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# **BIG SPRING** MONDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2016



VOLUME 111, NUMBER 109

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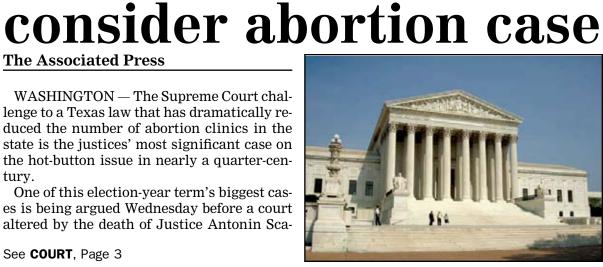
# Where to vote

Ballots in Tuesday's primary election can be cast in one of six locations, depending on your precinct number:

- Precincts 11, 12, 12A, 13, 14, 16, 103, 104 and 105 Sacred Heart Charities Building, 601 N. Aylesford.
- Precincts 23, 25, 26, 205 and 208 Spring Town Plaza, 1801 E. FM 700.
- 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,
- For more information, contact the Howard County Elections Administrator's office at 432-264-2273.

See COURT, Page 3

tury.





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' 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, Coldiron, Karleigh Alyssa Villanueva and Alyssa Soles.



# 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

See **RATTLER**, Page 3

## 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

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## **Obituaries**

#### Odell Mason Sr.



Odell Mason, Sr., 86, died Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2016, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Tuesday at Mount Rose Baptist Church at 211 Tyler Street in Midland. Burial will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday with Military Honors at the Texas

State Veterans Cemetery in Abilene.

He was born Dec. 15, 1929, in Brady, Texas. He lived in Midland and Odessa most of his life, moving to Big Spring 22 years ago. He was a veteran of World War II serving in the U.S. Army in Europe.

He received the World War II Victory Medal. He was a retired tire man, but still did yard work. He was a member of Mount Rose Baptist Church in

and his wife June of Moody, TX; Wilburt Davis of Odessa and Spanky Edwards and his wife Leza of Big Spring; two daughters: Angela Smith and her husband Walter of Garland and Rhonda Hopson and her husband Matt of Beaumont; 18 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and a number of nieces and nephews.

and George Mason; his wife: JoAnn Howell-Mason; one brother and one sister.

Home. Pay your respects online at www. myersandsmith.com.

#### Glenn Person Sr.



Glenn L. Person, Sr., 88, of Big Spring, died Thursday, Feb. 25, 2016, at Big Spring Center for Skilled Care. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with Rev. William T. Vaughn, officiating.

He was born May 20, 1927, at Sulphur Springs, Texas to Mamie Bratten Person and Jerry Person. He grew up at Sulphur Springs and graduated from Sulphur Springs High School. He

attended Texas College. He was a veteran of World War II, serving in Italy in the quarter master corps.

He married Essie Lee Evans Dec. 26, 1948, in

He is survived by three sons: Odell Mason, Jr.

He was preceded in death by his parents: Maggie

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral

Paid obituary

Sulphur Springs. They came to Big Spring in 1950. Glenn worked for Southwestern Bell Telephone for 33 years, retiring in 1986. He was an active member of Mt. Bethel Baptist Church, serving as chairman of the deacon board and also served seven years as president of the Mt. Bethel Senior Choir.

He is survived by his wife: Essie of Big Spring; two sons: Glenn L. Person, Jr., of Dallas, and James Person of Big Spring; three grandchildren: LaKeisha Person, Kimberly Person, and Glenn L. Person, III, all of Dallas; three great-grandchildren; Flower Hamilton, Domonique Holliman, and Caleb Wright, all of Dallas.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by four brothers and three sisters.

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

Paid obituary

## Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- JESSE THOMAS BLACKWELL SR., 51, of 1002 N. Main was arrested on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia and warrants for driving while license invalid and bail jumping/failure to appear.
- GUADALUPE BUSTAMANTE GONZALES, 25, of 607 W. 9th St. was arrested on warrants for failure to appear and disregard stop sign.
- EDUARDO GALLARDO JR., 29, of 1606 Canary was arrested on warrants for failure to maintain financial responsibility and driving while license
- JONATHAN BLAKE MENDOZA, 28, of 3213 Auburn was arrested on a warrant from another E. 11th Place.

agency.

