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# HERALD

**BIG SPRING** MONDAY, MAY 23, 2016



VOLUME 111, NUMBER 181 COPYRIGHT 2016 50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY



Photos/Anthony Neighbors and Steve Reagan

A trifecta of severe weather — tornados, hail, and heavy rain — rampaged through Howard County Sunday evening. No injuries were reported, but reports of significant property damage were received across this area.

## Mother Nature pounds county

Tornado, rain, hail strike area; more severe weather in forecast

By **LYNDEL MOODY**  
 Staff Writer

Are you ready for Round 2? Severe weather conditions are expected to return to the Crossroads area later today and this evening, creating more chances for large hail, flooding, lightning, and more tornadoes.

"Today's weather will have the same hazard risks as yesterday for large hail and tornadoes later on today and in the evening," said Julie Phillipson, meteorologist for the National Weather Service in Midland.

On Sunday night, a storm system blew into the area and decided to stick around for a while to enjoy the West Texas hospitality, dumping gifts of scattered hail, causing severe flooding, and producing multiple tornados near Big Spring.

No injuries were reported from the storms, but fires, hail, and high winds caused significant property damage across the area and flooded streets and highways, resulting in multiple reports of

stranded motorists.

The National Weather Service confirmed this morning that emergency personnel and witnesses reported multiple tornados touching the ground Sunday. On Facebook this morning, several photos and videos of the tornados have been posted. Storm damage estimates are still being assessed this morning, Phillipson said.



"We have a tornado survey team out in the area to compile that information, so we can get an idea on how strong the tornado was," she said.

More than 2.5 inches of rainfall was recorded at the Big Spring Airport, officials said today.

The city of Big Spring announced this morning storm damage caused issues with the water treatment plant electricity, resulting in residents having little to no water this morning. The issue had not been resolved by press time.

Severe flooding from rainfall kept Howard County Volunteer Fire Department personnel

See **STORM**, Page 3

## Clinton e-mail probe ending

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — FBI agents probing whether Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server imperiled government secrets appear close to completing their work, a process experts say will likely culminate in a sit-down with the former secretary of state.

The FBI has already spoken with Huma Abedin, a Clinton confidant who was among the Democratic presidential front runner's closest aides at the State Department. Former chief of staff Cheryl D. Mills is also cooperating with the investigation, according to her lawyer.

That signals that agents will probably seek to interview Clinton in the near future, if they haven't already, former Justice Department officials told The Asso-

See **PROBE**, Page 3

## Run for the Wall



HERALD photo/LYNDEL MOODY

Around 300 motorcyclists made a stop in Big Spring Saturday at the Big Spring Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The group is part of the 2016 annual Run for the Wall caravan.



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## Obituaries

### Stephen P. "Steve" Riordan

Stephen P. "Steve" Riordan, 66, of Big Spring passed away Friday, May 20, 2016, in Midland. He will lie in state beginning Monday, May 23, 2016, at Myers and Smith Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 24, 2016, at Myers and Smith Chapel. No other services are planned.

He was born April 4, 1950, in Breckenridge, Texas, to Christine Vogel Riordan and Cecil V. Riordan. The family moved to Mineral Wells in 1953 and then to Big Spring in 1960. He was a graduate of Big Spring

High School Class of 1968. He attended Howard College and West Texas State University. He bought and sold antique furniture.

Steve is survived by two sisters, Priscilla Corbet and husband Tad, and Beverly Miller and husband Tip, all of Big Spring; nephews, Bradley Garrison and his wife Tammy and daughter Brittney Wilborn, Ronnie Miller, Stan Miller and family, and Jeremy Miller; and niece Amy Childress and family; many friends and cousins; and his dog Gizzy.

Those of you who knew Steve knew he had a good time, had a good life, and loved his brownies and Dr. Pepper.

Arrangements are by Myers and Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersandsmith.com](http://www.myersandsmith.com)

*Paid obituary*

### Bobbie R. Martin

Bobbie R. Martin, 84, of Big Spring, formerly of Pampa, Texas, died Friday, May 20, 2016, in a local nursing home with her family at her side. The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. Monday at Myers and Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 3 p.m. Tuesday at Myers and Smith Chapel. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Memory Gardens Cemetery in Pampa.

She was born to the late Willie and Lillie Hudson Oct. 8, 1931, in Dalhart, Texas. Bobbie graduated from Texline High School in 1951. She married once in her early years, and then married for the second time to Charles Leon Martin in 1963. They lived together in Dumas, Texas, and then relocated to Pampa, Texas, for 25 years, where they divorced in 1989.

Bobbie was a cafeteria worker and went on to become a cafeteria manager for the Pampa Independent School District. While working at the school, she also worked part-time at Alco, which was like a five-and-dime store, until she retired from the school after 25 years.

She loved working and stated: "It is what keeps me going and I enjoy working, I don't know what I would do if I retired". She then moved to Big

Spring, Texas, to be near her daughter and grandchildren. After moving to Big Spring she began work at the Big Spring State Hospital in food service; she also had a part-time job at the Howard College Cafeteria. After retiring from the Big Spring State Hospital, she managed an apartment complex for the next 10 years. She finally decided to stop working at the age of 74, and lived with her daughter here in Big Spring until she had several falls which resulted in two broken hips and a fractured femur. The last fall resulted in a fractured pelvis and a long hospitalization. She decided she was through with being sick and just wanted to go to Heaven so she would not hurt anymore.

Bobbie is survived by three children, Lillie Hesson and her husband Russ of Big Spring, Curtis Martin and his wife Laura of Amarillo, and David Martin of Denton; 12 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two sons, Danny Martin and Donald Martin; one grandson, Joshua Braxton; two brothers, Frank Hudson and Jim Hudson; and one sister, Hazel Tyler.

Pallbearers will be Jacob Braxton, Jeremy Braxton, Russ Hesson, Jason Partlow, Josh Junkin, and Rick Boiles.

Arrangements are by Myers and Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersandsmith.com](http://www.myersandsmith.com).

*Paid obituary*

### Lula Mae Sale

Lula Mae Sale, 96, of Midland, formerly of Stanton, died Sunday, May 22, 2016, in Midland. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday, May 25, 2016, at the First Baptist Church of Stanton with the Rev. David Harp officiating. Burial will

follow at Evergreen Cemetery.

Lula Mae is survived her daughter, Marilyn Newman and husband Tom of Stanton; four grandchildren; and 13 grandchildren.

Arrangements are under the direction of Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton. Online condolences may be made at [www.npwelch.com](http://www.npwelch.com).

## Police & Sheriff

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **HOWARD FOSTER**, 40, of 1002 N. Main St. was arrested on charges of possession of a controlled substance (less than 1 gram), possession of a dangerous drug, and criminal trespass.
- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 1500 block of Johnson.
- **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 900 block of North Runnels.
- **MAJOR ACCIDENT** was reported on Interstate 20 eastbound near mile marker 181 and on Interstate 20 westbound near mile marker 168.
- **THEFT** was reported in 1100 block of Lamesa.

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

- Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 80 inmates at the time of this report.
- **MCKENZIE LEIGH BIRMELIN**, 21, was booked by HCSO on warrants for failure to maintain financial responsibility, failure to yield right of way, violation of promise to appear, and failure to appear.
- **RODNEY CHASE BURROW**, 31, was booked by BSPD on a capias warrant for failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- **TAMMY JO DAVIDSON**, 57, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of theft of property (\$100 to \$750).
- **ANTONIO JOE FLORES**, 35, was booked by BSPD on a probation violation warrant.
- **HOWARD FOSTER**, 40, was booked by BSPD on charges of possession of a controlled substance (less

than 1 gram), possession of a dangerous drug, and criminal trespass.

