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**VOLUME 109, NUMBER 124** 

**Rash of dumpster** 

fires nusiance for **local firefighters** 

**Herald Staff Report** 

The Big Spring Fire Department,

in conjunction with the Big Spring Police Department, is investigating a series of dumpster fires that occurred Monday in the southwest part of the city.

According to Fire Marshall Carl Condray, at least five fires were set in both roll out and metal dumpsters in the Coronado Addition in the early morning hours Monday. "All residents need to be aware

neighborhoods as well, and the fire department is urging all citizens to be on the lookout for unusual behavior in their areas," Condray said. "It is sad that when school lets out

that these fires may occur in their

we see an increase in these types of fires and it is a clear indication that we need to be more vigilant and know where our children are at all times." Condray added that setting these

fires are felonies and the perpetrators will be prosecuted as such.

The public is encouraged to report any suspicious behavior, by adults or juveniles, to law enforcement through 911.

For any information about the fire, report it through the local Crime Stoppers hotline at 432-263-TIPS (8477) or their Facebook page.

### City bans non-essential water useage

#### **Herald Staff Report**

Don't water the lawn or wash the car or fill the swimming pool or ...

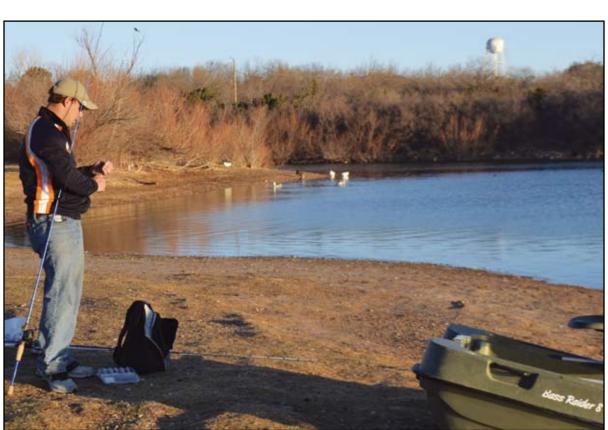
The city of Big Spring has issued a temporary ban on all non-essential water use beginning at 9 tonight as it shuts down the water treatment plant to perform essential upgrades.

The ban is expected to last approximately 36 hours or until city workers resume treatment plant operations, whichiscurrentlyscheduled for 9 a.m. Thursday.

The ban, issued by City

See WATER, Page 3

# It's a beautiful morning



**HERALD** photo/Andreia Medlin Josh Helmstetler of Big **Spring prepares a lure** early Tuesday at Comanche Trail Park Lake. Spring-like weather is in the forecast this week with temperatures predicted to be in the 60 and 70s.

### One killed in crash here

**Herald Staff Report** 

Officials have not released the name of a man who died after his vehicle crashed into a Big Spring restaurant early

According to published reports, the accident occurred around 9 a.m. Sunday at the Fire House Grill Restaurant on

It is suspected, but not confirmed by official sources, that the man experienced a medical problem shortly before

See **DEATH**, Page 3

#### **Davidson HD FLHX Street** Tickets for the 2014 Cars, Stars and Handlebars fund-Glide. Tickets are \$100 and raiser are available from the are available at Compass Big Spring State Hospital Bank, Lonestar Bank, State Community Relations office. National Bank, Wells Fargo, From left, Volunteer Services or Western Bank. You can Council President Steve also get tickets from Mark and Stacy Barr. Raul and Chairman Smith, Stacy Barr, committee member Dalia Benavides, Steve and Brenda Bodine, Buddy and Buddy Duncan, and hospital **Superintendent Lorie Dunnam Ann Duncan, Justin and Leslie** display a few of the 750 tick-Hobbs, Noel and Brenna ets available for the April Hoff, Jeanie Knocke, Justin 5 event at the Big Spring and Sarah Myers, Scott and Country Club. This year the Erin Mackenzie, John Paul the winner has the option and Kristen Nichols, Suzanne to choosing from a 2014 Markwell, Steve Smith, or Chevy Equinox, 2014 Ford Quade Weaver. You can also Mustang, or 2014 Harley call the Big Spring Hospital's **Community Relations depart**ment at 432-268-7535. A ticket entitles the holder and one guest admission. You do not need to be present to

# Quick meeting for county

#### By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

What the Howard County meeting Commissioners' lacked in drama, it made up for in brevity.

In a 20-minute meeting covering mostly mundane topics, the most interesting tidbit was delivered almost as an

County Judge Mark Barr the money on road repair in told commissioners that the county has officially applied for state grant money which will be used to renovate roads adversely effected by heavy oilfield traffic.

Barr said Howard is eligible for between \$3 million and \$4 million in grant money.

Officials anticipate using

the northern and southwestern parts of the county — areas where oilfield traffic has been the busiest.

"You can't anticipate future traffic," Road and Bridge Administrator Brian Klinksiek said earlier this year. "So

See COUNTY, Page 3





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### **Obituaries**

#### Fidel Martinez



Fidel Martinez, 57, of Big Spring, Texas, died Saturday March 8, 2014, at University Medical Center in Lubbock. Vigil services will be 7 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral mass will be 10 a.m. Wednesday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with MSGR Bernard L. Gully officiat-

He was born to Paula and Adelaido Martinez Sr. Nov. 23, 1956, in Big Spring. He was a lifetime resi-

dent of Big Spring and graduated from Big Spring High School in 1975. He married Margie Hernandez July 27, 1975. He worked as an auto mechanic at Shroyer Motor Company and as a self-employed auto mechanic. He was a member of Holy Trinity

He is survived by his wife, Margie Martinez of Big Spring; three daughters, Jennifer Uribe, Christina Rodriguez and husband Steve, Ashley French and husband Jason, all of Big Spring; two sons, Fidel (Sluggo) Martinez Jr. and Christopher Martinez, both of Big Spring; five brothers, Joe Martinez and wife Debra of Pecos, Texas, Adelaido Martinez Jr. of Big Spring, Jack Martinez and wife Melanie of Cape Coral, Fla., David Martinez and wife Mikki of Elgin, Texas, Ricky Martinez of Big Spring; three sisters, Mary Lopez and husband Deacon Victor Lopez of Midland, Texas, Lupe Hodges and husband Hubert of Big Spring, Yolanda Bryant and husband Ray, also of Big Spring along with 14

In addition to his parents he is preceded in death by one sister Janie Lownes. Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home and Chapel. Please pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.

#### Frances Billalba McKiski

Frances Billalba McKiski, 60, of Big Spring, Texas, died Sunday March 9, 2014, at Midland Memorial Hospital. Vigil services will be 7 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral mass will be 11 a.m. Thursday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with MSGR Bernard L. Gully officiating. Burial will follow at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

She was born April 10, 1953, in Big Spring to Rosalia and Ruben Billalba. She was a lifetime resident of Big Spring. She graduated from Big Spring High School and Valti Reeves Cosmetology School. She was a hairdresser in Big Spring for more than 35 years and owned House of Charm.

She is survived by two daughters, Denise Gonzales of Midland, Texas, Denita Zamora and husband Robert of Odessa; two sons, Travis McKiski of Big Spring, Mark McKiski and wife Corina of Big Spring; five sisters: Beatrice Stevens of Lubbock, Mary Lou Lujan and husband Santos of Big Spring, Adelina Correa and husband Albert of Canyon, Nora Paul and husband Peter of Las Vegas, Nev.; Delia Cruz and husband Mike of Amarillo, Texas; and nine grandchildren.

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

#### Oleta Clanton

Oleta Clanton, 76, of Big Spring died Tuesday, March 11, 2014 at her residence. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

#### **Howard County Feed & Supply**



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#### Jesse Reed Armistead



Jesse Reed Armistead, age 58, passed away Thursday, March 6, 2014, at his home in Houston, Texas. He died peacefully with his mother and sister by his side after a long and courageous battle with He is survived by his mother,

Mary Jane Armistead, brother, John Aubrey Armistead, sister Sheela Bess Armistead, sister and brother-in-law, Jane Dale and Steven Edwards, and granddaughter Hailey Paige

Dalton. Jesse is preceded in death by his Father, Aubrey Dale Armistead, and his son Jesse Reed Armistead Dalton. Jesse was born in Big Spring, Texas, March 31,

1955, and attended Big Spring High School. He worked in construction and roofing in Austin, Houston and Florida. Jesse was a kind-hearted and optimistic person who will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him. A graveside service will be held on Wednesday

March 12, 2014, at 1:00 p.m. at Lakeland Hills Memo-

Paid obituary

#### Jacques "Jackie" Newton



Jacques "Jackie" Newton, 92, of Big Spring died Saturday March 8, 2014, at Parkview Nursing and Rehab Center. Private family services will be at a later date.

She was born March 12, 1921, to Wilma and Samuel Rawls in Fort Worth, Texas. She married Thomas J. Newton in Abilene, Texas, on Feb. 17, 1945. He preceded her in death Nov. 10, 1997. She had been a resident of Big Spring for 13 years

moving to the city from Midland, Texas. She was a homemaker and housewife.

