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- Precincts 32, 33, 34, 35 and 304 — First Baptist Church, 705 W. FM 700.
- Precincts 42, 45, 46, 404 and 405 — Dorothy Garrett Coliseum, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Precincts 408 and 409 — Sand Springs Fire Station, 8209 N. Service Road, Sand Springs.
- Precincts 207 and 207C — Coahoma Community Center, 306 North Ave., Coahoma.

For more information, contact the Howard County Elections Administrator's office at 432-264-2273.

Minus Scalia, Court to consider abortion case

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court challenge to a Texas law that has dramatically reduced the number of abortion clinics in the state is the justices' most significant case on the hot-tub issue in nearly a quarter-century.

One of this election-year term's biggest cases is being argued Wednesday before a court altered by the death of Justice Antonin Scalia.

See **COURT**, Page 3



Snake, rattle & roll

Sweetwater site of annual rattler roundup

By AMANDA ELSTON
 Managing Editor

SWEETWATER — You don't come across a lot of beauty pageant contestants willing to trade their high heels in for cowboy boots. And you definitely don't come across a lot of those contestants who are gung-ho to skin a western diamondback rattlesnake.

Welcome to West Texas.

For anyone who lives in a 100-mile radius of Sweetwater knows that the Rattlesnake Roundup, the largest in the world, is right around the corner — Miss Snake Charmer pageant, guided rattlesnake hunts, carnival, dance and gun show included.

This year marks the 58th time that the Sweetwater Jaycees have put on their snake-proof boots to keep the rattlesnake population down and provide the event that marks the beginning of spring to most West Texans.

"This is the 58th year of the Roundup, but, as you can tell, handling them doesn't get any easier with time," joked David Sager, senior Jaycee rattlesnake handler, as he pinned down a fairly large rattler for a crowd Friday afternoon. "The weather was cool this morning, which makes it (handling the snakes) a bit easier for

HERALD photos/ Amanda Elston

"Snake eyes" takes on a new meaning in the photo at top as a rattlesnake warily eyes the camera. This snake is one of more than 1,000 expected to be captured during the Sweetwater Jaycees' annual Rattlesnake Roundup, set for March 11-13. In the photo at right, 2015's Miss Snake Charmer, Mikeilah Foust, poses with the 2016 contestants (from top left clockwise), Veronica Caballero, Elle-Kaye Terry, Taylor Soliz, Jacy Sparks, Foust, Karleigh Coldiron, Alyssa Villanueva and Alyssa Soles.



Ex Klan leader at center of GOP joust

The Associated Press

LEESBURG, Va. (AP) — Republican front-runner Donald Trump drew sharp criticism from his rivals in both parties Sunday for refusing to denounce an implicit endorsement from former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke, raising the specter of racism as the presidential campaign hits the South.

Trump was asked on CNN's "State of the Union" whether he rejected support from the former KKK Grand Dragon and other white supremacists after Duke told his radio followers this week that a vote against Trump was equivalent to "treason to your heritage."

"Well, just so you understand, I don't know anything about David Duke. OK?" Trump said. "I don't know anything about what you're even talking about with white su-

See **KLAN**, Page 3

INDEX

Comics	11
Classified	7-10
Election	5
Obituaries	2
Opinion	4
Sports	6



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RATTLER

Continued from Page 1

us.”
The roundup started as a way to keep the population of rattlesnakes down in the area, Sager explained. Before the Roundup, emergency medical responders would get about seven calls a day about rattlesnake sightings and bites, he added.
The roundup provides a way to handle the population, as well as collect anti-venom for those unlucky enough to get bitten.
“If you are bitten you usually need about seven doses of it (anti-venom), which can run up to \$10,000 a dose,” said Sager. “When we catch the snakes, we keep them warm in a storage room until the roundup. Then they are milked and processed for food and hide. The venom is the most important part, since that is what is used to make anti-venom. Our roundup in Sweetwater produces

more venom than any other roundup.”
The Sweetwater Rattlesnake Roundup also collects about 5,000 pounds of snakes per year, according to Jaycees Public Relations Chairman Rob McCann. Just about anyone can drop off their bounty of rattlesnakes with the Jaycees for the roundup. The Jaycees pay \$10 a pound for live, healthy rattlesnakes on Friday, \$7 a pound on Saturday, and \$7 a pound up until noon on Sunday. However, you must have a valid Texas hunting license and a Texas resident non-game permit to do so.
According to McCann, most of those rattlers are coming from right here at home.
“The rattlesnakes collected sometimes come from up to 200 miles away, but about 80 percent of them come from a four-county radius,” said McCann.
It’s not just the snakes that sometimes come in from out of town for the roundup. McCann and the rest of the Jaycees

are expecting up to 40,000 people to visit this small town of almost 11,000 for the event, which takes place March 11-13, preceded by a parade and the Miss Snake Charmer pageant on the 10th.
According to the Economic Impact Analysis of the 2015 roundup, there were an estimated 25,680 festival attendees last year. Of these, 21,314 were non-local.
“The economic support we gain as a community from this is massive,” said McCann. “There is about an \$8.4 million dollar economic impact reaching out to Snyder, Roscoe, and Colorado City.”
Miss Snake Charmer contestants were on hand Friday afternoon to meet with media, network with the Jaycees — oh, and skin some rattlesnakes.
“It’s so weird that it moves in your hand!” exclaimed Mikeilah Foust, 2015’s Miss Snake Charmer, as she proceeded to skin the rattler that just moments prior she had decapitated.
Foust, an 18-year-old

senior at Sweetwater High, is not your average beauty queen. Although born and raised in Sweetwater, Foust’s first pageant was only last year. She was interested in the “snake idea” and handling snakes, but her only experience with snake hunting was with her dad when she was younger.
“Doing the roundup was my first experience doing anything hands-on with the rattlesnakes,” said Foust. “I was surprised to win last year. I was just in it for the fun of it and to gain confidence in public speaking. It has definitely been a ride!”
After being crowned last year, Foust made appearances in the massive snake-pit during the roundup when the Jaycees did the snake demonstrations. She even pinned a rattlesnake and “milked” it for its venom. Foust also appeared at many other Jaycees events throughout the year, such as the Rooster Rally and the Easter egg hunt. For now, though,

she is ready to hand off her crown to one of the other seven contestants as she heads off to Lubbock Christian University next year to study nursing.
“I am super proud of the girls this year,” said Foust. “It takes a lot of guts to compete. I would tell them to soak it all in and enjoy your time doing this. Be yourself and be proud of your differences. Difference is beauty.”
For those interested in making the 65-mile trek east to hear the sound of more than 1,000 rattlers, the events begin Thursday, March 10 with the kickoff parade at 4:30 p.m., a carnival beginning at 5 p.m. and the Miss Snake Charmer pageant beginning at 7 p.m. at the Sweetwater Municipal Auditorium.
The roundup will begin the next day and run through Sunday at the Nolan County Coliseum, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with loads of events in between, such as a gun, knife, and coin show, guided snake hunts, a snake-eating

contest and live music and a dance following on Friday and Saturday nights.
For more information on the event, visit www.rattlesnakeroundup.net.
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Odell Mason, Sr., 86, died Tuesday. Visitation will be 6:00 PM until 8:30 PM Monday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral Services will be at 1:00 PM Tuesday at Mount Rose Baptist Church in Midland. Burial with Military Honors will be at 1:00 PM Wednesday at Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Abilene.
Glenn Person, 88, died Thursday. Funeral service will be at 2:00 PM Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel.
Raul M. Ortiz, Sr., 74, died Thursday. Funeral Mass will be at 10:00 AM Monday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.
Malcolm Farr, 73, died Friday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.
Agnes Carey, 63, died Saturday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

