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BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 12, 2013

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Howard County commissioners discuss a recently approved road use agreement the court plans to submit to the Texas Attorney General's office for an opinion. County officials are concerned the agreement — which would help finance much needed repairs to county roads made necessary by the recent boom in the oil field — may need clarification before being implemented.

Road use fees put on hold

By THOMAS JENKINS
 Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners agreed Monday morning to submit a road use agreement recently adopted by the court to the Texas Attorney General's office in an effort to clarify how the new law will affect area oil transport and trucking companies.

The road use agreement was adopted by commissioners on a unanimous vote in late-December in an effort to help fund much-needed repairs to county roadways damaged by the increase in truck traffic generated by the recent boom in the oil field.

"The road use agreement calls for all new access entrances which intersect county roads for commercial purposes — except agricultural related industries — are requested to apply with the county for a permit before the entrance

See **ROAD**, Page 3

Trickle of filings for ISD races

By STEVE REAGAN
 Staff Writer

The pace of candidate filing for area school races continues to be slow, officials announced.

As of this morning, only four candidates — all incumbents — have filed applications with their respective school districts.

Candidate filings continue through March 1, officials said.

At Forsan ISD, Chris Evans and Tom Bill Kuykendall filed for re-election, while incumbents Daniel Ramos and

Darren Patrick will seek another term on the Stanton ISD board.

Area school districts holding elections this may include (terms are for three years unless otherwise noted):

- Big Spring ISD — Three single-member district seats are up for election this year — District 5, currently held by Chad Wash; District 6, currently held by Jeff Brorman and District 7, in which Phil Fuqueron is the incumbent.
- Application can be obtained at the BSISD business office during normal business hours Monday through Friday.

per. "They're not looking over their shoulder now — they're looking at our backside."

Perry's office said the governor will meet with leaders in the high tech, biotechnology, financial, insurance and film industries over the next few days. The trip, being paid for by a public-private marketing partnership called TexasOne, won't include any public events.

The visit follows a 30-second radio ad that began airing last week in which Perry criticized California's business climate, drawing a colorful response from Gov. Jerry Brown, a Democrat.

"Building a business is tough," Perry says in the ad, which also was paid for by TexasOne. "But I hear building a business in Cali-

See **RACES**, Page 3

Call for school debate fizzles

By WILL WEISSERT
 Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — House Democrats tried to pick a fight Monday over funding for Texas' public schools, but Republicans sidestepped the issue, saying it's too early to take action amid pending legal battles.

San Antonio Democratic Rep. Trey Martinez Fischer sought to declare funding for public education an emergency matter, thus allowing the chamber to immediately hear bills on it.

Though House reconvened Jan. 8, it isn't allowed to vote on proposed legislation for its first 60 days unless they are declared emergency items. Gov. Rick Perry and the Legislature can both designate items as emergencies.

But House Speaker Joe Straus, R-San Antonio, explained that Martinez Fischer's attempt would unleash a lengthy and complicated process that would make it unlikely to

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1 54414 79720 9

Gov. Perry pitches Texas to California businesses

By JULIET WILLIAMS
 Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Texas Gov. Rick Perry brought his brash pitch for jobs to California on Monday as he sought to lure businesses to his state with the promise of lower taxes and fewer regulations.

Perry's private meetings with business leaders in the San Francisco Bay Area weren't his first effort to tempt companies to leave the Golden State, but this three-day trip has certainly drawn more attention than previous attempts, and the failed Republican presidential candidate welcomed the spotlight.

In an interview with the San Jose Mercury News, he criticized California's regulatory environment, and said Austin, Texas, is poised to become the "next Silicon Valley."

"Twelve years ago, California wasn't looking over its shoulder," he told the newspa-

Perry

per. "They're not looking over their shoulder now — they're looking at our backside."

Perry's office said the governor will meet with leaders in the high tech, biotechnology, financial, insurance and film industries over the next few days. The trip, being paid for by a public-private marketing partnership called TexasOne, won't include any public events.

The visit follows a 30-second radio ad that began airing last week in which Perry criticized California's business climate, drawing a colorful response from Gov. Jerry Brown, a Democrat.

"Building a business is tough," Perry says in the ad, which also was paid for by TexasOne. "But I hear building a business in Cali-

See **PERRY**, Page 3

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Obituaries

Frank Lloyd Sickles



Frank Lloyd Sickles, 58, of Big Spring died Sunday, Feb. 10, 2013, in a Midland hospital. Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2013, at First Christian Church, Big Spring, with Dr. Ken McIntosh officiating.

He was born Dec. 10, 1954, in Socorro, N.M., to Lillian and George Sickles of Datil, N.M. Frank married Laura Cassady on Aug. 5,

1978. He attended New Mexico Military Institute for two years before going to Eastern New Mexico University, where he received his bachelors degree in business administration and masters degree in marketing. He and Laura moved to Texas in 1983.

He retired with Big Spring ISD and went to work at Walmart until illness prevented him from working. He was a member of the First Christian Church, where he served as an elder. Frank served as the board president of Isaiah 58, a local food pantry, which is affiliated with the First Christian Church of Big Spring.

His survivors are his wife of 34 years, Laura Sickles; two brothers, David L. Sickles and wife Linda of Albuquerque, N.M., and Mickey L. Sickles and wife Belen of Mesa, Ariz.; and seven nieces and nephews whom he loved very much.

Frank was preceded in death by his parents, Lillian and George Sickles.

The family suggests memorials be made to First Christian Church, Isaiah 58 Fund, 911 Goliad, Big Spring, Texas 79720.

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

Paid obituary

Jimmy Garrard



Jimmy Garrard, 38, of Big Spring died Sunday, Feb. 10, 2013, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Graveside services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday at Mount Olive Memorial Park with the Rev. Eddie Prince officiating.

He was born Feb. 25, 1974, in Big Spring. He was an auto mechanic, a lifetime resident of Big Spring and a member of Grace Fellowship.

He is survived by four sons, Jimmy Garrard of Big Spring, Nathan Garrard of Tulsa, Okla., and Travis Garrard and Timothy Garrard, both of Big Spring; two daughters, Amanda Garrard and Tandie Payne, both of Big Spring; mother, Frances Reagan and husband Robert of Big Spring; father, Lenard Garrard and wife Jo of Anna; nine brothers, Lynn Garrard and Mike Garrard, both of Sherman, Rick Garrard of Amarillo, Jay Haley of Marshall, J. D. Garrard of Anna, Rodney Garrard of Vernon, Danny Garrard of West Minister, J.R. Garrard of Big Spring and Calvin Garrard of Seminole; three sisters, April Haley of Mt. Pleasant, Sarah Haley of Birmingham and Brenda Lisa Perez of Del Rio; step-sister, Angela Dodd of Clyde; four grandchildren; and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

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

Jesse Perez Martinez



Services for Jesse Perez Martinez, 79, of Burnet will be held at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2013, at the Hill Country Fellowship Church with Pastor Rodney McGee officiating.

Jesse was born Sept. 14, 1933, in New Braunfels, Texas, to Samuel and Cuca Perez Martinez and died Feb. 10, 2013, at his home.

He was carpenter by trade and worked for Hoover Builders for many years.

He married Ernestina Luevano on May 27, 1952, in Big Spring, Texas.

He is survived by his wife, Tina Martinez; sons, Johnny Martinez and family, Jesse Martinez and family, Robert Martinez and family and Jimmy Martinez and family; daughters, Rosie Ornellas and family, Bea Tumlinson and family and Margie Carr and family; 20 grandchildren; and 22 great-grandchildren

He was preceded in death by his parents and grandson, Daniel Martinez.

Friends can express their condolences at edgarfh.com

Barbara Ann Eisler



Barbara Ann Eisler, 76, of Big Spring died Saturday, Feb. 9, 2013, in a local nursing home. Graveside funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2013, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park with Greg Surles officiating.

Barbara was born Oct. 27, 1936, in Hobbs, N.M., and married Gifford Robert "Bob" Eisler on June 27, 1953, in Big Spring. He preceded her in death Sept. 20, 1980.

She was a broker for Marie Rowland Real Estate. When it closed, she went to Abilene Christian University and earned a bachelor's degree in sociology.

She then began working as the Texas State Region IV Volunteer Coordinator and helped nursing homes set up volunteer programs. After retiring, she began raising Arabian horses and continued to bow hunt. She still holds the state record for the largest turkey taken with a bow and arrow.

She was a member of 11th and Birdwell Lane Church of Christ.

Survivors include one daughter, Pam Hass and husband Larry; grandsons, Robert Newton and Robert Ramsey and wife Cheyenne, all of Big Spring; one granddaughter, Sommer Topia and husband Michael of Fort Stockton; and seven great-grandchildren, Baley, Dusta and Colton White, Ryan Bradley, Gabriella and Alyssa Ramsey and Teagan Topia.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her parents, W.D. and Marie (Cates) Rowland; one daughter, Robbie Winn; one granddaughter, Lori White Beck; and one brother, Rufus Rowland.

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

Paid obituary

Kaidyn Michael Benjamin Collier

Kaidyn Michael Benjamin Collier, infant son of Jennifer Olivas, died Saturday, Feb. 9, 2013, in a local hospital. Graveside funeral services will be held at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2013, at the Coahoma Cemetery with the Rev. Elwin Collom officiating.

In addition to his mother, he is survived by two brothers, Kaleb Olivas and Kason Olivas; maternal grandparents, Mike and Leeta Collier, both of Coahoma; his maternal great-grandmother, Wanda Collier of Big Spring; and two aunts.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Jayden Nichole Olivas; and great-grandparents, O.B. and Mary Phariss and Babe Collier.

