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H BIG SPRING HERALD

THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2017



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Campout at the Lone Wolf Creek set for April

By SANDRENA KONING
 Staff Writer

COLORADO CITY — Rud-dick Park in Colorado City will host a community campout called Campout on Lone Wolf Creek on April 22. Campers are invited to come out on that Saturday beginning at 9 a.m. to join activi-

ties that will conclude with an evening fire. The community can come and go as they please. "This is going to be our first one," Martha Martinez, office manager at Lake Colorado City State Park, said. "We have high hopes that maybe we can continue doing it every year."

Activities for the event include archery, kayaking, Dutch oven cooking, fishing, campfire stories, cowboy poetry, campfire music and stargazing, to name a few. According to Martinez, Kyle R. O'Haver, the park superintendent and other officials from Lake Colorado City State Park will lead the activi-

ties, with help from others. "We're going to show them the ins and outs about fishing," Martinez said. "There's going to be some Dutch oven cooking, archery, campfire stories, cowboy poetry and of course the overnight camping." The event is free of charge. There will be some food for

purchase to help local Scouts and the Friends of Lake Colorado City State Park. "There is a Friends group and the Boy Scouts. They're going to have some food that they can purchase," Martinez said. "The people who are joining us can also bring their own food." See **CAMPOUT**, Page 3



HERALD photo/Roger Cline

Students at the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club enjoy a game of Bingo after completing their homework activity for the day. The Club will celebrate "Boys and Girls Club Week" next week, March 20 through 25.

Boys & Girls Club to have big week

By ROGER CLINE
 Staff Writer

Next week is big doings at the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club. "It's called 'Boys and Girls Club Week of Big Spring,' said Club Director Duane Shackelford. "That's going to start on March 20 and it's going to go through the 25th. On that Friday we're going to have an Open House. The whole public is invited. We're actually going to have hamburgers and hot dogs on that day, and we're going to have carnival-type games. We'll have regular Boys and Girls Club type games: They'll play games in the gym and they'll do arts and crafts."

"Each kid is going to go home with a free ice cream from Sonic," he said. "We're also going to have some \$5 and \$10 gift cards from other places for those who come in, just to try to attract the general public into our facility." Shackelford said the event is intended as a celebration of the Boys and Girls Club, and to spread awareness of the Club and the programs it offers. Big Spring's Salvation Army Corps Officer Joshua McKain said that the idea of a time of celebration for the club originated with a proclamation Gloria McDonald issued during her time as mayor pro-tem of Big Spring. "When I first got here, I was looking at these signs that are posted on the walls, just reading them and getting some history, and

See **WEEK**, Page 3

Trump budget: Defense is a priority over agency money

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump unveiled a \$1.15 trillion budget on Thursday, a far-reaching overhaul of federal government spending that slashes many domestic programs to finance a significant increase in the military and make a down payment on a U.S.-Mexico border wall.

Thursday's scheduled budget release will upend Washington with cuts to long-promised campaign targets like foreign aid and the Environmental Protection Agency as well as strong congressional favorites such as medical research, help for homeless veterans and community development grants.

"A budget that puts America first must make the safety of our people its number one priority — because without safety, there can be no prosperity," Trump said in a message accompanying his proposed budget that was titled "America First: A Budget Blueprint to Make America Great Again."

The \$54 billion boost for the military is the largest since President Ronald Reagan's Pentagon buildup in the 1980s, promising immediate money for troop readiness, the fight against Islamic State militants and procurement of new ships, fighter jets and other weapons. The 10 percent Pentagon boost is financed by \$54 billion in cuts to foreign aid and domestic agencies that had been protected by former President Barack Obama.

The budget goes after the frequent targets of the party's staunchest conservatives, eliminating the National Endowment for the Arts, legal aid for the poor, low-income heating assistance and the AmeriCorps national service program established by former President Bill Clinton.

"This is a hard power budget, not a soft power budget," said White House budget director Mick Mulvaney.

Such programs were the focus of lengthy battles dating to the GOP takeover of Congress in 1995 and have survived prior attempts to eliminate them. Lawmakers will have the final say on Trump's proposal in the arduous budget process, and many of the cuts will be deemed dead on arrival. Mulvaney acknowledged to reporters that passing the cuts could be an uphill struggle and said the

See **BUDGET**, Page 3

Winners and losers in Trump's first budget plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — Military spending would get the biggest boost in President Donald Trump's proposed budget. Environmental programs, medical research, Amtrak and an array of international and cultural programs — from Africa to Appalachia — would take big hits, among the many parts of the government he'd put on a crash diet.



The budget proposal out Thursday is a White House wish list; it'll be up to Congress to decide where money goes. If Trump gets his way, there will be more losers than winners among government departments and programs.

Some programs would tread water: WIC grants — money to states for health care and nutrition for low-income women, infants and children — are one example. Money for states grants for water infrastructure projects would be held level as well.

Some others would lose everything: Trump proposes to eliminate money for

See **SPENDING**, Page 3

Find us online at:
www.bigspringherald.com

0 54414 79720 9

Donate blood Friday

A blood drive will be held at Big Spring Center for Skilled Care parking lot Friday. The United Blood Services BloodMobile will be in front of the Big Spring Center for Skilled Care facility, 3701 Wasson, from 9 a.m. to noon. To sign up ahead of time, which is encouraged, those interested can call 877-UBS-HERO or go to www.bloodhero.com

Donors must be at least 16 years old, weight at least 110 pounds, and be in good health to donate. Donors between 16 and 22 must meet additional height and weight requirements. 16-year-old donors must present a minor donor permit formed signed by a parent or guardian. The permit can be found online at www.unitedbloodservices.org.

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 One beautiful place.

Inside The Spring Town Plaza
 267-6335
 Hours:
 Tuesday-Saturday 10:00 am-6:00 pm

Obituaries

Clara Catherine "Katy" Grow Butler

Clara Catherine "Katy" Grow Butler passed away peacefully on Monday, March 13, 2017, at the age of 97.

She was born Nov. 25, 1919, in Cienfuegos, Cuba, to the late Ward and Concepcion Cartaya Grow. Clara's family moved to Oklahoma City, Okla., when she was a young girl. She graduated from Classen High School in Oklahoma City, Okla., in 1938. She worked in Washington D.C. during World War II as a clerk/stenographer for the United States Navy.

Ms. Butler married Master Sergeant Harold Edward Butler on Aug. 13, 1945, in Oklahoma City as soon as he returned from World War II. Their union was blessed with two sons, Michael Edward and Christopher Jon Butler. Harold Edward Butler preceded her in death on Jan. 14, 1964. At this time, Ms. Butler returned to work for the United States

Soil Conservation Service where she later retired in Temple, Texas.

She was an avid stamp and coin collector, and loved to travel abroad. Clara was a wonderful artist and loved to paint, and reading was her passion.

Ms. Butler is survived by her son, Christopher J. Butler, and wife Mona Butler; grandchildren Sean Butler and wife Kelly, Casey Butler, Christopher H. Butler; Catherine "Catie" Halfmann and husband Kyle; and six great-grandchildren.

Ms. Butler was also preceded in death by eldest son Michael Edward Butler; and two sisters Annette Grow Kalivoda and Rebecca Grow Lewis.

Ms. Butler wanted a private graveside burial at Resthaven Memorial Gardens in Oklahoma City, where she will be buried alongside her late husband. The family wishes to thank all of those who cared for her the last several years.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Resthaven Memorial Funeral Home and Memory Gardens of Oklahoma City, Okla.

Paid obituary

Lynda Joyce Fuller



Lynda Joyce Fuller went to her Maker March 13, 2017.

She was born June 5, 1949, and came from a pioneer ranching family. Considered a blonde angel and holy soul - Lynda was treasured by her mother, Lillian Joyce Fuller, and her sister, Sabra Gay Fuller, who survive her. Her father, Sonny (William Gordon Fuller), predeceased her. She is also survived by Bill Fuller, her younger brother.

Lynda was a rare and lovely soul who was devoted to God through her Catholic faith. She was especially devoted to her mother. She always thought of others before herself. Lynda loved horses, all things growing, gardening, murder mysteries, and a good bargain.

Her family aches with the sadness of her passing, but we rejoice at the advent of her eternal life where she will be held save in the Sacred Heart of

Jesus, and where she will find peace with the Holy Trinity and her heavenly family.

Vigil services will be 7 p.m. Thursday, March 16, 2017, at the Nalley-Pickle and Welch Rosewood Chapel. Funeral mass will be 2 p.m. Friday, March 17, 2017, at the Holy Trinity Catholic Parish. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

Today, I think it will rain
Maybe the heavens will share in our pain
Maybe the earth will be drenched
Heaven rejoices
But nature mourns
For those from whom
Lynda Fuller was wrenched
SGF

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

Paid obituary

William Sidney "Bill" Birdwell Jr.



William Sidney "Bill" Birdwell, Jr., 85, of Madera, Calif., formerly of Big Spring, died Feb. 26, 2017.

Graveside service will be held at 2 p.m., Saturday, March 18, 2017, at Mount Olive Memorial Park with Pat Ray, pastor of Prairie View Baptist Church, officiating.

He was born Aug. 4, 1931, to Martha Ellen Marsh Birdwell and William Sidney Birdwell Sr. in Alamogordo, N.M. He graduated from

Big Spring High school in 1951 and attended Business College. He was a refrigeration technician for

Hueblin Winery until his retirement. Bill had lived San Antonio; Midland; Little Rock, Ark.; Fremont, Calif.; Mt. Eliza and Franston, Australia; Whitefish, Mont.; and Madera, Calif. He was a Lutheran.

He is survived by his wife, Novella Birdwell of Montana; two sons, Quentin Oliver Birdwell and wife Dr. Tricia Birdwell of Madera, Calif., and Qwen DeJohn Birdwell of Montana; and two granddaughters.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by four brothers, Huey Long Birdwell, John William Birdwell, Daniel Lee Birdwell, and an infant, Jerry Don Birdwell; and one sister: Bettie June Birdwell Keeling.

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

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **MARTY RAY EVANS JR.**, 27, of 1410 E. 11th Place was arrested on an outstanding warrant.
- **JOHNNY LEE JUAREZ JR.**, 18, of 1222 E. 15th St. was arrested on charges of possession of marijuana and tampering with or fabricating physical evidence.

ricating physical evidence.

- **TONY GLEN BAKER**, 30, of 1806 Mittel Ave. was arrested on warrants for failure to appear, failure to maintain financial responsibility, and expired registration.
- **STOLEN VEHICLE** was reported in the 900 block of West Third Street.
- **MINOR ACCIDENT** was reported in the 1100 block of North Lamesa Highway, at the intersection of Eighth and Abrams streets, in the 3200 block of Cornell Ave., and on Interstate 20 near mile marker 177 westbound.

ported in the 1100 block of North Lamesa Highway, at the intersection of Eighth and Abrams streets, in the 3200 block of Cornell Ave., and on Interstate 20 near mile marker 177 westbound.

- **MAJOR ACCIDENT** was reported at the intersection of FM 700 and Goliad Street.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 2000 block of South Gregg Street.

