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H BIG SPRING THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2017

HERALD

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UK Parliament resumes, holds minute's silence

LONDON (AP) — Britain's Parliament observed a minute of silence Thursday to remember a police officer and two civilians killed a day earlier in an attack at the heart of London, while authorities raided homes in central England to search for evidence. Eight people were arrested in raids, including some in the city of Birmingham. Police searched for clues as to why a man driving an SUV plowed into pedestrians on Westminster Bridge, killing

two and injuring more than 30 others, before he fatally stabbed a police officer on Parliament's grounds. Police shot and killed the attacker, whose identity they have not yet disclosed. Parliament was locked down after the attack, and the return to business was seen as an important act of defiance. The silence began at 9:33 a.m., to honor the shoulder number of the murdered officer, Keith Palmer. "Those who carry out such

wicked and depraved acts as we saw yesterday can never triumph in our country and we must ensure it is not violence, hatred or division but decency and tolerance that prevails in our country," Trade Secretary Liam Fox said. The other lawmakers responded: "Hear, hear!" Mayor Sadiq Khan called for Londoners to attend a candlelit vigil at Trafalgar

Commissioners Bailey, Long to speak about their visions for the library tonight

By **LYNDEL MOODY**
 Staff Writer

Two county commissioners will discuss their vision of the future of a library program in the county when the Friends of the Library meet tonight. Howard County Commissioners Craig Bailey and Jimmie Long will be the guest speakers at the meet-

What: Friends of the Howard County Library meeting
Where: Basement of the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main St.
Time: 5:30 p.m. tonight

ing, specifically addressing their vision of what the new duties of the head librarian for both the Howard College and Howard County libraries should entail. The Friends of the Library will be meeting at 5:30 p.m. See **LIBRARY**, Page 3

SA Boys & Girls Club to host open house Friday



HERALD photo/Roger Cline

Pictured from left, Aiden, Colin, and Dyver complete some homework at the Salvation Army's after school program.

By **ROGER CLINE**
 Staff Writer

Big Spring's Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club provides a safe, structured environment for kids after school and during the summer vacation. And Friday, they're going to show you how they do it. "Friday we're going to have an open house. The whole public is invited," said Club Director Duane Shackelford. "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." Door prizes and giveaways from local businesses will also be on tap at the open house, which will take place between

4 and 7 p.m. Friday, said Shackelford. "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." The open house is the culminating event of the Boys and Girls Club Week in Big Spring, which is intended to increase awareness of the Boys and Girls Club and its programs and activities, Shackelford said. There will be another Boys and Girls Club fundraiser Saturday, March 25, added Salvation Army Corps Officer Lt. Josh McKain. "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. "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

Ivins to leave First United Methodist Church in June

By **ROGER CLINE**
 Staff Writer

Big Spring is losing a pillar of our spiritual community. The Rev. Bill Ivins, pastor of Big Spring's First United Methodist Church, is moving north. "I'll be the senior pastor at St. Paul United Methodist Church up in Amarillo," Ivins said. "It took me about a week to get used to the idea. When I was called a couple of weeks ago, it was on a late Tuesday afternoon, and I think I created kind of an awkward moment for them because when they shared with me the news, I just started bawling." His last Sunday at the church will be June 11, he said. "Technically my last Sunday will be June 18, but my last Sunday will be June 11 because I already had a trip planned to take a group from this church to Israel," he said. "We're leaving the very next

day, June 12, and we won't return until June 21, which is technically moving day for every Methodist preacher in the episcopal area. Unfortunately, because I'll be getting back on moving day, I'm going to have to move all of my stuff up to Amarillo before I leave for Israel. So early June is going to be very, very hectic for me." Big Spring feels like home to him, Ivins said. "I have really grown to love Big Spring. I grew up in Odessa, so just the opportunity to move back to West Texas was a real blessing to me because there's no place like West Texas," he said. "I understand the people and really kind of what makes this community tick. I have made so many good friends; this community has just really welcomed me unlike any town in which I've ever lived. I love this church. This church has been

See **IVINS**, Page 3

Ida Hambrick is Hangar 25 Air Museum's Veteran of the Month

By **ROBERT BARLOW**
 Staff Writer

Ida Hambrick of Big Spring is being honored as Veteran of the Month by the Hangar 25 Air Museum tonight for her 28 years of service in the U.S. Air Force. Each month, Hangar 25 holds a presentation for one of the many veterans that have served in the military. This month, the hangar dedicated this event to Hambrick, who is a retired Master Sergeant from the United States Air Force. "We chose to honor Ida because we wanted to do something in conjunction with Women's History Month," said Clarence Hartfield, who is organizing the event. Hambrick served in the Air Force for almost three decades. During this, she participated in several military operations including Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom, as well as Enduring Freedom. "Ida served for 28 years and was stationed in both Germany and Saudi Arabia and she received the Meritorious Service Medal," said Hartfield.

What: Reception for Ida Hambrick, Hangar 25 Air Museum's Veteran of the Month
Where: Hangar 25's Air Museum, 1911 Apron Drive
Time: 6 p.m. tonight

The event is set to take place in the briefing room of Hangar 25 Air Museum tonight at 6 pm. The public is invited to attend and listen to Hambrick give a presentation on her years of service in the U.S. Air Force. The presentation will last about an hour, and DVDs will be made available for family, friends, and any others that might be interested. For more information about this event, please contact the Hangar 25 Air Museum at 432-264-1999.



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Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **MICHAEL GABRIEL GARZA**, 34, of 1109 S. Gregg St. was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- **DELAND WAYNE SAVELL**, 58, of 1605 Sycamore St. was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated/open container.

- **ANGELICA REQUAL MOJICA**, 18, of 1207 Sycamore St. was arrested on warrants for assault/family violence (threat or offensive touch) and consumption of alcohol by a minor.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 1600 block of Settles Street and the 1600 block of Oriole Street.
- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 1600 block of Stadium Avenue.

was reported in the 1600 block of Stadium Avenue.

- **MAJOR ACCIDENT** was reported at the intersection of Fourth and Gregg streets.
- **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 1000 block of Northwest Second Street.
- **DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 1100 block of Stanford Avenue.

Sheriff

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

- Note – Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 81 inmates at the time of this report.
- **KRYSTAL ANNETTE BUCHANAN**, 34, was booked by BSPD on a warrant for engaging in organized criminal activity.
- **MICHAEL ANTHONY CASTRO**, 27, was booked by BSPD on warrants for bail jumping/failure to appear.
- **DAVID RAMOS GALINDO**, 63, was booked by BSPD on a warrant for bail jumping/failure to appear.
- **CYNTHIA LYNN HERNANDEZ**, 36, was booked by HCSO on warrants for permitting an

unlicensed operator to drive, violation of promise to appear, and theft of property (\$100 to \$750).

- **MATILDA IRVIN**, 19, was booked by BSPD on warrants for bail jumping/failure to appear and theft of property (\$750 to \$2,500).
- **GEORGE E. MARTINEZ**, 51, was booked by BSPD on warrants for driving with an invalid license; failure to maintain financial responsibility; and wrong, altered, or obscured registration.
- **CARLOS MEZA JR.**, 27, was booked by BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- **CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL PACE**, 44, was booked by HCSO on three warrants for sexual conduct with a minor, two warrants

for molestation of a child; and on warrants for sexual abuse and indecent exposure.

- **AMADOR RIOS JR.**, 35, was booked by BSPD on a warrant for bail jumping/failure to appear.
- **RALPH GUTIERREZ RODRIGUEZ**, 52, was booked by BSPD on warrants for no driver's license and failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- **CYNTHIA RAE WELCH**, 37, was booked by BSPD on charges of possession of a dangerous drug and abandoning or endangering a child with intent to return.
- **TERRENCE ALI YOUNG**, 28, was booked by BSPD on warrants for bail jumping/failure to appear, assault/family violence, and failure to appear.

Take Note

Registration is now begin taken for cancer survivors/caregivers who will be attending the 2017 Howard/Glasscock County Relay for Life. To register by phone or online call 1-800-227-2345 or www.relayforlife.org/bigspiringtx. For assistance, you may contact Howard Stewart at 432-935-0582 or Beverly Grant at 432-967-0901.

The Big Spring Art Association is hosting their 61st annual Area Wide Art Show May 6 to June 3, 2017 at the Heritage Museum. Entries will be accepted May 6 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Categories are Oil/Acrylics; Pastels; Photography; Mixed Media; Watercolor; 3D, Sculpture, Pottery, Jewelry, Stained Glass; Graphics and Charcoal. Cash prizes will be awarded at a reception June 3 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. For more information contact Sandee Lockhart, 432-263-4155, b-slockhart@live.com.

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.

The Howard County Fair thanks everyone who has picked up a crossstitch square for the annual quilt fundraiser. There are still a few squares left, so if you can do one, please see Cheryl at the Heritage Museum during regular hours, Tuesday through Saturday.

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

The next sacking session will be at 5:30 p.m. April

3 and 4 at the old Lakeview High School gym located at 1107 N.W. Seventh St. To get there, take Gregg Street north and turn left on Delaney, which is the block just past the Salvation Army retail store. Delaney turns into Seventh Street, you will go over the railroad tracks and the school is on the left.

If you want additional information about getting your child on this program please contact your child's school.

Seniors and mature adults are invited to a dance on the first, third and fifth Friday of each month at the Dora Roberts Community Center.

Dances are from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. with live bands. No alcohol or smoking permitted. There will be a pot luck as well so bring a dish if you want to eat.

Cost has dropped to \$5 per person thanks to a sponsor Marcy House, 2301 Wasson Road.

Meetings

The Big Spring Art Association meets the third Tuesday of each month a 7 p.m. in the basement of the Howard County Library.

The Christensen-Tucker Post-2013 Veterans of Foreign Wars meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7 pm at 500 Driver Road. For more information, contact David Leonard, Post Commander, at 432-816-6004. All combat veterans of foreign wars are invited to come.

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

Order of the Eastern Star Big Spring Chapter 67 meets the third Tuesday of each month at 219 Main St. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. Lodge meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. For more information, contact Jimmy Ruth at 271-2176.

