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BIG SPRING HERALD

FRIDAY

FEBRUARY 8, 2013



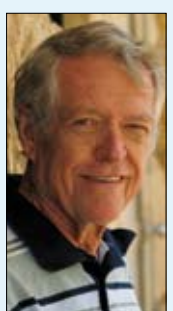
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VOLUME 108, NUMBER 100

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IN SUNDAY'S HERALD:



Big Spring native Tumbleweed Smith's weekly column returns to the Herald Opinion page.

Drive-thru robbery

Man jailed following Wagon Wheel incident

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

A Big Spring man was arrested and charged with aggravated robbery and criminal mischief Thursday after a bizarre turn of events at the local Wagon Wheel restaurant.

Lapaul Eric Scaggs, 36, of 510 S. Benton, was arrested Thursday by Big Spring Police Department officers on charges of aggravated robbery and criminal mischief — more than \$1,500 and less than \$20,000 after law enforcement officials say he allegedly refused to pay for his meal.

"Scaggs was a passenger in a vehicle which stopped at the Wagon Wheel restaurant," Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer for the See **JAILED**, Page 3

Coming soon: Ball field



Renovation work continues at Jack Barber Field, home of the Howard College baseball team. Officials say the field will be ready for play in time for the team's home opener April 5.

HERALD photo/Brian McCormack



Water problem clouds bond issue

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

FORSAN — There's always something. As they have worked their way toward calling for a bond election to finance a new elementary school, Forsan Independent School District officials have tried to balance what they want with what they think the district's taxpayers can afford.



Johnson

FISD Superintendent Randy Johnson said administrators learned within the last month

the district's septic system has been ruled inadequate by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. "The CEQ has established guidelines on how much wastewater can be provided for in a septic system (such as FISD has)," Johnson said. "If those guidelines are exceeded, you have to go with a wastewater treatment system. By their calculations,

we are over the guidelines at both (Elbow Elementary and the junior high/high school campus)." FISD is looking at several wastewater treatment options, but none are cheap. High-end estimates are around \$2 million per system, Johnson said. Nor can the district pipe the water to Big See **BOND**, Page 3

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Find us online at:
www.bigspringherald.com

Asteroid to buzz Earth, no need to duck

By **MARCIA DUNN**
AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — A 150-foot-wide asteroid will come remarkably close to Earth next week, even closer than high-flying communication and weather satellites. It will be the nearest known fly-by for an object of this size.

day. "No Earth impact is possible," Donald Yeomans, manager of NASA's Near-Earth Object program at Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., said Thursday.

Even the chance of an asteroid-satellite run-in is extremely remote, Yeomans and other scientists noted. A few hundred satellites orbit at 22,300 miles, higher than the asteroid's path, although

operators are being warned about the incoming object for tracking purposes.

"No one has raised a red flag, nor will they," Yeomans told reporters. "I certainly don't anticipate any problems whatsoever."

Impossible to see with the naked eye, the asteroid is considered small as these things go. By contrast, the one that took out the dinosaurs 65 million years ago was 6 miles

wide. Yet Asteroid 2012 DA14, as it's known for its discovery date, still could pack a wallop.

If it impacted Earth — which it won't, scientists were quick to add Thursday — it would release the energy equivalent of 2.4 million tons of TNT and wipe out 750 square miles. That's what

See **ASTEROID**, Page 3

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Obituaries

Clifford L. Stovall



Clifford L. Stovall, 87, of Blanco, passed away on Thursday, Feb. 7, 2013, at his home surrounded by his family.

Clifford was born in Tipton, Okla. to Walter L. and Tennie Leta (Orbison) Stovall. He married Cola Mae Pritchard on March 24, 1946 in Frederick, Okla., soon after Clifford joined the U. S. Air Force. He retired after 23 years of service and attaining the rank of Chief Master Sergeant.

Following his career with the U. S. Air Force, he was the plant manager for the Big Spring State School. He was a member of the Blanco Hills Church of Christ. He loved music and taught all of his children to sing.

Clifford is survived by his wife of 66 years, Cola Mae Stovall, sons, Terry Stovall and wife Judy of Gainesville, Ga.; Phillip Stovall of Blanco and Jeff Stovall and wife Kelly of La Port, Texas; daughters, Cheryl Salmon and Leslie Stovall, both of Blanco, a brother, Jack Ray Stovall and wife Dorothy of Big Spring; six grandchildren; Eli Stovall and wife Emily, Brian Stovall, Miker Stovall, Savannah Stovall, Aimee Perry and Matthew Stovall; six great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Clifford was preceded in death by his parents, a sister Leta Severnes, and a son Paul Stovall in 1983.

Visitation will be Friday Feb. 8 from 5-7 p.m. at Crofts-Crow Funeral Home, Blanco, where funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday Feb. 9, 2013. Interment follow in Blanco Cemetery.

Paid obituary

Justen Vogel



Justen Vogel, 39, of Midland, formerly of Big Spring died Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2013, in a truck accident south of Midland. Memorial services will be at 4 p.m. Saturday in the chapel at the farm of Teen Challenge of the Permian Basin, 6901 SCR 1200, Midland, Texas, with the Rev. Darrell Trout of Harvest Time Assembly of God Church officiating. Friends are invited to join the family for a meal and fellowship following the service.

He was born Sept. 20, 1973, in Johnson City, Texas. He lived most of his adult life in Big Spring. Justen was a devoted volunteer to the ministry of Teen Challenge. He was a member of the Harvest Time Assembly of God Church.

He is survived by three daughters, Kaylee Johns and Kourtnee White, both of Carlsbad, N.M., and Paige Vogel of Wimberly; a son, Case Vogel of Wimberly; mother, Donna King of Big Spring; father, Donald Vogel of Steamboat Springs, Colo.; three brothers, Colby Vogel of Fountain Valley, Calif., Zac Leslie of Palestine, Texas and Beau Vogel of Steamboat Springs, Colo.; two sisters, Courtney Vogel of Steamboat Springs, Colo. and Riley King of Big Spring; grandparents, George and Nelda Vogel of Stonewall, Texas; and several aunts, uncles, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by one brother, Ty Murrill and grandparents, Druie and Retha Maner.

The family suggests memorials to Teen Challenge of the Permian Basin, P.O. Box 251, Midland, TX 79702

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

Police blotter

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

- TABITHA MONTEZ, 19, of 1401 Princeton, was arrested Thursday on warrants for no driver's license - when unlicensed and failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- STEPHANIE MARIE NIETO, 32, of 803 E. 14th St., was arrested Thursday on warrants for criminal mischief - more than \$50 and less than \$500, no driver's license - when unlicensed (two counts), failure to appear (five counts), expired motor vehicle inspection certificate, failure to use child safety seat system and failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- CRISTOVAL MORENO CORRALEZ, 53, of 1105 N. Nolan, was arrested Thursday on charges of accident involving damage to a vehicle - \$200 or more, failure to maintain financial responsibility, disregarding a stop sign and no Class M endorsement.
- CODY DEJUAN HAWKINS, 30, of 810 Cherry, was arrested Thursday on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- LAPAUL ERIC SCAGGS, 38, of 510 S. Benton, was arrested Thursday on charges of aggravated robbery and criminal mischief - more than \$1,500 and less than \$20,000.
- TIMOTHY JOSEPH MAJOR, 39, of 114 Colorado, was arrested Thursday on warrants for bail jumping - failure to appear, bail jumping - failure to appear (fine only), speeding and no driver's license - when unlicensed.
- MATTHEW RYAN MIER, 18, of 2607 Central, was arrested Thursday on a charge of disorderly conduct - exposing genitals/anus in public.

- AMY MELISSA VIGUS, 41, of 211 Grant Ave., was arrested Friday on charges of contraband in a correctional facility and possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- RICKIE DELL HAIR, 39, of 1007 S. Nolan, was arrested Friday on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and driving while license invalid.
- ADAM STARR, 28, of 802 E. 14th St., was arrested Friday on charges of public intoxication, disorderly conduct - language and failure to appear.
- SHAWN MICHAEL JONES, 30, of 4113 Dixon, was arrested Friday on a charge of public intoxication.
- LEVI KOTHMAN TRUIT, 20, of Green Cove Springs, Fla., was arrested Friday on a charge of public intoxication.
- GARY CHRISTOPHER STARR, 29, of 802 E. 14th St., was arrested Friday on a charge of public intoxication.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 1100 block of Jeffery Road.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 3600 block of W. Highway 80.
- BURGLARY was reported in the 3600 block of W. Highway 80.

Sheriff

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

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 83 inmates at the time of this report.

- MAURICIO ROBLES GALVAN, 23, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on Jefferson County warrants for motion to revoke probation for burglary of a habitation (two counts).
- TABITHA REANNE MONTEZ, 19, was booked into the county detention center Thursday by the BSPD on municipal capias warrants for no driver's license - when unlicensed and failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- TIMOTHY JOSEPH MAJOR JR., 39, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on charges of speeding, no driver's license, violation of a promise to appear, bondsman off bond - bail jumping and failure to appear and bail jumping - failure to appear.
- STEPHANIE CANALES NIETO, 32, was booked into the county detention center Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal mischief - more than \$50 and less than \$500 and municipal capias warrants for no driver's license - when unlicensed (two counts), failure to appear (five counts), expired motor vehicle inspection certificate, failure to use child safety seat system and failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- MATTHEW RYAN MIER, 18, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a charge of disorderly conduct - exposing anus or genitals.
- CODY DEJUAN HAWKINS, 30, was booked into the county detention center Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- CRISTOVAL MOREN CORRALEZ, 53, was booked into the county detention center Friday by the BSPD on a charge of accident involving damage to a vehicle and municipal warrants for failure to maintain financial responsibility, running a stop sign and no motorcycle endorsement.
- RICKIE DELL HAIR, 39, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and driving while license invalid.
- ADAM ANTHONY STARR, 28, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication and municipal warrants for disorderly conduct - obscene language and failure to appear.
- LAPAUL ERIC SCAGGS, 36, was booked into the county detention center Friday by the BSPD on charges of aggravated robbery and criminal mischief - more than \$1,500 and less than \$20,000.
- SHAWN MICHAEL JONES, 30, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.
- AMY MELISSA VIGUS, 41, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on charges of contraband in a correctional facility and possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.

Fire/EMS

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

- TRAUMA was reported in the 1000 block of Sycamore. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1400 block of Lincoln. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1000 block of Sycamore. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1000 block of Sycamore. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of Simler. One person was transported to SMMC.

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Randy Cotton
Pastor

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

Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Sat 2/9	Sun 2/10	Mon 2/11
73/41	65/35	68/35
Variable cloudiness and windy. A stray afternoon thunderstorm is possible. High 73F. Winds SSE at 20 to 30 mph.	More sun than clouds. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the mid 30s.	Abundant sunshine. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the mid 30s.
Sunrise: 7:34 AM Sunset: 6:27 PM	Sunrise: 7:33 AM Sunset: 6:28 PM	Sunrise: 7:32 AM Sunset: 6:29 PM



Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	67	49	t-storm	Kingsville	78	68	t-storm
Amarillo	64	33	windy	Livingston	66	59	rain
Austin	69	61	t-storm	Longview	63	56	rain
Beaumont	66	60	pt sunny	Lubbock	69	32	pt sunny
Brownsville	81	69	t-storm	Lufkin	67	60	rain
Brownwood	68	56	t-storm	Midland	73	41	windy
Corpus Christi	74	68	t-storm	Raymondville	81	67	t-storm
Corsicana	63	57	t-storm	Rosenberg	69	64	cloudy
Dallas	63	57	t-storm	San Antonio	71	64	t-storm
Del Rio	75	59	t-storm	San Marcos	70	62	t-storm
El Paso	63	32	windy	Sulphur Springs	61	55	rain
Fort Stockton	79	41	windy	Sweetwater	69	47	t-storm
Gainesville	57	52	t-storm	Tyler	65	57	rain
Greenville	59	53	t-storm	Weatherford	62	54	t-storm
Houston	68	63	cloudy	Wichita Falls	61	48	t-storm

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	61	41	sunny	Minneapolis	37	29	pt sunny
Boston	22	10	snow	New York	30	14	sn shower
Chicago	36	29	mst sunny	Phoenix	54	37	rain
Dallas	63	57	t-storm	San Francisco	57	41	sunny
Denver	45	24	mixed	Seattle	47	35	cloudy
Houston	68	63	cloudy	St. Louis	48	39	pt sunny
Los Angeles	59	41	sunny	Washington, DC	41	27	windy
Miami	79	64	pt sunny				

Support Groups

FRIDAY

• AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

• Stepping Stone Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets at the Gold Rush Tobacco Shop, 800 E. Third Street. Open meeting at 7 p.m.

SATURDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m. Covered dish supper at 7 p.m.

SUNDAY

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

MONDAY

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

• MEDICAL was reported in the 3200 block of Ave. C. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1200 block of Robin. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported near the intersection of Wasson and Parkway. Service refused.

• TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported in the 500 block of S. Owens. One person was transported to SMMC.



Feb. 9
"Dressed To A Tea"
Big Spring Symphony Guild presents a Valentine Tea, Luncheon & Fashion Show
First Christian Church 911 Goliad
11:30 am Tickets \$15 per person
Seating is limited
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Feb. 16
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Crimson Soul - One More Show
Big Spring Municipal Auditorium
Tickets \$10 available at the Big Spring Convention & Visitors Bureau For more info call
432-263-8235



JAILED

Continued from Page 1

BSPD, said. "When the carhop brought the food to the car, Scaggs told the carhop he didn't have the money to pay for it. According to witness reports, he threatened the carhop."

According to witness statements, Scaggs allegedly told the carhop to "Get the (expletive) back" and reached for what the carhop believed to be a handgun in his waistband.

"At first, the carhop thought they saw a handgun," Everett said. "However, no firearm was found in the possession of Scaggs. He was, however, in possession of a knife at the time of the crime."

Everett said the driver of the vehicle — who was not arrested as a result of Thursday's events — paid for the food before leaving the restaurant.

Following the altercation at the Wagon Wheel — located at 2010 Scurry St. — Everett said the story takes a bizarre turn ... directly

into a local home.

"Moments after the altercation at the Wagon Wheel was reported to police, the car Scaggs was a passenger in hit a home in the 500 block of Owens," Everett said. "According to witness statements, Scaggs grabbed the steering wheel while the vehicle was in motion, causing it to leave the roadway and hit the house. That's why he has been charged with criminal mischief."

Everett said the damage caused by the crash has not yet been estimated.

"Scaggs was transported from the scene of the crash to the emergency room at Scenic Mountain Medical Center with minor — if any — injuries," he said. "He was treated and released and taken into custody by the BSPD, after which he was booked into the county detention center."

As of press time, bond had not yet been set for the Big Spring man.

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

Take note

• Big Spring city crews have closed the 1700 block of Virginia for utility repairs. For more information, contact the city public works department at 264-2501.

• Canterbury North, 1700 Lancaster, will host a Senior Sweetheart Dance from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. today. Music will be provided by RC & Company. Admission is free and refreshments will be served. For more information, call 263-1265.

• Thy Will Be Done Ministry will hold a Yard/Food/Bake Sale from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at 610 Abrams.

Proceeds will go toward expanding the church facility.

• My Redeemer Church, 1008 Birdwell, will hold its "Gigantic Sweetheart Sale" from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday Gifts for men, women and children, most from \$1-\$5, will be available.

• A continuing education class focusing on computer education is set to begin Feb. 12 and run through the month. This is a four-week course, with classes taking place 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Registration can be done through the continuing education department at Howard College and each student completing the course will receive a certificate of completion. To find out more information or to register, call Cris Cortez at 432-264-5077.

• Healthy Woman is presenting a heart healthy affair "Be Aware of YOUR Heart" at noon Feb. 21 at the Dora Roberts Community Center. Drs. Rudy and Chris Haddad will speak, along with a person story from Mitzi Knight. The event is free to the public, but reservations need to be made no later than Feb. 15 at 5 p.m. To reserve your spot, call Amanda Duforat at 432-268-4842 or Anita Cline at 432-268-4721.

• 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. Call 432 268-7535 for more information.

BOND

Continued from Page 1

Spring for treatment. "We looked into that," Johnson said, "and we found it would cost us about \$41 a foot to build the pipe, plus whatever Big Spring would charge us for treating

the wastewater." Oddly enough, however, this added expense strengthens the district's argument for building a new elementary next to the junior high/high school building — if the district maintains elementary operations at Elbow, it will have to build treat-

ment plants at both locations, effectively doubling the cost to taxpayers, while only one system would be needed if the campuses were adjacent to each other. "If Elbow stays open, we'd need a treatment plant there, and I don't know if that would even be possible, because we

don't own enough property in that area to build a plant," Johnson said. "This was kind of the final straw that broke the idea of us staying at the Elbow campus." Final figures for the bond amount have not been settled upon, but Johnson said a preliminary estimate has been

set at \$20 million, which would pay for a new elementary campus, the water treatment plant and some renovations at the junior high/high school building. FISD trustees will meet with Parkhill, Smith & Cooper architects when they hold their monthly meeting Feb. 11. At that

time, a firm estimate for the bond should be established, Johnson said. A final decision whether to call for a May bond election will likely happen Feb. 25, he added.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331, ext. 235.

ASTEROID

Continued from Page 1

happened in Siberia in 1908, when forest land around the Tunguska River was flattened by a slightly smaller asteroid that exploded about five miles above ground.

The likelihood of something this size striking Earth is once in every 1,200 years. A close, harmless encounter like this is thought to occur every 40 years.

The bulk of the solar system's asteroids are located between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter, and remain stable there for billions of years. Some occasionally pop out, though, into Earth's neighborhood

The closest approach of this one will occur next Friday afternoon, Eastern time, over Indonesia.

There won't be much of a show. The asteroid will zip by at 17,400 mph. That's roughly eight times faster than a

bullet from a high-speed rifle. The asteroid will be invisible to the naked eye and even with binoculars and telescopes will appear as a small point of light. The prime viewing locations will be in Asia, Australia and eastern Europe.

Observers in the U.S. can pretty much forget it.

Astronomers using NASA's deep-space antenna in California's Mojave Desert will have to wait eight hours after the closest approach to capture radar images.

Scientists welcome whatever pictures they get. The asteroid offers a unique opportunity to observe something this big and close, and any new knowledge will help if and when another killer asteroid is headed Earth's way.

The close approach also highlights the need to keep track of what's out there, if for no other reason than to protect the planet.

NASA's current count

of near-Earth objects: just short of 10,000, the result of a concentrated effort for the past 15 years. That's thought to represent less than 10 percent of the objects out there.

No one has ruled out a serious Earth impact, although the probability is said to be extremely low.

"We don't have all the money in the world to do this kind of work" for tracking and potentially deflecting asteroids, said Lindley Johnson, an executive with the Near-Earth Object observations program in Washington.

Indeed, when asked about NASA's plans to send astronauts to an asteroid in the decades ahead, as outlined a few years ago by President Barack Obama, Johnson said the space agency is looking at a number of options for human explorations.

One of the more immediate steps, planned for 2016, is the launch of a spacecraft to fly to

a much bigger asteroid, collect samples and return them to Earth in 2023.

As for Asteroid 2012 DA14 — discovered last year by astronomers in Spain — scientists suspect it's made of silicate rock, but aren't sure. Its shape and precise size also are mysteries.

What they do know with certainty:

"This object's orbit is so well known that there's no chance of a collision," Yeomans repeated during Thursday's news conference.

Its close approach, in fact, will alter its orbit around the sun in such a way as to keep it out of Earth's neighborhood,

at least in the foreseeable future, Yeomans said.

Johnson anticipates no "sky is falling thing" related to next week's flyby.

He and other scientists urged journalists to keep the close encounter in perspective.

"Space rocks hit the Earth's atmosphere on a daily basis. Basketball-size objects come in daily. Volkswagen-size objects come in every couple of weeks," Yeomans said.

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Lois Hicks, 67, died Saturday. Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. today at Trinity Memorial Park.

Justen Vogel, 39, died Wednesday. Memorial services will be at 4 p.m. Saturday in the chapel at the farm of Teen Challenge of the Permian Basin in Midland.

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The Big Spring Herald is a member of The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Texas Press Association, West Texas Press Association, Texas Daily Newspaper Association, The Associated Press.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas.

USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6811

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EDITORIAL

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

—FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Glenn Stiffemire
Publisher

Bill McClellan
Managing Editor

Steve Reagan
Staff Writer

Thomas Jenkins
Staff Writer

OTHER VIEWS

No excess in state revenue

Two years ago, during the previous legislative session, Gov. Rick Perry adamantly declared the rainy day fund off limits. Leave it alone, he told lawmakers.

This session, the governor wants the Legislature to dip deeply into the fund — for water, roads and tax relief.

During his seventh and possibly last State of the State address Tuesday, and in speeches to business groups Wednesday and Thursday, Perry says the Legislature should consider pulling \$3.7 billion from the rainy day fund to make a one-time investment in water and roads.

He didn't say so, but Perry presumably supports using the rainy day fund to set up infrastructure banks similar to the ones Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst and others recently have proposed. The banks would be used to guarantee bonds for water and transportation projects.

There is strong, bipartisan agreement that the state needs to spend more on water and roads. We support using money from the rainy day fund to pay for water and transportation projects.

But Perry, never averse to grandstanding, proposed a head-scratcher Tuesday when he said lawmakers should return \$1.8 billion of “excess” state revenue to taxpayers. According to the governor's proposed budget, about \$840 million of this undefined tax rebate would come from the rainy day fund.

Together, Perry recommends lawmakers spend more than \$4.5 billion from a fund that is expected to grow, thanks to a boom in sales taxes collected on oil and gas production, to about \$12 billion by the end of fiscal 2015, the second of the two fiscal years the current Legislature will be budgeting this session.

That's just under 40 percent of a fund Perry said lawmakers shouldn't touch in 2011 when the Legislature cut \$5.4 billion to public schools and more than \$1 billion from higher education.

We also support using the rainy day fund, if general revenue proves inadequate, to restore at least some of the money cut two years ago from public schools. Education, roads and water are all important to the state's future.

Perry's education proposals were limited to pitches for more charter schools and to the redirection of some state money into scholarship programs — vouchers, if you want to call these scholarships what they are — to create options for parents of students “locked into low-performing schools.”

This is support for public education not as it exists and as it needs to be funded, but as Perry wishes it could be.

Skepticism greeted Perry's tax rebate proposal, and deservedly so.

It's unclear how a tax rebate would be paid, who would get the relief and how much they'd receive.

Almost two-thirds of the state's revenue comes from sales taxes, with the rest coming from the business margins tax and various state fees. If Perry has a clue how to fairly send this money back to its source he hasn't expressed it so far.

With his tax relief proposal, Perry moved toward a gimmick of his own. “We've never bought into the notion that if you collect more, you need to spend more,” Perry told lawmakers Tuesday, and repeated to business leaders this week.

There is need for the money Perry considers excess.

The governor's is an argument for spending under the state's means, not within them. It's an argument that undermines the state's future.

— Austin American-Statesman

Looking at life sentences

Forty years after he was convicted for his involvement in two murders committed by Charles Manson, a California parole board has found that Bruce Davis is suitable for parole. His crimes, if it matters (and why should it?), didn't involve the notorious murder of the pregnant Sharon Tate; he participated in the killing of a musician and a stuntman. Early on, Davis claimed he was simply a bystander. A jury didn't agree. Since then, he has acknowledged shared responsibility. He has also been a model prisoner. He became a born-again Christian. He earned a master's degree and a doctorate in the philosophy of religion. He ministered to other prisoners.

