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# H BIG SPRING HERALD



VOLUME 111, NUMBER 83      COPYRIGHT 2016      50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY  
 THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2016

## Teenager arrested on arson charges

**By STEVE REAGAN**  
 Staff Writer

A 17-year-old Big Spring man was jailed following his alleged admission of setting a fire that destroyed a local home late Tuesday.

Brayecxel Ornelas was arrested on arson charges after a fire gutted a residence in the 400 block of West Sixth Street Tuesday, fire department officials said.

Big Spring Fire Marshal Carl Condray said firefighters responded to the scene shortly after 10:30 p.m. Tuesday. Three BSFD engines,



**HERALD photo/Steve Reagan**  
 A 17-year-old Big Spring man was arrested on arson charges following a Tuesday night fire that destroyed this home on the 400 block of West Sixth Street.

## Trustee race: Flores in, Murphy out

**By LYNDEL MOODY**  
 Staff Writer

Incumbent Michael Flores is the first to toss his hat into the ring for the Howard College District 1 board of trustee race while District 2 representative Murray Murphy has declined to seek another term in office.

"Howard College has been an important part of my life on both sides," Flores said. "I'm proud to be a HC graduate and I know how important our role is in the community is both to our students as well as business and industry."

A life-long resident of Big Spring, Flores has a 30-year career as a self-

employed contractor. He is now the longest serving member of the board, first joining in 1995.

"I know how important education is to our future and the future of our children," Flores said. "Howard College is a big piece of that, and I am dedicated to helping make Howard College all it can be for all learners."

Flores is an active member of Holy Trinity Church and the Knights of Columbus. He serves on the SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf Foundation board.

After 12 years as on the board, Mur-

phy will step down at the end of his term as he and his wife, Diane, will be moving from the city sometime in the summer.

"I think I have been blessed to serve on the college board," Murphy said. "My fellow board members and Dr. (Cheryl) Sparks (Howard College President) have been a blessing to work with. As they say, there is a season for everything. My wife and I have lived in Big Spring for the last 31 years. We have many fond memories, raised our kids here."

## Howard College: Enrollment numbers on the rise

**By LYNDEL MOODY**  
 Staff Writer

As if West Texans need another indication that the oil industry is slowing down, student enrollment is expected to be up this spring compared to last year at this time, Howard College officials reported.

For years, college officials have said community college enrollment is tied to the health of local economy. When the jobs are plentiful, student enrollment usually falls while the reverse is true when the economy slows as non-traditional students return seeking job retraining.

"We are beginning to see what happens in this trend again," said Howard College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks. "As the economy begins to decline, we begin to see an increase in enrollment. It's playing out again. We are seeing an increase in dual credit hours (hours taken by high school students that qualify for credits at both their high school and college) and at the same time we are starting to see the non-traditional student come back."

College officials released preliminary enrollment and contact hours Wednesday during the college board of trustee meeting. Those numbers are, in fact, very preliminary, Sparks emphasized, as the college is still waiting for

## Eagles ready for Saturday cook-off

**By JULIE BASS**  
 Staff Writer

Most of the plans are set, but the Fraternal Order of the Eagles is still in need of auction items for its 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Chili Cook-off.

"We have a few judges signed up and everything else is coming together. We are just still looking for auction items. The sales of chili balance out the cost of the event, but the auction items are where we raise most of the money," said David Pope with the Eagles Lodge.

The chili cook-off planned

for Saturday, Jan. 30, has for the last few years raised funds for the West Texas Center's Children in Need fund. However, this year the Big Spring Crossroads Young Marines will be receiving a portion of the funds too.

"The Young Marines is a great program for Big Spring to have," said Pope. "Those guys performed our opening ceremony at a fundraiser we had a while back and they did great. We have invited them to do our opening ceremony at the chili cook-off and help with bowls, trash and other things. That way people have a chance to visit with them and get to know them. Also, if anyone has kids that are interested in the program, they



**HERALD photo/Julie Bass**  
 Wednesday morning, Vickie De Hoyos of H&R Block presented James Carrillo with a \$1,000 check, his winnings in the company's "\$1,000 for 1,000 people" promotion.



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## Obituaries

## Aniceto "Ernest" Aguinaga

Aniceto "Ernest" Peralta Aguinaga, 67, of Big Spring, died Saturday, Jan. 23, 2016 in a local hospital. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 29, 2016 at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Interment to follow at Mt Olive Memorial Park, Big Spring.

A prayer vigil will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 28, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel.

Ernest was born April 17, 1948 in San Felipe, Mexico and married Ellen Rodriguez Sept. 14, 1970 in Plainview, Texas. She preceded him in death, July 29, 1984.

Aniceto was a farmer and rancher who loved playing the harmonica and pool.

He is survived by four daughters, Josie Murry of Conway, Ark, Ellen Sedylmeyer of Okla., Gloria Tucker of Oklahoma, and Julie Aguinaga of Big Spring; four sons, Aniceto Aguinaga, Jr. of Mexico, Ernest Aguinaga of Big Spring, Emilio Aguinaga and Leonard Aguinaga both of Bowie; sixteen grandchildren; three brothers, Venacio Aguinaga, Mauro Aguinaga, and Juan Aguinaga; and one sister, Maria Solis.

He was preceded in death by a daughter Maria Elena Aguinaga; his parents, Juan and Josefina Peralta Aguinaga; and a brother, Felipe Aguinaga.

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

Paid Obituary

## Chris Limon

Chris Limon, 56, of Big Spring, died Thursday, Jan. 21, 2016. He will lie in state Friday, Jan. 29, 2016 from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. with a Vigil service beginning at 7 p.m. at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

He was born Dec. 15, 1959, in Big Spring. He was a lifetime resident of Big Spring. He graduated from Big Spring High School in 1978. He was a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church, and was

an altar boy most of his youth at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. He loved motorcycles, and was a self-employed contractor.

He is survived by his father: Manuel Limon of Big Spring; one brother: Oscar M. Limon and his wife Kim of Carrollton; one sister: Sandra Ybarra and her husband Brett Brackett of McKinney; one niece: Melanie Ybarra of Dallas; one nephew: Derrick Ybarra of McKinney; and two four-legged nephews: Domino and Razor.

He was preceded in death by his mother: Virginia Moreno Limon on Jan. 11, 2006.

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

Paid Obituary

## Glenda Allen Ferrell

Glenda Allen Ferrell, 75 of Big Spring died Jan. 17, 2016 at her residence. A private memorial was held among family.

She was born Sept. 1, 1940 in San Angelo, Texas. She has been in Big Spring for the last four years, moving here from Midland. She lived in Midland for fifteen years and was a member of Life Church of Midland.

She was a cook and restaurant owner for many years. She was also a decorator and loved arts and crafts.

Glenda is survived by: one son: Tom Hudgins and wife Latona of Big Spring; one daughter: Rebecca Wrenn and husband Tim of Freeport, FL.; four grandchildren; 10 great grandchildren.






She was preceded in death by two brothers; Bill and Clive Allen.

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

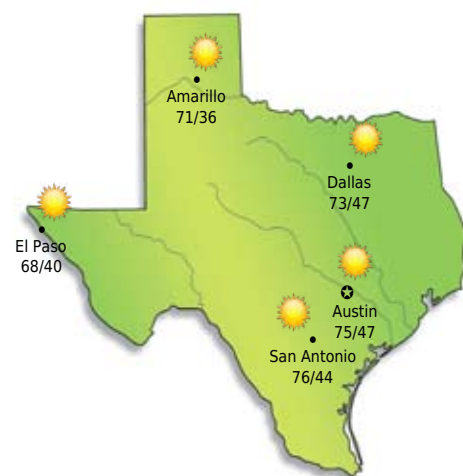
## Glenn Phillippe

Glenn Phillippe, 75, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2016. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

## Local 5-Day Forecast

Fri 1/29	Sat 1/30	Sun 1/31	Mon 2/1	Tue 2/2
				
<b>71/37</b>	<b>75/46</b>	<b>75/44</b>	<b>62/33</b>	<b>53/23</b>
Mainly sunny. High 71F. Winds SW at 15 to 25 mph.	Sunny and windy. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the mid 40s.	Sunny and windy. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the mid 40s.	Partly cloudy and windy. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the low 30s.	Partly cloudy and windy. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the low 20s.
Sunrise: 7:42 AM Sunset: 6:16 PM	Sunrise: 7:41 AM Sunset: 6:17 PM	Sunrise: 7:41 AM Sunset: 6:18 PM	Sunrise: 7:40 AM Sunset: 6:19 PM	Sunrise: 7:39 AM Sunset: 6:20 PM

## Texas at a Glance



## Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	67	40	Sunny	Kingsville	72	41	Sunny
Amarillo	65	35	P Cloudy	Livingston	65	39	Sunny
Austin	71	42	Sunny	Longview	63	37	Sunny
Beaumont	65	39	Sunny	Lubbock	67	34	Sunny
Brownsville	69	45	Sunny	Lufkin	64	35	Sunny
Brownwood	69	35	Sunny	Midland	68	41	Sunny
Corpus Christi	70	45	Sunny	Raymondville	72	44	Sunny
Corsicana	65	39	Sunny	Rosenberg	67	41	Sunny
Dallas	66	41	Sunny	San Antonio	72	40	M Sunny
Del Rio	71	40	Sunny	San Marcos	72	40	Sunny
El Paso	61	34	M Sunny	Sulphur Springs	64	40	Sunny
Fort Stockton	64	41	P Cloudy	Sweetwater	67	41	Sunny
Gainesville	64	39	Sunny	Tyler	64	39	Sunny
Greenville	64	40	Sunny	Weatherford	68	40	Sunny
Houston	67	40	Sunny	Wichita Falls	67	41	Sunny

## National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	54	36	Cloudy	Miami	78	59	T-Storms
Boston	40	32	Sunny	Minneapolis	34	19	Cloudy
Chicago	38	22	P Cloudy	New York	42	34	Sunny
Dallas	66	41	Sunny	Phoenix	75	46	P Cloudy
Denver	58	35	Sunny	San Francisco	61	54	M Cloudy
Houston	54	28	Sunny	Seattle	54	42	Rain
Los Angeles	76	50	Sunny	Saint Louis	49	28	Sunny

## Moon Phases



## UV Index

Fri 1/29	Sat 1/30	Sun 1/31	Mon 2/1	Tue 2/2
4	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.

## Police / Sheriff / EMS

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **AMBER MICHELLE GUTIERREZ**, 40, of 3608 Calvin was arrested on warrants for driving while license invalid and failure to appear. Also charges of possession of marijuana, possession of a controlled substance, less than 1 gram; possession of a controlled substance, more than 3 grams but less than 28 grams and possession of drug paraphernalia.
- **MINOR ACCIDENT** was reported near mile marker 179.
- **DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 2000 block of S. Goliad St.
- **HARASSMENT** was reported in the 36000 block of W. Hwy 80.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 400 block of S. Birdwell Lane and the 1800 block of E. FM 700.

