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THURSDAY
MARCH 21, 2013
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HERALD photo / Thomas Jenkins

Emergency responders work to free the driver of this Ford SUV following an accident at the intersection of 15th Street and Gregg at approximately 12:30 p.m. Wednesday. At least one person was transported to the emergency room at Scenic Mountain Medical Center as a result of the accident. Information on the condition of those transported, as well as the cause of the accident, were not available at press time.

Country comes to museum

Texas True performs Saturday

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

The Heritage Museum is usually a sedate place, but Saturday, there will be plenty of toe-tapping, hand-clapping, singing and guitar picking going on.



Philip Ferguson

Big Spring natives Philip Ferguson and June Stocks and their band, Texas True, will perform a wide array of bluegrass-themed music from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the museum, located at 510 Scurry.

Admission is free to the event, Museum Director Nancy Raney said. A CD of the band's music

See **MUSEUM**, Page 3

Get with March Madness here Friday



Herald Staff Report

March Madness is fueling enthusiasm all across the United States — even in Big Spring!

Hoops, Dreams and Goals, an effort by West Texas Centers to celebrate Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, will be held Friday at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

In its ninth year, the event pits

10 teams in friendly competition, tournament style. Fans and organizers also recognize spirit teams and sportsmanship.

The tournament is free and open to the public. More than 1,000 people are expected to attend.

"I tell everyone that I meet that if they want to attend one event all year, they need to attend Hoops, Dreams and Goals," said Shelley Smith, West Texas Centers CEO. "It encourages our athletes, but most of

all it encourages all those in attendance."

The event begins at 8:30 a.m. when teams will enter the coliseum led by a boisterous beat from the Big Spring High School Drum Line. Mayor Tommy Duncan is expected to be on hand to welcome participants and those in attendance, and special guests will be recognized.

The teams will tip off at 9 a.m.

See **HOOPS**, Page 3

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Christian band to play at B&G Club

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

The Big Spring Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club is looking to raise money for its newly constructed computer room and is offering the community a chance to rock-out in the process.

The Boys and Girls Club, which recently moved into its new building and gym adjacent to the Salvation Army offices, will host Christian rock band Thirty-Nine Thoughts on Friday, April 5, according to local program coordinator Heather DeElena.

"Our event is called 'Rock the Gym' and will feature Thirty-Nine Thoughts out of Lubbock," DeElena said. "We are really impressed with them and what they do to get their message out to the youth. Also, they tithe 10 percent of what they make

Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$13 at the door.



Courtesy photo

Lubbock-based christian rock band Thirty-Nine Thoughts will be performing Friday, April 5, at "Rock the Gym," a concert sponsored by the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club. The concert is a fundraiser for the local club, which is hoping to fund new hardware for its newly constructed computer room.

See **BAND**, Page 3

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Psalms 103:12
 "He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west."
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Obituaries

A.L. 'Skinny' Higgins



Alan L. "Skinny" Higgins of Lubbock, formerly of Plainview and Big Spring passed away Tuesday, March 19, 2013, at the age of 86. Skinny married Geneva Merle McKee on March 5, 1948. They recently celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary. Skinny retired in 2010 after 59 years in the cotton industry.

Some of his past achievements include president of Plains Ginners Association; charter member and president of the Texas Independent Ginner's Association; president of the Texas Cotton Ginners Association; honorary member of Abernathy FFA and Texas State FFA; recipient of the Golden Spur Award from Hale County 4H; director of the Salvation Army in Plainview; director of Plainview Housing Association; and director and president of the Plainview Livestock Show.

Those left to cherish his memory are his wife, Geneva; two sons, Wayne Higgins of Lubbock and Ross Higgins and wife Terri of Plainview; four grandchildren, Kelli Duriex and husband Dennis of Lubbock, Wesley Higgins and wife Laci of Knott, Melissa Higgins of Dallas and Amy Higgins of Plainview; and five great-grandchildren, Marin and Benjamin Duriex of Lubbock and Aleigha, Paizley and Lyleigh Higgins of Knott.

Skinny was preceded in death by his parents and one son, Grady Higgins in 1982.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Thursday, March 21, 2013, at Combest Family Funeral Homes. Services are scheduled for 10 a.m. Friday, March 22, 2013, at Redbud Baptist Church with interment to follow at 2 p.m. at Parklawn Memorial Gardens in Plainview, Texas.

Memorial donations can be made to Redbud Baptist Church, 801 Slide Rd., Lubbock, Texas 79416.

Please celebrate the life of Skinny by visiting www.combestfamilyfuneralhomes.com

Paid obituary

James Edward Baker



James Edward Baker passed from this world Monday, March 18, 2013, at University Medical Center in Lubbock, Texas, after a brief illness. Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, March 22, 2013, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel in Big Spring. Interment will follow at Lamesa Memorial Park in Lamesa.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Thursday, March 21, 2013, at the funeral home.

James was born to Mae Etheline Parker and Charles Edward Baker on Oct. 16, 1941, in Lamesa, Texas. He was raised in Lamesa by his mother and stepfather, Odes Anderson.

On June 11, 1961, James married his childhood sweetheart, Opal Jean Teague. They have two children, Gregory Scott and Roxanna Lynn. James was preceded in death by his mother, Mae; father, Ed; stepfather, Odes; younger brother, Dwayne Anderson and his mother-in-law, Opal Teague Stuteville.

James joined the Army at the age of 17 and proudly served his country for 20 years. He and Jean traveled the world together during James' military service and settled in Big Spring with their children.

James worked for the Big Spring State Hospital for 16 years and finished his career at Titus Regional Medical Center in Mt. Pleasant, Texas. After his retirement in 2004, James and Jean returned to their home in Big Spring to enjoy the fruits of their retirement.

He was a volunteer for several years at the VA Medical Center. He enjoyed working in his garden and his true joy was time spent with his family, especially his grandson.

James is survived by his wife, Opal Jean of Big Spring; son, Scott of Brownwood; daughter and son-in-law, Roxanna and Shane Thedford of Big Spring; and the pride and joy of his life, his grandson, Edward Connor Thedford.

He is also survived by his brothers, Jimmy Anderson and family of Virginia, Bobby Anderson and family of New Mexico, Robert Anderson and family of Greenwood, Texas, and Harold Anderson and family of Lamesa, Texas; his sisters, Betty Andrews and family of Cedar Hill, Texas, Kathy Gisler and family of Runge, Texas, Diane Putman and family of Lamesa, Texas, Joyce Cook and family of O'Donnell, Texas, and Joann Malone and family of Grand Prairie, Texas.; his uncle, JD Parker and wife Betty of Mertzon, Texas; cousin, John Parker and wife Ivone of Monahans, Texas; many other Parker cousins; his wife's sisters, Joyce and Linda and their families; special family friend, Shirley Parker; and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews and many family friends.

The family suggests memorials to the Vietnam Memorial Committee of Big Spring, P.O. Box 2854, Big Spring, Texas 79721-2854.

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

Paid obituary

To subscribe, call
432-263-7331

Police blotter

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

- BRYAN L. MATA, 20, of 1302 S. Birdwell Lane, was arrested Wednesday on a warrant for driving while license invalid.

- GOMEZINDO DIAZ, 22, of 1611 E. Fifth St., was arrested Wednesday on a warrant from another agency.

- PATRICK TERRALL KESLER, 34, of 1600 S. Lancaster, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance.

- DON LLOYD BROOKS, 46, of 1712 E. 15th St., was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

- LINDSAY ROCHELLE WAGNER, 26, of 13 Riva Ridge, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance.

- SHEREDA MINTZ, 18, of 1311 Madison, was arrested Wednesday on a warrant from another agency.

- ANDREW WAYNE ARMSTRONG, 40, of 700 Aylesford, was arrested Wednesday on warrants for expired driver's license, failure to appear (three counts), failure to maintain financial responsibility and driving without a safety belt.

- KRISTIN NICOLE LUJAN, 31, of 2700 Rockdale, was arrested Wednesday on a warrant from another agency.

- FREDDIE WILLIAMS, 39, of 2539 Gunter, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of assault - family violence.

- TRAY DON GOSWICK, 28, of Snyder, Texas, was arrested Wednesday on a warrant from another agency and warrants for possession of drug paraphernalia and driving while license suspended/invalid with a previous conviction.

- BRAD MARK RUNNELS, 37, of Snyder, Texas, was arrested Wednesday on a warrant from another agency and a warrant for possession of drug paraphernalia.

- ASSAULT was reported:
In the 300 block of Tulane.
In the 1600 block of Martin Luther King Blvd.
In the 1000 block of Nolan.
In the 1600 block of Avion.

- THEFT was reported:
In the 3600 block of W. Highway 80.
In the 7100 block of W. FM 846.

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 82 inmates at the time of this report.

- BENITA KAY PADRON SALAZAR, 39, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a bench warrant for criminal trespass.

- KATYANA ALEXANDRIA CAMPBELL, 17, was booked into the county detention center Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of assault causing bodily injury - family violence.

- PATRICK TERRALL KESLER, 34, was booked into the county detention center Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance.

- LINDSAY ROCHELLE WAGNER, 26, was booked into the county detention center Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance.

- DON LLOYD BROOKS, 46, was booked into the county detention center Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

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Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Fri 3/22	Sat 3/23	Sun 3/24
76/51	82/36	63/37
Partly cloudy skies. High 76F. Winds NNE at 10 to 20 mph.	Windy with a mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the mid 30s.	Sunshine. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the upper 30s.
Sunrise: 7:47 AM	Sunrise: 7:46 AM	Sunrise: 7:44 AM
Sunset: 7:59 PM	Sunset: 8:00 PM	Sunset: 8:01 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	68	51	pt sunny	Kingsville	90	70	pt sunny
Amarillo	64	39	pt sunny	Livingston	82	62	pt sunny
Austin	87	61	pt sunny	Longview	71	56	t-storm
Beaumont	79	65	pt sunny	Lubbock	69	41	pt sunny
Brownsville	88	70	pt sunny	Lufkin	83	65	cloudy
Brownwood	76	54	pt sunny	Midland	81	56	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	84	70	pt sunny	Raymondville	91	68	pt sunny
Corsicana	70	55	t-storm	Rosenberg	83	66	pt sunny
Dallas	67	54	t-storm	San Antonio	90	66	pt sunny
Del Rio	97	66	mst sunny	San Marcos	88	62	pt sunny
El Paso	79	57	windy	Sulphur Springs	64	50	t-storm
Fort Stockton	88	58	sunny	Sweetwater	71	51	pt sunny
Gainesville	58	46	t-storm	Tyler	73	58	t-storm
Greenville	63	50	t-storm	Weatherford	62	49	cloudy
Houston	82	67	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	60	44	cloudy

- MICHAEL BRANDON FOSSEE, 28, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of no valid inspection certificate.

- SHEREDA SHANTE MINTZ, 18, was booked into the county detention center Wednesday by the BSPD on a motion to revoke probation for possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.

- ANDREW WAYNE ARMSTRONG, 40, was booked into the county detention center Wednesday by the BSPD on municipal warrants for expired driver's license, failure to appear (two counts), failure to maintain financial responsibility, no seat belt - driver and violation of a promise to appear.

- KIRSTIN NICOLE LUJAN, 31, was booked into the county detention center Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of parent contributing to the non-attendance of a minor.

- FREDDIE LEE WILLIAMS JR., 39, was booked into the county detention center Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of assault - family violence.

Fire/EMS

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

- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported near the intersection of 15th Street and Gregg. One person was transported to SMMC.

Take note

• The City of Big Spring and Howard County Emergency Management departments will co-host a community-wide Sky Warn Spotter class today from 7-9 p.m. in the Big Spring City Council Chambers. The speaker will be Pat Vesper, meteorologist-in-charge of the National Weather Service. There is no cost for this class and it is open to the public.

• The Prom Closet, located at Christy's Salon, 100 E. Third, is making recycled prom dresses available to young ladies who might otherwise not be able to afford one. The closet is open from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday or you may call contact Christian Fair at 432-816-3537 to make an appointment or for more information.

