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# H BIG SPRING HERALD

**TUESDAY**

JANUARY 15, 2013



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## FISD looks for answers in Newtown's wake

**By STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

FORSAN — When it comes to student safety and security procedures, Forsan Independent School officials don't consider "good" good

enough.

A review of safety and security protocols in the school district left officials giving FISD a passing grade, but they were quick to add improvements could and prob-

ably will be made — up to and including the possibility of arming district personnel.

"I'd give us a 'B,'" FISD Superintendent Randy Johnson said after trustees conducted a review of student safety pol-

icies at their meeting Monday night. "I think there's a lot of positive things that have been in place here for years. But there's a new awareness that has led us to have some good, necessary discussions

and will hopefully lead us in the future to getting an 'A.'" The "new awareness" Johnson spoke of is that, in the wake of last month's school

See **FISD**, Page 3

## LOCAL IMPACT?

### Park closures are in the news again

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Texas might have to close 20 of its 95 state parks unless the Legislature approves \$18.9 million in additional funding, wildlife officials have said.

The additional money being requested is part of the state Parks and Wildlife Department's request for \$507.1 million over the next two years, plus an additional \$103 million to restore previous cuts, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported.

Whether the Big Spring State Park is one of those 20 remains to be seen, but because it was one of a few targeted in 2011, it seems probable that it may be. The park currently remains within the state park system due to an agreement with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the city of Big Spring and Howard County. Both local entities agreed to pay \$10,000 — for

See **PARKS**, Page 3



HERALD file photo

Whether Big Spring State Park will be on a proposed list of state parks to be closed due to budget cuts isn't known yet, but it was two years ago.

## Crossroads woman killed in U.S. 87 accident

**By THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

A Big Spring woman was killed and an Odessa man injured early Monday morning in a traffic accident approximately 8 miles south of Big Spring on U.S. Highway 87, according to officials with the Texas Department of Public

Safety.

Sandi Allen, 49, of Big Spring was pronounced dead at the scene of the accident — near the intersection of S. U.S. Highway 87 and FM 821, inside Glasscock County — at 8:25 a.m., according to DPS reports filed with the regional office in Midland.

Injured in the accident was 23-year-old Kolton Linthicum of Odessa. According to DPS

officials, the Odessa man is listed in fair condition at a Midland hospital with lacerations to the face and a broken leg.

According to DPS reports, Allen was traveling west on FM 821 in a 2009 GMC Yukon when she attempted to turn onto U.S. Highway 87, failing to yield the right-of-way to Linthicum, who was traveling north on U.S. Highway 87

in a 2012 Ford F-250 pickup.

Allen was wearing a seat belt at the time of the crash, while Linthicum was not, according to DPS officials.

Allen was pronounced dead by Glasscock County Justice of the Peace Kay Machicek. According to Big Spring Fire Department and EMS records, Linthicum was evacuated from the scene by helicopter.

The roadway was dry at the time of the accident and no other contributing factors were listed on the accident report, which was filed by Texas DPS Trooper Jimmy Matthies.


Funeral arrangements for Allen are being handled by Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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## Ethics Commission finds against city councilman Marcus Fernandez

**By THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

The Texas Ethics Commission has issued a note of final resolution in the complaint against Big Spring District 1 Councilman Marcus Fernandez claiming the local politician illegally accepted campaign contributions during his 2011 bid for office.

According to the report, the TEC met Nov. 29, 2012, to consider the complaint, which was filed by local resident Joyce Crooker in March 2012. The complaints were the result of an investigative report published by the Big Spring Herald in 2011 alleging Fernandez — along with Mayor Tommy Duncan and District 3 Councilman Glen Carrigan — accepted campaign contributions from corporations, which is prohibited by



Fernandez

Sections 253.003 and 253.094 of the Texas Election Code.

According to the TEC and published in Section IV Findings and Conclusions of Law, the commission found credible evidence of violations of Sections 253.003 and 253.094 of the Texas Elections Code.

"On Feb. 22, 2011, the respondent (Fernandez) filed a campaign treasurer appointment with the city of Big Spring," the notice reads. "On his campaign treasurer appointment, the respondent signed a statement stating he was aware of the restrictions in Title 15 of the Election Code on contributions from corporations or labor

See **ETHICS**, Page 3

## TxDOT begins repairs on bridge at FM 700

**Herald Staff Report**

Big Spring — The Texas Department of Transportation will begin repairs this week to the eastbound I-20 bridge over FM 700 in Big Spring that was damaged in October by an 18-wheeler carrying a high load.

Work will include removing and replacing part of the bridge deck, replacing the damaged beams and installing guard rail. Repairs are expected to be complete by early March.

Drivers should be prepared for occasional short-term detours and reduced lanes on I-20 and FM 700 while work progresses. Some closures on FM 700 will be necessary while beams are removed and replaced.

J.H. Strain and Sons Inc. of Tye will complete the project for about \$250,000.

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# News in Brief

## French lead all-night bombing campaign in Mali town of Diabaly, conquered by Islamists

BAMAOKO, Mali (AP) — French forces led an all-night bombing campaign over a minuscule Malian town, not even big enough to appear on most administrative maps, in an effort to dislodge the Islamist extremists who seized the area, including its strategic military camp.

Meanwhile, a convoy of 40 to 50 armed trucks carrying French troops crossed into Mali from Ivory Coast, where they were stationed, as France prepares for a possible land assault.

French President Francois Hollande launched an attack on Mali's rebels, who are linked to al-Qaida, last week after the rebels began advancing south. France's action pre-empted a United Nations-approved plan for a military operation in Mali, which was expected to start about nine months from now. Hollande decided a military response could not wait that long.

French officials have acknowledged that the rebels are better armed and prepared than they expected. Despite France's five-day-old aerial assault, the Islamist fighters have succeeded in gaining ground, most notably taking Diabaly on Monday, which puts them roughly 400 kilometers (250 miles) from Mali's capital, Bamako. When the air raids began last week, the closest known point they occupied was 680 kilometers (420 miles) away from the capital.

## Obama weighing action on guns, still pushing assault weapons ban

WASHINGTON (AP)—Facing powerful opposition to sweeping gun regulations, President Barack Obama is weighing 19 steps that could be taken through executive action alone, congressional officials said.

Those steps could include ordering stricter action against people who lie on gun sale background checks, striking limits on federal research into gun use, ordering tougher penalties against gun trafficking, and giving schools flexibility to use grant money to improve safety.

Obama is expected to unveil his proposals as early as Wednesday, barely over a month since the massacre of 20 children and six adults at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., thrust the gun issue into the national spotlight after years of inaction by Obama and lawmakers.

At the same time Obama is vowing not to back off his support for sweeping gun legislation that would require congressional backing — including banning assault weapons, limiting the capacity of ammunition magazines and instituting universal background checks — despite opposition from the influential gun lobby.

"Will all of them get through this Congress? I don't know," Obama said at a news conference Monday.

## N.Y. agrees on 1st state gun control laws since Newtown massacre; urges states, U.S. to follow

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — New York lawmakers agreed to pass the toughest gun control law in the nation and the first since the Newtown, Conn., school shooting, and now dare other states and Washington to follow.

"This is a scourge on society," Gov. Andrew Cuomo said Monday night, six days after making gun control a centerpiece of his progressive agenda in his State of the State address. The bipartisan effort was fueled by the Newton tragedy that took the lives of 20 first graders and six educators. "At what point do you say, 'No more innocent loss of life.'"

Sen. Jeffrey Klein, leader of the Independent Democratic Conference in the Senate, said it is

landmark legislation. "This is not about taking anyone's rights away," said Klein, a Bronx Democrat. "It's about a safe society ... today we are setting the mark for the rest of the county to do what's right."

The measure, which calls for a tougher assault weapons ban and restrictions on ammunition and the sale of guns, passed the Senate 43-18 on the strength of support from Democrats, many of whom previously sponsored bills that were once blocked by Republicans. The Democrat-led Assembly gavelled out before midnight and planned to take the issue up at 10 a.m. Tuesday. It is expected to pass easily.

## Northeastern lawmakers seeking \$50.7B Sandy aid bill face roadblocks by fiscal conservatives

WASHINGTON (AP) — Northeastern lawmakers hoping to push a \$50.7 billion Superstorm Sandy aid package through the House face roadblocks by fiscal conservatives seeking offsetting spending cuts to pay for recovery efforts as well as funding cuts for projects they say are unrelated.

The amendments by budget hawks set up a faceoff, with Northeast lawmakers in both parties eager to provide recovery aid for one of the worst storms ever to strike the region as the House moves toward expected votes on the emergency spending package.

The base \$17 billion bill by the House Appropriations Committee is aimed at immediate Sandy recovery needs, including \$5.4 billion for New York and New Jersey transit systems and \$5.4 billion for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's disaster relief aid fund.

Northeast lawmakers will have a chance to add to that bill with an amendment for an additional \$33.7 billion.

## FISD

Continued from Page 1

massacre in Newton, Conn., educators' worst nightmare — students being gunned down in their classroom — is no longer a hypothetical situation to discuss but a possibility that must be taken seriously.

While Johnson was hesitant to talk specifics on certain emergency response procedures, he did say two hot-button topics — arming of district personnel and increasing law enforce-

ment presence around the campuses — are now on the table.

"The idea of arming teachers is something that scares me to death," Johnson said. "But I'm afraid schools are being forced to think of some things they never had to before. Will we look at some kind of policy that allows certain people on campus to carry firearms? Yes. Hopefully, we'll receive some sort of guidelines from the state in the coming weeks."

With Forsan campuses being miles away from the nearest emergency first responder, Johnson also supports the idea of increasing law enforcement

presence near the district.

"We are looking into several different options," he said. "Do we have a specific plan in place? No, but we would love to have a permanent law enforcement presence in the community."

Increasing student security also is one of the driving forces behind plans for a new elementary campus which would be situated adjacent to the junior high/high school. Elbow Elementary, which is approximately 15 miles away from Forsan and roughly 10 miles away from law enforcement officials in Big Spring, has been a se-

curity concern for FISD officials for decades.

Johnson recalled when the school was forced into lockdown following an intruder alert a few years ago.

"I promise you, I did not follow the speed limit, but it still took me several minutes to get there," Johnson said. "Law enforcement did a wonderful job — they were there before I was — but it is still an area of concern for us."