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

Police blotter

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

- DAVID EUGENE WILLIAMS, 46, of 1100 Wood, was arrested Monday on a warrant from another agency.
- STEPHEN HEATH GREGORY, 29, of 205 W. Sixth St., was arrested Monday on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- BENJAMIN VASQUEZ, 21, of Anahuac, Texas, was arrested Monday on a charge of public intoxication.
- MICHAEL STEPHEN HANSON, 24, of Laporte, Texas, was arrested Monday on a charge of public intoxication.
- ANDREA CHERMAINE WATSON, 21, of 2524 Hunter, was arrested Monday on a charge of disorderly conduct - fighting.
- ANGELA ANN MCGEE, 30, of 105 W. 24th St., was arrested Monday on a charge of disorderly conduct - fighting.
- HERLINDA INIRA DELGADO, 24, of 1401 N. Highway 87 Apt. 1804, was arrested Monday on a warrant from another agency.
- MICAH JO NICKLE, 18, of 808 S. Johnson, was arrested Monday on a warrant for consumption of alcohol by a minor.
- CALIBER FAYE VIGNEAU, 24, of 1002 N. Main St. Apt. 55, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of disorderly conduct - language.
- JANICE RODRIGUEZ, 36, of 8504 El Camino St., was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- RANDY TIMOTHY ORTEGA, 35, of 704 S. Johnson, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- THEFT was reported in the 3600 block of W. Highway 80.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 800 block of E. 14th Street.
- STOLEN VEHICLE was reported in the 1500 block of Nolan.

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 78 inmates at the time of this report.

Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Wed 2/13	Thu 2/14	Fri 2/15
59/33	61/34	66/36
Partly cloudy and windy. High 59F. Winds W at 25 to 35 mph. Winds could occasionally gust over 40 mph.	Mainly sunny. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the mid 30s.	Mainly sunny. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the mid 30s.
Sunrise: 7:31 AM	Sunrise: 7:30 AM	Sunrise: 7:29 AM
Sunset: 6:30 PM	Sunset: 6:31 PM	Sunset: 6:32 PM



Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	58	33	rain	Kingsville	79	52	t-storm
Amarillo	32	23	snow	Livingston	57	43	t-storm
Austin	72	41	t-storm	Longview	50	40	rain
Beaumont	60	49	rain	Lubbock	44	25	mixed
Brownsville	81	62	pt sunny	Lufkin	55	45	t-storm
Brownwood	64	37	rain	Midland	59	33	windy
Corpus Christi	74	52	t-storm	Raymondville	81	58	t-storm
Corsicana	51	36	rain	Rosenberg	64	46	t-storm
Dallas	52	37	rain	San Antonio	74	45	pt sunny
Del Rio	73	44	windy	San Marcos	73	41	t-storm
El Paso	53	25	sunny	Sulphur Springs	48	38	rain
Fort Stockton	60	32	windy	Sweetwater	57	34	rain
Gainesville	46	33	rain	Tyler	50	39	rain
Greenville	47	35	rain	Weatherford	49	35	rain
Houston	62	48	t-storm	Wichita Falls	45	30	rain

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	56	45	rain	Minneapolis	33	20	pt sunny
Boston	43	25	sunny	New York	41	30	mst sunny
Chicago	36	28	pt sunny	Phoenix	56	36	sunny
Dallas	52	37	rain	San Francisco	60	44	sunny
Denver	40	18	sunny	Seattle	49	46	rain
Houston	62	48	t-storm	St. Louis	49	34	cloudy
Los Angeles	65	44	sunny	Washington, DC	55	36	sunny
Miami	83	68	pt sunny				

• ANDREA CHERMAINE WATSON, 21, was booked into the county detention center Monday by the BSPD on a charge of disorderly conduct - fighting.

• ANGELA ANN MCGEE, 30, was booked into the county detention center Monday by the BSPD on a charge of disorderly conduct - fighting.

• HERLINDA INIRA DELGADO, 24, was booked into the county detention center Monday by the BSPD on an Ector County warrant for motion to revoke probation - assault causing bodily injury (family violence).

• MICAH NICKLE, 18, was booked into the county detention center Monday by the BSPD on a municipal capias warrant for minor in consumption of an alcoholic beverage.

• RANDY TIMOTHY ORTEGA, 35, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

Fire/EMS

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

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of Purdue. One person was transported to SMMC.

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

• TRAUMA was reported in the 300 block of W. Interstate Highway 20. One person was evacuated from the scene by air.

• TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported near the intersection of Sixth Street and Goliad. One person was transported to SMMC.

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NEXT CLINIC VISIT 2-14-13

Take note

• An account has been established at Citizens Credit Union to help pay medical expenses for Jodi Schlipf Baird, who is being treated for Stage 4 cancer. For more information, contact the credit union at 267-6373 or Donna Whetsel at 432-466-9744.

• 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. 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., Mon-

day through Friday and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday. For more information, contact Jamey Stegall at james.stegall@dshs.state.tx.us or 432 268-7535.

• Compass Hospice is in need of your help. If you would be interested in offering your love and God's comfort to those who are suffering, or to their families, contact Michelle Coutermarsh at 263-5999 or come by 602 S. Main.

Volunteers are needed in many categories including patient care. You may give as much or as little time as you wish. Any amount of time is greatly appreciated. Training is offered free of charge.

• Every Friday night from 7:30 p.m. until 10 p.m. is dance night at the Senior Citizen Center. The cost is \$8 per person.

PERRY

Continued from Page 1

California is next to impossible."

He added, "There are plenty of reasons Texas has been named the best state for doing business for eight years running."

The spot ran on six radio stations in the San Francisco, Sacramento, Los Angeles, Inland Empire and San Diego media markets.

Brown last week dismissed Perry's \$24,000 in radio ads as a cheap gimmick. He said California has been adding more jobs than any other state. Non-farm payrolls increased by nearly 226,000 jobs in 2012.

He also wondered whether Perry might have a change of heart after arriving.

"A lot of these Texans, they come here, they don't go back," he told reporters. "Who would want to spend their summers in 110-degree heat inside some kind of a fossil-fueled air conditioner? Not a smart way to go."

Perry arrived in California just months after voters approved higher income taxes on the wealthy and a quarter-cent increase in the statewide sales tax, adding to its perception as a high-tax state. California's complex environmental laws have been blamed for long delays in new construction projects, whereas Texas has no such laws and also no income tax.

This isn't Perry's first such California trip, as Brown's 2010 Republican challenger Meg Whitman noted during

the campaign, saying the Texas governor enjoyed regular hunting trips to the state and that his prey was jobs. Perry, for his part, has joked that California is a "target-rich environment."

Still, some business leaders said Perry may have a difficult time persuading companies to leave, particularly in the talent-rich Silicon Valley, known for technological innovation. Perry has declined to name any of the businesses he is targeting.

Kim Polese, chairwoman of financial services company Clear-Street Inc., and former chief executive of software company Spike-Source, said she is glad Perry is spotlighting the issue of California's competitiveness and the need for changes to its

regulations.

"But the startup world is thriving here in the valley," she said, adding that startups are more concerned with issues such as crowd funding and a ready workforce than taxes and regulations.

Other governors also have engaged in high-profile ploys to try to lure companies and jobs away from states that are perceived as less friendly to business, though it's unclear how successful those efforts have been.

Governors of several states sensed an opportunity in Illinois in 2011 after the state's income tax went up. The group included New Jersey Republican Gov. Chris Christie, who flew in to meet with business leaders.

And Perry isn't the

only big shot to visit California this week. South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard, a fellow Republican, is attending the World Ag Expo in Tulare, Calif., to recruit dairy operators in an effort to double his state's herd of about 92,000 dairy cows.

Daugaard's office also recently ran radio commercials and print ads in Minnesota trying to lure businesses across the border. Not to be outdone, Wisconsin also has targeted Minnesota with signs posted along the state line that read, "Open for Business."

Perry also will visit Los Angeles and Orange County on his trip.

Since his unsuccessful presidential run, Perry has kept mum on his political future. He faces re-election in 2014 and has said he'll make

a decision after the Texas Legislature adjourns this summer.

Perry hasn't ruled out another shot at the White House or running to remain the nation's longest-serving governor. But seeking a fourth full term in Texas might not be a cinch, although Democrats aren't likely to mount a serious challenge for governor in 2014, Perry could face a stiff primary battle from the state's popular and well-funded attorney general.

RACES

Continued from Page 1

office.

• Stanton ISD — Two single-member seats will be decided — District 1, in which Ramos is the incumbent, and District 5, currently held by Patrick. Prospective candidates can pick up applications at the superintendent's office during normal business hours.

• Sands CISD — At-large seats held by Michelle Zant and Jody Howard will be decided. Also, a special election will be held to fill the remaining two years of the at-large seat which was held by Bill Barnes before his recent resignation. Applications can be obtained at the district's business office.

DEBATE

Continued from Page 1

succeed. So Martinez Fischer settled for asking the House's chief budget writer, Appropriation Committee Chairman and Waxahachie Republican Jim Pitts, questions about how a future debate on school funding might shape up.

Facing a \$27 billion shortfall sparked by a still-sluggish economy,

the Legislature voted in 2011 to cut \$5.4 billion from public schools and educational grant programs, even though the state's booming population means enrollment is growing by about 80,000 students annually.

More than 600 school districts responsible for educating three-quarters of the state's 5 million-plus public school children sued, claiming the way Texas now funds its schools violates

state constitutional guarantees for an equitable and adequate educational system. The sweeping case concluded last week with District Court Judge John Dietz ruling in the districts' favor, finding the system fails to provide sufficient resources, and doesn't distribute them equally.

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott can now appeal the case, either directly to the Texas Supreme Court or through a more lengthy

process that could end with the state's highest court.

If the courts ultimately side with the school districts, it will be up to the Legislature to overhaul how Texas funds education. But a high court ruling isn't likely to come until 2014 — meaning there's little appetite to tackle the issue in a legislative session scheduled to end in May.