Staked Plains Masonic Lodge No. 598 meets the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. (dinner is at 6 p.m.) at 219 1/2 Main St. All Masons are welcome.

Membership to the Big Spring Native American Association is open to the public. People interested in Native American culture are encouraged to find out more about the organization by calling Richard "Indio" Lesser at 432-935-0125,

Volunteer opportunities

The Scenic Mountain Medical Center volunteer program is in need of volunteers. For more information, call Anita Cline at 268-4721.

Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

- **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 1100 block of West Seventh Street. One person was taken to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 500 block of North Gregg Street. One person was taken to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the 1000 block of East 11th Place.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 3600 block of West Highway 80. One person was taken to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1100 block of Mulberry. One person was taken to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported on Highway 176. One person was taken to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported at the intersection of Seventh and Nolan streets. One person was taken to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1000 block of Wood. One person was taken to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1400 block of Hilltop.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 200 block of Merrick. One person was taken to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

Support Groups

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 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.

MONDAY

Reformers Unanimous International is a faith-based addictions program helping people find freedom from addiction. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. Mondays at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. Enter at the main entrance of the church.

Alcoholics Anonymous, As Bill Sees it, 615 Settles, 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

TUESDAY

Big Spring and Snyder Parkinsons Support Group meeting at the Big Spring Senior Center at 10:30 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month.

This is a group for all Parkinson's disease patients, spouses and caregivers.

For more information about the support group or about Parkinson's Disease, contact Jo Bidwell at the Lubbock APDA office at 806-785-0942.

Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; newcomers meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

A six-week course in Wellness and Quality of Life with Chronic Pain will start Tuesday, Jan. 10, at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Creek Fellowship located in the Spring Town Plaza, 1801 E. FM 700. There is no charge for the course, and a workbook will be provided. Contact Steve Purdy at 432-517-4840 for more information.



Big Spring Visitors Center
Located at 119 E. 3rd Street
Big Spring gift items and information on local and state attractions.
Monday-Friday: 8AM-5PM
432-263-8235
www.visitbigspring.com



The United Way of Big Spring and Howard County will be accepting applications for **2018 Partner Agencies**

Any local 501(c)(3) non-profit agency that provides health and/or human services to Howard County is eligible to apply.

- Application are available at the United Way office at 215 W 3rd Street, Big Spring, TX and on our webpage www.unitedwayofbshc.org.
- All applications are due by close of business on April 14th.
- Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

For questions or inquiries please contact Meghan F. Bias at 432-267-5201.

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The Big Spring Herald is a member of The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Texas Press Association, West Texas Press Association, Texas Daily Newspaper Association, The Associated Press.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas.

USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6811
BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: \$9.00 monthly; \$97.20 yearly (includes 10% discount). MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$14.58 monthly Howard; \$18.33 elsewhere.



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AP Exclusive: US probes banking of ex-Trump campaign chief

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Treasury Department agents have recently obtained information about offshore financial transactions involving President Donald Trump's former campaign chairman as part of a federal anti-corruption probe into his work in Eastern Europe.

The Associated Press has learned the information about Paul Manafort's transactions was turned over earlier this year to U.S. agents working in the Treasury Department's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network.

Manafort was Trump's unpaid campaign chairman from March until August last year. He's been a leading focus of the U.S. government's investigation into whether Trump associates coordinated with Moscow to meddle in the 2016 campaign.

Records show Manafort was known to route fi-

nancial transactions through Cyprus. A spokesman for Manafort did not immediately respond to questions from *The AP*.

GOP health bill on the brink hours from House showdown vote

WASHINGTON (AP) — The GOP's long-promised legislation to repeal and replace "Obamacare" stood on the brink just hours before Republican leaders planned to put it on the House floor for a showdown vote. Short of support, GOP leaders looked to President Donald Trump to close the deal with a crucial bloc of conservatives, in the first major legislative test of his young presidency.

The stakes could hardly be higher for a party that gained monopoly control of Washington largely on promises to get rid of former President Barack Obama's signature legislative achievement and replace it with something better.

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

B&G CLUB

Continued from Page 1

into the summer, potentially not only a person, but businesses that would like to sponsor a child for the summer."

Sponsors for the event include H-E-B, Sonic

IVINS

Continued from Page 3

so good to me. So it's going to be hard to leave this church and Big Spring behind."

Ivins said the United Methodist Church is governed by bishops, who appoint pastors to individual churches with in their region, called an "episcopal area." Big Spring's episcopal area is the Northwest Texas/New Mexico Episcopal Area, governed by Bishop W. Earl Bledsoe of Albuquerque, N.M. This past year, Bledsoe has faced a rising tide of retire-

ments, Ivins said.

"In our episcopal area this year, we had an unusually large number of retirements. Normally, we'll have three or four at the most, and this year I think we have around a dozen, which is extremely high," he said. "Not only that, three of our top four churches in the episcopal area are retiring pastors this year, and that just sort of creates a domino effect. So when St. Paul Church in Amarillo, which is one of the churches retiring a pastor this year, came open, the bishop just decided I had the right skill set to pastor that

church. That's how it happened."

Ivins hasn't had a chance to visit St. Paul's yet.

"Not yet. In fact, I'll be making that trip next Monday and Tuesday, so I'll have an opportunity then to really survey the land and see exactly what the facility is like," he said. "I've been there before, but it's been many years ago, and it was just for a quick evening meeting, so I don't remember much else about it. So there are going to be some unknowns for me. That's typically always the way it is when the bishop appoints you

to a new church. You just sort of show up at almost sight unseen, and you spend the first few months meeting people and building relationships."

Prior to Big Spring, Ivins served at First United Methodist Church in Vernon, Texas; First Methodist Church in Aztec, N.M.; and founded Cross of the Hills United Methodist Church in El Paso. Immediately out of seminary, Rev. Ivins served in Hobbs, N.M.

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

Who's who at the Boys & Girls Club Bergan Pinkley



How old are you? I am 9.
Where do you go to school? I go to Washington Elementary.
What is your favorite class in school? My favorite class is science class.
What do you do for fun? I play sports.
What's your favorite book? My favorite book is "Dairy of a Wimpy Kid" (by Jeff Kinney).
What's your favorite TV show? I like "Liv and Maddie".
What's your favorite movie? I like the Harry Potter movies.
If you could meet someone famous, who would it be? I would like to meet Bruno Mars (singer, "Just the Way You Are") or Dove Cameron (actress, star of "Liv and Maddie").

LIBRARY

Continued from Page 1

tonight in the basement of the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main St.

In January, the county and college signed an inter-local agreement to share a head librarian to oversee both programs.

Although neither entity has made any further commitment on sharing library services, one of the responsibilities of the new head librarian will be to research ways to combine the two entities' resources to create a program that fits the need of the future.

ATTACK

Continued from Page 1

Square on Thursday evening in solidarity with the victims and their families and to show that London remains united.

London went on. Parliament Square, Westminster Bridge and several surrounding streets remain cordoned off by police. Scores of unarmed officers in bright yellow jackets were staffing the perimeter tape, guiding confused civil servants trying to get to work.

In Parliament's New Palace Yard, a blue police tent was erected over the spot where the stabbing and shooting occurred, and two forensic officers worked at a trestle table nearby. Metropolitan Police counterterrorism chief Mark Rowley said that

he believed the attacker acted alone and was "inspired by international terrorism."

The attacker has been identified and was known to British security, according to a security official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak about ongoing security operations. He declined to name the man and to give any other details about his identity, nationality or hometown.

Rowley revised the death toll from five to four, including the attacker, the police officer and two civilians. He said that 29 people required hospitalization and seven of them were in critical condition. He also said that authorities were still working out the number of "walking wounded." Police had previously given the total number

of injured as around 40.

One of those killed was Aysha Frade, a British national whose mother is Spanish, the Spanish Foreign Ministry said.

A doctor who treated the wounded from the bridge said some had "catastrophic" injuries. Three police officers, several French teenagers on a school trip, two Romanian tourists and five South Korean visitors were among the injured.

Before Rowley's news conference, British media reported that armed police carried out a raid on a property in Birmingham. The Press Association on Thursday quoted an unnamed witness saying that the operation was linked to the attack. The witness said that police raided an apartment and arrested three men. Police in the West Midlands, where Birmingham is

located, directed inquiries about the operation to London's Metropolitan Police.

The threat level for international terrorism in the U.K. was already listed at severe, meaning an attack was "highly likely."

Defense Secretary Michael Fallon told the BBC that authorities assume the attack was linked to "Islamic terrorism in some form." Investigators worked around the clock.

"They have been working right through the night, looking into his background, how he got hold of the vehicle, where the vehicle has been in the last day or two, and who may or may not have helped him," he said.

Speaking outside 10 Downing St. after chairing a meeting of government's emergency committee, COBRA, Prime Minister Theresa May said Wednesday that level wouldn't change.

She said attempts to defeat British values of democracy and freedom through terrorism would fail.

Londoners and visitors "will all move forward together, never giving in to terror and never allowing the voices of hate and evil to drive us apart," May said.

President Donald Trump was among world leaders offering condolences.

London has been a target for terrorism many times over past decades. Just this weekend, hundreds of armed

police took part in an exercise simulating a "marauding" terrorist attack on the River Thames.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson
267-8288

Linus M. Tucker, 96, of Big Spring, passed away Saturday, March 18, 2017 at Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home. Graveside service with Military Honors will be held at 2 p.m. today at Trinity Memorial Park Peace Chapel.

Fran Mathie, 80, of Big Spring died Friday, March 17, 2017. Funeral services will be at 3:30 p.m. today at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

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Opinion

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

—FIRST AMENDMENT

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

ADDRESSES

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

• **DONALD TRUMP**
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The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

• **TED CRUZ**
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DAILY PRAYER

May we never give up, Lord, but come to You through prayer.

Amen.