"I will feel a lot more comfortable getting the campuses more in proximity to each other," he added.

## PARKS

Continued from Page 1

a total of \$20,000 — to subsidize park operations and keep Park Manager Ron Alton at the helm.

Brent Leisure, the department's director, said some parks would have to be closed unless lawmakers approved the \$18.9 million spending boost, because the department has cut

costs by laying off staff and reducing park operating hours.

"You can reduce operations in some way to save money, but we've already done that," he said.

The Legislative Budget Board was expected to release its budget recommendations this week. Although State Comptroller Susan Combs projected that there will be \$101.4 billion in general-purpose revenue for the 2014-2015

period, which would be about 30 percent more than in the current two-year budget, state officials have said they will not make big spending increases.

Leisure said decisions about park closures would wait until the financial picture became clearer. Even if parks must be closed, the state would still have to maintain them, he said.

"We couldn't just simply walk away from them," Leisure said.

After years of underfunding and a growing public outcry over the declining condition of Texas' state parks, the department saw a boost in funding during 2006 but faced more cuts during the economic downturn of 2011.

Extreme summer temperatures in 2011 cut into park attendance and contributed to costly and damaging wildfires in some parks.

The 95 parks under the department super-

vision comprise a combined area of 625,000 acres of forests, prairies, mountains, deserts and beaches. The financial problems led the Parks Department to issue a public plea for assistance in 2011 that brought in about \$2 million and helped it close a \$4.6 budget gap.

Some officials and citizens like Ralph Duggins, a Fort Worth attorney and vice chairman of the Texas Wildlife Commission, have called for

the Legislature to give the park system the revenue collected by a 1993 tax on outdoors sporting goods.

## ETHICS

Continued from Page 1

organizations.

"Nevertheless, on March 3, 2011, and March 10, 2011, the respondent accepted two contributions from corporations totaling \$1,200. The contributors were identified as incorporated entities on the contribution checks at issue. The respondent endorsed one of the checks. There is credible evidence of violations of Sections 253.003 and 253.094 of the Texas Elections Code."

According to campaign finance reports filed with the city of Big Spring during Fernandez's bid for office, the city councilman accepted a donation of \$1,000 from Quad A Inc. and a \$200 donation from Hydro Dynamics.

Fernandez was sanctioned by the Texas Ethics Commission as a result of the complaint.

"After considering the nature, circumstances and consequences of the violations described under Sections 3 and 4, the sanction necessary to

deter future violations, the commission imposes a \$200 civil penalty," the notice reads.

According to TEC records, Fernandez accepted the resolution agreement Dec. 16, 2012.

The TEC entered a similar agreement with Carrigan, issuing a \$200 fine. According to the campaign report submitted by Carrigan during his 2011 bid for the District 3 seat, the councilman reported receiving \$1,000 from Quad A Inc. and \$400 from Hydro Dynamics.

The complaint filed against Duncan has not yet been resolved by the TEC, however, a judgment could come as soon as February, according to paperwork received by Crooker.

While Fernandez and Carrigan can now close

the books on their TEC complaints, the first-year councilmen aren't out of the woods yet, as former longtime councilwomen Stephanie Horton and Joann Staulcup have filed lawsuits against both, which are still pending.

According to Sec. 253.131 of the Election Code, candidates challenged during the election by a person who accepts an illegal campaign contribution could be awarded civil damages to the tune of "twice the value of the unlawful contribution," as well as "reasonable

attorneys fees incurred in the suit."

The civil suit could cost Fernandez \$2,400 — payable to Horton, who was unseated in the election — and a total of \$2,800 from Carrigan, who would have to pay the amount to Staulcup and challengers Shannon Thomason and Oscar Velasco, who also challenged him for the seat in 2011, for a total of \$8,400.

Midland attorney C.H. "Hal" Brockett is representing Staulcup and Horton in the legal action.

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lanell Morris, 77, died Saturday. The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Sandi Jean Allen, 49, died Monday. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral service will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will be 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.

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<b>Brian McCormack</b> Sports Editor	<b>Thomas Jenkins</b> Staff Writer	

## OTHER VIEWS

# Who really benefits from vouchers?

The idea our state's graduation ranking is not valid fits into a continuing effort to lobby for the use of public funds in private and for-profit charter schools in Texas.

The graduation rate question was raised by Bill Hammond, president and CEO of the Texas Association of Business. As a lobbyist for the business interests in our state, Mr. Hammond does not spend any sleepless nights concerned about the education of all students. He does dedicate a great deal of time promoting the failure of public schools while continuing to support outdated methods of student assessment. This is an effort to open the door to the use of public funds to support learning institutions not held to the same level of accountability as public schools.

Mr. Hammond is well aware the graduation rankings come from a newly adopted standardized graduation rate measurement comparing apples to apples for the nation.

His commentary came on the heels of comments by Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst and state Sen. Dan Patrick about a system to “rescue” public school students who are being subjected to unacceptable education. Sen. Patrick said, “Students in poverty in low-performing schools have the same right as any other Texas family.” It is a good statement that no one could or should have a problem with. But questions need to be asked:

What is happening at the schools these students of poverty are going to attend under a voucher system that is different from where they are now? Answer: Private schools that will accept some of them are not held to the same standard of accountability as Texas public schools for curriculum, graduation requirements and/or mandated assessments.

If this is a better method of providing an education, why are public schools held to a set of inhibiting requirements? If the state's system is the best method of measuring success in education, it stands to reason every student in Texas should be held to that standard to ensure the best-educated workforce for our economy. But this campaign is not about what is best for all students in the state. It is about tax savings for entities that support the senator and an agenda to move state tax dollars into private school systems and the families that already have students enrolled.

Will all disadvantaged students have an opportunity to benefit from this system? No. The students most effected by poverty will not be able to pay the difference between the voucher and tuition. Students in rural areas will not have a non-public school to exercise the “choice” offered to some. Students with disabilities, both physical and instructional, will be left out because the private school can choose whom it will accept. So the plan promoted by Patrick and Dewhurst will most benefit those students already enrolled in private schools and a select few others who may be accepted. This is not a plan for Texas, it is a plan for loyal donors to the party.

What is a low-performing school? For most people, the term brings visions of chaos in the classroom. Actually, a school campus or district will be labeled academically unacceptable if any sub-population of students by race, language or economic status numbers more than 30 and fails to meet the minimum standard on the state-approved assessment instrument. So “low performing” is an indication that as few as 30 students did not do well on a one-shot, multiple choice, bubble sheet exam that has no relevance to what the majority of experts in education are promoting as 21st century learning.

The Texas Legislature does not have a constitutional responsibility to grow the private school industry and promote the success of private sector educational enterprises. It is expected and required to abide by the Constitution of the State of Texas, which makes it the duty of the state “to establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools.”

The faculty, staff and administrators of Texas public schools are not opposed to scrutiny, accountability and/or competition with any other educational entity. We are opposed to being held to a completely different standard and then being labeled “failing.” Every challenge that has been placed before us has been successfully completed and that will continue to be the case.

—SUPT. MIKE GILBERT, WHITE OAK ISD

# He's rubbing our noses in it

Hey, folks, remember the good old days when candidate Barack Obama at least pretended to be bipartisan and conciliatory? Now it's as if he's on a mission to prove he was faking it.

Obama is behaving like a bitter ex-spouse who knows all our hot buttons and delights in pushing them. He is governing by crisis, fear, alienation, cronyism and anti-constitutional fiat. He is openly flaunting his militant radicalism, as if he's trying to provoke us — and his second term hasn't even begun.

He is horrifying all Americans who have the slightest concern about our deficits and debt, refusing to address them, demonizing and obstructing those who are, and flagrantly lying about both by pretending he's the one tending to our national solvency.

Though he never would have been foolish enough to make a major production of the gun issue during the campaign, he is exploiting the mass shooting in Newtown, Conn., to press for stringent gun control measures. He's playing his leftist constituents' emotions like a fiddle, encouraging them to ignore the facts and statistics and join him in imposing measures that violate the Second Amendment.

Nor is there any tolerance for dissent from Obama and his leftist cohorts, as we've seen with his selective assault on religious liberty. If you disagree with their proposals, then you simply don't care about the death of schoolchildren — just as if you oppose unending extensions of unemployment benefits because the empirical evidence shows it hurts people in the long run, you're heartless. Or if you oppose open borders, you are a racist.

Remember when Obama told an open-borders crowd that he couldn't enact the DREAM Act without Congress, only to change course shortly thereafter and implement many of its pro-

visions via executive order?

He got away with that, so why not try the same thing with guns? It's not just his proposed actions that are unconstitutional; so is his method of imposing them. Vice President Joe Biden said Obama could and would take executive action to change the law.

In his gun control initiative, Obama is planning on using the same tactics of corporate bribery and cronyism he used to buy off major opponents of Obamacare. His ploy is to craft the law in a way that will benefit businesses, such as Wal-Mart, that sell guns.

If you are operating under the assumption that this nation is still operating under the old checks and balances system established in the Constitution that leftist professors are now openly condemning as obsolete, then you haven't been keeping up with Obama's pattern of governance through administrative regulations.

Tom Donohue, the CEO of the U.S.

Chamber of Commerce, described the tsunami of new regulations coming out of Washington: 447 new rules are planned for the Dodd-Frank financial reform law, and you can be sure they'll function to thwart, as much as facilitate, the law's stated purposes. Obamacare's massive regulations will impose federal control over aspects of our lives not remotely contemplated by the Framers.

The Environmental Protection Agency is at war with conventional energy producers and is using its unchecked regulatory power as a weapon of mass destruction — destroying the coal industry, devastating producers of oil and natural gas, and dictating unattainable gas emission standards to force us out of our cars, for starters.

Freedom isn't the only issue here; a National Association of Manufacturers study shows that six EPA regulations alone could cost \$630 billion, millions of jobs and up to 4.2 percent of gross domestic product. The EPA isn't just an unchecked regulatory agency issuing its edicts outside the reach of normal accountability; reports have surfaced dem-

onstrating collusion between this corrupt, politicized agency and environmental activists.

Meanwhile, Obama is also gratuitously rubbing our faces in the dirt with his recent appointments. He nominated Chuck Hagel for secretary of defense despite Hagel's unmasked hostility toward Israel and his softness on Iran — and then trotted out the hapless Jay Carney to deny both, effectively imploring us to abandon our rational and sensory faculties.

