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THURSDAY
MARCH 14, 2013

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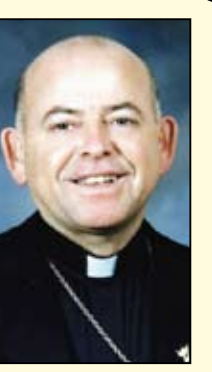
Bishop calls for ringing of bells

□ New Catholic Pope elected. See Page 5.

Herald Staff Report

Bishop Michael Pfeifer has asked for ringing of bells Sunday and will hold a special Mass on Monday to celebrate the news that Pope Francis, formerly Cardinal

Jorge Mario Bergoglio, SH of Argentina, has been elected Pope of the Catholic Church. "On Sunday at noon, I ask that we ring all the bells of our churches throughout the diocese in honor of Pope Francis and take a moment of silence to pray for him and the uni-



Pfeifer

versal Church, God's Peace," Bishop Pfeifer said in a statement released late Wednesday. "In the next few days, I strongly encourage each pastor to have a special Mass with our people to pray

for our new Pope. A suggested Mass ... is found in the sections: Masses and prayers for various needs and occasions in the Roman Missal. You may choose the appropriate scriptural readings, but I would suggest that we choose Matthew 16:13-19 as the Gospel, explaining how the Pope

See **POPE**, Page 3

Historic hospital destroyed

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

A blaze tore through the old Hall Bennett Hospital building — located at the intersection of Eighth Street and Goliad — Wednesday around 7:30 p.m., destroying much of the building's second floor, according to officials with the Big Spring Fire Department. The fire started on the second floor, according to Big Spring Fire Marshal Carl Condray, causing extensive fire damage to the structure and its roof, as well as water damage to the first floor. "There's no doubt, the first started on the second floor of the east wing," Condray said. "It consumed much of the floor's roof and caused extensive structural damage throughout." Condray said there were no

See **FIRE**, Page 3

AMBUCS gear up for 49th roundup

Slitherfest set for March 22-24

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

No one would ever call them cuddly or even particularly friendly, but rattlesnakes will soon be very popular here in Big Spring. The American Business Club's 49th annual Rattlesnake Roundup returns to the Howard County Fair Barns March 22-24, and hundreds — if not thousands — of the slimy, venomous reptiles will be on display. The event begins with hunters bringing in their catches Feb. 22, then opens to the public the next two days. Day passes are \$5 for visitors ages 12 and older and \$3 for younger children. Admission is free to the arts and crafts section. Cold weather, which drove the snakes further underground, is considered the major cause for a below-average number of snakes on display

at last year's event, but Ray Alexander has reasons to believe this year's roundup will be more successful. "We didn't have a whole lot of snakes last year, but it's looking better this year," Alexander said. "For one thing, the prices the snakes are bringing are better this year, plus the weather is expected to be warmer this time around. That would sure help our take." Regardless of the number of snakes on display, however, organizers promise many of the same attractions as in previous years. For starters, club members will go ankle-deep into the snake pit to give handling demonstrations and tips on how to avoid getting bitten

See **SNAKES**, Page 3



HERALD file photo

A snake handler exhibits a rattler during the American Business Club's 2012 Rattlesnake Roundup. This year's event will be held March 22-24 at the fairbarns.

Texas Capitol

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Public schools and mental health services in Texas will recover more of the funding gutted two years ago with the help of \$5.2 billion in general purpose spending added Wednesday to a state budget plan that now heads to the Senate. The extra dollars beef up a lean first draft of the 2014-15 budget that Republicans proudly unveiled in January and Democrats at the time blasted as needlessly tight-fisted given a roaring Texas economy that is projected to flush state coffers with historic revenues. The revised budget unanimously approved by the Senate Finance Committee uses \$94.1 billion in general revenue, which would be a 7.7 percent increase over what the state is currently spending. General revenue is the slice of the proposed \$195.5 billion two-year budget that lawmakers most influence. Combined with federal dollars, the budget passed by the committee Wednesday is \$8.6 billion more than the base Senate budget released in January. "Any of us didn't get everything we wanted, but I think we came up with a good work

See **CAPITOL**, Page 3

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HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Law enforcement and emergency medical service personnel were called to the scene of a one-vehicle rollover near the intersection of Highway 87 and FM 1785 north of Big Spring on Wednesday afternoon. No injury information was available at press time.

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Obituaries

Don 'Pepaw' Terrance Williams



Don "Pepaw" Terrance Williams, 80, of San Angelo, formerly of Big Spring went to be with his Lord and Saviour on Monday, March 11, 2013. Graveside funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, March 15, 2013, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park with Dr. Don Ardrey, pastor of the San Angelo First Church of the Nazarene, officiating.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. Thursday, March 14, 2013, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

Don was born June 21, 1932, in Lamesa, Texas, and married Vevagene Apple of Big Spring on July 16, 1953. Don moved to Big Spring as a child, where he resided until he and Veva moved to San Angelo in October 2010. Vevagene passed away Feb. 6, 2011.

Don graduated from Big Spring High School in 1949 and Howard County Junior College in the spring of 1951. He also attended Texas Tech University and Texas Christian University. He left TCU to work with his father, Claud, at Williams Sheet Metal in Big Spring.

He took over the family business when Claud retired and changed the name to Williams Industrial Fabrications. He designed and fabricated numerous mechanical vessels and structures during his ownership of the business.

He loved to camp with his family in the mountains of Colorado and was an avid hunter and outdoorsman. He once went on a mule "pack train" trip over the Continental Divide in the Rocky Mountains with a friend, where he experienced rain, snow and sunshine while sleeping on the ground at nights.

Don was a master craftsman famous for making knives, hatchets, axes and guns. He gave these as gifts to family and friends.

Don never met a stranger, be they rich or poor, black, white or Hispanic. He loved everyone and had many friends. His love for his Saviour, Jesus Christ, was apparent and he overflowed with great joy because of Christ's love for him. He loved all his family, especially his grandchildren. Don was a "man's man" and will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Left to cherish his memory are his two daughters, Cindy Brooks and husband Dean of San Angelo and Kay Sauls and husband Don of Odessa; four grandchildren, Leslie Gentry and husband Todd, Blake Alderton and wife Rebecca, Terry Sauls and wife Jami and Kayla Sauls; seven great-grandchildren, Kelsey, Shawn and Haley Harris, Faith and Paige Gentry and Parker and Liam Sauls; and one sister, Joy Hester and husband Roy.

Pallbearers will be Todd Gentry, Blake Alderton, Terry Sauls, Jim Grummitt and Bob Goodwin. Honorary pallbearers will be Dean Brooks, Roy Hester, Leonard Burks and Don Sauls.

Memorial donations are suggested to be made to the NRA Foundation/West Texas Friends of NRA, c/o Jack Cannon, 3520 Knickerbocker Road, Suite 314, San Angelo, Texas 76904.

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

Paid obituary

Judy Graham



Judy Graham, 70, of Tarzan died Thursday, March 13, 2013, at Hospice of Midland Inpatient Unit. Graveside services will be held at 10 a.m. Friday at Evergreen Cemetery in Stanton. Visitation will be held from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

She was born Sept. 8, 1942, in Gregton, Texas, to Lee and Carol Hammon. She married Freddie Graham March 3, 1960, in Big Spring. She was a long time resident of Howard and Martin counties and worked in the public schools as a custodian and substitute teacher for Grady ISD. She was a Baptist.

She is survived by one son, Randy Graham and wife Beverly of Midland; one daughter, Jody Rhoton and husband Brent of Sherman; five grandchildren, Katie Culifer and husband John of Tom Bean, Texas, Jamie Rhoton of Sherman, Brittany, Chris and Michael Graham, all of Midland; two great-grandchildren, Johnathan Culifer of Tom Bean, Texas, and Matthew Graham of Midland; one sister, Jean Slate and husband Edward of Big Spring; one brother, John Hull and wife Laura of Frisco, Texas; four sisters-in-law, Virgie Burchell of Big Spring, Joyce King of Blytheville, Ark., Marie Kirkham and husband Kirk and Brenda Riddle and husband Gary, all of San Angelo; numerous nieces and nephews; and many dogs who she considered her second set of kids.

Her husband, Freddie, preceded her in death June 20, 2011. She was also preceded in death by her mother and stepfather, Carol and Leo Hull; and her father and stepmother, Lee and Genevieve Hammon.

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

Paid obituary

Police blotter

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

- VICTORIA MAE ALEXANDRIA HANNABASS, 24, of 1403 Oil Mill Rd., was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- THEFT was reported in the 2500 block of Albrook Drive.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 400 block of Dallas Street.

Sheriff




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

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

- BRYAN ELI CASTILLO, 23, was booked into the county detention center Wednesday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- MICHAEL BOOTH, 23, was booked into the county detention center Thursday by the BSPD on charges of violation of bond/protective order, assault/stalking and burglary of a habitation with intent to commit other felony.

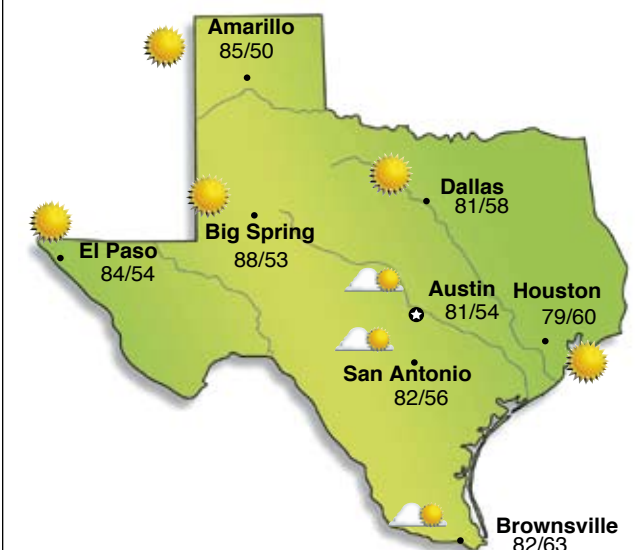
Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Fri 3/15	Sat 3/16	Sun 3/17
 88/53 Sunny skies. Near record high temperatures. High 88F. Winds SSW at 10 to 20 mph.	 92/50 Mainly sunny. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the low 50s.	 80/55 Sunshine. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the mid 50s.
Sunrise: 7:56 AM Sunset: 7:54 PM	Sunrise: 7:55 AM Sunset: 7:55 PM	Sunrise: 7:53 AM Sunset: 7:56 PM

American Profile
We Celebrate Hometown Life
Stories for and about hometowns just like yours. Look for us each week in this paper.

Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	86	60	sunny	Kingsville	85	62	pt sunny
Amarillo	85	50	sunny	Livingston	80	56	sunny
Austin	81	54	pt sunny	Longview	79	57	sunny
Beaumont	77	58	sunny	Lubbock	87	49	sunny
Brownsville	82	63	pt sunny	Lufkin	82	58	sunny
Brownwood	85	57	sunny	Midland	89	55	sunny
Corpus Christi	80	63	pt sunny	Raymondville	84	62	pt sunny
Corsicana	79	56	sunny	Rosenberg	79	59	sunny
Dallas	81	58	sunny	San Antonio	82	56	pt sunny
Del Rio	86	56	sunny	San Marcos	82	54	pt sunny
El Paso	84	54	sunny	Sulphur Springs	79	58	sunny
Fort Stockton	88	58	sunny	Sweetwater	87	57	sunny
Gainesville	80	55	sunny	Tyler	79	58	sunny
Greenville	78	56	sunny	Weatherford	81	55	sunny
Houston	79	60	sunny	Wichita Falls	86	58	sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	70	50	pt sunny	Minneapolis	35	21	sn shower
Boston	42	32	pt sunny	New York	47	37	cloudy
Chicago	44	30	rain	Phoenix	89	59	pt sunny
Dallas	81	58	sunny	San Francisco	70	52	pt sunny
Denver	71	42	cloudy	Seattle	58	46	rain
Houston	79	60	sunny	St. Louis	72	47	cloudy
Los Angeles	75	55	mst sunny	Washington, DC	57	44	pt sunny
Miami	74	56	pt sunny				

Moon Phases



UV Index

Fri 3/15	Sat 3/16	Sun 3/17
7	8	8
High	Very High	Very High

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Support Groups

THURSDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, open discussion noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

• Spring Tabernacle Ministries has a faith-based support group for those who need help finding and continuing to walk down the path God has for each of us. Meetings are at 11 a.m. until noon and again at 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.. The classes take place at Spring Tabernacle Ministries, located at 1209 Wright St.

• Weight Watchers meets at 6 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m. Weigh-in is confidential and you don't have to talk if you don't want to. Flexible payment options.

• 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.

• Overcomer's: Recovery & Restoration (R&R), a Christ-centered recovery program is held at Cornerstone Covenant Church from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the "Green Room" of the East Wing. For more convenient access to the meeting room, park in the back of the church and enter through the metal door across from the fellowship hall. If you need more information, contact the church secretary at 432-264-0015.

• Visual Awareness Support Group (VASG) is open to the public but specifically aimed for people who suffer from vision problems and their caregivers. For more information, call 263-2501.

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SNAKES

Continued from Page 1

if you happen across one of the creatures.

"It really is an educational program," Alexander said. "We show them that these snakes can be really dangerous ... and the best way to handle yourself when and if you come up on one."

Handlers also will present a milking demonstration — venom extracted from rattlers is routinely used in medical research. Venom collected at this year's event will be sold to BioTech, a medical firm.

A major draw, as always, will be professional snake handler Jackie Bibby of Fort Worth, who will perform a variety of stunts, including crawling into a sleeping bag full of snakes and putting several rattlers into his mouth.

And, if you prefer your rattlesnakes dead, skinned and cooked, fried snake meat will be on sale.

In addition, up to 50 vendors are expected for the arts and crafts show, which will be held in conjunction with the roundup. There will be a mixture of items, ranging from jewelry to caps to clothing items.

For more information, contact Dennis Burns at 263-3409.

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

POPE

Continued from Page 1

continues the mission of Peter on whom Christ said He would build His Church."

The Bishop also announced a special Mass set for noon Monday at Sacred Heart Cathedral in San Angelo.

"All priests who are present

are welcome to concelebrate, and please bring this Mass to the attention of all of our people," Pfeifer said.

He added, "It is with great joy that I, as Bishop of the Diocese of San Angelo, received this news, and I know this is also a special joy among all the people of the diocese and throughout the Catholic world as for many other people on planet earth."

CAPITOL

Continued from Page 1

product given the budget situation that we're in," said Republican Sen. Tommy Williams, the committee chairman.

Williams expects the full Senate to vote on the bill next week.

It includes an additional \$1.4 billion more for public schools in Texas, which lost nearly four times that amount in 2011 when lawmakers made deep across-the-board cuts to close a massive shortfall. Mental health programs and resources would receive an extra \$240 million, though advocates say Texas would still rank near the bottom when it comes to mental health spending nationwide.

Democrats vowed to push for more funding for schools and social services in the remainder of the 140-day session that ends in May.

Yet they also praised the lack of acrimony during budget negotiations this time around. Those talks routinely evolved into tense exchanges two years ago, when lawmakers scrambled to fill a \$27 billion budget hole and divisive proposals over immigration and women's health stifled bipartisanship.

"It was a different tone this session altogether," Democratic Sen. Royce West said.

Unspent money remains on the table, although Williams said there is fewer than \$1 billion left under the spending cap. Lawmakers can vote to exceed the cap, but that's unlikely in the Republican-controlled Legislature.

Bill would require drug test for benefits

Wendy Davis was 18. She had a baby on the way. When she lost her job in a staff reduction at Dresser Industries in Dallas, she used unemployment insurance benefits to pay the bills for a few months.

Thirty years later, Senator Wendy Davis, now a Harvard-educated Democrat representing Tarrant County, spoke out in a legislative hearing on Wednesday against a proposal to target laid-off workers with government-spon-

sored drug tests.

"I've been on unemployment," Davis said in a nine-minute confrontation with the bill's sponsor, Senator Tommy Williams, in the Senate Economic Development Committee. "I just can't imagine, Senator Williams, what it would have felt like for me to have been subjected during that period of time to a drug test simply because I was on unemployment benefits."

Williams, a Republican from the Woodlands, described his proposal as a way to help the state maintain a competent workforce.

"Respectfully, I'd say, Senator Davis, it's not really how you would have felt when you were collecting unemployment insurance benefits, it's not what this public policy's about," Williams said. "What this is about is making sure that people are in fact ready to go back to work."

Under current law, employers pay insurance premiums on behalf of their workers. When the employers cut staff, workers can apply for weekly insurance payments of \$62 to \$440, depending on their wages. Only workers who lose their jobs through no fault of their own qualify for payments. Those who are fired for cause - such as failing an employer-sponsored drug test - do not qualify for payments.

If the bill becomes law, the Texas Workforce Commission will set up a written questionnaire for workers who apply for unemployment benefits.

Larry Temple, executive director of the commission, told lawmakers the questionnaire would ask "kind of 'what is your lifestyle?' kind of questions."

Workers who give answers considered suspicious by the state agen-

cy would have to take a drug test.

Workers who fail the drug test would be denied for unemployment insurance benefits.

Texas Senate approves medical school for Valley

The University of Texas would bring a new medical school to the border under a measure approved Wednesday by the Texas Senate.

In a 30-1 vote, lawmakers advanced a bill to combine campuses in Edinburg and Brownsville with a Harlingen health center currently operated by the UT Health Science Center at San Antonio. The Texas House is expected to consider the proposal next week.

"Today is a historic day for the Rio Grande Valley," said Senator Eddie Lucio, a Democrat from Brownsville.

UT regents already have pledged \$100 million to the project. Perhaps most importantly, the new university would gain access to the state's Permanent University Fund, the endowment that manages billions of dollars to support higher education.

Sen. Juan Hinojosa, D-McAllen, said the plan could transform the impoverished region, where doctors are in short supply.

"Education gives you the power to succeed," Hinojosa said.

The new university is projected to enroll 28,000 students, employ 7,000 people and generate \$11 million in research expenditures.

Lucio said the uni-

FIRE

Continued from Page 1

active utilities in the building — built in 1928 as the Big Spring Hospital by Drs. G.T. Hall and M.H. Bennett — leading investigators to believe a human factor may have started the blaze.

"We're still interviewing the witnesses and no arrests have been made at this time, but we certainly haven't ruled out a human factor in the fire," he said. "There were lots of signs of graffiti and other criminal activity inside the building and we believe kids and homeless people were using it."

"One thing I've been trying to stress during this investigation is if the fire was started by someone, that doesn't necessarily make it arson. For it to be determined to be arson, there has to be the element of intent. If the fire was started by accident, it's not arson, it's simply an accidental fire."

Two firefighters were injured as a result of the fire, however, Condray

said both are expected to make speedy recoveries.

"We had a firefighter twist their knee and another one hurt his back while working on this fire," he said. "Both were transported to the emergency room at Scenic Mountain Medical Center, where they were treated and released later that evening. Both are doing well at this time."

Condray said four BSFD engines and several Howard County Volunteer Fire Department trucks responded to the incident.

"The biggest challenge we faced with this fire was the low water pressure in the area," Condray said. "When we first got on the scene, it was barely enough to supply one engine. However, we were able to get some county trucks on the scene and get the pressure up. One we had the water pressure up, we were almost immediately able to turn the fire around."