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

- Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 69 inmates at the time of this report.
- **MISTY MICHELLE BAKER**, 34, was booked by the HCSO on a warrant for theft of property, more than \$50 but less than \$500.
- **JUAN RENE GALLEGOS**, 34, was booked by the GCSO on a warrant for bail jumping.
- **AMBER MICHELLE GUTIERREZ**, 40, was booked by the BSPD on warrants for driving while license invalid and failure to appear as well as charges for possession of marijuana, less than 2 ounces; possession of a controlled substance, more than 3 grams but less than 28 grams; possession of a

controlled substance, less than 1 gram and possession of drug paraphernalia.


- **ANGELA RAE LUCKE**, 35, was booked by the GCSO on a warrant for motion to revoke probation.

- **BRANDON EUGENE OWENS**, 24, was booked by the HCSO on warrants for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, possession of a controlled substance and driving while intoxicated - open alcohol container.

- **CAROL ANN SCAGGS**, 68, was booked by the HCSO on a warrant for sentence - delivery of a controlled substance.

The Big Spring Fire Department and Emergency Services reported the following activity:

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 900 block of Douglas. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 300 block of Veterans Blvd. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **BUILDING FIRE** was reported in the 400 block of 6<sup>th</sup> St. Fire was extinguished.



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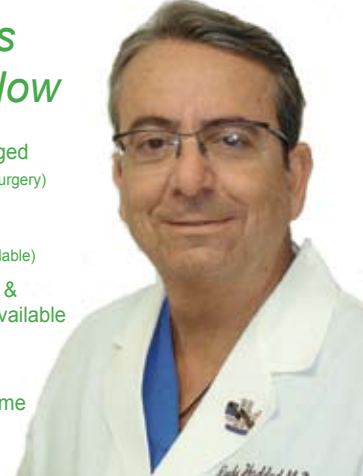
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# Take note

## Come dancing!

The Mitchell County Senior Dance will be held Thursday, Jan. 28, 2016 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Colorado City Civic Center, 157 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Colorado City. Live music by Travis and Kevin. Snacks to share are welcome. No drinking and smoking allowed.

## 4-H Clothing and Textile kick off

The Howard County Clothing and Textile kick off will be held at 5:15 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 2, at the G.C. Broughton Ag Complex located on the Howard College campus, 1001 Birdwell Lane. The program is for students in grade three through high school interested in the fashion industry. For more information, contact Melissa Deeter, Howard County Extension Agent for Family Consumer Science, at 432-364-2236.

## Little League signups

• Big Spring Little League will be holding signups for the upcoming season each Saturday on Jan. 16, Jan. 23, Jan. 30, and Feb. 6 at the Springtown Plaza right next to the movie theater from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Also Monday – Friday, Feb. 1 to Feb. 5 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Cost is \$90 per child, ages 4 – 16 and you must provide a birth certificate.

## Meetings

• The Big Spring Art Association meets every third Tuesday, September through May at 7 p.m. in the basement of the Howard County Library. Everyone is welcome to attend. Memberships are available. The annual dues are \$20.

• The Big Spring Symphony Board of Directors meets every first Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. at the symphony office, 808 Scurry Street.

• The Kiwanis Club of Big Spring meets at noon every Thursday in the Cactus Room at Howard College. Visitors are welcome.

• 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 271-2176.

• 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.

## Volunteer opportunities

• Home Hospice is in need of volunteers of all ages. The organization is requesting volunteers to sit with patients, make items for patients and help with office work. Volunteers set their own hours. For more information, contact Sherry Hodnett at 264-7911 or 432-213-0150.

• Mobile meals is in need of volunteer delivery drivers. If you donate one hour per week to help deliver meals to the elderly, call Kim Plew at 263-4016 or 213-7960.

• Crossroads Hospice needs volunteers for patient care. Contact Eva at 263-5300.

• 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 fos-

ter parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 432-263-9669.

• Food 2 Kids Big Spring Needs You! It is time to start sacking food for Big Spring elementary students who do not receive adequate food over the weekends. Members of the community can be a part by volunteering to sack the food. It just takes a couple hours of your time and the work is very rewarding. To volunteer, just show up at the time and dates listed. For more information, call, 432-935-3998.

Sacking dates are as follows (please note the group starts at 5:30 p.m.) Feb. 1 and 2.

Our sacking location has moved to the Lakeview High School gym located at 1107 NW 7th. To get there take Gregg Street north and turn left on Delaney which is the block just past the Salvation Army Store. Delaney turns into 7th Street, you will go over the railroad tracks and the school is on the left.

Currently we are distributing food at Goliad, Marcy and Moss Elementary Schools. If you want additional information about getting your child on this program please contact your child's school.

## EAGLES

Continued from Page 1

will be there to answer questions.”

The chili cook-off will consist of teams of 1-3 people. The cooks will provide their own food and cook onsite a minimum of 5 pounds of chili.

“All chili cooked will be sold to the public,” said Pope.

Registration is at 8 a.m., the cook meeting is at 9 a.m. and turn in time will be 11:30 a.m. for judging.

Opening ceremony will take place around 12:45 and awards will be handed out at 1 p.m.

There will be plaques for the top three cook teams, recognition for the top 10 cook teams, and all cooks will eat for free.

“Everyone is invited out to eat some chili. It is \$10 per person for all of the chili you can eat.

There will be a chance for door prizes, a 40 inch flat screen t.v., and other activities will also be going on between 1 and 2 p.m. as well as the auction.

Anyone interested in being a judge for the contest or to donate to the auction is asked to contact Pope at 432-816-8462.

The Eagles Lodge is located at 703 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> St.

## ARSON

Continued from Page 1

along with an ambulance crews, commander and investigator remained on site for a little more than two hours before the final unit departed at 1:46 a.m. Wednesday.

Two people, including Ornelas, resided at the home. No injuries were reported, but the home was a total loss, Condray

said.

Ornelas, who was at the scene when firefighters arrived, gave a statement that led to his arrest. Condray would not indicate how the fire was set, but said its cause corroborated with Ornelas' statement.

Arson is a second degree felony punishable by between 2 and 20 years in prison and a fine not to exceed \$10,000.

## TRUSTEE

Continued from Page 1

We love Big Spring, but I also love the mountains of Ruidoso, (N.M.)”

Both Murray and his wife, Diane served in the education field in

the Howard County. Murray was the high school principal at Big Spring High School before accepting the job as the district's assistant superintendent. He retired as the superintendent in 2003 and was first elected to the college board in 2004.

Diana was a professor of math at Howard College for 19 years and for the past 15 years, the couple have lead numerous mission trips to South America through their church, First Methodist.

Four positions are up for election this cycle

on the Howard College board of trustees. Along with the District 1 and 2 positions, the two at-large positions recently filled by the appointments Adriel E. Saldivar, a local business owner, and Ryan Williams, a physician's assistant, will also be on

the May 7 ballot.

Candidates interested in running for any of the four positions can pick up paperwork at the Howard College business office during regular hours. Early voting will begin Monday, April 25 and continue through Tuesday,

May 4 for city, school board and college board elections at the Howard County Election Office.

## COLLEGE

Continued from Page 1

some key pieces of information.

However, college officials feel confident enough to believe enrollment is up from the 2015 spring semester. Although this number is expected to change, the college said the overall district student enrollment is, at this time, 3,744 for the spring 2016, up from last year at this time when enrollment came in at 3,569.

A breakdown of numbers by individual campuses was not available but Sparks did state numbers at the Big Spring and Lamesa campuses are expected to stay flat from last year. Enrollment at the Southwest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf – the only self-contained community college for the deaf in the nation – is expected to drop some while the San Angelo site is expected to see a fairly large gain in students.

“We are hoping for

maybe an 11 percent increase in our San Angelo site which is wonderful news,” she said.

“In fact, with enrollment trending down at the San Angelo campus the last few years, Howard College trustees made the painful decision to cut at least six faculty positions to proactively mitigate expected deep cuts in state funding. Those funding cuts turned out to be true after the last state legislative season.”

Preliminary numbers for contact hours – each hour a student takes for academic instruction in the classroom – were not released Wednesday, but college officials expect that number to remain flat, Sparks said.

Enrollment and contact hours are extremely important figures for the community colleges. They are critical in determining how much funding colleges receive from the state. This formula in the past has proven to be both a blessing and curse to college officials across the state.

Community colleges are always working with current financial conditions on money based on the last funding cycle's numbers. College receives funding every two years.

After the economy tanked in 2008, Howard College, like many community colleges around the state, began to see a major increase in enrollment numbers soon after. However, the state of Texas faced a budget deficit and cut money to services across the board including the community college system.

Howard College was left to provide the same services to more students with less funding. In the following funding cycles, Howard College lost millions as enrollment began to fall tied with the oil and gas industry's boom. The pressure push trustees to set a tax rate 2 cents above the roll back figure in August 2015 which is expected to raise \$1 million in new taxes. That rate survived a roll back election held on Jan. 19

in a 60/40 vote split.

An increase in students this spring may work in the favor of the college this time as the community college base year – the numbers the state looks at for setting funding – begins March 1.

In other business, trustees:

• Canvassed the votes for the January Roll Back Tax Election.

• Heard an update of the SWCID Village project. The first three building pods are finished and construction workers are expected to walk through Friday to make a list for minor fixes. The pods will be open for habitation in the fall of 2016.

• Approved the renewal of the president's con-

tract.

• Approve a resolution to Dora Roberts Foundation for the non-profit agencies donation of \$260,000 that supports funding two nursing faculty chairs, scholarships and other needs of the college.

• Heard the annual tax audit from independent tax business. There were no findings in the audit.

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Chris Limon, 56, died Thursday. He will lie in state Friday, January 29, 2016 from 9:00 AM until 9:00 PM with a Vigil service beginning at 7:00 PM at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 11:00 AM Saturday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

Donna Kay, 69, died Thursday. The family will receive friends from 9:00 AM until 11:00 AM Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Graveside services will be at 11:45 AM at Trinity Memorial Park.

Glenn Phillippe, 75, died Wednesday, January 27, 2016. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

# FOUNDED ON FRESH



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# Opinion

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the writers and not those of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

## ADDRESSES

### FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

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

## DAILY PRAYER

We are always in Your thoughts, Lord, may we keep You always in ours.

Amen

## Trump and the National Review irrelevants

The National Review rounded up a couple dozen “conservatives” to denounce Donald Trump and tell the world what it already knows — Trump is not a “movement conservative.”

I would like to point out that the “movement conservatives” have had little or no effect in presidential contests since 1984 — and that election, in which Ronald Reagan won in a landslide, was an inevitability because of the force of nature he represented as a great candidate and a great incumbent for four years.

I won't deny that some of the Trump denouncers were there for Reagan. But most were not. Many or most of them, however, were there for the losers the Republicans put up in the last two election cycles.

And let me quickly point out that neither John McCain nor Mitt Romney were conservatives at all — “movement conservatives” or otherwise. They were both hostile to conservatives. They hated them. So where were the denunciations of McCain and Romney in the 2008 and 2012 primaries from the National Review crowd and their Trump-hating friends?

