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THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 20, 2014


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Symphony takes stage Saturday



By LYNDEL MOODY
 Staff Writer

A young finalist from the famed Van Cliburn International Piano Competition and the return of a favorite guest conductor will highlight the next Big Spring Symphony performance.

John Giordano will return to Big Spring Saturday as guest conductor for the Big Spring Symphony, appearing with Fei Fei Dong, a finalist in the 2013 Van Cliburn Piano Competition, when the Symphony takes the stage at 8 p.m. in the Big Spring Auditorium. Doors open at 7 p.m.

"I'm really pleased that Maestro Giordano could come and guest conduct this concert for us," said Dr. Keith Graumann, conductor and musical director of the Big Spring Symphony. "He has been very good to us over the years, guest conducting for us, giving us access to a high degree of guest artists and also acting as my mentor."

After performing at the competition,



Giordano quickly rose to the top of the list of candidate choices to perform with the Big Spring Symphony, Graumann said.

"The Cliburn piano competition occurs every four years," Graumann said. "The Big Spring Symphony is a presenting orchestra, since we engage at least one of the finalists during the four-year period. I was able to attend the semi-finals and finals of the competition this past May and June."

"As a guest of the competition, my purpose was to find a soloist who would fit well with our orchestra and audience," Graumann continued. "Fei Fei immediately became one of the prime candidates after I had heard her perform. She not

Courtesy photo
 Fei Fei Dong will perform during Saturday's Big Spring Symphony concert, set for 8 p.m. in the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium.

See **CONCERT**, Page 3

'Shape of Things' will open Friday at Hall Center

Herald Staff Report

"The Shape of Things," a play by Neil LaBute, will make its debut Friday night at 8 at the Howard College Hall Center For The Arts. Tickets are still available.

The play is a combined effort of the Howard College theater and art departments. Paintings by local artist Andreea Medlin will be featured as part of the set in the play, whose subject is how far is too far when art is for art's sake.

The main character, Adam Sorenson, played by Wiley

McIntosh, is an English literature major at a university and meets Evelyn Ann Thompson, played by Alexis Armstrong, who is a grad student of art working on her masters thesis.

For her thesis, Evelyn chooses to transform her new boyfriend esthetically, based on her own likes.

"It is a modern take on the seduction of Adam and Eve," according to Instructor of Theater/Drama Nathan Jacobs. "It takes place at a fictitious college in anywhere America."

"From that point on, his life begins to change. She




Courtesy photo
 Rehearsals are under way for "The Shape of Things" which debuts Friday at 8 p.m. at the Hall Center for the Arts at Howard College. Pictured are Alexis Armstrong, who plays Evelyn Ann Thompson, and Wiley McIntosh, who plays Adam Sorenson. Tickets for the play are \$5 for general admission and \$3 for anyone with a student ID or anyone who works in the educational field.

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Plan on a plate of flapjacks

By STEVE REAGAN
 Staff Writer

Pancakes — it's what's for supper.

Preparations are hitting high gear for the Kiwanis Club of Big Spring's annual Pancake Supper. The supper, the club's major fundraiser of the year, is expected to draw hundreds to Howard College's cafeteria from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 7.

For \$6, attendees can eat their fill of pancakes, bacon and sausage. Tickets will

be available at the door or through any club member.

Money raised from the supper will be used to benefit youth-oriented service projects in Big Spring, including the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club and Westside Daycare Center.

The supper is the club's major fundraiser during the year and has been a local mainstay for more than 60 years.

"This is a long-standing tradition," said club member Ann Duncan. "We have people who remember hav-

ing their grandparents take them, and they have taken their children and grandchildren.

"This is something people look forward to each year, and it's something we want to keep going as long as we can," Duncan added.

For more information, call 432-270-2218 or 432-466-4887.

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



File photo
 Floyd Green carries a tray of sausages during a pancake feast.

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Obituaries

Yolanda 'Landy'
Ramirez Lara

Yolanda "Landy" Ramirez Lara, 69, of Big Spring, formerly of Brownsville, died Saturday, Feb. 15, 2014, at her daughter's home in Brownsville. Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20, 2014, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Funeral Mass will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 21, 2014, at Holy Trinity Catholic Parish in Big Spring. Interment will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial

Park in Big Spring.

She was born June 11, 1944, in Big Spring and married Benito Lara July 1, 1960, in Big Spring.

Landy was raised in Big Spring and moved to Brownsville in 1960. She worked as a clerk at Benney's Shamrock and Valley Shamrock for 10 years,

returning to Big Spring in 2002.

Survivors include her husband of 53 years, Benito Lara of Brownsville; four daughters, Maria Elena Olivarez and husband, Emilio, of Lampasas, Alicia Montiel and husband, Baldemar, of San Antonio, Margarita Casanova and husband, Gabino, and Elizabeth Garza, all of Brownsville; two sons, Benito Lara Jr. and wife, Vicky, of Pasadena, Texas and Isaac Lara of Brownsville; 18 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; five sisters; and four brothers.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Jesus and Ruth Abreo Ramirez; and one brother.

The family suggests memorials to the American Cancer Society, c/o Carolyn Brooks, P. O. Box 2121, Big Spring, Texas 79721-2121.

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

Paid obituary

Jerry McCormick



Jerry McCormick, 72, of Big Spring, died Monday, Feb. 17, 2014 in a local hospital. Graveside services will be held at 3 p.m. Friday, Feb. 21, 2014, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park with the Rev. Joey Bacon officiating.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20, 2014, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

He was born Aug. 22, 1941, in Big Spring to Jesse and Margery McCormick and married Carolyn Clary April 4, 1997, in Del Rio, Texas.

He was a trucker for Chevron/Texaco for several

years. For a short time, he was employed at the Cornell Correction Facility.

Survivors include his wife, Carolyn Sue McCormick; three daughters, Melaney Lewis, Cindy Totten and husband, Jerry, and Dian Rowland and husband, Gary; one son, Jason McCormick; one sister, Wanda Hayes and husband, Jerry; seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Jesse McCormick.

The family suggest memorials be made to a children's charity of choice.

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

Joe Garcia Lopez Sr.

Funeral services for Joe Garcia Lopez Sr., 67, of Lovington, N.M. will be held Thursday, Feb. 20, 2014, at 10 a.m. at St. Thomas Catholic Church with the Rev. Manuel Ibarra officiating. Burial will follow at Resthaven Cemetery. Arrangements are under the direction of Kirby-Smith-Rogers Funeral Home.

Joe was born Aug. 27, 1946, in Saragoza, Texas to Roman Lopez and Florencia Sanchez-Garcia and passed away Feb. 16, 2014, in Hobbs, N.M. He was employed by Shell Oil Company until the late 1980s. Joe was raised in Lovington and was in the Army and fought during the Vietnam War; he was stationed in Germany.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his brothers, Leroy and Roman Jr. Lopez; and one brother-in-law, Bennie Garcia.

He is survived by two sons, Joe S. Lopez Jr. and Joey S. Lopez, both of Denver City, Texas; three brothers, Sammy and wife Norma Lopez of Lovington, N.M.; and Frank and Larry Lopez of Lovington, N.M.; four sisters, Lupe and husband Reyes Medrano of Lovington, N.M.; Margie Garcia of Lovington, N.M.; Alice and husband Johnny Garcia of Hobbs, N.M.; and Sally Gutierrez of Hobbs, N.M. and two granddaughters.

Visitation and Rosary were held on Wednesday at Kirby-Smith-Rogers chapel.

Condolences may be sent to www.kirbysmithrogers.com.

Marshall Louder

Marshall Louder, 88, of Tarzan, died Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2014, in a Midland nursing home. His funeral services are pending with Gilbreath Funeral Home.

Mrs. Ernest W. 'Billie' Smith

Mrs. Ernest W. "Billie" Smith, 83, of Big Spring, died Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2014. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory.

Merline Pierce

Merline Pierce, 88, of Big Spring, died Thursday, Feb. 20, 2014, in a San Angelo hospital. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory.

Mary Magana

Mary Magana, 52, of Big Spring died Sunday, Feb. 16, 2014, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home and Chapel.

Support Groups

FRIDAY

• 7 p.m. — The Just For Today Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets in Room 3 at Spring Creek Fellowship, 501 Birdwell Lane.

• AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

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.

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.

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

• 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.

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

TUESDAY

• Noon — The Just For Today Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets in Room 3 at Spring Creek Fellowship, 501 Birdwell Lane.

• 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 about the support group or about Parkinson's Disease, contact Jo Bidwell 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

Police/Sheriff

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

• JUANITA GARCIA, 40, of 1401 N. Highway 87 No. 601, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of open container in a motor vehicle passenger.

• EPIFANIO HINOJOSA, 29, of 1401 Princeton was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of marijuana less than or equal to 2 ounces.

• ERICK SHERROD FRANKS, 38, of 2209 Cecilia was arrested Wednesday on charges of theft greater than or equal to \$50 but less than \$500 shoplifting – two counts, resisting arrest, search or transport, evading arrest/detention previously convicted and two warrants from another agency.

• CLINT BRANDON BOLLIER JR., 23, of 1217 Lindbergh was arrested Wednesday on a charge of theft greater than or equal to \$50 but less than \$500.

• NATALIE DAWN JOHNSON, 45, of 2008 S. Scurry was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance less than 1 gram.

• LESLIE LOUMENDY MUSGROVE, 42, of 201 Wilson, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance less than 1 gram.

• DAVID CHRISTOPHER PETREE, 29, of 501 E. Pinecrest, Marshall, Texas, was arrested Wednesday on charges of violation of protective order – goes to or near residence/employment/school, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of marijuana greater than 4 ounces but less than or equal to 5 pounds.

• GABRIEL JEROME PARRISH, 38, of 1603 S. Main was arrested Wednesday on warrants for failed to maintain financial responsibility and bail jumping/failure to appear/fine only.

