Vicki Slaton

VOLUME 108. NUMBER 88



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JANUARY 25, 2013



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Corey Wood addresses the Big Spring Independent School District school board Thursday. Wood said he supports allowing teachers and administrators to carry concealed weapons on campuses.

Parent urges ISD to arm teachers

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

When it comes to student safety and security, Big Spring Independent School District officials say very few options are off the table.

Student safety, which has become the main topic of discussion for school officials everywhere since last month's killing of 20 elementary students in Newtown, Conn., was addressed during Thursday's BSISD trustee meeting, and officials said they are willing to consider just about any viable method — including arming teachers — to achieve that goal.

The discussion included an address to the board by BSISD Technology Director Corey Wood, whose children attend school locally, advocating for allowing teachers and administrators to carry concealed weapons on campus.

"For years, public schools have cultivated a deadly illusion that a gun-free policy makes us safer. The mass shootings we've seen in recent years only prove killers don't play by the rules. Today, I'm calling on you to change those rules."

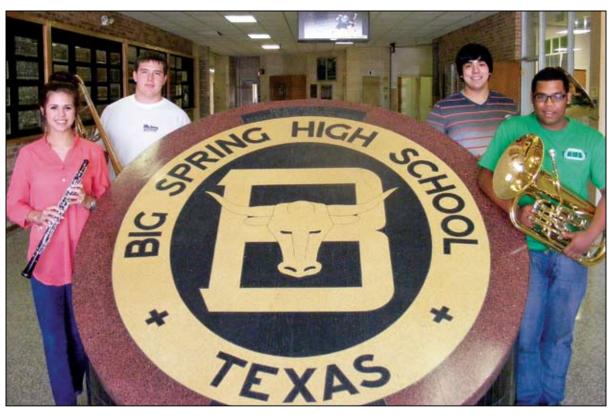
Corey Wood, BSISD technology director

Wood said the current policy of making schools gun-free zones has only served to make students easier targets for persons intent on causing harm.

See GUNS, Page 3

Big Spring High School students named to the Class 3A and below all-state band are, from left, junior Catherine Harris, sophomore Nick Conner, senior Chris Nunez and junior Kenan Lewis.

HERALD photo/Steve Reagan



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Big Spring High places foursome on all state band

By STEVE REAGAN Staff Writer

In a good year, Big Spring

High School places one or two students in the all-state band. What do you say about this year, then?

Four Steer Band members a number that is a modern record, to say the least — have

been selected to the Class 3A and Below All-State Band. "That's the most we've had since I've been here," said BSHS Band Director Rocky

Harris, who has led the pro-

gram for almost 15 years.

"And it may be the most we've

Junior oboe player Catherine Harris, sophomore trombonist Nick Conner, junior baritone player Kenan Lewis and senior tuba player Chris Nunez were named to the all-state band, which will perform at the Texas Music Educators Association state convention next month in San Antonio. "They're very talented and

a joy to work with," Rocky Harris said of the group. "You combine talent, a good attitude and the willingness to work hard, that makes for some good kids."

He has a personal connection with one of the honorees Catherine is his daughter.

"To see my dad's reaction when I made all-state was great," she said. "He's my biggest mentor and he said he was very proud of me." For Catherine, making the

all-state band was also a matter of some sweet revenge. "There was a lot of pres-

sure," she said. "They only take one oboe player from this area, and I was selected over the guy who beat me out last year."

See BAND, Page 3

Cook-off to help kids set Saturday

Herald Staff Report

Cooking begins at 8 a.m. Saturday for the annual chili cook-off benefitting the West Texas Center's Children in Need Fund.

Judging gets underway at 11:30 a.m. for the event, which is being held at the Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 3188 at 703 W. Third in Big Spring.

Chili cooks are still welcome to enter. Teams are limited to two people and the entry fee is \$10. Prizes are awarded to the top finishers.

Tickets for the public are \$5 and enable entrants to all the chili they can sample. Last year, the Children in

Need fund provided clothes, school supplies, tuition for activities, transportation, cap and gown and many more requests. The fund was established in 2001 to assist families and children who are receiving mental health services. "This chili cook-off has be-

come a long-standing tradition in Big Spring for many of our local residents and amongst the many veteran chili cooks who travel the

See CHILI, Page 3

MONTH GLOSEOUT LDAYS OF 13^{III}



2309 Scurry









Obituaries

James Hollis Meek





Hollis James Meek, 79, of Odessa away passed Sunday, Jan. 20, 2013, at Midland Memorial Hospital. He was born Jan. 11, 1934, in Big Spring, Texas. He served in the U.S. Navy

and was owner of the Swim Shop.

He is preceded in death by his parents, J.M. and Helen Meek; daughter, Karla Meek; and sister, Reba Kennedv.

He is survived by his wife, Carol Meek of Odessa; son, Kent Meek and wife Johnnie of Midland; daughter, Kathy Gianfala of Odessa; sisters, Meda Cunningham of Big Spring, Jolene Starrack of Coleman and Betty Jaun Valiquette of Midland; granddaughter, Sarah Fontenot; great-granddaughter, Tierrah; brother-in-law, Bob Kennedy; best friend, Gene Walls; and numerous nieces and neph-

There will be a visitation from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 25, 2013, at Hubbard-Kelly Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26, 2013, at Hubbard-Kelly Funeral Home. Burial will be in Trinity Memorial Park in Big Spring.

Services entrusted to Hubbard-Kelly Funeral

Paid obituary

Jay Loyd Howard Brooks

SEMINOLE — Funeral services for Jay Loyd Howard Brooks, 48, of Seminole will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26, 2013, in the First Baptist Church with the Rev. Ned Nugent officiating. Services are under the direction of Ratliff Funeral Home of Seminole.

Jay passed away Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2013, in Seminole. He was born March 20, 1964, in Seagraves, Texas. He worked as a respiratory therapist.

He is survived by a daughter, Lauren Brooks of Texarkana; his mother, Sue Elliott of Seminole; his father, Jerry Brooks of Dallas; one brother, Denis Brooks of Ruidoso, N.M.; one sister, Connie Wallace and husband Ronnie of Seminole; a niece; two nephews; and numerous aunts, uncles and cous-

Wanda J. Jochetz

Wanda J. Jochetz, 85, of Stanton died Thursday, Jan. 24, 2013, in a Midland hospital. Her services are pending with Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton.

Police blotter

following activity between 7 a.m. Thursday and 7 Cantu at 263-4016. a.m. today:

was arrested Thursday on a charge of public intoxi-• JENNIFER LOPEZ URIBE, 38, of 1101 Mesa, was

• LETICIA MARIA CRUZ, 33, of Midland, Texas,

- arrested Thursday on a warrant for permitting an unlicensed minor to drive (parent or guardian). • ASHLEY CASSAREZ LUNA, 27, of 800 Creighton,
- was arrested Thursday on two warrants from other
- CHANCE ALLEN PERRYMAN, 28, of 225 Brooks Rd., was arrested Thursday on a warrant from another agency.

• CHRISTOPHER RYAN COLEGROVE, 20, of 207

- Moore Rd., was arrested Thursday on a charge of consumption of alcohol by a minor. • KELLY ALLEN ROSE, 39, of Waxahachie, Texas,
- was arrested Thursday on a warrant for issuance of
- FORGERY was reported in the 2000 block of S. Gregg Street. • THEFT was reported in the 900 block of Scurry
- BURGLARY OF A BUILDING was reported in
- the 2300 block of S. Gregg Street. BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported: In the 1400 block of Sycamore.
- In the 1300 block of Sycamore.

Sheriff

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

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

- FRED RUBIO JR., 24, was booked into the county detention center Thursday by the BSPD on a municipal capias warrant for driving while license KELLY ALLEN ROSE, 39, was arrested Thursday
- by the HCSO on a warrant for issuance of a bad • ANDRES LEE JUAREZ, 31, was booked into the
- county detention center Thursday by DPS on a motion to revoke probation for possession of a controlled substance.
- DANIEL DELEON JR., 32, was booked into the county detention center Thursday by DPS on a motion to revoke probation for driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.

- ASHLEY CASSAREZ LUNA, 27, was booked into the county detention center Thursday by the BSPD on warrants for failure to drive in a single lane and violation of a promise to appear.
- CHRISTOPHER RYAN COLEGROVE, 20, was booked into the county detention center Friday by the BSPD on a charge of consumption of alcohol by a minor.
- CHANCE ALLEN PERRYMAN, 28, was booked into the county detention center Friday by the BSPD on an attorney general motion to revoke pro-

Fire/EMS

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

- TRAUMA was reported in the 1500 block of Mesa. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of Sunset. Service refused.

Take Note

- Big Spring State Hospital patients are in need of warm clothing. Clean items should be taken to the Community Relations Office near the south entrance of the hospital, 1901 N. U.S. Highway 87. Clothing that cannot be used by the patients will be taken to the hospital's Chalet Resale Shop for sale to raise money for patient needs. Men's clothing and larger-sized clothing are always in need. For more information, call Melissa Adams, BSSH program coordinator, at 432 268-7730.
- The Big Spring State Hospital Volunteer Services Council needs assistance in The Chalet Resale Shoppe, 115 East Second St. The Chalet Resale Shoppe is a fast-paced retail shop specializing in gently worn clothing and small household appliance. Volunteers are needed to sort, price, check out and stock donated items. Volunteer hours are flexible. The Chalet is open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday. For more information, contact Jamey Stegall at james.stegall@dshs.state.tx.us or 432 268-
- would be interested in offering your love and God's comfort to those who are suffering, or to their families, contact Michelle Coutermarsh at 263-5999 or come by 602 S. Main. Volunteers are needed in many categories includ-

Compass Hospice is in need of your help. If you

ing patient care. You may give as much or as little time as you wish. Any amount of time is greatly appreciated. Training is offered free of charge.

- Every Friday night from 7:30 p.m. until 10 p.m. is dance night at the Senior Citizen Center. The cost is \$8 per person.
- Mobile Meals is in need of volunteer delivery drivers. If you can donate one hour per week to The Big Spring Police Department reported the help deliver meals to the elderly, call Macaria
 - Spring Tabernacle Ministries, 1209 Wright St., has a brief, inspirational message before giving away food and clothing on Thursday mornings. It's a great way to work off community service and get help, too. Be there at 9 a.m.-11 a.m. and get two for one plus a rehab meeting.
 - Home Hospice is seeking volunteers. Volunteers are needed for in office duties as well as sitters, deliveries and crafts. To find out more information or to volunteer contact Sherry Hodnett at Home Hospice by calling 264-7599.
 - Hangar 25 Air Museum needs your help. We are in need of volunteers to fill a variety of positions such as tour guides, front desk, clerical, events, and many others. Set your hours and days of the week you are available. Meet new people and enjoy a rewarding experience. For more information, contact Emma Bogard at 432-267-2963.
 - The Salvation Army is holding its annual heater drive and is in need of heaters. Community members can donate new or used heaters. Monetary donations are also welcomed. Donations can be made at the main office, located at 811 W. Fifth St., Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.
 - The Homeownership Preservation Foundation (HPF) is an independent national nonprofit dedicated to helping distressed homeowners navigate financial challenges and avoid mortgage foreclosure. If you want to stop foreclosure and are in need of foreclosure help, the time to call 888-995-HOPE is now. The Homeowner's HOPE hotline is a counseling service provided by HPF to work with you to find a solution to your problem. HPF can provide counseling free of charge, in English and 170 other languages, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Free free foreclosure help, call the hotline.

