's going to turn here quick," Astros manager Brad Mills said. "We're looking forward to it turning tomorrow night in Arizona."

Alexi Amarista doubled and Logan Forsythe singled in the first inning against rookie Lucas Harrell to account for the game's only run.

Harrell (7-7), who threw a shutout against San Diego

on June 27 in Houston, gave up four hits and struck out six while walking one in seven innings.

"With our offense, I feel like we can score enough runs if I can keep it close," Harrell said.

Volquez shut down the Astros except for an infield single by Matt Downs, who hit a comebacker to the left side of the mound. Third baseman Chase Headley and Volquez converged on the ball. Volquez opted to attempt to snare the ball but dropped it. Volquez did not attempt to throw out Downs at first base.

"I've got to work on my backhand," Volquez said. "I was supposed to catch that ball. I've got fielding practice tomorrow, I've got to work on that. He hit it in the right spot."

Downs was glad to not be a part of history.

"You look back and you're glad he didn't no-hit you," Downs said.

In becoming the first Padres pitcher to throw a one-hitter at Petco Park,

See **ASTROS**, Page 14

Melissa defends 7-on-7 title

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP) — Defending Division II champion Melissa took a strong first step in defending their title Thursday at the 7-on-7 state championships in College Station.

Melissa went 2-1 on the first day of the tournament led by quarterback Chris Smith. The Cardinals were tested early as they went down to the wire with Lexington pulling off a 32-27 victory.

Melissa's only loss came at the hands of La Marque in a 39-18 defeat in their second game of the day. They were able to bounce back and defeat Iraan 41-30.

Melissa's 2-1 record tied them for first in their pool with La Marque and Lexington.

The tiebreaker, decided on points scored, sent La Marque and Melissa to the championship round beginning Friday morning at the Penberthy Fields on the Texas A&M University campus.

They will be joined in the 32-team bracket by 12 undefeated teams including Stephenville, Worthing, Brownwood, St. Pius, Celina and Canton.

The Division II championship game is scheduled for Friday afternoon at Kyle Field on the A&M campus.

Colts, Luck strike 4-year deal

MICHAEL MAROT

AP Sports Writer

Rest easy, Colts fans. The Andrew Luck era can now officially begin.

The Colts signed the Stanford quarterback and No. 1 overall pick in the draft to a four-year, \$22.1 million deal on Thursday.

"12 is officially signed!!!!!!" Colts owner Jim Irsay tweeted, adding a photo of Luck signing his contract for good measure.

Luck's agent and uncle, Will Wilson, confirmed the deal had been completed.

The deal is similar to the one signed by Cam Newton a year ago and the one signed this week by Robert Griffin III.

Newton, last year's top pick, has a four-year, \$22 million deal with Carolina and Griffin, who went No. 2 behind Luck in April's draft, signed a four-

year contract with the Washington Redskins worth \$21.1 million guaranteed, with a club option for a fifth year.

Whatever the terms, Colts fans can look forward to seeing Luck behind center this season, brought in to help the proud franchise rebound after last year's horrible skid.

The injured Peyton Manning never played a down and now he's gone, off to Denver for a fresh start with the Broncos.

Indy gets a rare opportunity to transition from one star quarterback to another.

Luck threw for 35 touchdowns last season — breaking his school record of 32 in 2010 — and eclipsed John Elway's career record (77) at Stanford.

Luck scored 80 touchdown passes in only three seasons.

He finished with 3,170 yards passing, a 70 per-

cent completion percentage and only nine interceptions without the benefit of an elite wide receiver in 2011. He was the Heisman Trophy runner-up — twice.

Luck has a pretty good idea what to expect beyond wearing a No. 12 jersey for the Colts.

He will be expected to help lead the team back from a 2-14 season that included an 0-13 start with Manning out recovering from neck surgery.

Irsay cleaned out the front office and changed coaching staffs in January and February.

Bruce Arians was Manning's first NFL quarterbacks coach and he's back as Indy's offensive coordinator, and former Indy offensive coordinator Clyde Christensen is now the Colts quarterback coach.

See **LUCK**, Page 14

Cowboys dropped from SB ticket lawsuit

DALLAS (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys have been dropped from a lawsuit over lack of seating for some ticketholders at the 2011 Super Bowl in Texas.

U.S. District Judge Barbara Lynn on Thursday removed the team as a defendant. Part of the litigation can continue against the NFL.

The Dallas Morning News reports the judge ruled the tickets were a contract between the buyers and the NFL.

The Packers beat the Steelers 31-25

in the game at Cowboys Stadium in Arlington.

A Cowboys spokesman declined comment.

An NFL statement notes the judge dismissed most of the lawsuit's claims.

The plaintiffs can continue suing the NFL for breach of contract.