KLAN

Continued from Page 1

premacys or white supremacists.”
Trump’s comments came the same day he retweeted a quote from Benito Mussolini, the 20th century fascist dictator of Italy. And in a boost for his campaign in the South, he scored the endorsement of Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions, one of the most strident opponents of immigration reform on Capitol Hill.
But it was Trump’s statements about Duke that sparked a wave of censures with just two days to go before 11 states hold GOP primaries involving about a quarter of the party’s to-

tal nominating delegate count. Several states in the South, a region with a fraught racial history, are among those voting in the Super Tuesday contests.
Marco Rubio quickly pounced on Trump’s comments, saying the GOP “cannot be a party who refuses to condemn white supremacists and the Ku Klux Klan.”
“Not only is that wrong, it makes him unelectable,” Rubio told thousands of supporters gathered in Leesburg, Virginia. “How are we going to grow the party if we nominate someone who doesn’t repudiate the Ku Klux Klan?”
Texas Sen. Ted Cruz called Trump’s comments “Really sad.”
“You’re better than

this,” Cruz wrote on Twitter. “We should all agree, racism is wrong, KKK is abhorrent.”
Trump has won three of four early voting states, roiling a party divided over the prospect of the brash billionaire becoming its nominee. Late Sunday, Nebraska’s Ben Sasse became the first sitting Republican senator to say explicitly that he would not back Trump if he does win the nomination.
“If Trump becomes the Republican nominee my expectation is that I’ll look for some 3rd candidate — a conservative option, a constitutionalist,” Sasse wrote on Twitter.
With a strong showing on Super Tuesday,

Trump could begin to pull away from his rivals in the all-important delegate count.
In the Southern states that vote Tuesday, Republican candidates will face an electorate that is overwhelmingly white. In South Carolina, the only Southern state to have voted so far, 96 percent of the GOP primary electorate was white, while 6 in 10 voters in the Democratic race were black.
While the South was once a Democratic stronghold, many white conservatives who backed the party started moving toward the GOP during the civil rights movement. Trump has borrowed from the rhetoric former President Richard Nixon used

during that time to appeal to working-class white voters.
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COURT

Continued from Page 1

lia. He was perhaps the most vociferous abortion opponent among the nine justices.
The Texas law has been replicated across the South and elsewhere, part of a wave of state abortion restrictions in the past five years.
States mainly led by Republicans have tried to limit when in a pregnancy abortions may be performed, restricted abortion-inducing drugs that take the place of surgery and increased standards for clinics and the doctors who work in them.
The Supreme Court case involves that last category. A Texas law enacted in 2013 requires doctors who perform abortions to have admitting privileges at nearby hospitals. It also prohibits clinics from providing abortions unless they meet the standards of outpatient or ambulatory surgical centers.
The high court has partially blocked those

measures. If allowed to take full effect, all but 10 clinics in Texas would have to close. There would be no abortion providers in the state’s rural areas or west of San Antonio. The only clinic in the Rio Grande Valley would be allowed to remain open on a limited basis. Before the law was passed, there were roughly 40 clinics in the state. About half have closed.
The case offers competing views of how to protect women’s health. The clinics contend abortions are safer than many other medical procedures that are less stringently regulated and that the clinic regulations have only one purpose: to reduce the availability of abortions.
“These laws are tantamount to an outright ban for too many,” said Amy Hagstrom Miller, chief executive of Whole Woman’s Health, which operates clinics in Texas and other states.
Defenders of the laws in Texas and elsewhere argue that states have discretion to take steps

to make abortions safer. Alabama and other states backing Texas told the Supreme Court that states were within their rights to apply health regulations to clinics for the sake of patients.
“Obviously I’m pro-life and I would like to limit the number of abortions, but here we were looking at women’s health and safety,” said Republican Gov. Robert Bentley of Alabama, a doctor who signed his state’s admitting privileges law.
Texas Solicitor General Scott Keller, who will defend the law at the Supreme Court, said Texas acted in response to the high-profile case of Philadelphia abortion doctor Kermit Gosnell. He is serving a life sentence after his conviction for killing three babies born alive and for the overdose death of a woman who was a clinic patient.
A federal judge in Texas struck down parts of the law as not intended to promote women’s health and clearly aimed at reducing ac-

cess to abortion. But the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans largely accepted the state’s argument.
The justices’ June 2015 order putting the appellate ruling on hold at least suggests that there is a majority to cut back on the regulations. The clinics and abortion-rights groups are hoping for a ruling that might bolster challenges to other restrictions on abortion.
To prevail, they still need Justice Anthony Kennedy’s vote, along with the reasonably certain votes of four more liberal justices, just as they did before Scalia’s death. Kennedy was part of the 5-4 majority to reaffirm abortion rights in 1992, then wrote the court’s decision in 2007 that upheld a federal law banning a certain procedure that opponents call partial-birth abortion. That was also a 5-4 split.

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South takes its place in campaign spotlight

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — Eight years ago, Democrats were such a dominant force in Arkansas that Republicans didn't bother putting up a challenger for a U.S. Senate seat.

Today, the state that launched the careers of generations of centrist Democrats, including Bill Clinton, has joined the rest of the South in largely turning its back on the party.

Democrats have control of just one governor's mansion, one Senate seat and no legislative chambers from the Carolinas westward to Texas. That stretch includes five states voting on Super Tuesday, a delegate-rich day of contests that will put the South in the spotlight.

The region's flip from Democratic stronghold to Republican bulwark is steeped in decades-old shifts in the national parties. But it's also accelerated under President Barack Obama, an urbane, African-American politician with little connection to white Southerners who once kept Democrats in power in the region.

That's left the South a starker, more sharply divided microcosm of the demographic dynamics at play across the country.

Republican presidential candidates are fighting for support from a mostly white electorate, including many voters who feel alienated by sweeping economic and cultural changes. Democrats will depend on growing minority populations and voters — white and nonwhite — clustered in heavily populated urban areas.

In the upcoming Southern primaries, that means Hillary Clinton could sweep the region, but with Democratic electorates that have much larger proportions of African-Americans than those that propelled her husband's successful 1992 campaign.

The changes have given Donald Trump, hardly a conservative by traditional definition, an unexpected foothold with voters who feel both emboldened in the South and left behind by their party's leaders in Washington.

As Trump began campaigning throughout the South last year, he issued a rallying cry that has long resonated in the region.

"The silent majority is back!" he declared. The message was so well-received that Trump's campaign started distributing signs emblazoned with the phrase at rallies.

Trump's rhetoric harkened back to Richard Nixon's "southern strategy," a concerted effort to bolster support from working-class white voters in the elections that followed passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Nixon made frequent references to the "silent majority" and the "forgotten majority." In the years since, his aides have acknowledged that he patterned his approach after that of George Wallace, Alabama's segregationist governor and a two-time presidential candidate.

To Richard Fording, chairman of the po-

litical science department at the University of Alabama, there are similarities in the angst Nixon saw brewing in the Southern electorate a half-century ago and what Trump is tapping into now.

"There is this silent majority phenomenon," Fording said.

"A lot of it has to do with race: the first black president, immigration, other threats to social and cultural values. There's a lot of anger, and it's very satisfying for people to listen to Donald Trump."