- TERELL HOUSTON, 23, of 2508 Joanne C. was arrested on a charge of possession of marijuana.
- HENRY RODRIQUEZ, 49, of 703 Magnolia Ave. was arrested on a charge of open burning.
- MARK ANTHONY MOLINA, 51, of 2911 W. Hwy 80 was arrested on a charge of silent or abusive calls to 911 service.
- · CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 1500 block of Sunset Ave.
- THEFT was reported in the 400 block of S. Birdwell Lane.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 4100 block of Dixon St.
- 911 HANG UP was reported in the 500 block of

## Sheriff

The Howard County Sheriff's Department report-

ed the following activity:

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 72 inmates at the time of this

- JESSE THOMAS BLACKWELL, 51, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia and warrants for driving while intoxicated and failure to appear.
- AARON JASON CALVIO, 19, was booked by the BSPD on charges of aggravated assault – date/ family member/house member; resisting arrest, search or transport and injury to a child/elderly/
- JOSE ANTHONY CHAVEZ, 19, was booked by the HCSO on warrants for displaying expired registration, two counts of no driver's license and three counts of failure to appear.
- RUBEN CISNEROS, 39, was booked by the BSPD on warrant for bail jumping and failure to appear and parole violation.
- GABRIEL XAVIER CROSSMAN, 19, was booked by the BSPD on warrants for failure to appear and no driver's license. • ANASTACIO S. ESPARZA, 50, was booked by
- the BSPD on a charge of aggravated assault date/ family member/house member.
- EDUARDO GALLARDO JR., 29, was booked by the BSPD on warrants for capias – driving while license invalid and capias – failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- GUADALUPE BUSTAMNANTE GONZALES, 25, was booked by the BSPD on warrants for failure to appear and disregard stop sign.
- LUPE GUTIERREZ, 38, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- JONATHAN TAYLOR HAWS, 26, was booked by the DPS on a charge of possession of a controlled substance, less than 1 gram.
- DAYLE LORRAINE HOLLIS, 47, was booked by the BSPD on a warrant for possession of a con-

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TACLB003559E Plumbing - Lic# M24241 trolled substance, more than 2 grams but less than

- by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana, less than 2 ounces.
- TONY LARA, 28, was booked by the DPS on a by the HCSO on a warrant for capias driving warrant for violation of pre-trial release.
- ALFREDO LOPEZ, 27, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana, less than 2
- KASSANDRA NICOLE MARTINEZ, 21, was booked by the BSPD on a warrant for theft of property, more than \$750 but less than \$2,500.
- MARCOS MENDEZ, 22, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of open burning. HCSO on warrants for three counts of failure to maintain financial responsibility, expired registration, five counts of failure to appear, defective or no tail lamps, violate promise to appear and expired registration.
- JONATHAN BLAKE MENDOZA, 28, was booked by the BSPD on a warrant for driving under the influence of alcohol.
- MARK ANTHONY MOLINA, 51, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of silent/abusive call to
- BRANDON MORAN, 26, was booked by the BSPD on a warrant for public intoxication and a charge for theft, less than \$100. • TOBY LYNN NOCK, 38, was booked by the
- HCSO on warrants for speeding and violate promise to appear. ABEL JAVIER PADILLA, 51, was booked by
- the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- LUIS ADOLFO PENA, 41, was booked by the HCSO on two warrants for bail jumping and fail-



Max F. Moore President / Certified Applicator

432.263.0441 • 432.267.8190 Fax mm@swa1pc.com e-mail

#### Malcolm Farr

Malcolm Farr, 73, of Big Spring died Friday, Feb. 26, 2016. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

BIG SPRING HERALD

Agnes Carey, 63, of Big Spring, died Saturday, Feb. 27, 2016. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Local 5-Day Forecast											
Tue 3/1	Wed 3/2	Thu 3/3	Fri 3/4	Sat 3/5							
66/38	79/45	72/42	79/49	80/47							
Sunny skies. Gusty winds in the morning. High 66F. Winds NNE at 20 to 30 mph.	Sunny and windy. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the mid 40s.	Mainly sunny and windy. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the low 40s.	Abundant sunshine. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the upper 40s.	Plenty of sun. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the mid 40s.							
Sunrise: 7:12 AM Sunset: 6:44 PM	Sunrise: 7:11 AM Sunset: 6:44 PM	Sunrise: 7:10 AM Sunset: 6:45 PM	Sunrise: 7:09 AM Sunset: 6:46 PM	Sunrise: 7:08 AM Sunset: 6:47 PM							