She is survived by two daughters, Terry Smith and husband Ken of San Angelo, Texas, Sandra Fulesday and husband Val of Big Spring; one son, Steven Newton of Albuquerque, N.M.; six grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents and husband she is preceded in death by one granddaughter, Carol Jean Smith and one daughter-in-law, Marilyn D. (Keen) Newton.

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

#### Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 7 a.m. Tuesday and 7

• ANTONIO GARCIA JR., 25, of 1208 Wood, was two brothers, Ruben Billalba of Grand Prairie, arrested Monday on charges of expired motor Texas, Tommy Billalba and wife Olga of Big Spring vehicle inspection, driving while license invalid, failed to maintain financial responsibility, fail to appear – three counts and three warrants from



another agency.

- BILLY MANN KIRK JR., 39, of 408 S. Lancaster, was arrested Monday on charges of possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia and a warrant from another agency.
- ROBERT DUANE BUCK, 44, of 1210 Main, was arrested on a warrant for fail to appear and on a charge of disregard stop sign.
- MARK HOLLIS RYERSON, 26, of 801 E. 18th St., was arrested on a charge of possession of marijuana less than or equal to 2 ounces. • MARTY RAY EVANS JR., 24, of 1410 11th Pl., was
- arrested Monday on a charge of driving while intoxicated 2<sup>nd</sup> offense. • BENJAMIN PAUL KILLMAN, 23, of 3417 N.
- Midland Dr. apt. 2903, Midland, Texas, was arrested Monday on a charge of theft greater than \$1,500 but less than \$20,000. • JIMMY MELCHOR, 51, of 710 E. 14th St., was
- arrested Monday on a charge of driving while intoxicated 3rd or more offense. BURGLARY OF A BUILDING was reported at
- the 1300 block of N. County Road 9 and the 1100 block of E. 3<sup>rd</sup> St.. • STOLEN VEHICLE was reported at the 600
- block of E. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported at the 2600
- block of Chanute, the 600 block of Elgin and the 2800 block of Coronado Ave. MINOR ACCIDENT was reported at the inter-
- section of 18th St. and Gregg. CREDIT/DEBIT CARD ABUSE was reported at
- the 200 block of W. FM 700.
- SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY reported at the 1200 block of E. 15th St.

### **Sheriff**

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

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 68 inmates at the time of this report.

 MARTY EVANS was booked by HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for driving while intoxicated.

 BENJAMIN PAUL KILLMAN was booked by HCSO on a charge of theft of property.

 ANTONIO GARCIA JR. was booked by BSPD on charges of expired motor vehicle inspection, violate promise to appear, motion to revoke probation for driving while intoxicated, driving while license invalid, fail to maintain financial responsibility, failure to appear - two counts.

 LORETTA YVONNE ROSALES was booked by Glasscock County on a charge of driving while license invalid with previous conviction/suspension without final resolution. BILLY MANN KIRK JR. was booked by BSPD on

charge of possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. ROBERT DUANE BUCK was booked by BSPD

on charges of disregard stop sign and violate promise to appear. MARK HOLLIS RYERSON was booked by BSPD

on a charge of possession of marijuana. JIMMY RAY MELCHOR was booked by HCSO

on a charge of driving while intoxicated 3rd or more

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#### **Today's Weather**

Local	5-Day F	orecas	t	
Wed 3/12	Thu 3/13	Fri 3/14	Sat 3/15	Sun 3/16
Zamar.	Zamar.		Zamar.	000
<b>59/33</b> Mainly sunny. High 59F. Winds N at 20 to 30 mph.	<b>66/39</b> Sunshine. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the upper 30s.	<b>75/40</b> Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the low 40s.	77/42 Mainly sunny. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the low 40s.	70/37 Windy with sunshine. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the upper 30s.
Sunrise: 8:00 AM Sunset:	Sunrise: 7:59 AM Sunset:	Sunrise: 7:57 AM Sunset:	Sunrise: 7:56 AM Sunset:	Sunrise: 7:55 AM Sunset:

#### // CELEBRATING THE AMERICAN SPIRIT //

# Texas At A Glance Amarillo San Antonio Brownsville

Abilene	60	34	windy	Kingsville	69	44	windy
Amarillo	54	27	sunny	Livingston	63	34	windy
Austin	63	36	windy	Longview	60	34	windy
Beaumont	65	38	windy	Lubbock	58	28	sunny
Brownsville	67	48	windy	Lufkin	64	35	windy
Brownwood	62	36	windy	Midland	58	37	sunny
Corpus Christi	66	45	windy	Raymondville	68	45	windy
Corsicana	59	35	windy	Rosenberg	64	40	windy
Dallas	60	36	windy	San Antonio	65	38	windy
Del Rio	68	45	windy	San Marcos	64	36	windy
El Paso	59	40	windy	Sulphur Springs	59	35	windy
Fort Stockton	57	37	sunny	Sweetwater	59	34	windy
Gainesville	57	31	windy	Tyler	59	34	windy
Greenville	57	32	windy	Weatherford	59	32	windy
Houston	64	40	windy	Wichita Falls	59	33	sunny

#### **National Cities**

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	63	29	windy	Minneapolis	26	18	pt sunny
Boston	48	31	rain	New York	53	27	rain
Chicago	23	11	sn shower	Phoenix	77	52	mst sunn
Dallas	60	36	windy	San Francisco	69	48	sunny
Denver	48	29	sunny	Seattle	57	39	sunny
Houston	64	40	windy	St. Louis	39	25	sn showe
Los Angeles	76	54	pt sunny	Washington, DC	72	31	t-storm
Miami	87	67	pt sunny				

#### **Moon Phases**



J	V	Inde	X

Wed 3/12	Thu 3/13	Fri 3/14	Sat 3/15	Sun 3/16					
7	7	7	7	8					
High	High High High High								
The UV Index is measured on a 0 - 11 number scale, 0									

skin protection

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#### COUNTY

Continued from Page 1

we're only going with roads we can prove have been damaged (by oilfield traffic) right now."

Klinksiek said that \$3 million would only pay for a fraction of the total needed to fully repair county roads, but the money would be invaluable nonetheless.

"There's about \$17 million worth of work needed on county roads, but the entire county should see a benefit from this,' he said. "This will free us up to use our existing resources in other areas."

In other business, commissioners approved:

- The drilling of additional monitoring wells near the old Luther Store at FM 669 and County Road 27. The monitors will check for possible gasoline contamination of water wells, road and Bridge Administrator Brian Klinksiek said.
- A meal service contract for the law enforcement center.
- Regular reports from the county clerk, county treasurer and county auditor.

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

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### **Take** Note

- The Big Spring Senior Center dance is open to all ages. No alcohol, or smoking. Our parking lot is now well lit, and we are handicapped accessible. The cost is \$8.00 per person. March 14 "Prowlers," March 21 "Prowlers," March 28 "Midnight Express."
- Howard County A&M Club is accepting applications from high school students who are graduating this May and have been accepted at Texas A&M University for fall 2014. Students must be Howard County residents and will enroll for at least 12 hours. Deadline for applications is April 1. More information and the application may be found on the club website at www.westexags.com
- Howard County Fair Association is in need of volunteers to cross stitch squares for the Howard County Fair quilt to be raffled at the fair. Theme this year is "Hummingbirds." Patterns are from easy to more difficult, so you do not have to be an expert. Squares may be picked up at the Heritage Museum front desk Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, call Suzanne Markwell at 214-256-1674.
- The Prom Closet will be back this year to provide beautiful barely worn or never worn prom dresses at no charge for area girls. For more information call Christian Fair at 816-3573.
- Scenic Mountain Medical Center's Yellow Rose Café has been temporarily closed to the public for routine repairs and maintenance. The café will remain closed until repairs are complete. A completion date for the project has not been set. Patient meals will continue interruption without

Dragon China Buffet,

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EXP. 3/31/14

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**HERALD Staff Photo** 

Investigators work a traffic accident at Seventh and Gregg streets Monday. One person was transported to the Scenic Mountain Medical Center emergency room, according to EMS.

throughout the process. The hospital will issue an announcement release once the Yellow Rose Café is ready to reopen. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. For more information, contact Amanda Duforat, marketing coordinator, at 268-4699.

- 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 filling 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

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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 accompaniment 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 infornation, 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, call CPS at 263-9669.

### sudoku ANSWERS 4 2 8 5 6 7 8 7 2 5

Manager Todd Darden, is to ensure sufficient water for basic living necessitates, according to a press release from the city.

Outside watering, washing vehicles, filling of swimming pools, flushing water lines, wetting ground for construction, or any other non-essential uses of water will be strictly prohibited.

Some residents may experience some inconveniences such as low water pressure, additional air in the water and loss of water.

#### **DEATH**

Continued from Page 1

crashing his vehicle into the front of the restaurant, tearing a gaping hole in its exterior.

No other injuries were reported as a result of the accident.

Department of Public Safety and Howard County Sheriff's Office officials said this morning they had no details on the incident.

#### **MYERS & SMITH** FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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"Coach" James Collinsworth, 76, died Saturday. Funeral Services v e 2 p.m today at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

Fidel Martinez, 57, died Saturday. Vigil services will be 7 p.m. tonight at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral mass will be 10 a.m. Wednesday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Frances Billalba McKiski,

60, died Sunday. Vigil services will be 7 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral mass will be 11 a.m. Thursday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Burial will follow at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Jacques "Jackie" Newton, 92, died Saturday March 8, 2014. Private family services will be at a later date.

