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WEDNESDAY

JANUARY 14, 2015



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Council OKs ambulance fee schedule

By **STEVE REAGAN**

Staff Writer

Local ambulance fees have changed, and it looks like even more change is coming in the next few weeks.

During its Tuesday meeting, Big Spring's City Council unanimously approved a new fee schedule for the local Emergency Medical Service which will translate to roughly a 1 percent across-the-board increase for patients or their insurers.

Big Spring Fire Department Chief Craig Ferguson said the new fee schedule will bring Big Spring in line with both surrounding communities and Medicare and Medicaid allowables.

"(The new fees are) what Medicare and Medicaid allows. In the past ... we've charged a little bit less," Ferguson said. "This will also bring us in line with just about every other city in the country. Right now, we're on the low end of the scale."

Although the fee schedule was approved, Ferguson

See **COUNCIL**, Page 3



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

The Big Spring City Council approved new ambulance service fees during its Tuesday evening meeting.



Leaders urge: Make your voice heard

By **LYNDEL MOODY**

Staff Writer

Space is still available for a seat on the bus to Austin heading for Howard County Day in the Capitol.

Area leaders are urging residents to take part in the event held during the time when the state legislature is in session as a show of community support to lawmakers.

"The most important thing we need to keep in mind is a strong showing

from our community not only shows our own representatives but other lawmakers we are alive and still kicking in West Texas, and we still need to have a voice down there," said Terry Wegman, Big Spring Economic Development executive director. "If we have 100 or 200 people show up and be recognized in the house and the senate, it lets those legislators know this is a place that rallies to support the community. This is also a time to visit

with (Sen.) Kel (Seliger) and (Rep.) Drew (Darby, legislators who represent Howard County) about issues impacting our area."

Howard County Day at the State Capitol is set for Feb. 10. Reservations for a chartered bus is \$40 for a seat. Also, those who attend are asked to wear the Howard County shirt or a plain black shirt and khaki pants or skirts.

See **AUSTIN**, Page 3



Minus Perry, Texas Legislature opens new era of GOP power

By **PAUL J. WEBER**

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Without Gov. Rick Perry at the helm for the first time in 14 years, the Texas Legislature returned Tuesday under new Republican leadership that vows lower taxes and looser gun laws but is also confronting party infighting and plunging oil prices that threaten conservative promises.

One gun rights group slung AR-15s over their shoulder outside the Capitol, while another clashed with a lawmaker inside. A tea party newcomer replacing Democrat Sen. Wendy Davis — who became a national sensation after standing nearly 13 hours in pink sneakers to filibuster abortion restrictions two years ago — purposefully chose different footwear: cowboy boots embroidered with "Stand for Life."

Taken together, it was symbolically clear which party is firmly in charge for the next 140 days.

Republican Gov.-elect Greg Abbott, who won't be sworn in as the state's 48th chief executive until next week, was an observer at a largely ceremonial opening day. Perry was a no-show but will address the Legislature a final time Thursday, then clean out his desk and turn his full attention to a possible 2016 presidential run.

That's when the biggest power shift in Texas politics in a generation will really take hold.

"There was clearly a mandate based on the national elections and based on the elections here in Texas," said Republican state Sen. Konni Burton, who won the seat Davis abandoned to make her failed run for governor.

Every major statewide office changed hands in November — a nearly unprecedented level of turnover — and Republicans claimed every post in landslide victories. The last job up for grabs was settled in one of the few actual orders of business on the first day, when Republican House Speaker Joe Straus overwhelmingly won a fourth term as Texas' third-in-command.

But that Straus even drew a challenge from Republican Scott Turner, a second-term representative and former NFL player, hinted at a major tension facing conservatives this session: other conservatives.

A wealthy San Antonio lawyer, Straus has long been targeted by tea party members who view him as a country-club Republican and too moderate. House insurgents bent on ousting Straus withered in previous sessions, but this time, they demanded a speaker vote for the first time

See **GOP**, Page 3

Livestock show opens 4-day run

Herald Staff Report

The 2015 Howard County Jr. Livestock show began its four-day run this afternoon.

Twenty-seven lambs were expected to be shown in the first event which began at 3 p.m. in the G.C. Broughton Pavilion, 1001 Birdwell Lane. More than 100 exhibitors from the Howard County 4-H Club, Coahoma FFA and Sands FFA showing off more than 250 entries have signed up for the 2015 show.

Schedule of events:

- Wednesday**
Lamb Show - 3 p.m.
Goat Show Immediately Following
- Thursday**
Rabbit Show - 6:30 p.m.
- Friday**
Steer Show - 9 a.m.
Barrow Show - 1 p.m.
- Saturday**
Buyers BBQ Lunch — Noon

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Obituaries

William J. 'Bill' Thompson



William J. "Bill" Thompson, 75, of Big Spring, died Saturday, Jan. 10, 2015. Visitation, vigil and mass will be Jan. 24, 2015.

He was born July 8, 1939, in Clairton, Penn. to Catherine Margaret (Salopek) and William Patrick Thompson. He came to Big Spring in 1957 and was stationed at Webb Air Force Base. After leaving the Air Force, he stayed in Big Spring and worked for the Veterans Administration Medical Center until 1995.

He then worked at the Big Spring State Hospital for five years and then later worked at Wal-Mart for four years, retiring due to ill health.

He was a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

He is survived by his wife, Fern Thompson of Big Spring; seven children, Billy Thompson and wife Kerri of North Richland Hills, Katy Lamb of Midland, Molly James and husband Nigel of Lake Jackson, Jimmy Thompson of Houston, Kristy Thompson and Joe Yoder of Newark, Texas, Melissa Adams and husband Don of Big Spring and Wesley Hart and wife Patty of Cedar Creek Lake; 10 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and one brother, James "Jim" Thompson of Clairton, Penn.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one daughter, Meghan Thompson; and one son, Terry Lee Hart.

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

Police/Sheriff

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- JESSIE RAY GONZALES, 33, of 1201 Sycamore was arrested on warrants for failure to appear (two counts), speeding, failed to maintain financial responsibility (two counts), failed to display driver's license, and for three warrants from another agency.
- MICHAEL DWAYNE RENTERIA, 45, of 1700 W. 1st St. was arrested on warrants for failure to appear and possession of drug paraphernalia.
- KERRY CECIL OMELIA, 52, 1004 E. 15th St. was arrested on a warrant from another agency.
- DAVID M. PETERSON, 23, of 1111 E. 14th St. was arrested on charges of possession of a controlled substance, less than 1 gram; and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.
- DAVID HOUSTON SUMMERS, 37, of 3621 Calvin was arrested on charges of possession of a controlled substance, more than or equal to 4 grams but less than 200 grams; possession of drug paraphernalia; and on three warrants from another agency.
- THEFT was reported in the 600 block of Dallas St., the 500 block of N. Nolan St., the 1400 block of

Virginia Ave., and the 1800 block of E. FM 700.

- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 1600 block of S. Lancaster St.
- BURGLARY OF A BUILDING was reported in the 3600 block of W. Highway 80.
- MINOR ACCIDENT was reported in the 1700 block of Wasson Drive.

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 69 inmates at the time of this report.

- MICHAEL DWAYNE RENTERIA, 45, was booked by the BSPD on warrants for CAPIAS/failure to appear and CAPIAS/possession of drug paraphernalia.
- JESSIE RAY GONZALES, 33, was booked by the BSPD on warrants for towed unregistered trailer; over weight group of axles; violate promise to appear (two counts); failure to appear; speeding, 42 miles per hour in a 30 MPH zone; failed to maintain financial responsibility (two counts); and failed to display driver's license.
- MARVIN WAYNE DAVIS, 57,

was booked by the DPS on Llano County warrants for revocation of bond and possession of a controlled substance.

- KERRY CECIL OMELIA, 52, was booked by the BSPD on a warrant for theft of property, more than \$1,500 but less than \$20,000.
- DAVID MICHAEL PETERSON, 23, was booked by the BSPD on charges of possession of a controlled substance, less than 1 gram and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.
- TEKIA "KOKO" WILLIAMS, 32, was booked by the HCSO on a bench warrant from the 118th District.
- DAVID HOUSTON SUMMERS, 37, was booked by the HCSO on charges of possession of a controlled substance, more than 4 grams but less than 200 grams; possession of drug paraphernalia; and on warrants for failed to display or expired motor vehicle inspection; failed to display driver's license; violate promise to appear; and failure to appear.
- BRANDON JOE ROBINSON, 27, was booked by the BSPD on warrants for expired registration, driving while license invalid and failure to appear.

Take Note

- Crossroads Hospice needs volunteers for patient care. Contact Eva at 263-5300.
- Scenic Mountain Medical Center will be hosting two public forums on re-enrollment to the Health Insurance Marketplace. Representatives will be on hand to answer any questions you might have and to set up appointments for enrollment. The first event will take place at the YMCA at 5:30 p.m. today and the second event will be at the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club on Jan. 20 at 6 p.m. Both events are free to attend and open to the public. Refreshments will be provided. For more information or to RSVP, call Amanda Duforat at 268-4699.
- Reservations are being taken for Howard County Day in Austin.

The one-day event is meant to highlight the economic importance of Howard County to Texas law makers. Howard County Day in Austin is set for Feb. 10, 2015. Reservations are now being taken for a seat on a bus leaving from the Dorothy Garret Coliseum to attend the event. The charge is \$40 per person and the deadline to register for a seat is Feb. 2. For more information, contact Teresa Darden at the Big Spring Economic Development at 264-6032.

- A hungry child cannot learn. Food2Kids - Big Spring was created to provide nutrition for hundreds of children who do not get a substantial meal on the weekends. F2K began last November and this volunteer program now serves more than 300 children weekly. Once the need has been identified, F2K fills a sack of food to send home each Friday during the school year. You can help. Volunteers are needed and donations can be sent to Food2Kids - Big Spring, P.O. Box 1641, Big Spring 79721. Find us on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/Food2Kids
- Order of the Eastern Star Big Spring Chapter 67 meets the third Thursday of each month at 219 Main St. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. Lodge meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. For more information, contact Jimmy Ruth at 270-7263.
- The Crossroads Young Marines isre taking applications for another boot camp. For more information, call 432-517-4791. Young Marines welcomes boys and girls ages 8 to 18 who are still attending school.

- 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. Cost is \$8 per person.
- Victim Services is a non-profit independent community-based program serving victims of all violent crime, including, but not limited to, assault, sexual assault and domestic violence. Victim Services advocates are available 24 hours of 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 and a background check, we need you. For more information, call Linda Calvio at 432-263-3312.
- Big Spring and sur-

Support Groups

THURSDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, open discussion noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.
- Spring Tabernacle Ministries has a faith-based support group for those who need help finding and continuing to walk down the path God has for each of us. Meetings are at 11 a.m. until noon and again at 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.. The classes take place at

Spring Tabernacle Ministries, located at 1209 Wright St.

