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Improvement made, more needed

Despite gains, BSISD test scores lag behind region

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

Big Spring school officials say improvement has been made on standardized test scores, but even more improvement is needed to bring the local district in line with other schools in this region.

Big Spring Independent School District has been operating under the black cloud of an Academically Unacceptable rating for the past three years, mainly because of poor student scores on state standardized tests, so major efforts have been made to improve both classroom and test performance.

The result of all that effort, as explained to BSISD trustees Thursday, has been both encouraging and frustrating.

Becky Saldivar, testing coordinator for the district, told trustees that 2012 results from the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR) standardized test for students in grades 3 through 8 showed improvement in almost every subject and grade level from the dark days of 2010.

That's the good news. The bad news was that, despite that improvement, BSISD test scores still lag behind those from other schools in this region in just about every statistical category.

"In 2012, our students made improvement in almost every grade ... from the last two years," said Becky Saldivar, test-



Big Spring Independent School District Board President Irene Rodriguez, left, and Vice President Phil Furqueron are shown during Thursday's trustee meeting. Furqueron, a 12-year member of the school board, announced he will not seek re-election this May.

ing coordinator for the district. "This is very encouraging. It shows us the hard work is starting to pay off. But we know we still have a lot of work to do and that's something we're working on all the time."

The Texas Education Agency put off issuing accountability ratings to school districts in 2012 as students began making the transition from the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) to STAAR.

This year, however, a complex new rating system will take effect, and BSISD officials conceded they don't have any indication on how high or low the district will be rated.

Complicating the district's task even further is that passing standards for the STAAR have been dramatically increased over its predecessor test.

But Saldivar believes that as long as local students continue showing

improvement in their classroom work and on their test scores, positive results and ratings won't be far behind.

"The thing that is encouraging is that (in 2011) ... in almost every subject and grade level, we showed no improvement in test scores (from 2010) and (in 2012), we had improvement almost across-the-board

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Quick action helps quell wildfire

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

Local firefighters responded to a wildfire near the intersection of E. County Road 34 and N. County Road 37 Thursday afternoon after a controlled burn being conducted by a number of ranchers got out of control.

According to Howard County Volunteer Fire Department Chief Tommy Sullivan, the ranchers were attempting to burn off between 200 and 250

"They were smart and called the fire in immediately. That good sense was vital to getting the fire under control before it really spread."

Tommy Sullivan,
 county volunteer fire chief

acres in the area.

"All of that acreage is CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) land. They were con-

ducting a controlled burn and had all of their fire lines cut," Sullivan said. "However, there was one area where the

fire got into a ditch and was able to get into some heavy brush that was nearby."

Sullivan said once the fire got away from the ranchers it looked like a nearby home might be threatened by the blaze.

"They were smart and called the fire in immediately," Sullivan said. "That good sense was vital to getting the fire under control before it really

See **FIRE**, Page 3

Mental illness increases at Texas youth facilities

By **MICHAEL BRICK**
 Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Young offenders with mental illnesses now outnumber youths who are gang members at juvenile jails in Texas, according to new figures that justice officials submitted to state lawmakers Thursday.

The rate of young offenders diagnosed as being mentally

ill has risen to 56 percent in 2013, compared to confirmed gang membership at the lock-ups, which has remained relatively steady at 54 percent. Last year, 50 percent of young offenders at the facilities had mental illnesses, and just 39 percent in 2007, according to the figures from the Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

"The needs of these youth

are greater now," said Michael Griffiths, director of the Juvenile Justice Department, during testimony at a House budget subcommittee hearing Thursday.

The numbers reflect a shifting challenge for Griffiths' agency, which admitted 1,073 youths into six state jails in 2012.

Among those newly com-

mitted to state jails, the number of those with an intensive need for mental health treatment rose at a rate of 113 percent over the past three years, agency officials reported, surpassing the increase in treatment needs for substance abuse and violent behavior.

Since 2008, when lawmakers

See **MENTAL**, Page 3

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Obituaries

Edgar Helwig

Edgar Helwig, 97, passed away Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2013, at Parkview Nursing Home in Big Spring. Graveside funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 16, 2013, at the St. Lawrence Cemetery, St. Lawrence.

He was born Oct. 14, 1915, in Miles, Texas, to Edmond and Selma Muller Helwig. After serving his country in the United States Army during World War II, Edgar lived and farmed in St. Lawrence since 1947. His hobbies included hunting, fishing, gun sports and making fiddles.

Survivors include nephews, Richard Helwig and wife Barbara of Colorado Springs, Colo., and Roland Wallace and wife Beverly of Midland; his close friends who cared for him, Alfred and Anna Marie Schwartz; and his many friends in the St. Lawrence community.

He was preceded in death by his parents; three brothers, Walter Helwig, Marvin Helwig and Ted Helwig; and a sister, Eva Smith.

Honorary pallbearers will be Al Schwartz Jr., Grant Schwartz, Kenneth Braden, Charles Braden, Dwayne Braden and Mark Fryszak.

The family suggests memorials to a favorite charity.

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

Elgen Suazo



Elgen Suazo, 20, of Forsan died Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2013, at his residence. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, Feb. 18, 2013, at Trinity Baptist Church with the Rev. Calvary Callender officiating.

A prayer service will be held at 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 17, 2013, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel.

He was born Oct. 10, 1992, in Malaybalay City, Philippines. Elgen moved with his family to Forsan in 2002. He graduated from Forsan High School in 2012 and was a state qualifier in both track and cross country his junior and senior years. He loved to run and wanted to be a track coach. Elgen also loved hunting, fishing and being outdoors. He worked for Hibbett Sports in Big Spring.

Survivors include his mother, Adrienne Bides of Forsan; father, Bernie Suazo of New York; brother, Franklin John Suazo of Forsan; two sisters, Rowena Anne Suazo of Forsan and Paz Christe Ramos of New York; grandparents, Rogelio and Paz Bides of New York; and several aunts and uncles.

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. Thursday and 7 a.m. today:

• JEREMY RYAN MINTER, 33, of 3310 Ave. X, was arrested Thursday on a warrant for unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon.

• ERIC WAYNE DEAL, 46, of 5700 Cedar Rd., was arrested Thursday on a warrant from another agency.

• LORI ANN BENAVIDEZ, 43, of 710 Willia, was arrested Thursday on a warrant from another agency.

• CALIBER FAYE VIGNEAU, 24, of 1002 N. Main St. Apt. 55, was arrested Thursday on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

• ANDY ARIEL RODRIGUEZ, 22, of 600 W. Interstate Highway 20 Apt. 213, was arrested Thursday on a warrant from another agency.

• ANDREW JONATHAN YANEZ, 20, of 1408 Oriole, was arrested Thursday on a warrant from another agency and warrants for possession of drug paraphernalia, consumption of alcohol by a minor and accident involving damage to a vehicle.

• KELLY LEA MCDANIEL, 47, of 408 N. Fourth St. in Coahoma, was arrested Thursday on eight warrants from other agencies.

• THEFT was reported in the 3600 block of W. Highway 80.

• BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported: In the 700 block of W. Interstate Highway 20. In the 2500 block of Peach Street.

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail

reported having 76 inmates at the time of this report.

• HEATH ALLEN RICHARDSON, 34, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for driving while intoxicated – open container.

• ANDREW JONATHAN YANEZ, 20, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a charge of accident involving damage to vehicle, a municipal capias warrant for possession of drug paraphernalia and a Dawson County warrant for motion to revoke probation for possession of marijuana.

• JEREMY MINTER, 33, was booked into the county detention center Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon.

• KELLYT LEA MCDANIEL, 47, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on municipal warrants for failure to maintain financial responsibility, displaying expired registration and failure to appear (six counts).

• LORI ANN BENAVIDES, 43, was booked into the county detention center Thursday by the BSPD on a bench warrant.

• ERIC WAYNE DEAL, 46, was booked into the county detention center Thursday by the BSPD on charges of manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance (two counts).

• ANDY ARIEL RODRIGUEZ, 22, was booked into the county detention center Thursday by the BSPD on a Taylor County warrant for theft.

• CALIBER VIGNEAU, 24, was booked into the county detention center Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

• ALFREDO GUTIERREZ JR., 50, was booked into the county detention center Friday by the BSPD on a municipal warrant for expired motor vehicle inspection.

Fire/EMS

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

• TRAUMA was reported in the 2200 block of Alabama. Service refused.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 300 block of E. 13th Street. Service refused.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 4400 block of Elder. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of W. 11th Place. One person was transported to SMMC.

Support Groups

FRIDAY

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

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

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

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

MONDAY

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

• PEP — Parent Education Program for CPS participating and non-participating parents, single parent, grandparents, adoptive or fostering parents. Every first and fourth Monday of the month from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Northside Community Center. Classes are free. For information, call 263-2673.

• VA Alcoholics Anonymous support group, 7-8 p.m., Veterans Healing Center.

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| | Wednesday Service.....7:00p.m. |

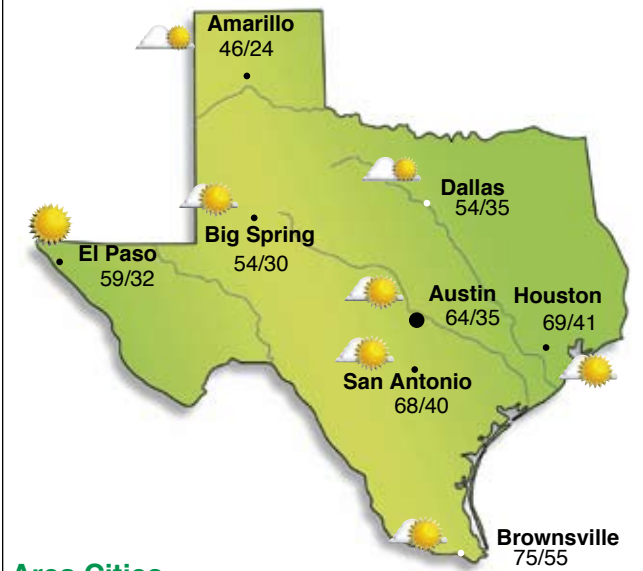
Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

| Sat 2/16 | Sun 2/17 | Mon 2/18 |
|--|--|--|
| | | |
| 54/30 | 61/37 | 71/46 |
| Sunshine along with some cloudy intervals. High 54F. Winds NE at 15 to 25 mph. | Abundant sunshine. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the upper 30s. | Abundant sunshine. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the mid 40s. |
| Sunrise: 7:28 AM | Sunrise: 7:27 AM | Sunrise: 7:26 AM |
| Sunset: 6:32 PM | Sunset: 6:33 PM | Sunset: 6:34 PM |

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Texas At A Glance



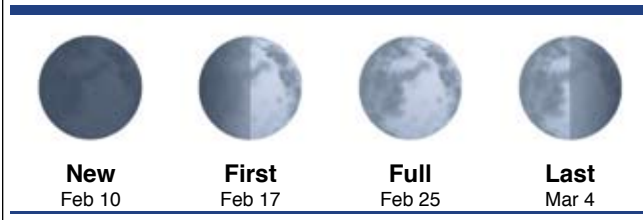
Area Cities

| City | Hi | Lo | Cond. | City | Hi | Lo | Cond. |
|----------------|----|----|-----------|-----------------|----|----|-----------|
| Abilene | 53 | 33 | pt sunny | Kingsville | 76 | 48 | mst sunny |
| Amarillo | 46 | 24 | pt sunny | Livingston | 65 | 34 | mst sunny |
| Austin | 64 | 35 | mst sunny | Longview | 56 | 34 | pt sunny |
| Beaumont | 67 | 40 | mst sunny | Lubbock | 47 | 26 | mst sunny |
| Brownsville | 75 | 55 | mst sunny | Lufkin | 64 | 35 | mst sunny |
| Brownwood | 56 | 34 | pt sunny | Midland | 55 | 32 | mst sunny |
| Corpus Christi | 72 | 48 | mst sunny | Raymondville | 77 | 52 | mst sunny |
| Corsicana | 53 | 34 | pt sunny | Rosenberg | 69 | 39 | mst sunny |
| Dallas | 54 | 35 | pt sunny | San Antonio | 68 | 40 | mst sunny |
| Del Rio | 68 | 39 | pt sunny | San Marcos | 65 | 35 | mst sunny |
| El Paso | 59 | 32 | sunny | Sulphur Springs | 52 | 34 | pt sunny |
| Fort Stockton | 55 | 33 | pt sunny | Sweetwater | 53 | 32 | pt sunny |
| Gainesville | 50 | 30 | pt sunny | Tyler | 55 | 33 | pt sunny |
| Greenville | 51 | 32 | pt sunny | Weatherford | 51 | 33 | pt sunny |
| Houston | 69 | 41 | mst sunny | Wichita Falls | 50 | 30 | pt sunny |