- **AMANDA SUE HUDGINS**, 29, was booked by BSPD on a warrant for theft of property (less than \$100).
- **JOSHUA HUGHES**, 31, was booked by HCSO on a warrant for theft of property (\$750 to \$2,500).
- **MATILDA MARIE IRVIN**, 18, was booked by BSPD on a charge of evading arrest or detention.
- **DAVID ANTHONY JUAREZ**, 29, was booked by BSPD on a charge of driving with an invalid license.
- **JUAN MANUEL LOYA**, 33, was booked by HCSO on a charge of assault causing bodily injury.
- **RACHEL LYNN MCSWAIN**, 30, was booked by BSPD on a warrant for violation of entry fee requirements.
- **TYLER RAY NICHOLS**, 26, was booked by BSPD on charges of resisting arrest, search, or transport and assault on a public servant; and on a warrant for burglary.
- **RICHARD LEE OLIVAS**, 29, was booked by the HCSO on charges of expired registration and driving with an inval-

id license.

- **HILARIO ARIEL IVAN PORRAS**, 19, was booked by BSPD on warrants for no driver's license and use of unapproved equipment.
- **ANTONIO MARTINEZ RODRIQUEZ**, 37, was booked by BSPD on charges of driving with an invalid license and driving while intoxicated (3<sup>rd</sup> offense or more).
- **ADRIAN ADALBERTO ROJAS**, 23, was booked by HCSO on warrants for speeding and no driver's license.
- **TYLER LEWIS STAPP**, 26, was booked by BSPD on warrants for speeding, violation of promise to appear, failure to signal turn, driving with an invalid license, and failure to appear.
- **CLETE MATTHEW STONE**, 32, was booked by HCSO on a charge of resisting arrest, search, or transport.
- **RONALD EDWARD WILKINS**, 48, was booked by BSPD on warrants for failure to appear, expired registration, defective or no stop lamps, failure to maintain financial responsibility, and no seat belt.



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### Linda Stapel

Linda Stapel, 68, of Big Spring died Saturday, May 21, 2016, at her residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

### Seretha Baker

Seretha Baker, 58, of Big Spring died Saturday, May 21, 2016, at Big Spring Center for Skilled Care. Services are pending at Myers and Smith Funeral Home.

#### Local 5-Day Forecast

Tue 5/24	Wed 5/25	Thu 5/26	Fri 5/27	Sat 5/28
 <b>93/69</b> Sunshine and clouds mixed. A stray severe t-storm is possible. High 93F. Winds SSW at 10 to 20 mph.	 <b>93/69</b> Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the upper 60s.	 <b>89/61</b> Mainly sunny and windy. Highs in the upper 80s and lows in the low 60s.	 <b>89/60</b> Abundant sunshine. Highs in the upper 80s and lows in the low 60s.	 <b>90/66</b> More sun than clouds. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the mid 60s.
Sunrise: 6:43 AM Sunset: 8:43 PM	Sunrise: 6:42 AM Sunset: 8:44 PM	Sunrise: 6:42 AM Sunset: 8:44 PM	Sunrise: 6:41 AM Sunset: 8:45 PM	Sunrise: 6:41 AM Sunset: 8:46 PM

#### Texas at a Glance



#### Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	84	70	P Cloudy	Kingsville	87	75	Cloudy
Amarillo	89	58	Sunny	Livingston	87	71	P Cloudy
Austin	84	73	Cloudy	Longview	85	68	P Cloudy
Beaumont	84	73	Sunny	Lubbock	91	65	Cloudy
Brownsville	88	77	Cloudy	Lufkin	85	69	Cloudy
Brownwood	82	69	Cloudy	Midland	97	71	Cloudy
Corpus Christi	85	76	M Cloudy	Raymondville	92	77	M Cloudy
Corsicana	85	71	M Cloudy	Rosenberg	84	74	M Cloudy
Dallas	86	71	Iso T-Storms	San Antonio	90	73	Cloudy
Del Rio	87	74	Cloudy	San Marcos	86	71	Cloudy
El Paso	93	64	M Sunny	Sulphur Springs	86	71	Iso T-Storms
Fort Stockton	94	68	Sunny	Sweetwater	87	70	M Sunny
Gainesville	83	68	Sct T-Storms	Tyler	88	70	P Cloudy
Greenville	85	69	Sct T-Storms	Weatherford	82	69	Cloudy
Houston	85	74	M Cloudy	Wichita Falls	85	70	Cloudy

#### National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	81	56	Sunny	Miami	85	74	Cloudy
Boston	69	55	P Cloudy	Minneapolis	77	61	T-Storms
Chicago	78	61	Sunny	New York	74	59	Sunny
Dallas	86	71	Iso T-Storms	Phoenix	91	66	Sunny
Denver	67	45	P Cloudy	San Francisco	61	52	Cloudy
Houston	85	74	M Cloudy	Seattle	66	52	Cloudy
Los Angeles	72	55	Sunny	Saint Louis	85	61	Sunny

#### Moon Phases

First	Full	Last	New
May 13	May 21	May 29	Jun 5

#### UV Index

Tue 5/24	Wed 5/25	Thu 5/26	Fri 5/27	Sat 5/28
10	10	10	10	10
Very High	Very High	Very High	Very High	Very High

The UV Index is measured on a 0 - 11 number scale, with a higher UV Index showing the need for greater skin protection.

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## Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

- **TRAUMA CALL** was reported in the 1200 block of East 11<sup>th</sup> Place. Service was refused.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1800 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 2200 block of Lynn. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 800 block of Andree.

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**Take note**

• West Texas Opportunities, Inc. will be having a community meeting on Friday, May 27, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. at 2001 Scurry. Come learn about all services and programs provided by WTO, I. We will also be electing a board member to represent Howard County on the WTO, I board in Lamesa. For more information, please call Elda Barrera at 806-872-8354.

• Let's go dancing! Mitchell County Senior Citizen Dance, Thursday, May 26, 2016, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., \$5 per person. Live music will be provided by Kevin and Travis. Bring a covered dish to share. The dance is at 157 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. in Colorado City.

• The Family Land Heritage Program is a recognition program that honors families who have owned and operated a continuous agricultural operation for 100 years or more. Every year, Texas Department of Agriculture hosts a ceremony at the Texas State Capitol to celebrate and commemorate the families who have passed down their proud Texas legacy from generation to generation. The deadline to apply is May 31, 2016. To learn more or apply, visit [tinyurl.com/2016-FamilyLandHeritage](http://tinyurl.com/2016-FamilyLandHeritage).

• The Howard County A&M Club is accepting applications from high school students who are graduating this May and have been accepted at Texas A&M University for the Fall 2016 semester. Students must be Howard county residents and will enroll for at least 12 hours. Application deadline was April 15; however, application deadline for current A&M students is June 1.

More information and the application can be found of the club website: [www.westexags.com](http://www.westexags.com)

• Scholarship auditions for the Howard College "High Kicking Hawks" dance team will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, June 4, in Studio No. 140 in the Hall Center for the Arts on the HC campus. For more information, contact Trish Matchen at [tmatchen@howardcollege.edu](mailto:tmatchen@howardcollege.edu) or call 432-264-5161.

• Vacation Bible School at College Baptist Church will be June 5 through 9 from 6 to 9 p.m. The theme this year is "Submerged: Dive Deep at VBS". and the program is accepting children who have just completed Kindergarten through those who have just completed sixth grade. College Baptist Church is located at 1105 Birdwell Lane. For more information or to schedule bus pickup, call the church at 267-7429.