- Weight Watchers meets at 6 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m. Weigh-in is confidential and you don't have to talk if you don't want to. Flexible payment options.
- Stepping Stone Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets at Spring Town Plaza (inside the mall, across from the movie box office, next to Sears). Open meeting at 7 p.m.
- A Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder support group meeting is at 6:30 p.m. at the VA Medical Center Veteran's Healing Center.
- FRIDAY
 - 7p.m. — The Stepping Stone Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets at Spring Town Plaza (inside the mall, across from the movie box office, next to Sears).
 - 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

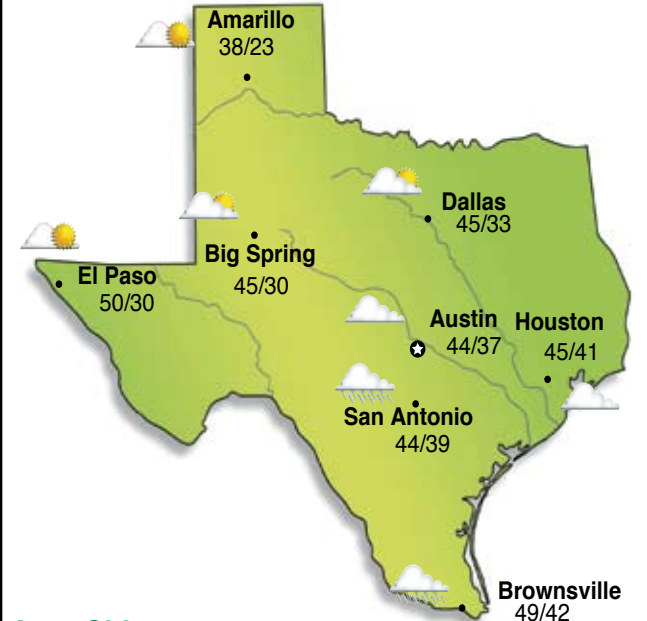
- Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m. Covered dish supper at 7 p.m.
- SUNDAY
 - Alcoholics Anonymous closed meeting from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles.

Local 5-Day Forecast

| Thu 1/15 | Fri 1/16 | Sat 1/17 | Sun 1/18 | Mon 1/19 |
|---|---|--|---|---|
| | | | | |
| 45/30 Mainly cloudy. High around 45F. Winds light and variable. | 56/32 Mainly sunny. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the low 30s. | 60/43 Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the low 40s. | 65/37 More sun than clouds. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the upper 30s. | 60/37 A few clouds. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the upper 30s. |
| Sunrise: 7:47 AM Sunset: 6:02 PM | Sunrise: 7:47 AM Sunset: 6:03 PM | Sunrise: 7:47 AM Sunset: 6:04 PM | Sunrise: 7:47 AM Sunset: 6:05 PM | Sunrise: 7:46 AM Sunset: 6:06 PM |

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Texas At A Glance

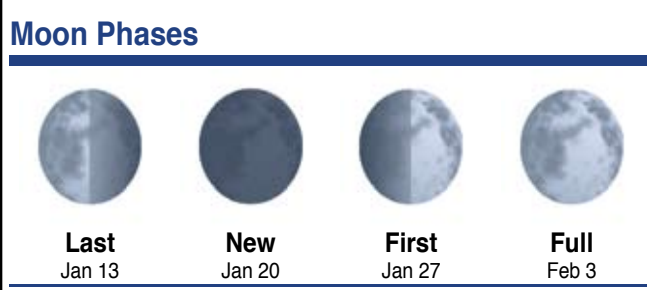


Area Cities

| City | Hi | Lo | Cond. | City | Hi | Lo | Cond. |
|----------------|----|----|----------|-----------------|----|----|----------|
| Abilene | 44 | 30 | pt sunny | Kingsville | 45 | 42 | rain |
| Amarillo | 38 | 23 | pt sunny | Livingston | 43 | 39 | cloudy |
| Austin | 44 | 37 | cloudy | Longview | 46 | 33 | cloudy |
| Beaumont | 47 | 38 | cloudy | Lubbock | 45 | 25 | cloudy |
| Brownsville | 49 | 42 | rain | Lufkin | 47 | 38 | cloudy |
| Brownwood | 43 | 29 | cloudy | Midland | 44 | 31 | cloudy |
| Corpus Christi | 46 | 41 | cloudy | Raymondville | 47 | 42 | rain |
| Corsicana | 45 | 34 | cloudy | Rosenberg | 44 | 40 | cloudy |
| Dallas | 45 | 33 | cloudy | San Antonio | 44 | 39 | rain |
| Del Rio | 47 | 38 | cloudy | San Marcos | 43 | 39 | rain |
| El Paso | 50 | 30 | pt sunny | Sulphur Springs | 46 | 31 | pt sunny |
| Fort Stockton | 38 | 29 | cloudy | Sweetwater | 44 | 31 | cloudy |
| Gainesville | 45 | 28 | cloudy | Tyler | 46 | 34 | cloudy |
| Greenville | 44 | 31 | cloudy | Weatherford | 45 | 29 | cloudy |
| Houston | 45 | 41 | cloudy | Wichita Falls | 42 | 28 | pt sunny |

National Cities

| City | Hi | Lo | Cond. | City | Hi | Lo | Cond. |
|-------------|----|----|-----------|----------------|----|----|-----------|
| Atlanta | 50 | 32 | pt sunny | Minneapolis | 24 | 16 | cloudy |
| Boston | 29 | 21 | sn shower | New York | 34 | 23 | pt sunny |
| Chicago | 17 | 9 | pt sunny | Phoenix | 65 | 45 | sunny |
| Dallas | 45 | 33 | cloudy | San Francisco | 63 | 46 | mst sunny |
| Denver | 43 | 20 | sunny | Seattle | 50 | 41 | mst sunny |
| Houston | 45 | 41 | cloudy | St. Louis | 31 | 26 | cloudy |
| Los Angeles | 68 | 50 | sunny | Washington, DC | 33 | 29 | sn shower |
| Miami | 81 | 63 | pt sunny | | | | |



UV Index

| Thu 1/15 | Fri 1/16 | Sat 1/17 | Sun 1/18 | Mon 1/19 |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Moderate | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate |

The UV Index is measured on a 0 - 11 number scale, with a higher UV Index showing the need for greater skin protection.

rounding counties are in need of foster families. For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call 432-263-9669.

• The mission of CASA of West Texas is to promote and support quality volunteers who speak for the best interest of abused and neglected children in court in an effort to find each child a safe, nurturing and permanent home. We need your help. If you're interested in volunteering, contact Sara Basaldua at 1-877-316-8346 or visit www.BecomeaCASA.org or www.casawtx.org.

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GOP

Continued from Page 1

since 1975. Straus clobbered Turner 127-19 — then took a jab at his ultraconservative antagonists. “A small number sought to divide us with misleading and personal attacks,” Straus said. “But you cannot effectively govern this House by dividing it.”

Also interrupting the ceremonial pomp of the first day was an exchange between gun rights supporters and state Rep. Poncho Nevarez. The Eagle Pass Democrat is shown in a video posted online asking the group to leave his office while being called a “tyrant to the Constitution” over not supporting a proposed gun law.

In the two-minute clip posted by a gun rights activist, Nevarez is heard saying he will call security and seen having trouble closing his door on the group.

GOP infighting is likely to flare again this session. Being closely watched are dealings between the House and Senate, which has a new far-right leader in incoming Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, a strident talk radio host who ousted business-backed incumbent David Dewhurst.

Beyond party politics, Republicans have another challenge: falling oil prices that complicate plans to cut taxes and ease congested Texas highways. Lawmak-

ers will have billions of new dollars to spend, including \$7.5 billion leftover from the current budget, but the slowdown in Texas’ energy sector is a source of anxiety.

Oil has been trading below \$50 a barrel for the first time since 2009, and the state comptroller warned that oil production and regulation tax revenues could drop by up to 14 percent. The outlook has dimmed the prospect of significant tax relief that many Republicans ran on, but Straus said after his victory that tax cuts are a priority.

Border security, expanding where and how Texans can carry guns and whether to allow parents to use state money for private school vouchers are also big issues.

Abbott has mostly stuck to broad policy issues such as education and transportation. The former Texas attorney general, who sued the Obama administration 30 times over what he called federal overreach, also wants to curtail local ordinances like plastic bag bans — which invited grumbling that now the state is intruding where it doesn’t belong.

Outnumbered Democrats, who enter this session even weaker than two years ago, will now begin fighting to avoid being marginalized. “We’ll deal with that. We’ll work hard,” longtime Democratic state Sen. Judith Zaffrini said. “Actually, we’ll work harder because we’ll be fewer.”

Trustees to honor former colleagues

BY LYNDEL MOODY
Staff Writer

Trustees with the Big Spring Independent School District will hold a moment of silence in honor of three staff members who died over the holidays.

The school district personnel were hit hard with the news of the three deaths within a relatively short period of each other.

On Christmas Eve, Jim Campbell, a Big Spring athletic trainer, passed away. He has worked in the district for more than 17 years.

The next day, Carol Green, a long-time Big Spring ISD teacher whose educational

career covered 41 years, also died. Green had retired from teaching in 2001 but had returned to the district part-time to a position at the Big Spring Junior High School. She had served 30 years at Big Spring ISD, teaching at various schools during her career.

Then on Jan. 4, Danny Ferrrell, assistant superintendent, died of a sudden illness in a Martin County hospital. Ferrrell had served the district since 2009 through two superintendent transitions and was in integral part of the administration.

In other business, trustees will start looking ahead to the May board elections. The seats

held by trustees — Tony Kennedy, vice president, and Pat DeAnda — will be up for the election this year.

Trustees will meet at 5:15 p.m. in the high school board room, 707 11th Place.

Also on the agenda, trustees will consider:

- Personnel and financial matters
- Contracts with the county and city for the May trustee elections.
- A donation to Big Spring ISD
- Enrollment report

Contact Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by citydesk@bigspringherald.com

Bartender accused of threat to kill Boehner

CINCINNATI (AP) — An Ohio bartender with a history of psychiatric illness was indicted on a charge of threatening to murder House Speaker John Boehner, possibly by poisoning his drink at a country club or shooting him, according to court documents.

A grand jury indictment filed in U.S. District Court in Ohio on Jan. 7 identified the accused man as Cincinnati resident Michael R. Hoyt, said the records made available Tuesday.

A separate criminal complaint said Hoyt was fired last fall from his job at a country club in West Chester, Ohio, where he served drinks to Boehner, who is a member. The complaint says Hoyt told a police officer that before leav-

ing the country club, he “did not have time to put something in John Boehner’s drink.”