• The Howard County A&M Club is accepting scholarship applications from high school students who are graduating this May and have been accepted at Texas A&M University for the Fall 2013 semester. Students must be Howard County residents and will enroll for at least 12 semester hours. Application deadline is April 1. More information and the application may be found on the club's web site: www.westexags.com

• Howard County Master Gardeners Club business meetings take place at 6 p.m. the third Tuesday of every month at 1604 W. Fourth St., between Brown and Jones streets. The meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the county extension office at 432-264-2236.

• Big Spring State Hospital patients are in need of warm clothing. Clean items should be taken to the Community Relations Office near the south entrance of the hospital, 1901 N. U.S. Highway 87. Clothing that cannot be used by the patients will be taken to the hospital's Chalet Resale Shop for sale to raise money for patient needs. Men's clothing and larger-sized clothing are always in need. For more information, call Melissa Adams, BSSH program coordinator, at 432-268-7730.

• The Big Spring State Hospital Volunteer Services Council needs assistance in The Chalet Resale Shoppe, 115 East Second St.

The Chalet Resale Shoppe is a fast-paced retail shop specializing in gently worn clothing and small household appliance. Volunteers are needed to sort, price, check out and stock donated items. Volunteer hours are flexible. The Chalet is open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday and 10

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

• An account has been established at Wells Fargo on behalf of the Linda Rena Torres family, whose vehicle was destroyed in a fire.

A purse lost in the fire contained the family's income tax returns and child support. The vehicle, which was the family's only means of transportation, was not insured except for liability. To help, contact Wells Fargo at 268-6216 and mention account 2266054432.

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

• Do you have a minute? An hour? How about making a difference in someone's life? Become a hospice volunteer. One hour a month can make a difference. Whether it's visiting a patient or working in the office or helping with a craft, you can make a difference. We can work around your schedule. If interested, please call Kara Daniels at Compass Hospice, 432-263-5999, or apply in person at 602 S. Main St.

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

• Mobile Meals is in need of volunteer delivery drivers. If you can donate one hour per week to help deliver meals to the elderly, call Macaria Cantu at 263-4016.

• Home Hospice is seeking volunteers. Volunteers are needed for in office duties as well as sitters, deliveries and crafts. To find out more information or to volunteer contact Manny Negron at Home Hospice by calling 264-7599.

• Hangar 25 Air Museum needs your help. We are in need of volunteers to fill a variety of positions such as tour guides, front desk, clerical, events, and many others. Set your hours and days of the week you are available. Meet new people and enjoy a rewarding experience. For more information, contact Emma Bogard at 432-267-2963.

Scurry County unveils lodging for oil workers

JOHN MANGALONZO
Abilene Reporter News

SNYDER — Scurry County became the first county in the Cline Shale formation to break ground on a workforce housing project Wednesday, promising accommodation initially for at least 1,000 oil field workers.

“They could have gone to any of the counties and cities that are in (the Cline Shale area), but they (developers) went here,” said Scurry County Judge Ricky Fritz. “And they also could have gone anywhere in the Permian Basin and done the same thing.”

Custom Touch Village, as it is being called, unveiled the three sample units on a 150-acre site on Highway 208 just outside Snyder during the groundbreaking. There were two bedrooms stick-built units and lodge-type housing facilities that, on the drawing board, each sleeps two.

Those who attended the event got to walk inside the units, and many were amazed at the modern amenities they included, such as automatic water heaters and ample-sized kitchens and kitchenettes.

Scott Larson, chief financial officer of Custom Touch Homes, said they will target oil companies and oil-related services firms to lease the units. The site also will have one-acre lots suited for those who want to permanently reside in Scurry County.

All the lots will be landscaped. The company also will lease RVs on site.

Al Donohue, vice president and chief financial officer of Turn Key Solutions, a partner in the project, said the company plans on extended services at the site, which may include meals and laundry services for the oil field workers.

The project is a joint venture of South Dakota-based Custom Touch Homes, Larson Ventures and Turn Key Solutions. The group has set up an office in Snyder.

The group also has purchased land for the same purpose in Sweetwater and Colorado City. Combined, Larson said the project will have about 500 acres.

By May, Larson said they will have 124 workforce housing facilities ready and available for leasing in Snyder, along with 100 RVs.

BAND

Continued from page 1

from their shows to the organizations they play for, which we felt was very much in line with the Salvation Army and what we're trying to do with the Boys and Girls Club.”

DeElena said the concert — which will be held in the facility's gym, located at 811 W. Fifth St. — is slated to

begin at 7 p.m.

“Tickets are on sale for \$10 each here at the Boys and Girls Club,” she said. “We'll also be selling tickets the night of the concert for \$13 at the door. We'll have refreshments for sale during the show and the band will be offering merchandise.”

Funds raised by the concert will go to purchase computers for the Boys and Girls Club computer room, accord-

ing to DeElena.

“It's kind of funny, because we have this great new facility and a computer room, but we don't have computers for the kids to use,” DeElena said. “We have two older computers that were donated by my parents, but that's it. That's why we decided to put on this show, to raise funds to buy computers.”

DeElena said computers can be a very important part of area kids'

lives, both for education and entertainment.

“There are a lot of kids who simply don't have access to a computer,” she said. “There is a lot of software out there that is educational and can help them with math, science, reading and other subjects. That's something these kids need to have access to. It's a great opportunity to help them learn.”

Thirty-Nine Thoughts musical selection in-

cludes contemporary Christian rock, worship anthems and worship rock genres. Formally organized in April of 2008, the band first performed live at the Cactus Theater in Lubbock.

The group maintains a rigorous live concert schedule which has included opportunities to play alongside artists such as Meredith Andrews, Josh Wilson, Jonny Diaz, Shane and Shane, Pocket Full of

Rocks, Disciple, Leeland and Family Force 5.

For more information on the show, contact the Big Spring Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club at 432-264-7344. For more information on Thirty-Nine Thoughts, visit <http://thirtyninethoughts.com>

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

HOOPS

Continued from Page 1

and will follow bracket play. Teams participating in bracket play are: Big Spring Heat, Sweetwater Red Rattlers, Ballinger

Longhorns, Snyder Wildkatz, Seminole Pink Panthers, Monahans/Pecos Warriors, Midland Panthers, Odessa Tigers, Abilene Chili Peppers and the San Angelo Bobcats.

Cheer squads from each team will perform

in a halftime competition.

“When we first planned Hoops, Dreams and Goals we realized that not everyone wanted to compete on the court as a basketball player,” Smith said. “So, we planned competitions among cheer

squads and other special events. Not only have our athletes been practicing, but so have our cheer squads.”

The event is sponsored by West Texas Centers, Howard College, The Arc of Howard County, ALON USA, Prescription Services

Inc., KBST, Cowboys Restaurant, KBYG, Gallagher Benefits and Atomic Energy.

For more information, call Amy Vidal at 432-264-3256.

MUSEUM

Continued from Page 1

will be on sale, with half of the proceeds going to the museum.

Texas True is an all-acoustic group which plays country, bluegrass, gospel and original songs, Raney said.

“One of the museum's friends is friends with Ferguson, and she thought it would be neat if we had them here, with them being Big Spring natives and all,” Raney said. “We thought it was a great idea, so we got on board with this.”

Saturday's performance is the latest example of an attempt by museum officials to offer area residents a different schedule of events.

“This year, we decided to focus less on exhibits and more on local talent,” Raney said. “We

wanted to bring different things to the community that haven't been done here before — and the reaction has been great. We've had a huge response from the community to events like our recent Orphan Train presentation. People have been really excited about it.

“It's a different avenue for us to take, but it's been a good avenue,” she added.

While the museum isn't concentrating solely on exhibits, it's not abandoning them,

either. On Friday, the museum will host a wine-and-cheese reception from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. for Colorado City artist Leada Wood, whose work is on exhibit at Heritage through April

27. Admission is free to the reception, Raney said.

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

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MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
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J. O. “Jim” Murphy, 76, died Monday. Funeral Services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Jo Ann Capps, 73, died Monday. The family will receive friends from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Friday at Hillcrest Baptist Church. Burial will be at the Vealmoor Cemetery.

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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Nation will reexamine Obamacare

The weasels who wrote the Obama health law postponed the pain until after the 2012 presidential election. Popular provisions were put into effect immediately, such as allowing children to stay on their parent's plan until age 26, offering "free" colonoscopies and mammograms (in truth, forcing you to pay for them in your premium, whether you get them or not) and giving women the thrill of getting contraceptives at the drugstore without paying anything. The White House also granted 1,472 waivers to certain companies and unions exempting them from insurance reforms, so they would not drop coverage for employees and members before the presidential contest.

Voters saw through these hijinks. Even on Election Day 2012, a majority favored repealing the health law. But they cared more about other issues or didn't care for Mitt Romney. The 2012 election was not a referendum on Obamacare.

November 2014 will be different. By then, people in their 20s and 30s will be clobbered with 100 percent or higher premium hikes, insurers report. Nineteen percent of the president's 2012 voters came from this age group.

Workers in retail, hospitality and home care will lose on-the-job coverage and, in some cases, their full-time status, forecasts the ADP Research Institute. The law mandates that employers with 50 or more full-time workers provide an "essential benefit package" that costs about twice what these industries currently offer. Employers will drop cov-

erage. Even the government's actuaries admit fewer people will get coverage at work after the employer mandate goes into effect than if the law had not passed.

Employers will be struggling to determine what "affordable" means, how to calculate "full-time" workforce and how to pay the \$65 fee for each worker and worker's dependents.

Seniors needing hospital care will be shocked at cutbacks. Section 3000A of the law awards bonus points to the hospitals that spend the least per senior. Hospitals are even whacked for what Medicare patients consume in the 30 days after discharge, including physical therapy.

Hospital patients of all ages will wait longer for a nurse.

Cuts to Medicare pay for over half the law, and this will mean \$247 billion less for hospitals over the next decade, forcing them to operate under scarcity.

Consumers directed to a state exchange will worry about handing their Social Security number and 15 pages of financial and family information to exchange "assisters," temporary workers often from community organizations. Civil rights activists in California are resisting background checks for "assisters" because it would disqualify too many minority men with prior convictions.

In politics, 20 months is an eternity. But barring a transformational event, voters will pull the lever against Obamacare in 2014.

The cards are stacked for Republicans winning control of the U.S. Senate and holding their majority in the House of Representatives. Thirty-three Senate seats will be in play. The 13 held by Republicans are considered safe. But most of the seats currently held by Democrats are in swing states or Republican-

leaning states, giving the GOP several election opportunities. Republicans need only six wins to gain control of the Senate. By the way, three of those states — Iowa, Virginia and Arkansas — will be hit with the highest premium increases in the individual market.

History suggests Republicans will have little trouble holding on to their current House majority. Mid-term elections generally produce House losses for the president's party.

With the GOP in charge of both houses after 2014, entitlement reform will be redefined to mean defunding the huge new entitlements in the Affordable Care Act — the Medicaid expansion and the subsidies to health plan buyers in the exchanges. The best way to reform entitlements is not to fund new ones. It's a lot easier to take away an entitlement no one is accustomed to. Defunding will reduce federal spending by \$1.6 trillion through 2020.

GOP governors who recently announced they would expand Medicaid made a bet against defeating Obamacare. They will get clobbered after 2014. They will be stuck with vastly expanded Medicaid enrollments and no way to pay the tab except burdening their own state taxpayers.

It's not over till it's over.

Betsy McCaughey is a former Lt. governor of New York and the author of "Beating Obamacare." She reads the law so you don't have to. Visit www.betsymc-caughey.com. To find out more about Betsy McCaughey and read features by other Creators Syndicate columnists and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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GOP reaches for stars, falls flat

A new GOP study designed to theatrically rebrand the party and boldly redirect its future turns out to be 97-page blend of the obvious, the unlikely and the impossible.

The study, which contains no fewer than 219 recommendations, was supposed to pull a party that has lost the popular vote in five of the last six presidential elections out of its death spiral.

In previewing it on "Face the Nation With Bob Schieffer" Sunday, Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus said of the last election, "Our message was weak; our ground game was insufficient; we weren't inclusive; we were behind in both data and digital; our primary and debate process needed improvement."