With Texas' economy now booming again, many Democrats have

called for at least rolling back the 2011 cuts while lawmakers wait for the court case to run its course. That was a key motivation behind Martinez Fischer's call Monday — which was largely symbolic since Republicans hold a 95-55 majority in the House.

Pitts said he met with Abbott last week about restoring some of 2011 cuts "but the Attorney General reminded us that we only have a bare-bones ruling from the district judge."

ROAD

Continued from Page 1

is built," County Judge Mark Barr said. "The construction of the entrances must conform with county road and bridge requirements and a fee of \$4,500 shall be paid by the applicant at the time the permit is issued."

According to Barr, the commissioners court is submitting the agreement to the Texas Attorney General's office in hopes of establishing a clear scope of who it will affect and how.

"The state law in these matters isn't very clear at all," Barr said. "In fact, it's loaded with gray areas. That's why we've asked County Attorney Joshua Hamby to submit the matter to the Texas Attorney General's office for an opinion. That way, we will have a much clearer idea what we can and can't do with these road use agreements and permits."

Barr said most of the questions revolve around whether or not the county can require the trucking and transportation companies to pay to enter and exit

county roadways.

"The biggest question we're facing at this point is whether or not we can charge for these trucks to enter and exit the county roads," Barr said. "These entrances and exits need to be built to county specifications to prevent flooding and other problems from cropping up."

Barr said the road use agreement will also include permits for new oil and gas wells, with vertical wells requiring a fee of \$7,500 and horizontal wells requiring a fee of \$20,000.

"No permit is required if the sole entrance of the lease where the well is located is not accessed from a county road," Barr said. "The idea behind this road use agreement is to place a portion of the fiscal burden on the companies and corporations which are using the roads and

causing a large amount of the damage, instead of county taxpayers having to bear the entire burden."

With more than \$22 million in damages already sustained by county roads, Barr said the road use agreement is a way to place some of the financial burden on the entities causing the majority of the damage, instead of placing the full weight of the repairs on local taxpayers.

"These oil and transport companies are the ones benefitting from the boom and it only seems fair they shoulder some of the repair costs associated with the tremendous increase in truck traffic," Barr said. "Of course, these agreements won't even come close to generating fees equal to the costs, but it will certainly help."

Barr said he has spoken to a few of the oil-

field companies the road use agreements will affect, however, without a solid idea what state law will and will not allow, it's hard to figure out where everyone involved stands.

"Obviously, the county feels like the road use agreement the county commissioners passed is legal," Barr said. "The companies we've talked to have all been very congenial, however, they are in the same situation we are in. They want to know where the state law falls in all of this."

Barr said the road use agreements approved by commissioners in December haven't yet been implemented.

"We've basically put them on hold for right now," Barr said. "We want to see what the attorney general's opinion will be before we begin implementing

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ANSWERS

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

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Jimmy Garrard, 38, died Sunday. The family will receive friends from 6:00 PM until 8 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

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EDITORIAL

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

—FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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OTHER VIEWS

Set priorities for military spending

Set priorities for military spending
Congress and the White House so far have refused to make the hard choices necessary on federal spending. There is no long-term budget agreement, and Congress can't even muster the will to agree on an annual budget.

The only action, unless an 11th-hour agreement decides otherwise before March 1, will be the automatic “sequestration” cuts in spending.

Sequestration is the one thing our elected officials in Washington could agree on — but none of them like it. With good reason: It would lop off chunks of the federal budget in meat-ax fashion, using across-the-board cuts undirected by sound policymaking.

The outgoing U.S. secretary of defense, Leon Panetta, is a veteran budget expert in Washington, and in recent days he has vented about the federal government's abdication of its fiscal responsibility.

“This is no way to govern the United States of America,” he said. “Not only have they failed to come together around a big plan to reduce the deficit, they have also failed in their basic responsibility to pass appropriations bills that provide the resources and certainty needed to run the government.”

And in congressional testimony, he added: “Sequester was not designed as a mechanism that was supposed to happen. It was designed to be so nuts that everybody would do everything possible to make sure it didn't happen.”

As we've said many times, the federal government's fiscal mess is so huge that military spending must be part of any overall strategy to address it. At the same time, the Pentagon should base its spending decisions on a responsible weighing of our defense needs. It should set sound priorities, then stand up to the defenders of the status quo.

Too often, responsible priority-setting is short-circuited by a host of self-serving, nearsighted factors: Congressional pork-barreling. Parochial maneuvering by the individual service branches. Acquisition boondoggles and cost overruns.

Sequestration — which would cut defense spending by \$42 billion this year, on top of \$487 billion in 10-year cuts Panetta is already implementing — worsens the problem because, unlike Panetta's current plan, it isn't guided by priority-setting.

Michèle Flournoy, who served as undersecretary of defense for policy from 2009-12, noted in the Wall Street Journal last week that “whether or not Congress avoids sequestration by March 1, defense spending will likely be cut by at least 10 percent over the next decade.

As 20 percent of the federal budget and 50 percent of discretionary spending, it will be part of any longer-term budget deal.”

Flournoy outlined general ideas that would help keep cutbacks from undermining military effectiveness: a reduction in the military's civilian workforce (over the past decade it increased by more than 100,000); reducing the costs of military health care (it's increasing annually at 10 percent, compared with 6 percent in the nation overall); and a new round of base closings.

The Pentagon's acquisition process — no surprise — is rife for greater efficiency, she wrote: The Department of Defense “is still operating with procurement timelines unresponsive to need, perverse incentives for program managers, inadequate numbers of trained acquisition professionals and insufficient dialogue with industry.”

And U.S. Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., to his credit, continues to prod his colleagues to look at specific weapons systems for reduction or elimination.

Was there a focus on any of this during the recent Senate hearing on the nomination of former Sen. Chuck Hagel to succeed Panetta as defense secretary? No. And that's a poor reflection on the lawmakers presuming to guide national policy.

Meanwhile, the Navy just announced it will be deploying only one, rather than two, aircraft carrier groups to the Persian Gulf due to fiscal constraints. That's just one of many cutbacks that will be necessary in an era of restrained military spending.

Again, such cutbacks are not necessarily a bad thing.

But as long as our elected leaders in Congress and the White House neglect their duties to settle the big budget questions, our military is unduly burdened by that failure of leadership at the top.

— Omaha World Herald

Republicans' lost youth

Who the president is when we first come of voting age — and whether we see that president as a successful leader — strongly influences our future voting allegiances.

Take the case of Ronald Reagan, who when he first won the White House in 1980 by defeating President Jimmy Carter and third-party candidate Rep. John Anderson was at the age of 69 the oldest president ever elected. That year, Reagan and Carter split the 18-to-29-year-old vote, with Anderson, the maverick, taking 11 percent.

Four years later in 1984, when President Reagan, the sunny optimist, ran for re-election, Americans overwhelmingly believed they were better off than they had been four years earlier. Nowhere was this voter approval of the then-73-year-old incumbent more dramatic than among the nation's youngest voters, some more than half a century the Gipper's junior, who backed him over Democrat Walter Mondale by 61 percent to 39 percent.

In 1988, then-Vice President George H.W. Bush could be said to have been running for “Ronald Reagan's third term.”

Older voters who had been Reagan's strongest supporters in both 1980 and 1984 almost evenly divided between Bush and the Democratic nominee, Gov. Michael Dukakis.

Bush in winning ran sig-

nificantly stronger among the presumably more liberal, youngest voters than he did among the measurably more conservative seniors.

Fast-forward to 2012, and those formerly young Reagan voters are now almost all found in the 50-64 age cohort.

Let it be noted that, while Barack Obama did become the first U.S. president since Dwight Eisenhower, some six decades before, to twice win a majority of the popular vote, Republican Mitt Romney carried 50-to-64-year-old voters by 52 percent to 47 percent. Early voting habits die hard.

But that was then, and this is now.

The last three elections have been among young voters for the Republicans an unrelieved disaster. Even though Democrat John Kerry lost the 2004 contest to President George W. Bush, Kerry won young voters between the ages of 18 and 29 by a solid 54 percent to 45 percent.

In 2008, the Democratic ticket of Barack Obama and Joe Biden demolished the GOP team of John McCain and Sarah Palin, 66 percent to 32 percent.

The U.S. economy was certainly not booming in 2012, and too many young Americans have been struggling to jump-start their careers, but the Democratic incumbent still won a smashing landslide 60 percent among voters under the age of 30.

And continuing their learned Democratic loyalties or habit, voters between the ages of 30 and 39 soundly endorsed Obama over Romney by 55 percent to 42 percent.

We all know that Republi-

can nominees, of late, have run weakly among the growing number — now totaling 26 percent of the electorate — of Hispanic, Asian and African-American voters. In fact, in 2012, the Romney-Ryan team won less than 13 percent of this constituency. Since the election, many Republicans seem to grasp that they must support immigration reform as a first step, before they have a chance of once again becoming competitive among Hispanic and Asian voters.

But the Grand Old Party's “Lost Youth” voters cannot be addressed by any federal legislation. Unsmiling Republicans are too often seen to be on search-and-destroy missions, looking for heretics rather than seeking converts. Democrats are now younger, and Republicans are aging.

It remains true in 2013 that the typical Democrat is probably moving from her own room to her own apartment and one day hoping to have a home of her own, while the typical Republican is moving from his own home to the retirement home, on his way to the nursing home or the funeral home.

The GOP must do something soon to bridge that dangerous generational divide.

To find out more about Mark Shields and read his past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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A jolt of good societal medicine

President Obama must have been stunned at the “audacity” of Dr. Benjamin Carson in challenging his core assumptions right to his face in front of thousands of people at the National Prayer Breakfast.

Obama is not used to being challenged, especially in public, even if indirectly and without being specifically named. From the look on his face, it was obvious Obama was none too pleased with Carson's message or with his “presumptuousness” in presenting it in that forum, while he had to sit still and — remain silent.