Hoyt also told officers that no one checks the drinks he had poured for Boehner, and it would have been easy to slip something in his drink, the complaint said.

Hoyt is currently being held under a court order for mental evaluation and treatment, and U.S. Capitol Police and the FBI believe he “poses a current and ongoing credible threat” to Boehner, the complaint added.

Federal prison records show the 44-year-old Hoyt is being held at the Devens Federal Medical Center in Massachusetts.

The lawyer listed on court documents as Hoyt’s attorney

didn’t immediately respond to phone calls or email requests for comment.

No one answered the door Tuesday evening at the address listed for Hoyt on court documents, and the house was dark.

Two neighbors couldn’t confirm that Hoyt lived in the house.

The court documents said, “Hoyt told the officer he was Jesus Christ and that he was going to kill Boehner because Boehner was mean to him at the country club and because Boehner is responsible for Ebola.”

According to the criminal complaint, Hoyt said he had a loaded Beretta .380 automatic pistol and he was going to shoot Boehner.

AUSTIN

Continued from Page 1

The itinerary for the all-day event begins early at 4:30 a.m. when the bus departs from the east parking lot of the Dorothy Garrett Colise-

um located at the Howard College campus, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

Resolutions making Feb. 10, 2015 Howard County Day at the Capitol will be read in the morning when the House and Senate open for business. The house is expected to open at 10

a.m. and the Senate at 11 a.m.

At noon, a group photo is schedule to be taken in the rotunda of the state Capitol and then the Big Spring High School choral group, “Rhapsody” will perform at 12:15 p.m., also in the Rotunda.

The bus back to Howard County will depart at 1 p.m. with a stop off around 2 p.m. at Opie’s Barbecue for a lunch break.

The lunch is dutch treat. The bus is expected to arrive back in Big Spring at 7 p.m.

For more information

or to make reservations, contact the Big Spring Economic Development at 264-6032 or the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, 263-7641.

Contact Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by citydesk@bigspringherald.com.

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Juan M. Martinez, 71, died Monday. Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. today at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Eva Gonzales, 81, died Saturday. Funeral Mass will be at 2 p.m. today at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

William “Bill” Thompson, 75, died Saturday. Visitation, Vigil and Mass will be January 24, 2015.

Herman Austin, 54, died Saturday. He will be in state 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. today with the family receiving friends from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. Private family services will be at a later date.

Albert Carrasco, 55, died Sunday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1

ton said this morning that one charge — \$150 for people refusing transport to the hospital — will undergo some change before the new fees become effective around Feb. 1.

“The intent of that fee ... is that if we get called

out and do some sort of treatment, and you then refuse transport, then we’d bill you for that,” Ferguson said. “But the wording is a bit unclear, so we’re going to change that a bit.”

He said the fee would be reworked to not charge on calls where no EMS treatment is given, or in situations like traffic accidents where ambulances are dispatched

as a matter of course.

“We go out to traffic accidents, whether we’re called (by the patients) or not, and that wouldn’t be fair to charge them for that,” Ferguson said.

In other business, the council approved:

- \$1.59 million in bids for heavy equipment, including trash trucks and garbage containers.
- Rezoning 906

Birdwell from single-family to multi-family usage.

• A remap of the area between Sunset and East Sixth streets to allow for the construction of an apartment complex.

• An agreement for the city and Big Spring Independent School District to conduct a joint city-school election.

• Renewal of a contract with the Howard

County Water Control District 1.

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

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MINUTES OF COUNTY FINANCES TREASURER’S REPORT

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY FINANCES IN THE HANDS OF TERESA THOMAS TREASURER OF HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS.

COMMISSIONERS’ COURT HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS IN REGULAR SESSION JANUARY TERM 2015

IN ACCORDANCE with Section 114.026, Local Government Code, we, the undersigned, constituting the entire Commissioners Court of said County, certify that on the 12th day of January, 2015 at the Regular term of Court, we compared and examined the monthly report of TERESA THOMAS, Treasurer of Howard County, Texas, for September 30, 2014, and finding the same correct, entered an order in the Minutes approving said Report, which states total cash and other assets on hand as **\$14,090,259.89.**

Kathryn Wiseman, County Judge
Oscar Garcia, Commissioner Pct. 1
Craig Bailey, Commissioner Pct. 2
Jimmie Long, Commissioner Pct. 3
John Cline, Commissioner Pct. 4

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MINUTES OF COUNTY FINANCES TREASURER’S REPORT

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY FINANCES IN THE HANDS OF TERESA THOMAS TREASURER OF HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS.

COMMISSIONERS’ COURT HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS IN REGULAR SESSION JANUARY TERM 2015

IN ACCORDANCE with Section 114.026, Local Government Code, we, the undersigned, constituting the entire Commissioners Court of said County, certify that on the 12th day of January, 2015 at the Regular term of Court, we compared and examined the monthly report of TERESA THOMAS, Treasurer of Howard County, Texas, for December 31, 2014, and finding the same correct, entered an order in the Minutes approving said Report, which states total cash and other assets on hand as **\$12,696,818.42.**

Kathryn Wiseman, County Judge
Oscar Garcia, Commissioner Pct. 1
Craig Bailey, Commissioner Pct. 2
Jimmie Long, Commissioner Pct. 3
John Cline, Commissioner Pct. 4

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

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Home: 263-7158.

We wuz robbed, says the ref

“He’s travelin’, Ref!” If I heard that once I must have heard it a thousand times over the course of the many years I was a basketball official. And every time, without exception, the fan screaming at me from the stands (usually a mom or dad of the team on defense) was wrong. But there wasn’t a thing I could do to end the harassment because I couldn’t very well halt a high school playoff game to explain to the parent of their “NBA-bound” son that you can’t “travel” without possession of the ball. It’s in the rulebooks, Mom.

I understand the importance of rules. They are absolutely necessary to maintain order in basically every aspect of life, and the world can be seriously convoluted by rule-breakers. But as a basketball official, and also as an NCAA baseball umpire, I learned early on that many people who call themselves fans are ignorant of a significant number of the rules.

Having a complete knowledge and understanding of the rules was why we officials had extensive training and experience before being given premier assignments.

So, understand that I appreciate possessing a knowledge of the rules. That being established, I am seriously irritated about what happened in Green Bay on Sunday.

In case you haven’t heard there was a football game at Lambeau Field between the Packers and the Cowboys Sunday afternoon. The Cowboys trailed the Packers by five points with less than five minutes to play. They faced a fourth-and-2 at the Green Bay 32-yard line.

For one of the few times all game, Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo looked up and saw Bryant in single coverage against Packers cornerback Sam Shields.

Romo decided to go for it all. He lobbed a pass deep down the left sideline to Bryant. As he’s done so many times, Bryant out-jumped the cornerback for the ball, snatching it out of the air in

a flash.

Bryant’s left foot came down at the 5, his right foot hit at the 4. Bryant fell forward over Shields with the top of the football cradled in his left hand. Bryant’s right elbow and hand land just inside the 1 as he extended his left hand toward the goal line. Bryant crashed face-first on the field and the back of the football hit the ground and came free, popping up in the air. As Bryant rolled over into the end zone he grabbed the ball in the air.

The official near the sideline ruled it catch and marked the ball down inside the 1-yard line. Green Bay coach Mike McCarthy challenged the call. The officials overturned Bryant’s 31-yard catch that would have set up Dallas first-and-goal with a golden opportunity to take the lead. Instead, the Packers took over on downs and ran out the clock.

Like almost every Dallas Cowboy fan in the world I was stunned when the call was reversed. As of this writing, I have read dozens of explanations by the experts, pundits, commentators, referees, and basically anyone with an opinion on the matter. The decision to overturn the on-field ruling was based on Rule 8, Section 1, Article 3 of the NFL rulebook, which I have also read, re-read and read again. Badly written rules, laws, and regulations tend to come to light at the worst possible time. The NFL’s construction of what is and is not a catch, make no mistake, is a badly written rule. If you think that the Dez Bryant play was a catch, you aren’t necessarily wrong in thinking that.

Those who are haters will disagree because they think we Cowboy fans are only upset because we lost the game and it’s all sour grapes. In my case, you’re wrong. My frustration is with the ambiguously worded rule used to support the decision to overturn the call. For example, what does it mean to be “in the act of catching a pass,” as opposed to having caught a pass? Who determines what constitutes an “act common to the game”?

It reads, “Article 3 Completed or Intercepted Pass. A player who makes a catch may advance the ball. A forward pass is complete (by the offense) or

intercepted (by the defense) if a player, who is inbounds:(a) secures control of the ball in his hands or arms prior to the ball touching the ground; and (b) touches the ground inbounds with both feet or with any part of his body other than his hands; and (c) maintains control of the ball long enough, after (a) and (b) have been fulfilled, to enable him to perform any act common to the game (i.e., maintaining control long enough to pitch it, pass it, advance with it, or avoid or ward off an opponent, etc.).

Note 1: It is not necessary that he commit such an act, provided that he maintains control of the ball long enough to do so. Note 2: If a player has control of the ball, a slight movement of the ball will not be considered a loss of possession. He must lose control of the ball in order to rule that there has been a loss of possession. If the player loses the ball while simultaneously touching both feet or any part of his body to the ground, it is not a catch.

Item 1: Player Going to the Ground. If a player goes to the ground in the act of catching a pass (with or without contact by an opponent), he must maintain control of the ball throughout the process of contacting the ground, whether in the field of play or the end zone. If he loses control of the ball, and the ball touches the ground before he regains control, the pass is incomplete. If he regains control prior to the ball touching the ground, the pass is complete.”

Who knows whether the decision was correct? I personally think Bryant took three steps, switched the ball from both hands to the hand away from the defender after coming down with the ball (another move that could be considered common to the game), and was capable of extending toward the end zone. Regardless, the Cowboys had a great season, much better than most expected. But one would think the NFL could write rules more easily interpreted.

You may not agree with anything I’ve said, but I column as I see ‘em.

Eddy Prince is senior pastor at Grace Fellowship Church of God in Big Spring. He can be reached by email at pastorprince@msn.com.

The West wakes up — but where was the West’s leader?

“The West,” as we pleasantly call the tatty, post-Cold War remnants of Western civilization, got off its numb if still-hifalutin bottom Sunday and took to the streets of Paris in defense of — well, its life, its future, the future of everything in life that matters.

An existential threat will do that to you. People want to grind you down, mow you down — it gets you to thinking. And acting.

The sort of assault on life and freedom that three Islamists with the moral sense of a dead caterpillar launched last week in France would have taken more robust generations about a millisecond to decode. Hands would have felt for sword scabbards, and jaws would have set with determination.

