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BIG SPRING HERALD

FRIDAY

FEBRUARY 7, 2014



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Governor hopeful supports open carry

JIM VERTUNO
 Associated Press
 AUSTIN, Texas — The Wild West tradition of openly carrying your six-shooter on the street has long been banned in Texas under state law. But the next governor could change that.

Rising Democratic star and gubernatorial candidate Wendy Davis has joined her top Republican rival in supporting a proposed "open carry" law. It would allow people with concealed handgun licenses to wear a pistol on their hip, in full view, while in public.

Davis has said she supports expanding gun rights in Texas. In a statement to The Associated Press, she said that includes open-carry — a position that puts her at odds with her own party but could keep her from alienating gun rights advocates in a deeply conservative state where the Second Amendment is sacrosanct.

Davis' position now aligns her with her Republican gubernatorial rival, Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott, marking her latest effort to eliminate it as a wedge issue in the campaign.

The state senator from Fort Worth said such a law should allow private property owners to determine whether weapons could be openly carried on their property. She also said background checks and training requirements would "help ensure that only mentally stable, law-abiding citizens may carry, whether concealed or open."

See **GUNS**, Page 3



HERALD photo/Tommy Wells
Hector Diaz, left, and Yesenia Ortiz were crowned the 2014 Howard College Homecoming king and queen between the women's and men's basketball games at the Dorothy Garret Coliseum on Thursday.

'Journeys' reception slated this evening on college campus

By ANDREIA MEDLIN
 Staff Writer

A water-media exhibition will be held in the Howard College Hall Center for the Arts gallery hallway featuring works by the Caboose Watercolor Society, a group originally founded by local artists in the Big Spring community.

There are five to six pieces per artist and include acrylic and multi media as well as watercolor. The show, entitled "Artists and their Journeys," highlights how artists work and find inspiration from other works of

art — specifically by the old masters such as Claude Monet, Edgar Degas, Vincent Van Gogh and Mary Cassatt. The paintings are available for purchase and are ready to hang.

The exhibition features works by Carole Berry, Estelle Howard, Leada Woods, Sue Bagwell, Linda Rupard and Kay Smith, in both watercolor and acrylic, and will be available for view now through March 31 at the Hall Center for the Arts on the HC campus.

See **ART**, Page 3

Soup's on

It's not too late to enter monastery fundraiser

Herald Staff Report

STANTON — Homemade soup is always a great way to thaw out from cold, wintery weather, and one organization is giving the public and opportunity to combine a warm meal while benefiting an historical building.

Martin County Convent Inc.'s annual Great Texas Soup Cook-Off is set to boil at peak perfection Saturday, Feb. 15 at the Martin County Community Center, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The event is a benefit to restore the historic Carmelite Monastery.

Soup cooks will be competing for five awards — 1st, 2nd and 3rd place for most votes from the public; Best Tasting Soup, awarded by a special judge; and Best Deco-

rated Table. Bring 2-1/2 gallons or more of hot soup (enough to serve a taste to 200-plus hungry people) and a ladle or serving utensil.

Contestants will be provided a table, cups, spoons and crackers. Decorations are encouraged to attract attention to the soup. Contestants are asked to bring their own crock-pot to keep soup warm and an extension cord. There is no entry fee for contestants.

The Community Center will be open at 4 p.m. for decorating and setting up tables for contestants. All contestants should be ready to serve soup by 4:55.

Tickets for the 25-year-old event are sold at the door for \$5 each. This allows the

See **SOUP**, Page 3



Justice candidate visits Big Spring

By BILL MCCLELLAN
 Managing Editor

Judge John Bailey, candidate for the 11th Court of Appeals, spent some time in Howard County on Thursday, attending a local meeting of the bar and stopping by the Herald. He had attended the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce banquet Monday and plans, weather permitting, to visit with Scurry Countians at the Snyder Chamber banquet tonight.

A native of Cisco, Bailey is seeking to hold on to his seat on the 11th Court of Appeals in Eastland. He will face Abilene resident Cade Browning in the March 4 Republican Primary.

Bailey worked for 12 years as a staff attorney with the court before being appointed as a justice by Gov. Rick Parry in October 2013.

"I basically have 12 years of on-the-job training and I feel that qualifies me for the position," said Bailey, who has earned degrees at Cisco Junior College, Tarleton State University and the Texas Tech School of Law. "I've worked for the

past eight judges and the four who have since retired have all endorsed me." Only retired judges can endorse a candidate for the court.

Judge Bailey has served on the Cisco College Board of Regents and as president of the Abilene Young Lawyers Association, the Eastland County Museum Association and the Cisco Livestock Show Association. He is also the "voice" of Cisco Lobos football.

The 11th District Court of Appeals covers a 28 county area, including Howard and surrounding counties, Scurry, Mitchell, Glasscock, Martin and Scurry.

Early voting for the March 4 primaries is Feb. 18-28.



Bailey



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Obituaries

Jimmy C. Nelson



Jimmy C. Nelson, 70, of Big Spring, died Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2014, in a local hospital. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8, 2014, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Rick Cunningham officiating. Interment will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 7, 2014, at the funeral home.

Jim was born Aug. 14, 1943, in Big Spring and married Betty Dennis June 3, 1967, in Big Spring.

He joined the United States Navy when he was sophomore in high school and served until 1964 aboard the USS Rainer AE-5. He was an oilfield electrician and was part owner of A & N Electric and then Jimco Electric. Jim earned his pilot's license and enjoyed everything about flying and planes. He loved building and running model trains and being

with family, especially the grandkids, and fishing at the lake.

He was a member of the 14th and Main Church of Christ.

He is survived by his wife, Betty Nelson; two daughters, Debbie Wylie and husband, Jake, and Brandi Holguin and husband, Ruben; grandchildren, Nelson Wylie and Piper Wylie, and Raven Holguin and Autumn Holguin; sister-in-law Carol Raczka and husband, Joe; and niece, Kim Garrett and family.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Adison and Ethel (McMurray) Nelson; one brother, William "Bill" Nelson and Joe and Inez Spinks.

The family suggests memorials be made to the Wounded Warrior Project; WoundedWarriorProject.org/Donate.

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

Paid obituary

Sondra 'Yogi' Williams



Sondra "Yogi" Williams, 50, of Big Spring, died Thursday, Jan. 23, 2014, at her residence. Memorial services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 8, 2014, at Myers & Smith Chapel.

She was born in Big Spring on Jan. 19, 1964, to Merly Mae and Oscar Jackson. She was a certified nursing assistant, having worked at Parkview, Mountain View, Comanche Trail, Laman-Lusk-Sanchez, and the Big Spring State Hospital.

She was a lifetime resident of Big Spring. She was a member of New Life Ministries, Church of God in Christ.