Take Note

The American Legion Post 506 will host a Fish Fry Saturday at 3203 W. Highway 80. Delivery will be available from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Serving begins at 11 a.m. and continues until 2 p.m. Delivery is from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Plates are \$10 each. Carry out is available. To order, call 263-2084.

Forsan Elementary School has scheduled Pre-K and Kindergarten pre-registration for Monday, April 3, through Friday, April 7 in the elementary office located at 500 West Main in Forsan, Texas. The school office will be open for registration between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

In order to be eligible for Pre-Kindergarten, the student must be four years old on or before Sept. 1, 2017, and meet at least one of the following criteria: Must be unable to speak or comprehend English; the household fully qualifies for free or reduced-price lunches; the family is homeless; one or more parents are on active-duty military service or have been injured or killed while serving on active duty; or the child is in foster care

If your child meets one of the above criteria, please bring the child's birth certificate, social security card, immunization records, proof of residency (utility bill with name and physical address), proof of income (paycheck stub for ALL household income), and enrolling parent/guardian driver's license.

The Howard County A&M Club is accepting applications from high school students who are graduating this May and have been accepted to Texas A&M University for fall 2017. Students must be Howard County residents and will enroll for at least 12 hours. Deadline for applications is April 3, 2017. For more information and to find the application, visit https://westexags.com/. Deadline for applications for current A&M students is June 1, 2017.

THURSDAY

Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, open discussion noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Newcomers' meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

Weight Watchers meets at 6 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m. Weigh-in is confidential and you don't have to talk if you don't want to. Flexible payment options.

A Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder support group meeting is at 6:30 p.m. at the VA Medical Center Veteran's Healing Center.

FRIDAY

AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9

Big Spring Visitors Center
Located at 113 E. 3rd Street
Big Spring gift items and information on local and state attractions.
Monday-Friday: 8AM-5PM
432-263-8235
www.visitbigspring.com

2 MAN SCRAMBLE
2017 Golf Tournament
April 8th and 9th

City of Big Spring Municipal Golf Course
Entry fee is \$125 per person
Golf cart not included

- 1st Place - \$800
- 2nd Place - \$650
- 3rd Place - \$550

Closest to the Pin Prizes!
Hole in One Prize Sponsored by Pollard Chevrolet!

Entry includes BBQ on the course on Saturday.
Mulligans - \$10 per day

Sponsorship Opportunities

- Golf Cart Sponsor - \$2500
- Eagle Sponsor - \$1000
- Birdie Sponsor - \$500
- Special Sponsor - \$250
- Par Sponsor - \$100

For more information on sponsorship, contact Meghan Bias at 432-267-5001.

For tournament information please contact the United Way at 432-267-5291 or the City of Big Spring Municipal Golf Course at 432-264-2366.

Sheriff

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

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 83 inmates at the time of this report.

- **JORGE RAMOS ACEVEDO**, 25, was booked by HCSO on an order of modified conditions of community supervision.
- **JESSE THOMAS BLACKWELL**, 20, was booked by HCSO on a bench warrant for aggravated robbery.
- **RAYMOND CHAVARRIA**, 61, was booked by BSPD on a charge of evading arrest or detention.
- **TAMMY LOCKHART COKER**, 40, was booked by BSPD on a warrant for bail jumping/failure to appear.
- **JAMES DEWAYNE HEADRICK**, 45, was booked by BSPD on a charge of driving with an invalid license.
- **LUIS MIGUEL LOPEZ**, 33, was booked by BSPD on a warrant for assault/family violence.
- **ROGER SHANE MILLER**, 45, was booked by HCSO on a warrant for false report to a police officer.
- **PATRICK ROBERT PARRAS**, 29, was booked by BSPD on warrants for driving with an invalid license, unauthorized use of a vehicle, and racing or exhibition of acceleration; and on a charge of evading arrest or detention.
- **LEWIS PERRY JR.**, 46, was booked by HCSO on a bench warrant for manufacture or delivery of a controlled substance (4 to 28 grams).

Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was taken to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1500 block of Kiowa. One person was taken to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 2000 block of Johnson Street.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 100 block of Pine Street. One person was taken to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1300 block of Grafa. One person was taken to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 100 block of East Eighth Street. One person was taken to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1700 block of Yale. One person was taken to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1200 block of South Main Street.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 2500 block of South McGregor Street. One person was taken to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1500 block of Kiowa. One person was taken to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1400 block of Wood. One person was taken to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1000 block of East 20th Street. One person was taken to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 300 block of Veteran's Boulevard. One person was taken to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1900 block of Simler. One person was taken to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was taken to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **FALSE FIRE ALARM** was reported in the 800 block of Father Delaney.

Support Groups

p.m.

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

Alcoholics Anonymous closed meeting from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 7 p.m. until 8 p.m.

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WEEK

Continued from Page 1

I saw that back in 2009, Gloria MacDonald, pro-tem mayor at the time, declared March 20 'Boys and Girls Club Day,'" McKain said. "I just took the liberty to extend it a little bit more into 'Boys and Girls Club Week' to raise some awareness and visibility for our club here. We still meet people every day who live here, and they don't know what we do at the club. It's important for the community to understand how we're serving the community, how we're raising the children and bringing them up, and giving the structured activities and events, and helping with homework, and promoting a positive successful lifestyle for the future. So yeah. I didn't think one day was long enough."

Before Friday's Open House, the Club will take part in a fundraiser at Pizza Inn on Monday.

"We're going to have a Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club fundraiser," said Shackelford. "It's going to be at Pizza Inn. It will be 'Double Your Dough-Nation.'"

McKain explained:

"For that time period, 4:30 to 9:30, all tips and 10 percent of sales will benefit the Boys and Girls Club," he said. "It's 'Double

Your Dough-Nation' because the (ALON) Refinery is matching it, up to \$2,500."

Another fundraiser will be Saturday, March 25, he added.

"On Saturday, the 25th, there is a new drive in, Terry's Drive-in, that we will be at from 11:30 a.m. To 1:30 p.m.," he said. "It's down there on Third Street heading toward Porter's on the left. They're giving us 15 percent of their sales for that day. We'll have some kids out there carhopping from 11:30 a.m. To 1:30 p.m. If anybody else would like to support the Salvation Army by hosting them or their children, we'd love to do other things with other community partners."

Shackelford agreed with the sentiment.

"Absolutely," he said. "We're always looking for fundraisers through the community to help us along, not only during the school year but also during the summer. And also, maybe to sponsor a child. We'll be hitting on that hard and heavy going into the summer, potentially not only a person, but businesses that would like to sponsor a child for the summer."

Shackelford added that the regular after-school program will experience a more festive atmosphere than usual during the week.

"We'll open at the regular time

each day next week. We'll be open from 2:30 p.m. to 6 o'clock Monday through Thursday, and then on Friday we'll have the Open House. We'll open up at 2:30 p.m., and then the Open House will be open to the public from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.," he said. "That entire week we'll be doing some special events to celebrate Boys and Girls Club Week. Normally we'd be doing homework and that type of thing, but we're going to have a little bit more festive time. We may do Bingo, we'll be doing some activities in the gym such as tug-of-war, we'll have a bowling game going on, of course we'll do our dodgeball. We'll do some staff against kids activities during that particular week. We'll do some nice art projects other than what we normally do, a little more festive, to try to make sure the kids understand this is a little more special."

Sponsors for the event include H-E-B, Sonic Drive-in, Culligan, Cowboy's Steakhouse, KBST Media, Taco Villa, Long John Silver's, the Big Spring ALON Refinery, and Star Dodge.

For more information, contact the Salvation Army at 432-267-8239.

Contact Staff Writer Roger Cline at 432-263-7331 ext. 232, or by email at life@bigspringherald.com

CAMPOUT

Continued from Page 1

Those that are interested in kayaking will get in the water at an offsite location 10 miles away at Lake Colorado City State Park and event goers will need to sign up for one of the three classes ahead of time. The touring times are 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m.

"There is kayaking if anybody wants to join us. We have three tours," Martinez said. "I'm going to be doing the kayaking tours."

Campers who are interested in staying overnight are encouraged to call ahead and bring a tent and supplies. There are a limited supply of tents for loan at no cost.

"They should bring things like bug spray, water, and if they're going to cook, general camping equipment," Martinez said.

For any additional information or to sign up please call the Lake Colorado City State Park office 325-728-3931.

BUDGET

Continued from Page 1

administration would negotiate over replacement cuts.

"This is not a take-it-or-leave-it budget," Mulvaney said.

Law enforcement agencies like the FBI would be spared, while the border wall would receive an immediate \$1.4 billion infusion in the ongoing fiscal year, with another \$2.6 billion planned for the 2018 budget year starting Oct. 1.

Trump repeatedly claimed during the campaign that Mexico would pay for the wall when, in fact, U.S. taxpayers will foot the bill.

Twelve of the government's 15 Cabinet agencies would absorb cuts under the president's proposal. The biggest losers are Agriculture, Labor, State, and the Cabinet-level EPA. The Defense Department, Department of Homeland Security and Department of Veterans Affairs are the winners.

More than 3,000 EPA workers would lose their jobs and programs such as Obama's Clean Power Plan, which would tighten regulations on emissions from power plants seen as contributing to global warming, would be eliminated. Popular EPA grants for state and local drinking and wastewater projects would be preserved, however, even as research into climate

change would be eliminated.

Trump's proposal covers only roughly one-fourth of the approximately \$4 trillion federal budget, the discretionary portion that Congress passes each year. It doesn't address taxes, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, or make predictions about deficits and the economy. Those big-picture details are due in mid-May, and are sure to show large — probably permanent — budget deficits. Trump has vowed not to cut Social Security and Medicare and is dead set against raising taxes.

"The president's going to keep his promises" to leave Social Security and Medicare alone, Mulvaney said.

But the budget increases user fees, boosting the airline ticket tax by \$1 per one-way trip. It would also slash subsidies for the federal flood insurance program that's a linchpin for the real estate market, especially in coastal southern states and the Northeast.

SPENDING

Continued from Page 1

the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the national endowments for arts and humanities and more than a dozen other independent agencies financed by the government.

A sampling:
WINNERS

—The Pentagon. Trump proposes a 10 percent increase in the massive defense budget, adding \$2 billion in military spending in one year to expand personnel, equipment and capability. Another \$2 billion would go to nuclear weapons.

—Veterans Affairs. Up 5.9 percent. That's an additional \$4.4 billion, driven by ever-growing health care costs.

—Homeland Security. Up 6.8 percent. That's \$2.8 billion more. Most of the increase, \$2.6 billion, would be to help kick-start Trump's promised border wall. The president has repeatedly said Mexico would pay for the wall; Mexican officials are adamant that they won't. Trump also wants an extra \$1.5 billion for more immigration jails and deportations, and \$314 million to hire 1,500 immigration enforcement and border patrol agents.

—The National Nuclear Security Administration, which oversees the maintenance and safety of the nuclear arsenal and its research labs. The agency would grow by 11.3 percent, or \$1.4 billion, so that it takes up more than half the Energy Department's budget, which would shrink overall.

—Opioid prevention and treatment: a proposed \$500 million increase in the Health and Human Services Department to counter the epidemic and more money for the Justice Department to combat the problem.

