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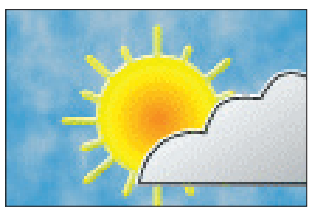
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BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 15, 2011



VOLUME 106, NUMBER 64

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Petition drive moves along

Effort strives to bring term limits, initiatives and referendums to public vote

By AMANDA MORENO
Staff Writer

The Big Spring City Council may have given up on putting a vote on term limits and initiatives and referendums before voters in May, but the Concerned Citizens Council isn't quite ready to throw in the towel on the issue.


Thomason

Members of the CCC are in the process of collecting signatures from municipal voters to force city officials to hold an election in May to determine the fate of the issues in the Crossroads area.

The issue of term limits went before the city council in January and was voted down on second reading by a vote of 5-2, with council members Manuel Ramirez Jr. (District 2), Joann Staulcup (District 3), Gloria McDonald (District 4), Terry Hansen (District 6) and Stephanie Horton (District 1) voting against the measure.

According to City Attorney Linda Sjogren, adding initiatives to the charter would allow the registered voters of the city to have the power to propose ordinances to the council and, if the council fails to adopt an ordinance so proposed without any change in substance, to adopt or reject it at a city election. Referendums would give voters the power to require reconsideration by the council of any adopted ordinance and, if the council fails to repeal an ordinance that has been reconsidered, to approve or reject it at a city election.

See **PETITION**, Page 3A

Ex-lawman to sign copies of his book here

Herald Staff Report

Former Big Spring and Howard County law officer Mike Eggleston will be at the Heritage Museum on Wednesday, signing copies of his book, "Distorted Pillars."

Written under his pen name, Mike McKee, the book follows the career of Mike Evans, who strikes out at anything he considers unethical, unfair or unpatriotic.

"It's fiction, but it closely follows my career and situations I was in as a law enforcement officer," said Eggleston, who is retired and living near Dunn. "Really, only some of the names have been changed to keep me from getting sued."

The lead character, Evans, tries to please his father by becoming a patrolman. After just 45 minutes on duty, he finds himself involved in a gruesome death.

What: Book signing.

Where: Heritage Museum, 510 Scurry.

When: 4-6 p.m. Wednesday.

According to a synopsis of the book, Evans continuously deals with exciting, dangerous situations, some of which result in death, while others become hilarious and end with the unexpected.

The cast of characters includes a greedy captain who devotes his time to selling guns and a district attorney and sheriff who consider Evans the enemy.

Along the way, Evans becomes the head of the local Major Crime Task Force and

See **BOOK**, Page 3A


Courtesy photo

Mike Eggleston, former local and area peace officer, will be at the Heritage Museum to sign copies of his book.

County preps for joint meeting

By AMANDA MORENO
Staff Writer

Utility usage, seal coating bids and jail issues topped the Howard County commissioners agenda Monday morning, as the court prepares for its joint meeting with the city of Big Spring Feb. 28 to discuss the possibility of combining the Sheriff's Department and Big Spring Police Department under one roof.

Commissioners touched upon the meeting scheduled later this month, which will include county and city officials. The joint meeting is set to discuss the possibility of housing both law enforcement agencies at the Howard County Jail and sharing resources.

"To be clear, this is not meaning to join the offices and their duties," County Judge Mark Barr said. "This is only meaning that the police department would be on one end of the building and the sheriff's office would be on the other end."

According to Commissioner Donnie Baker and Barr, the comments offered by members of the community show support for the measure.

"The ones who have spoken to me on this issue have expressed that they are in favor of joining the two," Baker said.

Commissioner Jimmie Long said he is in favor of the venture, but wants to look at the financial picture.

"I would like to wait and see what the budget looks like," Long said. "I want to see what the property and mineral values are looking like before we designate

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U.S. House extends key provisions of Patriot Act

By JIM ABRAMS
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The House on Monday agreed to a 10-month extension of three key law enforcement powers in the fight against terrorism that some privacy advocates from both the right and left regard as infringements on civil liberties.

The House measure, passed 275-144, would extend authority for the USA Patriot Act-related provisions until Dec. 8. Common ground must be found with the Senate before the provisions expire on Feb. 28.

At issue are two provisions of the post-Sept. 11 law that give counterterrorism offices roving wiretap authority to monitor multiple electronic devices and court-approved access to business records relating to a terrorist investigation.

The third "lone wolf" provision of a 2004 law permits secret intelligence surveillance of non-U.S. individuals not known to be linked to a specific terrorist organization.

Last week the House, in an embarrassment for the new GOP leadership, failed to pass the same bill under an expedited procedure requiring a two-thirds majority. Twenty-six Republicans joined 122 Democrats in voting against it. Monday's vote drew 27 Republican no votes.

The main objections are to what critics see as unconstitutional search and seize authority and big government intrusions into private lives.

See **ACT**, Page 3A

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Obituaries

Vickie Elaine Daughtery



Vickie Elaine Daughtery, age 52, of Odessa, passed away Sunday, Feb. 13, 2011, at Medical Center Hospital. She was born in Big Spring on Feb. 9, 1959 to Ben and Bennie (Melton) Daughtery.

Vickie was a retired licensed vocational nurse who worked at the Big Spring State Hospital and Permian Basin Community Center for MHMR. She was an extremely creative person who enjoyed dancing, singing, playing guitar and painting with watercolors and oils. She had invented her own cartoon character and was just learning cake decorating. Vickie was a loving person who was devoted to her family and gave freely of herself to them. She was a beautiful person inside and out.

She is survived by her long-time companion, Lori Don Scott of Odessa; two sons, David Scott and wife Leslie and Justin Scott, all of Odessa; brothers, Ben Daughtery Jr. of Hoama, La., Terry Daughtery of Dahlonega, Ga., and Joben Daughtery of Lower Lake, Calif.; two sisters, Kay Kennemur and husband Danny and Tammie Daughtery, all of Big Spring; and one grandchild, Marley Scott of Odessa.

She is preceded in death by her parents; a brother, Jerry Lynn Daughtery; and a special nephew, Nathan Burch.

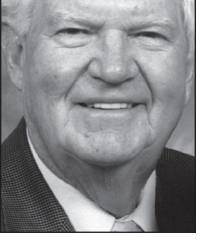
Memorial services will be held at 4 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 17, 2011, officiated by Brother Roy Jones. Arrangements are entrusted to Acres West Funeral Chapel and Crematory and online condolences may be sent to the family through acreswestfuneral.com.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Humane Society of Odessa, 7012 W. Mockingbird, Odessa 79763.

The family sends our special thanks to Medical Center Hospital CCU staff and to Dr. Kodityal.

Paid obituary

James F. Blake



James F. Blake, 78, of Midland passed away peacefully at home Feb. 12, 2011. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2011, at Fairmont Park Church of Christ with Scott Sheppard officiating. Interment will follow at Resthaven Memorial Park. The family will receive friends Tuesday evening at Nalley-Pickle and Welch Funeral Home from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m.

James was born Dec. 21, 1932, in Brownwood. He attended Brownwood High School, where he starred on the football and basketball teams. He went on to play college basketball at Daniel Baker College.

In 1952, he joined the United States Army and proudly served his country during the Korean War. He received an honorable discharge from the military in 1955 and returned to Howard Payne University to complete his master's degree in education in 1957. He also received degrees and certifications from Texas Tech University and Sul Ross University.

On May 9, 1954, he married his best friend, Patsy Blake of Blanket. They celebrated 56 years of marriage this past year.

Following his graduation from college, James began a 45-year career in public education. He spent more than 35 years as a coach, teacher and superintendent in the Forsan, Sands, Seminole and New Home school districts.

James and Pat moved to Midland to retire in 1992. However, after a two week "retirement," James was hired by Midland Christian, where he coached another 10 years. Through the years his teams won and played in multiple state championships in football, basketball, track, golf and volleyball.

James dedicated his life to honoring his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He was a member of the Fairmont Park Church of Christ, where he had served as an elder and Bible class teacher. James also served as an elder at churches in New Home and Ackerly, as well as a Deacon with the church in Seminole.

Survivors include his wife, Patsy Blake of Midland; son, Scott Blake and wife Sara of Magnolia; daughter, Mitzi Maynard and husband Mark of Midland; grandsons, Jordan Blake and wife Ashley of Plano and Joel Blake and wife Kendra of The Woodlands; and two granddaughters, McKenzi and Megan Maynard of Midland.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Arthur Blake; and his parents, Vance and Cora Blake.

The family requests memorials be directed to the building fund at Fairmont Park Church of Christ, 3813 N. Midland Dr., Midland 79707; or Midland Christian School, 2001 Culver Dr., Midland 79705.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Midland. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com

Paid obituary

Zoia E. Rich

CISCO — Zoia E. Rich, 95, of Cisco passed away Sunday, Feb. 13, 2011, at Eastland Memorial Hospital. Visitation will be held Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2011, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Summers-Chambers Funeral Home of Cisco. Services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday Feb. 16, 2011, at the First Assembly of God in Cisco with the Rev. Jeremy Howard officiating. Burial will follow in the Romney Cemetery, directed by Summers-Chambers Funeral Home of Cisco.

Zoia was born Oct. 21, 1915, in Eastland County to Marion and Dalia (Woods) Rich. He married Artie Wills on Dec. 15, 1941. He served in the Army during World War II. He worked for Anderson-Pritchard as a pumper in the oilfields. After retiring and moving to Cisco in 1976, he cut and sold firewood, poured concrete and set curbs in the cemetery.

Zoia was preceded in death by his parents. Survivors include his wife, Artie L. Rich of Cisco; a son, Robert Rich and wife Sharon of Big Spring; two grandsons, Troy Rich and wife Sharon of Midland and Kevin Rich of Lubbock; and three great-grandsons, Matthew and Brian Rich of Midland and Nathan Rich of Lubbock.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to First Assembly of God, P.O. Box 487, Cisco 76437.

Paid obituary

Librado 'Lee' Canales Jr.



Librado "Lee" Canales Jr., 75, of Big Spring died Sunday, Feb. 13, 2011, at his residence. Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral mass will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

He was born Jan. 31, 1936, in Pharr to Margarita and Librado Canales Sr. He married Clara Lopez in Orange Grove. They moved to Big Spring in 1976 from Orange Grove. She preceded him in death on March 25, 2004. He was a welder and a truck driver for oil companies. He was a catholic.

He is survived by three sons, Oscar Canales and his wife Lori, Lee Canales III and his wife Jeannie and David Canales and his wife Viola, all of Big Spring; five daughters, Sylvia Lopez and her husband Ross, Olga Edmondson and her husband Adam and Janie Rios and her husband Luis, all of Big Spring, Ofelia Guerra and her husband Ray of Aqua Dulce and Molly Hilario and her husband Gilbert of San Antonio; one brother, Victor Canales and his wife Frances of Orange Grove; three sisters, Lita Espinosa of Orange Grove, Maria Lopez and her husband Lupe of Everman and Elva Torres and her husband Richard of Houston; 41 grandchildren; and 77 great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents and his wife, he was preceded in death by one son, Roy Canales.

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

Cory Puga

Cory Puga, 19, of Big Spring, died Sunday at University Medical Center. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 7 a.m. Monday and 7 a.m. today:

• THEODORE LEE FLORES, 32, of Levelland, was arrested Monday on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid with a previous conviction.

• SCOTTY KEITH LEATHERWOOD, 45, of 1004 Sycamore, was arrested Monday on a warrant for speeding.

• SAMANTHA MARIE PAYNE, 27, of 303 E. Ninth St., was arrested Monday on a charge of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.

• JIMMY FRANCIS GARRARD, 36, of 303 E. Ninth St., was arrested Monday on a charge of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.

• RICARDO MATA, 48, of Colorado City, was arrested Monday on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Wed 2/16	Thu 2/17	Fri 2/18	Sat 2/19	Sun 2/20
86/49	86/46	81/47	74/51	82/47
A mainly sunny sky. Near record high temperatures. High 86F.	Plenty of sun. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the mid 40s.	Sunny. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the upper 40s.	Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the low 50s.	Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the upper 40s.
Sunrise: 7:28 AM Sunset: 6:33 PM	Sunrise: 7:27 AM Sunset: 6:34 PM	Sunrise: 7:26 AM Sunset: 6:35 PM	Sunrise: 7:25 AM Sunset: 6:35 PM	Sunrise: 7:24 AM Sunset: 6:36 PM

For more visit us online at www.bigspringherald.com

• ALANA DIANE ZAMORA, 34, of Midland, was arrested Monday on a charge of public intoxication.