She is survived by her husband, Buster Green of Big Spring; two sons, Chris Jackson and Tyree Williams, both of Big Spring; one daughter, Tekia Williams of Big Spring; one brother, Oscar Jackson Jr. of Big Spring; two sisters, Candice Waters of Las Vegas, Nev. and Pamela Renee Jackson of Pittsburg, Texas; and eight grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home and Chapel. Please pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com

Wanda Pearl Stump

Wanda Pearl Stump, 92, of Big Spring, died Thursday, Feb. 6, 2014, in a Smithville, Texas nursing home. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 8, 2014, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch

Rosewood Chapel. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

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

Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Sat 2/8	Sun 2/9	Mon 2/10	Tue 2/11	Wed 2/12
65/37 A mainly sunny sky. High near 65F. Winds WSW at 10 to 20 mph.	61/26 Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the mid 20s.	41/20 More clouds than sun. Highs in the low 40s and lows in the low 20s.	42/24 Windy with a few showers. Highs in the low 40s and lows in the mid 20s.	67/37 Plenty of sun. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the upper 30s.
Sunrise: 7:35 AM Sunset: 6:26 PM	Sunrise: 7:34 AM Sunset: 6:27 PM	Sunrise: 7:33 AM Sunset: 6:28 PM	Sunrise: 7:32 AM Sunset: 6:29 PM	Sunrise: 7:31 AM Sunset: 6:30 PM



Texas At A Glance



City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	63	38	mst sunny	Kingsville	66	49	pt sunny
Amarillo	56	30	pt sunny	Livingston	62	45	mst sunny
Austin	70	45	pt sunny	Longview	56	40	pt sunny
Beaumont	61	45	pt sunny	Lubbock	58	34	mst sunny
Brownsville	63	54	pt sunny	Lufkin	61	45	pt sunny
Brownwood	69	39	sunny	Midland	65	40	mst sunny

Police/Sheriff

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

- SALOME ADOLPHRIOS, 39, of 2511 Albrook, was arrested Thursday on a charge of public intoxication.
- HENRY TREVINO FRANCO JR., 22, of 3312 Auburn, was arrested Thursday on a warrant for criminal mischief \$50 but less than \$500.
- BLAYNE ANDREW PERDUE, 28, of 1607 Jennings St., was arrested Thursday on a charge of duty on striking fixture or landscaping less than \$200.
- ED DRAY DE SHON SMITH, 20, of 1002 N. Main No. 62, was arrested Thursday on warrants for failure to maintain financial responsibility, expired motor vehicle registration, no drivers license when unlicensed and three counts of fail to appear.
- STUART RYAN SHADE, 24, of 1605 State St., was arrested Thursday on warrants for burglary of a vehicle and criminal trespass.
- AMBER MICHELLE GUTIERREZ, 38, of 3608 Thursday, was arrested Thursday on a warrant

from another agency.

- DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE was reported at the 2500 block of Langley.
- THEFT was reported at County Road 50.
- MINOR ACCIDENT was reported at the 1000 block of Scurry.
- MAJOR ACCIDENT was reported at the 1700 block of Settles.
- SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY was reported at the 1400 block of E. 6th St. and the 1100 block of N. Lamesa Highway.

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

- Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 74 inmates at the time of this report.
- HENRY TREVINO FRANCO JR. was booked by BSPD on a charge of criminal mischief greater than \$50 but less than \$500.
- JULIO CESAR CORREA was booked by Glasscock County Sheriffs Department on charges of driving while license suspended, parking without permit in handicap zone, possession drug paraphernalia, delivery of controlled substance 2 or 2-A greater than or

- equal to 400 mg - two counts, possession of a controlled substance less than 1 gram - two counts and surety withdrawal - two counts.
- SHAY HOHENSEE was booked by Glasscock County on charges of possession of controlled substance 1 less than 1 gram, possession of drug paraphernalia and delivery of controlled substance 2 or 2-A greater than or equal to 400 mg - two counts.
- BLAYNE ANDREW PERDUE was booked by BSPD on a charge of duty on striking fixture or landscaping less than \$200.
- EDDRAY DESHON SMITH was booked by BSPD on charges of fail to maintain financial responsibility, expired motor vehicle inspection certificate, no drivers license, violate promise to appear and failure to appear - two counts.
- STEWART RYAN SHADE was booked by BSPD on charges of criminal trespass and burglary of a vehicle.
- AMBER MICHELLE GUTIERREZ was booked by BSPD on a charge of parole violation.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

February 15th
Run2Love2Run:
2 pm Big Spring State Park
Contact: info@permianbasinevents.com

February 15th
Symphony Guild Hosts "Music to My Heart" Valentine Brunch & 20's Fashion Show Fundraiser:
St. Paul Lutheran Church
Contact: 432-264-7723

February 22nd
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Contact: 432-264-7723

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sudoku

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

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Poll: More Republican Hispanics in Texas than U.S.

AUSTIN, Texas — Hispanic and Anglo residents in Texas identify with the Republican Party far more than the national average, according to new polling data released Friday that calls into question how soon demographic changes in Texas could benefit Democrats seeking state-

wide office. Gallup tracking polls show that 27 percent of Hispanics in Texas identify with the GOP, the highest percentage since 2008 and 6 percent higher than elsewhere in the country. Democrats nationally rely on Hispanic voters, but their level of conserva-

tism in Texas could dampen the party's hope to soon end its 20-year losing streak for statewide office. "Hispanics in Texas are more likely to identify as Republican than are Hispanics elsewhere, and the Republican Party in Texas has seen more growth in Hispanic sup-

port over the past five years than the Democratic Party," Gallup's Andrew Duggan said in his analysis of the results. "While this has not changed the overall equation — Democrats still lead big among Texas Hispanics — it does suggest the GOP may be more competitive with this bloc

than many assume," he said. The percentage of Hispanics who lean or identify themselves as Democrats dropped from 53 percent in 2008 to 46 percent in 2013, which is 5 percent below Hispanics nationally. Sixty-one percent identified themselves as Republicans.

GUNS

Continued from Page 1

But her party and influential Democratic colleagues, including a fellow state senator running for lieutenant governor, disagree. "There is little or no public safety justification for open carry," said Emmanuel Garcia, spokesman for the Texas Democratic Party.

Kellye Burke, who leads the Texas Chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, also opposes Davis' position. She said the open carry of firearms, whether rifles or pistols, "is meant to be a sign of intimidation. It's not about protection."

"I don't think people are aware of it. They just haven't seen it yet. People are completely shocked how strange and lawless it looks to have that kind of firepower in our daily life," Burke said.

On Thursday, Republican Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, who is running for re-election, directed the Senate to study and

make recommendations on open carry and other gun rights issues for the 2015 legislative session.

History suggests that Davis' position is a pragmatic one. Former Gov. Ann Richards, a Democrat, vetoed a concealed handgun measure, but Republican George W. Bush made it a major campaign issue when he defeated Richards for governor in 1994. Texas passed its concealed handgun law the next year.

Davis, who said she keeps a gun at her home for protection, supported legislation last year to allow college students with concealed handgun licenses to keep their weapons in their cars. She also voted for reduced training requirements to get such a license.

Still, gun rights advocates were skeptical. Texas State Rifle Association spokeswoman Alice Tripp noted Davis' previous calls for more restrictions on gun show sales and past votes against allowing concealed license holders to carry their guns in classrooms and build-

ings on college campuses.

"Wendy Davis has a very bad record as far as gun owners go," Tripp said, calling Davis an "opportunist."

Abbott spokesman Adviel Huerta expressed a similar sentiment. "Sen. Wendy Davis' new pro-gun stance may help improve her low grade with the NRA, but it won't help her (be) a straight shooter when it comes to the facts of her anti-gun record," Huerta said, noting that Abbott supported an open-carry bill in the 2013 legislative session.