—School choice: \$1.4 billion more to expand school choice programs, bringing spending in that area to \$20 billion, even as the Education Department's overall budget would be cut by \$9 billion, or 13 percent.

LOSERS:

—EPA, facing a 31.4 percent cut, or \$2.6 billion. The plan would cut 3,200 jobs at the agency, eliminate a new plan for tighter regulations on power plants, and "zero out" programs to clean up the Great Lakes and the Chesapeake Bay.

—Health and Human Services, facing the largest cut in dollar terms: \$12.6 billion, or 16.2 percent. The plan would cut \$5.8 billion from the nearly \$32 billion National Institutes of Health, the nation's premier medical research agency, bringing its total to \$25.9 billion. It's not clear what research on diseases or disorders would lose the most money, although the budget plan specifically calls for elimination of a division that focuses on global health. Already, the NIH's budget hasn't kept pace with inflation over the last decade, making it dramatically harder for scientists around the country to win money for research projects into potential new treatments or better understanding of disease.

—State Department and U.S. Agency for International Development. Down 28 percent, or \$10

billion. Foreign aid would be reduced, as would money to the U.N. and to multilateral development banks including the World Bank. Some foreign military grants would be shifted to loans.

—Labor Department. A more than 20 percent cut, or \$2.5 billion. To be eliminated: a \$434 million program that has helped more than 1 million people 55 and older find jobs, according to the department. The blueprint says the Senior Community Service Employment Program is inefficient and unproven.

—Agriculture Department. A nearly 21 percent cut, or \$4.7 billion, achieved in part by cutting land acquisition in the National Forest System, rural water infrastructure and statistical capabilities at the department. Trump also proposes reduced staff in county USDA offices, an idea that fell flat in Congress when President Barack Obama proposed a similar reduction.

—Transportation Department. Trump proposes a cut of nearly 13 percent, or \$2.4 billion. Amtrak, local transit agencies, and rural communities that depend on federal subsidies to obtain scheduled airline service would take the brunt. Trump would eliminate subsidies for Amtrak long-distance train routes, which would most likely mean the end of those routes since they are generally not profitable. Money for the Federal Transit Administration grant program for new light rail and subway construction would be eliminated except for multi-year projects the government has already committed to help fund.

**MYERS & SMITH
FUNERAL HOME
& CHAPEL**
24th & Johnson
267-8288

Larry Sandridge, 70, of Big Spring died Saturday. Memorial service with Military Honors will be at 2 p.m. today at Myers & Smith Chapel.

William Sidney (Bill) Birdwell, Jr., 85, of Madera, CA, formerly of Big Spring passed away February 26, 2017. Grave-side service will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

COWBOYS STEAKHOUSE AND RESTAURANT

\$1.00 Off Adults
50¢ Off Children
Sunday Only
11-3 Buffet or
Any Entree \$9.00 or above
1 Coupon Per Person
Must Be Presented For Discount
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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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DAILY PRAYER

May we rejoice with song and praise for your love, Dear Lord. Amen.

If the pre-budget rumors are true, President Donald Trump is making good on his promise to drain the swamp by putting a few corporate welfare programs, such as the Export-Import Bank and the Overseas Private Investment Corp., on the chopping block. Unfortunately, getting rid of cronyism in the federal government won't be easy, given the deep-rooted and mutually beneficial relationship between politicians and commercial interests. Still, the new administration and Congress could take some action in the coming year to move in that direction.

Before I start detailing how, let me say that abolishing all corporate welfare programs is the right thing to do. Corporate welfare, a practice in which government officials provide preferential treatment (such as loans, subsidies or regulatory preferences) to hand-picked firms or industries, is unfair. It picks winners and losers for no other reason than that they're politically connected or not politically connected. The winners are usually big and able to invest in lobbying on Capitol Hill. The victims are often unseen and usually don't have a press office.

Favoritism also slows the economy because entrepreneurs and businesses misdirect their resources. They spend time lobbying for those privileges instead of finding new ways to create value for customers.

Short of terminating programs, the first thing Congress could do is adopt fair-value accounting. Under the government's current accounting scheme, most direct and guaranteed loans look as if they cost taxpayers nothing and even create the illusion of returning money to the Treasury. Mov-

ing to a fair-value accounting system would actually capture the direct and opportunity costs of these lending programs.

That was the finding of a 2014 Congressional Budget Office report that looked at the real cost of three lending mechanisms — the Department of Education's four largest student loan programs, the Ex-Im Bank's six largest export credit programs and the Federal Housing Administration's single-family mortgage guarantee program. In our new Mercatus Center paper, "Curbing Favoritism in Government," Tad DeHaven and I explain that when the CBO switched to a fair-value accounting method like the one employed by the private sector, it found that rather than save or make money, these programs combined will cost taxpayers — excluding administrative expenses — roughly \$120 billion over the next 10 years. A fair-value accounting system would make these programs' costs more transparent.

Second, Congress could create a Base Realignment and Closure-like commission to eliminate favoritism. An independent commission made of non-politician experts would be charged with the narrow focus and specific instructions of reviewing programs, tax expenditures and regulations that confer privileges on commercial interests. The commission would then submit a package targeting the elimination of the most egregious corporate welfare programs. It would go into effect unless a joint resolution disapproving all of the commission's recommendations were passed and signed by the president.

Like BRAC, which it's modeled on, this would likely be a very effective tool to curb cronyism. BRAC successfully neutralized special interests, DeHaven and I say, as it provided "policymakers political cover by enabling them to support the overall package of base closures while putting up a public fight against

closures back in the district to demonstrate they stuck up for their constituents' jobs."

Finally, lawmakers could start taking a real stand against corporate welfare. When then-Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., successfully stood up against spending \$223 million worth of taxpayers' money through earmarks to reconstruct an Alaskan bridge connecting an airport on Gravena Island (population 50) to the town of Ketchikan (population 8,900) — a bridge he labeled the "Bridge to Nowhere" — not only did we remember his gesture in the name of taxpayers but also it helped kill earmarks once and for all.

Coburn was following in the steps of former Sen. William Proxmire, a Wisconsin Democrat. Proxmire left Congress in 1989 and was an outspoken opponent of government waste, including corporate welfare. He would famously highlight a program that wasted public money and the public officials supporting it and give them "Golden Fleece Awards." According to Time magazine, his constant denouncing of government waste and those who supported it made Proxmire "the bane of defense contractors, pork-barreling colleagues and consumer frauds." His persistence won him very rare but important victories.

Lawmakers could emulate this model to fight against the unfairness of corporate welfare and stand for its unseen victims. Their efforts might not always be successful, but they would be remembered for trying to bring some justice and balance against those giant beneficiaries of favoritism.

Veronique de Rugy is a senior research fellow at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University. To find out more about Veronique de Rugy and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate webpage at www.creators.com.

In Chicago, bad policing doesn't stop crime

With violent crime surging in Chicago, the Trump administration

rejects the idea of police restraint. During the campaign, Donald Trump said the answer is for cops here to be "very much tougher." In his recent address to Congress, he decried violence in Chicago and promised to "work with — not against, not against — the men and women of law enforcement."

Attorney General Jeff Sessions agrees that the cops are always right. Last year, the Obama Department of Justice published a damning report on the Chicago Police Department, which concluded that its officers "engage in a pattern or practice of using force, including deadly force, that is unreasonable," as well as unconstitutional, creating unnecessary danger to themselves and innocent bystanders.

Asked last month whether he would pursue reforms in response to the abuses and errors cited in the report, Sessions said he hadn't read it. He also said the increase in crime has occurred because "we've undermined the respect for our police and made, oftentimes, their job more difficult."

Anyone who has taken the trouble to read the Justice Department report on Chicago can see that bad police are the ones who really undermine that respect.

One notorious example is the 2014 shooting of 17-year-old Laquan McDonald as he walked away from officers while holding a knife — a killing the police excused and lied about. The video exposing the truth was released

in November 2015. The spike in crime began soon after.

There are plenty of other cases. When one unarmed man ran away after being approached by cops, they fired 45 rounds at him, killing him. A cop choked, hit and slapped a man "who had refused to leave the area in front of a store where the man was shopping with his family" — and the cop then denied using force. Black teenagers told of being picked up by cops and dropped off in rival gang areas.

It's not only the Justice Department that has found that Chicago police engage in needless brutality. Crain's Chicago Business reported last year that misconduct cases have cost the city \$662 million in judgments, settlements and outside legal fees since 2004.

If ferocious methods were the solution to crime, Chicago would be suffering a shortage of criminals. Even before last year's jump, though, its homicide rate far surpassed those of New York and Los Angeles.

But when cops misuse their authority, residents of high-crime areas regard them as an occupying force they should fear, not an ally they should assist. A Chicago Tribune poll last year found that only 20 percent of Chicagoans think the police "treat all citizens fairly."

Police use of force is often unnecessary and counterproductive. When police act with restraint, they can get better results. The Los Angeles Police Department once had a reputation as vicious and corrupt. But reforms carried out under a 2000 consent decree with the Justice Department have made a huge difference.

Between 1991 and 2009, public approval of the LAPD rose from 40 percent to 77 percent. But felons have not been running wild. Since the consent decree took effect, crime has plunged by more than half. Last year, Chicago had

762 homicides, while Los Angeles, with a larger population, had 294.

In his new book, "When Police Kill," University of California, Berkeley law professor Franklin Zimring notes that Philadelphia drastically reduced the number of civilian deaths at the hands of police — from 15 in 2007 to four in 2014 and two in 2015. Yet the crime rate last year was the lowest the city had seen since 1979. Philadelphia, like Los Angeles, is proof that more restraint does not equal more crime.

The New York experience offers additional confirmation. Between 2011 and 2015, the NYPD reduced the number of street stops by 97 percent. In that period, the number of murders dropped by a third.

What should be clear from all this is that when police go to war against their citizens, they provoke hostility and distrust that undermine their mission. When they exercise greater care in dealing with those they encounter, they may find that their job gets easier and safer.

When a federal court lifted the consent decree on the LAPD in 2013, Chief Charlie Beck said: "It has been the catalyst for incredible change in my police department. We've become accountable. We've become transparent. And we've become more effective than we've ever been." For Chicago, changes like those sound crazy, but they just might work.

Steve Chapman blogs at www.chicagotribune.com/news/opinion/chapman. Follow him on Twitter @SteveChapman13 or at www.facebook.com/stevechapman13. To find out more about Steve Chapman and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com.



VERONIQUE DE RUGY



STEVE CHAPMAN

Texas congressman tells town hall attendee to 'shut up'



BARTON

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Republican congressman from Texas told a constituent to "shut up" over the weekend during a town hall meeting in his home district.

Congressman Joe Barton, who represents part of the Arlington area, is seen on video calmly explaining that he voted against federal legislation to protect women against violence because he believes that the issue is best left to the states. That prompted several in attendance to yell in disagreement. Barton pointed to one man and told him, "You sir shut up."

Barton later said in a statement that that the man "continued to speak over myself and many others who were seeking recognition in orderly fashion."