Questions for Judge Gorsuch

I have spent this past week watching the Senate Judiciary Committee interrogating U.S. Circuit Judge Neil Gorsuch. Judge Gorsuch is President Donald Trump's nominee to fill the vacancy on the U.S. Supreme Court. The vacancy was created by the death of Justice Antonin Scalia more than 13 months ago. The Supreme Court is currently divided between four liberals and four conservatives. As a justice, Gorsuch would probably break many ideological ties.



JUDGE
ANDREW P.
NAPLITANO

During the hearings, Republican senators are doing their best to associate Judge Gorsuch with the popular-in-death Justice Scalia, and Democratic senators are doing their best to try to pin down Gorsuch by making him commit publicly to positions on hot-button issues, such as abortion, gun rights and the use of unrestricted money in political campaigns. Gorsuch has accepted the Republican sobriquets and declined to answer Democratic inquiries with specificity. So, are the hearings of any real value?

Here is the back story. Prior to the partisan efforts to block the nominations of the late Judge Robert Bork and now-Justice Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court, the Senate's "advice and consent" role was mainly limited to a cursory examination of a nominee's qualifications for office. The Bork hearings succeeded in derailing his nomination by portraying his philosophical views as outside the mainstream of legal thought. The Thomas hearings, which failed to block the nomination, centered on the nominee's alleged personal shortcomings, which were directly challenged and mainly refuted.

My point here is that since these two hearings in 1987 and 1991, the Senate Judiciary Committee has felt unleashed to probe and prod into any area it sees fit, and the nominees have become unleashed to answer only the questions that they think will ad-

vance their nominations.

In the Gorsuch hearings this week, the nominee has argued that should he commit to certain positions on issues, it would not be fair to litigants who might come before him as a circuit judge if his nomination were not to be confirmed or before him in the Supreme Court if it were, as those litigants would have a proper belief that he prejudged their cases.

So, what questions could both Democrats and Republicans put to him and what questions could he answer that would inform their judgment and illuminate his thinking without committing his judgment?

It should come as no surprise that Gorsuch is a traditionalist. The folks who offered his candidacy to the president — and I played a small role in that process — spent weeks examining all his public writings, as well as his speeches and lectures, so as to enable them to conclude safely that his 10-year track record as an appellate judge could fairly be a barometer of his likely behavior as a Supreme Court justice. In the process of that examination, the researchers found many similarities in ideas, tone, attitudes and word choice to Justice Scalia.

The essence of that similarity is an idea called originalism. Though there are many variants of originalism, it generally advances the idea that the meaning of the Constitution was fixed at the time it was ratified and therefore its words mean the same today as they did to those who ratified it; and the same is the case for its 27 amendments.

This fidelity to original public understanding drives judges to the text of the Constitution and the laws — not the principles that underlie the text, not the politics that produced the text, not the social ills the text seeks to cure but the words chosen by the drafters of the Constitution or of a statute, as the case may be. This is not just an obscure academic argument. Originalism, if followed religiously, leaves judges and justices to the narrow role of interpreting the plain text of the Constitution or laws as they were understood when enacted, irrespective of the consequences.

Are immigrants destroying our way of life?

During Cold War debates about the merits of capitalism and communism, Americans offered a simple gauge: the movement of people. "You have the Berlin Wall," the argument went. "We have the Statue of Liberty. If communism is a blessing, why do people flee Cuba for America, not the other way around?"



STEVE
CHAPMAN

Ronald Reagan, the hero of modern Republicans, knew that immigrants were not a threat to our way of life but a reinforcement of it. "I have always believed there was some divine providence that placed this great land here between the two great oceans," he said in 1986, "to be found by a special kind of people from every corner of the world who had a special love for freedom and a special courage that enabled them to leave their own land, leave their friends and their countrymen, and come to this new and strange land to build a new world of peace and freedom and hope."

Imagine what Reagan would think of Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa, who abhors foreigners like a deadly virus. On Monday, King tweeted, "We can't restore our civilization with somebody else's babies." Last year, he declared, "Cultural suicide by demographic transformation must end." This week, King insisted that immigrants are "importing a different culture, a different civilization, and that culture and civilization, the imported one, re-

jects the host's culture."

King was talking about Middle Easterners, but his suspicions extend to undocumented immigrants, most of whom come from Latin America. He claims they are "refusing to assimilate into the American culture and civilization."

Among the alleged sins of Latino immigrants are that they drag down wages and give birth at public expense. But if there's anything worse than poor foreigners, it's rich ones. Steve Bannon, Donald Trump's chief White House strategist, has complained (inaccurately) that "two-thirds or three-quarters of the CEOs in Silicon Valley are from South Asia or from Asia."

He sees their numbers as trouble because, he says, "a country is more than an economy. (It's) a civic society."

Yes, it is. And Silicon Valley is a proud product of ours, showcasing the wonders that intellectual and economic freedom can create. It's absurd to think immigration undermines our civic life. Immigration has always been inseparable from our civic life. What is it about high-achieving Asian-Americans that Bannon finds threatening to our way of life — aside, that is, from their race?

From the start, immigrants have elicited groundless panic. Bannon, a Catholic, forgets that Catholic immigrants were once seen as fundamentally hostile to democratic principles. The eminent 19th-century Presbyterian minister Lyman Beecher warned that "the subjects of the pope" would "subvert our free institutions." Beecher would be surprised that subjects of the pope now dominate that free institution called the Supreme Court.

Originalists believe that social progress and new legal structures should come about by the acts of Congress and the president, who are elected for that purpose, rather than by the rulings of unelected, unaccountable judges. If every judge were an originalist, the effect would be that much wonderful social progress in human affairs that could come about through the decisions of courageous jurists — such as public school desegregation and personal privacy and mobility in years past — might not come about.

Yet originalists argue that federal jurists are the least equipped to advance social progress; they are often old, are never elected and have no accountability to the public.

Thus, it is on this philosophical fulcrum, more than on any other, that senators should examine Judge Gorsuch's thinking. In this context, they can also ask him whether our rights come from the government or from our humanity. They can ask how he views fundamental liberties. Can the court pick and choose which rights are highly protected from government interference and thus are difficult for the government to regulate and which are not? If privacy and travel — neither of which is mentioned by name in the Constitution — are fundamental liberties, why isn't freedom of contract, which is mentioned by name?

On these issues alone — originalism and fundamental liberties — the senators could find from his answers a blueprint to his thinking, and Judge Gorsuch could reply in meaningful ways without prejudging any cases.

But the Senate is a political body, and its members are politicians. One of the reasons Justice Scalia gave for rejecting as an interpretive tool the statements made by members of Congress when they passed any legislation under scrutiny is the truism that politicians have only one goal in their work, no matter what they are saying — to get re-elected. The senators examining Judge Gorsuch are probably more concerned with that than with doing the right thing for the court. I hope that in this respect, I am wrong, as I have been before.

The court also has three Jewish justices, which would offend supporters of the Immigration Act of 1924. It was designed to keep out Jews, among others, who were seen as genetically inferior and politically radical. Jews, however, confounded anti-Semites by succeeding and integrating into American society just as every previous immigrant group had.

There is no reason to think newcomers from Latin America or the Middle East will be any different. King and others believe Islam is irredeemably violent and hostile to freedom and democracy — hence his opinion that admitting Muslim refugees amounts to "cultural suicide."

But he underestimates the power of American culture. A 2011 Gallup poll found that 89 percent of American Muslims say there is never a justification for an individual or group to target and kill civilians — compared with only 71 percent of Protestants and Catholics. American Muslims are also more favorable to same-sex marriage than evangelical Christians are.

The fear that foreigners will poison our culture or destroy our government has no basis in experience. "Basic indicators of assimilation, from naturalization to English ability, are if anything stronger now than they were a century ago." University of Washington scholar Jacob Vigdor has written about Hispanics. "Muslim immigrants in the U.S. are highly assimilated, presenting a strong contrast with Muslims in most European countries," he told me.

The vast majority of today's immigrants, it's clear, can be expected to uphold our best political ideals and cultural traditions. King and Bannon? Not so much.

Officer, 3 others fatally shot in Wisconsin domestic dispute

By **TODD RICHMOND**

Associated Press

WESTON, Wis. (AP) — Four people including a police officer are dead and a suspect is in custody after shootings at a bank and a law firm in northern Wisconsin, followed by a standoff at an apartment complex that ended in a volley of gunfire.

Police characterized the initial shooting at the Marathon Savings Bank in Rothschild on Wednesday afternoon as a domestic dispute, but have provided no details about the suspect or victims. Authorities said late Wednesday that there is no remaining threat to the public.

Jason Smith, a deputy administrator for the state Department of Justice's Division of Criminal Investigation, said more than 100 officers are investigating and that more information will be released Thursday.

The violence unfolded in a cluster of small towns south of Wausau, about 90 miles west of Green Bay. The officer worked for Everest Metro, a small, 27-officer force that serves Schofield and Weston.

"I would like to send all my thoughts and ask everybody listening, 'Thoughts and prayers to all the victims and their families.'" Everest Metro Chief Wally Sparks said. "Please keep them in your prayers and be with our officers."

The shooting at the bank in Rothschild was reported around midday. Officers responding to a "domestic situation" arrived at the bank to find two people were shot and the suspect had fled.

A second call came about 10 minutes later from Tlusty, Kennedy and Dirks, a law firm in nearby Schofield. The action then moved to an apartment complex in Weston.

A woman who lives in the complex said she looked out of her apartment window about 1:15 p.m. to see a squad car approach, and a few seconds later heard a gunshot and saw an officer fall. Kelly Hanson, 21, told The Associated Press she saw other officers put the wounded policeman in an armored SWAT vehicle and take him away. She couldn't tell if he was alive or dead.

"I thought, 'What is going on?' I know what a gun sounds like, and thought, 'This isn't good,'" Hanson said. She stayed inside her apartment.

The Wausau Daily Herald reported that SWAT team members entered the apartment building about 2:30 p.m.

Hanson said she heard about 10 shots at about 4:45 p.m. and began to "freak out."