But veteran Democratic consultant Harold Cook said Abbott supporters have already tried to portray Davis as anti-gun.

"If the issue isn't important to you, then it would be smart to take it off the table by saying, 'Me, too; now let's go back to talking about education and how we fund road building and the stuff the mainstream of Texas is really concerned with,'" he said.

Open carry is specifically allowed in 17 states, according to the

National Conference on State Legislatures. Many others leave it up to cities and counties to impose restrictions.

But laws in five states — including Texas — and Washington, D.C. specifically prohibit open carry of handguns, according to the gun rights advocacy group OpenCarry.org.

Texas does allow open carry of long firearms, such as rifles and shotguns, with virtually no restrictions. In recent months, rifle-toting Second Amendment advocates have held public demonstrations at the Alamo in San Antonio and near the Capitol in Austin.

Texas has about 600,000 concealed handgun license holders, who must be at least 21, pass criminal background checks and

go through a training course. In 2013, state lawmakers relaxed the training requirements, reducing the minimum time required for class-

room and shooting range instruction from 10 to 15 hours to four to six hours.

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The Nut Job PG-30 Fri.: 7:15 Sat.: 1:15 7:15 Digital Fri.: 4:15 10:00 Sat.: 4:00 10:00	I, Frankenstein PG-13 Digital Fri.: 4:45 7:45 10:30 Sat.: 7:45 10:30

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Sondra "Yogi" Williams, 50, died Thursday. Memorial services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, February 8, 2014, at Myers & Smith Chapel.

SOUP

Continued from Page 1

taster five votes and all the soup they care to taste. Additional votes are \$1 each. Tea and coffee are provided with the purchase of tickets.

Other activities include a dessert auction at 6:30 p.m.

For more information, contact The Great Texas Soup Cook-Off, Martin County Convent Inc., 3508 FM 829 Unit 9, Lenorah, Texas 79749-4013. Or, email historiccarmelitecommunity@gmail.com.

In addition, organizers will be offering a cook-book of the recipes at a later date. Recipes

must be post marked by Tuesday, Feb. 11 to be eligible.

The Martin County Convent Inc. is a non-profit group actively seeking the preservation and restoration of this historic site. The building will be used as an interpretive center on the founding of Stan-

ton by the Carmelite friars and Our Lady of Mercy Academy operated by the Sisters of Mercy. The grounds are to be landscaped into a

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ART

Continued from Page 1

An opening reception will be held today from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The artists will be in attendance to answer questions and refreshments will be served. A portion of any sales will benefit the HC Art Club to purchase supplies and to fund field trips to area museums and galleries. For more information, contact Assistant Professor of Art/Department Head Stacy Slaten at 432-264-5115 or 432-935-1018.

To contact Andrea Medlin call the Herald at 263-7331.

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Opinion

This time, don't blame Obama

"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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HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com or mailed to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721.

DAILY PRAYER

Help us Lord to not let petty differences strain our relationships.

Amen

Even I was willing to blame the president, or at least his namesake: Obamacare.

What other explanation was there for the fact that it was taking weeks to get a prescription filled, and I was suffering an acute flare-up of my rheumatoid arthritis?

You may have to order the medicine from a pharmacy in Tennessee, one of the staff people at my doctor's office told me. We're waiting to hear. That was a full week after the doctor told me to go back on the medicine.

Now, just to be clear, no one is questioning the diagnosis. I do have RA. I've been on one type of medication or another for the past five and a half years, including the one I've been trying to get. It is not an experimental treatment or an off-label use; it's just expensive.

Before this latest flare-up, I was one lucky RA patient (with a great doctor, which is how you sometimes make luck).

After about two years on the shots (in addition to the once-weekly pills), I found myself doing a fair amount of travel, and carrying medicine that must be kept cold and be administered with needles just seemed more than I could handle. So I tried life without the shots, and lucky me, for two years I could mostly forget about this illness.



SUSAN ESTRICH

Then it flared. My doctor saw me right away, did the blood work and then called and said his office would work with my insurance company to get the medicine.

That was two weeks ago. Still no relief. How could it be? How could it take weeks for someone who is insured and in pain and just needs the same medicine she used to take to get that medicine? And I am not just insured; I have double insurance because I have two full-time jobs, along with a few part-timers like this column.

When I told a few friends this story, Democrat or Republican, they all had the same answer: Obamacare.

Most of them took pains to point out that given how expensive this medicine is, the insurance companies were probably saving money on purpose by putting my doctor's office and me through needless ringers with the result that I would miss (and they would not have to pay for) the first two doses.

I almost believed them. I really did.

Except none of it was true.

I did not need to get the medicine from a pharmacy in Tennessee. By this week, I was sufficiently upset that I just asked the doctor's office to call my local pharmacist, give her the prescription and see what happened when she entered it on her computer for insurance reimbursement.

This is what happened: The insurance company said they would pay for 90 percent of the cost — the way they always did in the past.

I could pay the difference and

submit it to my second insurer — the way I always did in the past.

Nothing had changed except the mindset of everyone involved, myself included.

I have no doubt that, depending on exactly what insurance people have, there are many patients who have to find mail-order pharmacies in Tennessee to get their prescriptions filled. Maybe if I did it that way, my co-pay would be lower.

But that should be my choice. For me, there were things more important than the co-pay (which is paid by my secondary insurer anyway): I needed the medicine fast because I was in pain. And my local pharmacy does something that no mail-order operation could do: They know every single medicine I'm on, or have been on, for the past 13 years. So when they get a new prescription, they run it against what I'm already on and let me (and my doctors) know if there is any contraindication.

I got my medicine today. No problem.

I am lucky, but I was also foolish. Lulled in the worst way by all the criticisms of Obamacare, I assumed — without even asking — that Obamacare had taken away my choice.

It didn't. Not your fault, Mr. President.

To find out more about Susan Estrich and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com.

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Commercial draws ugly people

We are strong, unique and beautiful because of our diversity. We have a long

history as a multilingual country — "a nation of immigrants." Many of our states, cities and major American landmarks are named in foreign languages. Our government has published documents in various languages since the time of the Continental Congress. Long before a word of English was spoken in North America, books were already being written here in Spanish.



MIGUEL PEREZ

And yet, a Coca-Cola commercial airing during Sunday's Super Bowl, exquisitely depicting an "America the Beautiful" in multiethnic images and several languages, has drawn out the ugly Americans. The commercial featured Americans of different races and ethnicities enjoying the beauty of our country while "America the Beautiful" was sung in the background in eight different languages.

But on social media, promoters of ignorance, xenophobes and right-wing extremists are throwing tantrums and spewing venom that only serves to illustrate the only part of "America the Beautiful" that remains ugly — even in the 21st century.

"WTF?" asked one outraged Twitter user. "@CocaCola has America the Beautiful being sung in different languages in a #SuperBowl commercial? We speak ENGLISH here, IDIOTS."

Really? Idiots? Here's a person in desperate need of a mirror! "This pisses me off," a woman wrote. "This is America." Apparently unaware that "America" is a Spanish word, she insisted that, "any one that doesn't have a problem with this, you are whacked."

