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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2016



Clint Finley, left, talks to reporters Tuesday after being named athletic director and head football coach at Big Spring High School.

HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

BSISD hires new head football coach Tuesday

New AD a former Big Spring resident

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

As a child, Clint Finley remembers roaming the sidelines during Big Spring High School football practice. Now he's going to do that and get paid, to boot.

During a special meeting Tuesday night, Big Spring ISD trustees unanimously approved the hiring of Finley, the son of a former Big Spring football coach, as the school district's new athletic director and head football coach.

Finley, who comes to Big Spring after six years in Los Fresnos, succeeds Philip Ritchey, who announced his retirement earlier this school year.

BSISD Superintendent Chris Wiginton said Finley was selected from more than 30 applicants for the position. Finley and

Odessa High School assistant Bo Smith were the two finalists.

"We just felt like his pedigree, first of all, with his father being a coach and him being a coach's son and where he's at Los Fresnos," Wiginton said. "He's got a good resume and interviewed really well. There were a lot of qualified candidates, but we thought he was right fit."

Finley's name should be familiar to long-time Big Spring fans — his father is Mickey Finley, who was an assistant coach for the Steers in the 1980s.

Finley started coaching for his father in Cleburne. Other stops include Victoria and Schulenburg.

He said the chance to return to Big Spring was too good to pass up.

See, **AD**, Page 3

Sky-high power rates spark outrage in West Texas



Nancy and Hugh Raney, farmers in the Elbow community, are disputing their sky-rocketing electricity cost with their provider Sharyland Utilities.

By **JIM MALEWITZ**

Texas Tribune writer

For four decades, Nancy Raney's family has raised crops — mostly alfalfa hay right now — on wide-open land near Big Spring, about 40 miles northeast of Midland. She and her husband Hugh

have run the farm for 16 of those years.

But if certain troubles persist, the couple may have to stop growing hay. Theirs, however, is not a story of drought, weevils or other typical West Texas scourges.

This family's bank-breaking trouble: skyrocketing electricity costs.

Running pumps to irrigate their fields from January to November sucks up plenty of energy along with the water. But the Raney's were flummoxed in mid 2014 when their electric bills began running thousands of dollars a month higher than the year before. That August, for instance, their farm and home electric bills totaled more than \$8,500.

"You have a bale of hay that's \$10, and your rates double. What are you going to do?" Nancy Raney said over the phone, standing outside a local stock show. "It's not like you can sell that same bale of hay for \$20."

The soaring rates weren't for the electricity itself. Rather, they were paying vastly higher bills to the company whose distribution system and transmission lines bring it to their farm.

The Raney's are among more than 50,000 Sharyland Utilities customers — in homes, businesses and

See, **HIGH COST**, Page 3



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

District 5 Councilman Raul Benavides reviews some information during the City Council meeting Tuesday.

City will not ask for more money to convert animal shelter to no kill facility

By **LYNDEL MOODY**

Staff Writer

The move to a No Kill Animal Shelter will not cost tax payers any extra money, Big Spring city officials assured council members Tuesday night during their meeting, but volunteers, community support, education, and a strong spay and neuter program are essential to making the program work.

Before approving the designation to move the city animal control shelter to a no kill facility within a year's time, Councilman Raul Benavides asked what additional financial cost could be attached to the the new program.

See, **CITY**, Page 3

McLellan, Benavides will seek 2nd terms

By **LYNDEL MOODY**

Staff Writer

Both Big Spring Mayor Larry McLellan and District 5 Councilman Raul Benavides said Tuesday night they will seek a second term in office.

"I am delighted to be serving the citizen's of Big Spring, Texas, and I would like to do it again if they let me," said Benavides, who is a financial advisor with Edward Jones.

See, **FILING**, Page 3

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Obituaries

Donna Kay



Donna Michelle Kay, 69, of El Paso, formerly of Austin and Big Spring, went to be with our Lord and Savior on Jan. 21, 2016. She was born to Don and Jean Brewer Yates in Big Spring on Jan. 3, 1947.

Donna was preceded in death by her parents; also by the love of her life, Sovoy Kay, on Dec. 21, 2005.

Survivors include two children, Gina Lochausen (Matt)

and Jerry Thomas of El Paso; two step-children, Paula Kay and John Paul Kay, of San Antonio; four grandchildren, Bishop, Jadyne, and Sofia Thomas and their mother, Vanessa, and Makayla Lochausen, all of El Paso; a brother, Phil Elliott (Cookie) of Big Spring; a sister, Deanna Rogers of Denton, and her sister in spirit, Cheryl Cahill of Big Spring. She will be missed by many nieces and nephews, who adored their Aunt Donna.

Viewing will be held from 9-11 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 29, 2016 at Myers & Smith Funeral Home & Chapel, 301 E. 24th St., Big Spring, Texas. Graveside service will follow at 11:45 a.m. at Trinity Memorial Park, 6900 S. US Highway 87.

Paid obituary

Chris Limon



Chris Limon, 56, of Big Spring, died Thursday, Jan. 21, 2016. He will lie in state Friday, Jan. 29, 2016 from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. with a Vigil service beginning at 7 p.m. at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

He was born Dec. 15, 1959, in Big Spring. He was a lifetime resident of Big Spring and graduated from Big Spring High School in 1978. He was

a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church, and was an altar boy most of his youth at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. He loved motorcycles, and was a self-employed contractor.

He is survived by his father: Manuel Limon of Big Spring; one brother: Oscar M. Limon and his wife Kim of Carrollton; one sister: Sandra Ybarra and her husband Brett Brackett of McKinney; one niece and one nephew.

He was preceded in death by his mother: Virginia Moreno Limon on Jan. 11, 2006.

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

Police / Sheriff

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL PACE**, 43, of 3405 Hali Rd. was arrested on a warrant from another agency.
- **RODOLOF HERNANDEZ JR.**, 45, of 1507 E. 17th St. was arrested on a charge of theft of property, more than \$100 but less than \$750, shoplifting.
- **ALEX FERRELL PAREDEZ**, 24, of 901 E. 16th St. was arrested on charges of theft of property, more than \$100 but less than \$750, shoplifting and criminal mischief, more than \$50 but less than \$500.
- **ANDREW GARZA**, 41, of 2217 Lynn Dr. was arrested on 2 warrants from other agencies.
- **ROCKY TORRES**, 54, of 1301 Lincoln Ave. was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- **KAREN ANN LOPEZ-RUIZ**, 39, of 1203 N. FM 700 Lot 27 was arrested on a charge of assault – family violence, threat or offensive touch.
- **JOSE ALFREDO MELENDEZ**, 32, of 1209 N. FM 700 Lot 27 was arrested on a charge of assault family violence, threat or offensive touch.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 500 block of E. 3rd St., the 200 block of W. FM 700 and the 1500 block of E. Fm 700.
- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 1000 block of N. Main St.
- **HARASSMENT** was reported in the 1500 block of State Park Dr.
- **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 1200 block of N. FM 700.

• **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 1200 block of E. 18th St.

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

- Note – Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 72 inmates at the time of this report.
- **ANDREW GARZA**, 41, was booked by the HCSO on warrants for harassment and theft of property, more than \$750 but less than \$2,500.
- **RODOLFO HERNANDEZ JR.**, 45, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of theft of property, more than \$100 but less than \$750.
- **KAREN ANN LOPEZ-RUIZ**, 39, was booked by the HCSO on a charge of assault – family violence.
- **JOSE ALFREDO MELENDEZ**, 33, was booked by the HCSO on a charge of assault – family violence, threat or offensive touch.
- **BRANDON EUGENE OWENS**, 24, was booked by the HCSO on warrants for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and possession of a controlled substance.
- **CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL PACE**, 43, was booked by the BSPD on a warrant for parole violation.
- **ALEX FERRELL PAREDEZ**, 24, was booked by the BSPD on a warrant for criminal mischief, more than \$50 but less than \$500 and a charge of theft of property, more than \$100 but less than \$750.
- **ROCKY TORRES**, 54, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

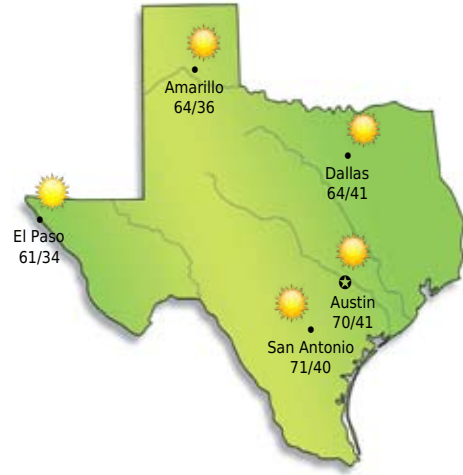
Aniceto “Ernest” Aguinaga

Aniceto “Ernest” Aguinaga, 67, of Big Spring, died Saturday, January 23, 2016 in a local hospital. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home and Crematory.

Local 5-Day Forecast

Thu 1/28	Fri 1/29	Sat 1/30	Sun 1/31	Mon 2/1
63/34 Mainly sunny. High 63F. Winds light and variable.	68/37 Sunny. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the upper 30s.	75/47 Windy with sunshine. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the upper 40s.	73/43 Sunshine. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the low 40s.	70/36 Windy with a mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the mid 30s.
Sunrise: 7:42 AM Sunset: 6:15 PM	Sunrise: 7:42 AM Sunset: 6:16 PM	Sunrise: 7:41 AM Sunset: 6:17 PM	Sunrise: 7:41 AM Sunset: 6:18 PM	Sunrise: 7:40 AM Sunset: 6:19 PM

Texas at a Glance



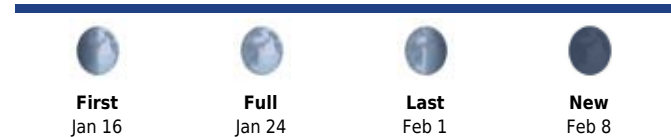
Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Ablene	58	37	Sunny	Kingsville	60	36	Showers
Amarillo	59	28	P Cloudy	Livingston	57	33	P Cloudy
Austin	57	36	M Cloudy	Longview	53	31	Sunny
Beaumont	57	34	P Cloudy	Lubbock	57	29	Sunny
Brownsville	52	41	Few Showers	Lufkin	55	30	P Cloudy
Brownwood	58	32	Sunny	Midland	57	35	Sunny
Corpus Christi	60	40	M Cldy/Wind	Raymondville	58	39	Showers
Corsicana	54	34	Sunny	Rosenberg	57	34	P Cloudy
Dallas	56	36	Sunny	San Antonio	61	34	Cloudy
Del Rio	61	35	M Cloudy	San Marcos	57	34	M Cloudy
El Paso	54	30	Sunny	Sulphur Springs	55	34	Sunny
Fort Stockton	53	34	Sunny	Sweetwater	58	36	Sunny
Gainesville	56	33	Sunny	Tyler	54	33	Sunny
Groesville	55	33	Sunny	Weatherford	58	36	Sunny
Houston	58	35	Cloudy	Wichita Falls	57	36	Sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	51	38	Cloudy	Miami	78	69	Cloudy
Boston	42	26	Cloudy	Minneapolis	37	32	Cloudy
Chicago	34	31	Cloudy	New York	43	31	Cloudy
Dallas	56	36	Sunny	Phoenix	70	44	Clear
Denver	54	30	Clear	San Francisco	62	49	Cloudy
Houston	50	30	Sunny	Seattle	58	52	Rain
Los Angeles	74	47	M Cloudy	Saint Louis	42	31	M Cloudy

Moon Phases



UV Index

Thu 1/28	Fri 1/29	Sat 1/30	Sun 1/31	Mon 2/1
4	4	4	4	4
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

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Support Groups

THURSDAY

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

• Spring Tabernacle Ministries has a faith-based support group for those who need help finding and continuing to walk down the path God has for each of us. Meetings are at 11 a.m. until noon and again at 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The classes take place at Spring Tabernacle Ministries, located at 1209 Wright St.

• Weight Watchers meets at 6 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m. Weigh-in is confidential and you don't have to talk if you don't want to. Flexible payment options.

• A Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder support group meeting is at 6:30 p.m. at the VA Medical Center Veteran's Healing Center.

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CITY

Continued from Page 1

“The reason we are able to do this is because we have a couple of agencies we are hopefully going to partner with,” said Big Spring Mayor Larry McLellan. “We certainly have one out of Austin, Texas. Of course we have to have citizens, we have to some volunteers, but we really have to have some affordable spay and neuter services. And this is one their (the agencies’) goals. They will come into our city and provide this.”

According to City Manager Todd Darden, the move does not change the city’s legal mandate to take care of at-large animals within the community.

“Our job will not change in animal control,” Darden said. “For these programs to be successful you have got to have volunteers that are out there

looking for a place for these unwanted or misplaced pets. It will be the volunteers responsibility to take care of that need.”