People with obstructed-view seats can continue their fraud claims.

Plaintiffs' attorney Michael Avenatti says evidence will be presented of NFL fraud against fans.

Big Ten may give commish power to fire coaches

LARRY LAGE

AP Sports Writer

In the wake of the scandal at Penn State, the Big Ten Conference is considering a plan to give its commissioner the power to punish schools with financial sanctions, suspensions and even the ability to fire coaches.

An 18-page plan being circulated among Big Ten leadership raises the possibility of giving Commissioner Jim Delany such authority, the Chronicle of Higher Education reported Thursday. The plan, which the Chronicle posted online, suggests that in certain circumstances requiring "immediate and decisive action," the commissioner would have unilateral authority to "take any and all actions" in the best interest of the Big Ten.

The league declined comment when contacted by The Associat-

ed Press for comment on the plan titled "Standards and Procedures for Safeguarding Institutional Control of Intercollegiate Athletics."

"It is a working document intended to generate ideas, not draw conclusions," according to an email sent from Big Ten headquarters to people in the league. "One provision in the document addresses 'emergency authority of the commissioner' - it is just one of many ideas."

Former Penn State assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky was recently convicted of sexually abusing 10 boys, sometimes on campus. A report commissioned by Penn State said school leaders, including the late coach Joe Paterno, ignored allegations more than a decade ago to avoid bad publicity, allowing Sandusky to prey on other boys for years. Paterno's family said he

never participated in an attempt to cover up wrongdoing.

The NCAA and U.S. Education Department are investigating Penn State for potential rules and policy violations; the issue of "institutional control" is believed to be a key part of the NCAA probe, since problems there can lead to athletic penalties. The Chronicle said the Big Ten is still discussing how to handle fallout from the scandal at one of its member schools; currently, its 12-member Council of Presidents and Chancellors must approve any decision to suspend or expel one of the league's schools.

Whether Delany would ever be granted the power to fire coaches or punish schools was unknown. The Big Ten email said the council would have to approve such a sweeping change.

See **COMMISH**, Page 14

USADA files motion to dismiss Armstrong suit

EDDIE PELLIS

AP National Writer

The U.S. Anti-Doping Agency filed a motion asking a judge to dismiss Lance Armstrong's federal lawsuit seeking to prevent the drug-fighting organization from pursuing doping charges against him.

The motion, filed Thursday in Austin, Texas, cites the Ted Stevens Amateur Sports Act, which gives USADA jurisdiction over athletes who compete in Olympic sports.

It also includes a 2005 affidavit from USADA CEO Ingrid Tsigart stating that Armstrong took part in USADA's testing program and was under its jurisdiction — the opposite claim Armstrong is making in the current case.

The affidavit helped bolster Armstrong's claims in a lawsuit against SCA Promotions, which refused to pay bonus money to the Tour de France winner because of allegations he used performance-enhancing drugs.

See **ARMSTRONG**, Page 14

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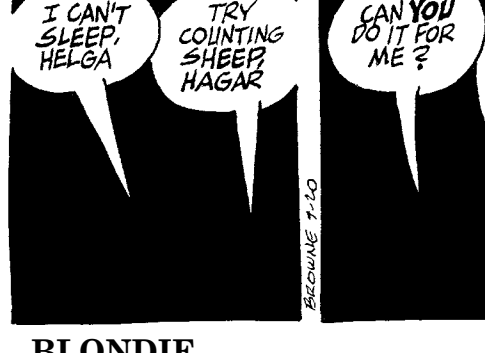
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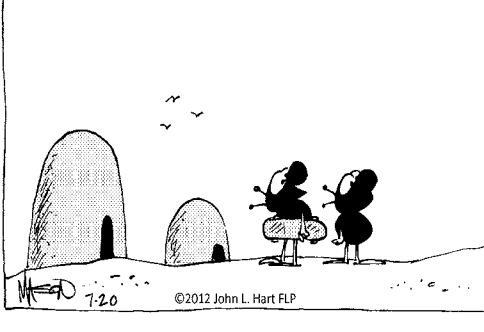
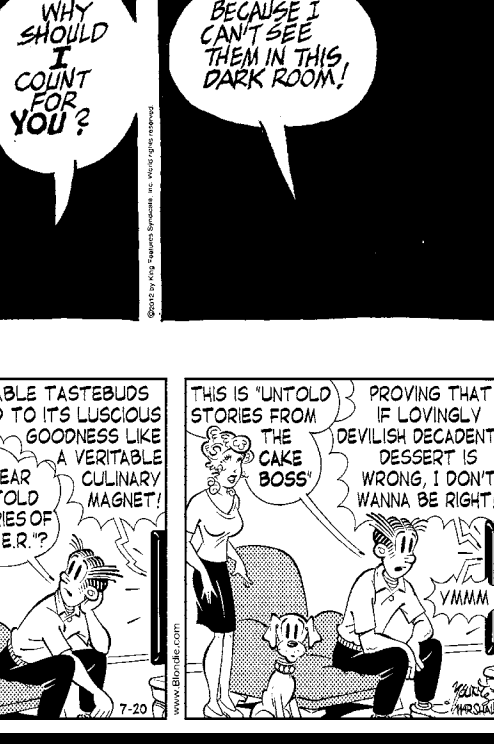


"No, Daddy, put your hand over there... then your foot goes over here... then grab that branch..."