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 70 inmates at the time of this report.

• THEODORE LEE FLORES, 32, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.

• RICHARD LEVI HERNANDEZ, 20, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of evading arrest or detention and resisting arrest, search or transportation.

• RICARDO GOMEZ MATA, 48, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• SCOTTY KEITH LEATHERWOOD, 45, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a warrant for speeding.

• ALANA DIANA ZAMORA, 34, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• JIMMY FRANCIS GARRARD, 37, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services reported the following activity:

• TRAUMA was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 600 block of Tulane. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 700 block of N. Aylesford. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAUMA was reported in the 3600 block of Dixon. Service refused.

• TRAUMA was reported in the 3600 block of Dixon. Service refused.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 2700 block of Cindy. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 3200 block of Avenue C. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of Simler. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.

• AUTOMOBILE FIRE was reported near the intersection of State and Sycamore.

• DUMPSTER FIRE was reported in the 1100 block of E. Sixth Street.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 2600 block of Central. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAUMA was reported in the 1600 block of Lancaster. Service refused.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.

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Support Groups

MONDAY

• Encourager's Support Group for all widows and widowers meets the first and third Monday of the month. For more information, call Nancy Hale at 398-5239.

• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, noon-1 p.m., 615 Settles.

• Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting, 8-9 p.m., fourth floor, VA Medical Center.

• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 6 p.m. Call 213-1342 or 263-6819.

TUESDAY

• The Path, faith-based addiction recovery, meets at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Tabernacle Ministeries, 1209 Wright St.

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; closed discussion meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

• Al-Anon, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

• RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at (432) 517-9207 for more information.

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; open 12 & 12 study meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

THURSDAY

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

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.

• Celebrate Recovery, a Christ-centered recovery program, is held at Cornerstone Covenant Church, 706 E 12th St. at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call 264-0015 or visit www.cccbigspring.org

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.

Take Note

• The Deptartment of State Health Services has shingles vaccines for the month of February only. We have a limited number of doses and will no longer have them after this month. Immunization hours are 1-4 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Please call 263-9775 if you have questions.

• The Kiwanis Club of Big Spring will hold its annual pancake supper from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. March 11 at the Howard College Cafeteria. Tickets are $5 per person and can be obtained from any Kiwanis Club member or by contacting Don McGonagill at 267-7601.

• Mobile Meals is in need of volunteers to deliver meals to the homebound elderly in Big Spring. If you can donate at least one hour a week, call Macaria Cantu at 263-4016 and leave a message.

• An account has been set up to help Bob and Jeanine Fishback with Bob's medical and travel expenses: Bob Fishback Medical Account 915967, Big Spring Education Employees Federal Credit Union, 1110 Benton, Big Spring 79720. For more information, call 263-8393.

• A fund has been established at Citizen's Credit Union for the Lupe Chavarria family, which lost all of its possessions in a house fire. For more information, contact the credit union at 267-6373.

• Do you have a minute? An hour? How about making a difference in someone's life? Become a hospice volunteer. One hour a month can make a difference. Whether it visiting a patient, or working in the office, or helping with a craft, you can make a difference. We can work around your schedule. If interested, please call Michelle Coutermarsh, at Compass Hospice, 263-5999 or apply in person at 1003 E. FM 700 in Big Spring.

• Weight Watchers meets at 6 p.m. Thursdays at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m. Bring this note when you join and receive a box of Weight Watchers snacks through Oct. 31. Weigh-in is confidential and you don't have to talk if you don't want to. Flexible payment options.

BOOK

Continued from Page 1A

teams up with a Texas Ranger to fight crime outside of his jurisdiction.

Wednesday's book signing will be held from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

PETITION

Continued from Page 1A

However, the initiatives and referendums normally exclude matters dealing with the budget or capital program, or any ordinance relating to the appropriation of money, levy of taxes or salaries of city officers or employees.

According to Shannon Thomason, chairman of the Concerned Citizens Council, the petition requires between 550 to 600 signatures before it can be eligible for inclusion in the May election.

"The goal is to obtain these signatures by March 1," Thomason said. "If we don't get them by then we will continue to try for the November election."

Before a petition can bring an issue to the ballot, 5 percent of the registered voters must be represented by their signatures. Once a signature has been added, it is good for six months, according to Thomason.

The start of the petition was announced at the September city council meeting.

"Whether you agree or don't agree with term limits, it should be up to the citizens to decide instead of seven people on a council," Thomason said.

Note: Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins contributed to this report.

Contact Staff Writer Amanda Moreno at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at life@bigspringherald.com

COUNTY

Continued from Page 1A

any funds."

Also during Monday's meeting, commissioners discussed how to handle the signing of a new contract for electrical service. The court decided that Barr should be granted the authority to sign off on an acceptable bid when it comes to a new contract. The current contract with First Choice will end June 27. Baker made the motion to grant the authority to the judge and Long gave a second.

Eddy Jameson requested permission to go out for seal coating bids and received approval. However, permission to hire a truck driver was tabled.

Hollis McCright presented the court with a proclamation in support of Texas State Library and Archives. According to McCright, the legislature is looking at drastically decreasing the funding for libraries.

According to information released by the Texas Library Association, the state budget shows a 99 percent decrease in state funding for statewide local library aid programs and a 93 percent state cut to library resource sharing programs at the State Library. Overall, the agency cuts amount to about a 70 percent cut in state funds and all-funds reduction of about one-third of the agency's budget.

"With this decrease in funding, it will also affect the $8 million of federal funding," McCright said.

The federal funding is determined by the amount of support that is being received and with the elimination of those dollars, the federal funding will go down.

Mike Dawson asked for approval of a maintenance contract concerning the emergency power generator at the jail. The maintenance agreement is with Cummins Southern Plains and will include yearly maintenance for $2,333. According to Dawson, the generator runs a self-test on Tuesdays and monthly checks are also run.

The next meeting will take place Feb. 28 in the commissioners courtroom on the third floor of the courthouse at 5:30 p.m.

Note: Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins contributed to this report.

Contact Staff Writer Amanda Moreno at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at life@bigspringherald.com

ACT

Continued from Page 1A

"I believe the American people have a legitimate fear of out-of-control government," said conservative Republican Dana Rohrabacher, one of the GOP no votes. "And yes, they have a legitimate fear of out-of-control prosecutors and out-of-control spy networks."

But House Judiciary Committee Chairman Lamar Smith, R-Texas, argued that the courts had consistently upheld the constitutionality of the provisions and that if Congress fails to extend them, "we will forfeit our ability to prevent terrorist attacks." He said a temporary extension "is the only way to provide House members the time to study the law" and consider possible changes.

This time the bill was brought up under a procedure requiring only a simple majority for passage. Democrats got only one chance at changing the bill: an amendment stating that investigations must comply with the Constitution and that courts must give expedited consideration when a U.S. citizen argues that his or her constitutional rights have been violated. It was defeated on a party-line vote.

In the Senate, Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., on Thursday plans to bring before his committee a bill that would extend the three provisions through 2013 while tightening disclosure procedures. Republicans have countered with a proposal to make the three measures permanent.

There's pressure on the two chambers to reach agreement this week because next week, leading up to the Feb. 28 deadline, Congress will not be in session.

The White House has said it "does not object" to the 10-month extension proposed by the House but would prefer stretching the provisions through the end of 2013 because "longer duration provides the necessary certainty and predictability that our nation's intelligence and law enforcement agencies require."

Laura Murphy, director of the American Civil Liberties Union's Washington legislative office, said it was a mistake to renew the three provisions without added safeguards for privacy. "We urge the Senate to reject this bill and instead make the necessary changes that will bring the Patriot Act in line with the Constitution."

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Raoul Robles, Jr., 66, of Big Spring, died Thursday. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. today at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Librado Canales, 74, of Big Spring, died Sunday. Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. tonight at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Immaculate Heart of Mary with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Cory Puga, 19, of Big Spring, died Sunday. Services are pending.

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EDITORIAL

"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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- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
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- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
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A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

When we turn problems over to You, Lord, to handle we have a Heavenly carefree feeling. Amen

GOP infighting a positive thing



DAVID LIMBAUGH

While The New York Times is gloating over "turmoil" in the GOP House "ranks," internal disagreements over spending and other issues are a healthy development and should lead to more disciplined and aggressive action.

In his State of the Union speech, President Obama presented himself as a remade fiscal hawk, promising to freeze discretionary spending for five years. Conservatives immediately called him out on his disingenuousness. After greatly escalating baseline spending the past two years, his freeze pledge, especially when coupled with his gross inattention to the looming entitlement crisis, would just lock us onto our inexorable path to national bankruptcy.

In their pledge to the nation, Republicans promised, "With common-sense exceptions for seniors, veterans, and our troops, we will roll back government spending to pre-stimulus, pre-bailout levels, saving us at least $100 billion in the first year alone."

So the stage was set for the new GOP congressional majority to make good on its promise to trim the budget back to pre-bailout levels. This was the Republicans' opportunity to build on the credibility they had richly earned in voting to repeal Obamacare.

Slowly, however, word began to circulate that the GOP House leadership's proposed cuts would be $74 billion instead of $100 billion. Some argue that even that number is overstated because it represents cuts based on Obama's proposed budget rather than on the actual budget levels in place for the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30. Using that baseline, the cuts would be closer to $43 billion, and when you add certain increases for Pentagon, homeland security and veterans programs, the real number supposedly would be $35 billion.

Rep. Paul Ryan and the House leadership argued that these would be initial cuts, applicable to the continuing resolution, and would be only the first step. Deeper cuts would be forthcoming with the actual budget, they said, which is presumably when they intend to fulfill their pledge. Moreover, the current budget year began in October, with Obama-sized spending then in place, so these cuts would be only for seven months and would be much higher than they seem, if you annualize them.

National Review's Rich Lowry reported that newly elected House freshmen were in open revolt over these numbers and demanding far greater cuts. In response, the leadership, according to a GOP leadership aide, said that the message had been received and that "the bill that passes the House will cut substantially more."

This is a welcome turn of events.

Infighting over greater cuts can only be regarded as positive and a reflection of the influence of the tea party and the conservative congressmen it helped elect.

This episode, which is far from over, illustrates that all congressmen are subject to strict vigilance. "Trust" is no longer enough. This is a day-by-day affair that involves daily proof of their commitment, because our fiscal crisis permits no time for rest. Beltway intoxication is such a powerful contagion that truly conservative representatives are going to have to make a special and persistent effort, not just to govern responsibly, but also to take their case to the people regularly.

If Rep. Ryan and the leadership believed their initial proposed cuts were in line with their pledge, they probably should have done a better job explaining it so that even their strong supporters weren't left in the dark over whether the numbers were being manipulated (e.g., based on Obama's proposed budget instead of last fiscal year's).

In scanning House Speaker John Boehner's and Rep. Ryan's websites, nothing appeared to jump off their home pages addressing the internal disputes over the proposed budget cuts. I may have missed it, but the point is that we shouldn't have to look for it. As conservatives in their corner, we shouldn't have to feel like passengers on a commercial airline experiencing wicked turbulence and hearing no reassuring words from the cockpit. It's time for them to get out their bullhorns and explain it — early and often — because their success in these budget wars depends on strong support from their grass-roots allies.

On the other hand, those of us in the grass roots, while holding our representatives' feet to the fire, should also not just be gratuitous critics — and I'm certainly not trying to be one of those with this column. We should encourage them when they're on the right track, such as with their vote to repeal Obamacare. Though the repeal effort failed in the Senate, House Republicans are planning to vote to block spending for Obamacare, which is important because the White House intends to proceed with its implementation in defiance of the recent federal court order invalidating the law.

I do believe Paul Ryan is the real deal on budget and serious entitlement reform, and I'm encouraged by most of what I'm seeing from him, Boehner and the rest of the GOP leadership team. What they're doing is far more difficult than our work as sideline critics.

But we're not always going to be satisfied with their pace, so we should be immensely gratified that aggressive freshmen prevailed upon them to increase the cuts. This kind of conflict resolution we can support.

