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THURSDAY

APRIL 11, 2013



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Officials vow cooperation over landfill

Joint effort vital to handle future growth, Duncan says

By **STEVE REAGAN**

Staff Writer

Confrontation is being replaced by communication.

Issues over how to share costs of funding a new municipal landfill, which threatened to turn into a war of words between Big Spring and Howard County officials, have not been resolved, but an encouraging sense of co-

operation was evident following a meeting between representatives of the two entities Wednesday.

Big Spring Mayor Tommy Duncan and County Commissioner John Cline, along with City Councilman Marcus Fernandez, Commissioner Jimmie Long and several city

See **VOW**, Page 3



HERALD photo/Andrea Medlin

Big Spring Mayor Tommy Duncan, left, and Prec. 4 County Commissioner John Cline address the news media after a Tuesday meeting to discuss ways for the city and county to share costs of the new municipal landfill.

'Sleeping Beauty' set tonight, Friday at HC

Herald Staff Report

Howard College Dance Department is completing its season of ballet with an original version of Tchaikovsky's "Sleeping Beauty" tonight and Friday.

Both performances will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Marie Hall Center for the Arts. Tickets can be reserved by calling 432-264-7671 or purchased at the door. Ticket prices are \$5 general admission and \$3 for Howard College faculty, staff and students. Early reservations are encouraged.

The program will also feature the Howard College Dance Troupe.

The entire show will run approximately one hour and is for all ages, Eulaine McIntosh, dance instructor, said. Students of the Howard College dance program will be performing the program as part of their requirements for spring semester dance technique classes.

Conditions prime for grass fires, city fire marshal warns public

By **THOMAS JENKINS**

Staff Writer

For many Big Spring residents, the arrival of spring translates into plenty of yard and lawn work, including mowing, pruning trees and bushes and other activities to prepare for the summer season.

However, many residents will be faced with the prospect of what to do with the leftover trimmings and other waste, a problem which can quickly translate into dangerous situations and work for

local firefighters, according to Big Spring Fire Marshall Carl Condray.

"We just want to remind our citizens as spring rolls around, so does the increased risk of grass and wildfires," Condray said. "We want to take the time to urge an increased level of caution from our citizens when participating in outdoor activities."

"Many people are pruning their trees and clearing overgrowth of dead grass

See **FIRE**, Page 3

OF NOTE:

The Big Spring Fire Department will have the Fire Marshal's Safety Trailer at the Health Fair, from 8 a.m. until noon Saturday at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.



Old Sorehead Trade Days photo

Shoppers fill the streets of downtown Stanton during Trade Days. The event is held three times a year with the first of those to be this Saturday and Sunday. Admission is free.

Trade Days ready for 2013 debut

By **BILL McCLELLAN**

Managing Editor

STANTON — Ready to shop? Get your tennies on because the next Old Sorehead Trade Days is upon us.

The thrice-annual event will make its 2013 debut Saturday and Sunday, with subsequent shows June 8-9 and Oct. 12-13. Admission to the shows is free, but with more than 600 vendors hawking their wares at each show, most people won't leave downtown Stanton without spending some money.

See **TRADE DAYS**, Page 3

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Obituaries

Irva Dean Paul



Irva Dean Paul, 80, of Big Spring passed away Wednesday, April 10, 2013, at Stanton Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 3 p.m. Friday, April 12, 2013, at Myers & Smith Chapel with Ken McMeans, pastor of College Baptist Church, officiating.

Irva was born March 11, 1933, in Coleman, Texas, to Irvin and Ruby Waggon. She graduated from Lawn High School. She lived in Big Spring for most of her life. She was an attendance clerk at Big Spring High School and could be seen working at volleyball, basketball and football games selling tickets.

She enjoyed playing volleyball and basketball, even in her adult years. She enjoyed sewing and playing Bunko. She was a member of College Baptist Church.

She is survived by one daughter, Melissa Oliver of Big Spring; four grandchildren, Jonathon Paul of Big Spring, Jaime McGallian and husband Justin of Abilene and Ariel Oliver and Coy Oliver, both of Forth Worth; six great-grandchildren, Kaden Paul and Carson Paul, both of Big Spring, Kelli Paul, Trinity Tidwell, Killian Line and Gracie McGallian, all of Abilene; a daughter-in-law, Cheryl Paul of Abilene; and a sister, Helen Hoover and husband Mitch of Fort Worth.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Harvey Paul; a son, Michael Paul; and a sister, Norma.

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

Paid obituary

James Richard 'Dick' Conley



James Richard "Dick" Conley, 58, of Big Spring died Wednesday, April 10, 2013, in a local hospital. Memorial services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 13, 2013, at the First Presbyterian Church.

The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Friday, April 12, 2013, at the funeral home.

Dick was born Oct. 15, 1954, in Amarillo, Texas, and married Janie Wooten on July 1, 1978, in Hobbs, N.M.

He is survived by his wife, Janie; two sons, William and Kyle; one brother, Dr. Mike Conley of Bozeman, Mont.; one sister, Judy Conley of El Paso; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, James and Irene Willis and Nelle Conley; his parents, Betty and J.D. Conley; and one sister, Kathy Conley Wilson.

The family suggests memorials be made to the Service Committee at First Presbyterian Church, 701 Runnels, Big Spring, Texas 79720.

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

Reginald 'Reggie' Dawson



Reginald "Reggie" Dawson, 48, of Big Spring died Tuesday, April 9, 2013. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 13, 2013, at Mt. Bethel Baptist Church with Pastor Johnny Ray Baker officiating. Burial will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

Reginald was born Jan. 22, 1965, in Big Spring, Texas, to E.S. (Sam) Dawson and Jo Hazel Dawson. He

graduated from Big Spring High School in 1983 and was a member of Mt. Bethel Baptist Church. Reggie worked at Furr's, Hermans, Safeway and later partnered with his father's janitorial service.

Reggie is survived by his mother, Jo Hazel Dawson a host of relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his father E.S. (Sam) Dawson; his paternal grandparents, Alberta Watkins and Murmon Dawson; his maternal grandparents, Willie V. Williams and the Rev. N.C. Williams; and an uncle.

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

Petra Leos

Petra Leos, 87, of Big Spring died Wednesday, April 10, 2013, at her residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Police blotter

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

- MELINDA MACHADO GAMBOA, 36, of 1200 Dixie, was arrested Wednesday on a warrant from another agency.

- DAVID ADAM MARTINEZ, 28, of 608 Caylor, was arrested Wednesday on charges of fleeing from or attempting to elude police officers and disregarding a stop sign.

- MALORY MARIE LUNA, 22, of 4201 W. Highway 80 Apt. 13, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of hindering officers discharging official duties.

- JOANN HERNANDEZ LOPEZ, 45, of 1512 Wood St., was arrested Wednesday on two warrants from

other agencies.

- ALBERT LYN JORDAN, 44, of Midland, Texas, was arrested Wednesday on warrants for harassment (two counts).

- PETER MANUEL CANDELARIA, 25, of 1600 S. Nolan, was arrested Wednesday on a warrant for possession of a controlled substance.

- MEREDITH GRAY, 33, of Odessa, Texas, was arrested Wednesday on charges of possession of a dangerous drug, possession of drug paraphernalia and use or possession of illegal smoking materials.

- JULIAN BANUELOS, 23, of Odessa, Texas, was arrested Wednesday on a warrant from another agency and a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

- JIMMY JOEY MENDOZA JR., 29, of Odessa, Texas, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

- HAILEY JEWEL CRISWELL, 22, of Odessa, Texas, was arrested Wednesday on a warrant for possession of drug paraphernalia.

- VANESSA DAWN HOLLIS, 39, of Colorado City, Texas, was arrested Wednesday on a warrant from another agency.

- JODY WAYNE DAWDY, 48, of 1501 Sycamore Apt. B, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.

- STOLEN VEHICLE was reported in the 3600 block of W. Highway 80.

- THEFT was reported in the 1300 block of S. Gregg Street.

- BURGLARY OF A BUILDING was reported in the 1000 block of Jeffrey Road.

- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 1500 block of Stadium.

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 92 inmates at the time of this report.

- MALORY MARIE LUNA, 22, was booked into the county detention center Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of hindering officers discharging official duties.

- DAVID ADAM MARTINEZ, 28, was booked into the county detention center Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of fleeing police officer and disregarding stop sign.

- JOANN HERNANDEZ LOPEZ, 45, was booked into the county detention center Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of issuance of a bad check and bondsman off bond — possession of a controlled substance.

- ALBERT LYN JORDAN, 44, was booked into the county detention center Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of harassment (two counts).

- PETER MANUEL CANDELARIA, 25, was booked into the county detention center Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of bondsman off bond — possession of a controlled substance.

- JESSICA ELAINE CARMICHAEL, 31, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on charges of bondsman off bond — theft of service (more than \$20 and less than \$500), bondsman off bond — resisting arrest, search or transportation and municipal

warrants for bondsman off bond — resisting arrest, search or transportation, bondsman off bond — disorderly conduct (vulgar language, bondsman off bond — possession of a controlled substance and municipal capias warrants for running a stop sign, driving while license invalid and failure to maintain financial responsibility.

- JIMMIE JOEY MENDOZA, 29, was booked into the county detention center Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

- HAILEY JEWEL CRISWELL, 22, was booked into the county detention center Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

- JULIAN ORONA BANUELOS, 23, was booked into the county detention center Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and theft of property — more than \$50 and less than \$500.

- MEREDITH MARIE GRAY, 33, was booked into the county detention center Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of possession of a dangerous drug, possession of drug paraphernalia and use or possession of illegal smoking material.

- VANESSA DAWN HOLLIS, 39, was booked into the county detention center Wednesday by the BSPD on a Tom Green County warrant for unauthorized absence from community correctional facility.

- JODY DAWDY, 48, was booked into the county detention center Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

- JEREMY GLEN WILLIAMS, 27, was booked into the county detention center Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.

- JAMES RANDLE GONZALEZ, 28, was booked into the county detention center Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

- DARRICK DEWAYNE MOSLEY, 45, was booked into the county detention center Thursday by the BSPD on an Austin warrant for parole violation.

- ABEL PERALES RODRIGUEZ, 44, was booked into the county detention center Thursday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated — third or more offense.

Fire/EMS

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

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

- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported near the intersection of Birdwell Lane and 15th Street. Service refused.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 400 block of Dallas. One person was transported to SMMC.

- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported near the intersection of N. Service Road and Lamesa Highway. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 2300 block of Wasson Road. Service refused.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 700 block of E. 11th place. One person was transported to SMMC.

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Petra Leos

Petra Leos, 87, of Big Spring died Wednesday, April 10, 2013, at her residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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Courtesy photo

Greater Big Spring Rotary Club honored Trevor Burchett from Forsan High School as the February student of the month. Pictured from left are club president Ken McIntosh, Carey Burchett, Trevor Burchett and Forsan Coach Jason Phillips.

Take Note

- A benefit fund for the April Martinez family, who recently lost everything in a fire, has been set up at Prosperity Bank. Donations can be made to account number 3013914734. Ms. Martinez has four children ages 5 to 12.

- A benefit for Beatrice Jean Armstrong, who has been diagnosed with stage 4 cancer, will be held from 5:50 p.m. to 7:30 Saturday at the Roadhouse, across the street from the Big Spring State Hospital. Dinner is \$10 a plate and includes chicken, brisket and sausage with fixings and dessert. There will be karaoke and other activities. Funds raised will be used for travel and medical expenses.

- Healthy Woman's April event will be "Let's Talk about Feet" following the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Healthy Fair on Saturday. Dr. Robert Hayes will be presenting at 12:30 p.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room. The event is free to the public. Call to reserve your seat at 432-268-4842.

- 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. For more information, contact the county extension office at 432-264-2236.

- 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.

VOW

Continued from Page 1

staffers, met to discuss the potentially divisive issue.

Afterward, Duncan and Cline said no solutions had been reached, but promised further cooperation between the two entities on the landfill and other major issues which will face this area in the coming months and years.

"I believe we had a very productive meeting," Duncan said. "We're ... working together to find solutions that are in the best interest of both the city and the county."

Cline echoed Duncan's encouraging words.

"We made some pretty good strides

today," he said. "The city shared a lot of information with us that will be very helpful."

No concrete agreements came out of Wednesday's meeting, but Duncan said further talks will be held between the city and county in the coming weeks.

"We're starting to come together," the mayor said. "I believe we provided the county with all the information they requested. Now, they'll take that information back and see where they want to go from here and we'll all meet again next week."

The issue over how to share costs of opening and expanding the new landfill had threatened to drive a wedge between the two entities. The city wanted the county to contribute \$1.6 million this year to help with landfill costs, while the county balked at

that idea because no extra money was available in its current budget.

County officials were particularly angered over what they considered an ultimatum from Duncan that if the county didn't share costs, county residents wouldn't be allowed to use the new landfill.

After Wednesday's meeting, however, the talk was all about working together and finding common solutions.

"The goal is for this to be a joint landfill between the city and county," Duncan said. "We are going to be working together on an issue of joint interest to both entities."

Cooperation between the city and county will be of vital importance in the near future as the area braces itself for growth associated with exploration and drilling of shale oil forma-

tions in this area.

"We're anticipating huge growth, and the truth is, we're not prepared for it," Duncan said. "We have infrastructure needs that demand immediate attention. We have to all work together, not just the city and county, but the school districts, the hospital, the college and other agencies as well."

Duncan announced a meeting will be held Monday between representatives of the city, county, Forsan and Coahoma municipal offices, school districts, Howard College and other interested parties to begin laying the groundwork on how this area will handle the expected growth.

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

FIRE

Continued from Page 1

and weeds during this time of year. The Big Spring Fire Department gets an increased number of calls wanting to know if it is OK to burn this waste within the city limits, and the answer is no. This is regardless of whether or not Howard County is under a current burn ban. Open burning and the burning of pruned tree limbs and parts is a violation of the city fire code."

According to Condray, lawn and yard waste should be dropped off at the local composting facility, located at the municipal landfill.

"The landfill has a compost site to receive these types of yard waste and all area residents are encouraged to use the facility," Condray said. "Basically, it is against city code to kindle or maintain an open fire on any public street, alley, road or other public or private ground within the city of Big Spring without a permit from the Fire Marshal's Office. This includes private residences, such as your backyard, as well. Recreational fires, such as campfires, are not exempt from these restrictions, either."

Condray said chiminea-style outdoor fireplaces are allowed in certain areas, however, residents utilizing these

types of fireplaces must rigorously adhere to safety rules.

"Fires in outdoor fireplaces, such as the 'chiminea' style, are allowed in one and two family properties as long as they are at least 15 feet away from a structure, which includes fences or combustible materials," Condray said. "These devices will need to have screens on the chimney and the hearth or front opening to prevent sparks from escaping and starting fires. These fires must be constantly attended and a suitable method of extinguishment must be present at all times until the fire is completely extinguished."

Condray said area

residents who choose to smoke must also be careful to follow safety rules described in the city's Code of Ordinances.

"For our area drivers and pedestrians, it is against the law to discard matches and smoking materials from your person or vehicles, as well as in any manner where they could start a fire," Condray said. "This includes on our streets, alleys and all public right of ways. In addition to the local fire codes, many of the fires mentioned are subject to regulations enforced by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)."

Condray said those who decide to ignore

local codes and laws not only run the risk of starting a fire or damaging property, they could also find themselves on the receiving end of a rather expensive citation.

"All of these codes are to ensure the safety of our community and avoid accidental ignitions," he said. "Fines for violations of the fire code can range up to \$2,000 per incident. Please support the efforts of your local firefighters and law enforcement to keep Big Spring and Howard County safe from the devastation of wildfires. Let's all do our part."

For more information on city fire codes and

other regulations, contact Condray at 432-264-2305.

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

TRADE DAYS

Continued from Page 1

Trade Days Executive Director Shawna Burch said thousands of items will be for sale, including clothing, leather goods, dolls, paintings and prints, candles, novelties, scarves, furniture, birdcages, autographed ball cards and tons of memorabilia.