He is appointing White House chief of staff Jack Lew to replace Timothy Geithner as treasury secretary. Lew is widely known to be a strong liberal and partisan Democrat who, according to a senior House GOP aide, “has consistently stood in the way of efforts to deal with our debt and deficit.” He reportedly approaches these issues with the same uncompromising militancy Obama does, issuing his demands and repeating them over and over while refusing to listen.

Obama also intends to appoint John Brennan as his new CIA director. Brennan told us in 2009 that Obama doesn't describe our fight against jihadis as a “war on terrorism.” He said that we need not only to defeat al-Qaida and its allies but to address ignorance, poverty and repression and that we should reach out to “moderate” elements of the Hezbollah terror group. He calls Jerusalem “Al-Quds,” its Arabic name.

Obama may not believe we're at war with terrorists, but he's firmly at war with Republicans and conservatives.

*David Limbaugh is a writer, author and attorney. His latest book, “The Great Destroyer,” reached No. 2 on the New York Times best-seller list for nonfiction. Follow him on Twitter @ davidlimbaugh and his website at www.davidlimbaugh.com. To read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.*

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# To the left: Obama did good

To my friends on the left: This one's for you.

Your grumbling that President Obama again gave away the store to Republicans is unwarranted. The deal to evade the fiscal cliff was no repeat of the debt-ceiling fiasco of 2011, when Obama famously bargained with himself. This time, he suppressed the urge to publicly consider raising the Medicare eligibility age. Meanwhile, he put off the clash over entitlements for another day.

Obama did cave or compromise (pick your term) on his earlier resolve to let Bush tax cuts expire for households earning over \$250,000. The final package sets \$450,000 as the cutoff.

The right wing's tactic of negotiating while holding a knife to the economy's throat may have blinded the left to noting that, while good theater, it is not very effective. It is also most unpopular.

By putting off dramatic cuts in spending and raising taxes only on the most cushioned Americans, Obama has avoided what made the fiscal cliff so scary — the specter of draining over \$500 billion from a still-weak economy. A second round of recession could have followed, with the blame bouncing back to Obama and the Democrats.

Some liberals balk at setting such a high income level for let-

ting income-tax rates rise. They are correct that more people should be paying more taxes. But they should understand that taxation is partly a mind game. Breaking through the right's icebound stand that taxes should not rise for anyone ever was no mean achievement.

Complaints that this and only a handful of other tax changes basically enshrine the reckless tax-cutting of the Bush era miss the point. Nothing is forever, and now the very rich have less incentive to propagandize against raising taxes lower down the income scale as a means to protect their own rates.

Be mindful that support for government programs, such as Medicare, depends on more than the level of benefits provided. It also relies on taxpayers feeling they are getting more value for their dollars — and that the money is there. Obama has been taking quiet steps to start restoring fiscal balance, while preserving the essence of worthy government programs. These changes haven't grabbed the big headlines, but over time, they will build confidence that America can have well-run public programs and fiscal sanity at the same time. Some examples:

This week's fiscal deal continues the good fight, started by the Affordable Care Act, to curb waste and abuse in health care spending. For instance, it lowers Medicare payments to doctors who give more than one therapy session to a single patient in a single day. At the same time, it stopped the scheduled 26.5 per-

cent cuts in Medicare payments to doctors, guarding patients' access to care.

Obama may nominate Chuck Hagel as defense secretary, another move toward rethinking priorities. The former Republican senator from Nebraska has long questioned America's bloated defense budgets and penchant for carelessly sending Americans into foreign battle. A decorated Vietnam veteran, fiscal conservative and independent thinker, Hagel has the credibility to oversee paring the defense budget in a rational way.

Another reason for optimism is Obama's statement that he will not let anyone use threats to America's credit rating as a bargaining tool, as he did in 2011. “While I will negotiate over many things,” he said, “I will not have another debate with this Congress over whether or not they should pay the bills they've already racked up through the laws they have passed.” Mr. President, hold that thought.

As a final reality test, my unhappy liberal friends, listen to the groaning on the right. Do that, and you'll conclude: Obama did good.

*To find out more about Froma Harrop, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.*

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**Kid Scoop Together:**

**Missing Words**

Fill in the missing words in the below article.

**PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION**

The **inauguration** is the ceremony in which the new or reelected president is inducted into office. This year it will be held at noon on January 21. It takes place outside the U.S. Capitol in Washington D.C.

**The President's Oath of Office**

At the inauguration ceremony, the president takes an **oath of office**. With right hand raised and left hand on an open Bible, the new president says the following statement:

“I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.”

“I do solemnly swear that I will

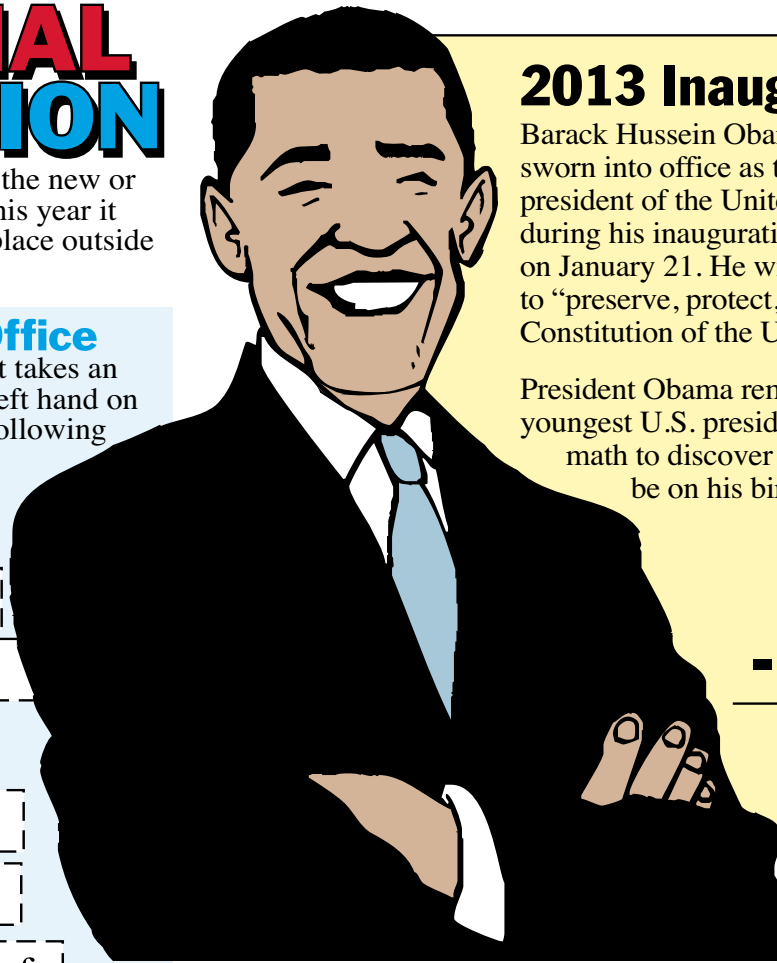
ability, preserve, protect and

and will to the best of my

defend the Constitution of

President of the United States,

faithfully execute the office of



**2013 Inauguration**

Barack Hussein Obama will be sworn into office as the 44th president of the United States during his inauguration celebration on January 21. He will take the oath to “preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States.”

President Obama remains one of the youngest U.S. presidents. Do the math to discover how old he will be on his birthday this year.

**2013 - 1961**

**Standards Link:** Civics: Understand the primary responsibilities of each branch of government in a system of shared powers.

Whoops! Cut out the Presidential Oath and paste it on a sheet of paper in the correct order.

**The White House Dog**

President Obama, when first elected, promised to get a puppy for his daughters, Sasha, 11, and Malia, 14. The Obamas adopted a Portuguese Water Dog and they named him Bo. But he also goes by a different name at the White House. Use the code to discover that name.

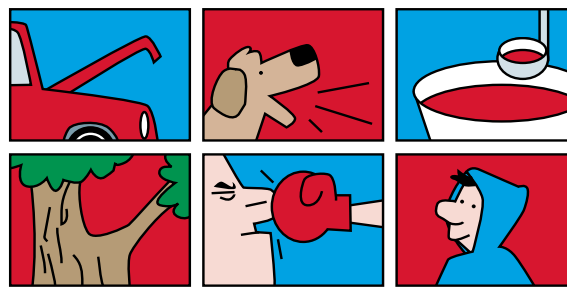
1 = D	5 = O	2	4	6	7	8	1	5	3
2 = F	6 = R								
3 = G	7 = S								
4 = I	8 = T								

**The Inaugural Ball**

America's fourth president, James Madison, and his wife, Dolley, were the guests of honor at the first official Inaugural Ball. An Inaugural Ball does not bounce. It is actually a big party.

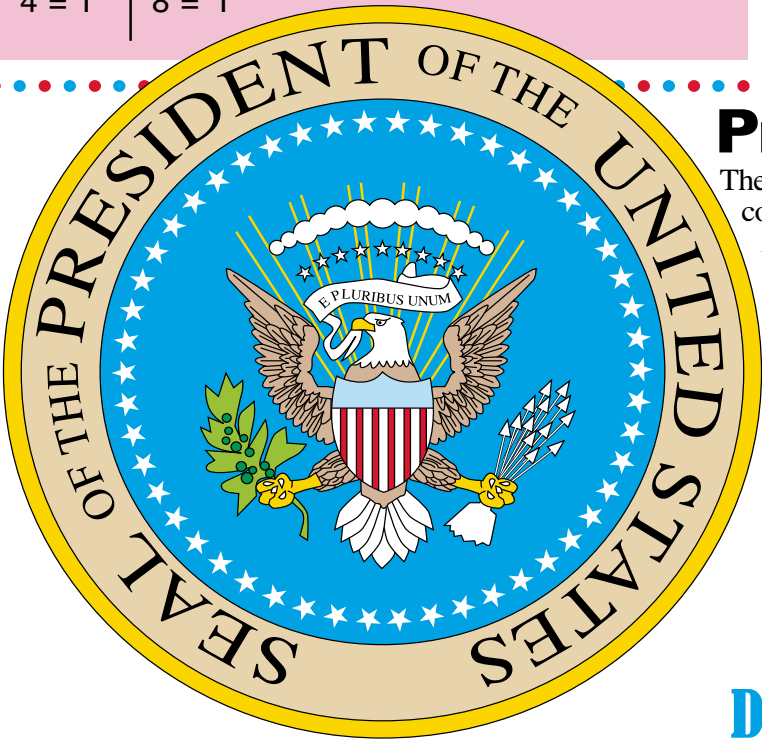
Like the word **ball**, many words mean more than one thing. Each object shown here has the same name as another object shown.

