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# H BIG SPRING HERALD

**THURSDAY**

**MARCH 19, 2015**



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HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

TxDOT crews were out making repairs on the Gregg St./FM 700 overpass Wednesday, causing some traffic congestion on the northbound lanes.

## Men at work

## There will 'bee' a bee

Rescheduled spelling competition Saturday

By **LYNDEL MOODY**  
 Staff Writer

Reschedule, R-E-S-C-H-E-D-U-L-E, Reschedule.

Barring more heavy snow or ice, the 28<sup>th</sup> annual Midland-Reporter Telegram Spelling Bee will be held at 10 a.m. this Saturday with five Big Spring ISD students competing against students from across the region.

The competition was originally scheduled for Feb. 28 but inclement weather prompted a reschedule. Unfortunately, one Big Spring school champion — Mario Alanis of Big Spring Intermediate School — will not be able to attend due to scheduling conflicts, according to the *Midland-Reporter Telegram*. BSI's runner-up Sarah Wood will step in and represent the school.

Also attending from Big Spring ISD are: Ananya Limaye, Goliad Elementary School; Hannah Peckenpaugh, Marcy Elementary School; Emily Kocak, Moss Elementary School; and Joe Canales, Washington Elementary.

The competition will be held in the Allison Fine Arts Building at Midland College.

The winner will receive an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. and a chance to represent Midland at the 2015 Scripps National Spelling Bee set for May 27-28. The top five students at the bee will also receive prizes.



Canales



Kocak



Limaye



Peckenpaugh

## Hoops, Dreams and Goals March 27

Special to the Herald

Teams from across West Texas will compete March 27 in this year's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Hoops, Dreams and Goals Basketball Tournament at Howard College's Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

"The country may have March Madness that they love and embrace, but at West Texas Centers, we have our own version of March



Smith

Madness, and that's 'Hoops, Dreams and Goals,'" West Texas Centers CEO Shelley Smith said.

"We were looking for a special event many years ago that our consumers could enjoy in honor of Intellectual and Developmental Disability Awareness Month," Smith added.

"We thought that basketball was something that everyone could enjoy from those who like to compete, to those who like to support through pep squads and cheerleading. It just took off that first year and we have enjoyed it every year since."

Ten basketball teams will make their entrance down the ramp to

See **HOOPS**, Page 3



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## Texas House passes sweeping border bill

by **PAUL J. WEBER**  
 Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Hiring hundreds of new troopers for the Texas-Mexico border is part of sweeping border security measures tentatively passed Wednesday by the House, but closing a \$300 million gulf with Senate proposals remains as the Legislature lurches toward the halfway mark.

Republican Gov. Greg Abbott put heightened border security — even above the muscular show of force Texas deployed under Rick Perry — at the top of his to-do list for his first 100 days in office. Conservatives are quickly delivering on Abbott's vision — and their own campaign promises to GOP voters back home.

Vastly outnumbered Democrats, who for years have hotly opposed calls to "militarize" the Texas border, mostly sat out this fight and let the bill pass without fireworks.

But settling on a price tag for new spy planes, boats

**"We've been doing starts and stops and starts and stop along the border. This is about creating a consistency that people can count on."**

State Rep. Dennis Bonnen

mounted with machine guns on the Rio Grande and intelligence gathering could make for rocky negotiations between GOP budget writers in the last half of the 140-day session. Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and the Senate have set aside \$815 million — more than double what Texas currently spends on border security.

The House has put roughly a half-billion dollars on the table, which still would amount to a record spending spree.

"We've been doing starts and stops and starts and stop along the border," said Republican state Rep. Dennis Bonnen, who is carrying the bill. "This is about creating a consistency that people can

count on."

Only now have the House and Senate begun making major votes in the first session under Abbott, and the first bills up are symbolic reminders of dominating Republican victories last November. As the House spent hours fine-tuning border security plans Wednesday, the Senate was giving the OK to concealed handguns on college campuses.

Beyond hiring new troopers and putting some retired back on duty, the bill offers a path for the Texas National Guard to leave the border. Perry ordered 1,000 guard members to the Rio Grande Valley last summer, and Abbott has said

that mission can't end until Texas has state troopers and technology to replace them.

The bill overwhelmingly advanced 131-12. Democrats did not plot to derail the bill on procedural snags or hours of protests as they might have in previous sessions when amplifying border security was on the table, saving their energy for harsher anti-immigrant proposals that may yet come down the pike.

Concerns raised instead surrounded milder issues: safeguards on Department of Public Safety contracts for big-ticket purchases like helicopters, and keeping regular tabs on spending and crime statistics to make sure the measures are paying off.

Texas has spent nearly \$1 billion on border security in the past eight years. The bill still needs to pass the Senate.

"The goal it seems is to prove how serious we are about border security by throwing money at it," Democratic state Rep. Armando Walle of Houston said.



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# Take Note

- Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Health Fair is scheduled for April 11 at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum from 8 a.m. until noon. Admission is free. There will be health screenings, demonstrations, car seat check up, bike rodeo and more. For more information, call the chamber at 432-263-7641.
- For information on Garrett Parrish's condition, or to post messages of support, visit his Facebook page (#GPSTRONG). Parrish was seriously injured in a recent sledding accident.
- An account has been set up at Wells Fargo Bank for Briana Mendoza to help with medical cost. Briana was recently diagnosed with cancer.
- The Big Spring Symphony Board of Directors meets every second Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the symphony office, 808 Scurry Street
- The All-School CHS Reunion date has been scheduled for Saturday, July 25, 2015. This year's focus will be on recognizing and honoring Coahoma ISD teachers from throughout the years.
- Crossroads Hospice needs volunteers for patient care. Contact Eva at 263-5300.
- 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](http://www.Facebook.com/Food2Kids)

- Order of the Eastern Star Big Spring Chapter 67 meets the third Tuesday 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.
- Staked Plains Masonic Lodge No. 598 meets the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. (dinner is at 6 p.m.) at 219 1/2 Main St. All Masons are welcome.
- The Crossroads Young Marines is 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 surrounding counties are in need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected. For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 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.

## HOOPS

Continued from Page 1

the home floor of the Howard College Hawks at 8:30 a.m. — accompanied by the raucous beat of the Big Spring High School Drumline — where they will be met by Howard College and BSHS cheerleaders.

Big Spring Mayor Larry McLellan and 118<sup>th</sup> District Judge Tim Yeats will greet team members, cheerleaders and guests and welcome them to a day of basketball with an inspirational pep rally punctuated by bursts of pump-up music.

"It's truly the best day to work at West Texas Centers," Smith

said. "Everyone looks forward to this day the minute we drape medals around their necks from last year's event. It's a fun day for not only our consumers, but for our staff who help them prepare for this day."

Teams from the 23 counties served by West Texas Centers will compete throughout the day along with teams from the Betty Hardwick Center, Permian Basin Community Centers, and MHMR Services for the Concho Valley.

Teams participating in bracket play are: the Big Spring Heat, Sweetwater Red Rattlers, Ballinger Longhorns, Snyder Wildkatz, Seminole Pink Panthers, Monahans/Pecos Warriors, Midland Panthers,

Odessa Tigers, Abilene Chili Peppers, and the San Angelo Bobcats.

Team members will be accompanied by coaches, cheerleaders, pep squads and friends and family, totaling more than 1,100 people, Smith said.

"We always have large crowds, and we love it, as do our consumers."

Practices have been underway for the past few months, not only on the hardwood but for cheerleaders and the pep squads, as well, Smith said. Not only do the teams battle it out on the court, but so do the men and women who lend support to the teams.