Really? Whacked? Another mirror, please! Some people called the commercial offensive, ridiculous, "more crap from the left," and the "worst" and "most un-American" Super Bowl commercial in history. Some vowed to never drink Coca-Cola again.

In fact, some of the comments were so outrageously stupid that, unfortunately, they gave us a mirror reflection of the level of ignorance in America.

"Why didn't the first immi-

grants learn to speak American?" a woman asked.

Wow! Ignorance is an understatement.

Some comments illustrated just how little Americans know about their own history. "Our forefathers are rolling over in their graves," one person posted, apparently unaware that our forefathers spoke several languages, insisted on government documents in various languages, and encouraged teaching French, Spanish and German in our schools.

They are also apparently unaware that when the Founding Fathers gave us our precious freedom of speech, they never limited that freedom to "English only." Surely, these are people who don't know that even Thomas Jefferson recognized that "the ancient part of American history is written chiefly in Spanish."

But it wasn't ignorance of history that dominated the racist comments. It was mostly xenophobia. Some of the social media comments — from Twitter to YouTube and many other sites — were so repugnant, they readily illustrated just how much hatred some Americans feel for many of their fellow Americans who happen to be immigrants.

"I'm so tired of bending over backwards to accommodate cultural diversity at the expense of our own core tenets," one man wrote.

"God Bless America is an American song. Can't we celebrate our own core heritage and sing the damn song in English?"

Damn song? I rest my case. The song is beautiful — precious — and the Coca-Cola rendition was outstanding. It brought out the best of America. It showed all kinds of Americans singing in different languages and expressing their pride and love for this country. How could anyone possibly construe this as un-American?

Amazingly, the level of xenophobia is so strong in this country that another potentially controversial issue in the same commercial went almost unnoticed. Although the commercial also featured the first gay family in a Super Bowl commercial — two dads roller skating with their daughter — all the attention went to the multilingual soundtrack and multiethnic images.

Some people used the commercial to ramble online about all their right-wing paranoia. "Libs are not at all concerned about America losing Her sovereignty,"

one wrote. "They would rather secede our nationality to illegals if it will assist in imposing their Communist ideology. So to defend that very destructive ideology they call those that love America racists. An old tired race card trick."

I know. It's hard to believe there are people who still think this way, as if they have the exclusive right to love America and dictate the language in which America can be loved.

But they are out there, posting their warped mentality on social media and often making complete fools of themselves. And it's not just foreign languages that seems to upset them; it's also Latino entertainers who are asked to sing the National Anthem — in English! Remember the cruel reaction to Sebastian de la Cruz, an 11-year-old Mariachi boy who sang the anthem at an NBA Final? Remember the similar vitriol directed at Marc Anthony? Remember how they were both accused of being illegal immigrants when they are both U.S.-born Americans?

Ironically, these are often the same people who complain that Latinos and other immigrants refuse to assimilate. Yet when — thanks to Coca-Cola — immigrants engage in a huge demonstration of their love for this country, this is the reaction we get.

Of course, when the bigots blew up on social media after they saw the Coca-Cola commercial, many other Americans responded with appropriate sarcasm.

This was my favorite: "America the Totally Not Racist — you know, until a commercial is aired in anything but English."

Let's face it: If you see people of all races and ethnic backgrounds expressing their pride in being American, and you find it offensive, or if you see a celebration of our diversity as unpatriotic and divisive, the next time you look in a mirror, say hello to an ugly American — consumed by ignorance, hatred, bigotry and xenophobia.

But if you could only see, que linda es America, you might not break the mirror.

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

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When life blows up in our faces, accept what can't be changed

Sometimes the most profound thoughts come from unknown sources. Several years ago, I read one of those quotes worth remembering from the pen of an unknown author who had written, "Peace is to be found in the acceptance of things we are unable to change."



BONNIE WHEAT

Although I have had to accept some overwhelming changes in my lifetime, this serious quote reminded me of

a humorous story. Several years ago, my husband and I were visiting with his sister and her husband at a food court in a Vancouver, Washington mall. As we talked, I saw a young mother and a kindergarten-sized boy ambling down the corridor. The mother was pushing a stroller with a baby inside, and the little boy had both arms wrapped around a large, brightly-colored rubber ball. Something about the way he was hugging the ball made it obvious that he was proud of his new toy.

A few seconds after the young family passed the food court, what sounded like a huge explosion rang throughout the mall. We all

looked around, expecting to find flames coming from one of the shops or to see a food vendor with a fire extinguisher. But nothing seemed to have blown up.

Soon the shoppers returned to their shopping, and the customers in the food court enjoyed their pizza and donuts again.

Everyone at our table had just about forgotten about the explosion, when out of the corner of my eye, I saw the little boy and his mother walking past the food court in the opposite direction. This time, the little boy was wearing half of his new ball on his head. He was carrying an identical brightly-colored rubber hat in his hand.

Realizing what had just happened, we all laughed. The explosion had been the rubber ball, which was completely blown apart at the seam that had held the two pieces together. I had to admire the little boy's ability to adjust extremely well to the unexpected change that came when his new ball blew up in his face.

He almost seemed happier with two rubber hats than he had been with one rubber ball.

If we live long enough, sooner or later all of us will have something blow up in our faces. The Bible does not promise that we will not have adversity, but it does assure us that God can

make something good from our sorrows: "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28 NASB).

When life blows up in our faces, we tend to resist the change that comes with the explosion, but the anonymous author was right, peace comes by accepting what can't be changed, even if it means having two rubber hats instead of one rubber ball.

Bonnie Wheat is a minister's wife and an author. She can be contacted at brwheat@suddenlink.net.

Church News

Church Women United

Church Women United will be observing the first of their three yearly celebrations Saturday at Spring Tabernacle, 1209 Wright St. from 11 a.m. to noon. There will be no meal, but refreshments will be served following the program.

Church Women United is a movement of church women of all denominations who work for peace in our world as well as the betterment of our own communities and the lives of women and children.

Each unit of Church Women United is autonomous and there are no membership fees, only freewill donations to help finance local grants and "hands on" projects. Join us Saturday as we pray,

not only for the peace of the world, but also for our nation, our state and our own communities. For more information, call 267-2203.

Spring Creek Fellowship

A big thank you to all who helped and supported the benefit for Julia Wilson. It was a great success and showed just how wonderful our community is about helping others. If you would still like to make a donation to help, contact the church office

Our newly reorganized food teams are ready to provide wonderful meals for us this week. The meal starts at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday. Adult Bible Study, Youth, Boy Scouts and children's activities start at 6:15.

We are beginning a Prayer Shawl Ministry as a part of our Sewing Seeds of Hope crafting ministry. We meet on Saturday's at 10 a.m.. If you want to join us in this ministry, come meet with us.

You can listen to the sermon from the previous Sunday at 9 a.m. every Sunday on KBYG 106.3 FM and 1400 AM.

New Connection Groups have begun. Take a look at our website to see all the information needed to decide on the class you want to join.

"Free Indeed" is collecting sleeping bags, socks, toboggans, scarves, and gloves for the homeless.

You may bring them the church or contact the church office to drop these off.