Wasn't something else weak, insufficient, behind and needing improvement? Oh, yeah, Mitt Romney. Priebus didn't mention his name, perhaps because he has already forgotten it.

The bold and new rebranding of the Republican Party is, in fact, a melange of old Democratic successes (organize hard with paid staff and new technology across the entire country), old Democratic failures (limit the number of primary debates) and thinking that is so pie-in-the-sky that GOP might as well stand for Grand Old Pastry.

Take minorities. The Republicans are now going to study them like they were some kind of new microbe. Priebus is pledging to spend \$10 million on the effort.

I know \$10 million sounds like a lot, but in political terms it is a pittance. The two presidential

campaigns spent more than \$2 billion in the last election, and one Republican billionaire, Sheldon Adelson, gave Romney \$33 million in the closing weeks, bringing the total he and his wife gave to the GOP to \$95 million. In other words, \$10 million is what Republican fat cats find in their couch cushions.

No matter. The Republicans need to seek out and woo minorities because so few minorities are already members of the party. Republicans have to study minorities from afar, like astronomers studying distant galaxies.

The Republicans are going to establish "Senior Level Advisory Councils" for Hispanics, African-Americans and Asian-Americans. They will reach out to women and start doing "voter engagement at a granular level starting now," Priebus said at a news conference Monday.

Priebus did not explain what "granular level" means, but next time you open your sugar bowl, watch out.

Minority outreach for Republicans is easier said than done, however, and the new report envisions a lot of saying without promising much doing. The GOP doesn't really expect to gain many new black voters in 2014 or 2016, but it is drooling over Hispanic voters.

After the 2000 election, Matthew Dowd, then a senior strategist for George W. Bush, produced a now-historic memo stating that if Republicans continued to underperform among Hispanics, the party would be in serious trouble nationally as Hispanic voting strength grew.

And Hispanics were fertile soil for Republicans. As Dowd told me: "Hispanics are more like European immigrants of the early 1900s or late 1800s. They are like the Irish: They start out Democratic, but as they become part of the economic mainstream, they become much more valu-

able to Republicans."

On the surface, the new GOP report looks good for Hispanics. "We must embrace and champion comprehensive immigration reform," it says. "If we do not, our party's appeal will continue to shrink to its core constituencies only." (Which is what Dowd told them a dozen years ago.)

But that is as far as the report goes. It does not address what most Hispanics really care about: immigration reform that guarantees a pathway to citizenship for the 11 million in America illegally.

Some Republicans don't want to reward lawbreaking, and some say, "Hey, why create millions of new voters who are going to give Democrats 70 percent of their votes?"

This is where outreach becomes tough. When Priebus was asked why gay voters would vote Republican, he replied, "Sen. Portman made some inroads last week."

And, indeed, Sen. Rob Portman, a Republican from Ohio, recently endorsed gay marriage after finding out (two years ago) that his son was gay. And if Portman ever has a black child, maybe Portman will champion civil rights.

But don't worry. The GOP is leaving no minority group unturned. The report calls for a "Celebrity Task Force of personalities in the entertainment industry to host events ... and allow donors to participate in entertainment events as a way to attract younger voters."

So maybe Sheldon Adelson and Taylor Swift could do a happenin' duet.

To find out more about Roger Simon, and read features by other Creators writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators webpage at www.creators.com.

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DAILY PRAYER

Be with us, Lord, as we make our way through trials and tribulations

Amen

Rome's Borgo's the go-to place

ROME (AP) — When a future pope needed new soles, he strolled to a shoe repair shop practically around the corner from the Vatican. When he was pope and nearing retirement, he had the same shoemaker craft a pair of comfy, calfskin slippers.

Borgo, the sleepy, medieval neighborhood with a timeless feel right outside the Vatican's borders, has been at the service of pontiffs for centuries. From resolving to risotto, from light bulbs to linguine, Borgo is the go-to place for up-and-coming cardinals and sometimes even for popes.

Pilgrims may hurry through Borgo's narrow cobblestone streets to catch papal blessings in jam-packed St. Peter's Square. But gastronomically picky, red-hatted prelates and black-robed monsignors often stop to dine in the neighborhood's eateries, debating the qualities of the next pontiff while tucking into tagliatelle and sausage in pistachio pesto or marsala-soaked braised pork.

Stroll Borgo's slow-paced streets between meal times, and you might spot prelates on errands like the ones Joseph Ratzinger ran, when as a German cardinal he lived in an apartment just outside Vatican walls.

Proudly displayed inside the shoemaker's shop and in a lighting and electrical repair store are photographs of the businesses' owners with their faithful client Ratzinger, more famous as the recently retired Pope Benedict XVI.

Borgo means "village" in Italian, and, indeed, the neighborhood has a quaint, insular quality,

perhaps because some of its streets are closed to traffic.

Several cardinals and other high-ranked Vatican churchmen live in apartments at the Vatican's edges. Ratzinger lived in a modern, austere-looking building at No. 1 Piazza della Citta Leonina, whose nondescript entrance faces a portal just outside the colonnade of St. Peter's Square. Tenants are listed anonymously on the building's intercom system, but just about anyone in Borgo will say Ratzinger lived there.

Turn the corner from Ratzinger's place and you come to a T-shaped intersection with a traffic light at the end of Borgo's main street, Borgo Pio. When the light turns green at the gate, dark-colored sedans roll in and out with Vatican City license plates, chauffeuring cardinals here and there.

It was here, just outside St. Anna's Gate, a Vatican side entrance, that Pope Francis shook off his security handlers, took a few steps outside the Holy See's confines and waded up to an admiring crowd on the first Sunday of his papacy.

Borgo tourists, stay alert: Who knows if Francis, quickly dubbed the "unpredictable pope" by Italian media, will succumb to Borgo's simple charms and cross the street next time?

In late afternoon, after a long day's work at the Vatican, Ratzinger, sometimes with satchel in hand, would stroll Borgo's few blocks, largely empty of tourists by then. Exquisitely polite and mostly shy, the cardinal would cordially exchange greet-

ings with neighborhood shopkeepers and artisans.

Other prelates who live in Vatican City, where they work, also use Borgo as a backyard of sorts, perhaps lunching with ambassadors to the Holy See, or consulting with colleagues over a shot of grappa at the end of a meal. Velando, located at Borgo Vittorio 26, is a favorite dining spot for the churchmen, with sleek wooden furnishings, subdued lighting and vaulted, whitewashed ceiling giving an air of a church sacristy. Ratzinger often dined there before becoming pope; his favorite dish was rosemary-seasoned risotto, Podetti said.

Cardinal James Harvey, a U.S. prelate who until last year served as prefect of the papal household, is also a Velando regular. And recently seen at the restaurant was Boston's cardinal, Archbishop Sean O'Malley, who flew into Rome ahead of the voting, which saw him pegged as a possible favorite to become pope.

He stood out in his plain brown Franciscan tunic amid all the red cassocks, Podetti said.

After the conclave ended, Velando diners included the retired archbishop of Philadelphia, Justin Rigali.

Around the corner from Velando is a boutique for clerical garb. In the window shortly after the conclave was a mannequin in a red-trimmed cassock and red zucchetto, the cardinals' skull cap. Since it's not every day that bishops become cardinals and a red wardrobe is needed, the shop also makes lawyers' robes. The bustling and increasingly chic Pra-

ti neighborhood just beyond Borgo is filled with law offices.

Near St. Anna's Gate is Borgo's most famous tailor for clerical garb. Using a 1960s-vintage, pea-green sewing machine, owner Raniero Mancinelli has been sewing cardinal red robes and papal hats for decades — including last-minute orders to spiff up cardinal and bishop garb for Francis' installation.

But most of Borgo's shops sell ordinary items for laity and clergy alike. On Borgo Pio (or pious village in Italian), next to a takeout pizza place, a simple housewares store sells items like laundry detergent. Such mom-and-pop shops were once common in Rome; many have closed their doors, unable to compete with now ubiquitous supermarkets. The housewares place currently sports a "for sale" sign; down the block is a shuttered butcher shop. But many Romans special order Argentine beef, famed for its tenderness and flavor, so who knows? Perhaps the forlorn butcher will reopen now that an Argentine runs the Vatican.

Benedict, before he became pope, sought help at the electrical shop at Borgo Pio 53. When he asked electrician Angelo Mosca to fix a light fixture at his apartment, he offered to hold the ladder.

While tourists in Borgo might not need a light bulb, pounding the cobblestones takes a toll on shoes, and Il Calzolaio shoe repair and shoemaker shop might come in handy. It did for Ratzinger, who occasionally waited on a chair in the shop while repairs were done.

Check yourself out — at Wal-Mart

NEW YORK (AP) — Wal-Mart Stores Inc. is expanding a test of a new checkout program that allows shoppers to scan items with their smartphones while they're in the aisles and then pay at self-checkout terminals.

The world's largest retailer launched what it calls its "Scan & Go" program late last year in about 70 stores in Atlanta and in the Bentonville, Ark., area, where the retailer is based. It is now testing the program in more than 200 stores in markets including Dallas, Houston, Austin, Texas; Denver, Portland, Ore., Seattle, and Phoenix.

The pilot program will still be in a small number of Wal-Mart's more than 4,000 stores in the U.S. But it's part of the company's overall strategy to involve customers' increasing use of smartphones.

More than half of Wal-Mart's customers have smartphones, and 40 percent of traffic from walmart.com is coming from shoppers' mobile devices, said Gibu Thomas, senior vice president of mobile and digital initiatives at Wal-Mart's global e-commerce division.

The program works like this: Customers scan bar codes of the different products using the retailer's Scan & Go app downloaded onto Apple Inc. iPads, iPhones or iPod Touch devices. The app generates a code, which can be scanned at the self-checkout terminals.

The app is only available for Apple devices but Wal-Mart says it has plans to eventually release versions for other platforms.

Wal-Mart, meanwhile, has been expanding its self-checkout terminals and plans to add more than 10,000 self-checkout registers by the end of this year in the U.S.

The pilot program has been well-received so far by customers, with more than half of the shoppers who tried the "Scan & Go" app using it again.

Roadkill: It's for dinner?

HELENA, Mont. (AP) — Elk, deer, antelope and moose: If Montana residents can scrape it up, they can eat it.

State lawmakers are poised to say just that after the Senate gave its initial backing Wednesday to a bill that would allow people to salvage roadkill for food. The measure is now a final vote from heading to Gov. Steve Bullock.

It makes no sense to let the carcasses of big-game go to waste on Montana's roadways, supporters said.

"It really is a sin to waste a good meat," said state Sen. Larry Jent, D-Bozeman.

The measure calls for law-enforcement officers to issue permits to individuals who would be allowed to remove the carcasses of elk, deer, antelope and moose off the state's roadways.

An earlier version would have allowed fur-bearing animals,

upland game birds and migratory game birds to be scraped up, too, but it got canned.

Opponents question whether the meat would be safe and whether it would create liability issues for food banks that accept it. Sen. Kendall Van Dyk, D-Billings, said law-enforcement officers are not qualified to decide whether roadkill is safe to eat.

"Despite it's good intention, it doesn't pass the smell test for me," Van Dyke said.

Cattle ranchers like Sen. Jim Peterson, R-of Buffalo, questioned how roadkill could be harvested for food when the cattle industry must follow strict federal regulations.

Montana is not alone in considering the usefulness of roadkill.

Illinois allows people with a furbearing permit to remove roadkill for pelts and also allows for the salvaging of

meat.

Alaska Fish and Wildlife Protection Troopers run a program that divvies approximately 820 moose carcasses to charitable organizations, like churches and nonprofit organizations, who cook up moose meat for needy people.

The Montana measure would defer to the state's Fish, Wildlife and Parks agency to regulate how the roadkill is actually salvaged.

But as to whether the measure would create a new weapon for hunters — the car — Jent said he doesn't see that as plausible.

"We don't have very many suicidal drivers," Jent said.

The Senate voted 33-15 in favor of the measure. A final vote could be scheduled as early as Thursday.

Bullock didn't have an immediate comment on the bill.

You deserve a factual look at . . .

The "Root Cause" of the Middle East Turmoil

Would peace descend if the Arab-Israeli conflict were resolved?