Condray said following the fire he will push for the building — which is located across the street

from a former nursing home that had experienced similar fires over the years — to be demolished.

"The situations are very, very similar between the old Hall Bennett Hospital building and the Big Spring Nursing facility, which was located across the street before it was demolished a few years ago," he said. "We had the same type of problems with kids and vagrants, leading up to a huge fire. Due to the extent of the damage to the building, along with the owner's unwillingness to make repairs or care for it, I'll be pushing to have it torn down, as well."

Area residents with information regarding the cause of the fire are asked to Call Big Spring Area Crimestoppers. To make a tip, call 432-263-TIPS (8477). No caller-ID is ever used and tipsters may remain anonymous.

For pictures of the blaze, courtesy of Greg Bodin, visit the Big Spring Herald Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/bigspringherald>

travel with him for his safety. But Larson said all of the other 2012 candidates paid for their own security costs until they received Secret Service protection and other governors reimburse their states for security costs when on political business.

Two Republican and two Democratic lawmakers joined Larson in supporting the bill, but no one spoke either for or against the bill on Wednesday. Committee Chairman Byron Cook, R-Corsicana, left the bill pending and will decide whether to call it up for a vote later.

Under the measure, officials would file travel forms with the Texas Ethics Commission, which would decide when there is a disagreement over whether travel was official or not.

Texas chancellor renews concerns over guns bill

University of Texas System Chancellor Francisco Cigarroa is renewing his concern that allowing concealed handguns into college classrooms would make universities more dangerous.

House lawmakers will hold a hearing today to consider several

bills allowing concealed handgun license holders to carry their guns into campus buildings where they are currently banned.

Cigarroa wrote to Gov. Rick Perry this week. Cigarroa says students, parents, faculty and law enforcement worry that allowing guns will make campus less safe. He wrote a similar letter in 2011 when campus gun bills were debated but ultimately failed.

Supporters of the campus gun bills consider it a gun rights issue and necessary for self-defense in case of a campus shooter.

Today's hearing is before the House Committee on Homeland Security and Public Safety.

Quote of the day

"If they're using drugs, they're not ready to go back to work..." Sen. Tommy Williams, R-The Woodlands, defending his bill requiring some recipients of unemployment benefits to undergo drug testing.

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EXP. 03/31/13

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Judy Graham, 70, died Thursday. Graveside services will be Friday 10 a.m. at Evergreen Cemetery in Stanton. Visitation will be Thursday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Oscar Canales, Jr., 34, died Sunday. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Bill McClellan Managing Editor	Glenn Stifflemire Publisher	Steve Reagan Staff Writer
Brian McCormack Sports Editor	Thomas Jenkins Staff Writer	

OTHER VIEWS

If conscience dictates, then expand Medicaid

Gov. Rick Perry almost could argue that his consistent refusal to expand Medicaid in Texas is a principled stand. If only it weren't fatal. According to one esteemed estimate, the annual unnecessary death toll for continuing to leave a fourth of Texans uninsured is 9,000.

Perry can claim perseverance among his virtues. He was an early proponent of the idea of states refusing to expand Medicaid under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, aka Obamacare. He has endured heckling for refusing to join other anti-Obamacare governors who capitulated recently for the sake of their states' working poor.

Those include, most notably, Arizona's Jan Brewer and Florida's Rick Scott. We single out those two because when it comes to Obama-bashing, Brewer can out-Perry Rick Perry, and because Scott has an extensive private-sector background in the business end of health care. Scott might actually know what he's talking about when he criticizes Obamacare.

This is why Perry should pay special attention to Scott's revised position. Obama's re-election was a big Vegas-style neon sign that didn't test Scott's literacy. The Florida governor said his conversion isn't "a white flag of surrender to government-run health care," and indeed it isn't. He proposes signing on only for the three years that the federal government pays the entire tab for the expansion, to see how it goes. That's shrewd.

Scott says it's also compassionate. And indeed it is.

In an article in *The American Spectator* under the headline "Rick Scott is wrong," former New York lieutenant governor Betsy McCaughey, a Ph.D. and patient advocate, predicts he will doom Florida to bankruptcy and soaring taxes. She notes that the federal government, after the first three years of paying 100 percent of the expansion cost, is supposed to pay 90 percent thereafter. But, "every deficit reduction plan being discussed in Washington, D.C. includes abandoning that 9-to-1 match soon," she warns, citing the bipartisan State Budget Crisis Task Force chaired last summer by former New York Lt. Gov. Richard Ravitch and former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker.

"The federal government usually breaks its promises," she adds.

But if past behavior continues to be a reliable predictor of future behavior, abandoning the 9-to-1 commitment should appear doubtful at best, even to those who trust government the least. The federal government already pays 60 percent of Texas' Medicaid costs. With the rug already that far under Texas and other states, a federal health care expansion is bound to push it in further, not pull it out.

Texas taxpayers already pay for Medicaid and for the uninsured working poor whose incomes are too high to qualify for it. But those people would receive better, cheaper, more preventive care under Medicaid and they would be less likely to die prematurely.

Refusal to expand Medicaid would cost Texas an estimated \$100 billion in 10 years. If Perry persists and prevails, Texas taxpayers will continue to support Medicaid in Texas plus the other 49 states, and get none in return from the 49. We are far from alone in having pointed this out before.

Probably none of the 9,000 who might die because Perry refuses to accept Medicaid expansion would vote for him anyway. Pointing it out is crass, we admit. But his counter-arguments amount to little more than slogans, which point straight down the political campaign trail, which completes the circle back to our original crass point.

Better-informed, sharper conservative minds have concluded that accepting Medicaid expansion is in their states' best interest. It saves money and, oh yeah, it saves lives. Conscience and reason led them to the inevitable conclusion.

—CORPUS CHRISTIE CALLER-TIMES

Secretary of (illegal alien) Labor

The Beltway is buzzing over President Obama's likely nomination of Thomas E. Perez as the next head of the U.S. Department of Labor. But when Americans find out whom Perez has lobbied for most aggressively over the course of his extremist leftwing social justice career, they'll be wondering which country Obama's pick really plans to serve.

Press accounts describe Perez, currently the assistant attorney general for the Justice Department's civil rights division, as a "tireless advocate of worker and civil rights." The son of immigrants from the Dominican Republic, Perez was a former special counsel for the late illegal alien amnesty champion Sen. Ted Kennedy.

During the Clinton years, Perez worked at the Justice Department to establish a "Worker Exploitation Task Force" to enhance working conditions for ... illegal alien workers. While holding down his government position, Perez volunteered for Casa de Maryland. This notorious illegal alien advocacy group is funded through a combination of taxpayer-subsidized grants (totaling \$5 million in 2010 alone from Maryland and local governments) and radical liberal philanthropy, including billionaire George Soros' Open Society Institute.

That's in addition to more than \$1 million showered on the group by freshly departed Venezuelan thug Hugo Chavez's regime-owned oil company, CITGO.

As I've reported previously, Perez rose from Casa de Maryland volunteer to president of the group's board of directors. Under the guise of enhancing the "multicultural" experience, he

crusaded for an ever-expanding set of illegal alien benefits, from in-state tuition discounts for illegal alien students to driver's licenses and tax-subsidized day labor centers. Casa de Maryland opposes enforcement of deportation orders, has protested post-9/11 coordination of local, state and national criminal databases, and produced a "know your rights" propaganda pamphlet for illegal aliens that depicted federal immigration agents as armed bullies making babies cry.

The group can claim credit for pushing the White House to issue an estimated 800,000 illegal alien deportation waivers by executive fiat. And now, Casa de Maryland is currently leading the charge for an even broader illegal alien "path to citizenship."

Questioned by GOP Sen. Jeff Sessions during his DOJ confirmation hearing in 2009 about the illegal alien rights guide produced by Casa de Maryland, Perez grudgingly stated that "the civil rights division must not act in contravention to valid enforcement actions of our federal immigration laws."

But "act(ing) in contravention" of the law is at the heart of Perez's and Casa's radicalism — and not just on behalf of illegal aliens.

During his tenure with the Obama DOJ, Perez sought to undermine electoral integrity by attacking South Carolina's voter ID law. His race card antics were rebuked by a unanimous U.S. District Court panel (which included a Clinton appointee), and the law prevailed.

Perez was instrumental in covering the backsides of the militant New Black Panther Party thugs who menaced voters and poll watchers in Philadelphia in 2008. The *American Spectator's* Quin Hillyer recounted that a federal judge challenged the veracity of Perez's testimony about DOJ political appointees' interference on behalf of the Panthers. "This came after Perez

also had, apparently unlawfully, refused to honor valid subpoenas from the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights — and it was in addition to yet another falsehood by Perez, this one to the effect that DOJ had sought the maximum allowable penalty against the Panthers," Hillyer reported. "While the original decision to dismiss the case predated Perez's appointment to the Justice Department, his direct involvement in, and hands-on management of, what amounted to a cover-up of the decision's origins should alone be disqualifying for any Cabinet post."

Perez also helped spearhead the lawsuit against Arizona over its immigration enforcement measures and launched a three-year DOJ witch-hunt against Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio. The vengeful investigation against Arpaio, the nation's most outspoken local law enforcement official against illegal alien crime, was dropped without charges last summer. Perez is leading similar witch-hunts against police departments across the country based on leftwing junk science theories about racial "disparate impacts."

With Senate Republicans John McCain, Lindsey Graham and company folding like lawn chairs on Obamamnesty, open-borders groups are thrilled at the prospect of another victory with Perez's nomination. Last week, conservatives stood with Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., over John Brennan's nomination as CIA director. Who will stand for American workers in opposition to Obama's pending secretary of illegal alien labor? Anyone?

Michelle Malkin is the author of "Culture of Corruption: Obama and his Team of Tax Cheats, Crooks and Cronies" (Regnery 2010). Her e-mail address is malinkinblog@gmail.com.