We shall have to see how well the various leaders who linked arms in horror and outrage have appropriated the lessons of the massacres. Tolerance for Diverse Viewpoints, a favorite Western motif and delusion, could reassert itself after last week’s nightmare wears off.

It was encouraging all the same the other day to hear



WILLIAM MURCHISON

Recent American presidents saw themselves, or were seen, as the Leaders of the Free World. That wholesome notion presently lies fallow, awaiting the inauguration of Barack Obama’s successor. When Obama can’t make a speech, he seems not to know what to do. When it comes to leadership, there is doubt he could persuade a foursome of golfers, at 2 p.m. on a 110-degree day, to search out a drinking fountain.

France’s prime minister acknowledge that his country was actually at war with unreason and hatred. It has been encouraging to see millions, probably, link their lives and personal identities with “Charlie.” It has been a long time coming, this burst of righteous anger and resolve. Frankly, one didn’t know the West still could hum the melody or recall the technique.

It is not — *grands dieux non* — that ground is being presently cleared for a war against such ornaments of Western civilization as tolerance and free speech and the freedom of worship. It should be noted that tolerance and free speech and free worship are among the civilizational elements against which the moral morons have declared war.

The morons have less regard for genuine tolerance than has anyone on the sup-

posedly blinkered, “nativist” French right.

They certainly have no regard for Christianity, which, were they to prevail over a morally weakened West, they would drive underground, amid many, many beheadings.

Having arisen from its elegant bottom, the West requires encouragement to remain standing for the struggle under way — the entirely necessary struggle to drive the moral morons into those caves they would have the rest of us inhabit.

It was astounding and gratifying to see, among others, the leaders of Germany, France, Poland, Israel, yes, even the Palestinian Authority, marching shoulder to shoulder.

Someone, to be sure, was missing.

Who was it? Ah, of course — the president of the United States, the president once

fond of assuring us al-Qaida was “on the run.”

Recent American presidents saw themselves, or were seen, as the Leaders of the Free World. That wholesome notion presently lies fallow, awaiting the inauguration of Barack Obama’s successor. When Obama can’t make a speech, he seems not to know what to do.

When it comes to leadership, there is doubt he could persuade a foursome of golfers, at 2 p.m. on a 110-degree day, to search out a drinking fountain.

A weakened and too-often-irresolute West may have to look to its own devices for survival.

Which might be no bad thing. Figuring out the dimension of problems created by the moral morons has not been Europe’s long suit. For example, the Islamicization of certain

British government-funded schools only recently began to raise civilized eyebrows, with tut-tuts and promises to Look into the matter, rather than action to outlaw forever taxpayer-funded outrages against liberty and the Christian religion.

In truth, Christianity’s recent recession to the margins of European life is likely the No. 1 cause of the continent’s plight. When you quit believing whole chunks of what you formerly believed, you abandon the marketplace of ideas to God knows who and what.

To moral morons, say, with no notion of your erstwhile codes — “Thou shalt not kill,” and all the rest.

The morons and murderers need prompt ejecting from the bailiwicks they have chosen to corrupt and degrade. Maybe the time, after all, has come. Maybe even the president of the United States — whether it shows or not — is hoping so.

William Murchison’s latest book is “The Cost of Liberty: The Life of John Dickinson.” To find out more about Creators Syndicate, and to see features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.Creators.com.

News in brief

Police identify man fatally shot by El Paso officer

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — Police have identified a man fatally shot by an El Paso officer during a traffic stop last week.

Authorities said Tuesday that a female officer shot 33-year-old Andy Martinez, who refused her demand that he drop his handgun on Friday night. They say Martinez was a passenger in a vehicle that officers pulled over for displaying an expired registration ticket.

As one of the officers was talking with the driver, police say Martinez got out of the car with his handgun. The female officer says she told Martinez to drop his weapon, but he refused to do so and yelled at her.

Texas soldier's death investigated; Ebola tests negative

KILLEEN, Texas (AP) — Officials are investigating the death of a Fort Hood soldier who was found outside an off-base apartment after he returned from deployment in West Africa. Tests for Ebola given as a precaution came back negative.

A Fort Hood statement issued Tuesday night says conclusive tests required by federal health officials came back negative.

An autopsy has been ordered to try to determine what caused the 24-year-old soldier's death.

The soldier's body was found Tuesday morning. Fort Hood spokesman Chris Haug says the soldier returned with his unit last week from Liberia, where he helped construct an Ebola treatment camp. Haug says he wasn't exposed to patients.

Woman suing Texas city, its police chief for \$2M

DALLAS (AP) — A woman is seeking \$2 million in damages in a lawsuit against the city of Forney and its police chief after officers mistakenly pulled her over for a traffic stop in August.

Police say officers searching for four men on Aug. 9 stopped Kametra Barbour's vehicle. Her 6-year-old son and two goddaughters were inside of the vehicle at the time.

Authorities say Barbour was briefly handcuffed, but that an officer apologized later to her, saying he and the others were called out to the wrong car.

Her lawsuit alleges negligence, false imprisonment and says her constitutional rights were violated.

Suspect in 1993 California slaying caught at Texas border

PRESIDIO, Texas (AP) — A man sought following a 1993 slaying in California has been captured at a West Texas border crossing

after apparently living in Mexico for years.

Presidio County jail records show 53-year-old Jose Angel Barraza Gomez was being held without bond Wednesday pending extradition to Los Angeles County.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers in Presidio on Monday arrested the Mexican national in connection with a killing in El Monte, California. Officials say the suspect tried to renew some U.S. immigration documents that expired 14 years ago, leading to information that he was wanted.

Authorities didn't immediately provide additional details on the slaying or specifics on the warrant leading to the arrest.

Texas jail records don't list an attorney for the suspect, who apparently had been living in Camargo, Mexico.

Houston-area businessman gets 3 years in prison in scam

HOUSTON (AP) — A Houston-area man who on three tax returns falsely claimed to have donated a \$500,000 African art piece to a school must serve three years in prison.

Robert Earl Carter of Fresno was sentenced Tuesday in Houston.

The 65-year-old former owner of Enterprise Advisory Services Inc. in September pleaded guilty to making false statements on a federal income tax return. Investigators say Carter failed to report nearly \$505,000 in personal income on his 2009 tax return.

Evidence indicated Carter falsely reported on tax returns, in 2005, 2007 and 2010, that he donated a valuable artwork to Texas Southern University. A TSU representative testified that the school never received the donation.

Fort Worth police seek IDs on woman, child dead in field

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Fort Worth police are trying to identify a woman and a child whose bodies were discovered in a field.

Investigators are also trying to determine whether a car found wrecked earlier Tuesday had anything to do with the deaths.

No causes of death were immediately released in a case being investigated by homicide and traffic officers.

Police on Tuesday morning received 911 calls from people passing by to report a car was seen smashed into a tree in a field. A man repairing a nearby fence later reported finding the bodies of a woman and the child about 500 feet from the crash scene.

Police didn't immediately release the age or gender of the child.

Further details weren't immediately available.

Police charge 4 in high-end bicycle theft ring

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Four people have been charged in a high-end bicycle theft ring in

which investigators say they rented bikes from Texas businesses and sold them online.

Austin police say one person was arrested after renting two bicycles valued at \$3,100 each in March and not returning them to the business. Such thefts increased in recent months and led police to investigate them as activities of an organized group.

According to the Austin Police Department, the suspect stole at least \$70,000 worth of bikes. Authorities say they have documented thefts in at least seven Texas cities, including San Antonio, Houston, Richardson and Flower Mound.

Police say most thefts were from rental businesses, but private bicycle owners were targeted as well.

Suspect arrested in Dallas triple homicide

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas police say they've arrested a 53-year-old man and charged him with capital murder in the shotgun shootings earlier this month of four people, killing three.

The shootings happened in the pre-dawn hours Jan. 4 at a house in far southeastern Dallas. Two were dead at the scene and another died later at a hospital.

A police statement says a tip led police Friday to the house next door to the shooting scene. With the resident's consent, police confiscated a shotgun for testing and concluded it was the weapon used in the shootings.

Jack Diwitt Hunt has been booked into the Dallas County jail with bond set at \$500,000. Jail records list no attorney for Hunt.

Texas man accused of paying high school girls for sex

GALVESTON, Texas (AP) — Opening statements have begun in Galveston in the sexual assault trial of a 63-year-old man who prosecutors say paid thousands of dollars to high school girls for sex.

Michael Wayne McIntosh of Friendswood is facing multiple charges that include inducing a child to have sex. He has pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Texas Legislature: Day 1

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Texas' 2015 legislative session opened Tuesday with more pomp than policymaking. But a first day that was about as tame as expected could belie fierce partisan fights likely to come over issues like tax cuts, immigration and public education before the 140-day session is up. Here's a closer look at what happened.

SPEAKER'S RACE ROMP

A tea party challenge pushed Republican House Speaker Joe Straus to Texas' first floor vote for the lower chamber's top post in 40 years. But picking the fight turned out to be far more dramatic than its results. Straus, of San Antonio, cruised to his fourth speaker term after his challenger, former NFL player and second-term Rep. Scott Turner, garnered just 19 votes of 150 votes. Many of the House's most-conservative Republicans have long complained that Straus is too moderate, and a couple even announced challenges against him ahead of the 2011 and 2013 sessions — only to bow out when it became clear they wouldn't win. Turner forced the issue and can declare victory on principle. But it's a serious setback for the ultra-conservative group Empower Texas, which has long donated generously to force antagonizing Straus.

BURTON'S BOOTS

First-year Republican Sen. Konni Burton sported dark boots Tuesday ornately stenciled with "Stand for Life." Burton, of Fort Worth, won the seat vacated by former Sen. Wendy Davis, who became a national sensation when she laced up pink tennis shoes and filibustered for nearly 13 hours at the end of the 2013 legislative session — briefly delaying passage of tough new abortion restric-

tions. While Burton was winning her election in November, Davis' gubernatorial bid was soundly defeated. "There was a lot of media attention on pink tennis shoes," Burton said in an interview Tuesday. "It's a new day."

DEWHURST'S LAST DAYS

Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst was defeated in a nasty Republican primary last year by tea party-backed Sen. Dan Patrick. But Patrick won't be sworn into his new post until Jan. 20. That gives Dewhurst, a former CIA agent and Houston energy tycoon, a few more days to preside over the Senate — and his colleagues honored him with a special resolution Tuesday. It praised Dewhurst for cutting state spending and expanding Texas' cash reserves, or Rainy Day Fund. Several chamber veterans praised him and, in a subsequent speech, Dewhurst said he'd lost a contact lens — a reference to his wiping away tears. "Texas has given me, given you, given so many fellow Texans so much opportunity," Dewhurst said. "That's, at the end of the day, what we conservatives want to see: Get government out of the way and make sure there's justice and let people do as much as they can."