Chris Lewis, who says he was the target of Barton's remark, tells the *Arlington Star-Telegram* he wasn't upset and has "heard worse."

5 Texas firefighters fired for hazing rookie colleague

HOUSTON (AP) — A Houston-area fire chief has fired five firefighters and suspended another after video surfaced of them hazing a rookie colleague who had been strapped to a backboard.

Stephen Whitehead, fire chief of the Westfield department in north Harris County, says the video was brought to his attention Monday.

It appears to show water at one point being poured over the rookie firefighter, similar to waterboarding. At other times he's doused with food as others yell at him.

Whitehead says the victim of the hazing didn't want to file a complaint. The incident occurred at the department's central fire station.

Whitehead condemned the hazing, calling it dangerous and a "blight on our profession."

2nd person charged with murder in death of West Texas woman

SAN ANGELO, Texas (AP) — Officials say a second suspect has been arrested on a murder charge after the remains of a West Texas woman were found buried at a former speedway.

Tom Green County jail records show Ludonna Gail Yoder was being held Wednesday on \$500,000 bond.

Sheriff David Jones says Naomi Miller was last seen alive in 2005. Relatives reported her missing in 2015. Her remains were located March 8 at the ex-San Angelo Speedway.

Jones says Miller's husband, Robert Lamar Miller II, was arrested March 2 and accused of killing her at their home. Yoder was arrested Tuesday after investigators said she provided a statement saying she participated in the slaying.

Autopsy results were pending.

Investigators didn't immediately say how Yoder knows Robert Miller. Online records didn't list an attorney representing her.

Texas woman in midst of modeling shoot when struck by train

NAVASOTA, Texas (AP) — The mother of a 19-year-old woman says her daughter was killed when she was struck by a train while having photos taken of her on the tracks in a bid to launch a modeling career.

Hakamie Stevenson told *The Eagle* newspaper that her daughter, Fredzania Thompson, attended Blinn College in Bryan but wanted to put her education on hold to begin modeling.

Authorities say Thompson was standing between two sets of tracks Friday in Navasota when a BNSF Railway train approached.

She moved out of the way of the train but was apparently unaware that a Union Pacific train was coming in the opposite direction on the other tracks and was struck.

The person who was taking photos of Thompson was not hurt.

Navasota is about 60 miles northwest of Houston.

www.bigspringherald.com

Things to Know: 'Bathroom bill' poised to clear Texas Senate



AP photo/Eric Gay

Members of the transgender community and others who oppose Senate Bill 6 protest in the exterior rotunda at the Texas state Capitol as the Senate State Affairs Committee holds hearings on the bill, Tuesday, March 7, 2017, in Austin, Texas. The the transgender "bathroom bill" would require people to use public bathrooms and restrooms that correspond with the sex on their birth certificate.

By **PAUL J. WEBER**

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A North Carolina-style "bathroom bill" in Texas won preliminary approval Tuesday in the state Senate over the objections of big businesses including Amazon and American Airlines, celebrities such as Lady Gaga and warnings from the NFL and NBA.

But the bill, which requires transgender people to use public bathrooms that correspond with the sex on their birth certificate, still faces big obstacles that could ultimately derail the proposal in the Republican-controlled Legislature.

Here's where the hot-button measure stands and what's ahead:

AN EARLY SENATE VOTE

Republican Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who was the Texas chairman of Donald Trump's presidential campaign last year, has put what he calls "The Texas Privacy Act" at the top of his agenda. He has dismissed projections of business backlash and flew in his North Carolina counterpart to dispute what they claim are fake narratives of a similar law causing economic upheaval there.

The bill is being carried by Lois Kolkhorst, a Republican senator who says the proposal is about women's safety and not discriminating against transgender people.

The measure passed 21-10 after more than four hours of debate and failed efforts by Democrats to amend the bill with provisions that would have, among other things, required economic studies and let cities keep existing transgender rights rules. A final vote is expected Wednesday.

Kolkhorst repeatedly said Tuesday that former President Barack Obama forced the issue last year when his administration told public schools that students must be allowed to use bathrooms consistent with their gender identity. President Donald Trump has since rescinded that order, but Republicans insist the

measure is still needed.

WHAT'S NEXT

The proposal would next need the OK from the House — where powerful Republican speaker Joe Straus says he has no appetite for the bill he has likened to a job-killer. Straus has stopped short of declaring the bill dead on arrival but his public and repeated denunciations are significant.

Republican Gov. Greg Abbott has also yet to definitively take a public stance about the most high-profile bill in Texas this year. Abbott has taken broadsides at the NFL for wading into the debate but has not said whether the law is needed.

BUSINESSES, SPORTS LEAGUES THREATEN BOYCOTTS

The North Carolina law prompted the NCAA to pull seven championship events out of the state, the NBA to move the All-Star game from Charlotte and contributed to former Republican Gov. Pat McCrory getting voted out in November.

The NBA and NFL have lobbed similar warnings to Texas, but Republicans are undeterred. "I believe their threats are real. But I also have great concern about the NCAA, NFL, NBA you name it, dictating policy not just to this state, but any state," Kolkhorst said.

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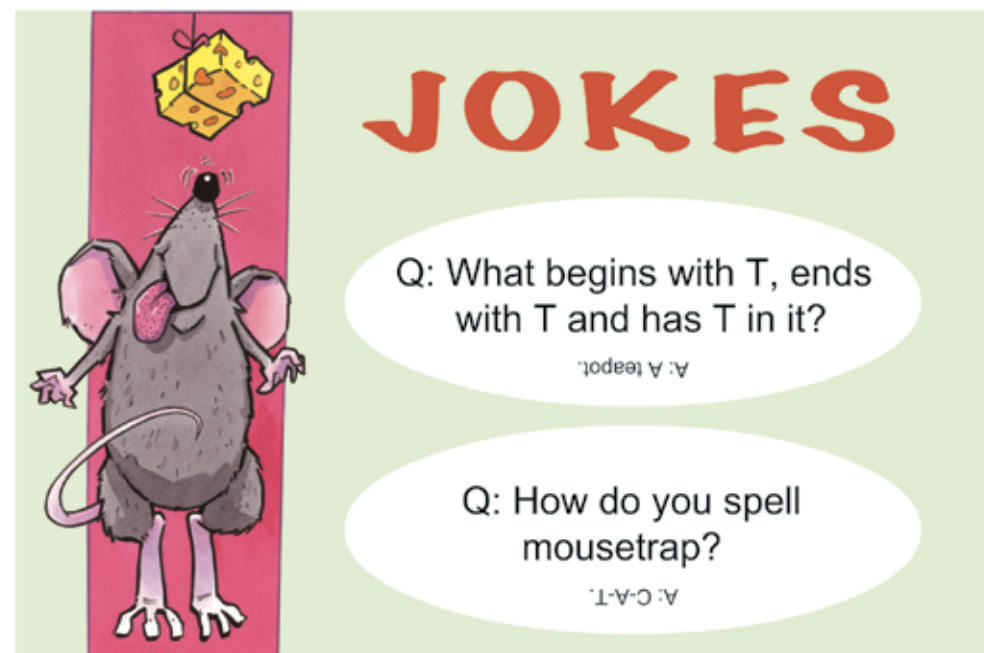


Name That Part of Speech

There are several parts of speech in the English language. Fill in the blanks to name some of them.

- 1 N _ _ _ N
- 2 V E _ _ _
- 3 A _ _ _ E R B
- 4 A D _ _ E _ _ T I V E
- 5 P R _ _ N O _ _ N
- 6 P R _ _ P O S _ _ T I O N
- 7 C O _ _ J U N C _ _ I O N

Answers: (1) Noun, (2) Verb, (3) Adverb, (4) Adjective, (5) Pronoun, (6) Preposition, (7) Conjunction



What Rhymes with...

RULE



List 10 words that rhyme with "RULE."

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Some answers: cool, drool, fool, ghoul, mule, pool, school, stool, yule

Fact or Fiction?

Grammar Challenge



Grammar is the set of rules that determine how words should be used in a language. Here are some questions about English grammar. How many can you answer correctly?

- 1) All sentences start with a capital letter. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 2) All sentences end with a period. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 3) The pronoun "I" is always capitalized. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 4) A noun is a person, place or thing. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 5) Subjects are nouns. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 6) The article "an" comes before words that start with a consonant. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 7) Some words sound alike but are spelled differently. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 8) Words that sound alike but have different meanings and may be spelled differently are called homophones. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 9) Apostrophes show possession. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 10) Adverbs modify nouns. **Fact or Fiction?**

Answers: 1) Fact, 2) Fiction, some sentences end with a question mark or an exclamation mark, 3) Fact, 4) Fact, 5) Fact, 6) Fiction, "an" comes before words that start with a vowel, 7) Fact, 8) Fact, 9) Fact, 10) Fiction, adverbs modify verbs, adverbs or adjectives

Forever Changing

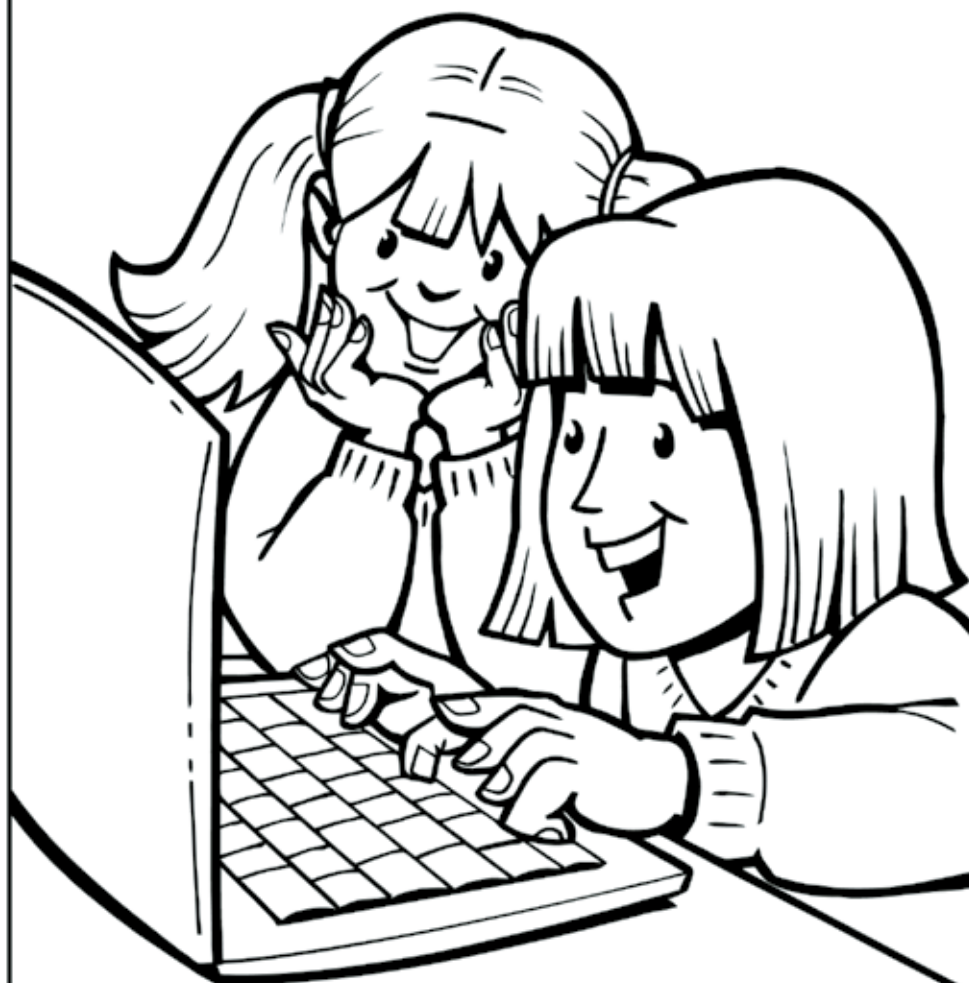
Think you're following the same rules of grammar that your grandparents or parents did? Think again. While you might have been taught some of the same rules, you might also be learning some new ones. That's because the English language is constantly changing.

