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**MONDAY**

**FEBRUARY 25, 2013**



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VOLUME 108, NUMBER 114

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## LAWSUIT

### Texas AG says veterans home violated standards

By **STEVE REAGAN**  
 Staff Writer

The state of Texas has filed a lawsuit against the owners of Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas Veterans Home, charging the facility with violating minimum nursing home standards and threatening the health and safety of its residents.

The suit, brought by Texas Attorney General Gregg Abbott on behalf of the state Department of Aging and Disability Services, was filed in 118<sup>th</sup> District Court last week against Sears Methodist Retirement System Inc. and Senior Dimensions Inc., owners of the veterans' home.

According to the lawsuit, DADS investigators conducted an investigation into several incidents at Lamun-Lunch-Sanchez, including one in which an 87-year-old resident died of complications from diabetes.

The resident exhibited signs of hypoglycemia, including critically low blood sugar levels, the suit states. A licensed vocational nurse said she



HERALD file photo

**Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas Veterans Home has been sued by the state for allegedly violating nursing home standards.**

made one attempt to call the resident's doctor, but received no answer. She then treated the resident with juice and sugar but never made any further attempts to reach the doctor, even after the resident's blood sugar levels "remained outside the prescribed parameters for more than 30 minutes," investigators claim.

The LVN also failed to notify the registered nurse or call 911 and the resident died approximately one hour after first exhibiting symptoms.

"Despite having physician notification policies,

the facility staff failed to notify the resident's doctor when the resident exhibited significant changes of condition and blood sugar levels which were outside the prescribe parameters," the lawsuit claims.

Investigators claim they discovered "numerous" instances where the facility failed to follow the physician notification policy and resident care plans.

"These failures resulted in a physician not

See **SUIT**, Page 3

# TxDOT: Don't travel to the north

Herald Staff Report

While Howard County was receiving a light dusting of snow this morning, Texans farther north were bundling up and braving blizzard-like conditions.

Texas Department of Transportation and Department of Public Safety officials are ad-

vising against travel to and in the Amarillo area.

"Roads going into Amarillo from as far south as Lubbock are virtually impassable at this point, and Interstate 27 is closed its entire length," Gene Powell Jr., TxDOT public information officer, said about 8:30 this morning. "Interstate 40 is closed from New

Mexico to Oklahoma borders, and U.S. 87/287 is closed from Amarillo northbound to Oklahoma line.

"This is a dangerous situation and motorists are strongly advised not to try to travel in the Panhandle."

Locally, while cold, authorities were not expecting severe conditions, though Howard

and surrounding counties are experiencing a high wind advisory until 6 p.m. Winds are 35 to 45 mph with gusts up to 65 mph. The Permian Basin will continue to be under a wind advisory with winds from 25 to 45 mph, until midnight.

The cold spell — with a high expected in the mid 40s today

— will be short-lived, forecasters say.

Tuesday's forecast calls for a high in the mid 60s with winds 10-15 mph. The high is expected to be in the mid 50s Wednesday and Thursday, low 50s Friday and mid to upper 60s Saturday and Sunday.

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## Gasoline prices rise another 3 cents

Special to the Herald

Average retail gasoline prices in Texas have risen 3 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$3.63/g Sunday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 13,114 gas outlets in Texas.

This compares with the national average that has increased 2.9 cents per gallon

in the last week to \$3.72/g, according to gasoline price website GasBuddy.com.

Including the change in gasoline prices in Texas during the past week, prices Sunday were 8.2 cents per gallon higher than the same day one year ago and are 47 cents per gallon higher than a month ago.

The national average has

increased 42.0 cents per gallon during the last month and stands 9.1 cents per gallon higher than this day one year ago.

"The streak is over," said GasBuddy.com Senior Petroleum Analyst Patrick DeHaan. "GasBuddy data showed the national average rising for 32 consecutive days — starting Jan. 20 at \$3.265/

gal, and ending Feb. 21 at \$3.733/gal.

"The tide has now turned and the national average has dropped two days straight. This is certainly excellent news for disillusioned motorists — but I would caution them not to get overly thrilled as prices may linger near these levels for some time," DeHaan said.

## White House details budget fallout amid blame game

PHILIP ELLIOTT

Associated Press  
 WASHINGTON — The

White House has detailed the potential fallout in each state from budget cuts set to take effect at week's end, while congressional Republicans and Democrats keep up the sniping over who's to blame.

Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., said on "Fox News Sunday" that there was little hope to dodge the cuts "unless the Republicans are will-

ing to compromise and do a balanced approach."

No so fast, Republicans interjected.

"I think the American people are tired of the blame game," Sen. Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H., said on CBS' "Face the Nation."

Yet just a moment before, she was blaming President Barack Obama for putting

the country on the brink of massive spending cuts that were initially designed to be so unacceptable that Congress would strike a grand bargain to avoid them.

The \$85 billion budget mechanism could affect everything from commercial flights to classrooms to meat

See **BUDGET**, Page 3

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► News in brief

'Argo' wins best picture, 'Life of Pi' leads with 4 awards on scattered Oscar night

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Just as Oscar host Seth MacFarlane set his sights on a variety of targets with a mixture of hits and misses, the motion picture academy spread the gold around to a varied slate of films. "Argo" won best picture as expected, along with two other prizes. But "Life of Pi" won the most awards with four, including a surprise win for director Ang Lee.

"Les Miserables" also won three Academy Awards, while "Django Unchained" and "Skyfall" each took two.

Among the winners were the front-runners throughout this lengthy awards season: best actor Daniel Day-Lewis for his deeply immersed portrayal of Abraham Lincoln in Steven Spielberg's epic "Lincoln," best actress Jennifer Lawrence as a troubled young widow in "Silver Linings Playbook" and supporting actress Anne Hathaway as the doomed prostitute Fantine in the musical "Les Miserables." Christoph Waltz was a bit of a surprise for supporting actor as a charismatic bounty hunter in Quentin Tarantino's "Django Unchained," an award he'd won just three years ago for Tarantino's "Inglorious Basterds."

The 22-year-old Lawrence, who got to show her lighter side in the oddball romance "Silver Linings Playbook" following serious roles in "Winter's Bone" and "The Hunger Games," gamely laughed at herself as she tripped on the stairs en route to the stage in her poufy, pale pink Dior Haute Couture gown. Backstage in the press room, when a reporter asked what she was thinking, she responded: "A bad word that I can't say that starts with 'F.'" Keeping journalists in hysterics, she explained, "I'm sorry. I did a shot before I ... sorry."