Our SCF Prayer Team meets every Tuesday from noon to 2 at Spring Town Plaza. Bring your lunch and join us in praying for our community, each other and the businesses in the mall. Come and go as you need to.

Big Spring Classical Academy classes are back in session. Classes include Pre-K thru 5th grade for this year. Visit our website at bigspringclassical.org for more information or contact Donna Sue Looney.

Donate your old cellphones to "Survivors Connect" Phones for Freedom Campaign. Learn more at SurvivorsConnect.org or pick up one of the information booklets by the collection box in our foyer.

Sunday happenings include Connection Groups at 9:15 a.m., Holy Grounds Cafe at 10:15 and worship service at 10:45. Visit our web page at www.springcreekfellowship.org for activities throughout the week.

If you would like any further information regarding any of our ministries or events, contact the church office or visit our website.

See CHURCH NEWS, Page 6

Sudoku Answer on Page 2

sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Test Your Play

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Six Spades, and North leads the king of clubs. How would you play the hand?

West: ♠A Q J 10 9 8, ♥A Q J, ♦A Q J, ♣6
East: ♠5 2, ♥K 10 8, ♦9 7 4, ♣A J 8 4 3

2. You, West, are declarer at Six Hearts, and North leads the queen of spades, which you win with the ace. How would you play the hand? (Assume the trumps are divided 3-2.)

West: ♠A K, ♥K Q J 5, ♦A 9 8 6 2, ♣A Q
East: ♠7, ♥A 10 9 3, ♦K J 10 4, ♣9 7 5 3

1. With only two entries to dummy, the question is whether, after taking the ace of clubs, it is better to try a trump finesse or a diamond finesse. It is true that South might have either king, and to that extent either finesse has a 50-50 chance of winning. But insofar as making the contract is concerned, you are much better off to start with a diamond finesse.

If South has the king of diamonds, your worries are over, because you will next play the ace and another

trump, planning to repeat the diamond finesse later on. If the diamond finesse loses, you will then have to hope South started with the singleton or doubleton king of spades to avoid a trump loser.

A key factor here is that an early trump finesse does not necessarily make the slam even if it succeeds, because South might have been dealt four or five trumps to the king, while the diamond finesse does make the slam if South has any number of diamonds including the king. The diamond finesse is therefore the better play.

2. Draw three rounds of trumps and cash the king of spades, discarding a club from dummy. Then play a diamond to the king, and, if both opponents follow suit, you are sure of the contract. Continue with the jack and, if South follows low, finesse.

If the jack wins, you make at least 12 tricks, while if it loses, the slam is still certain, since North must return a club or hand you a ruff-and-discard.

If South shows out on the jack of diamonds, the slam is still assured. In that case, you win the jack with the ace and put North on lead with a diamond, forcing him to make the same losing return.

Tomorrow: Playing the percentages.

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CHURCH NEWS

Continued from Page 5

Spring Creek Fellowship meets at the College Park Shopping Center at 501 Birdwell Lane in Big Spring. Contact us at 432-714-4584 or visit our website.

"Every Member a Minister"-1 Peter 4:10 NKJV

First Church of the Nazarene

Rehearsals have begun for our Easter cantata, Mercy Came Running. Practices will be on Sunday evenings from 5:45-7. There is plenty of time to come and join us. Our next rehearsal will be Feb. 9. Contact Amanda Kleeb if you have questions

Women's Bible Study resumes Feb 16 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Ladies, also get out the wallet: Women's Shopping Trip Feb 8. Meet at the church at 11 a.m.

MTV. is back at 6:30 p.m for the youth on Wednesday nights. Thrive for college and career seeking young adults with Colter Morgan happens Thursdays at 8 p.m. in the commons area. And Prime Time TIME Fellowship the first Sunday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Wednesday at noon bring your lunch for class with Leonard.

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

Sunday: Youth and children's classes at 9 a.m., Children's Church at 10, worship service at 10, evening youth activities at 6:30. Tuesday: Prayer at 6:30 p.m.. Wednesday: Evening adult, children's and youth classes at 6:30.

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

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

First Presbyterian Church

The Children's Choir meets at 4:20 p.m. Wednesdays. The Lectionary Bible Study, led by Craig Holstedt and Tom Koger, meets in the library at 5:17, and the Chancel Choir meets for practice at 6:00 p.m.

Ushers for February are Bob Bennett, Buddy Cochrane, Ellen Austin and Jenn Patterson. Liturgist for the month is Danny Kennemur. Helen Glass is in charge of refreshments for "Take Ten" Sunday.

The weather changed some of our activities last week. The Tuesday meeting for members of the congregation with Ann Philbrick of the New Beginnings group to learn what their study of our church had revealed had to be canceled, as well as the Wednesday meeting for those who have volunteered to be small group leaders. Those meetings have been rescheduled for Feb. 26 and 27.

February 16 and 23, the Service Committee is having its annual Hygiene Drive, asking for toiletries and health care products to give to those in need.

Lectionary for the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time is Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 112:1-10; I Corinthians 2:1-16; Matthew 5:13-20. The Rev. Holstedt will deliver the sermon. The Chancel Choir will offer "Hear My Words," by Stephen Paulus.

If you cannot attend, listen in on KBST 1490 AM, beginning at 11 a.m. If you wish to have a printed bulletin for the service, call the church office at 263-4211. You may also see what's happening at the church by visiting our website: www.fpcbs.org. On our website, you can find a link that will enable you to listen to several recent

sermons by the Rev. Holstedt.

Blessed Hands Deaf Church

Pastor Jim Walterhouse and wife Debbie invite you to join this growing congregation for worship services at 2 Sunday.

Come and explore additional opportunities for Bible study and group fellowship, as we praise God for the wonderful things He is doing in, and through, the deaf community in our area. Currently, Blessed Hands Deaf Church meets inside First Baptist Church at 705 W. FM 700.

First Baptist Church, Big Spring

You're invited to the New Beginnings class at 9:30 Sunday, as Pastor Mark Lindsey leads this group in becoming better acquainted with First Baptist Church. These sessions are being held each Sunday in February, and focus on answering the questions: Who am I? 'What do we believe? How do we operate? and 'How do I fit in?'

Also meeting at 9:30, are Sunday school classes for all age groups and life stages.

Adult and youth classes meet on the second floor, while Children's classes meet on the first floor. Greeters will welcome you at each entrance and assist you in finding your class. Come early for coffee and to get acquainted.

Morning worship service begins at 10:50, with Pastor Lindsey continuing the message series focused on what it means to be a true follower of Christ.

At 5:30 Sunday evening, the children's Bible verse memory program AWANA will meet for regular club night. All area kids, grade K through 6 are welcome; there is no fee to participate.

A youth retreat for junior high students is planned for Feb. 28-March 1 in Dallas. Contact Youth Pastor Jonathan Raffini at 267-8223 for details. In preparation for graduation, special classes titled "Sticky Faith: Everyday Ideas to Build Lasting Faith in Your Kids" will begin for graduates Feb. 23 during the regular Sunday school hour; parents' classes will begin April 6 and last six weeks.

FBC Mother's Day Out program is accepting applications for substitute teachers; applications may be picked up in the church office or downstairs in the MDO office. For more information, contact Tracy Boeker at tboeker90@gmail.com or call 267-8223.