"We award the coveted 'Spirit Stick' at the end of the day-long com-

petition," Smith said. "That is awarded to the teams and the fans who display a high level of spirit even when watching other teams play. Our judges watch them throughout the day. It's almost as sought-after as much as a first place trophy for the basketball competition."

"Our athletes enjoy participating in front of their fans," Smith said. "I hope everyone comes out and watches our athletes play basketball and cheer and perform their skits for the fans. It's just such a joyous day for everyone in attendance."

The event is sponsored by West Texas Centers, Howard College, The Arc of Howard County, ALON USA, Atmos En-

ergy, Kent Companies, Gallagher Benefit Services Inc., KBST Radio Stations, KBYG Radio Stations, State National Bank, SUPEROD, Stellar Automation, Prescription Services Inc., and Cowboys Steakhouse.

The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, call Amy Vidal at 432 264-3256.

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### MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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James LaBrew, 81, died Wednesday. Funeral service was at 11 a.m. this morning at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Laura "Missy" Hooper, 49, died Wednesday. The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. tonight at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Ester De Hoyos Gomez, 40, died Wednesday. Prayer service will be at 7 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral service will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Curtis Winn, 75, died Sunday. Memorial service will be at 2 p.m. Sunday, at First Baptist Church of Coahoma.

Elodia Holguin, 76, died Monday. Funeral services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Bernard A. Fischer, Sr., 84, died Tuesday. Private family services and burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park will be held at a later date.



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# Opinion

## What Congress can't do

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

—FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

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

### LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

### DAILY PRAYER

May we remain diligent about reading Your word, Lord, for our life.

Amen

Here's the short answer: Anything.

If you can't even move a bill creating a fund for the victims of sex trafficking, and if the president's noncontroversial and, indeed, much praised nominee for attorney general isn't moving forward as a result, then you can pretty much conclude that Congress is poised to accomplish less than nothing, and any talk about bipartisan agreement is nothing but partisan blather.

The bill is pretty simple and has been languishing for some time despite what appeared to be bipartisan support. It would take fees and funds collected from sex traffickers and create a fund to help cover the costs faced by the injured and abandoned victims. How could this be controversial?

In this Congress, easy. When the bill showed up on the floor on Tuesday, it included a new provision that would prohibit the use of any of the funds to finance abortions for the trafficking victims. Rather than recognize the abuse these women have suffered and respect their right to autonomy, Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, and his colleagues would deny this fundamental right even to the victims of sex trafficking. How cruel can you be?



SUSAN ESTRICH

**What kindergarten do these children attend? Did no one teach them any fundamental rules of dignity and respect?**

But this isn't about decency and humanity. Forget about the victims of sex trafficking when you're dealing with the petty despots of the United States Senate, who will reduce themselves to playing politics even with the victims of sex trafficking. Shame.

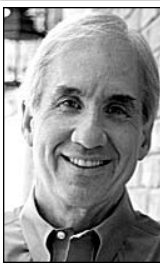
Meanwhile, just to add to the ugliness, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, well known for his tirade against Ashley Judd (McConnell was recorded making it clear that he would use her sexual victimization against her if she had the audacity to run against him for Senate), has vowed to hold up the confirmation vote on Loretta Lynch, a career prosecutor and public servant with no partisan vulnerabilities except that she was nominated by a Democrat.

What kindergarten do these children attend? Did no one teach them any fundamental rules of dignity and respect?

Using the victims of sex trafficking as pawns in partisan playground battles is simply inexcusable.

## Exponential executive lawlessness

**How much contempt for the law can a chief executive of the United States government demonstrate?**



DAVID LIMBAUGH

I wonder whether most people truly understand the scope and import of Obama's lawless order to halt deportations and allow work permits for up to 5 million immigrants living illegally in the United States.

Do they understand that he doesn't have the constitutional authority to do this? Do they understand that he admitted not having the constitutional authority to do this? Do they understand that Congress considered and rejected such action when it declined to pass the DREAM Act? Do they understand that under Obama's rule, these immigrants will be eligible for Social Security payments and even receive credit, in some instances, for sums they paid into the Social Security system while using fraudulent Social Security numbers?

How much contempt for the law can a chief executive officer of the United States government demonstrate?

The Daily Caller is reporting that a Congressional Research Service memo provided to the Senate Judiciary Committee states that "under the November 20, 2014, policy memorandum, foreign nationals who receive deferred action status may be eligible for work authorization. As a result, a foreign national who receives deferred action status may be able to have all of his or her Social Security-covered earnings count toward qualifying for a Social Security benefit (all earnings from authorized and unauthorized work)."

This means that these immigrants will profit from their double wrongdoing — being here illegally and using a fraudulent Social Security number — at the hands of the very government that instituted those laws and whose duty it is to enforce them. These earnings could count toward their retirement, disability and survivor benefits.

I guess it will be as if it never happened. Under Obama's executive fiats, these immigrants will receive new Social Security numbers. New number, clean slate; stroke of the pen, law of the land.

As your friendly therapist

might ask you, "how does that make you feel?"

Adding insult to injury — and aggravation to anarchy — Obama's White House is playing fast and loose with the truth on this matter. Shocker.

In November, an administration official told reporters that these immigrants would not be eligible for Social Security benefits. But as The Daily Caller notes, the White House changed its tune in December, saying the official had misspoken in November and that immigrants protected under Obama's action will be eligible for those benefits.

Who really believes that the administration official misspoke in November, as opposed to misrepresenting the facts to soften the blow of this already-outrageous executive action? Sen. Jeff Sessions wasn't buying it, and one of his spokesmen pointed out that this new eligibility "is an attack on working families (because) the amnestied illegal immigrants are largely older, lower-wage and lower-skilled and will draw billions more in benefits than they will pay in."

Seriously, how much more bad news could there be with this executive action?

It's funny you should ask.

In fact, there is more to consider. Indeed, I must add more questions to my list at the beginning of this column. Do people truly realize that our entitlement programs, including Social Security, are in dire straits? Do they understand that at some point in the near future, entitlement benefits will consume 100 percent of federal tax revenues, such that there will be no money left over for discretionary spending? Do they realize that the president who is unduly burdening our fiscal condition is the same man who just exacerbated the pressures on that system by making these immigrants eligible for benefits?

More importantly, do they realize he's the primary person standing in the way of structural entitlement reform, which is necessary to avert the inevitable federal fiscal calamity? This is

Victimized once by cruel traffickers, how can senators ignore that what they are doing is nothing less than victimizing them again?

At least some members of the Republican Party have come to realize that their extreme positions on social issues — including abortion — are hurting the party more than helping it. At least two would-be senators in recent elections self-destructed because of their gross insensitivity to the victims of rape. And yet, it seems, they never learn.

Do Republicans really mean to force a woman who was trafficked to carry to term the child of the man who ravaged and abused her? And then they complain when Democrats call it a "war against women." What else would you call it?

In the meantime, as Hillary Clinton pointed out in one of her latest tweets, the Republicans are delaying confirmation of the first African-American woman to be named attorney general for reasons having nothing to do with her qualifications.

"Enough is enough," Democratic Sen. Patty Murray declared of the current situation.

Wishful thinking.

To find out more about Susan Estrich and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).

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the same man who wants us to alter our entire way of life, block the Keystone XL pipeline and further burden us with quixotic spending on fantastic "green" projects because he sees global warming as the greatest threat to this nation and the world. So we have a tangible, undeniable fiscal crisis looming over our heads — it will most likely materialize within 20 years — and he chooses to ignore it while demanding radical action on global warming, which wouldn't make an appreciable difference in global temperature in a century, even if you believe the alarmism underlying this hysteria. But I digress.