Can you match the picture pairs?



**bark punch hood**

**Standards Link:** Reading: Identify words with multiple meanings.



**Presidential Seal**

The Seal of the President of the United States contains a circle of white stars representing America's 50 states. The banner that reads **E PLURIBUS UNUM** is Latin for “out of many, one” meaning out of many states, one country and also, out of many peoples, one nation. There are 13 stars, clouds, leaves and arrows that represent the original 13 states.

Starting with the first letter in each line below, circle every other letter to discover what the olive branch represents and what the arrows the eagle is holding represent.

**PTEYANCKEL**  
**DWEBFPEDNASJEV**

**Extra! Extra! Word Order**

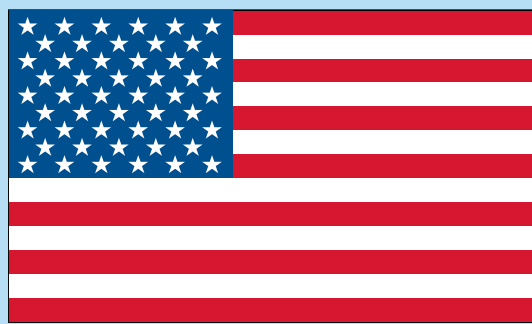
Look through the newspaper to find five or more words that begin with the letter **I**. Cut out the words and glue them onto a piece of paper in alphabetical order. Challenge: Can you do this with more than five words?

**Standards Link:** Spelling: Alphabetize words to a second or third letter.

**Kid Scoop Puzzler**

The words in the scrambled sentence below make up a very American sentence. Can you put the words in the right order to reveal the sentence?

**THE UNITED PLEDGE OF STATES AMERICA OF ALLEGIANCE FLAG I TO THE.**



**Standards Link:** Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

**Double Double Word Search**

CEREMONY  
PRESIDENT  
SWEAR  
PROTECT  
PRESERVE  
DEFEND  
OATH  
FIRST  
PARTY  
SWORN  
HAND  
HONOR  
WHITE  
NOON

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

H	F	H	U	N	S	T	Y	O	P
O	I	R	P	W	O	N	I	R	R
N	R	S	H	A	O	O	E	A	E
O	S	I	T	M	R	S	N	E	S
R	T	H	E	O	I	T	C	W	E
E	M	R	O	D	R	D	Y	S	R
D	E	F	E	N	D	I	N	M	V
C	E	N	R	O	W	S	C	A	E
N	T	C	E	T	O	R	P	T	H

**Standards Link:** Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

**COUPLES ANTICS DOOR PLANTED TREATED**  
**PUBLIC BELLS COMMON HIDING MOVED**

**Standards Link:** Reading Comprehension: Read a variety of grade-level appropriate expository text.

**Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS**

This week's word: **OATH**

The noun **oath** means a serious promise.

Stephanie made an **oath** to tell the truth.

Try to use the word **oath** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

**FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY**

**For the Children** Imagine that you have been selected to advise the president on the concerns of children. Look through the newspaper for articles addressing topics that affect children. Make a list of ways you think the president could help children.

**Standards Link:** Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

**Why did George Washington have trouble sleeping?**

**ANSWER:** Because George Washington could not lie.

**Write On!**

**Dear Mr. President**

What do you think the new president should do for kids? Send your letter to:

The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20500

## BIRD POOP:

## Learning a lesson from a falcon mexicanus

Leisurely reading the morning paper on New Year's Eve was a luxury. With the unexpected ringing of the doorbell, our day suddenly changed.

Fortunately, there are tall, narrow windows on either side of our front door. From that vantage could easily be seen an Animal Control truck



BEBE  
MCCASLAND

parked at the curb. "Where is the officer?" I thought. Perhaps the person had walked back toward the truck and was in front of our garage.

Because she had been standing directly in front of our door, I had not seen Amanda. Upon opening it, we discovered she had brought us another bird. A look-see through the gate of her carrier indicated a raptor. "Where did you get it?" I asked. "At the corner of Third and Main."

Over the glossy black eyes that glared back at me were faint white streaks. Leading downward from the back of each eye was a white patch. Parallel to the white were dark brown streaks located just under the center of its eyes. "Could it be?" I wondered.

In contrast to the light-brown, barred feathers of its upper part was its creamy-white underside streaked with brown spots. After Art had opened the gate, my gloved hands pressed

the raptor's wings to its body. Withdrawing it from the carrier, I rotated the bird just enough to look at the sides of its beak.

The "tooth," or sharp point on the beak as it curved upward from the tip, was a defining identification mark known only to falcons. Turning to Art, I told him, "We have another one." To Amanda, I said, "You have brought us a prairie falcon."

Another noticeable sign, and to be sure of what we had, would be found on the underside of its wings. After laying the bird on a towel, Art covered its head and helped spread its wings. Where the wings joined the body, the "armpits" were black. It was definitely a falcon mexicanus.

Telling her we had dealt with another "prairie" found in downtown Lamesa in November, we were both excited and worried about having two within a month and a half. "What happened?"

As Amanda had approached the intersection, she noticed the falcon on top of a car. Realizing that was not normal, she had stopped and left the truck. By that time, the raptor was hopping on the bed cover of a pickup. Hurrying back to her vehicle for her gloves, she returned to find the bird of prey on the pavement.

Trying to elude the officer, the falcon made several attempts at becoming airborne. Unable to use its legs and feet to propel itself high enough for its flapping wingtips to keep from



Courtesy photo

**With a wingspan of three feet that gives it the ability to dash through the sky with rapid strokes, the prairie falcon frequents the western half of the United States. In addition to small birds, the raptor, with its swift, low flight hunts for small mammals, such as ground squirrels, mice, rabbits and young prairie dogs.**

hitting the asphalt, the bird of prey had failed on every try. It was obvious the bird was too weak to fly.

Feeling of its breastbone or keel, we confirmed what she had observed. With no surrounding body fat, the keel felt like the edge of a dull razor. As Amanda prepared to leave, we told her without her help, the bird would have died from starvation.

While wrapped in a towel, the falcon first received fluids. Then it was placed in a carrier. Two hours later it was fed minced mice and beef heart. Since it was probably too weak to tear food or even interested in eating it, and not wanting to "manhandle" it, I used a hemostat to place each morsel at the back of its throat.

Fortunately, this falcon and many raptors open their mouths defensively when ap-

proached. The trick is to get them to do it.

With mouth agape, food was quickly placed far enough back to cause the bird to swallow it. Bite, by bite, the prairie falcon and I accomplished its first feeding. Time consuming but worthwhile, the feeding process was repeated later in the day.

With the New Year came the hope it would take food from a platter. An hour later that morning, I discovered it was not going to eat on its own. It had, however, taken every bite of mouse and beef and scattered it throughout its carrier.

As it watched me gather each uneaten morsel, my only thought was that, hopefully, it would begin to take the initiative. It was not to be.

In the late afternoon, the raptor had its second meal. At least it was now readily swallowing each offering.

Having looked at the weather reports for the week, we decided the next day, January 2, to deliver the prairie falcon to Gail Barnes in Lubbock.

After weighing it, she confirmed it was well below its normal weight. Handing me a hemostat, she held the bird while I repeated the feeding regimen. For several days the falcon continued to require the same procedure, but at least now it was grabbing its food.

When I checked back with

Amanda to tell her the falcon had been delivered to the wildlife center in Lubbock, she said, "There's another one, but it's flying." After telling me of its location, I mentioned that the species readily eats smaller birds. Since seagulls, blackbirds, sparrows, and pigeons frequent the site, this third "prairie" was apparently catching enough to sustain it.

"The one you brought me on New Year's Eve was probably trying to catch some of the pigeons downtown." As we closed our conversation, she said she'd keep an eye on the latest one.

Then the afternoon of January 5, Gail called to say she had taken the falcon out into the barn to a large room. Wanting to see what the bird would do, she waited. The raptor just stood and stared at her in return.

For the first time,

she noticed that one of its wings was slightly higher than the other. After capturing it, she started feeling every part of its wing. What was not visible hid under creamy white feathers.

A gap in the skin appeared to be slowly healing. There was enough of an opening to see the tendons inside. Fortunately, there was no evidence of any infection or bleeding. Gail now realized why the bird couldn't fly.

Even though we had both examined the wings, we had found no evidence of a fracture or external injury. We had made an assumption that the bird was too weak to fly because of lack of food.

Instead, its injury had prevented it from hunting at all. Designed for speed, its long wings could no longer enable it to glide or hover in pursuit of its next meal. A veterinarian would determine whether sutures were needed or to let the wound heal with time. Only this soft tissue injury, or bruising, was found after a full body-scan and x-rays.

Even though I had momentarily thought I was "seeing double" when having handled a falcon from Dawson county, and then another from downtown Big Spring, the experience gave all of us an insight into the dangers encountered by migratory raptors.

*Bebe McCasland is author of "The Scoop from Bird Poop." She is federally and state licensed to rehabilitate wild birds.*

## Court: Escape from Greek lockup justified

THESSALONIKI, Greece (AP) — A group of illegal immigrants was justified in escaping from a police lockup last year because of the miserable conditions in their overcrowded cell, which was filthy, ridden with disease and had no running water, a Greek court has ruled.

The court in the northwestern city of Igoumenitsa said the 15 adults — from Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Egypt and Morocco — had been held for up to six weeks in "wretched and highly dangerous" conditions.

The decision to acquit the migrants of escaping police detention is a strong indictment of Greece's treatment of detained illegal immigrants, which has been criticized by international human rights groups.

A spokeswoman for the United Nations refugee agency in Athens said it was a very significant first for a Greek court to acknowledge that people held in such conditions had no option but to try to escape.

The country, grappling with revived anti-immigrant sentiment amid the worst financial crisis since the end of World War II, is the main

entry point to the EU for thousands of undocumented migrants from Asia and Africa and has started a drive to round up and expel them.

More than 30 inmates were crammed into an 18-square-yard cell with no running water or bedding and just one chemical toilet, according to the ruling. It said the Igoumenitsa lockup was never cleaned and the detainees were coping with lice, skin disease and typhoid.