• TERRY LEE CARTER, 38, of 6402 Ratliff Rd., was arrested on a warrant for five counts of livestock or fowl at large and fail to appear.

• MARSHA D. CARTER, 37, of 6402 Ratliff Rd., was arrested on a warrant for parent contributing to nonattendance – two counts.

• CLAYTON WILLIAM WINGTON, 28, of 602 Highland Dr., was arrested Wednesday on two counts of burglary of a habitation.

• STOLEN VEHICLE was reported at the 1200 block of Stanford Ave., and the 100 block of Salem.

• CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported at the 3000 block of Navaho, and the 300 block of NE 8th St.

• SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY was reported at the 1800 block of Alabama.

• THEFT reported at the 2700 block of Gregg, the 1100 block of Lancaster.

• BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported at the 700 block of E. 4th St.

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

Note – Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 84 inmates at the time of this report.

• EPIFANIO HINOJOSA was booked by BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana.

• MARSHA DIANNE CARTER was booked by HCSO on two counts of parent contributing to non-attendance.

• TERRY LEE CARTER was booked by HCSO on five counts of allow livestock to roam and fail to appear.

• CLAYTON WILLIAM WINGTON was booked by HCSO on motion to revoke probation for burglary of a habitation – two counts.

• ERICK SHERROD FRANKS was booked by BSPD on charges of assault causes bodily injury, theft of property greater than or equal to \$50 but less than \$500 – two counts, resist arrest, search or transport, evading arrest/detention with previous conviction and bond forfeiture for theft.

• CLINT BOLLIER was booked by BSPD on a charge of theft of property greater than or equal to \$50 but less than \$500.

• LESLIE LOUMENDY MUSGROVE was booked by BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance less than 1 gram.

• NATALIE DAWN JOHNSON was booked by BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance less than 1 gram.

• GABRIEL JEROME PARRISH was booked by BSPD on charge of fail to maintain financial responsibility and failure to appear.

• DAVID CHRISTOPHER PETREE was booked by BSPD on charges of violate bond/protective order, possessio of drug paraphernalia and possession of marijuana.

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Take Note

• American Legion Post 506, located at 3203 W. Highway 80, is having a barbecue of goat/ribs/sausage Saturday. Serving is 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and plates are \$10 each. Carry out is available. Call 263-2084. Everyone welcome!

• Healthy Woman is "Celebrating 5 Flamboyant Years" on Feb. 27. The anniversary event will take place at Dora Roberts Community Center. A free Health Expo will take place from 4:30 p.m.-6 p.m. and the dinner and speaker will begin at 6 p.m. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Healthy Woman Coordinators Amanda Duforat at 268-4699 or Anita Cline at 268-4721.

• The Kiwanis Club of Big Spring will host its annual pancake supper from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 7, in the Howard College Student Union Building cafeteria. Tickets are \$6 apiece and can be purchased at the door or from any club member. For more information, call 432-270-2218.

• The Powwow Committee of Big Spring has been restructured and is seeking new members, according to committee secretary Greg Bodin. "The winds of change are blowing. Whether you are a Native American or are interested in Native American

culture and would like to be a part of the 10th anniversary Big Spring Powwow, please accept our invitation to attend a meeting," Bodin said. For more information, contact Vice President Randy McKinney at 432-267-4843 or President Richard Lesser at 432-935-0125.

• Big Spring Second Chance Rescue (BSSCR) is in need of donations to help spay and neuter rescued dogs, so they can go to a home. The canine rescue organization has incurred a lot of expenses in obtaining its 501c3 status along with trying to obtain a Tax ID and subsequent Texas filing fees. Just to file the 501c3 cost the rescue more than \$500. Any amount is appreciated. Make checks payable to BSSCR, P.O. Box 2775, Big Spring, Texas, 79720; by credit card at 432-816-2555; or at Highland Animal Clinic, 3600 S. Hwy. 87, Big Spring, Texas 79720; or www.youcaring.com/pet-expenses/bsscr/74800

• Victim Services is a non-profit independent community-based program serving victims of all violent crime, including, but not limited to violent crimes of assault, sexual assault and domestic violence. Victim Services advocates are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to provide crisis intervention or accompa-

niment to the hospital and law enforcement agencies as needed. If you can commit to 30-hour training, an interview process background check and attend training. We need you. For more information, call Linda Calvio at 432-263-3312.

• The Big Spring State Hospital Community Relations office is accepting donations of magazines. They should be brought to the Community Relations office on campus. For more information, call Jamey Stegall at 268-7535 or james.stegall@dshs.state.tx.us

• Big Spring and surrounding counties are in need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected. For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 263-9669.

• Crossroads Hospice is in need of volunteers. Volunteers are the backbone of the hospice team, by bringing light and love into people's lives. For more information on joining, contact Eva Robison at 432-263-5300 or come by 421 S. Main.

• Do you have a minute? An hour?

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

• You don't have to be a senior citizen to enjoy country-western dancing. The Big Spring Senior Center hosts a dance every Friday from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. A different band will be featured every night. Dancing is a fun way to exercise, so come enjoy the fun and meet new friends. Cost is \$8 per person. For more information, call 267-1628.

• 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.

• Spring Tabernacle Ministries, 1209 Wright St., has a brief, inspirational message before giving away food and clothing on Thursday mornings. It's a great way to work off community service and get help, too. Be there at 9 a.m.-11 a.m. and get two for one.



Courtesy photo

The Howard College Theater and Art Department production of *The Shape of Things* makes its debut Friday. Pictured from left are Alexis Armstrong, Wiley McIntosh and Megan Hurst.

SHAPE

Continued from Page 1

begins to shape him to what she wants, who his friends are. She changes his attire; he starts going to the gym and even goes so far as to have cosmetic surgery," said Jacobs.

But appearances are deceiving and intentions are not what they seem.

"There's a twist at the end," the actor-turned-director teased.

The parts of Jenny and Phillip, friends of the main character, are played by Megan Hurst and Robert Barraza, respectively. The author's philosophy on art and its boundaries was one deciding factor on the choice for Jacobs.

The production is an hour and a half in length and features a small cast of four, but Nathan

hopes the audience will leave the theater with a new perspective on art and how it impacts the lives of everyone.

The play will later be taken to compete in the TCSTA festival in Brenham, Texas.

"We're excited about it, it will be the first time for me as a director and for my actors," Jacobs said. "And it's a good chance to share art and rub elbows with other theater people."

Tickets for the play are \$5 for general admission and \$3 for anyone with a student ID or anyone who works in the educational field. Ticket sales help offset travel expenses.

For more information, call Jacobs at 264-5648 or Stacey Slaten at 264-5115.

CONCERT

Continued from Page 1

only performs brilliantly, she warms to the audience as well. As chairperson of the Van Cliburn Competition Jury, Maestro Giordano is very familiar with all of the contestants. Fei Fei is one of his favorites."

Fei Fei (pronounced Fee Fee) Dong grew up near Hong Kong and got her musical start by sneaking into her sister's piano lessons. Her early repertoire included Chinese Folk songs and Western Classics. She drifted into classical music and is now studying for her master's degree at the Juilliard School of Music in New York. She is currently on a six-month tour, performing in Texas, Florida California and New York. Dong gave her first recital at age 10, followed three years

later by her orchestral debut with the Macao Youth symphony. She has since appeared at Aspen and the Lincoln Center.

"She will play the Chopin second piano concerto," Graumann said. "This concerto will enable Fei Fei to show her exceptional performance skills and will also be very listenable for the audience. As a nice coincidence, Fei Fei is a student of Veda Kaplinsky at the Juilliard School in New York City. Dr. Kaplinsky is the teacher of Peng Peng, whom many will remember when he performed his Concerto Debut with the Big Spring Symphony some years ago.

"We have chosen a delightful set of Symphonic movements to perform on the remainder of the concert," Graumann said. "We've included the last movement of the Berlioz:

Symphonie Fantastique entitled 'March to the Scaffold.' We'll also perform movements from the Schubert: Symphony No. 8 (the unfinished), Mozart: Symphony No. 35 (The Haffner) and the finale of Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 4."

Tickets for the concert are for sale at Blum's Jewelers, the Heritage Museum, H-E-B and the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. Tick-

ets will be sold at the door the night of the performance. Single tickets are \$18 for adults and \$13 for seniors. There is no charge for students 8 to 18. An adult must accompany students under 15 years of age.

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Oceal McMillan, 92, died Monday. Graveside services will be 11 a.m. Thursday at Trinity Memorial Park.
Toka Van, 39, died Saturday. Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel.
Mary Magana, 52, died Sunday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home and Chapel.

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Opinion

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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.

ADDRESSES

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

• **BARACK OBAMA**
President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

• **TED CRUZ**
U.S. Senator
B40B Dirksen Senate
Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-4305
Phone: 202-228-0462

• **JOHN CORNYN**
U.S. Senator
517 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-4305
Phone: 202-224-2934

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Phone: 432-264-0722

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Phone: 512-463-2000

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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

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The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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- 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 dear Lord, to ask questions before we open our mouth.

Amen

Obamacare: Con artists in charge

Question: If Obamacare officials cannot prevent accused embezzlers from infiltrating their offices, how can they protect enrollees from grifters, con artists and thieves in the federal health insurance exchange system?

Here in my home state, a director of Connect for Health Colorado — the state-sponsored Obamacare health insurance exchange — was just put on administrative leave. No, Christa Ann McClure did not go on leave over the chronic problems plaguing the cursed Connect for Health website. She's on leave because she has been indicted for filching funds from her last employer in Montana.

No, the guardians of Obamacare didn't smoke her out on their own. McClure 'fessed up only after the local Billings (Mont.) Gazette newspaper reported on the charges against her. She was indicted by a grand jury on Jan. 16. But her current state government employers did not find out until last week, when McClure finally informed them because the press had published the indictment.