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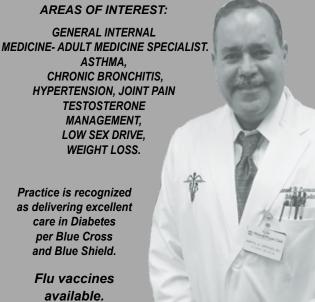
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# Opinion

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

#### **ADDRESSES**

#### **GOVERNMENT**

BARACK OBAMA

President The White House Washington, D.C. 20500

#### • TED CRUZ

<u>FEDERAL</u>

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

#### RANDY **NEUGEBAUER**

U.S. Representative 19th Cong. District 1510 Scurry Big Spring

Phone: 432-264-0722

#### **STATE** <u>GOVERNMENT</u>

#### RICK PERRY

Governor State Capitol, Room 2S.1 P.O. Box 12428 Austin, 78711

Phone: 512-463-2000

#### DREW DARBY

State Representative Texas 72nd District P.O. Box 2910

Austin, 78768 Phone: 512-463-0331

#### ·KEL SELIGER

State Senator Texas 31st District 401 Austin, Suite 101 Big Spring, 79720 Phone: 432-268-9909

#### **BIG SPRING CITY COUNCIL**

LARRY MCLELLAN,

Mayor - Office: 267-2711.

- MARVIN BOYD 263-8800
- · CARMEN HARBOUR Work: 264-2401.
- · MARCUS
- FERNANDEZ Mobile:
- 816-3923 · GLEN CARRIGAN —
- Home: 263-3207.
- BOBBY MCDONALD - Home: 263-4835.
- Work: 263-1234.
- RAUL BENAVIDES Work: 267-2501.

#### **HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

· MARK BARR, COUNTY JUDGE - Home and

- Office: 264-2202. · OSCAR GARCIA —
- Home: 264-0026. DONNIE BAKER —
- Home: 267-5325. · JIMMIE LONG -
- Home: 466-0793.
- **JOHN CLINE**

#### Home: 263-7158.

# Obamacare keeps tanking

ow I pray we don't get so numb to the endless nightmarish stories of Obamacare that we become fatalistic and resigned to its con-

tinued existence. As an antidote to that, I submit another update. First, Unite Here

– a maior union for the hotel, gaming, food service, manufacturing, textile, distribution, laundry and airport industries — has issued a report concluding



LIMBAUGH

that Obamacare will result in wages being reduced by up to \$5 an hour, reduce worker hours and exacerbate income inequality. The report, titled "The Irony of ObamaCare: Making Inequality Worse," states: "Ironically, the Administration's own signature healthcare victory poses one of the most immediate challenges to redressing inequality. ... We take seriously the promise

that 'if you like your health plan, vou can keep it. Period.' UNITE HERE members like their health plans." Next, let's look at some very interesting — and compelling

- "hard data" from Forbes on the difficulties people will have finding doctors under this exasperating law. Forbes obtained its data from Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield "because it is regarded to offer higher quality plans in both the commercial market and on the exchanges."

The report looks at nine states and compares the number of specialists in the various fields of practice - cardiology, oncology, orthopedics, dermatology, gastroenterology, obstetrics and gynecology - who are available in private health plans with those in the Obamacare plans in the same markets. The numbers are astounding and cannot be dismissed by cynics as anec-

Let's look at the cardiologists. In Connecticut, there are 400 practitioners in private plans and 177 fewer (223) in the Obamacare plans. In Kentucky, 376 are in private plans, and there are 182 fewer in Obama plans. In

fewer. Colorado, 71 and 34 fewer. Indiana, 1.055 and 981 fewer. Maine, 71 and 23 fewer. Nevada, 324 and 225 fewer. Ohio, 511 and 244 fewer. Wisconsin, 286 and 187 fewer. Just running through these quickly, it looks as though the available choices under the Obamacare plans in many of these specialties are less than half or worse.

The comparative numbers for the remainder of the specialties look to be about as dismal for the Obamacare plans. How could anyone argue that this is not a significant blow to access and quality of care?

The Washington Examiner reports that health insurers participating in Obamacare are "very worried" about the announcement by the Department of Health and Human Services that plans that were supposed to be canceled this year can now be renewed for another two years.

Health insurance industry consultant Robert Laszewski said, "The fundamental problem here is that the administration is just not signing up enough people to make anyone confident this program is sustainable." Indeed, though HHS reports that some 4 million have signed up for plans under the new exchanges, the real number is closer to 3 million when you factor in people who haven't paid their premiums on time or at all. As a result, they haven't developed a "sustainable risk pool" in which young and healthy enrollees will offset the cost of covering sick and older people who are guaranteed coverage through Obama's personal beneficence.

Next, Reason reports that the federal government spent more on broken state-run exchanges than it did on its own miserable system. Seven of the 14 state-run exchanges "remain dysfunctional, disabled, or severely underperforming." These failed exchanges were "funded heavily by the federal government" via grants that totaled more than \$1.2 billion — almost twice the \$677 million spent to develop the federal exchange. But hey, what's a wasted couple of billion here and there? Based on Obama's reaction to similar failures in his green energy debacles, this is just another day surely most of that money came from rich taxpayers — who are little better than serial felons, in the left's estimation. So no harm (to anyone who matters), no foul.

Next, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi said she opposes a proposal by Rep. Peter Roskam, R-Ill., to create a special inspector general to oversee Obamacare. Roskam said it's needed because "the public has been kept in the dark about a law that puts the federal government in charge of one-sixth of the economy and is wreaking havoc on America's personal health care decisions." Even though Democrats and the administration have stonewalled congressional oversight of Obamacare, Pelosi insists no additional oversight is needed, because each of the government agencies that are implementing the law has its own inspector general. That is not quite the position Pelosi took in the past concerning special inspectors general — for the Troubled Asset Relief Program, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, Hurricane Katrina, and intelligence.

On top of all this, columnist John Hayward informs us that Obamacare's ultimate failure is that the uninsured aren't buying. New studies show that these uninsured are just uninterested.

It's the socialist way. Don't you see? Cite a horrendous alleged inequity and a desperate need in order to commandeer control over business and industry even though there was little evidence of such a demand in the first place.

All I'm asking is that we don't ever allow this unconscionable law to slip to the back burner of American politics. Repeal now and repeal always.

David Limbaugh is a writer, author and attorney. His latest book, "The Great Destroyer," reached No. 2 on the New York Times best-seller list for nonfiction. Follow him on Twitter @ davidlimbaugh and his website at www.davidlimbaugh.com. To read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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#### Daily Prayer

Help us, Heavenly Father, to abide by your teachings.

boldness of Rep. Dave Camp's tax reform plan need not that would repeal the deduction

e who applaud the

for state and local taxes is an abomination, to

put it mildly. The Michigan Republican, head and Means Committee, largely delivers on his vow to simplify the tax code, cut marginal rates and close loopholes.

But the deduc-



FROMA HARROP

tion for state and local taxes is not a loophole. It is a cornerstone of modern federalism — the belief that power should be moved from Washington to the governments closest to the people. Usstate and local governments' ability to raise revenues is an attack on their authority.

Though conservatives talk a big game in favor of shifting power downward, many can't pass on an opportunity to meddle in the decisions state and local governments make. Basically, they are betraying principles to play politics.

The high-tax states tend to be liberal. Ending the deduction for state and local taxes would drain more money from blue America. Several red state politicians are trying to pretty up the money grab with the self-flattering lie that low-tax conservative states Amen subsidize the high-tax liberal

Conservative Ramesh Ponnuru neatly reveals the agenda. Writing for Bloomberg View, Ponnuru calls the deduction for state and local taxes "a subsidy from people in low-tax states to those in high-tax ones." He adds approvingly, "It also puts a federal thumb on the scales in the debate over how big state and local governments should be."

The size of a state or local government should be no business of Washington's. This is a matter for the people living in these places, something a selfproclaimed federalist should understand.

In practice, low-tax America doesn't subsidize high-tax America. The opposite is the case.

It's true that taxpayers in hightax states who itemize on their federal returns enjoy a bigger deduction than those of equal income in low-tax states. But it happens that high-tax states generally in the Northeast, in the upper Midwest and on the West Coast — also have steeper incomes, pushing their people into higher federal tax brackets. These states largely pay for the federal government.

Democrats are not the only ones to make this point. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie called out Sen. Rand Paul's crashing hypocrisy when the Kentucky Republican called Christie — demanding federal aid for Superstorm Sandy — the "King of Bacon."

"In fact," Christie responded, "New Jersey is a donor state, and we get 61 cents back on

**Where Washington doesn't belong** every dollar we send to Washington. And interestingly, Kentucky gets \$1.51 on every dollar they

> The federal tax code doesn't care that a \$65,000 salary goes further in El Paso than in San Francisco.

send to Washington."

To enjoy a similar standard of living, the San Franciscan would have to make \$115,000, exposing him to a higher federal tax bracket.

In any case, the deduction for state and local taxes is not a true "tax expenditure" — wonk talk for government spending that parades as a tax break. Rather, Citizens for Tax Justice notes, it is "a way to define the amount of income a taxpayer has available to pay federal income taxes."