That's the kind of raunchiness MacFarlane himself seemed to be aiming for as host while also balancing the more traditional demands of the job. There was a ton

of singing and dancing during the three-and-half-hour broadcast — no surprise from the musically minded creator of the animated series "Family Guy" — including a poignant performance from Barbra Streisand of "The Way We Were," written by the late Marvin Hamlisch, during the memorial montage. But MacFarlane also tried to keep the humor edgy with shots at Mel Gibson, George Clooney, Chris Brown and Rihanna.

Ang Lee thanks Taiwan after winning best director Oscar for 'Life of Pi'

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Ang Lee called it "a miracle" that he could make "Life of Pi," a film that occupied him for four years before it hit the big screen and culminated with his surprising win for best director at the Oscars.

Lee claimed his second directing Oscar on Sunday night in an upset over Steven Spielberg, who had been the heavy favorite for "Lincoln." Lee won the same award in 2005 for "Brokeback Mountain."

"It was a very sweet moment for me," he said backstage.

"Life of Pi," a shipwreck story told in 3-D, won a leading four trophies, including musical score, cinematography and visual effects.

"It's a miracle that I could make this movie," Lee said. "I carried the anxiety for a very long time, four years. It's a philosophical book and expensive movie, a scary combination."

'Family Guy' star Seth MacFarlane proves he's an Oscar guy as sassy host of awards show

NEW YORK (AP) — He ruffled feathers. He maybe even turned some viewers off.

But it's likely no one turned off Seth MacFarlane.

Best-known until recently as the bad-boy creator and character voice behind "Fam-

ily Guy" and last summer's hit film "Ted," MacFarlane seized the camera Sunday as host of ABC's Oscarcast and proved to its vast audience that he's a ridiculously versatile entertainer, a guy who can be as charming as he is famously irreverent, even polarizing.

Here's a guy who could toss off a joke Bob Hope might have delivered decades ago ("It's Sunday. Everybody's dressed up. This is like church — only with more people praying"), then carry off a deliberate groaner like his wisecrack that, while, an actor like Daniel Day-Lewis really captured Abraham Lincoln in his Oscar-winning performance, "I would argue that the actor who really got inside Abraham Lincoln's head was John Wilkes Booth."

Decision to end ban on women in combat may make draft registration co-ed

WASHINGTON (AP) — Tennennt-hut, ladies! The next time Uncle Sam comes calling, he's probably going to want you, too.

The Obama administration's recent decision to lift the ban on women in combat has opened the door for a change in the law that currently compels only men between age 18 and 25 to register for a military draft, according to legal experts and military historians.

Never before has the country drafted women into military service, and neither the administration nor Congress is in a hurry to make them register for a future call-up. But, legally, they may have no other choice.

It is constitutional to register only men for a draft, the Supreme Court ruled more than three decades ago, because the reason for registration is to create a pool of potential combat troops should a national emergency demand a rapid increase in the size of the military. Women were excluded from serving in battlefield jobs, so there was no reason to register them for possible conscription into the armed forces, the court held.

SUIT

Continued from Page 1

being involved in the diagnosing and management of critical conditions for these residents," the lawsuit states.

Attorney General Abbott goes on to charge the facility with failure to properly investigate and report the circumstances surrounding the resident's death, as required by law.

Other violations of state law alleged in the suit include:

- Failure to ensure the LVN provided services which met professional standards of quality.
- Failure to provide necessary care and services to "attain or maintain the highest practicable well-being."
- Failure to promptly notify the physician of lab results.

If the court finds for the state in the lawsuit, the nursing home's owners could be liable for civil penalties of between \$1,000 and \$20,000 for each day the violations occurred.

Attempts to contact Sears Methodist Retirement Systems or Senior Dimensions representatives for comment on the suit were unsuccessful.

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

How automatic budget cuts could affect Texas

HOUSTON (AP) — Below are examples of how Texas could be affected by the automatic budget cuts that are set to take effect this week.

The White House compiled the numbers from federal agencies and its own budget office.

The numbers reflect the impact of the cuts this year. Unless Congress acts by Friday, \$85 billion in cuts are set to take effect from March-September.

As to whether states could move money

around to cover shortfalls, the White House said that depends on state budget structures and the specific programs.

The White House did not have a list of which states or programs might have flexibility.

EDUCATION:

— About \$67.8 million in funding for primary and secondary education, putting around 930 teacher and aide jobs at risk.

— Head Start and Ear-

ly Head Start would be eliminated for approximately 4,800 children.

ENVIRONMENT:

— About \$8.5 million in environmental funding.

— About \$2.2 million in grants for fish and wildlife protection.

MILITARY READINESS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT:

— About 52,000 civilian Department of Defense employees would be furloughed, reduc-

ing gross pay by around \$274.8 million.

— About \$233 million for Army base operations in Texas.

— About \$27 million for Air Force operations in Texas.

JOB SEARCH AID:

— About \$2.2 million in funding for job search assistance, referral and placement.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

— About \$1.1 million in grants that support

law enforcement, prosecution, courts, crime prevention, corrections and crime victim initiatives.

NUTRITION ASSISTANCE FOR SENIORS

— About \$3.6 million in funding for meals for seniors.

PUBLIC HEALTH

— About \$2.4 million in funds to help Texas upgrade its ability to respond to public health threats including infectious diseases, natural

disasters and biological, chemical, nuclear and radiological events.

— About \$6.8 million in grants to help prevent and treat substance abuse.

— About \$1.1 million in health department funding for HIV tests.

BUDGET

Continued from Page 1

inspections. With Friday's deadline nearing, few in the nation's capital were optimistic that a realistic alternative could be found.

And, yes, those cuts will hurt.

They would slash from domestic and defense spending alike, leading to furloughs for hundreds of thousands of government workers and contractors.

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta has said the cuts would harm the readiness of U.S. fighting forces. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said travelers could see delayed flights. Education Secretary Arne Duncan said 70,000 fewer children from low-income families would have access

to Head Start programs. Some 2,500 children from low-income families would also be removed from Head Start programs.