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Save the sequester, crush the kids

If American politics has but one purpose in modern times, it is to crush the hopes and dreams of young people everywhere.

And this is why President Obama's closing of the White House to public tours makes so much sense.

He is in the middle of a sequester battle in which he and Congress must cut spending by \$85.4 billion.

And what better way to do this than by keeping a few thousand school-children from experiencing their nation's heritage and being instilled with a sense of public pride and purpose?

On Friday, a reporter asked during the daily White House press briefing: "What is the president's message to all of the people who are going to be disappointed, frustrated and upset this weekend that they are not going to be able to have a tour of the White House — the people's house?"

Principal Deputy Press Secretary Josh Earnest had been briefed carefully in advance for this question. All White House briefers are briefed carefully in advance for briefings at a cost of probably what it takes to conduct White House tours.

Earnest said that it was a "shame" that the "people who come to the White House on a yearly basis to tour" would get stiffed, but that "the people that the president is most concerned about, though, are the 750,000 Americans who stand to lose their job ... as a result of the sequester."

But this is like your mother telling you that you had to eat your lima beans because children were starving in China. If I

ate my lima beans, would children in China (who today are very healthy and hacking into our computers) not starve? And will discontinuing White House tours somehow save 750,000 jobs?

Or would we do better by delaying the building of the new Gerald R. Ford class aircraft carriers that clock in for a cool \$9 billion or so apiece? (This does not include the cost of the guided missile cruisers, guided missile destroyers, attack submarines and ammunition-supply ships needed to keep each aircraft carrier afloat.)

I am not for gutting the military. Certain defense spending is necessary. Keeping drones circling over Rand Paul's head 24 hours a day is a public service that could benefit all Americans.

But you can see why the White House would rather ban tours than cut elsewhere. Ending tours brings the problem "home" to ordinary Americans who caused the sequester crisis in the first place.

No, wait. Ordinary Americans did not cause the sequester crisis in any way, shape or form.

As the president said on Feb. 28 regarding the sequester cuts, "We can't keep lurching from one manufactured crisis to another."

The sequester is a manufactured crisis. It is entirely political, which is to say, it is not necessary.

It has been manufactured because Democrats and Republicans need crises to show how the other side is incapable of dealing with crises. This is the opposite of the ancient art of "compromise," in which both sides placed country ahead of party.

Today, the world "compromise" is considered the same as "appeasement." It is weak, pathetic and for sissies who lack the gumption to paralyze America.



MICHELLE MALKIN



ROGER SIMON

Pope Francis' humility: stops by hotel to get bags

NICOLE WINFIELD
Associated Press
VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis put his humility on display during his first day as pontiff Thursday, stopping by his hotel to pick up his luggage and pay the bill himself in a decidedly different style for the papacy usually ensconced inside the frescoed halls of the Vatican.

The break from the tradition-minded previous pontificate was evident even in Francis' wardrobe choices: He kept the simple pectoral cross of his days as bishop and eschewed the red cape that Benedict XVI wore when he was presented to the world for the first time in 2005 — choosing instead the simple white cassock of the papacy.

The former archbishop of Buenos Aires, Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio, began his first day as pope making an early morning visit in a simple Vatican car to a Roman basilica dedicated to the Virgin Mary and prayed before an icon of the Madonna.

He had told a crowd of some 100,000 people packed in rain-soaked St. Peter's Square just after his election that he intended to pray to the Madonna "that she may watch over all of Rome."

He also told cardinals he would call on retired Pope Benedict XVI, but the Vatican said the visit wouldn't take place for a few days.

The main item on Francis' agenda Thursday was an inaugural afternoon Mass in the Sistine Chapel, where cardinals on Wednesday elected him leader of the 1.2 billion-strong church in an unusually quick conclave.

Francis might be expected to outline some of his priorities as pope in the homily. It was

expected to be delivered in Italian, again another break from the traditional-minded Benedict whose first homily as pope was in Latin.

Francis, the first Jesuit pope and first non-European since the Middle Ages, decided to call himself Francis after St. Francis of Assisi, the humble friar who dedicated his life to helping the poor.

The new pope, known for his work with the poor in Buenos Aires' slums, immediately charmed the crowd in St. Peter's, which roared when his name was announced and roared again when he emerged on the loggia of the basilica with a simple and familiar: "Brothers and sisters, good evening."

Waving shyly, he said the cardinals' job was to find a bishop of Rome. "It seems as if my brother cardinals went to find him from the end of the earth, but here we are. Thank you for the welcome."

The 76-year-old Bergoglio, said to have finished second when Pope Benedict XVI was elected in 2005, was chosen on just the fifth ballot to replace the first pontiff to resign in 600 years.

Francis urged the crowd to pray for Benedict and immediately after his election spoke by phone with the retired pope, who has been living at the papal retreat in Castel Gandolfo south of Rome. A visit to Benedict would be significant because Benedict's resignation has raised concerns about potential power conflicts emerging from the peculiar situation of having a reigning pope and a retired one.

Benedict's longtime aide, Monsignor Georg Gaenswein, accompanied Francis to the visit Thursday morning at St. Mary Major, the ANSA news agency reported. In addition to



Courtesy photo

The former archbishop of Buenos Aires, Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio has been named Pope of the Catholic Church.

being Benedict's secretary, Gaenswein is also the prefect of the papal household and will be arranging the new pope's schedule.

After the visit, Francis also stopped by a Vatican-owned residence in downtown Rome to pick up the luggage that he left behind before moving into the Vatican hotel for the conclave.

He paid the bill "to give a good example," according to the Vatican spokesman the Rev. Federico Lombardi.

It was a remarkable show of simplicity and humility for a man who could easily have dispatched someone to do the job for him.

He displayed that same sense immediately after his election, shunning the special sedan that was to transport him to the hotel so he could ride on the bus with other cardinals, and refusing even an elevated platform from which he would greet them, according to U.S. Cardinal Timothy Dolan.

"He met with us on our own level," Dolan said.

Later, during dinner,

the new pope addressed a few words to the cardinals:

"May God forgive you for what you have done," Francis told them, Lombardi said.

Like many Latin American Catholics, Francis has a particular devotion to the Virgin Mary, and his visit to the basilica was a reflection of that. He prayed before a Byzantine icon of Mary and the infant Jesus, the Protectress of the Roman People.

"He had a great devotion to this icon of Mary and every time he comes from Argentina he visits this basilica," said one of the priests at the basilica, the Rev. Elio Montenero. "We were surprised today because did not announce his visit."

He then also went into the main altar area of the basilica and prayed before relics of the manger in Bethlehem where Jesus is said to have been born — an important pilgrimage spot for Jesuits.

Francis' election elated Latin America, home to 40 percent of the

world's Catholics which has nevertheless long been underrepresented in the church leadership. On Wednesday, drivers honked their horns in the streets of Buenos Aires and television announcers screamed with elation at the news.

Cardinal Thomas Collins, the archbishop of Toronto, said the cardinals clearly chose Francis because he was simply "the best person to lead the church."

"I can't speak for all the cardinals but I think you see what a wonderful pope he is," he told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. "He's just a very loving, wonderful guy. We just came to appreciate the tremendous gifts he has. He's much beloved in his diocese in Argentina. He has a great pastoral history of serving people."

The new pontiff brings a common touch. The son of middle-class Italian immigrants, he denied himself the luxuries that previous cardinals in Buenos Aires enjoyed. He lived in a simple apartment, often rode the bus to work, cooked his own meals and regularly visited slums that ring Argentina's capital.

"If he brings that same desire for a simple lifestyle to the papal court, I think they are all going to be in shock," said the Rev. Thomas Reese, author of "Inside the Vatican," a must-read book on the Vatican bureaucracy. "This may not be a man who wants to wear silk and furs."

Francis considers social outreach, rather than doctrinal battles, to be the essential business of the church.

"As a champion of the poor and the most vulnerable among us, he carries forth the message of love and compassion that has inspired the world for more than 2,000 years — that in each other, we see the face of God," U.S. President Barack Obama said in a statement.

As the 266th pope, Francis inherits a Catholic church in turmoil, beset by the clerical sex abuse scandal, internal divisions and dwindling numbers in parts of the world where Christianity had been strong for centuries.

And, like Europe, secularism has also taken hold: more and more people simply no longer identify themselves with any organized religion.

Sudoku Answers on Page 13

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.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Seek and Ye Shall Find

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ K J 9 5 2
♥ Q J 5 2
♦ K 5 4 2
♣ —
WEST
♠ 7 6
♥ 10 4
♦ A Q J 8 7 6
♣ J 7 3
EAST
♠ Q 8 4
♥ 8
♦ 10 9 3
♣ A K 10 8 4 2
SOUTH
♠ A 10 3
♥ A K 9 7 6 3
♦ —
♣ Q 9 6 5

The bidding:
South West North East
1♥ 2♠ 3♥ 4♣
4♦ Pass 5♣ Dble
7♥

Opening lead — three of clubs.
This deal occurred in a team match some years ago. The bidding went as shown, with North and South cuebidding their voids before South leaped aggressively to seven hearts. The grand slam would have been a virtual laydown if North had held the queen of spades rather than the jack. As it was, declarer had his work cut out for him.

One obvious approach is to ruff

the club lead in dummy, draw trumps and then guess which way to finesse for the queen of spades.

But South decided that he didn't know enough about the unseen hands to risk an early spade guess. So he embarked on a line of play designed to force the defenders to reveal more about their respective distributions, trumping four diamonds in his hand and three more clubs in dummy. Then he cashed the A-K of hearts.

At this point, 10 tricks had been played, and dummy had the K-J-9 of spades remaining opposite declarer's A-10-3. The crucial moment had arrived.