The men had been held in the port city pending deportation for allegedly illegally entering the country, and they escaped on Oct. 1 by pushing past police guards.

Judge Athanassios Terzoudis argued in his October ruling that both the duration and the conditions of their detention were in breach of the European Convention on Human Rights.

"Therefore, the court judges that (the detainees) escaped to avoid a severe and otherwise inevitable threat which — through no fault of their own — endangered their health."

## Checking perspective

Let's check our perspective. How many times have you heard someone complaining about something going wrong? Now let's think about how many times you have heard about something going right. My question is, isn't it amazing how often we complain about the wrong but just expect the right?

My daily routine should be to get up in the morning and notice the first thing right is being able to get out of bed without assistance. Next, the walk to the bathroom, without

any help, and make it. The commode worked perfectly, the water in the sink flowed without a problem and I make it to the coffee pot and find it ready for my morning cup. Yes, this is just the start the day, but all has gone without a hitch.

I will not comment on any of these things but allow one thing to go wrong and my conversation throughout the day will have a topic. Aren't we interesting that way?

I was reading about a man who did lots of flying in his work. He didn't comment about all the times things went perfectly but he complained loudly about the few times the plane was late or the airlines lost his luggage.

I was grocery shopping not long ago and heard someone complaining that the store was out of a certain product that was always carried, but no word about all the items that were in the basket and ready for purchase.

It's really interesting that thousands of events, whether work related or personal, take place without a single glitch. Our roof doesn't leak, our car starts without a prob-

## PARENT'S CORNER

lem, our schedules work out perfectly, our coworkers are great, our food is safe, reliable and tasty and our family is loving and dependable. So many things go right but these are not the things that are lauded.

Yes, we have our problems; we have our hassles, disappointments and frustrations and not everything is perfect, but we also have many more times that things actually go like they are supposed to go.

I have discovered that when I focus on the things that are right I have a much better day and my perspective on life is much brighter. Someone once very appropriately said that life is usually just like we expect it; it's a self-proclaimed prophecy; enjoy the good and endure the not so good!

I guess this means to follow the old proverb: When life gives you lemons, make lemonade and realize that you have passed the first hurdle.

*Darrell Ryan, is the Big Spring Independent School District director of federal programs.*



DARRELL  
RYAN

## sudoku

ANSWERS

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net



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### Sports Calendar

#### TODAY

##### Boy's Basketball

- Monahans at Big Spring, J.V., 5 p.m.; 9th, 6:15 p.m.; Varsity, 7:30 p.m.
- Forsan at Seagraves, 8 p.m.
- Colorado City at Coahoma, 7:30 p.m.
- Stanton at Brownfield, 8 p.m.
- Sterling City at Garden City, 8 p.m.
- Sands at Grady, 8 p.m.

##### Girl's Basketball

- Monahans at Big Spring, J.V., 5 p.m.; Varsity, 6:15 p.m.; 9th, 7:30 p.m.
- Forsan at Seagraves, 6:30 p.m.
- Colorado City at Coahoma, 6 p.m.
- Stanton at Brownfield, 6:30 p.m.
- Sterling City at Garden City, 6:30 p.m.
- Sands at Grady, 6:30 p.m.

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

## Collison leads balanced Mavs over T'Wolves

SCHUYLER DIXON

AP Sports Writer

DALLAS — Darren Collison now runs the floor where J.J. Barea was the spark that helped rally the Dallas Mavericks to their first championship two seasons ago.

Dallas' new point guard made sure one of his predecessors didn't finish off another comeback Monday night.

Collison led six players in double figures with 23 points and the Mavericks matched their season high with a third straight win, holding off a pair of Barea-engineered surges in a 113-98 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

"I felt like we were going to attack," said Collison, who also had nine assists and three steals.

That used to be Barea's job coming off the bench in Dallas, until he became a starter midway through the 2011 NBA finals on Dallas' home court and helped erase a 2-1 series deficit against Miami.

He was finally back on that floor after sitting out Minnesota's first two trips with injuries since signing as a free agent when Mavericks owner Mark Cuban decided not to bring back several key pieces of the title team.

The diminutive guard is a reserve again, and he had former teammate Dirk Nowitzki and others chasing him all over the court while running the pick-and-roll and scoring 11 second-quarter points. He led the Timberwolves with 21 and was on the floor for a second-half rally that cut a 23-point deficit to eight.

"I have a lot of good history here," said Barea, who made 4 of 7 from 3-point range and added five assists. "I hit a couple of shots early so I just kept being aggressive the whole game. I always try to bring a lot of energy off the bench and help my team as much as I can."

See **MAVS**, Page 12

## Autopsy: Chief's LB Belcher drunk at time of murder-suicide

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Kansas City Chiefs linebacker Jovan Belcher had a blood-alcohol level more than twice the legal limit when he shot his girlfriend nine times and then killed himself in front of his coach and general manager, an autopsy released Monday showed. The Jackson County Medical Examiner report on Belcher, 25, raised new questions about whether police should have done more before the Dec. 1 murder-suicide. Officers found Belcher sleeping in his idling car about five hours earlier, but let him go inside a nearby apartment to sleep it off.

At the time of the autopsy, Belcher's BAC was 0.17, more than twice the limit of 0.08 percent for Missouri drivers, and it was likely higher when he shot girlfriend Kassandra Perkins, 22, at the couple's Kansas City home. A police report released previously said Belcher

had gone out the night before with a woman he was dating on the side while Perkins attended a concert with her friends.

Police who found Belcher sleeping in his Bentley outside the woman's apartment told him to turn off the ignition and he complied, the report said.

The report said Belcher "initially displayed possible signs of being under the influence (asleep and disoriented)." But the report added that after a few minutes of being awake his "demeanor and communication became more fluid and coherent." The report added that officers didn't smell alcohol on Belcher, and that there were no signs of him being "violent or emotionally unstable."

Under both city ordinance and state law, it is illegal to operate a motor vehicle while intoxicated, city prosecutor Lowell C. Gard said in an email.



HERALD file photo/Tony Claxton

Big Spring's Tyler Wigington gets fouled by a Lubbock Cooper player during a game earlier in the season. The Steers (6-16) will host Monahans today at 7:30 p.m. The Lady Steers will be in action at 6:15 p.m. Both games will be at Steer Gym.

## Armstrong confesses doping to Oprah

JIM LITKE & JIM VERTUNO

AP Sports Writers

AUSTIN, Texas — Lance Armstrong has finally come clean.

Armstrong confessed to doping during an interview with Oprah Winfrey taped Monday, just a couple of hours after a wrenching apology to staff at the Livestrong charity he founded and has now been forced to surrender.

The day ended with 2 1/2 hours of questions from Winfrey at a downtown Austin hotel, where she said the world's most famous cyclist was "forthcoming" as she asked him in detail about doping allegations that followed him throughout his seven Tour de France victories.

Speaking on "CBS This Morning," Winfrey said Tues-

day she had not planned to address Armstrong's confession before the interview aired on her OWN network but, "by the time I left Austin and landed in Chicago, you all had already confirmed it."

"So I'm sitting here now because it's already been confirmed," she added.

The Thursday to be broadcast on Thursdays but Winfrey said it will now run in two parts over two nights because there is so much material.

Winfrey would not characterize whether Armstrong seemed contrite but said he seemed ready for the interview. "I would say that he met the moment," she said.

"I don't think 'emotional' begins to describe the intensity or the difficulty he experienced in talking about some of these

things."

The confession was a stunning reversal for a proud athlete and celebrity who sought lavish praise in the court of public opinion and used courtrooms to punish his critics.

For more than a decade, Armstrong dared anybody who challenged his version of events to prove it. Finally, he told the tale himself after promising over the weekend to answer Winfrey's questions "directly, honestly and candidly."

The cyclist was stripped of his Tour titles, lost most of his endorsements and was forced to leave Livestrong last year after the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency issued a damning, 1,000-page report that accused him of masterminding a

See **DOPING**, Page 12

## Texans pack up after franchise-best 13-win season

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Texans expected to advance farther than they did last season.

Instead, a late-season collapse cost them a bye week and home-field advantage, and they lost in the divisional round just as they did a year before. Now they're left to ponder another missed opportunity after a season that began with such high hopes ended with a 41-28 loss to the New England Patriots. Coach Gary Kubiak

still believes his team moved forward this season.

"Last year we were just excited to be in the playoffs ... and now we're really, really disappointed because we're not in the Super Bowl and we're not playing this week to get in the Super Bowl," Kubiak said. "That's a big compliment to everybody in this building and how hard they work ... we will always be that way now and we expect to be that way for a long time."

But not everyone is looking on the bright side of a season where Houston won a franchise-best 13 games. Star defensive end J.J. Watt, who developed into one of the top defenders in the league this season, summed up the year differently.

"I don't see it as a success," he said. "We don't have a trophy, so it's not a success. And in my mind in this league if you don't have a trophy then you're not a success."

Watt's performance this season was one of the biggest reasons Houston won its second straight AFC South title. Watt led the NFL with a franchise-record 20½ sacks in the regular season. He also had 107 tackles, including 39 for losses, 16 passes defended and forced four fumbles. He added another nine tackles, including 1½ sacks and three tackles for losses with two passes defended in Houston's two postseason games.

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**THIS RANCH** Sign & Banner 3ftx3ft was stolen from its frame during the night of Dec. 31st, 2012. Anyone having information pertaining to this theft or whereabouts of sign, is urged to contact the Mitchell County Sheriff Office at 325-728-5261. \*\*REWARD\*\*

**Business Opportunity**

**HOT ITEM**

**SUNSET BAR.** Owner is Retiring- 3 New pool tables, spider boxer & draft machine, 2 beverage coolers and lots more on 1/2 acre. \$178,000.00. Gloria Alexander 1800 N. Birdwell, Big Spring, Tx 79720 or call 432-263-6292.

**Help Wanted**

**Assistant Manager/Collector** Security Finance is now taking applications. We offer benefits, competitive pay, and advancement opportunities. Apply in person at 501 E. 3rd.

**BLAST MASTERS** has positions available for:  
\* Crew Tech  
Must have valid Texas Drivers License, will train, Come by 1711 Snyder Hwy., Pick up application. No phone calls please.