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Today's Weather Local 3-Day Forecast

American Profile

1/28 64/53 67/41 71/51 Generally sunny despite a few afternoon Mostly Cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s and Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 70s clouds. High 67F. Winds N at 10 to 20 lows in the low 50s and lows in the low Sunrise: 7:43 AM Sunset: Sunset: Sunset: 6:13 PM 6:14 PM

We Celebrate Hometown Life



Area Cities	•					
City	Hi	Lo Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	63	40 pt sunny	Kingsville	83	61	pt sunny
Amarillo	60	35 pt sunny	Livingston	75	52	cloudy
Austin	77	53 pt sunny	Longview	67		cloudy
Beaumont	74		Lubbock	62	39	pt sunny
Brownsville	82	62 pt sunny	Lufkin	76	51	cloudy
Brownwood	71	47 pt sunny	Midland	69	44	mst sunn
Corpus Christi	78	62 pt sunny	Raymondville	83	60	pt sunny
Corsicana	67	48 pt sunny	Rosenberg	77	57	cloudy
Dallas	66	47 pt sunny	San Antonio	79		pt sunny
Del Rio	78	59 pt sunny	San Marcos	78	54	pt sunny
	71	49 pt sunny	Sulphur Springs	63	41	pt sunny
Fort Stockton	74	50 pt sunny	Sweetwater	63	42	pt sunny
Gainesville	58	39 pt sunny	Tyler	66		cloudy
Greenville	62	41 pt sunny	Weatherford	63	42	pt sunny
Houston	77	58 cloudy	Wichita Falls	59	38	pt sunny
El Paso 71 49 pt sun Fort Stockton 74 50 pt sun Gainesville 58 39 pt sun Greenville 62 41 pt sun						

New York

Seattle

St. Louis

San Francisco

27 21 sn shower

62 51 pt sunny 46 40 rain

44 22 pt sunny

Los Angeles 77 60 pt sunny

City Atlanta

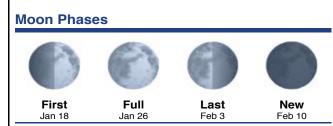
Boston

Dallas

Denver

Houston

Chicago



16 pt sunny 10 flurries

66 47 pt sunny 55 35 pt sunny

58 cloudy

- The mission of CASA of West Texas is to promote and support quality volunteers who speak for the best interest of abused and neglected children in court in an effort to find each child a safe, nurturing and permanent home. We need your help. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Sara Basaldua at 1-877-316-8346 or visit www. BecomeaCASA.org or www.casawtx.org.
- Legal Aid of Northwest Texas is accepting appointments from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month. Individuals seeking legal advice for matters concerning family law, divorce, custody and child support issues, social security cases, employment and housing may contact the office to schedule an appointment. Criminal cases are not accepted. Anyone recently served with legal documents should call the office immediately at 800-926-5630 or 432-686-0647.
- Big Spring and surrounding counties are in need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected. For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 263-9669.

• Road to Recovery, sponsored by the American

Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volunteer, or to request a ride for treatment, call (877) 277-1618, the High Plains American Cancer Group Report Center. Anyone wishing to volunteer to drive in this program should call Sherry Hodnett, president of the Big Spring ACS Board, at 264-7599 at her



Annual Banquet Dorothy Garrett Coliseum For more info contact The Chamber at 432-263-7641

Feb. 2 Big Spring Symphony presents: "Classic Wonders" Municipal Auditorium Featuring **Pianist Charles Webb** For more info contact 432-264-7223

Feb. 5 Howard Co. Day in Austin For more info contact the **Economic Development Corp.** at 432-264-6032

Big Spring

Fri. Nov. 16 around 11 pm @ HEB (you bought foil paper & bag of ice) then realized you @ Feed Store week before Christmas. I had white hat and you were on the phone. *PLEASE CONTACT AGAIN:*

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▶ Texas Briefs

Ex-Iraq contractor gets prison, fraud

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A former Texas co-owner of a development company has been sentenced to $2rac{1}{2}$ years in prison for submitting nearly \$1.3 million in fake invoices for Iraq reconstruction.

Prosecutors in San Antonio say 33-year-old Jill Ann Charpia in August pleaded guilty to falsifying official documents. The former San Antonio woman was sentenced

Thursday in connection with fabricated documents and forged signatures related to Iraq reconstruction government contracts. She must also pay at least \$920,000 in restitution. Charpia during 2008 and 2009 co-owned Sourcing Specialist LLC, a privately owned firm that con-

tracted with the U.S. government to help develop business opportunities in Iraq. Investigators say Charpia signed and submitted

false invoices for mobilization costs, three armored vehicles and the rental of two villas in Baghdad.

2nd suspect arrested in shooting HOUSTON (AP) — A second suspect has been ar-

rested in a shooting that wounded three people at a Houston-area college. Harris County Sheriff's Office spokeswoman

Christina Garza says 22-year-old Trey Foster was captured early Friday in the Dallas suburb of Plano, 250 miles north of Houston.

Garza says officers escorted Foster back to Houston. He is being held in the Harris County Jail.

Foster faces two counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon in Tuesday's shooting at a Lone Star College campus.

Carlton Berry, who was wounded in the incident, has been charged with two counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. Berry faces a court hearing Wednesday.

Jody Neal, who was also hurt, told investigators that Foster shot him during an argument. A college maintenance man was also wounded.

Texas has another minor earthquake, nobody hurt TIMPSON, Texas (AP) — East Texas has had a

minor earthquake.

The U.S. Geological Survey says the 4.1 magnitude quake happened at 1:01 a.m. Friday and was centered about two miles west-northwest of Timp-

The Shelby County Sheriff's Office had no immediate reports of damage or injuries.

Timpson is a town of about 1,200 located 165 miles southeast of Dallas.

An earthquake earlier this week in the Dallas area had a 3.0 magnitude. Experts say Tuesday night's quake was centered about five miles northnorthwest of Irving.

Former inmate sentenced for smuggling heroin

ALEXANDRIA, La. (AP) - A former federal inmate from Wichita Falls, Texas, has been sentenced to two years in prison for attempting to smuggle heroin into the U.S. Penitentiary in Pollock U.S. Attorney Stephanie Finley tells The Town

Talk Jose Pueperto Alaniz also was sentenced Wednesday by U.S. District Judge Dee Drell to three years supervised release. Another defendant, Diana Castillo, also of Wichita Falls, was sentenced to three months in prison.

Castillo had visited Alaniz in May 2010 in the Pollock facility, and officials saw Alaniz remove something from Castillo's waistband and put it in his jumpsuit. A search found about 74.8 grams of black tar heroin. Alaniz had been serving a sentence for violating his release on a conviction of distribution of cocaine.

Judge to decide whether teen to be tried as adult EDINBURG, Texas (AP) - A 16-year-old South

Texas boy charged last year with attempted capital murder in state juvenile court is to go before a judge for a decision on whether he'll be tried as an adult in the shooting of a federal agent. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

agent Kelton Harrison was conducting surveillance as part of a drug trafficking investigation in July 2012 when he was chased and shot.

A criminal complaint accused the boy, whose identity is being withheld because of his age, of firing about six shots from a .22 caliber rifle. It also alleges that his 18-year-old brother Arnoldo Alvarado fired "numerous" shots from a 9mm handgun as they rode in a vehicle driven by their father Pedro Alvarado. The older Alvarados await trial in federal court.

CHILI

Continued from Page 1

region competing in chili cook-offs," said Chili Cook-off Organizer Landon Sturdivant, a member of the Eagles and West Texas Centers chief operating officer.

For more information on the chili cook-off, contact Sturdivant at 432-264-3247 or via email at landon.sturdivant@ wtcmhmr.org

GUNS

Continued from Page 1

"For years, public schools have cultivated a deadly illusion that a gun-free policy makes us safer," Wood said. "The mass shootings we've seen in recent years only prove killers don't play by the rules. Today, I'm calling on you to change those rules." Wood urged local offi-

cials to follow the lead of two other Texas school districts — Harold ISD and Union Grove ISD — which have approved plans to allow teachers to carry concealed weapons.

"As more and more schools choose to enact such a policy, those who don't will become the

minority and a proverbial target will be placed on those schools," he said. "You might as well put a sign outside that reads, 'Criminals welcome; there are no guns in this school.'

"You have to ask yourself, what sort of message do you want to send to criminals?" he added. "How far are you willing to go to protect the students at Big Spring ISD? How far would you be willing to go at home? What's the difference?"

School officials stopped short of endorsing Wood's comments, but agreed the idea of arming teachers is just one of many the district will have to consider as it fine-tunes its safety procedures.

"I think the comments Corey made are the kind of things that

are on people's minds these days," BSISD Su-Steven perintendent Saldivar said. "We all want are children to be safe. As teachers and administrators, our worst nightmare would be that these things which are happening more and more at other places might happen here."

Saldivar also stressed that arming teachers is a step the district would not take lightly. "Keep in mind, when

you're carrying a gun, that's a lot of responsibility," he said. "It's one thing to say teachers should carrying guns ... it's another when you have 25 kindergartners in your classroom, or you have 1,000 high school students walking the halls of your school."

Saldivar said the dis-

trict has taken several steps in the recent past to upgrade its security.

At the new elementary schools and the refurbished junior high, all exterior doors except the main entrance are locked once the school day begins and all visitors are funneled through the main office before being allowed into classroom areas.

The situation is more problematic at the high school, which is the largest campus and has more students coming and going at various times. There, however, the district employs an armed "resource officer" and is looking to hire another, Saldivar said.

BSISD also works closely with local law enforcement in conducting safety drills and reviewing procedures, he added. School Board Member

Tony Kennedy said possible security improvements will continue to be addressed in the future. "There are more op-

tions out there," Kennedy said. "We're not against arming teachers, but we need to discuss that possibility — a lot. We are going to make an informed decision ... and make it with a good thought process in mind. I agree we need to do something. We just need to decide what's right for Big Spring ISD."

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL 24th & Johnson 267-8288

Bettye J. Griffith, 78,

died Tuesday. Funeral Services will be at 2 p.m. today at East Fourth Baptist Church with burial at Trinity Memorial Park. Bonnie Coker, 78, died Wednesdav. Graveside services were at 11 a.m. Friday at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

BAND

Continued from Page 1

Conner is getting to be an old hand at this allstate band thing — this is the second straight year for him to be selected. That doesn't mean, however, that making the group was any easier the second time around. "If anything, it was

more difficult this time," he said. "I already knew the competition I'd face, so I knew I had to work even harder this year to make all-state."

And earning the honor is definitely not getting boring, he added.

"I had the same reaction, pretty much," Conner said. "It was very, very exciting."

Lewis said his selection came as a very nice surprise. "I really didn't feel

good about my tryout," he said. "You could hear the other (students) as they performed ... and they were pretty good. I was really excited when I learned that I had made it."

Nunez pulls extra-curricular double duty at BSHS — aside from performing in the band, he also was a key member of this year's football

team.