Officials said their analysis showed Kentucky would lose \$93,000 in federal funding for a domestic abuse program, meaning 400 fewer victims being served in Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell's home state. Georgia, meanwhile, would face a \$286,000 budget cut to its children's health programs, meaning almost 4,200 fewer children would receive vaccinations against measles and whooping cough.

The spending cuts have frustrated governors attending the National Governors Association meeting in Washington. They con-

tend it has created widespread uncertainty in the economy and hampered economic recovery in their states.

"The No. 1 risk, in my view, to the continuing economic comeback of Michigan is the federal government," Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, a Republican and former business executive, said in an interview. Snyder said many companies remain in limbo on whether to invest in their business because of the financial uncertainty.

"What's the likely outcome? Are they going to put in a solution that's set for two or three years or are they simply going

to say now it's going to move to the fall? It's not good," he said.

The White House compiled its state-by-state reports from federal agencies and its own budget office. The numbers reflect the impact of the cuts this year. Unless Congress acts by Friday, \$85 billion in cuts are set to take effect from March to September.

As to whether states could move money around to cover shortfalls, the White House said that depends on state budget structures and the specific programs. The White House did not have a list of which states or

programs might have flexibility.

Republican leaders were not impressed by the state-by-state reports.

"The White House needs to spend less time explaining to the press how bad the sequester will be and more time actually working to stop it," said Michael Steel, a spokesman for Boehner.

Associated Press writer Ken Thomas contributed to this report.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas.  
USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6811  
BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: \$9.00 monthly; \$97.20 yearly (includes 10% discount). MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$14.58 monthly Howard; \$18.33 elsewhere.

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# Can escape clause save voting rights provision?

MARK SHERMAN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration and civil rights groups are defending a key section of the landmark voting rights law at the Supreme Court by pointing reformed state, county and local governments to an escape hatch from the law's strictest provision.

The Voting Rights Act effectively attacked persistent discrimination at the polls by keeping close watch, when it comes to holding elections, on those places with a history of preventing minorities from voting. Any changes, from moving a polling place to redrawing electoral districts, can't take effect without approval from the Justice Department or federal judges in Washington.

But the Voting Rights Act allows governments that have changed their ways to get out from under this humbling need to get permission through a "bailout provision." Nearly 250 counties and local jurisdictions have done so; thousands more could

be eligible based on the absence of recent discriminatory efforts in voting.

The viability of the bailout option could play an outsized role in the Supreme Court's consideration of the voting rights law's prior approval provision, although four years ago, conservative Justice Clarence Thomas said the prospect of bailing out had been "no more than a mirage."

The court will hear arguments Wednesday in the case, which is among the term's most important, in a challenge from Shelby County, Ala.

Opponents of the law say they no longer should be forced to live under oversight from Washington because the country has made enormous racial progress, demonstrated most recently by the re-election of President Barack Obama. They object in particular to the 40-year-old formula by which some jurisdictions, most in the Deep South, are swept under the law and others remain outside it.

The administration and its allies acknowledge that there has been progress. But they say minority voters still need the protection the law affords from efforts to reduce their influence at the polls. Last year, federal judges in two separate cases blocked Texas from putting in place a voter identification law and congressional redistricting plan because they discriminated against black and Hispanic residents.

Obama himself talked about the case in a radio interview last week. He told SiriusXM host Joe Madison that if the law were stripped of its advance approval provision, "it would be hard for us to catch those things up front to make sure that elections are done in an equitable way."

Also, the law's defenders say places that have changed their ways can win release from having to get Washington's blessing for election changes. Governments seeking to exit have to show that they and the smaller jurisdictions

within their borders have had a clean record, no evidence of discrimination in voting, for the past 10 years.

Shelby County has never asked to be freed from the law, but would seem to be ineligible because one city in the county, Calera, defied the voting rights law and prompted intervention by the Bush Justice Department.

Yet places with a long, well-known history of discrimination probably could find their way out from under federal monitoring, according to a prominent voting rights lawyer who used to work for the Justice Department.

"Birmingham, Ala., where they used to use fire hoses on people, may well be eligible to bail out," said the lawyer, Gerry Hebert. Birmingham officials said they've never considered asking.

The Supreme Court made clear its skepticism about the ongoing need for the law when it heard a similar case in 2009. "Past success alone, however, is not adequate justification

to retain the preclearance requirements," Chief Justice John Roberts said for the court. That ruling sidestepped the constitutional issue and instead expanded the ability of states, counties and local governments to exit the advance approval process.

At that point, so few governments had tried to free themselves from the advance approval requirement that, in 2009, Thomas said the "promise of a bailout opportunity has, in the great majority of cases, turned out to be no more than a mirage."

At the time, Thomas said, only a handful of the 12,000 state, county and local governments covered by the law had successfully bailed out.

The overall numbers remain low, but the Obama administration argues that "the rate of successful bailouts has rapidly increased" since the high court last took up the Voting Rights Act nearly four years ago.

In the past 12 months, 110 local governments have been freed from

the requirement to show in advance that their proposed election changes are not discriminatory. Places that have won their release from coverage include Prince William County, Va., with more than 400,000 residents, and Merced County, Calif., and its 84 municipalities.

Shelby County says that even with the recent jump in bailouts, "only a tiny percentage" of governments have found their way out of oversight from Washington.

The advance approval was adopted in the Voting Rights Act in 1965 to give federal officials a potent tool to defeat persistent efforts to keep blacks from voting.

The provision was a huge success, and Congress periodically has renewed it over the years. The most recent time was in 2006, when a Republican-led Congress overwhelmingly approved and President George W. Bush signed a 25-year extension.

## Briefs

### Billions of dollars are at stake for BP as trial opens for oil spill suit

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Nearly three years after a deadly rig explosion in the Gulf of Mexico triggered the nation's worst offshore oil spill, a federal judge in New Orleans is set to preside over a high-stakes trial for the raft of litigation spawned by the disaster.

Barring an 11th-hour settlement, U.S. District Judge Carl Barbier will hear several hours of opening statements Monday by lawyers for the companies involved in the 2010 spill and the plaintiffs who sued them. And the judge, not a jury, ultimately could decide how much more money BP PLC and its partners on the ill-fated drilling project owe for their roles in the environmental catastrophe.

BP has said it already has racked up more than \$24 billion in spill-related expenses and has estimated it will pay a total of \$42 billion to fully resolve its liability for the disaster that killed 11 workers and spewed millions of gallons of oil.