HAGAR



BLONDIE



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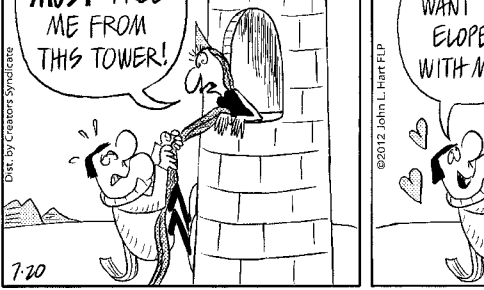
This Date In History

Today is Friday, July 20, the 202nd day of 2012. There are 164 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On July 20, 1969, astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin became the first men to walk on the moon after reaching the surface in their Apollo 11 lunar module.

In 1990, Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan, one of the court's most liberal voices, announced he was stepping down. Today's Birthdays: Actress-singer Sally Ann Howes is 82. Rockabilly singer Sleepy LaBeef is 77. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski, D-Md., is 76.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE: A crossword grid with words like CAMP, COCA, LIARS, ODIE, APOP, UNTIE, BLACKBELL, CNOTE, RIM, NANA, SEIZES, ABILENE, TURN, SEARCHENGINE, UNCAS, HIDE, ROD, SCAR, RAISE, BANG, MAR, DILL, KESEY, CARDINALS, FAN, OAKS, PIZZAZZ, EDSELS, TINA, FAA, ARISE, BANANA, OIL, TONIC, AXEL, PORE, SPENT, MITE, RITES.

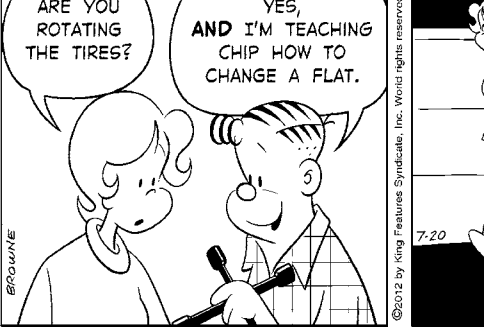
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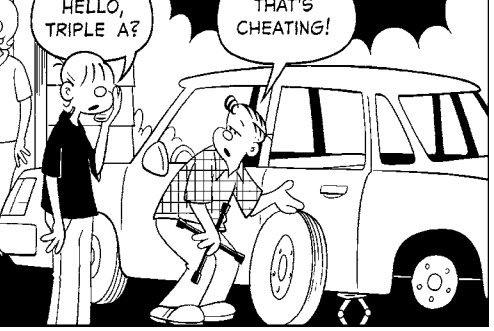
AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILY



Newsday Crossword

FALSELY DESCRIBED by S.N. Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS: 1 Lynch of Glee, 5 Clip off, 10 Ill-natured, 14 Aphrodite's infant, 15 Destiny, 16 Unit charge, 17 Make a major stumble, 19 Finance types, 20 The Badger St., 21 One way to vote, 22 Plunder, 24 Owns up to, 26 Observe furtively, 29 Orange Muppet, 30 Kawai competitor, 32 Bit of a summer corn crop, 34 Whole bunch, 35 Fanatic, 37 Demolition supply, 38 Abbr. before some addressees, 40 Fling, 42 Luckless one, 45 New Jersey's state tree, 47 Power-converter letters, 51 Poodle in a pound, 53 Evicted nostalgia, 55 First-stringers, 56 Lunch with Peter Pan, perhaps, 58 Discourage, 59 Standings column, 61 Slim swimmer, 63 2016 Olympics site.

- DOWN: 6 Won't miss at all, 7 Be mistaken, 8 Bordeaux beau, 9 Criticizes, 10 National Guard outpost, 11 Cupboard, 12 With 13 Down, cannoli or spumoni, 13 See 12 Down, 18 Mascara destination, 23 Bombards, 25 Jazz horn effect, 27 Green shade, 28 Black Sea resort, 31 Montezuma subject, 33 Swindles, 36 Ultimately become, 39 "I'm game".

Crossword grid with numbered squares.

Crossword grid with numbered squares.

