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Obama backs off

Under intense heat, he will revamp birth control policy

BEN FELLER
 AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Retreating in the face of a political uproar, President Barack Obama is expected today to announce that religious employers will not have to cover birth control for their employees after all, The Associated Press has learned. The administration instead will demand that insurance companies will be the ones directly responsible for providing free contraception.

Obama's abrupt shift is an attempt to satisfy both sides of a deeply sensitive debate, and most urgently, to end a mounting

See **POLICY**, Page 3A



During halftime of Thursday's Howard College-Western Texas basketball game, members of Howard's 1962 track and field team were honored on the 50th anniversary of their national junior college title, one of three straight championships the squad earned. With members of the team behind her, College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks addresses the crowd during the ceremony.

BSISD: Construction continues, dress code stalls

By AMANDA MORENO
 Staff Writer

Work is moving along at the four Big Spring Independent School District elementaries under construction, trustees were told Thursday, but a proposal to implement a standardized dress code has stalled completely — at least for now.

Thursday, board members took a tour of Goliad Elementary to see just how far the construction has progressed.

"All four of the new campuses will look exactly alike as far as layout," Maintenance and Transportation Director Wayland Pierce said. "The only difference will be each school will have its own color scheme as far as the awning and the trim around the outside."

Pierce also delivered a report regarding the redistricting of bus routes for students kindergarten through fifth grade. Unforeseen issues caused the board to push

See **BSISD**, Page 3A

Candidate filing update

By AMANDA MORENO
 Staff Writer

School board elections seem to be having a slow start in the Forsan Independent School District.

As of this morning, nobody has filed for the upcoming

See **FILING**, Page 3A

Canterbury Senior Sweetheart Dance is tonight

By AMANDA MORENO
 Staff Writer

Calling all sweethearts. Canterbury is having its eighth annual Senior Sweetheart Dance tonight from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the public area at the Canterbury South building.

"This is a great opportunity for the residents to have their family come out and see where they are living," Executive Director Shannon Nabors said. "It also provides an opportunity for the residents to go dance, have fun, hear some good music and not have to worry about driving back at night."

Each year, according to Nabors, Canterbury hosts two dances.

See **DANCE**, Page 3A

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To reach us:
 Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 6 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. Sunday.



Are you ready to run for love?

By AMANDA MORENO
 Staff Writer

Time to pull out the running shoes.

Big Spring State Park and Timing Specialists have teamed up to put on the inaugural Run 2 Love 2 Run. The Valentine's Day themed run will take place at 11 a.m. Saturday on Scenic Mountain.

"This is an incentive for folks to stay fit," State Park Manager Ron Alton said. "As always though, just because run is in the name doesn't mean people can't walk the distance if they choose to."

Local race director Craig Felty found the inspiration from a few couples he knows who are working toward running together and staying in shape.

Registration for the event will be around 10 a.m. the morning of the race. There is a \$20 entry fee for each person and couples are asked to submit their individual registration forms together. Registration can also be done in advance online at timingspecialist.com or by calling the Chamber of Commerce office at 263-7641.

"All state park events are good business for the park," Alton said. "Money raised will be used toward maintenance of the park."

The state monitors the amount of traffic through the state park and the better the numbers, the better justification there is to keep the park open, according to Alton.

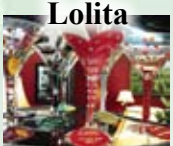
Awards will be presented to the top three places in three divisions; male, female and couples. There will also be a special prize drawing for the best Valentine's Day costume.

What makes your sweetheart so sweet?



To find out, go to www.bigspringherald.com and look to the right of the masthead.

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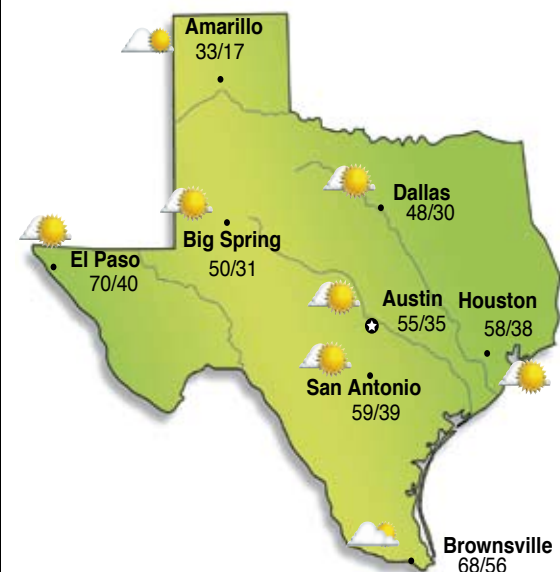
Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Sat 2/11	Sun 2/12	Mon 2/13	Tue 2/14	Wed 2/15
				
50/31 Except for a few afternoon clouds, mainly sunny. High near 50F.	43/39 Chance of showers. Highs in the low 40s and lows in the upper 30s.	68/35 Windy with morning clouds, then afternoon sun.	71/46 Sunshine. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the mid 40s.	68/41 Windy with a mix of sun and clouds.
Sunrise: 7:33 AM Sunset: 6:28 PM	Sunrise: 7:32 AM Sunset: 6:29 PM	Sunrise: 7:31 AM Sunset: 6:30 PM	Sunrise: 7:30 AM Sunset: 6:31 PM	Sunrise: 7:29 AM Sunset: 6:32 PM



Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	47	29	mst sunny	Kingsville	67	50	mst sunny
Amarillo	33	17	pt sunny	Livingston	56	30	mst sunny
Austin	55	35	mst sunny	Longview	50	29	mst sunny
Beaumont	58	33	mst sunny	Lubbock	41	21	pt sunny
Brownsville	68	56	cloudy	Lufkin	54	30	mst sunny
Brownwood	52	32	mst sunny	Midland	51	34	mst sunny
Corpus Christi	64	49	mst sunny	Raymondville	68	53	pt sunny
Corsicana	48	29	mst sunny	Rosenberg	59	38	mst sunny
Dallas	48	30	mst sunny	San Antonio	59	39	mst sunny
Del Rio	63	41	pt sunny	San Marcos	56	36	mst sunny
El Paso	70	40	mst sunny	Sulphur Springs	46	29	mst sunny
Fort Stockton	64	36	windy	Sweetwater	48	29	mst sunny
Gainesville	42	25	mst sunny	Tyler	49	28	mst sunny
Greenville	44	27	mst sunny	Weatherford	45	26	mst sunny
Houston	58	38	mst sunny	Wichita Falls	43	24	mst sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	41	21	windy	Minneapolis	19	9	mst sunny
Boston	34	17	snow	New York	38	24	mixed
Chicago	26	17	sn shower	Phoenix	75	51	mst sunny
Dallas	48	30	mst sunny	San Francisco	57	46	pt sunny
Denver	26	13	sn shower	Seattle	49	41	rain
Houston	58	38	mst sunny	St. Louis	27	18	pt sunny
Los Angeles	62	46	pt sunny	Washington, DC	43	25	mixed
Miami	78	52	rain				

Moon Phases



UV Index

Sat 2/11	Sun 2/12	Mon 2/13	Tue 2/14	Wed 2/15
5	3	5	5	5
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

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

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Bob Hicks

Bob Hicks, 72, of Coahoma, died Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2012, at his residence. Memorial celebration services will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 11, 2012, at the First Presbyterian Church in Coahoma. His friend and pastor, Tom Koger, will officiate and his life long friend, Karl Hoppess of Houston, will give a brief eulogy.

Bob was born Sept. 29, 1939, in Coahoma, Texas, and attended Coahoma High School. He was president of C&H Enterprises in Houston, Texas, for more than 40 years before returning to his home town of Coahoma. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Coahoma, serving as an elder and treasurer.

This was a loving and obstinate man, with an adoring family, who lived his life and planned his death exactly as he wanted.

Survivors include his wife, Pam Hicks of Coahoma; one daughter, Elaine Baranowski and husband Wayne of New Braunfels; one son, Robert Hicks of Alvin; two grandchildren, Shelly Davis and husband J.D. of New Braunfels and Jake Baranowski of Austin; two brothers, Henry Hicks of Lubbock and Ricky Hicks of Coahoma; one sister, Joyce Barrett of Coahoma; and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Sam and Ruby Elliott Hicks; and a brother, Roger Hicks.

The family suggests memorials be made to the First Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 94, Coahoma, Texas 79511.

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

Paid obituary

Federico 'Fred' Salgado

Federico "Fred" Salgado, 62, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2012, at his niece's residence. Vigil services and memorial services will be at 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 12, 2012, at Myers & Smith Chapel, with Deacon Johnny Arguello officiating.

He was born Nov. 13, 1949, in Vealmoor, Texas, to Virginia and Cirilo Salgado. He has been a lifetime resident of Howard County.

He married Alice Jimenez on June 26, 1971, in Midland, Texas. She preceded him in death Jan. 14, 2009. He was a self-employed carpet layer for more than 40 years. He was a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

He is survived by one daughter, Linda Salgado and husband Ramiro Mier of Big Spring; five grandchildren; mother, Virginia Salgado of Odessa; three sisters, Virginia Beltran and Manuela Salgado of Odessa and Minnie Vasquez and wife Porfirio of Albuquerque; and two brothers, Cirilo Salgado and wife Isabel and Tony Salgado and wife Maggie of Odessa.

In addition to his wife and father, he was preceded in death by one son Federico Salgado Jr., and three brothers, Marion Andrew Salgado Sr., Carlos Salgado and Oscar Salgado, and one sister, Mary Helen Salgado.

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

Obituaries

Judy Hokett

Judy Hokett, 80, of Big Spring, died Sunday, Feb. 5, 2012, in Lubbock. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Police blotter

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

- **IDENTITY THEFT** was reported:
In the 400 block of E. Fourth Street.
In the 400 block of E. Fourth Street.
- **BURGLARY OF HABITATION** was reported in the 1800 block of Nolan Street.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 1100 block of W. Third Street

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 56 inmates at the time of this report.

- **DAVID RAY POOL**, 52, was arrested Friday by Glasscock County Sheriff Office on a charge of class C assault family violence.

Support Groups

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 at 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.

MONDAY

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

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



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Comanche Trail Lake
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Convention and Visitors Bureau
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Feb. 18
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Patches of Webb exhibit
For more info contact
264-1999

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POLICY

Continued from Page 1A

election-year nightmare for the White House.

Women will still get guaranteed access to birth control without co-pays or premiums no matter where they work, a provision of Obama's health care law that he insisted must remain. But religious universities and hospitals that see contraception as an unconscionable violation of their faith can refuse to cover it, and insurance companies will then have to step in to do so.

Senior administration officials confirmed the details to the AP but insisted they remain anonymous in advance of the president's announcement.

By keeping free contracep-

tion for employers at religious workplaces — but providing a different way to do it — the White House will assert it gave no ground on the basic principle of full preventative care that matters most to Obama.

Yet, it also was clear that Obama felt he had no choice but to retreat on a three-week-old policy in the face of a fierce political furor that showed no signs of cooling.

The White House consulted leaders on both sides of the debate to forge a decision.

And officials said Obama has the legal authority to order insurance companies to provide free contraception coverage directly to workers. He will demand it in a new rule.

Following an intense White House debate that led to the original policy, officials said Obama seriously weighed the

concerns over religious liberty, leading to the revamped decision.

It was just on Jan. 20 that the Obama administration announced that religious-affiliated employers — outside of churches and houses of worship — had to cover birth control free of charge as preventative care for women. These hospitals, schools and charities were given an extra year to comply, until August 2013, but that concession failed to satisfy opponents, who responded with outrage.

Catholic cardinals and bishops across the country assailed the policy in Sunday Masses. Republican leaders in Congress promised emergency legislation to overturn Obama's move. The president's rivals in the race for the White House accused him of attacking religion. Prominent lawmakers from

Obama's own party began openly deriding the policy.