**Texas at a Glance** 



#### **Area Cities**

Abilene	81	56 Sunny	Kingsville	82	62 Cloudy
Amarillo		39 Sunny/Wind	Livingston		57 Cloudy
Austin	79	63 Cloudy	Longview		58 Cloudy
Beaumont	75	59 P Cloudy	Lubbock	79	42 Sunny
Brownsville	79	64 P Cloudy	Lufkin	78	56 Cloudy
Brownwood	81	57 M Cloudy	Midland	83	51 Sunny
Corpus Christi	78	63 Cloudy	Raymondville	83	65 P Cloudy
Corsicana	78	61 Cloudy	Rosenberg	77	61 P Cloudy
Dallas	78	62 M Cloudy	San Antonio	80	63 Cloudy
Del Rio	83	60 Cloudy	San Marcos	79	61 Cloudy
El Paso	82	48 Sunny	Sulphur Springs	75	62 Foggy
Fort Stockton	85	50 Sunny	Sweetwater	81	53 Sunny
Gainesville	76	57 Sunny	Tyler	77	60 Cloudy
Greenville	75	60 P Cloudy	Weatherford	80	59 Sunny
Houston	78	62 P Cloudy	Wichita Falls	80	55 Sunny
National Cit		_			

#### **National Cities**

City	III LU COIIU.	City	III LO COIIG.								
Atlanta	69 49 M Sunny	Miami	75 66 Cloudy								
Boston	57 31 M Sun/Wind	Minneapolis	37 16 Cloudy								
Chicago	55 30 P Cloudy	New York	58 38 P Cloudy								
Dallas	78 62 M Cloudy	Phoenix	88 58 P Cloudy								
Denver	64 30 P Cloudy	San Francisco	72 54 Foggy								
Houston	78 62 P Cloudy	Seattle	54 44 Cloudy								
Los Angeles	80 55 P Cloudy	Saint Louis	66 48 P Cloudy								
<b>Moon Pha</b>	Moon Phases										

First	Full	Last	New		
Feb 15	Feb 22	Mar 1	Mar 9		

• CHRISTINE PEREZ, 31, was booked by the DPS

- TERRELL DEVON HOUSTON, 23, was booked on a charge of possession of marijuana, less than 2 CHANCE ALLEN PERRYMAN, 31, was booked
  - while license invalid and a charge of driving while license invalid. • CHAD LEE PUGA, 31, was booked by the HCSO
  - on charges of display fictitious license plate and driving while license invalid wit previous convictions/suspensions.
  - HENRY RODRIQUEZ, 49, was booked by the
  - ADAM RYAN, 19, was booked by the HCSO on a warrant for terroristic threat that causes fear.
  - MICHAEL ALEXANDER SMITH, 28, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
  - JOHN RUBEN SOLIZ, 41, was booked by the DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated - 2nd
  - JAKE ALLEN VALENCIA, 30, was booked by the HCSO on warrants for assault on a public servant and evading arrest/detainment with a vehi-
  - LITTLE JOHN WINFIELD, 53, was booked by the BSPD on warrants for failure to appear and theft, less than \$100.

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#### **RATTLER**

Continued from Page 1

The roundup started as a way to keep the population of rattlesnakes down in the area, Sager explained. Before the Roundup, emergency responders medical would get about seven calls a day about rattlesnake sightings 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 antivenom. 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 10<sup>th</sup>.

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 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,

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

she is ready to hand off contest and live music and a dance following on Friday and Saturday nights.

> For more information on the event, visit www. rattlesnakeroundup.

#### MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

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 Cha-

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

premacy 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

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."

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 nomi-"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 show-"You're better than ing 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 backed the party started moving toward the GOP during the civil rights movement. Trump has borrowed from the rhetoric former President Richard Nixon used

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during that time to ap-

peal 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 prolife 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 and clearly health 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 partialbirth abortion. That was also a 5-4 split.

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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.

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Phone: 202-228-0462

#### JOHN CORNYN

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4305 Phone: 202-224-2934

#### RANDY

NEUGEBAUER U.S. Representative 19th Cong. District 1510 Scurry

Big Spring Phone: 432-264-0722

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Phone: 512-463-2000

#### DREW DARBY

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#### ·KEL SELIGER

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#### Daily Prayer

With You, Lord, in mind we can come up with awesome new ideas.