National Cities

| City | Hi | Lo | Cond. | City | Hi | Lo | Cond. |
|-------------|----|----|-----------|----------------|----|----|-----------|
| Atlanta | 62 | 34 | sunny | Minneapolis | 17 | 3 | pt sunny |
| Boston | 48 | 30 | pt sunny | New York | 48 | 35 | pt sunny |
| Chicago | 28 | 14 | pt sunny | Phoenix | 71 | 43 | sunny |
| Dallas | 54 | 35 | pt sunny | San Francisco | 70 | 48 | sunny |
| Denver | 40 | 20 | pt sunny | Seattle | 56 | 40 | pt sunny |
| Houston | 69 | 41 | mst sunny | St. Louis | 39 | 25 | pt sunny |
| Los Angeles | 79 | 52 | sunny | Washington, DC | 58 | 32 | mst sunny |
| Miami | 75 | 63 | rain | | | | |

Moon Phases



• Take Pounds Off Sensibly (TOPS) TX 0021 meets at First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad, in the dining hall on the east side of the building. Weight-in starts at 5 p.m. and meeting starts at 5:30 p.m. We have a different program each week. For more information, please call 213-1342 or 263-6819.

• Circle of Hope, a Celebrate Recovery group, meets at 6:30-8 p.m. at Spring Creek Fellowship, located in the College Park Shopping Center. Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered recovery program dealing with life's hang-ups, hurts and habits, covering many areas. Circle of Hope group is a ministry of Spring Creek Fellowship. For further information, contact Dale at 432-270-8462.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 16
Love 2 Run 5k
Big Spring State Park
For more info contact
Ron Alton 806-241-5741

March 1
Crimson Soul - One More Show
Big Spring Municipal Auditorium
Tickets \$10 available at the
Big Spring Convention & Visitors
Bureau For more info call
432-263-8235

March 2
Kids Fishing Tournament
sponsored by Greater Big
Spring Rotary Club-Comanche
Trail Lake-Registration at the
Classroom in Dora Roberts
Community Center
Contact **Ken McIntosh**
817-521-4060

March 2-3
Gem & Mineral Show
Howard Co. Fair Barn
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Take note

- American Legion Post No. 506 will host a fish fry Saturday at 3203 W. Highway 80. Plates are \$10 each; serving will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and delivery is available from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call 263-2084.
- 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.
- The Howard County A&M Club is accepting scholarship applications from high school students who are graduating this May and have been accepted at Texas A&M University for the Fall 2013 semester. Students must be Howard County residents and will enroll for at least 12 semester hours. Application deadline is April 1. More information and the application may be found on the club's web site: www.westexags.com
- 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.
- Howard County Master Gardeners Club business meetings take place at 6 p.m. the third Tues-

day of every month at 1604 W. Fourth St., between Brown and Jones streets. The meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the county extension office at 432-264-2236.

- Big Spring State Hospital patients are in need of warm clothing. Clean items should be taken to the Community Relations Office near the south entrance of the hospital, 1901 N. U.S. Highway 87. Clothing that cannot be used by the patients will be taken to the hospital's Chalet Resale Shop for sale to raise money for patient needs. Men's clothing and larger-sized clothing are always in need. For more information, call Melissa Adams, BSSH program coordinator, at 432 268-7730.
- The Big Spring State Hospital Volunteer Services Council needs assistance in The Chalet Resale Shoppe, 115 East Second St. The Chalet Resale Shoppe is a fast-paced retail shop specializing in gently worn clothing and small household appliance. Volunteers are needed to sort, price, check out and stock donated items. Volunteer hours are flexible. The Chalet is open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday. For more information, contact Jamey Stegall at james.stegall@dshs.state.tx.us or 432 268-7535.
- Do you have a minute? An hour? How about making a difference in someone's life? Become a hospice volunteer. One hour a month can make a difference. Whether it's visiting a patient or working in the office or helping with a craft, you

can make a difference. We can work around your schedule. If interested, please call Kara Daniels at Compass Hospice, 432-263-5999, or apply in person at 602 S. Main St.

- Every Friday night from 7:30 p.m. until 10 p.m. is dance night at the Senior Citizen Center. The cost is \$8 per person.
- Mobile Meals is in need of volunteer delivery drivers. If you can donate one hour per week to help deliver meals to the elderly, call Macaria Cantu at 263-4016.
- Spring Tabernacle Ministries, 1209 Wright St., has a brief, inspirational message before giving away food and clothing on Thursday mornings. It's a great way to work off community service and get help, too. Be there at 9 a.m.-11 a.m. and get two for one plus a rehab meeting.
- Home Hospice is seeking volunteers. Volunteers are needed for in office duties as well as sitters, deliveries and crafts. To find out more information or to volunteer contact Sherry Hodnett at Home Hospice by calling 264-7599.
- Hangar 25 Air Museum needs your help. We are in need of volunteers to fill a variety of positions such as tour guides, front desk, clerical, events, and many others. Set your hours and days of the week you are available. Meet new people and enjoy a rewarding experience. For more information, contact Emma Bogard at 432-267-2963.

MENTAL

Continued from Page 1

ers overhauled the juvenile justice system in response to pervasive reports of physical and sexual abuse, the responsibility for early intervention has shifted from state to local officials.

As a result, commit-

ments of youths to state jails have declined by 65 percent over the past five years, creating a smaller population of older teenagers with longer and more violent criminal records. Lawmakers debated the merits of the change during Thursday's hearing. "It becomes a cost savings for us," said Rep. Sylvester Turner,

D-Houston. "And the kids are the ones being hurt." Rep. Charles Perry, R-Lubbock, attributed the declining state jail population to successful intervention by local officials, who now supervise the vast majority of young offenders through programs such as probation and deferred adjudication. "I'm thinking may-

be we got something right," he said. "I hope that's the case." But even at the local level, diagnoses of mental illness are rising sharply, with the rate of mental illness among juvenile offenders on community-supervised probation rising from 20 percent in 2007 to 37 percent last year. It surpassed the rate of similarly situated

young offenders receiving drug and alcohol abuse treatment, officials said. "That gets worse as it goes along," said Nancy Arrigona, director of research for the Juvenile Justice Department, in an interview outside the hearing. "Mentally ill kids get detained at much higher rates." Arrigona said the toll of mental illness among

young offenders is particularly visible at the Corsicana Residential Treatment Center, the primary jail for mentally ill youths who've committed offenses. "Assaults there are higher," she said. "They have so many issues and so much going on that they act out. They might not understand the rules. It's just difficult."

FIRE

Continued from Page 1

spread. There was a home nearby on E. County Road 34 and the fire was moving in that general direction. However, we were able to get on the scene quickly and the closest it got was about a half-mile out. No other structures were threatened by the fire." Sullivan said the un-

intended portion of the fire consumed only two acres of brush land and no injuries were reported as a result of the fire. "The HCVFD had four vehicles on the scene and the Big Spring Fire Department had one vehicle, so we were able to shut it down pretty quick," he said. Sullivan said he and his firefighters also recently responded to a structure fire near the intersection of Hilltop

Road and FM 1501. "There was an electrical short in the ceiling of the home," Sullivan said. "However, the occupants were very lucky. They smelled smoke and contacted the fire department quickly. Also, thanks to the extreme cold we had that night the fire didn't move as quickly as it normally would have." Sullivan said firefighters were able to save the home, which suffered

only minimal damage from the fire. No injuries were reported as a result of the incident. According to Sullivan, wildfire hazards in Howard County are quickly going from moderate to extreme. "We still have some moisture in the ground, so that helps us out a lot," Sullivan said. "However, we're getting closer and closer to extreme conditions with each passing day. That,

coupled with the high winds we can expect toward the end of this month and in March, is going to make for a very busy season." Sullivan said he plans to meet with Howard County commissioners soon to discuss enacting a burn ban. "I expect to meet with them toward the end of the month to request they enact a burn ban if the conditions continue

the way they are going," he said. *Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232.*

TEST

Continued from Page 1

from(2011)," she said. "I can give parents the assurance that there is good instruction going on every day. Our students may not yet be the greatest test takers just yet, but they're being great learners." STAAR testing in grades 3 through 8 this year begins April 12. Also Thursday, trustees approved a change in the way the district conducts school board elections, approving a

resolution to allow new trustees to be elected by a plurality instead of by a majority of votes. In other business, trustees: • Officially set May 11 as the date for trustee elections. Seats up for election this year include District 5, currently held by Chad Wash, and Districts 6 and 7, in which Jeff Borman and Phil Furqueron are the incumbents. Wash filed his candidacy for re-election Wednesday. Borman said he is undecided whether he will run

again, while Furqueron said he will not seek re-election. • Approved renewal of contract for administrators, directors and coordinators, as well as legal and local policy updates. *Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 235 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com*

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| Identity Thief (R) Digital Fri.: 4:40 7:20 10:00 Sat.: 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00 | Warm Bodies (PG-13) Digital Fri.: 4:45 7:10 9:35 Sat.: 2:20 4:45 7:10 9:35 |

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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

Money is better spent elsewhere

There was a time not all that long ago when Texas prisons were jam-packed. Now, because of falling crime rates and a move away from trying to incarcerate as many convicts as possible, about 10,000 bunks might be going unused in Texas' 111-prison system. There are hundreds of additional empty bunks in the state's six prisons for juvenile inmates.

Even with all this empty state-run space available, Texas pays \$123 million a year to lease beds from private prison companies, as the American-Statesman reported last week.

This is money poorly spent that could be redirected elsewhere. The number of unused beds in state prisons gives legislators the opportunity to consolidate Texas' prison system and close more prisons beyond the one they agreed to close in 2011. Additional money can be saved by ending contracts with private prison companies.

The number of people sent to prison has been declining for years. The state's prison population is about 150,000, down some 7,000 convicts from three years ago. The incarceration decline is expected to continue as crime rates keep slowly falling and the state refocuses corrections on rehabilitation and treatment in community-based programs.

The same is similarly true of the state's juvenile prison system, as the American-Statesman reported. There are about 1,100 juvenile offenders imprisoned in Texas, but none of the state's six juvenile facilities is close to capacity. Two, the Corsicana Residential Treatment Center and the Ron Jackson State Juvenile Correctional Center, are less than half full.

Prisons mean jobs, and for that reason lawmakers find it hard to close them. Nonetheless, the state cannot afford to pay for unused prison beds.

“We've got to quit, once and for all, running these facilities just because they're there for economic development purposes,” said Democratic state Sen. John Whitmire of Houston, chairman of the Senate Criminal Justice Committee. “We need to use taxpayers' money to fight crime, on the public safety priorities of this state, rather than just on bricks and mortar that in some cases we don't need.”

Texas went on a prison-building and prison-privatization binge in the 1980s and 1990s. Many struggling small cities and towns competed to bring a prison to their area, thinking it would bring jobs and give the community an economic boost. Studies done over the past several years have questioned that assumption.