Not to put too fine a point on it, but the National Review has been something of an irrelevancy since the earthly departures of William F. Buckley and

Bill Rusher — the brains of the operation.

Back then, even I was honored to be an occasional contributor — as I was to Human Events and other favorite periodicals of Ronald Reagan, who dragged me kicking and screaming from a leftist, radical extremist into the fold of the Second Thoughts crowd.

But it's pointless to trash the National Review. Its circulation and readership tell the story there.

Let's talk instead about why the periodical and its contributors miss the point about Trump. Yes, it's true that Trump has been all over the map politically throughout his non-political career.

Yes, it's true that some of his positions are not well-grounded and based in conservative ideology and principles.

Yes, it's true that we don't know what he's actually going to do if he's elected president, and he may be a huge disappointment to his supporters.

Now, let's look at the positive side.

Trump has brought an electrical excitement to the 2016 presidential race.

Trump, with some strong help from Ted Cruz and Ben Carson, has finally — and perhaps forever — exposed the fraud of political correctness, even making it popular to trash for the common man.

Trump threatens to destroy, once and for all, the Republican establishment, which even some of the contributors to the National Review assault on him



JOSEPH FARAH

## Iowa: Hardly anybody votes, everyone worries

In politics, it is the small things that count. In Iowa politics, it is the tiny things that count.

For all the hoopla, media attention and money lavished on the Iowa caucuses, hardly anybody bothers to vote in them.

TV reporters know that the one question they don't want to ask a voter in a live interview is: “Did you vote in the last caucus?”

The answer is usually an embarrassed no, quickly followed by a pledge to vote this time, which happens to be Monday.

The embarrassment is genuine; the pledge to vote Monday is not.

Unless you have been on submarine duty beneath the polar ice cap this past month, you know that caucuses are different from primaries. Caucus voters all have to gather together at 7 p.m. and then go through 90 minutes of palaver before choosing their candidate.

The process can be so arduous that in 2008, when Hillary Clinton's national headquarters chose the slogan “Stand Up for Hillary,” the Iowa staff went crazy. “We had old ladies who couldn't stand up for 20 minutes, let alone 90,” a Clinton aide told me. “They thought ‘Stand Up for Hillary’ meant they would really have to stand up that long!”

(The senior voters were assured that chairs would be found and that they could stand up while sitting down.)

But most people still won't show up for the caucuses. In 2012, the turnout rate in the Republican caucus was 19.76 percent. In other words, 4 out of 5 people in Iowa who were eligible to vote in the caucuses didn't bother to.

A study by Thomas E. Patterson of the Harvard Kennedy School pointed out that in 2008, only a small percentage of voters determined the outcome of the caucus.

“The Democratic winner, Barack Obama, received the votes of just 4 percent of Iowa's eligible voters. Mike Huckabee, the Republican victor, attracted the support of a mere 2 percent of Iowa adults,” Patterson wrote.

Dennis J. Goldford, a professor of political science at Drake University and the Harkin Institute Flansburg Fellow, wrote in July 2015: “For all the attention lavished upon Iowa by presidential candidates, political activists around the country, and national and foreign news organizations, does the precinct-caucus turnout deserve such attention?”

It does, Goldford concluded, merely because it goes first in the election process. “In any sequential nomination process, any state going first will carry special weight simply because it is first, whatever other factors may add in importance,” Goldford wrote.

Which is a very scholarly way of saying: “If you're first, it matters.

If you're 25th, you're Nebraska.”

*For all the hoopla, media attention, and money lavished on the Iowa caucuses, hardly anybody bothers to vote in them.*

And the national press does not flock to Nebraska the way it flocks to Iowa. (Just two national reporters in Nebraska at the same time would probably constitute a flock.)

Iowa has 99 counties divided into about 1,700 precincts, but it is a rural state in which a majority of cities and towns have fewer than 500 residents.

Turnout in some precincts is so low that a single family can determine the outcome. It is rare, but not unheard of, for only one voter to show up at caucus. (The parties try to eliminate so-called “ghost precincts,” in which nobody shows up.)

In more populous precincts, the campaigns often will hold potluck suppers before the caucus hour. This is not just to show friendliness, but to make sure potential voters are gathered in one spot, where they then can be corralled, stuffed into cars and vans and taken to their voting sites.

Identifying who is likely to vote for your candidate and getting those people to do so is the

would agree represents as much a danger to the republic as the Democrat establishment.

Trump, should he be the nominee, and I am not endorsing him, is the only Republican candidate who could potentially realign the national political landscape and win a Reaganesque-style landslide — even winning states thought, for the last 28 years, to be impossible for Republican candidates to win.

Let's not forget that a big part of America's political problem is the Republican Congress.

For the last seven years, ever since Republicans won the House in 2010, and even more so when they won the Senate in 2014, the Congress has been in total appeasement mode — giving Barack Obama everything he needed to “fundamentally transform America” in his own image.

Like him or hate him, Trump is where he is as a frontrunner right now because of that — the total capitulation of the Republican Congress and leadership — as much as he's there because of Obama's failed policies.

Is Trump the great hope for the country?

I don't know. I haven't decided. I like several Republican candidates, but I certainly don't agree with the war on Trump. And I know the National Review team has no answers — zero. The National Review elitists are part of the problem, not the solution.

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famous “ground game” that is organized by a campaign's “field operation.”

In 2008, Barack Obama not only beat Hillary Clinton with a more compelling message (hope and change) but with a superior field operation.

Is Bernie Sanders poised to pull off the same kind of upset over Clinton come Monday?

According to The New York Times, Sanders' “campaign has quietly assembled an extensive ground game here, with 100 paid staff members and with trained volunteer leaders for each of the state's 1,681 caucus precincts.

“The field team is meant to be the engine for a Sanders upset in the caucuses on Feb. 1 — the vehicle to turn out the tens of thousands of grass-roots supporters who show up for Mr. Sanders's rallies, even if they no longer earn him headlines.”

But I talked to a senior Clinton aide Tuesday, who said: “It is unclear whether Sanders actually has a field operation in Iowa that can produce anything like what Obama did. I don't believe so. Our people on the ground are not seeing evidence of it.”

What they are seeing is Sanders' campaign telling its Iowa college volunteers to vote at home if they live in Iowa rather than at college, where their votes could be wasted due to Iowa's complicated voting rules.

“You don't want to be doing that in the last week, however,” the Clinton aide said. “To win this time, a campaign is going to need a meticulous field operation. And I'm not sure they have that.”

But how about if things go very, very wrong for Clinton and she loses both Iowa and New Hampshire, which follows eight days later? Can she still win the nomination?

“I believe so,” the aide said. “I'm never completely relaxed. But we are extremely well-organized. And I believe so.”

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

# Parent's Corner: West Texas growth through the years

Sometimes thoughts cross our minds and we have no idea why. This happened to me the other day. I was thinking about the population of our West Texas towns and wondered about the growth pattern throughout the years.

Did you know that 1900 Big Spring was the fifth largest town in West Texas? Yep, Big Spring had 1,255 folks, El Paso had 15,096, Abilene had 3,411, San Angelo had 2,480, Amarillo had 1,442. Midland, Odessa, and Lubbock didn't even make the charts.

In 1910, the population grew, but Big Spring held



DARRELL RYAN

its own at number five. El Paso had 39,279, San Angelo had 10,321, Amarillo had 9,957, Abilene had 9,204 and Big Spring had 4,102. Again, Odessa was yet to be incorporated and Midland had 2,192 and Lubbock had 1,938. Another growth spurt occurred during the next ten years and all the cities grew quite a bit. In the 1920 census, El Paso had 77,560, Amarillo had 15,494, Abilene had 10,274. San Angelo had 10,050, Big Spring was again number five on the charts with 4,273. Lubbock followed with 4051, Midland with 2,192.

Again in 1930 growth showed large gains. El Paso had 102,421, Amarillo had 43,132, San Angelo had 25,308, Abilene had 23,175, Lubbock came in number five with 20,520, number six Big Spring had 13,735, fol-

lowed by Midland with 5,484 and Odessa, finally incorporated with 2,404. 1940 was disappointing for Big Spring and El Paso but showed growth for the other cities. El Paso was 96,810, Amarillo was 51,686, Lubbock was 31,853, Abilene was 26,612, San Angelo with 25,802, Big Spring was number six with 12,604. Odessa had surpassed Midland and had 9,573 with Midland at 9,352.

The 1950 census was interesting, showing El Paso with 130,485, Amarillo with 74,246 followed closely by Lubbock with 71,747. San Angelo had 52,093, Abilene had 45,570, Odessa had 29,495, Midland with 21,713 and Big Spring coming in with 17,286.

1960 showed another growth with El Paso at 276,687, Amarillo with 137,969, Lubbock with 128,691, Abilene with 90,368,

Odessa with 80,338, Midland with 62,625, San Angelo with 58,815, and Big Spring with 31,230.

1970 was interesting showing El Paso and Lubbock growing, but all the other cities losing population. El Paso was 322,261, Lubbock had 149,101, Amarillo fell to 127,010, Abilene fell to 89,653, Odessa fell to 78,380, Midland fell to 59,463, San Angelo increased to 63,884, and Big Spring fell to 28,735.

1980 produced growth for each city except Big Spring. El Paso showed 425,259, Lubbock passed Amarillo with 173,979 and 149,230 respectively. Odessa came in with 90,027, San Angelo with 73,240, Midland with 70,525 and Big Spring falling to 24,804. 1990 was up for some and down for others. El Paso had 515,342, Lubbock with 186,206, Amarillo with

157,571, Abilene with 106,707, Odessa with 89,699 and Midland running close behind with 89,443 and San Angelo with 84,482. Big Spring continued falling with 23,693.

In 2000 the population was: El Paso 563,662, Lubbock 199,564, Amarillo 173,626, Abilene 115,930, Midland 94,996, Odessa 90,943, San Angelo 88,439 and Big Spring at 25,233. 2010 showed another growth: El Paso 800,647, Lubbock 229,573, Amarillo 190,695, Abilene 117,063, Midland 111,147, Odessa 99,940, San Angelo 93,200 and Big Spring at 27,282. Now, with this history in mind let's look around and notice the continued growth in West Texas. It is proving to be interesting.

Darrell Ryan is the BSISD Director of School Safety.



AP Photo/Jim Cole

In this 1985 photo, high school teacher Christa McAuliffe rides with her daughter Caroline during a parade down Main Street in Concord, N.H. McAuliffe was one of seven crew members killed in the Space Shuttle Challenger explosion on Jan. 28, 1986.

## Challenger disaster: Christina McAuliffe's students go on to teaching careers

By KATHY McCORMACK  
Associated Press

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — Thirty years after the Concord High School class of '86 watched social studies teacher Christa McAuliffe and six astronauts perish when the space shuttle Challenger broke apart on live TV, a number of them have gone into teaching — and some wonder if, indirectly, the tragedy affected them enough that they wanted to make a difference, as she did.