I think we can best understand Carson's message in light of his opening statements, which laid the foundation for the thematic body of this speech.

He began citing scriptural passages that he said would put his upcoming remarks into context. Three of the passages were wisdom sayings from the book of Proverbs, admonishing that the godless destroy their neighbor with their mouths, that a man who lacks judgment derides his neighbor and that a generous man will prosper.

The final passage was God's promise in 2 Chronicles 7:14 that if his people will humble themselves and pray and seek his face and turn from their wicked ways, he will hear them, forgive their sins and heal their land.

Carson also decried the chilling effect of political correctness that makes people afraid to express certain opinions on important issues, lest they incur the wrath of society's thought and speech police — those who presume to be the guardians of all moral and acceptable opinions. He then proceeded to boldly articulate a number of ideas that clearly fall in this category of disfavored speech.

Specifically, Carson offered a ringing endorsement of America's founding principles and its

unique constitutional liberties. He decried the moral decay in our society and our government's grotesque fiscal irresponsibility.

He took aim on our ever-expanding welfare state, not only by championing hard work, self-reliance and personal responsibility but also in invoking his own personal experience as an example.

He related how his mother worked multiple jobs to provide for him and his brother and imparted critically important values to them. She made them read and improve themselves and absolutely refused to let them make excuses and claim victimhood for their plight.

Carson, I believe, was illustrating that we have a moral problem in this nation and that the instilling of good values begins in the home and is neither the responsibility nor the prerogative of a caretaker government.

He denounced the practice — refined to an art form by President Obama — of politicians employing class warfare to deride the wealthy with accusations that they don't contribute enough while treating the less fortunate as helpless and expecting no contribution from them at all.

This, I think, is where he was dovetailing the scriptural texts warning against deriding one's neighbor. He was saying, in effect, that political demagogues who pit people against one another on the basis of income and wealth harm society, including the very people they pretend to help.

In a television interview, Carson expanded on some of these thoughts, explaining that the Founding Fathers were afraid of an out-of-control government that would “get to the point where it couldn't subsist without taking everything from the people.”

Next, he linked, though not expressly, the scriptural passage on generosity in challenging today's conventional wisdom that the wealthy are necessarily greedy. He pointed to the remarkable generosity of some of America's historically wealthy-

est individuals. America, he said, “has always been a very generous nation. Look at all the foundations that have been created for the purpose of taking care of people.”

He also expounded on his comments on political correctness, apparently criticizing the president's selective assault on religious liberty. He said, “If the president would exercise anywhere near the sensitivity about religious freedom in this country as he does about Islam and offending them, we wouldn't even have these kinds of problems.”

There is also no question in my mind that in citing the passage from 2 Chronicles, Carson was expressing his view that America has strayed from its godly roots and replaced God's absolute moral standards with those that seem right to a man but are wholly destructive of our moral fabric. We must turn back to God, reject this man-made ethic grounded in covetousness, envy and greed, and recommit ourselves to godly values and right living.

In his speech, Carson did not criticize President Obama by name, but he roundly condemned his philosophy of and approach to governance. He did so with abundant forcefulness but equally strong respectfulness.

It was an admirable display of forthrightness and courage and a virtual seminar in how President Obama's political opponents should boldly, directly and publicly dispute his wrong-headed message and block his destructive agenda.

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

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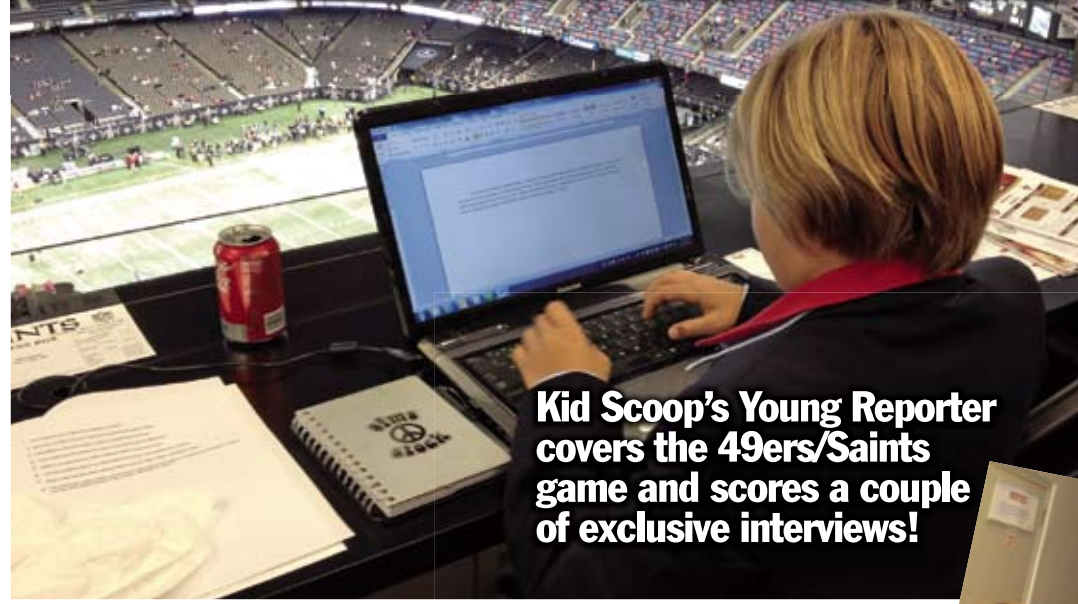
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Kid Scoop FIT & FUN

Can you do something physically active for one hour every day of the week?

Complete the circle charts below, one for each day of the week. Each wedge in the charts equals 10 minutes. If you dance for 20 minutes, color in two wedges. If you play basketball for one hour, fill in an entire circle.

BEHIND THE SCENES OF A PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL GAME



Kid Scoop's Young Reporter covers the 49ers/Saints game and scores a couple of exclusive interviews!

squeezed into elevator 8 (used only for the press and coaches). I was a kid in a grown-ups world, yet no one seemed to mind – especially me. It did not matter which team won, I felt like a champion!



Jadon interviews Saints player Malcolm Jenkins.

I was very nervous as I interviewed Saints player Malcolm Jenkins. He was a first round draft pick (which means he was the very first player selected by New Orleans that season). I think Malcolm enjoyed being interviewed by a kid, as I am sure it rarely ever happens.

by Jadon Bosarge

KID SCOOP YOUNG REPORTER

NEW ORLEANS, La. – It was a hot and humid day in New Orleans, even though the calendar proved the year's end was fast approaching. As an eleven-year-old California native, I was out of my element, yet excited as I approached the Mercedes Benz Superdome. For the next few hours I would serve as a sports reporter at a professional football game – the New Orleans Saints vs. the San Francisco 49ers.

Jadon interviews 49ers coach Jim Harbaugh.

professional reporters from ESPN, NFL Network, and Yahoo Sports. Today I was not just a kid, I was their colleague. There was a nice lunch buffet for all holding a media credential. However, my nerves only allowed me to nibble on a few cookies and sip a soda.



As the 49ers were piling onto their buses, I met with their head coach, Jim Harbaugh. I could feel my heart in my throat as I forced out the words for each question. He balanced out my nerves with his calm and relaxed demeanor.

GAME TIME!

As game time approached, the excitement could be felt in the air. The home team appeared on the field running through a tunnel of smoke, while the visiting team walked on from the sidelines. The noise in the Superdome soon became deafening. This was an advantage for the Saints, but perhaps an obstacle for the 49ers. I could hardly hear myself think. As points were scored, the game became much more exciting.

INTERVIEWING PROS

At halftime, burgers were added to the menu in the Press Box. By that time I was feeling more comfortable and able to enjoy the meal. Before I realized it, the 4th quarter was almost over. This is when all the reporters leave the Press Box and head down to the field and locker rooms. I was with them as we

UNFORGETTABLE DAY

Leaving the Superdome, my dad and I headed to the French Quarter (downtown New Orleans) to take in the sights. My favorite was the St. Louis Cathedral. It is the oldest cathedral in North America. Next we sampled the world famous beignets – square pieces of fried dough, dusted with powdered sugar. It was a sweet ending to an extremely sweet day!



Jadon enjoys a tasty treat in New Orleans after the game.

“I quickly met other professional reporters from ESPN, NFL Network, and Yahoo Sports. Today I was not just a kid, I was their colleague.”

– JADON BOSARGE

my assigned seat and spotted the teams warming up on the field below. I was greeted by the PR Directors from both teams: Matt Ryan with the Saints and Bob Lange with SF. I quickly met



About This Kid Scoop Young Reporter

Jadon Bosarge has a passion for football and he loves to write. Between 6th grade school work at Corona Creek Elementary in Petaluma, Calif. he juggles drums, modeling, GATE, volunteering and playing football for the Petaluma Panthers. His goals are to be a sports reporter and to make everyone a football fan. Go to www.kidscoop.com to read his interviews with Saints safety Malcolm Jenkins and San Francisco 49ers head coach Jim Harbaugh.

Extra! Extra! Photo Frames

Cut out a sports photograph from the newspaper. What is inside each photo's "frame" or edges? What is not seen in the photograph? Would the picture have a different feeling if they showed something that is now not seen?

Standards Link: Structural Features of Informational Materials: Understand how features (including photos) make information accessible and useable.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Write the missing numbers in each row of football jerseys to complete that row's number pattern.



Standards Link: Patterns: Complete patterns.