The Keystone Kops of the Colorado health exchange tell us they conducted "thorough" background checks of McClure. They say they "fully vetted" and investigated her references when they hired her last March for her six-figure job helming the state Obamacare office of "partner engagement." Colorado officials say she was "well-qualified" for the Obamacare job, which involves being a "liaison" with other government agencies.

But mum's the word on who recommended her, which references they talked to and who in Colo-

rado Democratic circles might have known about her history in Montana.

The 12-page federal indictment is a blood-boiling document outlining government waste, fraud and abuse in the federal affordable housing racket. The feds say McClure siphoned untold amounts of money from the nonprofit group Housing Montana, which received a half-million-dollar federal grant to build homes for poor people.

McClure allegedly was paying herself "significant sums" for bogus "consulting services" while also taking a full-time salary as executive director of the nonprofit. She is accused of raiding the organization's funds for family expenses, personal travel and a laptop and lying to the IRS to obtain false reimbursements.

She further defrauded the government by inflating her unused sick and annual leave hours. The feds say she also bilked Montana homeowners who participated in the federal affordable housing program by charging them for a fake \$750 warranty and a \$1,000 fee for "leasing tools."

Here's another disturbing fact: In a classic dance of the lemons, McClure had bounced around successfully from government-funded job to job until now. The Montana state auditor's office disclosed last week that McClure had managed three grants worth more than \$2 million to implement Obamacare in that state. McClure worked on the project for three years at an annual salary of \$98,000. She was "responsible for managing a broad range of contracts and making sure they got delivered on time," according to The Billings Gazette.

To whom did she deliver them, you ask? State auditors will be trying to find out now. McClure faces trial in June and up to 20 years on each of the eight charges of fraud and embezzlement.

I'd like to be able to tell you that she'll never work in another

Obamacare job again. But take a look at California. Just a few weeks ago, Jillian Kay Melchior reported in National Review that "at least 43 convicted criminals are working as Obamacare navigators in California, including three individuals with records of significant financial crimes." The crimes include forgery, petty theft, shoplifting, welfare fraud, child abuse and evading an officer.

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And take a look at Oregon's disastrous Obamacare exchange, Cover Oregon. While overseeing an over-budget and inoperable website subsidized to the tune of nearly \$60 million in federal funds, project managers allegedly "initiated the design of dummy web pages to convince the federal government the project was further along than it actually was," according to KATU-TV in Portland. A former Republican state legislator who served on the information technology oversight committee reported the whistleblowing allegations to the FBI. There is still no estimated completion date for the dysfunctional project, and the woman in charge of implementing the system is now in California, refusing to answer questions about her role.

"We have to pass the bill so you can find out what's in it," Nancy Pelosi infamously brayed in 2010. Ever since, Obamacare has revealed its true and horrifying colors: It's not salvation. It's a criminal enterprise rooted in ideological fraud.

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

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Who are the real thugs?

Let's play a game. It's called: "Who's the thug?" It's the day after Thanksgiving 2012, and four teenagers are sitting in a Dodge Durango outside a convenience store in Jacksonville, Fla.

The Durango is red, which is unimportant. The teenagers are black, which is important.

The teenagers are planning to try to pick up some girls later in the evening and have stopped for some gum — "so our breath would smell good," one will later testify — and cigarettes. The teenagers are playing loud music in the Durango.

A car pulls up next to the Durango, parking very closely to it. Inside is Michael Dunn, 45, a software developer, and his fiancée. Both are white. Dunn's fiancée goes into the store, while Dunn waits in the car.

The couple are coming from the wedding of Dunn's son. They have Dunn's 7-month-old dog with them. Dunn had two drinks at the wedding but is not "buzzed," he will later say. He describes his mood as happy.

But the loud, throbbing music from the Durango upsets him. It is rattling his rear-view mirror, he will later claim. The music, he will say, is "ridiculously, obnoxiously loud thug music" and "rap crap."

Dunn does not change parking spaces or go inside the store to join his fiancée and escape the noise. Instead, he rolls down his window and asks the teenagers to turn down the music. "They shut it off, and I was like, 'Thank you,'" Dunn later tells police.

But one of the teenagers in the Durango objects and tells the driver to turn the music back on. Dunn rolls down his window again, and words are exchanged between him and one of the teenagers. Dunn will tell police the teenagers were "menacing."

"It got ugly," Dunn later says. "I heard 'something-something cracker.'"

The situation escalates. Dunn

claims seeing one teenager pushing open the door of the Durango. (This is later denied by the teenagers.) Dunn also claims that he sees a weapon in the Durango. "I saw a barrel come up on the window, like a single-shot shotgun. ... It was either a barrel or a stick," Dunn tells police. "I'm s—ing bricks, but that's when I reached in my glove box, unholstered my pistol ... and so quicker than a flash, I had a round chambered in it, and I shot." Dunn says he always keeps the pistol loaded.

Why, you might ask, had Dunn taken a loaded Taurus PT-92 semi-automatic handgun to a wedding? Hey, this Florida. The Sunshine State.

Dunn fires four shots into the Durango. The Durango pulls away. Dunn gets out of his car and aims again at the teenagers' vehicle. "I was still scared, and so I shot four more times ... trying to keep their heads down to not catch any return fire.

And that was it," Dunn says later.

Police will find no shotgun or any other gun in the Durango or in the vicinity. No witness sees any shotgun or any other weapons in the Durango. When Dunn's fiancée returns to the car, Dunn mentions the shooting but does not mention any shotgun.

The couple drive 40 miles to a bed-and-breakfast and relax. They order a pizza and drink some wine, and Dunn walks his dog. He learns from TV that one of the teenagers in the Durango has died. He does not call police.

The next day, he and his fiancée drive 130 miles to his home in South Patrick Shores. Dunn says that he "was waiting" till they "got around people" they know and that he wanted to ensure that their "dog and everybody were where they needed to be." A witness to the shooting had called police with Dunn's license plate number, and Dunn is arrested.

Three of the bullets fired by Dunn had hit Jordan Davis, 17. One severed his aorta, killing him.

Davis, a high-school junior, had just gotten a job at McDonald's to earn extra money. At Thanksgiving dinner, the day before he was shot, he thanked God for his family and especially his mom.

Dunn is charged with one count of first-degree murder, three counts of attempted first-degree murder and one count of shooting into an occupied vehicle.

He pleads not guilty, saying he shot in self-defense.

One of his lawyers will tell reporters that Dunn acted "as any responsible firearms owner would have."

Dunn's lawyer at trial, Cory Strolla, tells the jury: "God didn't make all men equal. Colt did. Colt is a firearm. (Dunn) had every right under the law to not be a victim, to be judged by 12 rather than carried by six."

On Saturday, the jury deadlocked on the charge of murder but found Dunn guilty of attempted murder and shooting into a car. His lawyer says he will appeal. The prosecutor says she will try Dunn again for murder.

There are some similarities between this case and the case of George Zimmerman, who was acquitted in the killing of Trayvon Martin, in Sanford, Fla. In neither case was Florida's "stand your ground" law cited by defense lawyers, but in both trials, the judges mentioned it to the juries.

"Stand your ground" states that people need not retreat from attackers and can use deadly force in their own defense if they reasonably believe they will be hurt or killed.

In both the Zimmerman case and the Dunn case, armed white men shot and killed unarmed black teenagers.

Strolla, Dunn's lawyer, said, however, the trial was not about race but about a "subculture thug issue."

But who are the real thugs, the unarmed black kids who play loud music or walk to stores to buy Skittles or the white guys who are armed to the teeth and quick on the trigger?

Roger Simon is Politico's chief political columnist. His new e-book, "Reckoning: Campaign 2012 and the Fight for the Soul of America," can be found on Amazon.com, BN.com and iTunes. To find out more about Roger Simon and read features by other Creators writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Web page at www.creators.com.



MICHELLE MALKIN



ROGER SIMON

Big Spring ISD Pride Corner

Big Spring High School's Student Council's service project last week was held in cooperation with the Veteran's Administration Hospital Volunteer Service Office.



MILLER



officers served ice cream to the patients. This was not only a great service project, but it gave the students an opportunity to serve those who have so bravely served our country. Big Spring ISD

is proud of these students and their leadership in the school.

Melissa Miller is an educational diagnostician at Big Spring High School.

The student council

Moss Ele. canned food drive nets 2,645



Courtesy photo/Moss Elementary

Moss Elementary held a food drive for Isaiah 58 and collected 2,645 non-perishable foods to be donated for the community. Pictured are officials with Isaiah 58 and Moss Elementary along with the class that donated the most foods. That class was Miss Shiloh Shugart's second grade class with a grand total of 852. The class won a bowling party for their contributions.

Utah mom purchases all of store's 'indecent' T-shirts

By BRADY McCOMBS
Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A mother upset about “indecent” T-shirts on display at a Utah mall found a quick if not especially convenient way to remove them: She bought every last one.

Judy Cox and her 18-year-old son were shopping Saturday at the University Mall in Orem, about 40 miles south of Salt Lake City, when she saw the shirts in the window of a PacSun store.

The shirts featured pictures of scantily dressed models in provocative poses.

Cox said she complained about the window display to a store manager and was told the T-shirts couldn't be taken down without approval from the corporate office.

She then bought all 19 T-shirts in stock, for a total of \$567. She says she plans to return them later, toward the end of the chain store's 60-day return period.

The shirts cost about \$28 each on the website for PacSun, which sells beach clothes for teenagers and young adults.

“These shirts clearly cross a boundary that is continually being pushed on our children in images on the Internet, television and when our families shop in the mall,” Cox said in an email to The Associated Press.

The story was first reported by The Daily Herald of Provo.

An employee at the Orem store said Tuesday she wasn't authorized to speak about the issue and referred questions to the company's Orange County, Calif., corporate headquarters. PacSun CEO Gary Schoenfeld said in an emailed statement the company takes pride in the clothes and products it sells, which are inspired by music, art, fashion and action sports.

“While customer feed-

back is important to us, we remain committed to the selection of brands and apparel available in our stores,” Schoenfeld said in the statement.