Hungry? The whole family can get what they want. Mom can have a burger, Dad a turkey leg, Sis a hot dog and Joey a pizza. Mexican food, barbecue, kettle

corn and traditional treats like cotton candy, candied apples, funnel cakes and popcorn will all be available.

An entertainment area is provided for those just wanting to relax and enjoy some music and two pavilions with seating greet weary shoppers and provide needed shade on hot days. Show hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays and noon to 5 p.m. Sundays. Many downtown shops will also be open on show weekends. There is parking nearby and security personnel and EMS on site. For more information,

including vendor requirements and a map, go to www.stantontex.com/tradedays or call 432-756-2006.

Bill McClellan can be reached at 432-263-7331 or editor@bigspringherald.com

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R. J. Knocke, Jr., 87, died Monday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Irva Dean Paul, 80, died Wednesday. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 3 p.m. Friday, April 12, 2013 at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Reginald "Reggie" Dawson, 48, died Tuesday. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 13, 2013 at Mt. Bethel Baptist Church. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

Petra Leos, 87, died Wednesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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-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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Learning lessons the hard way

Many of you knew my wife, Dixie. She was a friend to everyone she knew, or at least wanted to be, and the hardest worker I've ever known. Plus, she had to deal with me.

But this isn't about her or to mourn her death on Jan. 31. God knows I do that enough in private. It's also not about trying to get your sympathy, but to make you aware of some things you might never had thought about in the event of the death of a loved one.



BILL
MCCLELLAN

Here's some of what I am talking about:

My wife and I weren't ones to have a lot of credit cards — one is more than I need, though she would have had a small collection if left to her own desires.

Let me regress a minute. My wife paid most of the bills and therefore most of the accounts (phone, television, electricity, car and home insurance, etc.) were in her name. She usually paid them via the internet. A good while back, she made a list of login names and passwords so that I would have them in case anything should happen to her. (Thinking about her doing that would bring a tear to your eye right now if you were me.)

Unfortunately she had made changes in logins or passwords in some accounts after she made the list. So if I could not get in touch — that's to say if the password would not work — I would call the company or apply online and choose the option that I had forgotten that information. They'd issue a new login or password.

Back on track, now. We had one credit card in the name of a company that is somewhat synonymous with camping because RVing was an activity my wife and I loved to participate in. Dixie wanted the card because it let you build up "points" — old folks, think of S&H Green Stamps — which you could redeem for things like coolers, lawn chairs, tents, sleeping bags, etc.

Anyway, after Dixie died, I wanted to make sure the balance was paid on the account but the password I had was incorrect. So, I called the company and after punching in number after number, finally got a human being on the other end. I told the person my wife had passed away and I wanted to make sure the account was paid up to date. He immediately placed me on hold, came back on the line and proclaimed that the account "was now closed."

I didn't think that was too up-

setting at first, because I hadn't planned on using the account any more. Then I remembered the points, hundreds if not thousands of them, that had never been claimed.

"What about the points?" I asked the guy.

"Well, Sir," he said. "The account is closed."

"I didn't close the account. You did!"

"I'm sorry, Sir. The account is closed."

I decided not to fight this, though I probably should have, but I wasn't in a fighting mood, only angry — and angry too, at the time, over Dixie's death. It was, and still is, hard to comprehend. After all, we were told she had pancreatic cancer in late September and four months later she was gone.

Let's move on.

Lesson learned: Perhaps it's better if you redeem in your chips — or points in this case — before you let the credit card company know the account holder is deceased.

Incidentally, I'm still holding on to one credit card. (Mum's the word.)

Here's another example of what can happen when your significant other passes:

I contacted our wireless phone service provider in mid-February to have my wife's name and phone removed from the account and to have my name put on as the account holder. Instead, the wireless provider created a second account, and walla! charged me various fees on both accounts. I am about to have to pay more as a single individual, on those two accounts, than the McClellan family had to pay in any single month over the past year. And that's despite the fact that my wife was only alive for half a month of that time and never used the phone at all during those two weeks.

The phone provider? They made a big deal on the bill about charging \$170 for an early disconnect fee and then crediting it back "under the circumstances." So benevolent, huh?

And while their computer told them to charge X amount, the whole charade was extremely unethical, in my book. But computers don't have to be ethical. I finally paid her "closed" account off because I got boiling mad every time I thought about it. I had to get the whole thing behind me.

The solution? Well, for sure, check it out first. Contact the company and ask them "what if?" and "what is the best time to?"

Had I simply called my wireless provider and asked them to disconnect a certain phone line (my wife's — she had three under her name but only used one herself), they'd have done so. She would still be listed as the account

holder, but her phone would have been removed and my cost would have gone down, not up.

One more:

Insurance. Specifically vehicle insurance. For Pete's sake, I am so naïve. I was under the delusion that if you took someone off the insurance policy, the cost would drop. No. No. No. No. No. That's people logic and corporations don't use people logic. They use statistical logic. Silly me.

I had one ticket in the past five years; she had one wreck (and a ticket). Somehow, her driving record was better than mine. My insurance went up when I informed the company she had passed away.

The solution: Shoot the insurance agent.

No, sorry, that won't solve anything. There are too many of them out there. One less won't make a difference.

No, what you probably should do is confer with your agent. Or maybe not. At the least, ask the question: "If my spouse is removed from the policy, what would the cost be?" Then go on from there.

I honestly considered calling the insurance company back and saying "false alarm! She just walked in the door!"

No, I didn't do that.

The whole point is, don't dive into things like I did. Ask questions before you act.

Anyway, I am sure many of you have tales like the ones I've just whined about and others have sage advice on how to deal with these issues and others. If so, and you'd like to pass them along, email me at editor@bigspringherald.com. The Herald doesn't publish unsigned letters or rants, and I'm not interested in mentioning the names of any company or individual you feel may have ripped you off, cheated you or whatever.

However, if you want to leave some tips or whatnot, but don't want your name published, I can use it here as "a reader said," but not as a stand-alone letter. You still won't get by with mentioning company or individual's names, though.

Coming up: A rant on my pet peeve — people who type information about their event, fundraiser, engagement, etc. using a computer, then print it off and mail it or carry it to the Herald. Really folks, what's the point? Just email it! It gets here faster and it doesn't have to be retyped. And if you don't know how to use email, learn. It's simple. Quit making excuses.

Bill McClellan is the managing editor of the Big Spring Herald. He can be reached at editor@big-springherald.com

Dr. Politics examines Hillary Clinton

Ask Dr. Politics! You are fair, and I am unbalanced:

Q: Hillary Clinton has 2016 locked up, right?

A: No.

Q: But she is such a favorite she will freeze out potential Democratic opponents!

A: She will not freeze out potential Democratic opponents.

Q: How come?

A: Because she can't. She was the favorite in 2008, too. She had the media coverage and the superstar status and the poll numbers all in her favor. But a guy named Barack Obama came along and ran anyway.

Heck, in 2008 Hillary couldn't freeze out Chris Dodd, Bill Richardson, John Edwards or Joe Biden. They all ran. Plus a bunch of others. The front-runner can always stumble, just like Hillary did.

So don't expect Andrew Cuomo, Martin O'Malley, Deval Patrick, Mark Warner, Antonio Villaraigosa or even Rahm Emanuel to stop thinking about tomorrow.

Q: But Hillary has a stronger resume now than she did in 2008. She was secretary of state for four years.

A: And Joe Biden will have been vice president for eight years as well as having been a U.S. senator for 36 years.

Q: Joe Biden! He's too old to run in 2016.

A: Maybe, maybe not. True, he would be 74 on Jan. 20, 2017, which would make him the oldest president to take the oath of office. But Hillary would be 69, as was Ronald Reagan, who is the oldest president ever to be sworn in. And Biden doesn't project old.

Q: Hillary will lock up all the money.