Exit polls from last week's Republican primary in South Carolina — the first Southern state to vote in the 2016 contest — showed that Trump can draw votes from the evangelical Christians and social conservatives who are the cornerstone of the GOP electorate in the region.

The twice-divorced New York real estate mogul won 33 percent of voters who described themselves as born-again or evangelical Christians. That was more than any of his rivals, including Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, whose campaign is centered on appealing to religious and social conservatives, particularly in the South.

In Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia and Tennessee, all states that vote on Tuesday, evangelicals make up about 40 percent or more of the population, according to the Pew Research Center.

Texas, which also votes Tuesday, lags slightly behind with about 31 percent of voters describing themselves as evangelicals.

Unlike Trump, Hillary Clinton's ties to the South run deep. She spent 12 years as the first lady of Arkansas and was active in the state during her husband's terms as governor.

But the political shifts across the region have dramatically remade the Democratic electorate she faces on Super Tuesday.

When Bill Clinton was on the ballot in the 1992 Democratic primaries, the electorate in Georgia was 70 percent white and 29 percent black. In Alabama that same year, the Democratic primary electorate was 76 percent white and 23 percent black.

By 2008, exit poll data from Democratic primaries showed a major shift of whites away from the party in Southern states. In Georgia, 42 percent of voters



Donald Trump gestures while making a campaign speech in Madison, Ala. Sunday.

were white and 52 percent black. In Alabama, it was 44 percent white and 51 percent black.

The trend looks certain to continue in the current election. According to exit polls in South Carolina, the only state with a sizeable black population to vote in the primaries thus far, 96 percent of voters in the GOP contest were white and about 60 percent of those voting in the Democratic race were black.

As the demographics have changed, the conservative Democrats who once represented the South in Congress and in governor's mansions have disappeared. Nowhere did that happen more abruptly than in Arkansas.

For years, Arkansas defiantly remained Democratic while its neighbors moved toward the GOP. Democrats like Bill Clinton, former Gov. Mike Beebe and former Sen. Mark Pryor thrived as centrists willing to buck the national party. Even Republican leaders in the state, like former Gov. Mike Huckabee, had to govern as moderates to draw support from powerful white conservative Democrats.

"Arkansas Democrats managed to present themselves as different from national Democrats for decades longer than Democrats in the rest of the South," said Janine Parry, a political science professor at the University of Arkansas who runs an annual poll of the state's political landscape.

Parry said everything began to change under Obama, who was "so cosmopolitan that Arkansas could just not identify with him." Ev-

ery Democrat at every level of government was essentially linked to Obama and fell like dominos, including Sens. Blanche Lincoln in 2010 and Pryor in 2014.

Charles Bullock, a University of Georgia professor who specializes in Southern politics, said that while moderate Democrats politicians still exist in the region, they see little incentive to launch campaigns in the South's current political climate.

"People like that right now are sitting on the sidelines," Bullock said. "You don't want to go

out and run in a hopeless case."

While the 2016 general election will likely be dismal for Democrats in the South, party leaders see reasons to hope the region can at least become competitive in the near future.

A majority of black Americans now live in the South, reversing a decades-long trend of migration to the north, and the Hispanic population in the region is also booming. Unless Republicans are able to increase their gains with both groups, the demographics should

make the South more favorable to Democrats over time.

The party has seen signs of progress in states such as Virginia and North Carolina. Democratic candidates have found favor not only with minorities but also white northerners who have moved to the Washington, D.C., suburbs and the Research Triangle area of North Carolina. Still, the results in those states remain mixed, particularly in North Carolina, which has moved back to the right after Obama's upset win there in 2008.

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Tied with the Intimidator

Johnson reaches milestone with win in Atlanta Sunday

HAMPTON, Ga. (AP) — Jimmie Johnson reached another milestone in his brilliant NASCAR career. This one was really special.

Win No. 76. Right up there with the Intimidator.

Johnson's victory at Atlanta Motor Speedway on Sunday pushed him into a tie for seventh place on the career list with the late Dale Earnhardt, who was killed in a last-lap crash at the 2001 Daytona 500 just a few months before Johnson joined the Cup series.

"I didn't have a chance to race against him," Johnson said. "There's been a big void in my mind ... so to tie him, for me personally, it gives me a little bit of attachment to the great Dale Earnhardt."

After a chaotic finish, the significance of the triumph didn't occur

to Johnson at first. Then it hit him, so he took another spin in front of the grandstand, sticking his hand out of the car to hold up three fingers.

No. 3 was Earnhardt's number, of course.

And, in an appropriate twist, Johnson teammate Dale Earnhardt Jr. crossed the line next, edging out Kyle Busch for the runner-up spot by mere inches.

"I think dad would've liked Jimmie as a person," Junior said, "but he certainly wouldn't have enjoyed competing against him."

Next on Johnson's bucket list: another series championship. By winning the second race of the season, he essentially wrapped up his spot in the season-ending Chase, where he'll be attempting to join Earnhardt and Richard Petty as the only drivers to capture seven Cup titles.



Jimmie Johnson (48) passes Chris Buescher during the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series race in Atlanta Sunday. AP photo

"The six that I have, I know how special and meaningful they are," Johnson said. "If I have a chance to win a seventh and tie Petty and Earnhardt, that would be just monumental."

Polished and well-liked throughout the garage, Johnson would appear to have little in common with the Intimidator, a rough-and-tumble driver who didn't mind making others mad and doing whatever it took to win the race — even if it meant knocking someone out

of the way.

"He didn't get that Intimidator title by being nice to everybody," quipped Rick Hendrick, the owner of Johnson's No. 48 car.

But Earnhardt Jr. thinks his father, if he had lived, would have become fast friends with Johnson.

Certainly, he would've respected Johnson's skills behind the wheel, which were on full display Sunday as he struggled to maintain control of his car on fading tires, having made his final green-flag pit

stop ahead of everyone else in a strategic bid to snatch the lead away from Kevin Harvick.

"Knowing dad and knowing Jimmie's character, they would've gotten along tremendously and dad would've thought the world of him," Earnhardt Jr. said. "How can you not like Jimmie? He's just a good guy who never stepped over the line with anything he's ever said or anything he's ever done."

All he does is win, with staggering consistency.

The 40-year-old has now earned a victory in every full-time Cup season, extending the streak to 15 years in a row.

As fit as any driver in the series, he could likely remain at the top of the game for another decade or more. While Petty's record of 200 career victories is unlikely to ever be duplicated — he competed largely in a different era with far more races each year — Johnson certainly has the potential to reach the second spot on the list.

Parson paces Mavs past T-Wolves

DALLAS (AP) — Owner Mark Cuban believes boos from the home crowd during a bad start in the last game for the Dallas Mavericks probably got the attention of his team.

Maybe so.

Chandler Parsons scored 29 points as the Mavericks started fast after a woeful opening half two nights earlier and rolled to a 128-101 victory against the Minnesota Timberwolves on Sunday night.

"This was a mature win for us," said Parsons, who scored 13 straight Dallas points over the second and third quarters to help restore a 20-point lead built in the first 11 minutes of a sixth straight victory against Minnesota. "Obviously we haven't been perfect and we've had some inconsistencies, but we are sticking together."

Two nights after scoring 27 points to help Dallas rally

from 23 down in the second quarter of an overtime victory against Denver, Parsons was 10 of 15 from the field, made four of seven from 3-point range and hit all five of his free throws.

"We went to him a lot and he delivered," coach Rick Carlisle said. "He played a really smart game."

Shabazz Muhammad scored 24 points to lead the Timberwolves, who used nine players and dropped to 1-10 on the second night of a back-to-back after rallying for a win at New Orleans.