Listen to your grandparents or parents chat. Now, listen to some teens chat. Hear a difference? Chances are you do. Computers, cell phones and technology in general have led younger people to speak and use the English language differently. While Grandma might have been taught never to start a sentence with the conjunction "but," you might have been taught differently.

The English language is constantly changing to reflect the times. Emailing and texting have resulted in new words and new uses for punctuation marks. The grammar rules you are learning now as a student may no longer apply when you are attempting to help your kids with their homework years down the road.



COLORING PICTURE



Williams, Harden send Rockets to 139-100 win over Lakers



AP Photo/David J. Phillip

Houston Rockets' James Harden (13) goes up for a shot against the Los Angeles Lakers during the first half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, March 15, 2017, in Houston.

HOUSTON (AP) — Rockets guard Williams found the perfect cure for his recent shooting woes — a good, old-fashioned revenge game.

Williams scored 30 points against his former team and James Harden had his 17th triple-double of the season to lead Houston over the Los Angeles Lakers 139-100 on Wednesday night.

Williams broke out of a shooting slump against his ex-teammates. He was just 7 of 30 on 3-pointers (23.3 percent) in six March games before regaining his touch in this one.

Houston sent Corey Brewer and a first-round draft pick to Los Angeles in a trade for Williams three weeks ago. The deal paid off for the Rockets on Wednesday night as Williams went 7 for 9 from beyond the arc and made his first seven field goal attempts, including four straight 3s.

"It had been a while," Williams said. "I've had some ups and downs. It's been a while since I shot the ball that well. Tonight was just a good night for me. I felt confident in my shot."

Harden had 18 points, 13 assists and 12 rebounds as Houston handed the Lakers their 11th loss

in 12 games.

"We've got so many good players and good scorers that he doesn't have to figure anything out," Harden said about Williams. "He's just being patient. Tonight, he got it going, and it was good for us."

Brewer, meanwhile, had four points in 22 minutes.

With D'Angelo Russell struggling to find a rhythm and in foul trouble much of the game, Los Angeles leaned heavily on Julius Randle, who gave Houston fits all night. Randle muscled his way into the paint for a career-high 32 points and eight rebounds.

"I just have to be more aggressive and look to score and run the floor," Randle said. "It's all stuff that I already know that I have to be more consistent with."

Rookie forward Brandon Ingram and Jordan Clarkson both scored 18 points for Los Angeles.

"We just have to keep getting better. It's a process," Ingram said. "Some of us have never been through this before, and the thing we're going through right now will only make us stronger. We just need to come in and try to get better."

But the Rockets' 3-point shooting proved overwhelming for the young Lakers as Houston drained 18 of 43 from outside the arc (41.9 percent). Houston scored 46 points in the fourth quarter, mostly from reserve players while the Rockets held a comfortable lead.

"It's a balancing act," Houston coach Mike D'Antoni said. "You don't want to get out of rhythm and you've got to be careful. I don't know the formula, and I don't know if there is one."

Lakers coach Luke Walton expressed his dissatisfaction with his team's lack of effort and composure down the stretch when

the game got out of hand. He singled out a few instances when his players didn't get back in transition defense and failed to communicate with each other.

"I don't know if we think we're too good to have to work like that or if we're not willing to constantly commit, but I'm not OK with it," Walton said. "I have a fire burning in me that gets (ticked) off when we're down 30-something."

Houston led 66-52 at halftime and outscored the Lakers in every quarter. Houston won by 39 points, the same margin of victory as the last time it played the Lakers, a 134-95 rout in Los Angeles on Dec. 7.

Nick Young was back in the starting lineup for the Lakers, but his shooting woes continued. Young went 0 for 9 from the field, including 0 for 7 from 3-point territory.

"Nick, obviously, must have been rusty," Walton said. "We needed shooting out there tonight, and unfortunately, he never really got it going."

TIP-INS

Lakers: Russell fouled out when he was called for an offensive foul with seven minutes remaining. ... Ex-Rockets Brewer, Tyler Ennis, Thomas Robinson, Tarik Black and Metta World Peace all played for Los Angeles.

Rockets: Houston has won nine of its last 11 against the Lakers and taken four straight season series for the first time in franchise history. ... Harden had nine of Houston's 19 turnovers, largely on wild passes.

QUOTABLE

"We need to figure out as a group — not individually, but as a group — how to handle adversity and how to react when things get tough," Walton said. "We do a lot of blaming of other people, and we need to look at ourselves and control what we can control. Until we do, unfortunately, there's going to be a lot of frustrating nights like tonight."

CLUTCH CITY BLOWOUTS

The Rockets have won 14 games by 20 points or more this season, matching the 2006-07 team for the highest total in franchise history. Houston improved to 25-1 this season when scoring at least 120 points.

UP NEXT

Lakers: Host the Milwaukee Bucks on Friday.

Rockets: Visit the New Orleans Pelicans on Friday.

Busted: Teams at top of brackets find themselves in trouble

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — They are supposed to be the best of the best. In many instances, they have looked more like the ugliest of the ugly.

Some of the top teams in this year's NCAA Tournament have seen their names pop up in off-the-court headlines all too often and for all the wrong reasons.

—No. 1 seed Kansas has been beset by a series of run-ins with the law.

—No. 2 seed Louisville is awaiting the latest from the NCAA in a back-and-forth that started when an assistant coach hired female escorts to party with recruits.

—Another top seed, North Carolina, is still going back and forth with the NCAA on a complicated case centered on athletes taking "paper classes" that resulted in inflated grades to keep the players eligible. This story was running hot last year while the Tar Heels were making a run to the NCAA final. It still isn't resolved.

If all this feels achingly familiar, it's because it is.

"It's not a new problem," said Joy Gaston Gayles, a professor at North Carolina State who studies the impact college sports has on its athletes. "And you often wonder, what's going to be the scandal that breaks the camel's back? Every decade, scandals get worse and nothing really changes."

You could put together a book about them all, which is exactly what Penn State professor Shaun Harper did recently. Gayles wrote a chapter in "Scandals in College Sports" about some of the lowlights of the past 10 years or so.

"You see these kinds of things, and for institutions of higher education, it flies in the face of everything higher education is about," she said.

North Carolina's irregular-courses scandal has already cost the university — long one of the most respected in the nation — the embarrassment of a 12-month probation levied by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. There is still the possibility the NCAA could find the athletics program guilty of "lack of institutional control," which has, for decades, been about the worst conclusion possible within the realm of college sports.

But "institutional control" can be defined in many different ways outside of the traditional NCAA nomenclature.

In the most damaging instance of legal trouble at Kansas this season, police investigated a reported rape at the dorm that houses the basketball team. No charges have been filed.

From there, more headlines kept piling up involving no fewer than four players.

Coach Bill Self said he's proud his team has rallied despite the steady stream of issues.

"I will say that this team has been as focused as any group that I can remember considering all the crap and distractions that this team has listened to and dealt with," he said.

While Self paints an us-against-the-world scenario, Richard Pitino is portraying this season as a comeback story at Louisville — proud of what his team has accomplished after losing two scholarships as part of self-imposed sanctions that also included missing the post-season last year. The coaching has accused the NCAA of overreaching for suggesting a possible one-year suspension because he failed to monitor the assistant coach who was throwing the recruit parties.

And yet, the biggest story about Pitino this week is that he and his son, Richard, are the first father-son coaching duo in the tournament. The Minnesota program that Richard Pitino now coaches has been beset with problems for decades, the latest of which came last year when Pitino suspended three players for their connection to a sex video that showed up on social media.

At Baylor, one of the darkest episodes in college sports history was brought to light again when news surfaced of an upcoming documentary in which former coach Dave Bliss repeats the claim that Patrick Dennehy, who was shot and killed in 2003, was a drug dealer. That documentary will air the night before the Final Four.

Lillard's 36 spoil Aldridge's return as Blazers top Spurs

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The Portland Trail Blazers did not have a team meeting or scream at one another after suffering their "worst loss" of the season.

The compacted NBA schedule makes it necessary to forget quickly. Portland understood that and it led to their "best win of the year" just 24 hours after a blowout loss.

Damian Lillard scored 36 points and the Trail Blazers defeated the San Antonio Spurs 110-106 on Wednesday night, spoiling LaMarcus Aldridge's return from a health scare.

C.J. McCollum added 26 points for Portland, which was coming off a 23-point loss in New Orleans on Tuesday.

"That had to be probably our best win of the year," Blazers coach Terry Stotts said. "To beat a team like San Antonio on the road. Not only that, but how we won. I thought it was one of our better games as far as staying focused throughout the game."

Portland needed that focus in an emotional game for San Antonio.

Aldridge returned after missing two games with a minor heart arrhythmia. He was cleared Wednesday morning and does not have any playing restrictions.

"I feel good," Aldridge said. "It felt good to be back out there. We didn't get a win, so that's kind of tough to deal with. (But) happy to be out there with the teammates, just be playing again."

Kawhi Leonard had 34 points to lead San Antonio (52-15), which had won 11 of 12 entering the game but fell one game behind Golden State for the league's best record.

Aldridge had 19 points and seven rebounds, including nine points in the final quarter.

"I felt like my rhythm was good early and then I think my touch was off around the rim. That kind of bothered me," Aldridge said. "I definitely played better at the end. It's the first game back. I'll get better."

Trailing 104-97 with 1:45 remaining, San Antonio closed within two points as Aldridge scored five consecutive points on a layup and a powerful dunk that led to a three-point play. After Leonard missed a short runner, McCollum made a pair of free throws to end the Spurs' streak and give Portland a 106-102 lead.

Patty Mills then hit a 3-pointer from the right corner off a feed from Leonard, but Lillard made four straight free throws to seal the victory for the Trail Blazers.

After shooting 30 percent from the field against New Orleans, Portland rebounded to 48 percent against San Antonio.

"We talked about it, because it's something you can't just say, 'Aw, we got beat,'" Lillard said. "You've got to address the things that we didn't do well and the things we've got to do better if we want to have this run we're trying to put together. But that was it. We didn't have a big intervention, nothing like that."

The Blazers (30-37) moved two games behind the Denver Nuggets (32-35) for the final playoff berth in the West.

Portland closed the third quarter on a 9-3 run in taking an 82-80 lead to set up their fourth-quarter heroics.