Is that enough? If the purpose of prison is to rehabilitate or incapacitate dangerous offenders for our protection, then Davis is a safe bet. The grainy picture of him today bares no resemblance whatsoever to the scary-looking guy from 40 years ago. Arrest rates for those 65 and older top out at around 2 percent. Recidivism rates are the lowest for older offenders.

I'm not afraid of Bruce Davis. On the other hand, I hardly think he has any “right” to freedom. He was involved in the senseless and brutal killing of two men. He was sentenced to life without parole. He got what he deserved.

The harder question is what do we deserve.

Given the popularity of mandatory minimums for drug offenses

and three-strikes-and-you're-out laws (or in, more accurately), it's not surprising that America's prison population is aging. The numbers are striking. Between 1995 and 2010, the number of inmates 55 and older grew almost seven times as fast as the prison population as a whole. Estimates predict that by 2030, a third of all prisoners will be over 55.

Keeping older prisoners locked up beyond the point where they are dangerous to anyone is, in a word, expensive. Very. They not only get room and board, but also medical care, which they do have a right to. There are no co-pays and deductibles in prison. If they become infirm, facilities have to be adjusted to be handicap accessible.

I'm sure I'll get letters from prisoners and their families telling me just how awful the health care is, but the fact is that courts have repeatedly ordered that prisoners have a right to have their health needs met.

Maybe not a transplant, but dialysis, medication, chemotherapy and the like.

The cost is, by various estimates, a minimum of twice the cost to incarcerate a younger offender, even though there are greater security concerns with younger offenders.

Davis is, in many respects, an easier case than most. He was involved in two murders. There may be no case left for incarceration on grounds of incapacitation, and he can certainly claim that to the extent that one purpose of prison is rehabilitation, that purpose has been served. But life without parole is hardly an unjust punishment for two murders, whether he was the one who pulled the trigger or assisted in the killing. He was not an innocent bystander. He was — is — a murderer.

But many of those in prison are there for drug offenses or for multiple non-homicide offenses that they are unlikely to repeat and that do not bring letters from family members or prosecutors opposing parole. They are not murderers, much less notorious ones. So why are we spending a fortune — and providing better health care than many on the “outside” receive — to keep them incarcerated? How does that help us?

The political debate about crime for much of the past 30 years has been dominated by fear of politicians that they will be perceived as anything less than “tough on crime.” In the wake of terrible events, who wants to be the one standing there saying no to a three-strikes law, no matter how poorly it is drafted? Who wants to say that the penalties for possessing and selling drugs (and I'm not talking about marijuana) are too low or shouldn't be increased? The easy vote is always the yes vote.

But the chickens are coming home to roost, and if you'll pardon me, they are not spring chickens.

The consequences of treating crime as an issue of values and not policy, as we have, are not only the explosion of the prison population, but also the graying of it. At some point, we are going to have to face the hard questions, if not in the notorious case of Bruce Davis, then in hundreds more where the criminal is less notorious and the case for continued incarceration much weaker.

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.

El Diablo is in the details

If there is a stipulation that has to be met first, if comprehensive immigration reform still is going to depend on when Republicans “certify” that the border with Mexico has been “secured,” then forget about it. It's all a huge farce.

And if Democrats are going along with it, as some already have in a U.S. Senate proposal, knowing that some GOP governors along the border are likely to block it, are Democrats really trying to help immigrants? Or are they just setting a trap for Republicans to keep alienating themselves from Latino voters?

Let's face it: The Democrats have a history of winning the Latino vote, not because they earn it, but because they can easily show us how the Republicans would be much worse. Do they think they can do this indefinitely?

So say Congress passes a comprehensive immigration reform law that makes a path to citizen for undocumented immigrants contingent on the certification of a “border security commission” that is appointed by border governors like Jan Brewer of Arizona or Rick Perry of Texas.

Why bother? Why are Washington Democrats passing the buck to Republican states? Is this the way Sen. Chuck Schumer continues to blame Republicans in order to secure the Latino vote for Democrats in the future?

On immigration reform, el Diablo is in the details — and in both parties!

I can see how Republicans would want to make “amnesty” contingent on border security certification because they know that it would never happen.

But Democrats? Are they stupid? Or do they think Latinos are stupid?

After all the concessions the Obama administration already has made, after all the red meat he already has served to right-wing extremists — even breaking deportation and border-enforcement spending records without gaining anything in return from Republicans — when do Democrats begin to act like leaders instead of Machiavellian political opportunists?

While the Senate five-page “framework of principles” falls short of the true immigration reform the country needs — and of the payback Latinos expect from Democrats after the November elections — now there is talk that a bipartisan group of House lawmakers is drafting a bill that not only could require that impossible border security certification but could altogether exclude a path to citizenship for the 11 million documented immigrants already living here.

If this is true, it's crazy! Given all the recent talk about how the two parties are bound to pass comprehensive immigration reform this year, it seems unbelievable that some Republicans still are unwilling to create any pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.

Yet House Judiciary Committee chairman Republican Bob Goodlatte of Virginia has even suggested that, to bring undocumented immigrants out of the shadows, we must look somewhere “on a spectrum between deportation and citizenship.”

In other words, some Republicans might be willing to let undocumented immigrants stay here legally, not as citizens but rather as second-class residents — as long as they never get the right to vote, which is what Republicans rightfully fear most. They know that once those immigrants become voters, they are likely to punish the party and politicians who made their lives so miserable for so long.

For Republicans, it's all about preventing a well-deserved backlash that could hurt them for many years to come. That's why

some of them are insisting on “border security certification” that would in effect nullify whatever else is in a comprehensive immigration reform law.

In fact, border crossings have decreased as dramatically as deportations have increased. The border is more secure than it has been in many years. But for some people, it will never be enough. As long as a fly can go through without permission, Republicans will have the excuse they need to prevent those undocumented immigrants (who already have been here for years) from eventually becoming the voters who would boot them of office.

When Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano's visited Texas to inspect the border this week, immigrant bashing champion Republican Sen. John Cornyn of Texas immediately issued a statement saying he hoped “Napolitano returns to Washington and relays to the President and Senate Democrats what Texans already know: our border is not secure and the federal government has a long way to go.”

This will be the Republican strategy from now on. And if the Democrats don't challenge it, including President Obama in his Feb. 12 State of the Union speech, true immigration reform is in deep trouble.

Clearly, what the Republicans want is to delay undocumented immigrants from becoming voters as long as possible. But what is becoming disturbingly clear is that some Democrats expect to keep winning the Latino vote by default because the other team keeps knocking itself out of contention.

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

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SUSAN
ESTRICH



MIGUEL
PEREZ

Church News

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. on Wednesday. The Children's Choir practices on Wednesday at 4:45 p.m.

The Youth Group will meet at 6:30 p.m. Sunday evening.

The Boy Scouts meet in the entrance room of the Fellowship Hall at 6 p.m. on Monday.

Feb. 10 is Ash Wednesday; we will have a worship service, joined by our sisters and brothers from First Presbyterian Church of Coahoma, in the sanctuary at 7 p.m.

The Ecumenical Lenten Luncheons, which we share with First Christian Church, St. Mary's Episcopal, and the Catholic Trinity Parish, begin at noon Feb. 20 at St. Mary's. Later dates and places will appear here next week.

Helen Glass is in charge of this week's "Take Ten." Danny Kennemur is liturgist for February. Communion servers are Katie and Jerry Grimes, Claudie and Rip Patterson and David Wilson. Ushers for the month are Ellen Austin and Isabella, Jarle Boe and Robert Bennett.

The lectionary for the Transfiguration of the Lord is Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; I Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36(37-43).

The Chancel Choir will present "Come to the Table of the Lord" by Jay Althouse for the anthem and "Fairest Lord Jesus" arranged by Elizabeth Campbell for the offertory. The Rev. Craig Holstedt will deliver the sermon and celebrate Communion.

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, please 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

Some of the ladies of College Baptist and some from other area churches are meeting each week for a Bible study called, "The Power of a Woman's Words," by Sharon Jaynes. When choosing a Bible study, there are many to choose from and we have done a lot of different ones, but this one is really turning out to be one of the best.

It isn't just the power of a woman's words but the power of anyone's words. Words can build up or tear down. The power of a parent's words may shape

the character of their children more than anything they are taught in schools or their churches, since the children look to their parents for guidance and for all their needs. A word of encouragement can bring out much more effort in a child than all the discouraging words one can utter.

A big "thank you" goes out to all who gave blood last Wednesday at College Baptist. You have helped many people with this "gift of life."

A group of men from our church meets each Sunday morning at 7:30 in the prayer room to pray for the services and the needs of the people. Anyone is welcome to join them.

The youth group has a "Mission Cafe" open each Sunday morning from 8:30 to 9:30 in case you don't have time to eat at home before church. The proceeds go for youth activities.

The R.A. boys are still collecting pennies for Texas Baptist Disaster Relief Fund. They hope to collect five miles of pennies. One mile is 5,280 feet and 16 pennies makes one foot so that is a lot of pennies. You will find many large jars placed around different areas of the church to put your pennies (or dollars) in. The young boys will appreciate your help in this.

There will be a men's fellowship meeting at the church on Feb. 15 at 7 p.m. There will be a free meal and they will continue to watch the video, "The Man Code" by Dennis Swanburg. All men and boys in sixth grade and up are invited to attend.

— By Dean Priest

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 a.m. Church starts at 10:50 a.m. 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.

This Sunday — which will be the last Sunday after Epiphany in the Christian calendar — the Rev. Ken McIntosh message will be "Forgiveness" from Luke 6: 46-49

Elders will be Carol Stephens and Erma Dunne; deacons will be Dan Miracle, Shirley Lee, Ken Johnson and Mary Beth Johnson; worship leader will be Paul Smith; Communion prep will be Shirley Lee and Mary Beth Johnson; children's church

See CHURCH, Page 7

All hat and no cowboy

I love the English language. There are so many ways to link words together to express a thought seasoned with inflection and implication. Just the other day, I heard a politician accuse another politician of being all hat and no cowboy.



BONNIE WHEAT

I suppose a fellow who is all hat would be akin to the proverbial drugstore cowboy — the one who wears spurs that jingle but does not smell like a horse or have callused hands.

The cowboy analogy carries over into all areas of life. The outward appearance is seldom enough to determine another person's character. At times we all don a facade to hide our emotions or disguise our motives.

In our present climate of political clamoring, accusations, and name calling, it is difficult to discern the truth about anything. Truth is often colored by the slant of the storyteller.

With all the debate and arguing about how to fix everything from the economy to the moral decline of our nation, our attitudes have

become jaded. Yet we seek truth. We search for the trusted.

Within the Christian circle, we often hear people speak of the importance of talking the talk and walking the walk. Genuineness is a quality that we long for in all of our relationships. We are drawn to the person whose talk matches the walk.

In an effort to measure the sincerity of leaders, in all areas of life, we compare the words that come out of their mouths with the trail of footprints they leave behind. We expect actions and words to be consistent with each other. The talk should never outweigh the walk, and the walk is never sufficient without the talk.

In the Bible, we are given a surefire way to determine the integrity of a person's love for God. The Scripture says, "If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen" (1 John 4:20 NASB).

The only way to truly demonstrate our love for God is by the way we treat other people. Perhaps our prayer should be, "Lord, when others see my hat, may they also see a cowboy underneath."

Faith that can change the world

My wife and I finally made it to the new production of "Les Miserables" with Hugh Jackman, Russell



BILL TINSLEY

Crowe and Anne Hathaway, a cinematic version of the longest running musical on Broadway.

In 1998 Liam Neeson starred as Jean Valjean in a dramatic movie version. Having read Victor Hugo's book, written in 1862, I have long believed it is one of the greatest stories ever written.

If you're not familiar with the story, here's the gist: Jean Valjean, recently released from a French prison after serving 19 years for

stealing bread, is a hardened, bitter and desperate convict. But his life is transformed when a priest gives him the silver he has stolen from him. This act of kindness sets his feet on a path of grace and mercy with a heart devoted to God.