"We get tomorrow off, but we just look like a tired basketball team," interim Minnesota coach Sam Mitchell said. "You could see it in their eyes."

Dirk Nowitzki and Parsons sparked the quick start, both scoring 10 points on 4-of-6 shooting, including 2 of 3 from 3-point range, in the first quarter. The Mavericks went up 39-19

on Nowitzki's layup for his last points of the game with 1:15 left in the first quarter.

The 7-foot German left early in the third quarter with his fourth foul, and the Mavericks were up by 26 points when he finally came back late in the quarter. Apparently realizing they could rest the 37-year-old, the Dallas coaches pulled him again 24 seconds after he returned.

With Nowitzki and all but one starter for both teams sitting the entire fourth quarter, Dallas' lead reached 31 as Parsons had to settle for finishing two points shy of his season high while getting six rebounds and four assists.

Wesley Matthews scored 15 points, and backcourt mate Deron Williams had 10 points and nine of the Mavericks' season-high 34 assists. Dallas had its largest margin of victory a week after beating Philadelphia

by 26.

"We've been emphasizing getting off to some better offensive starts, and we five collectively had to make a decision to get us going in the first and third quarter," Parsons said. "We've been straggling a bit there with our spacing."

Muhammad scored 11 points in the second quarter and the Timberwolves got as close as seven before the Mavericks pushed their lead back to 65-54 at halftime when Parsons hit a pullup jumper over Karl-Anthony Towns from just inside the arc.

Andrew Wiggins scored 15 points, and Towns had 12 points and 11 rebounds a night after getting 30 and 15. Zach LaVine, the only starter for either team to play in the fourth quarter, had 10 points on 3-of-14 shooting with nine rebounds after scoring 25 against the Pelicans.

Scott makes statement with Honda title

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. (AP) — Adam Scott seemed like the only person who wasn't worried about the 35-inch length of his putter.

Scott was far more concerned that he had gone 36 tournaments over 21 months without winning anywhere in the world, the longest drought of his career. Nearly two years removed from No. 1 in the world, he was on the verge of falling out of the top 20 when he began his first big stretch of golf leading into the Masters.

Sunday in the Honda Classic turned out to be quite a statement.

Coming off a runner-up finish at Riviera last week, Scott closed with an even-par 70 in tough conditions at PGA National to hold off Sergio Garcia for a one-shot

victory.

"I want to feel somewhat relevant out here when it comes to being one of the best players in the world," Scott said. "That's just down to my results. There's no other way. You can talk it in your head and try and build yourself up as much as you want, but at some point, you're going to have to have the results to actually prove it and achieve."

"I like where things are at," he said. "And hopefully, it's a move in the right direction to be in that top 10 player in the world."

His 26th victory worldwide took care of that. Scott finished at 9-under 271 and moved up to No. 9, and there's little to suggest he's about to stop there. This was his 18th consecutive round at par or better. Dating to the Japan Open last

fall, he has finished out of the top 10 only twice in his last nine tournaments.

That's about the time Scott switched back to the short putter for good.

"I've kind of said it the whole time. I don't think it's going to be that big a deal for me," Scott said. "It's some hard work, and I'm not afraid of that. I'm glad it's going in the right direction, and I've putted pretty solid the last couple weeks, and I want to make sure that keeps going."

Overlooked in the chatter about long putters is that Scott had won 18 times worldwide with a conventional putter, including The Players Championship and the Tour Championship. He went to a long putter that he anchored against his chest at the Match Play Championship in 2011, and he con-

tended in the Masters two months later.

When he won the Masters in 2013, he was the fourth winner in six majors to use an anchored putting stroke.

Perhaps because he reached No. 1 in the world, Scott became the face of the long putters when a new rule that outlawed the anchored stroke kicked in this year. For those who wondered if his career was in jeopardy, check out that trophy he was holding Sunday.

Scott won in only his third start since the rule took effect, and his 10th event since he switched back to the conventional putter for good.

Asked if it was good to get that out of the way, the 35-year-old Aussie couldn't resist.

Rangers, Desmond reach deal

SURPRISE, Ariz. (AP) — Free agent Ian Desmond has agreed to a one-year contract with the Texas Rangers that will include a move to the outfield for the one-time All-Star shortstop who was expected to be in their camp Monday.

The deal was near completion after Desmond passed his physical Sunday, according to a baseball official who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because there was no official announcement from the team. The \$8 million deal was first reported earlier in the day by Fox Sports.

Desmond is expected to play left field for the AL West champion Rangers. The 30-year-old has started only one of his 927 career games in the outfield while playing all seven of his major league seasons with the Washington Nationals.

Josh Hamilton will start the season on the disabled list for Texas, and is expected to miss at least the first month of the season because of issues with his surgically repaired left knee.

"I want what's best for the team. I want to do whatever I can obviously on the field to help the team win, but if I'm not there, I expect them to put somebody out there that's going to give us the best chance to win," Hamilton said Sunday after word of the deal spread through camp.

Hamilton, a five-time All-Star and the 2010 AL MVP, had two operations on his knee last year and a cortisone shot in January. But he experienced soreness and swelling after reporting to Arizona early, and still has several days on crutches after a stem cell and platelet-rich plasma injection last week.

Along with the shift to the outfield, Desmond could give shortstop Elvis Andrus an occasional break, as well as second baseman Rougned Odor.

Andrus, a two-time All-Star, said he was told that Desmond will be playing left field "and not to worry about it." Andrus said he first met Desmond while facing each other in the minor leagues.

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HERALD



Lunar Split on Leap Day

Leap day is added once every four years to keep Easter consistent with the vernal equinox -- the first day of spring. As the earth's revolution around the sun is 365.25 days, not 365, this extra day keeps our world turning smoothly. The intriguing Scorpio moon opens this extra day in February and the Sagittarius moon will close it out.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The same job that is terrifically rewarding can also be, at times, tedious and torturous. Your attitude will make all of the difference in tipping the dynamic into your happy zone.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It would be easy to discount the information contrary to your worldview and cling to the information that fits. That, however, will lead to problems later.

Take a good hard look at the thing that contradicts you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). No one goes to the store to make a corporation profitable. People are seeking the fulfillment of their own needs and wants -- don't forget it. You can provide the answer, and you will be rewarded for this!

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're deciding with whom to partner. Often those who possess strengths different from your own are uncomfortable to be around, and yet, if you can make it work, you'll be so much stronger.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). How can you turn enemies into friends? Introduce a third and more formidable enemy that can only be defeated by the two other parties joining forces to work together. This "enemy" will come in the form of a problem to be solved.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). If you could be doing anything at all, what would you rather be doing? There will be opportunities to get

Tomorrow's Horoscope

more of your desired activities into your life -- that is, if you know what they are!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). When you meet people, they will decide straightaway whether you have something they can use or not. Trust in the worthiness of your offerings. See, connect and then do nothing. Let them come to you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). One way to exhaust your resources is to waste time trying to make sense of senseless things. Once you recognize lunacy, call it that and move on to something in which you can make a difference.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Groups can be like miniature countries, naturally developing their own cultures, power structures, status grids and rules. To operate within the group you must join it. Ignore at your own peril.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It is natural to want to please the authority, fit in with the situation and do

what's expected. However strong this human tendency, there's something stronger in you that comes into play -- the need to hold to your own truth.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your way may be the absolute best, but if it's not the most popular or most recommended way, it's not going to fly. Work on doing what it takes to get more fans. Friendly outreach will be, in many cases, all it takes.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your well-being is important, but you are also responsible for the well-being of another, which you consider to be more important. Because you are so clear on your priorities your next move is a no-brainer.

a different way to run your domestic life, and this promotes harmony and love in your life. Scorpio and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 30, 3, 31 and 17.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm a 40-year-old Scorpio man. Last night I had a dream about a big snake. It was dark in color and the head was nearly human-sized. I think it was a python, because I had the feeling it could strangle me. I had to grab the mouth, and I was wrestling with it. The next day I thought about the dream several times. It seemed so vivid that I just couldn't shake it. It was haunting my thoughts. Do you see anything ominous in the stars for me?"