But the trial attorneys for the federal government and Gulf states and private plaintiffs hope to convince the judge that the company is liable for much more.

With billions of dollars on the line, the companies and their courtroom adversaries have spared no expense in preparing for a trial that could last several months. Hundreds of attorneys have worked on the case, generating roughly 90 million pages of documents, logging nearly 9,000 docket entries and taking more than 300 depositions of witnesses who

could testify at trial.

### In Cuba, led by Fidel and Raul Castro for 54 years, 2018 date is given for new leadership

HAVANA (AP) — It's been more than 54 years since someone not named "Castro" led Cuba, and it will likely be five more.

But now islanders and exiles alike have finally been given a date for when the sun will set on brothers Fidel and Raul's longtime rule: 2018.

In accepting a new presidential term on Sunday, the 81-year-old Raul Castro announced that it would be his last. And for the first time, he tapped a rising young star, Miguel Diaz-Canel, to be his top lieutenant and possible successor.

"This will be my last term," Castro said, his voice firm.

Castro also said he hopes to establish two-term limits and age caps for political offices including the presidency, though he didn't specify what age.

### Iceland's proposed ban on pornography divides opinion

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — In the age of instant information, globe-spanning viral videos and the World Wide Web, can a thoroughly wired country become a porn-free zone? Authorities in Iceland want to find out.

The government of the tiny North Atlantic nation is drafting plans to ban pornography, in print and online, in an attempt to protect children from a tide of violent sexual imagery.

The proposal by Interior Minister Ogmundur Jonasson has caused an uproar. Opponents say the move will censor the Web, encourage authoritar-

ian regimes and undermine Iceland's reputation as a Scandinavian bastion of free speech.

Advocates say it is a sensible measure that will shelter children from serious harm.

"When a 12-year-old types 'porn' into Google, he or she is not going to find photos of naked women out on a country field, but very hardcore and brutal violence," said Halla Gunnarsdottir, political adviser to the interior minister.

### Marijuana legalization in 2 states prompts state gardening dilemma, private sector opportunity

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — It may be called weed, but marijuana is legendarily hard to grow.

Now that the drug has been made legal in Washington and Colorado, growers face a dilemma. State-sanctioned gardening coaches can help folks cultivate tomatoes or zucchini, but both states have instructed them not to show people the best way to grow marijuana. The situation is similar in more than a dozen additional states that allow people to grow the drug with medical permission.

That's leaving some would-be marijuana gardeners looking to the private sector for help raising the temperamental plant.

"We can't go there," said Brian Clark, a spokesman for Washington State University in Pullman, which runs the state's extension services for gardening and agriculture. "It violates federal law, and we are a federally funded organization."

The issue came up because people are starting to ask master gardeners for help in growing cannabis, Clark said. Master gardeners are volunteers who work through state university systems to provide horticultural tips in their communities.

### Manhattan's seaport a 'ghost town' of shuttered businesses

NEW YORK (AP) — The historic cobblestone streets and 19th-century mercantile buildings near the water's edge in lower Manhattan are eerily deserted, a neighborhood silenced by Superstorm Sandy.


Just blocks from the tall-masted ships that rise above South Street Seaport, the windows of narrow brick apartment buildings are still crisscrossed with masking tape left by their owners before the storm. Store interiors are stripped down to plywood and wiring. Restaurants are chained shut, frozen in time, saddled with electrical systems that were ruined by several feet of salt water that raced up from the East River and through their front doors.

"People have no clue that this corner of Manhattan has been hit so badly," said Adam Weprin, manager of the Bridge Cafe, one of the city's oldest bars that sits on a quiet street near the seaport. "Right now, it's a ghost town and a construction site."

Nearly four months after the storm, roughly 85 percent of small businesses near the South Street Seaport are still boarded up. It could be months before some reopen, while others may never return. On Fulton Street, the wide tourist-friendly pedestrian walkway that comprises the seaport's main shopping district, not a single one of the major chain stores — which include Coach, Ann Taylor and Brookstone — has reopened.

Among local business owners, there is a pervasive sense that their plight has been ignored by the rest of the city. A state senator who represents the area estimates at least 1,000 jobs were lost in lower Manhattan — 450 of them in the seaport neighborhood alone.

# Contract Bridge



By Steve Becker

## Famous Hand

South dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ A 10  
♥ 6 5 2  
♦ A K 10 9 8  
♣ Q 5 2

**WEST**  
♠ Q 9 8 6  
♥ K Q 10 9 8  
♦ Q 6  
♣ J 6

**EAST**  
♠ J 4 3 2  
♥ J 4  
♦ 7 5 4  
♣ A 10 9 3

**SOUTH**  
♠ K 7 5  
♥ A 7 3  
♦ J 3 2  
♣ K 8 7 4

The bidding:  
South West North East  
Pass Pass 1♦ Pass  
2 NT Pass 3 NT

Opening lead — queen of hearts.

This deal occurred more than 50 years ago in one of the many world championship confrontations between the United States and the now-legendary Italian Blue Team. Although Italy, as it always did in those days, won the match, the Americans scored a substantial pickup on the deal, thanks to a combination of good luck at one table and a bit of chicanery at the other.

When Lee Hazen and Harry Fishbein held the North-South cards, they reached three no-trump as shown.

West led the queen of hearts, asking East to play the jack if he had it. When East produced that card, hearts were continued, Fishbein taking his ace on the third round.

Fishbein got over the first hurdle when he tried the diamond finesse and it worked. With eight tricks assured, the contract now hinged on whether East or West had the ace of clubs.

After cashing five diamonds, Fishbein led a club to the king. When it held, he quickly cashed the A-K of spades to make his contract for a score of 600 points.

At the other table, things took a radically different turn when the bidding went as follows:

South	West	North	East
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 NT	

After West's weak two-bid and North's pass, East, Sidney Lazard, gazing at a poor hand that he knew was faced by an equally unimpressive holding, decided the situation called for desperate measures. Putting on a bold show of strength, he leaped to game, and everyone passed!

The ruse was eminently successful. West, Sam Fry, went down three for a loss of 150 points, but this, combined with the result at the other table, gave the U.S. a 450-point pickup on the deal.