Many are convinced that the conflict between Israel and its neighbors in the predominantly Muslim Middle East is the "root cause" of the ongoing violence in the region and of worldwide acts of terror. Some leading politicians and many pundits have attempted to establish linkage between the Arab-Israeli conflict and the turmoil prevalent throughout the Middle East. But does this linkage really exist?

What are the facts?

Israel is a tiny country, with fewer than eight million inhabitants (1.6 million of whom are Arabs). It is surrounded by 22 Arab countries with 400 million people. Nonetheless, Arab propaganda has convinced the world that Israel is an aggressive invader in the Middle East—a mighty Goliath compared to helpless Arab states. It is a supreme irony that tiny Israel, the size of New Jersey, outnumbered 50 to 1 and encircled by implacable enemies obsessed with its destruction, is considered a mortal danger to Muslims and to peace on earth. The linkage theory is that if Israel would make peace with the Palestinians, peace would descend upon the world and Islamist terror would cease.

But Israel and the Arab-Israeli conflict are clearly not the root cause of the strife and turmoil in the Middle East. Israel was not involved in the deaths of the millions who perished in the Iraq-Iran war, nor in the current Sunni-Shiite civil war in Iraq. Peace between Israel and the Palestinians would do nothing to stop Iran's headlong development of nuclear weapons and its goal to achieve Middle East hegemony. Israel has no part in the Syrian civil war, which has so far killed more than 60,000 people, nor has it played any role in the chaotic "Arab Spring" that is still roiling Egypt, Yemen, Libya, and Tunisia. Neither does Israel have any influence over the intractable conflict between warring Palestinian factions—Fatah in the West Bank and the terrorist group Hamas in Gaza.

Is Israel an intruder in the Middle East? The state of Israel resulted from the same process that created a dozen or more nations in Europe and the Middle East from the remnants of the Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman Empires by Western democracies and the United Nations. For three thousand years Jews have continually inhabited what is today Israel and Judea and Samaria, the so-called "West Bank." In short, few countries born in the 20th century have a stronger claim to national self-determination than does Israel—and certainly not the Arabs, who have never had a state in Palestine nor a capital in Jerusalem. Yet it has been Arab nations, unable to

countenance a Jewish state, that have waged numerous unprovoked wars against Israel.

And how about terror? Many believe that Israel is the root cause of the terror that Islamists have visited—and visit to this day—upon the world. But consider the attack on the United States on September 11, 2001, murderous attacks on

the London subway system and in Mumbai, India, as well as the assassination of a U.S. diplomat in Sudan and most recently the U.S. Ambassador and three other consular officials in Benghazi, Libya. These and dozens of other acts of cowardly terror would have taken place even if there

were no Israel. Rather, they are a reflection of the hatred that radical Islamists harbor against the West and its institutions. That hatred has nothing to do with Israel. Yet many believe that if only the United States would withhold its support of Israel—or "force" Israel to make peace with the Palestinians—Middle East terror would cease and we would no longer have to fear the scourge of suicide bombings, a uniquely Arab invention. Israel's role and responsibility in Arab discontent is an illusion. Arab and Islamist hatred toward the West and their deadly internal struggles would continue even if Israel ceased to exist.

Many claim that Arab and Islamist terror is the result of despair, hopelessness and poverty. But the facts prove otherwise. While Middle East Arabs are some of the richest people in the world, instead of using their enormous wealth to benefit their people, they squander it in luxurious excesses for a privileged few. The nineteen 9/11 hijackers were not poor or desperate. They were, without exception, well-educated people, members of upper-middle class families. The leaders of such Arab-Muslim terror organizations as Hamas, Hezbollah, al Qaeda and Islamic Jihad are educated people, from the upper reaches of their societies. No, terror is not a response of Arab-Muslims to alleged injustice by Israel, but is rather a customary strategy used by Arabs and Islamists to express their grievances against any enemy, even their own brethren. This pattern would not be any different if Israel had never existed or would cease to exist.

The cause of violent revolution and attacks on the U.S., Israel and other Western states is dysfunctional Arab-Muslim governments and the exploding influence of radical Islamism. This lust for war and terror will not end with an Israeli-Palestinian peace, but rather will cease when Arab-Muslims come to terms with the Jewish state's right to exist and the West's leadership role in the fight for human and democratic rights.

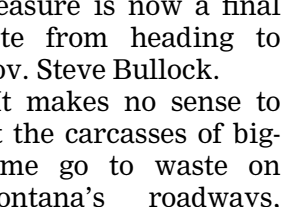
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News in brief

Man describes bandanna in wrongful-conviction case

SAN ANGELO, Texas (AP) — The brother of a slain Austin woman whose husband was wrongfully convicted of her murder and spent nearly 25 years in prison before being exonerated told jurors on Wednesday he found a bloody bandanna that prosecutors say points to a drifter as the actual killer.

Mark Alan Norwood, 58, is being tried for the 1986 beating death of Christine Morton, who was attacked in her north Austin home. Prosecutors allege Norwood beat and sexually assaulted the woman.

Morton's husband, Michael, was initially convicted in her death in 1987, but he was exonerated and freed in 2011 after new DNA testing was done on the bandanna found near the couple's home. Investigators said the DNA evidence led them to Norwood, whose DNA was in a national database as a result of his long criminal history. He also has been indicted in a 1988 slaying of another Austin woman who lived near the Mortons.

Christine Morton's brother, John Kirkpatrick, testified he found the blue bandanna along a driveway of a house under construction behind the Mortons' home. He said he found it a day after his sister's death after feeling frustrated about what he felt was a lack of an investigation by authorities and deciding to do his own probe.

"I just knew it was important," Kirkpatrick said. "It shouldn't have been there. It was out of place."

Kirkpatrick said he also found a discolored napkin that he turned over to police.

DNA testing wasn't available when the blood on the bandanna was initially tested in 1986. The testing wasn't done until Michael Morton's attorneys spent years lobbying for it.

John Chandler, who was a Williamson County sheriff's deputy in 1986, testified he picked up the bandanna and the napkin and that both items had been placed in the same plastic bag when he got them.

Defense lawyer Ariel Payan has suggested that the DNA evidence allegedly linking his client to the killing could have been contaminated.

Judge won't let Fort Hood suspect plead guilty

FORT HOOD, Texas (AP) — An Army psychiatrist will not be allowed to plead guilty to any charges in the deadly 2009 Fort Hood shooting rampage, a judge ruled Wednesday.

Maj. Nidal Hasan's attorneys previously said he was ready to plead guilty to the 13 counts of premeditated murder he faces in the worst mass shooting on a U.S. military installation, but Army rules prohibit a judge from accepting a guilty plea to charges that carry the death penalty.

Defense attorneys then asked that Hasan be allowed to plead guilty to 13 counts of unpremeditated murder, which does not carry the death penalty.

No guilty pleas would have stopped his murder trial or possibility of being sentenced to death.

But the judge, Col. Tara Osborn, ruled Hasan cannot plead guilty to those lesser charges or the 32 counts of attempted premeditated murder that he also faces. He still would have been tried on the premeditated murder charges, so pleading guilty to the attempted premeditated murder charges could have been used against him at trial, Osborn said.

She also said he would not be allowed to plead guilty to unpremeditated murder and unpremeditated attempted murder, because that "would be the functional equivalent of pleading guilty to a capital offense." A capital offense is a charge that carries the death penalty.

Hasan's court-martial is to start with jury selection May 29 and with testimony July 1 on the Texas Army post.

Some military law experts have suggested Hasan wanted to plead guilty to lesser charges to try to avoid a possible execution, with defense attorneys

hoping at least one juror would have seen Hasan's guilty pleas as a sign of remorse. Unlike other military trials, a jury's decision for a death sentence must be unanimous.

After hearing several hours of testimony Wednesday, Osborn also said she would consider whether to allow a terrorism consultant to testify at the trial. Prosecutors said Evan Kohlmann's testimony and report on Hasan would show motive. But defense attorneys said Hasan isn't charged with terrorism, so Kohlmann's testimony would be prejudicial to the military jury.

Texas woman calls 911 before ex-spouse kills both

DESOTO, Texas (AP) — A Dallas-area woman can be heard pleading for help in a 911 call as her ex-husband breaks into the house before killing her and then himself.

DeSoto police released the 911 recording in Tuesday's night's fatal shooting of 37-year-old Catina Lareese Murphy. Her former husband used to be a police officer in Arlington and with the Cedar Hill Independent School District.

Police have said they believed the shootings happened on the day the couple's divorce became final.

The woman is heard saying "send somebody right now" to a dispatcher as 40-year-old Andre Murphy arrives at her mother's home and the call disconnects. DeSoto police arrived minutes later and found the bodies.

2 Houston-area officers wounded, suspect caught

JACINTO CITY, Texas (AP) — A teenager blamed for wounding two Houston-area police officers has been captured after also being shot.

Police early Thursday shot 17-year-old Edgar Omar Cuellar at a home in Jacinto City. Authorities say Cuellar and two Jacinto City officers who were shot Wednesday night have injuries not believed to be life-threatening.

The officers were shot while attempting to speak to Cuellar in a deadly conduct investigation about gunfire earlier this week.

Jacinto City police Chief Joe Ayala says officers tried to question Cuellar as relatives attempted to restrain him. The teen allegedly shot a male and a female officer before fleeing.

Houston police assisted in the search and a spokesman says Cuellar was located at another Jacinto City residence and shot by officers.

Senate education panel discusses string of bills

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The Senate Education Committee is set to discuss a string of bills including a controversial proposal to lift the cap on the number of licenses issued to operate charter schools statewide.

Sen. Dan Patrick chairs the committee and wants to do away with the current maximum of 215 charter school licenses allowed in Texas.

The Houston Republican also is pushing for a special charter school governing board to handle a flood of new charter requests expected if the cap is lifted.

During its meeting Thursday, the committee may also again take up a separate Patrick proposal providing state-funded training to teachers for classroom gunfights.

The firearms training bill would apply to charter schools and public schools that don't already employ armed guards. Two employees on each campus could take the class.

Budget turns to Texas House after passing Senate

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Budget writers in the Texas House are set to unveil their own state spending plan after the Senate overwhelmingly approved a

\$195.5 billion two-year budget proposal.

The House Appropriations Committee on Thursday is expected to deliver a state budget for 2014-15 to the full chamber. Republican Tommy Williams, the chief budget writer in the Senate, says he expects the House budget to have more similarities than differences to the Senate version.

The Senate on Wednesday approved a new state budget by a 29-2 vote. The budget calls for adding another \$1.5 billion to public education, which remains well short of the \$5.4 billion that lawmakers cut from classrooms in 2011.

Texas contractor pleads guilty to bribery

DEL RIO, Texas (AP) — A Del Rio contractor has pleaded guilty to obtaining almost \$20,000 from an organization receiving federal funds for building public infrastructure he never delivered.

The Justice Department says Eduardo De La Garza also admitted to giving kickbacks to the county employee that issued the checks.

De La Garza owns Rio Bravo Construction. He admitted to U.S. Magistrate Victor Garcia in Del Rio on Wednesday to collecting two \$9,900 checks for a concrete pad at a Maverick County intersection that was never build. He also said he paid cash to an employee in the county auditor's office for each of the checks issued without the proper internal review process.

Ex-governor: Death row inmate deserves new hearing

HOUSTON (AP) — Former Texas Gov. Mark White on Wednesday joined supporters of a convicted killer who contend the prisoner's death sentence was unfairly based on his race.

Duane Buck was sentenced to death for killing his ex-girlfriend and a man at her Houston apartment in July 1995. During the punishment phase of his trial, a psychologist testifying for the defense said black people were more likely to commit violence — which Buck's advocates say unfairly influenced the jury and is grounds for a new sentencing hearing.

"The way to determine punishment in this country is with a fair trial and sentencing, and Mr. Buck did not receive that," White said.

White, a Democrat and former state attorney general, presided over 19 executions during his tenure as governor from 1983 to 1987. But in recent years, he has become more vocal in questioning the propriety of the death penalty in some Texas cases.