The sentiment on the other side, though, was also fierce. Women's groups, liberal religious leaders and health advocates pressed Obama not to cave in on the issue.

The furor has consumed media attention and threatened to undermine Obama's re-election bid just as he was in a stride over improving economic news. Political reality forced the White House to come up with a solution to a complex matter must faster than anticipated.

The fact that Obama himself will deliver the news was a sign of the stakes.

Under the new policy, religious employers will not be required to offer contraception and will not have to refer their employees to places that provide it.

If such an employer opts

out, the employer's insurance company must provide birth control for free in a separate arrangement with workers who want it.

The change will still take affect with an extra year built in, in August 2013.

Already, 28 states had required health insurance plans to cover birth control before the federal regulations were issued.

However, they appear to have differing exemptions for religious employers.

Obama's health care law requires most insurance plans to cover women's preventative services, without a co-pay, starting on Aug. 1, 2012. Those services include well women visits, domestic violence screening and contraception, all designed to encourage health care that many women may otherwise find unaffordable.

BSISD

Continued from Page 1A

back discussion on proposed bus routes. However, Pierce did deliver an update on other issues surrounding bus routes, including a lack of drivers. At the beginning of the school year, the ISD was short six drivers and was able to cut two positions, leaving a shortage of four. Recently, two more drivers have been lost and maintenance personnel have been filling in for those routes.

"Right now, we are having an issue finding bus drivers because we are in strict competition with the oilfield for that CDL (commercial drivers license) certification," Pierce said.

He reported bus drivers aren't the only workers hard to find. Maintenance, groundskeepers and several other areas in different departments are also hard to staff at this point. There is no way the school district can compete with the booming oilfield industry in regards to pay scale, he told the board.

"We will continue to get the kids there regardless," Pierce said. "We will figure it out,

but it's not easy right now."

Standardized dress code was a hot discussion topic Thursday night. High School Principal Mike Ritchey and Junior High Principal George Bancroft reported their findings on standardized dress code after having met with a committee and speaking with several students and parents.

"The first thing I did was go to the students," Ritchey said.

There was not an overwhelming positive response from either the parents or students, according to Ritchey. He raised the question, which he deemed to be of most importance: does BSISD have a dress code problem? The conclusion from Ritchey's findings — after speaking with other faculty members — was the problem does not exist enough to implement a standardized dress code.

"With all the new changes and all that is going on academically, with everything new we are doing with our students and pushing on them to think creatively and think outside the box and then to put a standardized dress code

... is kind of pulling against the direction we are wanting to go as far as freedom to think," Ritchey said.

Ritchey's recommendation was to put the idea on hold until the need for the dress code arises. He said if he could see proof of a need or how it improved academic success then it might be something to consider.

"At the high school level I think maybe we ought to slow it down, think on it some more," Ritchey said

Trustee Ken McIntosh agreed with Ritchey's recommendation. "My feelings were it would bring on a layer of resentment we just don't need right now," he said.

"We don't have a large percentage of dress code issues," Bancroft said. "If we do it, it should be about providing a very visible message and not necessarily one of discipline, but instead, sending the message that we are here for school. We are throwing a lot at a lot of people right now and to introduce that at this point is one more distraction."

According to Ritchey, when it comes to 90 percent of dress code viola-

tions at the high school level, the problems they see would not be solved with a standardized dress code. Most of the issues being dealt with in regards to dress code include saggy bottoms on the boys, piercings, hair issues and facial hair.

"The standardized dress code would not solve the sagging. If they are going to sag they are going to sag," Ritchey said. "Even if we implemented the standardized dress code we would still be dealing with 90 percent of the violations we are dealing with now."

From the beginning, several people expressed the possibility of pushing the proposal to the side for the time being. That way of thinking was reflected during Thursday night's meeting, as well.

"We want to be a school that values our students' voice and parents' voice. It's important the direction we are going is a direction where we are sensitive to the needs of our community and cognizant of those things we are trying to get accomplished and that is to be very aware of the academic needs of our kids," Su-

perintendent Steven Saldivar said. "We don't need to implement a dress code that wouldn't take care of the 90 percent of the problems we have. We need to take care of the 90 percent we do have instead of putting something else on the faculty while trying to implement a more engaged student population."

Athletic Director Philip Ritchey reported on the progress of installation of turf at Memorial Stadium.

According to Philip Ritchey, dirt should start being moved and rocks brought in for the laying of the new field within the next week or so. A design for the field has been decided upon. The project is estimated to be completed around the middle of May.

The other big item up for discussion was designation as an Early College High School. A meeting was recently held with the TEA representatives and several members of the design team.

In the upcoming year, Saldivar said information provided shows an additional six to eight designations being added to the 54 currently in existence for the 2012-13

school year.

"At this point our chances seem pretty good and our relationship with Howard College is a plus for us," Saldivar said.

The application for designation of Early College High School is expected to be finalized at the end of this month, according to Saldivar.

Action items turning out decisions included the renaming and approval of a resolution to rename the ATC (athletic training center) to the Dorothy Garrett Athletic Training Center.

Approval was also given to a proposed hazardous bus area map, which was brought up for discussion at last month's meeting.

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

FILING

Continued from Page 1A

election which has two at-large positions up for the taking. Lewis Boeker and Misty Rhoton are currently holding the seats. For those wanting to file for election, applications can be picked up at the superintendent's office at Forsan High School.

Big Spring ISD incumbents Maria Padilla, District 2; Tony Kennedy, District 4; and Ken McIntosh, who is filling in an unexpired term in District 3; have all thrown their names back into the race. Those running for District 2 and District 4 will be elected to a three-year term. However, McIntosh, if elected again, will serve the remain-

der of the term, which is two years. For those wanting to file, applications can be obtained from the business office in the administration building.

Coahoma ISD has three at-large positions also up for grabs. Board President Brian Moore, Jody Reid and Alan Wright are incumbents in those positions. According to Judy Dobbs,

assistant to the superintendent, there has not been anyone file for the open positions. Forms can be picked up at the Coahoma ISD administration office.

Early voting will take place at the Howard

County Courthouse starting April 30 for all area school districts.

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

DANCE

Continued from Page 1A

RC, described as an old favorite by Nabors, will be providing the entertainment for the dance.

"He plays a little bit of country, rock and roll and gospel. He plays a little bit of everything and he really puts on a good show," Nabors said.

There is no admission to the dance and all com-

munity members are invited to attend. Nabors said the senior citizens of the community are really encouraged to participate.

"This is a great time for the residents to spend time with their loved one and at the same time, allows the community to come and see what Canterbury has to offer," Nabors said. "This is when the residents get the chance to meet new friends and see

old friends they haven't seen in awhile."

To find out more information, contact Canterbury at 263-1265.

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



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Gail Whitney Legg, 94, died Tuesday. Graveside services were at 10 a.m. this morning at Trinity Memorial Park Peace Chapel.

Federico "Fred" Salgado, 62, died Wednesday. Vigil services and Memorial services will be at 7 p.m. Sunday, February 12, 2012 at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Judy Hokett, 80, died Sunday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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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

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

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Managing Editor

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

Steve Reagan
Staff Writer

Amanda Moreno
Staff Writer

Thomas Jenkins
Staff Writer

We salute:

Each week, the Herald salutes individuals and groups from our community and area who have been recognized for special achievements or accomplishments.

We recognize these special people for working to help make our region a better place to live, work and play

This week we salute:

- The 20 teams that have signed up for Relay For Life 2012 and the numerous volunteers and sponsors who have already jumped on board and started working on making this year's event one to remember.
- Big Spring Symphony and Haochen Zhang for providing a wonderful performance for the residents of the Crossroads and filling Garrett Hall this past Saturday.
- Big Spring Country Club for hosting this month's Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours and to all chamber members who came out and supported the event.
- All residents who are adhering to careful, safe burning even though the burn ban has been lifted.
- Boy Scouts of America for celebrating 102 years and still going strong.
- All candidates for school board and city councils who have thrown their names in the hat for the upcoming elections.

Is there an individual or organization in our community that you feel should be saluted? If so, please send us their name and why you think they should be recognized. We must have your name and telephone number and you must provide it in writing.

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- 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.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to newsdesk@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we develop a heavenly relationship with You, Lord, for our success.

Amen

Holding a chase for equality

Tuesday's ruling by a panel of three judges of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit holding unconstitutional the California ballot initiative that aimed to take the right to marry away from same-sex couples is hardly the last word in the debate. The court's ruling, unlike that of the district court below, did not purport to decide whether states must, in the first instance, give marriage licenses to same-sex couples, but only that, once they do, they cannot take them away for no good reason. Even so narrowed, the proponents of the ballot measure (not the state, which at this point is not defending it) are likely to seek further review by the full panel of Ninth Circuit judges or by the Supreme Court, or probably both.



SUSAN ESTRICH

provided in Tuesday's opinion, was a resounding no. Imagine if black judges were not allowed to sit in civil rights cases if they had ever experienced racism, or if women judges who had had abortions were disqualified from abortion rights cases. Judges are human: multiracial and ethnic and, yes, also heterosexual and homosexual and bisexual. If you ask me, diversity makes a panel better, not weaker. The Ninth Circuit did not disagree.

Then there was the big question. Judge Stephen Reinhardt, one of the nation's leading liberal jurists, a man of courage and conviction and long experience, delivered the opinion for two of the three members of the panel.

You might have expected him to go big and broad, to try to "make law" not just for California, but for the country, and maybe not even just for marriage, but for all rights. But that would mean you don't really know Judge Reinhardt. He understands too well how law is done. When pushing the boundaries, you do it one step at a time. In the civil rights era, then-NAACP Chief Counsel (and later Supreme Court Justice) Thurgood Marshall understood that you don't start desegregating schools with elementary schools. You start with law schools and then work your way through to colleges before taking on the neighborhood schools.

And so Reinhardt, rather than trying to answer the big question, made a point of making it smaller. The court was not trying to decide whether denying same-sex couples the right to marry is unconstitutional, but only whether the act of taking it away is. That might sound like a lawyer's distinction to the lay reader, and by definition I guess it is, but it is still a significant one. The argument here was not

that California had to change its law to accommodate the rights of gay citizens. It had already done so as a result of a state court decision. The question was whether that right could then be taken away. A state can only act based on a rational and legitimate purpose. It may not have to give you a benefit in the first place, but once it does, it needs a reason to take it away. That can't be done arbitrarily, for no good reason.

Of course, there is overlap between the narrower question and the broader one. My guess is that most of the people who are now nodding their heads in agreement would also agree with those court decisions that have held that, under their state's constitution, discrimination against gays in marriage is itself a denial of equality. And most of us, and I'm in this group, would reach the same conclusion under the U.S. Constitution.

But legal revolutions proceed in steps. One by one. That's how change tends to come, when it comes peacefully and with broad acceptance. Today the Ninth Circuit took the step of saying that California could not take the right to marry away from same-sex couples. Not too long ago, the very idea that any state would grant them such a right would be unthinkable. In the not too distant future, I trust, it will seem strange that it took us this long. Today was a step along the path, in the finest tradition of constitutional adjudication.

To find out more about Susan Estrich and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com.

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Romney: The dream Latino unifier

In our public schools, we taught them to be civic minded and to exercise their rights as Americans. There were no separate courses where young undocumented immigrants could learn how to be submissive second-class citizens. When they learned about Martin Luther King's dream, they felt they had the right to dream that way, too.

So let's not be surprised when we see them getting involved in the political process and speaking bluntly when they confront politicians. We taught them that marching, protesting and demonstrating for our civil rights is the American way. And they are about to show us how well they learned that lesson!

All over the country, without even national coordination, young undocumented immigrants already are confronting the presidential candidates who would deny them of their dream of going to college and becoming productive members of our society.