A new study by Gregory Hooks, a sociology professor at Washington State University and perhaps the leading researcher on the subject of prisons, jobs and privatization, finds that prisons contribute minimally to job growth and might even negatively affect it. In a Jan. 28 press release announcing his latest study, Hooks said that “the privatization of prisons often has a negative impact on employment prospects” in the rural counties that host many prisons.

This negative impact, according to Hooks, is attributable partly to the lower pay and fewer benefits offered by private prisons, which also have a higher turnover rate than state prisons.

Texas prisons are suffering from a chronic shortage of guards. Consolidating and shrinking the prison system might allow the state to hire more prison employees and bump up their pay and benefits, which might help stabilize prison employment.

We agree with Whitmire that a good move for the state to make, given the number of excess beds in the state-run system, is to not renew some of its contracts with private prison companies when they expire.

Brad Livingston, the chief of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, says that caps on prison populations and capacity mean there are fewer empty beds in the state's prison system than Whitmire and others are counting. He says his agency needs far more than the \$3.1 billion annual budget proposed by legislators to maintain prisons, hire more officers and replace old vehicles.

Livingston's cautious notes should be considered, but the state has an opportunity to shrink its bloated prison system and more smartly, rather than bluntly, address its criminal justice needs. Every dollar misspent on prisons is a dollar kept from education, health care and, as Whitmire points out, public safety and fighting crime.

— Austin American-Statesman

Plagued by good news

MEDFORD, Ore. — “Obama says he's going to make middle-class jobs,” the breakfast room troubadour bellowed at the Holiday Inn Express to those who wanted to listen — and to those who didn't. “Did he make your job?” he went on, cornering a female employee. “Private companies make jobs.”

The commentary was not entirely wrong. Private enterprise creates the great majority of jobs in this country. But the baritone assumes that entrepreneurs can easily grow good jobs in a world filled with smart young people working for less money.

Every successful rich country — Germany, for example — has a government actively building the right economic environment, including an educated workforce able to fill good jobs. It has low unemployment, high wages and a sturdy social safety net.

In his State of the Union address, President Obama proposed “a Fix-It-First program to put people to work as soon as possible on our most urgent repairs, like the nearly 70,000 structurally deficient bridges across the country.” A modern country needs a modern infrastructure. It helps the makers make more.



FROMA HARROP

Here in the Northwest, the aging I-5 bridge over the Columbia River is a major worry for both Oregon and Washington state. It needs rebuilding — and, for that, a good chunk of federal money.

If in the course of rebuilding these bridges, thousands of jobs are made, that's what we call a win-win situation. That taxpayer dollars are involved is no reason to hate the program.

Public investment in energy technology is today's moonshot. Notwithstanding some bad bets, such as Solyndra, it multiplies private-sector jobs. It is partly why American manufacturers are selling cars again and why, as Obama noted, wind and solar energy has doubled.

Technology is why, as Obama also pointed out, Caterpillar, Ford, Intel and Apple are opening plants in the United States, rather than in China, Mexico and other lower-wage countries.

Robots are allowing us to compete.

Now Obama does play fast and loose with some numbers, according to the fact-checkers. While wind and solar energy production is way up, it still represents a very small piece of the energy mix — even the renewable energy mix (which includes hydropower and ethanol). But these technologies are still relatively new, and they're way up from nothing.

Obama breaks the truth-meter when he claims that “we have doubled the distance our cars will go on a gallon of gas.” If only. He was talking about his

administration's call for raising fuel economy standards by 2025 — a bold goal that carmakers may or may not be able to reach. Suffice it to say, though, the 17 percent rise in fuel efficiency over the last four years is very, very impressive.

Most viewers weren't dining with the fact-checkers, but even if they had, the news sounded pretty good. Over half a million new jobs, more American cars sold, less foreign oil used, a housing market on the mend. As Obama reminded everyone, “We have cleared away the rubble of crisis” created by you-know-who.

Sitting behind Obama, Republican House Speaker John Boehner stoically listened to the progress reports. Next to him, Vice President Joe Biden seemed paralyzed in a grin.

Much of the Republican reaction was self-pity. Official responder Florida Sen. Marco Rubio offered a long list of fictional accusations.

Example: When Republicans say that “government can't control the weather” (not quite true with global warming), “he accuses us of wanting dirty water and dirty air.”

Hey, it was a tough night for Republicans. Their big voices on the radio and in motel breakfast rooms have little recourse but to raise the volume.

To find out more about Froma Harrop, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

Happy 500th birthday, Florida

Editor's Note: This is the 29th part of an ongoing series, “America's Hidden Hispanic Heritage.” To read previous columns in the series, go to <http://www.hidden-hispanicheritage.com>

My reservations are made; my plans are solid. I'm going to be in Florida on April 2 and 3 to celebrate the 500th anniversary of Juan Ponce de Leon's great discovery. But it's not really fair. I'm going to a celebration that should be coming to me — and to all of us across this country!

When Florida marks its quinquennial, the whole nation should be celebrating its 500th birthday.

After all, on April 2 and 3, 1513, Ponce de Leon didn't just discover and land on what today we know as the State of Florida but on the mainland that later became the United States.

He discovered our country!

Although Florida initially was believed to be an island, in the late 16th century, European scholars and mapmakers used the word “Florida” to describe much of the territory now known as the U.S. mainland. Yet nowadays, when we hear that Ponce de Leon discovered Florida, we give him credit only for one state. It's absurd!

But why would we deprive ourselves from celebrating our 500th birthday? Why aren't we planning a huge, nationwide series of events to commemorate our quinquennial in April? Why are we letting Florida have all the fun? And why is the rest of the country oblivious to the upcoming Florida celebrations?

Could it be simple confusion about the territory Ponce de Leon discovered? Could it be small-minded planning by Florida officials who failed call for a national celebration? Could it be greed for tourism dollars that made them reluctant to share their party with the rest of the nation?

Or could it be “The Black Legend,” that insidious centuries-old campaign that keeps mini-

mizing the accomplishments of the Spanish explorers and their Latino descendants? Had this country been discovered by Anglo-Saxon explorers, instead of Spanish conquistadors, wouldn't we be getting ready for fireworks all over the United States?

The answer is: Yes, all of the above.

In 1976, we had a great national celebration to commemorate the bicentennial of our Declaration of Independence. There were many wonderful events to help Americans reconnect with their history. Doesn't the quinquennial of our discovery deserve similar national attention?

Wouldn't it give Americans another wonderful opportunity to reconnect with yet another portion our history, especially the history of Ponce de Leon and the millions of other Hispanics who have been following him to North America since 1513?

So why neglect our “American Discovery Day”? Is it because it recognizes the Hispanic roots that American history tends to keep hidden? Is it because it reminds us of nearly a century of Spanish exploration of North America before the British arrived?

Mind you, in 2004, the two U.S. senators from Florida, Bob Graham and Bill Nelson, both Democrats, introduced federal legislation that would have established a “National Commission on the Quinquennial of the discovery of Florida by Ponce de Leon” to “encourage, coordinate and conduct” celebrations that would “enhance public understanding of the impact of the discovery of Florida on the history of the United States.” Although it was passed by the U.S. Senate, the bill never cleared the House.

Yet now that so many politicians acknowledge their need to reach out to Latinos, one would think they would grab this opportunity to begin recognizing 500 years of hidden Hispanic heritage. This is the time to recognize the great feats of those conquistadors who discovered, explored and settled huge portions of North America long before other Europeans.

Ponce de Leon arrived in the New World on Columbus' second voyage, became the governor of Puerto Rico, and then led the 200

Spanish sailors who were the first Europeans to set foot on the mainland that later became the United States.

Nevertheless, this is only happening in Florida, where a year-long series events already are underway.

Under the statewide “Viva Florida 500” campaign, there will be history lectures, art exhibits, tall ship flotillas, parades, fireworks and wonderful reenactments of historic moments. But unfortunately, these events are so small and so local that the rest of us are not even aware of them.

If you follow news accounts on plans for the Florida celebrations, you know that instead of trying to involve the rest of the nation, two towns are currently competing for the right to claim the site where Ponce de Leon first landed.

First you have St. Augustine, founded in 1565, remaining the oldest permanent settlement in the United States, but also always claiming to be the site of Ponce de Leon's first landing in 1513. On April 3, the city is planning a ceremonial replica-ship reenactment of the landing at the downtown bay front, a mass at Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine, the erection of its fourth Ponce de Leon statue and the dedication of a reproduction baptismal font on which Ponce de Leon was baptized in 1474. I plan to be there.

And then you have Melbourne Beach, some 142 miles to the south, where community activists and history buffs have been on a decade-long campaign to prove they live much closer to the real landing site. On April 2, Melbourne Beach will host its own replica-ship landing reenactment, an Air Force fly over, a naval 21-gun salute and the unveiling of a 10-foot bronze Ponce de Leon statue in the city's “Don Juan Ponce de Leon Landing Park.” I plan to be there, too.

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

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MIGUEL PEREZ

Church News

College Baptist Church

Boys from sixth grade up and men of College Baptist will meet tonight at 7 to continue the study, "The Man Code" by Dennis Swanberg. There will be fellowship and a meal.

On Saturday at 8 a.m., there will be a work day at the church. All those who feel able to do some work are asked to help out. We will be doing some repair work, completing some projects and doing some deep cleaning.

Sunday, all Sunday School leaders and teachers are asked to meet for a Sunday School planning meeting at 5 p.m. If you can think of ways that we could improve our Sunday School, please come and bring your ideas.

The Ladies Ministry of College Baptist meets each Wednesday at 5:45 p.m. for a Bible Study at the church. They are studying 2nd Samuel this week. The story of King David is very interesting. It would be on the Christian's "Best Seller" list, if they had one.

If you are looking for a good book to read, visit our library at church. We have many to choose from. There are books for any age, as well as Bible study help books. If you need help finding what you are looking for, ask our church librarian, Marilyn Rogers. She will be glad to assist you.

— By *Dean Priest*

First Presbyterian Church, Coahoma

Dennis Haralson, from Seminole, will present the sermon this week on the lectionary verses of Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16, Romans 10:8b-13, and Luke 4: 1-13. The sermon theme is "God's grace and how these gifts affect our lives."

Our weekly events:

- Tuesday at 5 p.m. — The Garden of Eden Club will begin construction on the new rock sign in front of the church. Swing by and visit or come help mix cement and haul rock.

- Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. — Prayer Group meeting in the Social Hall. Join in as we pray for all those in the area who are in need.

- Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. — Daughters of the King High School Youth Group will continue its study of spiritual gifts and work on the food bank ministry. We would love to have you come visit our group.

- Thursday at 5 p.m. — Prayer Blanket Ministry meets in the Ministry Room

- Sunday at 10 a.m. — Java with Jesus. Share a cup of coffee and a light breakfast while enjoying fellowship with others; Adult Sunday School Class. The study continues on the book "Crazy Love" by Francis Chan; our Explorers Youth Sunday School Class is growing and welcomes all youth from pre-kindergarten to 12th grade.

Upcoming events:

- Wednesday at 6 p.m. — Presbyterian Women's Bible Study in the Church Social Hall;

- March 31 at 7 a.m. — Coahoma Community Churches' Sunrise Service at the Coahoma City Park.

We have recently discovered there is a need for warm blankets during the winter months. If you have clean, gently used blankets you would like to donate, please call the church at (432)394-4450 or drop them by the Elementary School in Coahoma.

The Youth groups are also gathering warm socks for Veterans at the VA

Hospital. Hunting socks or diabetic socks would be wonderful. Please call or drop them by the church.

Members of the congregation met with a facilitator, the Rev. Craig Holstedt of FPC Big Spring, for a Church Needs Assessment. As our congregation grows, many new ideas are being introduced. The congregation realized we needed a plan to discover what God's true purpose for our church is. The assessment led us to discussion on new and old church programs, youth and adult education, giving, outreach ministries and evangelism.

Come visit and experience the sense of excitement as we begin exploring new programs and ministries. It's a great time to get involved.

