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Obituaries

Domingo Rocha



Domingo Silva Rocha, 65, of Big Spring, died Saturday, March 19, 2016 in a Lubbock hospital. Funeral Mass will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 23, 2016 at the Holy Trinity Catholic Parish. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

A Prayer Vigil will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 22, 2016 at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel.

Domingo was born Aug. 4, 1950 in Big Spring, and married Sylvia Salazar June, 14, 2014 in Big

Spring.

Domingo is survived by his wife, Sylvia Rocha of Big Spring; three brothers, Guadalupe Rocha and wife, Carmen of San Angelo, Marcos Rocha and wife, Ramona of Big Spring, and Roman Rocha of Kyle, Texas; three sisters, Bernarda Alviar and husband, Doroteo II of Big Spring, Elodia Galindo and husband, Oscar of Chandler, Ariz., and Mary Jane Leyva and husband, Jake of Bryan, Texas.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Demetrio and Monica Rocha; one sister, Teresa Rocha; and one brother, Joe Rocha.

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

Robert Coombes

Robert Coombes, 82, of Big Spring died Wednesday, March 16, 2016, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Local 5-Day Forecast				
Tue 3/22	Wed 3/23	Thu 3/24	Fri 3/25	Sat 3/26
 83/52 Sunny with gusty winds. High 83F. Winds SSW at 25 to 35 mph. Winds could occasionally gust over 40 mph. Sunrise: 7:46 AM Sunset: 7:59 PM	 77/38 Sunny and windy. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the upper 30s. Sunrise: 7:45 AM Sunset: 8:00 PM	 66/40 Sunshine. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the low 40s. Sunrise: 7:43 AM Sunset: 8:00 PM	 75/48 Sunshine. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the upper 40s. Sunrise: 7:42 AM Sunset: 8:01 PM	 78/40 Abundant sunshine. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the low 40s. Sunrise: 7:41 AM Sunset: 8:02 PM

Texas at a Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Ablene	71	49	Sunny	Kingsville	70	51	Sunny
Amarillo	81	49	Sunny	Livingston	67	44	Sunny
Austin	68	48	Sunny	Longview	64	42	Sunny
Beaumont	65	46	Sunny	Lubbock	78	46	Sunny/Wind
Brownsville	69	57	Sunny	Lufkin	65	41	Sunny
Brownwood	70	44	Sunny	Midland	76	49	Sunny
Corpus Christi	69	56	Sunny	Raymondville	72	55	Sunny
Corsicana	66	47	Sunny	Rosenberg	67	48	Sunny
Dallas	67	48	Sunny	San Antonio	69	47	Sunny
Del Rio	72	48	Sunny	San Marcos	68	45	Sunny
El Paso	81	53	Sunny	Sulphur Springs	64	48	Sunny
Fort Stockton	80	54	Sunny	Sweetwater	72	50	Sunny
Gainesville	65	47	Sunny	Tyler	65	44	Sunny
Greenville	64	46	Sunny	Weatherford	68	48	Sunny
Houston	68	48	Sunny	Wichita Falls	72	50	Sunny

Sheriff

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

Note – Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 83 inmates at the time of this re

- **ERNEST AGUINAGA**, 30, was booked by the BSPD on warrants for defective or no headlamps and violate promise to appear.
- **MONICA LYNN BASSETT**, 45, was booked by the HCSO on a warrant for criminal trespass.
- **JOSHUA MOISES BASURTO**, 23, was booked by the BSPD on warrants for theft of property, less than \$100 and failure to appear.
- **COURTNEY MARIE BOYD**, 24, was booked by the HCSO on charges of possession of marijuana, less than 2 ounces and assault that causes bodily injury to a family member.
- **GEEZISS FRENCH**, 36, was booked by the RSO on warrants for failure to maintain financial responsibility and failure to appear.
- **NOEL GARCIA II**, 34, was booked by the HCSO on warrants for bondsman off bond – forgery financial instrument and failure to appear – forgery financial instrument.
- **STEPHEN KYLE GAY**, 32, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid with previous convictions/suspensions.
- **ROBERTO DENNIS GONZALES**, 18, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana, less than 2 ounces.
- **LUPE GUTIERREZ**, 38, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of theft of property, more than \$100 but less than \$750.
- **BRANDON TREY JONES**, 26, was booked by the RSO on a charge of driving while intoxicated/open alcoholic container.
- **JORDAN LEE KOSKI**, 27, was booked by the BSPD on a warrant for false report to police/law officer.
- **JUDY MARIE LEE**, 36, was booked by the BSPD on a warrant for failure to appear – contempt of court.
- **CHRISTOPHER MATTHEW LOPEZ**, 17, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana, less than 2 ounces.

controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia and a warrant for another agency.

- **STEPHEN KYLE GAY**, 32, of 1509 Wood St. was arrested on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **CODY JAMES NALL**, 32, of 602 E. 16th St. was arrested on a charge of possession of marijuana, more than 2 ounces but less than 4 ounces.
- **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 800 block of E. 20th St.
- **MINOR ACCIDENT** was reported at the intersection of Wasson and FM 700 and the 2000 block of S. Gregg St.
- **MAJOR ACCIDENT** was reported at the intersection of 18th and Gregg St.
- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 3000 block of Cherokee St.
- **BURGLARY OF A BUILDING** was reported in the 100 block of Owens St.

- **MICHAEL EUGENE MENEFIELD**, 24, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance, less than one gram and warrants for no license plate light and failure to appear.
- **WILLIAM ANTHONY MORRIS**, 33, was booked by the HCSO on a warrant for burglary of a vehicle.
- **PATRICIA RODRIQUEZ MOSQUEDA**, 40, was booked by the RSO on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- **CODY JAMES NALL**, 33, was booked by the BSPD on charge for possession of marijuana, more than 2 ounces but less than 4 ounces.
- **ALEX FERRELL PAREDEZ**, 24, was booked by the BSPD on warrants for burglary of a building and theft of property, more than \$500 but less than \$1,500.
- **MICHAEL DALE PARKER**, 30, was booked by the BSPD on charges of possession of a controlled substance, less than one gram and possession of drug paraphernalia and a warrant for manufacturing/possession of marijuana, less than 2 ounces.
- **KEITH WAYNE RICH**, 35, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- **TIMOTHY JOHN RIOS JR.**, 18, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana, less than 2 ounces.
- **CALEB LEE ROBERTSON**, 39, was booked by the HCSO on a warrant for unlawfully carrying a weapon.
- **DAVID SCOTT ROBERTSON**, 36, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid with previous convictions/suspensions.
- **STEPHANIE G. SCROGGINS**, 46, was booked by the BSPD on warrants for display expired license plate/registration, expired driver's license, violate promise to appear and expired registration.
- **JOHN HUNTER WILLIAMS**, 23, was booked by the HCSO on charges of possession of marijuana, less than 2 ounces and assault that causes bodily injury to a family member and warrants for display expired license plates/registration and possession or delivery of drug paraphernalia.

Support Groups

TUESDAY

- Big Spring and Snyder Parkinsons Support Group meeting at the Big Spring Senior Center at 10:30 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month. This is a group for all Parkinson's disease patients, spouses and caregivers. For more information about the support group or about Parkinson's Disease, contact Jo Bidwell at the Lubbock APDA office at 806-785-0942

- VA Alcoholics Anonymous support group, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Veterans Healing Center.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; newcomers meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- Al-Anon, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

- RSD (Reflex

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

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

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TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

D & I Silica, LLC has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for issuance of Air Quality Permit No. 139164, which would authorize the bulk sand handling facility located at 3605 Bethel Drive, Big Spring, Howard County, Texas 79720. Additional information concerning this application is contained in the public notice section of this newspaper.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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267255

Poetry, music to highlight annual Forrest Fest

The 16th Annual Forrest Fest, an annual poetry and music festival, is scheduled for Friday, April 15, and Saturday, April 16 at Forrest Park Community Center in Lamesa. The public is invited and there is no charge to attend.

The festival will open on Friday with registration in the Community Building at S. 8th and Houston Avenue beginning at 2 p.m. Music for the reception will be provided by Ruben Baca of Hobbs, N.M. and friends. A book and CD release party will begin at 7:30 p.m. for poets and/or musicians who have released work this year and will include Cynthia Ruby of Odessa; Aurelio Arlie Sanchez of Albuquerque; Daniel Ramos of Midland, and others.

The Saturday festivities will begin with coffee in the center at 8 a.m. followed by a 9 a.m. invocation and celebration of trees that the festival has planted in the park. Workshops and open mic events are scheduled throughout the day. All attendees are invited to participate in the workshops and open mics.

For those traveling from out of town, there is free RV and tent parking in Forrest Park.