They are about to make the Development Relief Education Alien Minors Act a huge issue in the presidential race. The DREAM Act is the controversial legislation that would legalize young undocumented immigrants who were brought here as children if they attend at least two years of college or join the military. It's an issue that will demonstrate the clear difference between President Barack Obama and whomever turns out to be his Republican opponent.

While Obama has continuously urged Congress to pass the DREAM Act, his leading opponent, Mitt Romney, has vowed to veto it. Instead, while pandering to Latinos in Florida, Romney and Newt Gingrich proposed a military-only DREAM Act — another clear demonstration of their lack of compassion for these young people who consider themselves Americans and should not be treated differently.



MIGUEL PEREZ

In his blatant pandering to right-wing extremists in the first few GOP primaries, Romney went out of his way not only to oppose comprehensive immigration reform but even the light version of that reform.

"I absolutely believe that those who come here illegally should not be given favoritism or a special route to becoming permanent residents or citizens that's not given to those people who have stayed in line legally," Romney said in one of the GOP debates. "... I have indicated I would veto the DREAM Act if provisions included in that act to say that people who are here illegally, if they go to school here long enough, get a degree here that they can become permanent residents. I think that's a mistake. I think we have to follow the law and insist those who come here illegally, ultimately return home, apply and get in line with everyone else."

I say the mistake is Romney's failure to appreciate how such an extremist position would backfire on him in the general election. I say he chose the wrong issue to prove to right-wing extremists that he is really a conservative, especially since it hasn't worked. Knowing that he has flip-flopped on this issue, Conservatives still are reluctant to embrace him and Latinos are more motivated to vote against him.

Until now, politicians who oppose the DREAM Act have been somewhat sheltered by demographics.

They usually come from districts where Latinos and other pro-immigrant voters still are a small minority. While immigrant rights advocates have demonstrated that they can organize huge demonstrations in major U.S. cities, demographics have made it much more difficult for them to demonstrate their political strength.

But things are totally different now. With an anti-immigrant extremist like Romney leading the GOP race for president, now activists who support the DREAM Act will have one distinct DREAM target. The time has come for them to go beyond

shouting "Si Se Puede — Yes We Can" and to turn those words into a political movement.

And it's already happening! In New York City, DREAM Act activists shouted "Veto Romney" as the former Massachusetts governor headed for a campaign fundraiser. In Nevada, the "dreamers" organized a rally just in time for the GOP primary. In Miami, activists greeted the Romney campaign bus shouting "education not deportation" and three of them interrupted a Romney stump speech shouting, "Why are you trying to separate our families?"

After delivering a victory speech for winning the New Hampshire primary, Romney was reportedly approached by several DREAM Act activists. "I love this country. I'm a dreamer. I want you to support the DREAM Act, sir," one man reportedly told him. To which Romney dismissively responded, "Fine, thank you," and moved on.

Perhaps the most dramatic encounter came when a young Latina shook Romney's hand outside a New York hotel, identified herself as an undocumented immigrant and asked Romney, "Why aren't you supporting my dream?"

That young woman, Lucy Allain, later told reporters that Romney pulled his hand away when she revealed her immigration status, "as if I were a criminal."

Let's face it: By making an anti-immigrant extremist like Romney the frontrunner and likely-GOP nominee, by selecting the one who has gone father to the right on immigration than any of his already-draconian GOP opponents, the one who wants to make conditions so miserable that immigrants will have to "self-deport," Republicans are giving Latinos and immigrant rights activists a unifying opponent.

To find out more about Miguel Perez and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Church News

First Presbyterian Church, Coahoma

We meet at 11 a.m. Sunday led by Commissioned Lay Pastor Tom Koger.

The lectionary Bible study, led by Tom and Craig Holstedt, at 5:17 p.m. at First Presbyterian in Big Spring, meets Wednesdays.

The lectionary is II Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30; I Corinthians 9:24-27; Mark 1:40-45.

First Baptist Church

The mission center continues to serve about 40 families each week with 20 professions of faith in 2012. The pantry is in need of grocery items to restock for this ministry.

The associational men's rally at Circle 6 camp in Stanton will meet Monday at 5 p.m. for the dinner followed by a program from the Singing Men of West Texas and the speaker from Truett Seminary.

Sunday Pastor Mark Lindsey will begin a series of sermons on the last words of Christ on the cross leading up to the Easter services. Sunday school is at 9:30 a.m. and worship is at 10:50 a.m.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Sunday school is at 9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist is at 10:30 a.m. The Daily Grind with God — Coffee Hour is Wednesday at 10 a.m. in the parish hall. St.Mary's Vestry will hold their meeting Monday in the church library.

For more information about St. Mary's Episcopal Church, call 267-8201. St. Mary's is located at 1001 S. Goliad.

North Birdwell Lane United Methodist Church

North Birdwell Lane United Methodist Church meets for worship Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Following is Bible study led by Jacque Mauch. Pastor Billy Bates leads both worship services. Sunday school is at 9:30 a.m. Bill Lovelace will lead the adult class discussion on "Freed From Law Through Christ" taken from Galatians 3:1-14.

Plans for a youth confirmation class was discussed with more information being available at the next administrative board meeting. If your child is interested in this class, call 267-2203.

North Birdwell Lane United Methodist Church is located at 2702 N.Birdwell.

Spring Creek Fellowship

"Flywheel" is the next movie in our monthly movie lineup. This is the first movie from the makers of "Courageous", "Facing the Giants" and "Fireproof." The movie will show Saturday, Feb. 18, 2012, at 6 p.m. Popcorn and drinks will be available. Donations will be accepted as a youth fundraiser. No tickets needed.

"Repo Men" is the sermon series for February. The message this week is "Repossessing the Land."

Youth will be serving lunch on the second Sunday of each month following worship. Spaghetti is on the menu. Donations from these meals go toward youth activities, camp and other youth events.

Sunday school classes meet from 9:15-10:15 a.m. "Holy Grounds Café" is open from 10:15 a.m.-10:45 a.m. with snacks and fellowship. Worship is scheduled from 10:45 a.m. to noon. We meet Wednesdays for a meal at 5:30 p.m., Bible study, youth and children's activities at 6 p.m. Praise team practices at 7 p.m. Youth meets Wednesday evenings for junior and senior high students.

A weekly men's prayer breakfast and fellowship

is scheduled at 7:30 a.m. Saturday in the dining room at the church. "Between the Lines" women's ministry will meet again Friday, Feb. 17, 2012.

"Manna House" food pantry is low on supplies. Do what you can to help us stock up for the winter and spring. Contact Casie Fillingim and Jennifer Boyd for more information. "Free Indeed," a ministry of Spring Creek Fellowship, is in need of donations of new underwear, socks, coats, etc. for the cold months ahead. Monetary donations would be greatly appreciated, as well. If you would like any further information regarding any of our ministries or events, please contact the church office.

Spring Creek Fellowship meets at the College Park Shopping Center at 501 Birdwell Lane. Contact us at 432-714-4584 or visit our website at www.springcreekfellowship.org

Alive in Christ Lutheran Church LCMS

We are located at 2805 Lynn Drive. Our church phone number is 432-264-7818. Our website is <http://www.m2ctexas.org/chweb/aliveinchrist/>. Our e-mail address is aliveinchrist@crcom.net.

Sunday service is at 9 a.m. with Sunday school at 10:15 a.m.

Pastor Bob Boyce will conduct the worship service Sunday. His sermon title is "God's Action/Our Response" based on today's scripture readings.

David Carlisle will be reading the liturgy this Sunday. The readings are 2 Kings 5:1-14, Psalm 130, 1 Corinthians 10:(19-30) 31-11:1 and Mark 1:40-45. Anyone interested in reading, contact Dolline Budke.

The flowers on the altar are given by Bob and Jaunell Roeover in celebration of their 55th anniversary Feb. 16. If you are interested in donating flowers, sign up on the flower chart. The general consensus is to plan on using the flowers two or three weeks.

Pastor Carroll Kohl is on KBYG every morning for a devotion sponsored in part by the Lutheran Hour. Tune in to 106.3 FM or 1400 AM between 6:45 a.m. and 6:50 a.m. for "Morning Meditation Thoughts." Lutheran Hour Ministries can be heard on KBYG Sunday mornings.

Monday, the LWML will serve coffee/juice/refreshments at the VA. The Board of Education will meet Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the church.

Wednesday Mid-week school is for all ages. The meal is from 6 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Bible studies are from 6:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. The elders meet Feb. 16 at 7 p.m. at the church.

The LWML had a wonderful time at Jeanie Knocke's home last Thursday; everyone enjoyed the chance of fellowship and the delicious dishes. Thank you, Jeanie Knocke, for inviting us into your home.

The Board of Assimilation meets Feb. 28. Scheduled meetings for 7 p.m. at the church in March include: The LWML will meet March 8. Monday, March 12, the LWML will serve coffee/juice/refreshments at the VA. The Board of Education will meet March 13. The Elders meet March 15. The Board of Assimilation will meet March 27.

First United Methodist Church

Sunday, Pastor Bill Ivins will continue Old Testament studies with a sermon titled, "God the Law-giver" with scripture texts from Exodus and Leviticus. Services of worship are at 9:30 a.m. and 10:50 a.m. with Sunday school classes for all ages at 9:45 a.m.

Sunday evening Garrett Hall will be the scene of a lovely Valentine banquet. This catered event will begin at 5:30 p.m. and will include a sit-down dinner and live music provided by Eddie Vandewalker and members of various church music programs. Tickets are \$12 per person. Children are welcome, but childcare is also available.

Children's Day Out Ministry Valentine's Day

Celebration will be Monday. Later in the month the spotlight will be on dental and heart health. Dental Hygienist Heather Williams will visit the classrooms and share information with the children on caring for their teeth.

Wednesday noon Bible study and luncheon is held each week in Garrett Hall. Pastor Bill will continue the study "Down the Roman Road" featuring Paul's letters to the Corinthians. The meal will be catered by Al's Barbeque with serving at 11:50 a.m.

Real Life Wednesday is at 5:30 p.m. with a meal of chicken fingers, salad, dessert and peanut butter sandwiches, served by the Myth Busters Sunday school class. Adult studies, children's music and crafts and EPIC youth will meet following the meal. The children will be making cards to send on the mission trip to Nicaragua during their time. Remember to make reservations by calling the church if you plan to be there for the meal.

Tuesday the United Methodist Women will begin a study called "The Journey, Forgiveness and Reconciliation." Jane Jones and JoBeth Corwin will lead this study which uses stories from the Bible and recent history to illustrate the redemptive power of forgiveness. There will be four sessions, Monday, Feb 28, March 13, and March 27. Meetings will be held at 2 p.m. in youth hall and will last for about one hour.

First Presbyterian Church, Big Spring

The Lectionary Bible study, led by Craig Holstedt and Tom Koger, meets Wednesdays at 5:17 p.m. in the church library. The children's choir meets at 4:45 p.m. Wednesday. The chancel choir will practice at 6 p.m.

The Working Women's Bible study meets Tuesday at 6 p.m. to study Lesson 5 on the Beatitudes: Greatly Honored Are Those Who Show Mercy.

Presbyterian Women Bible Study will meet Tuesday, Feb. 28 at 2 p.m. in the church library for a study, led by Helen Glass, of Lesson 6: Greatly Honored Are the Pure in Heart.

The session will hold its monthly meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21. The youth group is watching the video "The Way I'm Wired" by Katie Brazelton in Sunday school. The discovery class concludes the Lee Stobel study The Case for Christ this week and will begin a study by Timothy Keller, senior pastor at Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Manhattan, entitled The Prodigal God.

We will have the annual congregational meeting after worship Sunday following a covered dish meal.

Helen Glass is in charge of "Take Ten" refreshments this week. Liturgist for February is Marj Carpenter. Ushers for the month are Rip and Claudie Patterson, Ellen Austin and James F. Little.