I don't see anything ominous. If anything, I see that you are handling things because you recognize the full implications of the obstacles you face and you're willing to fight the good fight.

Answer these questions to throw further

light on the meaning of this dream to you: Are you struggling with a decision or with your feelings about a change in your life? What can you do to give yourself an advantage in the situation? Is there a person who you feel is being deceptive toward you? If so, this is something to address now from your current position of power.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Celebrity superstar Tony Robbins was born on this unusual day in the year 1960. The sun and Mercury, the communication planet, were both in Pisces at his time of birth, indicating a vivid imagination and uncannily accurate ability to sense what others are thinking and feeling. The moon was in gallant Aries, lending the fearlessness required for stadium-level public speaking!

To write to Holiday Mathis, visit www.creators.com and click "Write the Author" on her page.
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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: People think they know how eating disorders start, but I want to share my story, which might surprise people. I never set out to have an eating disorder. In fact, I didn't even set out to lose weight. However, after I took up running to relieve stress and ended up losing a few pounds, I was pleasantly surprised by how people reacted to me and how I felt about myself.

Pretty soon, running became more of an obligation than something I did to relieve stress. Then, I became obsessed with everything I ate. I had to eat certain things at certain times

of the day and it all had to be super healthy. My world was getting smaller and smaller, as I eliminated various foods and drinks. Being with friends who questioned my habits became too much effort, so I withdrew socially. Without friends around to keep me in check, the weight dropped off drastically and I became emaciated. I thought I was fine.

Finally, my parents stepped in and threatened me with involuntary hospitalization, so I submitted to treatment. It wasn't easy, and I mourned the loss of my hypercontrolled life. But it was worth it. Not only did it save my life, but also it enabled me to

have a life filled with normal, fun activities that would not have been possible when I was sick. I remember the first time I went out for Mexican food with friends after my recovery. I ate enchiladas and drank a margarita and realized that I was rediscovering a life that I thought I had lost forever.

I want people to know that treatment is effective. There is a great life out there waiting for them. -- Rachel

Dear Rachel: Thank you. Eating disorders and body dissatisfaction affect men and women of all races and all walks of life. They have the highest rate of mortality of any mental

illness. Unfortunately, of the 30 million men and women who suffer from a clinically significant eating disorder during their lifetime, only a small percentage seeks treatment. There are free and anonymous screenings available at MyBodyScreening.org, where you will be provided with local resources and can take the first step toward healing. We hope our readers and their loved ones will check it out.

Dear Annie: Like "Bah, Humbug," my family also includes people who are better off than others. At Christmas, we give to charity. We try to find a worthy cause that the relative would

appreciate. My father likes to build things, so I might choose a bag of nails for Habitat for Humanity. For my brother, I once chose a portion of a donkey from the Heifer Project. He had great fun with that when people would ask him what he got.

You could do this any time during the year and then send a card at Christmas telling the person of your gift in their honor. It leaves everyone with a good feeling, and they know they have helped others. -- No Stress

Dear No Stress: This type of gift is a wonderful idea and can be tailored to anyone's specific interests. As al-

ways, please check out the charity with one of the watchdog organizations such as charitynavigator.org, charitywatch.org or give.org.

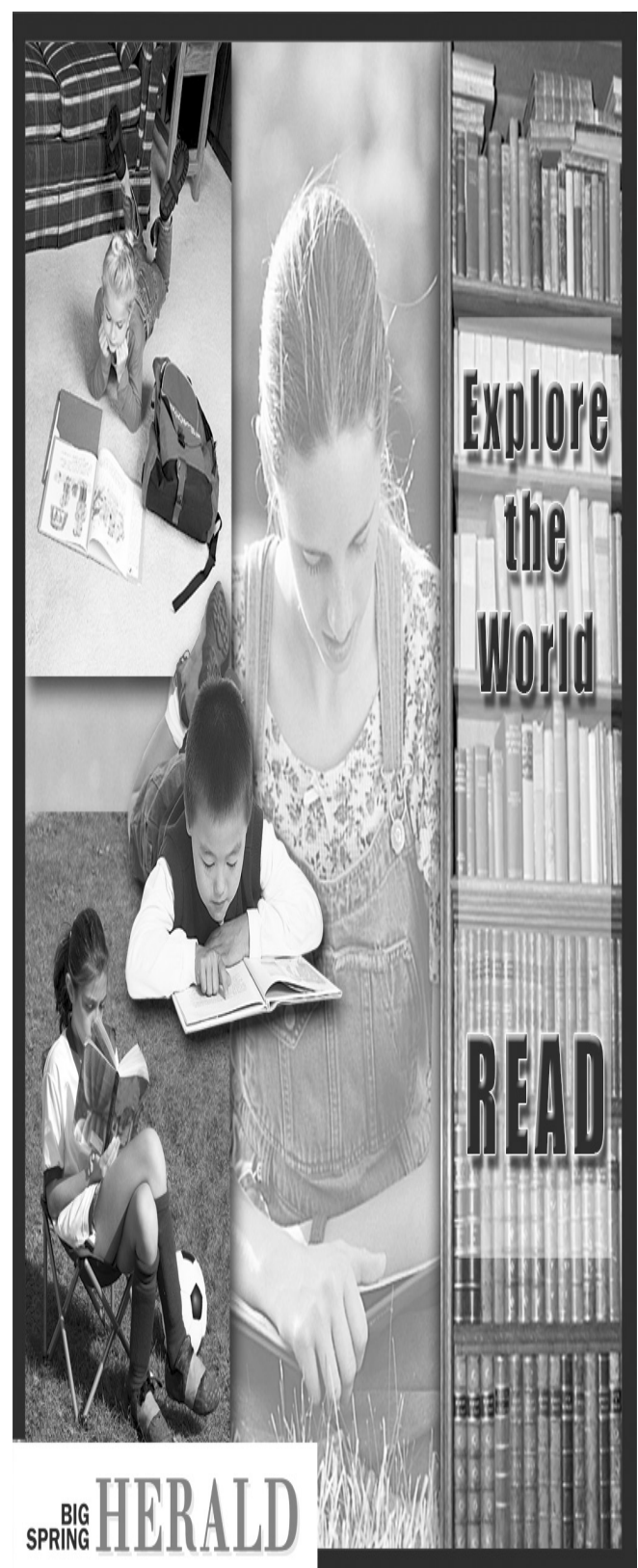
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Contract Bridge
By Steve Becker
Famous Hand

South dealer.
East-West vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ K 9 5 4 3 2
♥ 6 3
♦ 4 2
♣ A 8 4

WEST
♠ 6
♥ 8
♦ A Q 10 7 3
♣ K Q J 10 7 3

EAST
♠ Q J 10 8 7
♥ 10 4
♦ J 6 5
♣ 9 6 5

SOUTH
♠ A
♥ A K Q J 9 7 5 2
♦ K 9 8
♣ 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ 4 NT Dble Pass
5 ♠

Opening lead — king of clubs.