Another resident, Susan Thomp-



AP photo

Numerous law enforcement vehicles and SWAT teams respond to shooter Wednesday, March 22, 2017, at an apartment complex in Rothschild, Wis. The shootings happened at a bank, a law firm and an apartment complex, where officers, including a SWAT team, were in a standoff with the suspect late in the afternoon, Wausau police Capt. Todd Baeten said at a news conference. The area is about 90 miles west of Green Bay.

son, told the Daily Herald that she heard gunshots and screams. Police told the 21-year-old mother to stay in-

side with her 2-year-old daughter and to lock her doors.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Mercury, Pluto and What Matters



Holiday Mathis

Mercury and Pluto are working at cross-purposes today, making it seem as though certain activities are in the do-or-die category when they are actually in the no-biggie category. The question is, "What really matters?" The answer is, "If it matters to you, it matters." However, the wise person will question that continually.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The spirit of adventure is rather obviously alive in you. You'll raise eyebrows and get other kinds of attention from people who wish they had the guts to take on life the way you do today!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You don't get to choose your family, your colleagues or your neighbors. When you can be friends with someone who also happens to be a person you didn't choose, it really feels like the universe is on your side.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll make

something interesting happen socially, something that no one was expecting. Because of you, the other person feels empowered to take a risk. This is getting good.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). If one person is calling all of the shots, no matter how brilliant this person may be, the situation will not be as stable as a scene with a few diverse leaders who can balance one another.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There is magic in your writing. You can really use it today in a number of possible directions. Writing things down can make them more real, easier to let go of or harder to forget.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You can't be completely known, because you're not one definitive way. Different environments and people pull out new sides of you. Today it will feel like you're deciding who to be with every little choice you make.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). No one likes to be criticized, but right now you really want to know you've been seen, that others are trying to understand what you do. If they have a critical opinion, it will ultimately inform and help you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The events you'll deal in today may only be important to the players involved. Outsiders wouldn't understand. There's a good feeling attached to

knowing you are on the inside.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There will be a great level of complexity to your dealings. There will be rules to follow, stated and unspoken. The more sensitive you are to the latter kind, the less you'll have to abide by the former kind.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You may not be in the mood to "be yourself" today, and if you want to be someone else for a while instead, you'll find a way to do this playfully and ethically.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Destroying someone's illusions is just as damaging as destroying personal property. To respect a person is to respect the mythology that the person lives within.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There's pleasure in work and work in pleasure. Right now it will be easier for you to extract the joy from difficult endeavors than it will for you to take the difficulty out of joyful endeavors.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 23). It's not enough to know. This year you'll act on what you know and greatly benefit from this, too. Sometimes it's better to live through it than think through it. Love will surprise and change you in April. May is for reconnecting relationships and healing family karma. August brings a financial breakthrough. Gemini

and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 14, 33, 38 and 27.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTION: "An astrologer told me that activity affecting my fifth house was going to change my life in the next year. What did she mean?"

If you look at a horoscope chart as if it were the face of a clock, the fifth house is at 5 o'clock. It's the only astrological house that has that kind of correlation, and I've often thought about why this is. The answer that popped into my head was a lyric to a country song: "It's 5 o'clock somewhere." I associate the fifth house with how we want to spend our free time. Follow your bliss and it leads straight to your

fifth house. This house is ruled by the sun, so it stands to reason that this is where your passion lies. What gets you fired up may be a sport or a creative hobby or your true love. Have you ever gotten so totally swept up in a person or project that you completely lost track of time? You were having so much fun that -- oops! -- five hours passed and it felt like only five minutes. That's your fifth house whispering sweet nothings in your ear. This life change you're in for will make it seem as though time is jumping forward, so hold on tight!

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Happy birth-

day to Perez Hilton, who started one of the most popular celebrity news blogs in history. If you think gossip is child's play you might be interested to know that the celebrity gossip king was born when the sun, Mercury and Venus were all in Aries, the sign of fresh, youthful excitement. Perez also has natal Saturn, the planet of lessons, in Leo, the sign of entertainment.

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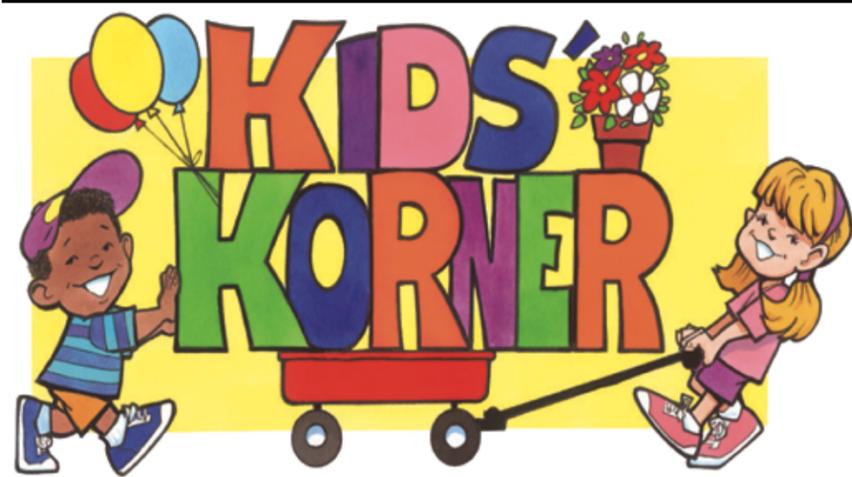
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Out of Reach

Rainbows are often depicted with a pot of gold at the end. If you have ever tried to follow a rainbow in the sky, however, you know that it is impossible to find the end. That's because rainbows are simply reflections of the sun's rays in raindrops.

The ends of a rainbow may look like they are on earth, but they're really not. This may be one of the reasons leprechauns are known to hide their gold at the end of a rainbow.

According to an Irish legend, any leprechaun caught by a human must tell where they have hidden their pot of gold. As long as they have put their gold at the end of a rainbow, which humans cannot find, their gold will be safe!

Name That Color

Each of the following is a color on the rainbow. Fill in the blanks to name that color.

- 1) G _ _ E _ _ _
- 2) _ _ L U _ _
- 3) Y E _ _ O _ _
- 4) O _ A _ G _ _
- 5) _ _ I O _ _ E _ _
- 6) _ _ E _ _
- 7) _ _ N _ _ I _ _ O

Answers: 1) Green, 2) Blue, 3) Yellow, 4) Orange, 5) Violet, 6) Red, 7) Indigo



What Rhymes with Gold?

- List 10 words that rhyme with "gold." 1. _____
2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____
5. _____ 6. _____ 7. _____
8. _____ 9. _____ 10. _____

Some answers: bold, cold, fold, hold, mold, old, rolled, scold, sold, told

Jokes and Riddles

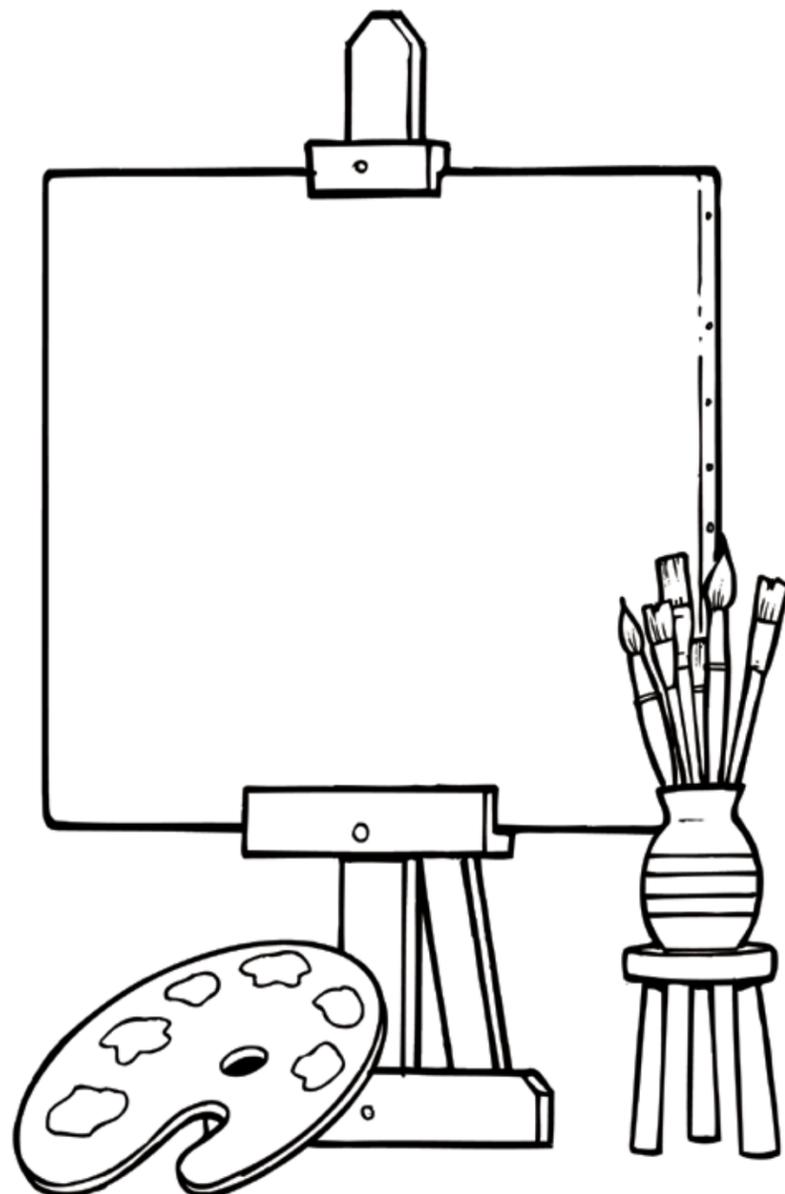
Q: What is a cat's favorite color?

A: Purple, of course!

Q: What is green and red all over?

A: An angry shamrock.

COLORING PICTURE



Fact or Fiction?

Color Combo Challenge

As Easter gets closer, kids everywhere will be coloring eggs. While some will turn to egg coloring kits, others will use food coloring. Whatever method you use, you may want to know something about color mixing, especially if you plan to decorate your eggs with paint. Here are some questions about color combinations. How many can you answer correctly?