The lectionary is II Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30; I Corinthians 9:24-27; Mark 1:40-45. The chancel choir will offer the anthem "Sing a New Song" by Douglas Wagner and sing "Now Let Us All Praise God and Sing" by Gordon Young for the offertory.

Listen on KBST 1490 AM. at 11 a.m. To have a printed bulletin for Sunday services, call the church office at 263-4211. Visit our website at www.fpcbs.org.

First Church of the Nazarene

Sunday morning at 10 a.m. will be a new series of sermons on "Not a Fan" becoming a true follower of Christ. The series will be accompanied by several new life groups meeting different times and locations throughout the week.

The First Church of the Nazarene has partnered with Mid America Foods to provide low-cost, quality food to our community. We will begin distributing.

See **CHURCH**, Page 7A

Remembering green stuff and penicillin shots

In the past few days, I have had a lot of fun discussing penicillin shots and green stuff, with some email friends from my high-school days. Even though most of us haven't seen each other in forty something years, we are still bound together by the entangled roots we developed inside the constraints of the small container in which we were nourished.

For most of us, it wasn't a matter of being lumped together in a class of nineteen for our final year in high school. We all grew up together. We had the same teachers, shared the same childhood diseases, and knew each other's parents and siblings all the way through school. With so much in common, I find it interesting that our shared memories could be so tainted by personal experience.

The recent chat down memory lane started with one classmate remembering having had his throat mopped by "Coach" at school. In our little school, we only had one coach. Apparently there also was only one bottle of yucky throat-mopping solution as well, and anyone who complained of a sore throat was a candidate for the terrifying experience.

In the discussion about throat mopping, someone remembered that the bottle was green and that the label said, "For external use only." Some remembered the syrupy stuff inside the bottle being green. Others thought it was yellow or gold. But everyone who had ever had his or her throat mopped by "Coach" never admitted to having a sore throat again.

Somehow, all of the talk about throat mopping led to memories of the huge penicillin shots that we used to get at the "Clinic" that served our town.

I'm not sure if penicillin was really the cure for everything or if it was the only medicine that the nurse who gave our shots knew about. However, we all remembered that the shots were big and the needles were long. The memories differed though about the number of days in a row that we had to get a shot in order to be cured.

Although we don't always remember things the same way, the important thing is to remember those who have impacted our lives in some way. In his letter to the Philippians, the apostle Paul wrote, "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you" (Philippians 1:3 KJV).

While remembering green stuff and penicillin shots from our childhood experiences can be fun, the important thing is to be grateful for the friends who have helped to mold our lives.

Bonnie Wheat is an author and a minister's wife. She can be contacted at brwheat@sudden-link.net.



BONNIE
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Charles Myers

Attorney At Law

Family Law And
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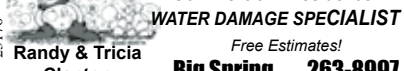


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CHURCH

Continued from Page 5A

uting boxes Feb. 25 from 11 a.m. until noon. You may order one of three ways; www.midamericafoods.com; Call 855-832-7238 to order by Visa or MasterCard or stop by 1400 S. Lancaster on Saturday, Feb. 18, to place an order by cash or check.

Church prayer time Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. and our adult/children/youth groups meet at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday evening.

Sunday morning youth and children's classes begin at 9 a.m. with children's church following. Adults are welcome for fellowship with coffee and snacks prior to 10 a.m. service. Kaylha Martin also keeps the youth energized with IMPACT on Sunday evening activities at 6:30 p.m.

First Church of the Nazarene is located at 1400 Lancaster. For more information, contact the church office at 432-267-7015. You can visit us on the web at www.nazfamily.org.

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We meet Sunday at 9:45 a.m., 10:45 a.m. and at 1:45 p.m. Children's church for children 6-12 years old at the 10:45 a.m. service.

East Side Baptist Church is located

at 1108 E. Sixth St. To find out more information, call 267-1915.

First Christian Church

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is located at 911 Goliad St. Sunday fellowship is at 9:30 a.m. with Sunday school at 9:45 a.m. Worship service is at 10:50 a.m. The Rev. Kenneth McIntosh will deliver the message "Running the race of life" from 1 Corinthians 9:1-12 Feb. 12.

The fellowship committee will meet Monday at 6 p.m. Wednesday the outreach committee will meet at 5 p.m., the choir and youth group will meet at 6 p.m. and the CWF Evening Circle will meet at 7 p.m. Worship committee will meet Feb. 18 at 11 a.m. and a potluck luncheon will be Feb. 19.

Breakfast with the Guys will be Saturday, Feb. 18 at 8 a.m. at Crispy's Cafe. Samaritan Counseling Center is 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday at the church.

Isaiah 58 needs a new kind of volunteer. The pantry receives food from Walmart three times a week. The food must be inspected, cleaned up and stacked for distribution. FCC is holding an empty egg carton drive for the eggs donated by Walmart. Call 268-9530 or the church office to help.

For information, call 432-517-4821, email fcbs125@yahoo.com or view our website at www.fcbspring.org.

Kingdom Preview

My wife and I like going to the movies. We don't like all movies. We prefer comedies; light-hearted dramas and uplifting stories. Some that stand out over the years are Sea Biscuit and Secretariat (we like horse stories), The Blind Side, The Greatest Game Ever Played and Chariots of Fire (we like sports), Mr. Holland's Opus, Freedom Writers, The Great Debaters and Akeelah and the Bee (we like movies about teachers making a difference). The best are usually based on true stories.

We try to get there early, grab a seat in the first row of the second section, you know, the one where you can prop your feet up on the rail in front of you. We settle in with our diet coke and popcorn, sit back and watch the previews of shows soon to be released. Like everyone else, we lean over and whisper to each other as we watch each trailer. "That one's not for us," or, "we'll have to see that one."

The Australian writer, Michael Frost, argues that the Christians and churches are to be like movie trailers for the Kingdom. We are to live in such a way that when others see us they say, "I want to be a part of that," or "I wish the world was like that." This is what Jesus meant when he said, "Let your light so shine that men may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

Whether we like it or not, our churches and our lives are being viewed like movie trailers by others. When non-believers look at our churches and our lives, they are whispering to themselves and to one another saying,

"I'll have to check that out," or, "I wouldn't want to be part of that."

Jesus presented the clearest preview of the Kingdom. He invited others to look at his life to see what the Kingdom looks like. He said, "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Luke 4:18-21).

The early followers of Jesus practiced Kingdom living in such a way that others were drawn to them and to their churches. This is why the Christian faith exploded in the first three centuries. People saw previews of the Kingdom practiced in the churches and the lives of believers, and they wanted to be part of it.

This is also the reason Christianity is stumbling in our day. Too often churches and Christians are selfish and self-centered, fighting among themselves and with others for dominance and control. When others see this, like patrons at a theater, they whisper to themselves, "That's not for me."

Every church and every believer must live in such a way that others see God's Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. This is what Paul meant when he said, "But thanks be to God, who ... manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place. For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing." (2 Cor. 2:14-15).

Bill Tinsley reflects on current events and life experience from a faith perspective. For more information visit www.tinsleycenter.com. Email bill@tinsleycenter.com.



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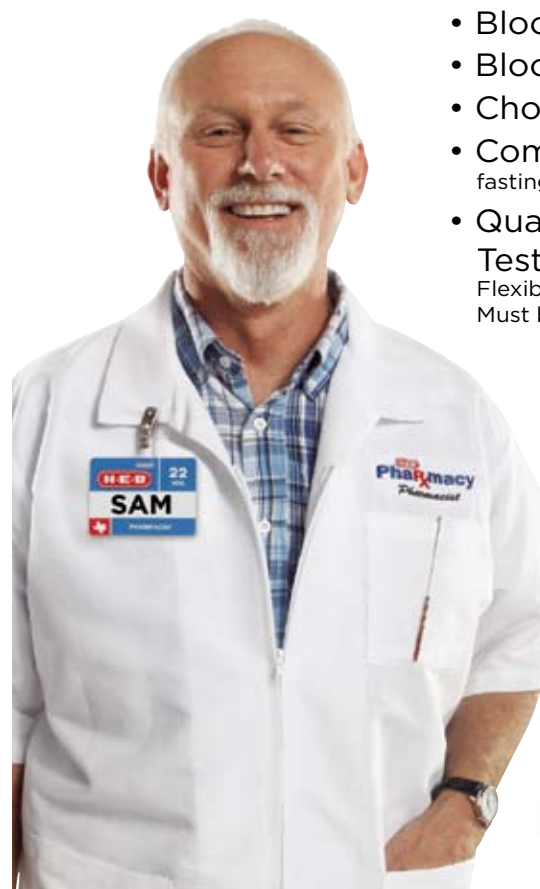
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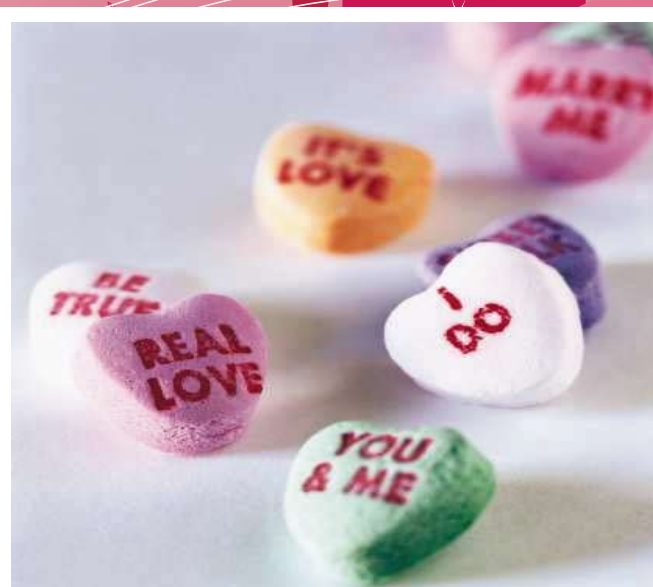
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Hot Hawks stomp Western Texas

HC women rally late, but fall short in 47-45 defeat Thursday

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

The Howard College men's basketball team is heating up at just the right time of the season.

For the second home game in a row, the Hawks started hot and cruised to a win, taking an 87-57 victory over Western Texas College in Western Junior College Athletic Conference action Thursday night in Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

With the win, the Hawks improved to 17-5 overall and 6-2 in conference play.

In the women's game, a late Howard rally fell short as the Hawks dropped a 47-45 decision to WTC.

Men's game

The Hawks have adopted a brutally effective strategy recently — don't miss your shots.

For the second time in three games, Howard came out blisteringly hot, going more than five

minutes without a miss and burying Western Texas under a barrage of three-pointers.

The Westerners (13-10, 1-7) were gifted a 1-point lead before the game started when officials assessed an administrative technical foul on the Hawks for dunking during warm-ups, but once the buzzer sounded, things changed in a hurry. Jacob Thomas buried a three-pointer — one of six in the game for the Columbia Heights, Minn. native — 20 seconds into the game and Howard was off on a 22-0 run that gave Howard control of the game for good.

Head Coach Mark Adams would like to see more of an inside scoring presence from his team, but conceded that three-point shooting — the Hawks sank 12 shots from beyond the arc Thursday — will largely dictate how far Howard ad-

See **HAWKS**, Page 2B



File photo

Shavon Coleman (23), shown in action earlier this season, scored 21 points to lead Howard College to an 87-57 win over Western Texas College Thursday night.

Sports Calendar

TODAY

Baseball

Northeast Texas CC vs. Howard College (DH), noon.
Coahoma at Jim Ned (scrimmage), 4 p.m.

Softball

Howard College at Cisco College (DH), 1 p.m.
Coahoma at Midland Lee (scrimmage), 4:30 p.m.

Girl's basketball

Odessa Permian at Big Spring, 6 p.m.

Boy's basketball

Denver City at Coahoma, 6:30 p.m.
Forsan at Lubbock Roosevelt, 6:30 p.m.
Abilene Wylie at Big Spring, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

Baseball

Northeast Texas CC at Howard College (DH), noon.