**BOYCE GALVANIZING** is now accepting applications for all positions. Office Manager and Staff, Forklift Drivers, Crane Operators, Maintenance Technicians & General Labor. Email info@boycegalvanizing.com for an application or stop by our office at 4701 N. Hwy 87, Big Spring, TX.

**BRAND INSPECTOR** needed part-time. Must have knowledge of Livestock, call 432-695-6120.

**CHEMICAL PRODUCTION** Company seeking qualified candidates for Truck Treating Driver. Individual will be responsible for delivering chemical to customer locations and other duties, as needed. The ideal candidate will have 1-3 years experience in a similar role. This position is based in Big Spring, TX. Must have CDL & Hazmat endorsement. We offer a \$5,000 sign on bonus, competitive Salary, 401 (K), Medical, Dental & Vision, paid vacation and holidays. Submit resume c/o P.O. Box 1431-226, Big Spring, TX 79721-1431.

**DAYS INN** needs Front Desk and Housekeeping person. Apply at Front Office @ 2701 South Gregg Street.

**Help Wanted**

**EARTHCO CONSTRUCTION** has position available for Backhoe Operator with Class A or B CDL. Competitive wages plus monthly bonus and benefits. If interested please apply in person at 101 Wooten Rd.

**FULL-TIME BREAKFAST** Hostess needed. Apply directly at Super 8, 2900 E. I-20. No phone calls please.

**FULL-TIME** Contract Maintenance positions available with TLC Property Management LLC.. Please call (432)264-6337 immediately to schedule today. Applicants must be skilled in all areas of Maintenance.

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**GROUND MAINTENANCE** position: Full time, benefit package. Apply at Trinity Memorial Park, 6900 S. US Hwy 87, Big Spring, TX 79720. No phone calls please.

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**HIRING WASTEWATER** Treatment Plant Operators in Pecos area. Apply by calling Lee Conatser at 713-805-6670 or send resume to Quail Run Services P.O. Box 1662 Wimberley, Texas 78676 or leeconatser@lmenvironmental.com

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**RUSTY'S OILFIELD** Service In Stanton has immediate openings for Mechanic, CDL Driver, Roustabout Pushers and Helpers. Must have valid drivers license. Apply in person at 3327 W 120 in Stanton. 432-756-2821.

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**MAINT TECH** needed for Property in Big Spring. Applicant must have strong organizational skills and enjoy working outdoors. Ability to work independently with minimal supervision. 40 hours/wk. Hourly, Benefits, & Vacation. Fax resume 432-264-1761

**MAINT TECH** needed for Property in Big Spring. Applicant must have strong organizational skills and enjoy working outdoors. Ability to work independently with minimal supervision. 40 hours/wk. Hourly, Benefits, & Vacation. Fax resume 432-264-1761

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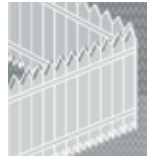
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**Annie's Mailbox**

**Dear Annie:** I used to travel a fair amount for my job. These trips included lunches and dinners with my co-workers, sometimes in groups, sometimes not. At no time did I ever have the faintest interest in having an affair. But my husband thinks otherwise.

During the entire time I traveled, he constantly accused me of sleeping with "somebody." I never once gave him a reason to think I was cheating. I recognized that this was just his way of dealing with his own insecurities and poor self-image.

I have not worked for a number of years, but on occasion, he still insinuates that I had affairs. Instead of being supportive of my hard work then and now, he thinks it's more important to keep suggesting that I'm always looking for someone else to sleep with. How do I get him to stop? — *Not a Cheater*

**Dear Not:** Your husband sounds overly

suspicious. We don't mean to add to the problem, but sometimes those who are having affairs accuse the spouse of the same offense. Tell your husband that his continuing accusations undermine your trust and make you wonder what is really going on. Counseling could help get to the bottom of it. If he is unwilling, you can choose to turn a deaf ear or get counseling on your own. However, if his accusations become more strident or more frequent, this could indicate mental health or medical issues, and he should see his doctor.

**Dear Annie:** I recently made a new friend at work. We have known each other for three months, and we get along great. However, imagine my surprise last week when she told me she used my first name on an online dating site. At first I just thought it was a little weird, but now I feel really uncomfortable about it and don't know what to do.

How can I get her to change her online profile without ruining our work relationship? — *Miffed*

**Dear Miffed:** This was presumptuous but not disastrous. If she used only your first name and the rest of her information is her own, it's annoying but not compromising. However, the fact that she would do this without consulting you indicates that she could easily take other liberties down the road, so you are smart to nip this in the bud.

Be nice but honest. Say, "Dottie, remember when you said you used my first name on your dating profile? It really made me uncomfortable. And prospective dates don't like that sort of thing, either. Please change it immediately." If she is the type who would end a friendship over this, consider it a bullet dodged.

*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. © 2013 CREATORS.COM*

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**Tomorrow's Horoscope**

**Pisces Moon Channels Zen Master**

The Pisces Moon is a spiritual teacher. She reminds us that the wild moments you create outside of yourself bring only temporary release. True freedom comes from bringing your inner world to a state of harmony. The expansive, unlimited joyful feeling was always there inside you, waiting for you to tap in.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). Your senses are ready to take life in high definition. Sounds sparkle and colors appear brighter. This may have something to do with that interesting someone you keep running into.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). You have plenty of charm to at your disposal, and you can dish it generously when needed. However, right now you may find that life is a lot less complicated if you simply tell the far-less charming truth about things.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). People seem to think you're some kind of super hero these days. You'll warm into the day, determined not to let a loved one's long list of expectations overwhelm you.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22).

True history can be hard to find. Even those who are trying to stick to the facts cannot form an entirely impartial version. Listen for the spin and put everything in a context.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). Just as soon as you figure out which job to do, you'll get it done. The hard part is the forethought. Take all the time you need to get organized and prioritize your efforts.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll be reviewed by your toughest critic — you! Did you do a great job? Yes, of course you did. Is there room for improvement? Yes, as usual. You should really give yourself a raise.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Saying "no" is freedom. If you can't say "no" or if you believe you can't, you're in prison. Exercise your right to disagree, decline or walk away. To liberty!

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). No one can make you want something you don't or be interested in something that doesn't interest you. Your attractions come naturally and for reasons that are mysterious even to you.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There are several people who have the credentials you need to fulfill a certain job.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). No one can tell you who you are. You can't blame the ones who try, nor can you take their

comments too personally. Their suggestions have nothing to do with you really.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Romantic attention will make you swoon inside, though it's likely that your outside will remain unfazed. It has to be this way if you're to stay in control.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). You're all heart now, overflowing with feeling and filled with passion for your endeavors. The Moon in your sign will embolden you all day and into tomorrow morning.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (Jan. 15). This year puts you in touch with the simple pleasures that make you happy. You'll find yourself wanting fewer things, talking less and enjoying the spaces in your schedule. Others sense how centered you've become, and you'll be offered what seemed withheld from you before. March and July bring financial bonus. Cancer and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 23, 50, 1 and 17.

**LIBRA YEAR AT A GLANCE:** JANUARY: Love is a verb. You'll never know how someone feels about you but you'll get plenty of evidence as to those feelings. FEBRUARY: Venus makes sure that people notice your remarkable style and innovative approach to the mundane. MARCH: There are some things you'll never be fully ready for, but you can't let that stop you from moving forward.

**APRIL:** The 10th brings an infusion of super-charisma that lasts, so be careful how you wield your smile. **MAY:** Your personal life will be in incubation mode, developing through patience and warmth. **JUNE:** Jupiter's transit on the 25th begins a new professional cycle. **JULY:** You'll connect with the people you admire and pick up much by osmosis. **AUGUST:** Don't look back — forgive, forget, and move on. **SEPTEMBER:** Authority figures seem to limit you. You'll emerge stronger for having to manage the opposition. **OCTOBER:** Enjoy the many victories, big and small, that will energize your world this month. **NOVEMBER:** Relationships will rock and roll. Is this a dance or a test? **DECEMBER:** You're still hot socially, but that may not please you. Privacy issues arise. Set boundaries in relationships and revel in your You-Time.

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** Baptist minister and human rights activist Martin Luther King Jr. was born on this day in 1929. The man who famously changed the world by declaring "I have a dream ..." was a charismatic Capricorn born under a dreamy Pisces Moon. Venus also in the ethereal and spiritual sign of Pisces indicates a gift for using the healing power of love.