The Spurs struggled to stop Lillard and McCollum, who shot a combined 20 for 38. The duo also had four assists each.

"Lillard and McCollum were super, but I thought they executed their offense great," San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said. "We just didn't guard them tonight as well as we needed to."



AP Photo/Eric Gay

San Antonio Spurs forward LaMarcus Aldridge shoots over Portland Trail Blazers forward Noah Vonleh (21) during the first half of their game, Wednesday, March 15, 2017.

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Sealed proposals addressed to **Mr. John Grant, General Manager of the Colorado River Municipal Water District**, will be received at the office of the Colorado River Municipal Water District, 400 E. 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas 79720; (P.O. Box 86, Big Spring, Texas 79721), until **Thursday, March 23, 2017 at 3:00 p.m.** for the following project.

Employee Uniform Rental Service

The project includes the rental of office floor mats and uniforms for employees of CRMWD, the pickup of soiled mats and uniforms to be cleaned, pressed (uniforms), and maintained in a presentable condition and delivery of the clean mats and uniforms to various district locations on a weekly basis.

At this time and place the proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud. Any bid received after closing time will not be accepted and will be returned to sender unopened.

Contract Documents, including Specifications, Construction Drawings and any other documents relevant to the scope of work may be examined at the office of the Colorado River Municipal Water District, 400 E. 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas 79720; (P.O. Box 869, Big Spring, Texas 79721), Telephone (432) 267-6341, free of charge.

Advertisement and information for the Projects can be found at the following web site: <http://www.crmwd.org/crmwd/engineering.htm>

Contract Documents may be downloaded or viewed free of charge at this web site. All potential bidders may review a copy of the Contract documents from the offices of the District. It is the downloader's responsibility to determine that a complete set of documents, as defined in the Instructions to Bidders are received.

This web site will be updated periodically with addenda, lists of interested parties, reports or other information relevant to submitting a proposal for the Project. All bidders are responsible for insuring that they have a complete set of Contract documents prior to the deadline for submission of sealed bids. Any questions concerning this advertisement, any addenda or related to the Contract documents should be addressed to **David Hernandez, CRMWD, 400 E. 24th Street, Big Spring Texas 79720; (P.O. Box 869, Big Spring, Texas 79721), 432-267-6341 ext.332 or dhernandez@crmwd.org.**

There will not be a pre-bid meeting for this project.

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In case of ambiguity or lack of clarity in stating proposed prices, the Colorado River Municipal Water District reserves the right to adopt the most advantages purchase thereof, to reject any or all bids, and to waive formalities. The District anticipates that it will award the contract by April 04, 2017. No bid may be withdrawn within ninety (90) calendar days after the date on which bids are opened.

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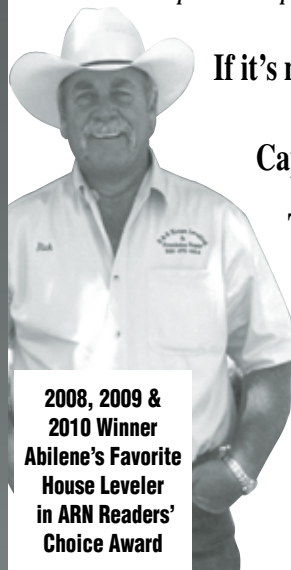
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Tomorrow's Horoscope



HOLIDAY MATHIS

Soul-Stirring Neptune Aspect

Though it's very popular to measure success in terms of accomplishment and acquisition, these are not necessarily the best standards, and they certainly are not the only standards that count. The Scorpio moon angles Neptune, also in a water sign, in a soul-stirring way. What was at the bottom floats up. This is what really matters.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Today is for thinking ahead. There's a process you'll begin now (while you're far upstream from the destination) so that you'll have what you need in the moment you need it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Paradoxically, humility is

among the least popular virtues, but those who adopt, understand and live it are among the most popular people. It takes a lot of confidence to be humble!

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your work and process and role may be very different from your colleague's or loved one's position, and yet you both struggle with the same obstacles. There's a way to work together for mutual benefit.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). When everybody tends to his or her own business, news is scarce. If the helpless are being harmed, step in. Other than that, there are very few instances when it's right to intervene.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Investigations aren't just for solving crimes. Investigate positive things too, especially the qualities and habits that might lead you toward the attainment of your goals.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There are some very unhealthy situations in the world, and some of them you have to deal with on

the regular. Don't let it stop you. At the end of the day, it's up to you to make a change and go where you can grow.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). As for that person with whom you can't seem to sync up with: This is nothing to take personally. What's going on is that you're just not hearing the same music. Don't try and impress. Instead, search for common ground.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Some are offended by the colloquialism "whatever," putting it in the same category as a curse word. At the very least, it represents disrespect and faux apathy, two things against your nature.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You can't do it all in one day, or even think of it all in one day. But you can keep a running list. There's something extremely lucky about committing your plans to writing.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Knowledge alone won't make you any more effective than

knowing the fundamentals of a dance will make you a dancer. This is why you practice over and over today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). People who take responsibility for their actions once are likely to do so again and again. The reverse is also true. You'll make an important decision, and an accurate character assessment will be key in this.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). "Duty first" is your guiding principle. Furthermore, you'll put your own agenda aside to do what your friend needs. Just don't leave yourself out entirely. What you do for your own enjoyment makes the world better, too.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 16). You'll flip the script on your inner world this year, seeing yourself as humbler and yet more powerful and richer and with less to contend with. April brings an exciting venture complete with big responsibilities that will be a joy to keep. May and July bring the chance to learn about

your loved ones in new places. Sagittarius and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 7, 13, 22 and 48.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTION: "When I was 13 years old I did terrible emotional harm to someone. It wasn't premeditated, or physical; it was just something terrible I did that I'd rather not mention, but it was the kind of thing that could definitely damage a boy for life and make him maybe cynical or afraid of girls forever after. I'm in my 40s now, but I have thought about this incident many a sleepless night, wishing I could take it back. I looked for the boy on social media so that I could ask for forgiveness, but I never found him. When I think about this, I really still hate myself. What's a Leo to do?"

You might be surprised, dear Leo, how many people have something like this in their pasts. As the sign of heart, you pride yourself on being an above-average lover of humans, and the fact that you were cruel as a child

is even more shameful to you than it would be to most people. And yet you just need to let it go. You had your reasons. What you did may be unforgivable, but (SET ITAL) why (END ITAL) you did it is very forgivable. You were too young to know better or you wouldn't have done it. Let it go in some ritualistic way and don't mention it again.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Academy Award winning filmmaker Bernardo Bertolucci explores the complicated yearnings of the human soul in a particularly Piscean way: through imagery. And his work brings to life both the spectacular imagination and innate complexity of a Pisces-ruled mind (he also has Mercury in Pisces). According to Hollywood legend, he's even had psychoanalysts on his movie sets!

To write to Holiday Mathis, visit www.creators.com/author/holiday-mathis and click "Contact."
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Annie's Mailbox

Medicating ADD

Dear Annie: My 7-year-old son was diagnosed with attention deficit disorder last year. Before then, my husband and I thought for a while that he just had "a lot of energy" and had trouble grasping some things in school, like all kids at some point or another. But he started falling behind significantly, to the point where class-

mates were calling him stupid. (Don't even get me started on those kids.) My poor son's self-esteem just plummeted, and he began getting easily frustrated with his work. Since the diagnosis, we've tried putting him on a low dosage of medication. It's made a world of difference. He is not only following along in school but also able to hold an actual conversation with us and his peers and stay

on task. Previously, when I would ask him to brush his teeth before bed, on his way to the bathroom, he'd find a new Lego to unpack and then go to the kitchen pantry to see about a snack.

The problem is that my husband also has ADD, and after a few months of this success, he just told me he no longer wants our son to take the medication. He feels that our son is too "robotic," and he doesn't want to "drug him up." I don't blame him for his reservations; he spent a few years as a teenager trying different medications, and virtually every one produced difficult side effects. He has lived his life without medication.

(Don't get me started on that, either.) I feel that staying on this track is the best for our son and that my husband is projecting his experience on our son. Do you see a compromise here? Or is this a no-brainer? -- Concerned Mom

Dear Concerned: No way is this a no-brainer. Decisions involving children and medication are often complicated and always require careful consideration. Every case is different, and I can't say for sure what the best choice for your son is. I would recommend that you go to a licensed therapist whom you and your husband agree on and seek his or her

professional opinion on the matter.

Dear Annie: Your advice to "Tired and Exhausted" -- whose son is struggling with addiction -- was good but incomplete. As a parent of two people who were addicts for a very long time (both are sober now), I'd like to recommend Learn to Cope. This is a wonderful support group started by Joanne Peterson in 2004, and it has over 7,000 members. Though it is based in Massachusetts, the organization holds meetings in several locations, and its website alone is a wealth of information. (Check it out at <http://www.learn2cope.org>.) Anyone who joins (it's free) can post questions and receive great peer support. "Tired and Exhausted" could

also call 508-738-5148 to speak to a member of the Learn to Cope staff. -- Mom Who's Been There

Dear Mom: Thank you for sharing. I had not heard of this organization, but I've made a note of it for future reference.

And in case Learn to Cope doesn't have a meeting in your area, I'd again like to mention Nar-Anon Family Groups. It is a terrific organization offering support for anyone who loves someone who suffers from addiction.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com. To find out more about Annie Lane and read features by other Creators Syndicate columnists and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com.

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

A very hot potato

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ Q 9 8 4
♥ A
♦ A 7 6 4 3
♣ J 8 4

WEST
♠ 6 5
♥ 8 7 4 2
♦ Q 10 2
♣ K Q 10 9

EAST
♠ 7 2
♥ J 10 5 3
♦ K 8
♣ 7 6 5 3 2

SOUTH
♠ A K J 10 3
♥ K Q 9 6
♦ J 9 5
♣ A

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♥ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
6 ♣

Opening lead — king of clubs.
It is an undeniable fact of bridge life that every once in a while, reasonable bidding leads to a poor contract. Declarer is nevertheless obliged to give the assignment his best shot. Sometimes he might even be able to enlist the defenders' assistance to help him achieve his goal.
Take this case where South reached six spades as shown and West led the king of clubs. It was immediately apparent to declarer that the slam would fail unless he could somehow avoid losing two diamond tricks. Since there were very few

legitimate holdings that would allow only one diamond loser (West having the singleton king or queen, or either opponent having the K-Q alone), South decided his best chance lay in the hope of inducing a defensive slip.
So at trick two, he led a diamond to the ace, both opponents following low. He then cashed the ace of hearts, A-K of trumps and K-Q of hearts, discarding two clubs from dummy. South ruffed his last heart in dummy and then exited with a diamond, losing to East's king. Since East had only clubs left, he had no choice but to lead one, allowing South to discard the diamond jack as he ruffed in dummy, and the slam was home.
The key play was the diamond to the ace at trick two. Once East followed low, there was no way for the defenders to wriggle out of the position South had visualized. Had East foreseen what was coming, he could have dropped his king under the ace to avert the impending endplay, but this was certainly not an easy play to make at such an early stage.
Observe that had declarer telegraphed his intentions by clearing all his hearts and clubs before playing a diamond to the ace, it would have been much easier for East to jettison his king, and West would then have scored two diamond tricks. The diamond play came too early for East to realize that his king was a very hot potato.