Darden added the city will continue to place photos of the animals on Big Spring Police website but will not request more money in the budget for the shelter or increase staff for the purpose of finding places for these animals.

“It’s all we can do just to take care of the daily job.” Darden said. “It is our desire to work with these agencies to make it work.”

Although McLellan has reiterated several times that achieving the No Kill Shelter designation by 2017 is a lofty goal, he said it can be done only if the community is on board.

“I have lived in Big Spring since 1984 and the people of Big Spring do amazing things. I think we need to get the community behind this,” McLellan said. “We have to sell this

to the community.”

It took the city of Austin 14 years to earn the No Kill designation, McLellan said. The Odessa shelter, which also a No Kill shelter, works with more than 100 agencies to help find new homes for the animals, he added. Also achieving the designation will help the city to qualify for grants to help support the program, McLellan said.

Currently, Big Spring is in talks with two agencies.

And without help from volunteers and agencies, McLellan said the city can not reach its goal. Because the city is mandated to take care of at-large animals and is limited in the amount of animals it can take care of humanely, room must be made when the shelter is at capacity, McLellan stressed, who added he himself is a pet owner and doesn’t want any animal to be euthanized.

“It’s not an easy job,” he said. “The

Chief (of Police Chad Williams) gets hammered on this all the time. It’s almost a no win situation. You have got to do this job. You’ve got to protect the citizens, and you can’t have dogs running around all over town. Maybe we can get more progressive. I think it’s good for Big Spring, but it’s a challenge.”

A No Kill Shelter designation means the faculty kills 10 percent or less of the animals it takes in, McLellan said. This leeway allows for animals who are too sick or have such serious issue they can not be adopted safely.

In other business, council members approved:

- a \$182,646 bid for 328 1.5-yard containers and 144 3-yard containers.
- First reading of an Ambulance Operator’s permit for Heart of Texas EMS of Brownwood to provide non-emergency medical transport services in Big Spring.

AD

Continued from Page 1

“It’s a special place,” Finley said. “I’ve had my eye on this place for a long time. We had a great experience when we were here. I had a lot of friends here, I just love the atmosphere and kind of had my eyes on it,

so when I saw the opening, I jumped at it.”

As far as the nuts and bolts of what he plans to bring to the football field next season, Finley said he plans to go with a multiple-option offense — “We want to make sure we do what the kids can do ... fit it to their abilities,” he said — and a defense featuring a four-man front.

His most pressing concern right now, however, is connecting with coaches and athletes at BSISD.

“We’ve got some really good athletes here,” he said. “I’m looking forward to getting to know the kids, building some relationships and getting the most out of them and

building on what Coach Ritchey has accomplished. He’s done a great job and I know I’ve got some big shoes to fill.”

HIGH COST

Continued from Page 1

churches in rural West and North Texas — that are contemplating tough budget choices after nearly two years of paying the highest electric transmission and distribution rates in Texas.

Delivery rates for Sharyland residents are more than twice the state average for regulated utilities. While locals — like many Texans — can choose retail electric providers on the competitive market, they’re stuck with Sharyland’s power lines.

Ironically, the best bet for relief may be if Sharyland’s owner — the Ray L. Hunt family of Dallas — can win control of a much larger share of the state’s electrical distribution system.

Hunt is trying to buy another utility: Oncor, the state’s largest. But the family’s \$18 billion bid is drawing heavy scrutiny, including from Sharyland folks themselves.

“I’m very skeptical of it,” said Raney. “It’s hard to be fleeced for two years, and then the people who are doing the fleecing say, ‘It’s okay — you’re going to be all right.’”

Sharyland ratepayers have complained to the utility and organized on social media (a private Facebook group for aggrieved customers has united more than 1,400 members). They’ve flooded Texas lawmakers and the Public Utility Commission with letters and copies of their bills.

That includes the 50-member Champion Baptist Church, in Roscoe, which is wondering if it could go off-grid to ditch its high bills. And Christian Fellowship Church in Colorado City is holding off on repairing its “House of Refuge,” for displaced people, citing high rates.

“I had somebody tell me the other day that politicians shouldn’t mess with churches or farmers,” said Janey Burke, who helped organize a letter-writing campaign for the Champion Baptist Church. “And this is a church full of farmers.”

The West Texas groundswell has triggered a commission investigation and promises from regulators and utility officials to find a fix.

“There’s no doubt that Sharyland’s residential ratepayers are looking for rate relief, and we support trying to find a

solution,” said Jeanne Phillips, a Hunt spokeswoman.

Hunt officials said any owners would have struggled to keep rates low under the mix of economic and regulatory conditions Sharyland faces.

The company’s biggest challenge, experts say, is that it has too few customers scattered over too many miles.

On top of that, in 2010, it acquired electric co-op CapRock Energy and struggled to bring its customers into the state’s competitive market. In 2013, a cheap long-term power contract expired. And in 2014, the utility commission approved a new rate structure that lowered rates for industrial consumers but raised residential rates. Under the old system, industrial users had essentially subsidized the residents. The change also bumped up some customers to a more expensive rate class.

Sharyland points out that it warned the commission of potential “rate shock” and asked it to approve more gradual changes.

Any fixes would need approval from the three-member commission, which in October approved an adjustment that could save residents just a few dollars per month, and is expected to consider a new Sharyland rate case — a full-scale re-evaluation — this spring.

But even that move would not change the fundamental economics at the utility.

Big fix for little utility?

Something could help fix the problem: Hunt’s mammoth proposal to buy and reshape Oncor, which delivers power much more cheaply to more than three million Texas homes and businesses in North and West Texas — including Raney’s across-the-street neighbor. (His rates, she said, are half of hers or less).

Hunt officials suggest that combining certain Oncor and Sharyland operations would allow scale to ease the tiny utility’s troubles.

“This Oncor proceeding presents a very real and significant opportunity — and that’s what it is, an opportunity — to bring some significant relief for Sharyland customers,” said Paul Schulze, a Sharyland spokesman.

On Thursday, Hunt filed a commitment to prepare a proposal for a possible business combination of the utilities — including addressing rate disparities — if

the Oncor deal is approved.

The commission appears open to some sort of merger, though nothing is guaranteed.

“It would be relatively simple to merge the two operating companies,” Commissioner Ken Anderson said last week during hearings on the plan, which is the lynchpin of efforts by Oncor’s parent, Energy Future Holdings, to emerge from one of the largest corporate bankruptcies in American history.

Still, the Hunts’ broader bid for Oncor has faced fierce pushback from consumer advocates, big industrial power users, staff experts at the utility commission, Oncor officials and even former Gov. Rick Perry.

To save on federal income taxes, Hunt wants to reorganize Oncor into a real estate investment trust, essentially dividing it into two companies: one owning the assets (power lines, trucks and transformers, for instance) while the other rents the equipment, operates it and deals with customers.

That financial structure has long served the real estate world. Shopping malls, for instance, commonly use it, as investors back a broad entity that rents space and other assets to individual stores.

The structure would initially help Oncor borrow money at lower rates, which Hunt says would help keep the utility financially healthy and potentially lead to lower rates in the long run.

But it’s nearly unprecedented in the energy world. The only other U.S. example? Little Sharyland.

Several aspects of the structure make critics nervous, and Sharyland’s troubles have done nothing to raise confidence.

The Hunts have pushed back, calling the concerns “alarmist and misguided.” The company also points out that Sharyland’s real estate investment trust structure drew no mention in the utility commission analysis of the rate troubles.

The commission is expected to rule in late March.

Meantime, Sharyland ratepayers — folks who never had reason to follow such in-the-weeds proceedings — are closely watching.

“Every night I come home, I follow the stories and everything,” Raney said.

FILING

Continued from Page 1

Although he has not officially filed the paperwork, McLellan, a pharmacist who owns several pharmacy businesses in town, said he would also seek a second term in office.

“I think when you look back and you feel like you can make a change and you can give back to the community, I think it is rewarding,” McLellan said. “It (the Mayor’s duties) takes me away from my job a lot. It takes me away from my wife. I feel this community has been very good to me and my family. I think this is exciting times in this community.”

During his three-year term, McLellan touted that the city has dropped its tax rate by 7 percent while increasing employee pay to help ease employee turnover and finding a temporary solution to the city’s landfill issue, which is reaching its capacity.

However, he added, several more challenges need to be addressed in the coming years including improvement to the city’s infrastructure.

“I feel like there is still work to be done,” McLellan said. “I am excited and willing to serve again and hopefully the voters are willing to come out and support me and realize, I think, I’ve done a good job for the voters and the city of Big Spring and spent their money wisely.”

Filing for city council positions, public school board and Howard college trustees began a week ago and will continue through Feb. 19.

Candidates for either office must have been Big Spring residents for at least one year prior to filing for the position, although there is no requirement for the District 5 representative to live within that district.

The election will be held from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. May 7 in the East Room of Dorothy Garret Coliseum, with early voting held from April 25 to May 3 in the Howard County Elections Administrator’s office at the county courthouse.

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Gwendolyn (Gwen) Smith, 73, died Friday. Graveside services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Coahoma Cemetery.

James “Bee-Kid” Conaway, 51, died Saturday. Funeral service will be at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Graveside service will be at 3 p.m. at Dickens Cemetery in Dickens, Texas.

Chris Limon, 56, died Thursday. He will lie in state Friday, January 29, 2016 from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. with a Vigil service beginning at 7 p.m. at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

Donna Kay, 69, died Thursday. The family will receive friends from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Graveside services will be at 11:45 a.m. at Trinity Memorial Park.

Charles Myers
Attorney At Law
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Opinion

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

—FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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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 at editor@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

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The Herald welcomes letters to the editor. We ask you to follow these guidelines:

- 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 e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com or mailed to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721.

DAILY PRAYER

Thank You for mending our lives and lifting up our hearts.

Amen

I column as I see 'em: Parenting: Not for the weak

Using logic, I am reasonably certain that not many young people are regular readers of my weekly literary sojourns through the wilderness of life. Working from that assumption, I am also reasonably sure that most of you reading this have already sent your offspring off to make their own footsteps in the sands of time and have absolutely no interest in hearing about what it takes to raise good kids in a bad world.

Even though I cherish every memory of our child-rearing years, I can honestly say that I'm glad our four children are grown. What a thrill it was to watch them grow, participating in essentially every phase of their development, always considering it a priceless privilege to drive thousands of miles watching ball games, attending choir concerts, and making lasting memories.

Raising a happy, healthy child is one of the most challenging jobs a parent can have, and also one of the most rewarding. Depending on a variety of factors, having a family can be either a glorious and heavenly experience or a living hell. Knowing how to help our kids have roots and wings has been a challenge since the day Adam and Eve started the whole thing.

What factors make a good, or bad, parent? Obviously, there's no simple "one-size-fits-all" answer to such a deep question, but there are some consistent principles associated with successful parenting. While every parent, child, and situation is unique, and every human being has their own DNA doing the driving, there are valuable guidelines available for the parent, grandparent, or caregiver striving to be a successful mentor.

One of the most significant factors often missing in the scenario of child-rearing is sharing quality time together as a family. In fact, due to a myriad of social influences, it's almost impossible in today's world to even define a family, much less actually mold and melt one together

into a socially and emotionally functional unit as it should be.

A changing job market, increasing cost of living and rising tax burdens have resulted in parents spending more time earning a living and less time with their children. Barbara Bush said, "At the end of your life, you will never regret not having passed one more test, not winning one more verdict or not closing one more deal. You will regret time not spent with a husband, a friend, a child, or a parent."

"A lot of times both parents are working full time away from the home, in some instances working 50 to 60 hours a week on two different jobs just to get by financially," notes Dr. Frank Vitro, a professor at Texas Woman's University with a special interest in moral education. "Parents can become so overworked and stressed from problems at the office that they don't have any emotional energy left for their children when they come home at night."

Not only do children spend less time with their parents, they have less contact with other relatives. "We don't have the same sense of community that we used to have partly because people are getting job transfers all over the country and moving to where they don't know anybody, but also because more families are splitting up and becoming separated geographically," says Dr. Marti Erickson, director of the Children's and Family Consortium at the University of Minnesota.

"Grandparents, for example, have less chance to make an impact on their grandchildren's lives because they live hundreds of miles apart and rarely get to see each other."

Isolationism and fear are making it harder to have life connections. Many of us don't even know the names of the people living in the apartment or house next door.

"When I was a child," a 72-year-old man recently said, "everyone in the neighborhood was like a big family. If a neighbor saw me getting into mischief, not only would that person scold me, he'd also take me home and tell my parents what I did. But, if I took that kind of involvement today, I'd probably be told to mind my own business."

One of the main keys to success is being the overseer of

what our kids are feeding into their eye-gates and ear-gates. What a foolish mistake parents make letting Hollywood raise their children.