One of them, Tammy Hickey, didn't like social studies at all, but she enjoyed McAuliffe's law class.

McAuliffe took Hickey and fellow students to courtrooms and conducted mock trials in class. Hickey remembers how personable she was, and how she shared her enthusiasm and experiences when she was in the running to be the first teacher in space. Hickey, now a junior high physical education teacher in Bradenton, Florida, just knew McAuliffe would be picked from more than 11,000 applicants.

"As a teacher now, I know that I want to show respect and show my students that I care," Hickey says. "I can say to emulate how she was, would be a service to these kids for sure."

Hickey joins a number of members of the class of '86 in Concord who became teachers and guidance counselors in the 30 years since they and other students of all ages nationwide watched with disbelief and horror as the shuttle broke apart 73 seconds after liftoff on Jan. 28, 1986, becoming a generational touchstone.

"I try to be very mindful," says Joanne Walton, who teaches grades four through six in Fairfax, Virginia. She says she sometimes goes through a "What would Christa do?" mantra in her teaching.

"She knew that teaching was way more than just imparting information and that it was really important to know students," Walton says.

Holly Mellow, a math teacher for students in fifth through eighth grades in Camden, Maine, had McAuliffe for American Women in History, a class that McAuliffe created and is

still taught at Concord High. She worries people will forget her and her motto: "I touch the future. I teach."

"I hear people use it, and I wonder if they know that it came from her," she says.

Members of the class of '86 have petitioned the Obama administration to have a national holiday named for McAuliffe and the Challenger crew, "to honor Christa and the other astronauts for their ultimate sacrifice." The hope was to reach 100,000 signatures by Friday, but it has fewer than 200 so far.

Concord, a city of about 42,000, built and named a planetarium for McAuliffe, 37 when she died, then later changed it to the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center, recognizing native son Alan Shepard, the first American in space. Just a few years ago, it named an elementary school for her.

The city has been low-key on marking Challenger anniversaries as her family stayed in Concord and her young children, Scott and Caroline, grew up. Today, both are educators with children of their own. Caroline declined to be interviewed, and Scott did not respond to an email.

"The passage of 30 years since the Challenger accident is not of great personal significance to our family," their father and Christa's widower, Steven McAuliffe, said in a statement. "For us, Challenger will always be an event that occurred just recently. Our thoughts and memories of Christa will always be fresh and comforting."

McAuliffe, a federal judge, added, "We are happy to know that Christa's goals have been largely accomplished in that she has inspired generations of classroom teachers and students, and has focused public attention on the critical importance of teachers to our nation's well-being."

See, CHALLENGER, Page 13

## Coahoma Elementary students attend academic UIL meet

Dec. 2, 2015 was an early morning for 70 Coahoma Elementary students as they excitedly gathered on a bus to attend the Academic UIL competition in Sonora, Texas. They competed against Sonora, Colorado City, and Reagan County.

Students in third, fourth, and fifth grade competed in twelve different categories: storytelling, ready writing, oral reading, music memory, spelling, number sense, art, dictionary skills, listening, maps, graphs & charts, social studies, and chess.

Highlights from the UIL meet include fourth-grader Kieston Harrison and fifth-grader Christian Everett who both placed first in music memory. Art also had two students place first, fourth-grader McCray Jacobs, and fifth-grader Rance Redden.



Each student's hard work and dedication to these events paid off as six students placed first in their grade level event, four students placed second, and four students placed third. Shawna Dobbs, the Elementary UIL Coordinator, stated, "Our teams came in third overall, and we had many individuals and team event successes...We are very proud of all of them!"

To submit items to school news, email [citydesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:citydesk@bigspringherald.com)

You deserve a factual look at . . .

### Palestinian Incitement to Terror

**Refusing peace talks with Israel, Arab leaders issue incendiary lies and anti-Semitic slander, inciting waves of deadly hate crimes against innocent Jews.**

*The Palestinian Authority, desperate for international attention, now falsely accuses Israel of threats to al-Aksa mosque atop Jerusalem's Temple Mount. Denying all Jewish rights to Judaism's holiest site, President Mahmoud Abbas rants about Jews defiling the mosque with their "filthy feet." Result: Dozens of terror attacks and five murdered in 21 days.*

#### What are the facts?

A teenage girl on an official Palestinian Authority TV show proudly recites a poem with the lines "Oh sons of Zion, oh most evil among creatures/Oh barbaric monkeys, wretched pigs." The program host cries "Bravo!" and applauds. A young girl on Palestinian TV explains she wants to be a policeman when she grows up "so that I can shoot Jews."

**In fact, Arab Palestinian culture is saturated with anti-Semitic incitement, starting from the first grades of school,**

in daily news media, political speeches and most insidiously the mosques of Gaza and the West Bank. (Imagine our outrage if the U.S. President declared that an ethnic group had filthy feet and would contaminate a place of worship.) The core issue at the heart of Palestinian hate for Jews is an obsessive belief that Jews are non-believers who have zero rights in Muslim Palestine—this despite inarguable scientific proof of the Jews' 3,000-year continuous history in the Holy Land, preceding Muslims' arrival by 1,600 years.

The most recent incitement has been the fantastical claim by Palestinian authorities that Israel is planning to tear down al-Aksa mosque—for which there is no evidence and which Israel has steadfastly denied. In addition, Palestinians are now insisting that Jews, Christians and other "non-believers" no longer be permitted to visit the Temple Mount—despite the allowance of such multi-sectarian visits since Israel liberated the site from Jordan in 1967.

No surprise that a rash of anti-Semitic terrorist violence is currently roiling Israel. One Jewish man was killed on Rosh Hashanah when Palestinian youths bombarded his car with large stones, forcing him to crash. Another 30ish couple was shot in their car as their four children watched from the back seat. Two Orthodox Jews were killed in Jerusalem's Old City when a Palestinian teenager stabbed them to death. Dozens more rock, firebomb, stabbing, shooting and car attacks on innocent Israelis have occurred in recent weeks.

**What's worse, perpetrators of such murderous hate crimes are celebrated as heroes by Palestinian leaders and the Arab street. Indeed, instead of condemning the**

Jerusalem killings, the Palestinian Authority (PA) "saluted" the murderers and denounced Israeli police for shooting them. No wonder terrorist Dalal Mughrabi, who hijacked and blew up an Israeli bus, killing 38 Israeli civilians, has had Palestinian schools, summer camps and a town square named after her. Likewise, the Hamas terror organization in Gaza glorified as "heroic" the execution of three innocent Israeli teenagers last year.

#### Collapse of the PA and Chances for Peace.

The Palestinian Authority is in shambles—on the edge of bankruptcy, in a mortal struggle with archrival Hamas and staggering under the leadership of 80-year-old

Mahmoud Abbas, now in his twelfth year of a four-year term, with no successor in sight. Abbas refuses to return to peace talks, though Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu invites such negotiations with no preconditions. Truth told, since recent polls show the majority of Palestinians believe their mission is to conquer all of Israel, it is unlikely the Arab street would accept any peace deal based on a two-state solution. Meanwhile, Hamas continues to gain strength in the West Bank and is likely to seize power on Abbas' departure, putting radical Islamists in control of the entire Palestinian enterprise.

**What Can Israel Do, What Can the U.S. Do?** Israel continues to show restraint in managing terror attacks throughout Israel and on the Temple Mount. But clearly, in the face of the current wave of murders and other hate-motivated violence against civilians, Israel has no choice but to keep the peace—increasing police presence in violent hot spots and levying stiffer penalties for perpetrators (and their parents, since many offenders are juveniles).

The U.S., for its part, can pressure Mr. Abbas and the Palestinian Authority diplomatically to cease its lying about the Temple Mount, anti-Semitic slanders and other incitements to violence. In addition, if such incitement does not stop immediately, the U.S. Congress should take steps to reduce the \$500 million in aid we currently spend to prop up the Palestinian Authority, millions of which provides "salaries" to convicted Palestinian terrorists in Israeli jails.

*The Palestinian Authority's inflammatory anti-Israel rhetoric has led to a wave of terrorism that threatens to devolve into a third intifada. Although President Abbas claims he wants peace, his words and actions prove he wants to provoke another explosion of violence to win international sympathy and bring pressure on Israel. Israel must deal firmly with these violent outbreaks, and the U.S. must indicate to Abbas and the PA that it will not fund lies, racism and terror.*

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## Name That Game



There are lots of games for kids from board games to video games. Fill in the blanks to name some popular kids' games.

- 1 GO F\_\_S\_\_
- 2 CHE\_\_ERS
- 3 PI\_\_-UP STI\_\_S
- 4 TI\_\_-TA\_\_-TO\_\_
- 5 OL\_\_AID
- 6 C\_\_E\_\_S
- 7 C\_\_INE\_\_E CHEC\_\_E\_\_S

Answers: 1) Go Fish, 2) Checkers, 3) Pick-Up Sticks, 4) Tic-Tac-Toe, 5) Old Maid, 6) Chess, 7) Chinese Checkers

## Jokes & Riddles



Q: Why couldn't people play cards on the ark?

A: Because they were sitting on the deck.

Q: Why is it hard to play cards in the jungle?

A: There are too many cheetahs!

kids page  
6x21.5

## COLORING PICTURE



## What Rhymes with...



List 10 words that rhyme with "game."

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

Some answers: aim, came, dame, fame, lame, name, same, shame, tame

## Fact or Fiction?

### Playground Game Challenge

When the bell rings and kids head outside for recess, some go directly to the jungle gym, while others run around and play games. Here are some questions about some popular playground games. How many can you answer correctly?



- 1) In Red Rover, players make human chains. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 2) In Hide and Seek, players hide from each other. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 3) In Simon Says, players follow instructions. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 4) In Hot Potato, players pass around a real hot potato. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 5) In Duck Duck Goose, players chase each other. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 6) In Shadow Tag, players chase each other at night. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 7) In Freeze Tag, players freeze and unfreeze each other. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 8) In Hop Scotch, players hop along a grid. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 9) In Four Square, players dodge balls. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 10) In Marco Polo, players try to tag each other in the mud. **Fact or Fiction?**

Answers: 1) Fact, 2) Fact, 3) Fact, 4) Fiction, 5) Fact, 6) Fact, 7) Fact, 8) Fact, 9) Fiction, 10) Fiction, Marco Polo is played in the water. some other item that is not hot, 5) Fact, 6) Fiction, Shadow Tag is played during the day when shadows can be found, 7) Fact, 8) Fact, 9) Fiction, players hit balls to each other.



## Pass Along The Fun

It's nice to win, but not all games have a winner. Take the game of Telephone, for example. No one wins. The fun comes in how a message is passed around.

To play Telephone, players must sit in a circle. The first player thinks of a good message and whispers it in the next player's ear. Play continues in this way until everyone has had a turn. The last player to hear the message repeats it out loud.

In most cases, the message given by the last player is not the message given by the first player. As the message is passed around the circle, it often changes, sometimes in a big way. The message, "Mary has a black and white dog named Misty" could very well end up, "Marty has a black and brown cat named Hissy." The longer the message, the harder it is for players to remember and tell it to each other correctly.