On Wednesday, he delivered a statement to Harris County District Attorney Mike Anderson, who was not in office at the time of Buck's 1997 trial, that was signed by civil rights leaders, elected officials, clergy and others. A new hearing, White said, "is absolutely necessary to restore public confidence in the criminal justice system."

Continuing utility commission sparks House debate

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The Texas House has voted to reauthorize for another decade the Public Utility Commission, which oversees the state's electric power market.

It also transferred to the commission the authority over water regulation that had been handled by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

But Wednesday's vote came only after the bill's sponsor, Corsicana Republican Rep. Byron Cook, tried to substantially alter his own proposal.

Cook endorsed an amendment removing the commission's ability to issue emergency "cease-and-desist" orders to stop electric providers from actions that could affect the state's power supply.

Those powers had been criticized as anti-free market by conservative groups, and many of Cook's GOP colleagues urged him to back the change.

But supporters countered that cease-and-desist powers better-protect consumers.

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News in brief

Rockets hit southern Israel as Obama prepares to meet Palestinians, push peace talks

JERUSALEM (AP) — On the second day of a Middle East tour, U.S. President Barack Obama is set to emphasize the importance of reaching an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal, a message underscored Thursday when Palestinian militants in Gaza launched rockets into southern Israel.

After a visit to Israel's national museum — where he was inspecting the Dead Sea Scrolls, which highlight the Jewish people's ancient connection to the land that is now Israel — Obama will head to the West Bank to tell the Palestinians that the creation of a Palestinian state remains a priority.

He is not bringing a new plan to relaunch peace talks, but in meetings with the Palestinians and a speech to Israeli students later in the day, he will appeal to both sides to halt unilateral actions that make negotiations more difficult.

Those troublesome actions include continued construction of Jewish housing settlements on land claimed by the Palestinians and repeated Palestinian efforts to achieve recognition at the United Nations in the absence of a peace agreement.

On Wednesday, Obama reaffirmed the unwavering U.S. commitment to Israel's security and noted there had been no fatal attacks on Israelis from the West Bank, which is controlled by Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas.

ECB: cannot help Cypriot banks after Monday unless European-IMF aid program in place

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — The European Central Bank says it will keep emergency aid for Cyprus' troubled banks in place at least until Monday but will have to cut it off after that unless an international rescue program is drawn up.

The ECB is keeping the Cypriot banks alive by allowing them to draw on emergency support from the local central bank. But the ECB has said it would cut that aid off if there is no bailout deal soon.

The ECB said Thursday that its governing council decided to maintain the current level of so-called Emergency Liquidity Assistance until Monday.

But it says that, after that, such assistance can only be considered if an EU-IMF program is in place that would ensure the banks' solvency.

GOP-dominated House expected to pass budget plan promising slashing cuts, balance in 10 years

WASHINGTON (AP) — A familiar budget plan to sharply cut safety-net programs for the poor and clamp down on domestic agencies performing the nuts-and-bolts programs of the government is cruising to passage in the tea party-flavored House.

The Republican measure is advancing to the finish line in the House as the Senate starts a lengthy slog toward passage of a rival budget measure. It takes a sharply different view, restoring automatic cuts to agency budgets and increasing taxes by \$1 trillion over the coming decade.

The dueling budget plans are anchored on opposite ends of the ideological spectrum in Washington, appealing to core partisans in the warring parties gridlocked over persistent budget deficits. President Barack Obama is exploring the chances of forging a middle path that blends new taxes and modest curbs to government benefits programs.

The sharp contrast over the 2014 budget and beyond came as the House is positioned to clear unfinished budget business — a sweeping, government-wide funding bill to keep Cabinet agencies running through the 2013 budget year, which ends Sept. 30.

The Senate passed the bipartisan 2013 measure by a sweeping 73-26 vote Wednesday after easing cuts that threatened intermittent closures of meat packing plants starting this summer and reviving college tuition grants for active-duty members of the military. The cuts were mandated by automatic spending cuts that took effect at the beginning of the month.

AP-NORC Center survey shows low-wage workers not taking advantage of training, education

WASHINGTON (AP) — As they struggle to get ahead, many low-wage workers are not taking advantage of job training or educational programs that could help them make the leap to better-paying

jobs. They are often skeptical about whether such programs are even worth the trouble, a new survey shows.

In many cases, workers in low-wage positions are not using the training programs their employers offer because they don't even know they exist, the two-part AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research survey of both workers and employers found. Two-thirds of employers said they offer coaching or mentoring programs and 61 percent provide on-the-job training. But only 36 percent of low-wage workers reported that their employers offer such programs.

The ability to move up the career ladder has become more important as America's economic recovery is fueled by a surge in low-wage jobs at restaurants, health care centers and manufacturing sites. Job training and education can play a major role in helping these workers advance their careers and someday reach middle-class status. At the same time, employers say they invest in job training to retain current workers, reduce turnover and improve the quality of products and services.

Yet the surveys revealed a wide disparity between employers and workers in how they view the importance of training programs. While 83 percent of employers said job training is extremely or very important for upward mobility, only half of low-wage workers felt as strongly about additional training. Similarly, 77 percent of employers rated education as extremely or very important, while only 41 percent of low-wage workers rated it similarly.

Of those who were aware their employers offer such training programs, 64 percent report participating in them, the surveys found. About a quarter have taken advantage of tuition assistance benefits. Yet workers who have used these programs say they are no more likely to feel confident about their prospects for advancement than those who have not received the extra training.

Initial investigation links Chinese address to S. Korea cyberattack; experts suspect North Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Investigators have traced a coordinated cyberattack that paralyzed tens of thousands of computers at six South Korean banks and media companies to a Chinese Internet Protocol address, but it was not yet clear who orchestrated the attack, authorities in Seoul said Thursday.

The discovery did not erase suspicions that North Korea was to blame. IP addresses are unique to each computer connected to the Internet, but they can easily be manipulated by hackers operating anywhere in the world. The investigation into Wednesday's attack could take weeks.

By Thursday, only one of the six targets, Shinhan

Bank, was back online and operating regularly. It could be next week before the other companies have fully recovered.

North Korea has threatened Seoul and Washington in recent days over U.N. sanctions imposed for its Feb. 12 nuclear test, and over ongoing U.S.-South Korean military drills. It also threatened revenge after blaming Seoul and Washington for an Internet shutdown that disrupted its own network last week.

North Korea "will never remain a passive onlooker to the enemies' cyberattacks," state media said last week in a commentary. "The U.S. and its allies should be held wholly accountable for the ensuing consequences."

Influential pediatricians group backs gay marriage; says kids raised that way do just as well

CHICAGO (AP) — The nation's most influential pediatrician's group has endorsed gay marriage, saying a stable relationship between parents regardless of sexual orientation contributes to a child's health and well-being.

The American Academy of Pediatrics' new policy, published online Thursday, cites research showing that the parents' sexual orientation has no effect on a child's development. Kids fare just as well in gay or straight families when they are nurturing and financially and emotionally stable, the academy says.

The academy believes that a two-parent marriage is best equipped to provide that kind of environment. Their policy says that if a child has two gay parents who choose to marry, "it is in the best interests of their children that legal and social institutions allow and support them to do so."

The policy cites reports indicating that almost 2 million U.S. children are being raised by gay parents, many of them in states that don't allow gays to marry.

The academy announced its position Thursday. Officials with the group said they wanted to make the academy's views known before two gay marriage cases are considered by the U.S. Supreme Court next week.

Sudoku Answer 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.

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

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

The Investigative Process

East dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ A 9 6
 ♥ A K 8 4
 ♦ A Q
 ♣ K 9 5 2

WEST
 ♠ 10 7 3
 ♥ Q 6 3
 ♦ J 10 9 5 4 2
 ♣ 8

SOUTH
 ♠ K Q J
 ♥ 10 7 2
 ♦ K 8 6
 ♣ A J 10 4

The bidding:
 East South West North
 Pass 1 ♣ Pass 1 ♥
 Pass 1 NT Pass 6 NT
 Opening lead — jack of diamonds.
Assume you're in six notrump and win West's diamond lead with the queen. Your sure winners are three spades, two hearts, three diamonds and two clubs — a total of 10 tricks, so you need two more.
Obviously, your best chance of picking up two additional tricks lies in clubs, where you have a two-way finesse for the queen. If you knew the location of the queen, it would be easy to trap the damsel by finessing in the right direction, and your troubles would be over. Locating the queen deserves your closest atten-

tion, because misguessing which way to finesse could cost you 1,740 points.

However, it is much too early, after only one trick has been played, to make what will amount to an irrevocable decision in the club suit, since you know next to nothing about the East-West hands. You therefore begin an investigative campaign in the hope of learning more about the opposing distribution.

Accordingly, at trick two you cash the ace of hearts and then lead a low heart from dummy. West takes your ten with the queen and returns a diamond to dummy's ace.

You cash the king of hearts, and, when the suit proves to be divided 3-3, you also cash dummy's eight, pitching a club after East discards a spade. You then play the A-K-Q of spades and king of diamonds, dummy and East both discarding clubs.

All your worries are now over, because you have obtained a complete count of the hand. West is known to have started with six diamonds (East showed out on the third round of the suit), three spades and three hearts. He therefore began with at most one club.

So you lead the ten of clubs to the king and finesse the jack with total confidence on the way back. That's all there is to it!

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.
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Herald file photo/visit www.claxtonphotography.com

Howard College's Ladon Carter slam dunks the ball during Tuesday's 92-69 win over Hutchinson Community College. The Hawks advanced to the quarterfinals where they met Vincennes College. Results will be published in tomorrow's edition of the Herald.

Area Sports Calendar

TODAY

Basketball

• Howard College vs. Vincennes College, Hutchinson, Kan., NJCAA National Tourney quarterfinals, 2 p.m.

Rodeo

• Howard College at South Plains College (through Saturday), Levelland.

FRIDAY

Baseball

• Howard College at New Mexico Military Institute (through Saturday), 4-game series, games start daily at noon (MST).
• Sweetwater at Big Spring, 7 p.m., Steer park.
• Colorado City at Coahoma, 7 p.m.
• Forsan at Miles, 5 p.m.

Softball

• Odessa College at Howard College (doubleheader), 1 p.m. & 3 p.m.
• Sweetwater at Big Spring, 5 p.m.
• Colorado City at Coahoma, 6:30 p.m.

Track

• Big Spring at San Angelo Relays.
• Coahoma at Wildcat Relays, Wink.
• Forsan at San Angelo Relays.

SATURDAY

Powerlifting

• Big Spring at State (boys), Abilene.

Softball

• Howard College at Odessa College (doubleheader), 1 p.m. & 3 p.m.

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

Coahoma Invitational Golf Results

Comanche Trail Golf Course

Team Score: 390 — 2nd Place.

Individual Scores: Namen McCulloch, 89; Colton VerSteege, 96; Caleb McAdams, 102; T.J. White, 103; Zack Kay, 114.

Individual Medalists: Ashton Johnson, 134; Aaron Ferguson, 138.

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

Nets get past Mavs, 113-96

DALLAS (AP) — Brook Lopez is just like Deron Williams. He enjoys visiting Dallas, too.

Lopez scored 38 points and Williams had 31 in his first visit since spurning his hometown team in free agency, leading the Brooklyn Nets past the Mavericks 113-96 on Wednesday night.

Williams scored 26 in the second half, repeatedly hitting shots and occasionally assisting on baskets by Lopez to prevent a Dallas rally in the fourth quarter.

Lopez matched the 38 points he scored in one of the five games he played last season, when the Nets snapped a 12-game losing streak in Dallas. Both times, he finished one point shy of his career high from two years ago against Detroit.

"The team played well in both games," Lopez

said with a laugh. "I think that's the correlation. It just depends on who's hot. We have so many options on this team."

Williams and Lopez combined for a defining play midway through a fourth quarter full of big shots from both teams when Lopez blocked a shot and Williams hit a fadeaway jumper on the baseline after dribbling the length of the court. Williams ran to his bench with a big smile after Dallas called timeout trailing 97-88.

The Mavericks, who pulled within three twice during a back-and-forth quarter, got no closer than six after that.