Upward Basketball games continue each Saturday; go to fbcbigspring.org for detailed schedule information. A special end of season ceremony is planned Feb. 22 at 7 in the FBC sanctuary. Captain Escape (Rich Landry of Round Rock, Texas) will be the featured guest.

A women's Bible study begins Monday, Feb. 24 at 9:30. The study is titled "Brave: Honest Questions Women Ask" by Angela Thomas and is seven sessions long. Contact the church office at 267-8223 if you will need childcare.

Wednesday evenings begin with a meal served from 5-6 in the Family Life Center; join us for BBQ chicken Feb. 12. At 6, following the meal, you're invited to participate in activities for youth and children, prayer and worship time, or adult choir practice.

FBC is located at 705 W FM 700.

Forsan Baptist Church

Due to our services being canceled last week, we will have the message from the series titled, "Coping with Change" this Sunday morning. We will be revisiting the Book of Acts with a message called, "Riding the Storm Out." Wednesday evenings, we are in the midst of a verse-by-verse trek through the Old Testament. On

Sunday evenings we are in a DVD study called "The Story." It is comprised of a video segment and study guide and speaks of how the Bible in all its parts tells God's story.

Youth activities on Wednesday evenings include a meal at 5:30 and classes for all ages beginning at 6. We have Royal Ambassadors, Girls in Action, Mission Friends, CHAOS (Christ Has All Our Answers) Youth and an adult Bible study.

Our church is located at 201 Main in Forsan. Sunday school begins at 9:50, with worship services at 10:50 a.m. and 6 p.m. Wednesday services begin at 6 p.m.

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

Living Waters

Living Waters, a new church starting in Big Spring that is committed to a dynamic spirit-filled worship service, is looking for worship team members.

We are looking for all instruments, vocalist, soundman, as well as a worship leader. If you are new to the area and looking for a place to fit in, love praise and worship music, and are committed to exploring cutting-edge sounds, we would love to have you. Come and be a part of this new work God is starting in Big Spring. Call 267-7971

Briefs

Methodists in crisis over gay marriage, church law

NEW YORK (AP) — The dispute among United Methodists over recognition of same-sex couples has lapsed into a doctrinal donnybrook, pitting clergy who are presiding at gay weddings in defiance of church law against proponents of traditional marriage who are trying to stop them.

Since 2011, Methodist advocates for gay marriage have been recruiting clergy to openly officiate at same-sex ceremonies in protest of church policy. In response, theological conservatives have sought formal complaints against the defiant clergy, which could lead to church trials. One scholar has warned that Methodists are "retreating into our various camps" instead of seeking a resolution over an issue the church has formally debated since the 1970s.

"At this point, we have kind of come to the place where we know what the brute facts are," said Matt Berryman, executive director of Reconciling Ministries Network, which advocates for gay and lesbian Methodists. "Most folks, after 40 years of trying legislative solutions, realize they won't work."

The intensity of the conflict was laid bare over the last several months, when the church tried, convicted and defrocked Frank Schaefer, a Pennsylvania pastor who presided at the wedding of his son to another man.

Steven Stone CPA, CFP

has relocated his accounting, tax, and financial services practice to
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Mercury won't help out today, but the caring Aquarius sun, undaunted, suggests that you can still build your power by helping people get what they need or want. Be careful not to use force when you could use power. Force is draining. It's built on a system of reward and punishment that doesn't sustain itself. Power creates energy.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). As far as your communication goes, you're a regular Hemmingway today, in the mood to get right to the point with short declarative statements. Simple statements of fact lead to success.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Those who set out to impress people often miss the mark; whereas, those who set out to impress themselves are often fascinating. That's one more reason to follow your bliss.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You've been known to put yourself in stressful situations just to see whether you can find your way out. Of course you can! And you'll do it with grace, too. This is how you become stronger.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You deserve your own love and attention just as much as anyone else on the planet. This is a difficult thing for you to accept, as you have become so used to helping your loved ones, but it's something to strongly consider today.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Relationships without common interests can't thrive. You may have to stretch and try something new, but don't stretch too much. A common interest should be something you both are genuinely interested in.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). When you love someone, it's easy to walk side by side with that person because there's no place you would rather be. The one who walks ahead or drags behind is signaling a problem that needs to be addressed.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Every day, you are becoming more aware of who your loved

ones are and what they are likely to do. Good, considering the misery and futility that come from expecting another person to be anything other than who they are.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). As beings, we're perfect in spirit and flawed in our humanity, and that's the beauty of it. Give yourself permission to stop worrying about those flaws for the day.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll empathize with the suffering of others and feel relief when conflicts are resolved, even when it's happening in the make-believe context of movies and television.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You dream of greatness, and you'll achieve it by taking it one small step at a time. Grandiose goals won't help you today. Don't give them up, but do focus on the small, sensible improvements that can be made.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The No. 1 job of the day is to manage your emotions. You're a leader now, and people are looking to you for cues about how they should behave. When you model calm confidence, everything else falls into place.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Noise or hurry will make it more difficult for you to communicate, but you can solve the problem easily. Slow down, go where it's quiet, and say what you need to say.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 7). This is the month when you are in your power, so ask for what you want. Your manner of dealing with stress changes this year, and the new, healthier coping mechanisms lead to a happy event in March. April shows you winning a competition. Your travels in May increase the flow of love into your realm. Cancer and Leo people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 13, 8, 49, 36 and 41.

WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST: ARIES: Loved ones have a way of getting under your skin, but stay calm. TAURUS: It makes you so happy when

loved ones take the time to really listen to you. GEMINI: Your ideas are stellar, but loved ones may stubbornly resist -- their loss. CANCER: Sometimes winning is letting the other person save face. LEO: Emotional muscle tone comes from practicing unconditional love even when you don't want to. VIRGO: Maybe you do have all of the love you need inside of yourself, but you still like it when others are outwardly affectionate. LIBRA: You can never have too many nice people in your life, which is why you'll consider taking a relationship from acquaintanceship to friendship. SCORPIO: The way you feel about your family of origin has bearing on relationship events. SAGITTARIUS: The loving things you do will mean more than the loving things you say. CAPRICORN: Patience and love go hand in hand. AQUARIUS: The one you're closest to has a way of pushing your buttons in both good and bad ways. PISCES: You want your love to be happy, but you might not want to do the thing this person is requesting of you now.

COUPLE OF THE WEEK-END: The moon in Gemini and the sun in Aquarius is a time of bright ideas, one of the brightest being a union of these two signs.

Gemini and Aquarius are two air signs who could talk, dance and laugh these weekend nights away. They have much to discuss, and favorite topics include the future, their travels and their friends. They will be too energized by each other's company to grow tired.

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.

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Support groups

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

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

MONDAY

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

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

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

• Take Pounds Off Sensibly (TOPS) TX 0021 meets at First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad, in the dining hall on the east side of the building. Weigh-in starts at 2:50 p.m. and meeting starts at 3 p.m. We have a different program each week. For more information, please call 517-4922 or 935-6306.

• Circle of Hope, a Celebrate Recovery group, meets at 6:30-8 p.m. at Spring Creek Fellowship, located in the College Park Shopping Center. Cele-

brate Recovery is a Christ-centered recovery program dealing with life's hang-ups, hurts and habits, covering many areas. Circle of Hope group is a ministry of Spring Creek Fellowship. For further information, contact Dale at 432-270-8462.