First Church of the Nazarene

Get your hop ready! The First Church of the Nazarene will host its annual Easter Egg hunt March 30 at the Old Settler's Pavilion at Comanche Trail Park. The event will start at 11 a.m. We will also have hot dogs, drinks, inflatables, etc. This event is free to anyone wanting to attend. Tell your friends and family members to plan to make it a part of their Easter tradition.

You are also welcome to join us for all of our services, classes and groups:

- Sunday service at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary.

- Sunday morning youth and children's Classes at 9.

- Sunday morning children's church at 10 in the Fellowship Hall

- Sunday evening youth activities at 6:30.

- Tuesday night prayer at 6:30 in the sanctuary.

- Wednesday evening adult/children/youth Classes at 6:30.

Unable to come to church on Sunday morning? well listen into KBST 95.7 at 10 a.m. and you can hear a broadcast of our service. You can also view streaming footage inside the sanctuary by going to our webpage at www.nazfamily.org.

First Church of the Nazarene is located at 1400 Lancaster. For more information, please contact the church office at (432) 267-7015. You can visit us on the web at www.nazfamily.org where you can view a live service and we are also on Facebook and Twitter.

Lenten Luncheon Series

The Big Spring ecumenical Lenten Luncheon series begins Wednesday and features clergy from five local congregations.

The community luncheons will happen weekly Wednesdays through March 20 starting at noon. Donations to cover the cost of the meals are appreciated.

The schedule is as follows:

- Wednesday — the luncheon will be held at St. Mary the Virgin Episcopal, 1001 Goliad, and will feature the Rev. Craig Holstedt, pastor of First Presbyterian Church.

- Feb. 27 — the luncheon will be held at First Church of the Nazarene, 1400 Lancaster, and will feature the Rev. Ken McIntosh, pastor of First Christian Church.

- March 6 — the luncheon will occur at First Presbyterian Church, Eighth and Runnels, and will feature Msgr. Bernard Gully from Holy Trinity Catholic Parish.

- March 13 — the luncheon will be held at First Christian Church, 911 Goliad, and will feature the Rev. Cal Calendar, pastor of First Church of the Nazarene.

- March 20 — the final luncheon in the series will happen at Holy Trinity Catholic Parish, 1007 Hearn St., and will feature the Rev. Barbara Kirk-Norris.

Come experience the season of Lent through a simple meal, an inspirational message, and an ecumenical fellowship with other Christians.

First Presbyterian Church, Big Spring

The Lectionary Bible study, led by Craig Holstedt and Tom Koger, meets at 5:17 p.m. in the church library and the Chancel Choir practices at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday. The Children's Choir practices on Wednesday at 4:45 p.m.

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

The Boy Scouts meet in the entrance room of the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 p.m. on Monday.

The Ecumenical Lenten Luncheons, which we share with First Christian Church, St. Mary's Episcopal, the Church of the Nazarene, and Catholic Trinity Parish, begin at noon on February 20 at St. Mary's, with Rev. Holstedt as speaker.

The Service Committee is sponsoring a personal hygiene drive; they are asking your help in collecting toothbrushes, toothpaste, bath soap, shampoo, and wipes for people in need. Please bring these items to the foyer of the sanctuary on Feb. 17 and 24 or drop them off at the church office.

Susan Wilson is in charge of this week's "Take Ten." Danny Kennemur is liturgist for February. Ushers for the month are Ellen Austin and Isabella, Jarle Boe, and Robert Bennett.

The Elementary Sunday School Class begins a Lent/Easter study named "Garden of Gethsemane" this Sunday.

The Rev. Holstedt is teaching a Confirmation Class for the youth.

The Adult Discovery Class is studying "The Final Words of Jesus," a DVD offering by Adam Hamilton, pastor of United Methodist Church of Resurrection, Leawood, Kan.

The Adult Covenant Class is studying lessons entitled "Imitating Jesus," from the book of Colossians.

The lectionary for the First Sunday in Lent is Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13.

The Chancel Choir will present "Come to the Table of the Lord" by Jay Althouse for the anthem and "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" by Larry Shackley for the offertory. Rev. Craig Holstedt will deliver the sermon and celebrate Communion.

If you cannot attend worship, you may listen in on KBST 1490 AM., beginning at 11:00 a.m. If you wish to have a printed bulletin for Sunday services, please call the church office at 263-4211. You may also see what's happening at the church by visiting our website: www.fpcbs.org.

Forsan Baptist Church

Currently on Sunday mornings, we are examining the ministry of Jesus

See **CHURCH**, Page 7

What became of Aura Lee?

Aura Lee has disappeared. Once the sweetheart of an American Civil War ballad, the maid with golden hair has long been forgotten. Her virtues are no longer touted. All memories of her have ceased, buried with those whose lips once sang her praises.

Published in 1861 with music composed by George R. Poulton and words written by W.W. Fosdick, "Aura Lee" was a popular love song. A favorite of college glee clubs and barbershop quartets, the girl with golden hair was also sung about by the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, New York.

With the passing of time, "Aura Lee," like many other songs that embodied an era in history, had slipped into the archives of music history. But not to be forgotten, the dormant tune surfaced from the chambers of some musical storehouse to become a hit once more.

Almost a century later, a young artist named Elvis Presley released "Aura Lee" with fresh words written principally by Ken Darby. In the fall of 1956, Presley sang "Love Me Tender" to the tune of "Aura Lee" on the Ed Sullivan show. With more than a million advance orders, "Love Me Tender" became a gold record before it was released.

In the course of history, some great pieces of music, a few well-written books, a smattering of creative inventions, and a handful of good ideas earn the title of "timeless." Other works, perhaps of equal quality, disappear into the dust of the past.

In the field of literature, one book has remained a best seller, a gold record of sorts, for centuries. Portions of the Bible have been translated into 2,530 languages around the world. Testimonies about the impact of God's Word continue to emerge from the most unexpected places.

Perhaps we shouldn't be surprised that the Scripture continues to make a comeback in the lives of those who have rejected God. The prophet Isaiah wrote, "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it" (Isaiah 55:11 ESV).

Just as a catchy tune becomes etched in the mind of a listener, God's Word has the power to penetrate even the most unreceptive heart. Like the "Aura Lees" of the past, we never know when Scripture we may have forgotten will pop up to bring conviction or comfort when we need it most.



BONNIE WHEAT

I dreamed a dream

Most of us know the song because of Susan Boyle's appearance on Britain's Got Talent. April 11, 2009, Susan stood on the stage in her frumpy dress and outdated hairdo. The audience and judges snickered and laughed during her interview, enjoying the misery of this out-of-touch want-a-be in an out-of-place position.

But, when she opened her mouth and began to sing, everyone sat stunned. In a clear voice that was perfectly on pitch, she sang, "I dreamed a dream of time gone by, when

See **DREAM**, Page 7



BILL TINSLEY

sudoku

ANSWERS

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

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Pfeifer: Pope's resignation 'not totally' unexpected

Following is a statement by San Angelo Bishop Michael Pfeifer on the resignation announcement of Pope Benedict XVI:

"Like the whole world, especially the leaders of our Roman Catholic Church, I was surprised, but not totally, by the sudden decision of Pope Benedict XVI to offer his resignation as Supreme Pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church. While it was rather sudden and not expected at this moment, I had suspected over the past year that one day soon, Pope Benedict XVI, because of advancing age

and health issues, would relinquish the Petrine ministry, as Pope, for our Catholic Church. I was with Pope Benedict XVI twice in the past year and a half and I could see how difficult it was for him to carry out his universal ministry for the worldwide Church.

"In March 2012, along with the other Bishops of Texas, I spent several days in Rome and had the opportunity for a personal visit with Pope Benedict XVI, and we all could see that his strength was failing. During that visit, he gave me a special pec-

toral cross that I wear each day and treasure immensely.

"Pope Benedict XVI, as he has indicated in his statement of resignation, does this for what he considers to be the best for our Catholic Church at this time. I know this is a very difficult decision for him, as he wants to continue a very demanding ministry, unlike that of any other office in the world.

"Pope Benedict XVI, who accepted the election of the Cardinals to head the Papacy already at an age when he could have retired,

gave his entire heart and strength as long as he could to lead our Catholic Church during the past eight years.

"Pope Benedict XVI brought the tender heart of a pastor, the incisive mind of a scholar and the confidence of a soul united with his God in all that he did. His resignation is but another sign of his great care for the Church. We are sad that he will be resigning, but grateful for his eight years of selfless leadership as successor of St. Peter.

"While elected at an age past retirement, Pope Benedict XVI, as



L'Osservatore Romano photo

San Angelo Diocese Bishop Michael Pfeifer meets Pope Benedict XVI in Rome in March 2012 during Pfeifer's visit to update the pope on the diocese.

a newly-elected Pope, set out to meet his people — and they were of all faiths — all over the world. He visited religiously threatened

See **POPE**, Page 8

CHURCH

Continued from Page 5

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

This Saturday, we will have our men's breakfast at the Four Sands Café. Show up at 9 a.m. for good food and fellowship.

Our sanctuary remodel is nearing completion! Paint is dry, carpet will be installed next week and the sound system will be in by Feb. 20. The first set of chairs have been reupholstered and the pews will be next. Check out our Facebook page for pictures of the progress.

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

Wednesday services begin at 6 p.m. Rides for all youth activities are available if arranged ahead of time. Call the church at 432-457-2342 or Pastor Darren Weaver at 432-213-2348.

First United Methodist Church

Senior Pastor Bill Ivins will bring the message at both worship services Sunday. His sermon is titled "The Scoop On Leadership" with scripture readings from 1 Corinthians 14:33b-40. Services are held at 8:30 a.m. and 10:50 a.m. with Sunday school classes in between at 9:45 a.m.

Following the late service on Sunday, the Administrative Council will honor those members from North Birdwell Lane United Methodist Church with a welcome luncheon in Garrett Hall.

Our 10:50 a.m. worship service is broadcast each Sunday morning on KXCS 105.5 FM. Individuals may sponsor a Sunday broadcast for \$90 and these can be made in honor or memory of someone special. Sign up sheets and complete information is available in the church office.

There will be no Children's Day Out program on President's Day Monday; our church offices, how-

ever, will remain open.

Chuck Abuyeka, Director of Wesley Ministries at both Howard and Midland College, will be leader of the Noon Bible Study on Wednesday. The meal will be catered by Al's Barbecue with serving beginning at 11:50 a.m.

Real Life Wednesday begins serving at 5:30 p.m. with various activities for all ages following.

A new course on Financial Peace University will begin on Thursday, Feb. 21, with Richard Steel and Scott Mckenzie as instructors. Enrollment information is available at the church office.

Jim Anderson, Minister of Discipleship, held a church leadership orientation in which those attending dedicated their services to "offering compassion to the hurting, sharing the hope of the gospel and gathering people into community." Each leadership group did a reality check, related options and set goals for the future. Watch for some exciting new programs in the very near future.

There has been a change in our website. It is now www.fumcbs.com. Our location is in the heart of downtown Big Spring at Fourth and Scurry streets.

East Side Baptist Church

We invite everyone to join us today for a night of great music.

"The David Warren Family" (thedavidwarrenfamily.com) will be in concert here at 7 p.m. These folks have been singing for the Lord many years. They will truly bless your heart, so come and enjoy the music and fun.

We also invite you to our regular services each week. We meet Sundays at 9:45 a.m., 10:45 a.m. and 1:45 p.m., then Wednesdays at 7 p.m. for Bible study and Kids Club.

We welcome all to worship with us.

Cornerstone Covenant Church

Cornerstone Covenant Church would like to invite you to join us this Sunday at 10:30 am for praise and worship directly followed by the Word. Our 2013 Vision Focus is "Restoring Hope to the Hopeless." Last week Pastor Willard continued in the series, "The Church: Give No Place to the Devil" with a message titled "Hope for the Workplace," taken from Ephesians 6:5-9. This week he will continue in the same series, with title of "Hope for Ethnic Uni-

ty" which will be taken from Ephesians 2:11-22.