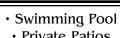
"You definitely have to manage your time," he said of his various commitments. "It can get pretty tough. You just have to make sure you dedicate the time you need for certain things."

Being named to the all-state band was something of a shock, he recalled.

"I didn't even come close to area tryouts last year, so this year was kind of a surprise," Nunez said. "I was sitting at a table after my tryout and (Conner) came over and tackled me when he found out.

It was a pretty good feel-

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Sun. 8a.m.-10a.m.)

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EDITORIAL Tracting

"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."

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

Bill McClellan Managing Editor **Glenn Stifflemire** Publisher

Steve Reagan Staff Writer

Brian McCormack

Sports Editor

Thomas Jenkins Staff Writer

OTHER VIEWS

Balancing the keys to life

s I write this article on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, I am watching President Obama's inaugural address. I'm reminded again of the roles and responsibilities that we, who have dedicated our lives to public service, have sworn publicly or privately to uphold. While there are an endless number of issues that

divide us as a nation and a people, there are a relatively small number of issues that demand our attention, cooperation and collaboration. Issues that often get pushed aside for the hot button topics of the day are often the issues that require our constant and undivided focus.

While the list of social issues seem endless and the era of big government appears to be continuing with all its zeal, truth and fact-based dialogue on issues that undergird our society must once again find their way back to the forefront of our collective national conscience. The debate will rage on regarding the fiscal cliff and debt ceiling and as to whether or not it is in the best interest of the nation or a state. The irrefutable facts are that there are things that we the people take for granted on an ongoing basis.

Where would this country be if it weren't for the railroad system that connected the east to the west, the system of roads that wind their way through the landscape making our everyday lives so much easier or the development and efficient use of natural resources that make our everyday lives less rustic?

Here in Texas, we have been living off the vision and efforts of our predecessors with regard to water. The prolonged drought of the 1950s spurred reservoir development on an unprecedented scale.

Those very reservoirs continue to provide drinking water to Texans all across the state and make water available to farmers for use in growing crops that feed and clothe Texans and the nation.

While water issues are not the only high priority item demanding the attention of lawmakers and the limited funding they wield, in my opinion, its one that holds the highest priority. Before anyone sends

me nasty emails, let me explain.

In the overall hierarchy of life, there are three things that are absolutely essential for daily survival; air, water and food. The rule of threes generally applies here, three minutes without oxygen, three days without water and three weeks without food...you get the picture. Education, transportation, health care and energy are all vital to life as we know it today.

Ironically, in today's world, you can't develop new water supplies without a healthy and well educated workforce using fossil fueled equipment to move materials to the job site via public roadways with which to drill a well or build a dam. As the 83rd Legislative Session ramps up, let us all remember that balance is one of the keys to life and when our grandchildren are our age, they'll tell us how good a job we have done.

Kelley Holcomb is the general manager of the Angelina and Neches River Authority. His email address is kholcomb@anra.org.

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The Herald is always interested in our readers opinions.

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A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we remain diligent about helping others, dear Lord.

Obama wants background checks

hat's the definition of irony? How about a sitting president who, after four years, has provided next to zero validated information about himself demanding that citizens of the United States undergo more federal background checks to exercise their most basic Second Amendment

That's just one of the outrages I find in the 23 executive orders issued by the White House designed to discourage law-abiding U.S. citizens from purchasing firearms for their own self-defense and to ensure that tyrants like himself have a monopoly on force in

our country.

rights?

Sure, he wants background checks on all firearms purchases. Why? Because the government wants to know where all the guns are. Never mind that the tragedy that prompted this government and media hysteria for more gun control would not have been averted with all the background checks in the world. The shooter stole his weapon.

Background checks? I think the American people deserve to see some background checks on Barack Obama.

But turnabout is fair play.

Here's what most Americans would like to see:

- -His travel and passport records;
- -His academic transcripts;
- His records on how he jumped from Occidental College to Columbia and Harvard Law

School:

- —The records on who paid for his education:
- —His health records;
- —His school records that would establish his whereabouts from the time he was 5 until he entered Occidental College;
- —His immigration records to determine if he ever gave up his U.S. citizenship during his travels and years living in Indonesia;
- —His Social Security records to determine how and why the number he is using was issued by the state of Connecticut, a jurisdiction his official biography claims he never lived in;
- —His Selective Service registration records;
- —His adoption records;
- —And, of course, his legitimate birth records, which, according to the only law enforcement investigation ever conducted on the matter, determined those he has produced are fraudulent.

Now, you can agree with Sheriff Joe Arpaio and me on the last one or not.

But it really doesn't matter. In fact, I'm even willing to close the chapter on the birth certificate matter. Though the question remains, how is this guy eligible to be president when he, according to his own story, is the son of a Kenyan goat herder and an American woman too young to bestow natural born citizenship on her son — no matter where he was born? And why all the secrecy about something as innocent as a birth certificate?

But forget that for a moment. Nobody cares. It's water under the bridge. Obama has, among other things, successfully redefined the constitutional requirement to serve as president.

Still, Obama has more secrets than any would-be gun purchaser I have ever met in my life. Yet he has Secret Service protection He obviously sees the value of armed defense or he would dispatch those agents tout suite. He obviously cares about the safety of his own children because they are provided with armed security, too. He just doesn't think your kids should have any even if his is provided courtesy of the taxpayers of the U.S. and yours is provided with your own money and time.

So, I say it's time for Obama to submit to some public background checks.

How is it that with so many secrets regarding his life and identity, he has the cojones to demand background checks on Joe Q. Citizen, who simply wants to exercise his constitutional rights to protect his life, liberty and property?

He wants background checks on me? My life is an open book. He wants background checks on you? Are you asking to handle highly classified documents like him? Or are you just being a responsible citizen and watching out for your family - at no expense to the taxpayer?

I'm shocked that no one else has seen the irony in the only man one could honestly characterize as the "Manchurian President" demanding background checks on ordinary, hard-working, law-abiding Americans to whom he is pledged serve.

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

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he second time aroun

't is hard to remember how much better things are in America today than they were four years ago when Barack Obama took the oath of office for the first time. Then, we were in

the middle of two raging wars, one in Iraq and one in Afghanistan.

Now, one of those wars is ending, the other is over, and the most hated and feared man in recent times, Osama bin Laden, is dead.

ESTRICH Then, we were in the throes of an economy on a dizzying downward slide, the worst and most frightening recession since the Great Depression.

Now, while many of our fellow citizens are still looking for work and can't find it, or are working in jobs that don't meet their wants and needs, unemployment is heading downward and housing prices are heading upward. It may not be "morning in

America" — the theme of Ronald Reagan's successful reelection campaign in 1984 — but it is not midnight, either. We did not go over the fiscal cliff. So why doesn't it feel better?

When I think back on the first Obama inauguration, it seemed to be a moment of optimism and celebration.

When I think on this one, it

was Monday. I almost forgot to turn on the speech. It seemed like a very nice speech, but if you asked me to remember a single line just one day later. I'd be stumped.

When I asked other people what they thought of it all, I heard more opinions about Michelle's new hairdo (the bangs — people loved them or hated them; does she really look like Flip Wilson's long-lost twin) than about the president's words or the power of the moment.

There is an old saying in Washington that watching legislation get through Congress is like watching sausage being made.

Not pretty.

Susan

But it's not just the legislative process that has turned ugly and off-putting. It's almost everything that has anything to do with politics. It's the endless fundraising and spending and attacking; the endless noise of screaming extremism; the nastiness of virtually every aspect of our political life, intensified by the constancy of the drone.

I used to love politics. I spent much of my youth reading political novels and dreaming of the day when I would go to Washington and change the world, the day when I would know my way around the halls of Congress, see inside the White House, be a part of it. I will never forget my first summer as an intern in Washington, the thrill of all that, up close. I will never forget the first time I walked into the

White House, the West Wing, when a friend was working there. I pinched myself. Susan Estrich, from Lynn, in the West

Wing? Only in America. I don't love politics anymore. As my mother would say, what's to love? It's always been a tough business, but now it's beyond tough. It's mean and ugly and nasty, and too many of those playing it seem to have forgotten that the game is not the thing.

Obama kept more of the promises he made in his first inaugural address than most presidents. He tackled the failing economy, the unpopular and expensive wars, the needs of millions of Americans for access to health care. He got things done. And I expect he will continue to do so, as he always has, by picking off the necessary handfuls of Republicans he needs in the House and Senate.

He has figured out how to work the system — not change it.

This is not the business I fell in love with, even when my side is winning. And I have no faith, none, that one man, the one sworn in on Monday, the embodiment of hope just four short years ago, can change that.

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

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Amen

WIRE

News in brief

Too many gun laws around the country makes it hard to enforce tougher state and local laws

WASHINGTON (AP) — There is a legal avenue to try to get any gun you want somewhere in the U.S., thanks to the maze of gun statutes across the country and the lack of certain federal laws.

That undermines gun-control efforts in communities with tougher gun laws - and pushes advocates of tighter controls to seek a federal standard. Gun rights proponents say enforcing all existing laws makes more sense than passing new ones.

An Associated Press analysis found that there are thousands of laws, rules and regulations at the local, county, state and federal levels. The laws and rules vary by state, and even within states, according to a 2011 compilation of state gun laws by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explo-

These laws and regulations govern who can carry a firearm, what kind of firearm is legal, the size of ammunition magazines, and more. In some places, a person can buy as many guns as desired.

Not only can people acquire military-style assault weapons, they can also get gangster-style Tommy guns, World War II-era bazookas and even sawedoff shotguns.

1st woman to lead U.S. troops in combat 'thrilled' that Pentagon opening more roles to females

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Former U.S. Army Capt. Linda L. Bray says her male superiors were incredulous upon hearing she had ably led a platoon of military police officers through a firefight during the 1989 invasion of Panama.

Instead of being lauded for her actions, the first woman in U.S. history to lead male troops in combat said higher-ranking officers accused her of embellishing accounts of what happened when her platoon bested an elite unit of the Panamanian Defense Force. After her story became public, Congress fiercely debated whether she and other women had any business being on the battlefield.

The Pentagon's longstanding prohibition against women serving in ground combat ended Thursday, when Defense Secretary Leon Panetta announced that most combat roles jobs will now be open to female soldiers and Marines. Panetta said women are integral to the military's success and will be required to meet the same physical standards as their male colleagues.

"I'm so thrilled, excited. I think it's absolutely wonderful that our nation's military is taking steps to help women break the glass ceiling," said Bray, 53, of Clemmons, N.C. "It's nothing new now in the military for a woman to be right beside a man in operations."

The end of the ban on women in combat comes more than 23 years after Bray made national news and stoked intense controversy after her actions in Panama were praised as heroic by Marlin Fitzwater, the spokesman for then-President George H.W.

Education Department tells schools to find ways for disabled students to play sports

WASHINGTON (AP) — Students with disabilities must be given a fair shot to play on a traditional sports team or have their own leagues, the Education Department says.

Disabled students who want to play for their school could join traditional teams if officials can make "reasonable modifications" to accommodate them. If those adjustments would fundamentally alter a sport or give the student an advantage, the department is directing the school to create parallel athletic programs that have comparable standing to traditional programs.

"Sports can provide invaluable lessons in discipline, selflessness, passion and courage, and this

guidance will help schools ensure that students with disabilities have an equal opportunity to benefit from the life lessons they can learn on the playing field or on the court," Education Secretary Arne Duncan said in a statement announcing the new guidance Friday.