Orem is a city of about 90,000 in ultraconservative Utah County that uses the motto “Family City USA.” Most residents belong to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which frowns on pornography and encourages its youth to dress and act modestly.

Cox met with Orem city attorney Greg Stephens on Tuesday to discuss whether the images on the T-shirts violated city code.

Stephens said he told Cox that she first needed to file a complaint with police. He said police would then review the issue and decide whether it needed to be passed on to the city attorney, a process that could take weeks.

City code prohibits anyone from putting “explicit sexual material” on public display. The city defines that as “any material that appeals to a prurient interest in sex and depicts nudity, actual or simulated sexual conduct, sexual excitement, or sadomasochistic abuse.”

Cox said she wants her actions to make clear that these types of images are not acceptable for public display.

“I hope my efforts will inspire others to speak up within their communities,” Cox said in an email. “You don't have to purchase \$600 worth of T-shirts, but you can express your concerns to businesses and corporations who promote the display of pornography to children.”

Longtime mall manager Rob Kallas said the display is down now because Cox bought all the shirts. He said the PacSun store manager told him she was embarrassed to put up the display but was following instructions from corporate managers.

Kallas said this is the first time he's received complaints about PacSun. But in the past, others have complained about images in the windows of Victoria's Secret.



Herald photo/Lyndel Moody

BSHS band members honored ...

The Big Spring Independent School District board of trustees recognized the members of the Big Spring High band students Feb. 13 who earned Division I ratings for Solo and Ensemble contest.



Herald photo/Lyndel Moody

BSHS choir members honored ...

The Big Spring Independent School District board of trustees recognized the members of the Big Spring High choir students Feb. 13 who recently earned Division I ratings for Solo and Ensemble contest.



Herald photo/Lyndel Moody

BSHS speech and debate champions honored ...

The Big Spring Independent School District board of trustees recognized the members of the Big Spring speech and debate students Feb. 13, who participated at state contest.

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

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News in brief

Rival Koreas allow emotional reunions of families divided by war; first in more than 3 years

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Their backs stooped, dozens of elderly North and South Koreans separated for six decades reunited Thursday, weeping and embracing in a rush of words and emotion. The reunions come during a rare period of detente between the rival Koreas and are all the more poignant because the participants will part again in a few days, likely forever.

About 80 South Koreans traveled through falling snow with their families to North Korea's Diamond Mountain resort to meet children, brothers, sisters, spouses and other relatives. Seoul had said about 180 North Koreans were expected.

South Korean TV showed old women in brightly-colored traditional hanbok dresses talking and hugging, families trading photographs of relatives who couldn't attend or had died. Two men in suits and ties wiped away tears, grasped each other by the necks and pressed their foreheads together as cameras flashed. One old man was wheeled in on a stretcher, his head propped on a pillow, a blue blanket wrapped tightly around him.

These meetings — the first in more than three years because of high tensions — are a vivid reminder that despite 60 years of animosity, misunderstanding, threats and occasional artillery exchanges, the world's most heavily armed border divides a single people.

Lottery officials say 1 winning ticket for \$425 million Powerball jackpot sold in California

MILPITAS, Calif. (AP) — The lone winning ticket for the \$425 million Powerball jackpot was sold at a convenience store in central California, but there was no immediate word on who may have won one of the largest lottery jackpots in U.S. history.

Sudoku Answer on Page 5

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.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

It's So Easy to Go Wrong

NORTH

♠7 4 3
♥A Q 4 3
♦9 6
♣J 9 5 3

EAST

♠9 8 6
♥J 6
♦K 8 4 2
♣K 6 4 2

SOUTH

♠A K
♥K 8 7 2
♦A Q J
♣A Q 10 8

Assume you're declarer at Seven Notrump. How would you proceed after the queen-of-spades lead?

There are hands where declarer must do everything exactly right in order to make the contract. This is one of those cases.

Normally, you wouldn't see the East-West cards and wouldn't know that absolute perfection in the play is required to be successful. But even if you had the advantage of seeing all four hands, you'd still have to mind your p's and q's diligently to avoid coming home lame.

The seven-notrump contract (certainly not recommended) is imaginary. But if that's where declarer lands, he should make the contract by taking advantage of a few

lucky breaks here and there.

For starters, he wins the spade lead with the king and plays the seven of hearts (not the deuce) to dummy's queen. He next leads the jack of clubs and, after East follows low, plays the ten (not the eight) under the jack.

Declarer continues with dummy's nine of clubs, on which he plays the eight. (Alternatively, South could first have led the club nine, playing the eight, and then the jack, playing the ten.) This allows him to remain in dummy to lead a third club to the queen, successfully completing the first part of his mission.

South next leads the eight of hearts (not the deuce) to dummy's ace and finesses the jack of diamonds. He then cashes the king of hearts, leads the deuce to dummy's four and finesses the queen of diamonds to finish with all the tricks.

Analyzing South's play, we find that he took five finesses with leads from dummy, even though dummy had only two obvious entries. By careful handling of his spot cards, declarer gained maximum mileage, entrywise, from dummy.

The importance of the entry problem must be recognized at the outset. One careless play and the contract goes down the drain. Even the best chef in the world can't unfry an egg!

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.
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The winning numbers drawn Wednesday night were: 1, 17, 35, 49, 54 and a Powerball of 34.

California lottery officials said the ticket was sold at Dixon Landing Chevron in Milpitas, a city about 10 miles north of San Jose. The business will receive \$1 million for selling the winning ticket.

Rajwinder Singh, an employee at the Chevron store, said late Wednesday that he believed he was probably the person who sold the winning ticket.

"I've been here working from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.," he told The Associated Press. "I hope I'll find out soon."

Activists fault 'quiet diplomacy' by U.S. on Africa's anti-gay laws, suggest stronger measures

DAKAR, Senegal (AP) — Last month, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni met in his office with a team of U.S.-based rights activists concerned about legislation that would impose life sentences for some homosexual acts. South African retired Archbishop Desmond Tutu joined them by phone, pointing out similarities between Uganda's Anti-Homosexuality Bill and racist laws enforced under South Africa's former apartheid government.

Museveni made clear he had no plans to sign the bill, said Santiago Canton of the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights, who attended the Jan. 18 meeting. "He specifically said this bill is a fascist bill," Canton recalled. "Those were the first words that came out of his mouth."

One month later, however, Museveni appears to have changed his mind, saying through a spokesman last week that he would sign the bill "to protect Ugandans from social deviants." Coming one month after Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan signed into law his country's harsh anti-gay bill, which criminalizes same-sex marriage and activism, Museveni's new position highlights Western governments' apparent inability to temper governmental discrimination against gays in Africa.

The anti-gay bills are overwhelmingly supported by the general public in both Uganda and Nigeria, providing opportunities to win political points for two presidents eyeing re-election.

But international gay rights activists also blame donor countries, including the United States, which favor behind-the-scenes diplomacy intended to avoid a backlash that might come from more forceful engagement.

Motorists criticize tactics of federal roadside survey on impaired driving as intrusive

READING, Pa. (AP) — Orange cones and flashing police lights confronted Ricardo Nieves as he rounded a bend on the way to his mother's house. Before he knew what was going on, Nieves said a man working for a government contractor stepped in front of his car and forced him to turn into a

parking lot. There, a woman repeatedly tried to question him about his driving habits and asked for a mouth swab that would detect the presence of illegal or prescription drugs in his system.

Nieves refused. Then he sued, contending his rights were violated.

His Dec. 13 experience has been repeated thousands of times in cities around the country as the federal government tries to figure out how many of the nation's motorists are driving drunk or high.

U.S. transportation officials call the National Roadside Survey of Alcohol and Drugged Driving, which has been conducted five times since 1973, a vital tool for monitoring the safety of America's roadways. But some motorists and civil liberties advocates contend the government's methods are intrusive and even unconstitutional. Some police departments have refused to partner on the survey or regretted their decision to do so in the wake of public outcry, while in Tennessee, legislation that would ban law enforcement from helping out on the survey unanimously cleared the state Senate last month.

In the southeastern Pennsylvania city of Reading, Nieves is angered over what he views as an abuse of power.

Authorities: 2nd floor collapses at Miss. church center, at least 15 hurt as dozens tumble

LAUREL, Miss. (AP) — The second floor of an activity center at a rural church in southern Mississippi collapsed during an evening youth service, sending about 70 people tumbling and injuring at least 15 of them, authorities said.

None of the injuries appeared life-threatening though a 16-year-old girl was taken to a hospital in Hattiesburg with a possible head injury after the floor collapse Wednesday evening, authorities said. The hospital told The Associated Press it had no information to release on the girl's condition early Thursday.

Pastor Tommy Davis at Freedom Baptist Church in Myrick told The Chronicle in Laurel (<http://bit.ly/Nd2mcx>) that the floor at the activity center collapsed as dozens of youth were gathered for a Wednesday evening gathering of worship.

"In the middle of the student service, the floor — which is a second-story floor — gave way, causing about 70 students to fall," Davis said. "But it's got to be said that no one was seriously injured, no one was trapped. God's hand was certainly taking care of the kids who were in that building."

Spokeswoman Linda Gavin at the South Central Regional Medical Center, said at least 15 young people were treated there and all were later released.

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Hawks to face NMMI in crucial outing today

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

For the Howard College men's basketball team, this afternoon's game with the New Mexico Military Institute Broncos couldn't be more important. They need the win clinch one of the four postseason berths in the Region V Basketball Tournament Western Junior College

Athletic Association – and to maintain a small buffer between themselves and New Mexico Junior College.

Howard College is scheduled to tip off against the NMMI beginning at 5:30 p.m. in Roswell. NMMI comes into the game at 12-13 overall and 2-11 in WJCAC action. Howard is 22-5 overall.

Currently, the Hawks are tied with South Plains for

top spot in the WJCAC standings with a 10-3 record. New Mexico JC is just one game behind both with three games remaining on their schedule.