"When you're feeling good and feel like you can't miss, it's a good feeling," said Williams, who shot 11 of 18 in

See **MAVS**, Page 13



Forsan junior Raegan Haggard

Forsan's Haggard chosen for TABC All-Region

By **BRIAN MCCORMACK**

Sports Editor

FORSAN — Raegan Haggard led the Forsan girl's basketball team in scoring, averaging over 10 points per game.

Haggard was also tops in steals with just over 3 per game and second in rebounding with 4.5 boards per outing.

When you look at it like that, it's no surprise Haggard was recently selected to represent Forsan on the All-Region team by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches.

Lindsey Schmidt, FHS Head Girl's Basketball Coach believes the honor was well-deserved.

"I think she's an unselfish player," Schmidt said. "She probably could have scored 20 points a game, but she was a good distributor. She made sure the whole team did well,

not just herself. And the team did a great job of getting her in the right spots. I had a very unselfish team, they saw the bigger picture."

Haggard — a junior — is already working on her court skills for next season by participating in a traveling team out of Lubbock.

"She works really hard," said Schmidt, who took her squad to the regional quarterfinal round of the playoffs before losing to District 6-1A foe Smyer.

"When we play other teams, they have to keep on eye on (Haggard), Schmidt added. "She can put a lot of points on the board and she's a great defensive player for us too."

The versatile Haggard — who totaled 276 points, 122 rebounds and 87 steals over the season — played at the guard, post and point guard position.

NCAA March Madness — Today

The NCAA Men's Basketball Schedule for today is as follows:

• 11:15 p.m., CBS: No. 14 Valparaiso Crusaders vs. No. 3 Michigan State Spartans, Midwest regional, Auburn Hills, Mich.

• 11:40 p.m., TruTV: No. 11 Bucknell Bison vs. No. 6 Butler Bulldogs, East regional, Lexington, Ky.

• 12:40 p.m., TBS: No. 9 Wichita State Shockers vs. No. 8 Pittsburgh Panthers, West regional, Salt Lake City, Utah

• 1:10 p.m., TNT: No. 13 New Mexico State Aggies vs. No. 4 Saint Louis Billikens, Midwest regional, San Jose, Calif.

• 1:40 p.m., CBS: (No. 11 Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders/No. 11 St. Mary's Gaels) vs. No. 6 Memphis Tigers, Midwest regional, Auburn Hills, Mich.

• 2:10 p.m., TruTV: No. 14 Davidson Wildcats vs. No. 3 Marquette Golden Eagles, East regional, Lexington, Ky.

• 3:10 p.m., TBS: No. 16 Southern Jaguars vs. No. 1 Gonzaga Bulldogs, West regional, Salt Lake City, Utah

• 3:40 p.m., TNT: No. 12 Oregon Ducks vs. No. 5

Oklahoma State Cowboys, Midwest regional, San Jose, Calif.

• 5:50 p.m., TBS: (No. 16 North Carolina A&T Aggies/No. 16 Liberty Flames) vs. No. 1 Louisville Cardinals, Midwest regional, Lexington, Ky.

• 6:15 p.m., CBS: No. 13 South Dakota State Jackrabbits vs. No. 4 Michigan Wolverines, South regional, Auburn Hills, Mich.

• 6:20 p.m., TNT: No. 11 Belmont Bruins vs. No. 6 Arizona Wildcats, West regional, Salt Lake City, Utah

• 6:27 p.m., TruTV: No. 12 California Golden Bears vs. No. 5 UNLV Runnin' Rebels, East regional, San Jose, Calif.

• 8:20 p.m., TBS: No. 9 Missouri Tigers vs. No. 8 Colorado State Rams, Midwest regional, Lexington, Ky.

• 8:45 p.m., CBS: No. 12 Akron Zips vs. No. 5 VCU Rams, South regional, Auburn Hills, Mich.

• 8:50 p.m., TNT: No. 14 Harvard Crimson vs. No. 3 New Mexico Lobos, West regional, Salt Lake City, Utah

• 8:57 p.m., TruTV: No. 13 Montana Grizzlies vs. No. 4 Syracuse Orange, East regional, San Jose, Calif.

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Instructional

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Legals

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

Legals

NOTICE OF DESTRUCTION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION RECORDS

According to policy, on May 1, 2013, the Big Spring Independent School District intends to destroy the special education records and files of students who graduated, moved, or were dismissed from the special education program form 2003 to 2005. The student or the parents may need these records for social security benefits and or other purposes. Please contact Carol Walston, District or Special Services, Big Spring Independent School District, (432)264-4106, by April 15th, 2013, if you do not wish to have these records destroyed. #7705 March 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31 and April 1 & 2, 2013

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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: Many years ago, my wife and I lived near my parents. After three years of putting up with their too frequent and always unannounced visits, we moved slightly farther away. My Dad is the worst offender. Mom caters to his every whim. Dad is extremely selfish and really never cares whether he intrudes.

After we moved, the drop-in visits became less frequent, but now the constant phone calls drive us crazy. I have nicely explained to Mom that after a hard day at work, we turn off our landline so we can have

some quiet time.

I told her not to worry if we don't answer. I also told her that if there is an emergency, she can call our cellphones. The problem is, Dad goes ballistic if he cannot reach us and immediately tells Mom to call our cellphones.

We have been married 29 years and have grown children. We wouldn't dream of dropping in on them unannounced or constantly calling when we know they want some peace and quiet.

I call my parents twice a week to check on them. They are both in excellent health. Am I

supposed to account to them every single day? Why do they do this, and how can we get some peace while keeping the peace? — *Perplexed*

Dear Perplexed: You have two simple options: Either call your parents once a day to check on them and let them hear your voice, or turn your cellphones on



**KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR**

vibrate and call them back when you feel like it. Both choices are perfectly reasonable. Many grown kids call their parents daily just as a kindness. We think it's worth five minutes of your day to reassure your folks

that you are OK — and to stop them from driving you nuts.

Dear Annie: For many years, I have used the same beautician to cut my hair. She became a good friend in the process. However, about a year ago, my hair just wasn't "cooperating" with her cuts, so I tried a different beautician and loved the results.

Now I'm torn. I'd like to continue with the new stylist, but I don't want to lose an old friend. How do beauticians feel about their clients when they try someone else's styles? And how do I tell my friend without hurting her feelings? — *Uneasy About Switching*

week, do a lot of the cooking and help clean.

My wife works part time out of the house. Yet, when it comes to a relationship in or out of the bedroom, she ignores me.

I have tried to get her to talk, but she won't. I have tried to do little things to show her that I love and appreciate her, but she always takes them the wrong way. It makes me a little gun shy to keep asking.

Men have feelings, too. We need attention from our spouses as much as they do. I have thought about what it would be like to find a little on the side, but have resisted.

There is an old saying that I once read: "A woman makes all the rules, and a man is not to know the rules. If she suspects he knows the rules, she is to change all or some of the rules." It's not so funny now. — *Irritated in Clarendon*

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

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Venus Cuts Her Hair

When the ultra-feminine sign of Venus enters the battlefield of Aries, she does what many heroines before her have done. Joining the ranks of Joan of Arc, G.I. Jane and Britney Spears, Venus cuts her hair. In the weeks to come, a tougher sense of beauty will emerge. Any love worth having will be a love worth fighting for — and fight we will.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Let your natural state overtake you. If your body feels relaxed and comfortable and free, there's nothing more you need to do for physical health at the moment.



**HOLIDAY
MATHIS**

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You may feel the warmth of love inside you, though that is useless to the object of your affection unless you also express the feeling with your actions. Love is a verb.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Today brings lessons about enjoying the ordinary. Chores are pleasant exercises. Errands are a chance to connect with the people in your neighborhood who help the community run smoothly.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your magnanimous actions will surprise those around you because they are not the norm for the situation, though they should be. Keep it up, and you'll start a trend.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll find the strategies that work for you by mentally trying things on to see what feels right. One size does not fit all, and one method does not work for everyone. Do it your way.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Sometimes, in order to inject a sense of purpose into your routine, you have to remind yourself that what you're doing is important. People depend on you. Your energy and efforts make a difference.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The levity of spring will surround you wherever you go. It's almost as though you're the one making the trees bud and the birds sing. There are highlights to this day that will stay with you forever.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Maybe time will prove that you indulged in unreasonable fantasies today. But it is better to have expectations and live up to them than to have doubts and live down to them.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). If your mojo seems to have slipped out the back when you weren't looking, no worries. You'll get it back today after you take a nice, long, unstructured, carefree break.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll feel more in control if you record what's going on with you now. Take a picture of what you're doing, write down an idea, or chronicle your day in some other interesting way.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You are a riddle. Just by being who you are and doing what comes naturally, you give others the idea that they must figure you out. Of course, they won't be able to — at least not today.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll put yourself out there. Start with a sure thing. Try to get helpful, warm, loving people to lend you a hand. This is no day to try to win over the difficult, prickly ones.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 21). Don't worry so much about whether you're doing the right thing. If you're doing it for the right reason, all will work out brilliantly. Common sense is your greatest asset in the weeks to come. Follow it to make money in April and to complete a quest in May. Romantic notions are fulfilled in June. You'll get closure on an old wound, too. Leo and Cancer people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 12, 34, 39 and 15

VENUS IN ARIES: In her goddess form, Venus is the very

essence of feminine allure. She has flowing hair and perfumed zephyrs. She walks on petals and doesn't move to open her own door; that would be manly, and besides, she never has to. That's not to say she couldn't manage if the need arose. She can open doors, move mountains and turn worlds inside out if she wants to. What could make her want to?

The call of Aries, that's what. This part of the sky is a battleground. All who enter should bear arms and be ready to fight. This is no time to feign weakness or let others do your bidding for you. Beauty will be a struggle. We will have to strategize to find truth. And love is worth fighting for.

From now until April 15, relationships will challenge you to decide what has value and to determine the price. Sometimes we will have to make the sacrifice first in order to understand what things cost. The true value of a relationship will be determined by the lengths to which you are willing to go to make it good or save it.

"Heartache to heartache we stand/No promises, no demands/Love is a battlefield." — *Pat Benatar*

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Though she is well known for her work in comedies such as "Election" and "Legally Blonde," versatile Aries Reese Witherspoon is equally convincing in more serious fare, as she'll prove again in her starring role in the crime drama "Devil's Knot." Her natal sun, moon and Mars in Aries indicates a fiery, passionate intensity of spirit. Witherspoon's Mercury and Saturn are in artistic Pisces.