Learn more about NFL teams and enjoy some online games at www.kidscoop.com

Double Double Word Search

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MEDIA
PRESS
COACH
SWEET
TEAM
PICK
BOX
GAME
WON
SEAT
NFL
NERVES

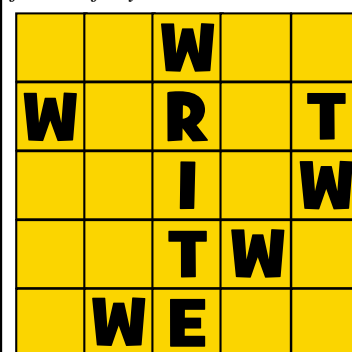
Find the words in the puzzle. Then look for each word in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

T P R E S S X V B H
S E A E H T O W C Q
C M E G P B S A T U
T A X W A O O T A A
R G O I S C R X E R
W N D P O I N T S T
T E A M I M J F E E
M S Q X R C S K L R
S E V R E N K M B X

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

Kid Scoop-doku

Complete the grid by using all the letters in the word WRITE. Each letter should only be used once in each row. Some spaces have been filled in for you.



FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

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Sports Math

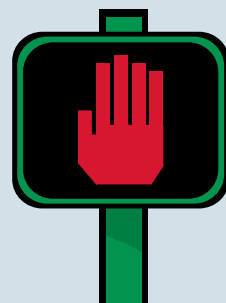
Make a math problem using the scores of a sporting event published in the sports section of your newspaper. Solve the problem with a friend.

Standards Link: Math: Problem solving.



What can run but can't walk?

ANSWER: A drop of water.



Write On! Invention Lab

Think of a problem people face. Then come up with an invention that would solve the problem.

Bird Poop: A 'ghost' gets its bell rung

The night's drive had taken its toll. With the clouds barely starting to turn a bright orange against the pale blue of a morning sky, he decided to stop.

The rest area ahead was an ever stand-by.

Often his long hauls had forced him to use it.

Even though a truck stop wasn't too far away, he accepted his need for sleep.

Waking from a short nap, he was surprised to see the open fields and interstate shrouded in a misty, thick fog. With Natural Dam Lake to the north, and the drainage areas along the railroad to the east, he wasn't surprised to encounter this hazy phenomenon.

Opening the cab door, he could feel the droplets against his face as he started his routine walk to the end of the trailer. A check of the entire rig was a daily habit.

No matter where he stopped for rest, a stroll helped his mind and muscles adapt to another day. Almost back up into the cab, he decided the moisture could be used to help him eliminate a small portion of the dirt and insects on his windshield.

As he struggled to reach half way across the glass, he noticed something white along the fencerow. "Another plastic bag," he thought.

After climbing down and walking around the front of the cab to get to the other side, he wondered, "Can this morning get any more peculiar?"

There was no wind. Yet the white object he had just seen suddenly was no longer by the fence.

In its place was something that appeared to be almost golden-brown. His curiosity was aroused. After finishing the last part of the windshield, he started walking toward whatever it was.

When he was close enough to determine it was an owl, it barely moved as if to become more comfortable. Accidentally stepping on

a dried weed stalk, he noticed the bird stirred. After more crunching of this brittle debris under his boot, the owl opened its eyes.

Although it could hear, he wasn't sure it could see. Using a dead branch from an old mesquite, he moved it in front of the bird's face. There was no reaction.

On its beak, he noticed a small amount of blood. "Must have run into something," he thought.

To leave the bird was not an option. Since he was close to Big Spring, he'd call a friend for help.

Removing his jacket, he wrapped it around the owl. There was little resistance as he removed it from the weeds and walked back to the truck.

With the ring of our phone came word that a man had a barn owl. Found at the rest stop west of town, the bird had been brought in by a trucker and long-time friend. From the man's description, the raptor might have been a victim of a downdraft from an 18-wheeler.

The delivery of the injured male barn owl

was not only thoughtful. It was comical. "My friend was down-right spooked," said the man. "One minute he saw something, the next he didn't. And with all that fog, man, it was creepy!"

Having first seen the creamy white frontal appearance of the barn owl, his friend had assumed it was a piece of trash. Then it was gone. Only when he approached the area did he discover the bird had turned its back toward the truck.

Because of its coloration, it had been easy for the raptor to "disappear." Intermixed among the golden or tawny appearance of its back and wings were hues of gray. While bits of black and white mottling lent even more elegance to this night creature, the markings were nature's way of protecting the bird.

With a dark border around white facial disks, the owl's heart-shaped face was handsome. Unable to focus, its black eyes and the trace of blood on its beak were possible clues of head trauma. If the swelling could be reduced, and there were no other injuries, the bird had a chance of recovery.

Extending its broad wings allowed us to appreciate its four-foot



Courtesy photo

The male barn owl has often been perceived as mysterious. Due to its white face and underparts, it is often described as a "white owl" or "ghost."

wingspan. As if applied by a master artist, the small black spots on its breast and belly were delicate in their arrangement. Not a feather, front nor back, was out of place. Hopefully, this bird had only had "its bell rung!"

A hurried trip to the Eos Wildlife Sanctuary in Midland allowed the barn owl to be handled by Midge Erskine and seen by their veterinarian. Although her comments were guarded regarding recovery, she had seen numerous raptors return to the sky.

On the way home, I reminded Art of a hawk we had picked up in Andrews. For four days, it had been "totally out of

it." On the fifth morning, it not only had awakened, its use of sharp talons at the carrier gate had quickly informed me that it was back! The same could happen to the owl.

Three days later, Midge called with good news. To know that the nocturnal bird of prey would fly silently again throughout the night was heartening. With its buffy, white underparts, the male barn owl could continue to foster its renowned, ghostly reputation.

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



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Don't stress out over stress

Have you ever talked with someone who was all stressed out over expected commonplace things? Let me give you some examples of what I mean.

I will be using examples of places where I've worked through the years.

When I was a teacher, I would hear of colleagues being stressed over students who were not getting along with one another. When a person is a teacher it is expected to have students who do not get along.

When I was working in a grocery store, people would inadvertently knock over a display, an expected accident.

When I was at the Education Service Center, I would make appointments in out-of-town locations and many times I would arrive only to find my appointment had gone somewhere and would not be available, but this is to be expected at

times.

My grandpa used to say, "These kinds of activities really get my goat!" Today, we speak a little more accurately and say these activities are extremely stressful.

I fully understand that expected things can be, and oftentimes are, stressful, but I would like to question why expected things are stressful. If we were caught totally unaware, we could figure a stressful event to take place; unexpected events catch us off-guard and create stress, but if the events can be predicted, then we should be able to ascertain their happening and prepare our mind and our expectations to handle them and eliminate much of the stress.

If we understand certain things are going to happen, we can alleviate much of the frustration and decrease the amount of stress. We can make allowances in our minds, our attitude and our behavior and our lives will be much more settled.

Even expecting the unexpected can eliminate much of our stress.

At this point, I must take my own advice since traffic issues,

expected or not, are the main cause of my stress. I should realize that if I decide to go somewhere during noon time or around five p.m., traffic will be a problem and I should prepare my mind for it, but as fate would allow, I never quite get that message over to my brain.

The key is to prepare our minds to expect the expected and thusly preventing our blood pressure from rising, our pots from boiling and our tempers from flaring.

This doesn't mean we will live stress-free lives, but it does mean we can expect certain things to happen and we can be better prepared and not have a stress attack.

We can assure ourselves that this has happened before and it will happen again and we can handle it, we have handled it before and we will again. We may even have the T-shirt to prove it.

Or maybe it's like the saying, "the hurrier I go, the behinder I get."

Darrell Ryan is director of federal programs for Big Spring Independent School District.



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News in brief

North Korea conducts third underground nuclear test, saying it is aimed at U.S. 'hostility'

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — North Korea conducted a nuclear test at an underground site in the remote northeast Tuesday, taking an important step toward its goal of building a bomb small enough to be fitted on a missile that could reach United States.

North Korea made clear that the explosion of its third atomic device — which it claimed was smaller than the ones in its previous two tests — was a warning to what it considers a hostile United States. Its actions drew immediate condemnation from Washington, the U.N. and others. Even its only major ally, China, voiced opposition.

"The test was conducted in a safe and perfect way on a high level, with the use of a smaller and light A-bomb, unlike the previous ones, yet with great explosive power," North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said.

It was a defiant response to U.N. orders to shut down atomic activity or face more sanctions and international isolation, as well as a direct message from young leader Kim Jong Un to the United States, Pyongyang's No. 1 enemy since the 1950-53 Korean War.

KCNA said the test is aimed at coping with "the ferocious hostile act of the U.S." That's a reference to what Pyongyang said was Washington's attempts to block its right to launch satellites. North Korea was punished by U.N. sanctions after a December launch of a rocket that the U.N. and Washington called a cover for a banned missile test. Pyongyang said it was a peaceful satellite launch.

In State of the Union, Obama to stress the economy

WASHINGTON (AP) — The American public will get a competing mix of rhetoric and imagery in President Barack Obama's State of the Union address Tuesday, a speech that offers a heavy dose on the economy even as it plays out against a visual backdrop dominated by the current national debate over guns.

With the economy still trying to find its footing and with millions still out of work, Obama will make a case for measures and proposals that he says will boost job creation and put the economy on a more upward trajectory. Obama's emphasis underscores a White House recognition that while the president seeks to expand his agenda and build a second-term lega-

cy, the economy remains a major public preoccupation.

But in the galleries above the rostrum of the House of Representatives where Obama will speak, many of the faces looking down on him will be those of Americans thrust into the politics of gun violence.

First lady Michelle Obama will sit with the parents of a Chicago teenager shot and killed just days after she performed at the president's inauguration. Twenty-two House members have invited people affected by gun violence, according to Rep. Jim Langevin, D-R.I., who pushed the effort. And Republican Rep. Steve Stockman of Texas says he's invited rocker Ted Nugent, a long-time gun control opponent who last year said he would end up "dead or in jail" if Obama won reelection.

That confluence of message and symbolism illustrates where Obama is in his presidency following his reelection.

Pope Benedict acknowledges physical weakness, avoids his predecessor's suffering

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The closest of confidants, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger watched from the front row as Pope John Paul II, once a strapping athlete, steadily deteriorated in his later years.