The groundbreaking order is reminiscent of the Title IX expansion of athletic opportunities for girls and women four decades ago and could bring sweeping changes to school budgets and locker rooms for years to come.

Activists cheered the changes.

Questions surround N.M. slayings as family, church community prepare to bury former pastor, kids

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Fifteen-year-old murder suspect Nehemiah Griego grew up in a family deeply rooted in the Christian faith.

His father, a gang member turned pastor, helped others turn their lives around. There were missions to Mexico, prayer sessions with former jail inmates and weekly Bible study gatherings. For Griego, there were jam sessions with the Calvary Albuquerque's youth band and pickup basketball games at the church.

That all changed last Saturday when his parents and three younger siblings were slain at home and Griego was arrested and charged with the killings.

On Friday, family and friends will gather at the church to mourn the deaths — a tragedy that just doesn't make sense to surviving family members or the church community that has watched him

Griego was just a normal teen to Vince Harrison, a former police officer who had known the family for about 10 years through his security work at the

NASA testing vintage engine left over from Apollo 11 rocket to improve for future missions

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (AP) — Like vinyl records and skinny ties, good things eventually come back around. At NASA, that means looking to the Apollo program for ideas on how to develop the next generation of rockets for future missions to the moon

Young engineers who weren't even born when the last Saturn V rocket took off for the moon are testing a vintage engine from the program.

The engine, known to NASA engineers as No. F-6049, was supposed to help propel Apollo 11 into orbit in 1969, when NASA sent Neil Armstrong and two other astronauts to the moon for the first time. The flight went off without a hitch, but no thanks to the engine — it was grounded because of a glitch during a test in Mississippi and later sent to the Smithsonian Institution, where it sat for years.

Now engineers are learning to work with technical systems and propellants not used since before the start of the space shuttle program, which first launched in 1981.

Nick Case, 27, and other engineers at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center on Thursday completed a series of 11 test-firings of the F-6049's gas generator, a jet-like rocket which produces 30,000 pounds of thrust and was used as a starter for the engine. They are trying to see whether a secondgeneration version of the Apollo engine could produce even more thrust and be operated with a throttle for deep-space exploration.

Hundreds of MBA students play poker tournament in Vegas to win job at Caesars casino

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Forget the firm handshake and networking chit chat. Business students who want a job at Caesars Entertainment need to work on their poker faces.

Nearly 300 Master of Business Administration

students and alumni anted up for a three-day Texas Hold 'em poker contest last weekend in hopes of hauling in a corner office. Hiring managers and corporate executives schmoozed with candidates during breaks in the action.

The annual MBA tournament on the Las Vegas Strip was little more than a marketing gimmick until last year, when Caesars decided to add cocktail hours and high-level interviews, said Tijuana Plant, who works in the company's human resourc-

Now, the event is a serious recruitment tool. The festive atmosphere and real-money stakes help the company screen for the critical thinking ability and social aptitude needed in the gambling industry, where business is often mixed with pleasure,

"We like to see analytical people," she said. "Poker players are analytical and are willing to take strategic risk, and that is what we're looking for."

Blind sled dog thrives with brother's help at N.H. kennel that takes in rescue, 2nd-chance, dogs

JEFFERSON, N.H. (AP) — When Gonzo started tripping over his food dish three years ago, no one could explain or stop the Alaskan husky's quickly advancing blindness. But a veterinarian offered some simple advice: "Run this dog."

Gonzo, one of 120 dogs at Muddy Paw Sled Dog Kennel, was happy to comply. With help from his brother, Poncho, he soon resumed his place pulling a sled all over New Hampshire's North Country to the delight of tourists and his caretakers, who quickly realized that if Gonzo didn't treat his blindness like an obstacle, neither would they. Given the dog's obvious eagerness, he was allowed to con-

"Even though he's blind, he still knows when hook-ups are happening. He's still very aware," said kennel manager Ben Morehouse. "When you have a dog such as Gonzo, with such a want and a drive and a desire ... you try it, you hook up, you see what happens."

A frenzy of excited barking engulfs the kennel whenever Morehouse and other staffers haul out a sled. The chosen team is outfitted with harnesses and booties; those left behind scramble onto their doghouse roofs and howl. Gonzo and Poncho are lined up side-by-side, usually toward the back of the eight-member team — "brains to brawn" is how Morehouse describes the order.

"A lot of people say everything about dog sledding is efficiency. Gonzo and Poncho are not the most efficient sled dogs out there. They won't set a speed record, they won't pull the most you've ever seen," Morehouse said. "To be honest, they're probably some of the goofiest dogs you can put in harness. But they're just fun."

Stars join Damon as he 'hijacks' Kimmel's ABC show

NEW YORK (AP) — Matt Damon had his re-

The butt of a long-running joke on ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live," the actor opened Thursday night's show as a kidnapper who tied Kimmel to a chair with duct tape and gagged him with his own tie.

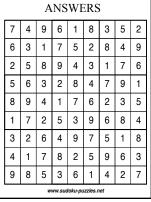
"There's a new host in town and his initials are M.D.," Damon said. "That's right, the doctor is

For years, Kimmel has joked at the end of his show that he ran out of time and was unable to bring Damon on as a guest. Kimmel was the silent one Thursday, watching from the back of the stage as Damon did his job.

Damon tormented Kimmel by bringing on a succession of big-name guests. Robin Williams stopped by to finish the monologue. Ben Affleck had a walkon role. Sheryl Crow was the bandleader and performed her new single. Nicole Kidman, Gary Oldman, Amy Adams, Reese Witherspoon and Demi Moore all crowded the talk show's couch.

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Fort Bliss chief backs plan for women in combat

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — The commander at Fort Bliss said Thursday that he supports allowing women to serve in combat positions but wants uniform physical training standards for men and women.

Gen. Dana Pittard called the change "the right thing to do" during at a news conference at the West Texas Army post that was held shortly after Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta

announced the ban had been artillery jobs. Brandon Pryor, lifted. But, Pittard said "the requirements ought to be equal. The Army is looking at that."

Several other military facilities in Texas declined to comment on the issue Thursday, deferring questions to Panetta's office.

Soldiers have expressed concerns that some women would not meet the physical requirements of some infantry and

an air defense staff sergeant at the base, said "I don't want a 100-pound woman trying to pull me out of an overturned Humvee."

Panetta said in a news conference in Washington that the requirements already in place to participate in combat duties would not be lowered. He expects not all women who apply for the positions to meet the qualifications, "but everyone is entitled to a chance," he

Pittard said women have shown interest in joining combat positions and that it should not pose a significant challenge as most Army units already are integrated. He compared the development to past steps taken by the Army toward integration, such as desegregation in 1948.



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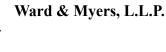
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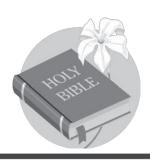
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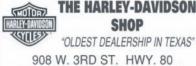


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Church News

Forsan Baptist Church

Sunday mornings, we are examining the ministry of Jesus as He taught, healed and fed thousands on His way to that fateful week in Jerusalem. Sunday evenings, we are conducting a verse-by-verse survey of the Book of Romans, and Wednesdays we are undertaking a study called "The Seven Stages

Our sanctuary remodel is moving rapidly. Drywall is being installed now, carpet has been ordered, windows are on the way and the new sound system has been pre-wired. We will also have our pews reupholstered as part of the renovation. Check out our Facebook page for pictures of the progress.

Our church is located at 201 Main in Forsan. Sunday school begins at 9:50 a.m., with worship services at 10:50 a.m. and 6 p.m. Wednesday youth activities have resumed and will continue throughout the school year. We will provide a meal and refreshments for these activities.

Wednesday services begin at 6 p.m.

Rides for all youth activities are available if arranged ahead of time. Call the church at 432-457-2342 or Pastor Darren Weaver at 432-

First United Methodist Church

Pastor Bill Ivins will be preaching at both the 8:30 and 10:50 morning services Sunday. He will continue his sermon series "Kingdom Quest" based on the Book of Acts. The memory verse for this month is Act 1, verse 8, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Sunday school classes for all ages are held at

9:45 a.m. This Sunday there will also be a new member fellowship during the Sunday school hour. This will meet in Garrett Hall and is planned as a get acquainted session for those who have been visiting and a time to learn the

history of the Methodist Church as well as our local church. Refreshments will be served and a nursery will be available if needed.

"Sermon in a Sack" has become a very popular segment of the 10:50 service, especially for the children, but also thoroughly enjoyed by the adults. Objects dropped in that sack by the children often give pastor Bill and Beau a real challenge. Following this part of the service, the children may go to Youth Hall for their own service. They are currently enjoying a new study "Fear Knot," exploring common fears and seeing what God's word has to teach us about each of them.

All interested persons are invited to the United Methodist Women's meeting Tuesday, Jan. 29. This immigration study is not only very timely but also calls to mind our Christian responsibilities as citizens. The meeting will be held in Youth Hall beginning at 2 p.m.

Wednesday Noon Bible Study and Luncheon is held each week in Garrett Hall. Pastor Bill brings the Bible study; meal serving begins at 121:50. This week, the meal will be catered by Cowboy's.

Real Life Wednesday begins serving the evening meal at 5:50, followed by Children's Choir (JAM), EPIC Youth, Bible Study and Beth Moore Bible

There will be a prayer summit at Lakeridge United Methodist Church in Lubbock on Friday and Saturday Feb. 8-9, you are invited to experience the fullness of God's love as well as be empowered and encouraged in your Christian life. For more information, contact Beau at the church, he will be participating in this presentation.

Remember to check our website for the regular schedule as well as special event. Check us out at www.fumcbs.org, we are First Jaunted Methodist Church in downtown Big Spring at Fourth and

First Presbyterian Church, Big Spring

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

The Youth Group meets at 6 p.m. Sundays for a meal, followed by bell choir practice.

The Boy Scouts meet in the entrance room of the fellowship hall at 6 p.m. Monday.

Susan Holstedt is in charge of this week's "Take Ten." Marj Carpenter is liturgist for January. Ushers for the month are Lynn and Helen Glass, Don and Christine Boling.

The lectionary for the Third Sunday after Epiphany is Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6,8-10; Psalm 19; I Corinthi-

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It is well for people to change their minds occasionally in order to keep them clean.



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Sunday 11:00 a.m. Sunday School......10:00 a.m. Service broadcast Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m. Evangelistic Service....6:00 p.m. over KBYG 1400 AM Wednesday Service.....7:00p.m. on your dial

ans 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21.

The Chancel Choir will present "Behold the Tabernacle of God" by William Harris for the anthem and "Rejoice in the Lord Alway" by Henry Purcell for the offertory. The Rev. Craig Holstedt will deliver the sermon. The Noisy Offering will be collected during the worship service.

Following worship, we will have a pot luck lunch in the fellowship hall, during which time we will have our annual congregational meeting.

If you cannot attend worship, you may listen in 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.

College Baptist Church

The sermon this past Sunday delivered by Pastor Ken McMeans came from Acts1:7, Leadership from God's Point of View, Servants Needed. This is a Biblical look at God's

ministers. They should be Christ-centered, Holy Spiritmotivated, God-ordained, and biblically directed. God's leaders should be servants, not proud and stiff-necked,

but humbly act as servants of God.