Softball

Big Spring vs. Midland High School/Greenwood (scrimmage), Midland, 1:15 p.m./5 p.m.

Women's basketball

Clarendon College at Howard College, 2 p.m.

To submit a calendar item, please call 263-7331, ext. 235, or e-mail reporter@bigspringherald.com

Coahoma to host powerlifting meet

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

COAHOMA — For many, mention the term power lifting, and images of big, bulky, sweaty guys come to mind.

But that's not totally the case, anymore — lifters are not all big, not all bulky and not all guys anymore.

The sweaty part, though? That's probably still the case.

The best high school lifters in the area will be in the Coahoma High School Gymnasium Saturday morning when CHS hosts its 11th annual meet. Aside from Coahoma, teams from Big Spring, Forsan, Garden City, Colorado City, Midland and other area schools will compete, CHS Coach Coley Dobbs said.

Competition will be in both team and individual categories. Points will be awarded to the top five finishers in each weight

class, Dobbs said.

Participants will compete in three different events — the squat, bench press and dead lift. Each lifter will get three attempts at each event, with their highest score counting toward their total.

Dobbs said the sport has changed significantly in recent years, no more so than with the increased participation by females.

"At first, you might see one or two girls at a meet," Dobbs said. "Now, you might see 50."

Host Coahoma will feature a strong boys' team and a young but improving girls' squad, Dobbs said.

The CHS boys, who have finished second in all three meets they've competed in this year, are led by a quartet of lifters who are poised to qualify for the regional meet next month.

Senior Justin Coker, who qualified for the state powerlifting meet two years ago, currently stands second in the region in his weight class and division. The 165-pounder has posted a combined weight of 1,250 pounds.

Peyton Rodriguez in the 181-pound weight class and Jordan Stokes at 242 pounds both are currently second in the region in their weight classes, while 275-pounder Dustin Fontana is currently seventh in the region.

"Those four went to the regional meet last year, and I'm hopeful they do the same this year," Dobbs said.

The top 10 individuals in each weight class qualify for the regional meet March 10, Dobbs said.

The CHS girls' team is young but has plenty of

See **CHS**, Page 2B

In brief

Little League baseball signups

Big Spring Little League will have signups from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the following Saturdays — Feb. 11 and 18 — and from Monday through Friday at the Big Spring Mall.

Little League baseball is open to youths ages 4 through 15. Registration fee is \$80 and a birth certificate is required.

The league will furnish jerseys, pants, belts and socks.

For more information, call Paige Jackson at 213-2066.

Coahoma softball signups Saturday

COAHOMA — The Coahoma Girls' Softball League will hold "early bird" registration for players from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 11 in the Coahoma Junior High School gym.

The league is open to girls ages 3 to 18. Cost is \$50 per child.

For more information, call Billy Newton at 325-207-2640 or Amy Overton at 432-816-1968.

Nowitzki keeps All-Star streak going

By BRIAN MAHONEY

AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK — Dirk Nowitzki's streak survives, despite one of the worst seasons of his career.

Two other old stars are no longer All-Stars.

Nowitzki was chosen Thursday to his 11th straight All-Star game, with coaches overlooking the lowest scoring average since his second NBA season in favor of his long-term excellence.

"It was a tough road back to full health for me, but I am honored that the coaches thought enough of me to make me an All-Star," Nowitzki said in a statement. "It has been a privilege to represent the Mavericks organization over the last decade and I look forward to doing it again in Orlando."

Paul Pierce will join him

despite his own slow start caused by a foot injury and was picked for the 10th time.

But Kevin Garnett wasn't chosen after 14 consecutive selections, and Tim Duncan was left out after 13 in a row. Other All-Star regulars such as Ray Allen and Amare Stoudemire will be home, giving way to five first-timers among the reserves: Portland's LaMarcus Aldridge, Marc Gasol of Memphis, Andre Iguodala of Philadelphia, Indiana's Roy Hibbert, and Chicago's Luol Deng.

Also headed to the Feb. 26 game are NBA assists leader Steve Nash of Phoenix, Tony Parker of San Antonio, Russell Westbrook of Oklahoma City, Kevin Love of Minnesota, Chris Bosh of Miami, Atlanta's Joe Johnson and Deron Williams of New Jersey.

Already voted to start by fans in the Eastern Conference were Orlando's Dwight Howard, LeBron James and Dwyane Wade of Miami, Chicago's Derrick Rose and New York's Carmelo Anthony. The West starters are the Lakers' Kobe Bryant and Andrew Bynum, Chris Paul and Blake Griffin of the Clippers, and Oklahoma City's Kevin Durant.

Coaches voted for the reserves, and they had a tough task in this lockout-shortened season, when they were given only about 25 games to evaluate players. That threatened to make it tough for Nowitzki and Pierce, whose bodies weren't ready to go after the lengthy offseason and brief training camps, and have played below their usual standards.

"I think it's too early. I'm

sitting on my couch when they announced the rosters and I'm floored. I didn't even know they had started the voting," Celtics coach Doc Rivers said.

But the coaches picked Nowitzki, the NBA finals MVP, even though his average of 17.6 points is his worst since he scored 17.5 per game in the 1999-00 season. The Mavericks shut him down for a few games to work on his conditioning, and even he wondered recently whether his streak would continue, given the depth of players in his position in the West.

Pierce has been a little better, winning last week's East player of the week award and hiking his average to 18.4 per game, but acknowledged during an interview on TNT before

See **NBA**, Page 2B

Rangers, Cruz strike \$16M, 2-year deal

By STEPHEN HAWKINS
AP Sports Writer

Nelson Cruz seems to be a perfect fit for the Texas Rangers with his potent bat and big personality.

With hopes of staying together even longer, AL championship series MVP Cruz and two-time defending AL champion Texas avoided arbitration by agreeing Thursday to a \$16 million, two-year contract.

“Nelson is a cornerstone of our team for what really

marks the whole turnaround of the franchise. He been part of the winning core, he’s a huge part of that,” assistant general manager Thad Levine said.

“He’s been big-time performer in the postseason. He’s part of the personality of this team, he plays the game with a ton of energy, a very dynamic player, true five-tool athlete.”

The deal, negotiated for Cruz by agents Sam and Seth Levinson, came eight days be-

fore a scheduled arbitration hearing. It includes another potential \$500,000 in performance bonuses and takes the 31-year-old slugging outfielder through his final two season of salary-arbitration eligibility.

Cruz and Levine both said there were talks of a longer deal going into his first seasons of potential free agency. They said there could be further conversations, but that the two-year agreement was the best way to settle things

at this point.

“This was the priority right now,” Cruz said. “Like I’ve said before, I would like to stay with the Rangers.”

The deal for Cruz came a day after slick-fielding shortstop Elvis Andrus completed a \$14.4 million, three-year contract on the eve of his scheduled arbitration hearing.

Cruz, who made \$3.65 million last season, had asked for \$7.5 million in arbitration and the team had offered \$5.5

million.

In last year’s six-game AL championship series against Detroit, Cruz had six home runs and 13 RBIs, both major league records for a postseason series. That included the first game-ending grand slam in postseason history. Cruz became the first player with extra-inning homers in two games of one series.

In 33 career playoff games, all over the last two years, Cruz has hit .270 with 14 homers and 27 RBIs.

NBA

Continued from Page 1B

the Celtics played the Lakers that he was a little surprised to be picked.

But he’ll go alone from Boston, a year after Garnett, Allen and Rajon Rondo went with him. Duncan was there last year, too, having never missed an All-Star

game since entering the league in the 1997-98 season.

“They’re getting older,” Rivers said. “It’s just, you know, change. It happens.”

Age didn’t stop Nash, averaging 10 assists and shooting 56 percent from the field. He became just the fourth player to earn an All-Star spot at 38 or older, joining Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Michael Jordan and Karl Ma-

lone.

Coaches had to pick two forwards, two guards, a center, and two players regardless of position. They couldn’t vote for one of their own players.

They favored team success, with only Nash, Williams and Gasol getting picked from teams with losing records.

That left out All-Star hopefuls such as Milwaukee’s Brandon Jen-

nings, the Knicks’ Stoudemire — who misses a chance to play near his Florida home — the Grizzlies’ Rudy Gay, and Golden State’s Monta Ellis. Houston’s Kyle Lowry also fell short in the West, where coaches picked three other point guards.

Minnesota’s awful record last season nearly cost Love, though he eventually made it as an injury replacement.

CHS

Continued from Page 1B

potential, Dobbs said.

Leading the team is 97-pound sophomore Megan Hurst, who qualified for the state meet last year and is currently sixth in the region in her weight class. Other notables on the team include junior Camie Stonerook, currently

sixth in the region at 165 pounds, and senior Minnie Goodblanket, who competes in the 114-pound weight class and qualified for the state meet as a freshman and sophomore.

The meet begins at 9 a.m. Saturday.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 235 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

HAWKS

Continued from Page 1B

advances this year.

“In the second half, our focus was to get into the paint more,” Adams said. “But our strength right now is our three-point shooting and that’s what we’re accentuating right now.”

Part of that inside presence Adams talked about — sophomore swing man Shavon Coleman — led all scorers with 21 points, while Thomas had 20 for the Hawks. Other Howard players in double figures were Phillip Miller

with 14 points and Calvin Godfrey with 12.

With the win, the Hawks remain tied with Odessa College for second place in the WJCAC standings, two games behind league leader South Plains.

Adams said he hopes his team can build on its current three-game win streak.

“It’s important we get some momentum and build on it,” he said. “We go to Roswell (N.M.) Monday and then we get into the heart of the conference schedule.”

6; Jean Michael Mudray 1 2-2 4; Jason Sharp 5 2-2 15; Daveon Thomas 1 0-0 2; Brandon Scott 3 2-2 11; Jalen Hughes 2 1-3 6; Terrance Nelson 2 0-0 4; totals 18 12-15 57.

HOWARD (87) — Jerry Dixon 1 0-0 2; Leon Cooper 2 1-2 6; Rico Richardson 2 2-2 6; Jacob Thomas 7 0-0 20; Calvin Godfrey 5 2-3 12; Phillip Miller 5 0-0 14; Shavon Coleman 10 0-0 21; Chad Posthumus 1 0-2 2; totals 34 7-11 87.

Halftime — Howard 39, Western 23; Three-point goals — Western 9 (Randle, Williams, Sharp 3, Scott 3, Hughes), Howard 12 (Cooper, Thomas 6, Miller 4, Coleman); Total fouls — Western 12, Howard 12; Fouled out — none; Technicals — Howard 2 (Dixon, administrative).

Women’s game

The Howard women find themselves in an opposite situation from

their male counterparts — their shots aren’t falling.

Kali Jerrell led all scorers with 19 points, and Midland sophomore Zeslie Johnson added 10, but the rest of the team combined for only 16 points, a situation that has Head Coach Earl Diddle highly concerned.

“We don’t shoot very well from three positions,” Diddle said. “We have two players we can count on to score and the rest are by committee. It’s a real jigsaw puzzle for us — it’s been a struggle to generate offense.”

Despite those offensive woes, the Hawks

came within inches of snatching the game away from Western in the final seconds.

Trailing 45-38 with 2:24 remaining, Johnson keyed a Howard rally with an 8-footer from the paint and Jerrell followed with a jumper to cut Western’s lead to three points with 1:56 remaining.

Shaylese Shofner hit a pair of free throws a minute later to put WTC back up by five, but Howard’s Tori Tucker canned a three-pointer with 33 seconds left to bring the Hawks to within two points of the lead.

After Elissa Betts missed the front end of a one-and-one with 13 seconds remaining, the Hawks had one last shot at the lead, but Marion Lemonnier’s three-point attempt with two seconds left fell short.

The loss drops Howard into fifth place in the WJCAC standings with a 2-5 league mark and puts the Hawks in jeopardy of missing next month’s Region V tournament.