Tomorrow: A matter of priorities.  
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### Sudoku Answers on Page 10

# 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.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

# Big Spring trio named to All-District



**Logan Yarbar**

**Dyrshae Vanderbilt**

**Julianna Rodriguez**

**By BRIAN MCCORMACK**  
Sports Editor

Three Lady Steers — senior Logan Yarbar (First Team), sophomore Dyrshae Vanderbilt and sophomore Julianna Rodriguez (Second Team) — were selected to represent Big Spring by being named to the All-District squad for their work on the basketball court this season.

The Lady Steers had an overall record of 16-16 and finished at .500 in a competitive division, but fell just short of a postseason appearance after losing to Sweetwater in a game to determine the third and final playoff seed.

The loss must have been heartbreaking for Yarbar, the lone senior on Head Coach Mike Warren's roster, but the successful season may also be a glimpse into the future for the young Lady Steers, who have

plenty of talent returning next year, including point guard Vanderbilt and the sharp-shooting Rodriguez.

Warren believes the trio's honors were well-deserved.

"(Yarbar) turned out to be our leading scorer and leading three-point shooter," Warren said. "She's also one of our best defensive players. We usually put her on the other team's best player. She was our MVP."

Yarbar set a good example for the underclassmen as well.

"As far as her work ethic," Warren continued, "She's a hard worker. Being the only senior, the other girls looked up to her and she really came through for us all season."

Vanderbilt was and will continue to be an integral player for BSHS as she is expected to return to the court her final year.

"She was our leading assist player," Warren said. "That comes with the

position, but she really cut down on turnovers this year and took care of the ball. She improved on offense and I think she had her best game of the year in our last game against Sweetwater. She kept us in there and gave us a chance to win. We will be looking to her to be our leader next year."

Last, but not least, Warren praised Rodriguez for the impact she made as a sophomore, first year starter at the varsity level.

"She started a little slow," Warren said of Rodriguez, who took over point guard duties when Vanderbilt was resting. "She was coming out of volleyball, so she had to adjust. Once she got going, she was a three-point threat. She's also a good defensive player — all three of them are — she helped a lot. It's good to know you don't have a liability on defense. We expect her to play an even bigger role

next year." Warren's goal next season is to break back into the postseason and make a run.

"We're excited," Warren added. "I think we have a good chance of getting back into the playoffs. We will have some talented kids returning and there will be a fourth playoff spot up for grabs."

Warren was referring to the University Interscholastic League playoff changes. Instead of only three slots open, there will be four. Had the rule been in effect this year, the Lady Steers would have locked up the fourth seed.

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

# Bryant outscores Dirk as Lakers top Mavs

DALLAS (AP) — Kobe Bryant was just a little better than Dirk Nowitzki in a spirited game befitting Western Conference leaders — not teams battling for ninth place.

Bryant had 38 points to win a scoring duel with Nowitzki, and Steve Nash helped beat his former team by getting 20 points for the first time with the Los Angeles Lakers in a 103-99 victory against the Dallas Mavericks on Sunday.

Nowitzki finished with a season-high 30 in a game that had a playoff feel from the start, even though both teams still have plenty of ground to make up to even qualify for the postseason. They trail eighth-place Houston by several games, but they are the franchises that have the last three NBA titles won by teams from the West.

Bryant and Nowitzki had 16 points apiece in the first half and were still even at 24 after the third quarter before Bryant scored 14 in the fourth, including seven in the last 3 minutes. They were a combined 8 of 9 from 3-point range and hit 24 shots and 12 free throws between them.

"It's fun," said Bryant, who also had 12 rebounds and seven assists. "He's one of my all-time favorites. He's a throwback type of player. He doesn't mind the physicality. He made some incredible plays down the stretch."

Bryant, who went past the 31,000-point mark, was playing in Mark Cuban's building two days after the outspoken Dallas owner suggested in a radio interview that the Lakers might have to consider dumping

the five-time NBA champion through the amnesty clause.

The Lakers responded by calling the comment inappropriate, and Cuban defended himself before the game.

"Amnesty THAT," Bryant tweeted after the game.

"I'm sure if he wants to amnesty Dirk, that's something we'll be willing to entertain," Bryant told reporters.

The Mavericks were so frustrated trying to guard Bryant, O.J. Mayo got called for a foul and a technical when he jumped around wildly after the whistle blew on a drive to the basket by Bryant. Nash made the technical shot, and Bryant hit his pair of free throws for a 94-90 lead.

"He's been the best player in my decade," said Nowitzki, who also had his season high with 13 rebounds after miss-

ing the first 27 games following knee surgery. "I've been in the NBA a long time and he's the one player I love to watch. It was a big game on the national TV stage. It was a fun one. We just came up a little bit short."

Nowitzki was called for a technical earlier in the fourth quarter after a display similar to Mayo's when he missed a shot during a physical sequence with Metta World Peace.

"It was very intense," said Mavericks rookie Jae Crowder, who spent his share of time trying to guard Bryant. "From the crowd standpoint, from the player standpoint, from the officiating. You could tell."

Three times in the final 3 minutes, Bryant put the Lakers up four after the

See **MAVS**, Page 10

## Area Sports Calendar

**TODAY**  
**Men's Basketball**  
• New Mexico Military Institute at Howard College, Dorothy Garrett Coliseum, 4 p.m.

**TUESDAY**  
**Boy's Basketball Playoffs**  
**Regional Quarterfinals**  
• Garden City vs. Ira, Lamesa Middle School, 7:30 p.m.

• Grady vs. Ropes, Seminole High School, 7 p.m.  
• Sands vs. PETERSBURG, Slaton High School, 7 p.m.  
• Jim Ned vs. Tornillo, Dorothy Garrett Coliseum, 5:30 p.m.  
• Abilene Wylie vs. Seminole, Dorothy Garrett Coliseum, 7 p.m.

**Baseball**  
• Howard College at McMurry University, Abilene, (doubleheader) 3 p.m.

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

# Johnson back on top with second Daytona 500 win

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Jimmie Johnson went two years without a title and suddenly became an afterthought at the Daytona 500.

All the attention went to Danica Patrick and a handful of other drivers.

Not that it mattered Sunday, because look who pulled into Victory Lane.

Five-time is back. Not that he ever went away.

Johnson won his second Daytona 500 on Sunday, a year after he completed just one lap in the race and three months after falling short in his bid for a sixth Sprint Cup title. That so-called drought had made

him something of a no-name during Speedweeks.