During the play, East had shown out of diamonds on the fourth round, and West had failed to follow to the fourth round of clubs. Since West had also followed to two rounds of trumps, he was known to have started with precisely six diamonds, three clubs and two hearts. So he held exactly two spades.

From there, it was just a matter of applying probabilities. Since the hand with the greater number of spades was more likely to have the queen, declarer led a spade to the king and finessed against East on the way back to bring home the grand slam.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.

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5:PM	News ABC	Casa Notic.	Two Men CBS	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News News	King Seinfeld	Yohan House	Charlie Rose	King Property	Property Auction	Underworld, Michael Sheen	Liam Neeson	The Mentalist	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Place: The Movie		SportsCenter
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Corona de Lágrimas	Big Bang	News	Caso Cerado	News	Seinfeld	Dr. Diana	PBS News-Hour	Seinfeld	Auction				College Basketball		College Basketball	
7:PM	Wheel Zero Hour	Porque el Am.	American Idol	Big Bang	Ent	Millionaire	Seinfeld	R. Shap	This Old House Hr	The Vampire Diaries	Auction	The Walking Dead	IMPACT Wrestling	NBA Basketball: Mavericks at Spurs	The BET Awards 2012	Wizards-Place		College Basketball
8:PM	Grey's Anatomy	Amores Verdaderos	Glee (DVS)	Person of Interest	La Patrona (SS)	Office 1600	Big Bang	Light of the Southwest	Power-Planet	Beauty & Beast	Auction	Comic Freak			Wizards		College Basketball	
9:PM	(:02) Scandal	Amor Bravio (SS)	Simpsons How I Met	(:01) Elementary	El Rostro de	Law & Order: SVU	Big Bang		Antiques Roadshow	Cops Seinfeld	Property Auction	Immortal	Bellator	NBA Basketball: Knicks at Trail Blazers	Wizards	Shake It Good		
10:PM	News Jimmy Kimmel Live	Noticiero Al Diablo con Los Guapos (SS)	Raymond	Letterman	Titulares	Jay Leno	Conan	McGee Justice	Charlie Rose	Rules 70s	Auction	Immortal	Bellator 360	Wendy Williams	Wizards	Jessie	SportCtr	
11:PM	Nightline	Raymond	Fam. Guy	Insider	Pagado	News	Office	R. Shap	World King	'Til Death	Property Auction	Immortal	GTTV	Ways Die	Wizards	Deck	NASCAR	
12:AM	Paid	Conducta	American	Ent	Pagado	(:06) Today	Movie: Without a Paddle		World King	'Til Death	Property Auction	Immortal	GTTV	Ways Die	Wizards	Deck	SEC Storied	
1:AM	Paid	Casa	TMZ	Paid	Pagado				World King	'Til Death	Property Auction	Immortal	GTTV	Ways Die	Wizards	Deck	SEC Storied	30 for 30

DENNIS THE MENACE



THE FAMILY CIRCUS



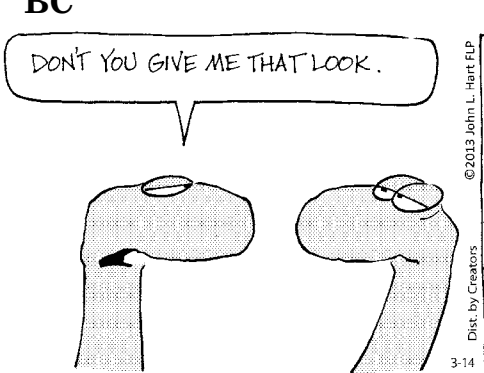
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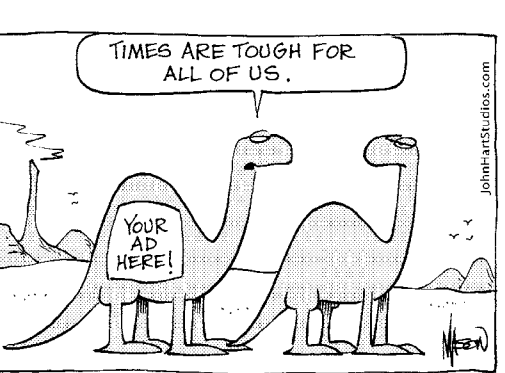
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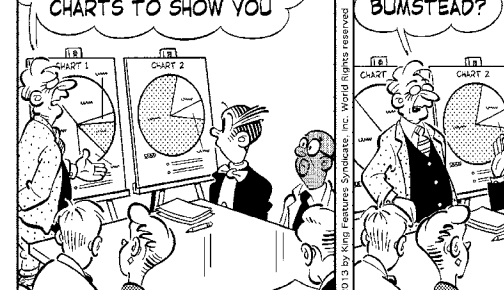
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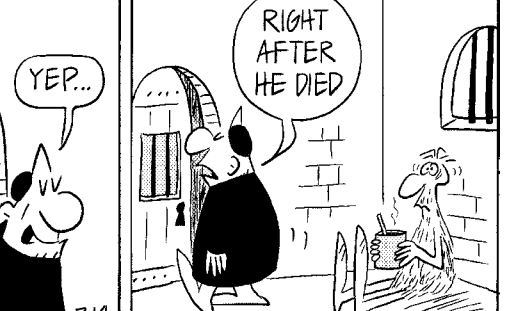
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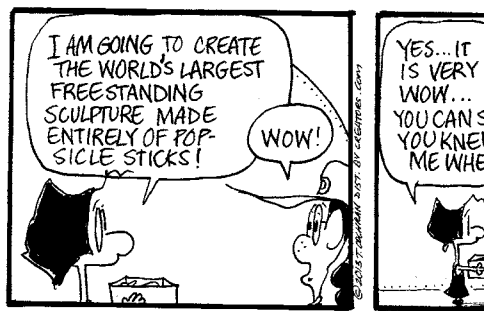
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This Date In History

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In 1939, the republic of Czechoslovakia was dissolved, opening the way for Nazi occupation of Czech areas and the separation of Slovakia.

In 1951, during the Korean War, United Nations forces recaptured Seoul (sohl).

In 1962, Democrat Edward M. Kennedy officially launched in Boston his successful candidacy for the U.S. Senate seat from Massachusetts once held by his brother, President John F. Kennedy. (Edward Kennedy served in the Senate for nearly 47 years.)

In 1964, a jury in Dallas found Jack Ruby guilty of murdering Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused assassin of President John F. Kennedy, and sentenced him to death. (Both the conviction and death sentence were later overturned, but Ruby died before he could be retried.)

In 1967, the body of President John F. Kennedy was moved from a temporary grave to a permanent memorial site at Arlington National Cemetery.

In 1980, a LOT Polish Airlines jet crashed while attempting to land in Warsaw, killing all 87 people aboard, including 22 members of a U.S. amateur box-

ing team.

In 1991, a British court overturned the wrongful convictions of the "Birmingham Six," who had spent 16 years in prison for a 1974 Irish Republican Army bombing, and ordered them released.

Today's Birthdays: Former astronaut Frank Borman is 85. Singer Phil Phillips is 82. Actor Michael Caine is 80. Composer-conductor Quincy Jones is 80. Former astronaut Eugene Cernan is 79. Actor Raymond J. Barry is 74. Movie director Wolfgang Petersen is 72. Country singer Michael Martin Murphey is 68. Rock musician Walt Parazider (pay-ah-ZAY-der)(Chicago) is 68. Actor Steve Kanaly is 67.

Answer to previous puzzle

PIUTTON	SHAD	PAIR
AROMA	TAXI	ACME
SLANG	OWES	PIPE
	DIAMOND	BLADES
AHS	NIP	AUSSIE
NOTION	TORN	
GOOD	TEAM	ARBOR
SHOOT	STHEBREEZE	
TALLY	AONE	EGOS
	LOSE	FELINE
FUSSES	DID	NET
INGIR	CIRCULATION	
STAR	ATOZ	CRIBS
TIRE	RAVE	TENET
SEEN	SHIED	SOGGY

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Autumn bloomer
 - 6 Jab
 - 10 Antifur org.
 - 14 Cooktop kin
 - 15 NYSE counterpart
 - 16 The Bard's river
 - 17 Mila of Black Swan
 - 18 Trident point
 - 19 Usage fee
 - 20 Synthetic wear
 - 23 Starfish arm
 - 24 Prose piece
 - 25 Courageous
 - 29 Plain-living group
 - 32 Suffix for million
 - 33 Feign feelings
 - 34 Gives the nod to
 - 37 Synthetic wear
 - 41 Roaster, maybe
 - 42 Some 400-meter paths
 - 43 City near Turin
 - 44 Sarcastic "Sorry!"
 - 45 Today's teen, often
 - 47 GNP and RBI
 - 50 Slip into
 - 51 Synthetic wear
 - 58 Fan's focus
 - 59 Expander of Hawaii
 - 60 Fable ender
 - 62 Sugar source
 - 63 Spooky sign
- DOWN**
- 13 Tending to fidget
 - 21 Turndown vote
 - 22 ... Cuckoo's Nest author
 - 25 Deep cut
 - 26 Ready to pluck
 - 27 OPEC charter member
 - 28 Bout-ending number
 - 29 Leisurely pace
 - 30 Dairy sounds
 - 31 "___ be my pleasure!"
 - 33 Checkup, for one
 - 34 Force to leave
 - 35 Diamond-shaped toy
 - 36 Move just a bit
 - 38 Throw water on
 - 39 First mother
 - 40 Jazz instrument
 - 44 Designed, as a dress
 - 45 Outdo
 - 46 Paint type
 - 47 Add zip to
 - 48 At present
 - 49 Exclusively
 - 50 Wet one's whistle
 - 52 Spill (over)
 - 53 Docile
 - 54 By any chance
 - 55 PBS science series
 - 56 Moderate pace
 - 57 Benefit
 - 61 Law, in Latin

SYNTHETICS by Fred Piscop

Edited by Stanley Newman

www.stanxwords.com

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HERALD photo/Brian McCormack
The Howard College men's basketball team will be leaving for Hutchinson, Kan. on Saturday to compete in the NJCAA national championship tournament. The No. 11 Hawks are seeded 13th and will open play Monday at 2 p.m. against East Mississippi. The Hawks won a JUCO national title under Head Coach Mark Adams in 2010.