# In defense of rattlesnakes

was going to write this column about slimy, venomous reptiles that are so frightening you would go well out of your way to avoid them. But I'm tired of the presidential campaign. So I decided to write about

instead. It's probably unfair to compare politicians to dangerous ser-

rattlesnakes

pents — unfair to the serpents, which normally mind their own business.



**C**HAPMAN

There is another big difference between the two: Not everyone detests rattlesnakes. These days, I am pleased to report, there are even people striving to protect them.

This development causes anxiety in Sweetwater, Texas, home of what is billed as the world's biggest rattlesnake roundup. Each year, hunters pump gasoline into burrows to flush out thousands of vipers so they can be captured and killed — a method illegal everywhere but Texas. The tourists the event draws are an economic boon to the isolated town of 11,000.

Conservation advocates oppose the event, and particularly the use of gasoline, because it's not only inhumane to snakes but also harmful to other creatures — including endangered tortoises and lizards. A state Snake Harvest Working Group was set up to consider the matter, and a majority of the members voted to prohibit the gassing of rattlesnake dens.

Things are looking even better for the rattlesnakes in Massachusetts, where the state's Division of Fisheries and Wildlife wants to create a refuge for them on an island in a large reservoir. The place would be off-limits to humans not to protect humans from the snakes, but the other way around.

Illinois also has a preservation effort. A few years ago, Lincoln Park Zoo set out to save the last population of eastern massasauga rattlesnakes in the Chicago area by collecting and breeding them. In 2014, the project yielded 13 baby rattlers to go with the eight adults.

Ventures like these would have seemed insane 50 years ago. But rattlesnakes are less dangerous than commonly assumed.

No one in Massachusetts has been killed by one since colonial times.

Nationally, about five people die each year from poisonous snakebites, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. That compares to 90 or so who die from being stung by insects. And many fatal snake encounters occur only because the victim is, um, incautious.

In 2012, Steve Bennett, an official of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, told a local TV station that in his experience, at least 70 percent of venomous snakebites involve people trying to catch the critters — and in most of those cases, alcohol played a

If there is anything dumber than poking or grabbing a poisonous serpent, it's doing it after downing a six-pack.

I grew up in Texas, still visit there regularly, and have spent many hours tramping around rugged, rattlesnake-infested terrain. Because of my aversion to premature death, I keep my eyes peeled at all times. Yet I've seen only a couple of rattlesnakes in the wild.

The reason is not that my vision is poor. It's that these reptiles are reclusive and afraid of people. They generally strike only when they feel threatened. A rattlesnake has a brain the size of a pea, but that's enough gray matter for it to deduce that tangling with two-legged giants is unhealthy.

Rattlesnakes, granted, are hard to like — being coldblooded, scaly and not pleasing to the untutored eye. Their rattle induces instant terror. Oh, and in the worst-case scenario, they can kill or maim you. Evolution apparently has wired us to regard snakes with fear and loathing, which makes it easy to tolerate the mass slaughter of

But Americans once tried to eradicate wolves, bears and mountain lions, all of which pose a danger to life and limb. The California grizzly, which adorns the state flag, was hunted to extinction. Today, however, most people regard such sharp-toothed predators as wonders worth traveling to see.

Rattlesnakes lack the charismatic appeal of these large, furry mammals, but their repulsiveness is not their fault. Being rational animals, people should be able to overcome our instincts, minimize unnecessary killing of rattlesnakes and act to preserve their remaining habitats.

In Larry McMurtry's novel "Lonesome Dove," cowboy Gus McCrae laments, "We killed off most of the people that made this country interesting to begin with." The same has been true with wild creatures. Life without rattlesnakes would be safer, but safety isn't everything.

One more thing in their favor: Rattlesnakes never, ever, run for office.



THAT REMINDS ME, DID YOU CATCH RUBIO, CRUZ AND TRUMP THE OTHER NIGHT?"

ould Donald Trump win the nomination? Yes. You have to say

To say no is to ignore what is happening, and what can happen in a process that is largely not controlled by the Republican establishment. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie is no fool. He could be vice president. So what if neither of them



**Estrich** 

President Donald Trump. Try saying it three times. Doesn't sound right. Is there anyone Trump could beat? Yes. As unlikely as it is

has any foreign policy experi-

that America would elect a reality show billionaire to lead us in these treacherous times, it seems even more unlikely that they would elect a 74-year-old socialist from New York. I'm really sorry. I like Bernie

Sanders, too. I feel badly putting him in the same paragraph with Donald Trump. But in a way, they are in the same boat. And it is not the small boat that Lee Amen Atwater, the George H.W. Bush's legendary campaign manager.

used to talk about, with the very few folks that most Americans could imagine as president. Clinton is the only one in that boat at the moment. If a long slog is what it takes to win the election, no one in politics knows how to slog it like the Clinton family.