As I thought about this, I remembered when I first came to College Baptist Church. I brought my 7-year-old granddaughter and my 2-year-old son. I was directed to the nurserychildren's department and took my 2-year-old to class. There was the former mayor of Big Spring, Tim Blackshear with 2- and 3-yearolds all around him and one of the lady workers. My son went straight to Mr. Blackshear and climbed up on his lap.

I was surprised to see Mr. Blackshear there working with the young children. I had been attending church since I was a child and had not seen the men of the church working with the very young children. That job was usually left to the mothers and grandmothers or paid nursery workers. I learned later that many of the deacons and other men of the church volunteered to help out and still do. This is a true picture of church leaders humbly working as servants of God.

The R.A. boys, a group of boys from 1st through 5th grade, are taking on a mission project called, A Mile for Missions Disaster Relief. They will be collecting pennies for the Texas Baptist Men's Disaster Relief Fund. Their goal is five miles of pennies. That is 5,280 feet and it takes 16 pennies to make a foot so we really need to help them to reach this goal as this is a worthy cause. The men of this disaster relief group are usually the first responders after hurricanes or wild fires or tornadoes. There will be large jars placed around different areas of the church to put your pennies in.

A United Blood Service Drive will take place at the church on Wednesday. Jan. 30 from 5 to 8 p.m. You may either call the church at 432-267-7429 or go on line at www.UnitedBloodServices.org to register to give blood or just come that evening.

—Dean Priest for College Baptist Church

Cornerstone Covenant Church

Cornerstone Covenant Church would like to invite you to join us Sunday at 10:30 a.m. for praise and worship, followed by the Word. Our 2013 Vision Focus is Restoring Hope to the Hopeless. Last week, Pastor Willard began a new series entitled The Church: Hope for a Community, with intro topic of "Give No Place to the Devil!" Main scripture was taken from Ephesians 4:27. This week he will continue in the same topic, with title of "Hope for Marriage," which will be taken from Ephesians 5:22-33.

Discipleship 101 Bible Study will be Wednesday beginning at 7 p.m. in the main sanctuary.

Overcomers: Recovery & Restoration class has been moved to Thursday evenings, from 6:30-8 p.m. and will be located in the "Green Room" of the east wing. For more convenient access to the meeting

Are we really trapped?

watched as firefighters in Portland, Oregon, rescued a woman trapped between the exterior walls of two buildings. Thankfully, after several hours of hard work on the part of the ingenious firemen, a section of a concrete wall was removed and the woman was released from her captivity.

s TV cameras rolled, the nation recently

Joining other viewers who watched the ordeal

caught on camera, I kept waiting to hear someone say how the woman happened to fall into a narrow space between the two buildings. While various reporters tried to pry information from the fire department's spokesperson, he skillfully redirected the interviews toward the rescue effort. In later news reports, the police

had not made any arrest in the strange case, and no charges had been filed against the woman. The victim had declined to be interviewed about her entrapment.



Sometimes in the course of life, it is good to focus on the positive outcome of a situation and refrain from digging too deeply into the cause of the events. At other times, however, the root of our troubles needs to be dug up and destroyed.

Someone once said that inside every fat person we meet is a skinny person just waiting to be released. To take the analogy a bit further, inside every angry, grumpy person we meet, there is a happy person just waiting to be freed from the burden of resentment.

Too often, we accumulate layers of grievances that leave us encrusted with anger and bitterness. That "root of bitterness" (Hebrews 12:15) grows from the inside outward until we are trapped beneath the weight of perceived injustices.

Although it is easy for us to blame all of our troubles on someone else, from God's perspective we are responsible for how we deal with those troubles when they slap us in the face. It isn't the presence or lack of difficulty in life that determines who we are. It is how we respond when adversity strikes that exposes our character.

Although the Bible speaks freely of God's forgiveness, it never negates personal responsibility. The apostle Paul writes, "Do not be deceived. God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap" (Galatians 6:7 NASB).

When we sow seeds of anger and bitterness, regardless of how we acquired them, we are the ones who get trapped under the load of the harvest we helped to produce. Perhaps the key to freedom is to simply plant a different variety of seed.

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

room, park in the back of the church and enter in through the metal door across from the fellowship hall. For more info, contact the church office.

CCC offers ministries in the following areas: New Beginnings (Newborn to 18 months); Tiny Tots (19 months-kindergarten); Kovenant Kids (1st-6th grade); Chosen Generation (7th-12th grade); Covenant U - College Ministry (18-24 years.); Men's & Women's Ministries; and Marriage Enrichment.

CCC meets Wednesdays at 7 p.m. for Discipleship 101 Bible Study and Sundays at 10:30 a.m. for worship. Sunday morning services are recorded, so if you'd like a free copy of a CD, see our multimedia department. Mother's Lounge and Children's Church are offered for both mid-week and Sunday services.

CCC is located at 706 East 12th St., (on the corner of 12th and Owens). For more information, contact

See CHURCH NEWS, Page 8

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CHURCH NEWS

Continued from Page 7

us at 264-0015, visit us on the web at www. cccbigspring.org or check out Covenant Connect on Facebook, Twitter or Myspace.

First Christian Church

You are invited to attend First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), located at 911 Goliad. Each Sunday starts with fellowship at 9:30 a.m. before Sunday school for all ages at 9:45. Church starts at 10:50. We celebrate Communion every week. The Lord's Table is the center of our worship each time we worship. We practice an open table, which means anyone who is a follower of Jesus is welcomed at the Communion table. Christ is remembered as we offer to one another the bread and cup of remembrance.

Sunday, which will be the Third Sunday after Epiphany in the Christian Calendar – the Rev. Ken McIntosh's message will be "Why are We Christians who Do?" from Psalm 23.

Elders will be Joe McCright and Hollis McCright; measured in PM2.5 deacons will be Dan Miracle, Bo Reagan, Karen Reagan and Shirley Lee; worship leader will be Paul Smith; communion prep will be Karen Reagan and Bo Reagan; Children's Church will be Wanda Brock; greeter will be Maxine Myers; homebound communion will be Hollis McCright.

There will be a church board meeting at 12:15 p.m. for the month of January. All board members are asked to attend.

Each week Isaiah 58 is open from 4:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. Mondays, and 3 until 5 Tuesdays. We are working Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. until 11, so we need volunteers for those days

Also, every Monday evening, the TOPS Group will meet at the church fellowship hall at 5 p.m. for weigh-in. The meeting is at 5:30.

There will be choir this week on Wednesday.

The Samaritan Counseling takes place at our Church on Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 4 each week.

We believe the church is built by people worshipping together and we welcome you to visit at any time. For questions or further information, call the church office 432-517-4821 or view our website at www.fcbs125@yahoo.com or email to fcbs125@@

Alive in Christ Lutheran Church

Our pastor is the Rev. Lannon Martin.

Our motto is "Celebrating and Sharing God's Love and Grace in our Lives.'

We are located at 2805 Lynn Drive in the Kentwood Subdivision in Big Spring. The church phone number is 264-7818. Our website is http://www.m2ctexas.org/chweb/aliveinchrist/. Our e-mail address is aliveinchrist@crcom.net.

Sunday service is at 9 a.m. with Bible Study at 10:15 a.m. Mid-week classes Wednesday begin with meal and fellowship at 5:45 p.m. and Bible study beginning at 6 p.m.

Shele Gilbert will present the readings this week. The readings reference "Rejected At Home."

Tune in to KBYG every morning for a devotional 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 new website offered by The Lutheran Hour Ministries is available. The site, www.jcplayzone. com, promises fun and Christian educational based games and videos. Fun for all ages and offered in several languages, this safe internet site is something to check out.



By Steve Becker

Test Your Play

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Six Hearts. North leads the king of clubs, which you ruff. When you then play the ace of hearts, North discards a spade. How would you

EAST **♦** K **♥** K 10 4 ♥AQ9532 **♦** 10 9 8 3 2 ♦ A K Q ♣J98642 2. You are declarer with the West

hand at Six Notrump, and North leads the ten of spades. How would you play the hand? WEST ♠ K Q 6 ♠AJ3 **♥**A5 ♥K82

1. To give yourself the best chance

of making 12 tricks, you should allow for the possibility of either opponent having four diamonds to the jack. Play the ten of hearts under the ace, cash the king of hearts, king of spades and ace of diamonds, then finesse the nine of hearts. Next cash the queen of hearts and

ace of spades, discarding the K-Q of diamonds from dummy! Then play the ten of diamonds to force out the jack, and this will be your only loser. If the diamonds are divided 3-2,

this method of play will cost you a trick worth 30 points, but if they are divided 4-1, you will be 1,000 or 1,500 points richer, depending on the vulnerability.

2. If you were sure of five club tricks, you'd also be sure of the contract, but since the odds strongly favor scoring only four club tricks, you must consider a diamond finesse as your best hope for a 12th trick.

This train of thought leads to the surprising conclusion that since there are two ways to play the clubs and only one way to play the diamonds, you should try the diamond finesse first to help you determine how to play the clubs. Let's say you take the first spade in

your hand and lead a diamond to the jack at trick two, and it wins. Once this occurs, the contract is foolproof. The only remaining problem is to guarantee four clubs tricks, which can be done by returning to your hand in any suit but clubs and leading a low club toward dummy. This enables you to guard against either opponent having the K-10-8-7.
If the diamond finesse at trick two

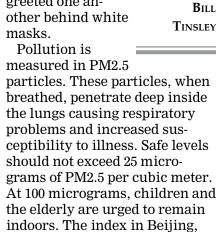
loses, you will then have to hope that South was dealt specifically the K-x or K-x-x of clubs (a 26 percent chance) and rely on a finesse to pro-

Tomorrow: Now you see it, now you don't. ©2013 King Features Syndicate Inc

Replenishing the earth

or the past two weeks, the smog alert in Beijing, China has been off the charts. Visibility dropped as pollution blocked out the sun. Tops of buildings disappeared in the murky haze that settled

over the city. The air smelled of coal dust and car fumes. Most stayed indoors and ran air purifiers to escape the toxic conditions. Those who ventured out greeted one another behind white masks. Pollution is



Twenty years ago, we took our children on one of those vacations-of-a-lifetime to Disneyland in Los Angeles. We bought a

according to some reports, ex-

ceeded 800 micrograms per cubic

van for the summer and coaxed it across the desert to the west coast. When we took the kids to the beach we were unable to see the surf on the horizon because of the greenish-yellow haze trapped against the coast. At some point TV weather

forecasters in Dallas added reports on the day's pollution index to the routine reports on temperature, rain and humidity. For years, I commuted to work listening to reporters often declaring orange and red alerts for air quality. The first photos of earth sent

back by the Apollo crews in the 1970s dramatically impressed us that our tiny blue planet rotating in space is precious and fragile. The thin layer of air that surrounds us not only contains the oxygen essential to life, but protects us from the sun's ultraviolet rays and regulates earth's temperature. Three-fourths of the atmosphere lies within 6.5 miles of the earth's surface. Outer space is considered to exist 62 miles up. We are dependent on an amazingly thin film of atmospheric gases to sustain life on our planet.