A: Hillary won't lock up all the money. Nobody can anymore. Even if you have a large number of bundlers — and she would — the Internet levels the playing field. The Internet is the greatest fundraising tool since the invention of moonshine. A candidate can raise millions and millions in a short amount of time. Ask Ron Paul.

Q: But he lost. You need more than money. You need organization! Like Hillary had in 2008.

A: Hillary had a lousy organization in 2008. She chose her staffers for their personal loyalty rather than their skill or experience. (If you would

like to read my somewhat endless six-part analysis of it, go here: <http://goo.gl/61FnG>)

Q: So what?

A: So Obama cleaned her clock, that's what. His staff knew how to amass delegates; her staff did not.

Q: Ancient history. She has been tested.

A: She will face new tests.

Q: Like what?

A: Like how good a job she really did as secretary of state. Both her Democratic and Republican opponents will ask what success she had in advancing peace between the Palestinians and the Israelis. Or what success she had in Syria or Iran or North Korea.

And do you really think her opponents will leave Benghazi alone?

Q: That would be terribly unfair.

A: And unfair never happens in politics, right? Besides, how do you know she wants to run for president?

Q: Why wouldn't she?

A: Did she really enjoy it in 2008? The press pack yapping at her heels. The constant demands for her to show her more personal side. The endless scrutiny of every word, every slip-up, every gaffe. It's not a fun thing.

Q: So she won't run?

A: No, she might run. I really doubt if she has decided. There will be huge

pressure from the party for her to run. Many Democratic sages tell her that if she doesn't run, a Republican is sure to win the presidency in 2016.

Q: And she can't resist that?

A: No, she can resist that. A number of Democratic sages told her the same thing in 2008 and then switched their support to Obama. What she may be unable to resist is the call of history, those who urge her to run to break the glass ceiling and to be an inspiration to future generations.

Q: And that would do it?

A: Not entirely. She would also have to believe she would make a good president.

Q: Would she?

A: I think so. But others might make good presidents, too. And it's a long time until 2016.

Q: Well, I just hope the media show a little restraint.

A: Right. Because we do restraint really well.

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ROGER
SIMON

News in brief

GOP plan uses \$6B from Rainy Day Fund

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Once loath to even touch the massive cash reserves in the state's Rainy Day Fund, the Republican-controlled Texas Legislature now appears ready to make a big grab.

Texas voters would be asked to authorize taking \$6 billion from the Rainy Day Fund — roughly half its projected balance — to pay for water and road projects under a new Senate plan that was scheduled to be unveiled Thursday. It stands out among the biggest proposals in recent years from a politically volatile emergency piggybank that GOP leaders have long safeguarded, leaving Democrats often fuming.

A bill by Republican state Sen. Tommy Williams, the chief budget-writer in the Senate, earmarks \$2.5 billion for water projects and \$3.5 billion to improve deteriorating and congested highways.

Voters would have to approve both measures with constitutional amendments in November.

The Senate Finance Committee, which is chaired by Williams, posted a schedule for Thursday morning that includes taking up the measure known as Senate Joint Resolution 1. The Associated Press obtained a copy of the proposal late Wednesday.

The price tag is by far the most money the Legislature has suggested taking from the stockpile of excess oil and gas tax receipts this session. The fund balance had been expected to grow to nearly \$12 billion if left unspent.

In his State of the State speech in January, Gov. Rick Perry proposed using \$3.7 billion from the fund for infrastructure.

Perry and other state leaders have been staunchly opposed in recent years to use the fund — including in 2011 when the state faced a \$27 billion shortfall. Lawmakers wound up slashing \$5.4 billion from public schools, leading teachers and Democrats to criticize Perry and top Republican for not using the fund to avert those cuts.

Republicans have argued that the fund was created for one-time expenses and natural disasters, and not recurring costs such as school funding. Calls to restore money to school districts by tapping the fund have persisted even into this session.

House committee mulls abortion ban after 20 weeks

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A proposal to ban abortions in Texas after 20 weeks reignited long-simmering tensions Wednesday night as conservatives in the Legislature sought a first step toward joining other states pushing to narrow the legal window for terminating pregnancies.

At least 10 states have passed bills outlawing abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy on the disputed premise that a fetus can feel pain at that stage. Judges have struck down or temporarily blocked the law in several states, but Texas Gov. Rick Perry and other top state Republicans remain undeterred.

The bill's sponsor, Rep. Jodie Laubenberg, told members of the House State Affairs Committee that technological breakthroughs now provide "anatomical, behavioral and physiological evidence that a developing, unborn child is capable of feeling pain" if a woman waits too long to have an abortion.

"There's technology that we have now that we know more about the development, the feelings, of that unborn child," Laubenberg said. "We have an opportunity to make better decisions, not only about the child but the woman."

Her measure would make doctors who perform the procedure after 20 weeks subject to losing their medical license, the same penalty those who perform abortions after 28 weeks can face under current law.

The first public hearing on Laubenberg's proposal drew a crowd of passionate and at times testy activists on both sides of the issue to testify before the committee long into the evening.

"I believe this bill is a critical step in the protection of vulnerable citizens who have no voice," said Patrick Nunnally, an Austin obstetrician who said studies have shown that after 20 weeks, fetuses have developed a partial nervous system that allows them to feel pain.

Texas college knife attack suspect to be in court

HOUSTON (AP) — A man accused of stabbing more than a dozen people at a Houston-area college is set to make his first court appearance since being charged in the attack.

Dylan Quick was to be in a Houston courtroom Thursday morning.

The 20-year-old is charged with three counts of aggravated assault in the Tuesday attack at Lone Star Community College in Cypress.

Harris County Sheriff Adria Garcia said Wednesday that Quick told authorities he had fantasized about stabbing people since he was 8 years old.

Officials say 14 people were wounded; all are expected to survive.

Garcia says Quick indicated he had been planning the attack for some time. Garcia says authorities are still trying to determine a reason for the attack and that the investigation is ongoing.

About 2K mail items burn in Corpus Christi fire

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (AP) — Investigators say as many as 2,000 pieces of mail have been damaged or destroyed in an apparent electrical fire that burned a South Texas post office.

Corpus Christi Fire Department officials say nobody was hurt in the accidental blaze and the building likely will have to be demolished.

Capt. James Brown says the fire appears to have been electrical in nature and started near an appliance.

U.S. Postal Service spokesman Sam Bolen says about half of the 800 individual mail boxes were damaged in Tuesday night's blaze. The fire in the Annville neighborhood affected mail in the 78460 Zip code. Workers have been sorting through damaged mail and rerouting items to an alternate post office.

The Postal Service doesn't cover losses for destroyed mail unless the parcel was insured.

Millionaire Marsh awaits word on assault charges

AMARILLO, Texas (AP) — Eccentric millionaire artist Stanley Marsh 3 is awaiting a Texas grand jury's decision on whether he will be indicted on sex assault charges.

Special prosecutor Matt Powell says the Potter County panel will likely announce its decision Thursday.

The 75-year-old Marsh is accused of molesting a 15-year-old boy and a 16-year-old boy in 2010. He faces a possible 11 felony counts.

Marsh turned himself in after an arrest warrant was issued in November alleging six counts of sexual assault and five counts of sexual performance by a child.

He's been free on bail since then. If convicted, Marsh faces up to 20 years in prison per count. His attorneys have denied the allegations.

In February, Marsh settled lawsuits from teenagers accusing him of paying them for sex.

11 indicted in Texas cocaine distribution ring

BEAUMONT, Texas (AP) — Federal prosecutors in East Texas say 11 people have been indicted in a cocaine distribution ring allegedly operating for nearly 20 years.

An indictment unsealed Wednesday in Beaumont charge 10 suspects from Texas and one from Georgia with conspiracy to distribute cocaine. An earlier indictment also charges eight of the defendants with conspiracy to launder money.

Investigators say some members of the alleged drug ring have operated since 1995 and conspired to distribute cocaine.

The Texas defendants are from Spring, Houston, Tomball, Roma, McAllen, Hockley and Austin. One man is from Atlanta, Ga. Investigators say arrests began Wednesday and several suspects remain at large.