Practically before I was born, George McGovern accepted the Democratic nomination long after America's bedtime, in front of a convention devoid of almost everyone who had any kind of official (or even unofficial) tie to the Democratic Party. The convention was totally out of control, I've been told gleefully by people older than me (whew) who were there. That crowd must have included the guy running Texas for McGovern: Bill Clinton. It was a political disaster. It was what led, eventually, to the "superdelegates." I once complained so vigorously about superdelegates, because I knew they would undermine the "equal division" of the convention. But they also bring stability to the process. I never thought

ness for all those superdelegates. That's why every delegate comparison shows Hillary ahead. She is. She will be. Bernie is doing well in these Democratic contests for the

same reason — sorry again.

I'd live to say it, but thank good-

Bernie — that Ted Cruz is. But their appeal, in both cases, is to the ideological activists in their respective parties, who are most likely to go to the caucuses.

Democrats, however, are so much more conditioned by losing than Republicans are that their instinct for suicide has been dulled since the McGovern campaign in 1972. If voting for Bernie were still a freebie, if the stakes were still low — if the Republicans did not appear to be on the brink of nominating the single most unsuitable candidate of modern times — I could see him forcing Hillary into a long, if not losing, campaign.

But the stakes aren't low anymore. Trump strikes fear into the heart of any American who believes our leader should not be the one to say out loud what we would rightly scold our children for saying (e.g., "I don't want any Muslims in my class" or "Mexicans are rapists"). Donald Trump is nothing so unusual: he is a demagogue, in the oldest tradition of divisive politics. He is preying on a system of minority rules that won't change until the general.

If one party is going to commit suicide, it is best that the other not follow suit. That is how you fall under the tyranny of an ideological minority.

# South takes its place in campaign spotlight

(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 decadesold 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.

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

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 wellreceived 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-

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. 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.

twice-divorced New York real estate mogul won 33 percent of voters who described themselves as bornagain 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.

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

Unlike Trump, Hillary Clinton's ties to Democratic electorates 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 Arkansans could just not identify with him." Every Democrat at every level of government was essentially linked to Obama and fell like including dominos, 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.

out and run in a hope-

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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> Page 6 Monday, February 29, 2016

# 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."

on

son's bucket list: anoth-

John-

Next

er 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



AP photo

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

"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 wellliked throughout the garage, Johnson would appear to have little in common with the Intimidator, a roughand-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

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 from 23 down in the second 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.

29 points as the Mavericks started fast after a woeful really smart game." 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 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 Chandler Parsons scored he delivered," coach Rick Carlisle said. "He played a

> 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

"We've been emphasizing getting off to some better offensive starts, and us 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 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.

# 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

"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.

## Scott makes statement with Honda title

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

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

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

"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. Dat-

ing 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 contended 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.

because Perhaps 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 Sun-

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

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

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Abandoned Motor Vehicles at the described locations and the times listed below.

Yr. Make Model VIN#

1995 Ford Mustang 1FALP4049SF189093 1988 Chevy Pickup 1GCDC14K4JZ299225 1993 Honda CXV JHMEH9691PS011935 1996 Honda ULX 1HGCD5533TA105794 1993 Ford Tarsus 1FALP5348PA108297 2002 Chevy Pickup 2GCEC19T921204402 1997 Marque Ambulance 1FDKF37FVEC09244 2004 Mercury Marquis 2MEFM74W74X627614 2010 Chevy Pickup 3GCRCSE02AG106112 1998 Ford Explorer 1FMZU32P4WZB39636 1988 Kenworth Truck 1XKADB9XXJJ520517

Any questions, please contact the Glasscock County Sheriff's Office.

The successful bidder upon payment of the money to The Glasscock County Sheriff's Office, is entitled to take possession of the vehicle and apply for a title free and clear of all liens and claims to

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ownership. All vehicles are sold as is, without warranty or guarantee of performance.