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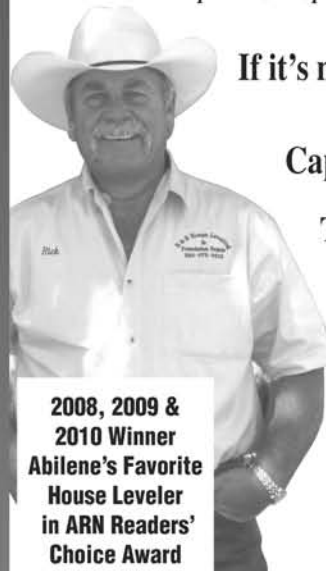
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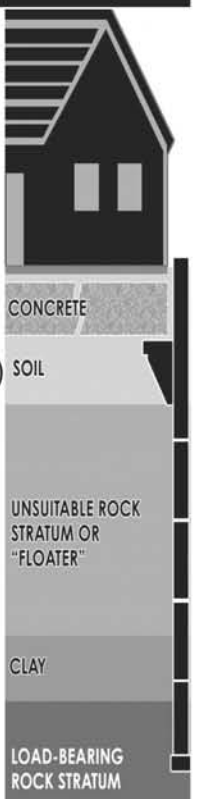
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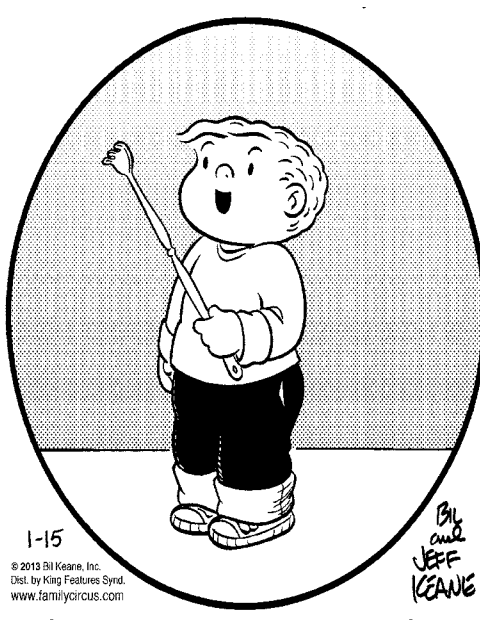
	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5:PM	News ABC	Casa Notic.	Two Men	News CBS	Noticias	News	King	Justice	Charlie Rose	King	Dual Survival	Men, Demi Moore	Tattoo	Castle	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Good Jessie	SportsNation	SportsCenter
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Corona de Lágrimas	Big Bang	News CBS	Caso Cer-rado	Millionaire	Seinfeld	Dr. Diana Sala	PBS News-Hour	Rules	Dual Survival		Tattoo	Castle	Movie: Madea's Family Re-union, Lynn Whitfield	Good Jessie	College Basketball	College Basketball
7:PM	Mod Fam Suburg.	Por Ella Soy Eva	Raising Ben-Kate	NCIS (DVS)	Rosa Dia-mante (SS)	Betty	Big Bang	Upd	Pioneers, Television	Heart of Dixie	Dual Survival	Movie: Braveheart, Patrick McGooohan	J. Schmo	Castle	ANT Farm Shake It	Good Jessie	2013 Australian Open Tennis: Second Round.	College Basketball: Wisconsin at Indiana.
8:PM	Happy Apt. 23	Amores Verdaderos	New Girl	NCIS: Los Angeles	La Patrona (SS)	Go On	Big Bang	Light of the Southwest	Abolitionists	Emily Owens, M.D.	Dual Survival		J. Schmo	Castle	ANT Farm	Good Jessie		College Basketball: Wisconsin at Indiana.
9:PM	Private Practice	Amor Bravo (SS)	Simpsons	Vegas	Escobar	Parenthood	Cougar		Frontline	Seinfeld	Africa		J. Schmo	Castle	Husbands	Good Jessie		SportsCenter
10:PM	News	Impacto	How I Met	News	Noticias	News	Conan	Shepherd's Heart	Charlie Rose	Til Death	Dual Survival		J. Schmo	CSI: NY	Husbands	Good Jessie		SportsCenter
11:PM	Jimmy Kim-mel Live	La Jaula	Raymond	Letterman	Victorinos (SS)	Jay Leno	Cougar	Ministerios Vida	World T. Smiley (Off Air)	Til Death	Africa	(:01) Movie: Escape From New York	J. Schmo	CSI: NY	Wendy Williams	Wizards		SportsCenter
12:AM	Extra Paid	Mar de Amor (SS)	Fam. Guy	Insider	Pagado	Daly	Conan	Upd		Browns	Dual Survival		J. Schmo	Cold Case	Movie: Dance Flick, Essence Atkins	Deck		SportsCenter
1:AM	Paid	Par Ases	American	TMZ	Paid	Paid	De'siones	Light of the Southwest		Cops	Bering Sea Gold	Movie: Big Trouble in Little China	J. Schmo	Southland	Good	Good		SportsCenter

DENNIS THE MENACE



"How come you never ask Dad what he learned today?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"If anybody wants to have a itch, I'm ready to be a scratcher."

HAGAR



WHAT ARE YOU DOING, STRANGER?

BLONDIE



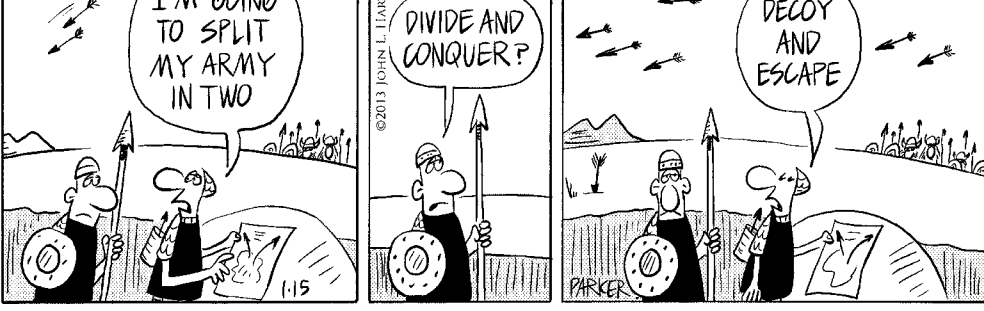
WHAT'S ALL THIS FACEBOOK NONSENSE WITH PEOPLE POSTING PICS OF THEIR FEET?

BC



IT'S TOO LATE TO RETURN THAT. PLANNED OBSOLESCENCE. I CAN'T RESELL A PIECE OF TECHNOLOGY THAT'S NO LONGER IN DEMAND. I BOUGHT THIS ON BLACK FRIDAY!

WIZARD OF ID



I'M GOING TO SPLIT MY ARMY IN TWO. DIVIDE AND CONQUER? DECOY AND ESCAPE.

AGNES



I HAVE TIME! I'LL WRITE A GENERIC, FITS ALL BOOK REPORT, AND NO ONE WILL BE THE WISER!

HI AND LOIS



CAN YOU GIVE ME A DRIVING LESSON, DAD? NOW? IT JUST SNOWED. WE CAN PRETEND WE'RE ICE ROAD TRUCKERS.

THE OTHER COAST



WITH CLIMATE CHANGE, WE COULD SEE MORE HUMAN ACTIVITY HERE IN THE ANTARCTIC. BUT I'M SURE WE WILL BE ABLE TO COEXIST. HON, THERE ARE PENGUINS ON THE STREET. CALL WILDLIFE CONTROL AND HAVE THEM REMOVED.

SNUFFY SMITH



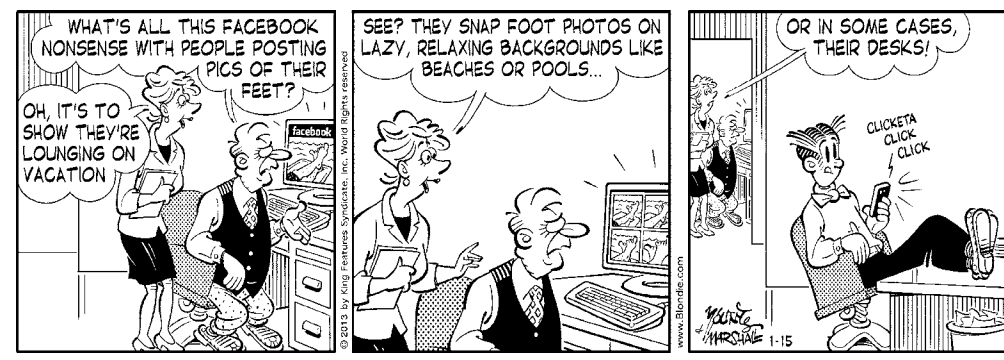
WHEN YA GIT TALKIN' YA CAN CALL ME "AUNTIE ELVINEY"!! AN' ME "UNCA LUKEY"!! FZHOO-BQZT-FLIBL-OP!! WHICH ONE OF US FOLK THAT?!

BEEBLE BAILEY



BEEBLE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? NOTHING RIGHT NOW. HOW DO YOU KNOW WHEN YOU'RE DONE DOING NOTHING?

BLONDIE



SEE? THEY SNAP FOOT PHOTOS ON LAZY, RELAXING BACKGROUNDS LIKE BEACHES OR POOLS... OR IN SOME CASES, THEIR DESKS!

This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 15, the 15th day of 2013. There are 350 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 15, 1943, work was completed on the Pentagon, headquarters of the U.S. Department of War (now Defense).

On this date:

In 1559, England's Queen Elizabeth I was crowned in Westminster Abbey.

In 1777, the people of New Connecticut declared their independence. (The republic later became the state of Vermont.)

In 1862, the U.S. Senate confirmed President Abraham Lincoln's choice of Edwin M. Stanton to be the new Secretary of War, replacing Simon Cameron.

In 1913, actor Lloyd Bridges was born in San Leandro, Calif.

In 1929, civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. was born in Atlanta.

In 1947, the mutilated remains of 22-year-old Elizabeth Short, who came to be known as the "Black Dahlia," were found in a vacant Los Angeles lot; her slaying remains unsolved.

In 1961, a U.S. Air Force radar tower off the New Jersey coast collapsed into the Atlantic Ocean during a severe storm, killing all 28 men aboard.

In 1967, the Green Bay Packers of the National Football League defeated the Kansas City Chiefs of the American Football League 35-10 in the first AFL-NFL World Championship Game, retroactively known as Super Bowl I.

In 1973, President Richard Nixon announced the suspension of all U.S. offensive action in North Vietnam, citing progress in peace negotiations.

In 1993, in Paris, a historic disarmament ceremony ended with the last of 125 countries signing a treaty banning chemical weapons.

In 2009, US Airways Capt. Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger ditched his Airbus 320 in the Hudson River after a flock of birds disabled both engines; all 155 people aboard survived.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Margaret O'Brien is 76. Actress Andrea Martin is 66. Actor-director Mario Van Peebles is 56. Actor James Nesbitt is 48. Singer Lisa Lisa (Lisa Lisa and Cult Jam) is 46. Actor Chad Lowe is 45. Alt-country singer Will Oldham (aka "Bonnie Prince Billy") is 43. Actress Regina King is 42. Actor Eddie Cahill is 35. Rapper/reggaeton artist Pitbull is 32. Electronic dance musician Skrillex is 25.

Thought for Today: "One day we must come to see that peace is not merely a distant goal we seek, but that it is a means by which we arrive at that goal. We must pursue peaceful ends through peaceful means." — Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968).