SLOW EARLY GOING

Both chambers adjourned after only a few hours Tuesday and have empty agendas until a farewell address by outgoing Gov. Rick Perry on Thursday afternoon. After that, there's again little to do before Gov.-elect Greg Abbott and Dewhurst are inaugurated Jan. 20. Perry, with the end of his record 14-plus years in office looming, was in Austin on Tuesday but he kept an extremely low profile — avoiding the public spotlight at the capitol.

Lawmaker apologizes for tweet comparing Obama to Hitler

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican Rep. Randy Weber apologized Tuesday for comparing President Barack

Obama to Adolf Hitler in a tweet related to the Paris terrorist attacks.

Congressional Democrats and Jewish groups had denounced the comment Weber sent.

"I need to first apologize to all those offended by my tweet," the Texas congressman said in

a written statement, which he also tweeted. "It was not my intention to trivialize the Holocaust."

The tweet on @TXRandy14 read: "Even Adolph Hitler thought it more important than Obama to get to Paris. (For all the wrong reasons.)"

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News in brief

Top Yemeni al-Qaida leader claims responsibility for attack on Paris paper in video message

CAIRO (AP) — A top leader of Yemen's al-Qaida branch has claimed responsibility for last week's attack on a Paris newspaper when two masked gunmen killed 12 people, including much of the weekly's editorial staff and two police officers.

Nasr al-Ansi, a top commander of Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, or AQAP as the branch is known, appeared in an 11-minute Internet video posted Wednesday, saying that the massacre at Charlie Hebdo was in "vengeance for the prophet." The paper had published cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad, which is considered an insult in Islam.

Al-Ansi say France belongs to the "party of Satan" and warned of more "tragedies and terror." He says Yemen's al-Qaida branch "chose the target, laid out the plan and financed the operation."

As Charlie Hebdo fronting Muhammad sells out, comic from the other side of debate is detained

PARIS (AP) — Charlie Hebdo's defiant new issue sold out before dawn around Paris on Wednesday, with scuffles at kiosks over dwindling copies of the paper fronting the Prophet Muhammad. In the city still shaken by the deaths of 17 people at the hands of Islamic extremists, a controversial comic who appeared to be praising the men was taken into custody.

The core of the irreverent newspaper's staff perished a week ago when gunmen stormed its offices, killing 12. Those who survived put out the issue that appeared on newsstands Wednesday, working out of borrowed offices, with a print run of 3 million — more than 50 times the usual circulation.

The storming of the newspaper was the opening salvo of three days of terror and bloodshed in the Paris region, ending when security forces killed all three gunmen on Friday.

France's government was preparing tougher anti-terrorism measures, and there were growing signs that authorities were ready to use current laws to their fullest extent. Wednesday's detention of Dieudonne for defending terrorism followed a four-year prison sentence involving the same charge for a man in northern France who seemed to defend the attacks in a drunken rant while resisting arrest.

French police say as many as six members of a terrorist cell that carried out the Paris attacks may still be at large, including a man seen driving a car registered to the widow of one of the gunmen. The country has deployed 10,000 troops to protect sensitive sites, including Jewish schools and synagogues, mosques and travel hubs.

APNewsBreak: NYC jail use-of-force reports at record levels in 2014 amid heightened scrutiny

NEW YORK (AP) — New York City jail guards reported more use of force against inmates in 2014 than ever before — an average of 11 incidents a day ranging from pepper sprayings to punches — amid heightened scrutiny from federal prosecutors to clean up what they call a "deep-seated culture of violence."

Figures obtained Wednesday by The Associated Press via a public records request show correction officers reported using force 4,074 times last year, including 406 incidents alone in September, the month after a scathing federal report that said Rikers Island guards too often resorted to force against teenage inmates.

"There has clearly not been a commitment to date to address officer violence on Rikers Island," said Dr. Bobby Cohen, a member of the jail oversight board who alluded to the record rates at a public meeting Tuesday. "Will that change now? I hope so. I've certainly not seen that before."

The figures come the same day federal prosecutors, who have since sued to speed up the pace of reforms at Rikers, begin three days of negotiations with city lawyers and correction officials over spe-

Chaplain: Denver-area church rejected gay memorial service

DENVER (AP) — Family and friends of a recently deceased gay woman are upset after a Denver-area church that was about to host her memorial service refused to show a video that included images of the woman kissing her fiancée.

Gary Rolando, a chaplain contacted by the woman's family to officiate the service, said Saturday's funeral at New Hope Ministries in Lakewood was abruptly canceled and moved to a nearby funeral home after church officials insisted images of the couple kissing could not be shown in the ceremony.

Rolando, who is not affiliated with New Hope, said Tuesday that the family of Vanessa Collier refused to remove the photos from the memorial video.

Jose Silva, a friend of Collier's, said some 200 friends and family were asked to leave the church. The woman's casket was taken to a nearby funeral home that had arranged the church service, and the memorial was held there with the complete video, Silva said.

"They asked the family to edit the video, and that was like editing Vanessa's life. It was demeaning," he said.

Dozens of Collier's friends protested outside the church on Tuesday, Silva said.

"The church policy is that people with alternate lifestyles can have services, but there can be no pictures or videos of overt kissing or hugging," Rolando said. "I understand both sides."

cific language on use-of-force policy, investigations and other jail problems.

Federal prosecutors declined to comment on the data. A jail spokesman said in a statement that city Correction Commissioner Joseph Ponte has a zero tolerance for excessive force and is updating the department's use-of-force policy, improving staff training, expanding the investigation division and installing security cameras. He said those efforts and others likely will result in fewer incidents in the coming months.

Republicans move to overturn Obama's immigration policies, expose many to deportation

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Republicans are taking broad steps to overturn President Barack Obama's immigration policies and remove protections for immigrants brought illegally to the country as kids.

Votes were set Wednesday on legislation worth nearly \$40 billion to finance the Homeland Security Department through the rest of the budget year.

Republicans were voting on one amendment to undo executive actions Obama announced in November that provided temporary deportation relief to some 4 million immigrants in the country illegally. Another amendment would delete Obama's 2012 policy that's granted work permits and stays of deportation to more than 600,000 immigrants who arrived in the U.S. illegally as kids.

Republicans say Obama's moves amounted to an unconstitutional overreach that must be stopped. The changes Obama announced in November especially enraged the GOP because they came not long after Republicans swept the midterm elections, taking control of the Senate and increasing their majority in the House. Republicans pledged then to revisit the issue once Congress was fully under their control.

"We're voting to block the president's overreach, his executive overreach, which I believe is beyond his constitutional duty and, frankly, violates the Constitution itself," said House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio. "This is not the way our government was intended to work. ... Our job is to listen to the American people and hold the president accountable."

Pope travels to war-torn north Sri Lanka, urges forgiveness for 'all the evil' that took place

MADHU, Sri Lanka (AP) — Pope Francis is visiting war-torn northern Sri Lanka to show solidarity with the victims of the country's 25-year civil war and urge forgiveness and reconciliation "for all the evil which this land has known."

Thousands of people waving the white and yellow Vatican flags welcomed Francis on Wednesday to the Our Lady of Madhu shrine, which is revered by both Sinhalese and Tamil Catholics, as well as people of other faiths.

Francis urged the crowd to ask for mercy and pardon to forge peace.

"Only when we come to understand, in the light of the cross, the evil we are capable of and have even been a part of, can we experience true remorse and true repentance," he said. "Only then can we receive the grace to approach one another in true contrition, offering and seeking true forgiveness."

Losing ground to GOP in Congress, states, Democrats weigh next steps

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressional Democrats are in retreat in more ways than one this week.

As Democratic senators gather in Baltimore to talk strategy and lick election wounds, their party faces diminished powers in Congress, GOP dominance in many states and a shrinking pool of potential candidates for future elections.

In the November elections, Democrats lost their

eight-year Senate majority, and saw their House numbers fall to the lowest level in seven decades.

In the states, Republicans will hold 31 governorships, and more state legislative seats than they've had since 1928. It especially vexes Democrats to see Republicans dominate the U.S. House delegations and the state governments in several states that President Barack Obama won, including huge legislative majorities in Florida, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin.

"I think there's a lot of frustration," said Rep. John Yarmuth, a Kentucky Democrat who said the party has "failed to do something that I think represents an opportunity for us. We really haven't talked to the American people about what government does for them."

Eyeing 3rd run, Mitt Romney draws conservative cheers as establishment field grows

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Mitt Romney's unexpected step into the 2016 presidential contest is drawing enthusiasm from the GOP's most passionate conservatives.

But not because they want him to win. For the first time in recent memory, prominent conservatives see a Republican presidential field that could have as much competition among the party's establishment-minded prospects — like Romney — as its fiery conservatives.

"If you have that many moderate establishment candidates, it gives an opportunity for a conservative to get in and become a serious contender," said Amy Kremer, a national tea party activist.

Indeed, with Romney's moves in the past week toward launching a third presidential run, three high-profile Republicans from the party's mainstream are suddenly competing for the same group of elite donors and staffing talent, just as the crowded 2016 presidential primary season begins.

And that list — Romney, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush — doesn't even include a group of Midwestern governors, led by Wisconsin's Scott Walker, who also fit the mold of accomplished, economic-minded executives driven as much by a pragmatic approach to governing as by their conservative ideology.

2 Minnesota teens plead guilty in foiled school bomb plot

WASECA, Minn. (AP) — Two teenagers charged in a foiled explosives plot at a southern Minnesota school have pleaded guilty.

The Mankato Free Press reported Tuesday that both teens pleaded guilty last week to felony possession of explosive material. They were accused of helping a classmate detonate small "test bombs" around Waseca, resulting in property damage.

Their classmate is accused of plotting to kill his family and attack his school with firearms and homemade explosives. Police and prosecutors don't believe the two teens were aware of his plot.

Waseca County Attorney Brenda Miller said she was pleased with the plea agreement.

The teens are on probation and must perform community service and write letters of apology.

All three were 17 when they were charged. The Associated Press generally doesn't identify juveniles accused of crimes.

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

The Battle for Trump Control

South dealer.
East-West vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ Q 9
♥ K J 8 3
♦ K J 9 2
♣ K 10 5

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

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

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

The bidding:
South West North East
1♠ Pass 2NT Pass
4♣

Opening lead — queen of clubs.

The battle for trump control is frequently the key factor in the play of a hand. Typically, the defenders try to run declarer out of trumps by plugging away at their longest and strongest suit, while declarer at the same time attempts to resist their efforts to weaken his trump holding. Here is a typical case.