Also, many high-tax states use these revenues to support world class universities, research centers and infrastructure for commerce, benefiting all the country. Some states may use their low tax rates to attract educated workers, but where did those workers get their education?

This is beside the point, however. State and local tax policy should be between these governments and their residents. Washington politicians owe these governments respect of a genuine kind.

Follow Froma Harrop on Twitter @FromaHarrop. She can be reached at fharrop@gmail.com. To find out more about Froma Harrop and read features by other Creators writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Web page at www.creators.com.

# Bird Poop: Fighting your reflection

do we have the pleasure of their company. But this January, and throughout February, a lilting song on a

cold morning has carried through out our neighborhood. Soon it is joined by another voice in answer.

Then,

the me-





Веве **McC**asland

lodious couple is seen flitting about their territory. He dares an entry to be made. Warned of their presence, others keep their distance or court a physical rebuke. At our elevated water dishes, the male drinks

Finished, he flies to a nearby limb. Cautiously, she lands on the rim of one of the basins. Between sips, she continues to check

first, while the female

remains partially hid-

den in the mesquites.

her surroundings. The first day of March is no different. Having waited their turn, two blue jays seem relieved when the cardinals finally leave. The female's flight to our

native junipers to join the stately male has become a daily custom. There, as their lyrical announcement of a dying winter and coming spring continues, they have realized the affection they share.

Bringing her morsels and gently placing them in her beak, he sings of the times to be. The feathers atop his head point toward the heavens. Swaying from side to side, he slowly inches down a limb toward his intended

Having watched this recent courtship in our side yard has prepared us for the first of numerous phone calls. Every year, in their eagerness to protect their territories, male cardinals attack what they think are other males. Reflections from windowpanes, hubcaps, and outside mirrors on parked cars are subjected to harassment and scratches from their thick bills. This defensive behavior lasts two to three weeks.

Other phone calls will address a more serious problem. A number of males knock themselves silly from flying into storm doors and windows in their pursuit of supposed adversaries. One year, however, did seem espe-



The name "cardinal" was first used to describe the red songbird because it was reminiscent of the brilliant red robes worn by religious leaders. Although secretive in choosing a nest site, the Northern cardinal is more public in announcing its presence with distinctive, easily recognizable

cially dangerous. As soon as one recovered and was released, another came our way.

Residents' descriptions, such as "Dazed," or "Absolutely out of it!" were common. Knocked unconscious, the colorful males were vulnerable.

Arriving in a variety of boxes, the cardinals were given a chance to recover.

Overseeing several hours of inactivity was the first step.

Placement in a container for feeding and flight evaluation would follow.

A vibrant energy emanated from each individual we handled. They exuded confidence and determination.

Almost entirely red, except for the black patch of feathers surrounding the base of his large, thick bill, the male would often raise and lower his crest as if to accentuate his feelings.

In comparison, the mate that awaited his return was gray, brownish above, with reddish wings, crest, and bill. Her drab

coloration was nature's way of secreting her away while building her nest and brooding her young.

Whether the male cardinals would need our assistance again this year was on my mind as I stood in our driveway recently after picking up the morning paper.

From a distant tree, "whoo-ett, whoo-ett, whoo-ett; tuer, tuer, tuer" echoed through our neighborhood.

Pausing for only a moment, it was followed by "prêt-ty, prêt-ty, prêt-ty."

Only a cardinal's song could be that distinct and aptly describe its coloration and stature.

As I entered the house, some of the lyrics from a delightful musical, "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers" suddenly came to mind:

Goin' courtin', goin' courtin'

Oh it sets your senses in a whirl.

Goin' courtin', goin'

courtin'

Dudin' up to go and see your gal. You cuddle up she

moves away Then the strategy

comes into play. Goin' courtin', goin'

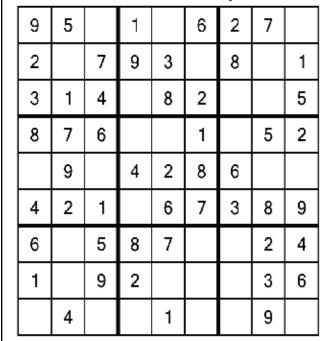
courtin'! Jane Powell offered classic advice for the young men of the family. It also seems appropriate for avian males as well.

Bebe McCasland is author of "The Scoop from Bird Poop." She is federally and state licensed to rehabilitate wild birds.

#### **Sudoku Answer on Page 3**

# 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



www.sudoku-puzzles.net

## Nothing beats a winning team

here's nothing like being in a great team. It is one of life's greatest highs and one of the real pleasures

of life. I was reminded of this concept recently when I was visiting with our Volunteer Fire Chief

Tommy Sullivan. We were

DARRELL

RYAN

discussing our school and community team efforts when he spoke of his guys and the kind of team they have in his department. I was so impressed as he was discussing his team

loyalty they have for one another. It reminded me of what human relationships are all about. We should all be here for each other. We should all have that same kind of attitude for one another and especially for the team or teams we

are part of. But what is

a team and how are we

involved individually?

and the commitment,

dependence, trust and

A team is defined as a group of people who collaborate or work together toward a common goal. A team implies synergy, meaning the whole is greater than the sum of their parts. A team is led by a team leader, but each individual is self-directed and fills an important

The essence of a team is a common commitment, because without it, the members are simply a group of individuals. Communication flows in every direction, from the

leader to the team and

part of the whole.

the team members to each other. A true team requires interpersonal relationships, trust, confidence and coordination; and because of the nature of these attributes, they take time to develop and each member of the team must realize he is not alone but is always protected and supported by the other team members.

It's not just this way for the Volunteer Fire Department but is the overriding concept in any team, whether it be an athletic team, a work team, a community team or a marriage. We are here for each other.

We can be depended upon; we can be trusted; we can feel the assurance that we are truly together in whatever it is that we are doing. This is a true team, but in many areas of our current society today we have forgotten what it's all about.

Thanks, Tommy, for reminding me of this concept and sharing the devotion you have with your team. We are so fortunate to have such people in our community and we must continually find a way to express our gratitude.

I guess we could be like a line from Winnie-

the Pooh when Piglet noticed that even though he had a very small heart, it could hold a rather large amount of gratitude.

Darrell Ryan is director of school safety for Big Spring Independent School District.

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The Big Spring Herald - 710 Scurry Chrispy's Cafe - 1904 S. Birdwell Lane DRAWING TO BE HELD MARCH 28TH



By Steve Becker

#### West Rises to the Occasion

South dealer. North-South vulnerable. NORTH **♦** K Q 10 4 **♥** 9 5 ♦Q94 **EAST ♦**985 ♥10762 **♦** J 7 2 **♥** K 8 3 **♦**862 ♣A 10 7 6 **♣**KJ3 SOUTH

The bidding: West South North East 2 NT INT Pass Pass 3 NT Pass Opening lead — two of hearts. Some of the great defensive plays you hear or read about might cause

you to think that the defenders had seen all four hands. It is true that in practice we'd all defend better if we saw everyone's cards, but in most cases it shouldn't matter whether you see the missing cards or not. Here is a typical example from a match played many years ago on Bridge-O-Rama before a large audi-

ence. Faced with a difficult opening

lead, West selected a heart

though South had bid the suit.

Declarer took East's king with the ace and led a low diamond toward dummy at trick two. At this point, even before West had played to the trick, the Bridge-O-Rama commentator who, together with the audience, could see all four hands on the giant screen - said: "If West takes the king and returns the jack of clubs, South will go down one. These words were scarcely uttered

before West went up with the king of diamonds and returned the jack of clubs! Declarer then quickly lost four club tricks in succession and so went Actually, West's jack-of-clubs lead

was not as astonishing as it might seem. Far from being a shot in the dark, the club shift was well-East's king-of-hearts play at trick

one had made it clear that South started with the A-Q, and possibly the A-Q-J, of hearts. It was also obvious from declarer's diamond lead at trick two that he had the ace. And it was probable from the bidding and South's failure to attack spades at the outset that he had the ace of spades. It followed that South could not

also have the ace of clubs, or he would have bid more strongly. Therefore, the attack on declarer's apparent weak spot, clubs, offered West the only real chance to beat the

contract Tomorrow: Good play overcomes bad luck.

### News in brief

#### Police say man with stolen passport on missing Malaysian jetliner was Iranian asylum seeker

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) A man traveling with a stolen passport on a missing Malaysia Airlines jetliner was an Iranian teenager trying to migrate to Germany, and is not believed to have any terrorist links, police said Tuesday.

The announcement is likely to dampen, at least for now, speculation that the disappearance of the Boeing 777 was linked to terrorism. Police said a second passenger also traveling with a stolen passport has not been identified. Both bought their tickets in Thailand and entered Malaysia to-

No debris from the plane has been found. On Tuesday, baffled authorities expanded their search to the opposite side of Malaysia from where it disappeared more than three days ago with 239 people on board.

The airline says the pilots did not send any distress signals, suggesting a sudden and possibly catastrophic incident. Speculation has ranged widely about possible causes, including pilot error, plane malfunction, hijacking and terrorism.