• Reformers Unanimous International is a faith-based addictions program helping people find freedom from addiction. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. Mondays at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. Enter at the back of the church.

• Stepping Stone Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets at Baptist Temple Church Fellowship Hall, 400 E. 11th Place. Open meeting at 7 p.m.

TUESDAY

• Big Spring and Snyder Parkinsons Support Group meeting at the Big Spring Senior Center at 10:30 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month. This is a group for all Parkinson's disease patients, spouses and caregivers. For more information, contact Jo Bidwell at the Lubbock APDA office at 806-785-0942.

• Special Parents for Special Children support group meets the first Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m. at Elbow Elementary. Contact Kerri Rosenbaum at 432-816-3320 or kerriroosenbaum9488@msn.com

• VA Alcoholics Anonymous support group, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Veterans Healing Center.

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; closed discussion meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.



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Coahoma meet to showcase area's top female powerlifters

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

Who says only boys can stand out in powerlifting?

Probably not anyone who has been to a high school powerlifting meet. Or, anyone who happens to stop by the Coahoma High School gym on Saturday to see some of the region's top weightlifting athletes compete in the annual Bulldog Powerlifting Meet.

Overall, more than 30 female powerlifters are scheduled to participate in the day-long meet, which will draw more than 100 high school athletes from throughout West Texas.

Among the bigger names scheduled to compete in the meet is Big Spring High School's Karina Alvarado. She is currently ranked No. 3 in 114-pound classification in the Class 3A, Region I standings.

Alvarado proved her ability with the weights recently when she was among several Big Spring-area female lifters to turn in solid outings at the Colorado City Powerlifting Meet, which was held Jan. 25. A multi-sport stand-out at BSHS, she placed third in the 114-pound division with a total lift of 520 pounds.

At powerlifting meets, each athlete competes in three events - the

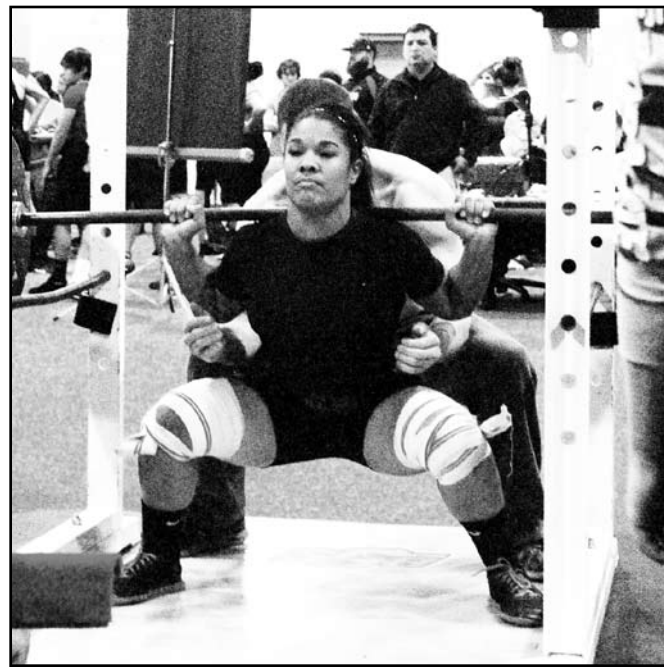
Squat, Bench Press and Dead Lift - with the total weight from all three lifts being combined to determine the overall weight.

Alvarado recorded lifts of 185 in the Squat, 115 in the Bench Press and 220 in the Dead Lift.

Hawley's Courtney Dillard won the 114-pound division with a total weight of 660.

Big Spring's Valerie Goodblanket, Emily

See **MEET**, Page 10



Herald photo/Tommy Wells

Some of the area's top powerlifters will be competing in the Coahoma Powerlifting Meet on Saturday.

South Plains outlast Hawks

Texans nab WJCAC lead with 81-76 win

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

The South Plains College Texans used a 10-5 run in the final 2 minutes Thursday evening to notch their biggest win of the 2013-14 season. And deal Howard College its biggest setback.

The late run gave the 5th-ranked Texans a 5th-ranked victory over Howard College in front of a large crowd in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. It also gave South Plains first-place in the Western Junior College Athletic Conference standings.

With the win, the Texans improved to 8-2 in WJCAC action. The Hawks, who had entered the contest tied with SPC for the conference lead, fell to fourth in the conference standings, trailing South Plains and Odessa by one game, and New Mexico Junior College by one-game in the win column.

South Plains, now 21-3 overall, got off to a quick start against the Hawks. The Texans used a three-pointer by Andre Speight and four free throws from Ryan Martin to run to a quick 7-2 cushion.

The SPC lead didn't last long, however. Howard

See **HAWKS**, Page 10



Herald photo/Tommy Wells

Hawks' guard Jalin Barnes squeezes between a pair of South Plains defenders for a basket during the first half of action Thursday. South Plains defeated Howard College, 83-76.

SP women roll past Lady Hawks

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

For a half, the Howard College Lady Hawks proved they could play with the best of the Western Junior College Athletic Conference. Unfortunately for the Lady Hawks, it was the wrong half.

South Plains used a 35-20 run

in the final 20 minutes of play on Thursday to a cement a 71-48 win over the Lady Hawks in a key WJCAC matchup in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

With the win, South Plains improved to 7-2 in conference play and tightened its grip on the No. 3 playoff seed. Howard College fell to 2-7 in WJCAC ac-

tion, and three games behind Midland College for the final postseason berth.

The Lady Hawks more than held their own in the first half. Sparked by four three-point shots, the HC women battled to within eight, at 36-28, in the first 20 minutes of the game.

See **HOWARD**, Page 10

Steers head to S'water tonight

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

Big Spring High School head boys' basketball coach was proud his team clinched a postseason berth on Tuesday with their win over Midland Greenwood. It's always nice to know the road ahead.

One thing Ritchey isn't hoping to see is his team intensity level dip. The season isn't over, and every game is still important - especially now.

"We need to go out and play hard every game," said Ritchey, following the Steers' win at home.

Big Spring could go a long way toward solidifying its claim on the No. 3 seed in the District 4-3A race this evening with a win over the Sweetwater Mustangs. The Steers enter the contest at 5-3 in the district race, and just one game behind Monahans (6-2) for the No. 2 seed in the postseason chase.

Sweetwater has struggled to find wins in district this season. The Mustangs are just 2-6 in league action, sitting fifth overall.

The Steers, 13-12 overall, should have plenty of confidence heading into the game. Big Spring has won its last two outings (beating Monahans and Greenwood). The team also posted a 55-45 win over the Mustangs in their previous meeting on Jan. 21.

Hartman: Despite lack of wins, Bulldogettes were 'much improved'

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

Coahoma High School head coach had a simple message for his two seniors, Savannah Neff and Kyla Clanton, when they walked off the court on Tuesday following the Bulldogettes' 44-37 loss to Denver City ... You helped make us better.

"This group definitely didn't finish the season with the number of wins we expected, or in the playoffs like we thought we could, but we were a much improved team from the previous year," said Hartman.