To find out more about David Limbaugh, please visit his website at www.DavidLimbaugh.com. To read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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The blubber hits the road



FROMA HARROP

The blubbering has hit the road projects, as the congressional ban on earmarks becomes reality. Tea partiers and other foes of "Big Government" demanded the end to earmarks, also known as pork. Earmarks are but a drop in the federal spending pool, so you can imagine the howls that will emerge from the major budgetary surgery to come.

We read that folks in Wisconsin's rural Burnett County now fear a possible property tax increase because they can't get a $1 million earmark for improving their communications system. Some use such worthy examples to argue that earmarks aren't all that bad. Not me.

If Burnett County residents want to modernize their communications system, why shouldn't they pay for it? I can assure them, my property taxes are a lot higher than theirs. Earmark funding sends the bills for such projects to me and other federal taxpayers.

I don't object to federal spending on needs that individuals or local governments can't efficiently meet. But I don't see why I should pay for others' infrastructure because some congressman was able to skirt the normal budgeting channels, which is what earmarking is all about. Pork breeds corruption, and that makes it objectionable, no matter where the money goes.

Some lawmakers, such as Sen. Daniel Inouye, Democrat of Hawaii, don't see the earmark ban that way. "The reality is that critical needs in communities throughout the country will be neglected," he said. The truth is that these needs will be neglected only if the communities neglect them.

At least Inouye is honest in his support of earmarks. He doesn't engage in the two-faced maneuvering more prevalent among some of his Republican colleagues — denouncing government spending while churning out press releases about the pork they're bringing home. How interesting that Tea Party Caucus members asked for more than $1 billion in pork last year, according to Citizens Against Government Waste.

How predictable.

Some clever fellows go around the pork embargo by not calling earmarks "earmarks." How about "lettermarking"?

When Republican Rep. Mark Kirk ran for President Obama's old Senate seat, the Illinois Republican condemned earmarks, natch.

Turns out that Kirk had previously written a letter to the Department of Education seeking money for a local school district. This is an example of lettermarking. "Phonemarking" involves making similar requests by telephone.

What's wrong with just asking for money? A lot when the request is really a threat against the department or agency being approached. As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, Kirk held power over their budgets.

Sen. Kirk has just issued a press release announcing his new assignment on the Senate Appropriations Committee, which, he notes, "has authority over all discretionary expenditures made by the federal government."

Without earmarks, politicians will have to navigate the proper avenues for federal funding, but they won't be on Easy Street under Obama's five-year plan to freeze discretionary domestic spending. Valuable or not, favorably reviewed or not, many projects will not get federal dollars from the increasingly dry well. And we're talking about a lot more money than the $16 billion spent on earmarks last year.

But the earmarks ban has been more personally felt up to now. Here's what Steve Tribble, an official in Kentucky's Christian County, had to say about the loss of earmark funding for a road plan: "I am against some earmarks,' he told The New York Times. "Not the good ones. I can promise you, this is not a road to nowhere."

And I believe him. But if this road goes somewhere important, the locals should be more than happy to pay for it.

There is no such thing as a good earmark.

To find out more about Froma Harrop, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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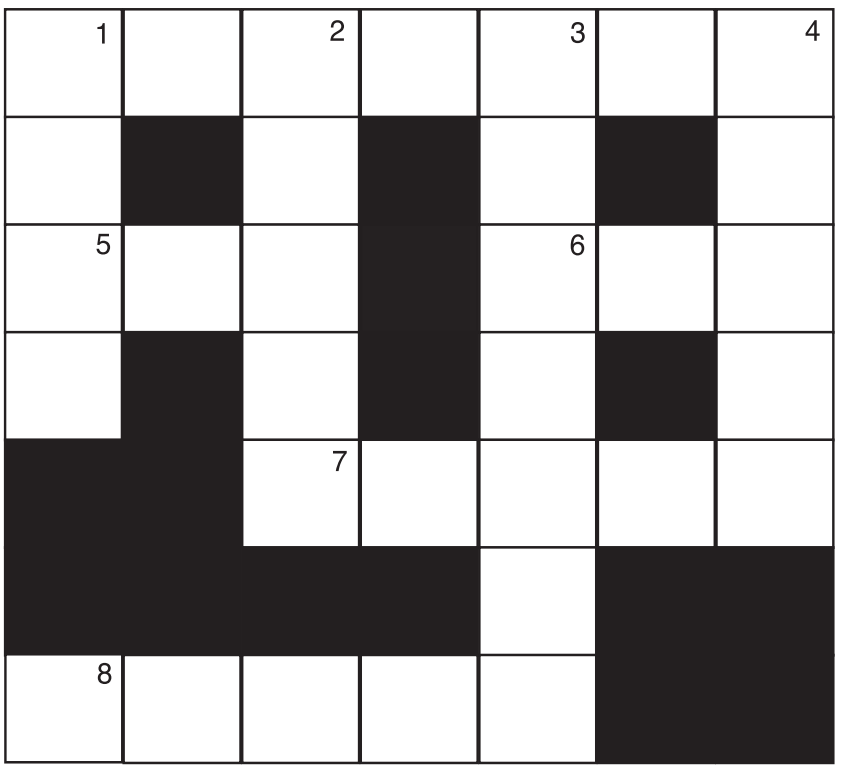




IN WHICH COUNTRY DO FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS PLANT TWO SMALL PINE TREES ON EITHER SIDE OF THE MARRIED COUPLE'S DOOR AS A SYMBOL OF FERTILITY?

ANSWER: NORWAY

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

1. Marriage event
5. Not the truth
6. Promise
7. Gloves leaving the fingers exposed
8. Woman on her wedding day

DOWN

1. To move on feet
2. Vision during sleep
3. Person being invited
4. Formal dresses

Answers:
Across
1. wedding 5. lie 6. vow 7. mitts 8. bride
Down
1. walk 2. dream 3. invitee 4. gowns

THIS DAY IN... HISTORY



- 1867: THE FIRST SHIP PASSES THROUGH THE SUEZ CANAL.
- 1904: THE OPERA, "MADAMA BUTTERFLY" PREMIERES IN MILAN.
- 1974: ROBERT K. PRESTON, A U.S. ARMY PRIVATE, BUZZES THE WHITE HOUSE IN A STOLEN HELICOPTER.



VOW

a solemn promise

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Bride

SPANISH: Novia

ITALIAN: Sposa

FRENCH: Mariée

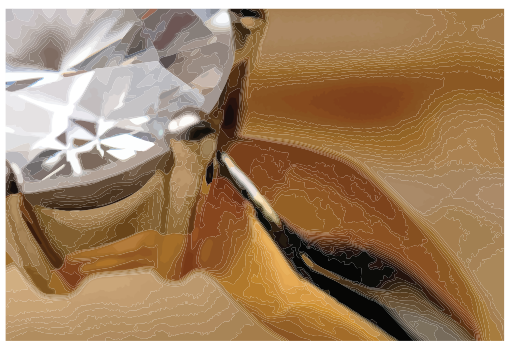
GERMAN: Braut

Did You Know?



JUNE IS THE MOST POPULAR MONTH OF THE YEAR FOR WEDDINGS.

GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

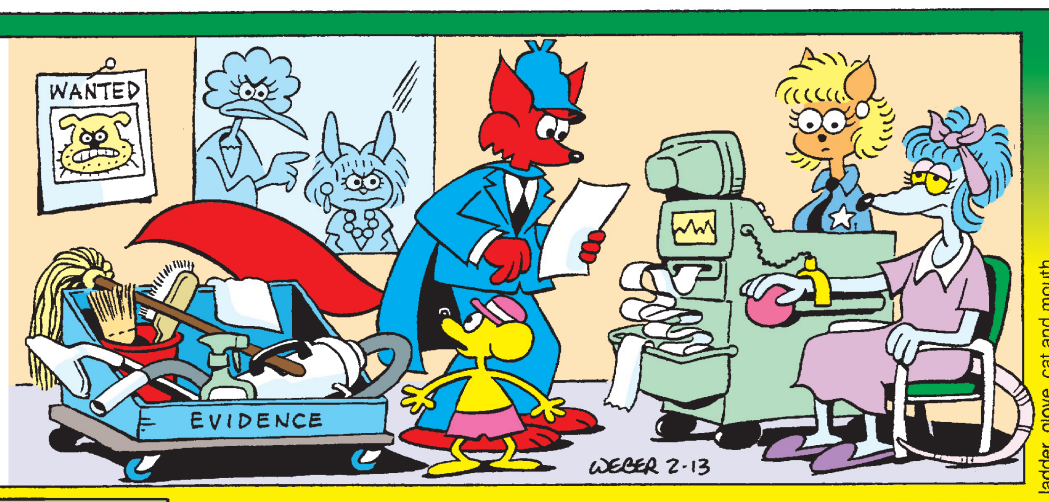
ANSWER: ENGAGEMENT RING

SLYLOCK FOX and COMICS FOR KIDS

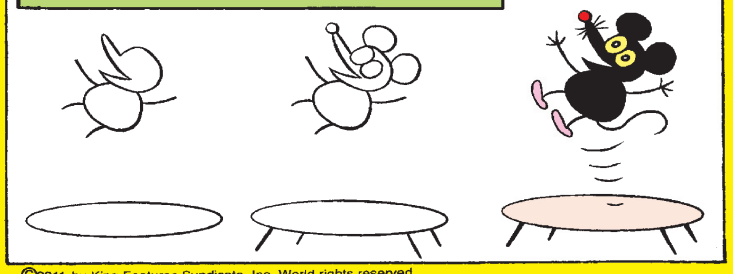
BY BOB WEBER JR.

Patty Opossum started a housecleaning business. Unfortunately, Patty's idea of cleaning houses included stealing. Her clients claim she stole their jewelry. But when Patty insisted she never touched anyone's jewelry, the lie detector indicated she was telling the truth. How could she be the thief if she is not lying? Slylock Fox has an explanation. Do you?

Answer -- Patty didn't *touch* the jewelry, she sucked it up with a vacuum cleaner. Slylock found all the stolen jewels in the vacuum bag.



HOW TO DRAW a bouncing mouse



YOUR DRAWING

Today's artist is Michaela Boyd, age 12, of Miner, MO



Submit your drawings at www.kidcartoonists.com

The scrambled words are things found in a hardware store. How many can you unscramble?

1) LISAN
2) ESOLHV
3) REERDSIRWCV

Answer -- 1) Nails 2) Shovel 3) Screwdriver

Find six differences between these panels.



www.kidcartoonists.com

Answer -- Bucket, window, ladder, glove, cat and mouth.

The fourth ***Find the six differences*** is here. Send $4 (check/money order in U.S. funds made payable to King Features) with your name and address to **Six Differences No. 4**, P.O. Box 536475. Orlando, FL 32853-6475

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News in brief

GOP mocks Obama's 2012 budget for ignoring deficit as House debates even deeper cuts for 2011

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans are mocking President Obama's $3.73 trillion budget for 2012 for waving feebly at historically huge federal deficits. As if to show how it should be done, they are ready to start muscling their own package of deep cuts in domestic spending through the House.

Eager to please their conservative tea party supporters, Republicans are championing $61 billion in cuts to hundreds of programs for the remaining seven months of this federal fiscal year under a bill the House planned to debate Tuesday. AmeriCorps and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting would be completely erased, while deep cuts would be carved from programs for feeding poor women and children, training people for jobs and cleaning the Great Lakes.

Reductions of that magnitude this late in a fiscal year would have a jarring impact on many programs. The GOP-run House planned to approve the measure Thursday.

The proposed reductions have "showdown" written all over them. Republicans included them in a must-pass bill financing the government, which otherwise runs out of money on March 4. The Democratic-controlled Senate and Obama himself are sure to turn them down.

Bahrain mourner killed in clash before funeral march for protest victim

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Security forces in Bahrain fired tear gas and bird shot Tuesday on mourners gathered for a funeral procession for a man killed in Egypt-inspired protests, killing at least one other person and sharply raising the chances for further unrest.

Officials at Bahrain's Salmaniya Medical Complex — the meeting point for more than 10,000 mourners — said a 31-year-old man died from injuries from bird shot fired during the melee in the hospital's parking lot. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not allowed to speak to journalists.

The latest death raises the possibility of more rallies and challenges to the ruling Sunni monarchy in Bahrain — a strategic Western ally and home to the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet.