Texas gets past TCU in Big 12 tourney

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — When Myck Kabongo finally returned from his suspension, everything changed for Texas.

Its rotations. Its offensive execution. Its defensive tenacity.

The outcome of games, too.

Kabongo had 16 points and six assists Wednesday night, leading Texas on a big second half run in a 70-57 win over TCU that sent the Longhorns into the quarterfinals of the Big 12 tournament.

The victory also gave the No. 7 seed Longhorns (16-16) three straight wins for the first time since early December, when Kabongo was in the midst of a 23-game benching handed down by the NCAA for receiving improper benefits, and set up a date Thursday night with No. 11 Kansas State.

"There's no doubt, put it rust, feel,

whatever — he's played nine games this year. He sat for a long time," Texas coach Rick Barnes said of his sophomore guard. "I do think we're figuring some things out with a full rotation. We never got to do that in practice with Myck."

It couldn't have come at a better time for the Longhorns, which still need to win three more games at the Sprint Center to reach the NCAA tournament for the 15th straight year.

"They're a dangerous team right now," TCU coach Trent Johnson said. "If anybody is capable of winning three more games here, it's them."

Julien Lewis finished with 19 points and Sheldon McClellan had 12 for the Longhorns, which have won seven straight and 11 of their last 12 against the Horned Frogs.

Texas actually trailed 44-43 midway

through the second half, but took the lead on a basket underneath by Prince Ibeh and then slowly extended it. Moments later, ripped off a 13-3 run that resulted in a 62-49 win and effectively put the Horned Frogs (11-21) away.

"The main difference," Johnson said, "is they made shots down the stretch."

Connell Crossland scored 11 points and Charles Hill Jr. had all 10 of his points in the second half for TCU, which won only twice during its first trip through the Big 12 — a stunning upset of then-No. 5 Kansas and victory over Oklahoma in its regular-season finale.

"We've got a lot of experience in losing this year," Johnson said.

The Longhorns got that experience early in the season, losing five

See **TOURNEY**, Page 13

Sports Calendar

TODAY

Softball

• Howard College at South Mountain Community College (double-header), 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. (MST).

Baseball

• Big Spring at Seminole, 5:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

Softball

• Howard College at Spring Break Trip (through Saturday), Casa Grande, Ariz., TBA.

• Wylie at Big Spring, 5 p.m. (varsity), 6:30 p.m. (J.V.)

Powerlifting

• Girl's state meet, Corpus Christi (through Saturday).

MONDAY

Basketball

• Howard College vs. East Mississippi, NJCAA national tourney (through Saturday), 2 p.m., Hutchinson, Kan.

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

Welker heads to Denver, Bush to Detroit

(AP) — Teaming Wes Welker with Peyton Manning has John Elway excited about the possibilities for the Denver Broncos.

The former New England star receiver and longtime favorite target of Tom Brady signed a two-year deal with the Broncos on Tuesday, highlighting a busy Day 2 of NFL free agency.

"When you look at Wes in the middle of the field, you can't cover him," said Elway, the Broncos' boss. "He does such a tremendous job of getting open, beating man-to-man coverage. So, he'll be a huge asset for us inside."

Welker joins the Broncos,

who had the AFC's best regular-season record last year, and gives Manning one of the steadiest targets the four-time league MVP has ever had. The best slot receiver in the league, Welker caught 118 passes for 1,354 yards and six TDs last season. That the Broncos are signing a top player away from New England certainly didn't hurt, either.

"Anytime you can take a player from a team you have to compete against, it helps, especially the caliber of Wes Welker," Elway said. "New England is there year in and year out and that's a team we have to beat to get where we want to get."

Denver also came to terms on a two-year deal with defensive tackle Terrance Knighton, formerly of Jacksonville, and a one-year contract with linebacker Stewart Bradley, who played with the Cardinals the past two seasons. Later in the evening, the team added cornerback Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie with a one-year deal.

Also getting new deals were Reggie Bush in Detroit, Dashon Goldson in Tampa Bay, and even Ray Lewis — with ESPN.

Bush agreed to a four-year deal and could fill a huge hole at running back. The Lions haven't been able to count on 2010 first-round draft pick

Jahvid Best, whose career is in doubt because of concussion issues.

"It's a running back's dream," Bush said. "One of the reasons I wanted to come here is to be able to bring a balanced attack."

Bush adds to a strong offense led by record-setting All-Pro receiver Calvin Johnson. The second overall pick in 2006 by New Orleans, Bush rushed for 986 yards for Miami last season after gaining 1,086 yards in 2011, his first year with the Dolphins.

"The thing that was important to us was not just the talent of Reggie Bush, but

See **NFL**, Page 14

Correction

The *Herald* recently ran a report of holes-in-one at the Comanche Trail Golf Course. One person's name was misspelled. It should have read Daniel Silen. We apologize for the error.

Here is the corrected article:

Aces reported at Comanche Trail Golf Course

On February 13, Vaughn Martin sank a hole-in-one on Hole No. 3 at the Comanche Trail Golf Course — it was Vaughn's second ace of the year. He used a six-iron. Witnesses to the feat included Jerry Roach, Bill Holden and Don Cook.

Daniel Silen also got an ace, his coming during the Chicano Golf Association membership drive tourney.

Silen one-stroked it into the cup on Hole No. 6 using a seven-iron. His witnesses included Jerry Whetsel, Bob Shaffner, Aaron Shaffner, Mike Dutchover, John Dutchover and Mike Ornellas. It was Silen's sixth hole-in-one.

Area sports briefs

Send-off planned for Hawk hoops team

The Howard College men's basketball team received an at-large bid to the NJCAA national championship tournament in Hutchinson, Kan.

A send-off will be held today at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. The public is invited to wish the Hawks good luck before they depart Big Spring on Saturday. Howard (No. 11), will begin tournament play Monday against East Mississippi at 2 p.m. The last time the Hawks made the trek to Hutchinson, they brought home a national title. Results from each game will be

in the *Herald*.

Big Spring Country Club to hold United Way benefit tourney

The Big Spring Country Club will be holding a 3-person scramble tournament March 23-24 to benefit the United Way.

The \$80 per person fee includes barbeque on the course Saturday at noon, a 19th Hole party on the patio with live acoustic entertainment by Adrian Calvio and free snacks and beverages.

There will be a shotgun start at 1 p.m. both days. Field will be flighted according to first round

scores. An optional cash players pool is available Friday and Saturday. Practice rounds are available Friday.

Carts fees will be applicable and private carts are welcome.

Big Lake Golf Course to hold 3-person scramble

The J.D. Armstrong Memorial Tournament is slated for April 20-21 at the Big Lake Golf Course.

The cost will be \$300 per team. Tee times are available at 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. For more information, call 325-884-2633 or 325-650-5000.

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www.bigspringherald.com

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Announcements

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Expenses paid.
1-800-997-1720
****Chris&Carolyn****

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Garage Sales

2 FAMILY Garage Sale: Satur-
day 8:30am-?, 710 E. 15th.
Clothing all sizes (winter), toys
and lots of misc. stuff.

2114 CARL Street, Saturday
8:00am-?. Had good sale last
weekend **NEW ITEMS**
ADDED- tools, trinkets, appli-
ances, make reasonable offer
everything must go.

2501 FISHER St., Saturday
only! 10:00am-4:00pm. Lawn
mower, DR weedeater, plus
size clothes, dishes, storage
cabinets and small patio set.

3709 CONNALLY Street,
Friday & Saturday 8:30am-?
Furniture, clothing, electronics
and much more.

CARPOR SALE: 1811 Hamil-
ton, Saturday 8-3. Peddle
boat, kids and adult clothing,
exercise equipment, electron-
ics, collectibles, misc. items.

ESTATE INSIDE Sale: 603
NW 8th- Friday & Saturday 8-4
Priced to sell, Everything Must
Go. Old dishes, knick-knacks,
antique tables, shelves, furni-
ture, Christmas & decoration
items.

ESTATE SALE!! 502 South
1st Street, Coahoma Saturday
8am-4pm. Furniture, small
appliances, dishes, tools, small
engine parts, riding lawn
mowers, and much more...

GARAGE SALE: 1508 East
17th, Friday & Saturday 8am-?
Antiques, tools, 2 BBQ Pits,
rod & reels, pedal sewing
mavchine, comic books, cloth-
ing and misc. items.

GARAGE SALE: 1617 Hilltop
Rd. Saturday 8:00am-4:00pm.
No Early Birds. Women, mens,
toddler, youth, & kids clothing,
maternity clothing, baby items
and lots more.

HUGE GARAGE Sale! 2507
Larry Drive, Saturday 8:00-?
Lots of boy's cloths 3T-12,
men's and women's cloths,
baby walker, baby crib, stroller.
Brand new in box gas range
and hood. Too much to list
must, along with breakfast
burritos!

MULTI FAMILY Sale: 2307
Marshall, Saturday Early Birds
Welcome 6:00am-? Furniture,
exercise equipment, bicycle,
children's clothing and toys.

Help Wanted

EXPERIENCE FARM Hand
Wanted! Call after 7:00p.m.
(432)684-5418.

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and Housekeeping person.
Apply at Front Office @ 2701
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NEED TRANSPORT/BOBTAIL
Driver for fuel deliveries.
Starting Salary \$23.00 per hr.,
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or
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for more information or call
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person at 501 E. 3rd.

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store in Big Spring, TX. Apply
at www.hibbettjobs.com. Drug
test/crim/credit check req'd.