#8975 February 21 - March 2. 2016

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1204 State St. 1 bed, 1 bath. \$600/month, \$300/dep. 6 month lease. No Pets. Call 785-462-5570

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2606 South Chanute Drive, 3 bdrm, 1-1/2 bath, fenced yard, CH/A \$1000 month, \$1000 deposit. One Year Lease Required. No indoor pets. Call (432)263-6514 Owner/Broker.

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403 Hillside. 3 bed, 2 bath. All appliances, very nice. \$1,500/month, \$1,500/dep. No pets/no smoking. References required. Call 432-213-2319.

520 Scott Dr. in Highland South. 3/2, nice yard. 432-267-2296

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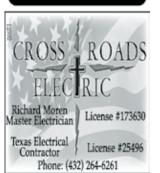
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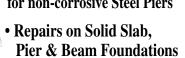
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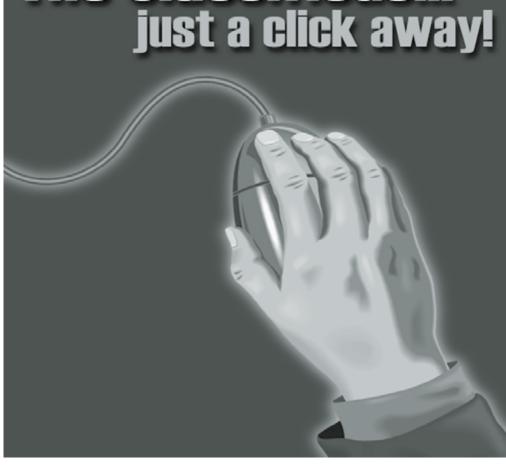
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HERALD

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Lunar Split on Leap Day

Leap day is added once every four years

H<sub>OLIDAY</sub> 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.

Dear Annie: People

think they know how eat-

ing disorders start, but I

want to share my story, which might surprise

people. I never set out

to have an eating disor-

der. In fact, I didn't even

However, after I took up

running to relieve stress

pleasantly surprised by

how people reacted to

me and how I felt about

Pretty soon, running

became more of an ob-

ligation than something

sessed with everything I

ate. I had to eat certain

things at certain times

I did to relieve stress.

Then, I became ob-

set out to lose weight.

and ended up losing

a few pounds, I was

myself.

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

of the day and it all had

smaller and smaller, as I

eliminated various foods

and drinks. Being with

my habits became too

much effort, so I with-

drew socially. Without

friends around to keep

dropped off drastically

and I became emaciat-

ed. I thought I was fine.

Finally, my parents

stepped in and threat-

ened me with involun-

tary hospitalization, so I

submitted to treatment.

mourned the loss of my

hypercontrolled life. But

it was worth it. Not only

did it save my life, but

It wasn't easy, and I

me in check, the weight

friends who questioned

to be super healthy.

My world was getting

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.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 29). A barrier will be lifted. What was once a threat is no longer and what was once a fear will be a source of triumph and pride. A win will lead you to relax, get increasingly confident and nab a key contract in May. June shows you

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 PRO-**FILES: Celebrity super-coach and business guru 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 ®

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

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

lost forever.

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.

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, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 737 3rd Street, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254. You can also find

on Facebook at 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

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## HERALD



By Steve Becker

#### Famous Hand

South dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH

NORTH

K 9 5 4 3 2

6 3

4 2

A 8 4

WEST

One of the control of th

♦ 6 ♥ 8 ♦ A Q 10 7 3 ♦ K Q J 10 7 3 SOUTH ♦ A ♥ A K Q J 9 7 5 2

▼ A K Q J 9 7 5 2 ◆ K 9 8 ★ 2 The bidding: South West North East

Opening lead — king of clubs.

Dble

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.

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 twoNorth 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

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.

suiter in the minors. The double by 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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American

American

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Over

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ESPN 35 ESPN2 36 FSN 38

Lincoln Law- SportsCenter Around

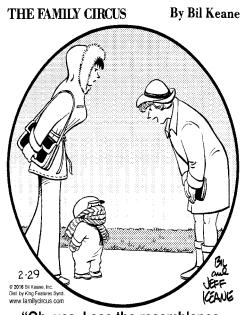
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Mama's



'Wake up, Mr.Wilson! It's *Leap year!* NOW WE GOT A WHOLE EXTRADAY...50 YOU CAN EXPLAIN WHY."

BC



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

I'M THIS CLOSE TO

UNFRIENDING HER.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN

THIS ISN'T COVERED

UNDER MY HOMEOWNER'S

POLICY?

IN A HUNDRED

YEARS, WHO

I'LL BE A

WILL KNOW?