I guess I should not be surprised. The Bible clearly predicts that the earth will "wax old like a garment." Our finite earth

will wear out. Of course, I also know that one day I will wear out. We are all mortal. None of us lives forever. But my own mortality doesn't mean I should start smoking, drinking, indulg ing in high fat foods and refusing to exercise.

Instead, I am motivated to discipline my body so that I can experience greater health and longevity. In the same way, we must learn to discipline ourselves regarding the creation that God has entrusted to our care. In the very first chapter of the Bible, with His very first words to mankind, God instructs us to "be fruitful and multiple and replenish the earth." (Genesis 1:22).

I doubt that pollution will become intolerable in my life time though it seem to already be so in Beijing, at least until the wind kicks up and blows it our way. But I wonder about the world we are bequeathing to our children and grandchildren.

Will they continue to enjoy a pristine world with all its lifegiving beauty and majesty?

Bill Tinsley reflects on current events and life experience from a faith perspective. For more info visit www.tinslevcenter.com. Email bill@tinsleycenter.com.

Religious Briefs

Obama, Biden attend multi-faith Cathedral prayer service

WASHINGTŌN (AP) — Christian, Muslim, Jewish and Sikh clergy prayed for President Barack Obama's second term in an inaugural service at Washington National Cathedral.

Obama and Vice President Joe Biden sat in the front pew Tuesday as prayers were said in English, Spanish, Arabic and Hebrew.

Kathryn Lohre, president of the National Council of Churches, asked God to "grant them wisdom to discern your will and to consider your Word among the counsel they receive."

The Rev. Adam Hamilton, senior pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kan., praised Obama's rhetorical skills - saying, "You should have been a preacher" and urged the president to bring a divided nation

Earlier this month, the cathedral said it would be-

Man accused of arson at Ohio mosque seeks to withdraw guilty plea

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP) — A former Marine who said he set fire to an Ohio mosque because he wanted to avenge the killings of American troops has asked to withdraw his guilty plea to federal hate crime

Randy Linn says he was under duress and depressed when he entered his plea last month in the fire at a suburban Toledo mosque.

A deal between prosecutors and Linn had called for him to be sentenced to 20 years next April after he pleaded guilty to intentionally damaging and destroying religious property and two gun-related charges.

Prosecutors say he broke into The Islamic Center of Greater Toledo last fall and went room by room to make sure no one was in the building before he

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poured gasoline on a prayer rug and lit it on fire.

Linn described on Dec. 19 how he had been drinking heavily before he drove to the mosque in Per-

DA will review Los Angeles church files for crimes

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Prosecutors who have been stymied for years in their attempts to build a criminal conspiracy case against retired Los Angeles Archdiocese Cardinal Roger Mahony and other church leaders say they'll review newly released priest files for additional evidence.

Thousands of pages from the internal disciplinary files of 14 priests made public Monday show Mahony and other top aides maneuvered behind the scenes to shield molester priests and provide damage control for the church.

Some of the documents provide the strongest evidence to date that Mahony and another key official worked to protect a priest who revealed in therapy sessions that he had raped an 11-year-old boy and abused up to 17 boys.

The top aide, then-Monsignor Thomas J. Curry, is now an auxiliary bishop for the archdiocese's Santa Barbara region. He did not respond Tuesday to a message seeking comment.

Egypt's top Muslim cleric cancels Saudi visit over perceived slight

CAIRO (AP) — Cairo airport officials say Egypt's top Muslim cleric cancelled a visit to Saudi Arabia at the invitation of its monarch when he discovered that senior delegates traveling with him were assigned economy class seats by their Saudi hosts.

The officials said Sheik Ahmed al-Tayeb, the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar — Sunni Islam's highest seat of learning — angrily disembarked from a Saudi-bound airliner shortly before takeoff on Wednesday and instructed his delegation to follow suit.

Al-Tayeb was assigned a first class seat.

The Egyptians were due to perform the minor pilgrimage to Mecca, or umrah, before flying to the Saudi capital Riyadh to attend Monday's award ceremony for the King Faisal International Prize for scientific and religious achievement.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because of the matter's sensitivity.

Bob Jones University asks for outside abuse probe

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Bob Jones University is asking an outside Christian organization that deals with child abuse to investigate how the fundamentalist college responds to abuse allegations.

Trustees at the Greenville Christian university agreed earlier this month to the investigation, which will include recommendations on how to better deal with any future abuse allegations.

The investigation will include Bob Jones Academy, which teaches students from preschool to 12th

School officials say the investigation was prompted by heart-breaking revelations of sexual abuse in secular and Christian organizations. The investigation will review how it responds to students who say they were abused before coming to the school or outside its campus as well.

Officials said the investigation is expected be handled by an organization called GRACE, which stands for Godly Response to Abuse in the Christian Environment.

BIG HERALD

Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call at 263-7331, Ext. 237. Email results to: sports@bigspringherald.com

Page 9 Friday, January 25, 2013

HC squads improve with wins over WTC

By BRIAN MCCORMACK

Sports Editor

The Lady Hawks started strong against Western Texas College on Thursday at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum and held on to claim their second Western Junior College Athletic Conference win.

Sophomore Teiona Tarrant registered 13 points in the paint to help power Howard College past the Lady Westerners, 66-51.

HC was effective from the outside as well. Marion Lemonnier nailed three 3-point baskets, while Anitria Flowers and Stephanie Carrillo each added one. Carrillo's came with 3:30 left to play and gave the Lady Hawks an insurmountable 16-point lead.

The win breathed life into the Lady Hawks, who have struggled since opening WJCAC play after a strong pre-conference showing.

"This was a big, important win for us," HC Head Women's Coach Earl Diddle said. "It puts us back in the mix as far as conference

Up by 10 at the halfway mark, the Lady Hawks (14-8) stayed ahead of the WTC and held a 16 point lead with 3:30 left top play after Carillo's three.

The key to victory was a wellrounded game, which is what has been Diddle's focus for the past few weeks.

"We got off to a really good start," Diddle explained. "I thought we had a lot of energy. We shot the ball well, it was a good distribution of perimeter points and paint points. (Tarrant) is getting offensive rebounds and the team is anticipating her shots. She finished inside as well as she's finished all year. Your inside game makes your outside game and your outside game makes your inside game."

Diddle is remaining focused as he prepares to close out the first round of WJCAC action at Frank Phillips College on Thursday.

"(Frank Phillips) plays so many road games like us, their record may not reflect how good they are," Diddle said. "They have a player from Canada who is one of the best in the league. She can really dominate a game."

Tip off in Borger is slated for

After losing two-of-four games to begin WJCAC play, the Hawks seem to be rounding back into

It was a low-scoring affair and Howard was missing starting forward Cameron Forte, but

pulled out a 56-47 win over Western Texas College at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum on Thursday, improving their WJCAC record to 4-2 (17-3

DaShaun Wiggins drew first blood in opening seconds of play and the Hawks held the lead for the entire game. Phillip Miller had 18 points, including three 3-point baskets.

After a dominant first half, the Hawks were ahead 28-17.

Westerners weren't through. They cut HC's lead to six midway through the second half, but a solid inside from Goran Huskic — who scored 11 points in the paint — and crafty play from point guard Rico Richardson overwhelmed the Westerners.

"(Huskic) played well on both ends of the floor," HC Head Men's Coach Mark Adams said. Of the seven-foot forward. "He made some good plays for us in the second half."

Adams also praised Ladon performance. Carter's The sophomore from Monroe, La. had eight points for the Hawks, six of which came from crowdpleasing slam dunks.

"(Carter) had a good game, we're excited about his improvement each game. He had six steals," Adams said.

Adams hopes two straight wins is a sign that his team is ready for a strong final leg of regular season play.

"Hopefully, the team is getting better," Adams said. "They played with intensity with team unity on defense. It was one of those games where neither team could score. We struggled from the three-point line, but it was a great effort. I think it is something we can build on."

Next up for the Hawks will be a grueling road stint.

"We go on a four-game swing, which I've never seen before, Adams added. "We go to New Mexico Military Institute, then Borger, Midland and Clarendon. Then we get back Friday and we have to turn around and play South Plains on Saturday. It will be challenging. You just have to talk to the team and get them up to the challenge mentally."

Richardson hit six points for the Hawks and ended the game with a pass to Ladon Carter, who slam-dunked the ball with seconds left on the clock.

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



HERALD file photo/Visit www.claxtonphotography.com

Howard College's Destinee Thrash goes for a layup during a game earlier in the season. The Lady Hawks defeated Western Texas College on Thursday, 66-51, to improve to 2-4 in WJCAC play.

Duncan gets 14th NBA All-Star nod

Duncan was selected to his 14th All-Star game, Spurs teammate Tony Parker is joining him, and the Chicago Bulls also had two reserves chosen Thursday for next month's game in Hous-

Joakim Noah and Luol Deng were picked from the Bulls, who have stayed in the thick of the Eastern Conference playoff race despite the season-long absence of point guard Derrick Rose. Noah is one of five first-time All-Stars for the East, along with New York's Tyson Chandler, Indiana's Paul George, Cleveland's Kyrie Irving, and Philadelphia's

Miami's Chris Bosh, picked for his eighth All-Star team, rounded out the East squad.

Jrue Holiday.

West forwards David Lee (Golden State), LaMarcus Aldridge (Portland) and Zach Randolph (Memphis)

NEW YORK (AP) — Tim all were picked for the second time. Houston's James Harden was chosen for the first time and joins former Oklahoma City teammate Russell Westbrook, headed to his third straight All-Star

Duncan wasn't chosen last year for the first time in his career but has bounced back with a terrific season at age 36, averaging 17.5 points, 9.8 rebounds and 2.7 blocked shots, his best statistics since 2009-10.

The co-MVP of the 2000 All-Star game joined a group that includes Michael Jordan for fifth-most selections. Kobe Bryant and Kevin Garnett, both voted to start, and Shaquille O'Neal all were picked 15 times. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar is the career leader as a 19-time All-Star.

The reserves were voted by the head coaches from conference, who

See **DUNCAN**, Page 14

Schools must provide sports for the disabled

WASHINGTON (AP) — Students with disabilities must be given a fair shot to play on a traditional sports team or have their own leagues, the Education Department says.

Disabled students who want to play for their school could join traditional teams if officials can make "reasonable modifications" to accommodate them. If those adjustments fundamentally alter a sport or give the student an advantage, the department is directing the school to create paral-

lel athletic programs that have comparable standing to traditional programs. "Sports can provide invaluable lessons in discipline, selflessness, passion and courage, and this guidance will help schools

ensure that students with

disabilities have an equal

opportunity to benefit

from the life lessons they

can learn on the playing

order is reminiscent of the Title IX expansion of athletic opportunities for girls and women four decades ago and could bring sweeping changes to school budgets and locker rooms for years to come.

Activists cheered the changes.

field or on the court," Ed-

ucation Secretary Arne

Duncan said in a state-

ment announcing the new

groundbreaking

guidance Friday.

The

"This is a landmark moment for students with disabilities. This will do for students with disabilities what Title IX did for women," said Terri Lakowski, who for a decade led a coalition pushing for the changes. "This is a huge victory."

It's not clear whether the

new guidelines will spark a sudden uptick in sports participation.