• Photographs of area military personnel — currently on the job or veterans — going about their daily life are currently being sought by the July 3 Pops in the Park committee to be used in a military tribute during the event.

The candid photos will be used during the photographic military salute portion of the Independence Day celebration.

Any wishing to provide photographs for the tribute can e-mail digital copies in a jpeg format to [popsinthepark2016@yahoo.com](mailto:popsinthepark2016@yahoo.com). Submissions must be sent by June 15. Also, photographs can be dropped off at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, 215 West Third St. to be scanned in during normal business hours. The person must leave a name and contact number with each submission.

• Bailey Pittman is raising money to go on an 11 month mission trip to 11 countries. It's called The World Race with the non-denominational ministry, Adventures in Missions. She and her teammates will be living in tents most of that 11 months while serving the needy and spreading the Gospel. Despite the primitive conditions she needs to raise at least \$17,000 to join her mission team. Would you consider helping Bailey? If you want to donate directly to Bailey or follow her journey, see her blog at [www.baileypittman.theworldrace.org](http://www.baileypittman.theworldrace.org). Also, Dr. David Ward is collecting for Bailey. Checks should be made to "Adventures in Missions" and also put "Bailey Pittman" on the note section of your check. You can mail or drop it by Dr. Ward's office at 1500 Scurry St.

• 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,

• 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 is \$8 per person.

• The Howard County Fair needs people to cross stitch squares for the annual Quilt Fundraiser. Complete kits may be picked up from Cheryl Joy at the Heritage Museum, Tuesday through Saturday.

For more information call Suzanne Markwell at 214-256-1674

**STORM**

Continued from Page 1

busy through the night rescuing stranded motorists, a bleary-eyed HCVFD Chief Tommy

Sullivan said this morning.

Sullivan said firefighters fought three tank battery fires and responded to six high-water rescue situations, including helping a stranded family of four.

A lightning strike broke a blade on one of the wind turbines near Big Spring, Sullivan confirmed, but rainfall doused the fire from the strike. Also, weather forced an 18-wheeler off the Interstate around

6:30 p.m. Sullivan reported the crash occurred near the Sand Springs Volunteer Fire Station. The vehicle barely missed a fire engine preparing to respond to the weather before crashing into the building next

door to the station.

Phillipson urges the public to stay aware of the changing weather patterns today in preparation of oncoming severe weather expected later this evening.

**PROBE**

Continued from Page 1

ciated Press. The FBI's standard practice is to save questioning the person at the center of an investigation for last, once they have gathered available facts from others.

"With a person like Secretary Clinton, the FBI probably assumes they are going to get one chance to interview her, not only because she is a prominent person but because she is very busy right now with the presidential campaign," said David Deitch, a former Justice Department prosecutor who handled national security cases. "It makes sense they would defer interviewing her until late in their investigation."

Appearing on CBS's Face the Nation on May 8, Clinton said the FBI had not yet reached out to her, but she was "more than ready to talk to anybody, anytime."

"I hope that this is close to being wrapped up," she said.

A campaign spokesman did not respond to calls this week seeking comment about whether anything has changed since Clinton last spoke on the topic.

Clinton has good reasons to want the FBI to close its investigation soon. She has been dogged by questions about her email practices for more than a year, since AP first revealed that the clintonemail.com server was in the basement of Clinton's New York home while she served as the nation's top diplomat from 2009 to 2013.

Clinton has acknowledged on the campaign trail that her homebrew email setup was a mistake, but said she never sent or received any documents that were marked classified at the time.

FBI Director James Comey said earlier this month he is keeping close tabs on the progress of the investigation to ensure that it's conducted properly and completed promptly. However, he added there is no timeline for completing the probe tied to events on the political calendar, such as the 2016 Democratic National Convention set for late July.

Republicans are working hard to keep the issue alive through the November presidential election, alleging that she put national security at risk.

"Clinton's irresponsible behavior as secretary of state and her deliberate attempts to mislead the American people show she lacks the judgment and character to be president," Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus said earlier this month.

In addition to the ongoing FBI investigation, the inspectors general at the State Department and the U.S. intelligence community are reviewing whether security procedures or laws were broken. There have also been at least three dozen civil lawsuits filed, including one by the AP, over public records requests related to Clinton's time as secretary.

A federal judge recently approved a request from the conservative legal advocacy group Judicial Watch to question Clinton's aides under oath in a series of depositions scheduled through the end of June. U.S. District Court Judge Emmet G. Sullivan also said he may require Clinton herself to testify, depending on what information comes to light.

The State Department has so far released more than 52,000 pages of Clinton's work-related

emails, including some that were censored because they contained information considered sensitive to national security. Thousands of additional emails were withheld by Clinton, whose lawyers said they contained personal messages unrelated to her government service.

Critics have questioned whether Clinton's server might have made a tempting target for hackers, especially those working with or for foreign intelligence services.

A Romanian computer hacker now in U.S. custody, Marcel Lazar, boasted in media interviews aired earlier this month that he breached Clinton's home server three years ago. However, Lazar, who went

online by the name Guccifer, has provided no evidence to back up his claim, such as copies of previously unreleased Clinton emails or insider knowledge of how the system was set up. Also, Lazar's expertise was hacking into the email accounts of politicians and celebrities who used free commercial services, not breaking into a stand-alone email server.

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Linda Stapel, 68, died Saturday. Services are pending.

Seretha Baker, 58, died Saturday

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# Opinion

## Identity politics are bad for everyone

Identity politics have become an engrained part of our culture — and one that threatens to tear us apart. We no longer embrace the *unum* in our national motto-E Pluribus Unum, out of many, one-focusing almost entirely on the pluribus. When Al Gore famously mistranslated the motto, we laughed it off as another of his gaffes on a par with claiming to have invented the internet. But his words may have been more prophetic than ignorant.



LINDA CHAVEZ

“We can build a collective civic space large enough for all our separate identities, that we can be e pluribus unum — out of one, many,” then Vice President Gore said in 1994. Today, it seems all are touting their separate identities to the exclusion of the many: blacks, Hispanics, Asians — and yes, whites — with members of each group blaming those of the others for whatever ill befalls them or what challenges they face.

This year’s election has poured gasoline on the flames of racial and ethnic mistrust. Hillary Clinton plays to her constituencies among minority voters and women, stirring fears that the Republican Party would turn back the clock to the Jim Crow era and deny equal pay for women. Donald Trump stokes resentment among whites that Mexicans and others are stealing their jobs and infesting their neighborhoods with crime. Bernie Sanders plays a Marxist version of the divide

and conquer game, using class as the dividing wall.

Each narrative diminishes the individual. We become nothing more than the color of our skin, our ancestry and our sex. And even the latter is being sliced and diced into ever more exclusive identities based not on sex, but so-called gender: males, females, transgendered, cis-gendered, heterosexuals, gays, lesbians, bisexuals, questioning, etc. And the list will expand, no doubt, as some decide even species is a social construct.

But while it is easy enough to point to Black Lives Matter, feminists, gay rights activists or even the tiny Mexican irredentist movement as the source of the divisions, the infection has spread far beyond. Sure, liberal college campuses are rife with such divisions, promoted in curricula and by radical faculty, but so, too, are Donald Trump rallies and the right-wing media.

This deeply troubles me, as someone who believed that the whole point of the Civil Rights movement and our anti-discrimination laws was to make such differences meaningless. The point was to treat each person as an individual; to discriminate against no one on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or religion, or to grant any special preference on those factors either.

When I was growing up in the 1950s, people frequently asked me, “What are you?” I was puzzled by the question, but my parents taught me to say, “I’m an American.” My answer often provoked more questions, and it was clear that being American didn’t satisfy my interlocutors. People

rarely ask me that directly today, preferring instead to make assumptions that I find amusing.