News that two of the passengers were traveling with stolen passports immediately fueled speculation of foul play. However, Malaysian police chief Khalid Abu Bakar told a news conference Tuesday that investigators had determined one was a 19-yearold Iranian, Pouria Nourmohammadi Mehrdad, who was planning to enter Germany to seek asylum.

#### Ukraine seeks to create national guard, bolster armed forces with reserves, volunteers

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukraine's acting president has called for the formation of a national guard and for the mobilization of reserves and volunteers into the country's armed forces in order to counter Russian military aggression.

Oleksandr Turchynov on Tuesday asked the national parliament to approve a decision to turn the country's Interior Ministry troops into a National Guard whose aim "is to defend the country and citizens against any criminals, against external and internal aggression."

Turchynov said that the mobilization will cover those who have previously served in the army as well as volunteers.

Russian forces have strengthened their control over Ukraine's Crimea region in the run-up to a contentious referendum set for Sunday on whether to split off and become part of Rus-

#### Japan marks 3rd anniversary of tsunami disaster, prime minister vows to boost reconstruction

TOKYO (AP) — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pledged to boost rebuilding efforts as the country marked the third anniversary Tuesday of a devastating earthquake and tsunami that left nearly 19,000 people dead, destroyed coastal communities and triggered a nuclear crisis.

Japan has struggled to rebuild towns and villages and to clean up radiation from the meltdowns at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant. Reconstruction plans are finally taking shape, but shortages of skilled workers and materials are delaying the work.

The triple disasters known in Japan as 3-11 killed 15,884 people and left 2,636 unaccounted for on its northeastern coast. The country has earmarked 25 trillion yen (\$250 billion) for reconstruction through March

Three years later, nearly 270,000 people remain displaced from their homes, including many from Fukushima prefecture who may never be able to return home due to radioactive contamination.

During a ceremony in Tokyo, officials and representatives of the survivors offered a minute of silence to mark the moment, at 2:46 p.m., when the magnitude 9.0 earthquake struck off the Tohoku coast. It was the strongest quake recorded in Japan's his-

#### Utah, other states seek balance to restrict drone use while courting thriving new industry

BRIGHAM CITY, Utah (AP) — Law enforcement, government agencies and others are itching to use drones for everything from finding lost hikers to tracking shifting wildfires. But privacy watchdogs are urging state legislatures to step in and head off any potential privacy violations.

That tension is on display as more than 35 states consider drone legislation this year, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. The bills include ways to attract an industry that could generate billions and restrictions on drone use and data collection.

"It's in its nascent form now, but it's growing and will be growing in the future," Steve Erickson, who leads a privacy watchdog group called Citizens Education Project, told Utah lawmakers recently.

The proposed legislation comes as states are awaiting clear federal guidance on drones. Many states have taken additional steps to lure the unmanned aircraft industry, such as trying to become a federal testing site, with hopes it will be a financial

The balancing act is playing out in stark relief in Utah, where there's a long history of suspicion at government intrusion and where drones are ideally suited to help authorities patrol largely rural, unforgiving terrain.

#### Senators rally for changes in military justice system to curb sexual assaults

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senators rallied behind significant changes in military law to curb rape and sexual assault within the ranks, approving steps to protect the victims and barring the "good soldier defense" to ensure evidence alone determines a defendant's fate.

With the women of the Senate leading the fight, lawmakers voted 97-0 Monday for legislation that would force a half-dozen major changes on a military struggling with a pervasive problem that Pentagon leaders concede could cost the services the trust and respect of the public and make it harder to attract men and women to serve in the all-volunteer force.

The measure, which now heads to the House, comes on top of more than 30 changes that Congress approved and President Barack Obama signed into law as part of a defense policy bill just four months ago.

"Unanimous agreement in the U.S. Senate is pretty rare — but rarer still is the kind of sweeping, historic change we've achieved over the past year in the military justice system," said Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., who joined with two Republican women — Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire and Deb Fischer of Nebraska in writing the legislation.

Still, that unanimous support was in sharp contrast to last week, when military leaders vigorously opposed a measure by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., that would have stripped commanders of their authority to prosecute cases and given that power to military lawyers outside the chain of command. The Senate voted 55-45 for that farther-reaching bill, but that was five votes short of the necessary

#### Once most dangerous dog, pit bulls benefit from softening attitudes, advocacy groups

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — For much of the past three decades, pit bulls have been widely regarded as America's most dangerous dog — the favorite breed of thugs, drug dealers and dog-fighting rings, with a fearsome reputation for unprovoked, sometimes deadly attacks.

Hostility toward "pits" grew so intense that some cities began treating them as the canine equivalent of assault rifles and prohibited residents from owning them.

But attitudes have softened considerably since then as animal activists and even television shows cast the dogs in a more positive light. The image makeover has prompted many states to pass new laws that forbid communities from banning specific

And it illustrates the power and persistence of dog-advocacy groups that have worked to fend off pit bull restrictions with much the same zeal as gun-rights groups have defeated guncontrol measures.

"Lawmakers are realizing that targeting dogs based on their breed or what they look like is not a solution to dealing with dangerous dogs," said Lisa Peters, a spokeswoman for the American Kennel Club.

Eighteen states now have laws that prohibit communities from adopting breed-specific bans. Lawmakers in six more states are considering similar measures, and some cities are reviewing local policies that classify pit bulls as dangerous animals.

#### Pistorius trial: Friend allegedly involved in previous gunplay testifies PRETORIA, South Africa (AP) -

The friend of Oscar Pistorius who was identified by witnesses as being with the athlete on two occasions when a gun was shot in public is testifying at Pistorius' murder trial on Tuesday.

Darren Fresco was asked by Pistorius to take the blame, a previous witness testified, when a gun the Olympic runner was handling fired under a table in a restaurant in early 2013, about a month before Pistorius shot dead girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp.

Fresco was also present, another witness said, when Pistorius shot his gun out the sunroof of a car after an altercation with traffic police in 2012.

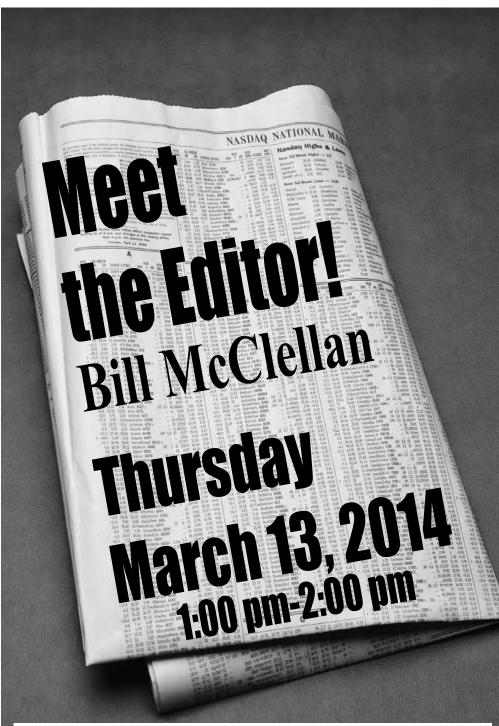
#### Joe McGinniss, newsmaking author of 'Fatal Vision,' 'Selling of the President,' dies at 71

NEW YORK (AP) — Joe McGinniss wasn't one to let a story tell itself.

Whether insisting on the guilt of a murder suspect after seemingly befriending him or moving next door to Sarah Palin's house for a most unauthorized biography, McGinniss was unique in his determination to get the most inside information, in how publicly he burned bridges with his subjects and how memorably he placed himself in the narrative.

McGinniss, the adventurous and news-making author and reporter who skewered the marketing of Richard Nixon in "The Selling of the President 1968" and tracked his personal journey from sympathizer to scourge of convicted killer Jeffrey MacDonald in the blockbuster "Fatal Vision," died Monday at age 71.

McGinniss, who announced last year that he had been diagnosed with inoperable prostate cancer, died from complications related to his disease.



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## SPRING HERALD

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Page 7 Tuesday, March 11, 2014

### Davis, Sims lead Baylor to Big 12 women's title

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) - Nothing was going to stop Odyssey Sims.

Not her early foul trouble, West Virginia's suffocating defense or the left ankle injury she suffered less than t wo minutes into the Big 12 championship game.

Sims, the Big 12 player of the year, bounced back and scored 15 of her 19 points in the second half to help No. 9 Baylor defeat No. 7 West Virginia 74-71 Monday night and earn an automatic bid into

the NCAA tournament. It was Sims' fourth championship in four years.

"Just feels great," she said. "It feels good to win another championship. I'm happy for my team. Just happy."

Niya Johnson scored a career-high 19 points and made four free throws in the final minute, and Nina Davis added 16 points for the Lady Bears (29-4), who have won 15 of their past 16 games. Davis, a freshman, was named the tournament's most outstanding player.

Bria Holmes scored 24 points and Linda Stepney and Averee Fields added 10 each for West Virginia (29-4), which had won 12 straight. The Mountaineers were trying to win the tournament in just their second year in the conference, but now they have something to think about as they prepare for the NCAA tournament.