See **DISABLED**, Page 14

Sports Calendar

TODAY

Boy's Basketball

- Snyder at Big Spring, 7:30 p.m., Steer Gym.
- Sundown at Forsan, 8 p.m.
- Coahoma at Lamesa, 8 p.m.
- · Colorado City at Stanton, 8 p.m.
- Garden City at Veribest, 8 p.m. · O'Donnell at Grady, 8 p.m.
- Wellman-Union at Sands, 8

Girl's Basketball

- Snyder at Big Spring, 6:15 p.m., Steer Gym.
- Sundown at Forsan, 6:30 p.m.
- Coahoma at Lamesa, 6:30 p.m.
- Colorado City at Stanton, 6:30 p.m.
- Garden City at Veribest, 6:30
- O'Donnell at Grady, 6:30 p.m.
- Wellman-Union at Sands, 6:30

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

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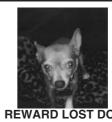
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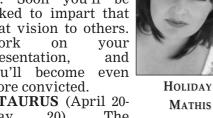
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Next Life Insights

Many believe that the next life will provide the freedom they do not experience in the present incarnation. Then there are those who don't believe there will be a next life. The insightful Cancer moon suggests that in either case, it couldn't hurt to exercise freedom in this lifetime, perhaps by foregoing the need to judge what everyone believes.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You nearly have a clear vision of where you want to go. Soon you'll be asked to impart that that vision to others. Work on your presentation, and you'll become even more convicted.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The environment you =

create around you gives others a hint. If you've put a great deal of care and deliberation into it, they will feel that they follow suit by bringing their best efforts to your GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The

people you work with may contribute minimally to your bottom line now. And if you have a partner, don't expect much help from that person today. But don't get mad either — tomorrow everything changes.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). With the moon in your sign you are wise and probably completely unaware of your influence on others. Because of this, people want to get close to you. Expect company.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You probably feel yourself starting to let go of something you use to cling to, white-knuckle style. You're going to be a slightly different person once you drop this, and you're really ready for the change.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The enjoyment of home and family may A mentor helps. Attain one in the

seem at odds with the pursuit of pleasure and entertainment. Instead of trying to integrate the two, decide which one is more important to you tonight and do

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're mentally sparking on all cylinders. You'll come up with solutions that people aren't yet ready to hear. Write them down so you don't forget. Save them until you sense the timing is right.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Silence isn't golden — it's platinum. If you resist the urge to offer an opinion, judgment or information tidbit, you'll see the truth of the matter: When people are really receptive, they'll ask for

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're so wrapped up in a certain want (or perhaps it's even boiled to the point of desire by now) that you are not seeing all the work you'll have to do to have this. Good — that would only deter you. You can do this.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It's as though someone is pushing you from behind, shoving you into the exciting flow of life. You'll take action because the current way is no longer acceptable, or perhaps even bearable to you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You are in your element with the sun and planets cheering you on. All you want to do with this cosmic boost is help others. Your pure intentions will help the world.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It's still too early to judge how successful a venture will be. But one thing is sure — the lost days are behind you. You've set your sights on a goal that is attainable and you've a clear map to get there

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 25). You have a destination in mind, and the year presents a rather roundabout way of getting there, but rest assured, you will arrive.

next five weeks. You'll be accepted in a small group or make it on an important list in March. Your education pays off in June with money. Cancer and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 12, 4, 33, 19 and 41.

WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST: ARIES: Your mind chases fantasies that seem to be spinning themselves. Reality can be even better though — take action and you'll see. TAURUS: Your loyalty will be tested. You'll never be sorry for proving your heart is true. GEMINI: You're something. This will affect your love life, so stop and think a moment — the missing piece will come to you. CANCER: Love isn't the first thing on your mind. You'd rather tend to other parts of life and see what happens. LEO: Tomorrow and Sunday are your time to shine. Show everyone what you can do. VIRGO: It will dawn on you — you fell for someone because of the way that person made you feel about yourself. Has that changed? LIBRA: Your family approves — not that it matters to you. But it certainly makes things easier. SCORPIO: To reach out or not to reach out? Destiny hangs in the balance. SAGITTARIUS: One honest conversation changes the game. CAPRICORN: Your desire is unswerving. You'll go straight for what you want. AQUARIUS: Someone wants to hold your helping hands. PISCES: You're too busy to worry what others think of you, which is so attractive.

COUPLE OF THE WEEKEND: Leo and Aquarius are often playing a tug-of-war game as they pull from opposites sides of the zodiac wheel. Opposites can attract. They can also drive one another crazy. This weekend, with the sun in Aquarius and the full moon in Leo it's easy to see the merit of this union. Each sign is on a creative high because of the other's influence. What they $\underset{°\ 2013\ CREATORS.COM}{\text{make together will be brilliant.}}$

Annie's Mailbox ®

the process of converting you should not be so to Judaism. Among other things, this involves eating only kosher food. Initially, it was difficult, but I know that doing this brings me closer to understanding more of my new religion.

My problem is that most of my friends, including some Jewish friends, have an issue with my eating habits. They say •

eating kosher is "outdated," or they imply that I think I'm better than they are. They actively discourage my This efforts. confuses me because I don't scold my friends eating cheeseburgers or pork, and I never insist on special = any

treatment. Conversion is not an easy process, and I'd like support of my the friends, but it's hard to keep my head sometimes, especially during meals together. How do I approach this? Do I need new friends? – *Questioning in California*

Dear **Questioning:** Maybe. Your friends think conversion will change who you are and the relationship they have with you. They feel marginalized by your new religious interest and are trying your undermine convictions. This is all about them and their needs. If you are truly

Dear Annie: I am in committed to conversion, easily derailed. Please talk to your rabbi. If you attend services at a synagogue, see whether they have a social group for those in your age bracket. You are more likely to make new friends and find support there.

> Dear Annie: I read the letter from

> > "Too Many Leftovers" about people who don't RSVPinvitations. It

encouraged me to share my experience.

Our two daughters were

married in the year.

first wedding brought the same issue of the lack of receiving RSVPs. When it came to the second wedding, I had our new son-in-law use calligraphy skills to make a nice sign that read "For those who did not RSVP." I placed the sign on the gift table next to a jar of peanut butter, a knife and some soda crackers.

KATHY MITCHELL

MARCY SUGAR

I don't know why my wife and the mother of the groom didn't see the humor. I have shared this with several people, and the men always think it's hilarious. — Father of the **Brides**

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Dear Margo: Mr. Clean he is not

Dear Margo: I'm not sure it sure is annoying the heck out of me. I am newly married (less than a year). My husband and I did not live together before we tied the knot, so it's come as something of a shock would make it a non-issue. If to learn he is in no way neat. there are things he does for nothing of tracking in dirt, sand, gravel or whatever. He seems totally unaware of the mess he makes. I suppose there were hints before we shared a dwelling, but I guess they didn't register. Now that "our house" is my house, I am noticing, probably because I am always cleaning up after him. He responds to neither hints nor direct requests. Do you have any advice for me? — California Neatnik

Dear Cal: Grit happens. whether this is a problem, but Because your guy does not respond to hints or requests, you may find it easier and less stressful to take matters into your own hands (along with a broom and a vacuum), which In fact, he is a slob who thinks vou, and I hope there are, in your mind make them a tradeoff. I pass on to you something I learned from my mother. It is easier, in terms of aggravation, to just pick up his socks, sweep up the dirt, wash the dishes in the sink, etc. When the irritation goes away, you will be minus one problem. I think the fact that your spouse spaces out about what he tracks in is small potatoes. I suspect the equality brigade will come after me, but truly, I think it's easier to train a dog

Margo, than a man. historically

Picky Eaters

Dear Margo: We have an 8year-old grandchild. He's a good child; however, he is picky with foods. Like many children, he loves all the foods aren't the that nutritionally. My concern is that when our grandchild visits us, come mealtime my husband becomes angry to the point of not speaking to the child and making faces at him when he doesn't eat foods he's never had before. In addition, he rarely finishes what's on his plate, usually eating less than half of the meal. I have limited his snacks so that when it comes to mealtime he is hungry. I'm trying to help my grandchild, but I am at a loss to understand

my husband's way of handling the situation.

He says discipline is needed, but I find this type of "discipline" not only harsh, but mean. As a result, grandchild becomes anxious worried and when it's mealtime. I have told our grandchild that the rule is to at least try one new food each time he visits. A little history: The child's mother has some emotional issues that unfortunately interfere with her ability to be on top of her game in parenting. As a result, this child often has to fend for himself, which includes getting himself up and ready each morning for school and most often leaving the house without breakfast. In meantime, how do I cope with my husband's behavior toward

this child? — Torn Between Two Loves

Dear Torn: There's a lot going on here. For one thing, I am wondering who is the child. Making faces at a kid thinking it is instruction is juvenile. Tell the old boy to cut it out, and also to bag his anger. He is making things worse. I like your rule of "try something new." If he doesn't eat it or doesn't finish, say nothing. Hungry kids will eat. As for the situation at home, show your grandson, when he's with you, how to fix cereal and milk with fruit or grab a health bar. If you stay on the case, time and teaching will ease the problem. — Margo, sensibly

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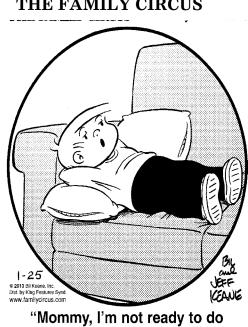
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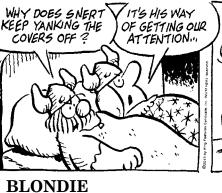
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my homework yet. I've still got my brain in sleep mode.











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I'VE BEEN HAD!

In History

This Date

Today is Friday, Jan. 25, the 25th day of 2013. There are 340 days left in the year. Today's Highlight

History: On Jan. 25, 1863, during the Civil War, President Abraham

Lincoln accepted Maj. Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside's resignation as commander of the Army of the Potomac, and replaced him with Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker. On this date:

In 1533, England's King Henry VIII secretly married his second wife, Anne Boleyn, who later gave birth to Elizabeth I.

In 1787, Shays's Rebellion suffered a setback when debtridden farmers led by Capt. Daniel Shays failed to capture an arsenal at Springfield,

In 1890, reporter Nellie Bly (Elizabeth Cochrane) of the New York World completed a round-the-world journey in 72 days 6 hours and 11 minutes

The United Mine Workers of America was founded in Columbus, Ohio. In 1915, Alexander Graham

Bell inaugurated U.S. transcontinental telephone service between New York and San Francisco. In 1936, former Gov. Al

Smith, D-N.Y., delivered a radio address in Washington, titled "Betrayal of the Democratic Party," in which he fiercely criticized the New Deal policies of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. In 1947, American gangster

Al Capone died in Miami Beach, Fla., at age 48. In 1949, the first Emmy

Awards, honoring local Los Angeles TV programs and talent, were presented at the Hollywood Athletic Club. In 1961, President John F.

Kennedy held the first presidential news conference to be carried live on radio and television.

In 1971, Charles Manson and three women followers were convicted in Los Angeles of murder and conspiracy in the 1969 slayings of seven people, including actress Sharon Tate. Idi Amin seized power in Uganda by ousting President a military coup. In 1981, the 52 Americans

held hostage by Iran for 444 days arrived in the United States. In 1993, a gunman shot and killed two CIA employees out-

side agency headquarters in Virginia (Pakistani national Mir Aimal Kansi was later tried and convicted of the shootings, and executed). Sears announced that it would no longer publish its famous centuryold catalog. In 1998, Pope John Paul II

ended his historic journey to Cuba.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Gregg Palmer is 86. Country singer Claude Gray is 81.