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

Dear Annie: I read all the responses to "Your Husband" about who is at fault in the bedroom. I've been married for 27 years. I am in good shape, work 50 hours a

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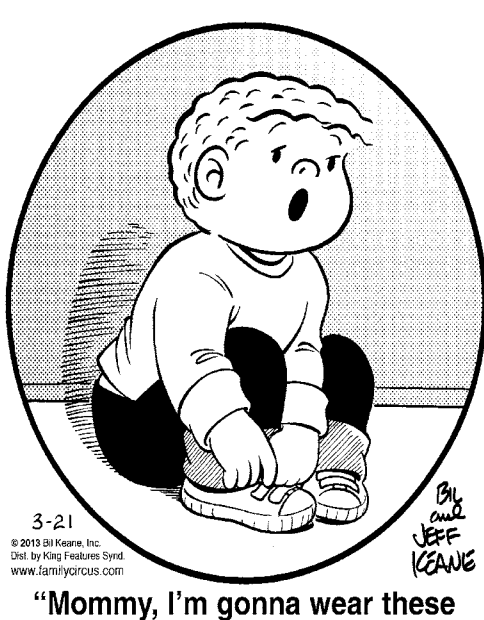
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5:30 PM	News	Casa	Two Men	News	Noticias	News	2013 NCAA Basketball Tournament	Acquire Yohanan	Charlie Rose	King Property	line, Shia LaBeouf		the Furious: Tokyo Drift, Bow Wow			106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Good	SportsNation
6:30 PM	Jeopardy!	Notic.	Two Men	News	Noticiero	News	2013 NCAA Basketball Tournament	House	PBS News-Hour	70s	Property			2013 NCAA Basketball Tournament		Shake It Austin	NFL Live	Winter X Games: Tignes.
7:30 PM	Wheel	Corona de Lágrimas	Big Bang	2013 NCAA Basketball Tournament	Caso Cer-rado	Millionaire		Dr. Diana R. Shap	Daytrip	The Vampire Diaries	Moonshiners	The Walking Dead	IMPACT Wrestling		Rip-Runway	Movie: Camp Rock 2: The Final Jam	Cheerleading	
8:30 PM	Wife Swap	Porque el Am.	American Idol		Pasión Prohibida	Commun Parks		Upd 1st Fruits	Frontline	Beauty & Beast	Property	Comic			Second		Cheerleading	
9:30 PM	Grey's Anatomy	Amores Verdaderos	Glee (DVS)		La Patrona (SS)	Office 1600	2013 NCAA Basketball Tournament	Light of the Southwest		Cops	Property	Freak		2013 NCAA Basketball Tournament		Movie: The Cookout, Jenifer Lewis	Austin Good	Baseball Tonight
10:30 PM	(02) Scandal	Amor Bravo! (SS)	Simpsons How I Met		El Rostro de	Law & Order: SVU		Antiques Roadshow	Charlie Rose	Seinfeld	Property	Comic	Bellator MMA Live			ANT Farm	NFL Live	SportsCenter
11:30 PM	News	Impacto	How I Met		Noticias	News		McGee	Justice	Rules	Property	Freak				Austin		
12:30 AM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Noticiero	Raymond		Titulares	Jay Leno		A. Shelby	World	King	Property	Comic	Bellator MMA Live	Monday Mornings	Wendy Williams	Wizards	NASCAR	SportsCenter
1:30 AM	Nightline	Al Diablo	Law Order: CI	News Letterman	Decisiones (SS)		Conan	Scrivner	T. Smiley	Til Death	Property	Freak		Cold Case	Movie: Stomp the Yard 2: Homecoming	Deck	Scoreboard	SportsCenter
2:30 AM	Extra	Zacatillo, un	Raymond		Office	Upd		Office	Upd	Til Death	Moonshiners	Immortal				Deck		
3:30 AM	Paid		Fam. Guy	Ferguson	Pagado	News	Office	R. Shap		Browns	Property	Immortal				Good	30 for 30	SportsCenter
4:30 AM	Paid	Conducta	American		Pagado	(06) Today	Conan	Light of the Southwest		Bluegrass	Property					Good		
5:30 AM	Paid	Casa	TMZ	Insider	Pagado													

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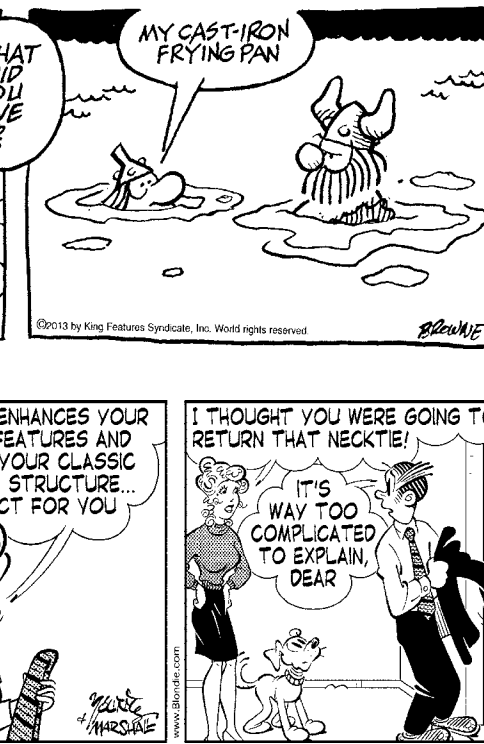
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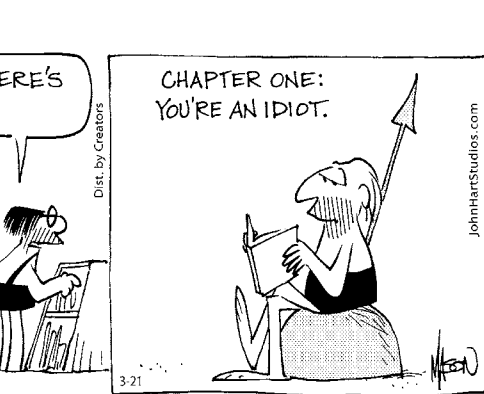
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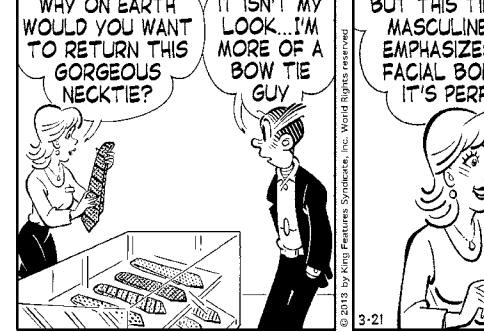
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This Date In History

Today is Thursday, March 21, the 80th day of 2013. There are 285 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 21, 1963, the Alcatraz federal prison island in San Francisco Bay was emptied of its last inmates and closed at the order of Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy.

On this date:

In 1556, Thomas Cranmer, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, was burned at the stake for heresy.

In 1685, composer Johann Sebastian Bach was born in Eisenach, Germany.

In 1804, the French civil code, or the "Code Napoleon" as it was later called, was adopted.

In 1871, journalist Henry M. Stanley began his famous expedition in Africa to locate the missing Scottish missionary David Livingstone.

In 1907, U.S. Marines arrived in Honduras to protect American lives and interests in

the wake of political violence.

In 1940, a new government was formed in France by Paul Reynaud (ray-NOH), who became prime minister, succeeding Edouard Daladier (dah-lah-DYAY).

In 1944, Charles Chaplin went on trial in Los Angeles, accused of transporting former protegee Joan Barry across state lines for immoral purposes. (Chaplin was acquitted, but later lost a paternity suit despite tests showing he wasn't the father of Barry's child.)

In 1960, about 70 people were killed in Sharpeville, South Africa, when police fired on black protesters.

In 1965, civil rights demonstrators led by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. began their third, successful march from Selma to Montgomery, Ala.

In 1972, the Supreme Court, in Dunn v. Blumstein, ruled that states may not require at least a year's residency for voting eligibility.

In 1985, police in Langa, South Africa, opened fire on blacks marching to mark the 25th anniversary of Sharpeville; the reported death toll varied between 29 and 43.

In 1990, Namibia became an

independent nation as the former colony marked the end of 75 years of South African rule.

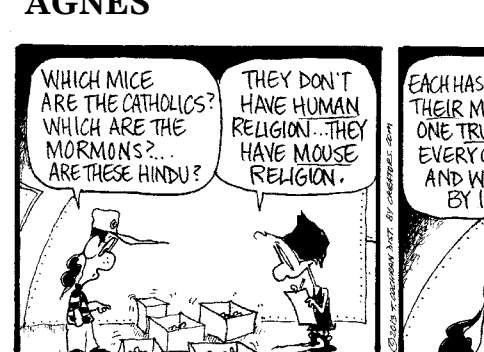
Today's Birthdays: Violinist-conductor Joseph Silverstein is 81. Actress Kathleen Widdoes is 74. Actress Marie-Christine Barrault is 69. Singer-musician Rose Stone (Sly and the Family Stone) is 68. Actor Timothy Dalton is 67. Singer Eddie Money is 64. Rock singer-musician Roger Hodgson (Supertramp) is 63. Rock musician Conrad Lozano (Los Lobos) is 62. Rhythm-and-blues singer Russell Thompkins Jr. (The Stylistics) is 62. Comedy writer-performer Brad Hall is 55. Actress Sabrina LeBeauf is 55. Actor Gary Oldman is 55. Actor Matthew Broderick is 51.

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Answer to previous puzzle

FUEL	SPOTS	FLU
ANTI	CARHOP	OAR
ROCK	GARDENS	LPN
HEARKEN	ASK	
BEAR	CLAWS	
APPALS	JUMPIER	
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ZEN	LOTUSES	
BICE	COUNTRY	CLUB
ACE	EARNER	HOSE
YES	TEARY	OPIEN

AGNES



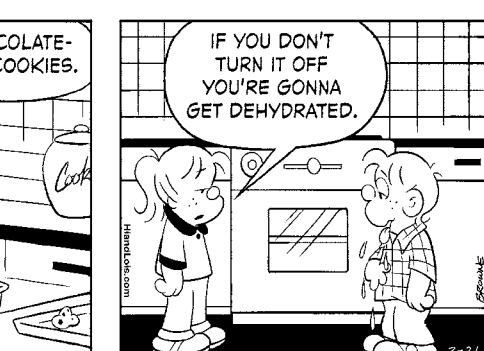
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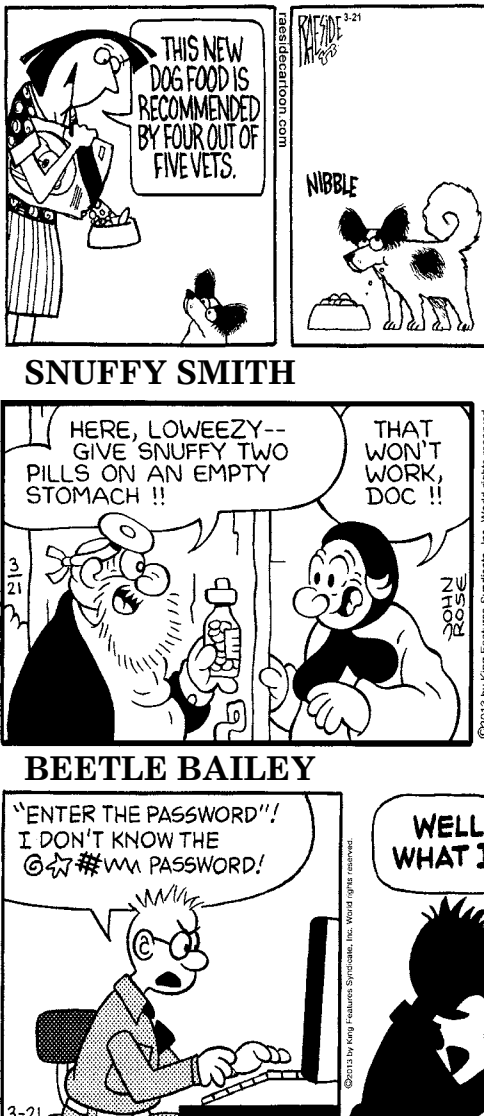
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Fools
 - 6 TR or JFK
 - 10 Support, with "with"
 - 14 Mitchell heroine
 - 15 Barnyard sound
 - 16 Pupil's surroundings
 - 17 What's expected
 - 18 Just
 - 19 All My ___ (Miller play)
 - 20 Kim author
 - 23 Poetic preposition
 - 24 Costa ___ Sol
 - 25 Large quantity
 - 26 End of Baylor's URL
 - 28 Spectrum component
 - 29 Sheep sound
 - 31 Try to win at auction
 - 33 Small battery
 - 34 Gettysburg general
 - 36 Prefix like uni-
 - 37 Tom Jones author
 - 41 Palace protector
 - 42 Remain unused
 - 43 Yellowish brown
 - 44 "Understood!"
 - 46 Assembly-line worker
 - 48 Singsong syllable
 - 51 Grey's Anatomy roles
 - 52 Land in the Seine
 - 54 Live
 - 55 5th-century invader
- DOWN
- 1 More gloomy
 - 2 Skeptical comment
 - 3 Heaped praise on
 - 4 Toolbox insert
 - 5 Diner amenity
 - 6 Canine named Claude, perhaps
 - 7 Winter Olympics venue
 - 8 Army volunteer
 - 9 Microsoft's phone company
 - 10 66 Across, for Alberto
 - 11 Attached, as a patch
 - 12 Bell sound
 - 13 Feminine suffix
 - 21 Passes along
 - 22 Testing center
 - 27 Family card game
 - 30 Samuel of the Supreme Court
 - 32 Poker declaration
 - 33 Start for hero or body
 - 35 Matador's opponent
 - 37 Deceive
 - 38 Chips away at
 - 39 "Start asking your questions"
 - 40 News story starter
 - 41 A Night at the Opera studio
 - 45 Up to, for short
 - 47 Captured
 - 48 Take illegally
 - 49 Sled blade
 - 50 Well-behaved kids
 - 53 Easily bent
 - 57 "Now see here..."
 - 58 Deep mud
 - 59 No-win result
 - 60 Couple

WORKING WRITERS by S.N. Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

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Baylor's Griner: More than just a girl who can dunk

WACO, Texas (AP) — Brittney Griner arrived at Baylor known as the girl who could dunk.