Television can be profoundly influential in shaping an impressionable child or adolescent's values, attitudes, perceptions, and behaviors. Television reaches children at a younger age and for more time than any other socializing influence, except family. The average child spends 25 hours a week watching television, more time than they spend in school or engaged in any other activity except sleep. Is it any wonder then that children so readily absorb the messages that are presented to them?

So what is the cumulative impact of 25 hours of television a week?

It is estimated that by the time an average child leaves elementary school, he or she will have witnessed 8,000 murders and over 100,000 other acts of violence. By the time that child is 18 years-of-age; he or she will witness 200,000 acts of violence, including 40,000 murders. One 17-year longitudinal study concluded that teens who watched more than one hour of TV a day were almost four times as likely as other teens to commit aggressive acts in adulthood. When you factor in the unlimited resource for filth and evil influence called the internet, the potential for trouble increases dramatically.

Children learn to deal honestly when their parents deal with them truthfully. They learn the importance of keeping their word when their parents follow through on promises and when they see integrity in their parent's relationships.

Keep in mind, however, that children also copy our not-so-praiseworthy behavior. "Children are very quick to pick up on inconsistencies," says Dr. Vitro. "They notice when parents say one thing and do another." Telling youngsters not to gripe about their teachers isn't going to have much effect if they hear their parents complaining about a decision their boss made.

Parenting is not for the weak, but it is one of the greatest privileges God gives us.

You may not agree with anything I've said, but I column as I see 'em.



EDDY PRINCE

Greed is Clinton's Achilles heel

When Bernie Sanders hits rival Hillary Clinton for taking humongous speaking

fees from big banks — notably the \$675,000 Goldman Sachs paid her for three speeches while she eyed the Oval Office — he struck Clinton's Achilles heel. Both the former secretary of state and her husband, former President Bill Clinton, have cashed in since they left the White House in 2000. The New York Times reported last year that the Clintons earned \$139 million from 2007 to 2014. The Clintons' focus on accumulating wealth clouds their judgment.

Start with a basic political fact: Many voters believe Wall Street got off too painlessly for its role in the financial collapse of 2008. Many Democrats blame big banks. So if you know you are going to run for president in the Democratic primary, you probably don't want financial giants paying you five times the American median household income for one speech. It makes you look beholden to fat cats, because — earth to Hillary — most human beings are grateful when someone gives them six figures

for a talk.

"You don't think they expect anything in return?" "Meet the Press" host Chuck Todd asked Clinton on Sunday. "Absolutely not," Clinton answered. She said she took on the big banks as a U.S. senator.

A 2013 Politico story paints a different picture. After questioning attendees of a Clinton Goldman Sachs speech, Politico reported, "What the bankers heard her to say was just what they would hope for from a prospective presidential candidate: Beating up the finance industry isn't going to improve the economy — it needs to stop."

Now, I happen to agree with the sentiment that Washington should work with Wall Street to promulgate regulations that protect the public without hampering commerce.

But her acceptance of Wall Street money taints any concession she might make to financial markets. You know her sympathy lies with plutocrats when she told Diane Sawyer two years ago that Bill Clinton and she left the White House "dead broke."

Democratic primary voters want a nominee who understands the hurdles they face. It's hard to think Clinton understands problems of the middle class when in 2014 as she was crisscrossing the country taking on "income inequality," she charged UCLA \$300,000 for

a speech. (A private endowment paid the tab with funds that, I assume, otherwise would benefit students. Team Clinton explained \$300,000 was her special "university rate." Goldman Sachs paid less.)

Defenders are free to mention Republican ex-presidents who charged hefty speaking fees. George W. Bush reportedly fetches \$100,000 to \$175,000 for a speech. Clinton, however, breaks the mold by cashing in before winning the Oval Office. Check writers are looking ahead, not behind, with a reasonable expectation of friendly treatment.

Clinton also charged a University of Nevada at Las Vegas endowment \$225,000 for a 2014 speech. I keep wondering whether she thought of speaking at public universities free of charge — maybe because she believes in higher education. And because she wants to fight income inequality. But first, she takes care of No. 1.

Email Debra J. Saunders at dsanders@sfchronicle.com. To find out more about Debra J. Saunders and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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DEBRA SAUNDERS

Roadside services impacts of Ports-to-Plains

EDITOR'S NOTE:
This is the ninth in a series of articles highlighting the Ports-to-Plains project.

As you drive the Ports-to-Plains Alliance Corridors, one of the obvious economic impacts of the increasing traffic counts is an increase in the number of truck stops, c-stores, lodging and restaurants — each the result of increased travel along the corridor. In such a long corridor, it is nearly impossible to summarize that increase, but the 2004 Ports-to-Plains Corridor Development and Management Plan (CDMP) used modeling to provide an estimated economic impact of the expansion of highways along the Ports-to-Plains Corridor in Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico

and Colorado. The CDMP evaluated lodging, food, gasoline, diesel and other retail purchases driven by the increased travelers. The CDMP found that the improved road will attract more travelers, increasing the spending at roadside establishments.

Between 2006 and 2030, the expansion of commercial activities serving Corridor travelers is expected to generate approximately 2,031 new annual jobs and about \$722.4 million in earnings in 2004 dollars throughout the Corridor states by 2030.

As the corridor continues to develop, lodging sales are expected to increase incrementally to an annual total of 215 new jobs and a total of \$71.8 million in total earnings through 2030. These jobs total 2,830 job-years (a job-year is one new job counted for each year it exists during the period) through 2030.

Food sales increases will result in an estimated increase of \$83.3 million in total earnings and 4,055 new job-years while the total number of jobs in this sector

grows incrementally to an annual total of 314 new jobs by 2030.

Employment associated with diesel sales was estimated to increase incrementally per year to an annual total of 309 new jobs in 2030 or by 3,550 new job-years across the period. Earnings from those jobs total an estimated \$105.5 million through 2030.

Gas sales are expected

to increase incrementally to an annual total of 461 new jobs and by \$182.1 million in total earnings through 2030. These jobs total 6,070 job-years through 2030.

The largest sector of roadside services is other retail. Other retail sales increases will result in an estimated \$279.7 million in total earnings from 9,415 new job-years while the total number of jobs in this

sector grows incrementally to an annual total of 732 new jobs by 2030.

These new jobs and earnings are often the economic lifeblood of smaller communities along the corridor.

Ports-to-Plains is a grassroots alliance of over 275 communities and businesses, including alliance partners Heartland Expressway, Theodore Roosevelt Expressway and Eastern

Alberta Trade Corridor Coalition, whose mission is to advocate for a robust international transportation infrastructure to promote economic security and prosperity throughout North America's energy and agricultural heartland including Mexico to Canada. Additional information on the Ports-to-Plains Alliance is available at "www.portstoplains.com"



MICHAEL REEVES



Oil slump takes a toll on engineering grads

DALLAS — Shane Farren has a timing problem.

In 2011, when the Dallas native enrolled at Texas A&M and picked what was then one of the most lucrative college majors, oil prices were soaring above \$100 a barrel and energy companies were recruiting petroleum engineers as early as their freshman year.

Four years later, with a degree in hand and oil prices tanking to an 11-year low, Farren had to turn to his Plan B — grad school, a part-time job at a Dallas-area oil company and hopes of a rebound.

"I'm just taking it step by step," Farren said. "But I really want to stay in the industry."

The boom-and-bust cycles in the oil business can be brutal for those wanting to make it a career. Recent grads entered the field when colleges boasted near 100 percent job placement rates and six-figure jobs awaited the top of the class.

Today, the biggest colleges in Texas have enrollment caps in place

and advise petroleum engineering majors to consider other disciplines, take entry-level jobs to stay in the industry, or go to grad school until conditions improve.

But the next two graduating classes — the petroleum engineers who entered school before the 2014 crash — are still the largest in history.

The few universities that put enrollment caps in place before the price collapse, such as Texas A&M and the University of Texas at Austin, had been getting as many as 15 applicants for each available spot, said Jon Olson, chair of UT's petroleum engineering department.

Those who research the industry realized several years ago that increased demand could oversaturate the job market, especially if there was a steep drop in oil prices.

2010 "was when we collectively in the U.S. started talking about it," said Lloyd Heinze, a professor at Texas Tech who has collected data

on petroleum engineering programs since the 1970s. "But a university is a large boat, and it's hard to turn very fast."

In 2010, there were 4,721 petroleum engineering students in the United States, according to Heinze's data. Today, there are 11,332.

"That gives you an idea of what happens when universities think there's a job market there," Heinze said. "We've collectively probably produced way more students in the last five years than we should have."

For Farren, the challenging classes were worth it, and not just for the money the career would yield.

"Taking classes revolving around oil, I just fell in love with it," he said. "I find myself picking up books about oil and gas and reading them."

Companies were courting freshmen and sophomores for internships, and Farren worked them during the summers. Typically, companies offer interns who are entering their senior year full-time

positions at the end of the summer.

The June before his senior year, the price of oil peaked at \$115 a barrel. By December, it had fallen to less than \$70. Now it's below \$30.

That precipitous drop forced oil and gas companies to cut more than 250,000 jobs worldwide, according to industry consultant Graves & Co.

The first jobs to go were those closest to the rigs, the actual hands-on work in the field. But it wasn't long before employees with the least seniority were cut. And there are no employees with less seniority than those who haven't even started working yet.

"One of my good buddies had a full-time offer that got rescinded," Farren said. "That was a real eye-opener for me."

The last comparable slump was in the mid-1980s, when crude oil prices fell more than 46 percent between January and March 1986. Students then faced similar job shortages.

"There's not many industries like this," said Mike Minarovic, a 1987 UT graduate who now manages an oil and gas company in Houston. "The price of an F-150 truck doesn't go down 50 percent in 12 months."

There are still jobs in the industry — just fewer of them, said Daniel Hill, head of Texas A&M's petroleum engineering department.

"We tell students in times like this you just have to work at it a lot harder," Hill said.

In 2014, about 80 percent of Texas A&M graduates were placed in full-time positions or in graduate programs, Hill said. That percentage, while lower than petroleum placement in the past, was still higher than the national employment rate for college graduates, which was 69.4 percent in 2014.

But in a December poll in a Texas A&M senior seminar, only 50 percent of those graduating have job offers, and 10 percent plan to go to graduate school,

Hill said.

At Texas Tech, Heinze estimated the numbers are even lower. "I'd be surprised if more than 25 percent of them have a job," he said.

The consensus among petroleum engineering professors, professionals and students is that the industry will be back on the rise by the time this year's freshmen graduate. Some experts cautiously predict prices to climb into the \$60 range by 2020. By then, Heinze predicts that class sizes will have shrunk to a reasonable level.

"Maybe instead of 15 applicants for every chair, we'll have six or seven," UT's Olson said.

The demographics of the industry also ensure that companies will hire in the future as engineers brought on before the 1980s price crash begin reaching retirement age.

But for the three or four years of students in between — the ones like Farren in grad-school limbo — prospects may be more uncertain.

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Firearms galore at Coliseum



By Silvio J. Panta
Odessa-American

Throughout the week, Abilene resident Drew Whitten is a friendly, mild-mannered mechanic.

But on the weekends Whitten turns into a tireless gun dealer who often travels all over the state selling his wares.

Going to gun shows is nothing new to Whitten, who said he's been attending such events since he was 6 years old. Whitten and his wife Stephanie O'Neill spend a couple of hours loading up their truck with about 30 to 40 guns before heading out to a gun show, he said.

Whitten has been selling guns for the past two years, but it was his first time selling in Odessa.

"We've been trying to get to where this is our main business," said Whitten before O'Neill jokingly interjected, "he keeps me busy that's for sure."

Whitten and O'Neill weren't the only ones keeping busy

Saturday as a throng of gun dealers and patrons crowded Building G of the Ector County Coliseum to the first Permian Basin Gun Show of this year.

John and Shirley Pokorny sponsored the event that had dealers come from all over the state to meet with potential buyers looking for that special item. John Pokorny said he was uncertain how many dealers were in attendance but explained that some pay for only one table while other dealers pay for up to 10 tables for the show.

Three more Permian Basin Gun Shows are scheduled for March, June and August. The right to sell and own guns is especially important in light of President Barack Obama's recent order to have background checks for all sellers at gun shows, Pokorny said.

Such move is a thinly veiled attempt to first register a seller, and then confiscate his weapon, Pokorny said. He said he believes that the presidential order would

be tied up in the courts for at least a year, and could probably take another year to administer, or process, if the order is affirmed.

Pokorny questioned the wisdom of enacting a gun control measure that would impede on anyone's right to protect themselves or their property.

"I've been putting on gun shows for the last 43 years," said Pokorny, who values the participation of dealers. "Without dealers you don't have a show"

There was an array of guns, knives and even coins on display during the daylong event where couples and families looked around.

Semi-automatic handguns, pistol grips of various sizes and gun stocks were for sale. There were also hand-stamped "conceal and carry" leather purses, along with regular ones that were on display as part of Paula Singleton's rented table.