"In my mind, I didn't feel like I was under the radar," he said. "I felt like we were working hard to put the best product on the track. I guess I was quiet in the overall spectrum of things from the media side. I think people in the garage, people knew we were sitting on a lot of speed and had a very good race car."

But in winning the biggest race of the year, the No. 48 team wasn't sending a message to the competitors.

"I don't think we went anywhere; anybody in the garage area, they're wise to

all that," Johnson said.

Johnson's win came on the same day that Patrick, who became the first woman in history to start a Sprint Cup race from the pole, again made history as the first woman to lead laps in the Daytona 500.

She ran inside the top 10 almost the entire race, kept pace with the field and never panicked on the track.

Her only mistakes were on pit road, where she got beat on the race back to the track, and on the final lap, when she was running third but got snookered by the veterans and

See **DAYTONA**, Page 10

# Ravens' Jacoby Jones to join 'Dancing With the Stars' TV show

BALTIMORE (AP) — Baltimore Ravens wide receiver Jacoby Jones is the newest contestant to join TV's "Dancing With the Stars."

Jones was the first contestant announced Sunday night for the show's new season. The announcement came during a commercial that aired during ABC's telecast of the Academy Awards. The other new contestants will be announced Tuesday on "Good Morning America."

The show premieres March 18.

Jones is known for his dance moves in the end zone after a touchdown.

Three other NFL players have won the competition: Emmitt Smith, Hines Ward and Donald Driver.

Jones was one of the Ravens' stars in their Super Bowl victory, scoring two touchdowns. He began his NFL career when he was drafted by the Houston Texans in 2009. He was signed by the Ravens last year.



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5:PM	News ABC	Casa	Two Men	News CBS	Noticias	News	King	Uri Harel	Charlie Rose	King	The Devils Ride	Rufus Sewell	Bar Rescue	Castle	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Good Jessie	SportsNation	SportsCenter
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Corona de Lágrimas	Big Bang	News	Caso Cerado	News	Seinfeld	McDonald	PBS News-Hour	Seinfeld	Fast N' Loud		Bar Rescue	Castle		Shake It Dog	Women's College Basketball	College Basketball
7:PM	The Bachelor	Por Ella Soy Eva	Bones (DVS)	How I Met Rules	Pasión Prohibida	The Biggest Loser	Fam. Guy	Antiques Roadshow	The Carrie Diaries	Fast N' Loud	90210	Movie: Signs, Cherry Jones	Bar Rescue	Castle	Movie: The Great Divide	Austin Starstruck	Content	College Basketball: Kansas at Iowa State.
8:PM	(:01) Castle	Amor Bravo (SS)	Simpsons How I Met	Hawaii Five-0	El Rostro de	(:01) Deception	Fam. Guy	Independent Lens	Cops	Fast N' Loud		Bar Rescue	Monday Mornings	Movie: Getting Played, Vivica A. Fox	Austin Good Jessie	SEC Storied		
9:PM	News	Impacto	How I Met	News	Noticias	News	Conan	House	Seinfeld	Fast N' Loud		Bar Rescue	(:01) Dallas	Movie: Demolition Man, Sandra Bullock	Wizards	NFL Live	SportsCenter	
10:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Noticiero	Raymond	Letterman	Victorinos (SS)	Jay Leno	Office	Mani	Fort			Bar Rescue	Monday Mornings	Wendy Williams	Wizards	NBA	SportsCenter	
11:PM	Nightline	Mar de Amor (SS)	Raymond	Ferguson	Decisiones (SS)	Jimmy Fallon	Office	Yohan	T. Smiley	'Til Death		Bar Rescue	(12:02) Cold Case	Movie: Wild Wild West, Kenneth Branagh	Wizards	NASCAR	SportsCenter	
12:AM	Extra	Conducta	American	Ent	Pagado	News	Mark Blitz	Light of the Southwest	Browns	Fast N' Loud		Entourage	Southland	Good	Deck	NFL Live	SportsCenter	
1:AM	Paid	Paid	Casa	TMZ	Paid	Paid	Lemony Snicket's Series of		Munroe			Entourage		Good	NBA			