Featured guests include Thom the World Poet from Austin, Texas; Trevor Wainright from Great Britain; Eric Tiexiera of Phoenix; Phrank Bramlett of Albuquerque; Phillip Abbott of San Antonio; Kayla Brown of San Marcos; Sarah Hutchcraft of Austin; Desiree Henley of

Abilene and Glen Walton of Lomita, Texas among others.

Poems for consideration for the Forrest Fest Lamesa 2016 Anthology will be accepted through April 1. This Anthology is published in memory of Peggy Zuleika Lynch, founder of Poetry in the Arts (PITA) and esteemed member of the Poetry Society of Texas, a long time supporter of Forrest Fest.

Please submit your poem to forrestpoetry@gmail.com or mail to Connie L. Williams, Director, Forrest Fest, Inc. at 301 North 19th St., Lamesa, Texas 79331

For further information see www.forrestfest.org or contact Williams at 806-759-7242 or red-sagewoman@hotmail.com.

— Julie Bass

Breaking taboo, Hindu widows celebrate festival of colors

VRINDAVAN, India (AP) — Aruna Samaddar threw fistfuls of colored powder into the air. Blue and red and green, the cheerful colors settled on her white sari and all over other women nearby.

In most of India, widows like Samaddar have no place in this joyful celebration of Holi, the Hindu festival of colors. The country's millions of observant Hindu widows are expected to live out their days in quiet worship, dressed only in white. They are typically barred from all religious festivities because their very presence is considered inauspicious.

So for Samaddar, Monday's celebration was a joy long denied.

"I am so happy. I am playing Holi after 12 years. I am happy, very happy," said Samaddar, who appeared to be in her early 30s. The powder made her white sari and those of the widows around her shimmer in myriad colors.

So deep is the ostracization of widows that they're often shunned by their families and forced to seek shelter in temples.

The holy city of Vrindavan, in India's Uttar Pradesh state, is known as the City of Widows because it has given so many women shelter. And in recent years, widows have found a bit of color and joy here as well.

Aid group Sulabh International has been organizing regular Holi celebrations in Vrindavan since 2013. Samaddar and more than 1,000 other widows gathered in the courtyard of one of the city's oldest temples — devoted to Krishna, the most playful of the Hindu gods. The festival of Holi falls on Thursday this year, but in Vrindavan and many other parts of the country, the playing of colors begins a week ahead.

Hindu priests chanted religious verses as hundreds of widows splashed colored powders and played with water pistols filled with colored water. Showers of flower petals filled the air.

As loud music blasted, the younger women jostled with each other as they played with the colors.

For dozens of older women, years of social conditioning proved hard to break. They

applied only tiny dots of color to each other's foreheads.

"Their participation in Holi symbolizes a break from tradition, which forbids a widow from wearing a colored sari, among many other things," said Bindeshwar Pathak, the head of Sulabh International.

Sulabh was asked to oversee the lives of widows of the city by India's Supreme Court following news reports of the widows being forced to beg for food and into prostitution. While there are tens of thousands of widows in Vrindavan, the group has been appointed caretaker for about 1,500.

The organization looks after their basic needs and gives them a stipend of 2,000 rupees (\$30) to buy essentials. They are taught to make incense sticks and garlands to ensure that they can earn a small amount of money on their own. But for most part, the women spend the day singing hymns to Krishna, for which they earn 10 rupees (15 cents).

The women range in age from 22 to 100. Some were abandoned by their families decades ago.

CITY COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1

City officials, eager at the prospect of attracting more health-care professionals to Big Spring, say a renovated clinic will be a giant step toward that goal.

"I believe this a home run for our city," Mayor Larry McLellan said. "When I moved here in 1984,

we had a lot of doctors available to our citizens, and hopefully, we can get back to that. I feel a lot of good things are coming out of this action."

In other business, council will consider:

- Amending city ordinances to allow for private ambulance services in the city.

- An energy management and consulting agreement with

Priority Management, LLC.

- Giving officials permission to seek grants to help finance renovation of the historic spring in Comanche Trail Park.

- An appointment to the zoning board of adjustments.

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

PURPLE SAGE

Continued from Page 1

water and a little fertilizer, but they are wild-natured, and you don't want to try and tame them down." Light pruning can be done on the plant in in late winter or early spring before buds form, and possibly again in early summer, according to the Texas A&M AgriLife extension web-site.

The plant can grow in areas

that receive more rainfall but need to be planted in raised beds and given supplemental calcium to help them thrive.

According to the Texas A&M AgriLife extension web-site, the plant's "native range is from Northern Mexico through the Rio Grande Plains and Trans-Pecos, sparingly in the Western Edwards Plateau, into New Mexico." It's often used in commercial landscapes and highways because of its maintenance

free, drought and heat resistant and sun loving nature.

And in Texas talk, they "sho' are purdy" to come across.

"They provide a very natural look," Johnsen said. "They are one of the more native plant. I remember as a kid driving into Del Rio and seeing pastures of them blooming - just acres of them. You come up on a hedge of them when they are blooming and they will knock your eyes out — the purple is so striking."

Take Note

are welcome.

Volunteer

opportunities

- The Big Spring State Hospital Volunteer Services Council is in need of volunteers to fill a variety of needs to assist the hospital's patients. Applications to become a volunteer can be picked up at The Chalet, 115 E. Second St., Tuesday through Saturday between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. or at the Big Spring State Hospital Community Relations Department, 1901 N. Hwy 87, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Volunteers can assist with a variety of functions, including The Chalet Resale Shop, various fund-raisers and patient events. For more information, contact Dee Lindsey, Big Spring State Hospital Director of Community Relations, (432) 268-7535 or danielle.lindsey@dshs.state.tx.us

- Mobile meals is in need of volunteer delivery drivers. If you donate one hour per week to help deliver meals to the elderly, call Kim Plew at 263-4016 or 213-7960.

- Victim Services is a non-profit independent community-based program serving victims of all violent crime, including, but not limited to, assault, sexual assault and domestic violence. Victim Services advocates are available 24 hours of day, 365 days a year to provide crisis intervention or accompaniment to the hospital and law enforcement agencies as needed. If you can commit to 30-hour training, an interview process and a background check, we need you. For more information, call Linda Calvio at 432-263-3312.

Let's go dancing

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

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

Cost is \$8 per person.

- The Howard County Fair needs people to cross stitch squares for the annual Quilt Fundraiser. Complete kits may be picked up from Cheryl Joy at the Heritage Museum, Tuesday through Saturday. For more information call Suzanne Markwell at 214-256-1674

Meetings

- The Big Spring Art Association meets every third Tuesday, September through May at 7 p.m. in the basement of the Howard County Library. Everyone is welcome to attend. Memberships are available. The annual dues are \$20.

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

- The Kiwanis Club of Big Spring meets at noon every Thursday in the Cactus Room at Howard College. Visitors are welcome.

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

- Staked Plains Masonic Lodge No. 598 meets the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. (dinner is at 6 p.m.) at 219 ½ Main St. All Masons

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Robert H. "Ace" Carter, Jr., 85, died Wednesday. Funeral service will be at 10:30 a.m. today at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park with Military Honors.

Robert Coombes, 82, died Wednesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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268954

Opinion

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

—FIRST AMENDMENT

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the writers and not those of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

ADDRESSES

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• **JOHN CLINE** —
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LETTER POLICY

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.

• Form letters, letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.

• Letters should be e-mailed to editor@big-springherald.com or mailed to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721.

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 at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.

• By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

DAILY PRAYER

With You, Lord, in mind we can come up with awesome new ideas.

Amen

No opiates for the masses?

There is no problem so bad that government-imposed remedies cannot make it worse, spawn new problems or both. A new confirmation of that phenomenon may be on the way, thanks to new recommendations from an agency intent on curbing the use of opiates.

On Tuesday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued guidelines for medical professionals to discourage them from prescribing these medicines to relieve pain. It has grounds for concern: Drug overdoses are now the leading cause of accidental death in the United States, with prescription and nonprescription opiates accounting for the biggest share of those fatalities.

Things apparently are getting worse. Since 2001, the number of deaths from overdoses involving legal prescription opiates has more than tripled, while the rate for heroin, an illicit drug, has risen sixfold.

These trends are the byproducts of a worthwhile change: more aggressive efforts by doctors to prevent suffering. In the 1990s, experts realized that patients suffering from both acute and chronic pain were being deprived of remedies. They also concluded that the danger of those patients becoming addicted had been exaggerated. The word went out, and over the past two decades, prescriptions for opioid painkillers have more than doubled.

The increase has been a blessing to millions of people whose ailing bodies had become cauldrons of misery. But alarmists think the side effects outweigh the benefits. So the CDC advises physicians to limit such prescriptions for short-term pain (say, from surgery) to three days or less.

As for chronic, persistent pain, it recommends that patients first be treated with ordinary pain-

An old maxim says, “We all have strength enough to bear the suffering of others.” There is no doubt that when prescription painkillers are widely available through physicians, some people will fake symptoms to get drugs to misuse or sell. But punishing the innocent to get the guilty is a formula for increasing the sum of suffering.