Just in case you thought there are no further outrages to report here, I must inform you that the Justice Department filed an emergency motion last week asking a federal appeals court to suspend the injunction issued by a U.S. District Court in Texas against Obama's lawless amnesty order. In its motion, the high-handed DOJ characterized the District Court's injunction as "interfering with immigration enforcement." That would make George Orwell proud, for in fact, the District Court is doing just the opposite; it is trying to make the administration enforce the existing law, not the illegal one that Obama whisked into existence with his pen and phone.

The DOJ motion also argued, speciously, that the District Court injunction "offends basic separation-of-powers and federalism principles and impinges on core Executive functions." You've got to admit that these people have chutzpah. Again, their words are wholly at odds with the facts. Obama is the one who has grossly offended separation of powers and federalism principles and has exceeded his executive authority.

What a colossal, disgraceful nightmare we're experiencing.

David Limbaugh is a writer, author and attorney. His latest book is "Jesus on Trial: A Lawyer Affirms the Truth of the Gospel." Follow him on Twitter @davidlimbaugh and his website at [www.davidlimbaugh.com](http://www.davidlimbaugh.com). To read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).

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### Cowboys agree to deal with new pass rusher

IRVING, Texas (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys made their big play in free agency with their big play in Greg Hardy. Now they wait to see how soon the former Carolina player will boost their mediocre pass rush.

With Hardy facing a league suspension for violating the NFL's domestic conduct policy, the team signed him Wednesday to a one-year deal valued at up to \$13.1 million if he meets incentives. A person with knowledge of the contract provided details on condition of anonymity because terms were not announced.

Hardy played just one game last season because he was placed on the commissioner's exempt list after a judge in North Carolina convicted him on domestic violence charges.

The case was thrown out on appeal when Hardy's accuser couldn't be located to testify, and the NFL filed a lawsuit Wednesday seeking evidence from the trial. League spokesman Greg Aiello said Hardy's status was still "being reviewed for potential discipline."

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said the contract was "heavily weighted toward his participation in games"

after the team spent weeks researching Hardy's background.

"Obviously a great deal of our study was dedicated to the issue of domestic violence, and the recent events that associated Greg with that issue," Jones said. "Our organization understands the very serious nature of domestic violence in our society and in our league. We know that Greg has a firm understanding of those issues as well."

The league is seeking evidence from Hardy's case through North Carolina's open records laws after prosecutors refused to release anything. His ex-girlfriend testified that

Hardy threw her in a bathroom and onto a futon filled with guns and threatened to kill her.

Hardy denied the allegations in his testimony, and prosecutors say he reached a civil suit agreement with the accuser.

Without evidence from the trial, it could be difficult for the NFL to enforce a tougher personal-conduct policy approved by owners after Hardy's conviction. First-time violations involving assault, sexual assault and domestic violence can result in six-game suspensions.

The 26-year-old Hardy tied a Carolina club record with 15 sacks

in 2013, and made \$13.1 million on the franchise tag last season despite tweeting a picture of the Dallas skyline Wednesday and wrote, "My new city baby ... can't wait to show out for my old and new fans."

"We have spent a great deal of time over the last two days in meeting with Greg directly and gaining a solid understanding of what he is all about as a person and as a football player," Jones said.

The 6-foot-4, 275-pound Hardy, a sixth-round pick by the Panthers in 2010, had 26 sacks over two seasons before his legal troubles arose.

### Settlement reached in 2008 Clemens defamation lawsuit

NEW YORK (AP) — A long-running defamation lawsuit against former Boston Red Sox and New York Yankees pitcher Roger Clemens by his ex-trainer has been settled for an undisclosed amount of money to be paid by his insurer, attorneys said Wednesday after meeting with a federal judge.

The deal, reached after closed-door negotiations before U.S. Magistrate Judge Cheryl L. Pollak in Brooklyn, will not require the seven-time Cy Young Award winner to contribute any money or release any claims against ex-trainer Brian McNamee, attorneys for both men said.

McNamee sued Clemens for defamation in 2008 after the pitcher said McNamee lied and manufactured evidence when he accused Clemens of using banned performance-enhancing drugs. The case was moved to federal court the following year.

Clemens didn't attend the settlement talks. His attorney Chip Babcock was disappointed he didn't get to try the case.

"And so is Mr. Clemens," he said. McNamee's attorney Richard Emery said the agreement was fair and allowed everyone involved to move on. "At this point it's water over the dam," he said. "It's high

time. This is old news these days."

A spokesman for AIG, the insurer backing Clemens' homeowner's insurance policy, declined to comment.

That lawsuit alleged Clemens pursued a public-relations attack against McNamee after the onetime strength coach told federal agents and Congress he routinely injected the hard-throwing right-hander with steroids and human growth hormone from 1998 through 2001.

Clemens, who pitched until he was 45, has denied the charges and told ESPN McNamee's case was an example of "somebody out there that is really crawling up your back to make a buck."

Clemens, who also played for the Toronto Blue Jays and the Houston Astros in his two-decade-long career, was found not guilty in 2012 of charges of obstructing Congress, making false statements in a deposition and committing perjury when he denied using steroids or human growth hormone injected by McNamee.

On Wednesday, McNamee told reporters the deal hadn't sunk in.

"I got to digest this," he said. "I got to go home and have a good meal. Let me sit with it."

### Boeheim's Syracuse reign done in 3 years

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (AP) — Jim Boeheim became the face of Syracuse University over the past five decades, first as player, then as coach — revered for wins and delivering a national title to a struggling city in 2003. But the coda to his decorated career has become tinged with undeniable blemishes, laid out in harsh penalties for violations the NCAA says show Boeheim and the university lost control of athletics.

Boeheim and Syracuse

officials acknowledged the unwanted ties Wednesday in announcing he will retire after three more seasons, while insisting they don't agree with parts of the scathing NCAA report and will appeal to try to save scholarships and wins.

Syracuse University Chancellor Kent Syverud said Boeheim decided to make the announcement to "bring certainty to the team and program in the coming years" and to allow for a smooth transition.

### Rockets should get Howard back real soon

HOUSTON (AP) — Dwight Howard is feeling better and is close to returning from swelling in his right knee that has kept Houston's center off the court from almost two months.

Howard, who has missed the past 23 games with the injury, returned to practice in the past week. He wouldn't give a timetable for his return, but said he's "pretty close."

"I had a good eight weeks of really training and working on my body and mentally I feel good, physically I feel great so I can't wait to get back on the floor," he said.

Howard hasn't played since Jan. 23 and had a bone marrow aspirate injection in his knee on Feb. 9. Since then he's gone through a grueling rehabilitation process that has included spending an inordinate amount of time on the treadmill.

"We did some extremely tough workouts on the treadmill. Anytime anyone says treadmill I lose it," Howard joked. "I don't think anybody understands what they had me doing on the treadmill. I was just begging them: 'Can I just play so I don't have to do this?'"



Courtesy photo)

Big Spring's doubles tandem of Josh Baker and Kieran Atherton breezed to the doubles' title at the Hornet Relays recently. The two won all four of their matches by identical 6-0, 6-0 scores.

### Baker, Atherton highlight BS' efforts at Hornet Invitational

After getting snowed, iced and rained out, the Big Spring High School Steer tennis team branched out a little further and played in the inaugural Hornet Invitation at Irion County. Irion County just completed the construction of eight new purple and green courts and the players were privileged to be the first to play competitive matches on them.