“We’ve got five conference games left, and our backs are definitely against the wall,” Diddle said. “I like this team, but we have some things that we need to correct. It’s been that way all season ... but we’re certainly capable of doing it.”

Howard’s women return to non-conference action Saturday when they host Clarendon at 2 p.m. in Garrett Coliseum.

WESTERN TEXAS (47) — Breanna Burton 5 0-0 10; Elissa Betts 5 0-0 10; Brianna Sifford 1 0-0 2; Jessica McCarville 2 1-2 5; Miranda Grier 1 2-2 4; Ariel Callis 1 0-0 2; Shaylese Shofner 5 2-2 12; totals 20 5-7 47.

HOWARD (45) — Porsche Young 2 0-0 6; Kali Jarrell 7 2-2 19; Katlin Luscombe 0 1-2 1; Tori Tucker 1 0-0 3; Zeslie Johnson 5 0-0 10; Marion Lemonnier 1 2-2 4; Ja’Keyma Williams 1 0-0 2; totals 17 5-6 45.

Three-point goals — Howard 6 (Young 2, Jerrell 3, Tucker), Western 0; Total fouls — Western 9, Howard 11; Fouled out — none.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 235 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

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7	1	4	8	9	2	6	3	5
2	6	3	5	1	9	4	8	7
4	5	8	2	6	7	9	1	3
1	7	9	3	8	4	2	5	6
5	4	7	9	2	1	3	6	8
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Armstrong happy investigation over

AUSTIN (AP) — As far as Lance Armstrong is concerned, it's all over.

The stress, the waiting, the whispers about whether he doped during his stellar cycling career, all of it ended when — after nearly two years — federal prosecutors closed an investigation of him last week without bringing any charges.

"I'm happy. I'm glad it's behind me," Armstrong told The Associated Press on Thursday in his first interview since prosecutors announced they were dropping the case.

The seven-time Tour de France winner said he remained confident he would not be indicted, but admitted the weight of the long investigation took a toll on him personally.

"It's not a pleasant experience ... It was difficult at times," he said. "But I was confident that we would always end up in this place."

After speaking with the AP, Armstrong participated in a teleconference with media covering this weekend's triathlon in Panama City, Panama, where he is scheduled to compete.

For the now 40-year-old Armstrong, the federal government's decision should put a stop to any allegations or rumors about performance-enhancing drug use during his career.

"It's over," he said. "I'm moving on."

Armstrong maintains he has never failed a drug test, but he nonetheless became

the focus of investigators' attention after former teammates Floyd Landis accused him in 2010 of participating in a doping program.

Landis was stripped of his 2006 Tour title after failing a drug test. Armstrong won every Tour from 1999-2005.

A federal grand jury in Los Angeles looked at whether a doping program was established for Armstrong's team while, at least part of the time, it received government sponsorship from the U.S. Postal Service.

U.S. Attorney Andre Birotte Jr. announced last Friday his office had closed the case but did not give a reason.

The World Anti-Doping Agency followed up this week by urging the U.S. government to quickly hand over

evidence collected in the investigation. Meanwhile, the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency's investigation into doping in cycling is continuing. When Armstrong's case was closed last week, USADA CEO Travis Tygart said he looked forward to obtaining the information developed during the federal probe.

"I don't want to get bogged down with that. I'm not concerned with that. I'm not going to worry about that," Armstrong said.

Armstrong, who has been known to attack his critics in the media and on Twitter, had only issued a muted written statement in response to the end of the investigation when the decision was first announced.

He was reluctant to talk

much more about it on Thursday, but said he had a quiet celebration with his family when the investigation was closed.

"I hugged my kids, hugged my girlfriend and went and opened a cold beer," Armstrong said.

Although Armstrong was convinced that he would not be indicted, the cyclist said he was ready to fight a costly legal battle if he was.

"You had to consider all possibilities," he said.

Armstrong said he'll turn his attention in 2012 to competing in Ironman triathlons and supporting the California Cancer Research Act, a proposal to increase taxes on cigarettes by \$1 a pack to raise more than \$500 million a year.

Murray St., last undefeated college team, falls

MURRAY, Ky. (AP) — Steve Prohm had never lost a game as a head coach. He doesn't think much of what his first loss will do for his sleeping habits.

"I doubt (I'll get any sleep)," Prohm said Thursday night after No. 9 Murray State lost 72-68 to Tennessee State, ending the Racers' run as the last unbeaten team in Division I. "My parents are here, too. That's what makes it even worse. (A loss) is terrible, but then when your parents are here and they don't see you a lot it makes it even worse. It's the first time they've ever seen a game here (that) we lost in six years."

"But that means you're at a good program, first off. But no (I won't sleep) because I'll watch the tape and I'll be mad at myself and then they're building a house next door and they start building the house at 5:30 so I can't sleep any-ways after that so I'm rough right now."

Robert Covington had 17 points and eight rebounds to lead the Tigers.

The 37-year-old Prohm, who was an assistant at Murray State before replacing Billy Kennedy when he took the Texas A&M job, accepted the responsibility for the loss.

"I've got to do a better job in some areas to

make sure we're doing a better job executing at times," Prohm said. "But, I'm proud. I'm extremely proud of our guys. We had an amazing run, 23 wins in a row. I'm sure we set a lot of records along the way, but now we've got to be totally locked in on winning a conference championship."

Isaiah Canaan had 31 points and six rebounds for Murray State (23-1, 11-1 Ohio Valley Conference).

Murray State has won the last eight meetings against Tennessee State (16-10, 9-4) dating to 2008-09.

"Isaiah had 31 and was 7 for 10 from the 3 and 10 for 13 from the field and

some of the shots he was hitting, you just sit over there as an opposing coach and say 'Are you kidding me? ' You just can't defend any better,'" Tennessee State's John Cooper said. "But I thought we did a much better job on him in the second half and down the stretch in limiting his touches so he just did not control the game as much."

The Tigers led 69-68 when a turnover gave Murray State the ball with 11.2 seconds to play. Tennessee State stole the inbounds pass. Covington was fouled with 9.7 seconds left but he missed both free

throws.

Canaan turned the ball over and committed a foul with 3.5 seconds to play. Kenny Moore made two free throws to make it a three-point lead.

Murray State again turned the ball over on a long inbounds pass and Jordan Cyphers made one of two free throws to seal the upset.

"I'm very proud of our young men to be able to come here and win on the road," Cooper said. "It is certainly not an easy place to play, a packed house and a team that just stuck to it. There was a point where we were down

12 points in the second half but yet, and still we hung in there."

The Racers scored the first seven points of that game but they went more than 6 minutes without a field goal. The scoreless streak ended when Jewuan Long connected on a layup off a pass from Zay Jackson to give the Racers a one-point lead.

Jackson stole the ball with 33 seconds remaining in the first half. Canaan had the ball in his hands and as Prohm stood and pointed directions, the crowd stood and cheered. With 4 seconds left Canaan made a 3-pointer.

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Benn's goals pushes Stars to win

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — There are no pushovers at this point in an NHL season — even with a three-goal lead on the road.

Jamie Benn scored twice and Kari Lehtonen had 26 saves to make an early lead stand up in the Dallas Stars' 4-2 victory over the Columbus Blue Jackets on Thursday night.

But it was a struggle for a team in the middle of the playoff race against another club headed nowhere.

"It's going to be tough. Every year is, those last 30 games of the year," said Alex Goligoski, who had a goal and an assist for the Stars. "Everybody's fighting for position. And you've got other teams fighting for other reasons, for jobs and whatnot."

Stephane Robidas also had a goal and an assist, and Mike Ribeiro added two assists for the Stars, who began the night 12th in the Western Conference but just two points behind eighth-place Minnesota.

Up 3-0 barely 21 minutes in, it was still a battle as the Blue Jackets scored two power-play goals in the second period and then threatened to score several times down the stretch.

Columbus had several chances to get the tying goal in the final period. With 6 minutes left, Jeff Carter, who had goals in his last two games, hit the post on a hard shot from the right hash. Fedor Tyutin was just wide with another big slap shot with just over a minute remaining and Lehtonen smothered R.J. Umberger's redirect attempt with 29 seconds left.

"I thought he was real good," Stars coach Glen Galtzan said of Lehtonen. "He cleaned a lot of our stuff up. Most of our stuff was self-inflicted."

The Stars hung on to win their fourth in the last six games. The Blue Jackets failed to win their third in a row — something they haven't accomplished all sea-

son.

Dallas wasted little time in taking control, scoring twice in the opening 4½ minutes.

After a giveaway by Columbus' Samuel Pahlsson handed him the puck in the high slot, Benn wheeled and flicked a rising forehand shot into the top right corner for his 16th of the season.

Then the Blue Jackets lost a player and allowed a goal on the same play.

The Stars were swarming when Tomas Vincour's hard slap shot hit Columbus defenseman Marc Methot on the side of his face. The puck dropped almost straight down — where Goligoski was waiting to jam in the rebound.

Bleeding profusely, Methot skated away unaided, pressing a towel to his face to stem the flow. He did not return.

After the game, a team spokesman said Methot sustained a broken jaw.

The bad news didn't end there. Forward Jared Boll also broke his foot and will

be sidelined for an extensive period.

"It was a great start, getting those two goals was huge," Benn said. "Getting some momentum for our team on the road is big. We definitely want that in the first period."

Still on the power play to start the second period, the Stars pushed the lead to three when Robidas' high-velocity shot from the right point got past goalie Curtis Sanford, who couldn't see the puck due to congestion in front of the net.

Vinny Prospal and Rick Nash scored, and Tyutin and Derick Brassard had two assists apiece for Columbus. The Blue Jackets, 24th in the NHL with a man advantage, scored twice in the second period — both on power plays.

"I liked the way we battled back," Blue Jackets interim coach Todd Richards said. "I liked the way we fought all the way to the end. The problem was, we weren't ready at the start. We dug ourselves a

2-0 hole and we just couldn't overcome that deficit."

Benn closed the scoring on an empty-net goal with less than a second left.

"There's going to be no easy games. We know that," Goligoski said. "I think our work ethic was a lot better tonight. That was good to see."

NOTES: NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman was at the game, coming in hours after the official announcement of the 2013 Winter Classic between Detroit and Toronto at the University of Michigan's "Big House" ... Just 18 days before the trade deadline, scouts from Tampa Bay, St. Louis, Chicago, Vancouver, Montreal, New Jersey, Detroit, Ottawa, Nashville and San Jose were at the game. ... The Stars improved to 16-0-0 when leading after two periods, tied for first in the league. The last time they lost a game in regulation when leading going into the third was Oct. 31, 2009. Since then they are 57-0-5.

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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.

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

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By Steve Becker
Bidding Quiz

It is said that if you go to three different doctors to have an ailment diagnosed, you'll get three different opinions. Well, the same thing is true if you consult a group of bridge experts about a bidding problem. As proof, we offer the following question presented by Bridge World magazine many years ago to 44 nationally known experts.

You are South, both sides vulnerable. The bidding has been:

North	East	South	West
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	?	

What do you now bid with the following hand?

♠ Q5 ♥ J7 ♦ AJ7643 ♣ A96

The panel voted: 21 for two notrump; 18 for three clubs; five for two spades.

Here are comments by some of the panelists:

H.H. Harvey: "A clear-cut two-notrump bid."

L. Hazen: "Three clubs seems to give greater mobility, but I would accept two notrump or two spades." (Said Albert Morehead, who conducted the poll: "An amiable type, anyway.")

E. Kaplan: "Two spades. I'm not enthusiastic about the prospects of a notrump contract unless partner can bid two notrump over two spades. However, I do have good values for a spade contract, which I want to sug-

gest."

D. Oakie: "With a degree of restraint, I merely say that any answer other than two notrump will not reflect creditably upon the one who advocates it."