After the clash, riot police eventually withdrew and allowed the massive funeral cortege for 21-year-old Ali Abdulhadi Mushaima to proceed from the hospital, the main state-run medical facility in Bahrain's capital Manama.

Mushaima was killed Monday during clashes with security forces trying to halt marches to demand greater freedoms and political rights. At least 25 people were injured in the barrage of rubber bullets, bird shot and tear gas, family members said.

Can Sarah Palin succeed by bypassing conventional politics? Will she try?

WASHINGTON (AP) — She says what she wants, does what she wants and makes no apologies. And love her or hate her, you can't really argue with this: Politics as usual has never been Sarah Palin's style.

"I wasn't wired to play that game," the former Alaska governor says in "Going Rogue," the memoir whose title reflects her affinity for going her own way.

As she weighs whether to seek the presidency, it's hard not to wonder: Do the old tenets of White House campaigns apply to someone who has broken virtually every rule in modern-day American politicking? Can she bypass conventional politics and succeed? Will she even try?

Her would-be opponents are pondering these questions — and what the answers mean for their own possible candidacies — as they await word of whether the unpredictable Palin will be candidate or kingmaker. It's a decision that will upend the already chaotic GOP field of potential contenders: Palin, with a loyal following among conservatives and tea party activists, will affect the race whether she runs or not.

The woman whom one potential GOP challenger, former Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty, calls "a force of nature" repeatedly has ripped up and rewritten the playbook of traditional politics. It's what her legions of grassroots backers adore about her. And it's what may either sink or make her candidacy should she run.

Clinton: U.S. to back cyber dissent in repressive states, warns Internet curbs can't last

WASHINGTON (AP) — Restricting the Internet will not hold back surging popular demand for democratic reforms in the Middle East or elsewhere, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton says, and the Obama administration is ready to help dissidents evade such restrictions to promote human rights and democracy in repressive states.

In a major policy address to be delivered Tuesday at George Washington University, Clinton challenges autocratic regimes in Iran, the broader Middle East and elsewhere to embrace online freedom and the demands of cyber dissidents or risk being toppled by tides of unrest. There is no "app" for ending online repression, Clinton says, but she also pledges U.S. support for ending curbs on Internet usage that have become common amid calls for change.

"There is no silver bullet in the struggle against Internet repression," she says in excerpts released Monday night by the State Department. "There's no 'app' for that. And accordingly, we are taking a comprehensive and innovative approach — one that matches our diplomacy with technology, secure distribution networks for tools, and direct support for those on the front lines."

A major element of that, officials say, will be to assist civic leaders, students and rights activists in overcoming government controls on the Internet to get their messages out.

Clinton's remarks, her second major address on the topic of Internet freedom since becoming America's top diplomat, come amid a groundswell of protests around the Middle East that have been abetted by online agitators using social media sites such as Twitter, Facebook and YouTube to organize anti-government demonstrations from Algeria to Yemen, Syria, Iran and Jordan. Two longtime autocratic Arab presidents, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali of Tunisia and Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, have been driven from power in the last month.

N.Y. congresswoman steeled by gun violence presses for controls after Tucson shooting

GARDEN CITY PARK, N.Y. (AP) — Out of nowhere, a deranged gunman shoots into a crowd of innocent victims, firing until bystanders tackle him as he tries to load a new clip of ammo. Six people are killed and several injured; one person suffers a head wound but survives to face a long period of rehabilitation.

That shooting on a Long Island Rail Road train in 1993 inspired Carolyn McCarthy, who lost her husband and saw her son paralyzed, to run for Congress. And the more recent shooting at an Arizona shopping center with which it shares eerie similarities has thrust her back into the spotlight as she seeks to outlaw the high-capacity magazines believed to have helped both gunmen.

McCarthy has been doing this for so long that she answers the Second Amendment question on gun ownership before it is asked.

"Many people are saying, 'Oh, you're taking away our rights to own a gun,'" McCarthy said. "This has nothing to do with taking away the right of someone owning a gun. The Supreme Court already came out and said everybody has a right to own a gun. The large-capacity clips, though, should only be for our police officers and our military."

McCarthy, a 67-year-old Democrat who won a tight race for an eighth term last year, was glued to the television for hours after the Tucson shooting, hearing echoes of Long Island in the news coverage, of why she ran for Congress in the first place and of why she's risking her precarious congressional seat.

Suit says BP official resigned months before explosion over concerns

HOUSTON (AP) — A former official with BP's drilling operations in the Gulf of Mexico resigned just months before last year's oil spill because of disagreements with the oil giant over its commitment to safety, according to a class-action federal lawsuit related to the spill.

Documents filed Monday night in Houston claim Kevin Lacy, BP's former senior vice president for drilling operations for the Gulf of Mexico, reached a mutual agreement with the company to resign in December 2009 because he believed the company was not adequately committed to improving safety protocols in offshore drilling operations to the level of its industry peers. The Deepwater Horizon rig explosion occurred on April 20, 2010, killing 11 workers and causing the worst oil spill in U.S. history.

The claims come in an amended version of the lawsuit, originally filed last year, that alleges BP inflated its stock price by hiding information and making false and misleading statements about its safety practices before the Gulf of Mexico oil spill. BP's stock value dropped roughly in half following the oil rig explosion and spill.

BP spokesman Daren Beaudo declined to comment on the lawsuit.

Official: Most Pakistani government legal experts believe detained American has immunity

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistan will tell a court that most of its legal experts believe a detained American has diplomatic immunity, but will leave it to a judge to rule on his status, an official said Tuesday — a sign that Islamabad is trying to give the U.S. an opening to free the man while avoiding domestic backlash.

Raymond Davis has been held by Pakistani authorities since he fatally shot two Pakistanis in the eastern city of Lahore on Jan. 27, and his case has become a bitter point of contention between Washington and Islamabad, two countries whose relationship is considered key to ending the war in Afghanistan.

The U.S. says Davis, a former Special Forces soldier and an embassy worker, shot two robbers in self-defense and that his detention is illegal under international agreements covering diplomats. U.S. officials have threatened to withhold billions of dollars in aid to Pakistan to get Davis freed.

U.S. Sen. John Kerry was expected to arrive in Pakistan later Tuesday to discuss the case with senior Pakistani officials, the U.S. Embassy confirmed.

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

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Question: Isn't Hospice a place?
Answer: No. Hospice is a service that brings care into your own home.
Question: What does Hospice provide?
Answer: Medication, equipment (such as oxygen) and supplies.
Question: When do you qualify for Hospice Care?
Answer: Most people get hospice care too late. **You can qualify as much as 6 months earlier!**
Question: Don't most people die at home?
Answer: 70-80% of Americans die in facilities. Hospice patients get their wish to die at home.
Question: Can Hospice patients die in a hospital?
Answer: If the patient chooses to, the hospice staff will make the arrangements.
Question: Will entering a Hospice make you die sooner?
Answer: Statistical studies show that **Morphine eases pain but does NOT shorten life.**
Question: Do patients admitted to hospice ever improve?
Answer: Yes, some patients actually improve and in time, are discharged from hospice.
Question: Isn't Hospice only for Cancer patients?
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Question: Is Hospice care expensive?
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News in brief

Texas town known for refinery pollution does solar

PASADENA (AP) — A Houston-area town nicknamed "Stinkadena" because of refinery pollution has installed $2 million solar "labs" on the roofs of two local high schools.

Sam Rayburn High School science specialist Grace Blasingame says Pasadena students will use the labs to study solar energy, with their data being incorporated fully into the schools' curriculum.

For example, computer teachers will use it to teach students Excel and PowerPoint and social studies teachers will use the lab to teach the history of energy. She says the project helps Pasadena stay in the energy business.

As a bonus the district will save some $15,000 a year on electricity costs.

Jimmy Carter to speak at LBJ Library

AUSTIN (AP) — Former President Jimmy Carter will speak about his years as president and offer observations about current events during a presentation at the LBJ Library in Austin.

Carter was deeply involved in the Middle East peace process while president between1977 and 1981.

The former president was close to Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, who was succeeded by Hosni Mubarak.

The LBJ Library's director, Mark Updegrove, will lead the conversation with Carter in front of a live audience, which will also ask questions.

Also, Carter will discuss his latest book, "A White House Diary." Free tickets to the event were handed out last month.

Carter was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002 for his work in Africa.

Texas Senate to investigate power outages

AUSTIN (AP) — Two Senate committees will hold joint hearings into why power plants shut down unexpectedly and hundreds of thousands of Texas lost power earlier this month.

The Business and Commerce Committee and the Natural Resources Committee have called on state officials and corporate executives to testify Tuesday morning. State officials have said electricity generators failed to adequately weatherize their power plants before an arctic cold snap hit northern Texas on Feb. 2. Back-up plants failed to kick in and state officials ordered rolling power outages across the state.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commissioned ordered a formal inquiry into the matter on Monday.

Texas low tax, expenditures compared to states

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas ranks near the bottom of all states in taxing and spending per capita, but is dead last in the percentage of adults with a high school diploma.

The rankings are according to a study being released Tuesday by a legislative panel made up of Democrats. The study, "Texas on the Brink," ranked the states based on various functions of government.

Texas has the highest percentage of uninsured children and ranks near last in the amount of state and local money spent per student in public schools.

Democratic Rep. Garnet Coleman, chairman of the Legislative Study Group, will present the findings Tuesday.

2nd Texas man set for execution in torture-slaying

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — A 31-year-old North Texas man is headed to the Texas death chamber for the torture and slaying of a mentally challenged woman 13 years ago.

Michael Wayne Hall is to die Tuesday in Huntsville for the killing of Amy Robinson.

Authorities say Hall and Robert Neville abducted 19-year-old Robinson as she rode her bike to work at an Arlington supermarket. Neville was put to death five years ago for Robinson's killing.

Hall's lawyers contend that he, too, is mentally impaired and ineligible for lethal injection. On Monday, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals rejected that argument. The Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles rejected a clemency request last week.

Hall would be the first inmate put to death this year by Texas, the nation's busiest death penalty state.

Lawmaker: Odds against legalized casinos

GALVESTON (AP) — The head of the Texas House Republican caucus says legislation to legalize casino-style wagering in Texas is unlikely to pass this session.

State Rep. Larry Taylor, R-Friendswood, says "the votes just aren't there."

Legalized casino-style gambling had been suggested by some as a possible new revenue source for state budget-writers facing an immense revenue shortfall.

But Taylor tells the Galveston County Daily News that gambling interests can't agree on what form legislation should take. He says lawmakers aren't even discussing the issue until some consensus is reached.

18 killed in cartel-plagued northern Mexican town

CIUDAD VICTORIA, Mexico (AP) — A series of shootings left 18 people dead Monday in a town in northern Mexico where a turf war has raged between two brutal drug cartels.

The violence damaged the city hall, a court and the police headquarters in Padilla, a town just north of the Tamaulipas state capital of Ciudad Victoria, the state government said in a statement.

Seven bodies were dumped in Padilla's main square on Monday, another five people were shot to death inside their car, and another person was killed in an attack on a passenger bus, the statement said. Five other inhabitants of the town were killed, but the statement did not specify how.

Tamaulipas, a state bordering Texas, has seen some of the worst atrocities in Mexico's drug war since fighting broke out last year between the Gulf cartel and a gang of its former enforcers known as the Zetas.

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.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

The Art of Deception

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ J 3
♥ 9 4
♦ A Q J 9 2
♣ Q J 10 6

WEST
♠ 9 5 4 2
♥ 10 8 7 3
♦ 7 3
♣ 8 5 3

EAST
♠ K Q 10 8
♥ A J 6 5
♦ K 4
♣ 7 4 2

SOUTH
♠ A 7 6
♥ K Q 2
♦ 10 8 6 5
♣ A K 9

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 NT	Pass	3 NT	

Opening lead — three of hearts.

There are times when a player can accomplish by guile what he cannot accomplish by routine play. For a good example of how an imaginative declarer can sometimes outwit the defense, consider this deal where West led the three of hearts against three notrump.

East won the opening lead with the ace, on which South dropped his queen! It is hard to fault East for thinking that his partner had led a heart from the 10-8-7-3-2 and that declarer had the K-Q alone. (South, however, was in good position to judge that West had only four hearts, since the three was presumably West's fourth-best heart, and South had the deuce in his hand.)