STEVE CHAPMAN

killers (such as ibuprofen or acetaminophen), physical therapy or antidepressants. If opiates are eventually used, doctors are told to monitor patients to make sure the drugs are actually doing the job.

It all sounds reasonable, but the guidelines pose real risks. They will undoubtedly dissuade some medical professionals from offering medicines that can be extremely helpful. By giving priority to the danger of overprescribing, the CDC will create errors on the side of underprescribing.

But it's better to give some patients medicines they don't need than deny other patients medicines that they do. The CDC advice would tilt medical practice in the opposite direction. A broad effort to diminish the medical use of opioids will increase the net total of suffering.

There is more than enough already. “Pain affects millions of Americans; contributes greatly to national rates of morbidity, mortality, and disability; and is rising in prevalence,” said a 2011 report commissioned by the federal Institute of Medicine. “Currently, large numbers of Americans receive inadequate pain prevention, assessment, and treatment.”

The American Academy of Pain Medicine, which represents pain specialists, was distinctly lukewarm on the CDC advice. It stressed that opioids “are an important option — as part of a comprehensive multidisciplinary approach — that must remain available to physicians and appropriately selected patients.” It also noted the need

“to ensure that it does not inadvertently encourage undertreatment, marginalization, and stigmatization of the many patients with chronic pain that are using opioids appropriately.”

The new guidelines, billed as voluntary, feature a club in the closet. Medical professionals whose judgment contradicts the CDC's may find themselves under scrutiny from regulators, insurance companies and the Drug Enforcement Administration. “Just the knowledge that you are being watched casts a chilling effect,” Jeffrey Singer, a general surgeon in Phoenix, told me.

States that impose prescription monitoring programs do see a decline in opioid prescriptions. But a working paper by Angela Kilby, a Ph.D. candidate in economics at MIT, documents that they lead to more unrelieved pain, higher costs, more missed workdays and a temporary jump in overdose deaths from heroin.

One possible explanation for this last result is that when pain victims lose their legal opiates, some resort to the illicit version — which can be especially hazardous because it varies so much in potency and purity. Without a doctor's supervision, these patients may be more prone to mix opiates with other drugs. Most overdose fatalities stem from combining heroin with alcohol, cocaine or prescription medicines.

An old maxim says, “We all have strength enough to bear the suffering of others.” There is no doubt that when prescription painkillers are widely available through physicians, some people will fake symptoms to get drugs to misuse or sell. But punishing the innocent to get the guilty is a formula for increasing the sum of suffering.

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

Arguing With Data

For seven months, Republicans — myself included — have argued against the data. The data showed that Donald Trump

would be a viable candidate. Many of us presumed he would eventually fade. Many of us presumed he would eventually burn out his supporters with his gaffes, waffling and walk backs.

What many of us misunderstood was Republican voter anger. There are a lot of angry people out there and they are flocking to Donald Trump. They have good reason to be angry. Washington politicians, particularly Republicans, have broken promise after promise. People in Washington seem to be doing quite well while the nation suffers.

Those of us who were skeptical of Trump could not comprehend that voters were so angry they would align with a man who actually has profited from the system the voters hate. But many of Trump's voters are perfectly fine with Trump as a flawed vessel, so long as he burns Washington to the ground, which they are convinced he will do. Ask a dozen Trump voters why they support Trump and you will get a dozen different answers. But each will end with a rebuke to Washington.

The problem now, as Trump appears more and more likely to be the Republican nominee, is the data. This time it is not Trump skeptics arguing about

the data. It is Trump supporters doing so. They find themselves in the ironic position of arguing that the very same data set that showed Trump's rise also shows he cannot beat Hillary Clinton. They want the first half of the data to be true, while hoping the other half of the very same data is false.

The data does not work that way. The polls that showed Trump winning the Republican nomination also show that he cannot beat Clinton. In 19 of the 20 past polls, Trump consistently trailed Clinton by around eight points.

Certainly polling can change, but therein lies the rub for Trump. Trump performs remarkably well with blue-collar white men. He performs terribly with college educated white men, women of any background, black voters, Hispanic voters, Asian voters — pretty much everyone other than blue-collar white men.

For Trump to make inroads with those voters, he risks alienating his core. If he wants to build a Hispanic coalition, he is going to have to walk away from his wall. If he walks away from his wall, he is going to see his voters walk away from him.

On top of that, only a quarter of voters in the polling believe Trump is trustworthy. In fact, Trump is actually the only candidate running for president viewed as less trustworthy than Clinton. On top of that, is the only candidate with higher unfavorable ratings than Hillary Clinton.

Beyond that, take the exit polling from North Carolina, Ohio, Florida and Missouri. All are swing states. The exit polling

data from those states show that fully one-third of Republican voters would not vote for Trump in a general election. Of voters who rejected Trump so far, that number goes up to 40 percent of Republicans. Hillary Clinton has no such problem with the Democrats. Virtually all Democrats would support her in the general election.

Trump voters, to make a plausible case for him in November, have to now discard all the data they have used thus far to declare him a credible candidate. They have to ignore all the polling that Trump championed for so long himself. A Trump nomination will bring about a Hillary Clinton presidency.

Republicans face a problem. Because so many of their voters would not turn out to support Trump, they need a third party candidate if Trump is the nominee. Someone will have to run for president to motivate a Republican turn out, if only to get voters to show up for down ballot races. A Trump nomination does not just guarantee a Hillary Clinton presidency, but also makes it likely the GOP lose legislative seats at the state and national level.

Trump voters who disagree are only arguing with the very data that shows Trump will be the Republican nominee. The only way to avoid it is to avoid making Trump the Republican presidential nominee.

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

Obama in Cuba: Historic Castro summit a key test for detente

HAVANA (AP) – Brushing past profound differences, President Barack Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro will sit down Monday at Havana’s Palace of the Revolution for a historic meeting, offering critical clues about whether Obama’s sharp U-turn in policy will be fully reciprocated.

For Obama, there’s no better place than Havana to show that engagement can do more than isolation to bring about tangible change in the tiny communist nation. Yet for the Cubans, the glaring question is whether their own government is ready to prove the ambitious diplomatic opening is more than just talk.

Obama opened the first presidential visit to Cuba in nearly 90 years on Sunday when Air Force One touched down in Havana. Strolling through the grand cobblestoned plazas of Old Havana with his wife, Michelle, and daughters Sasha and Malia, Obama created an indelible image for both Cubans and Americans of the peacemaking that he and Castro have cautiously but doggedly pursued.

“That’s the future that we hope for: young American children, young Cuban children, by the time they’re adults, our hope is that they think it’s natural that a U.S. president should be visiting Cuba,” Obama told American diplomats assigned to the newly reopened U.S. Embassy. “They think it’s natural that the two peoples are working together.”

Indeed, the U.S. and Cuba are working more closely together now than at any time since relations took a nose dive amid Cuba’s 1959 revolution. Yet while Americans are now flocking to Cuba in greater numbers, closer ties have yet to bring about the degree of change that many Cubans hoped would follow after Obama and Castro moved to normalize relations 15 months ago.

Judge wants US to protect Trump associate’s secret history

WASHINGTON (AP) – A U.S. judge is urging the Obama administration to protect from public disclosure federal court records related to the once-secret criminal history of a former Donald Trump business partner.

In a highly unusual order prompted by The Associated Press, U.S. District Judge Brian M. Cogan said that unless the Justice Department acts before April 18, he will decide whether to make the court files public under the assumption that federal prosecutors don’t care.

The case involves Felix Sater, a Trump business asso-

ciate who had pleaded guilty in a major Mafia-linked stock fraud scheme and cooperated with the government. The AP reported in December that, even after learning about Sater’s background, Trump tapped Sater for a business development role in 2010 that included the title of senior adviser to Trump. Sater received Trump Organization business cards and was given an office within the Trump Organization’s headquarters, on the same floor as Trump’s own.

“It seems to me that the government has a unique interest in keeping documents that relate to cooperation agreements under seal,” the judge wrote in his order. “The government should speak and assert its position as to whether the public’s right to access each document in the record is outweighed by a compelling need for secrecy.”

Lawyers for the AP had asked the judge to justify sealing a five-year criminal contempt proceeding in U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York.

Seoul: North Korea fires 5 short-range projectiles

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) – North Korea fired five short-range projectiles into the sea on Monday, Seoul officials said, in a continuation of weapon launches it has carried out in an apparent response to ongoing South Korea-U.S. military drills it sees as a provocation.

The projectiles launched from a site near the northeastern city of Hamhung flew about 200 kilometers (125 miles) before landing in waters off North Korea’s east coast, South Korea’s Joint Chiefs of Staff said.

The firings came three days after Seoul said North Korea launched its first medium-range missile into the sea since early 2014, ignoring U.N. resolutions against such tests.