"I told the players, remember how this feels because the next time going down

the stretch, we've got to execute," West Virginia coach Mike Carey said. "We normally have executed well going down the stretch. Today we just had a couple shots, missed them, and then defensively is where I was really disappointed. We didn't execute and get some stops." The teams shared the reg-

ular-season Big 12 title and split their games during the regular season, with each winning on the other's home court. Sims was slowed this time after scoring 48 and 39 points in the regular season games, but the Bears supported her by shooting 48 percent overall.

The lead went back and forth in the final minutes.

Sims made a jumper with 50.4 seconds left to put Baylor

West Virginia misconnected on a post entry pass and turned the ball over. Baylor ran the clock, forcing WVU to foul. Holmes committed

See BIG 12, Page 13



Forsan High School's Maria Ortiz was one of four Lady Buffaloes named to the 6-A all-district basketball team recently. Joining Ortiz on the team were fellow seniors Raegan Haggard, Brittney Hergert and Ali Knight.

# Lady Buffaloes place 4 on 6-A all-district team

#### By TOMMY WELLS

Sports Editor

The Forsan High School Lady Buffaloes had four players earn postseason honors earlier this month when the District 6-A all-district teams were announced. In all, 22 athletes were recognizes for the efforts by the coaches from the six teams in the district.

Seniors Raegan Haggard, Brittney Hergert and Maria Ortiz highlighted the 6-A firstteam all-district squad. The three helped guide the Lady Buffaloes to a solid outing this season.

Joining the three FHS standouts on the first-team roster were three players from Plains, two from Smyer and Seagraves and one from

#### 2013-14 6-A All-District Team

#### **Most Valuable Players** Briaelle McGruder.....Sundown

Tori Reyes. Offensive MVP Riley Earnest.

Defensive MVP Emily Marek.....Sundown
Newcomer of the Year

..Sundown

All-District Brogan Henley, Smyer; Lexie Fowler, Smyer; Alyx Henderson, Plains; Daitlyne Broome, Plains; Sieanna Sosa, Plains; Raegan Haggard, Forsan; Brittney Hergert, Forsan; Maria Ortiz, Forsan; Darion Garza, Seagraves; Vicki Minjarez, Seagraves; Madison Lockaby, Tahoka.

**Defensive Team** Maci Dimak, Tahoka; Alyssa Martinez, Smyer; Andrea Shanklin, Seagraves; Ali Knight, Forsan; Whitney Rhomas, Sundown; Madison Davis, Plains.

Tahoka.

Making the team from Plains were Alyx Henderson, Daitlyne Hergert and Sieanna

Sosa. Brogan Henley and Lexie Fowler represented Smyer, while Darion Garza and Vicki Minjarez were Seagraves" two selections.

Madison Lockaby was Tahoka's lone pick.

Ali Knight highlighted the district's defensive all-district picks. The Forsan senior was among six 6-A players honored for the defensive play.

Joining Knight on the squad were Tahoka's Maci Dimak, Smyer's Alyssa Martinez, Seagraves Andrea Shanklin, Sundown's Whitney Thomas and Plains' sophomore Madison Davis.

Sundown's Briaelle McGruder and Plains' Tori Reyes shared the district's MVP honors.

# **Pistorius** shot gun without warning

PRETORIA, South Africa (AP) — Oscar Pistorius became furious with a police officer who handled his licensed gun after pulling the car he was in over for speeding, and the athlete later fired the gun out of the car's sunroof without warning, a friend of Pistorius said Tuesday at his murder trial.

The account by Darren Fresco, who has been identified as being with Pistorius on two occasions when a gun was fired in public, corroborated much of the testimony of another witness who was at the scene of the sunroof shooting.

"You can't just touch another man's gun," Fresco recalled Pistorius telling the traffic officer in late 2012 after the group was pulled over for speeding.

The double-amputee runner has been charged with premeditated murder for the killing of girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp in the early hours of Feb. 14, 2013. He also faces three firearms charges, including two for allegedly shooting a gun in public that feature Fresco as a witness. They related to the alleged gunshot out of the sunroof, as well as another incident in which a gun was fired under a table in a busy restaurant in Johannesburg. Pistorius has pleaded not guilty to all four charges.

During the 2012 stop for speeding, according to Fresco, Pistorius also told the police officer: "Now your fingerprints are all over my gun. So if something happens, you're going to be liable for anything that happens."

Fresco said he and Pistorius and Samantha Taylor, the runner's girlfriend at the time and a state witness who has given a similar account of the episode, then drove away.

"Then without prior warning, he shot out the sunroof," Fresco, who was driving, said of Pistorius, who he said was in the passenger seat.

Fresco said he "instinctively" moved over to the right side of the vehicle and away from where the gun was shot, and then asked Pistorius if he was "mad."

"He just laughed," Fresco recalled. "But it felt as if my ear was already bleeding.'

Fresco also testified that he took the blame when Fresco's gun, a

See TRIAL, Page 13

### UT begins study for stadium expansion

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) The athletics department at the University of Texas at Austin has begun a feasibility study on expansion of Darrell K Royal-Texas Memo-

rial Stadium. The expansion would enclose the southern end of the stadium with a multilevel stand. Now, only a relatively small, bleacher-style stand and the Moncrief-Neuhaus Athletic Center sit in the stadium's southern end.

The stadium current

seats just over 100,000.

A UT statement on Monday said the review will consider aspects such as financing and where parking and fan amenities displaced by the new Dell Medical School can be placed. The medical school is to be built just south of the stadium.

decision whether to proceed with stadium improvements lies with the university administration and UT System regents.

### WJCAC teams set for tourney

The South Plains Texans and the New Mexico Junior College Thunderbirds finally know who their first-round opponents will be when they tip off play in the NJCAA Men's national championship tournament on March 17.

**WJCAC** conference tournament champion NMJC will face 24thseeded Northeastern Oklahoma. NMJC is the No. 16 seed in the 24team field.

SPC, the No. 9 seed, will face Cape Fear, N.C. at noon.

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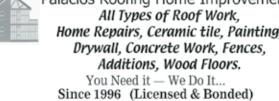
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Dear Annie: My husband and I have been married for 27 years, and I always had a good relationship with my father-in-law. When he divorced for the second time, we offered to let him live rent-free in the guesthouse behind our home.

In the past three years, our feelings for him have disintegrated. Dad does absolutely nothing to earn his

keep. When he moved in, we bought him a flat-screen TV, gave him furniture and helped decorate. We haven't asked for money, and he has never offered to lift a finger. Shouldn't he at least weed his area, clean out his garage and shovel snow around his door?

Dad is 73 and in good health. We pay for his electricity, satellite TV and Internet. We gave him one of our cars, and it took a year before he started chipping in on the insurance



KATHY MITCHELL MARCY SUGAR

premiums. He would never think to have the oil changed.

The money is not the problem. It's that Dad is so irresponsible, ungrateful and disrespectful. He walks into my house without knocking and scares me to death. He leaves his cigarette butts in a beer can on my front porch. I have him over for dinner once a week, and he eats like a glutton, devouring all the week's leftovers. He never reciprocates in any way.

I'm sick of his lazy and thoughtless ways, and so is my husband. My father-in-law is completely self-centered, and it is not lost on me why he is twice divorced. What can I do? --Finished with Him

**Dear Finished:** First talk to your husband so the two of you are in agreement about Dad. Then tell Dad what the new rules are and what you expect. We also suggest you lock your doors, put your leftovers in the freezer before he comes over and

start charging him rent.

**Dear Annie:** My parents are compulsive hoarders. They keep everything. They have clothing that hasn't been worn in 35 years, furniture they no longer use, reference books that are outdated, and stacks of magazines, newspapers and boxes of papers that pose a fire hazard.

I would like to give things away and throw things out, but my hands are tied. I am not allowed to sort through any of their junk, because I might "toss something they need." But I know they'd never begin to find that "something" amidst all the clutter. They do not realize they have a problem, but it's driving me crazy. What can I do? --Going Insane

Dear Going: Your parents may be overwhelmed with the amount of stuff they have accumulated over the years and even embarrassed to have you go through it. Be sympathetic and respectful toward their choices. Ask sweetly whether they would go through just one box with you to see what's in there that might be worth keeping. If so, you can

set aside the things they want, regardless of whether you agree, and get rid of the rest. But if they still refuse or won't admit that crumbling newspapers can be tossed, try to understand that this type of hoarding is a mental illness and requires professional help. See whether there is a hoarding task force in your area, and also contact the International OCD Foundation (ocfoundation.org) for information and referrals.

**Dear Annie:** That letter from "Staving Warm in South Dakota" saved me a service call to my heating contractor. I had not changed the batteries in my digital thermostat in a long time. After changing them this afternoon, my gas heater is now working just fine. No problem.