I get lumped in as “a minority,” regularly referred to as “non-white,” and assumed to be of Mexican immigrant roots. When pushed, I smile and point out that the only true immigrants in my family came from Ireland, mostly in the mid-19th Century, that my other ancestors came from England and Spain and were settlers in what is now the United States in the early 17th and 18th Centuries. When the show “Finding Your Roots” profiled me in 2012, they discovered that 97 percent of my DNA is European, 51 percent of it Northern European — a fact that would probably shock those who’ve assumed otherwise, but which I consider utterly irrelevant to who I am: a writer, a mother, a wife and, yes, an American.

What has come to bother me about such questions and misconceptions is that whoever is doing the asking or categorizing isn’t seeing me, but the box in which they think I fit. Today’s politics are making matters much worse. It’s “us” against “them,” and it occurs on both sides of the aisle. The left blames “white privilege,” while the right proclaims “America first,” but isn’t keen on having immigrants join “We, the people.”

Until we get back to at least striving to become the one out of many that we once aspired to, we are likely to see greater animosity and divisions among the 320 million people who call America home. This is bad for individuals and even worse for our nation.



“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

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Phone: 202-228-0462

• **JOHN CORNYN**  
U.S. Senator  
517 Hart Office Building  
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Austin, 78711  
Phone: 512-463-2000

• **DREW DARBY**  
State Representative

Texas 72nd District  
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The Herald welcomes letters to the editor. We ask you to follow these guidelines:

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### DAILY PRAYER

May our relationship with You, Lord, easily weather the ups and downs of this earthly life. Amen.

This is not a television show.

This is not one of those audience response things that measure how loudly we scream and or how many balls we throw.

No, this is our democracy, of Presidents Washington and Jefferson and Madison and Jackson and Lincoln and Roosevelt and, yes, Reagan and Obama.

And Donald Trump?

No.

Is there anyone who doesn’t know, really know, that it isn’t right?

Listen to their arguments: It’s OK to elect an unqualified megalomaniac neo-fascist with no experience in government who openly insults and stereotypes the very people who we have protected as equals because, after all, what can he really do anyway?

Sorry, but what an unbelievably stupid argument. We should elect someone to the most powerful position on the face of the earth, with the power to destroy the earth as we know it, because, what the heck, it doesn’t matter?

under the Constitution. But you don’t have the right to convince anyone it doesn’t matter.

It’s bad enough that Democrats have to deal with the ardent “Bernie lovers,” most of whom, like Bernie Sanders, are brand-new members of the party and have not yet had the fun of living through losing. I have, and I promise, really, they haven’t missed a thing. However, I sympathize with their passion. I had all that “heart and soul” of the Democratic Party back in 1980 when Democrats were divided between those who thought Ronald Reagan couldn’t win and those who thought he couldn’t lose. Anyway, he won, and I don’t think anyone would say the troublemaking I was so proud of at the convention (I had 44 minority reports, Bernie-ites) in any way aided his performance. On the other hand was Bill Clinton once consoled me, the advantage of a landslide is that nothing you did, or could have done, mattered.

Useful advice for life: Don’t sweat the big stuff — unless you can control it.

I know the “Freakonomics” tale of the two embarrassed economists who meet at the polling place only to immediately blame their wives for forcing them to go. Voting, Florida 2000 notwithstanding, is not a very efficient use of time; no single vote has more than an infinitesimal chance of mattering. And yet, it has always been for me the magic

of democracy, the symphony in which all these strange sounding instruments come together to make magic. And it’s a symphony we can control.

What is striking is how often it comes out all right. It’s such a messy process — on a Tuesday no less, who would hold an election on a Tuesday if you wanted people to come — and it’s just not just an election, but first there are these odd things called caucuses and, almost as strange, the open, and closed and half-open, half-closed primaries on different dates in the same state, and once you get through all that, you get two candidates, generally, either of whom, however much you may loathe their positions, is at least theoretically qualified to be president. It’s one of those “reasonable people can disagree” things.

Except this time. We should’ve got John Kasich or Jeb Bush, at least Marco Rubio. What are we doing with Trump? And more to the point, how do we ensure that whatever went so very wrong in the Republican primaries doesn’t repeat itself in the general elections?

Only this: by taking it as seriously as it is.

To find out more about Susan Estrich and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).

## News in brief

### Obama lifts decades-old arms ban in his 1st visit to Vietnam

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) — U.S. President Barack Obama on Monday lifted a half-century-old ban on selling arms to Vietnam during his first visit to the communist country, looking to bolster a government seen as a crucial, though flawed partner in a region he's tried to place at the center of his foreign policy legacy.

Obama announced the full removal of the embargo at a news conference where he signaled a desire to leave behind the troubled history between the former war enemies and reward what he described as modest progress on human rights in the one-party state.

"At this stage, both sides have established a level of trust and cooperation, including between our militaries, that is reflective of common interests and mutual respect," Obama said, adding that every U.S. arms sale would be reviewed case by case. "This change will ensure that Vietnam has access to the equipment it needs to defend itself and removes a lingering vestige of the Cold War."

Obama is seeking to strike a balance with Vietnam, which he called a vital country in one of the world's most vital regions, amid Chinese efforts to strengthen claims to disputed territory in the South China Sea, one of the world's most important waterways.

Obama said the United States and Vietnam had mutual concerns about maritime issues and the importance of maintaining freedom of navigation in the South China Sea. He said that although Washington doesn't take sides on the territorial disputes, it does support a diplomatic resolution based on "international norms" and "not based on who's the bigger party and can throw around their weight a little bit more," a reference to China.

### Obama: Taliban leader's death a 'milestone' for Afghan peace

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) — President Barack Obama said Monday that the violent death of Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Akhtar Mansour by a U.S. airstrike should send a "clear signal" to anti-American extremists that "we're going to protect our people."

Obama also said Mansour's death was an "important milestone" in the yearslong effort to bring peace to Afghanistan.

"It has been confirmed that he is dead," Obama said Monday during his first visit to Vietnam. "He is an individual who, as head of the Taliban, was specifically targeting U.S. personnel and troops inside of Afghanistan" who Obama sent there to help counter terrorism and help train Afghan troops.

Mansour was killed when a U.S. drone fired on his vehicle in the southwestern Pakistan province of Baluchistan, though it was unclear whether the airstrike took place on Friday or Saturday. He had emerged as the successor to Taliban founder Mullah Mohammad Omar, whose 2013 death was only revealed last year.

Obama authorized the attack and was briefed before and after it was carried out, aides said.

### Hiroshima trip by Obama stirs differing views across Pacific

TOKYO (AP) — Two very different visions of the hell that is war are seared into the minds of World War II survivors on opposite sides of the Pacific.

Michiko Kodama saw a flash in the sky from her elementary school classroom on Aug. 6, 1945, before the ceiling fell and shards of glass from blown-out windows slashed her. Now 78, she has never forgotten the living hell she saw from the back of her father, who dug her out after a U.S. military plane dropped an atomic bomb on the city of Hiroshima, Japan.

Lester Tenney saw Japanese soldiers killing fellow American captives on the infamous Bataan Death March in the Philippines in 1942. "If you didn't walk fast enough, you were killed. If you didn't say the right words you were killed, and if you were killed, you were either shot to death, bayoneted, or decapitated," the 95-year-old veteran said. He still has the bamboo stick Japanese soldiers used to beat him across the face.

Different experiences, different memories are handed down, spread by the media and taught in school. Collectively, they shape the differing reactions in the United States and Japan to Barack Obama's decision to become the first sitting American president to visit the memorial to atomic bomb victims in Hiroshima later this week.