South Korea’s Yonhap news agency initially reported that a missile had also been launched on Monday, but later changed that to say projectiles had been fired.

The firings appear to be North Korea’s response to annual springtime U.S.-South Korean military exercises that it says are a rehearsal for an invasion. Earlier this month, North Korea fired several short-range missiles and artillery shells into the sea and threatened pre-emptive nuclear strikes against Washington and Seoul.

Fears in Iraqi government, army over Shiite militias’ power

BAGHDAD (AP) – It was a tense confrontation between two forces supposed to be on the same side in Iraq. First, heavily armed police, led by the interior minister, waded into a Shiite militia

base south of Baghdad and arrested its deputy commander, accused of organizing attacks on Sunni mosques. They loaded the man, Ali Reda, into an armored SUV.

Then militia reinforcements descended, surrounded the police and demanded Reda be freed. Weapons were drawn. The minister, Mohammed al-Ghabban, the highest figure in Iraq’s police force, frantically called Baghdad from inside his SUV.

In the end, al-Ghabban surrendered his prisoner and left empty-handed, angry and humiliated.

The standoff in mid-January, described to The Associated Press by six different officials and militia leaders, was a stark example of the power that Shiite militias have accrued in Iraq and their boldness in wielding it.

Q&A: Utah votes Tuesday with some casting ballots online

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) – Utah voters on Tuesday will navigate a new presidential caucus system that comes months earlier than last time and opens the Republican race to online voting with computers, smartphones or tablets.

Unlike in some past presidential campaigns, the state of Utah is not paying for a primary election this year, leaving the parties to set up their own systems.

Democrats are holding a traditional paper vote, but to boost participation, the Utah GOP is offering online voting in addition to the usual ballot. It’s one of the first prominent uses in the country of online voting, which presents new security and privacy challenges for officials.

State Republican officials say they’re confident in their process because it’s been used for national elections in other countries.

Some questions and answers about Utah’s presidential caucus system:

Mixed reactions to Trump’s border wall along Arizona border

NOGALES, Ariz. (AP) – Donald Trump’s ambitious plan to build a giant wall on the border hits close to home for people like Berenice Andrews.

The front door of her family’s home is just feet away from a fence separating the U.S. and Mexico. The home is so close to Mexico that the sounds of schoolchildren at play south of the border can be heard. So can buses along a main thoroughfare on the Mexico side.

As the presidential contest shifts to Arizona and its Tuesday primary, Trump’s wall stirs up a range of emotions among border-area residents like Andrews. For some, nothing short of a wall will do. For her, the fence

that currently divides the U.S. and Mexico is a good enough barrier.

“For him to even propose something like that is complete insanity,” Andrews said.

Trump has not provided specifics the wall but says it would cost between \$10 billion and \$12 billion, and has said he would make Mexico pay for it. Mexico has scoffed at the idea.

Ex-State Dept worker to be sentenced for ‘sextortion’ scheme

ATLANTA (AP) – Sitting at a desk in the American embassy in London, a former U.S. State Department employee used his government-issued computer to prey on vulnerable young women and manipulate them into sharing nude photos, amassing thousands of images to make himself feel powerful, prosecutors said.

Michael C. Ford, 36, faces years in prison when a federal judge sentences him Monday for sending “phishing” emails to young women, specifically targeting members of sororities and aspiring models, and claiming to be a member of Google’s account deletion team, which doesn’t exist, to get them to hand over their passwords.

While he occasionally used the photos for sexual arousal, it was primarily about power, he told investigators.

“He stated that his wife is the ‘alpha and breadwinner’ in their family, and he was doing this to fill a ‘power void,’” prosecutors wrote in a court filing.

Prosecutors want a federal judge to send him to prison for eight years while defense attorneys are arguing for much less.

Apple starts busy week with new iPhone launch

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) – Apple is kicking off a busy week: Today the giant tech company will host reporters and analysts at its Silicon Valley headquarters for a product launch event. On Tuesday, its lawyers will square off with authorities in federal court over the FBI’s demand for help unlocking a San Bernardino killer’s encrypted iPhone.

The tech giant’s dispute with the government has commanded headlines for weeks, but it may get scant mention at the company’s product event. Instead, CEO Tim Cook is expected to show off some new additions to the current family of iPhone and iPad devices at Monday’s gathering.

Apple could use a lift. iPhone sales are levelling off, after surging last year to record levels that made Apple the world’s biggest company, by stock market value. And many are wondering if Cook can come up with another big hit.

So far, however, there have

been no hints of any dramatic announcements, such as last year’s highly anticipated Apple Watch debut, or major initiatives like the company’s long-rumored but yet-to-materialize streaming TV service.

And even though Cook has been outspoken about his opposition to a judge’s order compelling Apple to write software that overrides iPhone security features, tech analysts say he probably won’t risk overshadowing the company’s products by discussing the case at Monday’s event.

Review: ‘The Passion’: A rousing night for true believers

NEW YORK (AP) – Among the converted it was preaching to, “The Passion” must have been an uplifting treat.

For others who may have strayed across “The Passion” on their way to rival programming like “Little Big Shots” or “Once Upon a Time,” this two-hour Fox “live spectacular,” despite its hefty dose of goodwill, was a spectacular-and-then-some exercise in excess.

Arriving on Palm Sunday with the preternaturally prolific Tyler Perry as host, it was certainly ambitious.

Following in the footsteps of recent live TV musicals including “Peter Pan” and “The Wiz,” “The Passion” went even beyond January’s innovative “Grease” by originating almost totally outdoors, and, in its song-and-drama sequences, turning New Orleans into its backdrop. (For this, give credit as you will: The evening weather was perfect for a telecast.)

With multitudes gathered around the outdoor stage where Perry presided, the program played somewhat like a musical crusade. “New Orleans is our Jerusalem,” Perry declared, crediting it as a city that, post-Hurricane Katrina, has experienced a resurrection of its own.

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A game for the ages

Texas A&M downs N Iowa with historic comeback

By KURT VOIGT

AP Sports Writer

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Northern Iowa appeared all but ready to book its plane tickets to California for next week's Sweet 16.

That was before Texas A&M put together the biggest last-minute comeback in NCAA Division I history.

Led by Alex Caruso's 25 points and 22 more from Danuel House in the second half and overtimes, the third-seeded Aggies (28-8) rallied from 12 points down with 44 seconds remaining — 10 down with less than 30 seconds — to defeat the Panthers 92-88 in double overtime on Sunday night.

"Craziest game I've been a part of from beginning to end," Caruso said. "Just an amazing game. This is what March is about."

The previous NCAA record for coming back from a deficit in the last minute was 11 points, done by UNLV in 2005 and Canisius in December.

Crazy is a mild way to put the finish, something the Panthers (23-13) were accustomed to after reaching Sunday's second-round matchup thanks to Paul Jespersion's buzzer-beating halfcourt winner against Texas two nights earlier.

However, this time around it was Texas A&M putting together the last-second heroics on its way to reaching the Sweet 16 for the third time in school history — the first since 2007.

More precisely, it was a last 44 seconds in which the Aggies were able to atone for what had been a dismal previous 39 minutes and 16 seconds.

Down 69-57 after Jeremy Morgan hit two free throws with 44 seconds remaining in regulation, Texas A&M proceeded to outscore the 11th-seeded Panthers 14-2 from there — capped by Admon Gilder's steal and layup with 1.9 seconds remaining that tied the

game at 71-71 and sent it to the first overtime.

That 44 seconds included four turnovers by Northern Iowa, which was without its main inbounds passer Matt Bohannon because of a left knee injury, and a resurgence by House — who missed his first nine shots of the game and was scoreless until 5:14 remaining in regulation.

"We knew it was kind of impossible, man, but we just said that we were going to fight until the end," House said.

Once into overtime, it was Caruso who sent the game to a second with a drive and layup with 5.9 seconds left in the first extra period, tying the game at 83-83.

And in the second, the surging Aggies finally wore down a hobbled and short-handed Northern Iowa team missing two of its starters after fouling out. It was House who capped the scoring with a free throw with 12.6 seconds remaining to give Texas A&M a 92-88 lead, with a most unexpected and euphoric celebration following moments later on the Chesapeake Arena court.

The Aggies have now won 10 of their last 11 games entering next week's Sweet 16, but few — if any — will top Sunday night.

"I've never been a part of a game like that, never saw one," Aggies coach Billy Kennedy said. "(I) still really don't know what happened."

For Northern Iowa, the dramatic turn of fortunes in the final minute was a difficult blow to handle after Friday night's last-second miracle against the Longhorns.

Morgan had career highs of 36 points and 12 rebounds, while Clint Carlson matched his career high with 17 points, but all of the positives of the

See **A&M**, Page 12



AP Photo/Alonzo Adams

Texas A&M forward Tavario Miller, center, shoots between Northern Iowa guard Matt Bohannon, left, and guard Wyatt Lohaus (33) in the first half of a second-round men's college basketball game in the NCAA Tournament Sunday.