Bill Welsh, a retired high school teacher who has been a longtime numismatist, was in the back selling vintage coins of various sizes. His display that also included old confederate paper money appeared out of place for a gun show, but Welsh assured that many gun dealers often come to buy what he has for sale. A lot of the gun dealers have been his best customers the whole time he has been selling coins, Welsh said.

"I do better at gun shows than at coin shows," he said.

Tiny district to offer state's first 4-day school week



By MADLIN MEKELBURG

The Texas Tribune One of the smallest school districts in Texas will make history this fall as it transitions to a predominantly four-day school

week — the first of its kind in the state.

Olfen Independent School District, a kindergarten-through-eighth grade district outside San Angelo that boasts 56 students, approved the new schedule earlier this month. Olfen officials cited a new law passed by the Legislature allowing districts more flexibility in setting calendars.

"We think this is going to be something great for our students and something that can also benefit a lot of parents out there," Olfen Superintendent Gabriel Zamora said. "I just saw the possibility, once the law was passed and everything. I never thought I would be in the district that had the right circumstances."

The Olfen school board unanimously voted Jan. 12 to approve the change for the 2016-17 school year. The new schedule includes four mandatory instructional days and an optional day on Friday.

Students who do not receive passing marks on progress reports will be required to attend school on Fridays to receive tutoring, while passing students will have the choice to stay home. A handful of weeks during the year will have a full five days of instruction.

Zamora, who compared the optional day to "Super Saturdays" in other districts, said it would include a few hours of tutoring in the morning and activities such as karate, tumbling and pottery in the afternoon.

Zamora proposed the change after the Legislature last spring passed a law altering how the state defines a school year.

The law requires districts to have at least 75,600 minutes of instruction each year instead of the previously stipulated 180 days.

The new Olfen ISD calendar will have 160 class days that total more than 77,000 minutes, according to Zamora. The district will increase the duration of each school day by 25 minutes.

"The purpose of the bill was to offer traditional independent school districts more flexibility and local control," said the bill's author, state Rep. Ken King, R-Canadian. "Every school district has different needs."

DeEtta Culbertson, a spokeswoman for the Texas Education Agency, confirmed that Olfen is the first school district in the state to offer a four-day week schedule, although others have unsuccessfully pushed for a similar schedule in the past.

El Paso leaders approve plans for Pope visit to border

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — El Paso city councilors have unanimously approved plans for the much anticipated visit from Pope Francis to the



AP Photo/Riccardo De Luca

Mexican city of Juarez next month.

Both border cities will draw hundreds of thousands of visitors aiming to get a glimpse of the pope on Feb. 17.

El Paso will close a portion of its border highway, several downtown neighborhoods and city government. The city estimates these moves will cost about \$1 million. At least two El Paso school districts are also closing that day.

The pontiff's Juarez visit will come at the end of a five-day Mexico trip. He will give a mass on a large Juarez field near the international border that people in El Paso may be able to hear. The Catholic Diocese of El Paso is hosting a mass viewing event at the Sun Bowl.

Cockfighting raid in Texas leads to 40 arrests, \$32K seized

MIDLAND, Texas (AP) — At least 40 people face charges after a weekend raid on a suspected cockfighting operation in West Texas that led to the seizure of about 30 roosters.

The Midland County Sheriff's Office says deputies and other officers confiscated about \$32,000 as part of the bust Saturday at a home near Midland.

Sheriff Gary Painter

said Monday that more than 2 pounds of cocaine was seized, along with drugs likely used to inject the roosters before the fights. Several dead birds were found at the scene.

The suspects face

state felony charges related to cockfighting, which is illegal in Texas.

The surviving roosters were being turned over to animal rescue officials.

Abbott seeks federal disaster help after Texas tornadoes

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Gov. Greg Abbott has requested a federal disaster declaration for some Texas counties after deadly late-December blizzards and tornadoes.

Abbott on Tuesday announced the request for individual assistance for people in Collin, Dallas, Ellis, Franklin, Rockwall and Van Zandt counties.

The winter weather pushed into West Texas on Christmas Day. By Dec. 26 twisters and other violent weather reached North Texas, claiming at least 13 lives.

Abbott's request for public assistance includes some of the original counties, plus others: Castro, Childress, Cochran, Dallas, Deaf Smith, Dickens,

Ellis, Hall, Hardeman, Harrison, Henderson, Hopkins, Kaufman, Kent, King, Lamb, Lubbock, Navarro, Parmer, Rains, Red River, Rockwall, Titus and Van Zandt counties.

Abbott also added Hockley, Liberty, Terry and Wichita counties to the state disaster declaration he issued Dec. 27.

Hundreds of Texas water suppliers fail to test for lead

DENTON, Texas (AP) — The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality says that hundreds of state public water suppliers failed to test for lead and copper in their systems last year.

The Denton Record-Chronicle reports that about 1,000 out of 2,245 water suppliers failed to fulfill the testing protocol in summer 2015. Local, state and federal officials do not have current data required on lead and copper levels for about 1 in 7 of the state's 6,916 public water systems.

The state laboratory used to send sampling

kits to suppliers for testing before protocol was changed to allow suppliers to choose their own laboratories, as long as it was certified. Water suppliers are now in charge of getting their own sampling kits, which led to a failure in testing.

Commission spokesman Terry Clawson said that the change in the testing protocol was made at the request of the state's water suppliers.

"They wanted the option to 'shop around' for cost savings by choosing their labs," Clawson said.

The agency notified

suppliers in January 2014 to test their systems last summer. Testing is typically done in the summer because warmer temperatures increase the risk of lead and copper leaching from old pipes.

Fritz Schwalm, the longtime manager of the laboratory for Denton Water Utilities, said that Denton city employees accepted their responsibility for their failure to react to the protocol change.

He said that they have drafted procedures to make sure the city, which is required to check for lead and copper every three years,

has what it needs to complete testing on time.

Denton utility customers were notified in their January water bill about the testing failure. The maximum level of lead allowed in drinking water is 0.015 parts per million. Denton had 0.00168 ppm in 2012.

The maximum level of copper allowed in drinking water is 1.3 ppm. Denton had 0.456 ppm in 2012.

Information from: Denton Record-Chronicle, www.denton-rc.com

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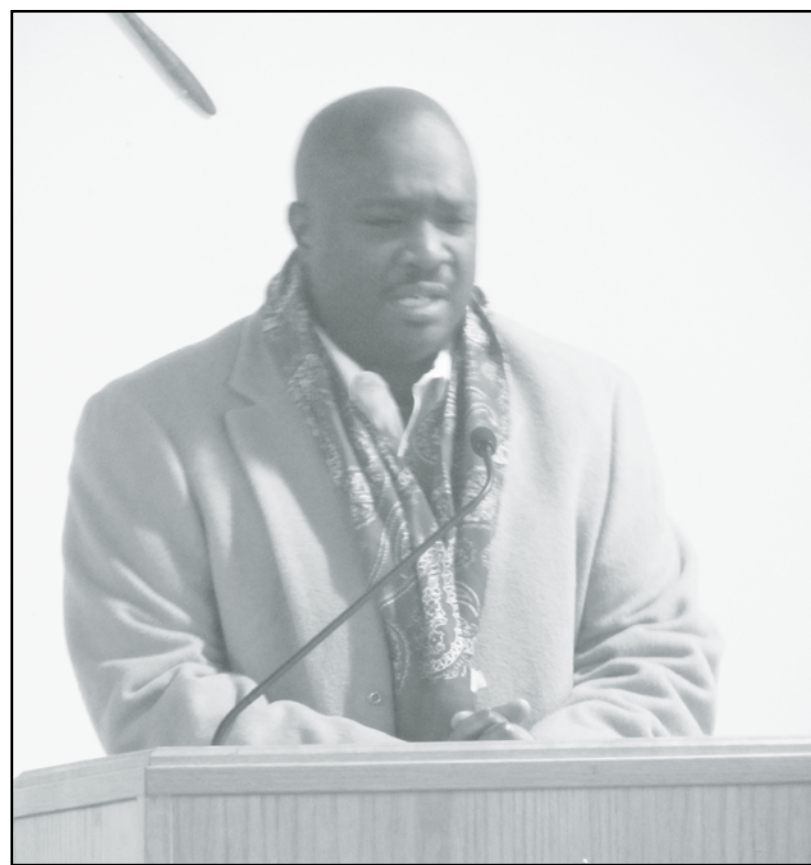


HERALD photos/Julie Bass
Participants at the Silver Wings Ball dressed in their best evening attire to enjoy music, great food, and dance the night away Saturday. The event is the largest fund-raiser for Hangar 25 Air Museum and was held at the Settles Hotel.

Something smells good!



HERALD photos/Amanda Elston
As of Jan. 15, Blue Ribbon Cafe is open for breakfast! Breakfast is served from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. and gourmet coffee drinks are prepared by Mimi Garcia (pictured left), formerly of Bean's World. Lunch is still being served at the regular hours of 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Pictured at top is Lilly Trevino cooking up some breakfast for the early morning crowd.



Conducting city business

HERALD photos/Lyndel Moody
Big Spring City Council members met Tuesday night at the Council Chambers for regular business. At left, District 2 Councilwoman Carmen Harbour listens to a presenter during the meeting. At right, the Rev. Michael Willard, pastor of Corner Stone Church, gives the opening invocation.

Have an idea? Comment? Suggestion?
Contact the Herald at 263-7331 or
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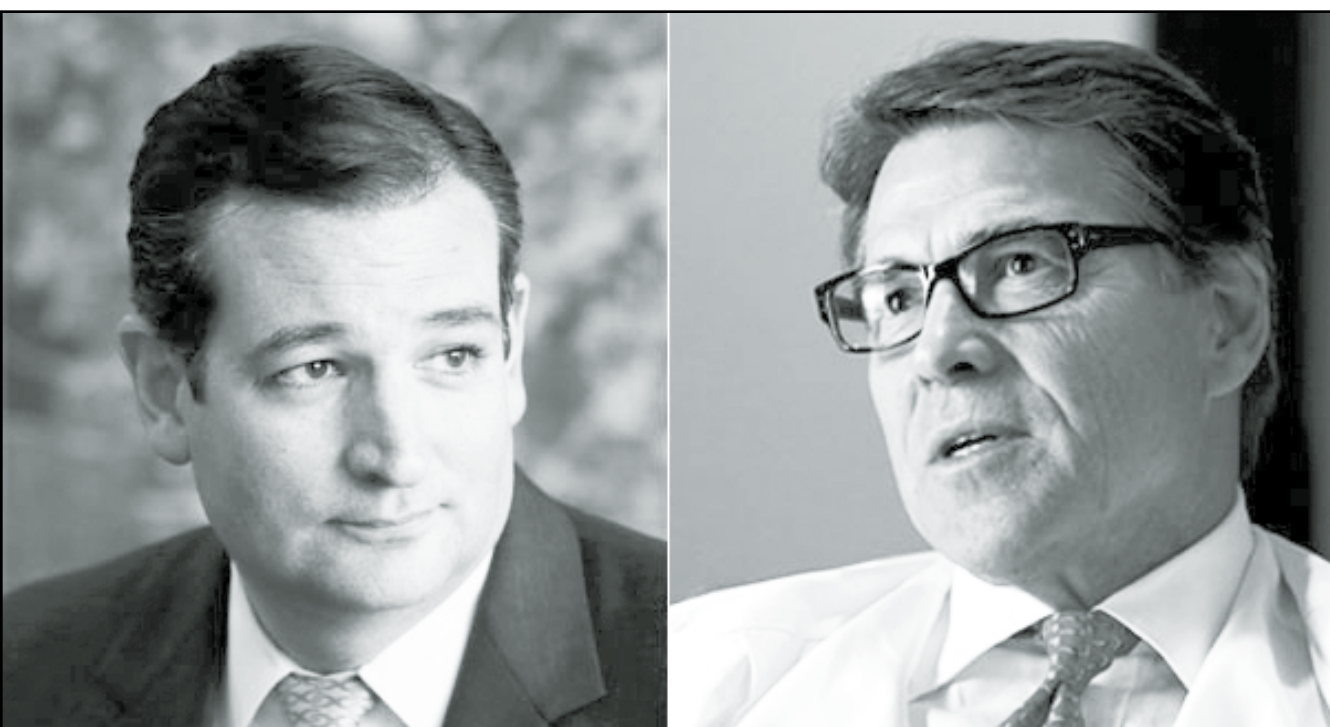
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Perry joins Cruz on campaign trail



By **JOSH LEDERMAN**

Associated Press

OSCEOLA, Iowa (AP) — Ted Cruz worked to consolidate support from Iowa conservatives Tuesday with the help of former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, while rival Donald Trump claimed Cruz was “nervous” with less than a week until voting kicks off in Iowa.