The opponents' bidding sometimes draws a road map for declarer to follow that he would be unlikely to find had the opponents remained silent. For example, take this deal played by multitime world champion Bob Hamman in a U.S. national championship.

Hamman's opening one-club bid was artificial and forcing, promising at least 17 high-card points with almost any distribution. West's four notrump announced a strong two-suiter in the minors. The double by

North indicated at least moderate values, and South's five-heart bid closed the auction.

Without a club lead, Hamman would have had no trouble collecting 11 tricks. But West's king-of-clubs lead cut South off from dummy's king of spades. As a result, declarer was faced with the possibility of losing three diamond tricks. However, Hamman utilized his knowledge of West's hand to bring the contract home.

After taking the club ace, he led a diamond to his nine, losing to the ten. As expected, West shifted to a trump. After winning the eight with the nine, Hamman now made his second key play in the diamond suit by returning the king!

West took the king with the ace, but, just as Hamman hoped, he did not have another trump to lead. Declarer ruffed the queen-of-clubs return, trumped his last diamond in dummy and so made the contract.

By playing the diamonds as he did, Hamman prevented East — the player far more likely to hold two or three trumps — from ever gaining the lead. Had Hamman put up the king of diamonds at trick two, or led the eight of diamonds instead of the king at trick four, East would have won the second diamond with the jack and returned a trump to sink the contract.

Tomorrow: Luck is a friendly enemy.
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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	6	2
2				9	3		1	4
1				8			5	
3				4	6		9	
				3	8	6		
	4				9	1		
	2	1						
			5	9				3
9				6	2			1

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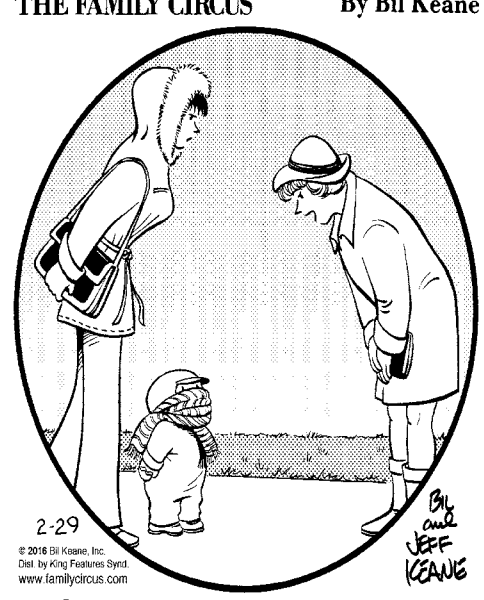
	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	KWES2 (15) Midland	WTBS (33) Atlanta	TNT (34) Atlanta	ESPN (35) Sports	ESPN2 (36) Sports	FSN (38) Sports	USA (55) New York	A&E (58) New York	DISC (60) Discovery
5 :PM :30	Local 2 ABC	Hotel Notic.	Big Bang Cleveland	News CBS	Tele Noticiero	News News	Uri Harel D Stringer	Over Business	Mama's Mama's	American American	American American	Lincoln Law- yer (DVS)	SportsCenter	Around Pardon	LSU Cameras	NCIS (DVS)	Corrie Nielsen	Street Out- laws
6 :PM :30	Jeopardy! Wheel	Un Camino hacia el	Mod Fam Big Bang	News ET	Caso Cer- rado	News News	McDonald Dr.	PBS News- Hour	M*A*S*H M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy Fam. Guy		College Basketball	Women's College Basketball	Pelicans O'Brien	NCIS (DVS)		Street Out- laws
7 :PM :30	The Bachelor	Antes Muerta que	Gotham (DVS)	Supergirl	¿Quién es quién?	The Voice	Upd Discovery	Antiques Roadshow	Griffith Griffith	Crazy Ex- Girlfriend	Fam. Guy American	Major Crimes			Stars Pre. NHL Hockey: Detroit Red Wings at Dallas Stars.	WWE Mon- day Night RAW	Movie	Street Out- laws
8 :PM :30	(:01) Castle	Pasión y poder	(:01) Lucifer	Scorpion	Eva la Trailera (SS)	Light of the Southwest	Antiques Roadshow	Hap.Days Laverne	Jane the Virgin	Angle Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Major Crimes	College Basketball: Kansas at Texas.	NBA Coast to Coast				Street Out- laws
9 :PM :30	(:01) Castle	El Hotel de los	News TMZ	NCIS: Los Angeles	Blindspot		Independent Lens	Heroes Seinfeld	Heroes Seinfeld	Full		Major Crimes					To Be An- nounced	Rockin' Roadsters
10 :PM :30	Local 2 Jimmy Kim- mel Live	Impacto Noticiero	Broke Girl Mod Fam	News To Be An- nounced	Tele Titulares	News Tonight Show	House Mani	Charlie Rose	C. Burnett Perry Mason	Cougar Cougar	Conan	Law & Order	SportsCenter	Basket NFL Live	Star Post. Sportsday	(:05) Colony	To Be An- nounced	Street Out- laws
11 :PM :30	Nightline	Contacto Deportivo	How I Met James Corden	James Corden	Eva la Trailera (SS)	News Upd	Yohanan	T. Smiley (Off Air)	Twi. Zone The Rock- ford Files	Commun King	Conan	Law & Order	SportsCenter	NBA Jalen	NHL Hockey: Red Wings at Stars	CSI: Crime Scene	(:01) Movie	Rockin' Roadsters
12 :AM :30	Extra Wounds of Racism	Corazón Indomable	Friends TBA	TBA	Pagado (:08) Today	News Pagado	1st Fruits		Kojak	King Cougar	Larry the Batter	Law & Order	SportsCenter	30 for 30		CSI: Crime Scene	To Be An- nounced	Street Out- laws
1 :AM :30	Paid	Hotel	Law Order: CI	ET										30 for 30		CSI: Crime Scene	To Be An- nounced	Street Out- laws

DENNIS THE MENACE



"WAKE UP, MR. WILSON! IT'S LEAP YEAR! NOW WE GOT A WHOLE EXTRA DAY...SO YOU CAN EXPLAIN WHY."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

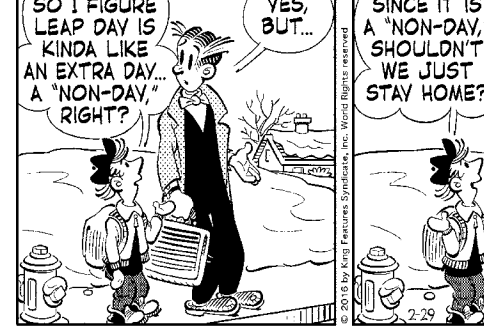


"Oh, yes, I see the resemblance. He has your eyes."