Syracuse head coach Jim Boeheim yells from the sideline during the first half in a second-round men's college basketball game against Middle Tennessee in the NCAA Tournament, Sunday, March 20, 2016, in St. Louis. (AP Photo/Jeff Roberson)

TIPPING OFF: What happened over the weekend, and what's coming next

By EDDIE PELLIS

AP National Writer

A region-by-region look at what you might have missed last week and what you shouldn't miss next week, as the NCAA Tournament heads into the Sweet 16.

EAST

GOING TO FORM: Not that it's unusual for a No. 1 seed to encounter very few problems in its first two games. But given all the talk about parity, upsets and the rest of the unpredictability during this unpredictable season, North Carolina's dominance was impressive. Two wins by a total of 45 points. And the second-round game, against Providence, was actually competitive for the first half. Just enough to keep the Tar Heels sharp — and then they ran away. "I probably think we've played our best basketball the entire season in the last couple of weeks," coach Roy Williams said. Hard to disagree.

WHO WAS THAT?: Give the bracket-buster award in the East to No. 14 seed Stephen F. Austin, which took apart West Virginia

in the first round and came one point short of the Sweet 16, in a 76-75 loss to Notre Dame. It took a tip-in from unheralded Rex Pflueger of the Irish with 1.5 seconds left to send the Lumberjacks home. "They've set a new standard for SFA basketball," coach Brad Underwood said of his seniors, who have three tournament appearances and two NCAA wins in their careers.

CHECK IT OUT: Hooking up Friday, it will be North Carolina and Indiana. Plenty of history here, just not with each other. This is their first meeting in the tournament since 1984, when Steve Alford scored 27 points to headline an upset against the top-ranked Tar Heels. The loss ended Michael Jordan's college career.

SOUTH

GOING TO FORM: Almost everything. This region is sending seed Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 5 to the Sweet 16. They are Kansas, Villanova, Miami and Maryland.

WHO WAS THAT?: No. 13 seed Hawaii notched the program's

first NCAA victory — but there was no repeat in Game 2, and there won't be a repeat next year, either. The Rainbow Warriors, who lost to Maryland on Sunday, are banned from next year's postseason because of infractions committed under former coach Gib Arnold. The current coach, Eran Ganot, said it's something in the back of everyone's mind. "But there's always opportunity from those kind of things and it was an opportunity for us to send a message of how we can lock in and fight through adversity and get better and try to do something special," he said.

CHECK IT OUT: The Villanova-Miami game Thursday in Louisville will be an interesting contest between the guards. Angel Rodriguez and Sheldon McClellan of Miami are about as quick as they come, and Villanova's Josh Hart and Ryan Arcidiacono will be hard-pressed to stop them.

See **NCAA**, Page 12

Hawks split doubleheader, series in Midland

By DREW WILLIAMS

Sports Editor

The Howard Hawks (14-12, 5-3) "were as good as they've been all year," in an 11-inning stretch against the Midland College Chaparrals Saturday, according to head coach Britt Smith.

From the fourth inning of the first game of the doubleheader to the seventh inning of the finale, the Hawks played dominant baseball. But poor innings before and after that stretch prevented the Hawks from taking both games, and they ended up splitting the

doubleheader and splitting the weekend series 2-2.

The Hawks got off to a rough start on the mound Saturday. Starting pitcher Tyler Giovanoni gave up 10 runs in just over two innings, though only seven were earned. He also walked six, and the Chaparrals got off to a 12-2 lead after three innings.

"He just didn't have a great day. He didn't have really good command of anything. He wasn't all over the place, but he just wasn't good enough," Smith said. "It was just low, just in, just out. He didn't mess up, but by the time we

got him out of there he was close to 90 pitches through 2 and a third innings. So it was just a rough situation."

The Hawks closed out the game strong, but eventually lost the opener 12-7. The 5-0 run to end the game carried over into the second game though, and it extended to a 14-3 run that saw the Hawks take a 9-3 lead into the eighth inning.

"From the third inning on, and I told our team this, from the third inning of game one until the seventh inning of game two, we beat the dog out of them. We beat them in ev-

ery phase of the game," Smith said. "We played well, pitched well, took great at-bats and scored in almost every single inning in that stretch. So we showed that we can play at a championship level, we just have to play at that level every single inning."

Howard's troubles on the defensive side let Midland back into the game with a five-run eighth inning. Multiple errors by Robbie Lammons and Rahman Williams on potential inning-ending double play balls played a big part in the inning, and for the game only three out of Midland's

eight runs were earned.

"Eighth inning, typical deal. We start trying to choke just as much as we can. We had two or three opportunities to get out of the eighth inning without even giving up a run. They hit three tailor-made double play balls, one of them we don't get an out and the other two we just get one out," Smith said. "Robbie bobbles one, Rahman bobbles one, Rahman makes a bad play on a different ball that he was really passive trying to get to that he should have

See **HAWKS**, Page 12

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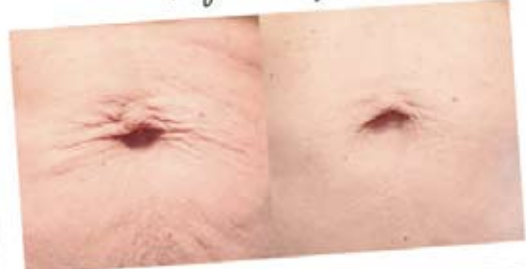
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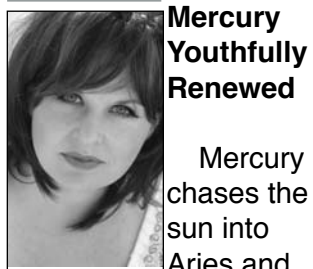
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Mercury chases the sun into Aries and HOLIDAY will keep MATHIS sprinting until he catches up on Wednesday and tags the sun with a “superior” conjunction. Mercury is the communication planet, and in the youthful Aries suit he will wear through April 5, Mercury will communicate directly and honestly, the way a child does before he learns social finesse.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). While it’s true that repetition creates routines and makes things a part of you, repetition without focus is a waste of your energy. The thing that will really make this week better for you is a clear picture.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You’ll apply your skill to an activity that will in turn absorb you more or less completely. Don’t be surprised if this makes someone close to you pretty jealous. It will

also make you very attractive in this person’s eyes!

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You don’t have to give up the fantasy life going on in your head just because the real world is calling you. Let them call. What’s in your head is your own business, and anyone who would have you feel otherwise is dangerous.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Listening is love. You give it and you deserve to receive it. You can tell when a person is listening to you as opposed to thinking about what they are going to intercept the next time you take a break.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Are you afraid to let go? It’s not as dangerous as you think, really. And how are you going to be able to play in a new destination if you are still tethered to the past? Cut ties.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Usually the idea of “consequences” is near and dear to your thought process, but lately something has changed in the way you look at things. Why not you? Why not now?

Tomorrow’s Horoscope

Because really, who’s going to stop you?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The conscious mind is always trying to keep you safe. Its basic modus operandi is to fight for sameness. A niggling curiosity just won’t let that happen. It will keep pushing until you leave your safety zone to discover.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Forget about who you think you should be. That’s an unfair projection. Besides, who you are is better. Embrace and accept who you are and suddenly you can lead yourself much more effectively.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). As long as you take action, you’ll be golden. Get it right and you’ll have an adventure. Get it wrong and you’ll have an even more remarkable adventure.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There are those who will disprove of your belief in magic or anything else that’s contrary to their system because this diminishes their potential to control you by persuading you toward

what they would prefer you believe.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You’re not in it for the glory. You do what needs to be done and do it right. If a worthy candidate can step in and relieve you of duty, you’ll go easily, knowing that the next purpose is likely to suit you even better.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Because you like someone so much, you’re feeling inclined to share! This you will do without feeling that you are sacrificing in any way. In fact, after sharing with a friend it will feel as though you have more.

TODAY’S BIRTHDAY (March 21). This is your year to exact your revenge by becoming extremely successful in the endeavor that means so much to you. Your moneymaking faculty will be put to good use over the next seven weeks as you gather up the opportunities that others miss. Love connections grow strong through shared summer fun. Your Gemini and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 50, 48, 11, 2 and 17.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: “I am a Scorpio, born on Oct. 25, 1972. I have been dating a Taurus, born May 15, 1972, for about three and a half years. This relationship is a good one, lots of mutual care and great times. The only problem is we don’t seem to be moving in (SET ITAL) any (END ITAL) direction, not toward breaking up or moving forward in a life together. Am I wasting my time? I love him, but I am kind of tired of waiting for something to happen.”