John Paul, burdened by Parkinson's disease and crippling hip ailments, could no longer walk or talk at the time of his death in 2005 at 84 — a picture of suffering that moved the faithful while presenting a disturbing vision of papal frailty. The physical ordeal also left John Paul distracted from the challenges the church was facing, including the global priest sex abuse scandal.

Ratzinger, elected as Pope Benedict XVI, was at 78 the oldest pope in 300 years. With his resignation, it is clear that he has sought to spare the church another agonizing end — and, in the process, perhaps help the church keep pace with the realities of modern-day medicine.

In his announcement, Benedict said his strength in recent months "has deteriorated in me to the extent that I have had to recognize my incapacity to adequately fulfill the ministry entrusted to me."

In the church, bishops are forced to resign at the age of 75, and cardinals over 80 are barred from voting in a conclave to elect a new pope. It's only popes who are expected to rule for life. Now, the first papal resignation in 600 years could help set a modern precedent ensuring that popes, like other leaders with crushing responsi-

bilities, have the mental and physical vigor to carry out the job.

Senate committee to vote on Obama's choice of Hagel to lead Defense

WASHINGTON (AP) — Chuck Hagel — Republican, twice-wounded Vietnam combat veteran and former Nebraska senator — faces his first major hurdle in his bid to become the nation's defense secretary as a bitterly divided Senate Armed Services Committee pushes toward a vote on his nomination.

The panel is scheduled to meet Tuesday afternoon to discuss and vote on President Barack Obama's choice to succeed Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, who is stepping down after four years as CIA director and Pentagon chief. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., is pressing for a full Senate vote on either Wednesday or Thursday.

Hagel faces fierce opposition from Republicans who have challenged his past statements and votes on Israel, Iran, Iraq and nuclear weapons. Committee Republicans forced a delay in the expected committee vote last week when they pressed Hagel for more information about his personal finances.

The panel's chairman, Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., said the GOP demands were beyond the scope of those traditionally asked of previous nominees, Republican and Democrat — a point echoed by his Republican colleague, Sen. John McCain of Arizona. Levin set a committee vote that will probably break along party lines — 14 Democrats for Hagel, 12 Republicans against their former colleague — just hours before Obama's State of the Union address to Congress.

More critical to whether Republicans drag out the nomination is the closed-door, weekly Republican luncheon Tuesday where Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., will determine whether GOP lawmakers have the inclination and votes to filibuster a president's Cabinet choice. Such a move would be unprecedented in the Senate, where Republi-

cans and Democrats have argued that a president's nominee should get an up or down vote.

Gun victims' families, others take opposing sides at latest Senate hearing on firearms curbs

WASHINGTON (AP) — A woman whose Chicago police officer brother was fatally shot in 2010 says it's time for Congress to pass laws keeping guns from criminals. Another woman says firearms restrictions prevented her from protecting her parents when they were killed in a 1991 mass shooting in a Texas restaurant.

The two were among several witnesses taking opposing sides Tuesday as the Senate holds its second hearing on gun curbs since December's shooting deaths of 20 first-graders in Newtown, Conn. This time, a Senate Judiciary subcommittee is examining the constitutionality and effectiveness of federal firearms limits.

"We need to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and those who are mentally unstable," the subcommittee's chairman, Sen. Richard Durbin, D-Ill., said in a brief interview Monday. "I hope everyone will acknowledge that within our Constitution is not only an individual right to bear arms, but the collective right of Americans to be safe."

A Republican on the panel, Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, said existing gun laws are not being effectively enforced. He cited the often ignored requirement that states make mental health records available to the federal background check system.

"I'm still interested in somebody identifying which of these laws would have prevented any of these horrific incidents," Cornyn said Monday. "I'm not interested in just doing something that's symbolism."

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Forsan's Mary Ashley McDaniel attempts a shot during a game earlier in the season. The Lady Buffs will open playoff action today against Farwell at Wolfforth-Frenship. It is the first time since 2010 Forsan is in the postseason. The Lady Buffaloes of Stanton will also appear in bi-district play for the first time since 2010. SHS will be at Lubbock Christian University tonight facing Childress. The No. 9 Grady Lady Wildcats earned a first round bye in 1A-DII play.

Rangers without Young, Hamilton as they head to spring training in Ariz.

(AP) — For the first time since the Texas Rangers moved their spring training west a decade ago, Michael Young won't be walking into their clubhouse in Arizona this week.

Neither will slugger Josh Hamilton, the five-time All-Star and former AL MVP. And they're not defending an American League title either. They didn't win a game last October following World Series appearances the previous two seasons.

There are some significant differences as Rangers pitchers and catchers report to Surprise, Ariz., on Tuesday, three days before the reporting date for the rest of the squad.

"It's definitely going to be a different atmosphere," said 18-game winner Matt Harrison, the left-hander who got a new contract last month.

That doesn't mean the Rangers have lowered their expectations or feel they had a bad offseason even though they failed to keep Hamilton — they wouldn't have matched the \$125 million, five-year deal he got from the AL West rival Los Angeles Angels — and missed out on signing top free-agent pitcher Zack Greinke. Young, the longest-tenured Texas player after 12 seasons, was traded to Philadelphia where he is expected to be a full-time starting third baseman again.

"I'm genuinely like our chances," general manager Jon Daniels said. "Obviously there were a couple of guys we were interested in early on that ended elsewhere. That's part of the deal. ... We like our club, and we like the possibilities ahead of us."

Especially with the starting rotation they have in place, likely for several seasons to come after the \$55 million, five-year deal for 27-year-old All-Star lefty Harrison with a club option for 2018 that would be guaranteed.

Japanese ace Yu Darvish heads into the second year of a \$56 million, six-year deal, though

See **RANGERS**, Page 13

Spurs beat Bulls without Duncan, Parker, Ginobili

CHICAGO (AP) — Tim Duncan was dressed in street clothes, with Tony Parker and Manu Ginobili joining him on the bench. San Antonio's three biggest stars got up occasionally to cheer on their teammates, but that was the extent of their contribution on Monday.

On this night, the NBA-best Spurs did just fine without them.

Kawhi Leonard had a career-high 26 points and Danny Green scored 18, leading short-handed San Antonio to an impressive 103-89

victory against the Chicago Bulls.

"One would hope that you could play with anybody in your system, but it was a tough challenge for them tonight," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "And I couldn't be more proud of what they did."

Parker, Duncan and Ginobili were all out with injuries, and swingman Stephen Jackson also missed the game due to "personal business," according to the team. With Duncan on the sideline, the Spurs were outrebounded 49-

26, including a whopping 17-2 deficit on the offensive glass.

And San Antonio still managed to win, due in large part to 19 Chicago turnovers that the Spurs turned into 29 points.

"The approach is still the same, you know, every game," Green said. "It starts with Pop. He does a great job of preparing us, tells us what we need to do. We listen to him."

San Antonio led by 14 at three different points in the third quarter, but Robinson led the Bulls right back. The streaky

point guard converted a twisting reverse layup to trim the Spurs' lead to 73-69 with 56 seconds left in the period.

Chicago pulled within one in the fourth before the Spurs began to pull away. Boris Diaw had a three-point play and Leonard converted a layup in a 7-0 surge that made it 89-78 with 5:55 to go.

Duncan missed his fourth straight game due to a sore left knee. Ginobili was out for the fifth consecutive game with tightness in his left hamstring.

Sports Calendar

TODAY

Girl's Basketball Playoffs

- Stanton vs. Childress, Lubbock Christian University, 6:30 p.m., 2A bi-district.
- Forsan vs. Farwell, Wolfforth-Frenship, 6:30 p.m., 1A bi-district.

Boy's Basketball

- Big Spring at Snyder, 7:30 p.m.
- Borden County at Grady, 6:30 p.m.
- Sands at Klondike, 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY

Men's basketball

- Howard College at New Mexico Junior College, 7:45 p.m.

Women's Basketball

- Howard College at New Mexico Junior College, 7:45 p.m.

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

Hawks hold off Mavericks

DALLAS (AP) — Devin Harris was two steps behind as O.J. Mayo streaked toward the basket.

Once Mayo shifted the dribble to his right hand, Harris knew he had a chance to knock the ball loose and help the Atlanta Hawks pick up a rare road victory.

Harris picked up a key steal in the final minute, Josh Smith had 26 points and 13 rebounds and the Hawks beat the Dallas Mavericks 105-101 Monday night.

Atlanta was up 99-98 when Elton Brand knocked the ball away from Smith. Mayo picked it up and was driving for the go-ahead basket.

Harris, who played 3 1/2 seasons with the Mavericks before he was sent away as part of the Jason Kidd trade in 2008, snuck up from behind and poked the ball away from Mayo. He then saved the ball from going out of bounds with 23.9 seconds left.

"I just kind of wanted to sit behind and see if he would put the ball back in his right hand," Harris said. "When he did, I was able to steal it away at the right time."

Smith connected on two free throws to extend Atlanta's lead to 101-98. Needing a 3-pointer to tie it, Mayo made a bad pass that the Hawks stole with 14.9 seconds remaining.

"Obviously, we're disappointed," Mayo said. "It was a winnable game. We didn't make the plays down the end and they made some plays."

The Hawks came into the game having lost eight of nine road games since Jan. 4.

"Any time you go on the road and get a win, it's always big," Atlanta coach Larry Drew said.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 24 points and Mayo chipped in with 19 for the Mavericks, who fell five games behind the Houston Rockets for

the eighth-place spot in the Western Conference.

Even though the game was decided late, coach Rick Carlisle was disappointed in Dallas' rough first quarter. The Mavericks fell behind 10-0 and trailed by as much as 13 early.

"I didn't have our guys ready to play," Carlisle said.

"You've got a team of guys that just goes out and is walking around at the beginning of a game. That's on the coach."