Assume West leads the queen of clubs, covered by the king and ace, and East returns a club. Declarer

ruffs and plays the A-K of trumps, disclosing the 4-1 trump division. South is now in trouble and, in fact, can no longer make the contract. Let's say he draws West's two remaining trumps and then leads a diamond to the jack, taken by East with the ace.

East returns a third round of clubs, forcing South to ruff with his last trump. Declarer cashes the Q-K of diamonds but must next lead a heart. East wins with the ace and returns a club, and the contract is defeated because declarer lost control of trumps.

Now let's go back to the first trick and have South play the five of clubs from dummy instead of the king. In that case, West cannot lead another club without establishing a club trick in dummy. This, in turn, later prevents the defenders from effectively shortening declarer's trumps, and South has no trouble scoring 10 tricks.

It's not easy for declarer to see the necessity of playing a low club from dummy on the opening trick, but it is a play that cannot lose and might gain. The deal illustrates once again how important it is to formulate a plan before playing any card at trick one.

Tomorrow: Thinking things through.

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Sudoku Answer on Page 11

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Garrett, Marinelli set to return to fold for Cowboys

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Dallas coach Jason Garrett fielded questions about his shaky job security for two years before breaking through with the first trip to the playoffs for the Cowboys since 2009.

Now he's all but guaranteed to have the second-longest coaching tenure for the storied franchise behind Tom Landry, the only coach the Cowboys knew for their first

29 years.

Garrett has a new five-year contract, and defensive coordinator Rod Marinelli is also coming back on a three-year deal, a person with knowledge of both agreements told The Associated Press on Tuesday. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the team had yet to announce the deals.

Garrett will make about \$6

million annually — roughly \$30 million in total value — after just completing his first contract, at four years and \$20 million.

The Cowboys broke through a three-year rut of 8-8 seasons that ended with losses that kept them out of the playoffs by winning the NFC East at 12-4. Dallas beat Detroit in the wild-card round before last weekend's 26-21 divisional

round loss at Green Bay.

"I really believe that we've built something here that we're all proud of and we're all excited about taking the next step with this football team," Garrett said earlier Tuesday, before the deals were settled.

The 48-year-old Garrett, a former backup on Dallas' Super Bowl-winning teams of the 1990s, is 42-32 in four-plus seasons and needs two victo-

ries to tie his old coach, Jimmy Johnson, for second on the franchise win list. Landry is third all-time in the NFL with 250 victories.

When he finishes the first year of his new contract, Garrett will have coached the Cowboys longer than Johnson, who won consecutive Super Bowls after the 1992 and '93 seasons. Landry also won two titles.

District 2-4A Girls Basketball

BSHS rallies for win

J-Rod, Mayes key 4th quarter run in Lady Steers' win

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

For much of the first three quarters of play on Tuesday night in front of a loud crowd in the Steer Gym, Julianna Rodriguez and Diamonique Mayes struggled to find their shots against the Lubbock Estacado Lady Matadors.

As a result, the Big Spring Lady Steers trailed for the first 26 minutes of the contest.

When the two did find their range midway through the fourth quarter, the Lubbock Estacado saw its hopes up pulling off the upset go down quickly.

Rodriguez and Mayes combined for 11 points in the final 4:28 of play and spearheaded a decisive 19-7 run in the fourth quarter that lifted the Lady Steers to a thrilling 50-40 victory in a crucial District 2-4A showdown. The BSHS girls, now 1-1 in district play, had trailed by as many as seven points early in the contest.

Offensively, the Lady Steers struggled to find the basket early in the contest. Big Spring managed just three free throws in the first 6:27 of the contest and fell behind by an 8-3 margin.

Mayes ended the Lady Steers' drought from the field with 1:34 left in the first quarter by taking a pass inside the paint for Big Spring's only basket of the first eight minutes of the game.

After Estacado has scored to push its lead to 10-5, Rodriguez closed out the first quarter with a pair of free throws that enabled BSHS to go into the second down by just three, at 10-7.

The Lady Matadors extended their lead in the

early moments of the second. Estacado scored twice from the field in the initial 1:36 of the second, and pushed its lead to seven, at 14-7.

August Alexander woke up the Lady Steers offense from there. The junior ignited a 6-0 run with 5:29 left in the first half when she took a pass from Rodriguez on a 2-on-1 break and pushed home a shot from the baseline. Rodriguez had started the play on the other end of the floor with a steal.

Moments later, Mayes put back an offensive rebound, setting the stage for a short 8-footer jumper by Rodriguez that closed the Lady Mats' lead to 14-13.

Rodriguez came back two minutes later and buried the first of her four three-point shots and sent the game into the half with the score knotted at 16-16.

The Lady Mats didn't go away quietly. Estacado opened the second half with a 8-2 run and raced to a 24-18 advantage before Rodriguez and the BSHS offense could get on track.

Down 24-18, Rodriguez gave the Lady Steers the boost they needed with 5:53 left in the third, with a little help from Mayes. After taking a pass from Jackie Castillo in the paint, Mayes quickly pushed the ball to the top of the key to Rodriguez, who quickly put up a trey that kick-started a 13-7 run by the Lady Steers that knotted the game at 31-31 with 2:29 left in the period.

Estacado, despite a pair of shots from Mayes, regained the upper hand late in the third with a basket that sent the Lady Steers into the fourth

See BSHS on Page 13



Tony Claxton photos (www.claxtonphotography.com)
Big Spring senior Stefanie Diaz shoots over the top of a Lubbock Estacado defender during the second half of the Lady Steers' 50-40 victory in the Steer Gym on Tuesday. Big Spring improved to 11-12 with the victory and, more importantly, evened their District 2-4A record at 1-1.

Grady opens district with win

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

The fourth-ranked Grady Wildcats had just one goal as they opened District 11-A basketball action on Tuesday evening — win. The Wildcats can mark that goal accomplished in a big way.

Sparked by double-digit efforts from Kyle Garza, Braeden Jones and Beau Lucas, Grady opened district competition with a dominating 70-32 rout of the Dawson Dragons.

Really ... it wasn't that close.

The Wildcats, who garnered points from 11 different players, wasted no time in blowing the game wide open. After racing to a 15-9 lead in the first quarter, Grady pieced together a 23-8 clip in the second and took a commanding 38-17 lead into the half.

The Wildcats closed out the game with a 32-15 run in the second half.

With the victory, Grady improved its season record to 17-2. Dawson slipped to 13-2.

Jones led all GHS scorers with 14 points. See GRADY on Page 13

Miles races past Forsan

The Miles Bulldogs posted a 14-1 run in the second quarter on Tuesday evening and used that to claim a 57-40 come-from-behind win over the Forsan Buffaloes in District 8-2A action.

Forsan, which garnered 10 points from Dalton Ogle in the contest, held the early advantage. The Buffs outscored Miles by a 13-7 clip in the first eight minutes and took a six point lead into the second quarter.

Miles, which held a 21-14 lead at the half, salted away the win with a 36-26 effort in the second half.

Ryan Pearson and Jacob Valdez also played well for Forsan. Pearson netted eight points, while Valdez added seven.

JV girls claims 28-25 come-from-behind victory over Lady Matadors in overtime

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

Danielle Conner pushed in a pair of shots and Kiowa Lesser grabbed five rebounds in overtime on Tuesday and helped spur the Big Spring Last Steers' junior varsity to a wild 28-25 victory over the Lubbock Estacado Lady Matadors.

Big Spring, which had been limited to only eight

points in the first half, posted a 5-2 run in the OT frame to seal the victory.

Offensive was at a premium for both teams in the first half. The Lady Steers got a basket from Kiana Ramsey with 1:53 left in the first half and took a slim 8-6 lead into the half.

Ramsey finished the game with a team-high nine points.

Big Spring hit stride

offensively in the third. The Lady Steers reeled off a 12-5 run in the frame and built its lead to 20-11.

Estacado scored a 12-2 run in the first 7:17 of the fourth quarter and grabbed a 23-22 lead.

Ramsey sank the front end of a two-shot opportunity from the free throw line with 43 seconds left to send the game into OT with the score knotted at 23-23.

Conner and Lesser both finished the game with four points apiece. Janisha Smith added two.

With the victory the Lady Steers improved their season record to 8-8, and moved to 2-0 in District 2-4A action.

The Lady Steers, who opened district play on Friday with a 24-18 win over Lamesa, will travel to Levelland on Friday for their next outing.

Kemper, Lady Buffs grab win over Miles

Kaylee Kemper pushed in a game-high 14 points and Mary-Ashley McDaniel added 10 more on Tuesday and powered the Forsan Lady Buffaloes to a key 43-39 victory over the Miles Bulldogs in a District 8-2A matchup in Miles.

With the victory, Forsan improved to

4-2 in district play.

The Lady Buffaloes also picked up a solid performance from Kendall Phillips in the win. She finished the contest with eight points.

Forsan will travel to Christoval on Friday night. Their game with the Lady Cougars will tip off at 6:30 p.m.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Mars Squares Saturn

The Mars-square-Saturn situation rocks people to the core. Ambitions that felt like a natural extension of who we are suddenly get thwarted. Not only that, but foundational thinking will feel all wrong. Why did we want it in the first place? Don't let yourself get too disheartened. Be inwardly gentle and reasonable as you question your original intentions.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're allowed to make lists that you have no intention of ever executing, and it's a good exercise for today. A list can be like a playground for your mind, a mental way of trying things on for size.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're still trying to break yourself of a certain habit that no longer serves you well. You'll have more success when you think of replacing the habit with a better one.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Before you let yourself fall for the thing that is out of reach, be sure it's worth falling for. Make sure that "unobtainable" isn't the most appealing thing about it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Hold on, because today's atmosphere may turn wild, hectic and unsupportive. It's why you need to give yourself a good breakfast and leave plenty of time for getting from place to place.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). No one can be exactly like you, though a few will try! Take it as a compliment. You're the big sibling of the zodiac now, and the others are learning from the way you manage things.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The ones who try to eliminate the competition through negative press are clearly insecure about what they have to offer. The only legitimate way to eliminate the competition is to do it better, faster or cheaper. Maybe all three!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Today features high stakes and intense competition. Keep in mind that an obliging attitude will gain you more respect than any fine trapping you could drive around in or throw on your back.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You give smiles, help and many other things besides money. It just doesn't quite feel right to hand over cash. Tighten those purse strings. Hold back until you're sure where your money will do the most good.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Change is natural, but it's not always easy. In order to become who you want to be, you have to sacrifice something about the person you are now.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Happiness is simple today. You put your whole self into mundane tasks like paying bills or making dinner. Consequently, your good fortune will continue.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Without an injection of fantasy, things could get very dull indeed. Today is for imagining something different for your life. Draw it or write about it to flesh out the delightful details.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The social basics will apply: no whispering or telling secrets about others. If everyone would keep these rules, the world would be a much happier place.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 14). What makes this year's story so great is that whatever comes, love and perseverance will win out in the end. The next six weeks bring a lucky break. Just don't try to grow too quickly, and save your money. March is a happy song for your love life, and many people will be happy to share your joy. Aries and Gemini people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 23, 4, 11 and 14.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: I'm desperately in love with a Cancer woman. We've eaten lunch together, and I've gotten to know her pretty well, but what she mostly wants to talk about with me is her ex-boyfriend, whom she still sometimes sees and is definitely hung up on. I'd like to ask her out, but I

don't know if she'll say yes, and I'm afraid that it will ruin the connection we already have. What should I do? I'm a Scorpio."