The irony is that he’s happy in this relationship and hasn’t a clue that there is a “something” that is supposed to happen. And you’re so fabulous at hiding your emotions, how could he know? Now be honest: Are you really ready for marriage, and if so, is he the one? Use the current cosmic Aries vibes at your disposal to change the game. If you decide it’s marriage you want, don’t put it on him to make the next move. This month and next are perfect for integrating

yourself more fully in his life. Get to know his family, plan a vacation together and find new ways to be supportive of his goals. Oh, and if you’re thinking about marriage, you might want to mention it to him!

CELEBRITY PROFILES: The perennially boyish charms of Matthew Broderick epitomize the youth and vitality of Aries. This father of three with wife Sarah Jessica Parker was born when the sun and Venus were in energetic Aries, and Mercury and Mars were in artistic, sensitive Pisces. Broderick has several new films coming out including “Look Away,” a story of a young girl who literally cannot see or hear her own mother.

To write to Holiday Mathis, visit www.creators.com and click “Write the Author” on her page. COPYRIGHT 2016 CREATORS.COM

sudoku

ANSWERS

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

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Dear Annie: I have been dating “Brad” for three years. We currently date long-distance, but the relationship is fine. He is loving and kind toward me and everyone in our lives. When he proposed, I said yes immediately. But what is supposed to be an exciting time in my life is now marred by his ex-girlfriend, “Marsha.”

I knew Marsha when she and Brad dated 10 years ago. For some reason, she disliked me, even treating me rudely when she and Brad were invited to parties at my place with my then-boyfriend. Brad confided that Marsha didn’t like any of the women he was

friends with, saying they were “petty.”

Marsha is now married, but she and Brad have remained friends. The three of them have even vacationed together. I’ve never objected to their friendship, but I’ve also never found a reason to befriend her, nor has she reached out to me.

Brad has reiterated Marsha’s old accusation of my being “petty” because I am resistant to initiating a friendship. He says that Marsha doesn’t remember how rudely she treated me and insists she be invited to our wedding. I disagree. I envision my wedding filled with people who love me. Since I’m paying for

half, I should have a say about the guest list. Brad even told me to get counseling in order to find the “real reason” I dislike her. He intimated that I had deep-seated problems and that Marsha was the innocent party.

I’m beginning to think wedding bells are not on our horizon. Please help. -- To Wed or Not to Wed

Dear Wed: There are several things going on here. If you are splitting the costs of the wedding, Brad gets to invite Marsha and her husband. You were wrong to turn that into an ultimatum. It made you seem ungenerous and forced Brad to defend his ex. The way

Marsha behaved 10 years ago is old news. She was probably jealous of any women around Brad. You need to stop holding that grudge. People can change, and you won’t know if you exclude her. But we also wonder why Brad is so attached to Marsha and demands that you make friends with her. There is no reason for that except that he anticipates including Marsha and her husband in your social life on an ongoing basis. Frankly, if this argument is enough for you to stop the wedding, we think it might be for the best.

Dear Annie: I appreciated your answer to “Confused and Torn”

about her dog. I have loved and cherished a number of animals in my life. It is always hard to let them go, so I ask myself, “Am I prolonging her life or prolonging her death?” And, “Am I keeping her alive for myself or for her?”

The way I see it, the animal does not understand why it suffers. I will clearly understand the loss and take that pain upon myself to keep the animal from suffering more. It is simply the price to pay for all the love and companionship the animal has given me over the years, and is the last and most important thing we can do. -- S.

Dear S.: Thank you

for taking a different perspective on such a difficult time.

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

West dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♦ K 7 5
♥ 8
♦ A Q 10 9 7
♠ A K 10 6

WEST
♦ J
♥ A J 10 9 7 6 4
♦ 6
♣ Q J 9 4

EAST
♠ 10 6
♥ K 5 2
♦ 8 4 3 2
♣ 8 7 5 2

SOUTH
♠ A Q 9 8 4 3 2
♥ Q 3
♦ K J 5
♣ 3

The bidding:
West North East South
4♥ Dble Pass 5♠
Pass 6♠

Opening lead — ace of hearts.

What happens when two players with a great deal of imagination collide with one another? Something’s got to give, and it did in this hand from a tournament many years ago.

West opened as dealer with four hearts. It was certainly a well-timed pre-emptive bid, since North-South had the balance of strength. North doubled — most partnerships these days play this as takeout — and South had far too good a hand to bid a mere four spades.

South wanted to get to a slam in spades if North had the right hand,

but he had no way of knowing whether a slam could be made, particularly since he had two losing hearts. So he consulted partner about it by jumping to five spades, and North, of course, bid six.

West led the ace of hearts. As anyone can plainly see, making six spades should be no problem — but South ended up down one!

On the ace-of-hearts lead, East (Jack Ehrlenbach) played the king! West continued with a heart, and declarer, assuming that West had a nine-card suit, trumped with dummy’s king.

Declarer then led the seven of spades from dummy, East playing the six. South’s imagination now started working overtime. He had seen East follow to the second heart lead, and he wondered why East had played the king at trick one.

Declarer concluded that the only explanation was that East had started with the J-10-6 of spades and was trying to develop a trump trick for himself by panicking South into ruffing the second heart with the king. So declarer finessed the seven, lost to West’s jack and went down one.

We offer no opinion about declarer’s play, which might have turned out right, but you have to hand it to Ehrlenbach for concocting a scheme that gave South a chance to go wrong.

Tomorrow: Steppingstone to success.
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MAKE TIME FOR FAMILY READING

sudoku

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

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

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CHOCOLATE WORD SEARCH

Chocolate bunnies may be popular during Easter Holidays, but there are many more kinds of chocolate delights that people enjoy all year 'round. Search the puzzle below to find twenty-one chocolate treats!

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BUNNY
CAKE
CANDY
CHIPS
COOKIES
DROPS
EGGS
FONDUE
FOUNTAIN
FUDGE
ICECREAM
MILK
PIE
PRETZELS
SAUCE
SPRINKLES
SYRUP
TART
TRUFFLE
WAFERS

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

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5 :PM	Local 2 ABC	Hotel Notic.	Big Bang Cleveland	News CBS	Tele Noticias	News News	Uri Harel D Stringer	Over Business	Mama's Mama's	American American	American American	Movie: Olympus Has Fallen (DVS)	SportsCenter	Pardon NCAA Women's Tournament	Texas Rangers.	NCIS (DVS)	The First 48	Street Out-laws
6 :PM	Jeopardy! Wheel	Un Camino hacia el	Mod Fam Big Bang	News ET	La Biblia (SS)	News News	McDonald Dr.	PBS News-Hour	M*A*S*H M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy Fam. Guy		College Basketball		O'Brien Spotlight	NCIS (DVS)	The First 48	Street Out-laws
7 :PM	Dancing With the Stars	Sueño de Amor	Gotham (DVS)	Supergirl	¿Quién es quién?	The Voice	Upd Discovery	Antiques Roadshow	Griffith Griffith	Crazy Ex-Girlfriend	Fam. Guy American	Movie: Now You See Me (DVS)		Update	MLB Preseason Baseball: Colorado Rockies at Texas Rangers.	WWE Monday Night RAW	The First 48	Street Out-laws: Full
8 :30		Pasión y poder	(:01) Lucifer	Scorpion	Eva la Trailera (SS)		Light of the Southwest	Antiques Roadshow	Hap.Days Laverne	Jane the Virgin	Angie Fam. Guy		College Basketball	NCAA Women's Tournament			Bates Motel	Street Out-laws
9 :30	(:01) Castle	El Hotel de los	News TMZ	NCIS: Los Angeles	La Quenda	(:01) Blindspot		Independent Lens	Heroes Seinfeld	Seinfeld Full	Fam. Guy	Movie: Catch Me if You Can, Christopher Walken					(:01) Damien	(:01) Misfit Garage
10 :30	Local 2 ABC	Impacto	Broke Girl	News	Tele Noticias	News	House	Charlie Rose	C. Burnett Cougar	Conan			SportsCenter	Update	Champ Spotlight	(:05) Colony	(:02) Damien	Street Out-laws
11 :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Contacto	Two Men	Late Show-Colbert	Titulares Gran Her-mano: La	Seth Meyers	Mani	World	Perry Mason	Raising Angie	Conan		SportsCenter	College Basketball	Game 365 Sportsday	Chrisley	The First 48	(:03) Misfit Garage
12 :30	Nightline	Extra	How I Met	James Corden	Eva la Trailera (SS)	News	1st Fruits		Kojak	King	Cougar	Preview	SportsCenter	NBA	Red Bull: Air Race	CSI: Crime Scene	(12:01) Bates Motel	Street Out-laws
1 :30	Wounds of Racism	P. Luche	Law Order: CI	ET	Pagado	(:08) Today	Light of the Southwest			King	Cougar	Law & Order		Jalen		CSI: Crime Scene	(:02) Damien	Street Out-laws
	Paid	Hotel		Paid	Pagado					Paid	Movie: Road			NFL Live	UFC			