The Steers' top tennis doubles team had the perfect tournament. Josh Baker and Kieran Atherton dominated the event by not losing a single game. They defeated three consecutive opponents 6-0, 6-0 before facing BSHS teammates — and Big Spring's No. 3 doubles team of Noe Arguello and Brandon Hilario.

Baker and Kieran kept their streak perfect by winning the finale, again with a 6-0, 6-0 performance.

"It's very hard to win this many matches without losing a single game," said BSHS coach Dana Jones. "Usually in the course of a tournament, there are little mental lapses or your opponent has a good service game. But this time, no one could solve the riddle."

The duo recently won the doubles title at the Midland Tall City Invitational so they are playing well.

They weren't the only ones to have success.

In singles play, the Steers finished 1-2-3. William Grigg defeated teammate Tristian Turner in the boys' singles final, 2-6, 7-5, 6-3. Charlie Correa defeated Irion County's Hank Dareing, 6-4, 6-4, for third place.

A very good win for Charlie. He played an excellent match," said Jones.

In girls' doubles, Taylor Olivo and Cassidi Redlin reached the finals and fell to Miller and McNutt of Irion County in three close sets.

Girls' singles finished out the action with freshman Robbie Downing defeating teammate Daisi Salazar for third place. Sarah Marshall, Elisa Hernandez and Victoria Deubler all had wins for the Steers.

The strong performance by the Steers earned them the team title.

"It was nice to finally get some match play," said Jones. "Because of this year's weather, we have lost a lot of practice and playing time. The weather was beautiful both days. It was nice to have some warm weather for a change."

Next match for the Steers is the Abilene Eagle Invitational on March 27-28.



Tony Claxton photo (www.claxtonphotography.com)

The Big Spring High School Lady Steers will return to action on March 24 when they host Lubbock Estacado as the BSHS Softball Complex.

### Green, Spurs bounce back to beat Milwaukee, 114-103

MILWAUKEE (AP) — One night after coach Gregg Popovich said his team put forth "a pathetic performance" in an embarrassing 104-100 overtime loss to the New York Knicks, the Spurs used a strong second half to easily beat the Milwaukee Bucks 114-103.

"I gave up a long time ago trying to understand the game of basketball," said Parker, who scored 15 points. "It is weird. We just did a better job tonight of shooting the ball and playing the game better."

Veteran star Tim Duncan, who had 19 points and seven

assists, offered a similar explanation for the reversal in play by the defending NBA champions.

"It's just basketball," he said. "We played much better tonight and did all the little things you need to do. We shot the ball better and played much better defense. It is what we expect from our team."

Popovich said his team had a good night.

"It's basketball, not magic," he said. "You have to do things consistently and well more than the other team for the 48 minutes."



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Tomorrow's Horoscope

New Moon Prep

Tomorrow the sky has "Fresh Start" written in large sparkling letters across it, as the total solar eclipse, the new moon and the spring equinox will occur over the course of the day. Consider this prep time. As in all



HOLIDAY MATHIS

preparations, think about your ideal end result (which in this case is the new you) and plan your way backward.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). You don't want them to feel overly persuaded by you, because you know they'll push back. That's why you might act like you don't want the choice you advocate or that it hurts you personally to want it. Tricky, but effective.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). Your influence is strong in part because people trust you to do what's good for the majority instead of only

what's good for you. Luckily, today your interests align perfectly with the better half of the group.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). You have the situational awareness of Jason Bourne now and can apply it to solve the mystery of what's really going on in your environment, as well as the deeper question of "Who am I?"

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). Every person has a set of behaviors that he or she would normally enact in a given situation. When someone departs from this baseline of activity, it's a clue for you and a signal to figure out what's really going on.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). Like the seasoned performers know, the best show in the world can go unappreciated by the wrong audience. Market what you do so you can find your right audience.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Most people around you are just like you: trying to get along. That's why the person

exhibiting dominant behaviors feels threatening. It's worth paying attention to, because if you can put this person at ease, it will be good for all.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It's obvious (and repellent) to you when another person is trying too hard. That's why whenever you feel like you're edging toward this state, you take a few steps back, regain your composure and reframe the situation.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're so bright and imaginative that you need interesting challenges to keep your mind busy. You'll struggle when the environment is dull. The best thing to do is plan your escape.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's good to know your weaknesses, but don't change a thing until you've first considered the advantage that lies within each weakness and how you counter it with a strength.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). As you take in

the view, you can't help but wonder whether you're looking for and paying attention to the right things. Stay relaxed and alert. Don't doubt for a minute that something inside you knows the right answer.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There will be those around you who talk a good game, but you have a special talent for spotting posers, frauds and wannabes. You may heroically intervene for someone who isn't as savvy as you.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). When it's their job, their desire or their duty to take care of you, let them. If it's their obligation, however, pass on the care. It's likely to be tainted and costly.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (March 19). Your intellectual interests are pathways to many forms of riches. April will demand practical action and follow-through. You'll reach an important milestone by May. Complicated relationships will smooth out in June. Brilliant joint ventures will mix love and business. July brings an

important step forward in love. Libra and Leo people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 40, 11, 37, 14 and 17.

**ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS:** "After five years with an incredible woman, I'm back at this place again, and I can hardly believe it. Woody Allen says it best in "Annie Hall": Love fades. At this point, there is a lot of research that backs up this idea.

Yep, I cheated, she left, and now I'm wondering whether I'm ever going to be in it for the long haul again. This is one I shouldn't have let go, but I lost the feeling, and then I messed up. I definitely want her back, but truthfully, won't this scenario just repeat somewhere further down the line? What is the point, pray tell? It doesn't help that I'm a Sagittarius and she is a Leo."

Gotcha: the wandering Sagittarius and the royal lioness, two fire signs and a stellar match. But once her Leo pride has been wounded, there's no going back to the way things were. You could start from scratch and rebuild

trust over time. Or have you considered seeking love with someone who wants an open arrangement? Perhaps you're just not suited for the traditional model at this time in your life. One thing you definitely have going for you is that you seem to really know yourself and have a realistic view of your relationships.

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** Bruce Willis is among the top movie actors in terms of box-office receipts, having starred in films that collectively have earned in the billions, and the hits keep coming. Later this year, he'll lead an all-star cast in the comedy "Rock the Kasbah." Willis is a versatile Pisces with a well-rounded chart, including significant planets in all four elements.

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Annie's Mailbox

**Dear Annie:** My dad was a proud veteran of WWII. When he died 20 years ago, he willed his medals to my brother "Jim" and the Bible he carried during the war to my brother "Ray." Eventually, Ray gave the Bible to Jim. My mother also gave other army memorabilia to Jim, thinking it should all be together.

Jim recently informed me that when he dies, he's passing on all of Dad's things to "Margret," his second wife. Margret met my father only once. Jim has no children, but the rest of us do. Several of my nieces and nephews have a keen interest in their ancestry and would love to own these war mementos.

I suggested to Jim that he consider passing on

Dad's things to the next generation, but was forcefully told they were going to Margret. I realize that these items belong to Jim now, and he can do what he wishes with them, but I'm extremely upset that such precious memorabilia will end up being lost to us forever. I can't speak to Jim further about this. Margret was also shocked by Jim's reaction, but he has forbidden her to talk to us about it.

None of us lives nearby, and we cannot see Jim in person. I haven't shared this information with other family members yet and would hate to involve my mother, because it would upset her. I guess all I can do is hope that Margret will do the right thing and give these

items to Dad's grandchildren when Jim dies. Do you have any other suggestions? -- The Oldest Sibling

**Dear Sibling:** Has Jim had a falling out with the family? Does he expect his nieces and nephews to contact him more often? Does he feel obligated or pressured to leave all of his belongings, including Dad's things, to Margret?