Valjean changes his identity, invests the silver and becomes a wealthy factory owner who transforms his vilage with fairness and generosity. He is eventually elected mayor. But he is hunted by the law and his past catches up with him. Fleeing as a fugitive, he rescues the orphan child of a prostitute whom he has previously saved from the streets.

The story reveals the power of living out Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount: "I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them

the other cheek also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you. ... Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." (Matthew 5:39-42,44).

When I turned 50, I set two goals that I wanted to pursue for the rest of the life. The first was to encourage the younger generation to do greater things than I ever dreamed or imagined. Many of them are doing that. The second was to memorize the Sermon on the Mount and live it out. Memorizing it is not that difficult,

See FAITH, Page 7

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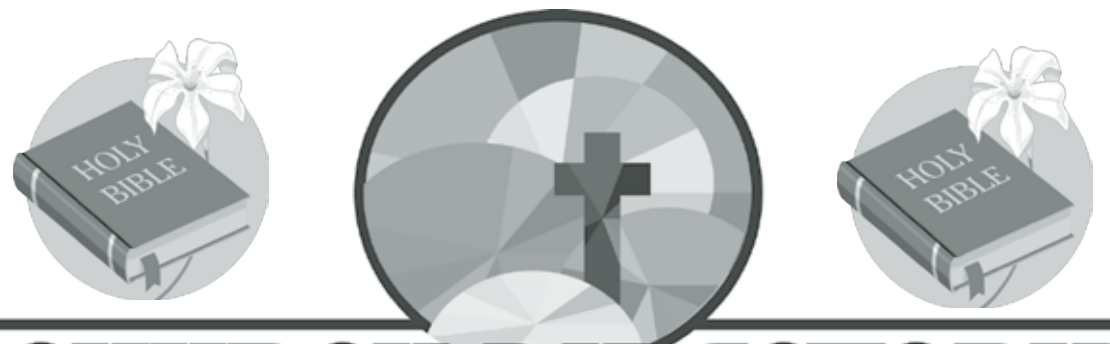
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► News in brief

Former East Tenn. priest removed from priesthood

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The Vatican has removed William Casey from the Roman Catholic priesthood after Casey's conviction in the sexual abuse of a teenage altar boy.

The Rev. David Boettner, a vicar general for the diocese, on Thursday confirmed the papal action in 2012, returning Casey to laity status.

Reaction from a spokeswoman for the Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests was sharp. Nancy Vance of the Knoxville chapter of SNAP asked why it took so long, noting that the Vatican was informed on April 4, 2010, of charges against Casey.

He was convicted in 2011 of abusing a boy, then 13 and 14, while serving at St. Dominic's Catholic Church in Kingsport, Tenn.

Boettner said the diocese had tried to contact the man who brought the charges and Casey, but was unsuccessful in both cases.

After fatwas, security hiked for Egypt opposition

CAIRO (AP) — One hardline Muslim cleric on an Egyptian TV station justified sexual assaults on women protesters. Others issued religious edicts saying opposition leaders must be killed. Television screeds by ultraconservative sheiks are raising fears of assassinations here a day after a top anti-Islamist politician was gunned down in Tunisia.

Egyptian security officials on Thursday beefed up security around the homes of Egypt's main opposition politicians, citing the possibility of a Tunisia-type killing after the edicts, or fatwas. The office of Islamist President Mohammed Morsi and his prime minister denounced the edicts and the top prosecutor began an investigation into one of the clerics.

Two well-known ultraconservative clerics sparked an uproar with their edicts several days ago saying Shariah, or Islamic law, required the killing of opposition figures. A third fanned the flames by justifying a string of mob sexual assaults on women protesters in Cairo's Tahrir Square.

"They are going there to get raped," cleric Ahmed Mohammed Abdullah said, depicting them as loose

women. He spoke of their curly hair, saying "these are devils named women ... They speak with no femininity, no morals, no fear ... Learn from Muslim women, be Muslims."

On his TV show on the private Al-Umma station Wednesday, Abdullah, also known as Abu Islam, derided opposition statements that attacking women was "a red line" that must not be crossed.

"Does that apply to these naked women?" he said. "Nine out of 10 of them are Crusaders (Christians) and the rest are ... widows with no one to rein them in" to ensure they remain modest.

Sexual assaults on women protesters have spiked in Egypt's wave of unrest since late January, with at least 19 reported on Jan. 25 alone. In many cases, mobs stripped women, penetrating them with knives and other objects, according to rights groups.

ACLU seeks removal of Ohio school's Jesus portrait

JACKSON, Ohio (AP) — The American Civil Liberties Union and another group are asking a federal judge to make a southern Ohio middle school take down its portrait of Jesus.

The ACLU of Ohio and the Madison, Wis.-based Freedom From Religion Foundation contend the large portrait hanging in a public school violates constitutional requirement for separation of church and state, and promotes a single religion.

Their lawsuit was filed Thursday in U.S. district court following complaints by both groups to Jackson City Schools.

A message for comment was left Thursday at the school district, some 65 miles south of Columbus.

School officials had said earlier that the portrait, at the Jackson Middle School building since 1947, has historical importance and that they planned to leave it in place.

Newtown pastor reprimanded over prayer vigil

NEW YORK (AP) — A conservative Lutheran group has reprimanded a Newtown, Conn., pastor for participating in an interfaith vigil after the Sandy Hook massacre.

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod said

the Rev. Rob Morris of Christ the King Lutheran Church inadvertently gave the impression he condoned joint worship by offering the benediction at the Dec. 16 event for elementary school shooting victims with representatives of other religions.

The church constitution bars clergy from praying with representatives from other religions, including some other Lutheran groups, for fear of giving the appearance that theological differences about salvation and other doctrines aren't significant.

The vigil included Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Baha'i leaders. President Barack Obama and Connecticut Gov. Dannel Malloy attended.

In a statement posted Feb. 1 on a denominational blog, the Missouri Synod president, the Rev. Matthew Harrison, said Morris took "specific and commendable" steps to avoid violating the church's constitution: Morris requested an announcement before the event that participating clergy were not endorsing each other's views, and he read from Scripture.

Archdiocese adds LA clergy documents after complaints

LOS ANGELES (AP) — After alleged victims complained of key omissions, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles has said it would release additional documents from internal clergy abuse files.

The church made the announcement Wednesday after alleged victims said some 12,000 pages released last week were missing critical memos and contained excessive redactions.

The documents in question from the file of former priest Michael Baker span a 14 year-period — from 1986 to 2000 — and provide insight into how retired Cardinal Roger Mahony and other church leaders dealt with him.

The Associated Press reported from an unredacted copy of the Baker file last month that contained documents that were not included in the archdiocese's disclosure.

The archdiocese acknowledged it had erred in keeping those pages sealed after the AP inquired Wednesday about the documents.

"They will be posted shortly," archdiocese attorney Michael Hennigan said in an email. "It is our intention to do this completely and correctly."

CHURCH

Continued from Page 5

will be Laura Sickles; greeter will be Deloris LeVier; homebound communion will be Carol Stephens.

Each week, Isaiah 58 is open from 4:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. on Mondays, and 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. on Tuesdays. We also are working on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. until about 11 a.m. sorting and cleaning items from Wal Mart, so we need volunteers for those days to help.

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

On Wednesday, there will be choir at the church at 6:30 p.m. Call Ruth Jackson for more information.

Samaritan Counseling takes place at our church

on Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and on Fridays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. 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 at 432-517-4821 or view our website at www.fcbs125@yahoo.com or email to fcbs125@yahoo.com

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

St. Mary's Holy Eucharist service begins at 10:30 a.m. Sunday.

Our regular vestry meeting is Monday at 6 p.m. in the church office.

The Daily Grind With God Coffee Hour meets every Wednesday at 10 a.m. in the parish hall.

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew will cook pancakes for Shrove Tuesday, Feb. 12, from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the parish hall.

St. Mary's will have an Ash Wednesday service at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 13.

For more information about St. Mary's Episcopal Church, call 267-8201. St. Mary's is located at 1001 S. Goliad.

Alive in Christ Lutheran Church LCMS

Our pastor is Reverend 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 (432) 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 on Wednesday begin with meal and fellowship at 5:45 p.m. and bible study beginning at 6 p.m.

Bo Vizcaino will present the readings this week.

Our Lenten Services will be held on Wednesday at 7 p.m.

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.

First United Methodist Church

Our Youth Pastor, Beau Niewoehner, will be a facilitator at Prayer Summit 2013, beginning at 6 p.m. today at Lakeridge United Methodist Church in Lubbock.

With a goal of "Equipping, Empowering and Encouraging," the summit will continue through 6 p.m. Saturday.

This Sunday, we are pleased to have as our guest Bishop Dan Solomon as speaker in both the 8:30 a.m. and 10:50 a.m. worship services. Following the late service there will be a church-wide luncheon.

Everyone is urged to attend, meet Bishop Solomon and stay for lunch. The Family and Parish Life Committee is furnishing the meat hot rolls and drinks; the congregation is asked to bring side dishes and/or desserts.

The new nursery was in full operation last Sunday and many folks stopped by that new half-door to get a look at the new room and all the brand new, colorful furniture and play equipment.

Confirmation Class began last Sunday. There is still time for your child to be enrolled; information is available in the church office.

Thursday, Feb. 21 a new session of Financial Peace University will begin. This is a very compelling, challenging and entertaining course for how Christians should manage their money. Scott McKenzie and Richard Steele will teach the course.

Beginning March 3, the History Channel will feature a five week long mini-series "The Bible". We are encouraging everyone to watch the series in a group setting at "host homes." Then, each Wednesday in March, we'll do some small group discussions regarding what we've just watched during Noon Bible study as well as Real Life Wednesdays. There will be no Children's Day Out program President's Day, Feb. 18.

"JAM," our Children's choir is hard at work on a production for Mother's Day. What a treat "Pirates of the I Don't Care-ibbean" should be. Practice for the youngsters follows the Real Life meal on Wednesdays from 6-7 p.m.

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

FAITH

Continued from Page 5

though I keep forgetting. But living it out is a life-long challenge and I continue to fall far short. But I am in good company.

Vitor Hugo brought to life the characters of Jean Valjean, Javert, Fantine, Cosette and Marius to help us see what living out Jesus' teaching could look like during the French Revolution.

Leo Tolstoy, after writing "Anna Karenina" and "War and Peace," committed himself to a literal interpretation of the Sermon on the Mount and wrote

"The Kingdom of God is Within You," a work that strongly influenced Mahatma Ghandi and Martin Luther King, Jr. The reason many in our day believe Christianity and Christian churches are impotent and irrelevant is simple: Most professing Christians have never seriously sought to live by the instructions that Jesus gave us.

Living out the Sermon on the Mount is a story any of us, and every one of us, can write every day by the choices we make.

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

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News in brief

Blizzard churning toward NYC, New England could rewrite record books with up to 2 feet of snow

BOSTON (AP) — A storm poised to dump up to 2 feet of snow from New York City to Boston and beyond beginning Friday could be one for the record books, forecasters warned, as residents scurried to stock up on food and water and road crews readied salt and sand.

Before the first snowflake had fallen, Boston, Providence, R.I., Hartford, Conn., and other New England cities canceled school Friday, and airlines scratched more than 2,600 flights through Saturday, with the disruptions from the blizzard certain to ripple across the U.S.

"This one doesn't come along every day. This is going to be a dangerous winter storm," said Alan Dunham, meteorologist for the National Weather Service in Taunton, Mass. "Wherever you need to get to, get there by Friday afternoon and don't plan on leaving."

The snow is expected to start Friday morning, with the heaviest amounts falling at night and into Saturday. Wind gusts could reach 75 mph. Widespread power failures were feared, along with flooding in coastal areas still recovering from Superstorm Sandy in October.

Boston could get more than 2 feet of snow, while New York City was expecting 10 to 12 inches. Mayor Michael Bloomberg said plows and 250,000 tons of salt were being put on standby. To the south, Philadelphia was looking at a possible 4 to 6 inches.

Search for ex-cop turned suspected cop killer stretches across Calif. from oceans to mountains

BIG BEAR LAKE, Calif. (AP) — A police officer and a pair of soon-to-be newlyweds were dead.