V. Remey: "Three clubs. Two notrump is a strong second choice, but I feel I have the right cards to justify a one-round force."

W. Rosen: "Two spades. After going to the two-level, a preference does justice to the hand."

A. Sheinwold: "Two notrump. Where, oh where, is the problem?" (Said Morehead: "We dunno. Have you seen your regular partner, Kaplan, lately?")

It can be seen that there was quite a diversity of opinion. This writer feels that a strong effort to reach game should be taken with these cards. Consequently, the three-club bid, which has the virtue of being forcing, is favored here.

Two spades seems inadequate because it is not sufficiently forward-going. Two notrump, although theoretically stronger than two spades, does not show the full strength of the hand, and might also make the wrong hand declarer in notrump (particularly if partner has the queen of clubs).

However, readers have the freedom to decide the issue for themselves. You pays yer money and you takes yer choice.

Tomorrow: Imaginative defense.

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Scola leads Rockets past Suns

PHOENIX (AP) — Chase Budinger and the Houston Rockets' reserves roughed up the Phoenix Suns.

Budinger scored 12 points while playing a team-high 31 points and starter Luis Scola had 16 points to help the Rockets outlast the Phoenix Suns 96-89 on Thursday night.

"The first half, we played so well," said Patrick Patterson, who had 14 points in a backup role. "We thought in the second half we could go out there and keep

passing the ball, sharing the ball, looking for each other, getting stops on defense and pushing it on transition. We feel that our second unit can go out there and compete with anybody."

Kyle Lowry scored 14 points, joining Scola as the only Houston starters in double figures, and the Rockets used a 57-13 edge in scoring from their backups to win their third straight and fourth in five games. Houston's reserves averaged 51.5 points in the Rockets' two victories

against Phoenix this season.

"All of those guys shot over 50 percent," Lowry said. "You can't do any better than that. You can't ask for no more."

The Rockets held Phoenix to five field goals and 13 points in the fourth quarter.

"We definitely tightened down our defense and just tried to make it as tough as possible for them and create chaos for them," Budinger said. "We were able to make some steals, get in the passing lanes and make it tough for them."

Houston also dominated on the glass, pulling down 12 offensive rebounds to Phoenix's five and scoring 22 second-chance points.

"These guys are relentless on the board so you've got to be able to put your body on them," Suns coach Alvin Gentry said after Rockets snapped his team's three-game winning streak. "You have to be able to pursue the ball and go get it. When you have good defensive possessions time after time and they get the ball back time after time, it's a little deflating."

Channing Frye, playing the entire second half, scored a season-high 21 points, and Marcin Gortat added 16 for the Suns. Steve Nash, selected to his eighth

All-Star game earlier Thursday, scored 14 points on 7-for-7 shooting and had 13 assists.

Michael Redd scored on a layup with 8:14 remaining to give the Suns an 81-80 lead. But Jordan Hill hit a 17-footer and Courtney Lee added a 17-foot pullup jumper to give the Rockets the lead for good at 84-81 with 7:30 to go.

The Suns pulled to 92-89 on Gortat's free throws with 2:18 left and had a chance to tie it with a 3-pointer. But Lowry tipped a cross-court lob pass into the Suns' backcourt, sprinted to the ball and made a layup to give Houston a 94-89 lead.

"We didn't convert in so many areas, so it makes it a really disappointing loss," Nash said. "You're going to have cold patches but you've got to find other ways to stay in the game."

Two Phoenix offensive fouls in the final minute, the first coming when the 6-foot-11 Gortat ran over the 6-foot Lowry, sealed the victory for the Rockets.

"I'm 5-2," said Lowry, laughing. "He didn't see me."

The Rockets' backups dominated play throughout the game, outscoring the Suns' reserves 17-3 over the first 6-plus minutes of the second quarter.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

The conjunction of Venus and Uranus can still be felt. It's as though these planets are conspiring to, as the French say, "épater la bourgeoisie." Loose translation: "shock the middle classes." You'll feel the transit wherever eyebrows are raised, automatic door locks are depressed and subjects are changed to something as innocuous as the weather.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You realize that relationships often are built over encounters

that are few and far between. In order for the relationship to gain momentum, someone has to take initiative. That someone is you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your many successes will be the subject of inquiry. People want to know how you did what you did. Additionally, some of them would like to know whether you can help them achieve similar results.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Mood swings are not always a negative occurrence. Today's shifts in feeling will be the cause of spontaneous excitement. In the future, you'll look back on today in wonderment.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Due to the uninspiring nature of mundane chores, it's often difficult to get started, though satisfying to finish. Handle things quickly, and it soon becomes second nature to keep the orderly groove going.



HOLIDAY
MATHIS

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). If you don't have the buy-in and support of your family, it will be very difficult to be successful in today's big tasks. So communicate your desire clearly, and try to get your people on board.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There will be a financial reversal in your household. The one who usually wants to save will spend, and the one who usually spends will save. Everything balances out in the end.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're a little obsessed right now with an object of desire. When you really want something, there's no point in putting it off. Move forward so you can check this one off your list and start thinking of other things.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Even though you are a strong individual, right now you are also quite impressionable. Use this to your advantage. Surround yourself with the kind of people you want to be more like.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Something is not working in your daily routine, and this may be causing you to feel tired or unwell. This is an easy fix once you pinpoint the

exact problem. Greater health and vitality will soon be yours.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll work on your mindset and make a conscious effort to think like a winner. Your mental take on things will have an effect on how you look, the way you carry yourself and how convincing you are to others.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Follow-through is a strength of yours. You'll commit fully to whatever action you take. And because you are feeling impulsive now, you might not think it through first. Luckily, your instincts won't steer you wrong.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). A former sweetie may romanticize about your past together, or an old pal might want to gab with you about the good old days. Gently nudge everyone into the present because there's a lot of good in what's going on now.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 10). It's your turn to have fun. Your internal search engine scans the world at large for the data that will contribute to your happiness. Professional achievement will be good for your

finances in March. Humor will be a cornerstone of your attitude. April's "setbacks" are a blessing, as they guide you to more fruitful efforts. Taurus and Gemini people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 25, 49, 30 and 14.

WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST: **ARIES:** How many times do you have to forgive someone to make it stick? Maybe five, maybe a million. Keep doing it. It's the only way to move on. **TAURUS:** Your heart isn't the easiest thing to win, and someone near is tantalized by the challenge. **GEMINI:** You'll be sensitive to how proud people can be, and you'll do your best to make others feel empowered around you. **CANCER:** You'll be the first to reach out and put an old battle to rest. **LEO:** Accepting a loved one's quirks will be easier than accepting the quirks of your loved one's family. **VIRGO:** Heartwarming move: Brag about your love when you know your love is in earshot. **LIBRA:** Your ultimate goal is to get to know your loved one so well that you always know how to elicit a smile. **SCORPIO:** You're fine with a loved one's

flaws. It's this kind of acceptance that helps a relationship blossom. **SAGITTARIUS:** You'll work a crowd and strike up a conversation with someone fascinating. **CAPRICORN:** You're fun to be with, a fact that radiates from your easy grace. **AQUARIUS:** A big heart trumps big intellect, wallet or social standing. **PISCES:** In trying to please many different people, you run the risk of disappointing the one you love most.

COUPLE OF THE WEEKEND: With the sun in Aquarius and the moon in Libra, these intellectual air signs could find themselves locked in a discussion that will last indefinitely. Feeding on each other's ability to sail the breadth and width of ideas, their combined creativity will spin into infinity. This is not merely a meeting of minds. These two should take long breaks from talking to enjoy the experience of sharing the same space.

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Legals

INVITATION TO BID
The Colorado Municipal Water District and Garney Companies are soliciting General Contractor, Subcontractor and supplier participation including those that qualify as SWMBE's for the following: **Bid Package 6 Above Slab Work for the Ward County Water Supply Expansion Project.** Bid Deadline is March 1, 2012 at 3:30 p.m. Bid will be received at CRMWD 400 E. 24th Street, Big Spring, TX 79721-0869. For more information contact Marcus Grace at (816)536-6485 or email mgrace@garney.com Garney Companies, Inc is an Employment/Opportunity Employer. #7254 February 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 2012

Dear Margo: My husband, our children and I recently moved to a new town. Through the children, really, I've met a group of women. They apparently are longtime friends, and one of them invited me to their Wednesday mothers group for lunch.

I have to say, they were being kind of snippy to me, challenging things I said, and no one seemed welcoming or simpatico at all.

I almost didn't trust my own judgment because I was thinking: If they didn't like me, why bother to invite me over? It almost felt like bullying — which I thought only happened to children.

Can there even be grownup "mean girls"? I hope you don't think,

reading this, that I am hypersensitive or even making things up. — *New Girl in Town*

Dear New: Actually, I don't. And yes, there can, indeed, be "grownup mean girls." As with children, "the new kid" is often targeted. It happened to me when I was in early middle age and moved to a new city.

I became friendly with a woman who was a neighbor. She invited me to go to a spa with her and some good friends. I thought that would be wonderful — never having traveled with women before.

Well, it wasn't wonderful, and for reasons unknown to me, they seemed to be going out of their way to make me uncomfortable — especially my neighbor.

At one dinner, things were so bad that I left the table, went to the ladies room and threw up.

Like you, I thought: Why did they even bother

to invite me? Then I saw on the spa literature that a group got 10 percent off for every new person they brought. I wondered why they hadn't invited someone they liked to get the discount.

In any case, this is all by way of letting you know that the problem is not you; they are the problem. The reasons can be cliquishness, envy ... or perhaps they really are just mean girls. It is a fact that some people are cruel without even knowing why. — *Margo, discerning*

When Lost Is Found...

Dear Margo: In 1965, my uncle gave up his son for adoption. His sister knew about the baby, but my dad, as the youngest, didn't find out until my uncle died a few years ago.

My uncle ended up getting married and having two other children who don't know about their brother. My uncle's

sister and his biological son (her nephew) found each other on Facebook, and she wants to let my other cousins know that they have an older brother they have never met.

I agree that my cousins should have the opportunity to meet their brother, especially since he has posted publicly on Facebook that he is searching for his siblings and has already lost the chance to meet his biological father.

I think my aunt should give my cousin his siblings' phone numbers, or at least full names, so he can do with the information as he pleases.