We would first suggest that the nieces and nephews get to know their uncle a bit better. Jim may feel estranged from or neglected by his family. A warmer, closer relationship would benefit everyone. You also should stay friendly with Margret, because she may well be the final arbiter of your father's

things. We agree that it would be a shame for them to end up with strangers.

**Dear Annie:** I am married to an amazing man who is caring and supportive. The problem? His breath.

Our sex life isn't as good as it could be because I can barely kiss him. He complains that I'm not interested enough, but obviously, that's not the issue. He brushes his teeth, so it might be medical. I think he's terrified to look into it. How do I get him to see that this is something he needs to address? -- Holding My Breath

**Dear Holding:** Bad breath can come from a lack of dental hygiene, but also from gum disease, infections or

even gastrointestinal problems. Most of these are things that can be treated. Tell your husband you are concerned about his health because of his terrible halitosis. Suggest that he see his dentist to check for underlying problems, and if that doesn't remedy things, that he talk to his doctor. You must be honest and explain that you want to kiss him more, but he first needs to deal with this. Dentists are more sensitive to patients' phobias these days and will take gentle care of him.

**Dear Annie:** Can I add one final word to the letter from "Traveling Man," whose husband has developed a phobia about car travel and they don't

vacation together anymore?

I don't understand her thinking. Just because you are married doesn't mean you are attached at the hip. She should just go by herself. I was married to a wonderful man who didn't want to travel, so I went without him. He was very happy to stay home and was so glad to see me when I got back. -- Happy Wanderer

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

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MAKE TIME FOR FAMILY READING

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

HERALD 263-7331

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Samson the Giant-Killer

South dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.  
**NORTH**  
♠ K 7  
♥ K J 6  
♦ A J 10 9 2  
♣ 10 6 5  
**WEST**  
♠ J 10 9 8 4  
♥ 8 5  
♦ 7 6 3  
♣ K 9 2  
**EAST**  
♠ Q 6 5 2  
♥ 7 4  
♦ K 8 4  
♣ A J 8 3  
**SOUTH**  
♠ A 3  
♥ A Q 10 9 3 2  
♦ Q 5  
♣ Q 7 4

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1♥ Pass 2♦ Pass  
2♥ Pass 4♥  
Opening lead — jack of spades.

Once upon a time, in the early days of contract bridge, there lived a man by the name of Samson Shmearease. He was regarded by some (particularly by himself) as the greatest bridge player of all time.

His exploits at the card table were phenomenal. Smother plays, double squeezes and triple grand coups were all child's play to him, and when he was defending, no hand that could be defeated was ever made.

The trouble was that all these triumphs occurred only in Samson's dreams. In real life, he couldn't count to 13, and he revoked as often as he followed suit. In fact, he once went down 4,600 points at three notrump redoubled when he could have made the contract with an overtrick!

But once Samson entered the Land of Nod, a startling change took place. The sluggishness that clouded his mind vanished, and his thinking became clear and precise.

Here is a simple example of Samson's prowess. He held the East hand against four hearts. Declarer won the spade lead with the ace, drew trumps in two rounds, then led the queen of diamonds and finessed.

Our hero took the king and calmly returned the only card in his hand that could beat the contract — the jack of clubs! Declarer was helpless against this defense. Whether he covered or not, the defenders could not be stopped from scoring three club tricks for down one.

Note that if Samson had made the more normal return of the three of clubs instead of the jack, South would have played low and lost only two club tricks. Similarly, had Samson cashed the ace of clubs first, declarer would also have lost only two club tricks. Samson had done it again!

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.  
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Takeout can eat up your savings.

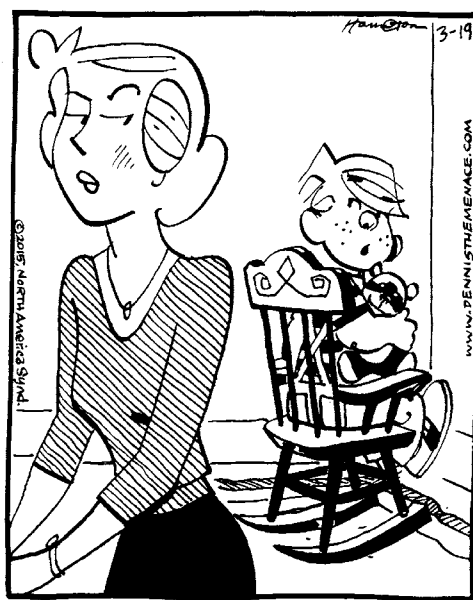


Pack your own lunch instead of going out. \$6 saved a day x 5 days a week x 10 years x 6% interest = \$19,592. That could be money in your pocket. Small changes today. Big bucks tomorrow. Go to feedthepig.org for savings tips.



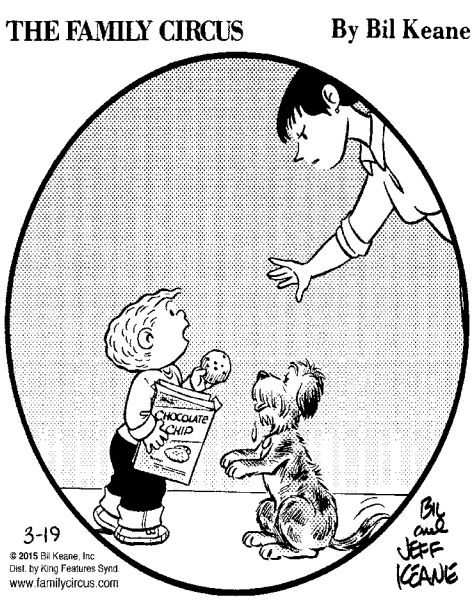
TV schedule table with columns for station (KMID, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLE, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, KWTT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN) and program details (time, title, host, etc.).

DENNIS THE MENACE



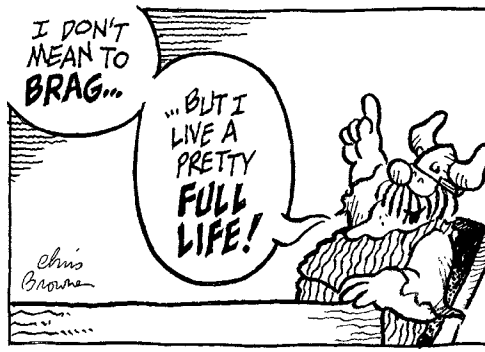
"CONFESSION MAY BE GOOD FOR THE SOUL, BUT IT SURE IS TAKING AWAY FROM MY PLAYING TIME!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

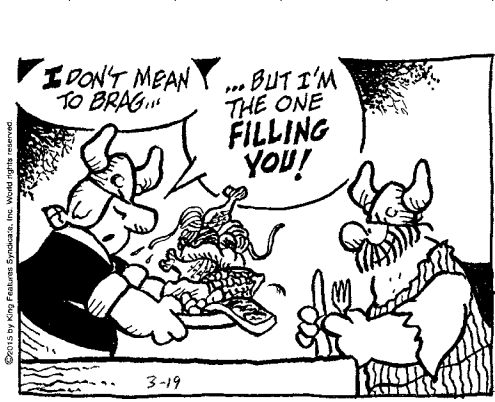
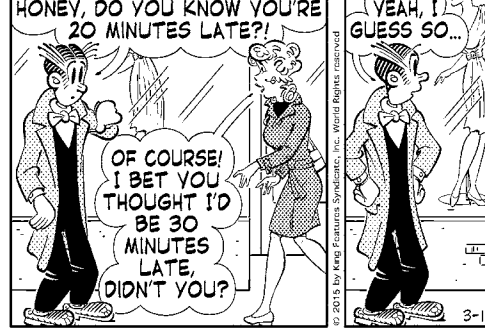


"But we're playing 'Sesame Street' and Sam wanted to be Cookie Monster."