Another officer, riddled with bullets, was in intensive care.

Two more police were shot at but got away, one of them grazed by gunfire. Two innocent and uninvolved women were shot by police who feared a dangerous suspect.

And despite a massive manhunt that touched three states and Mexico, the heavily armed ex-Los Angeles police officer believed behind the rampage, who promised in his rambling writings to bring "warfare" to police and their families, remained free.

"We don't know what he's going to do," said Cindy Bachman, spokeswoman for the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, one of many law enforcement agencies whose pri-

mary purpose Thursday became finding 33-year-old Christopher Dorner. "We know what he's capable of doing. And we need to find him."

Dem, GOP senators quietly seek background check deal that could improve gun-control prospects

WASHINGTON (AP) — A bipartisan quartet of senators, including two National Rifle Association members and two with "F" ratings from the potent firearms lobby, are quietly trying to find a compromise on expanding the requirement for gun-sale background checks.

A deal, given a good chance by several participants and lobbyists, could add formidable political momentum to one of the key elements of President Barack Obama's gun control plan. Currently, background checks are required only for sales by the nation's 55,000 federally licensed gun dealers, but not for gun show, person-to-person sales or other private transactions.

The senators' talks have included discussions about ways to encourage states to make more mental health records available to the national system and the types of transactions that might be exempted from background checks, such as sales among relatives or to those who have permits to carry concealed weapons, said people who spoke anonymously because they were not authorized to describe the negotiations publicly.

The private discussions involve liberal Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York, who is the No. 3 Senate Democratic leader; West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin, an NRA member and one of the chamber's more moderate Democrats; Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., another NRA member and one of the more conservative lawmakers in Congress; and moderate GOP Sen. Mark Kirk of Illinois.

"It will not limit your ability to borrow your Uncle Willie's hunting rifle or share a gun with your friend at a shooting range," Schumer said last week in one of the senators' few public remarks about the package the group is seeking. He said he believed a bipartisan deal could be reached.

Assisted suicide makes legislative agenda in several states as baby boom set grows

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — A push for the legalization of physician-assisted suicide is under way in a half-dozen states where proponents say

they see strong support for allowing doctors to prescribe mentally competent, dying individuals with the medications needed to end their own lives.

The large number of baby boomers facing end-of-life issues themselves is seen to have made the issue more prominent in recent years. Groups such as Compassion & Choices, a national end-of-life advocacy organization, have been working to advance the cause.

Advocates received a boost from last year's ballot question in Massachusetts on whether to allow physicians to help the terminally ill die. Although the vote failed, it helped to spark a national discussion, said Mickey MacIntyre, chief program officer for Compassion & Choices.

"The Massachusetts initiative lifted the consciousness of the nation and in particular the Northeast region to this issue that there are other alternatives patients and their families should have an opportunity to access," MacIntyre said.

Bills legalizing assisted suicide are being considered in Connecticut, Vermont, New Jersey, Kansas and Hawaii — and in Massachusetts, where proponents decided to resume their efforts after the public vote, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures, which tracks legislative trends. There are also bills related to the issue under consideration in New Hampshire, New York, Arizona and Montana.

CIA nominee Brennan defends drone strikes, says he doesn't know if waterboarding is effective

WASHINGTON (AP) — CIA Director-designate John Brennan's vigorous defense of drone strikes to kill terror suspects — even American citizens — overseas is causing key lawmakers to consider lifting secrecy from what has become an important weapon in the fight against al-Qaida.

Brennan, President Barack Obama's top counterterrorism adviser, was grilled for more than three hours Thursday before the Senate Intelligence Committee on the drone program he leads, as well as on the CIA's harsh interrogation techniques during the Bush administration, which he denounced, and on leaks of classified information to the media, which Brennan vehemently denied being a part of.

Despite Brennan's wide-ranging testimony and the White House's release of a top secret memo explaining its legal rationale for the strikes just hours before the confirmation hearing began, some senators afterward said it was time to bring the drone program into the open.

In a hearing that was interrupted by anti-drone protests that brought it to a brief halt at the outset, Brennan told the committee that missile strikes by the unmanned drones are used only against targets planning to carry out attacks against the United States, never as retribution for an earlier one.

"Nothing could be further from the truth," he declared.

Woman accused of witchcraft tortured and burned alive by mob in Papua New Guinea

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (AP) — A mob stripped, tortured and bound a woman accused of witchcraft, then burned her alive in front of hundreds of horrified witnesses in a Papua New Guinea town, police said Friday. It was the latest sorcery-related killing in this South Pacific island nation.

Bystanders, including many children, watched and some took photographs of Wednesday's brutal slaying. Grisly pictures were published on the front pages of the country's biggest circulating newspapers, The National and Post-Courier, while the prime minister, police and diplomats condemned the killing.

In rural Papua New Guinea, witchcraft is often blamed for unexplained misfortunes. Sorcery has traditionally been countered by sorcery, but responses to allegations of witchcraft have become increasingly violent in recent years.

Keperi Leniata, a 20-year-old moth-

er, had been accused of sorcery by relatives of a 6-year-old boy who died in the hospital the day before.

She was tortured with a hot iron rod, bound, doused in gasoline, and then set alight on a pile of car tires and trash in the Western Highlands provincial capital of Mount Hagen, national police spokesman Dominic Kakas said.

Transsexual lawmaker loses chance to gain leadership post in Polish parliament

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Poland's first transsexual lawmaker has lost her chance to become a deputy speaker in Parliament after lawmakers voted to keep the incumbent in place.

Anna Grodzka attracted huge attention when she was elected in 2011. She garnered even more in recent days when she became a potential candidate for the post.

Even though the job appears out of reach for now, the 58-year-old Grodzka has already had a huge impact on the political scene, becoming perhaps the most prominent symbol of liberal change in a traditionally conservative and largely Roman Catholic country.

Grodzka became a candidate for a deputy speaker post after the lawmaker currently holding the post for her party, Wanda Nowicka, drew the ire of its founder and leader, Janusz Palikot, for accepting a bonus of 40,000 zlotys (\$13,000) for her work as a leader in the legislature last year.

The bonuses have been controversial because they come as Poland's economy faces a slowdown and the government raises taxes and forces other austerity measures on the public.

With humor and candor, N.J. Gov. Chris Christie addresses a political vulnerability: his weight

SEA BRIGHT, N.J. (AP) — Chris Christie began the workweek doughnut in hand, playfully embracing fat jokes on David Letterman's couch.

The New Jersey governor was soon describing himself as the "the healthiest fat guy you've ever seen in your life" and sharing private details about his cholesterol and blood sugar with Letterman. And in a flash, the Republican was countering a former White House doctor's suggestion that his weight would present serious health risks if he were elected president.

By design or not, the 50-year-old ended up outlining a personal and political plan for dealing with his weight — in a more concentrated fashion, perhaps, than ever before, and in a matter of days. And he addressed a political vulnerability in his indisputable quest to emerge as a key leader in the Republican Party, if not become his party's 2016 presidential nominee.

"There is a plan" for losing weight, Christie acknowledged, adding: "Whether it's successful or not, you'll all be able to notice."

He has never publicly revealed his weight.

Ringleader, family members face sentencing for beard-cutting attacks on fellow Amish in Ohio

CLEVELAND (AP) — Prosecutors hope the ringleader of beard- and hair-cutting attacks on fellow Amish will receive a life prison term Friday when he's sentenced in a case that shed unwelcome light on discipline and dissent in a community that tries to stay apart from modern culture.

The ringleader, Samuel Mullet Sr., and 15 members of his extended family face sentencing in U.S. District Court and could receive more than 10 years in prison.

The 10 men and six women were convicted last year in five attacks in Amish communities in northeast and eastern Ohio in 2011.

The government says the attacks were retaliation against Amish who had defied or denounced Mullet's authoritarian style. The 67-year-old Mullet called it an internal faith matter that didn't rise to a hate crime.

Mullet's attorney asked for a sentence of two years or less.

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News in brief

Dewhurst campaign: Aide stole at least \$1 million

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The dollar figures at issue in Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst's Senate campaign fund embezzlement case continue to grow — and so does the investigation of the allegations.

Documents Dewhurst's attorneys recently submitted to the Federal Election Commission accuse Kenneth Barfield of taking for his own use at least \$1 million from the Republican lieutenant governor's 2012 U.S. Senate campaign, which Barfield managed. Furthermore, the campaign submitted 11 amended campaign finance reports covering the last five years. They list far fewer contributions previously thought made to his state campaign account, contributions the campaigns said in a letter "which did not actually occur." The deletions range from about \$600,000 to \$1.3 million.

The campaign letter to the FEC also said the Dewhurst Senate campaign account owes money to his state political account for consulting services in possible violation of federal campaign finance laws.

The Justice Department has joined the Travis County district attorney's office investigation of Barfield. The investigation of the federal campaign account has been ongoing since an accountant found problems in the state campaign account and showed Barfield using Senate campaign funds for "his own personal gain," said Rob Johnson, spokesman for Dewhurst's 2012 Senate campaign.

"This is a serious and unfortunate situation, and our attorneys have turned the matter over to the U.S. Justice Department and Federal Election Commission," he said. "The federal campaign is fully cooperating with both agencies in their investigation of this matter, and we look forward to the resolution of this matter."

No listed telephone number for Barfield is found, but The Dallas Morning News reports he declined to comment.

Barfield has not been charged with any crime. He had been Dewhurst's campaign manager since 2008, two years before Dewhurst ran for his third term as lieutenant governor.

Mexico traveler pleads guilty in Houston drug case

HOUSTON (AP) — A 21-year-old airline passenger from Mexico caught in Texas with nearly 4 pounds of heroin in her suitcases has pleaded guilty in an international drug smuggling case.

Prosecutors in Houston say Yessica Chanel Cabanillas-Torres of Sonora, Mexico, pleaded guilty Thursday afternoon to conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute heroin. She faces up to life in prison and a \$10 million fine during sentencing in May.

Investigators say Cabanillas-Torres claimed to be a law school student when she was arrested last October at Houston's George Bush Intercontinental Airport. She arrived on a United Airlines flight from Quito, Ecuador, and was then heading to Newark, N.J.

Cabanillas-Torres said she received \$4,000 to transport two suitcases to Newark to an unidentified contact. The heroin was hidden in the walls of the bags.

Bush family emails, photos apparently hacked

HOUSTON (AP) — A hacker apparently accessed private photos and emails sent between members of the Bush Family, including both former presidents, and a spokesman for George H.W. Bush said a criminal investigation is under way.

The Smoking Gun website said the hacker, who went by the online moniker "Guccifer," gained access to emails, photos, private telephone numbers and addresses of Bush family members and friends.

The website displayed photos it said came from the hacker, including one that purported to show the elder Bush during his recent near-two-month stay in a Houston hospital where the 88-year-old was treated for complications arising from a bronchial infection.

The authenticity of the photos and other details on the website could not immediately be confirmed. A

spokesman for former President George H.W. Bush declined to comment on the reports.

"There's a criminal investigation and, as such, there's nothing else we can say," Jim McGrath told The Associated Press Friday.

The FBI in Houston was similarly tight-lipped.

"We do not confirm or deny the existence of any investigation," Houston FBI spokeswoman Shauna Dunlap said Friday.

Freddy Ford, a spokesman for former President George W. Bush, did not immediately respond to messages seeking comment by The Associated Press.

Ex-Texas school mechanic gets prison for porn

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — An ex-mechanic with a West Texas school district has been sentenced to six years in prison after investigators found nearly 140,000 child pornography images at his home.

A federal judge in El Paso on Thursday sentenced 46-year-old Jose Miranda. The former El Paso Independent School District mechanic pleaded guilty in October to receipt and possession of material involving the sexual exploitation of children.

Investigators last May searched Miranda's residence. Authorities recovered computers and equipment that yielded more than 5,300 videos and about 133,000 images of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

Prosecutors say Miranda also faces paying an undetermined amount of restitution to the victims portrayed in the videos. A judge is expected to rule on restitution in about a month.