East therefore returned the jack of hearts at trick two, won by declarer with the king. South then took a diamond finesse that lost to East's king, but the best East could do at this point was to return a heart and hold declarer to nine tricks.

Now let's go back to trick one and have declarer play the deuce of hearts on East's ace. In that case, if we assume East is a competent defender, he would shift to the king of spades at trick two and eventually defeat the contract, scoring three spades, a heart and a diamond.

And just how would East know he should shift to a spade? Because, given the 24 points in high cards he could see in his own hand and dummy, he would know that South was sure to have the K-Q of hearts as part of his 15- to 17-point one-notrump opening.

East's only real chance, therefore, would be to shift his attack to spades at trick two in the hope of establishing three tricks in the suit. In the actual case, declarer would be unable to prevail against this defense, and sooner or later he would go down one.

Tomorrow: When to win a trick.

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Liver function ALT/AST

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Measures Body Fat % and Body Mass Index.

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Ultrasound Bone Mineral Density Screening

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*PSA test for men's health (**results will not be available immediately**)*

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*Thyroid Stimulating Hormone Test **(results will not be available immediately**).*

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Caught in nature's unforgiving grasp



Courtesy photo

Dining on a rat, this juvenile red-tailed hawk will start molting toward adult plumage during its second summer. Upon reaching maturity, its rufous or rusty tail leaves nothing to doubt as it soars on West Texas thermals.

Having made the drive to Vealmoor for years, the last thing the man expected to see standing in the middle of the road was a large brown bird. After glancing in the rear-view mirror to make sure no one was coming, he scanned the horizon ahead to make sure he and the raptor were alone.

Not wanting to frighten it, he decided against pulling off the pavement and into the gravel. The noise that action would create might spook it.

When about 20 feet separated him from the bird, he stopped on the roadway. Even after he opened the door and eased from underneath the steering wheel, it did not move.

"Now what do I do?" he thought. With nothing in the pickup to use for possibly capturing the bird, he removed his jacket. In spite of two shirts, a woolen vest, and heavy jeans, he was amazed at how cold the February winds felt against his body.

With each step forward he tried to anticipate what the bird might do. Slowly opening its eyes, the raptor seemed to be gazing not only at him, but also far beyond. A primal instinct suddenly caused the bird to turn, leap, and flap its broad wings in an attempt to leave an approaching danger.

Not rising more than a foot to two feet above the ground, it coasted about 30 feet. Settling back down on the pavement, the raptor once again stood rigidly still.

Knowing about how far the bird would fly, and with its dazed vision, he decided to continue the chase. When the raptor settled back on the asphalt after another try at flight, the man quickly ran and threw his coat over the bird before it could regain its composure.

Not until we met did the hawk relinquish its hold upon his coat. Since a few of its talons had pierced the lining and outer material, the man was wise to use its entanglement as a means of bringing it safely to us on the passenger seat. Each time the bird moved, he pressed his right hand atop the figure until it stilled again.

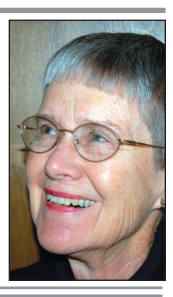
Opening the talons on each foot, we extracted a first-year, red-tailed hawk from the torn liner and fabric. Born the previous summer, the bird of prey was still brown above and mottled with white that caused the look of a "V" on its wings and back. Below, the bird was a buff-white. Noticeable were narrow sepia-to-brown streaks on its throat, neck and belly.

Extending the hawk's wings to check for any signs of a fracture or calcification, we found none. Noticing the brown epaulets that enhanced the leading edges of its wings, we could tell they were becoming darker with maturity.

Normally, the flesh alongside the bird's breastbone, or keel, would be ample. Instead, its keel was well defined. Having exhausted the body fat that we should have felt, this hawk was weak and starving to death.

BIRD POOP

By Bebe McCasland



During their first year, red-tailed hawks suffer from a high mortality rate. For this bird to be found on the roadway, or even on the shoulder of a highway was not uncommon. When unable to find its normal diet, it would gladly have accepted carrion.

Becoming a skilled hunter of rabbits, ground squirrels, rats, and mice, our guest would have also preyed upon snakes. However, during times of drought, this hawk had weakened when the environment no longer sustained the food it was seeking.

Emaciated, the red-tail was taken to the wildlife sanctuary in Midland. Starvation had taken its toll. The bird weighed half of what it should be.

Several weeks later, the raptor had gained not only grams, but also an eagerness to try the limits of its enclosure. Moved to a larger facility, it soon gained the highest perches and easily flew the length.

Not acceptable to this bird of prey was succumbing to the death that had awaited it. Its recovery was impressive. As we drove home after seeing it exercise one afternoon, I was reminded of why Art and I continue to rescue birds in spite of what we have seen.

C.S. Lewis identified it as "a longing to know other bloods, i.e., an overriding sense that seeking ever more intimate connection with other species is an exquisite pleasure and important — spiritually and intellectually."

Bebe McCasland is author of The Scoop from Bird Poop. She is federally and state licensed to rehabilitate wild birds.

A letter from Mom at home

Every so often we need a bit of humor in our lives so I found a letter that might be of interest. As you read the letter below determine whether the writer is of your spouse's family or that of your neighbor!

Dearest Son,

I'm writing this slow because I know you can't read fast. We don't live where we did when you left home. Your dad read in the newspaper that most accidents happen within 20 miles of your home, so we moved. I won't be able to send you the address because the last family that lived here took the house numbers when they moved so they wouldn't have to change their address.

This place is really nice. It even has a washing machine, which I'm not sure about.

I put a load of clothes in and pulled the chain. We heard a noise but we haven't seen the clothes since. The weather isn't bad here. It only rained twice last week; the first time for three days and the second time for four days.

Auntie Maude has sent you a pair of socks she knit, she put a third one in because she heard you have grown another foot since she last saw you.

About that coat you wanted me to send; your Uncle Billy said it would be too heavy to send in the mail with the buttons on, so we cut them off and put them in the pockets.

Jimmy locked his keys in the car yesterday. We were really worried because it took him two hours to get me and your father out. We were also worried because it looked like it was about to rain and the top was down.

Your sister had a baby this morning, but I haven't heard if it's a boy or a girl, so I don't know if you are an aunt or uncle.

I heard that you were planning to go for a sky dive and needed money for a parachute. I want you to know that you will only need a parachute if you plan to skydive twice.

I've been hearing voices in my head lately. Your father told me that they may not be real, but I've decided to listen to them anyway because they have some good ideas!

Uncle Bobby fell into a whiskey vat last week. Some men tried to pull him out, but he fought them off and drowned. We had him cremated, he burned for three days.

Three of your friends went off a bridge in a pickup truck. Butch was driving. He rolled down the window and swam to safety. Your other two friends were in the back. They drowned because they couldn't get the tailgate down.

There isn't much more news at this time. Nothing much out of the normal has happened.

Your Favorite Aunt,
Mom

PARENT'S CORNER

By Darrell Ryan



Darrell Ryan is director of federal programs for the Big Spring Indepemdent School District.

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Making a point

Emory's late 3-pointer helps Hawks upset Chaps



HERALD Photo/Tony Claxton

Carlos Emory hits the 3-pointer to give the Howard College Hawks a 75-74 lead with 15 seconds left in their game against Midland College Monday. The Hawks were down by 18 at one point in the game.

BY ADAM COLEMAN
Sports Editor

MIDLAND — The emotion was clear on the Howard College bench.

They didn't want to possibly meet No. 5 Midland College again in the regional tournament knowing they went 0-2 against the Chaps during the regular season.

So even though the Hawks were down 18 at one point and it looked like the conference leaders were going to prevail again, Carlos Emory came through.

Emory hit a 3-pointer with 15 seconds left in the game to cap off a Howard comeback, leading the Hawks to a 76-74 win over the Chaps Monday in Midland. The Hawks were down by 10 with a little more than two minutes left.

"We made a point," Emory said. "To come in here and make a statement that we can beat them, it says a lot to the world."

How significant is this win? It's the first time the Chaps have lost at home in two years and it's the first conference loss of the year for Midland, too.

Emory's 18 points and late shot were big, but other standouts include Jerry Dixon and Shavon Coleman, who both had big second halves. Dixon didn't score a point in the first half, but finished with 18. Coleman just had four in the first half, but he finished with 16.

"I feel like I couldn't let my team lose. I couldn't let them down," Dixon said. "This was a big game for us. We had to win. My coach told me it started on defense, so I had to pick it up on defense. Once I got the defense going, the offense just came to me."

It was Dixon's 3-pointer at the 2:24 mark that started the run toward the end of the game. After that, Howard was suddenly down 67-60. Johnnie Lacy had a big 3-point play for the Hawks to make it 69-65, but Midland answered right back when Jordan Walker made a shot and was fouled in the process. At that point, it looked like Midland was still in control.

However, the Chaps really started to sweat when Coleman's 3-pointer had the Hawks down 74-72 with 23 seconds left. Howard sent Midland's Dwayne Davis to the line after that, but he missed both free throws, setting up Emory's big shot.

Emory said his 3-pointer was a set play. He faked his shot as the defender went in the air and had an open look at the basket. When he made the shot, Howard's bench, and Emory, were elated.

Head coach Mark Adams, aware of the holiday on Monday, was proud his team could get a big win on the road like this one.

"For Valentine's Day, we showed a lot of heart," he said. "We talked about that before the game. We didn't play very well. Midland's a very good basketball team. We have a lot of respect for them. We made some plays down the stretch, hit some big shots and our guys executed."

Howard College 76, Midland College 74
Howard 23 53 - 76
Midland 32 42 – 74
Howard — Jerry Dixon 18, Johnnie Lacy 14, Tramel White 3, Shavon Coleman 16, Corey Stern 1,

See **HAWKS**, Page 2B

BSHS golf enjoying first tournament win since '04

BY ADAM COLEMAN
Sports Editor

The Big Spring boys' golf team is on the right path early this spring season.

The Steers are reveling in their first-place finish at the Big Spring Invitational Friday and Saturday at the Big Spring Country Club. The Steers shot a 622 as a team, with Blake Brorman's 146 being the lowest score on the team.

It's the first tournament win for Big Spring golf — boys or girls — since 2004.

"It's a good confidence builder, finally getting a team win under our belt," Brorman said. "It's a big deal and I think it's going to play later on down the road knowing we can actually win one."

The big deal here,besides the fact it was a tournament win, is the number of opponents in the Invitational the Steers will see again later this season.

Snyder, Abilene Wylie and Sweetwater — all district foes — were in this tournament. Snyder and Wylie weren't too far behind Big Spring with a 639 and 640, respectively, good for third and fourth.

Andrew Fillingim was big, too, with a 149. He said this win gives the Steers confidence they can play with anybody in the district and it gives this team hope for regionals.

The Steers will be in Plainview this weekend for a tournament.

Fillingim said the key for to playing well for the rest of the season is simply for the Steers to enjoy themselves.

"I think it's just having fun," he said. "When you're stressed out, it gets worse, but when you start having fun, it wrks your way more often."

Team results from Big Spring Invitational

	Day 1	Day 2	Total
Big Spring "A"	303	319	622
Abilene Cooper	316	316	632
Snyder"A"	322	317	639
Abilene Wylie	319	321	640
Plainview	321	326	647
San Angelo Central	340	334	674
Midland Lee	328	354	682
Sweetwater	344	339	683
Lakeview	341	354	695
Amarillo Caprock	344	359	703
Frenship	353	353	706
Lubbock High	350	356	706
Lubbock Cooper	352	355	707
Greenwood	345	372	717
Snyder "B"	365	365	730
Big Spring "B"	379	387	766
Amarillo Palo Duro	441	430	871
Andrews "B"	351	N/S	N/T
Kermit	382	N/S	N/T

See **GOLF**, Page 2B



Courtesy Photo

Pictured from left to right with the Big Spring Invitational trophy: Ryan Pollard, Devin Roberson, Andrew Fillingim, Blake Brorman, Tate Kennedy and head coach Chris Joslin.