Tomorrow: Test your defensive play.
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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.

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

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Table with 20 columns representing different TV channels (KMID, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLT, KWES, KMLM, KPBT, KWTT, KWES2, WTBS, TNT, ESPN, ESPN2, FSN, USA, A&E, DISC) and rows for various time slots (5:PM, 6:PM, 7:PM, 8:PM, 9:PM, 10:PM, 11:PM, 12:AM, 1:AM) listing programs like Local 2, Jeopardy!, Grey's Anatomy, etc.

DENNIS THE MENACE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

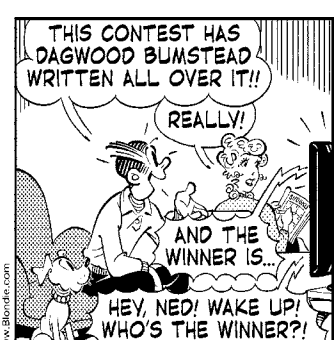
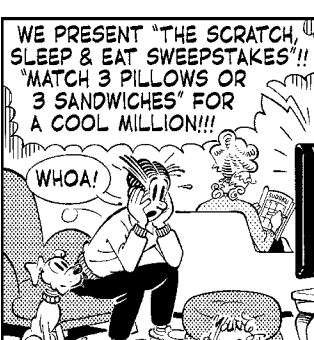
HAGAR



"MY MOM ALWAYS WANTS TO KNOW WHERE I AM, ESPECIALLY WHEN I'M SOMEWHERE I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO BE."

"So, always remember to check Grandma's teeth before you sit in bed with her."

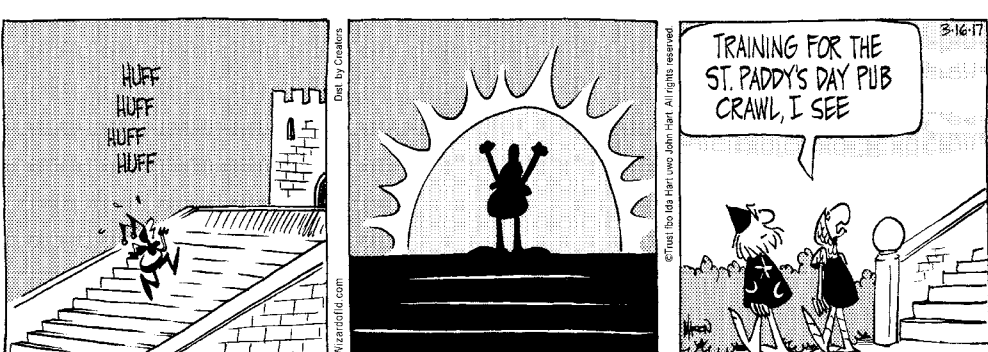
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BC



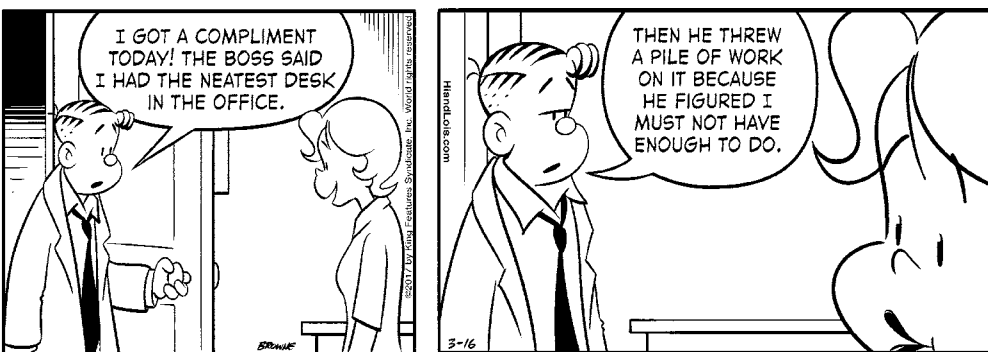
WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



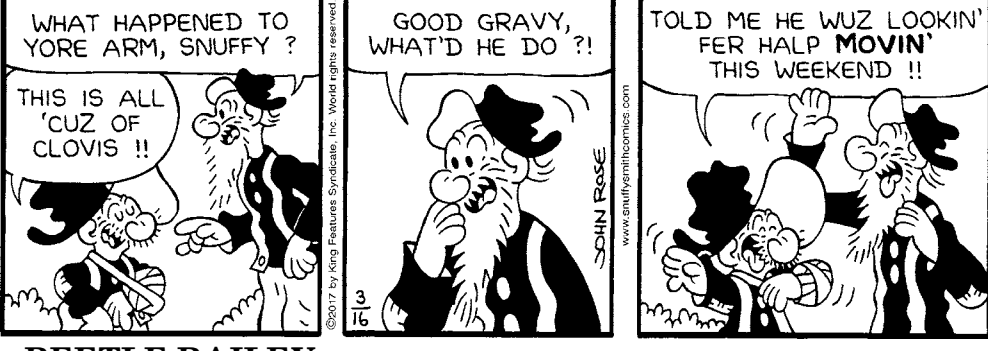
HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Thursday, March 16, the 75th day of 2017. There are 290 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On March 16, 1802, President Thomas Jefferson signed a measure authorizing the establishment of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York.

On this date: In A.D. 37, Roman emperor Tiberius died; he was succeeded by Caligula.

In 1517, the 12th and final session of the Fifth Lateran Council of the Catholic Church took place in Rome, almost five years after the council began.

In 1751, James Madison, fourth president of the United States, was born in Port Conway, Virginia.

In 1792, Sweden's King Gustav III was shot and mortally wounded during a masquerade party by a former member of his regiment (he died 13 days later).

In 1926, rocket science pioneer Robert H. Goddard successfully tested the first liquid-fueled rocket at his Aunt Effie's farm in Auburn, Massachusetts.

In 1935, Adolf Hitler decided to break the military terms set

by the Treaty of Versailles (vehr-SY) by ordering the rearming of Germany.

In 1945, during World War II, American forces declared they had secured Iwo Jima, although pockets of Japanese resistance remained.

In 1968, during the Vietnam War, the My Lai (mee ly) Massacre of Vietnamese civilians was carried out by U.S. Army troops; estimates of the death toll vary between 347 and 504.

In 1974, the Grand Ole Opry House opened in Nashville with a concert attended by President Richard Nixon and his wife, Pat.

In 1987, Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis announced his candidacy for the Democratic presidential nomination.

In 1991, a plane carrying seven members of country singer Reba McEntire's band and her tour manager crashed into Otay Mountain in southern California, killing all on board. U.S. skaters Kristi Yamaguchi, Tonya Harding and Nancy Kerrigan swept the World Figure Skating Championships in Munich, Germany.

In 2003, American activist Rachel Corrie, 23, was crushed to death by an Israeli military bulldozer while trying to block demolition of a Palestinian home in the Gaza Strip.

Ten years ago: Former CIA

operative Valerie Plame told a House committee that White House and State Department officials had "carelessly and recklessly" blown her cover in a politically motivated smear of her husband, former Ambassador Joseph Wilson, for publicly disputing President George W. Bush's assertion that Saddam Hussein was on the brink of acquiring a nuclear bomb.

Five years ago: A jury in New Brunswick, New Jersey, convicted former Rutgers University student Dharun Ravi (dah-ROON' RAH-vee) in the webcam spying episode that ended in the suicide of his gay roommate, Tyler Clementi. (Ravi served 20 days in jail for invasion of privacy, bias intimidation and other counts.)

Thought for Today: "Until we lose ourselves there is no hope of finding ourselves." — Henry Miller, American author (1891-1980).

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Answer to previous puzzle crossword grid with words like SOCK, MAGS, KARTS, THAN, ARIA, IDAHO, AMMO, KARL, CANAL, BYEBYE, BLACKBIRD, SAD, DAM, MME, HOST, TEASER, RATIO, TEXT, GILA, BYHOOKORBYCROOK, IBET, IPSO, LOUPE, GERALD, EXPO, XES, ADD, OUT, TOBUY, ORNOT, TOBUY, AROSE, MOST, TAME, RARER, OGLE, ESPN, SLEDS, MOOR, MESS.

Newsday Crossword

BREADLESS SPREADS by Greg Johnson Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS 1 Interrogative pronoun 5 Dinner tribute 10 Lounge around 14 Spot for an icicle 15 Horse opera setting 16 17th state 17 Cosmetics moisturizer 19 Change-machine input 20 Bagpiper's pattern 21 Steal away 23 Aligns, for short 25 Follows (along) 26 Annual 34-wk. observance 28 Square-dance participants 30 Aster family flower 34 Sartre's state 36 Possibly blended beverages 38 Wall covering 39 Wildlife conservation areas 42 Sherlock's female adversary 43 SNL partner of Amy 44 Parisian parent 45 Ribbony presentations 47 Choral showcase 49 "Give ___ rest!" 50 Bad deeds 52 Royal supremacy 54 KO, on the NYSE 58 Losing streaks

- 61 Explorer Tasman 62 It's north of Galway 64 Fountain fare 65 Fancy hotel features 66 Many a sports team logo 67 Be mindful of 68 Informal appreciation 69 Poetic praise 7 Crawling colonists 8 What setters search by 9 Web forum grouping 10 Be alert 11 "Not that!" 12 Stead 13 Needing orientation 18 Slamming sound 22 Obviously surprised 24 Wasn't alert 26 Indigo fabric 27 Don't blink 29 Wrapped garments 31 Downton Abbey employee 32 Immobile 33 Away from port 35 Light lunch order 37 Tijuana title 40 Artifact of the past 41 Certain state collection 46 Antarctic vehicle 48 Overly suave 51 Aversion to exertion 53 Cajun concoction 54 Federal Reserve Notes 55 Soprano instrument 56 Turn over via treaty 57 Mysterious glow 59 Buring heap 60 Puts down an outfield 63 French diarist

13x13 crossword grid with numbers 1-68 indicating starting points for words.

Refugee family lands in US amid fight over travel ban

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Just a week ago, Nadia Hanan Madalo and her family had received news that refugees like them have been waiting to hear: They had seats on a flight bound for the U.S. from Iraq, with an arrival just before the latest Trump administration travel ban was to take effect.

But until they set foot on American soil, they weren't sure.

All Madalo's family knew was that they couldn't go back to their Christian village. Islamic State fighters had invaded several years ago, and only devastation remains. Roads are filled with land mines. The town has been destroyed. And their family home was burned to the ground.

"Thank God we ran from there and come here," she told her brother in Arabic, who translated her words to English after Madalo, her husband and four children arrived to the San Diego airport Wednesday.

Tears streamed down her face as she gave him, her other siblings and mother long embraces.

Myanmar refugees may be hurt most by Trump resettlement cuts

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Tin, her husband and five children have cleared years of refugee hurdles to come to the U.S.: blood tests, interviews, DNA and fingerprints, background checks. She has her one must-bring possession within reach, a well-worn Bible, and keeps their phone charged for the U.S. Embassy to call.