LEGEND!

IT'S PART

RIGHT.

YOUR FEE

ARE FUNNY





HOW WOULD MORE SENSE 'NON-PAY"?!!!

## 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.

Highlight Today's 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:

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 sevenmember 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 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 ,Äî separate and unequal." The discovery of a "pulsar," a star which emits regular radio waves, was announced by Dr. Jocelyn Bell Burnell Cambridge. England.

In 1980, former Israeli for-

eign minister Yigal Allon, who had played an important role in the Jewish state's fight for independence, died at age 61.

In 1984, Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau announced he was stepping down after more than 15 combined years in power.

In 1996, Daniel Green was convicted in Lumberton, North Carolina, of murdering James R. Jordan, the father of basketball star Michael Jordan, during a 1993 roadside holdup. (Green and an accomplice, Larry Martin Demery, were sentenced to life in prison.) A Peruvian Boeing 737 crashed on approach to Arequipa, killing all 123 people on board.

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

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N S O M N I A C E L B O U R N E H I O S T A T E

2/29/16

#### HI AND LOIS

**AGNES** 

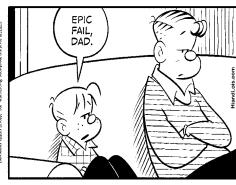
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WINNINGSTUFF! I WILL SET

THEM HERE AND THERE AND DUST

ABOUT WINNING THEM! SEE?

THIS ONE IS FOR BEING

TALL AND FUNNY!

THEM AND TELL EXCITING STORIES

YOU'RE

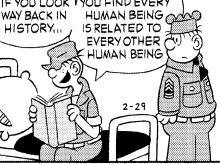
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#### **SNUFFY SMITH**





#### BEETLE BAILEY IF YOU LOOK YOU FIND EVERY





#### **Newsday Crossword**

#### **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 \_ over
- backwards (try hard)

20 Times when

- collegians head to Florida
- 23 Beret or bonnet 25 Went by bus
- or train
- dispensers
- and forth 29 Centers of
- peaches
- 32 Be worthy of
- 34 Mas' mates
- 37 Obligated legally
- 42 Microwave oven
- sound
- 44 Compact-
- device)
- 46 Gym's storage compartment
- spot 49 Sprinkler
- 56 Region 57 One of the

- 62 "Grizzly" beast
- **64** Vowel quintet
- 65 Transmitted
- tax IDs
- crime

- 4 Theory of
- physicist
- 6 Backyard
- 7 For weeks (continuously)

- 31 Loosen, as laces
- 43 Fate

- attachment
- car battery

- 63 Molecule part

- 67 Fire-setting

- 2 Amaze
- relativity

- 26 Large coffee
- 27 They walk back

- 41 Sample of soup
- player (audio
- 47 Ship's docking
- 52 Letter before tee
- 53 Reviving, as a

**Great Lakes** 

- 58 Sells for
- 66 Nine-diait

#### **DOWN**

- 1 Empty space
- 3 Sunbather's goal
- 5 Staircase part
- barbecue area
- 8 Theater actor's
- accessory
- 9 Basil or oregano

- 14
  - 15 18
- in a lot 35 Summits 36 Top-billed

32 Vision-testing

34 Leaves a car

wall postings

33 Top poker card

10 Cavalry swords 11 Pacific or

Atlantic 12 Pieces of a

13 Racetrack

postings

22 Monotonous

routine

23 Capital of

suit 30 Rural hotel

Vietnam 24 Misbehave

chain

- performer

- IT'S LEAP DAY by Gail Grabowski Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com
  - 38 Air-gun ammo **39** Boxing match
  - ender, for short 40 Indy 500 attendee 44 Leave for a trip
- 45 Tax-collecting 21 Train lines: Abbr. agcy. 46 Hawaiian
  - necklace 47 Blender setting 48 "That is to
- say . . . 27 London taverns 50 Hunter 28 Color of Santa's constellation 51 Sunflower stalks
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55 University sports

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65 66 67 CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2016 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 2/29/16

## News in brief

#### Racial feud erupts as Republicans fight 'unstoppable' Trump

LEESBURG, Va. (AP) — The finaldays 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 wouldbe Cruz ally who backed Trump in-

"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

Weed & Feed

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 handpicked 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

Vega was deep in conversation when the young man walked by again, stopped and leveled a silencerequipped 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

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 in-

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 Haj 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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