You are in a terrible position with this Cancer woman, considering that you want to date her. You've already established yourself as a crying shoulder. That role should go to her mom, her therapist and her girlfriends. It will be very difficult to turn this around because she already thinks of you as a friend. However, you're a Scorpio -- the sign of transformation -- so you should be able to manage it. Stop being available and friendly. You can be nice, but keep your distance. Start dating someone else, and make sure she sees you with this person. When you finally make contact again, flirt and show your attraction to her immediately. But keep it light and short. Be the first to leave. Have a few flirtatious encounters like this before you finally ask her out.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Television producer Dan Schneider is the key figure behind shows such as "Sam and Cat," "iCarly," "Victorious" and more. His sun and Mercury in Capricorn are the signals of a solid work ethic teamed with lofty ambitions. His moon in Scorpio lends the kind of edge that rebellious tweens and teens love in their entertainment, and his Venus and Mars in Aquarius keeps the message moral.

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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sudoku

ANSWERS

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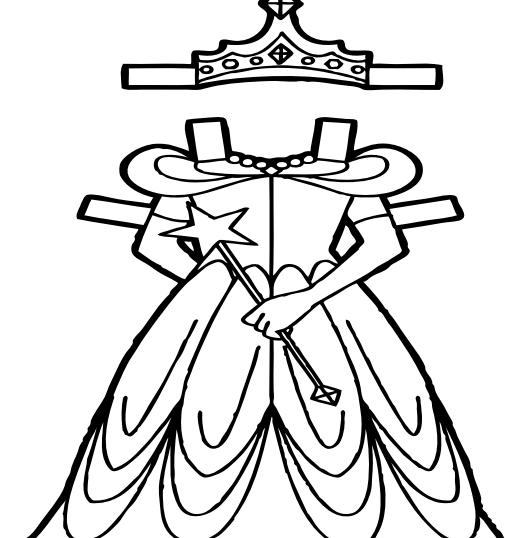
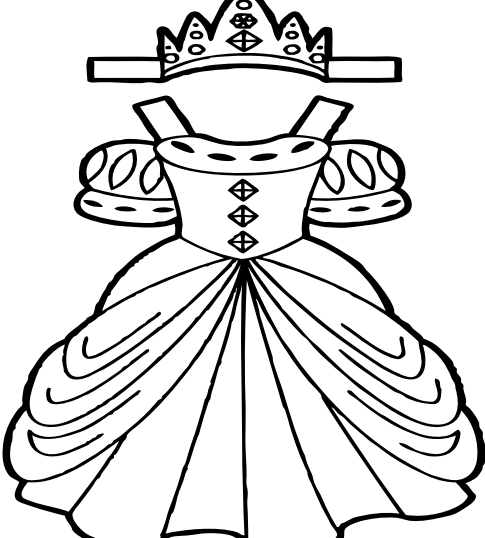
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| | Midland | Spanish | Odessa | Odessa | Telemundo | Midland | Atlanta | Odessa | Odessa | Odessa | Discovery | Classics | Spike TV | Atlanta | Black Ent. | Disney | Sports | Sports |
| 5:PM | News ABC | P. Luche | Two Men | News CBS | Tele Noticias | News News | Seinfeld | With Scholars | Scully Business | CHI'Ps | Naked and Afraid | Under Siege, Gary Busey | Bar Rescue | Supernatural | Game I Didn't | Around Pardon | SportsCenter | |
| 6:PM | Jeopardy! | La Gata (SS) | Big Bang | News | Caso Cerrado | Newswest 9 at 6P | Seinfeld | Mani | PBS News-Hour | M*A*S*H | Naked and Afraid | Bar Rescue | Supernatural | Game I Didn't | College Basketball | Dream | | |
| 7:PM | Wheel | Mi Corazón Es Tuyo | American Idol | The Mentalist | Los Miserables (SS) | Myst-Laura | Seinfeld | House | Nature | M*A*S*H | | Movie: Hard to Kill, Bill Sadler | Bar Rescue | Grimm (DVS) | Game The Little Rascals | NBA Basketball: Atlanta Hawks at Boston Celtics. | | |
| 8:PM | Mod Fam blackish | Hasta el Fin | (01) Empire | Criminal Minds | Tierra de Reyes (SS) | Law & Order: SVU | Big Bang | Light of the Southwest | NOVA (DVS) | Heroes Cheers | Dual Survival | Bar Rescue | Grimm (DVS) | To Be Announced | College Basketball: UCLA at USC. | | | |
| 9:PM | Forever | La Malquerida (SS) | Mod Fam | Stalker | Dueños del Paraíso | Chicago PD | Big Bang | | Nazi Mega Weapons | F Troop | Dude--Screwed | Movie: On Deadly Ground, Joan Chen | Framework | Grimm (DVS) | Game Dog | College Basketball: Clippers at Trail Blazers | | |
| 10:PM | News | Impacto | Cleveland | News | Tele Noticias | News | Conan | HaYesod | Charlie Rose | C. Burnett Perry Mason | Dual Survival | Bar Rescue | Grimm (DVS) | Game Liv-Mad. | | | | |
| 11:PM | Jimmy Kimmel Live | La Que No | How I Met | Letterman | Titulares | Tonight Show | Cougar | Chevalme | T. Smiley | | Dude--Screwed | Bar Rescue | Supernatural | Wendy Williams | Good | | | |
| 12:AM | Extra | Amorito Corazón | Friends | (:37) The Talk | Tierra de Reyes (SS) | Seth Meyers | Conan | McDonald | T. Smiley (Off Air) | Banacek | Naked and Afraid | Movie: Aliens vs. Predator: Requiem | Bar Rescue | Supernatural | The Real | Deck | Basket | SportsCenter |
| 1:AM | Paid | Alma | Law & Order: SVU | Ent | Pagaído | (:07) Today | Movie: One for the | Light of the Southwest | | Gallery | | Movie: Van- | Bar Rescue | Smallville | Game One Mic | Wizards | NFL Live | SportsCenter |

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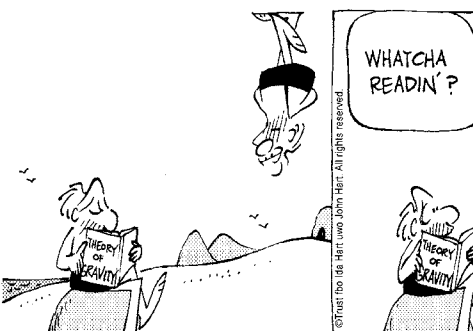
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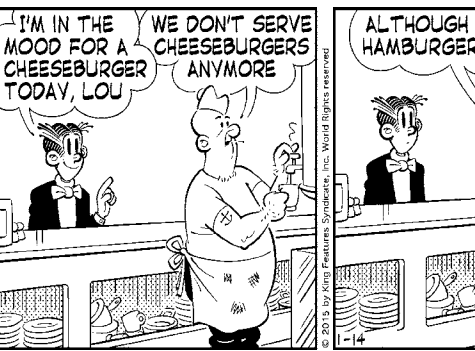
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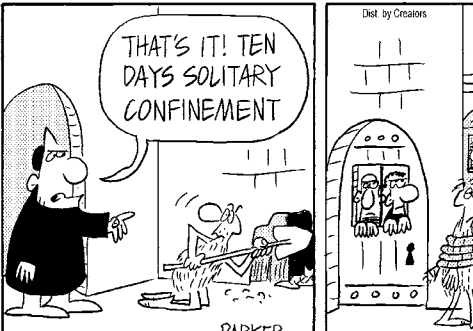
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AGNES



HI AND LOIS



This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 14, the 14th day of 2015. There are 351 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Jan. 14, 1784, the United States ratified the Treaty of Paris ending the Revolutionary War; Britain followed suit in April 1784. On this date: In 1814, the Treaty of Kiel ended hostilities between Denmark and Sweden, with Denmark agreeing to cede Norway to Sweden, something Norway refused to accept.

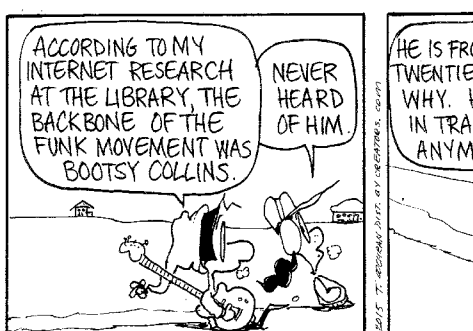
In 1900, Puccini's opera "Tosca" had its world premiere in Rome. In 1914, Ford Motor Co. greatly improved its assembly-line operation by employing an endless chain to pull each chassis along at its Highland Park plant. In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and French General Charles de Gaulle opened a wartime conference in Casablanca. In 1952, NBC's "Today" show premiered, with Dave Garroway as the host, or "communicator." In 1954, Marilyn Monroe and Joe DiMaggio

were married at San Francisco City Hall. (The marriage lasted about nine months.) In 1965, singer-actress Jeanette MacDonald, 61, died in Houston. In 1969, 27 people aboard the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise, off Hawaii, were killed when a rocket warhead exploded, setting off a fire and additional explosions.