Thanks. -- Jesup, Ga. 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

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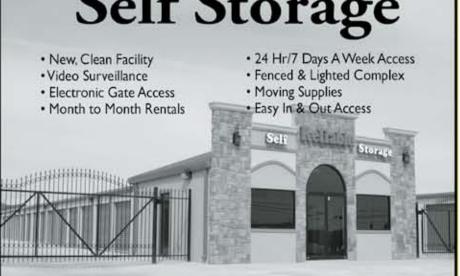
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#### Tomorrow's Horoscope

#### Mercury/Saturn Square of Ulterior Motives

For most humans, considering someone's facial expression takes less than a sixth of a second, and that's not including the subconscious processing of microexpressions: the split-second expressions we make while processing or concealing our emotions. Mercury and Saturn angle to bring awareness of ulterior motives.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). One reason we idolize top athletes, artists and performers in all areas of life is because they have displayed high levels of self-discipline and focus. You have similar powers within you now.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Just as you can strike a beautiful. energetic and alert posture with your body, you can do the same with your mind. Indeed, you'll need to do so, as today's challenges will require a high quality of attention.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June

21). You haven't had the right incentive to

change a weak habit yet, but today you'll find the inspiration you need, likely in the form of a user-friendly method or tool.

> **CANCER** Holiday (June 22-July

Mathis 22). It is a -function of immaturity to want immediate results. The most desirable outcomes often take patience and persistence. Use this as a guiding principle, and you'll cut out the options that don't lead to success.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). Some would rather make people believe they are good than actually do what it takes to be good. Be aware that not everyone around you cares to be virtuous, protect yourself accordingly, and happily avoid trouble.

22). You may feel slightly rudderless, but you'll find direction in life by organizing your motivations, both conscious and

unconscious. You may

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept.

find that two key motivators are clashing and producing tension for you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your need to be involved with others is increased now. Though you may prefer the involvement to be about friendship, love and camaraderie, you will also be very satisfied if the involvement is business.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). How do you send the right message when it's so difficult to totally control your body language, expression, tone and exact words? The easiest way is to believe what you say and say what you believe.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). If you don't feel courageous or particularly motivated to move forward, more than likely the real problem is that you're tired. Get extra sleep tonight, and tomorrow you'll feel much better.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). If you've ever seen a driver go bonkers over a stolen parking spot, you understand how people can become too focused on

succeeding and lose a true sense of perspective. Go for the win, within reason.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Stop straining for an answer. It will come to you when you're relaxed. The same is true of knocking yourself out to achieve results. Take the kinder. gentler route. Do the work while being good to yourself.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It is comfortable to view your situation the way you always have; using that old frame of mind is also limiting and inefficient. Reach out to someone who might help you break open the realm of possibilities.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 11). You've been

many people in your lifetime, but the person you become this year will be an essential part of your legacy on the planet. You'll be funded this month to educate vourself or develop a project. April brings the completion of a goal and new friends. Summer is a whirlwind of romance, duty and family celebration. Leo and Scorpio people adore you. Your lucky

numbers are: 2, 25, 41, 7 and 33.

**ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS:** In response to yesterday's question about the meaning of birthmarks,

the reading continues...

"Seven of (my moles) are small dark moles. I also have what's called a salmon patch on the back of my neck and head. My mother says I had a Mongolian spot on my buttocks when I was an infant, but I've grown out of that." Do you feel that in

your lifetime you have been spared from accidents -- things that could have gone terribly wrong but didn't? A salmon patch birthmark, also called angel kisses and stork bites, is a common birthmark that usually fades to some degree with age and growth. My moleomancy interpretation of this marking in the placement of the back of your head and neck is that you have been favored and cradled by the fates, and the Mongolian spot on your buttocks is part of the same sign. In the act of cradling, the bottom and the back of the head are the crucial points of support. These marks make me imagine you in your spiritual infancy being held tight, loved, cradled and protected by powerful maternal spirits. A favorite of the spirits, their protection is continuous.

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** Awardwinning recording artist Emeli Sande has also written songs for Alicia Keys, Susan Boyle, Rihanna and others. This musical Pisces was born when communication planet Mercury was also in that spiritual realm. Her homebody Cancer moon suggests that the hardest part of being an international star is traveling. Sande's natal Mars is in Taurus, the sign that rules the voice.

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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#### DENNIS THE MENACE



"AND YOU'RE LUCKY THAT KID WILL BE LUCKY IF HE MAKES IT I DON'T DIP YOUR HEAD TO THE FIRST GRADE." IN THE SOUP." BC

#### THE FAMILY CIRCUS

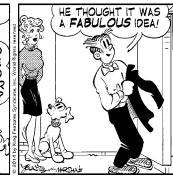


"Mommy, when I graduate from college, will I be smarter than your phone?"

#### HAGAR







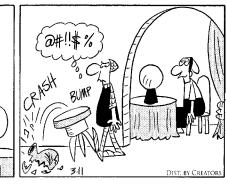




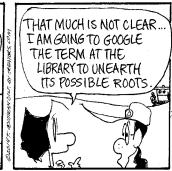
WIZARD OF ID













### This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, March 11, the 70th day of 2014. There are 295 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On March 11, 1954, the U.S. Army charged that Sen. Joseph R. Mc-Carthy, R-Wis., and his subcommittee's chief counsel, Roy Cohn, had exerted pressure to obtain favored treatment for Pvt. G. David Schine, a former consultant to the subcommittee. (The confrontation culminated in the famous Senate Army-McCarthy hearings.) On this date:

In 1861, the Constitution of the Confederate States of America was adopted by the Confederate Congress in Montgomery, Ala. In 1864, during the Civil War, the Union Army Ambulance Corps was established by the U.S. Congress. Dr. Mary Edwards Walker was appointed an assistant surgeon of the 52nd Ohio Infantry Regiment, the first woman assigned to such a post. In 1888, the Blizzard of '88, also known as the "Great White Hurricane," began inundating the northeastern United States, resulting

in some 400 deaths.

In 1930, former Presi-

dent and Chief Justice William Howard Taft was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. In 1942, as Japanese forces continued to advance in the Pacific during World War II, Gen. Douglas MacArthur left the Philippines for Australia. (MacArthur, who subsequently vowed, "I shall return," kept that promise more than  $2\neg\Omega$  years later.)

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# Answer to previous puzzle

#### HI AND LOIS





#### THE OTHER COAST





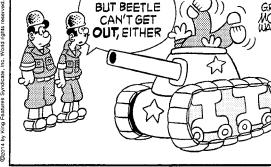
#### **SNUFFY SMITH**





#### **BEETLE BAILEY**





#### **Newsday Crossword**

#### **ACROSS**

- **6** Light spray

- driver's license
- 16 Window glass
- 17 Both/either
- phrase
- 19 Recipe
- direction
- 23 Corp. money manager
- posture
- summit

- **36** Nairobi's nation
- 39 Large brass
- **41** Work of fiction
- 43 Ooze 44 From Dublin
- 46 Overwhelmingly
- 49 Christmas
- 51 Pig-food
- 53 Designed for
- rough terrain
- 57 Gorilla or
- chimp
- perhaps
- 65 Cabbagelike

### **SHIPSHAPE** by Billie Truitt

**67** Genealogy 1 Warning signal diagram 68 Neighborhood

69 Go off like a

implements

volcano

70 Rower's

**71** Exam

72 Takes a

breather

DOWN

3 Electrical

4 New police

stranded

6 Grab-bag

Abbr.

category:

1 2 3 4 5

officer

5 Leaves

1 Military sch.

2 Unaccompanied

adapter letters

- 10 "Nope"
- 14 Hot chocolate
- **15** Fig. on a
- 18 Make airtight
- 20 Poker pack
- **24** Promissory
- note 25 Showing poor
- **27** Trips to the
- 31 Dog's irritant
- 32 Hot tub
- 33 Sturdily built
- instrument

- 48 Yak it up
- carol
- holders
- **56** Empty space
- 58 Start to pray,
- 63 Impose, as a tax
- veggie 66 Musical pace

- Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com
  - 7 Creative thoughts
- 8 Entangle
- 9 Recounted,
- as news
- 10 FedEx competitor
- 11 Emulate
- henhouse hens
- **12** Bring together
- 13 Medal recipient
- 21 Foldaway
- mattress
- 22 Mope
- 26 So-so grades 27 \_\_ spumante
- wine
- 28 Goad 29 Cooped-up
- restlessness
- 30 Untidy one

- 34 Climbing vine

6 7 8 9

- 35 Skillful

- 37 Slangy assent 38 Police alerts,
  - for short
  - 40 Dating from
  - **42** Big
  - 45 Basil or mint 47 Large oven pan
  - 50 Observe
  - 52 "Psst!" from above
  - 53 Gig for a
  - soprano
  - **54** Fully informed 55 Allots, with "out"
  - **57** Palo \_\_\_, CA
  - **59** Tidy 60 Ostrichlike
  - birds 61 Datebook
  - notation: Abbr. 62 Polka
  - (fabric pattern) **64** "Sure"

10 |11 |12 |13

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# Seavey claims his second Iditarod race

NOME, Alaska (AP) — Dallas Seavey won his second Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race early Tuesday, taking the lead just hours before his finish.

Seavey, 27, was the first musher under the famed burled arch finish line in Nome. He ran a blistering pace the last 77 miles to catch the two mushers in front of him, four-time champion Jeff King and Aliy Zirkle, who finished in second several minutes after Seavey.

Zirkle also finished second in 2012 and 2013.

Seavey holds the record for being the youngest champion; he was 25 when he won in 2012.

Seavey comes from a mushing family. His grandfather, Dan Seavey, helped organize the first Iditarod in

father, Mitch Seavey, has twice won the nearly thousandmile race across Alaska. Mitch won in 2006 and last year became the race's oldest champion

at age 53.