A win over the Broncos for the Hawks, by beating NMMI, the Howard College men can finish no lower than fourth in the WJCAC.

A win would also keep the Hawks in a tie with South Plains for the conference

championship. Both teams enter tonight's action with 10-3 records. SPC faces Frank Phillips tonight in Levelland.

Even more importantly, a win over the Broncos would enable the Hawks to keep a half-game buffer between themselves and NMJC.

NMJC, which travels to Big Spring on Monday, is currently third in the conference standings.

WJCAC Standings

Men

Team	Conf.	Overall
South Plains	10-3	23-4
Howard College	10-3	22-5
New Mexico JC	10-4	22-5
Odessa College	9-5	21-6
West. Texas	8-5	20-7
Frank Phillips	5-8	15-12
Clarendon	3-10	8-18
Midland	3-11	11-16
NMMI	2-11	12-13

Coahoma rolls to Crane golf title

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

The Coahoma Bulldogs flexed their muscle on the golf course on Wednesday afternoon. Big time.

Hayden Adamson, Namen McCullough and John Porras swept the top three spots in the individual standings and helped power the Bulldogs to the team championship at the Crane Invitational Golf Tournament, which was played at the Crane Country Club.

Coahoma won the team title going away. The Bulldogs carded a final score of 349 – near 20 strokes better than second-place finishing Denver City.

Adamson and McCullough tied for the top spot in the boys' individual standings. Porras was third overall, finishing one stroke behind his teammates at 87.

Denver City's Tristen McCreary was fourth in the individual standings. He finished the tournament with a score of 89. Alpine's Hunter Sandlin and Denver City's Chase Gibson tied for fifth.

Coahoma's Colton VerSteege also turned in a solid outing for the Bulldogs. He placed seventh in the individual standings by firing a round of 90.

Zac Crabtree rounded out the CHS scoring. He finished the tournament with a mark of 104.

Crane finished third in the team standings with a score of 385, four strokes better than Alpine. The Crane No. 2 team placed fifth, finishing ahead of McCamey and Marfa.

The Bulldogs will return to action on Feb. 27 when they travel to Denver City for a tournament. From there, the CHS golfers will travel to Big Spring on March 3 to compete in the Big Spring Invitational, which will be held at the Big Spring Country Club.



Tony Claxton photo (www.claxtonphotography.com)

Howard College's Kendall Maddox slides into second base during the Lady Hawks' doubleheader with Weatherford College on Wednesday at Foundation Field. The HC women split the games.

Lady Hawks split twinbill with Weatherford

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

Wednesday's doubleheader with the Weatherford College Lady Coyotes was the best of times – and the worst of times – for Howard College Lady Hawks' head coach Kelli Raines.

In the first game, Raines smiled as she watched her team club a pair of home runs and roll to an easy win. In the second, well, let's just say it wasn't a pleasant conversation following a 15-7 loss at Foundation Field.

"We did a good job in the first game, and we did a terrible job in the second," said Raines. "We have to play better than that."

With the split against Weatherford, the Lady Hawks moved to 10-3 for the season heading into Friday's round-robin event in Weatherford.

The Lady Hawks dominated the first game of the afternoon twinbill with an impressive offensive onslaught. Howard College battered the

WC staff for more than 10 hits, including three doubles and two homers.

The Lady Hawks jumped on top in the bottom of the first. Corinna Liscano led off the home half of the frame with a single and raced home minutes later on a grounder off the bat of Liz Torres.

The Lady Hawks unloaded on Weatherford in the second. Sparked by doubles from Samantha Ohmie and Kendall Maddox, the HC women pushed four runs across the plate in the frame and built a 5-1 lead.

Weatherford battled back in the top of the third. The Lady Coyotes scored three runs of their own in the at-bat and pulled to within 5-4 heading into the bottom of the third.

Liscano put Weatherford to rest from there. After the first two HC batters had been retired on ground balls in the infield, Jessica Rivera slapped a double to the fence. Liscano followed with a home run over the field in left to stretch the Lady Hawks' lead

Lady Hawks to play in WC round-robin

The Howard College Lady Hawks will compete in a round-robin series in Weatherford on Friday. The HC women are scheduled to play at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. as part of the event.

Other teams competing in the event will be Trinity Valley Community College, Northeast Texas and Hill College.

to 6-4.

Maddox helped Howard College add to the lead in the fourth. She highlighted a three-run outburst with a homer to left-center.

Howard College held a 10-4 lead after the end of the third inning.

The Lady Hawks added another run in the home half of the sixth to close out the scoring.

The second game seemed to get off to a strong start for the Lady Hawks. Natalie Baltas highlighted a four-run first inning by Howard with a home run to center.

Unfortunately, the wheels came off the HC wagon in the second. Weatherford scored four times in the top of the frame to tie the game.

The Lady Coyotes continued to rough up the HC defense in the third. Weatherford took advantage of three errors to push across nine runs in the inning and build a stunning 13-4 lead.

Ohmie helped the Lady Hawks get one of the runs back in the bottom of the third. With one out, the HC first baseman slapped a 1-1 pitch over the fence in right.

Priscilla Harris tacked on another run in the fourth. She led off the inning with a one-out single and later raced home on a double to left off the bat of Liscano.

Olga Yakovleva tallied the Lady Hawks' only other run in the sixth.

Steers set to play in Pecos tournament

The Big Spring High School Steers will swing into high school baseball tournament play today. Big Spring is one of six West Texas teams slated to participate in the 2014 West of the Pecos Wood Bat Classic in Fort Stockton.

Big Spring will join Fort Stockton, Alpine, Pecos, Greenwood and Van Horn in the field.

The Steers will open play with a doubleheader on Feb. 20. Their first game was at 11 a.m.



Herald photo/Lyndel Moody

BSHS hoopsters honored ...

The Big Spring Independent School District board of trustees recognized the members of the Big Spring varsity boys' basketball team squad for its accomplishments on Feb. 13. The Steers will playing Shallowater in an area playoff game on Friday in Andrews.

Garden City rolls over Roscoe, 46-20

The Garden City Lady Bearkats made easy work of the Roscoe Plowgirls on Tuesday evening in their Class A, Division II regional quarterfinal game. The fifth-ranked Garden City squad pounded out a 46-20 win in Ballinger.

And it wasn't as close as the score may seem.

The Lady Bearkats, 30-1 overall, dominated the game in the first half. GCHS outscored Roscoe by a 12-8 clip in the first quarter, and then blew the game wide open with a 10-0 run in the second.

The Lady Bearkats held a 22-8 lead at the end of the first half.

Garden City added to its lead in the third, reeling off a 12-2 spree that stretched its lead to 34-10 heading into fourth.

Hannah Halfmann led all GC scorers in the win, netting 10 points. Holly Halfmann and Brylie Schaefer pitched in nine and eight, respectively.

Garden City will face Eula in the Region II semifinals on Friday at Moody Coliseum in Abilene.

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118TH JUDICIAL District Juvenile Probation Department is accepting applications for the position of Juvenile Probation Officer. Texas Human Resources Code Sec: 141.061 outlines the minimum requirements necessary:

- 1) Must be 21 years of age or older on the date of hire
 - 2) Be of good moral character
 - 3) Must have a bachelor's degree from accredited college university;
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 - (B) One year of work experience in case work, counseling, community corrections, group work with offenders or other disadvantaged persons.
 - 5) Must be able to pass a drug test and criminal history check
 - 6) And must reside in Howard County or be willing to relocate
- Resume's May be Mailed to:
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Come by 421 Main St or fax resume to 432.263.5304 Attn: Debbie Read (EOE)

DAY'S INN needs Front Desk and Maintenance person. Apply at Front Office @ 2701 South Gregg Street.

MORNING CHILDCARE
Positions- 6:00am-12noon & 5:30am-7:30am. Apply at Jack & Jill, 1708 Nolan.



DOMINO'S PIZZA is now hiring Delivery Drivers! We are looking for Awesome Team Members that want to earn cash daily! Delivery drivers earn a great hourly wage while taking home their tips and delivery reimbursement daily! Do you like cash in your pocket? Have a vehicle with insurance? Have a decent motor vehicle record and background? Well this is the job for you! Not sure yet?
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As always, come on down to our location at **2111 S. Gregg Street** and apply at any time!
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INTERESTED IN becoming a Certified Nursing Assistant? Sterling County Nursing Home will be offering classes. If interested call Ashley Porter for more info. at 325-378-2134.

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Martin County Home Health is now taking applications for a Full Time **RN Case Manager.** Hospice experience preferred and Spanish speaking a plus! Monday through Friday 8:30-5:00 with some call. Excellent Benefits with competitive pay and mileage. Also looking for **PRN RNs** and **LVNs.**
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Legals

NOTICE OF FILING KBST-AM, KBST-FM, KBTS-FM
On February 7, 2014, Rhattigan Broadcasting (Texas), LP filed an application with the Federal Communications Commission in Washington, D.C. for the Commission's consent to the assignment of license of AM Station KBST, operating on 1490 kHz in Big Spring, Texas, FM Station KBST, operating on 95.7 MHz in Big Spring, Texas, and FM Station KBTS, operating on 94.3 MHz in Big Spring, Texas. The application proposes the assignment of licenses of KBST and KBTS from Rhattigan Broadcasting (Texas), LP to Kbest Media, LLC. Rhattigan Broadcasting Partners (Texas), Inc. is the general partner and Rhattigan Broadcasting, LLC is the limited partner of Rhattigan Broadcasting (Texas), LP. Michael Rhattigan and Guy Gill are the managing members of Rhattigan Broadcasting, LLC. Michael Rhattigan is an officer, director and shareholder and Jerome Rhattigan and Guy Gill are shareholders of Rhattigan Broadcasting Partners (Texas), Inc. Kusumaker Sooda, Nandlal Patel, Malinda E. Flenniken, Mike Abusaab and Lion's Den MS, LLC are the officers, members and manager of Kbest Media, LLC. Mike Abusaab Sheila Abusaab are the manager and member of Lion's Den MS. LLC. Copies of the application, amendments and related materials are available for public inspection at 608 Johnson, Big Spring, TX. #8177 February 14, 18, 20 and 25, 2014

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Legals

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration were issued on January 27, 2014, in Cause No. P-14,242 pending in the County Court of Howard County, Texas, to: Sheila Watts Collier, Administratrix of the Estate of Claude E. Murphy.