© 2013 The Associated Press. Answer to previous puzzle

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Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

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(Taylor Swift tune)

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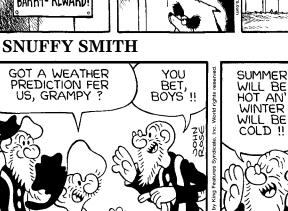
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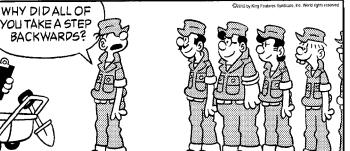












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Voice of Te'o prankster? Couric plays voicemails

NEW YORK (AP) — The person Manti Te'o says was pretending to be his online girlfriend told the Notre Dame linebacker "I love you" in voicemails that were played during his interview with Katie Cou-

Taped earlier this week and broadcast Thursday, the hour-long talk show featured three voicemails that Te'o claims were left for him last year. Te'o said they were from the person he believed to be Lennay Kekua, a woman he had fallen for online but never met face-to-face.

After the first message was played, Te'o said: "It sounds like a girl, doesn't it?"

"It does," Couric responded.

The interview was the All-American's first on camera since his tale of inspired play after the deaths of his grandmother and girlfriend on the same day in September unraveled as a bizarre hoax in an expose by Deadspin.com on Jan. 16.

Te'o's parents appeared with him for part of the interview and backed up his claim that he wasn't involved in the fabrication, saying they, too, had spoken on the phone with a person they believed to be Kekua.

Couric addressed speculation that the tale was concocted by Te'o as a way to cover up his sexual orientation. Asked if he were gay, Te'o said "no" with a laugh. "Far from it. Faaaar from that."

He also said he was "scared" and "didn't know what to do" after receiving a call on Dec. 6 — two days before the Heisman Trophy presentation — from a person who claimed to be his "dead" girlfriend.

The first voicemail, he said, was from what was supposed to be Kekua's first day of chemotherapy for leukemia.

"Hi, I am just letting you know I got here and I'm getting ready for my first session and, um, just want to call you to keep you posted. I miss you. I love you. Bye," the per-

In the second voicemail, the person was apparently upset by someone else answering Te'o's phone.

The third voicemail was left on Sept. 11, according to Te'o, the day he believed Kekua was released from the hospital and the day before she "died."

"Hey babe, I'm just calling to say goodnight," the person on the voicemail said. "I love you. I know that you're probably doing homework or you're with the boys. ... But I just wanted to say I love you and goodnight and I'll be ok tonight. I'll do my best. Um, yeah, so get your rest and I'll talk to you tomorrow. I love you so much, hon. Sweet dreams." Couric suggested the person who

left those messages might have been Ronaiah Tuisasosopo, a 22-year-old man from California, who Te'o said has apologized to him for pulling the hoax. "Do you think that could have

been a man on the other end of the phone?" she asked.

"Well, it didn't sound like a man," Te'o said. "It sounded like a woman. If he somehow made that voice,

that's incredible. That's an incredible talent to do that. Especially everv single dav."

Tuiasosopo has not spoken publicly since news of the hoax broke. The Associated Press has learned that a home in California where Te'o sent flowers to the Kekua family was once a residence of Tuiasosopo and has been in his family for decades.

Also on Thursday, the woman whose pictures were used in fake online accounts for Kekua said Tuiasosopo confessed to her in a 45-minute phone conversation as the scheme unraveled.

Diane O'Meara spoke with The Associated Press in a telephone interview. She said Tuiasosopo told her he'd

been "stalking" her Facebook profile for five years and stealing pho-

O'Meara's attorney, Jim Artiano, said they had not decided on whether to take any legal action.

The 23-year-old O'Meara, of Long Beach, Calif., said she knew Tuiasosopo from high school and he contacted her through Facebook on Dec. 16. She said that, over the next three weeks. Tuiasosopo got in touch with her several times, attempting to get photos and video of O'Meara. She said he made up a story about wanting them to help cheer up a cousin who was injured in a car crash.

O'Meara learned her identity had been stolen on Jan. 13 when she was contacted by Deadspin.com.

DISABLED

Continued from Page 9

was a big increase in female participation in sports after Title IX guidance instructed schools to treat female athletics on par with male teams. That led many schools to cut some men's teams, arguing that it was necessary to be able to pay for women's

Education Department officials emphasized they did not intend to change sports traditions dramatically or guarantee students with disabilities a spot on competitive teams. Instead, they insisted schools may not exclude students based on their disabilities if they can keep up with their classmates.

Federal laws, including the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act, require states to provide a free public education to all students and prohibit schools that receive federal money from discriminating against students with disabilities. Going further, the new directive from the Education Department's civil rights division explicitly tells schools and colleges that access to interscholastic, intramural and intercollegiate athletics is a right.

The department suggests minor accommodations to incorporate students with disabilities onto sports teams. For instance, track and field officials could use a visual cue for a deaf runner to begin a race.

Some states already offer such programs. Maryland, for instance, passed a law in 2008 that required schools to create equal opportunities for students with disabilities to participate in physical education programs and play on traditional athletic teams. And Minnesota awards state titles for disabled student athletes in six sports.

Increasingly, those with disabilities are finding spots on their schools' teams.

"I heard about some of the other people who joined their track teams in other states. I wanted to try to do that," said Casey Followay, 15, of Wooster, Ohio, who competes on his high school track team in a racing wheelchair.

Current rules require Followay to race on his own, without competitors running alongside him. He said he hopes the Education Department guidance will change that and he can compete against runners.

"It's going to give me the chance to com-

pete against kids at my level," he said. Some cautioned that progress would

come in fits and starts initially.

"Is it easy? No," said Brad Hedrick, director of disability services at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and himself a hall-of-famer in the National Wheelchair Basketball Association. "In most places, you're beginning from an inertial moment. But it is feasible and possible that a meaningful and viable programming can be created."

Rampage leaves, Johnson arrives at UFC in Chicago Shortly after Rampage his final UFC appearance split decision last fall to Hollywood celebrity in

Jackson bids a bitter farewell to the UFC on Saturday night, flyweight champion Demetrious Johnson and challenger John Dodson will introduce themselves to a national audience.

Chicago's United Center will be a crossroads for several fighters getting together in the UFC's latest show on Fox.

Johnson's first title defense against Dodson is the main event, but the 125-pounders realize they could be upstaged by bigger guys. Jackson is making what he says is

against Brazil's feared Glover Teixeira, while crowd-pleasing lightweight contenders Donald Cerrone and Anthony Pettis meet on the televised undercard.

Johnson (16-2-1), better known as Mighty Mouse, believes the flyweights still will put on a show worth watching. "With the UFC giving us

the spotlight as the headliner, it's going to give me and John Dodson a chance to show the world what the flyweight division can do," said Johnson, who beat Joseph Benavidez by

claim the UFC's first flyweight belt. "If you want to be educated, this is the division to watch, because we bring everything good conditioning, good speed, good footwork, everything."

Still, all eyes are likely to be on Jackson (32-9), who is fed up with the UFC after six years with mixed martial arts' dominant promotion.

The 34-year-old former light heavyweight champion still is among the UFC's biggest stars, even after delaying his fighting career while shooting for the film version of "The A-Team." The temperamental bruiser also threatened retirement three years ago, and he has sparred with UFC President Dana White repeatedly in recent years over money, matchups and sponsorships.

After tangling with Teixeira (19-2), who hasn't lost in 17 straight fights since March 2005, Jackson says he'll likely move on to a smaller-time promotion, or even a boxing career.

"I plan on being still involved in MMA," said Jackson, who has lost his last two fights.

DUNCAN

Continued from page 9

had to select two guards, three frontcourt players and two players regardless of position. They were not allowed to vote for players from their own teams.

With centers Chandler and Noah, East coaches passed on Brooklyn's Brook Lopez, the leading scorer for a resurgent team that is right behind the Knicks for the Atlantic Division lead. Perennial All-Stars Deron Williams and Joe Johnson of the Nets also missed out, as did Boston's Paul Pierce.

Lee gave the Warriors their first All-Star since Latrell Sprewell in 1997, but coach Mark Jackson and his team hoped for more. However, Stephen Curry wasn't selected despite averaging 20.9 points.

He's the league's eighth-leading scorer and the highest one who won't be in Houston for the Feb. 17 showcase. Lee called his selec-

tion "bittersweet" because Curry — the first person to send him a congratulatory text wasn't picked.

"In our practice facil-

ity, there's that All-Star chart and it stops at '97 and there hasn't been any since. So the whole team was really excited with the improved record this year and to get one or both of our guys on there." Lee said. "I'm really excited to be the one that goes and represents our team. I wish Steph could be a part of it and maybe he'll still be able to. I'm just very, very excited. It's been a long time for the Bay Area fans. Not only to have an All-Star, but to be winning games."

Voted as East starters by fan voting along with Garnett were Miami's LeBron James and Dwyane Wade, New York's Carmelo Anthony and Boston's Rajon Rondo.

The West starting is Kobe Bryant and Dwight Howard of the Lakers, Oklahoma City's Kevin Durant, and Clippers teammates Chris Paul and Blake Griffin. The Clippers were

hoping for a third All-Star, but sixth-man Jamal Crawford wasn't picked.

Stern would choose the replacement if any players are injured.

Randolph leads the NBA with 27 doubledoubles and becomes the first Grizzlies player with multiple selections.

'It is truly an honor to be named by the NBA's coaches to the 2013 Western Conference All-Star team," he said in a statement. "I am grateful for this opportunity and look forward to playing with the best players in the world."

The leaders of the teams with the best winning percentage in their conference through games of Feb. 3 will be the coaches. Miami's Erik Spoelstra has the inside track on the East spot, while San Antonio's Gregg Popovich and the Clippers' Vinny Del Negro are battling for the West honor since Scott Brooks, whose Thunder have the league's best record, is ineligible after coaching last year. Irving, the reigning

Rookie of the Year, and Holiday were rewarded Commissioner David for outstanding individ-

ual seasons even though their teams are well below .500. Irving is the Cavaliers' first All-Star since James, the only other East player averaging at least 20 points

and five assists. "It's one of the best days of my life," Irving said Thursday night, shortly after also being honored as Cleveland's professional athlete of the year award at the Greater Cleveland Sports Awards.

"It's a big deal for me and it's a big deal for the city of Cleveland to be picked as an All-Star for the first time. I'm turning 21 on March 23 and to be with those guys, to see those names on TV, that was truly a bless-

ing." The 22-year-old Holiday, the youngest All-Star in franchise history, is averaging 19.0 points and 9.0 assists but feared the 76ers' 17-25 mark would work

against him. "I thought so. I definitely thought so. I think anybody else probably would, too," he said while watching a Philadelphia Flyers game. "We're not getting on a winning streak or anything like that. I just tried to stay positive and not talk about it."

Dr. Rudy Haddad

Board Certified in Urology Fellow American College of Surgeons

Adults and Pediatrics Urology



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