- 1) Red and purple make orange. Fact or Fiction?
- 2) Blue and red make purple. Fact or Fiction?
- 3) Black and red make pink. Fact or Fiction?
- 4) Blue and yellow make green. Fact or Fiction?
- 5) Green and white make gray. Fact or Fiction?
- 6) Red and green make brown. Fact or Fiction?
- 7) Green and black make dark green. Fact or Fiction?
- 8) Purple and black make lavender. Fact or Fiction?
- 9) Red and brown make maroon. Fact or Fiction?
- 10) Brown and white make tan. Fact or Fiction?

Answers: 1) Fiction, red and yellow make orange, 2) Fact, 3) Fiction, white and red make pink, 4) Fact, 5) Fiction, black and white make gray, 6) Fact, 7) Fact, 8) Fiction, purple and white make lavender, 9) Fiction, red and black make maroon, 10) Fact

Baylor heads to Oklahoma City, site of both cheers and tears

WACO, Texas (AP) — Baylor left Oklahoma City two weeks ago after a rare loss in the Big 12 Tournament. Two years ago, their season ended after losing an NCAA Elite Eight game in the same building.

The Lady Bears, the top seed in the Oklahoma City Regional, are now headed back to the arena less than 300 miles from their Waco campus to play Louisville in an NCAA Sweet 16 rematch Friday night.

"We've shed plenty of tears there, but we've also celebrated in front of them," senior forward Nina Davis said. "We're not really worried about the location where we're playing at. We're just worried about our next opponent, which is Louisville, and just focused on us and what we have to do to get to the next round."

Baylor (32-3) is in the Sweet 16 for the ninth year in a row. Each of the last three seasons ended with a loss in the Elite Eight — all of those spanning Davis' career so far.

After sweeping through to Big 12 Tournament titles at Oklahoma City in 2014 and 2016, the Lady Bears lost March 6 in the tournament final to West Virginia. It was the first time in seven years, as the span they have won every Big 12 regular-season title, that they didn't also win the conference tournament.

They have twice played NCAA Tournament games in Oklahoma City — and their season ended there both times. There was an Elite Eight loss to Notre Dame in 2015, two years after getting to the Sweet 16 as defending national champions with All-America players Brittney Griner and Odyssey Sims only to lose to Louisville.



In this March 26, 2015, file photo, Baylor's Nina Davis, left, talks to coach Kim Mulkey during practice at the NCAA college basketball tournament in Oklahoma City.

"But that's history," coach Kim Mulkey said. "So now you go to this game, and they're a different team, we're a different team."

Third-seeded Louisville (29-7) is in the Sweet 16 for the seventh time, the third against the Lady Bears. The Cardinals beat Baylor in 2009 and 2013 on way to being national runner-ups to UConn.

"They have great players, we have great players. They're well-coached. I don't know if we are or not, but we'll see. But we'll compete," Mulkey said. "I think we have a size advantage, but really what does that mean at this level? If you can play, you can play."

The Lady Bears are trying to get to their first Final Four since that 40-0 national championship in 2012. With two wins this weekend, they would only have to go about 100 miles from their campus to Dallas for the Final Four.

Baylor won its NCAA opener 119-30 over Texas Southern last Saturday at home, setting NCAA Tournament records for the largest margin of victory and the most points ever scored in a regulation game. That was followed

by an 86-46 win over California.

"I thought our depth has surfaced big time in these two playoff games. We knew we had depth. We've seen it all year," Mulkey said. "But you don't know how they're going to produce in the NCAA Tournament."

Six players are averaging double-figure scoring in the NCAA Tournament, and a seventh has 9.0 points a game — all without having to play too many minutes. All 12 players that got into the first two NCAA games recorded points, rebounds and assists.

Baylor's three post players that are at least 6-foot-4 — sophomores Kalani Brown and Bearman Mounpremier, and freshman Lauren Cox — combined for 82 points and 43 rebounds in just 109 minutes of play.

"Our size is young, and I think people tend to forget that," Mulkey said. "I just think the more they can get NCAA experience, the better they get. And then maybe someday they'll win them a national championship here."

Hawks on six game win streak, defeat Midland College 9-6

By **MARISSA LOFTIN**

Sports Editor

The Howard College men's baseball team made their way to Midland last night where they came out on top in a rivalry game against the Midland College Chaparrals.

The Hawks began the game at the plate where Midland gave away free bases to the first three batters, which loaded them up.

With Robert Bullard Jr. in scoring position, he was able to steal home on a wild pitch to put the first run for the Hawks on the board. Following at bat, Andrew Beck grounded out, but Caleb Kyle still managed to cross the plate and put the Hawks up by two.

After retiring the side, the Chaparrals were able to answer back with two runs of their own, which came from an error by Hawk third baseman Tommy Sepulveda, tying up the score 2-2.

After getting a defensive stop against the Hawks, Midland was able to bring across four runs in the bottom of the second, thanks to a 2RBI double and an RBI home run.

With the Chaparrals at a 6-2 lead over Howard College at the top of the third inning, Nick Colacecchi knocked off a 2RBI double to bring their deficit to two runs.

The sides of the fourth were quick outs to retire the inning, and the score remained at a Midland lead of 4-6.

The Hawks were able to take the lead for good when they brought in five runs in the fifth inning, which came from a grand slam by Colacecchi and an RBI single by Bullard Jr.

The Chaparrals were not able to bounce back and would fall short against the Hawks with a final score of 9-6.

"There has always been good sportsmanship between both teams (Midland and Howard College) and it is such a good rivalry," said head baseball coach Rob Martinez. "It's fun to play those guys. They are good, well coached, and talented just like we are. It is always good, competitive games with them."

Matt Henson earned the win for Howard College. He threw for two innings, allowed zero runs, one hit, struck out four, and walked zero.

Parker Towns recorded the last three outs to earn the save for the Hawks.

"Everyone that threw out of the bullpen was absolutely outstanding for us, so that was big," said Martinez. "They never gave up and kept battling."

Howard College got a total of six hits for the game. Colacecchi led the team by driving in six runs and went 2-4 at the plate.

See **HAWKS**, Page 13

A rough, emotional day for top seeds at Match Play



Jason Day, of Australia, watches his tee shot on the sixth hole during round-robin play against Pat Perez at the Dell Technologies Match Play golf tournament at Austin County Club, Wednesday, March 22, 2017, in Austin, Texas. Day conceded the match after the sixth hole and withdrew from the tournament.

By **DOUG FERGUSON**

AP Golf Writer

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Defending champion Jason Day lasted only six holes at the Dell Technologies Match Play until a heavy heart forced an early departure.

Rory McIlroy and Jordan Spieth might not be far behind.

The opening round of golf's most unpredictable tournament took a stunning turn Wednesday when the third-

seeded Day abruptly conceded his match to Pat Perez, then wiped away tears as he revealed his mother has lung cancer. Day withdrew to be with her in Ohio for surgery on Friday.

"It's been a very, very hard time for me to even be thinking about playing golf," Day said. "And I know my mom says not to let it get to me, but it really has. So I just need some time away with her to make sure that everything goes well because this

has been very, very tough for me. So I'm going to do my best and try and be there the best I can for her because she is the reason that I'm playing golf today."

Dustin Johnson had no trouble in his debut as the No. 1 seed. He had five birdies in his opening eight holes at Austin Country Club and there wasn't much Webb Simpson could do, but try to extend the match as long as he could. It lasted 15 holes in a 5-and-3 victory.

"Got a long way to

go, but getting the first match in the books with a win is definitely a head start," said Johnson, who is trying to win his third straight tournament.

McIlroy (No. 2) and Spieth (No. 5) face critical matches the rest of the way.

McIlroy, the 2015 champion and a semifinalist last year, appeared to seize control against Soren Kjeldsen when he won three straight holes to take

See **MATCH**, Page 13



New Mexico State's Brooke Salas, front, and Stanford's Briana Roberson chase a loose ball during the second half of a first-round game in the NCAA women's college basketball tournament Saturday, March 18, 2017, in Manhattan, Kan. Stanford won 72-64.

Travel challenges just part of NCAA Tournament for Stanford

By **JANIE McCAULEY**

AP Sports Writer

STANFORD, Calif. (AP) — Nadia Fingall took her three-hour economics final Wednesday while stationed in the hotel dining room. Erica McCall and Briana Roberson were set up in different conference rooms for their psychology exams.

Brittany McPhee and Karlie Samuelson each had chemistry finals — biochemistry for McPhee, organic for Samuelson.

When the charter plane for Sweet 16-bound Stanford never arrived Mon-

day night in Manhattan, Kansas, because of a parts issue, Tara VanDerveer and her staff decided the best course would be to head to the next game destination without a trip first to the Bay Area. The coach checked with a few players and the plan was a go: onward to Lexington, Kentucky.

It meant staying an extra night in Kansas after beating Kansas State, then an off day from basketball on Tuesday. Quarters were acquired from the front desk and loads of laundry done,

See **NCAA**, Page 13

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Public Notice

Division
P.O. Box 13528
Austin, Texas 78711-3528
Or call: (800) 252-9121,
Ext. 1 On The Web at:
www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/

#9328 March 19-24, 2017

ELDERLY OR DISABLED HOMEOWNERS MAY DEFER PROPERTY TAXES

Texans who are 65 or older or who are disabled may postpone paying current and delinquent property taxes on their homes by signing a tax deferral affidavit at the Howard County Appraisal District Office.

Once the affidavit is on file, taxes are deferred – but not cancelled- as long as the owner continues to own and live in the home. Taxes continue to add up, along with 8 percent interest per year. The law extends the tax deferral to the surviving spouse of the person who deferred taxes on the homestead if the surviving spouse was at least 55 years old when the deceased spouse died.

If a tax deferral affidavit is on file, an older homeowner or one who is disabled cannot lose a homestead because of delinquent property taxes. A homeowner can halt a pending sale to foreclose on the homestead's tax lien. No taxing unit can start or continue a lawsuit to collect delinquent taxes. There are no penalties or delinquent taxes during the deferral period; however, a tax deferral does not cancel penalties that were already due.