### Sports Calendar

#### TODAY

**Women's basketball**  
Clarendon College at Howard College, 5:45 p.m.

**Men's basketball**  
Clarendon College at Howard College, 7:30 p.m.

#### FRIDAY

**Girls' basketball**  
Lubbock Estacado at Big Spring, 6:30 p.m.  
Coahoma at Stanton, 6:30 p.m.  
Ozona at Forsan, 6:30 p.m.  
Veribest at Garden City, 6:30 p.m.  
Loop at Sands, 6:30 p.m.

**Boys' basketball**  
Lubbock Estacado at Big Spring, 8 p.m.  
Coahoma at Stanton, 8 p.m.  
Ozona at Forsan, 8 p.m.  
Veribest at Garden City, 8 p.m.  
Loop at Sands, 8 p.m.

To submit a calendar item, please call 263-7331, ext. 235, or e-mail reporter@bigspringherald.com



Tony Claxton photo (www.claxtonphotography.com)  
**Howard College's Reggie Oliver puts up a shot during recent action. Howard hosts Clarendon tonight in Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. The women's game begins at 5:45 p.m., while the men tip off at 7:30 p.m.**

## Aikman likes Panthers' chances

NEW YORK (AP) — If Cam Newton has the type of Super Bowl debut Troy Aikman did, the Carolina Panthers will be in good shape for the Super Bowl.

Newton will be making his first appearance in the Super Bowl next month against Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning, who is playing in the big game for the fourth time.

"I feel that experience is often times overrated because of my own experience," said Aikman, who 22 of 30 for 273 yards and four touchdowns as the Most Valuable Player of Super Bowl 27 when the Dallas Cowboys routed the Buffalo Bills 52-17.

"The year we went to our first Super Bowl in 1992 we were the youngest team in football. We played in the Super Bowl against a team that had a wealth of playoff experience and Super Bowl experience, and we dominated that football game."

Aikman, a Hall of Famer, said Newton has also shown he can handle pressure during his career.

"I just think Cam Newton is a guy who doesn't get overwhelmed by the moment," he said. "He seems to thrive in the spotlight. I don't think this stage will impact him in a negative way."

Coming off a dominating win over Arizona in the NFC championship game, Carolina enters the Feb. 7 game in Santa Clara, California, as a favorite.

However, Aikman, who won all three Super Bowls he played in, thinks Denver shouldn't be overlooked, especially with Manning making possibly the final start of his career.

"Denver's a great story, Peyton Manning's a great story," he said. "Denver is really good defensively and that's certainly going to be a key."

"I think he's (Manning) going to be the sentimental pick in what will likely be his last game, but it's going to be a tough, tough task against this Carolina team."

Aikman, who dealt with concussions in his playing career and retired after the 2000 season, said he sees a big change in how the league handles the issue now.

"Back when I was playing, there was none of those things (protocols) in place," he said. "If someone suffered a concussion, it was unlikely they would ever miss a game, and now we're seeing players miss multiple games because they haven't shown signs that they're capable or ready to come back."

And he said despite the league's improved handling of the issue, hard hits are not going away any time soon.

"As long as we're wearing helmets and shoulder pads, there's collisions between these big, physical, fast guys, head injuries are going to be a part of it."

## Are the Broncos pressure-proof?

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP) — As confetti cannons showered the Denver Broncos with a blizzard of orange and blue, Methodist minister Don Bird of Aurora, Colorado, expressed the feelings of so many sweat-drenched, fingernail-nibbling fans.

"I am convinced that Broncos fans are the most well-conditioned fans in the NFL," Bird wrote on Facebook after Peyton Manning bested Tom Brady in the AFC championship. "Our hearts got a workout with every game but one this season. Who needs the gym?"

The Broncos (14-4) are heading to Super Bowl 50 on the strength of a dizzying defense and opportunistic offense that led Denver to an NFL-record 11 wins by seven points or less, including Sunday's

20-18 classic against the New England Patriots.

"We never waiver on our faith," linebacker Brandon Marshall said after Denver denied Brady's 2-point attempt to tie it with 12 seconds remaining. "We stay strong. We believe. Everybody plays hard. We play fast. We play physical. Four quarters."

"What blowout did we have this year? Maybe the Packers game, that's it. So, we are used to playing in close games. That's what we do."

The Broncos' only breather all season came when Green Bay brought a 6-0 record to Denver in November and left with a 29-10 defeat, the worst outing of Aaron Rodgers' brilliant career.

Denver is 11-3 in games decided by seven points or less, and a 12-point win

at Detroit was close until David Bruton Jr.'s interception led to a last-minute TD.

The Broncos' best hope to bring home another Lombardi Trophy to go with the two GM John Elway won during his Hall of Fame playing career might very well be to keep it close against Carolina in Super Bowl 50.

The Broncos just don't get tight when the games get that way.

Denver's wins have come by an average of just 6.92 points. Carolina's average margin of victory is nearly twice that — 13.41 points.

In the 2012 season, the Broncos rolled into the playoffs on an 11-game winning streak in which their average margin of victory was 16.45 points. They promptly lost in double-overtime to Bal-

timore 38-35 in what was their first close game in three months.

They piled up a record 606 points in 2013 and got shellacked by Seattle in the Super Bowl.

Elway would rather bring the league's No. 1 defense to the Super Bowl like he's doing this year than the NFL's No. 1 offense.

After that last landslide, Elway signed free agents DeMarcus Ware, T.J. Ward and Aqib Talib. The last two drafts, he also selected defenders who slipped down the board in first-round picks Bradley Roby and Shane Ray.

He replaced John Fox with Kubiak, who brought more balance to the offense with a greater emphasis on the ground game as Manning's passing skills began to diminish at age 39.

## Gathers leads Baylor past Oklahoma St.

STILLWATER, Okla. (AP) — Baylor forward Rico Gathers asserted himself to start the second half against Oklahoma State.

The Cowboys were powerless to stop the 6-foot-8, 275-pound wrecking ball.

Gathers scored 14 of his 16 points after the break and led No. 17 Baylor to a 69-65 victory on Wednesday night.

Baylor trailed by five at halftime, but Gathers made three baskets in the first two minutes of the second half to trim Oklahoma State's lead to 34-33. The Bears pulled ahead with just under 14 minutes remaining and positioned themselves

for the win late.

Gathers also had nine rebounds and made a critical free throw in the closing seconds. The preseason all-Big 12 selection had scored in single digits three of his previous five games and scored just two points Saturday against No. 1 Oklahoma.

Oklahoma State coach Travis Ford said Gathers' energy early in the second half was critical.

"That was big," Ford said. "That was huge. We were up five and started with the ball, and I don't know if he asserted himself more or anything or what happened, but we didn't obviously defend very well."

## Golden State rolls past Mavericks, 127-107

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — More often than not, Klay Thompson takes a backseat to NBA MVP Stephen Curry without a complaint.

Yet Thompson felt for weeks it was his turn for a big game.

On a night when Curry had a modest performance at best, Thompson took over.

He scored a season-high 45 points, Curry got going after halftime and so did the Golden State Warriors, who avenged one of their four losses this season by beating the Dallas Mavericks 127-107 on Wednesday night.

"Klay doesn't seem to have a care in the world, so that translates in a lot of different ways," coach Steve Kerr said, praising Thompson for how he moved without the ball.

"It means it doesn't bother him too much when he misses shots, so he keeps shooting, which we want him to do. It also means he's fine taking a backseat to Steph. It works well. ... There always has to be a little bit of a pecking order in the NBA. Klay's personality suits that second option."

Curry hit three quick 3-point-

ers after intermission as Golden State overcame a sluggish first half, and he finished with 14 points on a night the Warriors' role players and bench provided a balanced effort.

Thompson had his second 40-point game of the season and sixth of his career, shooting 14 of 20, 7 for 12 on 3-pointers and making all 10 of his free throws. He had five rebounds and two blocks.

"It was nice to see the ball go in a lot. I felt like I was due for a game like that the last couple weeks," Thompson said.

Chandler Parsons scored 23 points for Dallas, which handed the Warriors their second loss of the season, 114-91 on Dec. 30 — but without Curry because of a lower left leg injury. It was Golden State's largest loss of the four.

After going 1 for 8 in the first half and missing his first four from long range, Curry connected for his first 3 early in the third and had his team rolling again right away.

The Warriors ran their regular-season winning streak at Or-

acle Arena to 40 games, including 22-0 this season.

The Warriors tied the Orlando Magic for second-longest home unbeaten run in NBA history behind the Chicago Bulls' 44 from March 30, 1995, to April 4, 1996. Golden State hasn't lost at home in one calendar year, since falling 113-111 to Chicago on Jan. 27, 2015. The Warriors also dished out 30 assists for a fifth straight game, first to do so since the 1994-95 Magic.

Kerr went with a super-small lineup in the second quarter, and that was without Curry on the court. Golden State won its sixth in a row against Dallas at Oracle, shy of its seven-game unbeaten run at home in the series from 1991-94.

The Warriors had 30-point wins in three of their previous four games, including 120-90 against the Spurs on Monday night.

"They have so many good shooters, so many good cutters and movers," Parsons said. "You almost have to pick your poison with them."

Dallas star Dirk Nowitzki had the night off to rest.

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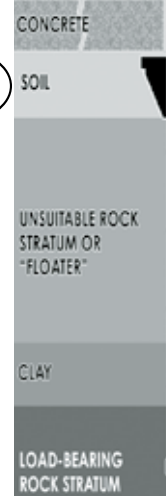
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Tomorrow's Horoscope



Justice Moon

If you think you're being discriminated against for being good (or for being bad, as the case may be), think again. The egalitarian moon in Libra eschews previous constraints to seek higher justice. This is an excellent time to question the motives of all who sit in the control center. As one Roman philosopher said, "The sun also shines on the wicked."

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). Since you're not dead-set on a certain destination today, why not take hints from the environment? Figure out which way the wind is blowing, and angle yourself to put this weather to your greatest advantage.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). If you don't believe your worth, undervalue yourself or simply settle for far less than you want or deserve then there is a great potential to

make mistakes. Don't let it happen.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). The road to greatness isn't always a rough road; often times it's just a long one. Even though you are easily distracted by the pretty things, people and ideas around you, you also have tenacity. Dig for it. Find it. Resist temptation.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). Would you be surprised to know that you are on the mind of a certain someone as the first thought of the morning, the last thought of the day and at least 700 thoughts between those? Well, it's true.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). You don't waste time getting angry, or even frustrated, with those who can't help but be who they are. You're the same. Why become disheartened? You're not always going to get it right. Have patience. Be inwardly gentle.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There is much that is well within your rights, within the available

opportunities and within what is socially acceptable that you will nonetheless refrain from doing, out of modesty. This is commendable.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You try and look at something for what it is and find only contradictions. Now try looking at yourself. You'll find that you don't altogether know what you are capable of. There is great potential in this day to astound yourself.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You can handle your work well and still pace yourself. Don't spend all your best energy between 9 and 5, because from 5 to 9 will offer some prime opportunities for you to shine.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). One of your challenges in this lifetime is to balance an unshakable confidence in your talents with the humility necessary to develop them to their full potential. A hard teacher will come along to help you with this.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

There is nothing to be gained by pushing against the minor setbacks of the day or giving them even one iota more attention than they deserve, which is very, very, little indeed.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Even though you are probably finding yourself in a position of defense, a defensive stance will only cause offensive action from the other side. Lay down your arms, stay calm and add a little feeling in with all those facts.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). There are certain things you may never learn, if only because they are so outside of your nature that you can't begin to figure out how to emulate the motions. There's a better fit out there; all you have to do is choose it.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (Jan. 28). However much love you've felt in your lifetime, you'll know a greater one this year. This will inspire you to take better care of yourself and to apply your talents differently, too, in

February. The spring will bring travel and new friends. June is a chance at the position you've had your eye on; be aggressive. Gemini and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 32, 31, 48 and 16.