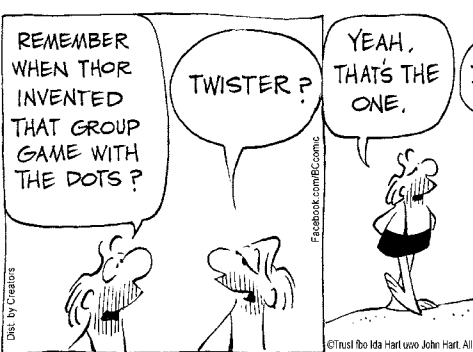
HAGAR



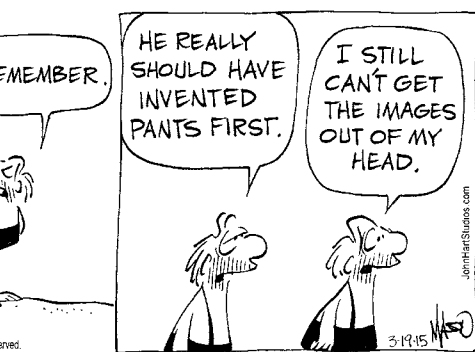
BLONDIE



BC



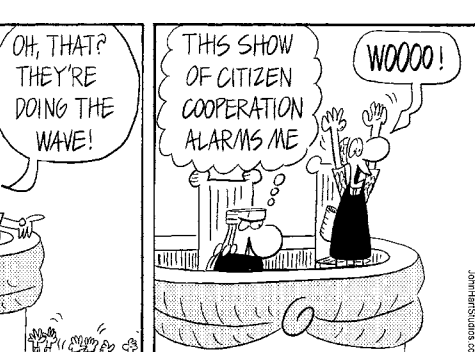
WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



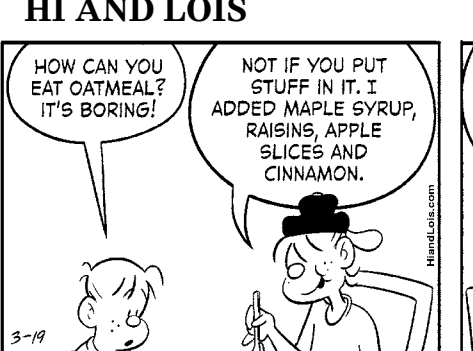
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



DENNIS THE MENACE



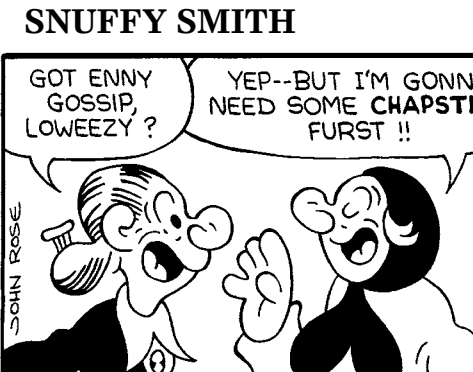
THE FAMILY CIRCUS



HAGAR



BLONDIE



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



This Date In History

On this date: In 1863, the Confederate cruiser Georgiana, on its maiden voyage, was scuttled off Charleston, South Carolina, to prevent it from falling into Union hands. In 1918, Congress approved daylight saving time. In 1920, the Senate rejected, for a second time, the Treaty of Versailles (vehr-SY) by a vote of 49 in favor, 35 against, falling short of the two-thirds majority needed for approval. In 1931, Nevada Gov. Fred B. Balzar signed a measure legalizing casino gambling. In 1955, the inner-city school drama "Black-

board Jungle," starring Glenn Ford, was released by MGM. In 1965, the wreck of the Confederate cruiser Georgiana was discovered by E. Lee Spence, 102 years to the day after it had been scuttled. In 1976, Buckingham Palace announced the separation of Princess Margaret and her husband, the Earl of Snowdon, after 16 years of marriage.

Answer to previous puzzle: A crossword grid with words like SLASH, ODDS, CENT, WONKA, SOUP, AVID, ACTIN, HERE, NAGS, THIRD, BASE, COACH, USA, SKID, STAN, BARS, LITER, PHD, IOTA, IRAISE, ORDER, OF, BUSINESS, RILYON, BRIG, TAT, TWEEN, TINT, TOYS, LIS, MAR, WHICH, CAME, FIRST, RAIN, OKRA, OPINE, OGRE, ALMS, OLDIE, DEER, LESS, TESTS.

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS: 1 No great shakes, 5 Closing Bell, 9 Some earrings, 14 Reminiscent of doilies, 15 In this very spot, 16 Synthetic wool, 17 Numerous van Goghs, 18 Foreshadowing, 19 Resulted in, 20 "A Scout is ..., ...", 23 CA's second-busiest airport, 24 Cartoon "Ouch!", 25 Retire tactfully, 27 "... loyal, ..., courteous, ...", 32 Widespread alert, 33 A law \_\_\_ itself, 34 Speed (up), 35 Muslim's pilgrimage, 37 DVD player brand, 39 Popular YMCA class, 43 New pedometer reading, 46 What the testy might throw, 49 Cattail habitat, 50 "... kind, obedient, ...", 55 The Little Foxes playwright, 56 Out, to Otto, 57 Rather like, 58 "... brave, clean, ...", 64 Divulge, 66 Move like ketchup, 67 First-aid gel, 68 Work, as dough. DOWN: 69 "Me, neither", 70 Of another sort, 71 Showing attitude, 72 French state, 73 Relaxes, with "back", 11 Homeland, nostalgically, 12 Batch of stew, 13 Putting on airs, 21 Vegan staple, 22 Locks or strands, 26 Be begrudging of, 27 Dismissive cry, 28 UV index monitor, 29 His library is in Austin, 30 Copier-tray size: Abbr., 31 Photographic adjective, 36 "New York State of Mind" singer, 38 Maritime direction, 40 Not up to par, 41 Figure out, 42 "Your choice", 44 Long-time Philadelphia Orchestra conductor, 45 Blink-eye link, 47 "Eureka!", 48 On the level, 50 Ascribes, with "up", 51 Western capital, 52 Thrills, 53 Completely ruined, 54 Oslo Accords signatory, 59 Origin, 60 Poet Pound, 61 Spanish "she", 62 Too curious, 63 Shirts without collars, 65 Grp. Cuba rejoined in 2009.

GOOD SCOUT by Billie Truitt

Edited by Stanley Newman. www.stanxwords.com. A crossword grid with numbers 1-73.

# 'Horns favored against Butler

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The fresh-faced coach who orchestrated one of college basketball's most unlikely success stories is gone. The guy who replaced him too. The Horizon League is a distant memory, replaced by the decidedly sexier Big East.

Yet things haven't really changed for Butler. It's March. The Bulldogs are the underdogs.

Same as it ever was.

Five years ago it was coach Brad Stevens and gangly Gordon Hayward that came within a halfcourt heave of a national title. Now it's former assistant turned unlikely head man Chris Holtmann and Kameron Woods and another group of unheralded unknowns who have sixth-seeded Butler (22-10) facing another daunting path through the bracket starting on Thursday against 11th-seeded Texas (20-13) in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

And guess who's favored? It's not the team that beat North Carolina and finished tied for second in the Big East. It's the one that lost nine of its last 15 and struggled to play as well as the sum of its considerably talented parts.