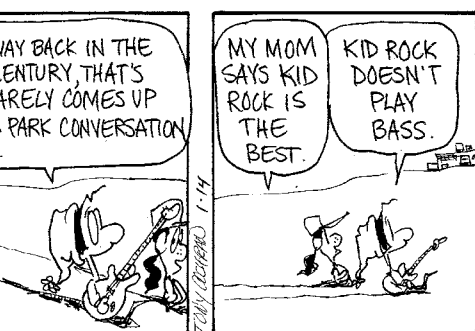
Answer to previous puzzle

| | | |
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| DIRTY | STAR | SAGA |
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| HAPPY | MEDIUM | RIO |
| LEA | CLATTER | |
| REDESIGN | TIE | |
| OR | ZOOS | DANCE |
| STARTED | OUTSMALL | |
| ASTIR | SKEW | TAM |
| FAD | STATIONS | |
| CARTIRE | NUN | |
| ALE | LIVING | LARGE |
| ROAD | FORE | ISALL |
| ONCE | TKOS | PEKES |
| METS | SENT | SCENE |

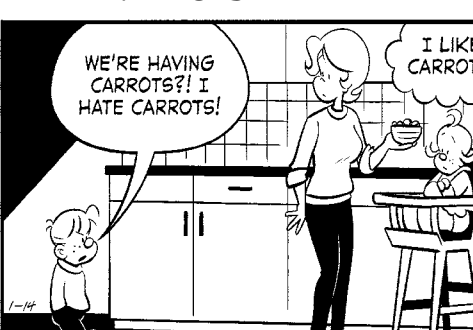
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



Newsday Crossword

IN A FOWL MOOD by Fred Piscop

- Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com
- ACROSS
- 1 Pickle serving
 - 6 Wipe clean
 - 11 Medicinal amt.
 - 14 Fictional Scarlett
 - 15 Fl. oz. fraction
 - 16 Part of APB
 - 17 Vulnerable one
 - 19 Summer zodiac sign
 - 20 Goes out with
 - 21 Annoyed
 - 23 Forced open
 - 27 Linen fabrics
 - 29 In the vicinity
 - 30 Teflon maker
 - 31 Clever and funny
 - 32 Gets set, for short
 - 33 Put to work
 - 36 Arthur ___ Stadium (pro tennis venue)
 - 37 Impressive deeds
 - 38 Sly smile
 - 39 Definite article
 - 40 San Antonio landmark
 - 41 Wasn't serious
 - 42 Triathletes, for instance
 - 44 Go back on a deal
 - 45 Bewitching
 - 47 Shuffled along
 - 48 Be mad for
 - 49 New Year's Eve party attire
 - 50 AFL merger partner
 - 51 Engage in a pointless showdown
- DOWN
- 1 Plea at sea
 - 2 ___ Beta Kappa
 - 3 Erode
 - 4 Curator's concern
 - 5 Like some bran cereal
 - 6 Barely defeated
 - 7 Fishing poles
 - 8 Tempe sch.
 - 9 Wall St. regulator
 - 10 Native Alaskans, historically
 - 11 Gets down to business
 - 12 Aerodynamically designed
 - 13 Walks wearily
 - 18 Something essential
 - 22 Took off
 - 23 Chide
 - 24 From Killamey
 - 25 Nursery-rhyme byline
 - 26 Remote button
 - 27 On account of
 - 28 Smartphone software
 - 30 Vial measures the sea
 - 34 Extended battle
 - 35 Put to rest
 - 37 Pooch pest
 - 38 All used up
 - 40 Takes on
 - 41 Actress Alba
 - 43 Telecast
 - 44 IRA variety
 - 45 Thanksgiving parade sponsor
 - 46 French farewell
 - 47 Georgia city
 - 49 Syringe, for short
 - 52 General Grant's rival
 - 53 Qty.
 - 54 Web-video gear
 - 55 Common Korean surname
 - 56 Historical age
 - 57 Persona ___ grata

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | | |
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Junior high teams roll to three wins against Lamesa

On Monday night, the Big Spring Junior High School Lady Steers' girls hosted the Lamesa Lady Tornados for the first game back from the holiday break.

The BSJHS seventh grade A team fell to Lamesa in a hard-fought battle on their home court by the score of 39-30.

Leading the way for Big Spring was Robyn Evans, who played an outstanding game. The BSJHS standout finished with 15 points, four steals, 3 blocks and seven rebounds.

Mady McNeese added six

points, one steal, two rebounds and an assist. Kynleigh Joy had four points, two steals, three blocks and two rebounds. Trinity Galoway contributed two points and two steals, while Amber Martinez led the way on defense with five steals, a team-high four blocks and two rebounds.

The seventh grade B team won a defensive battle against the Lady Tors by a score of 8-7.

Big Spring had multiple shots at the basket, but could not convert the shots into

points.

Leading the offense for BSJHS were Mariah Chavarria, Jazzmin Allen, Amaya Cobos and Bethany Saiz. Each finished with two points.

Defensively, the whole team contributed to the victory, especially Mackenzie Rodriques with five steals, four rebounds and a block. Obri Guzman had four steals, four rebounds and a block, while Marisa Salazar had two steals, seven rebounds and three blocks. Diondra Villalobos contributed five steals, four rebounds and a block,

while teammate Kristiana Gutierrez had three steals and a rebound.

The eighth grade B team dominated Lamesa, winning 39-8.

Offensively, Kailey Mathews led the team with 10 points. Monica Wolover and Hallie Hyatt each added six, while Chloe Bustamante had five points and Jesusita Cerda had four.

On the defense side, Kailey Mathews, Anisa Cervantez, Jesusita Cerda and Reagan Brockman all played excellent, holding Lamesa to just

eight points.

The eighth grade A team beat Lamesa, 35-29. The Lady Steers outscored Lamesa by a 10 - 1 margin in the third quarter to gain the win.

Kamri Kemper was the offensive player of the game with 12 points. The defensive player of the game honors went to Leah Rivera, who also contributed to the offense with nine points.

The Lady Steers will travel to San Angelo Lee on next week. Games will be played on Tuesday, Jan. 20, and will begin at 4:30 p.m.

BSHS frosh fall to Lady Mats, 41-33

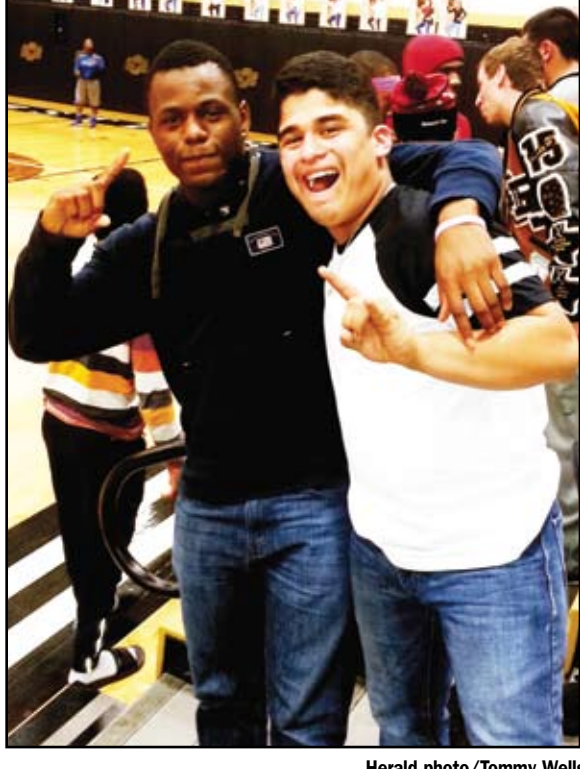
The Lubbock Estacado Lady Matadors reeled off a 10-4 run in the fourth quarter on Tuesday afternoon and claimed a tough 41-33 victory over the Big Spring High School freshman girls' team.

Despite the loss, the Lady Steers said they were improving.

"I think we played pretty good," said Lexi Delafuente. "We just need to slow down a bit and work on our offense."

Big Spring controlled the game in the first half. Delafuente pushed in several key shots in the first half and helped the Lady Steers grab a 19-18 half-time lead.

Estacado, despite solid play from Emilie Smith and Jori Hanlon, rallied for a 13-0 run in the third and took a slim 31-29 lead into the fourth quarter.



Herald photo/Tommy Wells

Horns up ...

Big Spring High School students Jimetre Post and Isaac Rios show their support for the Lady Steers by standing through the team's 50-40 win over Estacado on Tuesday. The BSHS student body supports the team by standing through the entire game.

BSHS

Continued from Page 7
quarter trailing 33-31.

Sidney Patterson came off the bench to give Big Spring's offense a jump start in the fourth quarter. The junior pushed in back-to-back shots from the floor to open the final frame. She handed the Lady Steers' their first lead of the night at the 5:27 mark of the fourth by turning a pass from Rodriguez into a 35-33 cushion.

Estacado crept back to within one, at 35-34, before Rodriguez found her range. The BSHS senior pumped in a three-pointer and then tacked on a layup off a fast break opportunity in the ensuing minute and powered Big Spring to a 40-34 cushion.

After the Lady Matadors had fought their way back to within 40-39, Mayes and Rodriguez slammed the door shut for good. Mayes powered her way inside for an old-fashioned three-point play - via basket and a free throw - that staked BSHS to a 43-39 lead with 2:52 left.

Rodriguez drove the

District 2-4A Standings

| Team | Season Conf. | |
|------------|--------------|-------|
| | W-L | W-L |
| Levelland | 2-0 | 21-2 |
| Lamesa | 2-0 | 8-9 |
| Snyder | 1-1 | 5-15 |
| Big Spring | 1-1 | 11-12 |
| Sweetwater | 0-2 | 4-12 |
| Estacado | 0-2 | 3-20 |

Tuesday's Games - NMJC Lamesa 50, Snyder 35; Levelland 83, Sweetwater 21; Big Spring 50, Lubbock Estacado 40.

Friday's Games - Snyder at Estacado; Big Spring at Levelland; Sweetwater at Lamesa.

final nail into the Lady Mats' coffin 52 seconds later by throwing up a three-point shot from the top of the key. Her fourth trey inflated Big Spring's lead to seven, at 46-39.

Rodriguez finished the game with a season-high 20 points.

Mayes finished with 13 points.

GRADY

Continued from Page 7
ers in the contest with 14 points. Lucas added 13, while Garza pitched in 10.

Also playing well for the Wildcats was Dillon Polson, who netted seven points

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- Entertainment:
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January 27, 2015

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Program: 7:00 pm
Sonic Floor ~ Dorothy Garrett Coliseum
Ticket deadline -
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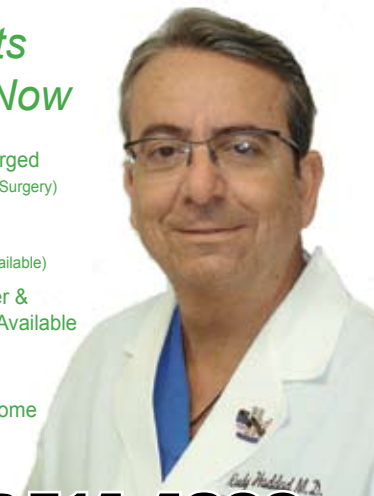
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• We will only provide your team's **total percentage** of weight loss, not individuals.

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• Contest prizes determined on number of teams.

• To join the **Best Loser Spring Challenge**, fill out the form below and return to us with your \$60 entry fee, Cash Only, No later than **January 16, 2015**.



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**DEADLINE
JANUARY 16, 2015**

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Team Member 2: _____ phone: _____

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