GOLF

Continued from Page 1B

Lamesa	403	N/S	N/T
Midland Christian	449	N/S	N/T

Individual results from Big Spring Invitational

		Team	Day 1	Day 2	Total
1	Cory Churchman	Abilene Cooper	68	71	139
2	Trey Bearden	Abilene Wylie	72	73	145
3	Blake Brorman	Big Spring "A"	73	73	146
4	Zac Hanson	Abilene Cooper	71	77	148
5	Andrew Fillingim	Big Spring "A"	72	77	149
6	Ryan Mercer	Sweetwater	75	75	150
7	Jacob Rogers	Plainview	76	76	152
8	Julio Villanueva	Snyder	77	76	153
9	Matt JollyPlainview		77	82	159
9	Kaleb Presley	Snyder	76	83	159
11	Taylor Grant	Abilene Wylie	83	77	160
11	Hyden Ogle	S.A. Lakeview	76	84	160
13	Jason Guevara	Big Spring "B"	81	80	161
14	Tate Kennedy	Big Spring "A"	77	85	162
14	Nathan Pomroy	San Angelo Central	83	79	162
14	Reid Pinson	Snyder	84	78	162
17	Tanner Young	Greenwood	78	85	163
18	Tyler Lindsay	Abilene Wylie	81	84	165
18	Rayn Pollard	Big Spring "A"	81	84	165
18	Josh McKinley	Snyder 85	80	165	
21	Mason Couch	Lubbock Cooper	83	83	166
21	Nathan Solis	Midland Lee	81	85	166
23	Jay Grattan	Lubbock High	87	80	167
23	Blake Roberson	Midland Lee	79	88	167
25	Braedon Merrick	Andrews "B"	84	84	168
25	Calvin Adams	Greenwood	83	85	168
25	Tim Gonzales	Plainview	82	86	168
25	Trent Kincaid	Plainview	86	82	168
29	Hunter Steckbeck	San Angelo Central	84	85	169
30	Curry Jones	Abilene Wylie	83	87	170
30	Jade Brown	Amarillo Caprock	84	86	170
30	Colton Heinrich	Lubbock High	85	85	170
30	David Castro	S.A. Lakeview	83	87	170
34	Justin Albert	Lubbock Cooper	82	89	171
34	Corbin Melton	Midland Lee	82	89	171
34	Ben Sanchez	S.A. Lakeview	89	82	171
34	Logan Hopper	Snyder	84	87	171
34	Mason Andrews	Sweetwater	87	84	171
39	Hunter Hall	Frenship	90	82	172
39	Colton Crowder	San Angelo Central	94	78	172
41	Kolin Hendrix	Abilene Cooper	91	82	173
41	Regan Head	Snyder	85	88	173
43	Logan Wilkinson	Amarillo Caprock	84	92	176
43	Warren Endman	Amarillo Caprock	87	89	176
43	Devin Roberson	Big Spring "A"	87	89	176
46	Dayton White	Abilene Wylie	89	88	177
46	Kolton Conger	Frenship	85	92	177
46	Austin Sprewell	San Angelo Central	84	93	177
49	Brandon Neff	Abilene Cooper	92	86	178
49	Colt Carlisle	Frenship	89	89	178
49	Kyle Wanta	Midland Lee	86	92	178
49	Josh Molter	Snyder	88	90	178
53	Derek McNutt	Frenship	89	90	179
54	Jace Bentle	Sweetwater	89	91	180
55	Jon Mayes	Amarillo Caprock	89	92	181
55	Miguel Hernandez	Kermit	90	91	181
55	Blake Black	Lubbock Cooper	92	89	181
55	Kody Carter	San Angelo Central	89	92	181
59	Cullin Raetzel	Amarillo Caprock	89	93	182
59	Brenden Herbst	Abilene Cooper	86	97	183
59	Raul Sanchez	Andrews "B"	88	95	183
59	David Huang	Lubbock High	90	93	183
59	Nathan Von Roder	Snyder	91	92	183
59	Dylan Torres	Sweetwater	93	90	183
65	Colin Cassidy	Andrews "B"	91	93	184
66	Eron Berzoza	Kermit	92	93	185
67	Zephyr Melton	Lubbock High	88	98	186
68	Brennan Soto	Amarillo Palo Duro	96	93	189
68	Matt Hillstrom	Lubbock Cooper	95	94	189
68	Taylor Edmonson	Plainview	95	94	189
71	Blake Llyod	Midland Lee	96	94	190
72	Ryan Faulkenberry	Frenship 95	96	191	
72	Zac Martin	Greenwood	96	95	191
74	Cooper Cunningham	Lubbock Cooper	97	95	192
74	Quinn Arnett	Lubbock High	97	95	192
76	Tyler Coplen	S.A. Lakeview	93	101	194
77	Jarid Larson	Greenwood	88	107	195
77	Alex Garcia	S.A. Lakeview	94	101	195
79	Nolan Beal	Big Spring "B"	98	98	196
80	Kegan Scifres	Snyder 102	96	198	
81	Joey Adames	Sweetwater	101	99	200
82	Matt Davila	Big Spring "B"	98	106	204
83	Carson Horton	Midland Christian	104	101	205
84	Manuel Vasquez	Lamesa	109	99	208
85	Tyler Hester	Big Spring "B"	106	103	209
85	Lucas Gordan	Kermit	107	102	209
87	Michael McClain	Lamesa	107	104	211
88	Juan Hernandez	Amarillo Palo Duro	114	100	214
89	Shawn Polite	Amarillo Palo Duro	99	116	215
89	Sean Spiser	Greenwood	105	110	215
91	Logan Garnett	Midland Christian	118	115	233
92	Remy Angel	Midland Christian	130	115	245
93	Israel Medrano	Amarillo Palo Duro	132	121	253
94	Nathan Miller	Andrews "B"	88	N/S	N/T
95	Stormy Emery	Big Spring "B"	102	N/S	N/T
96	Adrian Carrasco	Kermit	93	N/S	N/T
97	Cameron Ray	Lamesa	81	N/S	N/T
98	Nick Aguayo	Lamesa	106	N/S	N/T
99	Denton Rea	Midland Christian	97	N/S	N/T
100	Dakotah Neff	Snyder	128	N/S	N/T
101	Alex Castillo	Sweetwater	NS	90	N/T

K-State stuns No. 1 Kansas

The Associated Press

MANHATTAN, Kan. — Jacob Pullen scored a career-high 38 points and Kansas State shot 56 percent from the field Monday night en route to a stunning 84-68 victory over Kansas, which moved to No. 1 just hours earlier.

Pullen, a 6-foot senior who ranks in the top five in 17 career categories for Kansas State, had 23 points in a take-charge first half that propelled the Wildcats (17-9, 5-6 Big 12) to a nine-point halftime lead.

Hundreds of fans stormed the court when the buzzer sounded on Kansas State's third victory in its last 45 games against an archrival that has dominated the Wildcats for decades.

The Jayhawks (24-2, 9-2) replaced Ohio State atop the Associated Press poll, a position they held for 15 weeks last season.

Kansas beat Kansas State 90-66 on Jan. 29, but this time the Wildcats, led by an indomitable Pullen, took control from the start.

Pullen, whose previous career high was 34 points, was 5 for 6 from 3-point range but he scored in almost possible way in what may have been his finest game as a Wildcat. He was 15 for 19 from the free throw line and had five assists.

Kansas was unable to get its inside game in gear. Early foul trouble plagued the Jayhawks' top two scorers, twins Marcus and Markieff Morris. Tyrel Reed had 14 points for Kansas, which lost in Bramlage Coliseum for the second time in 23 games. Marcus Morris had 13 points but Markieff Morris had only three points.

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Chiefs hire Jim Zorn as QB

The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Kansas City Chiefs have hired Jim Zorn as quarterbacks coach.

Zorn, a former head coach of the Washington Redskins, was a quarterback for Seattle and Green Bay during his playing days in the National Football League from 1976-87.

He was 12-20 as Redskins head coach in 2008-09.

HAWKS

Continued from Page 1B

Jermaine Winfield 2, Carlos Emory 18, Joe Bright 4

Midland — Bobby Hatchett 1, Guy Landry 11, Majok Majok 2, Rodney Milum 23, Dwayne Davis 19, Dwight Miller 2, Jordan Walker 16

3-point field goals — Howard 8 (Dixon 2, Lacy 1, Coleman 1, Emory 3, Bright 1), Midland 5 (Landry 1, Milum 3, Davis 1)

Free throws — Howard 26-37, Midland 19-30

Total fouls — Howard 24, Midland 31. Technical fouls — Rodney Milum, Midland

Records: Howard (19-6, 9-2), Midland (24-3, 11-0)

Howard women

MIDLAND — The Howard College women weren't as fortunate at the Chaparral Center as they were at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

The Hawks were turned back by the Lady Chaps, 62-56 in WJCAC action Monday.

Howard head coach Earl Diddle points to a Midland run in the middle of the second half as a big reason the Hawks couldn't leave Midland with a win.

"When it got to be 42-40, we took a timeout, we're right there and then all of a sudden, they start doing some good things and it goes to 59-45," he said. "I thought that was the game right there."

The Hawks were down at halftime 32-26, but made things interesting after Kali Jerrell's bucket made it 42-20 Midland.

It didn't faze Midland, though. Lindsay Ansley hit one free throw when she was sent to the line, but the Lady Chaps got the rebound off the second one and Anfisa Shulha hit a 3-pointer to give Midland four points off one possession.

Then Ansley and Nety Sousa scored consecutive buckets for the Lady Chaps to make it 50-42. Jerrell answered with a three, but Tanica Anderson's 3-pointer at the 9:11 mark after that was a backbreaker.

A three from Shulha and a score from Morgan Schwartz helped push the lead to 59-45.

Howard's leading scorer Tasha Tubbs had a quiet 10 points and Diddle credits the Lady Chaps for making sure she didn't have a huge impact on the game.

"I told Tasha you're not going to come over here and then they're going to lose you. They're not going to lose you. They're going to know where you;re at at all times. They're going to focus on you."

Diddle said he was disappointed with the loss, because he believed his team played well at times, but consistency was not where it needed to be.

Midland College 62, Howard College 56

Howard 26 30 - 56

Midland 32 30 – 62

Howard — Porsche Young 5, Kali Jerrell 12, Twyla Ards 6, Leona Allen 9, Zeslie Johnson 6, Taniqua Ards 7, Tasha Tubbs 10, Brushea Daniels 1

Midland — Tanica Anderson 6, Anfisa Shulha 10, Jessi Cowden 3, Titania Simmons 6, Lindsay Ansley 7, Traci DeVance 2, Morgan Schwartz 11, Danesha Long 11, Ornela Bacchini 4, Nety Sousa 2

3-point field goals — Howard 4 (Young 1, Jerrell 1, Allen 1, Tubbs 1), Midland 9 (Anderson 1, Shulha 3, Cowden 1, Simmons 2, Schwartz 1, Long 1)

Free throws — Howard 6-14, Midland 9-20

Total fouls — Howard 17, Midland 15

Records: Howard (20-7, 5-4), Midland (23-5, 8-2)

Contact Sports Editor Adam Coleman ar 263-7331 ext. 237 or at the e-mail address sports@bigspringherald.com

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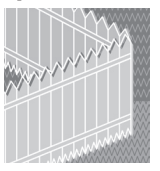
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

The Cancer moon focuses on "home" both as a place and an idea. She favors our efforts to create a safe haven for our loved ones and ourselves. She sensitizes us to our need for comfort. Consider where you feel most nurtured, and think about how you could increase your sense of belonging when you are out of your usual environment.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll be looking to the future and deciding a direction for yourself and your family. You'll make a deal with destiny, and if you uphold your end, your good fortune will be plentiful.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Be intentional with your purchases, especially non-disposable items. Impulse buys are not favored today. Your stuff could end up owning you instead of the other way around.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll find something new to desire, and you'll move forward with great gusto. This may be a short-lived passion, though the memory of your pursuit will last a lifetime.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You will have a strong impact on your environment, including the energy of those around you. You are most effective when you consciously decide what mood you want to set.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There will be exciting news that brings up controversial topics. You may feel strongly about this, but the feelings won't last. Keep that in mind before you debate your peers.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You have a way of greeting people that makes them feel warm and accepted. Do not underestimate the power of this greeting. People need it more than you know.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You are so alive with ideas, ambitions and love, sweet love. With so much to enjoy about your life, there is hardly a moment to waste in worry or stress. You'll teach others to be as joyful as you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Someone makes a lame attempt to get to know you better. Help this person out. It is more difficult than you might realize to approach you, let alone impress you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You have a certain amount of respect for your work, and you may even love it at times. But you also realize that it doesn't define you. You are more than just what you do.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll give baffling ideas a chance. You'll listen to one you don't understand. In the end, you still may not understand it, but you'll take heart in the fact that you gave it a fair shake.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). No one lives in an untroubled world. The one who comforts you can only do so because he or she has been where you are and knows what words a person in that position longs to hear.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You take pleasure in your work, so it's difficult for you to understand those who are intent on avoiding it. Your dedication to a professional cause will bring both financial and emotional gains.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 15). This year, your mood gets lighter and your outlook gets brighter. You'll revel in someone's love, and commitments will be made in March. You enjoy seeing someone dear to you accomplish something fantastic in May, and you take some of the credit. August brings fantastic career and financial luck. Cancer and Sagittarius people are lucky associates. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 4, 33, 24 and 18.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I think I made a terrible mistake when I broke up with my Taurus boyfriend last year. I thought I liked someone else, and the other relationship didn't go like I thought it would. I tried dating other guys, but I found myself missing my Taurus so much. Now I hear he has a girlfriend. I'm crushed. Should I wait to see what happens, or should I make my move now before he gets too serious with her? I'm a Capricorn."