"Certainly there's a difference in some ways," said Holtmann, who took over in October when Brandon Miller stepped away for medical reasons and never returned. "People have mentioned it because we're a smaller school. We'll always be that. It's what makes us special."

Holtmann paused ever so slightly for effect before adding the Longhorns come from "not such a small school."

On the court or off.

Texas — whose undergraduate student enrollment of 40,000 is about 36,000 higher than Butler's — boasts one of the nation's most intimidating frontcourts in 6-foot-11 freshman forward Myles Turner, 6-10 center Prince Ibeh and 6-9 Cameron Ridley. The Longhorns lead the nation in blocks (260) and mystifying losses. Texas rose as high as No. 6 in December before sliding toward sixth in the Big 12. Only a late mini-surge kept them on the right side of the bubble.

Not that it matters now. Texas is in. The shortcomings of the last three months can vanish with a win. Or two. Or three.

BASEBALL  
Spring Training Standings  
AMERICAN LEAGUE

|             | W  | L  | Pct  |
|-------------|----|----|------|
| Kansas City | 11 | 5  | .688 |
| Houston     | 7  | 4  | .636 |
| New York    | 10 | 6  | .625 |
| Boston      | 9  | 6  | .600 |
| Oakland     | 10 | 7  | .588 |
| Minnesota   | 7  | 5  | .583 |
| Tampa Bay   | 7  | 6  | .538 |
| Texas       | 7  | 6  | .538 |
| Los Angeles | 7  | 7  | .500 |
| Seattle     | 7  | 7  | .500 |
| Toronto     | 8  | 8  | .500 |
| Chicago     | 6  | 7  | .462 |
| Cleveland   | 6  | 9  | .400 |
| Detroit     | 6  | 12 | .333 |
| Baltimore   | 5  | 12 | .294 |

NATIONAL LEAGUE

|               | W  | L  | Pct  |
|---------------|----|----|------|
| Los Angeles   | 8  | 3  | .727 |
| Miami         | 9  | 5  | .643 |
| Arizona       | 10 | 6  | .625 |
| St. Louis     | 7  | 5  | .583 |
| Pittsburgh    | 7  | 6  | .538 |
| Philadelphia  | 8  | 7  | .533 |
| Colorado      | 7  | 7  | .500 |
| San Diego     | 8  | 8  | .500 |
| Cincinnati    | 7  | 8  | .467 |
| New York      | 7  | 8  | .467 |
| Chicago       | 7  | 9  | .438 |
| Washington    | 6  | 8  | .429 |
| Milwaukee     | 5  | 9  | .357 |
| Atlanta       | 5  | 10 | .333 |
| San Francisco | 4  | 12 | .250 |

NOTE: Split-squad games count in the standings; games against non-major league teams do not.

Wednesday's Games  
Baltimore 3, Minnesota (ss) 2  
Miami 5, Washington 4  
Boston 3, Minnesota (ss) 2  
Tampa Bay 9, Toronto 3  
Milwaukee 8, Kansas City 4  
Chicago White Sox 9, Cincinnati 4  
Chicago Cubs 7, L.A. Dodgers 5  
Seattle 4, Oakland 0  
San Diego 10, Colorado 3  
N.Y. Yankees 12, Atlanta 5  
Pittsburgh 8, Detroit 6  
Arizona 6, Colorado 2

Thursday's Games  
Detroit vs. Washington at Viera, Fla., 1:05 p.m.  
Miami vs. Atlanta at Kissimmee, Fla., 1:05 p.m.  
Pittsburgh vs. Baltimore at Sarasota, Fla., 1:05 p.m.  
Minnesota vs. Tampa Bay at Port Charlotte, Fla., 1:05 p.m.  
N.Y. Mets (ss) vs. St. Louis at Jupiter, Fla., 1:05 p.m.  
Boston vs. Toronto at Dunedin, Fla., 1:07 p.m.  
Houston vs. N.Y. Mets (ss) at Port St. Lucie, Fla., 1:10 p.m.  
Colorado vs. Kansas City at Surprise, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.  
L.A. Angels vs. L.A. Dodgers at Glendale, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.  
San Francisco vs. Milwaukee at Phoenix, 4:05 p.m.  
Texas vs. Cincinnati at Goodyear, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.  
Philadelphia vs. N.Y. Yankees at Tampa, Fla., 7:05 p.m.  
Chicago Cubs vs. Arizona at Scottsdale, Ariz., 9:40 p.m.  
Cleveland vs. Seattle at Peoria, Ariz., 10:05 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS  
BASEBALL  
Major League Baseball

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL — Promoted Kathleen Torres to executive vice president-finance, Mike Mellis to executive vice president and general counsel, Lara Pitro Wisch to senior vice president-business and legal affairs for MLB Advanced Media, Steven Gonzalez to senior vice president and deputy general counsel-labor and human resources and Bernadette McDonald to senior vice president-broadcasting. Named Chris Park senior vice president-growth and strategy.

American League  
BOSTON RED SOX — Optioned INFs Travis Shaw and Sean Coyle to Pawtucket (IL). Reassigned RHPs Miguel Celestino, Keith Couch and Noe Ramirez and 1B/OF Bryan LaHair to minor league camp.  
CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Optioned INFs Matt Davidson and Tyler Saladino, Cs Adrian Nieto and Kevan Smith and OF Trayce to Charlotte (IL) and RHPs Raul Fernandez and Michael Ynoa to Birmingham (SL). Reassigned RHP J.D. Martin and Tyler Danish, OF Jared Mitchell and INFs Dan Black, Andy LaRoche and Tim Anderson to minor league camp.  
DETROIT TIGERS — Assigned RHP Luke Putkonen and LHPs Omar Duran and Joe Mantiply to minor league camp.  
KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Optioned RHP Aaron Brooks, INF Orlando Calixte and OFs Lane Adams and Jorge Bonifacio to Omaha (PCL). Reassigned RHPs Brian Broderick and Casey Coleman, LHPs Buddy Baumann and Joe Paterson, OF Bubba Starling and INFs Hunter Dozier, Matt Fields and Raul Mondesi to minor league camp.  
TEXAS RANGERS — Released LHP Scott Cousins from a minor league contract.

National League  
LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Optioned OF Scott Schebler to Oklahoma City (PCL). Reassigned INFs Buck Britton and Corey Seager, INF/OF Darnell Sweeney, Cs Shawn Zarraga and Chris O'Brien to their minor league camp.  
MIAMI MARLINS — Optioned RHP Andre Rienzo, C J.T. Realmuto and INFs Derek Dietrich, Justin Bour and Miguel Rojas to New Orleans (PCL). Reassigned LHP Chris Narveson to minor league camp.  
WASHINGTON NATIONALS — Optioned RHP A.J. Cole to Syracuse (IL).

BASKETBALL  
National Basketball Association  
MIAMI HEAT — Signed F Michael Beasley for the remainder of the season.  
Women's National Basketball Association  
LOS ANGELES SPARKS — Reassigned C Jantel Lavender.  
FOOTBALL  
National Football League  
ATLANTA FALCONS — Reassigned DE Kroy Biermann.  
BALTIMORE RAVENS — Agreed to terms with DEs Chris Canty and Lawrence Guy on two-year contracts. Released RB Bernard Pierce.  
BUFFALO BILLS — Signed WR Percy Harvin.  
CHICAGO BEARS — Signed LS Thomas Gafford to a one-year contract.  
DALLAS COWBOYS — Agreed to terms with DE Greg Hardy.  
JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS — Signed team president Mark Lamping to a five-year contract extension.  
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Reassigned DL Alan Branch. Signed CBs Bradley Fletcher and Robert McClain.  
NEW YORK GIANTS — Signed DT Kenrick Ellis.  
SAN DIEGO CHARGERS — Signed DL Mitch Unrein to a two-year contract.  
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — Signed RB Reggie Bush to a one-year

contract.