Answer to previous puzzle

LOAN	MARS	SAFES
EURO	IDEA	TRITE
GRIT	DOLL	RURAL
SAVED	BY	THE
ALE	USA	
DILATE	ANTS	DIG
UNITE	ALEC	AIDE
CLEAN	SAW	HISTLE
TEND	RAMS	MATES
STS	MAYO	OPPOSE
SOB	PRE	
SOUND	STHE	ALARM
EMCEE	EAST	BEAU
TILES	NITE	LAPS
START	TROD	ELISE

Newsday Crossword

EASY AS... by Sally R. Stein  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 Dalmatian's marking
  - 5 Show poor sportsmanship
  - 10 24-hr. cash sources
  - 14 Fancy furnished
  - 15 External
  - 16 Informal refusal
  - 17 Wartime comrade
  - 18 Houston baseballer
  - 19 Fast-food order for home
  - 20 One- (teacher's quaint workplace)
  - 23 Portion of corn
  - 24 Once around the track
  - 25 "I should say \_\_\_"
  - 28 Objectives
  - 32 Smooths, as wood
  - 36 Unsuccessful film
  - 38 Large quantity
  - 39 Boy Scout group
  - 40 Two- (cola purchase, perhaps)
  - 43 Escape from
  - 44 Prohibited thing
  - 45 Noticed
  - 46 Ancient artifact
  - 47 Happen afterward
  - 49 Banned insecticide: Abbr.
  - 50 Cannon or rifle
  - 52 Keep the status \_\_\_
  - 54 Three- (fine dining locales)
- DOWN**
- 63 Stubborn equine
  - 64 Malice
  - 65 Wrench or pliers
  - 66 Woodwind instrument
  - 67 Seer's deck
  - 68 Rabbit relative
  - 69 Acquires
  - 70 Parts of a plan
  - 71 Lose fur
  - 9 Fairy tale meanie
  - 10 Carburetors, for instance
  - 11 "Wherefore art \_\_\_ Romeo?"
  - 12 Beer steins
  - 13 Sneaker or loafer
  - 21 Droop
  - 22 Is compelled
  - 25 Super Bowl athlete, for short
  - 26 Greek salad tidbit
  - 27 Add up
  - 29 Without assistance
  - 30 Deceived
  - 31 Graceful birds
  - 33 Made mention of
  - 34 Parceled (out)
  - 35 Paid out
  - 37 Purebred dogs' ancestries
  - 41 Happen again
  - 42 Bunches of flowers
  - 48 3 Down's continent: Abbr.
  - 51 Homes for hawks
  - 53 Swearing-in ceremonies
  - 54 Air pollution
  - 55 Toothpaste holder
  - 56 Frequently
  - 57 Minor quarrel
  - 58 Become weary
  - 59 On the summit of
  - 60 Ancient ark builder
  - 61 Ripped
  - 62 Snow vehicle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18					19			
20				21					22			
23				24					25			
26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35			
36		37		38					39			
40				41					42			
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46				47					48		49	
50				51					52		53	
54	55	56			57	58	59			60	61	62
63				64						65		
66				67						68		
69				70						71		

DOPING

Continued from Page 7

long-running doping scheme.

The International Cycling Union, or UCI, issued a statement on Tuesday saying it was aware of the reports that Armstrong had confessed to Winfrey. The governing body for the sport urged Armstrong to tell his story to an independent commission it has set up to examine claims it covered up suspicious samples from the cyclist, accepted financial donations from him and helped him avoid detection in doping tests.

Armstrong started Monday with a visit to the headquarters of Livestrong, the charity he founded in 1997 and turned into a global force on the strength of his athletic dominance and personal story of surviving testicular cancer that had spread to his lungs and brain.

About 100 Livestrong staff members gathered in a conference room as Armstrong told them "I'm sorry." He choked up during a 20-minute talk, expressing regret for the long-running controversy tied to performance-enhancers had caused, but stopped short of admitting he used them.

Before he was done, several members were in tears when he urged them to continue the charity's mission, helping cancer patients and their families. "Heartfelt and sincere," is how Livestrong

spokeswoman Katherine McLane described his speech.

Armstrong later huddled with almost a dozen people before stepping into a room set up at a downtown Austin hotel for the interview with Winfrey. The group included close friends and lawyers. They exchanged handshakes and smiles, but declined comment.

Winfrey has promoted her interview, one of the biggest for OWN since she launched the network in 2011, as a "no-holds barred" session, and after the voluminous USADA report — which included testimony from 11 former teammates — she said she went into the session with 112 questions ready to go. Not all of them were asked, she said, but many were.

USADA chief executive Travis Tygart, a

longtime critic of Armstrong's, called the drug regimen practiced while Armstrong led the U.S. Postal Service team "the most sophisticated, professionalized and successful doping program that sport has ever seen." USADA did not respond to requests for comment about Armstrong's confession.

For years, Armstrong went after his critics ruthlessly during his reign as cycling champion. He scolded some in public and didn't hesitate to punish outspoken riders during the race itself. He waged legal battles against still others in court.

At least one of his opponents, the London-based Sunday Times, has already filed a lawsuit to recover about \$500,000 it paid him to settle a libel case, and Dallas-based SCA Promotions, which tried to deny Armstrong

a promised bonus for a Tour de France win, has threatened to bring another lawsuit seeking to recover more than \$7.5 million awarded by an arbitration panel.

In Australia, the government of South Australia state said Tuesday it will seek the repayment of several million dollars in appearance fees paid to Armstrong for competing in the Tour Down Under in 2009, 2010 and 2011.

"We'd be more than happy for Mr. Armstrong to make any repayment of monies to us," South Australia Premier Jay Weatherill said.

Betsy Andreu, the wife of former Armstrong teammate Frankie Andreu, was one of the first to publicly accuse Armstrong of using performance-enhancing drugs. She called news of Armstrong's confes-

sion "very emotional and very sad," and choked up when asked to comment.

"He used to be one of my husband's best friends and because he wouldn't go along with the doping, he got kicked to the side," she said.

"Lance could have a positive impact if he tells the truth on everything. He's got to be completely honest."

Betsy Andreu testified in SCA's arbitration case challenging the bonus in 2005, saying Armstrong admitted in an Indiana hospital room in 1996 that he had taken many performance-enhancing drugs, a claim Armstrong vehemently denied.

"It would be nice if he would come out and say the hospital room happened," Andreu said. "That's where it all started."

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.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

MAVS

Continued from Page 7

The Timberwolves, who finished a 0-4 road



By Steve Becker

A Matter of Probabilities

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.  
NORTH  
♠ Q 9 8  
♥ 8 7 5 3 2  
♦ 7 4 3  
♣ 10 6

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

SOUTH  
♠ A K J 10 7 2  
♥ A Q  
♦ A 8 6  
♣ A J

The bidding:  
South West North East  
2♠\* Pass 2♦\*\* Pass  
2♠ Pass 3♠ Pass

\*strong, artificial \*\*negative  
Opening lead jack of diamonds.  
When declarer has more than one way to play a hand, he should select the approach most likely to succeed. If he has no reliable clues from the bidding or early play to guide him, he should rely mostly on probabilities.

In today's deal, declarer didn't follow the indicated probability and failed as a result. He took the diamond lead with the ace, led a low trump to dummy's eight and finessed the queen of hearts. West won with the king, whereupon the defenders cashed two diamonds and shifted to a

club. Declarer won with the ace, cashed the heart ace, crossed to the nine of spades and ruffed a heart high, but when the suit failed to divide 3-3, he had to lose a club at the end for down one.

South's line of play depended primarily on the 50 percent chance that East had the king of hearts, or (if the opponents did not return a trump) that the heart suit would break 3-3 — about a 68 percent combined probability. However, he missed a different method of play that offered a much better chance.

After taking the ace of diamonds, South should have played the A-Q of hearts! In the actual deal, West wins with the king, and the defense collects two diamond tricks before shifting to a club.

South wins, leads a spade to the eight, ruffs a heart high, leads a spade to the nine, ruffs another heart high (establishing dummy's fifth heart as a trick) and later discards his jack of clubs on the eight of hearts, using the spade queen as an entry.

This line of play succeeds whenever the hearts are divided 3-3 (36 percent) or 4-2 (48 percent), assuming no worse than a 3-1 trump split. The resulting 84 percent chance of a favorable heart division is much more attractive than the line South actually adopted. In effect, declarer plays as though his heart holding were the A-x rather than the A-Q.

Tomorrow: Born of desperation.  
©2013 King Features Syndicate Inc.

trip that coach Rick Adelman missed for personal reasons, got 20 points and a game-high 12 rebounds from Nikola Pekovic.

"It was a tough trip," Barea said. "I tell them to remember how this feels. We have to get better at home."

O.J. Mayo and Elton Brand had 20 points each for Dallas. It was a season high for Brand. Mayo matched Collison's nine assists, and the Maverick had a season-high 33 as a team. Nowitzki, Chris Kaman and Vince Carter had 10 points apiece.

After helping Dallas win the title, Barea didn't play in his first trip to Dallas last season but did get a championship ring in Minnesota's only visit. He sat out a

game earlier this season with a sprained foot.

Coming off the bench late in the first quarter, Barea had two quick assists then scored eight of Minnesota's first 10 points in the second. Barea hit three 3-pointers and a driving layup and led the Timberwolves with 11 points and four assists before halftime.

Barea, who had about 15 family members and friends in the crowd, helped Minnesota cut an 11-point deficit to 40-38 before Carter converted a three-point play to start a 15-5 run that put the Mavericks up 55-43 late in the second quarter. Brand had eight points during the run and led Dallas with 14 points on 7-of-8 shooting in the first half.

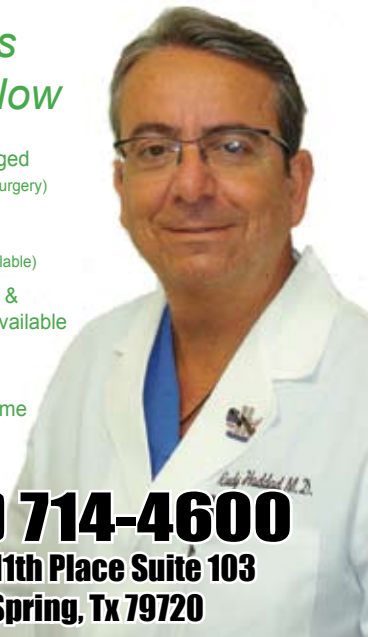
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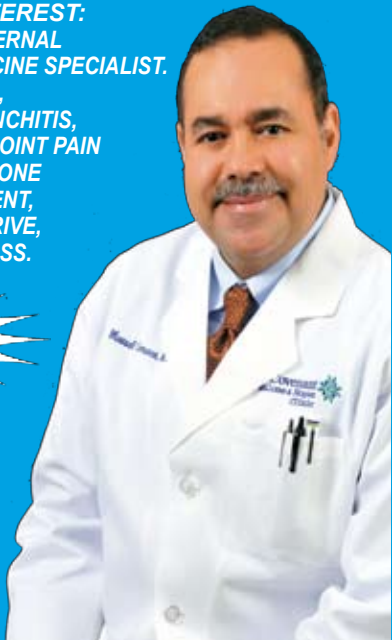
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