### Syria TV: More than 20 killed in explosions in coastal city

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Syrian state TV says more than 20 people have been killed in multiple

attacks in the coastal cities of Tartus and Jableh, strongholds of President Bashar Assad.

The TV report Monday said at least one suicide bomber on foot followed by a car bomber attacked a packed bus station in Tartus. An Interior Ministry official says more than 20 were killed and many injured.

Separately, Syria news agency SANA said three rockets were launched into Jableh, which lies 25 kilometers (15 miles) south of Latakia city, landing in a bus station, near the town's entrance.

The rare attacks occurred in the normally quiet pro-government coastal areas where Russia keeps a naval base in Tartus and an air base in Latakia province. Insurgents maintain a presence in rural Latakia.

### Hospitals a deadly target in Middle East conflicts

BEIRUT (AP) — As one of the few pediatricians remaining in the Syrian city of Aleppo, Dr. Mohammed Wassim Maaz offered hope to tens of thousands of children and their parents trapped in the horror and misery of the five-year civil war. But last month, an airstrike widely believed to have been carried out by the Syrian government destroyed the al Quds hospital where he worked, killing Maaz and dozens of colleagues, patients and other civilians.

The April 27 strike was the latest of thousands of attacks in recent years on medical facilities in conflicts in the Middle East and elsewhere that have killed hundreds in brazen violation of humanitarian norms. Facilities have been struck in Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen and South Sudan.

The attacks have turned the universally recognized symbol of the Red Cross, which is supposed to offer protection and safety, into a deadly target and have exposed the failure of the international community to prevent and punish such crimes.

The U.N. Security Council has denounced the attacks and demanded that all parties in conflicts protect medical facilities, staff and patients. But some of the council's most powerful members, who backed the resolution, aren't blameless.

U.S. forces struck a clinic in Afghanistan last year, killing 42 people. The Pentagon found the attack was a mistake caused by human error and 16 military personnel, including a two-star general, were disciplined. The medical charity Doctors Without Borders, which operated the hospital, has called for an independent investigation.

### Verdict expected in Freddie Gray-officer trial in Baltimore

BALTIMORE (AP) — A judge is expected Monday to hand down his verdict in the case of a Baltimore police officer charged in the arrest and subsequent death of Freddie Gray.

Officer Edward Nero faces assault, misconduct in office and reckless endangerment charges. Prosecutors say the 30-year-old unlawfully arrested Gray without probable cause and was negligent when he didn't buckle the prisoner into a seat belt.

Nero opted for a bench trial, rather than a jury trial. Baltimore Circuit Judge Barry Williams is expected to announce his verdict Monday. The assault charge carries a maximum of 10 years in prison and the other charges carry five-year maximums.

Gray died April 19, 2015, a week after his neck was broken in the back of a police transport van while he was handcuffed and shackled, but left unrestrained by a seat belt.

### Sanders breaks with White House on Puerto Rican rescue plan

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders is breaking with the Obama administration and House lawmakers over a plan to restructure Puerto Rico's \$70 billion in debt, saying the legislation would make "a terrible situation even worse."

The Vermont senator writes in a letter released Monday that the deal reached last week between the White House and House Republicans and Democrats would empower an "unelected and undemocratic oversight board" and allow the governor of Puerto Rico to slash the minimum wage to \$4.25 an hour for up to five years.

"We must stop treating Puerto Rico like a colony and start treat-

ing the American citizens of Puerto Rico with the respect and dignity that they deserve," Sanders wrote in a letter to Senate colleagues.

"At a time when the people of Puerto Rico are suffering, the legislation introduced in the House would make a terrible situation even worse," he wrote.

Sanders trails Democratic rival Hillary Clinton in the presidential primaries and both are competing in the upcoming June 5 Puerto Rican caucuses. Clinton has outperformed Sanders among Latino voters during the primaries.

### Wild US election fascinates, worries Iran after nuclear deal

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — After decades of officially-imposed detachment from the "Great Satan," Iranians are this time transfixed by the wild U.S. presidential campaign, mindful that the next White House occupant could have direct impact on their lives.

At the heart of the matter is last year's deal with world powers, which eased the country's isolation and removed many economic sanctions in exchange for a curtailment of the Iran's nuclear program. Presumptive Republican nominee Donald Trump has bitterly criticized the accord, which is rather popular here, and says he would rework it.

Iran and America have not restored the official diplomatic ties that were cut after the 1979 Islamic Revolution and U.S. Embassy takeover. But the high stakes — combined with Iranian state media's renewed attention to news from the West — have made the election the talk of barbershops, living rooms and street corners.

"It reminds me of fighting between heavyweight boxers for a championship — with a lot of boasting," said Reza Piltan, an electrical engineer who has been following the campaign.

Although there are no polls about Iranians' views on the U.S. presidential campaign, there is a sense of apprehension regarding Trump, even though some consider his criticism mostly bluster. There are also concerns about Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton, who many consider to have struck a relatively hard line on Iran during her time as Secretary of State.

### Indiana court to hear woman's appeal of feticide conviction

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Attorneys for an Indiana woman found guilty of killing the premature infant she delivered after ingesting abortion-inducing drugs will ask an appeals court Monday to throw out the convictions that led to her 20-year prison sentence.

At issue is Indiana's feticide statute, which the defense says was "passed to protect pregnant women from violence" that could harm their developing fetus, not to prosecute women for their own abortions. The state says that law "is not limited to third-party actors" and can apply to pregnant women.

Attorneys for 35-year-old Purvi Patel will urge the Indiana Court of Appeals to reverse her 2015 convictions on charges of feticide and neglect of a dependent resulting in death. The state's attorney general's office will defend the northern Indiana jury's decision.

Patel, of Granger, was arrested in July 2013 after she sought treatment at a local hospital for profuse bleeding after delivering a 1½-pound

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HERALD photo/Drew Williams

Big Spring's Makenzie Roberts bats during the Lady Steers' Class 4A softball playoff series as Brownwood Saturday in San Angelo.

## Lady Steers fall short vs. Brownwood

By DREW WILLIAMS  
Sports Editor

SAN ANGELO — The Lady Steers made their final trip back home Saturday after falling to the Brownwood Lady Lions in game two of a best-of-three series in San Angelo, 6-2. They lost game one Friday night, 4-1.

Brownwood's starting pitcher Chayenne Ellet started both games, holding the Lady Steers to just eight total hits in the series.

"She's going to be a tough one for years to come for everybody to deal with," Big Spring head coach Howell Martin said. "She was definitely on. We hit

the ball off of her better than some teams have this year, but we just hit quite a few balls right at people. But that's just part of the game."

The two Lady Steers with two hits also drove in both Big Spring runs. Mariah Sarmiento finished 2-for-2 with an RBI and Kamri Kemper finished 2-for-3 with an RBI. Sarmiento also started on the mound for the Lady Steers, going the distance with seven innings pitched while giving up five earned runs. Martin said his two starters, Sarmiento and Ysabel Soliz, pitched

See **BSHS**, Page 12

## Westbrook, Thunder stampede past Golden State

The Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Kevin Durant, Russell Westbrook and the Thunder gave the Warriors as complete a beating as they experienced during their record-setting season.

Suddenly, a second straight title seems to be anything but a given for Golden State. Now the Warriors are just trying to survive.

Durant scored 33 points, Westbrook had 30 points, 12 assists and eight rebounds, and Oklahoma City rolled to a 133-105 victory on Sunday

night to take a 2-1 lead in the Western Conference finals.

The Warriors, who set an NBA record with 73 victories in the regular season, trailed by 41 points, their largest deficit this season.