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censes and good driving re-
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application. No phone calls
please.

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Farm Laborers needed. 4
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fertilizers, transplanting, weed-
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harvested products. May repair
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ties. Incidental feeding and
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and window air units in each
room, high fence enclosing
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CBP/ICE Seized Property Postings Go Online

Public notice of seized property pending forfeiture will no longer be published in the legal section of this publication. Effective March 1, 2013, U.S. Customs & Border Protection (CBP) and Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) will advertise notices of seizure and intent to forfeit on the Department of Justice website, www.forfeiture.gov which will become the primary method to notify the public that property was seized and is subject to forfeiture. The Department of Homeland Security authorized this action in accordance with 19 CFR Part 162, as published in the January 29, 2013, Federal Register. Seized property listings will be posted on the website running in 30 consecutive day ad cycles. Visit www.forfeiture.gov to Learn More. #7662 February 21 & 28 and March 7, 14, & 21, 2013

Legals

Request for Proposals

Sealed Proposals addressed to Mr. John Grant, General Manager of the Colorado River Municipal Water District, will be received at the office of the Colorado River Municipal Water District, 400 E. 24th Street, P.O. Box 869, Big Spring, Texas 79721, until Thursday, March 28, 2013 at 3:30 p.m. for:

BASE 21, 22, AND 23

ELECTRICAL MODIFICATIONS

The Proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud at this time and place. Any Proposals received after closing time will not be accepted and will be returned to sender unopened.

A non-mandatory pre-proposal conference for the project will be held on March 21, 2013, at 10:30 a.m. at the Ward County Convention Center, 400 E 4th Street, Monahans, Texas 79756, Room #1. A project site visit is planned immediately following the pre-proposal conference. Advertisement, bid phase information and complete Contract Documents can be downloaded free of charge at the following web site: <http://construction.freese.com> Printed copies of the Contract Documents may be purchased at the website for the cost of printing. The cost for printed Contract Documents is not refunded. COLORADO RIVER MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT John Grant, General Manager #7668 March 7, 14 & 21, 2013

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Two-Toned Day

The moon will spend time in both Aries and Taurus. Aspects point to a somewhat restless start to the morning. There are ways to gather the scattered energy together, but you might also try the route of not worrying too much about it. A sense of humor is always useful! Anyway, a more settled, grounded and content feeling will take over soon enough.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You may realize that you could improve in some areas, but don't use this as an excuse to pick on or abandon yourself. Get on your own side. No one else can play your role in this game if you don't do it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You will decipher complex problems almost magically. Your intuition will guide you brilliantly. You won't need to hear each side or get proof of what is really going on. The answer will be clear.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

Your style of communication is like a universal language all its own. With Mercury cheering on your efforts, you will bring a diverse group of people together.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You will thrive in a group setting. Excellent sportsmanship and skillful teamwork are specialties of yours. Don't be surprised if the group can't function without you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You don't have to do anything active to change the world now. Everything is changed just because you exist. You may choose to be active anyway, or you may sit back and enjoy just being alive.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It's said that shared joy is multiplied; shared grief is divided. Wherever people are, you join them and make the emotional landscape come alive with positive feeling.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). When the cosmos send you an invitation, be sure to R.S.V.P. When you make your intentions known, things start to happen. Even if you don't yet have what you need to move forward, move

forward anyway.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Anyone who asks you a question will get more than they bargained for. You're a storehouse of knowledge and creativity. Your impulse is to share generously.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You won't seek a dangerous position, and yet there is no such thing as complete safety in this world, either. Adventure would not be adventure without the element of risk.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Everything will progress whether or not you have a plan. This is an excellent day for watching the way things work naturally without your interference. What you learn may save you from making unneeded efforts later.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Committing to one choice means closing the door on any other choice that is not in line with it. You'll spend most of the day trying to figure out which choices go together.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Some will push their luck to explore the unknown. You'd like to think things over awhile. How

badly do you really want to know? Maybe not badly enough to tempt fate.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 14). The next six weeks feature amusing developments, including public singing or dancing. You owe April's victory to family and excellent training. Ardently follow your interests, and in May you'll make a rather dazzling new friend. Consider going into business together. A property investment will be favored in August. Aries and Gemini people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 32, 11, 14, 49 and 45.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Hit-maker Quincy Jones is a strong believer in the social powers of entertainment and the arts. The Pisces producer and composer was born under a harmonic Libra moon. He recently announced plans to launch a music industry tradeshow and a series of music festivals in a joint venture between the Dubai World Trade Center and the multimedia entertainment company Global Gumbo Group.

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. © 2013 CREATORS.COM

Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: What do you do when your husband controls the money? I'm 68 years old, and for the past 10 years, "Robert" has paid the bills and has hidden the checkbook from me.

Robert told me I need to pay my own bills. He has a retirement income, and he still works. I receive Social Security. I have always been thrifty, and although I have a debit card, I am only allowed to use it for necessary things like groceries. I pay for my clothes, haircuts, etc. I bought a new coat yesterday with my own money. Robert scolded me and told me to watch

my spending. Robert does not see how his controlling behavior affects me. Is coping all I can do? — *Craving Trust*

Dear Craving: Controlling the finances can be a form of abuse. Hiding the checkbook also keeps you in the dark about where Robert's money is going. There is no reason to tolerate such behavior. You are a full partner in this marriage and are entitled to see the checkbook, the bank statements and any other financial business that concerns you. If you are afraid of Robert's reaction, please contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline (thehotline.org) at 1-800-799-SAFE.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "A Good Man Gone Celibate," who has given up relationships because he can't find any good women among the gold diggers, scheming manipulators, entitlement princesses, Toxic Thelmas and serial divorcees.

I don't think it's fair to blame all women for what



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

is on the dating sites. Most of us are not like that. I own my own home and car and love the job I've had for 16 years. My kids are all grown and on their own. I have little drama in my life.

My girlfriends and I have been on most of these sites, and all we get are men who only want sex or those who want to marry you the first time they meet you.

We are tired of this. It seems that most men don't want to take the time to establish any kind of relationship that doesn't end up in bed after a couple of hours of talking.

My profile says, "If you can carry a conversation for more than 10 minutes without using sexual innuendos or sending naked pictures, please contact me." Needless to say, I don't get a lot of contact.

I have been off and on these sites for six years. I, too, get frustrated and disgusted, but I will walk away for a while and come back with a different attitude. Also, Annie, if he takes your advice and chooses more wisely, he may find what he's looking for. — *Lady with Morals*

Dear Annie: I'm in a quandary about my little girl. She believes her mom's boyfriend is her father, but a DNA test proves that I am her true biological father. The boyfriend does not know, but just about everyone else does.

My daughter is now 6 years old, and I want to tell her the truth. Will I be doing more harm than good? — *Perplexed in Poughkeepsie*

Dear Perplexed: If the little girl has a solid and loving relationship with

the man she believes is her father, your sudden assumption of that role might be traumatizing for her. You also will be responsible for child support. However, if "everyone else" knows, it's only a matter of time before the current boyfriend and your child learn the truth.

It is better if this information comes from her mother in a gentle and compassionate way, so Mom's support is crucial in making this easier. Please ask the mother to come with you for mediation to see whether you can work on being a part of the child's life. You can discuss it with your clergyman or a trained counselor, or contact your local family court for a referral to a family mediation program.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please email your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 737 3rd Street, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. © 2013 CREATORS.COM

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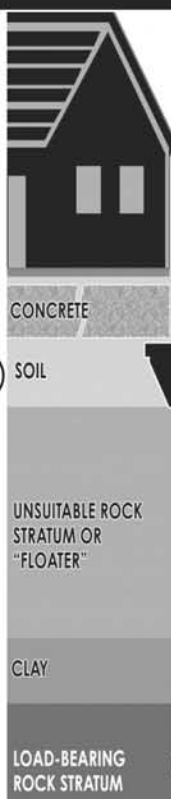
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Tech tips West Virginia, 71-69 in Big 12 action

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — For a heart-stopping half-second, Dejan Kravic thought he was too late. Then, just after the ball dropped through the bucket, the buzzer sounded. Texas Tech, after squandering a 14-point lead, had a 71-69 victory over West Virginia in the opening round Wednesday night of the Big 12 tournament.

"It's a 40-minute game, so play for the last second," said Kravic. "I saw the ball come toward me. I thought the clock expired, so I just put it up."

The 6-foot-11 Kravic got in front of the West Virginia big men and rebounded Josh Gray's desperation shot, setting up the Red Raiders (11-19) for a second-round match with Big 12 regular-season champion No. 7 Kansas on Thursday.

Kravic could not remember ever getting a buzzer-beater before.

"You see it happen on TV. You never expect it to happen to you. I let out all my emotions in the locker room," said Kravic, who totaled 10 points. "I don't have any emotions left."

The Red Raiders, who lost twice to West Virginia in the regular season, gave up a 14-point lead in the first half but managed to hold on for only their second victory all year away from home.

"I would rather be lucky than good," said Texas Tech interim head coach Chris Walker. "We end up being the beneficiary of a put-back, which is great, which is rare for us, which is really good."

Jaye Crockett's 18 points led Texas Tech, which had lost 11 of its last 12.

West Virginia (13-19) ended its first season in the Big 12 on a seven-game losing skid, again denying coach Bob Huggins the victory he's been needing to tie Ray Meyer for 18th on the all-time Division I winning list. Terry Henderson had 12 points for the Mountaineers, who finished with the most record Huggins has had in 31 seasons as a head coach.

"Our credo for as long as I've been coaching has always been get to the ball," said Huggins, whose 723 wins are still third among active head coaches. "It's hard to win when you don't get to the ball. That's any sport, not just basketball. But for whatever reason, this is the worst that we've ever had at getting to the ball."

The Mountaineers were assessed two personal fouls for taunting.