Dallas Seavey was also a champion wrestler. In 2003, he became Alaska's first ever junior champion, winning the 125-pound title.

He's also a participant on the reality television series "Ultimate Survival Alaska."

Seavey admits he's somewhat of a hermit, and doesn't own a television. The only time he sees an episode of the show is when he downloads it on his comput-

"I don't leave my training compound if I can help it," said Dallas. "If I leave, it's by dog team, not by vehicle."

The trail this year has been marked by poor conditions because of a lack of snow after a warm winter by Alaska standards.

A number of mushers were injured at the beginning of the race as their sleds ran on gravel near the Dalzell Gorge. One musher, Scott Janssen of Anchorage, had to be rescued by a National Guard helicopter crew after breaking an ankle.

Snowless conditions again greeted mushers as they reached the western coast of the nation's largest state.

The race began March 2 in Willow with 69 teams. As of Monday morning, 15 mushers had dropped out and one was withdrawn, leaving 53 teams on the trail.

The Chicano Gold As-

sociation will be hold-

March 23 at the Coman-

Sign-ups will be held

shotgun start will be

che Trail Golf Course.

receives \$50,000 and a new truck. The 29 teams after that get cash prizes decreasing on a sliding scale. All other teams finishing the race receive \$1,049. John Baker holds the

The Iditarod winner

fastest finish in Iditarod history, covering the trail from Anchorage to Nome in eight days, 18 hours and 46 minutes in 2011.

### Stars' game cancelled after player collapses

DALLAS (AP) — They frantically pounded their sticks on the boards, trying desperately to get the attention

of officials. No luck.

Then the Dallas Stars players took matters into their own hands and jumped onto the ice while the game was still

Rich Peverley, a teammate with a history of heart trouble, had collapsed on the bench.

"When he dropped, it was red alert," Stars coach Lindy Ruff said. "Don't worry about the game. It was about getting the doctors. The players don't want to play, and I don't want

**BIG 12** 

throws.

Continued from Page 7

her fifth foul by reach-

ing in on Johnson, and

Johnson made two free

West Virginia's Step-

ney made a layup with

5.4 seconds remaining,

then West Virginia

quickly fouled. John-

son made two more free

throws with 4.7 seconds

to play to put Baylor up

by three. Baylor elected

not to foul, choosing to

play defense and force

West Virginia to make

a difficult shot. Stepney

missed a long 3-pointer

at the buzzer, and the

"I tried not to foul

when she shot the

Bears celebrated.

to coach the team right now."

He didn't have to.

So rattled were the coach and team that Monday night's game between the Stars and Columbus was postponed with the Blue Jackets leading 1-0 in the first period. The 31-year-old for-

ward was taken to a Dallas hospital and was in good condition. But there was little such assurance earlier in the night.

Oncethegamestopped, the Stars players stood in silence, clearly in distress, wary of what happened to one of their own. Some players from both teams dropped to

three, and I just had to

play smart," Johnson

Sims left the game

after hurting her left

ankle with 18:20 left in

the first half and West

Virginia leading 5-0.

When she returned to

action with 12:59 left in

the half, the Lady Bears

again with 9:36 left in

the first half. When she

returned, West Virgin-

on her and made two

free throws, then made

a jumper over her after

a drive, leading to Sims'

Sims re-entered the

game, but committed

her second foul with

return to the bench.

had taken a 16-12 lead.

Sims subbed

one knee on the ice.

Forward Erik Cole tried to rush into the tunnel just after Peverley was carried through, only to be turned away. He gnawed at the thumb of a glove while he waited for word on what would come next.

Six months ago, Peverley underwent a procedure to correct an irregular heartbeat after a training camp physical revealed the condition.

# Bullied coaches quit in

INDEPENDENCE. Iowa (AP) — Bullying from some players' parents and other critics of the program have driven two girls basketball coaches away from their coaching jobs at district schools in the northeast Iowa city of Independence.

northeast Iowa district

Assistant coach Rob

2:16 left in the half.

Through it all, Baylor maintained control. Davis scored in close to push Baylor's lead to 36-25, but she committed her second foul with 41 seconds left.

West Virginia's Asya Bussie stole the ball and Holmes made a layup with 4.6 seconds left to cut Baylor's lead to 38-32 at halftime. Holmes scored 19 points in the first half to keep the ia tested her. Brooke Mountaineers in the Hampton drew a foul game. She made 7 of 9 shots in the first half while her teammates made 4 of 18.

> Davis committed her third foul with just over 15 minutes to play. Right after she subbed out, West Virginia cut

endured too many menacing or irate phone calls before and after games. Ratchford says "there were threats made, you know, about wanting to fight and stuff like that." Baylor's lead to 46-44

Ratchford said Monday

that he and head varsity

coach Rod Conrad had

on a baseline jumper by Stepney, then tied the game on its next possession when Bussie scored down low. The Mountaineers finally took the lead on a 3-pointer by Holmes with just under 12 minutes remaining. West Virginia extended its lead to five on a steal and layup by Fields.

Baylor regained the lead, 63-62, on a putback by Khadijah Cave, setting up the final four minutes. The Lady Bears fought their way through and now, they can look forward to the NCAA tournament with a team that has proven to be about much more than Sims.

could relate to theories about whether Steenkamp had gotten up in the middle of the night to go to the toilet, as Pistorius contends, or was there following a loud argument with the runner, as the prosecution has suggested.

The pathologist said he had conducted between 10,000 and 15,000 autopsies over 30 years.

held at 10 a.m.

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scramble on March 23

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jake witze:

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### TRIAL

Continued from Page 7 Glock 27 .40 caliber pistol, was being handled by the Olympic runner under a table in a restaurant in early 2013 and fired. It was about a month before Pistorius killed Steenkamp.

day that he warned Pistorius that the gun was "one-up," meaning it had a bullet in the chamber.

Fresco testified Tues-

"I knew that he had a big love for weapons ... my assumption was that he had competency," Fresco said in court.

Pistorius has said he shot Steenkamp by accident, fearing she was an intruder in his home.

The prosecution says he intentionally killed her after an argument.

In earlier testimony, the chief lawyer for Pistorius questioned the methods of the pathologist who conducted an autopsy on Steenkamp. Prof. Gert Saayman was testifying for a second day about the gunshot wounds suffered by Reeva Steenkamp when Pistorius opened fire through a toilet cubicle door at his home before dawn on Valentine's Day last year.

Saayman has asserted that, judging by the food contents in her stomach, Steenkamp probably last ate no more than two hours before her death. Steenkamp

was shot after 3 a.m., meaning she must have eaten after 1 a.m. Pistorius has said the couple was in the bedroom by 10 p.m.

Lawyer Barry Roux asked Saayman what medical texts he had consulted in reaching his conclusion about the food, and said he wanted to see them. Saayman said his findings were a "synthesis" of his own professional experiences and observations in addition to consultation of past studies.

Saayman also said the amount of urine in Steenkamp's bladder at the time of her death amounted to the rough equivalent of a teaspoon. The evidence

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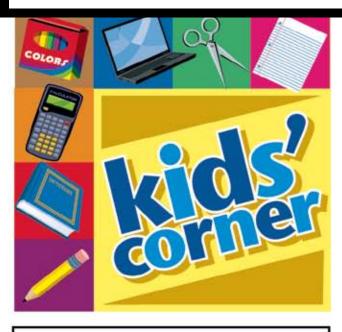
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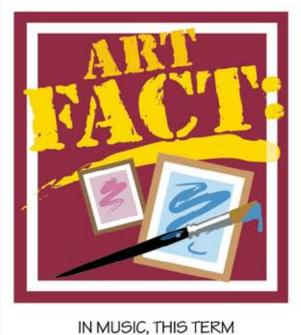




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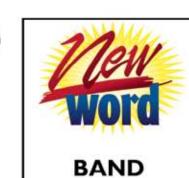
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ANSWER: OCTAVE



a group of musicians who play together



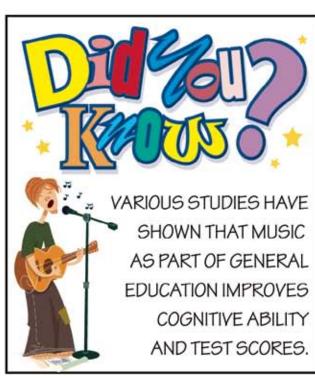
**ENGLISH:** Sing

SPANISH: Cantar

**ITALIAN:** Cantare

FRENCH: Chanter

**GERMAN:** Singen





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Answer -- Nuts, apples, corn, cheese.



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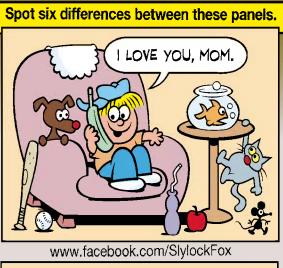
Bat,

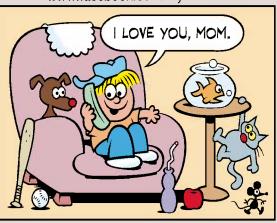
b) Mars

c) Venus d) Neptune

Answer -- c) When Venus is closest to Earth it is only about 24 million miles away.

BY BOB WEBER JR





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