"We got what we deserved," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said.

Durant made 10 of 15 shots and Westbrook was 10 of 19. It was the first time this season both players shot better than 50 percent from the field.

"We're not going to win that way," Golden State guard Klay Thompson said. "One of those guys got to have an off

night."

Serge Ibaka added 14 points and eight rebounds for the Thunder, who matched a franchise record for most points scored in a playoff game.

Oklahoma City outrebounded the Warriors in its Game 1 victory, but the Warriors won the battle of the boards in Game 2 and beat the Thunder 118-91. Oklahoma City reasserted its dominance on the glass on Sunday, outrebounding Golden State 52-38.

Westbrook said the Thunder also needed to make the hustle plays that add to the

rebounding totals.

"That's one thing we slipped up on in Game 2, and I think tonight, we did a good job of getting loose balls and finding ways to get 50/50 basketballs and give ourselves extra possessions," he said.

Golden State will be in an uncomfortable position heading into Game 4 on Tuesday in Oklahoma City, but the Warriors remain confident. Golden State trailed Memphis and Cleveland 2-1 in playoff series last year and won both on its way to claiming the NBA title.

"Both times, we got blown out in Game 3, and we re-

sponded well, so we have that memory," Kerr said. "I'm confident we're going to come out and play a really good game in Game 4, and we'll see what happens."

The last time Golden State's Stephen Curry had played in Oklahoma City, he scored 46 points, tied an NBA record with 12 3-pointers and hit a game-winning, 37-footer. This time, the league MVP finished with 24 points on 7-for-17 shooting. Klay Thompson added 18 points on 8-for-19 shooting.

Golden State's Draymond

See **THUNDER**, Page 12

## Hamels Ks 11 as Rangers sweep Astros

Victory gives Texas six straight, 14 of 16 wins over Houston

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Cole Hamels certainly is proud of the longest winning streak in his career.

The Texas Rangers lefty also knows it wouldn't have happened without the powerful hitters he has backing him up.

Hamels fanned a season-high 11 in eight sparkling innings and the Rangers jumped on Dallas Keuchel early, cruising to an easy 9-2 win over the Houston Astros to complete a three-game sweep Sunday.

The Rangers have taken six in row from Houston and 14 of 16. The Astros have lost four straight overall.

Hamels (5-0) has won a career-best 12 straight decisions dating to last year. He allowed five hits and two runs — one earned — in his longest start this season to lower his ERA to 2.83.

"I've been very fortunate with the runs,"

Hamels said. "Earlier in my career, I wasn't used to ever getting runs. To play for a team that has such an incredible offense, I know that I don't have to really worry about coming out of a game because of a lack of runs or giving up a run."

"You just plug away and know that we've got tremendous defense and the offense is going to try to score as much as possible," he said.

Nomar Mazara hit an RBI single during a five-run third against Keuchel (2-6) and added a two-run homer to pad the lead in the seventh.

Keuchel continues to struggle in the follow-up to his 20-win season. The reigning AL Cy Young Award winner allowed nine hits and seven runs in six innings, extending his skid to five games.

It's his longest losing streak since he dropped a career-high seven in a row as a rookie in 2012.

"I just have to be mentally tougher," Keuchel



AP photo

Texas' Cole Hamels delivers a pitch during the first inning of the Rangers' game vs. Houston Sunday afternoon.

said. "I've got to make a big pitch with two outs and get us out of some jams. I'm doing it to myself and that's just the way it's going right now. But I'll get out of it and we'll be better because of it."

Bobby Wilson and Adrian Beltre each drove in two runs for the Rangers. Evan Gattis hit a solo home run.

Keuchel retired his first six batters before running into trouble in the third. Things got off to a bad start in that inning when he plunked

Ryan Rua. A double by Wilson, which bounced off the wall in center field, scored Rua to make it 1-0.

Keuchel struck out the next two batters before an RBI single by Ian Desmond.

Prince Fielder drew a walk before a two-run double by Beltre made it 4-0. Mazara followed with his run-scoring single.

Manager Jeff Banister was impressed by the damage his team did with two outs.

"It's an approach that

we talked about all winter long, spring training," he said. "When we get to those situations we've got to be a bully in the box and capitalize on those situations. Those are a backbreaker for a team when you continue to capitalize with two outs."

The Astros had managed just one hit against Hamels before Gattis connected on an 85 mph changeup for his homer with two outs in the sixth.

UP NEXT  
Rangers: Derek Hol-

land (3-3, 5.62) will start when Texas begins a three-game series against the Los Angeles Angels on Monday. Holland will look to end a two-game skid and pick up his first win since April 30.

Astros: Houston has a day off on Monday before Doug Fister (4-3, 4.22) starts on Tuesday in the opener of a three-game series against Baltimore. Fister will look for his fourth straight win in what will be his eighth start.

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5	9	1	2	4	7	8	3	6
8	7	6	3	1	9	2	5	4
9	3	5	4	6	2	1	8	7
1	4	2	8	7	5	6	9	3
3	1	7	5	2	4	9	6	8
6	2	9	1	8	3	7	4	5
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## Tomorrow's Horoscope



## A Cosmically Middle Monday

Yesterday Mercury changed directions, and tomorrow Venus

HOLIDAY MATHIS changes signs. This

Monday in the middle of such changes has the feeling of both assimilation and anticipation. Popular trends will be absorbed into the mainstream with alarming speed. We dine on fresh stimulation while our hungry eyes search for what's next.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). It's pretty simple to impress the higher-ups at work. Figure out what's needed and wanted and then deliver it in a timely manner. These simple practices will put smiles on the faces of everyone you interact with.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). The chain of behaviors that served you so well a few weeks ago no longer works quite as well today. Has everything changed that much? The short answer is: Yes. Adapt now, while it's easy.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). You have an excellent sense of where your true talents lie. Don't let the people around you try to convince you that you'd be better at doing their bidding

than your own.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). There's nothing inherently good or bad about any of the options available to you today, only varying degrees of comfort in the fit. When someone chooses or passes on your offerings, keep in mind this also has to do with fit.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). Just because you're not entirely sure where you are, it doesn't mean that you're lost. This is where your attention has taken you. And when you place your attention back on home, it will take you there, too.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There are certain things that have to happen for you to do your job properly, but perhaps not quite as many as you think. Going forward, regardless of obstacle or lack, will bring unexpected resources to hand.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You won't sign up until you know the prize -- the higher the stakes the better. Ultimately, the energy rush is the real bonus here. Competition will make you sharp and bold.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Should you be making a living doing something other than what you're doing? Or are you doing something for free that you would be wise to charge money for? These are the questions on your mind

now.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll be enlisting someone's help, and you can afford to be a bit choosy in this. What you're offering is rarer than you might have guessed and will be interesting to many.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). While most are rushing about this business of trying to stay alive, sheltered and fed, you've an entirely different agenda -- one that has less to do with security and more to do with putting something lovely into the world.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The ones who neurotically over-think things have a certain charm. They wouldn't be so deeply involved if they didn't care. And at least they are paying attention. So many aren't! Besides, you benefit from their vigilance.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). The force field around you is in danger of being compromised by a first-class energy vampire. You know the one. The fix is pretty easy. Protect yourself. Lock the gate; seal the openings. This is best for now.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (May 23). Your life is your creation. In one area you've accepted someone else's vision. In the next three months you will paint over it until it looks more like the picture of your own

imaginings. A purchase or hire next month makes your life way easier. July, October and February are the most financially auspicious. Aquarius and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 19, 28, 40 and 11.

**ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS:** "I'm a Cancer who just experienced a devastating breakup. And it's not the first time my heart's been ripped out and dragged across the floor. I wonder: Does Cancer's extreme vulnerability doom us?"

Some won't approve of the advice I'm about to give, but astrologically speaking this would be a good time to mope and mope hard. Really do it right. Let yourself feel the full range of anger, pain and sadness that comes with the loss of a love you so beautifully opened yourself to. Stay home for as many hours in the day as you possibly can without getting fired. Stay on the couch until the remote has adhered itself to your palm and dust bunnies have formed under you. Pity yourself until it annoys your friends, freaks out your family and makes even your therapist want to dump you. Cry until your sinuses swell and your eyes puff shut. In approximately 28 days (a complete lunar cycle), you'll feel almost totally better. And tape this

mantra to your bathroom mirror: "I don't have to be tough all the time. My vulnerability makes me poetic, romantic and enchanting. It is safe to be me, as is."

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** "Orange Is the New Black" star Lea DeLaria was the first openly gay comic to appear on an American late-night talk show when she appeared on "The Arsenio Hall Show" in 1993. The award winning

Gemini actress was born when the moon was in Cancer, the sign of intuition and maternal instinct. This year she shares that nurturing spirit through her university lecture series, "A Man for All Seasons."

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## sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box.

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

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## Annie's Mailbox®

**Dear Annie:** I work in an area where we are allowed to listen to the radio during work hours. This is great, as I enjoy the music. The problem is, one of our co-workers feels the need to loudly sing along to the songs. It is extremely annoying and also distracting.

I am hoping this letter will be an eye-opener to all of those people who act like they are auditioning for a talent show at work. This is not the place. If you feel the need to sing, go to a karaoke bar. Even my earplugs can't drown out her voice. Any suggestions? -- Not Taylor Swift

**Dear Not:** Have you spoken to your co-worker about not singing? Or at least singing more quietly? You don't need to disparage her talent. Simply say that you find the singing rather distracting and could she please

tone it down so you can concentrate on your work. Be nice. Be friendly. You'd be surprised how cooper-

ative people can be when you approach them kindly. You also can ask your supervisor to speak to this co-worker, explaining that her vocalizations make it difficult for some people to get their jobs done efficiently. And you might want to invest in a set of good quality noise-canceling headphones that will put her on mute whenever possible.

**Dear Annie:** For the last 25 years, my brother's wife, "Ruby," has been stealing my pain pills and whatever else she thinks she needs or can sell to her friends. At first, I was unaware of this. I thought I was miscounting my pills or dropping them on the floor. But one day, I picked up a new pill bottle and noticed that half of them were missing. I had just come home from knee surgery and needed that medication.

After that incident, I developed more deviant and secure ways to protect my medications.

Someone (Ruby swears it wasn't her) used a pry bar on two small bathroom safes and again stole the pills. Worse, she replaced a few with identical-looking pills that I didn't notice right away. I had a terrible reaction. I'm lucky the pills she substituted didn't kill me.

I finally bought a small safe that connects to the wall. Then my mother's jewelry started disappearing. So we put all of the house valuables in the safe. This worked well until Ruby lifted the spare key from sister's purse.

I was under so much stress, that my therapist recommended I move out, but I am disabled and my funds just don't stretch that far. Fortunately, my sister sold her condo. We plan to rent a house together and move my mom in.

I know that Ruby will never admit that she's the thief. She thinks this is a victimless crime. But if I don't get my pain meds, I

can barely get out of bed in the morning and my whole day is shot. -- Need My Prescriptions

**Dear Need:** If someone is stealing, but you cannot prove it, your best recourse is to lock up your valuables where no one has access but you. If your sister has a spare key, she should not keep it in her unlocked purse. We're glad you are moving to a more secure location. And thanks for the warning about taking the wrong medications. That can be lethal.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please email your questions to [anniesmailbox@creators.com](mailto:anniesmailbox@creators.com), or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 737 3rd Street, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254. You can also find Annie on Facebook at Facebook.com/AskAnnie. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com). COPYRIGHT 2016 CREATORS.COM

## Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

## Famous Hand

East dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ A 10 9  
♥ K 9 3  
♦ Q 2  
♣ A K 10 8 2

**WEST**  
♠ Q 4  
♥ J 8 6 5 4  
♦ 8 6 3  
♣ 7 4 3

**EAST**  
♠ K J 8 3 2  
♥ —  
♦ A J 9 5  
♣ Q J 6 5

**SOUTH**  
♠ 7 6 5  
♥ A Q 10 7 2  
♦ K 10 7 4  
♣ 9

The bidding:  
East 1♠ Pass South 3♥ Pass West 3♥ Pass North 4♥ Opening lead — queen of spades.

This deal occurred during the 1980 World Bridge Olympiad in the match between Italy and Ireland. With Lorenzo Lauria and Benito Garozzo North-South for Italy, the bidding went as shown.

Against four hearts, the Irish West led the queen of spades, taken by dummy's ace. With the contract all but assured with normal breaks, Garozzo decided to try to protect himself against a bad trump division. Accordingly, without playing any trumps, he cashed the A-K of clubs,

discarding a spade, and ruffed a club in his hand.

He then led a low diamond to the queen, taken by East with the ace, and East cashed the king of spades before continuing with the jack. Garozzo wisely ruffed with the ace of trumps — West discarding a diamond — and then cashed the king of diamonds, producing this position with declarer needing four of the last five tricks:

**North**  
♥ K 9 3  
♦ 10 8

**West**  
♥ J 8 6 5 4

**East**  
♠ 8 2  
♦ J 9  
♣ Q

Garozzo led the seven of diamonds, West ruffing with the six and dummy with the nine. Next came the king of hearts, and when East showed out, the hand became an open book. The eight of clubs was led from dummy, and after East played the queen, Garozzo discarded his ten of diamonds, forcing West to ruff and return a trump from the J-8 to declarer's Q-10.

Thus, despite West's five trumps, Garozzo made four hearts, losing only a spade, a diamond and one trump trick.

Tomorrow: A critical choice of plays.

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# Hinchcliffe claims pole position for Indy 500

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — All James Hinchcliffe wanted this week was a good car.

Turns out, he'll have the best view in this year's Indianapolis 500 field.

The Canadian driver, who started second in the race in 2012 and 2014, edged out American Josef Newgarden on the final qualifying attempt of the weekend to claim his first IndyCar pole. Hinchcliffe posted a four-lap average of 230.760 mph, barely ahead of Newgarden, who came in at 230.700.

"It was a great run. The car was stellar," Hinchcliffe said after winning the fourth-closest pole contest in the race's 100-year history. "We have the best seat in the house for the biggest race in history."

Hinchcliffe, who drives for Schmidt Peterson Motorsports, turned one of the most chaotic qualifying weekends in recent memory into one of the most heartwarming stories of the year.

A year ago, Hinchcliffe watched the 500 from a hospital bed after a broken suspension

part punctured him in the left leg. The ensuing injury required life-saving surgery and forced one of the series' most popular drivers to miss the season's final 11 races as he fought his way back to racing.

But Hinchcliffe is only part of an incredible story.

Team owner Sam Schmidt, like Hinchcliffe, was a popular IndyCar driver when he was seriously injured in a 2000 crash at Walt Disney World, which rendered Schmidt a quadriplegic. The next year, Schmidt started an Indy Lights team and now he has expanded what was once a low-budget team into a real contender by claiming three of the top 10 spots in this year's 33-car starting field.

Russia's Mikhail Aleshin and Spain's Oriol Servia, Schmidt's other drivers, qualified seventh and ninth.

"It was an incredible day," Schmidt said, noting he had won the 2011 Indy pole with Alex Tagliani exactly five years earlier. "I didn't think anything would get better than five years ago.