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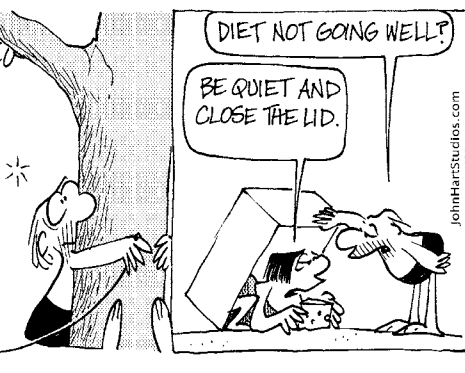
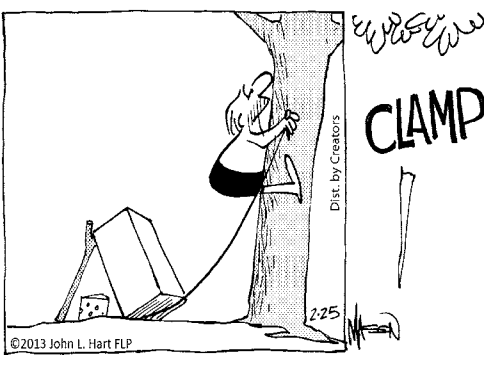
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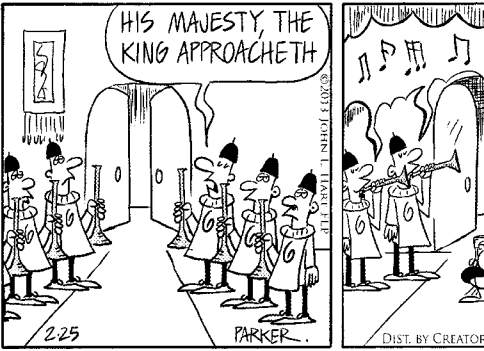
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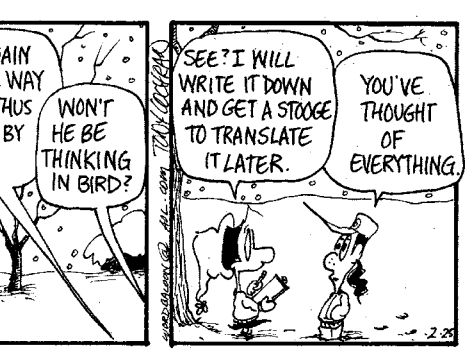
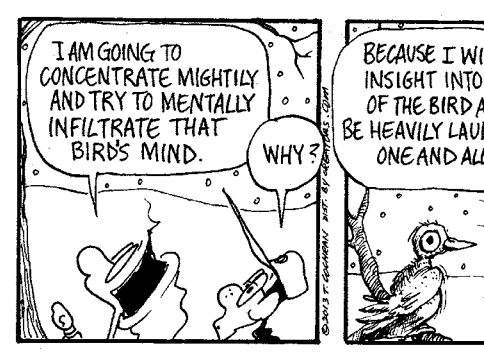
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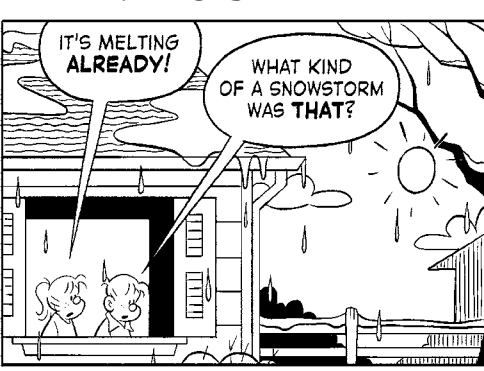
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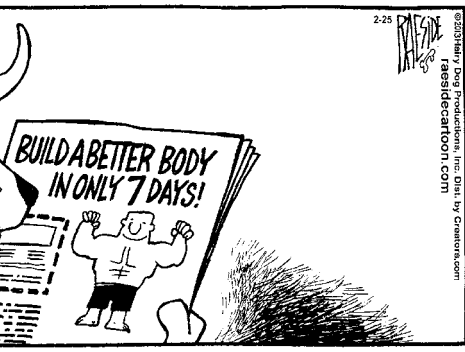
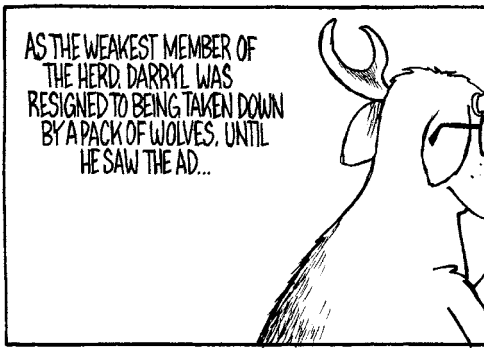
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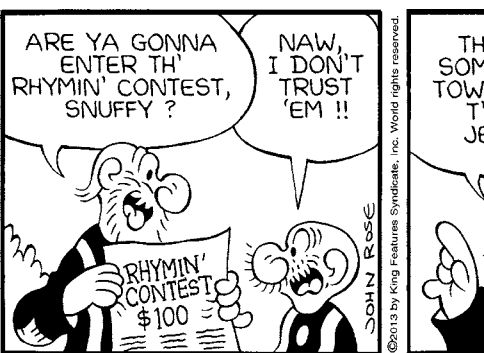
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This Date In History

Today is Monday, Feb. 25, the 56th day of 2013. There are 309 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

- On Feb. 25, 1913, the 16th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, giving Congress the power to levy and collect income taxes, was declared in effect by Secretary of State Philander Chase Knox.
- On this date: In 1836, inventor Samuel Colt patented his revolver.
- In 1862, Nashville, Tenn., became the first Confederate state capital to be occupied by the North during the Civil War.
- In 1901, United States Steel Corp. was incorporated by J.P. Morgan.
- In 1913, character actor Jim Backus, who played Thurston Howell III on "Gilligan's Island" and voiced the cartoon character Mr. Magoo, was born in Cleveland.
- In 1922, French serial killer

Henri Landru, convicted of murdering 10 women and the son of one of them, was executed in Versailles (vehr-SY).

In 1943, Allied troops reoccupied the Casserine Pass after clashing with German troops during World War II.

In 1950, "Your Show of Shows," starring Sid Caesar, Imogene Coca, Carl Reiner and Howard Morris, debuted on NBC-TV.

In 1963, the U.S. Supreme Court, in Edwards v. South Carolina, upheld 8-1 the right of civil rights demonstrators to peacefully protest outside the South Carolina State House.

In 1973, the Stephen Sondheim musical "A Little Night Music" opened at Broadway's Shubert Theater.

In 1983, playwright Tennessee Williams was found dead in his New York hotel suite; he was 71.

In 1986, President Ferdinand Marcos fled the Philippines after 20 years of rule in the wake of a tainted election; Corazon Aquino assumed the presidency.

In 1991, during the Persian Gulf War, 28 Americans were killed when an Iraqi Scud missile hit a U.S. barracks in

Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

Today's Birthdays: Country singer Ralph Stanley is 86. Actor Tom Courtenay is 76. CBS newsman Bob Schieffer is 76. Actress Diane Baker is 75. Actress Karen Grassle is 71. Humorist Jack Handey is 64. Movie director Neil Jordan is 63. Rock musician Dennis Diken (The Smithereens) is 56. Rock singer-musician Mike Peters (The Alarm) is 54. Actress Veronica Webb is 48. Actor Alexis Denisof is 47. Actress Tea (TAY-ah) Leoni is 47. Comedian Carrot Top is 46. Actress Lesley Boone is 45. Actor Sean Astin is 42. Singer Daniel Powter is 42. Latin singer Julio Iglesias Jr. is 40.

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Answer to previous puzzle

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

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# Spurs run past Suns, 97-87

PHOENIX (AP) — Tony Parker took the night off with a sore right triceps. Tim Duncan and Manu Ginobili were far from their best.

Yet, even at the end of a long, long road trip, the San Antonio Spurs still had plenty to handle the Phoenix Suns in a 97-87 victory on Sunday night.

Patty Mills and Kawhi Leonard scored 16 points apiece to lead six players in double figures and the Spurs had a successful finish to their nine-game trip — a long annual journey caused by a rodeo back home — to boost their NBA-best record to 45-13.

"It was a great trip," coach Gregg Popovich said. "We were 7-2, you have to be happy with that. I thought the guys kept good focus on the road here in the last game. You know they all want to

go home and I thought they did a fine job."

Tiago Splitter scored nine of his 14 in San Antonio's 35-point second quarter.