HAGAR



BLONDIE



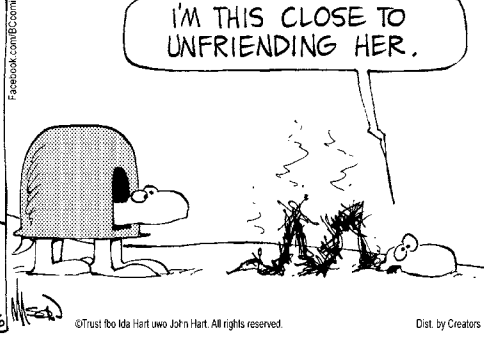
WHAMMO



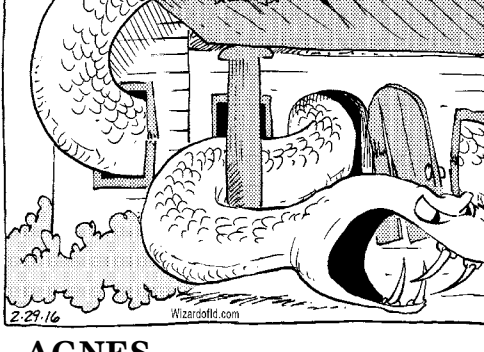
WIZARD OF ID



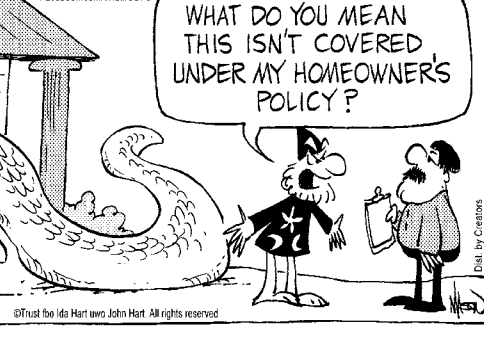
AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEETLE BAILY



This Date In History

Today is Monday, Feb. 29, the 60th day of 2016. There are 306 days left in the year. This is Leap Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 29, 1916, singer, actress and TV personality Dinah Shore was born Frances Rose Shore in Winchester, Tennessee. (Shore, who claimed March 1, 1917 as her birthdate, died in 1994 just days before she would have turned 78.)

On this date:

In 1504, Christopher Columbus, stranded in Jamaica during his fourth voyage to the West, used a correctly predicted lunar eclipse to frighten hostile natives into providing food for his crew.

In 1796, President George Washington proclaimed Jay's Treaty, which settled some outstanding differences with Britain, in effect.

In 1892, the United States and Britain agreed to submit to arbitration their dispute over seal-hunting rights in the Bering Sea. (A commission later ruled in favor of Britain.)

In 1904, President Theodore Roosevelt appointed a seven-member commission to facilitate completion of the Panama Canal.

In 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a second Neutrality Act as he appealed to American businesses not to increase exports to belligerents.

In 1940, "Gone with the Wind" won eight Academy Awards, including best picture of 1939; Hattie McDaniel won for best supporting actress, the first black performer so honored.

In 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower announced he would seek a second term of office. Serial killer Aileen Wuornos was born in Rochester, Michigan (she was executed by the state of Florida in 2002).

In 1960, the first Playboy Club, featuring waitresses clad in "bunny" outfits, opened in Chicago. Serial killer Richard Ramirez was born in El Paso, Texas (he died in 2013 while awaiting execution in California).

In 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson's National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders (also known as the Kerner Commission) warned that racism was causing America to move "toward two societies, one black, one white. . . separate and unequal." The discovery of a "pulsar," a star which emits regular radio waves, was announced by Dr. Jocelyn Bell Burnell in Cambridge, England.

In 1980, former Israeli for-

Thought for Today:

"Trouble is a part of your life, if you don't share it, you don't give the person who loves you a chance to love you enough."
Dinah Shore
1916-1994

Newsday Crossword

IT'S LEAP DAY by Gail Grabowski

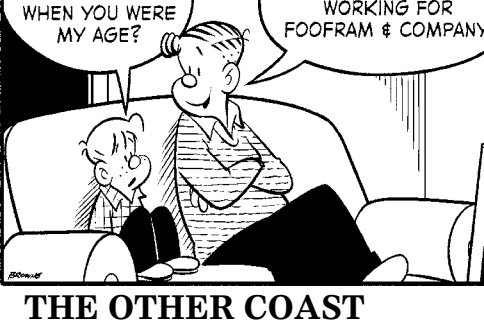
- Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com
- ACROSS**
- 1 Fence openings
 - 6 Luxurious
 - 10 One-person performance
 - 14 Look forward to
 - 15 Penny-__ poker
 - 16 Corrosive compound
 - 17 Tube-shaped pasta
 - 18 Pull apart, as paper
 - 19 __ over backwards (try hard)
 - 20 Times when collegians head to Florida
 - 23 Beret or bonnet
 - 25 Went by bus or train
 - 26 Large coffee dispensers
 - 27 They walk back and forth
 - 29 Centers of peaches
 - 31 Loosen, as laces
 - 32 Be worthy of
 - 34 Mas' mates
 - 37 Obligated legally
 - 41 Sample of soup
 - 42 Microwave oven sound
 - 43 Fate
 - 44 Compact-__ player (audio device)
 - 46 Gym's storage compartment
 - 47 Ship's docking spot
 - 49 Sprinkler attachment
 - 52 Letter before tee
 - 53 Reviving, as a car battery
 - 56 Region
 - 57 One of the Great Lakes
- DOWN**
- 1 Empty space
 - 2 Amaze
 - 3 Sunbather's goal
 - 4 Theory of relativity
 - 5 Staircase part
 - 6 Backyard barbecue area
 - 7 For weeks __ (continuously)
 - 8 Theater actor's accessory
 - 9 Basil or oregano
 - 10 Cavalry swords
 - 11 Pacific or Atlantic
 - 12 Pieces of a chain
 - 13 Racetrack postings
 - 21 Train lines: Abbr.
 - 22 Monotonous routine
 - 23 Capital of Vietnam
 - 24 Misbehave
 - 27 London taverns
 - 28 Color of Santa's suit
 - 30 Rural hotel
 - 32 Vision-testing wall postings
 - 33 Top poker card
 - 34 Leaves a car in a lot
 - 35 Summits
 - 36 Top-billed performer
 - 38 Air-gun ammo
 - 39 Boxing match ender, for short
 - 40 Indy 500 attendee
 - 44 Leave for a trip
 - 45 Tax-collecting agcy.
 - 46 Hawaiian necklace
 - 47 Blender setting
 - 48 "That is to say . . ."
 - 50 Hunter constellation
 - 51 Sunflower stalks
 - 53 Quick punches
 - 54 Hot herbal drinks
 - 55 University sports org.
 - 59 Bro's sibling
 - 60 Also
 - 61 Solar system's center

Answer to previous puzzle

INSOMNIA	AC	SPIRE
MELBOURNE	ORNO	T
OHIO STATE	DOGMA	
FREE TIE	TIARAN	
FUR	BESITRUMAN	
AB	JIRE	AIMINA
SLAND	DRUNK	CONTEST
HUNS	TI	DIODES
YET	STP	FONZ
WASTESTIME	FUM	JAB
SHAKER	UAE	FJBE
CANOE	INSTALLER	
ULNAR	NICE	GOING
DEALS	SCOREPADS	

2/29/16

BEETLE BAILY



THE OTHER COAST



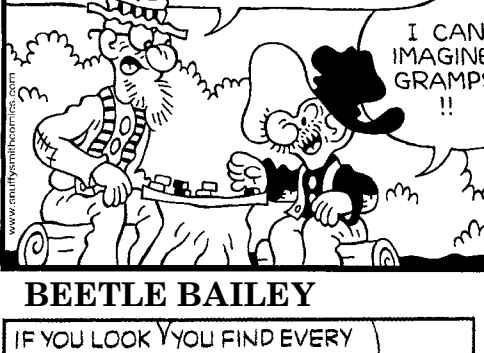
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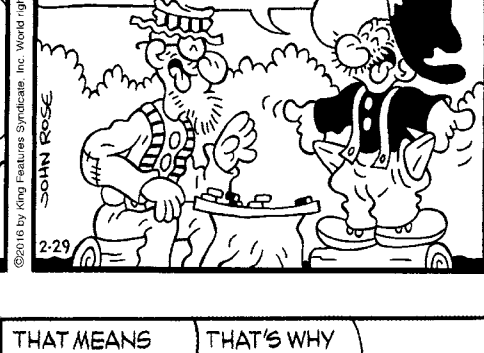
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News in brief

Racial feud erupts as Republicans fight 'unstoppable' Trump

LEESBURG, Va. (AP) — The final-days sprint to Super Tuesday has erupted into a feud over a white supremacist as Donald Trump's Republican rivals scramble to stop the billionaire businessman from becoming an "unstoppable" force in the 2016 presidential contest.

Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio continued to hammer the GOP front-runner's character and lack of policy specifics in a series of attacks Sunday while courting voters across the South. But it was Trump's refusal to denounce an implicit endorsement from former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke that dominated the narrative less than two days before Republican voters across 11 states head to the polls.

The new focus comes as Trump's rivals acknowledge that time is running out to prevent the former reality television host from becoming the Republican Party's presumptive nominee. He took a new step in that direction by earning the endorsement of Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions, a would-be Cruz ally who backed Trump instead.

"There is no doubt that if Donald steam rolls through Super Tuesday, wins everywhere with big margins, that he may well be unstoppable," Cruz said Sunday on CBS' "Face the Nation."

Trump was asked Sunday on CNN's "State of the Union" whether he rejected support from the former KKK Grand Dragon and other white supremacists after Duke told his radio followers this week that a vote against Trump was equivalent to "treason to your heritage."

Trump's career: Plenty for fans and foes to love, hate

NEW YORK (AP) — To his supporters, the business career of Donald Trump is proof he's got the decisiveness and smarts required to lead the country. To critics, his exaggerated claims, burned customers and four bankruptcies suggest a man wholly disqualified for the office.

The truth: It's complicated.

Criticized by Republican rivals for his crude comments and what they call iffy conservative credentials, Trump now finds his business acumen in the political crosshairs. Florida Sen. Marco Rubio has started calling Trump a "con artist" who has been "sticking it to the little guy" as he built his empire, and says he would be "selling watches in Manhattan" if he hadn't gotten help from his millionaire father.

Trump's business record gives Super Tuesday voters inclined to praise or condemn his boardroom bona fides a way to support either view.

Gutsy, shrewd and armed with an uncanny sense of timing, Trump

built a business that spans the globe, much bigger in scope and riches than when he took it over from his father. Yet some of his failures have been as spectacular as his successes, and he's stiffed creditors and has licensed his name in ways that raise questions about his judgment.

North Korea puts tearful detained American before cameras

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — North Korea presented a detained American student before the media on Monday in Pyongyang, where he tearfully apologized for attempting to steal a political banner — at the behest, he said, of a member of a church back home who wanted it as a "trophy" — from a staff-only section of the hotel where he had been staying.

North Korea announced in late January it had arrested Otto Warmbier, a 21-year-old University of Virginia undergraduate student. It said that after entering the country as a tourist he committed an anti-state crime with "the tacit connivance of the U.S. government and under its manipulation."

No details of what kind of charges or punishment Warmbier faces were immediately released.

According to Warmbier's statement Monday, he wanted the banner with a political slogan on it as a trophy for the church member, who was the mother of a friend.

In previous cases, people who have been detained in North Korea and given a public confession often recant those admissions after their release.

Academy Awards take on issues beyond #OscarsSoWhite

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Hollywood's diversity crisis has loomed large over awards season and the big question going into the 88th annual Academy Awards was whether it would dominate the ceremony, too. It did, of course, but it wasn't alone.

The evening turned out to be a platform not just for racial representation in the movies, led by host Chris Rock's incisive insight and parody, but a wide array of causes, from global warming and bank reform to sexual abuse in church and on campus. It was a subtle plea from the film community that the movies and artists honored at Sunday night's ceremony did have purpose and meaning — even in this second year of #OscarsSoWhite.

The "Spotlight" team, which won the first and last prize of the night — best original screenplay and best picture — and nothing else, celebrated the Pulitzer Prize-winning work of The Boston Globe journalists who exposed sex abuses in the Roman Catholic Church and the conversation the film has renewed around the world.

Leonardo DiCaprio, the forgone

best-actor winner for "The Revenant," used the platform to talk about his life's passion outside of acting — climate change, which got a "thank you" from the official White House Instagram account.

Adam McKay and Charlies Randolph, who won for best adapted screenplay for "The Big Short," spoke about the need for finance reform.

A wounded 'hero' tries to mend: A Peruvian drug cop's tale

TALAVERA, Peru (AP) — Johnny Vega rarely carried his 9-mm pistol when he wasn't on duty. He wishes he had that day.

The narcotics cop was chatting with a friend on a park bench, the Andean sun burning the dawn's chill off this highlands town nearly 10,000 feet (2,900 meters) above sea level.

On that morning of Aug. 20, 2014, Vega had dropped his son Juan at nursery school and then walked to Talavera's main square. He noticed a tall young man strolling by and wondered if he knew him.

Vega was a rarity in this nation where cops, courts and congress are badly compromised by corruption. An earnest provincial narcotics officer, he had made a career of actually doing what he was trained for: locking up criminals. Defying death threats from narcos, he led a hand-picked team of trusted officers who consistently scored trafficker arrests and record drug seizures even as Peru became the world's No. 1 cocaine producer. In a country where police are as likely to take bribes as to make arrests, Vega was a hero. Three times, he had been named police officer of the year.

Vega was deep in conversation when the young man walked by again, stopped and leveled a silencer-equipped Bersa at the cop's head.

Battling outbreak, Hawaii faces small staff, pesticide fears

HONOLULU (AP) — On a farm in the heart of Hawaii's ongoing dengue outbreak, coffee grows wild among the ferns, and vanilla vines climb

guava trees. It's hard to know where nature ends and the farm begins, and that's the way organic farmers there like it.

But state efforts to combat the outbreak — and prevent the related Zika virus from making inroads on the island — could put these farmers out of business. Posting "no spray" signs on their properties, they're pushing back on the use of pesticides to kill the mosquitoes that transmit both infections.

Global health officials have identified mosquito eradication as the key to curtailing the Zika outbreak that has taken hold in Latin America and been linked to birth defects in Brazil, as well as preventing it from taking hold in other areas where the Aedes aegypti mosquito is prevalent, including the southern U.S.

"Any place a dengue outbreak can occur, a Zika outbreak could occur," Lyle Peterson, director of CDC's division of vector-borne diseases, said in an interview with The Associated Press. "Given the fact that many affected travelers could be coming to Hawaii as outbreaks occur around the Pacific, there is always the possibility of infecting local mosquitoes."

Hezbollah recovers body of senior commander killed in Syria

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group says it has recovered the body of a senior commander who was killed during fighting in Syria's northern province of Aleppo.

Hezbollah said Monday the body of Ali Fayyad, known locally as Hajj Alaa, was recovered Sunday night in an operation in which Syrian army and Hezbollah special forces took part.

A Russia-U.S.-brokered cease-fire that went into effect on Saturday is largely holding despite violations by both sides.

Hezbollah has been fighting alongside government troops in Syria and the forces recently took from Islamic State militants the town of Khanaser and its surroundings in Aleppo.

Fayyad is a Hezbollah veteran who has led major battles against the Israeli army in south Lebanon.

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