The 6-foot-8 Griner has obliged over the years with some rim-rattling highlights. Even in her last regular-season home game, she made a quick spin move around a Kansas State defender on the baseline for a one-handed slam.

While the 14 career dunks are impressive — fun, too — Griner always wanted to be known for more than just slamming the ball. Add in all the blocks, points and championships, and she has indeed proven to be so much more in four seasons with the Lady Bears.

"A lot of people come up to me all the time and just tell me, just compliment me on my game, other than the dunks and the scoring," she said. "Just how I find my teammates and just everything, how I move on the court. That let me know right there that, hey, I'm kind of getting away from the YouTube dunker girl."

Going into her final NCAA tournament, the defending national champion Lady Bears (32-1) are again the No. 1 overall seed. They have a nation's-best 55-game winning streak at home, where they play their tourney opener Sunday night against SWAC champion Prairie View (17-14).

Griner is the Big 12 career scoring leader with 3,203 points, 190 short of the NCAA record with no more than six games left. She has a nearly 7 1/2-foot wingspan that contributes greatly to the record she really cherishes: 736 blocked shots, more than any other man or woman ever in the NCAA.

"She's one of a kind," Kansas State coach Deb Patterson said. "Look at the great run that Baylor has made with the Final Four and national championship, and really, a second potential national championship on the line, her impact is hard to measure with words."

The dunk against Kansas State was part of Griner's Big 12-record 50 points in a game. Five days later in the Big 12 tournament, Griner had 19 points, 13 rebounds and a career-high nine assists in another game against the Wildcats.

"No matter what anybody says, she's not great because of her size," Patterson said. "She's great because she continued to improve her repertoire and compete extraordinarily well."

Her high school dunks made Griner a YouTube sensation, with as many as seven per game for Houston Nimitz. They even caught the attention of the likes of NBA superstar LeBron James,

who met Griner when she was still in high school and has kept up with her since.

"She's awesome," James said. "It's not like she's just catching and laying it or dunking every time either. She's shooting turn-around jumpers. She's drop-stepping over her left shoulder, right shoulder, shooting jumpers. She's got a fade-away jumper. And she's dunking the ball, too. She's great."

Griner still hears plenty of jeers and taunts from opposing fans during games. And there is no shortage of insults and insinuations about her on social media.

The only ring she had on was the one signifying the Lady Bears' national championship last year, going undefeated in the NCAA's first 40-win season.

"Brittney Griner, after winning the national championship last year, should have erased any doubt in people's minds as the greatest to ever play the game," coach Kim Mulkey said.

It's hard to believe that Griner was like any other freshman when she arrived, nervous and unsure what to expect. The Lady Bears went 27-10 her first season, and made it to the NCAA Final Four before a national semifinal loss to Connecticut. They are 106-4 since.

Reports: Ed Reed to join Houston

HOUSTON (AP) — Free-agent safety Ed Reed is on the verge of becoming a Houston Texan, according to multiple reports.

CBSsports.com reported Wednesday night that a deal was in place, and the NFL Network quoted Reed as saying he was headed to Houston "unless something changes." Neither Reed nor his agent, David Dunn, immediately returned phone messages left by The Associated Press.

The Texans wouldn't confirm the reports, but it looks as if their bold, public courtship of Reed paid off.

Last Thursday, Reed flew to Houston aboard owner Bob McNair's private jet and Reed spent two days meeting with coaches and management. Reed and his representatives left town without a deal and the Super Bowl

champion Baltimore Ravens were reportedly making a pitch to retain him.

But the Texans apparently won out, reviving an otherwise disappointing free-agency period. Houston has lost safety Glover Quin to Detroit and tight end James Casey and linebacker Connor Barwin to Philadelphia since free agency began.

Reed, a nine-time Pro Bowl selection, had dinner with Texans star receiver Andre Johnson and center Chris Myers, his former college teammates at Miami. Johnson said afterward that he was confident Reed would join the team and after a tense week of waiting for Reed to make up his mind.

Reed has played all 11 of his NFL seasons in Baltimore, where he's the franchise leader in interceptions with 61.

MAVS

Continued from Page 8

the second half at one of his favorite arenas. "I looked over at my bench and saw the excitement. It's a big win for us. It's a big win no matter what."

Dirk Nowitzki led Dallas with 16 points and had a team-high six rebounds compared to 22 boards for Reggie Evans of the Nets, who out-rebounded the Mavericks 45-34.

The Nets improved to 2-0 on a season-high, eight-game road trip that now makes five straight stops out West. Brooklyn is two road wins shy of the franchise record of 20.

The Mavericks, who fell 3 1/2 games behind the Los Angeles Lakers for the final playoff spot in the Western Conference, lost the opener of a six-game homestand as they try to keep a 12-year postseason streak

alive. "They had two guys who had great games and we didn't do a good job there," Dallas coach Rick Carlisle said. "It's a bad result for us."

Lopez, who set a season high for points, and Williams led a third-quarter run that put Brooklyn ahead for good. Lopez did most of his scoring inside but had a 12-foot bank shot and another jumper from just inside the 3-point line as the Nets built a 10-point lead.

Lopez, who also had 11 rebounds, was 15 of 22 from the field and 8 of 10 from the line.

Williams scored seven of nine Brooklyn points to start the third quarter, and Lopez had the other two. They com-

bined to go 11 of 12 from the field in the third, and the only miss was a desperation heave from beyond halfcourt by Williams at the end of the quarter.

Williams even got into the act on the defensive end, taking a charge from O.J. Mayo on a fast break with the Mavericks trying to stop Brooklyn's key third-quarter run.

"In the first half we kind of held him under control and then he knocked down a jumper and he was aggressive," Dallas forward Elton Brand said. "You could

see it in his eyes. He was going to shoot it no matter what. We all know about free agency and our fans and us recruiting him. We knew he wanted to play well here."

Williams, who grew up in the Dallas area, got a smattering of boos during introductions and even fewer the first time he touched the ball. It wasn't his first game against Dallas since last summer. The Mavericks started March — their best month of the season by far — with a 98-90 win in Brooklyn.

Mavericks owner

Mark Cuban, who infamously attended a "Shark Tank" taping instead of joining the Dallas contingent when free agency opened, intentionally stayed away from Brooklyn when the Mavericks visited. He still wasn't interested in Williams talk Wednesday.

"That's old, old, old, old news," Cuban said before the game.

Nets coach P.J. Carlesimo said he didn't know if Williams was a little extra motivated against the team he turned down so he could move to Brooklyn from New

Jersey with the Nets.

"But I'm sure he understands that you're not going to expect intelligent statements from Mark, anyhow," Carlesimo said.

The Nets were actually better without Williams in the first half. While he was sitting to start the second quarter, Brooklyn went on an 18-6 run for a 40-38 lead.

Andray Blatche scored 14 in the second quarter for Brooklyn on 6-of-6 shooting, and not all of them were easy. He hit three long jumpers, two of them over Nowitzki.

sudoku

ANSWERS

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

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Duncan leads Spurs past Warriors, 104-93

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The San Antonio Spurs just keep winning, especially when they face the Golden State Warriors at home.

Tim Duncan had 25 points, 13 rebounds, six assists and four blocks, and San Antonio beat Golden State 104-93 on Wednesday night for its 29th straight home win against the Warriors.

Golden State has not won in San Antonio since Feb. 14, 1997, the season before Duncan was selected No. 1 overall by the Spurs.

"He's a Hall of Fame player, an all-time great," Warriors coach Marc Jackson said. "He certainly had a big game tonight."

Tiago Splitter added 17 points and Manu Ginobili had 16 points and seven assists for San Antonio (52-16), which has won three straight and seven of nine overall. Nando De Colo had 10 points.

The Spurs are right behind Miami (53-14) for the league's best record.

Stephen Curry had 24 points for Golden State (39-31), which remains sixth in the West. Jarrett Jack had 14 points, and David Lee added 10 points and 12 rebounds.

Golden State closed to 92-88 when Curry went 1 for 2 at the line, but Duncan threw in a running hook and a 16-foot jumper to give San Antonio an eight-point lead with 2:37 remaining.

"My jump shot's coming back," Duncan said. "It doesn't feel great, but it's going in a little bit, so I'll take it. Everything else feels really good. I feel healthy, moving well. (My) body feels good and shots are going in."

Duncan was 11 for 17 from the field and 3 for 3 at the line. It was his 13th game of at least 20 points and 10 rebounds this season.

"Timmy has his rhythm back," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "He's in great shape and down the stretch we went through him. Manu and Timmy really decided to do that on their won and they did a great job of it."

The Spurs needed Duncan to step up with All-Star point guard Tony Parker (sprained left ankle) still about a week away from rejoining the team, and the 16-year veteran is averaging 27.7 points, 14.7 rebounds and 3.3 re-

bounds in his last three games - all home victories.

"Unbelievable; he's just unbelievable," Splitter said. "He's just figuring out how to play great at his age. It's not easy, he's not same guy like 10 years ago. He doesn't have the same quickness, but he still knows how to play this game."

Duncan also set the tone defensively.

Golden State (first) and San Antonio (fourth) are among the top five in 3-point percentage, but neither team connected from long range until Ginobili knocked down his second attempt with 10:30 left in the first half.

It was part of a greater emphasis on defense by the Spurs, who struggled in a 119-116 victory against Cleveland on Saturday.

"Focus more than anything," Duncan said. "We've been playing hard. We just kind of get out of whack every once in a while kind of as the season goes along. It's a long season. People lose focus for a little while. It's good to go through a stretch like that to get a team refocused; to get guys individually refocused. I think we've done that."

San Antonio still had some defensive lapses. Golden State went on a 10-1 run after De Colo's 17-foot jumper gave the Spurs a 91-78 lead with 8 minutes remaining. But that's when Duncan had his late run.

San Antonio outscored Golden State 38-25 in the second quarter, going 6 for 11 on 3s after missing all four attempts in the opening period. Matt Bonner and Danny Green hit back-to-back 3s late in the second quarter as San Antonio led 60-47 at halftime.

De Colo had one of the highlights in the first half when he stripped Jack at midcourt and sprinted to the basket for a dunk, prompting Duncan to leap from his seat and shout "atta boy."

"I thought he was a really physical player tonight," Popovich said. "He showed a penchant to stick his nose in and played physically. He was very good in that regard and that's what we've been wanting to see from him."

"He's a smart player, we already know that, but he's got to be able to bang and hit and keep up with a physical game like it was tonight - the way it's going to be in the playoffs."

NCAA investigating Syracuse

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (AP) — Syracuse has been under investigation for possible NCAA violations, mostly in its basketball program, for at least a year, according to two media reports.

CBSports.com, citing an unidentified source, reported Wednesday that the school has received a letter of preliminary inquiry from the NCAA.

The Post-Standard

reported NCAA investigators have been conducting interviews with Syracuse employees and former employees. The newspaper said the investigation includes the handling of former player Fab Melo's academic eligibility.

In 2012, the star center was declared ineligible for the NCAA tournament days before it started.

"Same story they had last year at this time," coach Jim Boeheim said in San Jose, Calif., before the Orange played Montana in their opening game of the NCAA tournament. "I guess that's annual. I guess next year we'll get it again."

Boeheim would not answer any specific questions about the report but said he wasn't bothered by the timing of it on the eve of the tournament.

"We're concerned about playing Montana," he said. "What people write or say, you know, there's 30,000 people in the Dome yelling at me all the time. People yell at their television sets. I tell them I can't hear them, but they still yell at them. There's no distractions for me. And these players, there's absolutely no distractions for them. They're here to play Montana and that's it."

An NCAA spokeswoman declined comment.

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