Texas inmate allegedly mailed threatening letters

DALLAS (AP) — A Texas prison system inmate has been charged with sending threatening letters to law officers prosecuting alleged members of a white supremacist gang.

Authorities say the hoax letters drew resources away from investigations such as the recent slaying of Kaufman County District Attorney Mike McLelland and his wife, plus the Jan. 31 killing of assistant DA Mark Hasse (HA'-see).

A federal grand jury in Dallas on Wednesday indicted Jesse Brister of Conroe on two counts of mailing threatening letters to law enforcement. Brister remains in the Telford Unit serving time for fraud.

Brister in late March allegedly mailed letters to the U.S. attorney's office in Dallas threatening retaliation for prosecution of Aryan Brotherhood members. The gang was targeted by a task force that included the Kaufman County district attorney's office.

1 dead in Dallas apartment fire, 3 escape

DALLAS (AP) — One man has died in a Dallas apartment fire but three people survived after trying sheets together and climbing from a second-floor balcony.

Dallas Fire-Rescue spokesman Jason Evans says a 4-year-old boy smelled smoke early Thursday and woke his mother and father. The parents and the boy escaped unharmed.

Evans says a man who was also in the apartment died at the scene. His name wasn't immediately released.

Investigators are trying to determine what started the blaze. Further details weren't immediately available.

Man convicted in Texas university bomb hoax

HOUSTON (AP) — A federal jury has convicted a man in a Texas State University bomb hoax.

A Justice Department statement says 22-year-old Dereon Tayronne Kelley of Bryan is guilty of three counts of using the Internet to make a false bomb threat. Sentencing in federal court in Houston is scheduled for next month. Kelley could receive up to 10 years in prison and a fine up to \$250,000.

Trial evidence showed Kelley hacked into the email account of his ex-girlfriend, a former student at the university in San Marcos, 30 miles south of Austin. He used that account to send threatening emails to the university's admissions office.

The ex-girlfriend was initially charged with making the threats, but the case against her was dropped after prosecutors traced the Oct. 18 threats to Kelley.

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Sudoku Answer on Page 12

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.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Afterthoughts Don't Count

North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ A K Q 5
♥ J 4
♦ Q J
♣ A K 10 8 6

WEST
♠ 7 4
♥ Q 10 9 7
♦ K 9 7 6 5
♣ 4 2

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

SOUTH
♠ 10 8 2
♥ A K 8 6 3 2
♦ A 3
♣ Q 5

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♥ Pass
4 ♠ Pass 6 ♥ Pass
Opening lead — seven of spades.

The test of a fine player is his ability to handle a difficult challenge on the spot rather than judging him by how well he analyzes the situation later on. Consider this deal where West leads a spade against six hearts. Dummy wins with the queen, and if declarer now plays the A-K of trumps, hoping for a 3-2 trump division, he goes down one.

Instead, let's assume that South,

who's been to the wars before, decides to protect against a possible 4-1 trump division by crossing to the queen of clubs at trick two in order to lead a low heart toward dummy's J-4.

This works out very nicely when West goes up with the queen and leads another spade. South wins with dummy's king, cashes the jack of trumps, leads the queen of diamonds to his ace, draws trumps and claims the rest of the tricks and his slam.

West goes home bemoaning his ill fortune because South played so well to hold himself to one trump loser. But later that night, West suddenly realizes that he could have defeated the slam.

All he had to do, after winning South's trump lead with the queen at trick three, was to return the king of diamonds! South would then have found it impossible to score 12 tricks.

He could take the diamond king with the ace and cash the jack of hearts and queen of diamonds, but after doing so he would not have been able to exit the dummy without allowing West to score a second trump trick.

Unfortunately, West's king-of-diamonds play came a few hours too late.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.
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News in brief

As world awaits North Korea missile test, Pyongyang calmly celebrates Kim anniversaries

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — As neighboring nations kept a close eye on missile movements in North Korea, people in the country's capital began celebrating a series of April holidays, including the anniversary Thursday of their leader's appointment as head of the ruling Worker's Party.

Bracing for what South Korea's foreign minister warned could be a test-fire of a medium-range missile, Seoul deployed three naval destroyers, an early warning surveillance aircraft and a land-based radar system, a Defense Ministry official said in Seoul, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with department rules.

Japan has deployed PAC-3 missile interceptors in key locations around Tokyo, while the South Korean and U.S. militaries raised their level of surveillance.

"North Korea has been, with its bellicose rhetoric, with its actions ... skating very close to a dangerous line," U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said in Washington. "Their actions and their words have not helped defuse a combustible situation."

North Korea is believed to be readying a missile dubbed the "Musudan," named after the village where a northeastern launch pad is based. The missile has a range of 3,500 kilometers (2,180 miles), and is designed to reach U.S. military installments in Guam and Japan, experts say.

Senate ready to topple conservative blockade, debate new curbs on guns as NRA promises fight

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate is ready to launch an emotion-charged debate on new gun restrictions, four months after the carnage at a Connecticut elementary school spurred President Barack Obama and Congress to address firearms violence.

In an opening showdown Thursday, senators were scheduled to vote on an attempt by conservatives to scuttle the Democratic bill before debate even started. There were no real doubts the conservatives would be defeated and lawmakers would turn to the legislation, which would expand background checks to more gun buyers, toughen penalties against illicit firearms sales and offer slightly more money for school security.

The roll call was coming a day after two leading conservatives, Sens. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., and Patrick Toomey, R-Pa., unveiled a compromise to extend required federal background checks to gun shows and on-line transactions. Only noncommercial, personal transactions would be exempted.

That deal was expected to give gun control forces an initial burst of momentum as debate begins. But the National Rifle Association, along with many Republicans and some moderate Democrats, opposes fresh gun curbs as going too far, and the road to congressional approval of major restrictions remains rocky.

"Those two leaders stepping up is a very good way to start," said Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., who is seeking re-election next year and has stressed her support for both the right to bear arms and reducing gun bloodshed. "How it ends, I don't know."

Critics say Obama budget breaks campaign promises on Social Security cuts and tax increases

WASHINGTON (AP) — Advocates for seniors say President Barack Obama is breaking his promise to protect Social Security, while conservatives say he is breaking his promise not to raise taxes on the middle class.

Obama's budget proposal includes a mix of tax increases and benefit cuts in an effort to reduce government borrowing and spark the still-fragile economy. Obama says it is the kind of balanced approach that is necessary to tame runaway budget deficits.

But advocates from across the political spectrum are reminding the president of his past campaign promises.

"Clearly it will be up to members of Congress to set fiscal priorities that actually represent the needs of the average citizens they were elected to represent," said Max Richtman, head of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare. "The president's budget is not the balanced plan promised to Americans before November's election."

Obama's budget blueprint would increase taxes by \$1 trillion over the next decade. Most of the tax increases would target wealthy households and corporations, though some, including a tax increase on cigarettes, would hit low- and middle-income families, too.

Airlines are improving the airport experience for VIPs and passengers willing to pay extra

NEW YORK (AP) — Cutting lines at airports used to be only for the rich, famous or very frequent fliers. But then airlines started granting fast-track access to anybody with the right credit card or who was willing to shell out a few extra dollars.

Now, with the masses clogging up special security and boarding lanes, true VIPs are saying: Get me away from this chaos. And the airlines are listening.

Just as they've made first class more enjoyable with

new seats, tastier meals and bigger TVs, airlines are focusing on easing the misery of airports for their highest-paying customers and giving them a truly elite experience.

At a growing number of airports, special agents will meet these celebrities, high-powered executives and wealthy vacationers at the curb and will privately escort them from check-in to security to boarding.

American Airlines built a private check-in lobby in Los Angeles for VIPs who are greeted by name, given preprinted boarding passes and then whisked by elevator to the front of the security line.

Ga. gunman holding firefighters hostage shot dead; hostages 'relieved' ordeal is over

SUWANEE, Ga. (AP) — It's a call that firefighters routinely respond to — a report of a medical emergency.

But when five firefighters answered one in a neighborhood north of Atlanta on Wednesday afternoon, authorities said, they encountered an armed man who demanded that his cable and power be turned back on at the house, which was in foreclosure.