TAURUS SECRET SUPERPOWER BREAKDOWN:

The Obvious: The appetite-driven Taurus is sensual, discerning and will respond positively to what is healthful, good and natural. Someone has to be in charge of quality, and Venus-ruled Taurus is a purveyor of taste.

The Uncanny: Taurus can find lost things, even if they don't belong to the Taurus and Taurus has never seen them before.

The Weird: Taurus adapts easily to different time zones. Jet lag is a mere blip for a sign so in sync with the rhythms of the earth wherever Taurus happens to be standing on it.

The Extremely Useful: Taurus can work and work and work then work hard-

er followed by a bout of working longer.

The Quietly Helpful: In days of yore, the king appointed someone to taste his food, avoiding possible poisonings. Modern-day tasters aren't as concerned with poison as they are with the finer details of the culinary arts. Taurus make excellent tasters, as they can taste things that other people can't.

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** Elijah Wood will star with Nicolas Cage in the crime thriller "The Trust," about two cops who stumble upon a mysterious bank vault. The world's most famous hobbit was born when the sun, Mercury and Mars were in whimsical Aquarius, suggesting intense powers of imagination and a driving need to make a difference, which Wood does with his work for The Art of Elysium and other charities.

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Annie's Mailbox

**Dear Annie:** When I met my husband many years ago, he had just returned from Vietnam. His mind was shaky, and he was a chain smoker and a serious alcoholic. We have maintained a comfortable, peaceful relationship. I could not tolerate drunkenness, so he stopped. But what seemed left was an unaffectionate, unemotional robot. He has never hugged me, held my hand or actually kissed me (only quickly, during our silent, intimate moments). Compliments? Never. He never bought a ring for me, which not only is embarrassing but also makes me feel as though I have no value to him.

He is kind to the children, provides meagerly but adequately, and makes no waves. We simply exist. I settled for this and it would hurt too many nice people for me to go my own way. But my point in writing to you is to save other women: Think before getting involved with a cold, unfeeling person.

Counseling is out. We never have a conversation. I truly believe his lifelong chain-smoking has affected his mental and physical health.

**Dear Too Little:**

We wouldn't be so quick to blame the chain-smoking. While it has undoubtedly affected his health, it is more likely that his experience in Vietnam (and possibly his upbringing) had a greater impact on his emotional health. Many of those who have served in wars suffer from PTSD and never asked for or received treatment. Your husband could be one of them.

We're not going to give you a lecture on expecting an unaffectionate, robotic man to change once he marries. It's too late for that. And of course, if you could get your husband to visit a nearby VA to ask about PTSD counseling, that might be tremendously helpful. But you are the one who wrote. We think you deserve better. The fact that leaving him might cause "nice people" to be hurt is not a good enough reason for you to make such a lifelong sacrifice. Get counseling for yourself, and see what choices you have.

**Dear Annie:** I am a hunter, and I understand how important each of the very few days available for deer hunting is to a fellow hunter. "Left Out in the Cold" said her husband misses

holidays and Mother's Day because they interfere with hunting season. She didn't say how far away her husband travels to hunt.

If he is not too far, he could perhaps hunt close to home in the morning and return for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner later in the evening after legal hunting hours. However, if he is unable to compromise and insists on missing holidays, then I suggest that she just go to the relatives without him and enjoy herself without giving him a second thought.

I have to say, the only time I could justify having Christmas postponed would be

if an important family member were in the service or in the hospital. Sounds to me that "Left Out's" entire marriage might need some professional intervention. -- "Dear" Beats "Deer" Anytime

**Dear Anytime:** Compromise is always possible, but only if both parties are agreeable. When one person is not, the other has the choice of changing one's situation, accepting what cannot be fixed or being perpetually upset.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please email your questions to [anniesmailbox@creators.com](mailto:anniesmailbox@creators.com).

com, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 737 3rd Street, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254. You can also find Annie on Facebook at [Facebook.com/AskAnnies](http://Facebook.com/AskAnnies). 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](http://www.creators.com). COPYRIGHT 2016 CREATORS.COM

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# 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.

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

[www.sudoku-puzzles.net](http://www.sudoku-puzzles.net)

## Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

### A Very Valuable Convention

North dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
 ♠ A Q J  
 ♥ A J 7 2  
 ♦ 10  
 ♣ A K 10 9 7

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

**EAST**  
 ♠ 8 6 5 4 2  
 ♥ 10 6 3  
 ♦ K J 8 4 3  
 ♣ —

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ K 7 3  
 ♥ K Q 8 4  
 ♦ A 7 2  
 ♣ 8 6 5

The bidding:  
 North 1♣ Pass 1♥ Pass  
 East Pass 3♦ Pass  
 South 6♥ Pass  
 West Pass Dble Pass  
 Opening lead — three of clubs.

The double of a slam contract by the defender not on lead carries with it a strong implication that the doubler thinks the contract can be defeated if his partner makes the right lead.

Usually the double will be based on a void in the suit the doubler wishes to have led, and the leader will ordinarily be able to tell — from his own hand and the bidding — which suit that is most likely to be.

Take this case where East can judge that, if he passes six hearts, the slam will be made against any lead but a club. He therefore doubles to direct a club lead, hoping this will give his side at least some chance to defeat the contract.

After the double, West should have no trouble working out the suit East wants led. North has bid clubs, and with West holding five cards in that suit, it is clear that clubs is the suit to be led.

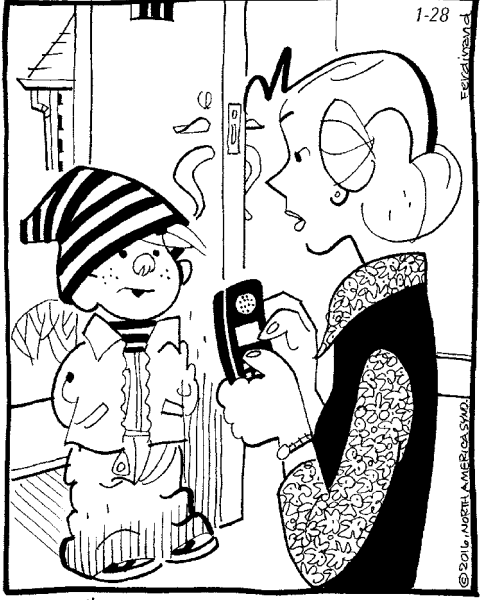
Despite the low club lead, South can — and should — make the slam, but he must be careful not to put up the ace or king at trick one. If he does, he goes down, because he will eventually have to lose a club trick to West after East ruffs the first trick.

It might seem strange that South should be expected to play a low club from dummy at trick one, but he cannot blindly ignore the meaning of East's double. East's message to West — though not intended for South's ears — is a warning that declarer is entitled to intercept, and he should react accordingly.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.  
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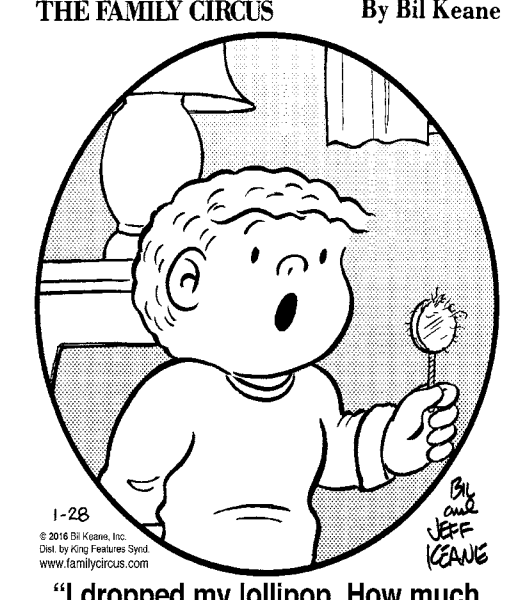
	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWTT (14) Odessa	KWES2 (15) Midland	WTBS (33) Atlanta	TNT (34) Atlanta	ESPN (35) Sports	ESPN2 (36) Sports	FSN (38) Sports	USA (55) New York	A&E (58) New York	DISC (60) Discovery
5:PM	News ABC	Hotel Notic.	Big Bang Cleveland	News CBS	Tele Noticiero	News News	Yohanan Messiah	America Business	Mama's Mama's	American American	Seinfeld Seinfeld	Castle (DVS)	SportsCenter	Around Pardon	A&M Athl. Sportsday	Law & Order: SVU	The First 48	
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Muchacha italiana	Mod Fam Big Bang	News ET	Caso Cer-rado	Newswest 9 at 6P	Rik Rocks	PBS News-Hour	M*A*S*H M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy Fam. Guy	Seinfeld Seinfeld	NBA Tip-Off	College Basketball	College Basketball	Women's College Basketball	Law & Order: SVU	The First 48	
7:PM	Beyond the Tank	Antes Muerta que Pasión y poder	American Idol	Big Bang Life in	Celia (SS)	You, Me and	1st Fruits	Arts Cntxt Masterpiece Classic	Griffith DC's Leg-ends	Fam. Guy	Seinfeld	NBA Basket-ball: Knicks at Raptors				WWE SmackDown!	The First 48	Fast N' Loud
8:PM	My Diet Is Better Than Yours	El Hotel de los	TMZ Broke Girl	(:01) Mom Angel-	Eva la Trailera (SS)	The Blacklist	Light of the Southwest	Manor	Laverne Hap.Days	The 100	Big Bang		College Basketball: Oregon at Arizona.	College Basketball: Oregon at Arizona.	Big 12 Big 12	Colon (DVS)	(:01) Night-watch	Diesel Brothers
9:PM	News	Impacto	Mod Fam	News	Tele	News	McGee	Charlie Rose	C. Burnett Cougar	Conan		NBA Basket-ball: Bulls at Lakers	SportsCenter	30 for 30		Law & Order: SVU	(:02) The First 48	To Be Announced
10:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Noticiero	Two Men	Late Show-Colbert	Titulares	Tonight Show	D Stringer	World	Raising Called	Broke Girl						Law & Order: SVU	(:01) The First 48	
11:PM	Nightline	Contacto Deportivo	How I Met Cleveland	James Corden	Gran Her-mano: La	Seth Meyers	Israel (Off Air)	Columbo	Commun King	Conan		Inside the NBA	SportsCenter	Basket NBA	Sportsday Game 365	(12:04) Colony	(12:01) The First 48	
12:AM	Extra Paid	Corona de lágrimas	Friends Middle	Insider	Eva la Trailera (SS)	News	BAS		King Cougar	Cougar		NBA Basket-ball: Knicks	SportsCenter	Jalen X/Extra	Women's College	Law Order: CI	(:02) Night-watch	
1:AM	Paid	P. Luche	Law Order: CI	ET	Pagado	(:08) Today	Light of the Southwest		King Cougar	Cougar		NBA Basket-ball: Knicks	SportsCenter	Jalen X/Extra	Women's College	Law Order: CI	(:02) Night-watch	