DENNIS THE MENACE

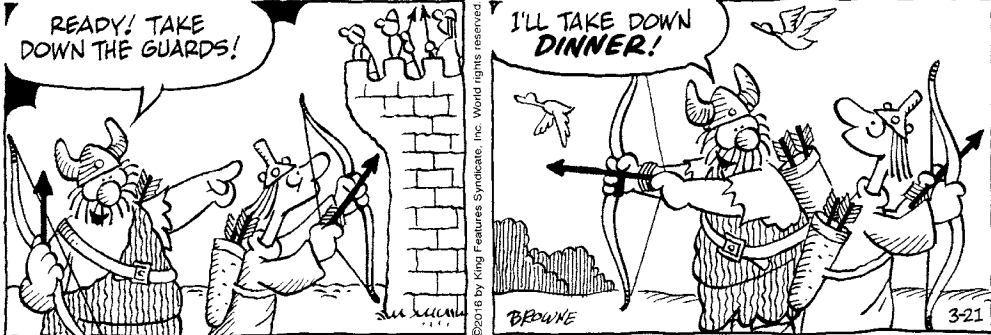


THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



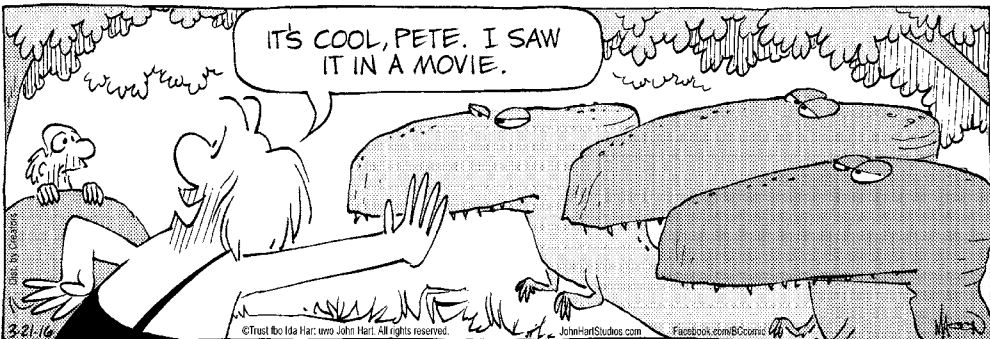
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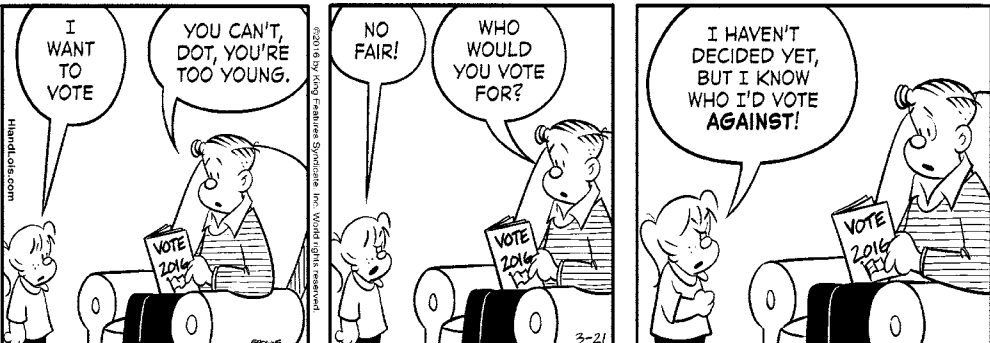
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AGNES



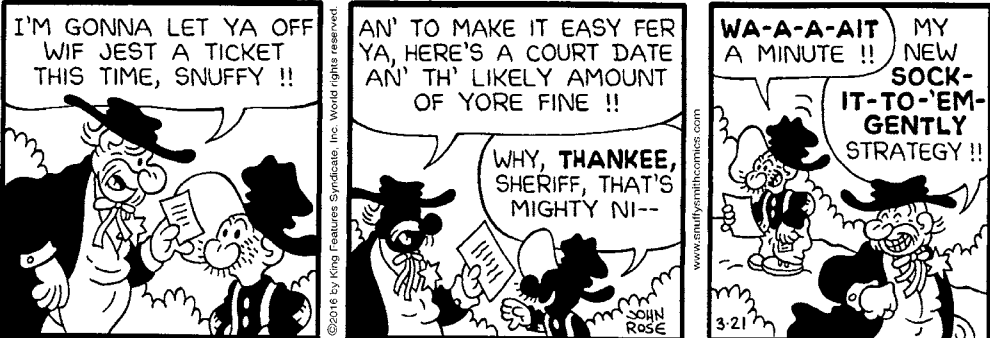
HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILY



This Date In History

Today is Monday, March 21, the 81st day of 2016. There are 285 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 21, 1946, the recently created United Nations Security Council set up temporary headquarters at Hunter College in The Bronx, New York.

On this date:

In 1556, Thomas Cranmer, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, was burned at the stake for heresy.

In 1685, composer Johann Sebastian Bach was born in Eisenach, Germany.

In 1804, the French civil code, or the "Code Napoleon" as it was later called, was adopted.

In 1925, Tennessee Gov. Austin Peay signed the Butler Act, which prohibited the teaching of the Theory of Evolution in public schools. (Tennessee repealed the law in 1967.)

In 1935, Persia officially changed its name to Iran.

In 1945, during World War II, Allied bombers began four days of raids over Germany.

In 1956, "Marty" won best picture at the Academy Awards; its star, Ernest Borgnine, was

named best actor. Anna Magnani (man-YAH-nee) won best actress for "The Rose Tattoo."

In 1960, about 70 people were killed in Sharpeville, South Africa, when police fired on black protesters.

In 1963, the Alcatraz federal prison island in San Francisco Bay was emptied of its last inmates and closed at the order of Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy.

In 1976, champion skier Vladimir "Spider" Sabich was shot and killed by his girlfriend, actress-singer Claudine Longet (lohn-ZHAY"), in the home they shared in Aspen, Colorado; Longet, who maintained the shooting was an accident, served 30 days in jail for negligent homicide.

In 1986, Debi Thomas of the United States won the ladies' title at the World Figure Skating Championships in Geneva, Switzerland, dethroning Katarina Witt of East Germany.

In 1990, Namibia became an independent nation as the former colony marked the end of 75 years of South African rule.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush predicted American forces would remain in Iraq for years and that it would be up to a future president to decide when to bring them all home. But defying critics and plunging polls, Bush

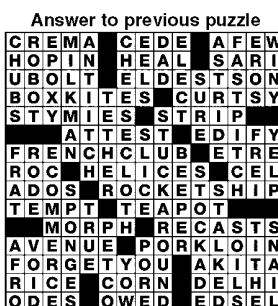
declared, "I'm optimistic we'll succeed." The social media website Twitter was established with the sending of the first "tweet" by co-founder Jack Dorsey, who wrote: "just setting up my twttr."

Five years ago: Syrians chanting "No more fear!" held a defiant march after a deadly government crackdown failed to quash three days of mass protests in the southern city of Deraa. Grammy-winning bluesman Pinetop Perkins died in Austin, Texas, at 97.

Thought for Today:
"Is it worse to be scared than to be bored, that is the question."

Gertrude Stein
American writer
1874-1946

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Newsday Crossword

OPTIONAL by Gail Grabowski
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

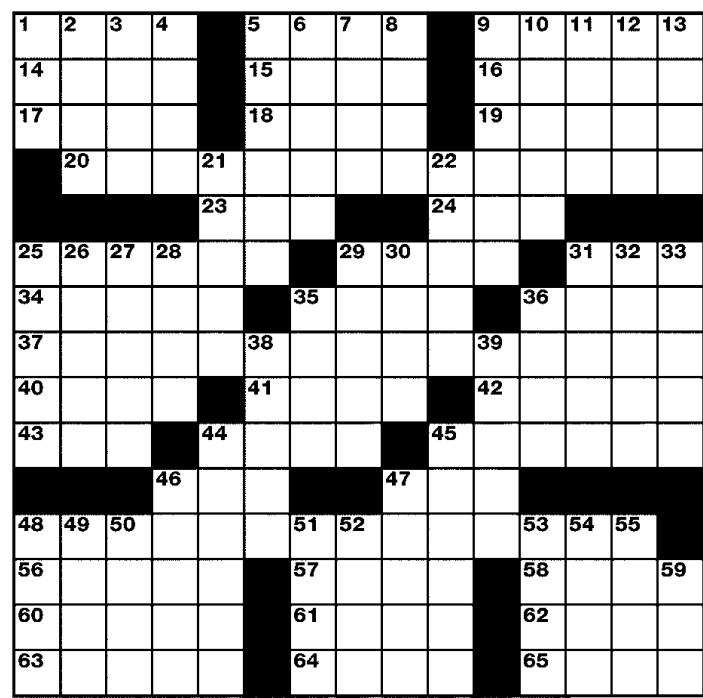
ACROSS

- 1 Minor quarrel
- 5 Money
- 9 Dive in two
- 14 Cabbagelike veggie
- 15 Woodwind instrument
- 16 Dumpster filler
- 17 Admired celebrity
- 18 Nothing, in Mexico
- 19 Travel path
- 20 Decide on a raffle winner
- 23 "With all __, respect..."
- 24 Lamb's mother
- 25 Fix, as a fridge
- 29 Uses a shovel
- 31 Genetic material
- 34 Apply, as energy
- 35 Living-room seating
- 36 Takes to court
- 37 Gather roses for a bouquet
- 40 "That's too bad"
- 41 Strong anger
- 42 Water-flow control device
- 43 Strong longing
- 44 Drags along
- 45 Glasses in eyeglasses
- 46 Possesses
- 47 Feb. follower
- 48 Decide on someone to dance with
- 56 France's capital
- 57 Small spot for fishing
- 58 Enthusiastic
- 60 "Am not!" reply
- 61 One of the Great Lakes
- 62 Plumbing piece