The firefighters were held for hours, with one firefighter allowed to leave to move a fire truck. But with police later fearing the remaining firefighters were in immediate danger, SWAT teams set off a stun blast and stormed the house, and the gunman was shot dead during an exchange of gunfire, authorities said.

One SWAT team member was shot in the hand or arm but was OK afterward, and firefighters suffered only minor injuries, authorities said.

Gwinnett County police on Wednesday night didn't immediately release the name of the dead man or discussing details of the operation. However, the firefighters and a wounded police officer were treated at a nearby hospital and in good condition. Some had already gone home.

Human Rights Watch says Syrian fighter jets have killed 4,300 people since July

BEIRUT (AP) — The Syrian regime has carried out indiscriminate and sometimes deliberate airstrikes against civilians that have killed at least 4,300 people since last summer and that amount to war crimes, an international human rights group said Thursday.

Human Rights Watch said Syrian fighter jets have deliberately targeted bakeries, breadlines and hospitals in the country's northern region.

Parts of northern Syria — especially areas along the border with Turkey — have in the past months fallen under the control of rebels fighting to topple President Bashar Assad, including several neighborhoods of the northern city of Aleppo, the country's largest urban center.

"The aim of the airstrikes appears to be to terrorize civilians from the air, particularly in the opposition-controlled areas where they would otherwise be fairly safe from any effects of fighting," Ole Solvang of the New York-based group told The Associated Press.

These attacks are "serious violations of international humanitarian law," and people who commit such breaches are "responsible for war crimes," the New York-based group said.

In an increasingly connected society, China confronts new bird flu with greater openness

SHANGHAI (AP) — After a new and lethal strain of bird flu emerged in Shanghai two weeks ago, the government of China's bustling financial capital responded with live updates on a Twitter-like microblog. It's a starkly different approach than a decade ago, when Chinese officials silenced reporting as a deadly pneumonia later known as SARS killed dozens in the south.

The contrast shows a new, though still evolving, openness in China that was learned from the SARS debacle, which devastated the government's credibility at home and abroad. It also reflects the demands of a more prosperous and educated citizenry for information and its use of social media to get it.

"Publicize information to prevent 'bird flu panic,'" read a headline of a recent front-page commentary in the People's Daily, the ruling Communist Party's newspaper, that urged government departments to release information quickly about an outbreak that has killed nine and sickened 24 others.

Though some microbloggers and media are questioning why it took a couple of weeks after the first deaths for authorities to announce the new strain of bird flu, international health experts have broadly praised China's response.

The government has said that it takes time for scientists to identify the virus and that such a finding had to be put through several layers of verification before being announced.

The new openness is thanks in part to people like Li Tiantian, founder of Dingxiangyuan, an online medical network popular with Chinese health care workers. His microblog is among a number of sites that have been tracking the government's response to the new bird flu. "It's evident that the strength of social media can pressure the government to be more open, more transparent," he said from his base in the eastern city of Hangzhou.

Couple who kidnapped kids in court

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — The Florida parents charged with kidnapping their boys after losing custody and fleeing to Cuba by sailboat are facing a judge for the first time since they were forcibly returned from the island nation.

Joshua and Sharyn Hakken were scheduled for their first appearance in court Thursday on charges of kidnapping, child neglect, false imprisonment, burglary and interference with custody.

Four-year-old Cole and 2-year-old Chase are now with their maternal grandparents, who have legal custody and from whom the children were taken last week. They planned to talk about the ordeal publicly later Thursday morning.

Joshua and Sharyn Hakken arrived with their sons in Florida early Wednesday, accompanied by federal, state and local authorities after being handed over by Cuban officials.

Friends of the couple say they seemed to have a charmed life, doting on their two young boys, buying a comfortable home and building successful careers as engineers. It all derailed last year when police in Louisiana found the family inside a hotel room with drugs, weapons and promises from the parents to take "a journey to the Armageddon."

"This is a train that went completely off the tracks, and I don't have any explanation for how it can go off the track that badly basically in a year and a half. It's very bizarre," said Darrell Hanecki, who employed Sharyn Hakken for nearly a decade at Hanecki Consulting Engineers.

Hanecki said she was an easygoing and relaxed employee who worked from the home they owned in sunny Tampa, Fla., so she could spend more time with the kids. She brought the boys into the office a few times to show them off to her colleagues.

"The kids were really well-behaved. From everything I could tell, she was a great mom. Her kids were definitely her priority," Hanecki said.

He said Sharyn Hakken was pragmatic and responsible, graduating from the University of South Florida in 2008. She occasionally gave advice to Hanecki's daughter, an aspiring engineer, and encouraged her to stay in school and finish her degree.

She resigned in 2011, saying it was too difficult to juggle work with caring for an infant and toddler.

Sharyn Hakken's husband, Joshua, also seemed to show few signs of trouble. He attended the U.S. Air Force Academy from 1996 to 1998 but did not graduate, according to academy spokesman Sgt. Vann Miller, who declined to provide further details.

Joshua Hakken also worked as an engineer, employed at one point by Hahn Engineering, Inc. A woman who answered the company's phone Wednesday declined comment. Last year, the couple started their own company, listing Sharyn as president and Joshua as vice president.

Then, last year, police in Louisiana came upon a disturbing scene in a hotel room: The Hakkens were inside with drugs and weapons, talking about "completing their ultimate journey" and saying they were traveling across the country to "take a journey to the Armageddon," Daniel Seuzeneau, a spokesman for Slidell Police, said in a news release. Their two children were in the room at the time.

After that arrest, the Hakkens lost custody of the boys, who were initially sent to a foster home. Authorities say Joshua Hakken tried and failed to kidnap them at gunpoint from the home.

Last week, the boys' maternal grandparents were granted custody. That's when police say Joshua Hakken broke into the home, tied up his mother-in-law, took the children and eventually set sail for Cuba. Federal, state and local authorities searched by air and sea for the sailboat Joshua Hakken had recently purchased. They were found in Cuba, thanks to a crucial tip from the person who sold the boat to Hakken.

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

Justin Anderson competes in bull riding during the Howard College Rodeo last year. This year's rodeo begins today at the rodeo bowl in Big Spring and will continue through Saturday. Admission is free and the public is welcome.

HC Rodeo kicks off today

Special to the Herald

Let's rodeo!
Howard College will be hosting their annual rodeo at the Big Spring rodeo bowl.

The opening events begin today at 5 p.m. with the first slack go-round and then continue with slack Friday morning at 9am.

The first performance will be held Friday at 7 p.m..

Saturday promises to be a great day full of excitement as the slack kicks off at 9 a.m. with the final performance set for 7 p.m.

Student athletes from all across Texas and New Mexico will be coming to town as part of the Southwest Region of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association spring season and they are ready to bring you some of the best rodeo action you will see anywhere.

Admission is free and concessions will be available so bring the whole family.

Event times:

- Today — 5pm.
- Friday — 9am & 7pm.
- Saturday — 9am & 7pm.

Frisbees will fly: West Texas Disc Golf Champions tourney begins Saturday



HERALD photo/Brian McCormack

A disc golfer warms up before last year's fall tournament at Birdwell Park. The spring tournament — West Texas Disc Golf Champions — will be held Saturday at Comanche Trail Park.

By BRIAN MCCORMACK

Sports Editor

Disc golfers of all ages and skill levels will descend on Big Spring for a weekend of fun at Comanche Trail Park, as the annual West Texas Disc Golf Champions tournament is set to begin.

The tournament is one of two major disc golf events of the year and will attract more than 100 participants, according to Greg Brooks, tourney coordinator and owner of Blum's Jewelers.

There are 144 slots open, but many have already been filled. Registration is a first come, first serve basis.

Though the popularity of disc golf has grown in Howard County — Brooks estimates anywhere from 10-20 percent of the players are area residents — most of the entrants will be traveling from elsewhere, which means local businesses benefit from the influx of disc golf enthusiasts.