I had three cars in the top then and to come out here today..."

Newgarden will start second with Ryan Hunter-Reay, the 2014 race winner, on the outside of the first row.

Roger Penske's top qualifier was Will Power in sixth, ending the team's streak of winning the pole in all five of this season's previous races.

Here are some things we learned from qualifying:

**TOUGH MONTH:** Chip Ganassi's team has struggled all month and they're hoping a quicker-than-expected engine change could be the turning point. The trouble began when 2013 race winner Tony Kanaan was knocked out of the Grand Prix of Indianapolis in a first turn crash. That was followed by rookie Max Chilton's crash in practice Saturday, poor speeds in Saturday's qualifying which kept them out of the pole shootout and Scott Dixon's engine problem late in Sunday's practice. Dixon is the team's highest qualifier at No. 13.

# Johnson's OT deflection lifts Lightning over Pens

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Tyler Johnson turned toward the net, wary of taking another shot to his already battered face.

The puck off Jason Garrison's stick found him anyway, and this time he didn't even feel it. He was too busy celebrating lifting the Tampa Bay Lightning to within one win away from a return trip to the Stanley Cup Finals.

Garrison's wrist smacked off Johnson's back and into the Pittsburgh Penguins net 53 seconds into overtime on Sunday night, giving the Lightning a 4-3 victory and a 3-2 lead in the best-of-seven series. A year after falling to the Chicago Blackhawks in the Cup finals, Tampa Bay can head back to the championship round with a win in Game 6 at home on Tuesday.

"I was just battling in front," Johnson said. "I saw Garry starting to shoot it, thought he was going for my head again, so I turned around."

Just in time for his seventh — and most important — goal of the playoffs. The Lightning are 12-1 in the last 13 postseason games in which Johnson has scored, his fortunate bounce Sunday coming two days after he received stitches and lost some teeth after a puck smashed into his face during warmups before Game 4. He didn't miss a shift that night. He didn't miss the net in overtime 48 hours later, even if he wasn't technically aiming for it.

"He's a winner, that's what winners do," Tampa Bay coach Jon Cooper said of Johnson. "They don't

back down."

Even down a pair of goals. Even trailing by one heading into the third period against a team that began the night 46-0 on the season when leading after two. Yet Tampa Bay survived by consistently and expertly counterpunching every time the Penguins provided an opportunity.

Nikita Kucherov scored twice to boost his postseason total to an NHL best 11 — including a wraparound that beat Marc-Andre Fleury and tied it at 3 with just 3:16 left in regulation. Alex Killorn picked up his fifth of the playoffs as the Lightning handed the Penguins consecutive losses for the first time since January. Andrei Vasilevskiy stopped 31 shots to outplay Fleury, who returned to the lineup for the first time in more than seven weeks.

Fleury finished with 21 saves, but couldn't protect leads of 2-0 and 3-2.

Brian Dumoulin, Chris Kunitz and Patric Hornqvist scored for the Penguins, who appeared to be in firm control at certain points only to find themselves on the brink of elimination.

If the Penguins want to play at least one more game in Pittsburgh this season, they don't really have a choice.

While the Penguins have peppered Vasilevskiy for the better part of five games, the Lightning keep finding ways to create quality chances around the Pittsburgh net, though Garrison's flick toward Johnson might not exactly qualify.

## THUNDER

Continued from Page 6

Green, who kicked Oklahoma City's Steven Adams in the groin and has become Thunder fans' No. 1 target because of some questionable tactics, struggled on both ends of the floor and finished with six points on 1-for-9 shooting. The Warriors were outscored by 43 points when he was in the game.

With 5:57 left in the second quarter, Green kicked Adams after a foul. It was the second time in the series Green hit Adams there — he hit him

with a knee in Game 2. The crowd chanted "Kick him out! Kick him out!" but Green was issued a flagrant 1 foul and remained in the game.

Green said he wasn't trying to hurt Adams.

"I thought it would probably get rescinded," he said. "I followed through on a shot. I'm not trying to kick somebody in the midsection. Somebody wants to have kids someday. I'm not trying to end that on the basketball court."

Seemingly energized after Green's foul, the Thunder outscored the Warriors 24-7 the rest of the half, with many of the baskets coming against Green. In a play that

summarized the second quarter perfectly, Green went in for a layup and got it blocked by Durant, then Durant made a 3-pointer on the other end to give the Thunder a 64-47 lead.

Green fouled Westbrook on a long 3-pointer with 1.3 seconds left in the first half. Westbrook made all three free throws to put the Thunder up 72-47 at the break. Durant had 23 points on 6-for-10 shooting and 10 of 10 free throws in the first half, and Westbrook had 16 points, seven assists and six rebounds at the break. It was the most points scored against the Warriors in any half this season.

Curry shot 4 for 13 in the

first half, Thompson went 5 for 14 and Green 1 for 8.

The Thunder continued the onslaught by making 17 of 22 shots in the third quarter to take a 117-80 lead into the fourth.

### STAT LINES

The Warriors have left Thunder guard Andre Roberson open to focus on other players, and Roberson finally made the Warriors pay by scoring 13 points. He made 5 of 9 shots, including 3 of 5 pointers.

### COURTSIDE

The Rev. Jesse Jackson attended the game and sat next to Durant's mother, Wanda Pratt.

### TIP-INS

Warriors: Had just one offensive rebound in the first quarter and 10 in the game. ... Made just 6 of 23 3-pointers in the first half and 10 of 33 overall. ... Never led by more than two points. ... It was the first time since 1991 that multiple players scored at least 30 points against the Warriors in a playoff game.

Thunder: Outrebounded the Warriors 33-19 in the first half. ... Shot 52.3 percent in the first half and 50 percent overall. ... Outscored the Warriors 33-19 at the free-throw line. ... Dion Waiters scored 13 points and Enes Kanter added 10 points and 12 rebounds.

## BSHS

Continued from Page 6

great over the weekend.

"I thought they did a great job. Both of them pitched well enough to win and they kept us in the ball game, and that's what we had to have. They definitely did their job."

Martin said the loss was disappointing, but that the season overall was still a success.

"Time gives you a little distance to look back a little bit. The immediate feeling is disap-

pointment because you have high expectations. We set our sights pretty high this year and we came up short on that," he said. "So from that standpoint, the initial reaction is disappointment, but when you see the overall picture, we feel really good about what we accomplished."

The good news for the Lady Steers is that the team will have the majority of their starters back next year, including Sarmiento and Soliz. Younger players like Kemper and fellow

freshman Logan Terrazas, who played key roles and had big games for Big Spring down the stretch, will also have a year of experience under their belt. The bad news is three starters will be graduating in catcher Mia Oliva, first baseman Mary Gomez, and right fielder Makenzie Roberts. While Oliva is the home run threat with the bat, all three are elite-level defenders who will be tough to replace.

"We've got a really group on our junior varsity. There's some real-

ly talented players that were down there this year, and we feel like they're going to come up and fill some spots and make us really solid again next year," Martin said.

Big Spring will get to see Ellet and her Brownwood team on a regular basis next year when the Lady Steers move to district 6-4A.

Big Spring, Snyder, and Sweetwater will begin playing in a district with Brownwood, Abilene Wylie, and Stephenville.

Big Spring, Brown-

wood, and Snyder each made it to the regional semifinals, while Wylie lost to Brownwood in the regional quarterfinals. Snyder and Brownwood play will play this weekend in the regional finals.

"Every game is going to be a barn burner, and whoever comes out of that district as the district champion will definitely be one of the best teams in West Texas, that's for sure," Martin said.

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