A day after nabbing the endorsement from his former primary rival, Cruz planned seven stops with Perry in central Iowa, joined by other bold-name conservatives backing Cruz. Though lagging behind Trump national-

ly, Cruz is locked in a cut-throat race with Trump in Iowa as the broader Republican Party slowly comes around to the likelihood that one of the two could be their nominee.

“He’s so nervous. He’s such a mess,” Trump told ABC’s “Good Morning America,” dismissing questions raised by Cruz about his record on abortion.

Cruz has sought to avoid a personal war of words with Trump, whose supporters he’s working to peel off in Iowa and other early-voting states. Instead, as he opened a packed day of campaigning

in a sawdust-floored barn, Cruz took veiled swipes at Trump by drawing contrasts with the real estate mogul’s past comments on gay marriage and President Barack Obama’s efforts to rescue the economy.

Perry, who ended his second presidential campaign in September, said he knew Cruz previously through “the caricature of the media,” but had gotten to know him better since dropping out.

“He may be one of the great listeners I’ve ever been around in my life,” Perry said.

Both Cruz and Trump are

seeking to capitalize on a strain in the GOP hungry for an insurgent conservative that can shake up the status quo. Trump spent the morning endorsing from Jerry Falwell Jr., president of the Liberty University and an influential voice in evangelical politics.

The angling among the two leading GOP candidates came as the leading Democratic contenders fought over whose record of fighting for economic fairness has been the most consistent, effective and tested.

Clinton, in a television ad released Tuesday airing in Iowa, argued she’s spent her life fighting and won’t stop now. The ad uses archival footage of to paint a chronological picture of her career over many decades, and in a twist on the required tagline, she says, “I’m Hillary Clinton and I’ve always approved this message.”

Bernie Sanders, locked in a tight race with Clinton in Iowa, acknowledged in a town hall forum Monday night that

his plan for free public college tuition and government-run health care would raise taxes — an unusual admission from a presidential candidate. But he defended the proposal and tried to turn the tables on Clinton by questioning her support for expanding Social Security benefits.

“If Secretary Clinton drops in, ask her for her view,” Sanders told a steel workers union in Des Moines. “I don’t think she agrees.”

The Vermont independent waxed confident on Tuesday that he had an “excellent chance” to win Iowa if his voters turn out. Recent polls show Sanders within just a few points of Clinton, suggesting Monday’s first-in-the-nation caucuses could be a toss-up.

Even as the candidates mounted their final push in Iowa, they were also a close watch on New Hampshire, where the more mainstream Republicans are hoping an impressive showing can elevate one of them as the alternative to Cruz or Trump. John Kasich, focusing almost exclusively on New Hampshire, was touting recent endorsements from the Boston Globe and Concord Monitor, while Chris Christie sought to capitalize on his nod from the nearby Boston Herald.



Who’s Obama for? Clinton has reason to smile

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama hasn’t endorsed a Democratic successor, but he’s now revealed some personal pros and cons in the fight between Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders.

Clinton has reason to smile.

In an interview published Monday, Obama casts his former secretary of state as a “wicked smart,” progressive pragmatist and Sanders as a “bright, shiny object” fueled by Democrats’ long-standing frustrations. He defends Clinton as burdened by her perceived front-runner status while Sanders benefits from “the luxury of being a complete long shot.”

“Her strengths can be her weaknesses,” Obama said in the interview with Politico’s “Off Message” podcast. “Her strengths, which are the fact that she’s extraordinarily experienced — and, you

know, wicked smart and knows every policy inside and out — sometimes could make her more cautious and her campaign more prose than poetry. But those are also her strengths. It means that she can govern and she can start here, day one, more experienced than any novice president has ever been who aspires to this office.”

The comments, coming a week before the Iowa caucuses, were Obama’s most detailed yet on the unexpectedly tight contest to replace him. After months of keeping to his promise not to interfere, Obama’s analysis showed he’s been watching closely and thinking deeply about which candidate is best positioned to win — and carry on his policies.

In framing the debate, Obama was notably on board with the Clinton campaign, which promotes her as battle-tested and experienced.

Rubio’s Iowa crisscross approach bends caucus campaign norm

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Marco Rubio is all over the map in Iowa. Quite literally.

Having spent little time in the state’s rural Christian conservative northwest, the Republican presidential candidate dropped in to Sioux County for the first time on a solo campaign trip last week, then bounced across the state two days later to speak with some of Iowa’s more fiscally conservative voters in the east.

“I’m going to trust that he knows what he’s doing,” state Rep. John Wills, who supports Rubio, said after his campaign stop at the Christian Dordt College in GOP-rich Sioux Center. “I hope he

gets the chance to get up here again. Northwest Iowa is where you win.”

Rubio began an uninterrupted nine-day run Saturday ahead of Iowa’s lead-off caucuses next Monday.

His itinerary includes college towns, larger cities and rural outposts.

After months of promising that his campaign was on the verge of ramping up in early-voting states, Rubio appears to be following through in the Iowa homestretch.

He dismisses the notion that he’s changing in the 11th hour to play catch-up with rival Ted Cruz, who has dedicated signifi-

cant time and resources toward campaigning across the state.

Rubio has focused more on Des Moines and the state’s other urban areas.

Tight Democrat race highlights differing views of gov’t role

By **JULIE PACE**

Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — For months, the tumultuous Republican presidential primary has masked a brewing debate among Democrats about their own party’s future.

Now, with Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders chipping away at Hillary Clinton’s grip on the Democratic nomination, the differences are spilling out into the open as the candidates campaign across snow-covered Iowa.

At its core, the divide between Clinton and Sanders is about just how much to change current economic, health care and education systems, and what the federal government’s role in those areas should be. The candidates often share the same goals, but have different policy prescriptions and preferred tactics for achieving them.

Sanders, an independent who caucuses with Democrats on Capitol Hill, has been unabashed in his calls for a “political revolu-

tion,” energizing his crowds as he urges them to join him in leading the country in a “new direction.” Reflecting the views of liberal Democrats, he sees the government as a vehicle that supplies Americans with the basic tools they need to achieve economic security.

If health care coverage is one of those rights, Sanders believes the government should provide it through a single-payer system, even if that means raising taxes. If higher education is now a requirement for jobs in a modern economy, Sanders says the government must guarantee free tuition at public colleges and universities.

Sanders touted his education plan this week through the prism of a young person who may be seeking to become the first in their family to go to college.

“If that kid studies hard and does well in school, he or she will be able to get an education regardless of the income of the family,” Sanders said. “That is revolutionary.”

Clinton, a former senator and secretary of state, prefers to talk about “achievable” outcomes and douses her campaign remarks with reminders about

how difficult nearly every fight a president takes on will be to achieve. With Sanders growing stronger, she’s taken to outlining his proposals during her remarks, only to explain to voters why they’re unfeasible.

“I think my way — a hard, patient, persistent way — is the best,” Clinton said Monday during a town hall in Knoxville, Iowa.

Like Sanders, Clinton believes in universal health care coverage and college affordability. But he talks about health care and college education as basic rights that the federal government should provide to all, while Clinton is more focused on how to lift up people who are getting left behind.

Scarred by her own failed efforts to push through comprehensive health care reform in the 1990s, Clinton is unwilling to dive back into another sweeping legislative debate now that President Barack Obama’s overhaul is in place. Instead, she’s called for building on what’s in place to address costs that are still too high for many Americans.

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News in brief

Arrests of Oregon standoff leaders leaves 1 person dead

BURNS, Ore. (AP) — Federal and state law officers arrested the leaders of an armed group occupying a national wildlife refuge, during a traffic stop along a highway in Oregon's frozen high country that prompted gunfire and left one man dead.

Militant leader Ammon Bundy and his followers were reportedly heading to a community meeting at the senior center Tuesday in John Day, about 70 miles north of Burns, to address local residents to discuss their views on federal management of public lands.

In a statement, the FBI and Oregon State Police said agents had made a total of eight arrests — including Ammon Bundy.

Oregon State Police confirmed that its troopers were involved in the traffic-stop shooting. One of those arrested, described only as a man, suffered non-life-threatening wounds, the agencies said. Another man "who was a subject of a federal probable cause arrest" was killed, they said. The agencies said they would not release further information pending identification by the medical examiner.

The Oregonian reported that Arizona rancher Robert "LaVoy" Finicum was the person killed, citing the man's daughter. The 55-year-old was a frequent and public presence at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, often speaking for the group at news conferences.

Danish hospital says case of Zika virus discovered

HELSINKI (AP) — A Danish tourist has been infected by the Zika virus after visiting southern and central America, Danish hospital officials say, but authorities said Wednesday it was not the first case in Europe.

In a statement Tuesday, the Aarhus University Hospital said the patient ran a fever, had a headache and muscle aches and was discovered as having the virus on Tuesday.

There hospital released no further details about the patient but it says that there is little risk of its spreading in Denmark because the mosquito carrying the virus isn't found in the country.

Romit Jain, from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control in Stockholm, says there have been confirmed cases of imported Zika virus infections in Germany and Britain.

A Zika virus case was also confirmed in Sweden last summer, said Sara Rorbecker of the Swedish Public Health Agency. She said the patient — a woman of non-fertile age — had contracted the virus when traveling, adding that there was nothing "dramatic" about the case.

Iranian president: free speech can't include insulting faith

ROME (AP) — Iranian President Hassan Rouhani says freedom of expression doesn't extend to insulting other people's faith.

Rouhani told reporters Wednesday that he and Pope Francis discussed the issue during their audience at the Vatican on Tuesday.

Francis was once asked about the extremist attacks on the satirical French magazine Charlie Hebdo. He suggested that a violent reaction could be expected when someone's faith is insulted, saying that anyone who insults his mother can expect to be punched.

Rouhani concurred, saying "freedom of expression doesn't mean that people can do what they want."

He made the comments hours before arriving in Paris on the next leg of his European trip.

Racial disparities in Connecticut stun gun use

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Officers in Connecticut last year fired stun guns at blacks and Hispanics at a higher rate than at white suspects, and



Photo by Dave Killen/The Oregonian

Highway 395 is blocked at Seneca between John Day and Burns, Ore., by Oregon State police officers Tuesday evening. A more than 50-mile stretch of highway in Oregon has been closed near where an armed group has been occupying a national wildlife refuge. A group led by Ammon Bundy seized the headquarters of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge south of Burns on Jan. 2 as part of a long-running dispute over public lands in the West.

warned but didn't fire at white suspects at a higher rate than they did blacks or Hispanics, according to preliminary data from the nation's first statewide accounting of the weapons' use by police.

Among the figures revealed in the raw data, obtained and reviewed by The Associated Press ahead of an official report expected in coming weeks:

— Police reported 641 incidents involving stun guns last year, including 437 actual firings and 204 threats of use.

— Thirty percent of the people involved in the overall incidents were black and 21 percent were Hispanic.

— Within the overall number of stun gun incidents, officers fired at them 60 percent of the time in cases involving whites, 80 percent of the time in cases involving blacks and 69 percent of the time in cases involving Hispanics.

Houston prosecutor has angered anti-abortion groups before

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The Houston prosecutor handling the only criminal case to date over stealth video of Planned Parenthood clinics around the U.S. has infuriated anti-abortion activists before: In 2013, a grand jury on her watch cleared a doctor accused of ending late-term pregnancies.

Harris County District Attorney Devon Anderson, a Republican originally appointed by former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, is now watching her party fume after she announced a grand jury cleared Planned Parenthood of misusing fetal tissue — and instead indicted the makers of undercover video widely embraced by the GOP. But those who know the former judge say she is no ideologue and won't buckle to politics.

Anderson's announcement this week was surprising. Not only do grand juries rarely turn the tables on those making the criminal accusations, but Texas Republican Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick urged Anderson to investigate based on footage that accused a Houston clinic of illegally selling fetal tissue for profit.

When Anderson was up for election in 2014, she ran as "proud, pro-life Texan mother of two" and was backed by the wealthy GOP elite. But the case against David Daleiden and Sandra Merritt, anti-abortion activists who live in California, is now perhaps Anderson's most visible case since she first took office in 2013.

It also has a somewhat familiar ring to it.

Analysis: US student arrest renews scrutiny of NKorean tours

TOKYO (AP) — An American university student's arrest in North Korea has rekindled questions about whether a small but steady trickle of U.S. tourists who go to the country are unwittingly offering themselves up as valuable pawns in a political game with Pyongyang that can have serious

repercussions for officials back in Washington who have to bail them out when things go wrong.

U.S. tourism to North Korea is legal and virtually all Americans who make the journey return home without incident.

But the detention of Otto Warmbier (WORM-bir), a 21-year-old University of Virginia economics major who had had chosen to spend his New Year's vacation in North Korea, comes at a particularly difficult — or opportune, depending on how you choose to interpret it — time.