El Paso trustees appeal removal from school board

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Two West Texas legislators have testified in favor of the state's removal of trustees from a district mired in a testing scandal that sent an educator to prison.

A state hearing officer in Austin is expected to rule March 6 on an appeal by El Paso Independent School Board members.

Sen. Jose Rodriguez and Rep. Marisa Marquez spoke Thursday in support of Education Commissioner Michael Williams. Williams in 2012 named a conservator to oversee the district and appointed a board of managers to replace the trustees.

EPISD attorney Tony Safi says trustees cooperated when the Texas Education Agency lowered the district's status to accredited-probation.

Written closing arguments are due Feb. 19.

Ex-superintendent Lorenzo Garcia pleaded guilty to fraud and was sentenced last fall to more than three years in prison.

North Texas man sentenced to life for sex assaults

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — A jury has sentenced a North Texas man to life in prison for repeatedly molesting as many as eight girls.

The Fort Worth Star-Telegram reports Gregg Wesley MacIntosh's victims ranged in age from 5 to 12.

A state district court jury convicted the 42-year-old MacIntosh on Thursday of continuous sexual assault of children. The jury sentenced him shortly afterward to the maximum penalty allowable. He is not eligible for parole.

The victims were either relatives, friends of relatives, or the children of women the Arlington man dated.

Soldier's widow, stepson charged in '77 slaying

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — West Texas investigators say they've solved the 35-year-old slaying of an Army Green Beret with the arrest of his widow and stepson on murder charges in the death.

An El Paso County

Sheriff's Office statement Thursday says 74-year-old Lisbeth Garrett was arrested in El Paso and charged in the 1977 death of her estranged husband, Army Maj. Chester Garrett. His stepson, 54-year-old Roger Evan Garrett, was arrested in Knoxville, Tenn. Both have \$5 million bonds.

The 35-year-old major's bloody body was found in the back seat of his 1972 Volkswagen in the desert east of El Paso. Investigators say he'd been stabbed 10 times but died of a skull fracture.

2 accused of immigrant smuggling after fatal wreck

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Two men have been charged in a fatal attempt at smuggling suspected illegal immigrants into the country that ended when the vehicle containing their human cargo plunged into a stock pond, drowning three men.

A Justice Department statement Thursday says 31-year-old Javier Silva-Morales of Monterrey, Mexico and 25-year-old Jose Abram Lopez-Lozano of Michoacan, Mexico, could face life imprisonment if convicted of the charges. Federal records show no attorneys for the pair.

During a court hearing in San Antonio, a federal magistrate ordered the men detained pending bail and preliminary hearings later this month.

State: Shut troubled Houston-area school district

HOUSTON (AP) — The state's top education official has renewed a demand that a troubled Houston-area school district close and be absorbed by the neighboring Houston school district.

On Thursday, Education Commissioner Michael Williams renewed the order given a year ago by predecessor Robert Scott to close the 6,000-student North Forest school district. Scott had given the district a one-year reprieve.

The order, which takes effect July 1, now goes to Texas Education Agency Chief Deputy Lizzette Gonzalez-Reynolds, whom Scott had entrusted with the final decision. The Justice Department also must approve the merger.

sudoku

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

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

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sudoku

ANSWERS

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

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By Steve Becker

Bidding Quiz

You are South, and the bidding has gone:

West North East South
1♥ Dble Redble ?

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

- ♠952 ♥874 ♦63 ♣KJ962
- ♠Q864 ♥97632 ♦74 ♣85
- ♠J73 ♥105 ♦Q852 ♣Q974
- ♠QJ543 ♥A72 ♦10983 ♣6
- ♠J65 ♥QJ93 ♦Q95 ♣J32
- ♠QJ98742 ♥10 ♦J84 ♣83

1. **Two clubs.** Partner's takeout double has asked you to choose one of the three unbid suits, but after East's redouble, you do not have to say anything since partner has another chance to bid. However, in this situation a pass by you would imply that you had no real preference for any of the three suits. For this reason, you should bid two clubs at this point because it's the only one of the three suits that you can tolerate. Also, the two-club bid might help your partner find the best opening lead.

2. **One spade.** This is the same idea as in the previous problem. If you were to pass, you'd run the risk that partner might bid two clubs or

two diamonds. You bid spades now to try to keep partner out of trouble.

3. **Pass.** This time you should let your partner select the suit, since you have at least moderate support for any suit he chooses.

4. **Two spades.** The jump-response indicates that you're bidding from strength and not from fright. It indicates a mild interest in game but is not forcing.

5. **One notrump.** This is not a weakness bid — in general, you don't answer a takeout double with one notrump when you hold a weak hand. The purpose of the notrump call is to advise partner that you have a balanced hand with one or two heart stoppers, as well as a smattering of other values.

6. **Three spades.** This is a pre-emptive bid, pure and simple. The primary purpose of the three-spade response is to cramp the opponents' bidding in the hope that you can prevent them from getting to their best contract. At the same time, it might induce partner to bid four spades — either as a sacrifice against four hearts or as a genuine attempt to make game.

Tomorrow: On the horns of a dilemma.

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Howard College point guard Rico Richardson scores on a fast break layup during Thursday's 105-84 road win over Clarendon College. The Lady Hawks also scored a victory. Both teams will return to action at home Saturday against South Plains College.

Howard College hoop teams roll past Clarendon

By **BRIAN MCCORMACK**
Sports Editor

CLARENDON — The Lady Hawks came away with a 66-50 road win against Clarendon College in what Head Coach Earl referred to as “a pivotal game”.

“I was really impressed with the way we came out and played,” Diddle said of his squad’s performance. “They played well defensively and really had no mental lapses even though Clarendon is a tough team to play against. They are very unorthodox.”

HC led the Lady Bulldogs by 12 at the halfway mark, who pulled within eight in the second half of play, but couldn’t complete the rally and fell short in the final minutes of play.

“It was a good game for us,” Diddle said. “We have played well for almost 25 games. We have lost some games that came down to one possession and it’s been tough, but I believe we are a better team now.”

South Plains College — which defeated the Lady Hawks just over a month ago by three points — will be the Lady Hawks’ next test, as they have a short turnaround before welcoming SPC on Saturday at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

“We lost by three in a tough game to South Plains,” Diddle added. “It was a game we were up by six or seven points, but we couldn’t close the game. We are prepared to do a better job tomorrow defensively and passing the ball. We’re excited.”

Following the women’s game against SPC, which begins at 1 p.m., will be the final Hawk Buddies event of the season as well.

Enrollees in the Howard College and Wells Fargo sponsored Hawk Buddies

Camp will be honored receive souvenirs for their participation.

Hawk Buddies is also extended to the general public Saturday, with the Lady Hawks basketball team and cheerleaders signing autographs and posing for pictures for anyone attendee who wishes to meet the Howard College lady hoopsters.

CLARENDON — It was all Hawks on Thursday as Howard College closed out a four-game road trek with a 105-84 rout of Clarendon College.

The victory game HC the season sweep of their conference foes, but despite the lopsided score, Head Coach Mark Adams called the game a “roller coaster ride”.

“When you play Clarendon in that small gym, you feel like you are playing 6-on-5,” Adams said. “It’s a great atmosphere and they have a lot of student body support, so it makes it intense.”

Though the Bulldogs were able to reduce the Hawks’ lead to seven points, HC turned up the heat in the final minutes of action.

“We shot the ball well,” Adams explained. “As well as we have all year. We shot 68 percent of our field goals.”

Cameron Forte continued to account for a good chunk of the Hawks’ offense, putting up 30 points. Adams also credited DeShawn Wiggins, Phillip Miller and Rico Richardson for their play Thursday.

“They did a good job,” Adams said. “(Richardson) did a good job of running the team in that environment. He played very mature.”

See **HAWKS**, Page 15

Area Sports Calendar

TODAY

Baseball

- Howard College vs. Navarro, noon, San Jacinto tournament, Houston.
- Howard College vs. San Jacinto, 6 p.m., San Jacinto tournament, Houston.

Girl’s Basketball

- Big Spring vs. Sweetwater at San Angelo Lake View (to determine third D4-A playoff seed), 6:30 p.m.

Boy’s Basketball

- Sweetwater at Big Spring, 7:30 p.m., Steer Gym.
- Forsan at Smyer, 6:30 p.m.
- Coahoma at Brownfield, 6:30 p.m.
- Stanton at Denver City, 6:30 p.m.
- Grady at Sands, 6:30 p.m.
- Garden City at Sterling City, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday

Baseball

- Howard College vs. Navarro, 11 a.m., San Jacinto tournament, Houston.

Women’s Basketball

- South Plains College at Howard College, 1 p.m., Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Men’s Basketball

- South Plains College at Howard College, 3 p.m., Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Texas athletics mired in unusually difficult times

By **JIM VERTUNO**

AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN, Texas — Texas, the behemoth of the Big 12, is in a serious funk.

The wealthiest athletic program in the country, the one with its own television network and some of the finest facilities around, has struggled on the field and been embarrassed by recent revelations of coaches having inappropriate relationships with students. Fans are calling for changes on the sideline and in the administration.

Even Red McCombs, the billionaire donor whose name is on the north end of the football stadium, said Texas seems to be stumbling along.

“I think it has been hospitalized,” McCombs said. “But it has been released and we are on the mend. It might take another year, but we are on our way.”

The “getting better” message is echoed by athletic director DeLoss Dodds, who remains steadfast in his support of longtime football and basketball coaches Mack Brown and Rick Barnes.

“It’s patience and doing the right things. Keep people in place who are good at what they do and that’s what we’ve done,” Dodds said. “You go through

these times and if you’ve got good people they make it work. Good things will happen ... Continuity is huge. Having a person who does it the right way is huge. Having a person who cares about kids is huge.”

There have been a few bright spots. The volleyball and men’s golf teams won the 2012 national championships.

But lighting the campus tower orange to celebrate those accomplishments does little to offset the frustration brewing over the underachieving football and basketball teams.

The football program has struggled since the first quarter of the 2010 BCS national championship game when Heisman Trophy finalist Colt McCoy was injured on the first drive and Texas went on to lose to Alabama.

Texas is just 22-16 overall and 11-15 in the Big 12 the last three seasons. Consecutive blowout losses to rival Oklahoma fanned the flames of discontent. Brown, who won the 2005 national championship and was chasing two more in 2008-2009, now faces an irritable fan base.

“Football is fine,” Dodds said, calling last season’s 9-4 finish “the end of the world to some folks but it’s not the end of the

world. You’ve got to go through some downs to enjoy the ups. Now, we don’t want to have a lot of them. But 9-4 is pretty good, about where I thought we’d be. I think next year looks a lot better ... back to our standards.”

And what is that standard?

“In football, you want to win them all,” Dodds said. “In basketball, you want to go deep in the (NCAA) tournament.”

Pleas for patience wear thin for fans like Marion Trapolino, a Texas graduate who’s had football season tickets for nearly 10 years and donates more than \$1,000 annually to the Longhorn Foundation.

“I know how much money the Texas program has, the kind of facilities it has and the quality of recruits we get,” Trapolino said. “There’s something else that’s missing. And the only other thing you can think of is coaching.”

Dodds cautioned those who want coaches fired with the example of Tennessee, which won the 1998 football national championship. Since firing Philip Fulmer in 2008, the Volunteers are on their third head coach and the program is swimming in debt reported to be at \$200 million.

See **ATHLETICS**, Page 15

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Cosmic Question: Are You Smarter than an Elephant?

In India, owners of baby elephants leash them to trees. The elephant accepts this restriction so fully that even after it has grown to full size and could uproot the tree with one good tug, he stays put. If you are accepting a limitation that is no longer real, the alignment of Mercury, Mars and Neptune will now awaken you to your true power.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll be thinking about the big themes: who you are, why you're here, your contribution to mankind, etc. The time you spend pondering this will raise your awareness whether or not you come up with any answers.