My mom feels we should respect my uncle's wishes that his wife and children never find out about his firstborn son. My dad thinks my grandma (my uncle's mother) should be the one to tell my cousins about their older brother, and my brother just

wants us to stay out of it. What do you think should be done in this situation? — *Biological Cousin in Northern California*

Dear Bio: Your uncle is gone, and the cat's already out of the bag, if you'll excuse that analogy in this context. The connection has been made, if only to a limited degree — although your family seems to know. I agree with your brother that the rest of you should stay out of it and let your late uncle's sister decide who should know what. They were siblings, after all. Now, don't you feel relieved? All the rest of you can mind your own business and not have to second-guess yourselves. — *Margo, carefully*

Dear Margo is written by Margo Howard, Ann Landers' daughter. All letters must be sent via the online form at www.creators.com/dearmargo. Due to a high volume of e-mail, not all letters will be answered. © 2012 MARGO HOWARD DISTRIBUTED BY CREATORS.COM

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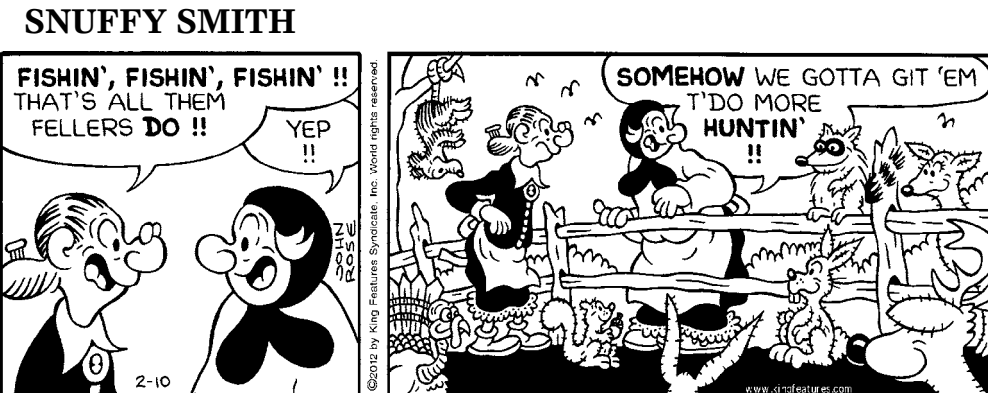
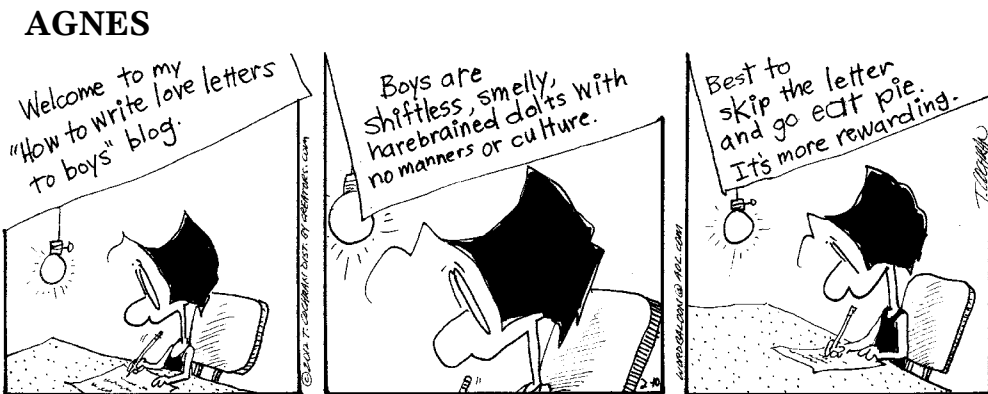
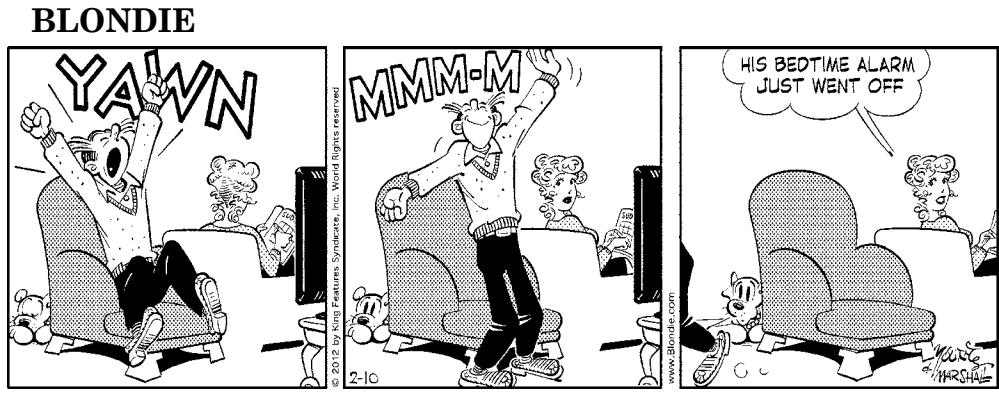
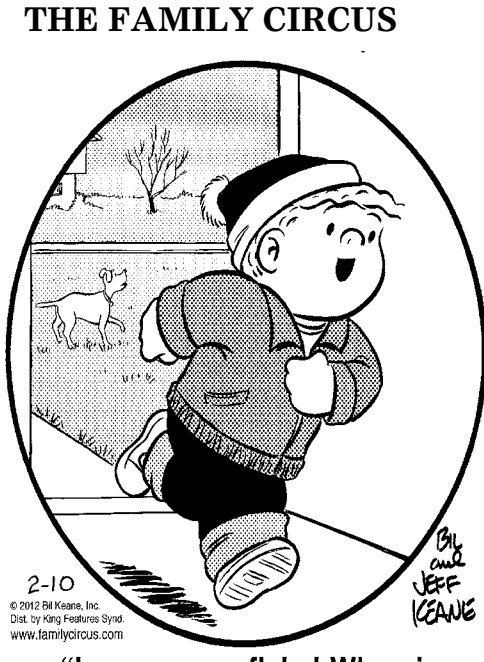
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	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5 :PM	News ABC	Alma Notic.	Two Men Big Bang	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News News	King King	Bible Enarson	Charlie Rose	'Til Death King	Gold Rush	CSI: Miami	Gangland	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Shake It Good	NFL32	SportsCenter
6 :PM	Jeopardy!	Una Familia con Suerte (SS)	Big Bang Kitchen Nightmares	News Ent	Caso Cerrado	News Millionaire	Seinfeld	Dr. Denis Upd	PBS News-Hour	Seinfeld Seinfeld	Gold Rush	CSI: Miami	Gangland	Law & Order		Shake It	Pardon	
7 :PM	Shark Tank			A Gifted Man	Una Maid en	Who Do You	Payne	Door-Wisdom	Wash. Need	Nikita	Gold Rush	Movie: Blade Runner, Sean Young	Movie: Pay-back, Maria Bello	Law & Order	Movie: Hot Boyz, Jeff Speakman	Shake It Jessie Phineas	High School Basketball	NBA Basketball: Lakers at Knicks
8 :PM	Primetime: What	La Que No	Fringe	CSI: NY	Flor Salvaje (SS)	Grimm	Payne	Best of Light of the Southwest	American Songbook	Supernatural	Gold Rush			Movie: Old School, Vince Vaughn		Fish ANT Farm	Boxing	
9 :PM	20/20	Rosa de Guadalupe	Simpsons How I Met	Blue Bloods	Relaciones Peli	Dateline NBC	Movie: Road Trip, D. J. Qualls	Upd Alewine	American Songbook	Cops 'Til Death King	Bering Sea Gold	Movie: Blade Runner, Sean Young	Movie: Behind Enemy Lines, Gabriel Macht	Franklin & Bash	Movie: Belly 2: Millionaire Boyz Club	Austin Good		NBA Basketball: Thunder at Jazz
10 :PM	News Nightline	Impacto	How I Met	News Letterman	Noticias	News Jay Leno		Baruch	World	Roseanne	Bering Sea Gold	CSI: Miami	Gangland	Franklin & Bash	Wendy Williams	ANT Farm	SportsCenter	
11 :PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Hasta-Dinero	Law Order: CI	Late	Boxeo Telemundo (SS)	Late Night	Movie: Without a Paddle, Dax Shepard	Dr. Yohanan CCM	(Off Air)	T. Smiley	Gold Rush			Movie: Old School, Vince Vaughn	Movie: Hot Boyz, Jeff Speakman	Shake It	NBA	SportsCenter
12 :AM	Extra Paid	Mañana-Siempre	Raymond Fam. Guy	Insider	Camara Pagado	(:36) News										Shake It	NFL Live	
1 :AM	Paid Paid	La Jaula Par Ases	American TMZ	Ent Paid	Pagado	Pagado										Phineas (:25) Movie:	Numbers	SportsCenter



This Date In History

Today is Friday, Feb. 10, the 41st day of 2012. There are 325 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 10, 1962, the Soviet Union exchanged captured American U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers for Rudolf Abel, a Soviet spy held by the United States.

On this date:

In 1763, Britain, Spain and France signed the Treaty of Paris, ending the Seven Years' War.

In 1840, Britain's Queen Victoria married Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha.

In 1841, Upper Canada and Lower Canada were proclaimed united under an Act of Union passed by the British Parliament.

In 1912, Joseph Lister, the "Father of Antiseptic Surgery," died in Walmer, Kent, England, at age 84.

In 1942, the former French liner Normandie capsized in

New York Harbor a day after it caught fire while being refitted for the U.S. Navy. RCA Victor presented Glenn Miller and his Orchestra with a "gold record" for their recording of "Chattanooga Choo Choo," which had sold more than 1 million copies.

In 1949, Arthur Miller's play "Death of a Salesman" opened at Broadway's Morosco Theater with Lee J. Cobb as Willy Loman.

In 1962, Republican George W. Romney announced his ultimately successful candidacy for governor of Michigan.

In 1967, the 25th Amendment to the Constitution, dealing with presidential disability and succession, was ratified as Minnesota and Nevada adopted it.

In 1968, U.S. figure skater Peggy Fleming won America's only gold medal of the Winter Olympic Games in Grenoble, France.

In 1981, eight people were killed when a fire set by a bus-boy broke out at the Las Vegas Hilton hotel-casino.

In 1992, boxer Mike Tyson was convicted in Indianapolis of raping Desiree Washington, a Miss Black America contes-

tant. (Tyson served three years in prison.) Author Alex Haley died in Seattle at age 70.

In 2005, playwright Arthur Miller died in Roxbury, Conn., at age 89 on the 56th anniversary of the Broadway opening of his "Death of a Salesman."

Today's Birthdays: Opera singer Leontyne Price is 85. Actor Robert Wagner is 82. Rock musician Don Wilson (The Ventures) is 79. Singer Roberta Flack is 75. Singer Jimmy Merchant (Frankie Lymon and the Teenagers) is 72. Rock musician Bob Spalding (The Ventures) is 65. Olympic gold-medal swimmer Mark Spitz is 62. Walt Disney Co. president and chief executive Robert Iger is 61.

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Answer to previous puzzle

EARTH	HURT	RAM
ALOHA	MOPER	ODE
RAVENS	SYMONE	BAT
LIEN	EMINEM	IPO
	REDYE	GOINTO
DAMAGE	FERAL	
IRA	ORCHID	GEEK
PERMS	AOL	SOAVE
SATE	GREASE	CAN
	INPUT	TECHNO
TANDEM	SCORE	
EAR	ASHTON	LAMA
MRI	RHEAPER	LIAN
POT	LORNE	CAIRO
TNT	SEED	ARDEN

Newsday Crossword

THEY'RE NO GOOD by Richard Silvestri
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Bridge coup

5 Litterbug, e.g.

9 Makes out

14 Hybrid or hatchback

15 Sponge feature

16 Coral creation

17 Not very busy

18 Flash of inspiration

19 Less than seaworthy

20 Cairo beach patrons?

23 Pocket filler of rhyme

24 Animal house

25 Predict

29 Place for a snake

32 Dot follower

35 Soot system of yore

37 Rub the wrong way

38 Mythical ship

39 Big-tine sport?

42 Rogues

43 Wool-coat owner

44 Probed, with "into"

45 Behave like

46 Nottingham river

48 Strapped

49 HBO alternative

50 Biblical transport

52 Ruler over everything?

60 35 Across component

61 Hummus holder

62 "Mother of Presidents" claimant

63 Please, in Potsdam

64 At any time

65 Stoic philosopher

66 Got up

67 Social outcast

68 Warning sign

DOWN

1 Get fresh with

2 Humdinger

3 Lots and lots

4 Freshly cut

5 Full of quills

6 Stuck

7 City near Provo

8 Steady guy

9 Conquered

10 Had leftovers, perhaps

11 Ramble

12 Group with a Grand Exalted Ruler

13 Roguish

21 Discount rack abbr.

22 Laced, as punch

25 Adoption agcy.

26 Type of drain pipe

27 Hollow stone

28 Caterer's devices

30 Ascended

31 Floating refuge

32 Desire strongly

33 Made eyes at

34 Antiquated

36 Shakespearean king

38 Up to snuff

40 Blow away

41 Stressed

46 Eric's nickname

47 Winery worker

49 Handle

51 Pottery fragment

52 Call it a day

53 Golden Rule word

54 Pop the tab on

55 Popular shift ender

56 Dunce

57 "Excuse me . . ."

58 Popular shift starter

59 Dunce

60 Basic cable channel

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
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