HOCKEY  
National Hockey League  
NHL — Suspended Toronto F Nazem Kadri four games for an illegal check to the head of Edmonton F Matt Fraser.  
CAROLINA HURRICANES — Recalled D Danny Biega from Charlotte (AHL).  
COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS — Reassigned G Joonas Korpi to Springfield (AHL).  
DALLAS STARS — Recalled G Henri Kiviaho from Idaho (ECHL) to Texas (AHL).  
DETROIT RED WINGS — Assigned D Alexey Marchenko to Grand Rapids (AHL).  
MONTREAL CANADIENS — Reassigned F Stefan Fournier from Wheeling (ECHL) to Hamilton (AHL).  
VANCOUVER CANUCKS — Recalled D Jeremie Blain from Kalamazoo (ECHL) to Utica (AHL).  
American Hockey League  
ALBANY DEVILS — Assigned F Alexandre Carrier to Orlando (ECHL).  
HAMILTON BULLDOGS — Recalled D Bobby Shea from Wheeling (ECHL).  
SAN ANTONIO RAMPAGE — Signed G Jacob DeSerres to an amateur tryout agreement. Released G Joe Howe from a professional tryout agreement.  
SPRINGFIELD FALCONS — Signed F Tyler Sikura to an amateur tryout agreement. Returned F James Livingston to Idaho (ECHL). Assigned G Oscar Dansk to Kalamazoo (ECHL).  
TEXAS STARS — Assigned D William Wrenn to Idaho (ECHL).

ECHL  
ALASKA ACES — Signed D Nilan Nagy.  
COLORADO EAGLES — Signed D Dax Lauwers.

Seavey wins 2nd Iditarod

NOME, Alaska (AP) — Dallas Seavey won his third Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race on Wednesday morning.

The Alaska musher crossed the finish line in the Bering Sea coastal town of Nome at 4:13 a.m., completing the route in eight days, 8 hours, 13 minutes and 6 seconds. That's about five hours longer than the record he set in winning the 2014 race.

Seavey's father, Mitch, finished in second place Wednesday. Veteran musher Aaron Burmeister was third, arriving in Nome at 9:47 a.m., followed by Jessie Royer in fourth place at 11:51 a.m.

Before the race, some wondered if musher Pete Kaiser would have an advantage because of his experience racing on ice. Kaiser won this year's Kuskokwim 300, which is run entirely on a river. He was in 13th place en route to Nome on Wednesday afternoon.

contract.

HOCKEY  
National Hockey League  
EVANSVILLE ICEMEN — Signed D Kyle Shapiro to an amateur tryout agreement.  
FLORIDA EVERBLADES — Signed F Spencer Pommells to an amateur tryout agreement.  
GREENVILLE ROAD WARRIORS — Signed F Massimo Lamacchia to an amateur tryout agreement.  
WINNETT GLADIATORS — Signed D Kevin Albers.

IDAHO STEELHEADS — Released F Tom Serratore.

TENNIS  
ITF — Banned American Wayne Odesnik 15 years for a second doping violation.

COLLEGE  
FORDHAM — Fired men's basketball coach Tom Pecora.  
MARQUETTE — Announced F Steve Taylor Jr. is leaving the men's basketball team and will transfer.  
ST. JOHN'S (MINN.) — Announced the retirement of men's basketball coach Jim Smith.  
SYRACUSE — Announced men's basketball coach Jim Boehm will retire in three years. Announced the resignation of athletic director Daryl Gross.  
UALR — Fired men's basketball coach Steve Shields.

## Scoreboard

contract.

HOCKEY  
National Hockey League  
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## TAX GUIDE 2015

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# DNA tests help California shelter speed up dog adoptions



Lynn and Tony Mazzola sit with their new dog, Lily, at their home in San Carlos, Calif. Through DNA testing in the "Who's Your Daddy?" campaign at the Peninsula Humane Society and SPCA, Lily was found to be part miniature pinscher, part Yorkie terrier and part Chihuahua. The shelter called her a "Chorkie." The DNA-tested dogs are being placed in homes twice as fast as before the shelter began the testing program. (AP Photo/Eric Risberg)

BY SUE MANNING

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A quarter of the dogs taken in by one California animal shelter look like Chihuahuas. So how do you make a pet stand out when it's similar to so many other dogs at the shelter? Check the DNA.

The Peninsula Humane Society and SPCA in Burlingame, a 30-minute drive south of San Francisco, began free DNA tests under the slogan "Who's Your Daddy?" Scott Delucchi, the shelter's senior vice president, came up with the idea to speed up adoptions of Chihuahua-centric dogs.

Because pets become part of the family, the \$50 tests allow owners to find out the background of their pooches and certain traits they could exhibit. The tests also allow the shelter to get creative by coming up with clever breed names that can boost adoption odds.

For example, the Chihuahua-Australian shepherd-Jack Russell terrier-collie became a "Kiwi collier"; a Yorkshire terrier and beagle mix became a "Yorkle"; and a golden retriever-miniature pinscher-Chihuahua was proclaimed a "golden Chinscher."

In February, the shelter tested 12 lookalike dogs. One of the results was inconclusive, but 11 showed mutt combinations that the facility had never seen before. The tested dogs were all placed within two weeks — twice as fast as any 11 untested small, brown dogs in the previous months.

Twelve more dogs were tested, and once the last few in that group are placed, 24 more dogs will find out their breed backgrounds, Delucchi said.

In the two batches of tests, only 10 of 23 dogs had no Chihuahua in them. Chihuahuas took over from the glut of pit bull mixes that dominated the shelter until five or six years ago, Delucchi said.

There are a lot of reasons Chihuahuas became so popular, he said, citing Hollywood stars toting them in purses and the "Beverly Hills Chihuahua" movies.

Seeing one of the tiny dogs at the shelter changed Lynn Mazzola's mind about what kind of pet she wanted.

Mazzola of San Carlos, California, wanted a big dog, but 2-year-old, 6-pound Lily stole her heart. DNA results showed her that her new dog was part miniature pinscher, part Yorkie terrier and part Chihuahua, which the shelter dubbed a "Chorkie."

Knowing Lily's DNA gives you clues to her behavior, Mazzola said. For example, "it explains why she goes after birds and mice and she's not nervous like a Chihuahua," she said.

Mazzola's husband was about to undergo surgery and she wanted the dog to keep him company while he recovered.

After his operation, "he walked in the door, she ran up to him and hasn't been out of his lap since," Mazzola said of the dog that had been at the shelter for seven months.

The adoption promotion helped Lily, but it's going to take more than a gimmick to reduce the "alarming" number of Chihuahua mixes coming in, Delucchi said.

"Another part is making spay-neuter low-cost or free to the community," he said. "If you have a lot of one breed, you target that breed and those owners and make it easy for them to do the right thing and get them fixed."

He said facilities also work with states that need small dogs, such as Florida and New York, by flying in as many as they can handle.

Despite the promotion's tagline, the question that never gets answered is "Who's Your Daddy?" The DNA tests describe two parents, but they don't reveal which one is dad.

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