TAURUS (April 20-May

20). It's as though you have something written on your heart that has always been there, but you were too outwardly focused to realize it. Today's inward focus will allow you to finally read the inscription.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You sometimes feel like your imagination is in limited supply, but that's not true. The real deal is that you're not inspired. You need influences, bits of beauty you can cull from. It's not an indulgence; it's a necessity.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The spiritual laws that govern your life now will seem to have a solid structure that's as logical as math. For instance, a series of small thoughts add up to a small life, and a series of big thoughts add up to a big life.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You don't have to be in the same room with people to get to know them well, but it helps. Arrange for an in-person meeting whenever

possible because you'll get an entirely different level of knowledge that way.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your success secret today is to focus on the play-by-play motions of a task. As you tend to the process and techniques involved, the results take care of themselves.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). One mistake is all it takes to earn a bad reputation, but it takes hundreds of right moves to earn a good one. Go slowly with today's work. Check and double-check yourself. Take all the time you need to get it right.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There are times when you get what you want because you executed each necessary step well. And then there are times when you skip steps and magically still get what you want. The first way is better because it can be repeated.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The game of love is never static. You

strive for graceful moves, getting close enough to dance but leaving space in all the right places so you don't step on anyone's toes.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Leave room for others to help you or for the universe at large to grace you with serendipity. The element of chance favors you with an even better outcome than the one you hoped for.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There's someone you want to get to know better, but the occasion hasn't presented itself yet. This isn't something to force. You'll sense when the timing is right, and your experience will be sweeter for the wait.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Thank goodness no one has held you to what you said you wanted at 8 years old. And you'll have compassion for the one who is making declarations he or she is sure to someday regret.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 8). A playful mood

prevails. For most of the year, life will seem like a grand exploration or an interesting experiment. This month you'll stumble upon a better way of getting an important job finished. In March and April, your personal life brims with intrigue. June brings a health breakthrough; July, a reunion. Capricorn and Libra people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 3, 33, 39 and 13.

WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST: **ARIES:** You can't like someone else if you don't like yourself. So any time you spend getting to know and accept yourself will also make you more desirable to others. **TAURUS:** You'll be attracted to the one who doesn't seem to care what you think. **GEMINI:** Just because something is on your mind doesn't mean you should talk about it. Timing is everything. **CANCER:** If you can disagree nicely, the difference of opinion will actually make a

relationship stronger. **LEO:** For the sake of teamwork, make decisions together even if it seems unnecessary to do so. **VIRGO:** You focus on a loved one's positive qualities, and the list keeps growing. **LIBRA:** People who look confident may be bluffing. Remember that everyone is vulnerable in some way. **SCORPIO:** You'll be asked the question you've been waiting to hear. **SAGITTARIUS:** You don't need much from a loved one, but what you do need is absolutely essential, so make sure you get it. **CAPRICORN:** Attraction is a complex phenomenon that is largely but not completely out of your control. You'll game the system by making yourself irresistible. **AQUARIUS:** This is your moment. Soak it all in. **PISCES:** Love makes anything possible.

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Dear Margo: A brother becomes distant

Dear Margo: I have a brother in the Midwest. I live on the West Coast. I always thought we were close, and I accepted the gradual distancing as normal after my brother married. Well, he just called and told me he would be flying down to a city three hours from where I live but will not be coming to visit me (or my husband and child). I am upset that a brother with whom I was previously close is flying across the country to visit a big city three hours away from where I live, but is not willing to drive three hours to visit his sibling and her family. I cannot drive up to meet him and his wife because my child is ill.

After this conversation, I realized I could no longer depend on my brother to behave as family and would need to extend my boundaries and create my own family. My husband and I are introverts and do not socialize much. My husband is religious but does not attend church, as I do not, so we don't have much chance of meeting people that way. What, if anything, can we do to start making our own "family" and become a part of the community

where we live? Please help. — R.

Dear R.: It's too bad your brother doesn't follow my rule: When I go to another city, I don't call people if I have no time to see them. What is the point? I understand your hurt feelings, but it's better to know where you stand — and there is the slim possibility that he may, at some future date, try to reinstate some of the previous closeness. As for your getting out and about, I suggest you and your spouse make an effort to modify your introversion. Join a civic group or a charity, or become active in your child's school.

There are myriad things to do involving other people. I'm sure, if you make an effort, you and your husband will find comfortable people with whom to build friendships. And I am a firm believer in a saying attributed to Hugh Kingsmill: "Friends are God's apology for relations." — Margo, hopefully

Are Thank-You Notes Necessary?

Dear Margo: I well know that one doesn't give gifts expecting gratitude, but do you think an acknowledgment

is too much to ask? My grandchildren happily accept the checks and gifts I select for them, and I never hear a word. I have to ask my daughter-in-law whether my gifts arrived. I am considering a drastic measure: Stop sending anything. Then maybe they'll get the hint. These kids aren't toddlers, by the way. They are 9, 12 and 13. What is your opinion on the issue of writing thank-you notes? — Granny Bea

Dear Gran: My opinion is my mother's, as I suspect is the case with most people (not my mother's, their mother's). My teacher/parent/mom was no-nonsense on thank-you notes, and my kids caught on quickly, once they were old enough to write, that no acknowledgment meant no future gift. My mother made that plain.

I believe that if kids aren't taught to say "thank you" to someone who has taken the time and trouble to send a present, they will do the same as adults and run the risk of being written off as social clods. I do think this is the parents' responsibility, and I wouldn't be too shy to tell your d-i-l that it is

considered good manners to write a thank-you note. (Even an email, these days, will do. I draw the line at texts.) I will even make the radical suggestion that you get out of the gift-giving business if your prompt

is not taken to heart. — Margo, correctly

Dear Margo is written by Margo Howard, Ann Landers' daughter. All letters must be sent via the online form at www.creators.com/dearmargo. Due to a high volume of e-mail, not all letters will be answered.

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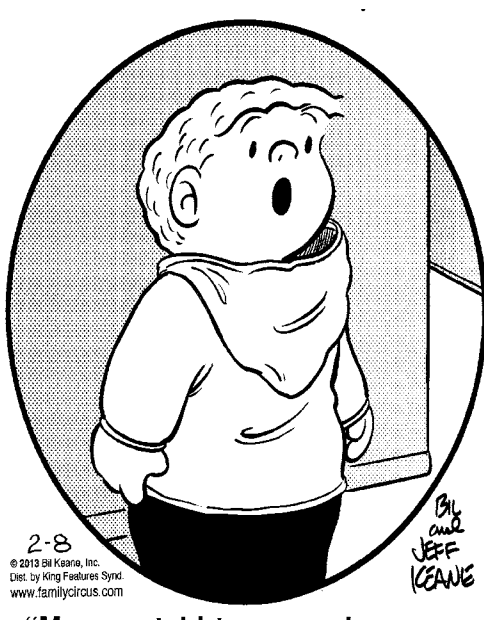

Table with 20 columns (KMID, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLT, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, KWWT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN) and 24 rows of TV listings.

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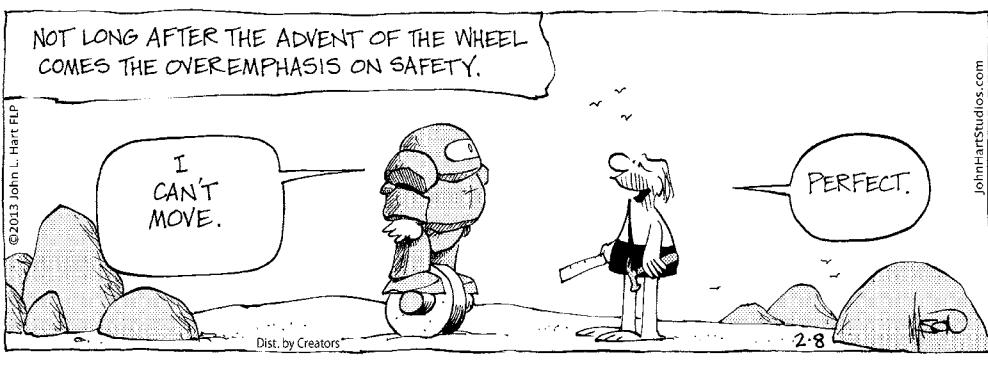
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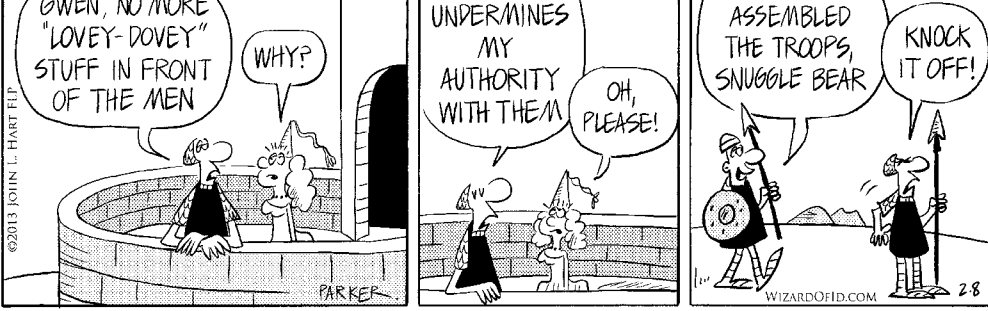
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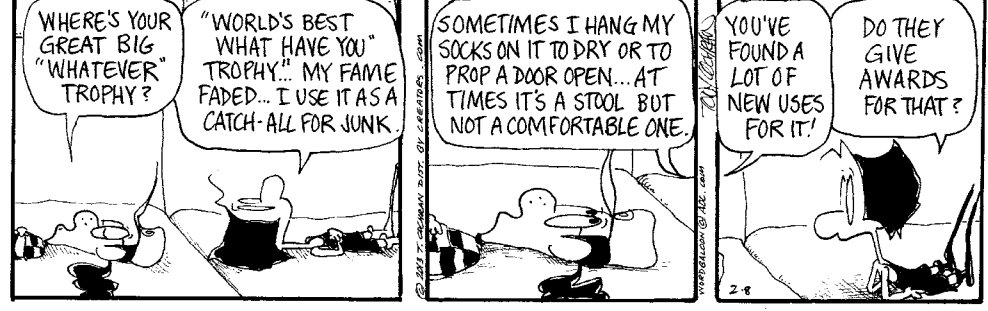
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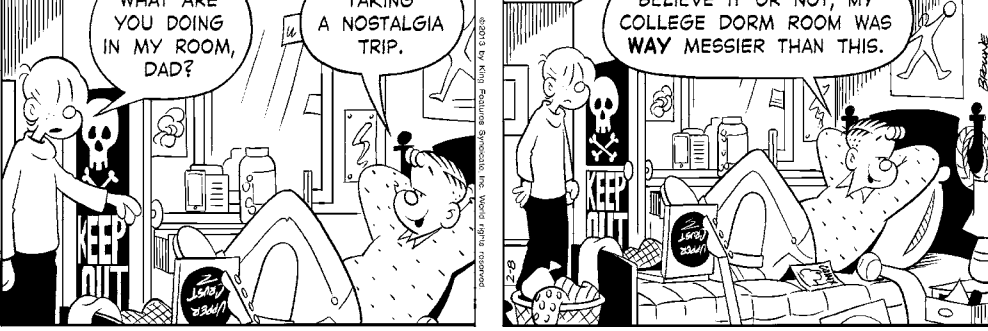
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AGNES



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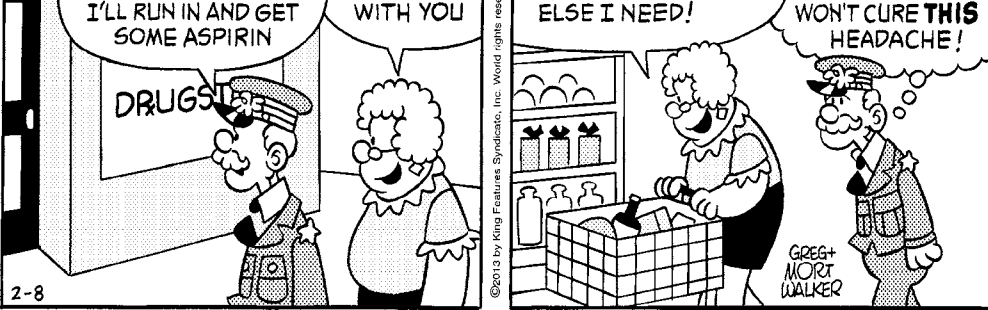
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BETLE BAILEY



I HAVE A HEADACHE... I'LL RUN IN AND GET SOME ASPIRIN

This Date In History

Today is Friday, Feb. 8, the 39th day of 2013. There are 326 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Feb. 8, 1973, Senate leaders named seven members of a select committee to investigate the Watergate scandal...