The mailing address of the Administratrix is in Taylor County, Texas, as follows:
Sheila Watts Collier
c/o S. Clinton Nix
P.O. Box 59
Abilene, Texas 79604

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED January 23, 2014
BRADBURY & NIX
P.O. Box 59,
Abilene, Texas 79604
(325)673-7317 phone
(325)673-3833 fax
By: S. Clinton Nix
State Bar No. 15043300
#8181 February 20, 2014

Legals

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR COMMERCIAL OIL AND GAS WASTE DISPOSAL WELL PERMIT

Wasson Operating, LLC, 203 W. Wall, Suite 304, Midland, TX 79701 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation, which is non-productive of oil and gas. The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the Ellenburger formation. Laredo_20_SWD Well Number #1 The proposed disposal well is located 3 miles South East of Garden City in the Garden City, S. (Wolfcamp), in Glasscock County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 10100 to 10800 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512-463-6792). #8182 February 20, 2014



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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

Truth Serum Moon

A group of too many "yes" people won't be as effective as a diverse group of problem solvers. Of course, to solve problems, we must first acknowledge that they exist. That won't be a problem under this truth serum of a Scorpio moon. But being too direct under these skies is likely to cause hurt feelings. Strive for gentle, discreet honesty.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The person who has the best ideas isn't necessarily the one who should be in charge. Leadership and creativity are two different strengths -- something to consider as you assemble your team.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Rarely do the circumstances of a project coalesce in a manner as serendipitous as today's events. As you recognize the element of magic at work here, you will attract more of it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You find a certain person's proximity to be agreeable. That doesn't mean you're in love, and it doesn't mean you're not. For now, you're willing to enjoy the relationship without labels.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The powerful effects of habit will save the day, keeping you on the straight and narrow, doing the

things that are good for your health, work, relationships and life.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll find other people's opinions interesting, although you are not likely to agree with many of them. Because you're willing to listen to many points of view, you'll come up with better solutions.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Belly up to the banquet! Life's offerings are all-you-can-eat style today. Therefore, if you're hungry, you're in for a treat. But self-governing will be necessary to avoid overindulgence.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). With something time consuming now behind you, you may wonder what to do next. Pick a goal, any goal. Every goal comes with an automatic guidance system.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Makeovers and do-overs are favored today, and both will happen with a minimal amount of effort. Tonight, those who say they don't care usually care the most.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). An unusual circumstance is indicated. A battle can be won before it is even fought. Think your way through this. There's a way to succeed with minimal sacrifice on both sides.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're in tune with everyone, not just the popular and powerful people. There's someone the others are discounting. Listen carefully to

what he or she has to say, and take the message seriously.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The old saying goes that the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. These days, many apples don't want to leave the tree at all, a trend that will affect you in one way or another.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Recognize the limits of the people you're dealing with. Fair-weather friends are still friends. They are best enjoyed for what they can do. Problems only come if you expect more from them.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 20). The routine care you give is an act of heroism that will, over time, make a profound difference in the lives of others. On the romantic front, you'll love the proof of love you get in March. Diplomacy is not always in your best interest through April. Honesty makes life less complicated. June brings a treasure hunt. Taurus and Gemini people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 2, 22, 14 and 6.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: Do you have any advice for someone born when Venus was retrograde in Leo? I've always had a lot of drama around my love life, and it's getting old. Or maybe I'm just getting old. At 37, I don't want the same extreme highs and lows anymore. Whom should I settle in with?"

Romantic love is a kind of spell. As anyone who has ever read a fairytale knows, spells have a way of being broken or

simply wearing off over time. That's why it helps when you have many different kinds of love for the same person -- the loyal love you feel for country and family, the compassion you feel for the young, old or weak, the playful, competitive love that siblings and friends share. If all of these kinds of love are woven together in the same relationship, it can withstand the precarious ups and downs of romantic love -- and even out some of that drama.

My advice to you, Venus retrograde in Leo, is to seek the company of those you feel many different kinds of love for. Someone with a lot of stable earth-sign energy running through his chart would not be a bad choice.

CELEBRITY PROFILES:

Rihanna is always busy these days, topping the charts with exciting collaborations, perfecting her signature makeup line for M.A.C. and, of course, visiting and posing with fans. This pop star was born under an artistic Pisces sun and has Mercury, Mars and Jupiter in this sensitive station of the sky, as well, indicating great levels of empathy and perhaps even psychic ability.

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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Annie's Mailbox



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

Dear Annie: One of our darling granddaughters started to pull out her eyelashes at around age 9. We expressed our concern to our son. Shortly after, we were told that our granddaughter was seeing a counselor to address this behavior. We were so relieved when she stopped.

But about a year later, she started again. Now her 9-year-old brother is pulling hair out of his head. He has a bald spot about two inches in diameter.

Our son and his wife have education degrees. The marriage and family appear OK. The kids seem happy, and they do well in school. I recently brought up the counseling to our son, but he said, "We tried that." He indicated that the kids will stop on their own.

Is stress causing this? How involved should we get? Right now, we feel like it's the elephant in the room. -- *Blue-Collar Grandparents*

Dear Grandparents: Trichotillomania is a disorder that results in compulsive hair pulling. It is currently considered to be a "body-focused repetitive behavior." There also may be a genetic predisposition, which

would explain why both of your grandchildren suffer from it. Sometimes stress, anxiety or fatigue can trigger the hair pulling, but not always.

Doctors do not know the underlying cause but believe it may develop due to a combination of genetic, hormonal, emotional and environmental factors. Appropriate treatment involves cognitive behavioral therapy, sometimes in combination with medication, hypnosis and relaxation techniques. Your son and his wife may already be taking the necessary steps, but either way, you can get more information through the Trichotillomania Learning Center at trich.org.

Dear Annie: I recently learned that a friend's son died from a heart attack. He was relatively young. I was both saddened and shocked.

I was more despondent that my friend and his current (third) wife did not attend his son's funeral. They live in another state, but still. It was his son. We've been friends for more than 50 years, but it makes me realize he wouldn't bother attending my funeral, either.

Annie, should I dissolve our friendship? Should I tell him how shocked and disappointed I am? Or should I simply overlook it? -- *Sensitive, Caring Person*

Dear Sensitive: While not attending his son's funeral seems callous, is it possible that your friend has health issues that prevented him from traveling? Might he and his son have been estranged and his presence at the funeral unwelcome? You can let him know that you were surprised he

didn't attend the funeral, but he is under no obligation to satisfy your curiosity. Limiting the friendship because you believe he no longer cares enough about you is a legitimate concern, but cutting off a 50-year friendship because he might not attend your funeral is excessive. How your friend treats you while you are alive is what counts

Dear Annie: This is in response to those individuals who invite family, friends and neighbors to their home for dinner and then feel slighted because the invitation is not reciprocated.

Many years ago, when invited to someone's home, I did return the invitation. But it always made me nervous to entertain. I'd lose sleep, worry about what to serve, wonder whether I'd have enough food or whether my dinner would turn out well. I finally decided that it just was not worth the anxiety to keep having people over.

I will occasionally host an informal gathering at my home, nothing fancy. Thank goodness I have friends who know that entertaining makes me anxious. They still invite me to their homes and ask me to bring a salad, a dessert or a bottle of wine. Some of us just aren't meant to host parties. -- *I'm Not*

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

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~ Dear Margo ~

One-Way Streets and Closets

Dear Margo: I'm 17 and crazy in love with one of my best friends, but I know nothing will ever come of it because we are both girls and she is straight. She's always with her boyfriend, and she asks me about boys and tells me about her sexual activities.

I can't stand this anymore. I've tried so many times to forget her, in vain. I don't think I can stop seeing her because I love her and care about her, and, also, I would have to explain to my other best friend why I don't want her to hang with us. SOS. -- *3DG*

Dear 3: To be your age and crazy about someone who does not reciprocate your feelings makes this a crush.

I think for many reasons you should come out. To parade around as a nonromantic girlfriend is not honest, nor is it good for you. I also think that when you come out you will find a reciprocal relationship, and you'll feel much better about a lot of things.

By the way, a gay going for a straight, or vice versa, is not all that unusual. I remember in college being wild about an upperclassman who was not the least bit interested in girls.

I guarantee you that when you start living your real life, this girl will be but a memory. You need to accept that this romantic attachment is not possible. -- *Margo, openly*

HERE, BUT NOT HERE

Dear Margo: I am a teenager who loves my father but finds it difficult to live with him, as I'm in constant fear. He was raised in a Third World country in a different culture, where women are there to cook, clean and have babies.

His mindset does not bother me since I have grown up with it, but he is verbally and sometimes physically abusive.

I know he loves me, but it's difficult to be around him. I'm not able to hold a conversation with him unless we are in the company of others.

To any outsider, he is the ideal father. At home, I am yelled at and told I cannot do anything right and that I am worthless. At home, my name is "Girl." It does not bother me because it's all I know, but my friends find it shocking when they hear it.

I am afraid that my brother is developing my father's personality and mindset. He seldom talks to me without raising his voice, has taken to calling me names and is quick to anger -- like my father.

A therapist told me there is nothing to be done because it is cultural and that I need to learn to get over it. But how does one go about doing that? Do I become quiet and submissive? -- *Girl*

Dear Friend: (I cannot use your father's name for you.) My wish for you is not that you get over it, but

that you get out of it.