Just days after he was arrested, the North conducted what it said was its first H-bomb test. As Warmbier sits in detention, the United Nations Security Council is mulling a new round of what are expected to be heavy sanctions in response to that test.

According to Warmbier's tour agent, Young Pioneer Tours, he was almost on his plane home when officials pulled him aside, took him into a special room at the Pyongyang airport and placed him under arrest for allegedly committing an as-yet-undisclosed hostile act against the state.

Bikram yoga founder ordered to pay \$7.4M for sex harassment

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A man who made an empire out of his high-heat brand of yoga has been ordered to pay well over \$7 million to a former legal adviser who said he sexually harassed her.

A Los Angeles jury ordered Bikram yoga founder Bikram Choudhury to pay \$6.5 million in punitive damages Tuesday on top of \$924,000 in compensatory he was ordered to pay in the same case a day earlier.

The woman, Minakshi "Miki" Jafa-Bodden, had said Choudhury sexually harassed her and wrongfully fired her for investigating another woman's rape allegation.

"This is a good day for women," Jafa-Bodden said in a statement following the verdict.

Choudhury's attorney, Robert Tafoya, did not return calls for comment Monday or Tuesday.

Prayers, blood drive for officer wounded in New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Friends and family of a Louisiana sheriff's deputy critically wounded in New Orleans while serving a warrant were praying for him as well-wishers rushed to give blood to help in his recovery.

Stephen Arnold was still in the intensive care unit at a New Orleans hospital after losing a lot of blood and doctors would be monitoring him closely over the next few days "...to make sure there's nothing wrong with his brain," Debbie Webber, a spokeswoman for the Drug Enforcement Administration in New Orleans, said late Tuesday.

"We just hope he wakes up," Webber said.

Arnold was shot five times.

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Bulldogettes remain in playoff hunt

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

COAHOMA — It was feast or famine for Coahoma basketball fans Tuesday.

On the feast side, The Coahoma Bulldogettes had no trouble picking up their second district win of the year as they took a 57-25 win over Reagan County. The news wasn't as good for the CHS boys, however, as they dropped a 49-37 decision to Reagan County to remain winless in district play.

Girls game

The Bulldogettes' go-to girls went and got Coahoma a win it desperately needed. Inside players Julia Casti-

law and Lauren Simer had 23 and 12 points, respectively, to help keep the Bulldogettes in the playoff chase.

"I can't even tell you the importance of those two," CHS Coach Jay Parker said after the game. "They are our go-to players. They feed off each other's game ... and they both played extremely well tonight."

Castilaw and Simer led the Coahoma attack from the outset, but their presence was especially notable in the second quarter, scoring 12 of the team's 14 points during the frame, which ended with the Bulldogettes holding a 22-12 lead.

The Bulldogettes expanded

their lead even further in the third quarter, out-scoring the Lady Owls 20-4 to push their lead to a very comfortable 42-16 margin.

The win enabled Coahoma to remain in solid contention for one of the four playoff spots from the district.

"This was a must-win game for us," Parker said. "Any of these four teams are capable of winning on any given night, so we couldn't afford to overlook Reagan County tonight."

The Bulldogettes are back in action Friday when they travel to Stanton. Game time is 6:30 p.m.

Boys game

The Coahoma Bulldogs were able to play Reagan County even for the first quarter, but the Owls gradually pulled away after that.

Entering the second quarter tied with Coahoma, the Owls used eight consecutive points from Baylee Martin to grab the lead for good.

After falling behind by more than 12 points, however, the Bulldogs mounted a final comeback in the fourth quarter, trimming Reagan County's lead to 37-31 with 5:36 remaining on a three-pointer from John Bermea. The Owls, however, quelled the rally with a 9-2 run to push the lead to double digits, sealing the win.

"At that point, I thought we had a chance," CHS Coach Kim Nichols said. "We got some good shots, but too many of them didn't go in ... We didn't get enough of the 50-50 balls, the ones where either team could have come up with it."

"It wasn't for lack of effort. We had some lack of execution, but we definitely didn't have a lack of effort."

Bermea led the Bulldogs (0-3 in district play) with 11 points.

Coahoma returns to action Friday at Stanton. Game time is 8 p.m.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 235.



Tony Claxton photo (www.claxtonphotography.com)

Big Spring's Myckala Edwards fires a shot during the Lady Steers' 36-32 loss to Lamesa Tuesday night.

Tuesday roundup:

BSHS falls to Lamesa

BOYS

Lamesa 78, Big Spring 65

LAMESA — The Big Spring Steers got off to a slow start and were unable to recover as they dropped a 78-65 decision to Lamesa in District 2-4A basketball action Tuesday.

Lamesa jumped out to a 9-point lead after one quarter and expanded that advantage to 18 points by intermission, and were able to hold off Big Spring the rest of the way.

Big Spring post player Eric Ortega led all scorers with 19 points, while Kolton Knudson had 11 points for the Steers, who return to action Friday at home against Lubbock Estacado. Game time is 8 p.m. in Steer Gym.

Garden City 58, Bronte 29

GARDEN CITY — The Garden City Bearkats broke open a tight game in the third quarter and cruised to a 58-39 victory over Bronte Tuesday evening.

The Bearkats trailed by a point at halftime, but outscoored Bronte 20-6 in the third quarter to gain control of the contest.

Ethan Goodwin had 23 points and Tanner Davis 13 for the Bearkats, who return to action Friday

at home vs. Veribest. Tipoff is scheduled for 8 p.m.

Grady 66, O'Donnell 45

LENORAH — The Grady Wildcats had little trouble with O'Donnell, cruising to a 66-45 win Tuesday night.

The Wildcats led by 11 points after one quarter, then pushed that advantage to 16 points at intermission.

Kyle Garza and Jalen Short each scored 24 points to lead Grady.

The No. 3-ranked Wildcats return to action Friday when they host Dawson. Game time is 8 p.m.

GIRLS

Garden City 73, Bronte 25

GARDEN CITY — The Garden City Lady Bears continue to look every bit the top-ranked Class 1A girls basketball team.

The Lady 'Kats raced out to a 17-point lead in the first eight minutes, then cruised the rest of the way in defeating Bronte Tuesday.

Hope Halfmann scored 19 points and madison Haswings and Carlie Hollingsworth added 12 points apiece for Garden City, which im-

See **HOOPS**, Page 11

QBs focus of Super Bowl run-up

Associated Press

Peyton Manning is the only five-time MVP in NFL history, one of the faces of the league and, at 39, the oldest starting quarterback to lead a team to the Super Bowl.

Slowed by age and injury, he is no longer the record-breaking passer he once was. Most folks figure Manning's fourth Super Sunday appearance will be his last game as a pro.

Cam Newton is at the opposite end of his career, just 26, making his debut in the big game. He also is expected to earn MVP honors for the first time, part of a new breed of dual-threat QBs as good at running as they are at throwing.

For the next two weeks, until Manning's AFC champion Denver Broncos (14-4) play Newton's NFC champion Carolina Panthers (17-1) for the Lombardi Trophy in Santa Clara, California, on Feb. 7, most of the focus will be on the two quarterbacks who were No. 1 overall draft picks 13 years apart.

"Oh, wow," said Newton, whose Panthers opened as 4-point favorites with most bookmakers. "Playing 'The Sheriff.'"

That is a reference to Manning, who is 1-2 in past Super Bowls. He won a championship with the Indianapolis Colts in 2007, lost with the Colts in 2010, and lost again with the Broncos in 2014.

But this is a different version of Manning.

See **SUPER**, Page 11

Nowitzki leads Mavs to win

LOS ANGELES (AP) — After Dirk Nowitzki arched back and released the tiebreaking jumper, he tumbled back into the Los Angeles Lakers' bench area.

He knew the pat on his back came from Kobe Bryant. Nowitzki replied with a shoulder pat of his own.

Bryant's sore right shoulder prevented the friendly rivals from sharing a court for the 50th and final time.

They'll share a mutual respect for the rest of their lives.

Nowitzki's big shot with 2.1 seconds to play propelled the Dallas Mavericks to a 92-90 victory over the Lakers on Tuesday night, snapping their two-game skid.

Nowitzki scored eight of his 13 points in the fourth quarter as the Mavericks earned their 10th consecutive victory over the Lakers. The 7-foot German did it with his usual incongruous grace, launching the winner over Julius Randle before making that friendly contact with Bryant.

"I heard him talk some noise during the game,

so that was fun," Nowitzki said with a grin. "It was just fun competition down the stretch. ... I'm not really a big trash-talker, but once I'm talked to, I'll have some fun."

Randle missed a long jumper at the buzzer for the Lakers, who have lost seven straight.

The injury prevented Bryant from facing Nowitzki in the last matchup of the NBA's top two active scorers. Nowitzki is two months older than the 37-year-old Bryant, and he entered the NBA in 1998, two years after Bryant's debut.

"He's our Michael Jordan for my generation," Nowitzki said of Bryant. "He's one of the best to ever lace 'em up, and it's been a pleasure and an honor to compete against him basically almost my entire career."

J.J. Barea led the Mavericks with 18 points, and Chandler Parsons had 17.

BIG MISS

Jordan Clarkson scored 18 points for the Lakers, and Randle had 16 points and 11 rebounds — but he lamented his last try.

"Some of my shots happened to fall in, but I'd

trade every one of those for that last open shot," Randle said. "I'm extremely upset. It's tough. We just worked so hard all through that game and tried so hard. I really wish we could have gotten that one."

BIG FINISH

The teams traded the lead throughout an exciting fourth quarter, with veteran Dallas struggling to put away the Lakers' young lineup.

Nowitzki put the Mavericks ahead on a jumper with 2:31 to play, but Clarkson tied it moments later. Both teams missed open shots before Lou Williams was called for an offensive foul against Barea with 13.5 seconds left, setting the stage for Nowitzki's latest big shot against the Lakers.

"Honestly, I don't have anything sensible or nice to say about the play," Williams said. "I just think it was a bad call. ... You have to tip your hat to J.J. That's the way he plays. He flops eight or nine times in a game, and the referees know that. He has a reputation. He's able to draw those fouls in those situations, where

it's win or lose."

KOBE'S COMMANDMENTS

Bryant had harsh words of motivation for his young teammates after their most recent loss in Portland, but decided he shouldn't play through the re-occurring pain in his shoulder. "When he complains about something and says something is sore, you know it's sore and he's not joking around," Lakers coach Byron Scott said. "We'll just rest it and see how he feels." Bryant's strained Achilles tendon felt fine, the guard said.

Bryant watched the game from the Lakers' bench — after removing Larry Nance Jr. from his seat and telling the rookie to grab some floor in a moment that went viral even before the next timeout.

SWAGGY 3

Nick Swaggy hit his first 3-pointer since Jan. 3 in the second quarter. The veteran guard was 0 for 9 in six games since then, and didn't play in six games during that stretch.

See **MAVS**, Page 11

Longhorns top TCU

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — When even the 14-percent free-throw shooter was stepping up and swishing them, Texas knew it was in for an unusual win.

Prince Ibeh scored a career-high 17 points and the Longhorns got an offensive boost from some unlikely places in cruising past TCU 71-54 on Tuesday night.

The senior center added 10 rebounds and five blocks, and found his stroke from the free-throw line, making five of six from there. When he made two in a row midway through the second half, Ibeh got a raucous standing ovation from a home crowd that was ready to wince every time he stepped up to the shot.

"I don't know how to describe that," Ibeh said. "I've been shooting free throws well in practice. Tonight after seeing one go in, I settled down."

Texas (13-7, 5-3 Big 12) also got a career-high 22 points from freshman guard Kerwin Roach, Jr.

Roach, whose superb athletic

ability has yet to translate into big minutes or consistent scoring in Big 12 play, was 6 of 9 shooting and also grabbed five rebounds for the Longhorns.

Malique Trent and Chris Washburn scored nine points apiece, and Devonta Abron added seven points and eight rebounds for TCU (9-11, 1-7), which dropped its fifth straight game.

For Texas, the win comes in a stretch where every victory builds confidence as first-year Texas coach Shaka Smart readies his team for the second-half of a rugged Big 12 schedule.

Getting more games like this one from Ibeh could be critical. Texas has been in search of dependable inside scoring ever since center Cam Ridley was sidelined by surgery to repair a broken bone in his foot shortly after Christmas.

"Sometimes an opportunity comes a guy's way and they make the most of it. His confidence is growing," Smart said.

TCU beat the Longhorns in their first matchup in Fort

Worth on Jan. 9 but the Horned Frogs were barely in this one as they struggled with Texas' pressure defense, poor shooting and an inability to stop Texas from scoring almost at will near the basket. Texas opened up a 10-point lead by halftime.

"They cause a lot of problems with their perimeter players both offensively and defensively. We knew they were going to bring pressure," TCU coach Trent Johnson said.