Dallas, which didn't lead until the fourth quarter, took a 91-86 lead when Brandon Wright scored five straight points. Smith answered with a dunk and a 3-pointer to tie the game at 91 with 5:44 left.

Smith whipped a pass to Horford for a dunk that stretched Atlanta's lead to 96-92 and he hit a 3-pointer over Nowitzki that made it 99-94 with 1:29 left.

Nowitzki connected on a pair of free throws and short cut over Smith that cut it to 99-98 with 44.9 seconds remaining.

That set up the frantic final seconds where the Hawks held on for their eighth win in 20 games.

Smith was 10 of 15 shooting, including four 3-pointers, and handed out six assists. The forward knows his name has been in trade rumors that have surfaced in the past few days.

Dallas rebounded from its slow start to pull within 49-48 at half.

Darren Collison's 3-point play tied the score at 64 midway through the third.

Korver hit a 3-pointer in transition and John Jenkins followed with a basket to give Atlanta an 82-74 advantage.

The Mavericks scored seven points over the final 1:04 of the third, capped by two free throws from Nowitzki, to pull to 82-81.

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Cupid Draws His Bow

The Venus and Saturn arrangement has Cupid drawing back his bow before he really has a clear shot of the target. We can expect a few misses and also instances in which the wrong person gets the arrow. But at least this happens in a comedy-of-errors style. The lighthearted Aquarius influences wouldn't have it any other way!



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). In the past, you haven't always been the one who stops the social flow to take a picture. But now you'll see the value in doing so. You'll freeze the current moment to

contribute to everyone's future happiness.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Having the right view and the right intention automatically leads to the words and actions that are right. You'll live this principle. You won't even have to think of the next correct move. It all flows naturally.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll be handed items you don't quite know what to do with. While it's always more satisfying to get things you actually want, this new development deserves a fair chance. It will be more useful than you expect.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You know that existence and living are not the same things, and yet sometimes you forget to choose activities that will reinforce this concept. Plan a bit of lively fun that will remind you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Creative or spiritual work is on the agenda. You've already done enough research and talking. Now your efforts will thrive in silence. It won't occur naturally. You'll have to create a bubble of quiet around you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're in the mood to boldly risk it all; however, "it all" doesn't want to be risked. "It all" will cling to you, begging you to reconsider, and perhaps you should. This fever will die down, and then where will you be?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Romantic love may not be your thing right now, but that is only one small side of love. Your compassion is strong. You feel you could give generously to all of humanity, one person at a time.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Often the people who think they know something have far less to impart than the ones who are sitting quietly, observing the action. You're smart to be wary of big talk.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're not afraid of society, but you have the need to retreat. You may take a break from your usual outgoing style so you can focus intently on your inner life.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You can move faster and do more than you did last week. As you move quickly, you'll have the concentration of an expertly trained ninja, so

nothing falls through the cracks.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll express yourself in silly ways, and equally playful people will love it. Overly serious people will be outwardly baffled but inwardly intrigued. So you really can't lose.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're somewhat detached from your own self-image today, as you realize that you can be anyone you decide to be. You're very much in control of how people perceive you, and you'll have fun with this.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 12). Just because others happen to be celebrating you doesn't mean you shouldn't also celebrate yourself. You'll find your environment to be highly motivating over the next 10 weeks. By May, you're in a completely new place. In the process of figuring out who you are, you'll find different things to believe in and be. Profitable deals go down this month and next. Taurus and Aries people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 20, 14, 33, 8 and 12.

LOVE AND THE WATER SIGNS: Is your valentine a water sign? Cancer, Scorpio and Pisces are famous for forming the kind of soul-level bonds that turn relationships into magical, totally immersive experiences. Water is symbolic of emotion and also of cleansing and healing. The love of a water sign has healing properties that are a part of the reward that comes with a Cancer, Scorpio or Pisces connection. If you have been in a relationship with a water sign for a long time, chances are

you feel that your love understands you at a very deep level — a level beyond words and the senses.

However you choose to celebrate Valentine's Day, your water-sign love wants your time together to be meaningful. One way to make sure this is the case is to articulate just what this connection means to you. Describe how you see your love and how you feel when you are together. Tell the story of this relationship — what it was like to meet for the first time and how you decided this person is special. Your water sign will cherish your written words more than the gift, so give careful attention to what you put in the card!

CELEBRITY PROFILES: The remarkable life and the tragic death of Abraham Lincoln, the 16th United States president, have given this Aquarian leader enduring popularity, as evidenced by the never-ending explorations of Lincoln through books and movies, including the latest Steven Spielberg film, "Lincoln." An Aquarius with his moon in Aquarius, as well, Lincoln was the very epitome of humanitarian spirit.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page www.creators.com. © 2013 CREATORS.COM

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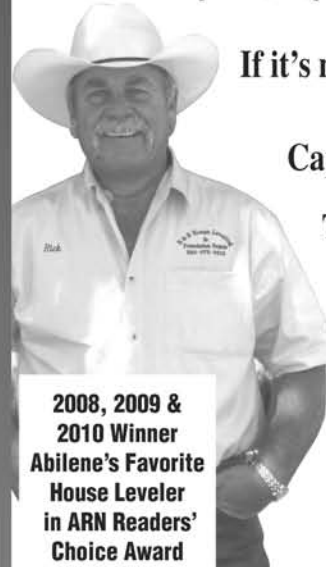
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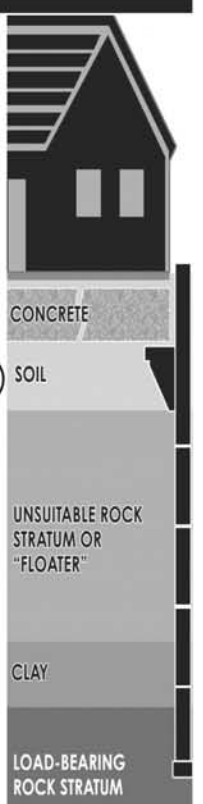
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5:PM	News	Casa	Two Men	News	Noticias	News	King	Justice	Charlie Rose	King	Dual Survival	Jumanji, Kirsten Dunst	Bar Rescue	Castle	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Good	Around	SportsCenter
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Notic.	Two Men	CBS	Noticiero	News	Seinfeld	A. Shelby	PBS News-Hour	Seinfeld	Dual Survival	Bar Rescue	Castle	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Good	Around	SportsCenter	
7:PM	Wheel	Corona de Lágrimas	Big Bang	News	Caso Cerrado	News	Seinfeld	Dr. Diana	Frontline	Seinfeld	Dual Survival	Bar Rescue	Castle	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Good	Around	SportsCenter	
8:PM	The Taste	Por Ella Soy Eva	Raising	NCIS: Los Angeles	Pasión Prohibida	Millionaire	Seinfeld	Sala	Movie: When in Rome, Anjelica Huston	Seinfeld	Dual Survival	Bar Rescue	Castle	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Good	Around	SportsCenter	
9:PM	State of the Union 2013	Amores Verdaderos	State of the Union 2013	State of the Union 2013	La Patrona (SS)	Betty	Big Bang	Light of the Southwest	PBS News-Hour	Big Bang	Dual Survival	Bar Rescue	Castle	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Good	Around	SportsCenter	
10:PM	Mod Fam	Amor Bravo (SS)	How I Met	Mike	El Rostro de	Cougar	Big Bang	Cougar	To Be Announced	Big Bang	Dual Survival	Bar Rescue	Castle	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Good	Around	SportsCenter	
11:PM	News	Impacto	How I Met	News	Noticias	News	Conan	Shepherd's Heart	Charlie Rose	Seinfeld	Dual Survival	Bar Rescue	Castle	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Good	Around	SportsCenter	
12:AM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Noticiero	Letterman	Letterman	Victorinos (SS)	Jay Leno	Conan	Ministerios Vida	World	Seinfeld	Dual Survival	Bar Rescue	Castle	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Good	Around	SportsCenter	
1:AM	Nightline	Al Diablo	Law Order: CI	Ferguson	Decisiones (SS)	Jimmy Fallon	Conan	Upd	T. Smiley	Seinfeld	Dual Survival	Bar Rescue	Castle	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Good	Around	SportsCenter	
2:AM	Extra	Mar de Amor (SS)	Raymond	Insider	Pagado	Daly	Conan	Chevalme	(Off Air)	Seinfeld	Dual Survival	Bar Rescue	Castle	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Good	Around	SportsCenter	
3:AM	Super	Conducta	Fam. Guy	Ent	Pagado	Daly	Conan	Chevalme	(Off Air)	Seinfeld	Dual Survival	Bar Rescue	Castle	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Good	Around	SportsCenter	
4:AM	Paid	Casa	TMZ	Paid	De'siones	(06) Today	Conan	Chevalme	(Off Air)	Seinfeld	Dual Survival	Bar Rescue	Castle	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Good	Around	SportsCenter	
5:AM	Paid	Casa	TMZ	Paid	De'siones	(06) Today	Conan	Chevalme	(Off Air)	Seinfeld	Dual Survival	Bar Rescue	Castle	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Good	Around	SportsCenter	

DENNIS THE MENACE

"How come my conscience never listens to me?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

"If we all just go on Skype, you could read us to sleep at the same time."

HAGAR

"I'll have the 'hero' sandwich!"
"Certainly!"
"And what will you have, sir?"
"Do you have any 'loyal sidekick' sandwiches?"

BLONDIE

"Knock it off! We all agreed that the driver gets to select the entertainment on the way to work."
"I'm the driver today and that means I'm the decider!"
"Give us a break, Dag."
"We can't take one more mile of that audio cookbook!"
"Hang in there 'til he gets into the chapter on desserts!"

BC

"Do you do chiropractic?"

This Date In History

Today is Shrove Tuesday, Feb. 12, the 43rd day of 2013. There are 322 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On Feb. 12, 1809, Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president of the United States, was born in present-day Larue County, Ky.