All deferred taxes and interest become due when the homeowner or surviving spouse no longer own and live in the home. If the tax debt remains unpaid, penalties may be imposed and taxing units may take legal action to collect the past due amount.

For further details about property tax deferral contact Howard County Appraisal District at:

Howard County Appraisal District
315 S. Main Street
Big Spring, TX 79720
432 263-8301
Further information is also available on the Comptroller's website, www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/ or by calling the Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division at (800) 252-9121 ex. 2.

#9326 March 19-24, 2017

Don't get hit with a penalty! "Render" your taxable Property by April 15th.

A "rendition" is a report to the appraisal district that lists all the taxable property you owned or controlled on January 1st of this year.

Who must file a rendition?

Public Notice

You must file a rendition if you own tangible personal property that is used to produce income - such as the inventory and equipment used by a business. If you render late, do not render or file an incomplete or false rendition, a 10 percent to 50 percent penalty may be imposed.

Are there any advantages to you?

The advantages of filing a rendition are:
• You give your opinion of your property's value. The appraisal district must notify you in writing of any value change and explain how you can protest that value to the appraisal review board.
• You record your correct mailing address so your tax bills will go to the right address. If your bill is mailed to the wrong address, the law still holds you responsible for paying your taxes on time or paying extra charges for late payments.
• You can also file a "report of decreased value" to notify the appraisal district of significant depreciation of the value of your property in 2015. The district will look at your property before assigning a value in 2017.

When is the deadline to file?

The last day for filing 2016 renditions is April 15. You can get an automatic extension to May 15 (or the next business day if a weekend) if you ask for it in writing on or before the April 15 deadline. The chief appraiser may grant an additional 15 days after May 15 for an owner who shows good cause in writing.

Where do you file?

File renditions at your local appraisal district:
Howard County Appraisal District
315 Main Street
Big Spring, TX 79720
432 263-8301

Your Appraisal District can answer all questions you may have and provide you a free copy of:

"Texas Property Taxes: Taxpayers' Rights, Remedies and Responsibilities" Or Contact:

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs
Property Tax Assistance Division
P.O. Box 13528
Austin, Texas 78711-3528
Or call: (800) 252-9121, Ext. 1 On The Web at: www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/

#9327 March 19-24, 2017

The purpose of this advertisement is to notify a group of qualified contractors that the **Colorado River Municipal Water District (the "District" or "CRMWD")** is requesting competitive sealed proposals for the construction of the following project:

Public Notice

Lake Thomas System Improvements
CMD15354

The work for this project includes proposed upgrades at Base 8, Base 3, and Base 4. Base 8, Morgan Creek Pump Station, will include a new pump station with three vertical turbine pumps and a 1 MG ground storage tank. The Snyder Pump Station, Base 3, will include a new pump station with three horizontal pumps. The Lake Thomas Pump Station, Base 4, improvements will include replacing the existing portable a-frame crane with a permanent overhead bridge crane, replace existing overhead door and exhaust fan.

The sealed proposals must be delivered to the attention of **Mr. John Grant, General Manager, CRMWD** and will be received and accepted at the District's office located at 400 East 24th Street, P.O. Box 869, Big Spring, Texas 79720 until the deadline for submission which is **3:00 p.m., April 27th, 2017**. The proposals once received will be publicly opened and shall be read aloud at the time and place indicated for acceptance of the proposals. Only the name of each proposer and the monetary amount of their proposal and any alternates shall be read aloud. All proposals received after the deadline for submission of sealed proposals shall be returned to the proposer unopened.

Contract Documents, Geotechnical Report, and any other documents relevant to the scope of work may be examined at the offices of the Engineer, Freese and Nichols, Inc., or at the offices of the District. The address for the Engineer is:

Freese and Nichols, Inc.
4055 International Plaza Ste. 200
Fort Worth, TX 76109
Nick Lester, P.E.
Hours Available: 8am-5pm

Beginning on **March 23rd, 2017** all potential proposers may obtain a copy of the Contract documents from <http://construction.freese.com>. Contract documents for submitting a proposal for this project may also be obtained at the following website: <http://www.bidsync.com>. Any changes to the Contract documents shall be issued by formal addenda and the addenda shall be published at <http://construction.freese.com> prior to the deadline for submission of the proposals.

All proposers are responsible for insuring that they have a complete set of Contract documents prior to the deadline for submission of sealed proposals. Any questions concerning this advertisement, any addenda or related to the Contract documents should be addressed to the Freese and Nichols Construction Services Department. Direct questions related to the design of the Project to:

Nick Lester Aaron
Conine (817) 735-7393 (817) 735-7469
ncl@freese.com
Aaron.conine@freese.com

A pre-proposal conference will be held on **April 6th**,

Public Notice

2017 at 10:30 a.m. at a **CRMWD Field Office, located at 13509 CR 5 Ira, TX 79527**. The pre-proposal conference is non-mandatory. A project site visit will take place immediately after the pre-proposal conference.

Each proposer, must provide, with its proposal, security in the amount, form and subject to the conditions set forth in the Instructions to Proposers. The Security amount shall be five (5) percent of the total amount of the proposal.

No Proposer shall withdraw a proposal within ninety (90) days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

Within forty-five (45) days after the opening of the proposals, the District shall evaluate and rank each proposal submitted in relation to the selection criteria set forth below and shall determine which proposal offers the best value to the District. Price alone shall not be determinative. The Proposals will be evaluated using the following criteria and weighting:

Criteria
Proposal Price
Contractor's Qualifications
Safety Record Questionnaire
Construction Time

Weight
60%
25%
5%
10%

Total 100%

Once the District has selected the proposal that presents the best value to the District the District will attempt to negotiate a contract with the proposer of that selected proposal. The District or its engineer may discuss with the selected proposer options for a scope or time modification and any price change(s) associated with the modification. If the District is unable to negotiate a contract with the first successful proposer, then the District shall withdraw from negotiations in writing and shall seek to go to the next proposal and offer that is in the best value of the District.

The successful contractor selected for this project shall be required to pay no less than the Prevailing Wage Rates set forth in the Contract documents as required by the laws of the State of Texas, to include, but not limited to Chapter 2258 of the Texas Government Code, or the laws of the United States as may be applicable.

Performance and payment bonds will be required from the successful proposer as required by Chapter 2253 of the Texas Government Code.

All portions of the project are scheduled to be substantially complete within a maximum of **Four Hundred and Eighty Five (485) CONSECUTIVE CALENDAR DAYS** and to be **Final Complete within a maximum of (Ninety) 90 CONSECUTIVE CALENDAR DAYS** of substantial completion for a **total maximum time of (Five Hundred and Seventy Five) 575 CONSECUTIVE CALENDAR DAYS**

The estimated budget for this project is **\$15,750,000**.

Public Notice

The District, as Owner, reserves the right to waive any informalities or to reject any or all proposals for any reason.

Colorado River Municipal Water District

John Grant General Manager

#9334 March 32, 30 & April 6, 2017

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

A matter of probabilities

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 7 6 3
♥ 5 4
♦ A K Q 7 4
♣ 9 5 2

WEST
♠ K 9
♥ Q 10 8 6 2
♦ J 9 6 3
♣ J 6

EAST
♠ Q 10 5 2
♥ J 9 7
♦ 10 8
♣ Q 10 7 4

SOUTH
♠ A J 8 4
♥ A K 3
♦ 5 2
♣ A K 8 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1♠ Pass 1♦ Pass
2♣ Pass 3♦ Pass
3NT
Opening lead — six of hearts.

Bridge is first and foremost a game of probabilities. What this means is that if a player consistently chooses the bid or play that has the best chance of succeeding, he will be well-rewarded in the long run. Getting down to cases, let's say you're declarer at three notrump on today's deal, and West leads a heart. Basically, there are two ways to play

the hand.

The first approach, after winning the heart, is to cash the A-K-Q of diamonds, hoping the missing diamonds are divided 3-3 — slightly better than a 1-in-3 chance. If the suit splits any other way, the battle is not necessarily over. You can next play the A-K and another club and still make the contract if the clubs divide 3-3.

In the actual deal, both suits break 4-2, and you go down one. This is mildly unlucky, since the chance of getting a favorable division in one or both suits is mathematically about 60 percent.

The other method of play, after winning the opening trick, is to lead a low diamond from your hand and play low from dummy! This startling move has much more in its favor than it might at first seem. As a matter of fact, it is easily the winning play in the long run.

It's all a matter of probabilities. If you let the opponents win the first diamond lead, you'll make the contract whenever the suit splits 3-3 (36 percent) or 4-2 (48 percent). Your overall chance of success by the second line of play is therefore 84 percent, as opposed to the 60 percent chance you have if you adopt the first approach.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.
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su | do | ku
© Puzzles by Pappocom

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. Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

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

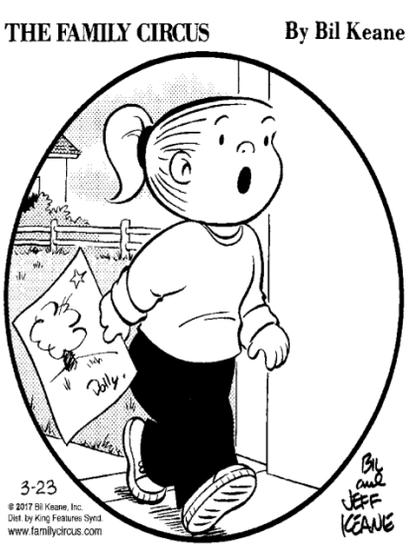
Table with 18 columns (KMID, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLT, KWES, KMLM, KPBT, KWWT, KWES2, WTBS, TNT, ESPN, ESPN2, FSN, USA, A&E, DISC) and 24 rows of program listings.