Texas guards Isaiah Taylor and Javan Felix, the catalysts for Texas' biggest wins this season, took a back seat early in a ragged game that saw 27 turnovers in the first half. Texas shrugged off its own tough shooting night — 0-7 on 3-pointers in the first half — and outscored TCU 36-20 in the paint.

Texas found its touch from long range just in time to snuff out TCU's only real hope for a rally. The Horned Frogs opened the second half with a 3-pointer by Brandon Parish before Felix answered at the other end.

Top-ranked OU blasts Red Raiders

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) — Oklahoma's defense matched its high-octane offense, and the result was a blowout victory over Texas Tech.

Buddy Hield scored 30 points to help the top-ranked Sooners defeat Texas Tech 91-67 on Tuesday night.

Hield, the nation's No. 2 scorer, made 9 of 12 shots, including 5 of 8 3-point attempts, and 7 of 8 free throws. It was his seventh game with 30 or more points this season. Isaiah Cousins scored 19 points and Jordan Woodard added 15 for the Sooners (17-2, 6-2 Big 12), who shot 53 percent to remain in first place in the conference.

The Sooners matched a school record with 14 blocked shots and held Texas Tech (12-7, 2-6) to 32 percent shooting.

Khadeem Lattin had a career-high eight blocks and altered several more shots.

"Very impressed with Oklahoma," Texas Tech coach Tubby Smith said. "They are deserving of number one. They're playing with a lot of confidence. We ran into a team that really shot the lights out tonight."

Lattin, a 6-foot-9 sophomore, averages 4.25 blocks in Big 12 play. He had the Red Raiders thinking twice when they attacked the rim.

"We beat certain defenders off the dribble, and sometimes, it looks like a shot's open, and you're ready to go in for it — maybe a layup or a jump shot, and he comes out of nowhere and swats it away," said Justin Gray, who led the Red Raiders with 20 points. "You kind of have that in the back of your mind."

Devaugntah Williams had 12 points and Matthew Temple added 11 for Texas Tech.

Oklahoma led 17-13 before Hield hit two 3-pointers during an 8-0 run to push the lead to 25-13.

The Sooners led 49-39 at halftime. Hield had 16 points, Woodard scored 13 and Lattin had six blocks at the break. The Sooners made 8 of 12 3-point attempts and shot 58 percent from the field in the first half.

Gray scored 12 points in the first half to help the Red Raiders stay in it.

The Sooners started to pull away early in the second half.

They led 51-42 when Hield hit a jumper, sparking a 13-5 run that put the Sooners up 64-47 and in control for good.

A distracting day at Aussie Open

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — In keeping with the way this Australian Open has been going, Andy Murray was asked following a quarterfinal win Wednesday about the state of his game. And then, invariably, about the integrity of his sport.

Murray and a much lesser-known British player, Johanna Konta, advanced to the semifinals Wednesday. Murray beat David Ferrer 6-3, 6-7 (5), 6-2, 6-3 to reach the semifinals at a Grand Slam for the 18th time. The 24-year-old Konta had a 6-4, 6-1 win over Chinese qualifier Zhang Shuai.

It's the first time since the Australian Open in December 1977 that that two British players (John Lloyd and Sue Barker) have advanced to the final four of any major.

Konta is playing in her first Australian Open main draw, after losing in qualifying rounds three years in a row. She had a first-round win over No. 8 Venus Williams and beat No. 21 Ekaterina Makarova in straight sets in the fourth round.

She has won fans at Melbourne Park with her athleticism and mental composure on the court and good humor and a polite humility in interviews after winning. Born in Australia but living in Britain since her early teens, Konta also has Hungarian citizenship and calls herself a "tri-citizen."

Asked about her parents' reaction back home in Britain, Konta apologized for making them stay up so late.

"I'm pretty sure they have jet lag because of the time difference. They've been staying up all ridiculous times of the morning," Konta said.

Murray is impressed. "She's done incredible," he said. "Another very comfortable and solid win today. Not easy either. She created that chance by beating the seeds, and she deserves to be where she is."

Konta, the first British woman to reach a Grand Slam semifinal since Jo Durie at the 1983 U.S. Open, will play Angelique Kerber, who beat two-time champion Victoria Azarenka 6-3, 7-5.

The No. 2-ranked Murray, who has lost four finals at Melbourne Park, will meet Milos Raonic in the semifinals. The 25-year-old Canadian beat Gael Monfils 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 in a night match, continuing his strong form that saw him beat Roger Federer in the Brisbane International final and French Open champion Stan Wawrinka in the fourth round here.

Since Day 1, the Australian Open has been overshadowed by media reports alleging tennis authorities had failed to thoroughly investigate match-fixing.

On Wednesday, Day 10, the governing bodies of tennis announced they will commission an independent review of their anti-corruption unit to restore "public confidence in our sport."

In announcing the review, ATP chairman Chris Kermode said the reports had "caused damage to the sport," which compelled the major stakeholders in tennis — the International Tennis Federation, ATP and WTA tours,

SUPER

Continued from Page 10

Yes, he's still as good as anyone at diagnosing defenses and changing things up — or appearing to, anyway — at the line of scrimmage.

Yes, he's still out there yelling "Omaha!"

"He most certainly is a Hall of Famer," Panthers coach Ron Rivera said.

But Manning is not quite as capable as he was, once upon a time, when it comes to putting the football exactly

where he wants it, especially on deep routes.

This has hardly been a record-setting season for Manning — or, until now, one worth remembering. Overall, the bad far outweighed the good, including one game with a passer rating of 0.0, 17 interceptions to only nine touchdown passes in the regular season, being sidelined for six weeks with a series of injuries, getting relegated to backup duty in the NFL for the first time, and vehemently denying a report linking Manning's wife to the banned drug HGH.

"My role has been different and my contributions are different," Manning said. "But I'm fortunate and grateful that I have the opportunity to contribute still, in some way. And it's a great honor to be going back to the Super Bowl."

Here are some of the other story lines for the 50th Super Bowl, which will be Denver's record-tying eighth and Carolina's second:

SUPERMAN: Newton threw for 335 yards and two TDs, and he ran for 47 yards and a pair of scores, leading Caro-

lina past the Arizona Cardinals 49-15 in the NFC title game Sunday night. It was the type of dynamic performance he put in all season, the sort of promise he showed while winning a Heisman Trophy in college at Auburn. "I keep saying it: We're not finished. We're not finished," Newton said.

MILLER TIME: Broncos linebacker Von Miller was terrific Sunday, getting 2 1/2 sacks and an interception in a 20-18 victory over Tom Brady and the New England Patriots in the AFC title game. "I wanted to do it for Peyton," said Miller, who was injured and missed Denver's loss to Seattle in the 2014 Super Bowl.

DOMINANT DEFENSES: Both of these teams excel at defense. The Broncos led the NFL with 52 sacks and allowed a league-low 283.1 yards per game, then made life difficult as can be for Brady on Sunday, knocking him to the ground over and over. No one forced more turnovers than the Panthers, and only five clubs gave up fewer points (the Broncos were one, naturally). Against Arizona, Carolina produced seven takeaways.

CAROLINA'S STARTS: If the Panthers are able to get off to the sort of start they've made commonplace lately, they might not even give the Broncos a chance to make a

game of it. In their two games this postseason, Carolina outscored its opponents 55-7 in the first half. That includes leads of 17-0 after one quarter and 24-7 after two against Arizona. "We wanted to start fast," Newton said. "We wanted to keep the pressure on."

INJURIES: Panthers linebacker Thomas Davis said he broke his right forearm against Arizona — "I knew something was wrong," he said — but sounded like someone who plans to play in the Super Bowl. The Broncos, meanwhile, lost both of their starting safeties — T.J. Ward and Darian Stewart — to injuries during Sunday's game.

HOOPS

Continued from Page 10

proved to 20-2 overall and 10-0 in district.

Garden City returns to action Friday when it hosts Veribest. Game time is 6:30 p.m.

O'Donnell 66,
Grady 46

LENORAH — O'Donnell pulled away in the second quarter en route to earning a 66-46 win over Grady's girls Tuesday night.

O'Donnell led by just five points after the first quarter, but pushed that lead to 14 points at halftime and were never threatened after that.

Brittany Garza led

the Lady Wildcats (3-2 in district play) with 18 points, while teammate Emily Glaze added 10 points.

Grady hosts Dawson Friday. Game time is 6:30 p.m.

NOTE: Both Forsan games scheduled for Tuesday where cancelled due to weather.



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Tomorrow's Horoscope



Many Faces of the Virgo Moon

The usually steady, solid Virgo

moon is a bit all-over-the-place now. First there's trouble with Saturn, and then there's bliss with Mercury, more bliss with Pluto, solidarity with Jupiter and throw in a confusing void-of-course-situation. All this is to say, who knows what to expect? Try not to think too much into any of these scenarios and you'll do just fine.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Often, kindred spirits are those with whom you share many similarities. In today's case, well, you don't really have much in common, but your complimentary energies will bring both of you luck.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Sure, you need attention. But not as much as someone close to you needs help. So your needs will be overshadowed by the

more pressing ones of the moment. Don't worry. Your time is coming.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You don't take yourself too seriously, and it's apparent in the way you interact today, unafraid to say what crosses your mind even though many wouldn't dare state the truth in the matter. Someone could fall in love with you for this.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You never want to bother anyone, however it's appropriate to ask for help. You're really not putting anyone out to do so. In fact, you'll be providing a service. Others need to give, too -- so take your turn in the receiving line.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You've caught beauty in ugly places. You've carved self-worth out of criticism and neglect. You've found freedom and authenticity in a controlled, artificial environment. For these reasons and more, celebrate yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). With the lunar light pumping up your attraction

quotient, you'll get more attention than you're comfortable with. It will feel nice at first, but soon you'll need to apply it to a higher cause.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). When you can experience conditions without commenting on them: That's higher evolutionary human stuff there. Your stoicism will be admired today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It is said that youthful enthusiasm can be put to better use by the elderly. You certainly won't regret indulging in today's bit of immature fun. While you're at it, why not go all-in?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). As much as you would love to know everything about your chosen subject, there is simply too much to fit into one lifetime of study. Just know that you'll build for the next generation. This will be handed down through the ages.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). They will buy the idea. They will buy the way you deliver it. They will buy you -- or at least that part

of you that can be bought. Consider this your lucky day for conveying your important creations.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There's a spiritual fire in you, one that was lit by the match of love. As it is with most matches, the thing that sets it ablaze is friction. Don't be afraid of that. Don't back off. Lean into it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There is an exact right time for everything, and yet you cannot know exactly what time it is, because if you concentrated too much on the impossible logic of time, you'd miss the window. This is something that can only be felt.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 27). You are what you believe yourself to be, also what your loved ones, colleagues and others believe you to be. It's not that you're wishy-washy; you're quite the opposite. You're strong and clear, versatile and capable. Expect many remarkable experiences, some even magical. February brings epiphany;

May brings love, and July brings money. Virgo and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 45, 39, 1, 22 and 19.

ARIES SECRET SUPERPOWER BREAKDOWN:

The Obvious: Aries is brave with a warrior's heart, is high energy, vivacious and the embodiment of verve.

The Uncanny: The way this sign manages adrenaline in the body is mysterious and mighty impressive. Aries has been known to go without sleep and be oddly sane and intelligent the next day.

The Weird: Aries can easily recognize people from the back by the shape of their heads and seldom gets it wrong.

The Extremely Useful: Even though this sign has a strong strain of individuality, group mentality is a no-brainer for Aries. Aries can switch from "Me-Think" to "Group-Think" on a dime. This is a particularly great strength to lean on at work or in team sports.

The Quietly Helpful: Aries natives don't worry as much

as some other signs. They have to be taught to be fearful of unlikely outcomes. If they are not taught this, they are sources of great comfort to their peers who struggle with anxiety and doubt. When an Aries extends a hug or a reassuring pat on the back, the energy that's exchanged can make a remarkable difference to someone who is feeling afraid.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Patton Oswalt keeps a steady schedule, headlining main comedy clubs while simultaneously starring in "The Goldbergs" plus several big-screen comedies -- oh, yeah, and entertaining his ever-growing Twitter audience. It sounds amazing, but is not too much of a challenge for the high-energy Aquarian brainiac born when five planets, including the sun and Mercury, were in air signs.

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

Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: Several years ago, I had a much talked about affair with an older married man at my office. It lasted for several years. I was single at the time, and I met him at a very low period in my life. He told me I was smart, pretty and fun to be with. He showered me with flowers and gifts. He led me to believe his marriage was loveless and his only happiness was seeing me at work and talking to me on the phone. We did everything leading up to sex, but never actually completed intercourse due to religious reasons.