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

Overcomers: Recovery and Restoration class has now been moved to Thursday evenings, from 6:30-8 p.m. and will be located in the Green Room of the East Wing. For more convenient access to the meeting room, please park in the back of the church and enter in through the metal door across from the Fellowship Hall. (For more info please contact church office.)

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

CCC meets on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. for Discipleship 101 Bible Study and Sundays at 10:30 a.m. for worship. Sunday morning services are recorded, so if you'd like a free copy of a CD for those services, please see our Multimedia Dept.

Mother's Lounge and Children Church are offered for both mid-week and Sunday services.

CCC is located at 706 East 12th St. For more information, please contact us at 264-0015, visit us on the web at www.cccbigspring.org or check out Covenant Connect on Facebook, Twitter or Myspace.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

St. Andrew's Brotherhood meeting and breakfast is at 8:30 a.m. Saturday in the parish hall. All men of the parish are invited.

St. Mary's Holy Eucharist service begins at 10:30 a.m. Sunday. Our United Thanks Offering campaign begins Sunday, with the ingathering on Easter Sunday. The UTO encourages daily prayers and offerings and a can be used as a part of your Lenten discipline. Envelopes, UTO book-markers and UTO blue boxes are located on the table at the rear of the church.

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

Evening prayer begins at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday. Afterward, the Inquirers' Class will meet from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the parish hall.

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

DREAM

Continued from Page 5

hope was high and life worth living. I dreamed that love would never die. I dreamed that God would be forgiving. Then I was young and unafraid, and dreams were made, and used and wasted ..."

It seemed that Susan Boyle was singing her own song, a dream of youth faded and gone. After a moment of stunned silence, the crowd leaped to their feet in a standing ovation for this obscure Scottish woman who

lived alone with her cat. In November of 2009 she released her first album. It immediately became the number one best selling album in the world.

The song Susan chose to sing that night comes from the musical adaptation of Victor Hugo's novel, Les Miserables. It is the song sung by Fantine, an unwed mother ostracized in nineteenth century France for her "moral failure" and forced into prostitution in order to support her child. Anne Hathaway was nominated for an Academy Award and

won the Golden Globe for her performance of the song in the recent movie version of the musical.

In 1862, commenting on Fantine, the character in his novel, Victor Hugo wrote, "What is this history of Fantine? It is society purchasing a slave. From whom? From misery. From hunger, cold, isolation, destitution. A dolorous bargain. A soul for a morsel of bread. Misery offers; society accepts. The sacred law of Jesus Christ governs our civilization, but it does not yet permeate it; it is said that slavery has disappeared from European civilization.

This is a mistake. It still exists; but it weights only upon the woman, and it is called prostitution."

Most of us think that slavery ended with the Civil War but, according to International Justice Mission, "More children, women and men are held in slavery right now than over the course of the entire trans-Atlantic slave trade.... Trafficking in humans generates profits in excess of 32 billion dollars a year for those who, by force and deception, sell human lives into slavery and sexual bondage." According

to the U.S. Department of State, "There are approximately 600,000 to 800,000 children, women and men trafficked across international borders annually." 80% of these are women and girls. Up to 50% are minors. International Justice Mission (IJM) was founded in 1997 by Gary Haugen after an international study disclosed widespread global abuse of the poor. Today IJM has over 500 lawyers, investigators, social workers and other staff working in Asia, Africa and South America to confront abuse and rescue victims. More

than 95% are nationals in the countries where they serve. (for more information visit <http://www.ijm.org>) God gives every generation the responsibility to help others experience dignity, freedom, respect, opportunity and faith. What am I doing today to help others dream their dream?

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



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National/world news in brief

Crippled cruise ship docks at Ala. port; passengers celebrate end of miserable Gulf odyssey

MOBILE, Ala. (AP) — The passengers of the Carnival cruise ship Triumph began the process of getting back to normal early Friday, checking into hotels for a shower, hot meal and good night's sleep or boarding buses bound for other cities after five numbing days at sea on a powerless ship disabled by an engine-room fire.

The cruise ship carrying some 4,200 people finally docked late Thursday in Mobile, as passengers raucously cheered the end to an ocean odyssey they say was marked by overflowing toilets, food shortages and foul odors.

"Sweet Home Alabama!" read one of the homemade signs passengers affixed alongside the 14-story ship as many celebrated at deck rails lining several levels of the stricken ship. The ship's horn loudly blasted several times as four tugboats pulled the crippled ship to shore at about 9:15 p.m. CST. Some gave a thumbs-up sign and flashes from cameras and cellphones lit the night.

Less than four hours later, the last passenger had disembarked.

Some, like 56-year-old Deborah Knight of Houston, had no interest in boarding one of about 100 buses assembled to carry passengers to hotels in New Orleans or Texas. Her husband Seth drove in from Houston and they checked into a downtown Mobile hotel.

Meteor falls in Russia's Chelyabinsk region; 400 injured by explosions

MOSCOW (AP) — A meteor streaked across the sky above Russia's Ural Mountains on Friday morning, causing sharp explosions and injuring more than 400 people, many of them hurt by broken glass.

"There was panic. People had no idea what was happening. Everyone was going around to people's houses to check if they were OK," said Sergey Hametov, a resident of Chelyabinsk, about 1500 kilometers (930 miles) east of Moscow, the biggest city in the affected region.

"We saw a big burst of light then went outside to see what it was and we heard a really loud thundering sound," he told The Associated Press by telephone.

Another Chelyabinsk resident, Valya Kazakov, said some elderly women in his neighborhood started crying out that the world was ending.

Some meteorites — fragments of the meteor — fell in a reservoir outside the town of Cherbakul, the regional governor's office said, according to the ITAR-Tass news agency. It was not immediately clear if any people were struck by fragments.

Republicans stall Hagel vote, drawing White House ire, but confirmation still likely

WASHINGTON (AP) — By delaying a confirmation vote on Chuck Hagel to be defense secretary, Senate Republicans have forced Leon Panetta to remain on the job he is eager to give up. But they've also given the White House an opportunity to cast the GOP as obstructing President Barack Obama's assembly of a second-term national security team.

Senate Republicans temporarily blocked a Hagel confirmation vote on Thursday, insisting that the administration must first answer more questions about its handling of a terrorist attack last September on a U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi,

Libya, that killed four Americans, including Ambassador Chris Stevens.

Jay Carney, the White House press secretary, called it "political posturing."

"Just when you thought things couldn't get worse, it got worse," Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said after the GOP forced the delay.

The Senate action amounted to a parliamentary maneuver, with Democrats needing 60 votes for Hagel's confirmation to move forward. It fell two votes short.

Obama wants to change the face of the federal judiciary, if nominees can get past the Senate

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama is trying to change the face of a federal judiciary that has a long tradition of white men passing judgment on parties from all walks of life — if he can get his nominees past the Senate.

Republicans have used the powers accorded the Senate minority party to slow Obama's influence on the federal bench. But recent changes to Senate rules suggest the process may begin to move faster, at least at the lower, U.S. District Court level.

Under a recent bipartisan agreement, the Senate will limit debate on district court judge nominees to two hours, far below the 30 hours that used to be allowed. The hope is that will curtail a tradition that dates back to the Clinton administration of the president's opposing party stalling judicial nominees.

Democrats also used the tactic for some of President George W. Bush's nominees, but the delays have been particularly long under Obama.

House move to extend pay freeze for federal workers draws fire from White House, Democrats

WASHINGTON (AP) — House conservatives want to extend to a full three years the current freeze on cost-of-living pay increases for the nation's 2 million civilian federal workers.

They say that blocking a modest raise proposed by President Barack Obama for the last nine months of this year will save \$11 billion over the long run and that well-compensated federal employees can afford it.

Democrats, and a few Republicans, say federal workers have already done more than their fair share in helping reduce the federal deficit and they are being singled out for punishment by anti-government lawmakers.

The House on Thursday took up legislation by freshman Rep. Ron DeSantis, R-Fla., that would block the 0.5 percent pay increase Obama ordered in December and scheduled to go into effect at the end of March.

DeSantis said federal spending is out of control and his bill "tackles Congress and our bloated federal government head-on." His bill would affect across-the-board pay increases but not merit and longevity raises.

The GOP-led House is expected to pass the bill on Friday, but it's likely to receive a cold reception in the Democratic-controlled Senate.

Couple's story about being held hostage by ex-LA cop renews questions about intensive manhunt

BIG BEAR LAKE, Calif. (AP) — Karen and Jim Reynolds say they came face to face with fugitive

Christopher Dorner, not on a snow-covered mountain trail, but inside their cabin-style condo.

During a 15-minute ordeal just a stone's throw from a command post authorities had set up in the massive manhunt for the ex-Los Angeles police officer, the couple said Dorner bound them and put pillboxes on their heads. At one point, he explained that he had been there for days.

"He said, 'I don't have a problem with you, so I'm not going to hurt you,'" Jim Reynolds said. "I didn't believe him; I thought he was going to kill us."

Police have not commented on the Reynoldses' account, but it renews questions about the thoroughness of a search for a man who authorities declared was armed and extremely dangerous as they hunted him across the Southwest and Mexico.

Remains found in the burned cabin where Dorner made his last stand Tuesday were positively identified Thursday through dental examination.

Oscar Pistorius arrives in court in murder case after girlfriend shot dead

PRETORIA, South Africa (AP) — Paralympic superstar Oscar Pistorius openly wept as he appeared in court Friday, charged with the murder of his girlfriend as South Africans closely watched developments in a killing that has stunned the country.

Reeva Steenkamp, a model and budding reality TV show participant, was shot and killed at Pistorius' upmarket home in an eastern suburb of the South African capital in the predawn hours of Thursday, sending the country reeling.

Pistorius solemnly entered court in a gray suit and blue tie. He later broke down in tears.

Chief Magistrate Desmond Nasir was presiding over the hearing which likely will include Pistorius' request for bail. Police oppose the granting of bail.

Pistorius' father, Henke, was in the court as was his brother Carl, sister Aimee and other supporters of the 26-year-old double-amputee athlete.

Planned 'traditional' prom barring gays raises questions about tolerance in small Indiana city

SULLIVAN, Ind. (AP) — A small Indiana community best known for its parks and corn festival has become the center of a national discussion about intolerance over a group's plans to host a "traditional" prom that bans gay students.

Residents and officials in Sullivan, a city of about 4,200 near the Illinois border, are scrambling to escape the uncomfortable spotlight cast when a teacher supporting the "traditional" prom for Sullivan High School said she believes people choose to be gay and that gays have no purpose in life.

"I just ... I don't understand it," Diana Medley, referring to gays, told Terre Haute television station WTOV.

The comments by Medley, a special education teacher in a neighboring school district, have gone viral and sparked online campaigns to have her fired. A petition on Change.org calling for her dismissal had generated more than 17,500 signatures from as far away as the United Kingdom as of Thursday, and a Facebook page supporting a prom that includes all students had more than 27,000 likes.

The fallout has surprised many residents, who say the issue roiling the community in an area known for coal mining and attractive parks is being blown out of proportion.

www.bigspringherald.com

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Test Your Play

You are declarer with the West hand at Seven Notrump. North leads the jack of hearts, which you win with the queen as South follows low.

How would you play the hand?

West East
 ♠ A K Q 2 ♠ 6 5 4 3
 ♥ 3 2 ♥ A K Q
 ♦ A K Q 3 ♦ 2
 ♣ A K Q ♣ 6 5 4 3 2

If either the spades or the clubs are divided 3-2, you have 13 tricks, so you should start by assuming that both suits are divided unfavorably — that is, 4-1 or 5-0.

The contract cannot be defeated — no matter how the cards are divided — if you play properly. You might have to execute a squeeze, but to accomplish it you must be careful to cash your tricks in the right order.

You start by playing the A-K of spades and A-K of clubs. When you do, you might discover (1) that one opponent has both of these suits guarded, or (2) that each opponent has one suit guarded.