You need to look deep into your heart and ask yourself if you are acting selfishly or if this is something real. Hearing that your ex has a girlfriend triggered your Capricorn spirit of competition, which is certainly a strong feeing, but it should not be confused with true love. That same competitive spirit that serves you so well in most areas of life may cause you to make foolish decisions when it comes to doing the right thing in relationships. Think about why this relationship didn't work for you the first time around. Have you (or has he) really changed enough to make things different this time?

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Brilliant Aquarius Matt Groening created the longest-running prime-time animated show on television. "The Simpsons" continues to draw laughs and ratings into the new decade. Groening was born under a Leo moon, which is the sign of entertainment. Mercury and Venus in Pisces shows intuition, imagination, deep powers of empathy and devotion to family.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Annie's Mailbox ®

Dear Annie: My 19-year-old daughter, "Nadia," dated a sweet guy for three years. They broke up when he moved to Hawaii to "see the world."

For three years, he dated no one else and expected Nadia to do the same. However, after 18 months of separation, she decided to enjoy her life.

A year ago, they rekindled their relationship over the phone and decided to get married.

When "Mr. Hawaii" found out she had dated someone else in his absence, he abruptly called it off, once again breaking her heart.

He then asked her to wait for him to get his head together. Apparently, he was questioning whether he might be gay.

This time, she said no. With our encouragement, she concentrated on herself and her education.

Eight months ago, Nadia met an absolutely wonderful, stable guy, and they are slowly building a future together.

The problem is, Mr. Hawaii has been in touch, asking if she would reconsider their relationship. She told him he would always have a place in her heart, but that's it.

Within days of their last conversation, we were shocked to find out that he had already married a girl from Switzerland 12 days after meeting her.

We are sure this poor girl has no clue her new husband was still fanning the flames with Nadia, let alone his sexuality issues.

And apparently, his family doesn't know he's married. Do we have an obligation to tell his family and his new wife, or is this a keep-it-zipped situation? We don't want to hurt anyone. — *Treading Water in the Pacific*



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

Dear Treading: You don't know the circumstances of this marriage or even if it's true.

It is not your place to inform his parents or wife. We know you want to do the right thing and prevent a catastrophe, but frankly, it will be hurtful no matter what you say, and it won't change a thing. Mr. Hawaii needs to handle this on his own.

Dear Annie: My wife passed away three weeks ago. We were married for more than 40 years. Is there any set rule about how long I should wait to get in the dating scene again? — *Arizona Widower*

Dear Arizona: There is no set rule. Widows and widowers can begin dating whenever they are ready. Keep in mind, however, that friends and relatives often expect the newly widowed to wait at least six months before dating, so you may get some flak from them if you start sooner. But it is entirely your choice.

Dear Annie: I would like to address the letter from "Deleted in Ohio," whose sister cut off contact once again, and whose husband's nephew stopped seeing the family. She didn't know why.

In my case, I realized I was the one who was always initiating contact with my siblings.

As a test, I stopped getting in touch. Guess what? I still hear nothing from my brother, had one phone call from my middle sister and have had no calls at all from my youngest sister.

It doesn't feel good to know I was right. It made me realize I was forcing myself on them in a way they apparently didn't want, and they didn't know how to tell me.

Now, if they want contact, all they have to do is phone, e-mail, mail or text. I will always be there, just as I always have been. — *Deleted Many Years Ago, Just Didn't Want To See It*

Dear Deleted: In most families, one sibling, usually a sister, takes on the role of facilitator. She's the one who hosts family gatherings, keeps the other siblings informed and makes sure the family stays close.

We doubt your siblings felt you forced yourself on them. You might reconnect with your middle sister. Explain the problem and see what she says. You have nothing to lose.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column.

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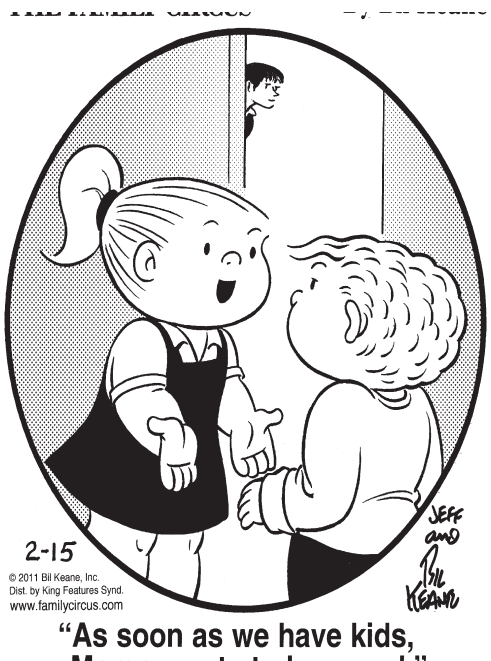
	KMID 3 Midland	UNI 4 Spanish	KPEJ 5 Odessa	KOSA 7 Odessa	KTLE 8 Telemundo	KWES 9 Midland	WTBS 11 Atlanta	KMLM 12 Odessa	KPBT 13 Odessa	KWWT 14 Odessa	DISC 20 Discovery	AMC 21 Classics	SPIKE 22 Spike TV	TNT 23 Atlanta	BET 26 Black Ent.	DISN 27 Disney	ESPN2 28 Sports	ESPN 29 Sports
5 :PM	News	Alma	Lopez	News	Noticias	News	King	Scrivner	World	Lyrics!	Cash Cab	Brave One, Nicky Katt	Ways Die	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Deck	Nation	SportsCenter
:30	ABC	Notic.	Lopez	News	Noticiero	News	King	Uri Harel	Business	Lyrics!	Cash Cab		Ways Die			Fish	Pardon	
6 :PM	Jeopardy!	Llena de Amor (SS)	Two Men	News	Caso Cerrado	News	Seinfeld	Dr. Young	PBS NewsHour	'70s	Pitchmen		Ways Die	Bones		Wizards	College Basketball	College Basketball
:30	Wheel		Two Men	Ent		Millionaire	Seinfeld	Brad		'70s			Ways Die			Wizards		
7 :PM	No Ordinary Family	Eva Luna (SS)	Glee	NCIS (DVS)	Aurora (SS)	The Biggest Loser	Office	Upd	Pioneers-Tele	One Tree Hill	Gold Rush: Alaska	Movie: The Shawshank Redemption, Bob Gunton	Ways Die	Movie: Four Brothers	Movie: The Longshots, Tasha Smith	Movie: WALL-E, Jeff Garlin		
:30							Office	Jim					Ways Die					
8 :PM	V	Triunfo del Amor	Raising	NCIS: Los Angeles	Herederos-Monte		Office	Light of the Southwest	Frontline	Hellcats	Dirty Jobs		Ways Die				NBA Coast to Coast	College Basketball
:30			Traffic				Office						Ways Die			Fish		
9 :PM	(:01) Detroit 1-8-7	Aquí y Ahora (SS)	Simpsons	The Good Wife	Alguien te Mira (SS)	Parenthood	Office		Independent Lens	Married	Auction		Ways Die	Southland	Game	Phineas		
:30			How I Met				Office			Married	Sons		3 Sheets		Together	Phineas		
10 :PM	News	Impacto	How I Met	News	Noticias	News	Conan	Mark	Charlie Rose	King	Gold Rush: Alaska	Movie: The Shawshank Redemption, Bob Gunton	MAN	Memphis Beat	The Mo'Nique	Wizards	Boston	SportsCenter
:30	Nightline	Noticiero	Raymond	Letterman	Decisiones (SS)	Jay Leno		Cortes		King			MAN			Wizards	Boston	
11 :PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	La Verdad Oculta	Law & Order: SVU	Late	Decisiones (SS)	Late Night	Lopez Tonight	Ministerio-Vida	World	South Pk	Dirty Jobs		UFC's Ultimate Fight Night	Southland	Wendy Williams	Hannah	SportsNation	NFL Live
:30									T. Smiley	South Pk						Hannah		Final
12 :AM	Extra	Tontas Cielo	Paid				Conan	Upd	(Off Air)	Cops	Auction			CSI: NY	Black Girls Rock!	Wizards	NBA	SportsCenter
:30	Paid		Raymond	Insider	Pagado	News		Church		Focus 4	Sons					Wizards	NASCAR Now	
1 :AM	Paid	Clasicos	TMZ	Ent	Pagado	Poker After Dark	Lopez Tonight	Light of the Southwest		Homecoming	Overhaulin'	Movie: Otis, Kevin Pollak	Amazing Video	Leverage		Suite Life		SportsCenter
:30	Paid	Cero	King-Hill	(:37) Up to	Película:											Suite Life	2010 Poker	

DENNIS THE MENACE



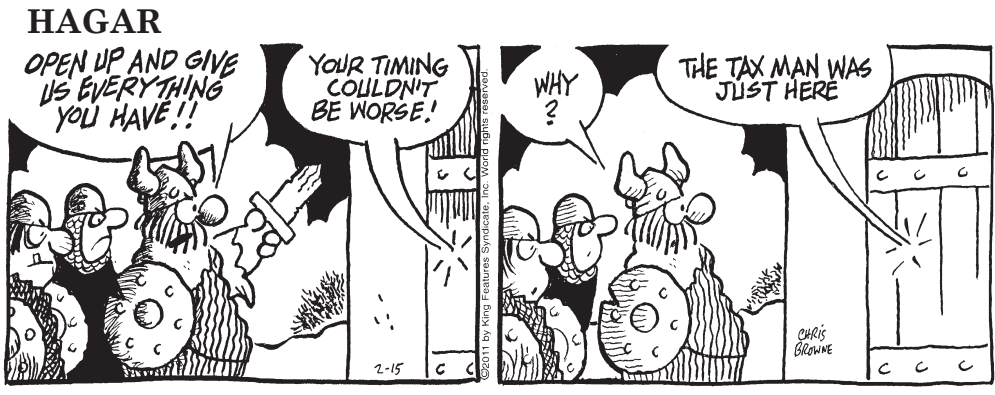
"I'M LEARNIN' THE THREE R's... READING, WRITING AND RECESS!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

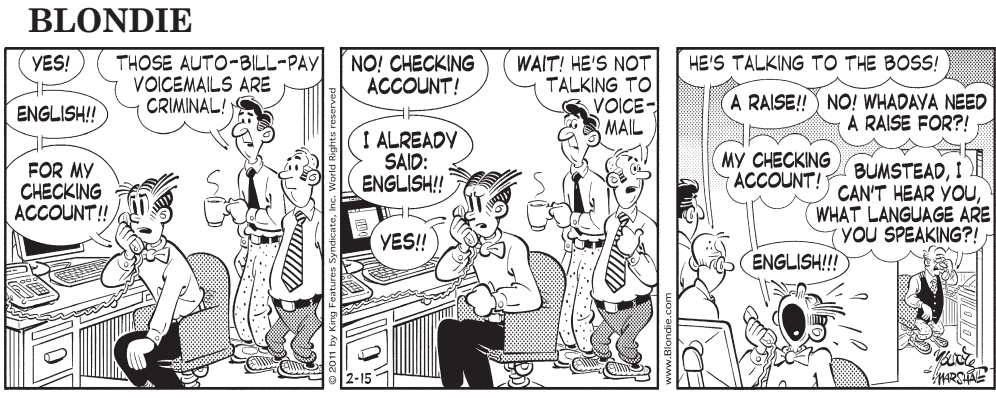


"As soon as we have kids, Mommy gets to be grand."