The Spurs have developed the kind of depth that they still win when one of their Big 3 is out.

"We've had to do it quite a bit this year as far as having one, two or three of those guys out," Popovich said. "So the bench has gotten a good look and I think they have gained some good confidence through all that."

Marcin Gortat scored 21 for Phoenix, 16 in the first half. Luis Scola added 15, and Goran Dragic had 10 points and 11 assists.

San Antonio beat the Suns for the sixth straight time and ninth in their last 10 meetings.

"There's always some mental lapse from wanting to get home, but this is what

makes this team so professional and how we carry ourselves on and off the court through the entire season," Mills said. "It's pretty impressive just as a player on the team watching how we carry ourselves."

The Spurs scored the first 14 points of the second quarter, taking a 33-21 lead on Stephen Jackson's 3-pointer from the corner. The outburst reached 25-4 with Splitter scoring seven straight points, punctuated by his three-point play that put the Spurs up 44-25 with 4:53 left in the half.

Phoenix cut the lead to 13 three times the rest of the quarter with San Antonio leading 54-40 at the break.

The Suns never got it to single digits in the second half.

Mills had 12 points and Splitter 11 to lead first-half scoring for San Antonio.

# MAVS

Continued from Page 5

Mavericks had pulled within two. The last gave Los Angeles a 101-97 lead with 46.9 seconds left.

Nowitzki scored to make it a two-point game, and World Peace missed a free throw to give Dallas a chance to tie. Mayo missed a 3-pointer with about 5 seconds left, and Bryant clinched it with a free throw that made it a two-possession game.

"That's why he's Kobe Bryant," Lakers coach Mike D'Antoni said. "He's not John Smith. No disrespect to John Smith, whoever he is. That's what does. That's what he loves. That's what he trains for."

Nash had 13 of his 20 points and three of his four 3-pointers in the second half, including one that answered Mayo's only bucket from long range and put the Lakers up 99-95.

"He came on in the second half and really gave us a big

boost," Bryant said. "He was very aggressive and it forced them to make changes defensively. He's extremely clutch."

Dwight Howard had three big free throws in the fourth, including one that put Los Angeles ahead for good at 91-90, and finished with nine points and 13 rebounds.

The Lakers had the biggest lead at six — several times — and the Mavericks erased each one through three quarters. Nowitzki's 3-pointer from the top of the key late in the third made him 4 of 4 from long range and capped a 7-0 run for a 71-70 Dallas lead, but Bryant scored twice on drives after a timeout to put the Lakers in front again.

In the first half, Nowitzki was 5 of 8 from the floor, made both 3-pointers and all four free throws and led everyone with eight rebounds. Bryant, meanwhile, was 3 of 4 from long range, including a pair from well behind the arc, but just 1 of 6 inside the line. He had a game-high six assists before halftime.

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## DAYTONA

Continued from Page 5

faded to eighth. That's going to stick with Patrick for some time.

"I would imagine pretty much anyone would be kicking themselves about what they coulda, shoulda have done to give themselves an opportunity to win," she said. "I think that's what I was feeling today, was uncertainty as to how I was going to accomplish that."

There were several multicar crashes, but no one was hurt and none of them approached the magnitude of the wreck that injured more than two dozen fans in the grandstand at the end of the second-tier Nation-

wide Series race on the same track a day earlier. Daytona International Speedway workers were up until 2 a.m. repairing the fence that was damaged in the accident, and track officials offered Sunday morning to move any fans who felt uneasy sitting close to the track.

Several drivers said the accident and concern for the fans stuck with them overnight and into Sunday morning, and Johnson was quick to send his thoughts from Victory Lane.

"I just want to give a big shout-out to all the fans, and I also want to send my thoughts and prayers out to everybody that was injured in the grandstands," Johnson said.

Dale Earnhardt Jr., whose father was killed in this race 12 years ago, was involved in Saturday's accident but refocused and finished second to Johnson, his Hendrick Motorsports teammate.

"Me personally, I was just really waiting to get the news on how everybody was, how all the fans were overnight, just hoping that things were going to improve," Earnhardt said, adding that he "wasn't really

ready to proceed until you had some confirmation that things were looking more positive."

The race itself, the debut for NASCAR's new Gen-6 car, was quite similar to all the other Cup races during Speedweeks in that the cars seemed to line up in a single-file parade along the top groove of the track. It made the 55th running of the Daytona 500 relatively uneventful.

When the race was on the line, Johnson took off.

The driver known as "Five-time" raced past defending NASCAR champion Brad Keselowski on the final restart and pulled out to a sizeable lead that nobody challenged over the final six laps.

Johnson and Keselowski went down to the wire last season in their race for the Sprint Cup title, with Johnson faltering in the final two races as Keselowski won his first Cup championship.

Although it was a bit of an upset that stuck with Johnson into the offseason, it gave him no extra motivation when he found himself racing with Keselowski late Sunday for the Day-

tona 500.

"As far as racing with Brad out there, you really lose sight of who is in what car," Johnson said. "It's just somebody between you and the trophy. It could have been anybody."

Once Johnson cleared Keselowski on the last restart he had a breakaway lead with Greg Biffle and Patrick behind him. But as the field closed in on the checkered flag, Earnhardt finally made his move, just too late and too far behind to get close enough to the lead.

Earnhardt wound up second for the third time in the last four years. But with all the crashes the Hendrick cars have endured in restrictor-plate races — teammate Kasey Kahne was in the first accident Sunday — team owner Rick Hendrick was just fine with the finish.

"We have a hard time finishing these races. Boy, to run 1-2, man, what a day," Hendrick said. Jeff Gordon, who was a contender early, faded late to 20th.

And Johnson considered himself lucky to be the one holding the trophy at the end.

"Man, it's like playing the lottery; everybody's got a ticket," he said. "I've struck out a lot at these tracks, left with torn-up race cars. Today we had a clean day."

Mark Martin was third in a Michael Waltrip Racing Toyota. Keselowski, who overcame two accidents earlier in the race, wound up fourth in Penske Racing's new Ford. Ryan Newman was fifth in a Chevy for Stewart-Haas Racing and was followed by Roush-Fenway Racing's Greg Biffle, who was second on the last lap but was shuffled back with Patrick to finish sixth.

Regan Smith was seventh for Phoenix Racing, while Patrick, Michael McDowell and JJ Yeley rounded out the top 10.



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

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