After a few years, I met the man I am now married to. The older man became very angry and began harassing me, emotionally and verbally. I reported him to my supervisors several times, but it only made matters worse. He has finally retired, but I still feel him watching me. I can't prove anything, and I can't tell my husband because he has no idea how involved we were. Aside from warning other women to beware of married men bearing love and gifts, what can I do? -- Learned My Lesson

Dear Learned: If your affair did not include intercourse and it happened before you met your husband, he may be more understanding than you think. Every-

one makes mistakes. Also, if the people in your office are aware of the relationship, your husband may find out about it anyway. A loving spouse can be a tremendous source of support, and your husband may be perfectly willing to forgive this lapse in judgment. Nonetheless, it will help you to talk to someone, and if your husband is not the right person, please consider discussing your fears with a counselor or clergyperson.

The more serious problem is the possibility that the ex is stalking you. If you ever catch him watching your home, car or office, or following you anywhere, please notify the police immediately and, if necessary, get a restraining order.

Dear Annie: I have read many letters in your column from mothers-in-law who don't understand why they have a strained relationship with their daughters-in-law. May I add a perspective from the other side? We lived a couple of miles from my in-laws. We had a good relationship until our children were born. Then my MIL dropped in unannounced at least once a day. She refused to call in advance, despite numerous requests to do so. Her attitude was overbearing and crit-

ical. She had nothing positive to say, and criticized our house, child rearing and financial decisions. She loudly and repeatedly accused me of putting my kids in front of the TV all day, which was blatantly untrue. A new job across the country helped separate me from her venom.

Her terrible behavior and her efforts to hang on to her son cost her a decent relationship with my husband and any connection to her grandchildren. Perhaps the letter writers need to honestly examine their own behavior to determine the cause of their family strife. It isn't always the daughter-in-law. -- Been There, Survived

Dear Been: How sad for everyone. We hope all estranged family members will make a genuine effort to consider whether their own actions need adjusting before placing the blame on the other person.

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/AskAnnie. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndi-

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MAKE TIME FOR FAMILY READING



By Steve Becker
Silence Is Golden

East dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ K Q 6 3
♥ 8 6 3
♦ J 7 6
♣ J 6 4

WEST
♠ J
♥ 9 4
♦ 9 8 5
♣ A Q 10 9 8 3 2

EAST
♠ 9 8 7 5 4
♥ 7
♦ A 10 3 2
♣ K 7 5

SOUTH
♠ A 10 2
♥ A K Q J 10 5 2
♦ K Q 4
♣ —

The bidding:
East South West North
Pass 2♦ Pass 2♥
Pass 3♥ Pass 3♠
Pass 4♥

Opening lead — five of clubs.

Artificial bids can be very valuable when the right hand comes along, but, as with many glorified panaceas, they are not always a rousing success. Consider this deal from the U.S.-France match in 1971.

At the first table, with a French pair holding the North-South cards, the bidding went as shown. Two diamonds was an artificial game-forcing bid, and two hearts was an artificial response denying an ace.

From then on, the bidding was natural — but ineffective. From South's standpoint, his partner's three-spade bid might have been based on a hand such as ♠ J98754 ♥ 7 ♦ 952 ♣ J64.

So South bid only four hearts, allowing for this possibility, and North, though aware he had greater values than his previous bids had shown, elected to play safe and pass. There was nothing to the play, and North easily made six.

At the second table, where Jim Jacoby and Bobby Wolff were North-South for the U.S., the bidding went in this sprightly fashion:

East South West North
Pass 1♣ 1♠ 3♣ Dble
5♣ 6♥

The opening one-club bid was artificial, showing at least 17 high-card points. After West chimed in with three clubs, Jacoby's double was also artificial, promising at least seven points.

Over East's jump to five clubs, it was then easy for Wolff to undertake the heart slam. With both opponents bidding clubs strongly, he concluded that his partner's high cards were likely to be in spades and/or diamonds, which was precisely where he needed help. So he bid six hearts to gain 750 points for the U.S. team.

Tomorrow: A very valuable convention.

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.

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

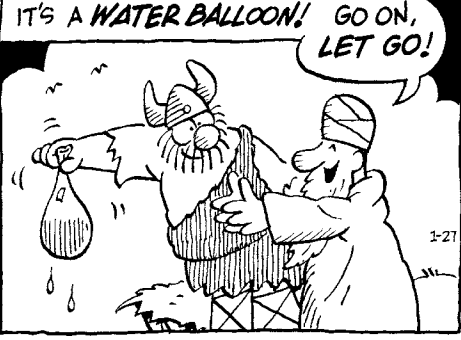
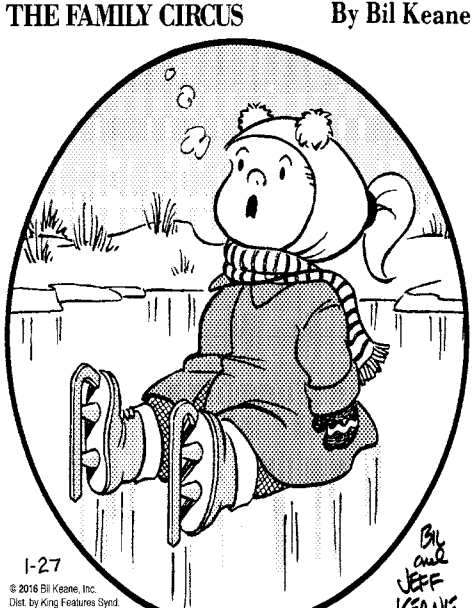
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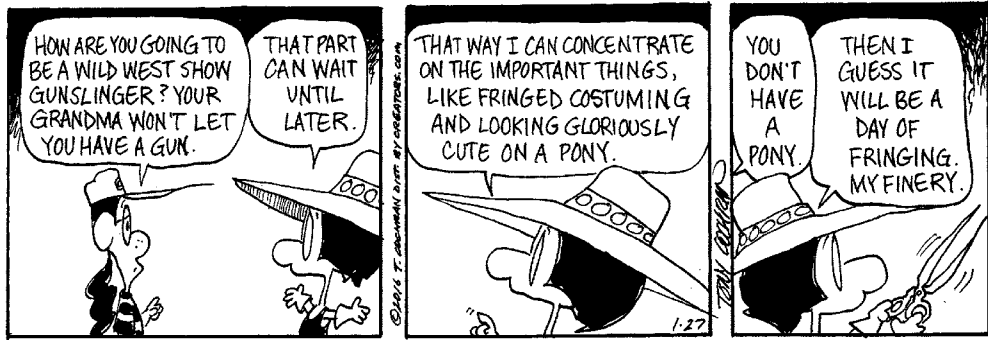
BC



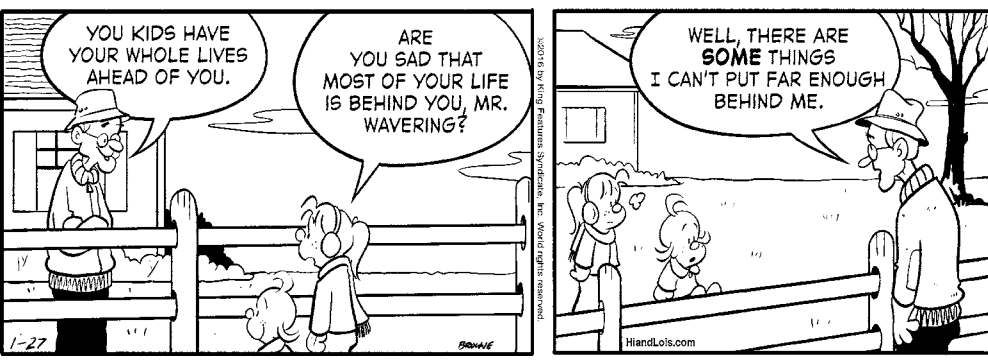
WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



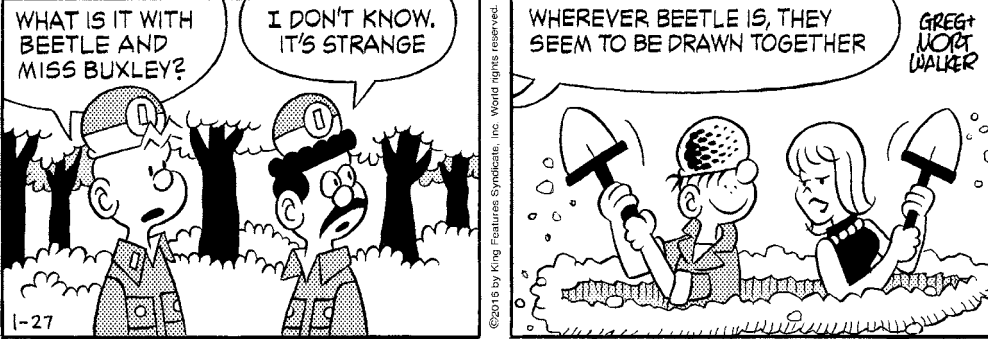
THE OTHER COAST



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This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 27, the 27th day of 2016. There are 339 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Jan. 27, 1945, during World War II, Soviet troops liberated the Nazi concentration camps Auschwitz and Birkenau in Poland.

Newsday Crossword WINDOW DRESSING by Matthew Sewell Edited by Stanley Newman

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down, and the answer to the previous puzzle (CAP BEAM SPAS).

Sports in brief

Manning to Belichick: 'This might be my last rodeo.'

DENVER (AP) — Peyton Manning isn't saying that Super Bowl 50 is his grand finale. He's just saying it could be. NFL Network cameras caught the exchange between Manning and New England coach Bill Belichick after Denver's 20-18 win over the Patriots in the AFC championship game on Sunday. When they embraced, Manning leaned in and told Belichick, "Hey listen, this might be my last rodeo. So, it sure has been a pleasure." Belichick responded, "You're a great competitor ..."

Neither spoke of their exchange afterward. Earlier this month, Manning said, "I'd be lying if I said I'm not thinking about that," when asked if this could be it for him.

Bellevue police chief defends investigation in Coleman crash

BELLEVUE, Wash. (AP) — Police Chief Steve Mylett has defended his department's investigation into the car crash involving Seattle Seahawks fullback Derrick Coleman, saying his confidence level is "rock solid" in the investigation and charging recommendations. Mylett spoke Tuesday, a day after the police report in Coleman's case was released. Bellevue police have recommended charges of vehicular assault and hit-and-run against Coleman and forwarded the case to the King County Prosecutor's Office. Mylett was particularly irritated by comments by Coleman's attorney. Mylett said he understands

the attorney is attempting to defend his client but crossed a line when he "attacked" the integrity of the police department.

Coleman was arrested Oct. 14 after a crash that left the driver of the other vehicle with a broken collarbone and a concussion.

UK official: IAAF ethics body looking at '17, '19 worlds

LONDON (AP) — Qatar's bids for the 2017 and 2019 world athletics championships have been referred to the IAAF ethics commission for bribery allegations to be investigated, the head of UK Athletics said on Tuesday.

The 2017 championships were awarded to London, which defeated a rival bid from Doha, Qatar. Doha subsequently beat Barcelona and Eugene, Oregon, in the vote for the 2019 worlds.

"I have had a number of discussions with the IAAF since that program and they have told me that the 2017 and 2019 bids by Doha, Qatar have now been referred to their ethics commission," UK Athletics chairman Ed Warner told a British parliamentary committee hearing into the athletics doping scandal.

"I'm delighted at that and so my next conversation is going to be with that ethics commission to lay out all that I heard at the time."

The IAAF ethics commission said in a statement to The Associated Press that it will be "considering these matters raised by Ed Warner" at the committee "in accordance with the commission's procedures."

The IAAF said the Qatar federation asked IAAF President Sebastian Coe to refer the 2017 bid to the ethics board.

Sydney Leroux announces her pregnancy, out for the Olympics

U.S. women's national team striker Sydney Leroux won't be available for the Rio Olympics this summer because she and husband Dom Dwyer are expecting their first child.

Leroux announced her pregnancy on Twitter on Monday night. Dwyer, who plays for Major League Soccer's Sporting Kansas City, further posted a photo indicating the baby was due in September.

Leroux was not on the roster released Tuesday for the qualifying tournament for the North, Central American and Caribbean region, scheduled for Feb. 10-21 in Texas.

Teammate Amy Rodriguez is also out because she is expecting a child. Leroux and Rodriguez were both on the U.S. team that won the Women's World Cup last summer in Canada.

Amherst College drops Lord Jeff mascot over bad connotations

AMHERST, Mass. (AP) — Amherst College trustees have voted to stop using Lord Jeff as the school's unofficial mascot because of its negative historical connotations.

The mascot is named for 18th-century British Gen. Jeffery Amherst, known for suggesting a plan to deliver smallpox-infected blankets to Native Americans. Amherst was the commander of British forces in North America during the French and Indian War.

Trustees Chairman Cullen Murphy said in a statement Tuesday that the mascot is "driving people apart because of what it symbolizes to many in our community." He says a mascot's job is to unify.



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