You are in a difficult position because you know the customs of America, and yet you live in the household of a dictatorial man from a repressive culture. I suspect you cannot get out from under his roof until you go to college.

The fact that you've had access to a therapist, however, will help you keep going because you have understanding and, with luck, hope. In not too many more years, you will be out from under your father's thumb.

As for your brother, he is in for a rude shock if he expects to fit in with Americans. I would urge you to look ahead and to engage as little as possible with your father. You will make it. -- *Margo, compassionately*

Dear Margo is written by Margo Howard, Ann Landers' daughter. All letters must be sent via the online form at www.creators.com/dearmargo. Due to a high volume of e-mail, not all letters will be answered.

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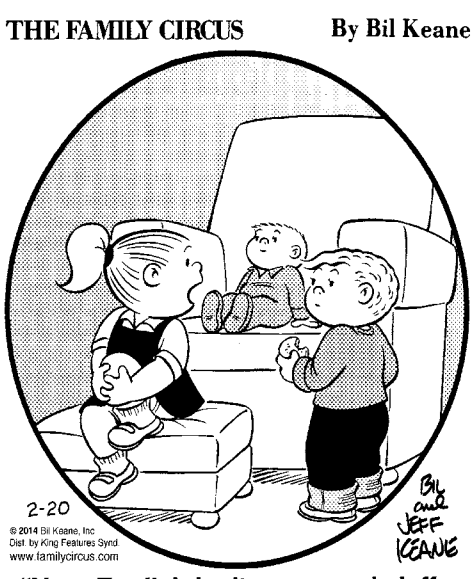
Table with 29 columns (KMid, UNi, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLT, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, KWWT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN) and 24 rows (5:30 PM to 1:00 AM) listing TV programs and channels.

DENNIS THE MENACE



DENNIS! I TOLD YOU TO STOP DRIBBLING THAT BASKETBALL IN THE HOUSE!

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

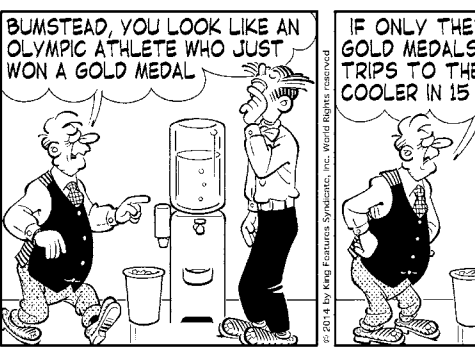


Your English isn't very good, Jeffy. You don't say, 'My chair was tooked.' ... You say, 'My chair was taken.'

HAGAR



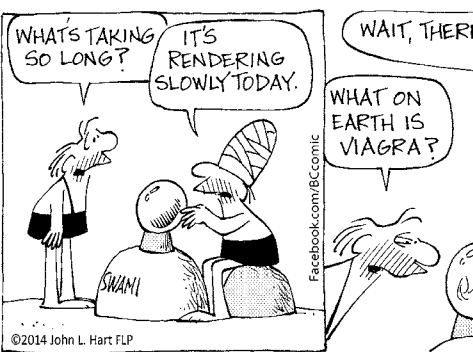
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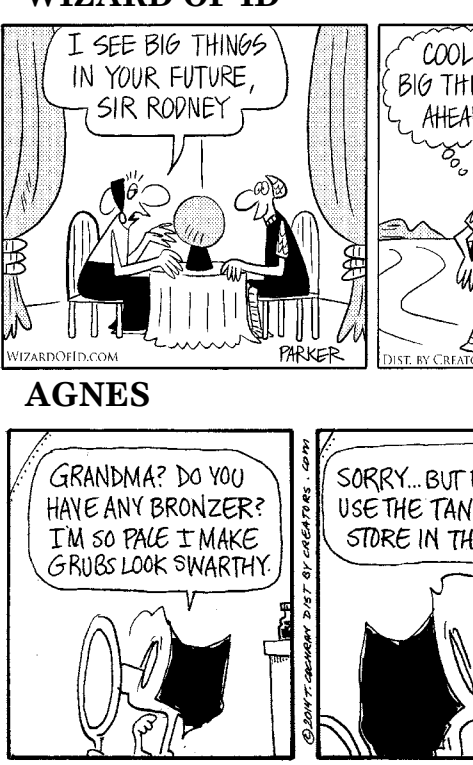
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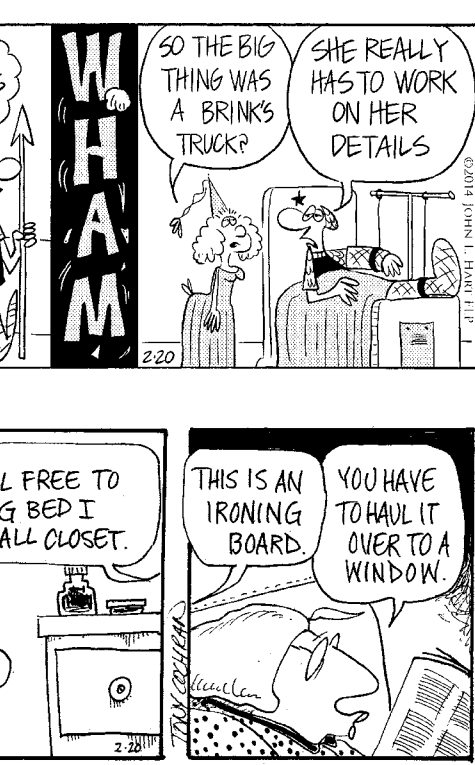
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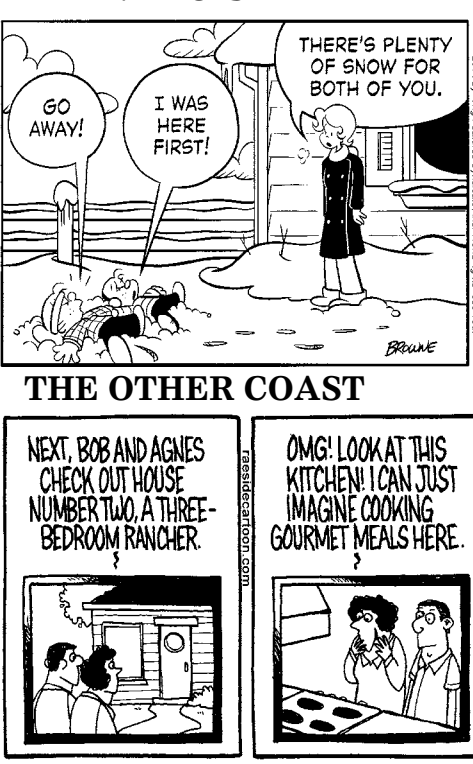
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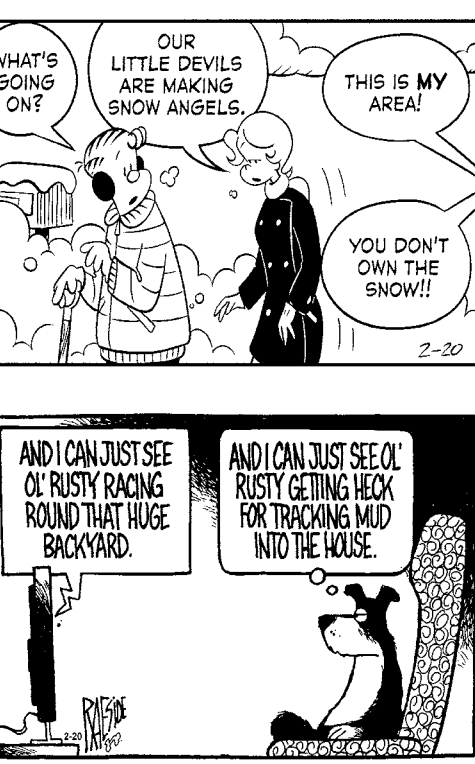
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THE OTHER COAST



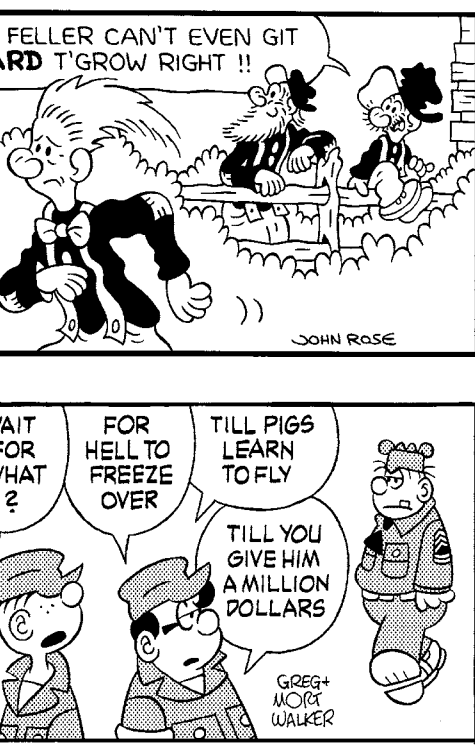
SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Feb. 20, the 51st day of 2014. There are 314 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Feb. 20, 1944, during World War II, U.S. strategic bombers began raiding German aircraft manufacturing centers in a series of attacks that became known as "Big Week."

state legislature could annul the judgments or determine the jurisdictions of federal courts. In 1862, William Wallace Lincoln, the 11-year-old son of President Abraham Lincoln and first lady Mary Todd Lincoln, died at the White House, apparently of typhoid fever. In 1907, President Theodore Roosevelt signed an immigration act which excluded "idiots, imbeciles, feeble-minded persons, epileptics, insane persons" from being admitted to the United States. In 1933, Congress proposed the 21st Amendment to the U.S. Constitution to repeal

Prohibition. In 1938, Anthony Eden resigned as British foreign secretary following Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's decision to negotiate with Italian dictator Benito Mussolini. In 1962, astronaut John Glenn became the first American to orbit the Earth as he flew aboard Project Mercury's Friendship 7 spacecraft.