"They definitely patron-

ize area businesses," Brooks said. "I don't know how many of them stay in hotels — they are probably filled up and they are probably quite expensive, but we have people coming in from all over. One couple is from Colorado Springs, Colo. We have some from Tuscola, Cedar Park, Lubbock, San Angelo, Abilene, Midland and Odessa. Those are some of the places they will come from."

Brooks gives each player a package which includes a T-shirt and a disc. The players, he said, enjoy the unique atmosphere of the Big Spring disc golf courses.

"Our courses are different than most other courses in West Texas," Brooks explained. "The trees, the elevation change — there's some kind of topographical break here in the ground. There's deserts to the west, plains that way, rolling hills this way — so it's kind of different here. There's not a park like Comanche Trail in this area. There are some courses like this in

East Texas, but not in West Texas.

The WTDGC tournament — as well as the DiscOver Big Spring tourney held each fall — are both sanctioned by the Professional Disc Golf Association.

One of the attractions to disc golf is its leisurely nature, but it can get as competitive as any other sport.

"You can take your wife, your kids and your dog — as long as it's on a leash — and just go walk in the park," Brooks said. "Anyone can do it. It's a good, passive way to get some exercise, but it also gets your heart rate up."

Brooks stressed that just about anyone is welcome to try their hand at the sport. He plans to have nine divisions broken up by skill level, as well as age groups.

"There are protected divisions," Brooks said. "The Junior Division is for 16 and

See **TOURNEY**, Page 12

Local Sports Calendar

TODAY

Track

- Big Spring at District 4-3A meet, Snyder.
- Forsan at District 1A meet, Seagraves

Rodeo

- Howard College Rodeo (through Saturday), Big Spring rodeo bowl, 5 p.m.

FRIDAY

Baseball

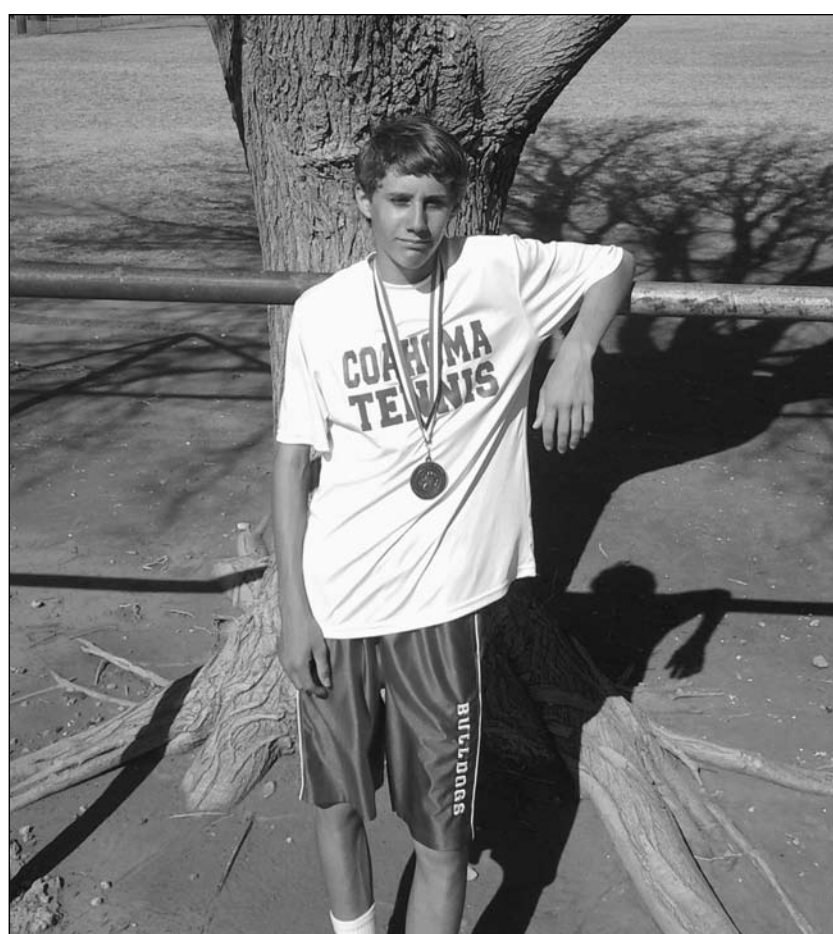
- Big Spring at Sweetwater, 7 p.m.
- El Paso Community College at Howard College (four games, through Saturday), Jack Barber Field, noon.

Softball

- Big Spring at Sweetwater, 5 p.m.
- Rotan at Forsan, 5 p.m.
- Howard College at Luna College, Luna, N.M., (four games, through Saturday), 1 p.m. & 3 p.m. (MST).

Track

- Coahoma at District 4-2A meet, Denver City.



Courtesy photo

Coahoma's Josh Dean finished in second place at the District 4-2A tennis meet. Dean defeated Castillo of Brownfield (6-3, 6-2) (6-4, 6-4) and Chavez of Stanton before losing to Lindsey of Brownfield (1-6, 5-7). Dean advances to the regional meet in Odessa on Wednesday. Coahoma's Rylie Jacobs placed fourth at the district meet.

District 4-2A golf tourney results

Boy's team results:

- 1st — Denver City, 701.
- 2nd — Stanton, 712.
- 3rd — Lamesa, 793.
- 4th — Coahoma, 797.
- 5th — Brownfield, 812.

Girl's team results:

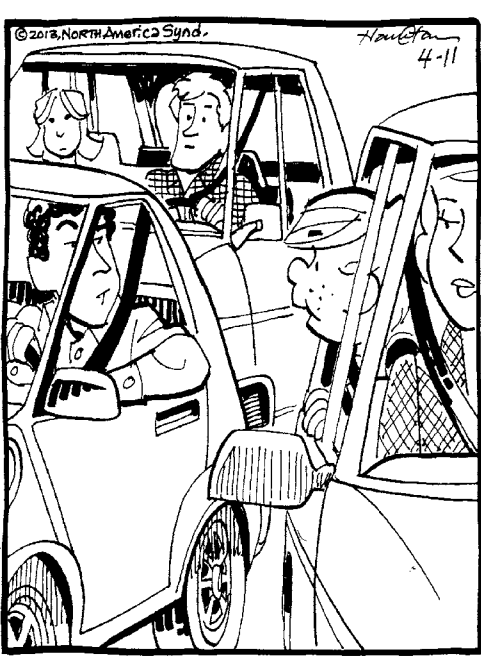
- 1st — Lamesa, 772.
- 2nd — Stanton, 878.
- 3rd — Denver City, 1009.
- 5th — Brownfield, 1038.

Individual Results (boys):

Coahoma: Colton Ver-Steeg, 8th place overall, regional qualifier; Namen McCullough, tied for 12th place overall.

Table with 29 columns (KMID, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLE, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, KWTT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN) and 24 rows of program listings.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"HEY, MISTER! IS THAT A REAL CAR?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

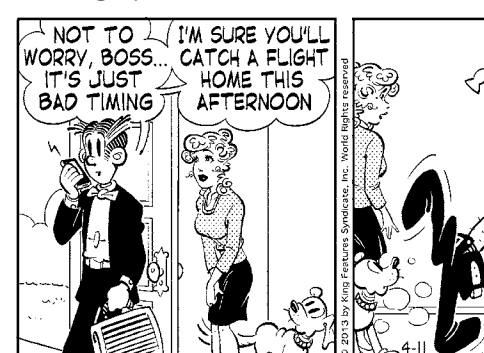


"Okay, so what number can we both be happy with?"

HAGAR



BLONDIE



BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



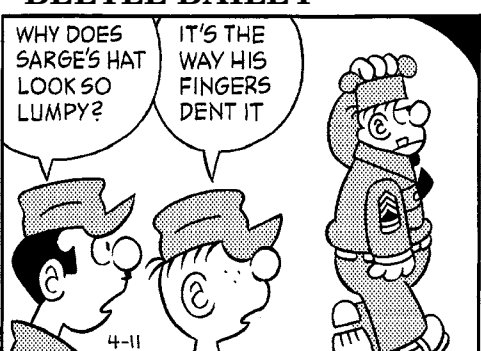
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



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This Date In History

Today is Thursday, April 11, the 101st day of 2013. There are 264 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On April 11, 1913, Postmaster General Albert S. Bursleson, during a meeting of President Woodrow Wilson's Cabinet, proposed gradually segregating whites and blacks who worked for the Railway Mail Service...

the notorious Nazi concentration camp

Buchenwald in Germany. In 1951, President Harry S. Truman relieved Gen. Douglas MacArthur of his commands in the Far East. In 1953, Oveta Culp Hobby became the first Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare. In 1963, Pope John XXIII issued his final encyclical, 'Pacem in Terris' - 'Peace on Earth'.