In case No. 1, the squeeze is accomplished by simply cashing the A-K-Q of diamonds, queen of clubs and A-K of hearts, ending in dummy. As these cards are cashed, you discard a spade and a club from dummy and a diamond from your hand, leaving

this position:

West East
 ♠ Q 2 ♠ 6
 ♦ 2 ♦ 6

The opponent with both black suits guarded is down to two cards also and was forced to unguard one of those suits when the last heart was cashed. Whether he relinquished a club or a spade, that discard was fatal.

In case No. 2, you continue by cashing both black queens, followed by the A-K of hearts, to bring about this position:

West East
 ♦ A K Q 3 ♠ 6
 ♦ 2 ♦ 6 5

By now the squeeze (called a double squeeze because both opponents feel the pinch) has already worked. The opponent with the spade guard could not keep more than three diamonds, and the opponent with the club guard likewise could not keep more than three diamonds. The A-K-Q-3 of diamonds therefore win the last four tricks.

Of course, if either opponent relinquishes his guard in either black suit, you would discard the three of diamonds on the established club or spade before cashing the A-K-Q of diamonds.

Tomorrow: A word about probabilities.

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POPE

Continued from Page 7

— Jews, Muslims and

Christians in the war-torn Middle East, the desperately poor in Africa and the world's youth gathered to meet him in Australia, Germany and Spain.

I was with him at two of those huge World Youth gatherings — in Australia and in Spain.

"He delighted our beloved United States of America when he visited Washington and New York in 2008. I had the privilege of being with him during that visit to Washington, especially when he visited the White House, when he and President Bush together addressed thousands of people on the South Lawn of the White House.

"As a spiritual leader, he led the Catholic community in prayer at Nationals Park, Yankee Stadium and St. Patrick's Cathedral. He spoke for the world's poor when he visited them and wrote of equality among nations in his peace messages and encyclicals.

"I thank God that I had the privilege as a Bishop of the Roman Catholic Church to serve God's people under his leadership and I recall my visits with him even before he became Pope Benedict XVI, when he was known as Cardinal Ratzinger. As he lives out this surely hard-made decision, but what he

considers to be the will of God and the best for the Church he has guided, I thank him for his outstanding, gracious and enlightened leadership that he has provided for the Catholic Church and the whole world. As I have done every day, I will continue to pray for him and invite all of our people to pray for him.

"This is a unique moment in the life of the Catholic Church, as we have not experienced a change in the Papacy through resignation for more than 600 years ... I invite all of our people during this time of transition, as we prepare for the conclave of Cardinals to elect a new Pope, to more than ever pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. May Jesus, who is the main Shepherd of our Church and all of us, continue to guide us, and may His precious Mother, Mary, continue to intercede for us."

Submitted by Jimmy Patterson, director of communications, Diocese of San Angelo. Patterson may be contacted at 432-889-6640 or JimmyLeePatterson@gmail.com.

Sudoku Answers on Page 5

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.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Sports Calendar

TODAY

Girl's Basketball Playoffs
 • Forsan vs. Christoval, Robert Lee High School, 6:30 p.m.
 • Grady vs. Balmorhea, Buena Vista High School, 6 p.m.

Boy's Basketball
 • Garden City vs. May, Ballinger High School, 6:30 p.m.

Softball
 • Howard College at Midland Classic Tournament (through Saturday), TBA

Golf
 • Big Spring at Snyder (through Saturday, girls only).

Tennis
 • Big Spring at Odessa Invitational (through Saturday).

SATURDAY

Boy's Basketball
 • Grady vs. Clarendon, Canyon Randall High School, 3 p.m.

SUNDAY

Baseball
 • Howard College at Cloud County Community College, Hobbs, N.M., noon & 3 p.m., MST.

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

Strong showing for BSHS at SW powerlifting meet



Courtesy photo/Big Spring High School Journalism

Big Spring freshmen Val Presas is shown squatting during Thursday's powerlifting meet in Sweetwater. BSHS Powerlifting Coach Eric Tuttle expects several of his lifters to qualify for the regional meet.

By BRIAN MCCORMACK

Sports Editor

SWEETWATER — The Big Spring powerlifting squad earned a sixth place finish out of 14 teams Thursday at the Sweetwater Classic meet and Head Coach Eric Tuttle believes several Steers will qualify for the regional meet coming up in March.

"We've been doing pretty well," Tuttle said of his athletes. "We've been steadily gaining every meet and getting

better. Chris Lindem added 95 pounds to his total since the last meet. We should have about eight boys and all four girls competing at regionals."

Tyler Narin took first place in the 123 pound division with a total of 875. Vanessa Alvarado and Roenisha Bell nabbed second place finishes in the 148 pound and 220 pound weight classes, respectively.

Aric Rutledge finished third in the 275 pound class and Lindem came in third in the 220 pound division.

Next up for the boys will be a meet in Hawley on Saturday, Feb. 23. Regionals will be held in Fort Stockton on March 2 for the girls and March 8 in Sundown for the boys. The state meet will be held March 23 in Abilene.

"We're excited," Tuttle added. "They have been working hard and bumping up their totals at every meet. As long as they keep it up, we are on the right track."

Individual results:
Boys

- Tyler Narin, 123 lbs., Total: 875 — 1st place.
- Robert Martinez, 148 lbs., Total: 915 — 7th place.
- Chris Lindem, 220 lbs., Total: 1165 — 3rd place.
- Ronnie Bell, 220 lbs., Total: 1150 — 6th place.
- Austin Cantu, 220 lbs., Total: 1055 — 8th place.
- Aric Rutledge, 275 lbs., Total: 1275 — 3rd place.
- Val Presas, 275 lbs., Total: 975 — 10th place.

See **POWERLIFTING**, Page 14

Hawk squads split at NMJC

By BRIAN MCCORMACK

Sports Editor

HOBBS, N.M. — Howard College Head Women's Basketball Coach Earl Diddle and his team have been faced with adversity for much of the season.

The squad lost some of its starters early in the year due to family issues, leaving Diddle scrambling to fill in the gaps. Just when things started coming together for the Lady Hawks (17-10, 5-6), Marion Lemonnier — point guard and one of the leading scorers — pulled a hamstring last week and was forced out for at least a few games. Starter Brittney Aikens — who led HC in scoring last week — had to skip Thursday's game due to an illness in the family.

As short-handed as the Hawks are, they almost pulled off a win against New Mexico Junior College on Thursday, but came away with a narrow, 52-46 loss.

It was tied at 23 at the break and Diddle said it was a see-saw battle for the entire second half. All tied up with three minutes remaining, NMJC sank a three-point basket and then drew a foul to close out the game with a six-point victory and hand HC their first loss in three games.

"I thought we played extremely well defensively," Diddle said. "We struggled offensively at the end of the game. We turned the ball over too many times. I think we had 25 turnovers. I'm proud of their effort. We should have and could have won that game if we had taken better care of the ball."

With only seven players suited up, Tori Tucker took charge, leading the Hawks with 19 points.

Next up for HC will be a rematch against Odessa College, which Diddle said is likely the dominant team in the Western Junior College Athletic Conference.

"Odessa is the most talented team in the conference and the most aggressive team," Diddle added. "We're going to have to play hard and take care of the ball." Game time is slated for Monday at 5:45 p.m. at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

HOBBS, N.M. — The Hawks (22-4, 9-3) avenged the conference loss that came at the hands of New Mexico Junior College on Thursday with a 69-64 road win over the Thunderbirds. Howard College has now won three straight games and six of its last seven.

See **HAWKS**, Page 14



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton/visit www.claxtonphotography.com

Howard College's Phillip Miller gets fouled while attempting a shot during Thursday's game against New Mexico Junior College. The Hawks won 69-64.

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or fax 264-9030
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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: My wife and I are having marital problems. Our issues started when I caught her lying to me and talking privately on the phone to my best friend of 12 years — the same guy who was the best man at my wedding.

After arguing for a few days, I asked her to make a sincere effort to go for counseling, and she agreed. I also asked her to stop speaking to my friend during the time we are trying to repair our marriage. She agreed to that, too.

However, this guy messages her on Facebook, and she still reads his comments. We went to our first counseling session, and I felt it went well. But

when we got home, I realized that she was having doubts. She finally said she had not been in love with me for five years.

Annie, we have a beautiful 16-month-old baby girl. I want to repair our marriage for our child's sake, as well as for us. What should I do? Can marriage counseling help if there's no love? — *Dying in New York*

Dear New York: Marriage counseling can help if there once was love that can be recaptured, or if both parties are dedicated to making the marriage work. A compatible marriage doesn't necessarily require passion for each other, only a commitment to the

stability of the relationship. But you cannot do it alone. Please continue with counseling. If your wife wants to work on the marriage, she will come along and make the necessary effort. But if she is unwilling, the counselor will help you forge your own path.

Dear Annie: Would you please define "immediate family"? My granddaughter is getting married in May. She is inviting "immediate family only," thus excluding my daughter (her aunt) and my daughter-in-law's sister.

This is going to cause a lot of hurt feelings and might even create a split in the family. I am invited, but not my male

friend of 14 years. I have talked to my son, the father of the bride, but he does not want to get involved.

Our side of the family is not as large as the groom's. My ex-husband (the grandfather) will not be attending. Why can't my daughter take his place? What about my daughter's husband? My relationship with my granddaughter is very close, so I don't understand this, and it's causing tremendous stress. Please advise. — *Gram*

Dear Gram: "Immediate family" refers to the bridal couple's parents and siblings. (If the bride and groom have children,

they would also be part of the immediate family.) Grandparents are usually included as "immediate family," but not aunts, uncles, cousins, in-laws or other relatives. Your companion of 14 years should be invited because the two of you are an established couple. If your daughter is invited, her husband should be, as well.

Your granddaughter gets to determine her side of the wedding list. Although we understand how painful this is for you, as long as ALL aunts, uncles and cousins are excluded, it is equitable.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Moon Plays Quality Monitor

The Taurus moon is a quality control expert, checking the integrity of everything that falls into our path on this opportunity-filled day. This earthy lunar influence provides an objective and highly discerning viewpoint. We'll employ all of our senses to separate the good results from the excellent ones.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Be careful where you throw your energy. If you're not absolutely sure, don't go all in. A ram who butts into the bramble will find himself in a tangled-up mess.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If you give people something to resist, they will resist it today. That's why you would be wise to influence through your subtle example. Your presence is stronger than you know.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Doing the right thing in general will lead to specific improvements in the situation that most needs it. You have great powers of endurance that will lead to your eventual success.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You are a bit like the tides — eternally faithful to the moon, forever carrying bits from shore to shore. Through you, lovely mixes happen. Lively varieties are born.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The moment of truth isn't really a single moment; rather, it's a series of small choices that add up to a particular destiny. You condition yourself by doing right in a million tiny ways.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your complexities are made obvious now. There are many polarities inside of you. An awesome power will come of accepting the strong and weak, the good and bad and everything else that makes up who you are.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Gravity is invisible, but you have no problem seeing its effect. Love is the same way. You only realize it's there when people react to its power. Where there is no action or movement, love will go undetected.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It feels as though a cyclical force is pulling you along and it would be futile to resist it. That may be so, but you won't know for sure until you are fully aware. The patterns and cycles of your life are a worthy study.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). In some way, you are recovering your balance. Don't expect that this will happen just once. The dance of life requires you to be in a constant state of recovery.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There is a right way and a wrong way to fish. The right way is to show up where the fish are with bait they enjoy and wait patiently for a nibble. There are too many wrong ways to mention, as you'll witness today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Sometimes you feel that there is nothing more you can do other than submit to the fates. There are times when this is so, but this is not one of them. Take a long walk. You'll return with new possibilities.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The outcome you desire will only be

possible if you stay the course, maintaining your integrity in each situation. That sounds difficult, but every right choice you make will strengthen you.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 15). Regardless of what you want to share, promote, sell or achieve, you'll meet the people who can help you reach your goals. Over the next six weeks, you'll increase your responsibilities. Magically, your stress levels decrease. Conscientious behavior leads to making great money. You'll travel in May and December. Aries and Taurus people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 20, 5, 14 and 36.

WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST: ARIES: For a relationship to succeed, all parties need to be basically self-reliant.

TAURUS: You'll amp up your appeal by playing to the strengths of your gender. GEMINI: Your flexibility will help you get along with people who are far more rigid in their approach to relationships. CANCER: Last week was different, but now you'll feel that your romantic destiny is completely in your own hands. LEO: Quiet your thoughts, especially regarding your love life. Love blossoms when you stop letting your own mind harass you. VIRGO: You'll benefit from being with those who are equally as kind as you. LIBRA: Follow your artistic interests. They

lead you to growing your talents, and it won't be bad for your love life, either! SCORPIO: The one who saw you as a buddy will suddenly have new feelings. SAGITTARIUS: Instead of worrying about the greener grass in other pastures, start landscaping your own. CAPRICORN: You have the potential for stunning eloquence. Write out your thoughts before you express them.

AQUARIUS: Don't settle for a piece of someone. Ask for it all. PISCES: When you let love chase you instead of the other way around, you give your feet and your heart a rest.

COUPLE OF THE WEEKEND: Taurus and Aquarius come from two different worlds. Taurus lives in the physical plane where the senses are always alive and receptive. Aquarius lives in the world of the mind — a far less tactile place where anything can happen. Because of their drastically different approaches to life, they are stronger for knowing each other. This weekend they may find that they've needed each other all along.

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 at www.creators.com. © 2013 CREATORS.COM

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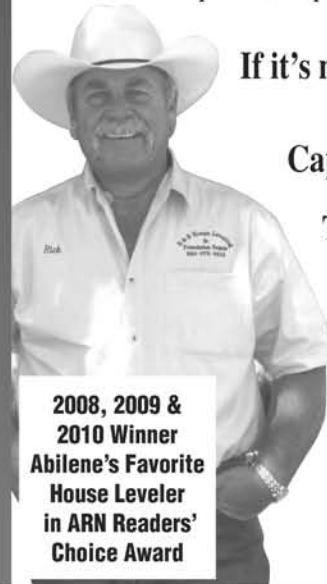
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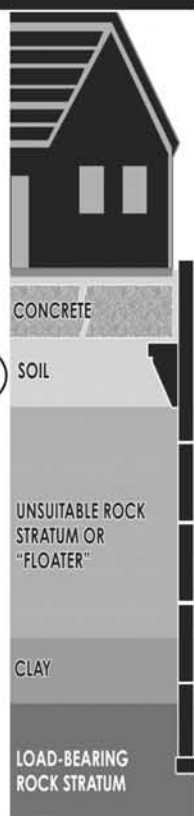
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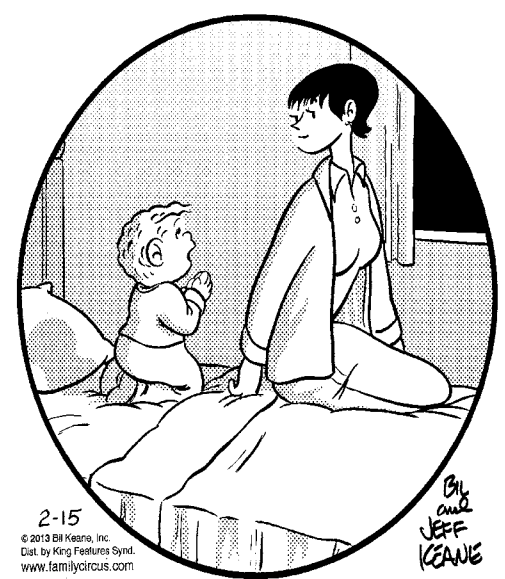
| | KMID (3) Midland | UNI (4) Spanish | KPEJ (5) Odessa | KOSA (7) Odessa | KTLE (8) Telemundo | KWES (9) Midland | WTBS (11) Atlanta | KMLM (12) Odessa | KPBT (13) Odessa | KWWT (14) Odessa | DISC (20) Discovery | AMC (21) Classics | SPIKE (22) Spike TV | TNT (23) Atlanta | BET (26) Black Ent. | DISN (27) Disney | ESPN2 (28) Sports | ESPN (29) Sports |
|-------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---|--------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|--|---------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 5:PM | News | Casa | Two Men | News | Noticias | News | King | The | Charlie Rose | King | Gold Rush | Rufus Sewell | Gangland | The Mentalist | 106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live | Jessie | Around | SportsCenter |
| 6:PM | Jeopardy! | Corona de Lágrimas | Big Bang | News | Caso Car-rado | News | Seinfeld | Israel | PBS News-Hour | Seinfeld | Gold Rush | | Gangland | The Mentalist | | Jessie | Pardon | NBA Basket-ball: All-Star Celebrity Game. |
| 7:PM | Last Man Malibu | Por Ella Soy Eva | Big Bang | Ent | Millionaire | Seinfeld | Upd | | Wash | Movie: Paper Heart, Jake M. Johnson | Gold Rush | Movie: Catwoman, Sharon Stone | Movie: In-dependence Day, Jeff Goldblum | The Mentalist | One Mic | Jessie | Pardon | NFL Live |
| 8:PM | Shark Tank | Amores Verdaderos | Touch | CSI: NY | La Patrona (SS) | | Movie: Tyler Perry's Madea Goes to Jail | Best of Light of the Southwest | Live/Lincoln Center | | Gold Rush | | | NBA Basket-ball | Movie: Wild Wild West, Kenneth Branagh | Gravity | Boxing: Friday Night Fights. | College Basketball |
| 9:PM | (01) 20/20 | Amor Bravo (SS) | Simpsons | Blue Bloods | El Rostro de | Rock Center | | Underground | | Cops | Bering Sea Gold | The Walking Dead | | | | Good | | |
| 10:PM | News | Impacto | How I Met | News | Noticias | News | There | Upd | Charlie Rose | Rules | Gold Rush | Comic | Movie: Sky-line, Brittany Daniel | In NBA | Husbands | Jessie | SportsNation | SportsCenter |
| 11:PM | Jimmy Kimmel Live | Noticiero | Raymond | Letterman | Titulares | Jay Leno | There | Alewine | | '70s | | Freak | | Southland | Wendy Williams | ANT Farm | NFL Live | SportsCenter |
| 12:AM | Nightline | Al Diabolo | Law Order: CI | Ferguson | Decisiones (SS) | Game | There | Sala | T. Smiley | 'Til Death | Bering Sea Gold | Immortal | | Movie: Armored, Laurence Fishburne | Good | ANT Farm | SportsNation | SportsCenter |
| 1:AM | Extra | Mar de Amor (SS) | Raymond | Insider | Pagado | Jimmy Fallon | Movie: Stomp the Yard, Ne-Yo | Justice | | 'Til Death | Gold Rush | Movie: Catwoman, Sharon Stone | | Gangland | Movie: He's Mine Not Yours, Jason Weaver | Good | SportsNation | SportsCenter |
| 1:AM | Paid | Conducta | American | Ent | Pagado | (05) Today | Best of Light of the Southwest | Passion | | Passion | Gold Rush | Movie: A | | Gangland | Preview | Movie: Life | SportCtr | SportsCenter |

DENNIS THE MENACE



"When you get through, Mom, I have a wastebasket that needs emptyin'."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

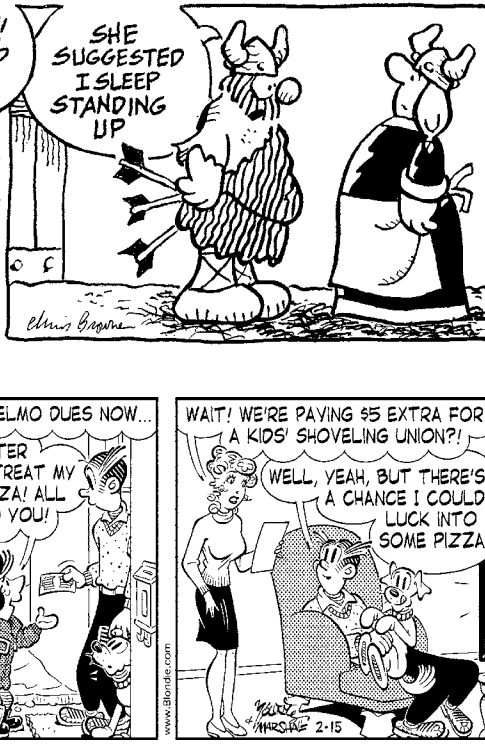


"How do I know God hears my prayers when I just say 'em in my head?"

HAGAR



BLONDIE



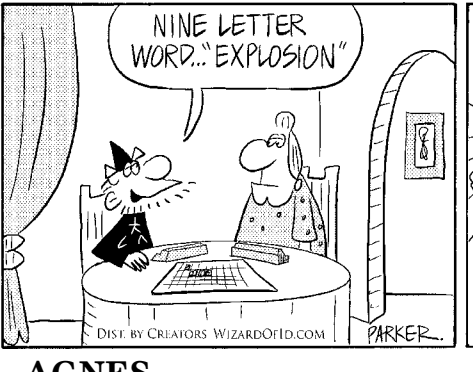
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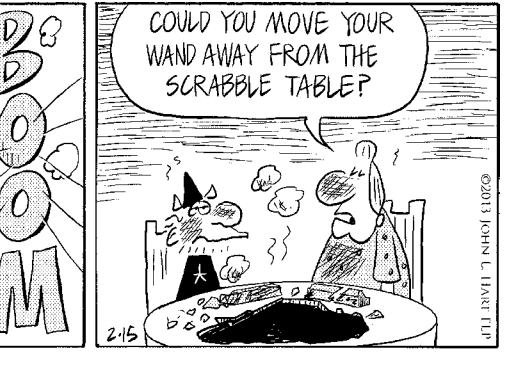
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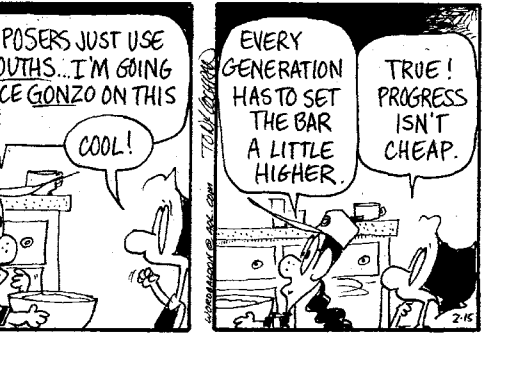
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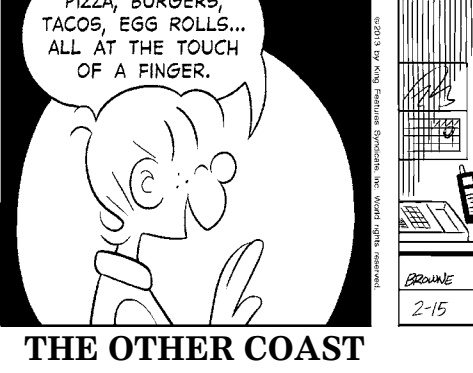
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



HEAL THYSELF?



This Date In History

Today is Friday, Feb. 15, the 46th day of 2013. There are 319 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 15, 1933, President-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt escaped an assassination attempt in Miami that mortally wounded Chicago Mayor Anton J. Cermak; gunman Giuseppe Zangara was executed more than four weeks later.

On this date:

In 1764, the city of St. Louis was established by Pierre Laclède and Auguste Chouteau.

In 1898, the U.S. battleship Maine mysteriously blew up in Havana Harbor, killing more than 260 crew members and bringing the United States closer to war with Spain.

In 1942, the British colony Singapore surrendered to Japanese forces during World War II.

In 1952, a funeral was held at Windsor Castle for Britain's King George VI, who had died nine days earlier.