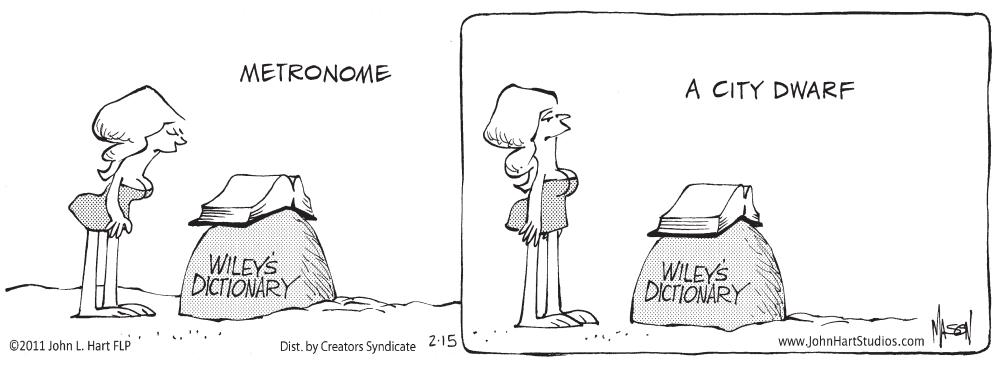
HAGAR



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BC



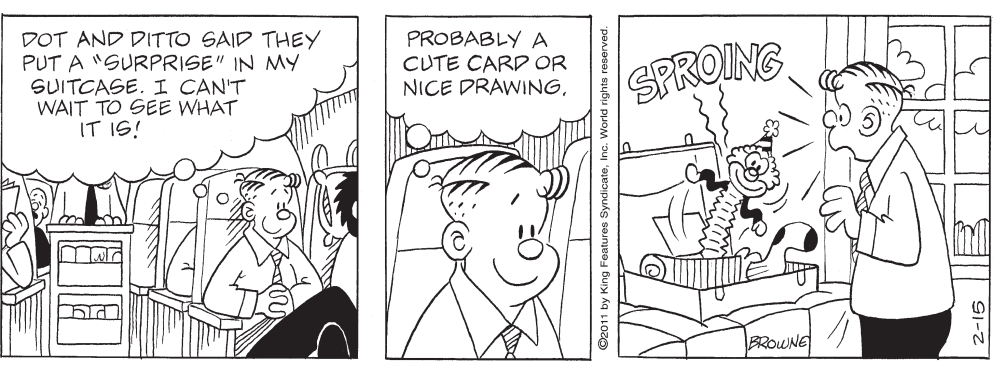
WIZARD OF ID



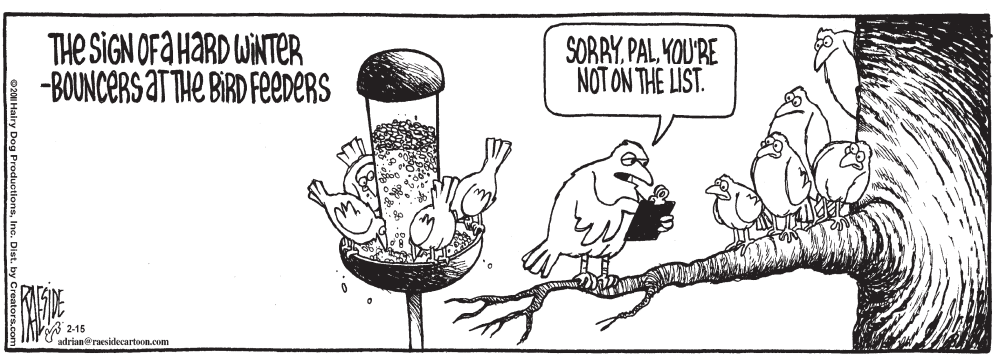
AGNES



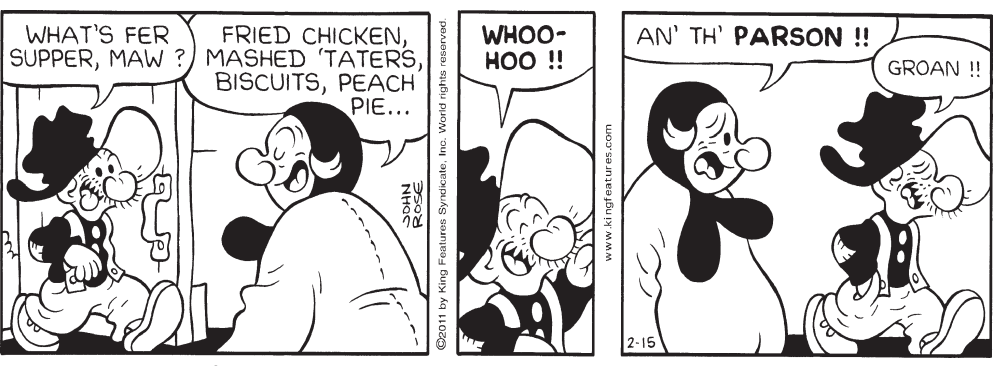
HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Feb. 15, the 46th day of 2011. There are 319 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 15, 1961, 73 people, including an 18-member U.S. figure skating team en route to the World Championships in Czechoslovakia, were killed in the crash of a Sabena Airlines Boeing 707 in Belgium.

On this date:

In 1764, the city of St. Louis was established by Pierre Laclede and Auguste Chouteau.

In 1820, American suffragist Susan B. Anthony was born in Adams, Mass.

In 1879, President Rutherford B. Hayes signed a bill allowing female attorneys to argue cases before the Supreme Court.

In 1898, the U.S. battleship Maine mysteriously blew up in Havana Harbor, killing more than 260 crew members and bringing the United States closer to war with Spain.

In 1933, President-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt escaped an assassination attempt in Miami that mortally wounded Chicago Mayor Anton J. Cermak; gunman Giuseppe Zangara was executed more than four weeks later.

In 1942, the British colony Singapore surrendered to the Japanese during World War II.

In 1944, Allied bombers destroyed the monastery atop Monte Cassino (MAWN'-tay kah-SEE'-noh) in Italy.

In 1965, Canada's new maple-leaf flag was unfurled in ceremonies in Ottawa.

In 1971, Britain and Ireland "decimalised" their currencies, making one pound equal to 100 pence instead of 240 pence.

In 1989, the Soviet Union announced that the last of its troops had left Afghanistan, after more than nine years of military intervention.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Allan Arbus is 93. Former Illinois Congressman John Anderson is 89. Former Defense and Energy Secretary James Schlesinger is 82. Actress Claire Bloom is 80. Author Susan Brownmiller is 76. Songwriter Brian Holland is 70. Rock musician Mick Avory (The Kinks) is 67. Jazz musician Henry Threadgill is 67. Actress Jane Seymour is 60. Singer Melissa Manchester is 60. Actress Lynn Whitfield is 58. "Simpsons" creator Matt Groening (GREE'-ning) is 57. Model Janice Dickinson is 56. Actor Christopher McDonald is 56. Reggae singer Ali Campbell is 52. Actor Joseph R. Gannascoli is 52. Musician Mikey Craig (Culture Club) is 51. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Darrell Green is 51. Country singer Michael Reynolds (Pinmonkey) is 47. Actor Michael Easton is 44. Rock musician Stevie Benton (Drowning Pool) is 40. Actress Renee O'Connor is 40.

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Answer to previous puzzle

C	P	A	S			M	A	S	T		B	B	S	
L	O	F	T		C	A	C	T	I		A	R	A	B
E	U	R	O		R	A	T	O	N		S	O	U	R
F	R	O	M	M	E	M	O	R	Y		I	O	T	A
			P	E	A		R	E	T	A	C	K	E	D
I	R	E		A	S	H		S	O	Y	A			
B	E	D	S	T	E	A	D		T	E	L	L	O	F
M	A	G	I			S	I	S			L	A	K	E
S	P	E	N	D	S		P	U	S	S	Y	C	A	T
			C	A	N	I		M	P	H		E	Y	E
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O	D	O	R		F	A	L	L	I	N	L	O	V	E
M	I	L	E		F	R	A	I	L		A	R	E	A
E	C	O	L		L	O	D	E	S		M	A	T	S
	T	R	Y		E	W	E	S			A	L	O	T

Newsday Crossword

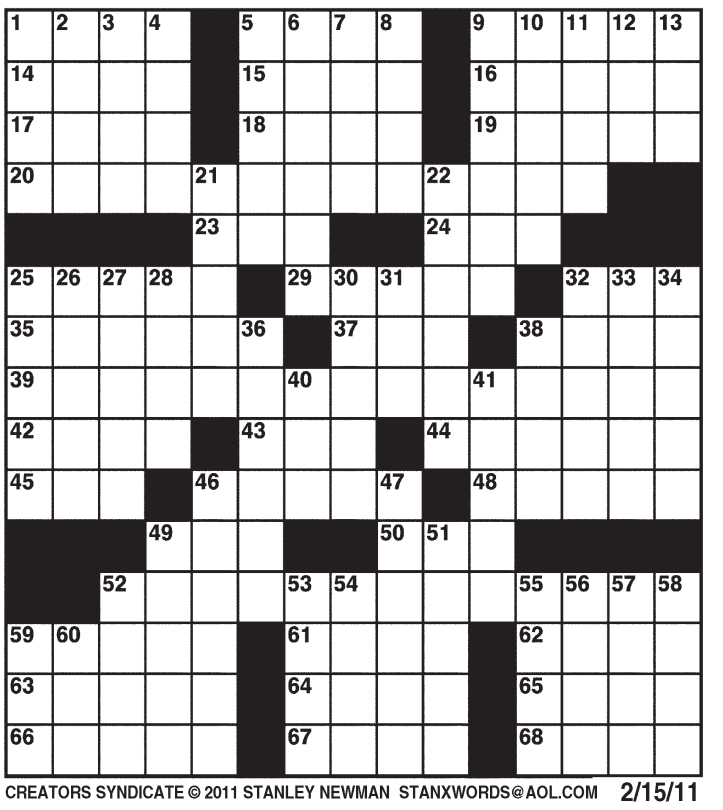
ALL AGLOW by Gail Grabowski
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Shoe worn in snow
5 Watches the kids
9 Notebook filler
14 Weak, as an excuse
15 Undeniable
16 Higher than
17 Every now and __
18 Judge's garment
19 Occupied the throne
20 Florida nickname
23 Gorilla, for one
24 Proof-of-age items: Abbr.
25 Misbehaves
29 Do the tango
32 Spring month: Abbr.
35 Aspen headgear
37 Chinese frypan
38 Up to the task
39 Agile
42 Stick __ in the water
43 Tree with acorns
44 Seafood sauce
45 Winter hrs. in Colorado
46 Narrowly defeated
48 Domineering
49 Good friend
50 Lamb's mom
52 Respond quickly
59 Sci-fi being
61 Uttered
62 Neck of the woods
63 Knight's weapon
64 Checkout-counter backup
65 Fly high
66 Threw in
67 Bullring cheers
68 Sports cable network

DOWN

1 Crunchy sandwiches, for short
2 Honolulu's island
3 Sign of the future
4 Change for a $20 bill
5 Piece of bacon
6 Took creases out of clothes
7 Toothpaste holder
8 Recognizes
9 Event with floats
10 Shares a border with
11 Flag holder
12 Day before a holiday
13 Stop-sign color
21 Attacked
22 Box-office purchase
25 Mosque religion
26 Variety-show segments
27 Prejudiced person
28 Have sore muscles
30 Heard the clock alarm
31 Persona __ grata
32 Is a partner in crime
33 "Guilty" and "not guilty"
34 Have another go at
36 Curly-haired dog
38 Curly hairdo
40 Pester
41 Cavalry sword
46 Brought in, as a salary
47 Give the meaning of
49 Jigsaw-puzzle part
51 Strolls through a stream
52 Locate
53 Norway's capital
54 Fall short of success
55 Simplify
56 Players that are paid
57 Jump
58 Tall tale
59 Chicken __ king
60 Young fellow



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