Despite finishing the District 3-4A race with a 2-8 record, the Bulldogettes' statistics back up

Hartman's beliefs. Coahoma lost seven district games by less than seven points. The team's losses in district came by margins of 7, 6, 6, 5, 4, 2 and 1. Additionally, two of the Bulldogettes' losses came in overtime.

"We were very competitive, but just couldn't figure out how to win the game," he said.

"Hopefully, we will use this experience to our advantage for the coming year for all of our young players."

Hartman praised the efforts of Neff and Clanton this season, saying their hard work and dedication will benefit the team down the road.

See **COAHOMA**, Page 10



Herald photo/Tommy Wells

Play-in time ...

Jackie Castillo and the Big Spring Lady Steers will face Sweetwater in a district "play-in" game tonight at 8 p.m. to determine the No. 4 playoff representative for District 4-3A. The game will be played in Colorado City.

Weather cancels 1st round of golf tournament

The Big Spring High School golf teams will have to wait a day longer to take to the greens at fair ways.

Cold weather and frozen greens at the Big Spring Country Club forced Big Spring ISD school officials to cancel today's first round of the Big Spring Golf Tournament. The tournament was originally scheduled for today and Saturday.

School officials said the final day of the tournament was still on schedule, pending weather conditions at the golf course on Saturday.

The final day of the BS golf tournament is scheduled to get underway at 9 a.m.



Herald photo/Tommy Wells

Howard College's Briana Casas attempts to drive the baseline against two South Plains College defenders during the Lady Hawks' game on Thursday in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. South Plains won the game, 71-48

HOWARD

Continued from Page 9 Jones hit four of her first six attempts from the field to key the HC effort. Gonzales also wielded the hot hand for the Lady Hawks, scoring twice from behind the three-point arc. Sarah Stinnett and Bailey Wipff also added treys. As a team, the Lady Hawks shot 41 percent from the field in the first half, hitting 12 of their 29

WJCAC Standings Men table with columns for Team, Conf., and Overall. Includes rows for NMJC, Odessa, So. Plains, Midland, Frank Phillips, Howard, Clarendon, and W. Texas.

shots from the floor in the final frame. Overall, the HC women hit just 21 of their 54 attempts from the floor in the contest. SPC netted 33 of their 55 attempts. Jones finished the game as Howard College's top scorer, netting 14 points. Stinnett added 10 to go along with a team-high six rebounds. Wipff finished with eight points, while Gonzales and Jericka Smith added six each. HC is now 11-13 overall.

MEET

Continued from Page 9 Crawford and Ronessa Bell also stand out for the Lady Steers. Good-blanket was second in the 132-pound division in Colorado City with a combined weight of 530. Crawford was second in the 198-pound division with a total of 505, while Bell won the girls' 220-pound division with a mark of 585. BSBS teammate Mary Gomez finished just 25 pounds behind Crawford in the 198-pound stand-

ings with a total of 505. Brittnee Ross and Elda Echuvery placed seventh and eighth, respectively, in the 148-pound division in Colorado City. Big Spring won't be the only team attending with solid female athletes. Coahoma's Megan Hurst is a threat to win the girls' 1-5-pound division. The CHS senior was fourth at the Colorado City meet with a combined lift of 465. Coahoma's Sarah Melendez and Hannah Hobby both finished fourth in their weight

divisions. Melendez was fourth in the 123-pound division with a weight of 485. Hobby was fourth in the 132-pound class. CHS teammate Ashley Ferguson was sixth in the 132-pound standings. Forsan, too, will have talent on display. Jahniah Willard and Carlie Daniel are both expected to compete for the Lady Buffaloes. Willard was third in the 145-pound division with a lift of 720, including marks of 295 in the Squat and Dead Lift. Daniel was third in the 105-pound standings at 475. Her best event was the Dead Lift, in which she pulled up 210 pounds. The Coahoma Powerlifting Meet is scheduled to get under way at 9 a.m. on Saturday.

COAHOMA

Continued from Page 9 "We will miss our two seniors. They both did a great job leading us this

year," he said. "We wish them the best of luck in the future." Overall, Coahoma finished the 2013-14 basketball season with an 11-15 record.

HAWKS

Continued from Page 9 College's Jalin Barnes ended the 7-0 run with a short jumper that cut the Texans' lead to 7-4 with 16L56 left in the first half. Just 32 seconds later, HC point guard David Joseph drilled a three-pointer from the wing that knotted the score at 7-7.

The Hawks were unable to add to their run, however. South Plains held off the HC threat by reeling off a 13-4 spree over the ensuing 6 minutes of play and built a 20-11 lead.

Joseph, who finished with a team-high 24 points, and Travis Charles helped the Hawks rally to within four later in the half. Joseph pushed in two shots from the floor and Charles added two clutch free throws over the next five minutes of play to spark a 11-6 Hawks' run. Howard College trailed 26-22 with 6:24 left in the opening half.

South Plains weathered the Hawks' run. The Texans, thanks to a three-pointer by Billydee Williams, carried a 33-29 lead into the half.

South Plains opened the second half with a hot hand from the outside. The Texans hit three straight three-point attempts to open the half and reeled off a 9-2 run that stretched their lead to 10, at 46-36.

The SPC lead grew to 14, at 58-44, before the Hawks managed to get their offense in gear.

After Barnes and Eric Weary Jr. and hit bas-

WJCAC Standings Men table with columns for Team, Conf., and Overall. Includes rows for South Plains, Odessa, NMJC, Howard, W. Texas, Frank Phillips, Midland, Clarendon, and NMMI.

kets midway through the second half to end the Texans' run, Torrian Epps came off the bench to give the Hawks a spark. The freshman drained a three-pointer from the corner with 7:43 left that cut SPC's lead to eight, at 61-53.

Howard College continued to whittle away at the Texans' lead from there. Weary took a pass from Darius Johnson with 2:47 left in regu-

lation and slammed it home on a dunk that pulled HC to within five. Seconds later, Joseph came away with a steal at midcourt and raced for a layup that trimmed the SPC lead to 73-71.

South Plains, which put four players into double figures on offense, answered the challenge again. The Texans reeled off a 10-5 run from there to close out the game.

Weary and Barnes both reached double figures in the game, finishing with 16 apiece.

Speight led all scorers in the contest with 26. Emmanuel Omogobo added 13, while Williams and Roderick Lawrence added 11 and 10, respectively.

The Hawks are scheduled to return to action on Monday when they travel to Clarendon for a WJCAC matchup.

Little League sign-ups to be held on Saturday

Big Spring Little League will have sign ups on Feb. 8, Feb. 15 and Feb. 22 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Spring City Plaza, formally the Big Spring Mall. Registration will also be held on Feb. 17-21 from 5:30 p.m. to 7

p.m. Registration is open to youths, ages 4-16. The registration fee is \$85 per child and will provide a full uniform. Parents must provide a valid birth certificate at registration.

CGA to hold 4-man scramble

The Chicano Golf Association will be holding a 4-man scramble on Feb. 16 as part of its membership drive. Entry fee into the "build your own team"

event is \$35 per player. Mulligans will be sold for \$5 apiece.

Players should sign-up prior to 9:30 a.m. A shotgun start will be held at 10 a.m.

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