On this date:
In 1554, Lady Jane Grey, who'd claimed the throne of England for nine days, and her husband, Guildford Dudley, were beheaded after being condemned for high treason.
In 1818, Chile officially proclaimed its independence, more than seven years after initially renouncing Spanish rule.
In 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was founded.
In 1912, Pu Yi (poo yee), the last emperor of China, abdicated, marking the end of the Qing Dynasty.
In 1915, the cornerstone for the Lincoln Memorial was laid in Washington D.C., a year to the day after groundbreaking.

from his mother at a shopping mall near Liverpool, England, then beat him to death. (Thompson and Venables were kept in custody before being paroled in 2001 at age 18; Venables was jailed in 2010 for possessing and distributing child pornography.)
In 1999, the Senate voted to acquit President Bill Clinton of perjury and obstruction of justice.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Franco Zeffirelli is 90. Actor Louis Zorich is 89. Baseball Hall-of-Fame sportscaster Joe Garagiola is 87. Movie director Costa-Gavras is 80. Basketball Hall-of-Famer Bill Russell is 79. Actor Joe Don Baker is 77.

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WIZARD OF ID

"By all means...after you!"

AGNES

"Behold! A perfect snowman."
"It's hideous."
"It's hideous only because you've filled your head with idyllic preconceived ideas of snowmen."
"Nothing else in our lives is cute. Why should our snowmen be?"
"Looks like Uncle Bill after he's slept the whole night on his face."

HI AND LOIS

"Is everything okay, gentlemen?"
"I asked for scrambled eggs, I got over-easy."
"I got white instead of wheat toast, sausage instead of bacon, and pancakes instead of waffles."
"But is everything okay?"

THE OTHER COAST

"Yikes. Caught in an avalanche. Now what do I do?"
"Hurray! A rescue dog! I'm saved!"
"Hey, aren't you going to dig me out?"
"I'm a drug-sniffing dog. I don't do avalanches."

SNUFFY SMITH

"Elviny sweet-talked me into halpin' her paw stack firewood!!"
"Fergot m'gloves!!"
"Love is a many-splintered thing!!"

BEEBLE BAILEY

"I can't believe Otto refused the meal you made for him."
"Oh, that's okay."
"Sarge will eat anything!"

Newsday Crossword

CONSTRUCTION SITE by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

64 Just slightly
65 Learning method
66 Solitary
67 Wander about
68 Quickly, in a memo
69 Guide the ride
70 Jury member
71 Annoying one

DOWN

1 Hunter's cabin
2 Labor group
3 Berate
4 Groups of cattle
5 Backs of ships
6 Car with a meter
7 Oil cartel
8 Quick kisses

9 Director's "Start!"
10 Sand-filled timer
11 Money in Spain
12 Neat as
13 Declare untrue
21 Canoe or catamaran
25 "Stretch" vehicle
27 College teacher, for short
28 Sub navigation tool
30 India's continent
31 "do you good"
32 Dire fate
33 Burlap bag
34 Tehran's country
35 Chromosome part
36 Precipitation pellet

38 Fairy tale monster
41 Foundation
45 Feel sorry for
47 Sheen
49 Paper in a coffeemaker
51 Good for cutting
53 "That's ___!" (director's "We're done!")
54 Running free
55 Tiny amounts
56 Skillful
57 IRS experts
58 Sword handle
59 Spiny houseplant
61 Woodwind instrument
62 Exist

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
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63						64					65		
66						67					68		
69						70					71		

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Eagles, QB Vick agree to restructured three-year deal

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Michael Vick took a significant pay cut to stay with the Philadelphia Eagles and compete for a starting job. The four-time Pro Bowl quarterback agreed Monday to a restructured three-year contract with the Eagles, just two seasons after signing a \$100 million extension that included \$35.5 million in guaranteed money. The new deal is essentially for one-year, however.

A source familiar with the contract

said Vick could earn up to \$10 million in 2013 if he meets all his performance incentives, and the team will void the remaining two years on March 15. That person spoke on condition of anonymity because the terms haven't been released.

Vick was slated to earn about \$16 million next season, including a \$3 million roster bonus. He lost his starting job to rookie Nick Foles last season, but new coach Chip Kelly will give him a chance to win it back.

"I am grateful and proud to be a Philadelphia Eagle," Vick wrote on Twitter. "My heart is in Philly and this community is important to me."

Vick had a breakout year in 2010, leading the Eagles to the NFC East title, winning The Associated Press Comeback Player of the Year award and starting in the Pro Bowl. But he's battled injuries and inconsistency the last two years.

"What I look at is skillset first and foremost," Kelly said. "What he can

do, how he can throw the football, how he can beat people with his feet. There are a lot of different factors he has."

Since the Eagles hired Kelly to replace Andy Reid, there's been plenty of speculation about which quarterback will run his aggressive, up-tempo offense.

Though Kelly has been effusive in his praise for Foles, the slow-footed, pocket-passer isn't an ideal fit for a zone-read offense.

RANGERS

Continued from Page 8

there are provisions that could allow the 26-year-old right-hander to become a free agent

after a year earlier, after the 2016 season. Derek Holland, a 26-year-old lefty, is under contract through 2016, with club options for two additional years. And Alexi Ogando, a 13-

game winner and All-Star starter in 2011 before pitching out of the bullpen last season, is back in the rotation and under team control at least four more seasons, including his arbitration-eligible years.

"We've had some great individual performances, but to look up and have Matt and Yu and Derek and Alexi, and know that the core of the rotation is going to be here — these are accomplished young pitchers," Daniels said. "It is evidence that all

the efforts we've made on the scouting and development side to put this young rotation together, that it's paying off."

Remember, this is a team that used to be known primarily for its slugging.

While there will be competition among several young pitchers in spring training for the No. 5 starting spot, the Rangers anticipate the return of veteran right-hander Colby Lewis by June or July from elbow surgery.

Darvish had a much more low-key arrival in Arizona on Monday than a year ago, when his every move was documented by international media as he made adjustments to a new country and a new league.

He went 5-1 with a 2.35 ERA, 67 strikeouts and 15 walks over his last eight starts of the regular season.

"Compared to last year, I feel so much more at ease, after finishing my first year getting to know all the players, the coaches, the front-office personnel. ... I really feel I'm part of the team now. How I feel right now, it's a totally different feeling," Darvish said before getting to Arizona. "Last year, there was more of a rush, trying to prepare at a much quicker pace. This time, I'm going at my own pace."

Manager Ron Washington, getting ready for his seventh season with the Rangers, hopes Darvish can build on the consistency he showed the second half of his All-Star debut.

"I think what he accomplished was finding who Yu Darvish was, the same Yu Darvish we

thought we had when we got him," Washington said.

Switch-hitting designated hitter Lance Berkman, signed after Hamilton's departure, is likely to take over in the No. 3 spot in the lineup. The six-time All-Star was limited to 32 games last season for St. Louis because of a strained left calf and two operations on his right knee, but the Texas native expects to be ready for the regular season.

For now, the Rangers expect Nelson Cruz to be their everyday right fielder, though he is part of a Major League Baseball investigation being among several players named in a Miami New Times story about banned growth hormones and other performance-enhancing substances.

Cruz, third baseman Adrian Beltre and shortstop Elvis Andrus are among Rangers players expected to miss some of camp to participate in the World Baseball Classic.

Top prospect Jurickson Profar, who could have a chance to make the 25-man roster, also might play in that international tournament.

Sudoku Answers on Page 3

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.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

the bidding:
West North East South
Pass Pass Pass 1♥
Pass 3♥ Pass 4♥
Opening lead — king of diamonds.
The temptation to finesse is often irresistible, but there are times when a finesse is clearly the wrong play and should be avoided. Consider this deal where South got to four hearts as shown and West cashed the K-A-J of diamonds before shifting to the jack of spades.
Declarer won the spade with the queen and returned the queen of hearts, on which West followed low. Had South finessed — which seems the normal thing to do — he would have gone down one. But South went

Contract Bridge

Death of a Monarch

By Steve Becker

West dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠K 7
♥A 9 6 2
♦9 6 3
♣K J 8 4

WEST
♠J 10 3
♥7 5 4
♦A K J 10 5
♣9 6

EAST
♠9 8 6 5 2
♥K
♦Q 7
♣Q 10 5 3 2

SOUTH
♠A Q 4
♥Q J 10 8 3
♦8 4 2
♣A 7

The bidding:
West North East South
Pass Pass Pass 1♥
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The temptation to finesse is often irresistible, but there are times when a finesse is clearly the wrong play and should be avoided. Consider this deal where South got to four hearts as shown and West cashed the K-A-J of diamonds before shifting to the jack of spades.
Declarer won the spade with the queen and returned the queen of hearts, on which West followed low. Had South finessed — which seems the normal thing to do — he would have gone down one. But South went

up with the ace, speared East's king and so made the contract.
Catching the king was certainly a lucky shot, but playing the ace was absolutely correct under the circumstances. South did not know that the king would fall, but he did know that the finesse, if attempted, would fail.
West had passed originally and had also passed South's one-heart opening bid. It was inconceivable that he would do so with a hand that included the A-K-J-10-5 of diamonds (revealed by the first three tricks), the jack of spades (his next play) and the king of hearts as well.
West surely would have bid at some point with such a hand, and it was therefore reasonable to assume that he did not have the king of hearts. It followed from this that a heart finesse, if taken, was sure to lose. True, going up with the ace of trumps did not have much chance of success either, but it did have the great merit of offering at least some chance for the contract, while the finesse offered none.
Actually, West could have defeated the contract by continuing with a fourth diamond at trick four, allowing East to ruff with the king of trumps. However, it's only fair to add that this was a much easier play for West to make on paper than at the table.

Tomorrow: Sylvia displays tricky defense.
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