Answer to previous puzzle crossword grid with words like TAMPA, LEI, WRAP, ARIES, ELM, SIEGE, JESSIE, CAFE, FLETCHER, HOSE, AWAKENS, ATM, OYSTER, ADO, DRAGS, EKE, STAN, DISRAELI, AGT, PHILIP, MARLOWE, MEN, MUTINIES, ITEM, PET, BELLE, COX, OBERON, DST, EDASNER, CLAW, JACQUES, CLOUSEAU, ATTYS, IRE, LISPS, MEAD, AYE, LATTE.

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS 1 "... Grecian Urn" poet 6 Like venison's flavor 10 Empire's call 14 Space Shuttle path 15 Layered treat 16 Special influence 17 Door duo 19 Notable periods 20 Home of St. Francis 21 The Flintstones period 23 Sets the dogs (on) 25 Prefix for point 26 14 Across segment 29 Rapid battlefield dominance 35 Sharp remark 37 Fervid flair 38 Needing a break 39 Apparent 41 Preholiday night 42 What "go" starts with 43 News sources 44 Easily intimidated 46 Theater level 47 Real-estate parcel ID 50 Single no longer 51 Writer Kesey 52 Lee of frozen desserts 54 Cocktail mixer 59 Duration

- 63 Designer Ricci 64 Sugary liquor 66 Nottingham native 67 Airport rental 68 Brunch serving 69 Shelter adoptees 70 First name for Santa 71 Chopped down 8 Happen upon 9 Eminent cellist 10 Cell-phone feature 11 Subtle quality 12 National symbol 13 Other than those 18 Suitable place 22 Beethoven's "Choral Symphony" 24 Mirthless 26 Fission device 27 Entangle 28 Basic belief 30 Knuckled under 31 Shows reverence 32 Traffic-sign symbol 33 Cheese portion

DON'T KNOCK IT by S.N. Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- 34 Moved sideways 36 Strong criticism, so to speak 40 Accepts willingly 45 Wombat cousin 48 Warm jacket 49 Deep ditch 53 Agassi of tennis 54 Closing Bell broadcaster 55 A euro predecessor 56 Standard of measurement 57 Gloomy 58 Playbill heading 60 Burgeoned 61 Blood-bank category 62 Be mindful of 65 Bout enders

13x13 crossword grid with numbers 1-71 indicating starting positions for words.

Steers to start track in Hamlin

The Big Spring High School track teams will kick off their 2014 season tomorrow when they travel to the Long Sleeve Relays in Hamlin. The BSHS varsity and junior varsity teams will be among more than 12 area teams in the event.

The meet will be the first of five meets on the schedule for the Lady Steers' track athletes. Following their outing in Hamlin, the girls' teams will travel to Sweetwater on Feb. 28 to compete in the Rattlesnake Relays before returning home on March 7 to host the Big Spring Invitational.

The Steers will travel to Andrews on March 21 before closing out the regular season at the Texas Relays in Austin.

The District 4-3A Track and Field Championships will be held on April 7 and April 10 in Big Spring.



Herald photo/Tommy Wells

Final week ...

Erisha Talley and the Howard College Lady Hawks will close out their 2013-14 season next week. The HC women will play New Mexico JC on Feb. 24 at home before traveling to Snyder on Feb. 27 for a season-ending game against Western Texas.

Skier out of Olympics, citing violence in Ukraine

SOCHI, Russia (AP) — A Ukrainian skier has withdrawn from the Olympics in response to the violence in her country, with her father saying she did so in "solidarity with the fighters."

The International Olympic Committee confirmed the decision by Bogdana Matsotska on Thursday, and the Alpine skier's father said he and his daughter are "extremely angry at President Viktor Yanukovich."

It was unclear if Matsotska had already returned to Ukraine.

Oleg Matsotskyy, who also coaches his daughter, posted a message in Ukrainian on his Facebook page in which he assailed Yanukovich's latest actions.

"Instead of resolving the conflict through negotiations (which we had hoped he would when we left for Sochi),

has drenched the last hopes of the nation in blood," the message read.

"In solidarity with the fighters on the barricades ... and as a protest against the criminal actions made towards the protesters, the irresponsibility of the president and his lackey government, we refuse further performance at the Olympic Games in Sochi 2014."

IOC spokesman Mark Adams said the Olympic body has been in touch with Ukraine's national Olympic committee following a clash between

anti-government protesters and police in Kiev that left at least 25 people dead and hundreds injured.

Pole vault great Sergei Bubka, who heads Ukraine's national committee, has urged Ukrainian athletes to remain in Sochi as a sign of unity. But he has also said he respects the rights of athletes to make their own decision. There were suggestions that many more Ukrainian athletes would follow Matsotska's lead, but a Ukrainian Olympic official said that wasn't the case.

BSGSA sign-ups now under way

Registration for the 2014 Big Spring Girls Softball Association season is now under way. The registration period will continue through March 8.

The league is open to players ranging in age

from 4-14 (as of Jan. 1, 2014)

The cost for participating is \$90, with discounts for additional siblings in same family.

For more information contact Ron Shafer at 213-3747.

Big Spring Little League sign-ups are set for Feb. 22

Big Spring Little League will have sign ups on Saturday 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.

Have an idea? Comment? Suggestion? Contact the Herald at 263-7331 or sports@bigspringherald.com

JH relays set for March 6

The Big Spring Junior High Relays will be held on March 6 at Blankenship Field, beginning at 3:30 p.m. with the field events. The running events start at 4:30 p.m.

The meet will feature seventh and eighth graders.

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After Sochi, what's next for Winter Olympics?

SOCHI, Russia (AP) — The sheer cost, size and scale of the Sochi Olympics has outstripped anything done before. The question for future Winter Games is clear: Can anyone — should anyone — try to top that? Sochi has showcased President Vladimir Putin's grand project, using the Olympics to reshape the entire Black Sea resort region, with brand new facilities and infrastructure built from scratch. The huge financial investment, massive security apparatus and litany of logistical issues has thrown up major challenges to potential future Winter Olympic host cities.

Can they afford it? Will the public support it? Should the games keep going to emerging and developing countries or return to more traditional winter sports nations? Will the weather be cold enough?

Under new President Thomas Bach, the International Olympic Committee is weighing changes to the bidding process that would cut down on the costs for applicant and host cities.

"The idea that perhaps a more traditional country would produce a smaller scale games

with a different legacy, it's entirely possible," IOC spokesman Mark Adams says.

The fact is, potential host cities have been spooked by the \$51 billion price tag associated with Sochi. Most of that cash isn't for the games themselves; it's for roads, railways, hotels and other long-term regeneration projects.

Still, the international mood has shifted. Proposed bids for the 2022 Winter Olympics from Munich and St. Moritz-Davos were rejected last year by voters in Germany and Switzerland because of financial and environmental concerns. Stockholm recently pulled out of the 2022 race after Swedish politicians said the costs were too high.

"A lot of cities have found this a little scary, that so much money has to be invested," senior Norwegian IOC member Gerhard Heiberg told The Associated Press. "People in western Europe say this is too much for us, too much investment, too difficult to run. We need to get more cities interested. It's a question of cost — as little as possible."

The next Winter Games will be held in 2018 in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

Britain wins bronze in women's Olympic curling

SOCHI, Russia (AP) — Britain won the bronze medal in women's Olympic curling by beating Switzerland 6-5 on Thursday, ensuring the country will at least match its record haul of four medals at a single Winter Games.

British skip Eve Muirhead secured victory with a draw to the button on the last stone, partially making up for the world champions' disappointing loss to Canada in the semifinals Wednesday.

"The Olympic medal was the one medal we have been missing," Muirhead said, "and for me to win with three or four of my best friends is so special."

Canada plays Sweden in the gold-medal game later Thursday.

Muirhead was in tears on the ice after victory was sealed, showing the emotional side of an athlete who arguably has

had to shoulder more pressure than any other British competitor in Sochi.

"I maybe come across that I'm kind of stern-faced, focused," she said, "but really inside I'm maybe not quite as hard as people think I am."

It was Britain's first curling medal since 2002, when the women's team captured the gold. Britain already had won a gold and a bronze in Sochi and is assured of either a gold or silver in men's curling with David Murdoch's team in the final. Britain last won four Winter Games medals in 1924.

"What's so pleasing is that this is a different culture," said Sebastian Coe, chairman of the British Olympic Association. "It's not something that we have had a strong toehold in over the years but there are sports here we can build on."



Herald photo/Tommy Wells

Regional bound ...

Bianca Correa applies resin to her hands prior to lifting in a recent powerlifting meet. Correa is among six BSHS athletes set to compete in the Region I Powerlifting Championships in Fort Stockton on March 1. Joining her in the meet will be Karina Alvarado, Valerie Goodblanket, Mary Gomez, Haleigh Davidson and Emily Crawford.

BSYBL regular season ending

The Big Spring Youth Basketball League's six-week season will come to an end this Saturday at the Big Spring YMCA.

In all more than 30 teams in six divisions will be finishing the regular season. Games will begin at 8 a.m.

Lady Steers to play in Honeybee Invite

The Big Spring Lady Steers' softball team will get to test itself against some of the top teams in north-central Texas beginning Friday when they travel to Stephenville to compete in the 2014 Honeybee Invitational.

The three-day tournament will feature 12 teams.

Big Spring will open the tournament with pool play on Friday. The Lady Steers' first pool

game will be at 10:30 a.m. against Stephenville. They will face Lampasas at noon, and then play Hamilton at 3 p.m.

The top eight teams in pool play will advance to the tournament's Gold division championship bracket, while the next eight teams will compete in the Silver bracket.

All games will be four innings in length, and will be played at the city park in Stephenville.

HC to face EPCC this weekend

The Howard College men's baseball team will take to the field this weekend for four games with El Paso Community College. The double-

headers will begin at noon on Saturday and Sunday.

EPCC is coached by former HC assistant Roberto Martinez.

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