DENNIS THE MENACE



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THE FAMILY CIRCUS



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HAGAR

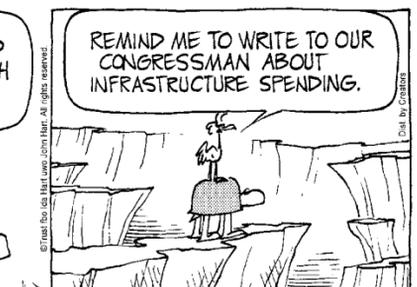


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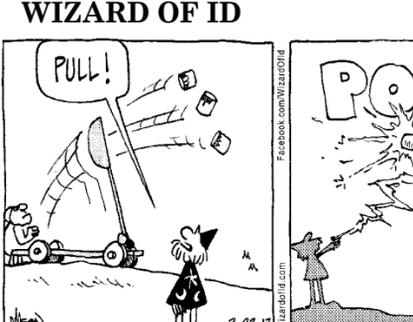
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WIZARD OF ID



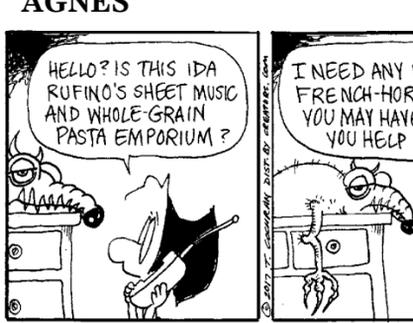
AGNES



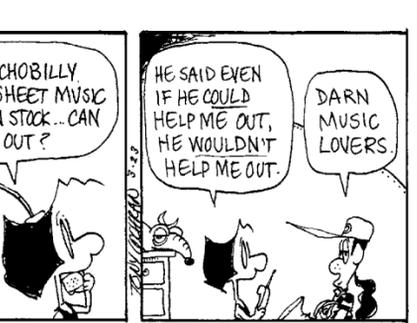
HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



Newsday Crossword

ACROSS 1 Engaged, and then some 5 Krugerrand composition 9 Seek bass 13 Genesis hunter 14 MBA course 15 Alaska Panhandle city 16 Hubble Telescope discoveries 19 Rheingold (Wagner work) 20 Major leaguers, e.g. 21 Falstaffian 22 'It's my turn' 23 Workout unit 24 Lobster eggs 25 League much covered by ESPN 27 Western sidekick 29 Midmonth day 31 Earth tone 32 'Covert' missions 34 What a light bulb might symbolize 36 Not aboveboard 37 Den accessory 41 25 Across player 42 Riverbank residue 43 For example 44 Tour's major toumey 45 Outfitted (in) 47 Percolates 51 Longtime NASCAR sponsor 52 Pseudonym preceder 53 Nautical direction 55 NL player, in headlines

BLONDIE



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This Date In History

Today is Thursday, March 23, the 82nd day of 2017. There are 283 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On March 23, 1792, Joseph Haydn's Symphony No. 94 in G Major (known as the 'Surprise' symphony because of an unexpected crashing chord in the second movement) had its first public performance in London. On this date: In 1775, Patrick Henry delivered an address to the Virginia Provincial Convention in which he is said to have declared, 'Give me liberty, or give me death!' In 1806, explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, having reached the Pacific coast, began their journey back east. In 1914, the first installment of 'The Perils of Pauline,' the legendary silent film serial starring Pearl White, premiered in the greater New York City area. In 1933, the German Reichstag adopted the Enabling Act, which effectively granted Adolf Hitler dictatorial powers. In 1942, the first Japanese-Americans evacuated by the U.S. Army during World War II arrived at the internment camp in Manzanar, California.

In 1956, Pakistan became an Islamic republic. In 1965, America's first two-person space mission took place as Gemini 3 blasted off with astronauts Virgil I. Grissom and John W. Young aboard for a nearly 5-hour flight. In 1973, before sentencing a group of Watergate break-in defendants, Chief U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica read aloud a letter he'd received from James W. McCord Jr. which said there was 'political pressure' to 'plead guilty and remain silent.' In 1983, President Ronald Reagan first proposed developing technology to intercept incoming enemy missiles - an idea that came to be known as the Strategic Defense Initiative. Dr. Barney Clark, recipient of a Jarvik permanent artificial heart, died at the University of Utah Medical Center after 112 days with the device. In 1994, Aeroflot Flight 593, an Airbus A310, crashed in Siberia with the loss of all 75 people on board; it turned out that a pilot's teenage son who was allowed to sit at the controls had accidentally disengaged the autopilot, causing the jetliner to go out of control. In 2001, Russia's orbiting Mir space station ended its 15-year odyssey with a planned fiery plunge into the South Pacific. In 2011, Academy Award-

winning actress Elizabeth Taylor died in Los Angeles at age 79. Ten years ago: The House voted for the first time to clamp a cutoff deadline on the Iraq war, agreeing by a thin margin to pull combat troops out by late 2008, an action dismissed by President George W. Bush as 'political theater.' Iranian forces captured 15 British sailors and marines who were searching a merchant ship in the disputed Shatt Al-Arab waterway Persian Gulf; they were held for 13 days. Five years ago: Urging Americans to 'do some soul searching,' President Barack Obama injected himself into the emotional debate over the fatal shooting of Trayvon Martin in Florida, saying, 'If I had a son, he'd look like Trayvon.'

Answer to previous puzzle: A crossword grid with words filled in.

WAY OFF by Fred Piscop Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

38 Lloyd Webber subject 39 Singing legend Fitzgerald 40 Sourdough alternative 41 UK legislators 46 Zips away 48 Unbroken 49 Foe of the Cheyenne 50 Explicitly reported 52 Lot measure 54 In the (live) 57 Roundish coif 58 Simpsons bus driver 60 Telecopy 61 Cocoa container 62 Not working today

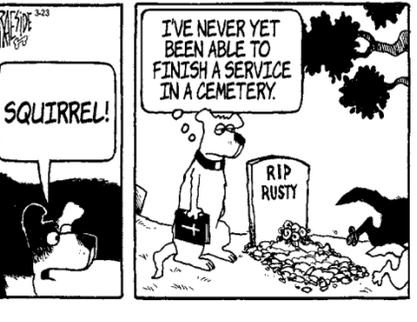
5 Creative category 6 Ink producers 7 Firewood 8 Genomics sample 9 Prix __ menu 10 'You're mistaken' 11 Bar game 12 Retains 15 Knows: Sp. 17 Relevant 18 Eases up on 24 Go over again 26 One or more 28 Playwright Stoppard 30 Decrees 33 Don't deviate from 35 Going nowhere 37 Apparel biz

A crossword grid with numbers 1-66 indicating starting points for words.

THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



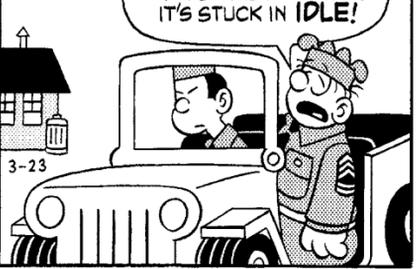
Newsday Crossword

DOWN 1 Web news aggregator 2 Italian cheese 3 Choose not to use 4 Ancient Egyptian ruler 56 Flinch, perhaps 58 Nobel Institute city 59 Pan Am rival 60 Irrelevant 63 Like much 64 Salt Lake City students 65 Available 66 Prefix meaning 'strange' 67 'How about that' 68 Meal for mares

THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



NCAA

Continued from Page 7

even all of VanDerveer's outfits, so no last-minute shopping trip was necessary for new clothes. "Definitely unexpected, a little unorthodox, but everyone's been great," said Kaylee Johnson, who completed a paper and was studying for a Thursday final. "I'm sure no one really expected this so it's frustrating in its own sense, in its own little way, but I feel like everyone's just kind of just buckled down, stepped up and realized what we have to do. It's not going to affect how we're studying, how we're going to take our finals."

But the Cardinal didn't have everything. Associate head coach Amy Tucker, assistant Temple Brown and a few others from the traveling party secured a smaller charter to return home to Stanford. Tucker grabbed black uniforms in case the Cardinal advance and face No. 1 Notre Dame in the Elite Eight, where they'd be the lower seed and wear their dark road jerseys. Brown needed to move some players' cars from lots they couldn't stay parked in long-term. McCall had to be checked out of her dorm room since she is finishing this quarter.

"Yes, flexible is good," Tucker wrote in an email from the air Wednesday, nearing her arrival in Lexington.

Academic adviser Shannon Reader was busy monitoring the test takers, warning the student-athletes with countdowns during the exam process and communicating with professors and teachers assistants. All while working with the coaches to ensure there'd be three-hour blocks to get the schoolwork done as Stanford prepares for its 10th straight NCAA Tournament regional appearance. The second-seeded Cardinal (30-5) face No. 3 seed Texas on Friday night.

"She was earning her pay, she was very busy," VanDerveer said of the program's first-year academics liaison. "She has been great. ... That was a great addition for our traveling party."

Reader's email inbox was empty when she began the massive chore of checking in with professors to alert them to the change of plans and start organizing finals to be taken on the road, but her correspondences were up to 175 by Wednesday afternoon. All the players had to sign the Stanford honor code promising that exams were completed without cheating or plagiarizing.

"The girls did a great job of emailing their professors beforehand just kind of fair warning them, because you never know what's going to happen with the NCAAs," Reader said. "We didn't know where we were going to be placed, so we kind of planted a seed a couple weeks ago."

Stanford's travel challenges started earlier Monday, when the bus transporting the Cardinal to the game broke down several times en route to the arena before eventually coasting down a gradual descent to the loading dock. A Hall of Fame coach who joined the 1,000-wins club this season and is long accustomed to the pressures of March Madness, VanDerveer always leaves early, just in case. "It was running distance. Really I thought it would be a nice warmup if we didn't make it on the bus," Johnson joked.

The plane Stanford was supposed to take home late Monday was stuck in Arkansas, waiting on a part from Houston that hadn't come by the time the Cardinal made the decision to stay.

HAWKS

Continued from Page 7

"I am really excited and proud of our guys," said Martinez. "They are starting to play as a team and it is showing."

Heading into this game, Midland College and Odessa College are tied for first place in the league, with Howard College right on their heels in second.

"If we keep taking care of our business, we will be there at the end," said Martinez. "We have to try and battle for that first place spot."