In 1910, the Boy Scouts of America was incorporated. In 1922, President Warren G. Harding had a radio installed in the White House. In 1942, during World War II, Japanese forces began invading Singapore...

"unscientific demonstration.") Today's Birthdays: Composer-conductor John Williams is 81. Newscaster Ted Koppel is 73. Actor Nick Nolte is 72. Comedian Robert Klein is 71...

Newsday Crossword

VOWEL FOURSOMES by Lonnie Burton

- ACROSS 1 Approved of 4 Keats and Shelley 10 Fully up to it 14 PlayStation alternative 15 Cross of Desperate Housewives 16 Nureyev negative 17 Bred 19 Mrs. Will Smith 20 Sixth-century midpoint 21 Appends 23 Actor Kinnear 25 Turbulent 29 Fax glitch, for short 31 According to 32 30 Rock inspiration, for short 33 Box once used by printers 35 End of a kindergarten song 37 Two-hulled craft 40 Hyannis entrée 43 On a losing streak 47 Leaves in cups 48 Chanter's syllables 51 Argentine affirmative 52 Self-propulsion 55 What awakenings may be 56 Less lopsided 57 Dupont, in DC 58 Stand up to 60 Prepare for use, as a disk drive

- 11 Just barely 12 Flashlight bulb successor: Abbr. 13 Letter resembling H 18 Painter from Crete 22 Flows copiously 23 "Outta here!" 24 Pop artist 25 Lichtenstein 26 Bear in the sky 27 Cycle starter 28 Road warning 30 Former Indianapolis stadium 34 Printer's widths 36 Endangered 38 To boot 39 Destruction 40 NL Central team 41 Organization chart topper 42 Pit-crew "patient" 44 Accustoming (to) 45 Show approval 46 College sr.'s test 49 One of California's Santas 50 Transcription pros 53 Apparent 54 From Galway 57 Normandy city 58 FM station regulator 59 Light-dawning cry 61 Quirky habit 62 Pig-poke filler 63 Chaotic situation 64 911 responder

Crossword grid with numbers 1-70.

Super Bowl outage traced to faulty device

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The Superdome's power company took the blame Friday for the Super Bowl blackout, saying the cause was a faulty device that had been installed in its switching gear and designed to prevent a failure of electric cables leading to the stadium.

Officials of Entergy New Orleans, a subsidiary of New Orleans-based Entergy Corp., said the device, called a relay, had been installed to protect the Superdome from a cable failure between the company's incoming power line and lines that run into the stadium.

Company officials said the device performed without problem during January's Sugar Bowl and other earlier events.

They said the device has been removed and replacement equipment will be installed.

The power failure at Sunday's big game cut lights to about half of the stadium for 34 minutes,

halting play between the Baltimore Ravens and San Francisco 49ers.

Officials of the power company and the company that manages the stadium for the state had said earlier this week that they believed the problem originated in the switching gear, which is housed in a building known as "the vault" near the stadium.

The Superdome has a direct line feeding from a nearby Entergy power substation. Once the line reaches the vault, it splits into two cables that then go into the Superdome.

The FBI had ruled out cyberterrorism as a cause.

The announcement came as Entergy officials prepared to go before a committee of the City Council on Friday for questions about the outage. The council is the regulatory body for the company.

SMG and Entergy announced earlier this week that they had

been unable to find a specific cause for the outage and would hire an independent consultant. It wasn't immediately clear whether they would go through with the hiring.

The electrical equipment had been replaced after stadium manager's expressed concerns the Superdome might be vulnerable to a power failure like the one that struck Candlestick Park during a 49ers Monday Night Football game in 2011.

City officials had worried that the outage might harm New Orleans' chances of getting another Super Bowl.

But NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell downplayed that possibility after the outage, saying the NFL planned to keep New Orleans in its Super Bowl plans.

Mayor Mitch Landrieu said the city intends to bid for the NFL's 2018 championship game.

Ex-LSU QBs Perrilloux, Booty will appear in MLB reality TV show

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Two former LSU quarterbacks, Ryan Perrilloux and Josh Booty, will compete with three other former Division I quarterbacks in "The Next Knuckler."

The Times-Picayune reports David Greene of Georgia, Doug Flutie of Boston College and Booty's brother, John David, who played at USC, will each vie to see who can learn and throw the best knuckleball and win an invitation to the Arizona Diamondbacks' spring training camp.

The show premieres

on MLB Network Feb. 13 at 8 p.m. CST.

The show is the first-ever reality series produced by Major League Baseball and will be hosted by baseball analyst Kevin Millar and former All-Star knuckleballer Tim Wakefield, who pitched for the Pittsburgh Pirates and the Boston Red Sox.

Booty played minor league baseball in the Florida Marlins organization straight out of high school before giving it up to play football at LSU in 1999-2000. Perrilloux played high school baseball at East St. John.

TCU's Green fulfills dream with first Big 12 win over 5th ranked Kansas

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Garlon Green dreamed of a victory over Kansas long before he played for TCU.

It's hard to think that the Horned Frogs senior forward or anyone else could have ever imagined his dream being fulfilled like this. The fifth-ranked Jayhawks certainly didn't.

Big 12 newcomer TCU was still looking for its first conference victory and there were some who wondered if the Frogs, who have lost three key players to season-ending injuries, could go 0-18 in the league. On Wednesday night, here came the Jayhawks, the bullies of the Big 12, the team that has won 12 of 16 regular-season league titles. They were coming off a rare home loss and riding a seven-year streak without consecutive losses.

Blowout city, right?

The Frogs stunned everyone by sticking Kansas with its largest deficit of the season, and led throughout for a 62-55 shocker and their first-ever win over a top five team.

"We come out here every day. We put our heart and soul into it every night, every morning," Green said. "I've grown up since I was 3 years old having a dream to beat Kansas or beat anybody. I've always believed in myself."

Green scored 20 points, including five in a row to thwart a potential comeback by the Jayhawks (19-3, 7-2 Big 12) after a 17-4 run got them within four points with 6:49 left — the closest they got after TCU scored the game's first eight points.

TCU (10-12, 1-8) led by as many as 16 points after halftime, but first-year coach Trent Johnson didn't feel comfortable until almost the very end of the game.

"When there was 8 seconds left on the clock and we were on the free throw line," Johnson said. "I've been in this scenario before and seen both sides of it. A lot can happen in a minute. When there was 8 seconds left on the clock and we were at the line, I said 'All right,' took a deep breath and

there we go."

A few seconds later, TCU students were swarming the Horned Frogs on the court.

The Frogs won't be the first Big 12 team since Texas A&M in 2003-04 to go winless in league play. The Aggies lost all 16 conference games that season, as Baylor did in 1998-99. A double round-robin schedule for the 10 teams added two league games last season.

Johnson previously took LSU, Stanford and Nevada to the NCAA tournament, a place the Horned Frogs haven't been since 1998. The Frogs were coming off their first winning season in seven years when he arrived for the challenge of leading them into the Big 12.

Johnson is 2-0 against Kansas. His Nevada team beat the sixth-ranked Jayhawks in December 2003. But his first season in Fort Worth has been hampered by some significant injuries.

Aaron Durley, a 6-foot-10, 270-pound freshman center who was expected

to have an early impact, tore an ACL during a non-contract drill the second week of preseason practice.

Junior forward Amric Field, the Mountain West Conference's top sixth man last year who had moved into a starting role, sustained a season-ending knee injury when his right leg buckled and he fell to the floor 12 seconds into the third game. Junior starting guard Jarvis Ray's season was ended by an injury to his left foot in his 10th game.

"I said this from day one, we need to focus on what's in the locker room," Johnson said. "The easiest things for players to do is to check it in. The easiest thing for me to do is to do my job. Come out and coach every day, not worry about what we don't have and continue to coach."

Kansas didn't score its first points against TCU until 7:17 into the game, then didn't make another field goal for another 8 minutes.

The Jayhawks were only 3-of-22 shooting before halftime.

ATHLETICS

Continued from Page 10

"People think we only care about the money. Of course we care about money. Look at Tennessee," Dodds said.

According to figures released by the university, Longhorn Foundation donations have gone up every year since 2007, with more than \$36 million last year.

But frustrating Texas fans further was the rise of long-time rival Texas A&M to national prominence in its first year in the SEC.

The Aggies, who many assumed would struggle to make the transition to college football's premiere conference, nearly turned the league upside down behind quarterback Johnny Manziel, the first freshman to win the Heisman Trophy.

That Texas tried to recruit

Manziel to play safety is just another burr in the backside for Longhorns fans who have watched quarterbacks Garrett Gilbert, David Ash and Case McCoy struggle the last three seasons.

Even McCombs brought up Manziel as a misfire.

"I'm sure they would like to have some choices to make over again," McCombs said. "We've got good players, they just weren't good enough."

Texas' struggles on the field may be hurting recruiting. The Longhorns signed 15 players Wednesday, but this year's class was notable because national recruiting experts didn't rate it among the best in the country.

Brown, long considered a dominant recruiter, was burned by several players who committed to Texas only to change their mind. Most notable was the 11th-hour defection of top-rated defensive

lineman A'shawn Robinson to Alabama.

"It may be disappointing on the day it happens, but you want people that will look you in the eye and tell you the truth and you want people that want to be at your school," Brown said.

The men's and women's basketball programs are struggling through their own downturns.

The men are just 10-12 in coach Rick Barnes 15th season and are floundering near the bottom of the Big 12. Unless the Longhorns stage a huge turnaround over the final month of the season, they appear likely to miss the NCAA tournament for the first time since 1998. The same goes for the women, who are 9-12 in a rough first season for coach Karen Aston.

While the losing irritates fans, university regents were embarrassed by revelations

that two of its most prominent coaches had inappropriate relationships with students.

In October, a former women's track athlete told school officials she had a relationship with track coach Bev Kearney in 2002. Kearney, who won six national championships with the Longhorns, was suspended in November while the claim was being investigated and resigned on Jan. 5. The school has said it was in the process of firing Kearney when she resigned.

Last week, the school and assistant football coach Major Applewhite acknowledged he had engaged in inappropriate conduct with a student during the team trip to the 2009 Fiesta Bowl. Applewhite's pay was frozen for a year and he was ordered to undergo counseling, but he also has been promoted since that incident and is now the offensive coordinator with play-calling du-

ties next season.

"In a program this big, you're going to have some bad news. You just are," Dodds said. "It's going to happen, so you need to handle it right. That's what we do. Get it out and you've got to live with it. People will react to it and you can't control how they react."

Dodds won't discuss the Kearney and Applewhite cases in detail but they may dog the program for some time. Kearney's attorney has suggested she was treated unfairly and that she may sue the university.

Trapolino said that even if things don't turn around, she'll keep going to the games and giving money.

"I'm a fan. I'm not going to stop going to games. I may voice my opinion more. If that falls on deaf ears because I give money, oh well," Trapolino said.

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HAWKS

Continued from Page 10

He's played well the past few games."

Next up for the Hawks will be conference rival South Plains College at the Doroth Garrett Coliseum on Saturday at 3 p.m.

"It's an extremely important game for both teams," Adams added. "We're all trying to make it to the regional tournament. We are road weary, we are trying to get everyone rested and healthy."

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

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