"I guess there was some talking going on," Huggins said. "They (officials) told them to shut up and our guys said something after they were told that. But the truth of the matter is it should have never happened. You can go back and look — my guys have never done that. It's inexcusable."

Fighting from behind virtually the entire game, the Mountaineers cut the deficit to 64-63 on Aaric Murray's 3-pointer and then went up 66-64 when Jabarie Hinds connected from behind the arc. Crockett's free throw cut the West Virginia lead to 68-67 at the 1:43 mark.

A&M beats Auburn 71-62 to advance in SEC

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Texas A&M coach Billy Kennedy says he planned to play Elston Turner no matter what. Turns out his senior guard had the same plan, even with his broken left pinkie.

Turner scored 22 points even with some of his left fingers wrapped up in a splint, and the Texas A&M Aggies beat Auburn 71-62 Wednesday night in their first Southeastern Conference tournament game.

"It's my last year, I've got to play with it, no matter what," Turner said. "My teammates did a great job just telling me to stay composed and to fight through it. That's what I did; my teammates were the ones that kept me going."

Turner broke the finger a week ago in a loss to LSU, an injury that kept him from playing last weekend in a defeat at Arkansas to end the regular season. The SEC's third-leading scorer was questionable Tuesday and was ready to go Wednesday.

"It's a little splint," Turner said. "I put a piece of gauze around

it, too, and taped it to my index finger. I put three pieces of tape around it. You can't really feel it unless somebody throws a 100-mph basketball at you. I'm playing through it and am going to keep playing."

Texas A&M (18-14) came to the tournament having lost four of five. But the 11th-seeded Aggies drew the SEC's last-place team in Auburn, and now they will play sixth-seeded Missouri on Thursday night in a matchup of the former Big 12 teams.

Turner said the game will be a battle since Missouri lost 70-68 to the Aggies on Feb. 7.

"They think that they should have won that game, and we think that we're able to play with anybody in this conference," Turner said. "It's going to be a tough test. Missouri's a great team. They're an NCAA tournament team. We've just got to have our best game of the year. It's going to take the whole team to do it, not just one or two people. The whole team's going to have to step up."

Alex Caruso added 14 points, and Kourtney

Roberson and Fabyon Harris had 11 apiece for Texas A&M.

The Auburn Tigers (9-23) wrap up the season losing their last 10 games and now have lost 11 straight in Nashville. Coach Tony Barbee has yet to win a tournament game in his first three trips. Frankie Sullivan scored a team-high 19 points, and Chris Denison added 15 points.

Barbee said before the season he thought this would be his best team yet at Auburn. Asked how he could misjudge his Tigers so much, Barbee said he didn't and that a team's record doesn't indicate why the season turned out this way.

"Just disappointing," Barbee said. "We had opportunities in more than our fair share of games this year and just couldn't get over the hump."

TOURNEY

Continued from Page 9

straight to open conference play. But they've been playing better the past six weeks, and they kept their late-season momentum going when they raced out to a 10-2 lead in the opening minutes Wednesday night.

It was about that point that Johnson slapped on a 2-3 zone defense that slowed the Longhorns down. After a 3-pointer by McClellan made it 13-4 with 13:03 left in the half, Texas only managed three free throws until Connor Lammert's put-back with 4:52 to go.

That period of offensive futility, which included three turnovers and a bunch of missed baskets, allowed TCU to squeak ahead on Nate Butler Lind's 3-pointer with 2:40 left in the half.

"Got stymied a little on the offensive end," Barnes said with a smile.

Lewis answered with back-to-back 3-pointers for the Longhorns, his only two field goals of the first half, and Texas managed to escape to the locker room leading 28-26 at the break.

TCU managed to stay

with the Longhorns early in the second half, but Kabongo's ability to get into the paint resulted in an endless stream of whistles and plenty of free throws. The Longhorns wound up 25 of 32 from the foul line, and Kabongo was 8 of 9 by himself.

"Being aggressive. That's all it is, being aggressive, and staying in attack mode," he said, "and knowing when we're in the bonus to take care of the ball. That's all it is, being aggressive."

Kabongo had four free throws during the Longhorns' 13-3 run late in the second half, which broke open a close game and allowed them to get another shot at the Wildcats.

Kansas State won both of their meetings earlier

this season.

"I'm not sure they're not one of the best teams," Barnes said of the regular-season co-champions. "They know how to win, they know each other, and I think it's a team that really understands its roles extremely well. It's a team that stays together."

"Again, what can you say?" Barnes asked. "They're the conference champions."

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ANSWERS

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

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also the way those talents complemented the other players we have on offense," coach Jim Schwartz said. "That was really the basis of our interest in Reggie."

The Lions also landed safety Glover Quin and defensive end Jason Jones and retained cor-

nerback Chris Houston. All-Pro safety Goldson gets a five-year contract worth \$41.25 million. He receives \$8.25 million per year and \$22 million in guaranteed money. He spent the past two seasons on one-year contracts with the 49ers, including last year with the franchise tag for \$6.2 million.

"Hard work really pays off. I remember signing up to play football, hid-

ing it from my mom," as a youngster growing up in Harbor City, Calif., Goldson said. "My journey, I wouldn't say it was rough, but it was a little rocky."

Free agent defensive back Charles Woodson had a meeting with the NFC champion Niners in the Bay Area on Wednesday, according to his agent, Carl Poston.

Also Wednesday,

former Kansas City Chiefs defensive end Glenn Dorsey signed a two-year contract after meeting with the Niners. The deal could pay Dorsey up to \$7 million with incentives, a person with knowledge of the contract told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because terms weren't announced.

One day after signing five players to contracts, Pro Bowl safety LaRon Landry became the Indianapolis Colts' newest addition by signing a four-year contract with Indy late Wednesday night.

Last season, with the New York Jets, he was selected to the AFC's Pro Bowl team after recording a career-high 113 tackles, matching his career-high with two interceptions and forcing four fumbles.

Cleveland remained active, agreeing to terms with linebacker Quentin Groves and tackle Desmond Bryant to further bolster a defense that added Ravens linebacker Paul Kruger hours after free agency began.

Kruger is one of many Super Bowl winners to leave the Ravens, including hard-hitting safety Bernard Pollard, who was released Wednesday. The biggest loss for Baltimore was an expected departure: Lewis announced in early January that he was ending his 17-year career. Then he led the Ravens to the championship.

On Wednesday, he joined ESPN as a studio analyst — an intense one, no doubt.

"I'm ready to bring the same level of passion to this next phase of my life as I brought to the field during my years as a player," Lewis said.

Baltimore signed defensive lineman Chris Canty, offensive lineman Ramon Harewood and running back Damien Berry.

Kansas City added cornerback Dunta Rob-

inson, receiver Donnie Avery and offensive lineman Bryan Mattison to the three free agents it signed the previous day when the marketplace opened.

Chicago released tight end Kellen Davis and also terminated the contract of tight end Matt Spaeth after signing Martellus Bennett away from the Giants on Tuesday to replace him.

The Giants signed 11-year veteran place kicker Josh Brown, who joins former Cowboys kicker David Buehler on the roster and apparently indicating free agent Lawrence Tynes won't be back. Tynes has made winning field goals in two NFC championship games in overtime and the Giants went on to win the Super Bowl in those seasons.

Arizona, in dire need of help in the backfield, agreed on a one-year contract with former Steelers starter Rashard Mendenhall. For three of his seasons, Mendenhall's offensive coordinator was new Cardinals coach Bruce Arians.

The Cardinals also cut free safety Kerry Rhodes, a move that cleared \$6 million in salary cap space, and added cornerback Jerraud Powers, safety Yeremiah Bell, linebacker Lorenzo Alexander and quarterback Drew Stanton.

Also Wednesday:

—Tennessee introduced four new players late Wednesday with guard Andy Levitre, running back Shonn Greene, defensive tackle Sammie Lee Hill and tight end Delanie Walker. A couple hours later, they also agreed to terms with linebacker Moise Fokou. They also re-signed their own fullback Quinn Johnson.

—Miami already had signed linebacker Dannel Ellerbe and added to that unit Wednesday by giving Philip Wheeler a five-year contract, worth \$26 million, half of that guaranteed. He spent his first four NFL seasons with the Indianapolis Colts and played last season for the Raiders, where he had career highs of 109 tackles and three sacks.

The Dolphins released linebackers Karlos

Dansby and Kevin Burnett.

—Minnesota re-signed LB Erin Henderson and WR Jerome Simpson, while Washington did the same with DE Kendrick Golston.

—Buffalo addressed a need at linebacker by signing seven-year veteran Manny Lawson. The Bills are switching from a 4-3 alignment to a 3-4 under new coordinator Mike Pettine.

—The New York Jets re-signed fullback Lex Hilliard to a one-year contract, according to a person with knowledge of the situation.

The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the team had not yet announced the move. Hilliard was signed in the middle of last season to replace John Conner.

—The Dallas Cowboys are releasing veteran defensive tackle Marcus Spears, with the move designated for June 1, when it will save the Cowboys \$2 million against the salary cap. Spears, who turned 30 last week, was the second of two first-round picks after DeMarcus Ware in 2005.

—Seattle and defensive end Cliff Avril reached agreement on a deal that addresses one of Seattle's big offseason concerns, according to a person with knowledge of the situation. The agreement was still pending a physical.

—Pittsburgh found its backup to QB Ben Roethlisberger in a Steel City native, Bruce Gradkowski.

The 30-year-old Gradkowski is 6-14 as a starter with Oakland, Cleveland and Tampa Bay. He spent the 2011-12 seasons with the Cincinnati Bengals, appearing in five games.

—Jacksonville released receiver Laurent Robinson, the latest high-priced player let go as part of the team's rebuilding project. Robinson signed a five-year, \$32.5 million free agent contract last season before missing considerable time with concussions.



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