Douglas best actor for 'Wall Street.'

Today's Birthdays: Ethel Kennedy is 85. Actor Joel Grey is 81. Actress Louise Lasser is 74. Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Ellen Goodman is 72. Movie writer-director John Milius is 69. Actor Peter Riegert is 66. Actor Meshach Taylor is 66. Movie director Carl Franklin is 64. Actor Bill Irwin is 63. Country singer-songwriter Jim Lauderdale is 56. Songwriter-producer Daryl Simmons is 56. Rock musician Nigel Pulsford is 52. Actor Lucky Vanous is 52. Country singer Steve Azar is 49. Singer Lisa Stansfield is 47. Rock musician Dylan Keefe (Marcy Playground) is 43.

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS 1 Doe's daughter 5 Bar mixer 9 Paperhanger's need 14 Cavern comeback 15 Positive factor 16 Strand during winter 17 Matt Damon film of '06 20 Cedar Rapids college 21 Arduous journey 22 Hershey Foods brand 23 Cell-phone carrier 25 Yucky stuff 26 Part of UNLV 27 Yucky stuff 28 Pop-top's place 31 Proverbial backbreaker 34 Top the cast 35 Pizazz 36 Tatum O'Neal film of '76 39 Accelerator particles 40 Kanye West tunes 41 Monk's home 42 Dull routine 43 Many Christmas trees 44 Male sib 45 Ramble around 46 Crowd-scene role 50 Off the boat 53 Estimate phrase 54 Offer, as odds 55 Andersen fairy tale

CALLING CLINT by Fred Piscop

- 12 Get winded 13 Reaches the coda 18 Canadian Mint locale 19 Miscues 24 Meat-loaf servings 25 Parts of some hammers 27 How-to listings 28 Seafood salad ingredient 29 Suffix for zillion 30 Too curious 31 Homogenize, perhaps 32 10 C-notes 33 Lessee's payment 34 Entangle

Answer to previous puzzle crossword grid with words like TCBY, OMAN, NAVEL, WORE, HELI, EXILE, ICES, IMAC, ALIKE, ROWED, TOSHORE, LASSOS, ELM, TSP, TYPO, DILATE, CHAT, OATS, SABER, RODE, OUTTHESTORM, ABACK, SEEM, EONS, TOPHAT, RAPS, EST, YEA, EIFFEL, ROADWARRIORS, LASIKA, HALO, NANA, AGITA, ODOR, EMIT, MONEY, CEES, DYES.

Crossword grid with numbers 1-63 indicating starting points for words.



Courtesy photo

The Coahoma junior varsity tennis squad recently earned medals at the district meet. Medalists included (from left): McClayne Holgerson, Marissa Ramirez, Hannah Hobdy, Hunter Lowery, Bailee Grant, Christopher McPherson, Linsey Jones and Meagan Hurst.

Local briefs

West Texas Disc Golf Champions tourney Saturday

The first major disc golf tournament of the year will be held next weekend at Comanche Trail Park.

Random draw doubles will begin Friday at 4 p.m., with registration for the singles tourney opening Saturday at 8 a.m.

A limited amount of openings are available. First come, first serve.

For more information, call 528-5076.

Big Spring Country Club beginning Saturday, April 27 and continuing through Sunday, April 28.

It will be a four-person scramble format. Form your own team or be assigned.

Field is flighted by first round scores. Prizes will be awarded for longest drive and closest to the pin. First through third place will receive BSCC Golf Shop gift certificates.

Entry fee is \$80 per person plus a \$26 cart fee. Private carts are welcome.

For more information, contact BSCC at 267-5354.

Chubby Abrego Scholarship Fund tournament planned

The Comanche Trail Golf Course will host the Chubby Abrego Scholarship Fund golf tournament April 27.

The proceeds benefit Coahoma High School student-athletes.

It will be a four-person scramble format with an 8 a.m. shotgun start. Cost is \$70 per person. Mulligan packages (4) are available for \$20.

A meal is included and prizes will be awarded.

For more information contact Delloyd Hooser at 816-9051, Gene Piercefield at 816-1134 or Rocky McCullough at 213-4868.

Guys & Girls Scramble slated for May

The Big Spring Country Club will host a Guys & Girls Scramble from Saturday, May 4 through Sunday, May 5.

There will be a shotgun start at 1 p.m. both days.

Lunch will be served Saturday and appetizers will be served at the conclusion of the event Sunday.

Field will be flighted according to first round scores, while the number of flights will be determined by entry.

Entry fee is \$150 per team plus cart fees.

For more information, contact the Pro Shop at 267-5354.

Big Spring Country Club to host 2013 Cancer Scramble

A tournament benefiting the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life will be held at the

with golfers meeting at the Dora Roberts Community Center ballroom at Comanche Trail Park for registration from 8-9 a.m.

"We do the random draw doubles for fun," Brooks added. "We just try to get them in town a day early. You draw a card and that's your partner."

For more information about the tournament or to learn more about the disc golf leagues in Big Spring, call 528-5076.

sudoku

ANSWERS

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Rays top Rangers on cold day

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — When Ben Zobrist caught a flyball in deep right field, Tampa Bay manager Joe Maddon was more concerned about the runner who was going to third base.

Zobrist instead made a perfect throw to home plate for a double play

to end the Texas eighth inning, and the Rays held on for a 2-0 victory Wednesday, winning the finale of what had been a difficult three-game series in Texas.

Matt Moore (2-0) combined with four relievers on a five-hitter and the Rays got their only runs on a fielder's choice grounder by Zobrist and a sacrifice fly by Evan Longoria to win the coldest day game ever at Rangers Ballpark.

It was only 39 degrees when the game started after a rain delay of 1 hour, 29 minutes. That was 40 degrees colder than Tuesday night.

Texas had runners at second and third with one out in the eighth when pinch-hitter Leo-

nys Martin hit the fly to right. Adrian Beltre tagged up from third base, and David Murphy was ready to advance from second.

Texas, which had won six of seven since its season-opening loss at Houston, also appeared to have a run in the sixth. Mitch Moreland, the third batter after Moore left the game, beat out an inning-ending double-play grounder.

Moreland had already been signaled safe and Nelson Cruz had crossed home plate when interference was called against Jeff Baker at second.

That inning-ending play was much different than the game-ending strike Monday night.

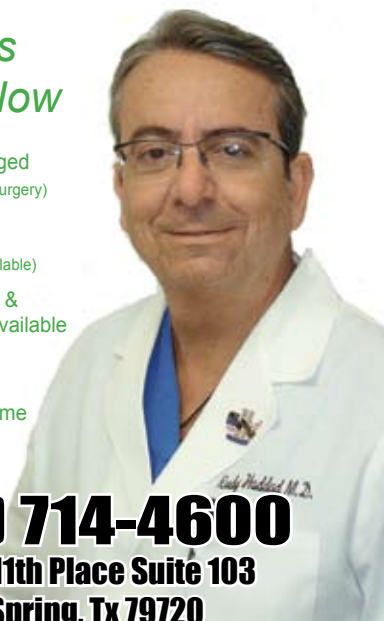
Dr. Rudy Haddad

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TOURNEY

Continued from Page 7

under only. The Master Division is 40 and up and the Grand Master Division is 50 and up."

Skill levels range from junior to pro, and the entry fee will vary from \$40-\$85, depending on what bracket you enter.

Random draw doubles will begin Friday at 4 p.m. The actual tournament will commence Saturday at 10 a.m.,

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