DENNIS THE MENACE



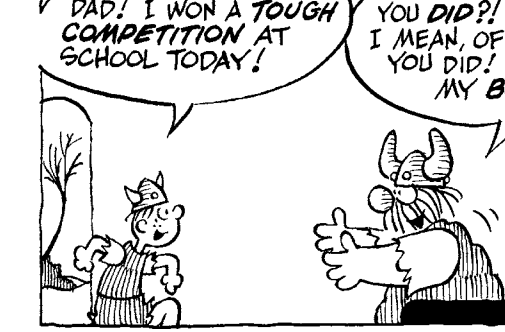
"TO TELL THE TRUTH, I DON'T WANT TO TELL THE TRUTH."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

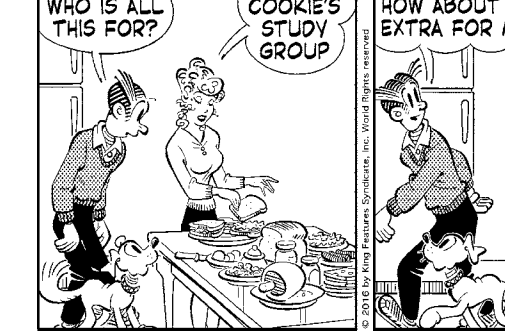


"I dropped my lollipop. How much floor is allowed on it before I can't eat it?"

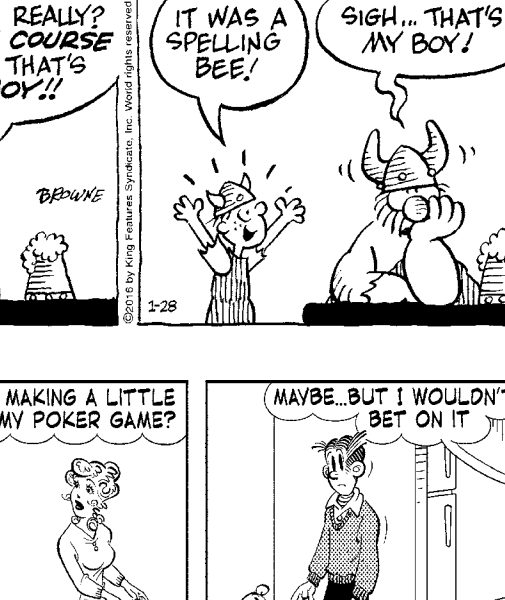
HAGAR



BLONDIE



WIZARD OF ID



FUTURE LIFE WILL BE SO HECTIC AND FAST-PACED THAT MANY WILL SUFFER FROM ANXIETY DISORDERS.

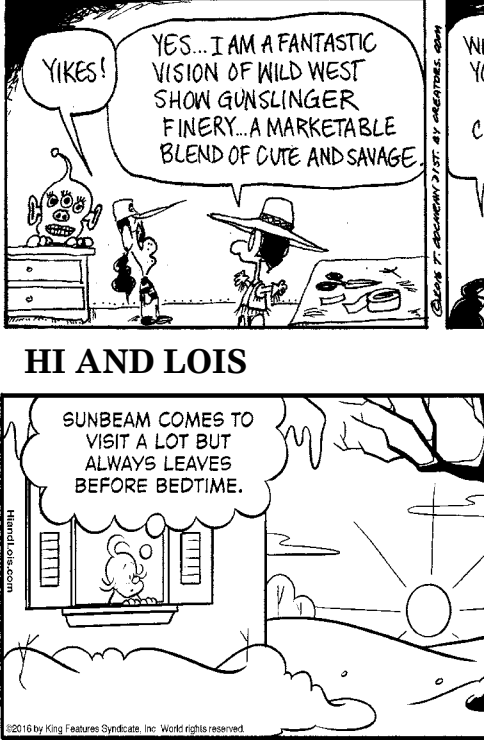
AGNES



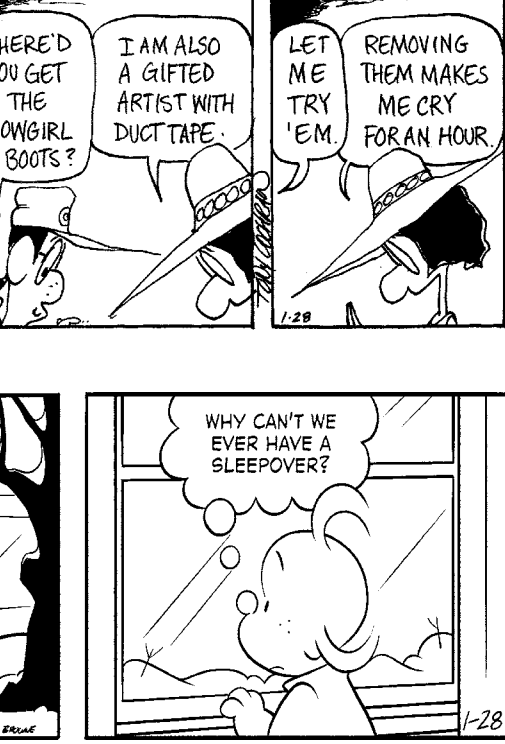
HI AND LOIS



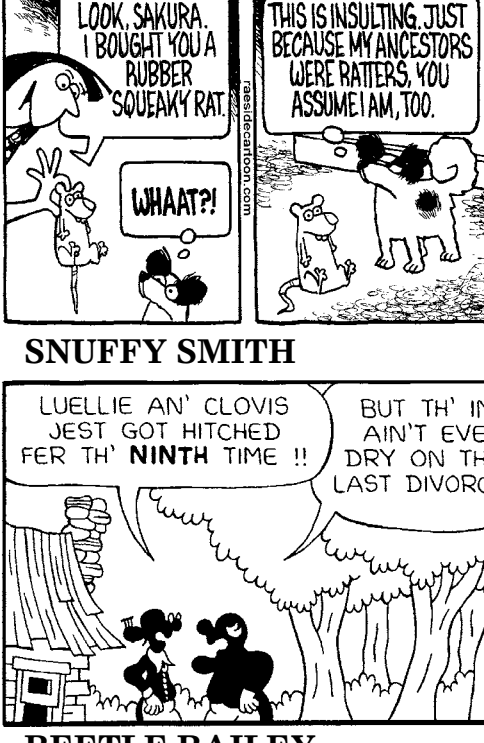
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



THE OTHER COAST



This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Jan. 28, the 28th day of 2016. There are 338 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

- On Jan. 28, 1915, the United States Coast Guard was created as President Woodrow Wilson signed a bill merging the Life-Saving Service and Revenue Cutter Service. The American merchant vessel SS William P. Frye, en route to England with a cargo of wheat, became the first U.S. ship to be sunk during World War I by a German cruiser, the SS Prinz Eitel Friedrich, even though the United States was not at war.
- On this date: In 1547, England's King Henry VIII died; he was succeeded by his 9-year-old son, Edward VI.
- In 1813, the novel "Pride and Prejudice" by Jane Austen was first published anonymously in London.
- In 1909, the United States withdrew its forces from Cuba as Jose Miguel Gomez became president.
- In 1939, Irish poet-dramatist William Butler Yeats died in Menton, France.
- In 1945, during World War II, Allied supplies began reaching

ORANGE BOWL

China over the newly reopened Burma Road.

In 1956, Elvis Presley made his first national TV appearance on "Stage Show," a CBS program hosted by Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey.

In 1962, the last of Washington, D.C.'s original streetcars made its final run.

In 1973, a cease-fire officially went into effect in the Vietnam War.

In 1977, actor-comedian Freddie Prinze, 22, co-star of the NBC-TV show "Chico and the Man," shot and mortally wounded himself at the Beverly Comstock Hotel (he died the following day).

In 1980, six U.S. diplomats who had avoided being taken hostage at their embassy in Tehran flew out of Iran with the help of Canadian diplomats.

In 1985, the charity supergroup USA for Africa recorded the Michael Jackson-Lionel Richie song "We Are the World" at A&M Studios in Los Angeles.

In 1986, the space shuttle Challenger exploded 73 seconds after liftoff from Cape Canaveral, killing all seven crew members, including schoolteacher Christa McAuliffe.

In 2005, Iraqis overseas began three days of voting in 14 nations. Senate Democrats criticized President George W.

Bush's plan to add personal accounts to Social Security and accused his administration of improperly using the Social Security Administration to promote the idea. Consumer products giant Procter & Gamble Co. and Gillette Co. announced a \$57 billion merger.

Ten years ago: A memorial service was held at the Kennedy Space Center to honor the crew of the Challenger on the 20th anniversary of the shuttle disaster.

Thought for Today: "It is difficult to say what is impossible, for the dream of yesterday is the hope of today and the reality of tomorrow."