But the odds of that happening dropped precipitously.

President Donald Trump's 16-page redone travel ban "to keep the bad dudes out" aims to stop people from six Muslim countries from entering the U.S. this year and suspends refugees from arriving for 120 days. But the order also includes a sweeping 55 percent reduction in refugee visas overall, from a planned 110,000 to 50,000 this year. Trump's executive order had been set to take effect Thursday, but a federal judge put it on hold hours before it was to take effect.

Who are the 60,000 people who may have lost their chance to resettle in the U.S. by September? An Associated Press analysis of 10 years of refugee data suggests that their most common country of origin is not any of the six nations in the travel ban, but Myanmar, also known as Burma. Thousands, like Tin and her family, are Christians who were persecuted in their native country.

These are people who can't imagine living anywhere but the U.S.

Dutch look to long coalition talks after Rutte wins election

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Dutch political parties were preparing Thursday to start what will likely be a long process of coalition talks after Prime Minister Mark Rutte's right-wing VVD easily won national elections, defying polls that suggested a close race with anti-Islam populist Geert Wilders.

With most votes counted for the 150-seat legislature, Rutte's VVD had 33 seats, eight fewer than in 2012. The far-right populist Party for Freedom of Wilders was second with 20 seats, five more than the last time but still a stinging setback after polls in recent months had suggested his party could become the largest in Dutch politics.

"We lost eight seats, but we're very happy to be the biggest party again," Rutte told NPO Radio 1.

Wilders, meanwhile, had lost none of his trademark defiance. "We were the 3rd party in the Neth-

erlands. We are now the 2nd party in the Netherlands. And next time we'll be the No. 1!" Wilders tweeted. It failed to hide his disappointment though that he fell short of becoming No. 1 in Wednesday's vote.

The Christian Democrats and centrist D66 parties — likely future coalition partners for Rutte — won 19 seats each. Party leaders were expected to meet early afternoon to discuss first steps in the coalition formation process.

House GOP health bill facing fresh House committee test

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House and Republican leaders are talking to rank-and-file lawmakers about revising the GOP health care overhaul, hoping to keep a rebellion by conservatives and moderates from snowballing and imperiling the party's showpiece legislation.

Four days after a congressional report projected the bill would pry coverage from millions of voters, signs of fraying GOP support for the legislation were showing. The measure would strike down much of former President Barack Obama's 2010 overhaul and reduce the federal role, including financing, for health care consumers and is opposed uniformly by Democrats.

In a fresh test of Republicans' willingness to embrace the legislation, the House Budget Committee was considering the measure Thursday. Republicans expressed confidence the bill would be approved, but the vote could be tight. The panel can't make significant changes but was expected to endorse non-binding, suggested changes to nail down votes.

The bill would eliminate the tax penalty that pressures people to buy coverage and the federal subsidies that let millions afford it, replacing them with tax credits that are bigger for older people. It would cut Medicaid, repeal the law's tax increases on higher earning Americans and require 30 percent higher premiums for consumers who let coverage lapse.

Overt GOP opposition grew after the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office projected Monday that the legislation would push 24 million Americans off coverage in a decade and shift out-of-pocket costs toward lower income, older people. Obama's law has provided coverage to around 20 million additional people

Tillerson says NKorea has no need to fear US

TOKYO (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson called on North Korea Thursday to abandon its nuclear and ballistic missile programs, saying the isolated nation "need not fear" the United States.

Tillerson made that declaration after meeting his Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida in Tokyo, where they discussed possible new approaches in dealing with Pyongyang.

He said 20 years of U.S. diplomatic and other efforts to get North Korea to denuclearize have failed, but gave no specifics about how the Trump administration, which is currently doing a policy

review, would tackle the issue. Tillerson described the weapons programs as "dangerous and unlawful."

The former Exxon Mobil CEO is making his first trip to Asia as the top U.S. diplomat. Tensions are running high on the divided Korean Peninsula, and North Korea last week launched four missiles into seas off Japan and where the U.S. is currently conducting annual military drills with South Korea. Pyongyang views this as a rehearsal for invasion.

"North Korea and its people need not fear the United States or their neighbors in the region who seek only to live in peace with North Korea," the secretary of state told a news conference in Tokyo. "With this in mind, the United States calls on North Korea to abandon its nuclear and ballistic missile programs and refrain from any further provocation."

US soldiers train for jungle warfare at Hawaii rainforest

HONOLULU (AP) — The U.S. Army soldiers finished wading across a stream in a rainforest in Hawaii, and they were soaked. Their boots and socks were water-logged and their clothes, hair and ears were caked with mud.

The soldiers were going through training at the first jungle school the Army has established in decades. The course is part of a program to train soldiers for exercises and potential combat on terrain that looks more like islands and nations in the Pacific than arid Afghanistan and the deserts of the Middle East.

Brig. Gen. Stephen Michael, deputy commander of the 25th Infantry Division, said the Army set up the school as its footprint was shrinking in Iraq and Afghanistan after more than a decade of war in those countries.

"The jungle school gives us that focus, it reinforces that we're in the Pacific," Michael said. "If you're in the 25th, you understand you got to fight in the tough environment of the Pacific."

Ever since the turn of the 20th century, the Army has fought in tropical rainforests. It spent years, for example, battling Filipino insurgents after the 1898 Spanish-American War. The Vietnam War was fought in the jungle.

Yahoo breach indictments may shed light on other hacks

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. authorities may now be in a better position to figure out if Russian hackers and Russian spies swayed last year's presidential elections.

A scheme uncovered during a federal investigation into a huge Yahoo security breach may have opened a window into other hacks potentially instigated by foreign governments, according to computer security experts.

That includes a separate FBI investigation into whether the Russian government hired hackers to interfere with the November election that put President Donald Trump into the Oval Office.

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Rep. Arrington Announces Service Academy Forum Dates

WASHINGTON - Congressman Jodey Arrington has announced he will be hosting two U.S. Service Academy Forums open to all students who are interested in learning about attending one of the U.S. Service Academies. Academy Liaison Officers from each academy will be on hand to answer questions from students and parents about the nomination process.

The first forum will take place on Saturday, April 8 from 10 a.m. to noon, at Science Spectrum in Lubbock and the second forum will take place on Saturday, April 22 from 10 a.m. to noon at Cisco College — Abilene Educational Center.

"There is no greater honor than serving one's country. For many, that calling begins at a Military Service Academy. Each year our office has the opportunity to nominate outstanding students from West Texas to each of the five military service academies in the United States. I look forward to providing these forums as a way to encourage and inspire students to pursue these unique service and educational opportunities," Arrington said.

For more information about the forums, call 806-763-1611 or visiting Arrington.House.Gov and clicking on "Military Academy Nominations" under the "Can I Help?" tab.

Scholarship opportunities

Howard County A&M Club scholarship applications

The Howard County A&M Club is accepting applications from high school students who are graduating this May and have been accepted to Texas A&M University for fall 2017. Students must be Howard County residents and will enroll for at least 12 hours.

Deadline for applications is April 3, 2017. For more information and to find the application, visit <https://westexags.com/>. Deadline for applications for current A&M students is June 1, 2017.

Permian Basin UWCD 2017 scholarship contest

STANTON - The Permian Basin Underground Water Conservation District (PBUWCD) is sponsoring a scholarship essay contest for graduating seniors who are planning to attend college.

Those who are eligible to apply for the scholarship must attend one of the four schools in the PBUWCD's District; this includes: Forsan, Grady, Sands, and Stanton high schools. There will be a scholarship offered to each of the four schools in the district and the winners of the contest will receive a \$2,000 scholarship to the college of their choice.

The essays are due no later than April 4, 2017. They may be submitted to the student's school counselor or the Permian Basin UWCD office at 708 W Saint Peter St., Stanton, Texas, 79782.

This year the topic for the essay will be: "Write a 1,000 word essay about the water cycle and discuss the importance of runoff and why it is crucial to our aquifers and for our very existence."

For further criteria and information, please contact your high school counselor or the PBUWCD office at 432-756-2136 or email pbuwcd.edu@gmail.com. You may also find information at www.pbuwcd.com.

Discover
Another World,
Read!
You never know
what you
might find.

Parent's Corner: *One day at a time*

There are two days in our lives that we cannot do anything about. One is yesterday. We can think about the past and enjoy or regret what occurred, but we cannot change it; and we must admit that there is no distance on this earth as far away as yesterday.

The other is tomorrow. We cannot do anything about tomorrow, but we can prepare our thinking and attitudes to face tomorrow; but, we should never borrow from the uncertainty of what tomorrow may bring. We should never allow tomorrow's worries to steal today's happiness, and we should never worry about what may happen tomorrow, for it doesn't happen, we have worried in vain, and if it does happen, we have to worry twice.

Often times we allow bills, deadlines, conflicts or maybe a long term goals or projects we are working towards to take the joy out of today, or maybe it is the anticipation of something else that steals the joy of today. Or maybe we live frozen in the glory of some distant memory or in the promise of some faraway future. Sometimes just the worry of living can take away from the joy of the moment. We should make the most of today, every moment, because we only

have this moment right now.

We should seek to live life awake and fully present, instead of allowing regrets, distractions or even hopes to interfere with today. The truth is, our past is gone and we are not guaranteed a tomorrow.

This very moment is a seed from which tomorrow's flowers grow.

Alexander Graham Bell once said:

When one door closes another door opens; but we so often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the ones which open for us.

So, how should we live? We should take one day at a time. We should separate worries from concerns. If a situation is a concern, we should find out what we have to do, prepare for it and let go of the anxiety. If we can't do anything about a situation, we should forget it.

Every day we should do something for the kid in us, and we should write down thoughts and inspirations and find time to be alone. We should laugh more often and learn not to take ourselves so seriously.

We should find time to be with the friends that boost us and not

deflate us. We should develop a forgiving attitude, and we should remember that the shortest bridge between despair and hope is an attitude of thankfulness.

We should be kind to unkind people. We should allow extra time to do things and to get to places and pace ourselves. We should spread out big changes and difficult projects over time and not lump the hard things all together.

Sometimes we should remember not to talk, and we should never allow yesterday to upset today, and all in all we should believe that life is worth living and that belief, in itself, will help make it come true.

Darrell Ryan is the Big Spring ISD director of school safety.



DARRELL
RYAN



Student loan defaults rising, study finds

The stock market is up, unemployment is down but things aren't rosy for all Americans.

A new analysis of government data by the Consumer Federation of America found that the number of Americans in default on their

student loans jumped by nearly 17 percent last year.

As of the end of 2016, there were 4.2 million Federal Direct Loan borrowers in default, meaning they've not made a payment in more than 270 days. That's up from

3.6 million at the end of 2015.

"Despite all improvements in the economy, student loan borrowers are still struggling," said Rohit Chopra, senior fellow at the Consumer Federation of America and formerly the Consumer Finan-

cial Protection Bureau's Student Loan Ombudsman.

As of the end of 2016, 42.4 million Americans owed \$1.3 trillion in federal student loans, according to the U.S. Department of Education data.

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