This victory over

Midland College is the Hawks' sixth consecutive win, and they hope to increase that by four as they will host their conference opponent, Clarendon College, over the weekend in a pair of double headers. These games are scheduled to take place Friday and Saturday with the first games of the day to begin at noon and the second games to follow immediately after.

Although it has not been confirmed, there has been talk about moving the games to Saturday and Sunday as bad weather is expected for Friday.



Dustin Johnson lines up a putt on the sixth hole during round-robin play against Webb Simpson at the Dell Technologies Match Play golf tournament at Austin County Club, Wednesday, March 22, 2017, in Austin, Texas.

AP photo

MATCH

Continued from Page 7

the lead, including a 410-yard drive on the par-5 12th hole and another drive over the water to the edge of the green on the 317-yard 13th hole into the wind.

Kjeldsen, crisp as ever with his short irons, ran off four straight birdies to end the match. He took a 1-up lead with a wedge in tight on the par-5 16th, and then his pitching wedge that landed inches from the cup and settled 2 feet away for a birdie on the 17th to end it. Kjeldsen was 6 under on the round.

It was the first time McIlroy had lost his opening match since 2013 when Match Play was single elimination.

"If I had played anyone else, I might have won," McIlroy said. "Overall, I can't be too disappointed. But at the same time, when standing on the 14th tee just having won three holes in a row, I thought I had him going into a tough stretch of the golf

course. But he put up three birdies in a row, and you can't do anything about that."

Spieth didn't put much of a fight against Hideto Tanihara of Japan, making his debut in Match Play.

With the Texas crowd on his side, Spieth missed a short birdie attempt that would have given him the lead on No. 5.

Two holes later, Tanihara poured in an 18-foot birdie putt and Spieth couldn't match him. And he never caught up. Spieth didn't win a hole until the 14th — with a bogey — and Spieth gave him the next hole when his wedge sailed over the 15th green.

Spieth and McIlroy are not done yet, though they need some help.

The best record from the 16 four-man groups advance to the knockout stage on Saturday. Ties are determined by a sudden-death playoff, and head-to-head matchups do not count.

"I obviously have to take care of my end of the bargain tomorrow," Spieth said, who next faces Yuta Ikeda.

Hideki Matsuyama (No. 4) wasn't all that happy, either. He missed a 6-foot birdie putt against Jim Furyk and had to settle for a halve. Sergio Garcia, meanwhile, was thrilled to get a halve against Shane Lowry.

The Spaniard never led on the back nine and was 1 down going to the 18th. Lowry hit driver well left into the shaggy grass of a hazard, did well to get it on the green but then three-putted for a bogey.

Justin Thomas (No. 6), fell behind for the first time in his match against Chris Wood on the 13th hole. Thomas won the next two and then closed him out on the 17th. Next up for the PGA Tour's only three-time winner this season is Kevin Na.

"I didn't know I was playing him until you just told me," Thomas said. "I guess that can tell you how I'm viewing everything this week. I'm just going to play golf."

Only nine of the 32 matches went the distance. Charl Schwartzel had the shortest day, ending his match against Byeong Hun on the 13th hole.

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Parent's Corner

When a little is too much

It is often extremely difficult explaining to our kids that exposure to certain things is not good.

I heard a story that could have easily been my father-in-law who chose to handle this situation in the following manner.

A man had two teen aged boys who were very upset at their dad for not allowing them to go to the theater to see a PG-13 movie that many of their friends had seen. The dad commented that the movie contained n u d i t y and portrayed immorality as being n o r m a l and acceptable behavior.

The boys argued that they had read that the unacceptable portions were only small parts of the movie and that movie review websites reported that the movie was based on a true story and good triumphs over evil, and there are other redeeming themes like courage and self-sacrifice.

Dad continued to answer with an emphatic "no!" and told the boys that going to that movie was out of the question. The two teenagers walked dejectedly into the family room and slumped down on the couch. As they sulked, they were surprised to hear the sounds of their Father preparing something in the kitchen.

They soon recognized the wonderful aroma of brownies baking in the oven, and one of the teenagers said to the other, "Dad must be feeling guilty, and now he's going to try to make it up to us with some fresh brownies. Maybe we can soften him with lots of praise when he brings them out to us and persuade him to let us go to that movie after all."

The teens were not disappointed. Soon their father appeared with a plate of warm brownies, which he offered to them. They each took one. Then their father said, "Before you eat, I want to tell you something: I love you both so much." The teenagers smiled at each other with knowing glances. Dad was softening. "That is why I've made these brownies with the very best ingredients. I've made them from



scratch. Most of the ingredients are even organic; the best organic flour; the best free-range eggs; the best organic sugar and Premium Vanilla and chocolate."

The brownies looked mouthwatering, and the teens began to become a little impatient with their dad's long speech.

"But I want to be perfectly honest with you. There is one ingredient I added that is not usually found in brownies. I got that ingredient from our own back yard, but you needn't worry, because I only added the tiniest bit of that ingredient to your brownies. The amount of the portion is practically insignificant. So go ahead, take a bite and let me know what you think."

"Dad, would you mind telling us what that mystery ingredient is before we eat?" "Why? The portion I added was so small; just a teaspoonful. You won't even taste it."

"Come on, dad; just tell us what that ingredient is."

"Don't worry! It is organic, just like the other ingredients but if you insist; that secret ingredient is fresh organic... dog poop."

Both teens instantly dropped their brownies back on the plate and began inspecting their fingers with horror. "DAD! Why did you do that? You've tortured us by making us smell those brownies cooking for the last half hour, and now you tell us that you added dog poop! We can't eat these brownies!"

"Why not? The amount of dog poop is very small compared to the rest of the ingredients. It won't hurt you. It's been cooked right along with the other ingredients. You won't even taste it. It has the same consistency as the brownies. Go ahead and eat!" "No, Dad, we would never eat that"

"And that is the same reason I won't allow you to go watch that movie. You won't tolerate a little dog poop in your brownies, so why should you tolerate a little immorality in your movies?"

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



DARRELL RYAN

Steer Pride Corner



Courtesy photo

Goliad Elementary Physical Education Teacher, Joseph Bright, has created a new opportunity for the students at Goliad. On Wednesday mornings, Coach Bright opens the gym at 7 a.m. for students who want to come in early to work on their basketball skills. Pictured from left to right: Ben Merki, Rueben Lopez, Julie Smith, Austin Gardea, and Coach Joseph Bright.

Survey finds exchange students think US high schools easier

WASHINGTON (AP) — Easier classes, less homework and lots of sports — this is how American high schools are viewed by students from other countries studying in the U.S.

Despite a push in recent years to make the U.S. education system more competitive and effective, foreign exchange students continue to view American high school experience as much less stimulating, according to a study published Wednesday.

"You get this feeling — the kids from abroad come here, they spend a year, they think that school is easier here," said Tom Loveless, a fellow with the Brown Center on Education Policy with the Brookings Institutions. "We think we have made great strides in making our schools more challenging, here is at least one outside group that is in fact saying they are not terribly challenging."

While the findings appear to corroborate international student assessment tests, in which American schools trail behind many developed countries, some experts disputed the methodology and the underlying principles of Loveless' study, saying that foreign exchange students did not represent typical teenagers in their home countries and that the focus on sports wasn't necessarily a bad thing.

In the survey conducted last spring, 259 teenagers from various countries compared their experience in American schools to that in their home countries. All the students were in the U.S. as part of the AFS Intercultural Programs, an international youth exchange organization.

Forty-four percent of respondents said U.S. students spend "much less" time on schoolwork than at their home countries, while 21 percent thought they

spend "a little less." Asked, how difficult their classes are in the U.S., 66 percent said they are "much easier" and 24 percent said "a little easier." The results were similar compared to a similar study Loveless conducted in 2001, but the differences were more pronounced.

Asked about the importance of sports for U.S. students, 64 percent of respondents said it is "much more" important to do well in sports in the U.S. and 23 percent said "a little more" important. By contrast, 16 percent said the focus on math was "much less" in America and 32 percent said it was "a little less," while 40 percent believed it was the same as in their home countries. Finally, 53 percent of respondents felt it is "much less" important to U.S. teens to study a second language and 27 percent said it was "a little less" so.

"So the kids are saying, in terms of my peer groups in my home country, our peer culture rewards success at math more than it does in the U.S. and it does not reward sports so much," Loveless said.

But Jack Buckley, senior vice president for research and evaluation at American Institutes for Research, said that the methodology for Loveless' study does not make sense. "It's unlikely that foreign exchange students are a particularly representative sample of their home countries," Buckley said, adding that such students are likely more ambitious, come from wealthier families and thus attend better schools. AFS said that its one-year program in the U.S. can cost up to \$16,000, though some students get scholarships.

Buckley also noted that American high schools can be drastically different from one another. He cited an international student

achievement study called PISA which last year ranked the U.S. 25th out of 50 participating countries, below Canada, Britain and Poland. While the average math score for the entire country was 470, the wealthiest schools scored 530, similar to Japan and Finland, while the poorest schools scored 427, on par with Chile and United Arab Emirates.

"Anybody who tells you they generalize about American high schools by just looking at ratings and a few numbers is underestimating the variability in American education," Buckley said.

Martin Carnoy, professor at the Graduate School of Education at Stanford University, said that while some parents abroad like their kids to concentrate solely on homework, in the American culture many parents believe that playing sports makes one a well-rounded person and teaches them important social skills such as teamwork and perseverance. Also, it makes them feel good.

"We do put more emphasis on sports, we do put more emphasis on other activities, it's fun!" Carnoy said. "You are a teenager, have a good time, the rest of life is going to be hard. I don't know if it's such a condemnation of our school system. It depends what you want."

Abdalla Fadhili Abdalla, 16, an exchange student from Kenya agreed with Loveless' findings, saying he found his U.S. high school to be less demanding than at home — the days are shorter, there are fewer subjects and less homework.

"School is easier here and harder in Kenya, I have a lot of homework in Kenya," Abdalla said. At the same time, he enjoys weightlifting at his Maryland high school, saying: "I think it's kind of good to combine sports and studies."



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