DOWN

- 10 Likely (to)
- 11 Praise highly
- 12 "That's all there it!"
- 13 Those people
- 21 Revises for publication
- 22 Kingly or queenly
- 25 Settle a debt
- 26 Banish
- 27 Nut in Southern pies
- 28 Boats like Noah's
- 29 Active people
- 30 Questionable
- 31 Sword fights
- 32 Bravery
- 33 Heroes's wild cousins
- 35 Overly confident

- 36 Graceful bird
- 38 Handy to have
- 39 Plain to see
- 44 Cowboy ropes
- 45 Pantry
- 46 Raise, as a flag
- 47 Craze
- 48 IRS form experts
- 49 Angelic instrument
- 50 Three-tier cookie
- 51 Gorillas and chimps
- 52 Skin opening
- 53 Short snoozes
- 54 Wickedness
- 55 Ready to harvest
- 59 Morning moisture on a lawn



Baylor women to 8th straight Sweet 16, beat Auburn 84-52

By STEPHEN HAWKINS
AP Basketball Writer
WACO, Texas (AP) — With Nina Davis open in the middle, everything went just as planned for the Baylor women — and they are going to the NCAA Sweet 16 for the eighth year in a row.
Davis scored a season high-matching 30 points and freshman post Kalani Brown



Baylor guards Alexis Jones, left, and Alexis Prince (12) celebrate after defeating Idaho in a first-round women's college basketball game in the NCAA Tournament Friday, March 18, 2016, in Waco, Texas. (AP Photo/LM Otero)

NCAA

Continued from Page 6

MIDWEST
GOING TO FORM: Virginia and Iowa State are both where they're "supposed" to be — a 1 and 4 facing off in the Sweet 16.
WHO WAS THAT?: Syracuse was one of the most hotly debated bubble teams, but has responded by winning games by 19 and 25. Coach Jim Boheim was glad to say that anyone who thought the Orange didn't belong didn't know anything about basketball — and maybe he was right. Runner up: Josh Hagins of No. 12 Little Rock, who did — well — just about everything en route to 31 points and a come-from-behind win over Purdue in the first round.
CHECK IT OUT: No. 10 Syracuse meets No. 11 Gonzaga on Friday. They've played a combined four games. Nobody has come closer than 16 points of either team. This was widely viewed as the weakest of the four regions, and there's no doubt the winner of the other game — Virginia-Iowa State — will have its hands full with whichever double-digit seed makes the Elite Eight.
WEST:
GOING TO FORM: For only the 16th time since

the field expanded in 1985, a region is sending seeds 1-4 to the Sweet 16. But to say things went to form wouldn't be telling the whole story. No. 3 Texas A&M somehow overcame a 12-point deficit in the last 44 seconds — yes, 44 seconds — of regulation to force overtime with Northern Iowa en route to an eventual win. Though Oregon, Oklahoma and Duke all had their own moments of drama, nothing compared to that.
WHO WAS THAT?: Northern Iowa may not be a newcomer to the tournament, but the 11th-seeded Panthers certainly came up with new ways to put the madness in March. From Paul Jespersen's half-court game-winner at the buzzer against Texas to the entire team's meltdown against Texas A&M, these guys will serve as Exhibit A the next time anyone says, "It's never over 'til it's over."
CHECK IT OUT: Oregon was a surprise No. 1 seed. The Ducks struggled against St. Joe's, before coming out on top, 69-64. Next up, the defending national champions. Though Duke isn't nearly as deep or talented as it was last year, Grayson Allen is a force. And, as we all know, both the program and its coach, Mike Krzyzewski, are very comfortable on the big stage.

had 16 points as the Lady Bears beat the Auburn press all night while avoiding being trapped in an 84-52 victory Sunday.
"We knew that Nina was going to be open most of the time in that middle. We did exactly what our game plan was set for," said Alexis Jones, who had 16 points, seven steals and six assists.

"Probably yesterday at practice," junior forward Davis responded was asked when she knew their plan was going to work. "It played out exactly how we played it in practice and we just kept attacking, and it kept working all night."
The Lady Bears (35-1), the No. 1 seed in the Dallas Region and with a 22-game winning streak, advances to play Saturday at the NBA Dallas Mavericks' home arena about 100 miles from their campus. Baylor will take on Texas A&M or Florida State, who play Monday night.

Brandy Montgomery had 14 points and Tra'cee Tanner 13 for ninth-seeded Auburn (20-13), which was the

last unranked opponent to beat the Lady Bears on their home court. That was 13 years ago in the WNIT final to end coach Kim Mulkey's third season at Baylor.
The Tigers never gave themselves a chance to win again in the Ferrell Center since they were the team making turnovers instead of forcing them early. The 84 points were the most they allowed this season.
Auburn depends on its pressure defense and in the opener of its first NCAA Tournament since 2009 forced 25 turnovers that led to 32 points in a 68-57 victory over St. John's. But Baylor had already 10 points off turnovers, and Auburn none, when it was a 27-point game midway through the second quarter.
Baylor was up 37-10 after a 12-0 run in which Davis scored 10 points and had a nifty assist on the other basket.
"I know how she gets 'em. ... I liked Nina Davis when she was playing high school, when she was playing AAU," said Auburn coach Terry Terri Williams-Flournoy. "She's got a motor that's unbelievable. I just looked at the box score, and she scored 30 points. It's easy for her to score 30 points 'cause she plays so hard. She's getting to the floor. She's running in transition. She's I want me one of those."



Kansas' Perry Ellis (34) dunks as Austin Peay's Jared Savage, right, watches, during a first-round men's college basketball game in the NCAA Tournament in Des Moines, Iowa, Thursday, March 17, 2016.

A&M

Continued from Page 6

first 39 minutes of the game were lost amid the postgame tears.
"It's just tough," Bohannon said. "It's the NCAA Tournament,

though, that's what happens."
The Panthers, seeking their second Sweet 16 appearance in school history, led by as many as 15 points in the second half. However, they were unable to overtime the series of last-minute miscues that left them

on the opposite end of emotion compared to their opening-round win.
"It shouldn't have ended tonight," said Northern Iowa coach Ben Jacobson, who added the loss was "no question" the toughest to handle of his career.

TIP-INS
Texas A&M: Caruso was 10 of 20 from the field for the Aggies, who recovered from their slow start — shooting 6 of 27 (22.2 percent) in the first half — to shoot 62.1 percent (18 of 29) in the second half and 7 of 15 in the overtimes.

MANUEL R. CARRASCO, MD
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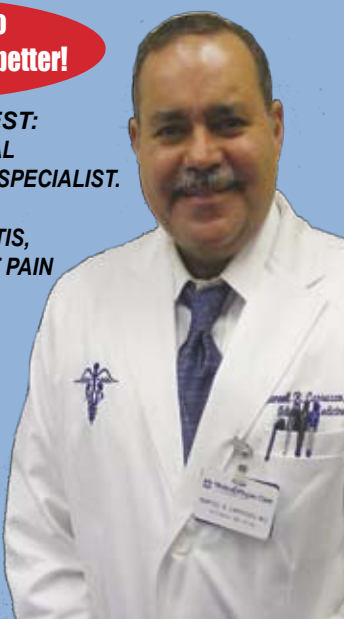
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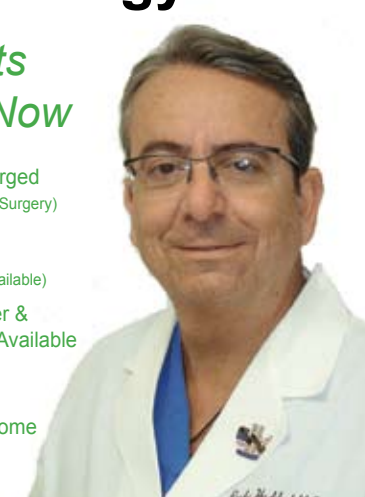
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