In 1953, Tenley Albright became the first American woman to win the world figure skating championship, held in Davos, Switzerland.

In 1961, 73 people, including an 18-member U.S. figure skating team en route to the World Championships in Czechoslovakia, were killed in the crash of a Sabena Airlines Boeing 707 in Belgium.

In 1965, Canada's new maple-leaf flag was unfurled in ceremonies in Ottawa.

In 1971, Britain and Ireland "decimalised" their currencies, making one pound equal to 100 new pence instead of 240 pence.

In 1982, 84 men were killed when a huge oil-drilling rig, the Ocean Ranger, sank off the coast of Newfoundland during a fierce storm.

In 1989, the Soviet Union announced that the last of its troops had left Afghanistan, after more than nine years of military intervention.

In 1992, a Milwaukee jury found that Jeffrey Dahmer was sane when he killed and mutilated 15 men and boys. Benjamin L. Hooks announced plans to retire as executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

In 2002, a private funeral was held at Windsor Castle for Britain's Princess Margaret, who had died six days earlier at age 71.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Allan Arbus is 95. Former Illinois Congressman John Anderson is 91. Former Defense and Energy Secretary James Schlesinger is 84. Actress Claire Bloom is 82. Author Susan Brownmiller is 78. Songwriter Brian Holland is 72. Rock musician Mick Avory (The Kinks) is 69. Jazz musician Henry Threadgill is 69.

Answer to previous puzzle

| | | |
|---------|---------|---------|
| OWE | BIBS | SOSPAD |
| RAN | IDLE | ARNOLD |
| ART | LEER | DIODES |
| CRACK | AWINDO | |
| LEIS | FEEL | FBI |
| ENLISTS | SNEERER | |
| | TACET | GEEK |
| SNAP | YOUR | FINGERS |
| HOPE | LAUDE | |
| OVERLAP | LOWTECH | |
| WAX | OPTS | AXLE |
| | BURST | SPEED |
| ELPASE | AREA | TAG |
| SEAMEN | REAL | EVE |
| SALADS | SORE | RED |

Newsday Crossword

HEAL THYSELF? by Bruce Venzke Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 Sofa leveler
 - 5 Claim as one's own
 - 10 Outranking
 - 14 Tennis great Mandlikova
 - 15 NL West player
 - 16 Martin's Oscar role in Ed Wood
 - 17 Start of a quip
 - 20 Karate schools
 - 21 Kept on looking
 - 22 GPS reading
 - 23 Carnival guess
 - 26 Cockpit announcement
 - 27 State south of B.C.
 - 30 Part 2 of quip
 - 34 Butterfly, formerly
 - 35 Between, to Racine
 - 36 sci (college major)
 - 39 White-cell carrier
 - 42 Former source of airborne booms
 - 43 Mess makers
 - 45 Run for romance
 - 47 Part 3 of quip
 - 51 Ball-bearing gadget
 - 52 Opposite of non
 - 53 Apiece
 - 54 Mag. edition
 - 57 Outer limits
 - 60 "No idea"
 - 62 End of quip
 - 66 Knitting stitch
 - 67 Discontinuing fare
 - 69 Fuss
- DOWN**
- 1 Sun shield
 - 2 Sports, in a way
 - 3 Type of printer
 - 4 Charles or William of medicine
 - 5 Computer's heart
 - 6 Implement in a lock
 - 7 9 to 5, e.g.
 - 8 President (Senate official)
 - 9 Mexican beer brand
 - 10 Wind in the pit
 - 11 Boston Legal conclusions
 - 12 Horror film director Roth
 - 13 Military service HQ'd at Whitehall
 - 18 Locale of Universal Studios Japan
 - 19 Vocation
 - 24 Part of GSUSA
 - 25 Covetousness
 - 28 Make a quick move
 - 29 Stein fillers
 - 31 Out at a trial
 - 32 Angry Birds fan
 - 33 State map feature
 - 36 Jrs.' exam
 - 37 Renaissance Faire descriptor
 - 38 Parakeet cousin
 - 40 Fall into a chair
 - 41 Computer key
 - 44 Search every inch of
 - 46 Brown: Sp.
 - 48 Maria Shriver's mom
 - 49 Betray antsiness
 - 50 Some plastics
 - 55 Pry
 - 56 Dense, as fog
 - 58 Nobel Institute city
 - 59 Persian word for "king"
 - 61 Sudden impulse
 - 62 Fitting
 - 63 Act with two mikes
 - 64 Homeland Security agcy.
 - 65 Soggy, boggy spot

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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Area Briefs

Chicano Golf Association to hold Membership Drive Tournament

The Chicano Golf Association of Big Spring is holding an open membership drive tourney Sunday at the Comanche Trail Golf Course. Sign-ups are from 8 a.m. until 9:30 p.m., with a shotgun start at 10 a.m. It is a 4-man scramble format and you can bring your own team. Cost will be \$35 per person with mulligans offered for \$5 apiece. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. Food will be provided. For more information, contact Tommy Billalba at 816-1091 or Charlie Garcia at 213-2081.

Big Spring Girls Softball Association sign-ups to begin Saturday

The Big Spring Girls Softball Association will begin holding signups Saturday for the 2013 season at the Big Spring Mall near Sears. Registration will be open until March 9, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Ages 4-14 are welcome. Cost will be \$85 per child (\$75 if multiple children from the same family). For more information, contact Ron Shaefer at 213-3747.

Big Spring Little League registration now open

Sign-ups for Big Spring Little League are being held at the Big Spring Mall on Saturday, Feb. 16 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Another registration will be held on Monday, Feb. 11 through Friday, Feb. 16 from 5:30 p.m. until 7 p.m., also at the mall.

There are several age divisions and children from 4-16 years are invited to join. The cost is \$80 per child, regardless of age. A birth certificate must be presented at the time of registration.

For more information, call Robert Smith at 816-8161 or Paige Jackson at 213-2062.

Big Spring Country Club set to hold 4-person scramble

The Big Spring Country Club will be hosting a four-person scramble Saturday and Sunday, February 23-24. Entry fee is \$100 per player plus cart fees. Private carts are welcome.

A shotgun start will commence at 1 p.m. each day.

Entrance fee includes one mulligan per day and barbeque on the course Saturday. Practice rounds will be available Friday.

Field will be flighted by first round score, with the number of flights determined by number of entries.

For more information, contact the pro shop at 267-5354.

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Yanks razz Youk for Red Sox remarks

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Teammates of Kevin Youkilis were waiting to razz him when the third baseman walked into the New York Yankees clubhouse on Friday.

Youkilis made the back page of two New York newspapers for telling reporters at his first day of spring training that "I'll always be a Red Sox."

"I was basically defining that, as a player, I'll be a Red Sox, and a White Sox, and a Yankee for life," Youkilis said Friday. "Three storied franchises. I'm excited to be part of this, and be with the Yankees."

"Trust me, there's no way that was meant to say my heart is in Boston or anything like that. My heart is here with the Yankees."

After spending 8 1/2 years in Boston and winning a pair of World Series titles, Youkilis was traded from the Red Sox to the Chicago White Sox last June. He signed with the Yankees in De-

ember.

Youkilis admitted the comment "by itself looks terrible."

"I've got to watch what I say," Youkilis said. "It hit me hard."

Youkilis took part in his first workout with the Yankees on Thursday after flying from California to Tampa.

"I think guys are having fun with it, joking around," Youkilis said.

A three-time All-Star, Youkilis figures to be the Yankees' starting third baseman for at least the first half of the season while Alex Rodriguez recovers from hip surgery.

Youkilis agreed to a \$12 million, one-year contract.

Youkilis also made headlines during the offseason with Yankees' pitcher Joba Chamberlain. The two had feuded in the past over high-and-tight fastballs.

After Youkilis agreed to join the Yankees, the reliever left him a voice mail. Chamberlain

said in January he had not heard back, then revealed this month he had received a text.

The pair got together Friday before workouts for New York's pitchers and catchers. Both feel the matter got blown out of proportion.

"Everything's good," Youkilis said. "We are all teammates here."

Chamberlain downplayed the feud.

"He just came over and said hello, and I welcomed him," Chamberlain said. "Like I told you all before, it's done now. I hope we don't have to talk about this anymore. It's over with. We don't live in the past. We live in the present."

New York will host the Red Sox in the regular-season opener at Yankee Stadium on April 1.

"I'm excited to play against them opening day," Youkilis said. "I'm excited to put on the pinstripes, the full pinstripes."

Pistorius prosecutors pursue murder charges

PRETORIA, South Africa (AP) — Oscar Pistorius held his head in his hands and wept openly in court Friday as prosecutors said they would pursue a charge of premeditated murder against the Paralympic superstar.

Pistorius was formally charged at Pretoria Magistrates Court with one count of murder for the slaying of his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp, a model and budding reality TV show contestant. The 30-year-old was shot multiple times and died at Pistorius' upmarket home early Thursday morning.

Prosecutor Gerrie Nel said Friday in court it was premeditated murder, indicating the prosecution would file that more serious charge, upgraded from murder.

The double-amputee athlete's arrest and murder charge had already left South Africa stunned after Steenkamp's death on Valentine's Day at Pistorius' house in a gated community in an eastern suburb of South Africa's capital, Pretoria.

Following the hearing, Pistorius' family and his London management company issued a

statement calling into question the criminal charge the 26-year-old athlete faces.

"The alleged murder is disputed in the strongest terms," the statement read. The statement did not elaborate.

"He would also like to express his thanks through us today for all the messages of support he has received — but as stated our thoughts and prayers today should be for Reeva and her family — regardless of the circumstances of this terrible, terrible tragedy," the statement read.

Those who knew Pistorius, including a former girlfriend, also weighed in on social media.

Trish Taylor, mother of Pistorius' ex-girlfriend Samantha Taylor, wrote on Facebook: "I'm so glad Sammy is safe and out of the clutches of that man."

But another ex-girlfriend, Jenna Edkins, defended Pistorius in messages Friday on Twitter.

"All I am saying is let him speak, let his side be heard without jumping to conclusions," Edkins wrote. She offered "love and support" to the Pistorius family and wrote: "I have dated

they would argue the history-making Olympic athlete — the first amputee to run at the games — had planned Steenkamp's killing. It sent South Africans reeling further as their national hero, and a global role model in overcoming adversity, was set to face accusations that he intentionally gunned down his girlfriend.

South Africa's tabloid Citizen newspaper had the headline "Blade gunner?" Friday morning, playing on double-amputee athlete Pistorius' well-known nickname of "Blade Runner" because of his carbon fiber running blades.

Pistorius stood with his face in his hands as he broke down in tears on his first appearance at the Pretoria Magistrates' Court. Chief Magistrate Desmond Nasir delayed Pistorius' bail hearing until next Tuesday and Wednesday and ruled that Pistorius would be held at a police station in Pretoria until then. Police have said they oppose the granting of bail.

A solemn Pistorius entered the court wearing a gray suit and blue tie and initially appeared composed.

When he broke down in tears, his brother, Carl, reached out a hand and placed it on his shoulder. Pistorius' father, Henke, was in the court and later reached over to comfort him as well.

Oscar on and off for 5 YEARS, NOT ONCE has he EVER lifted a finger to me or made me fear for my life." Prosecutors said Friday that

POWERLIFTING

Continued from Page 9

Girls

- Vanessa Alvarado, 148 lbs., Total: 675 — 2nd place.
- Valerie Goodblanket, 148 lbs., Total: 540 — 7th place.
- Destiny Zamora, 165 lbs., Total: 480 — 14th place.
- Roenisha Bell, 220 lbs., Total: 570 — 2nd place.

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



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HAWKS

Continued from Page 9

Hoping to keep the momentum going, the Hawks will try to earn a 'W' over Odessa College on Monday. The Wranglers defeated HC 77-64 in their first meeting of 2013.

Tip off is set for Monday at 7:45 p.m. at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

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

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