Robert H. Goddard  
American rocket engineer (1882-1945)

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Last stop before home
  - 6 Chamber music group
  - 11 Site of Gump heroics
  - 14 Backer of the Bulldogs
  - 15 Oslo native's homeland
  - 16 Shout like "Bravo!"
  - 17 Tarantino comedy crime caper
  - 19 App glitch
  - 20 Addition column
  - 21 "Wait a minute . . ."
  - 22 City near Cremona
  - 24 Mason's tool
  - 26 Wombat cousin
  - 28 Wall-tile descriptor
  - 32 Artist fond of lilies
  - 35 Confront
  - 36 Read Across America Day sponsor
  - 37 Eiffel Tower, essentially
  - 38 Uses leverage
  - 40 Make known
  - 41 Unalterable
  - 42 Important stretches
  - 43 Far from windy
  - 44 Players getting byes, often
  - 48 Lawbreakers, so to speak
  - 49 Panoramas
  - 52 Cuban base, familiarly
  - 54 Title given to Poitier
- DOWN
- 1 Keyboard slip
  - 2 Frequent spot
  - 3 Not as hale
  - 4 Unwraps eagerly
  - 5 Telephone trio
  - 6 At the ready
  - 7 French fragrance firm
  - 8 Part of TNT
  - 9 Vanity
  - 10 A bit after the hour
  - 11 Obvious choice
  - 12 Scholarship source, perhaps
  - 13 Prefix for phone
  - 18 "Uh-huh"
  - 23 In-flight stat.
  - 25 Rainy
  - 26 Slapper starter
  - 27 Lofty lines
  - 29 Faulty
  - 30 Pink Panther collectibles
  - 31 Close kin of cabbage
  - 32 Niagara Falls by-product
  - 33 Deep-fried carnival treat
  - 34 Lacking the motivation
  - 38 Attend Eton, e.g.
  - 39 Florida major leaguers
  - 40 Lab glassware
  - 42 Dons judge's garb
  - 43 Manning stats
  - 45 Sleep study acronym
  - 46 How villains behave
  - 47 Limerick's land
  - 50 Ascend
  - 51 Attack command
  - 52 \_\_\_-edged (best-quality)
  - 53 Inspiration
  - 54 Aerobics class prop
  - 56 Highlighters, for instance
  - 59 "Outer" prefix
  - 60 Clean Water Act administrator
  - 61 Airbus product

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

JACK	SOCAL	IPAD
UCLA	PAULO	TOFU
SHUTTER	BUG	SCAT
TEEHIE	EMISSARY	
LADS	NOAH	
REPEL	TAM	ADOPT
ALOE	TAREUP	NEA
BLINDSPOTS	SYSTEM	
BEN	RAISIN	CALM
INTRO	TEE	MESSY
TAIL	RUIN	
SLAPDASH	SNAPTO	
WIKI	SHADETREES	
APED	SAVOR	ITAL
TONS	OMENS	OSSO

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# Health care fines press millennials as deadline nears

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Millions of young adults healthy enough to think they don't need insurance face painful choices this year as the sign-up deadline approaches for President Barack Obama's health care law.

Fines for being uninsured rise sharply in 2016, averaging nearly \$1,000 per household, according to an independent estimate. It's forcing those in their 20s and 30s to take a hard look and see if they can squeeze in coverage to avoid penalties. Many are trying to establish careers or just make progress in a still-bumpy economy.

"There's only so far one can dwindle a ramen-noodle diet," said Christopher Rael of Los Angeles. In his late 20s, Rael is pursuing a degree in sociology and working at a children's center to pay his bills.

With open enrollment over after Jan. 31, Rael is hoping his meager income will qualify him for Medi-Cal, the state's version of Medicaid. "I cannot afford an additional bill," he said. He paid a fine of about \$150 for being unin-

sured in 2014.

The minimum penalty rises to \$695 in 2016 for someone uninsured a full 12 months and not eligible for one of the law's exemptions. That's more than double the corresponding figure of \$325 for 2015.

In practice, the fines will be higher for many consumers. That's because the law sets the penalty as the greater of \$695 or 2.5 percent of taxable income this year. A study by the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation estimates the average 2016 penalty at \$969 per uninsured household.

Fines are collected through the tax returns of uninsured people and in most cases deducted from their tax refunds. The penalty amounts will be increased by a cost-of-living factor in future years.

Penalties are the health care law's nudge to get healthy people into the insurance pool, helping keep premiums manageable for everyone.

Until now, the administration has mainly stressed the benefits: subsidized premiums and protection from the costs of unanticipated injury or serious illness. But with concerns that many young

and healthy people still aren't sold, officials are invoking the threat of penalties.

"The tax penalty is bringing more young and healthy consumers into the market," Andy Slavitt, head of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, said in a recent speech. "We are using a large portion of our marketing resources to make sure that consumers are aware of the increasing fee for people that go without insurance." Slavitt's agency oversees the health care law.

The pressure of rising fines is butting up against the economic situations of uninsured people, nearly half of whom said in a recent Kaiser poll that they've tried but coverage is still too expensive. A big sore point has to do with high deductibles for many health-law insurance plans, which can leave consumers with thousands of dollars in medical bills.

Christina Loucks of Franklin, Tennessee, a small city near Nashville, says the way she figures it, she might still come out ahead financially by paying a \$695 fine.

The insurance plans she's looked at would cost her about \$100 a month in premiums, after subsidies. That

works out to around \$1,200 a year. But the coverage comes with deductibles of several thousand dollars. If she got seriously ill, she would be on the hook for that before her insurance started paying. Normally, she just goes to the doctor for allergy prescriptions.

"I still see it as I am keeping \$500 in my pocket," said Loucks. The \$500 is the difference between a full year of premiums and fine for being uninsured, and that calculation might work if she stays healthy.

In her 30s, Loucks is holding down two jobs as she tries to find a career that aligns with her interest in literature. She's still dealing with student loans, not to mention rent and car payments. "I don't see the benefit for me," she said.

Loucks said she may wait until the last minute to make up her mind, but Julian Rostain has decided he'll take a chance on being fined by the IRS.

In his 20s, Rostain works as a cook at a country club. His dream is to open up his own establishment, serving up "American-French bistro

food with Asian undertones." He lives in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, a farming area not too far from Philadelphia.

Rostain's savings in a rainy-day fund wouldn't allow him to qualify for expanded Medicaid, and he doesn't think he can cover insurance premiums on his budget.

"Do you really think people who can't afford health care should have to pay a penalty?" asks Rostain. The law does offer a low-income exemption, and he's checking into it.

While rising penalties could boost health care sign-ups this year, that's not likely to win hearts and minds for Obama's Affordable Care Act, which remains politically divisive.

"We are talking about paying premium prices for underwhelming health care," said D.J. Byrnes, a sports blogger from Columbus, Ohio, in his 20s and uninsured. "If I want to buy something, I want to make sure it's quality."

Associated Press Social Media Editor Eric Carvin contributed to this report.

## CHALLENGER

Continued from Page 5

Also Thursday, students at Concord High will hold a moment of silence, writing about their dreams as part of a "Reach for the Stars" assignment and listening to discussions about McAuliffe. They are gathering old yearbook photos and combing through the planetarium archives to put together a permanent display.

Scott Reynolds, a 1987 alumnus who teaches science at the elite St. Paul's School in Concord, conducts a field trip to a local cemetery with his students for one course. The students, from all over the world, get demographic data from the gravesites and make a spreadsheet linking people's deaths to wars and diseases.

When they're done, they drive by Christa McAuliffe's gravestone, and he asks if they know who she was.

"There's always one kid who knows," he says. "I can't say I'm depressed. It's 30 years. It's completely understandable that they don't remember this. I'm more enlightened by the fact that there's always somebody who knows who she was."

## Planned Parenthood could face surge of opposition

By Brian M. Rosenthal

Associated Press

A Harris County grand jury's decision Monday to clear Planned Parenthood on organ trafficking charges and instead indict its accusers gave the organization an emphatic victory sweetened by irony and vindication.

To many in Texas and across the country, however, it is hard not to conclude that the people facing jail time already have won the war they launched last summer.

Officials and experts on both sides acknowledged Tuesday the surprise indictments probably will not weaken — and may even strengthen — a nationwide wave of momentum against Planned Parenthood and fetal organ donation that has swelled in the months since California anti-abortion activists used heavily edited undercover videos filmed at a dozen clinics to accuse the organization of selling body parts of aborted fetuses.

Even if activists David Daleiden and Sandra Merritt are convicted on felony charges of faking government documents to pose as human tissue purchasers in an attempt to set up Planned Parenthood, the officials and experts said, it will happen in a nation already changed by their project.

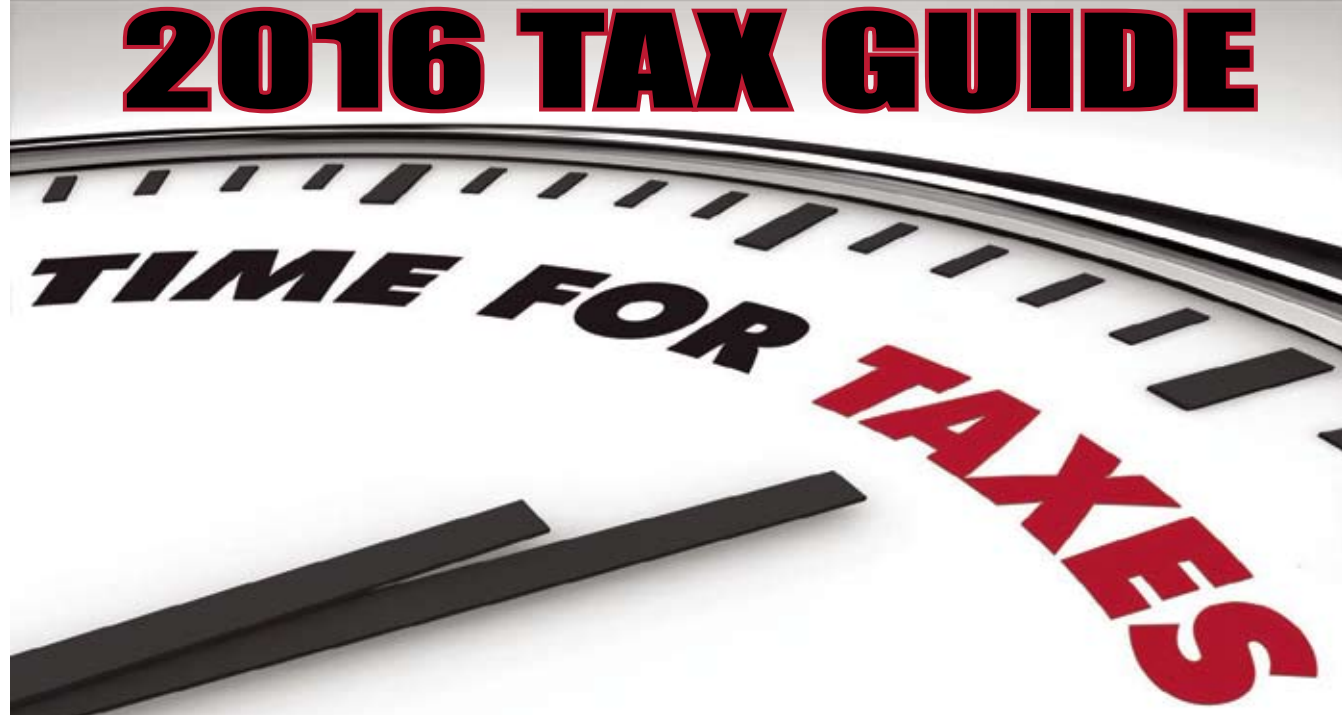
Consider: Fetal tissue, which for decades did not cross the minds of almost any Americans, now is a household term. Planned Parenthood already has announced it no longer will accept any reimbursement for the costs of donating fetal tissue for scientific research. Now, Texas lawmakers are studying legislation to ban fetal tissue donation altogether, despite the scientific breakthroughs it has helped spur in the past.

Meanwhile, Republican congressional leaders have renewed efforts to end all government funding for Planned Parenthood, even for vital services that have nothing to do with abortion.

Texas officials have announced they plan to remove the organization from the state Medicaid program and already have kicked it out of an HIV prevention program.

Investigations ordered by the state's top three elected officials are moving forward.

Have an idea? Comment? Suggestion?  
Contact the Herald at 263-7331 or  
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