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# BIG SPRING HERALD

**TUESDAY**  
**MARCH 22, 2011**



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## Legal opinion posted on city issue

**By THOMAS JENKINS**  
 Staff Writer  
 After several days of poring over and researching the municipal charter amendment submitted by way of petition by local citizens, City Attorney Linda Sjogren issued her legal opinion on the document Monday, which she says con-

tains several inconsistencies in language.  
 The amendment proposed in the petition — which was accepted by city officials and deemed credible more than a week ago — calls for the following language to be added to the municipal charter:  
 Sec. 3, Terms of councilmen



Sjogren

and/or women  
 — The regular term of office for all members of the council shall be three (3) years.  
 Sec. 3.a. Council member term limits  
 No member of the

council may run for election to the same council position more than two (2) consecutive times. No person may be appointed or elected to the council in a general election or in a special election as provided by Section 2 of this article within two (2) full terms of having previously held a

council position.  
 Sec. 3.b. General restriction  
 No member of the council may retain office while seeking election or appointment to any other city, county, state or federal office.  
 See **OPINION**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno

The local YMCA provides a number of avenues for fitness, including a workout room, gym, gymnastic classes and aerobics classes. Pictured above is the Monday afternoon aerobics class. For more information on the different services or membership information call 267-8234.

## Smart meters to be unveiled in mobile unit

**By AMANDA MORENO**  
 Staff Writer

SMART TEXAS is coming to Big Spring. Oncor's SMART TEXAS Mobile Experience Center (MEC) will be in Big Spring from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday and Friday. The mobile unit will be parked in the H-E-B parking lot and will be open to the public.  
 "This mobile unit has been all over the United States in the past two years," Jim Clements, Oncor area manager said. "This is one of the ways we are trying to educate our consumers on the new smart meters that are being deployed in the area."



Clements

According to a news release, Oncor is planning to invest millions of dollars by 2012 to install more than 3 million smart meters. These installations are expected to benefit more than 7 million consumers. Currently, there are no

See **METERS**, Page 3A

## Humorist coming to Howard College April 4 for Foundation Speaker Series

Special to the Herald

Howard College Foundation, in partnership with Wells Fargo Bank, will host Doc Blakely, acclaimed humorist.  
 Blakely will be the guest speaker at the Howard College Foundation Speaker Series to be held Monday, April 4, at 7 p.m. at the Hall Center for the Arts on the Howard College campus in Big Spring.  
 Blakely is a popular humorist, musician, rancher and author of seven books including 'Keep 'Em Laughing' and 'The Handbook



Blakely

of Wit and Pungent Humor.' He is also a regular weekly columnist of the syndicated humor column "Pokin' Fun."  
 "Audiences around the world have appreciated his first-rate, clean humor, and timely anecdotes while he wows the crowd with his humor filled presentation and musical talents," said Cindy Smith, Howard College director of information.  
 "Doc Blakely actually holds an Ph.D. and packs his fun presenta-

tions with great food for thought that encourages his audiences to learn new ideas that foster communication, success, and a positive outlook on life," Smith added.  
 The event, hosted by the Howard College Foundation in partnership with Wells Fargo Bank, will be free to the public.  
 Although a ticket is required for admittance, the lecture is free of charge to the public.  
 To obtain tickets or more information, contact Laura Hughes at 432-264-5063 or by e-mail at lhughes@howardcollege.edu.

## Howard Cottage Kids Exhibition

Howard College Art Department is inviting residents to attend a reception for the Howard Cottage Kids Exhibition at 5:30 p.m. Thursday.  
 Those attending are welcome to browse work by the "future artists" and enjoy refreshments.  
 Those unable to attend are invited to stop by and walk through any time at the Hallway Gallery in Hall Center for the Arts during the exhibition dates from March 24 through April 7.

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

## Texas business bill would help disabled veterans, officials say

AUSTIN (AP) — A proposed Texas law would give businesses owned by disabled veterans a boost when it comes to winning state contracts.  
 Lawmakers are considering bills to designate service-disabled veteran-owned companies as historically underutilized businesses. So-called HUBs currently include minority- and women-owned businesses.

The Legislature requires state agencies to make a good faith effort to award a certain percentage of state contracts to HUBs.  
 The *Austin American-Statesman* reported, for its Tuesday editions, that since 2008 the state comptroller has awarded more than \$6 billion under the program.  
 Jim Brennan, an Army veteran

and president of AAUSA Electric Supply Inc., says Texas is woefully behind other states in recognizing and embracing service-disabled veteran-owned businesses.  
 Roy Mata, who's president of the Texas Association of Historically Underutilized Businesses, says his group supports including service-disabled veterans.

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# Obituaries

## Roberta Ratliff Reynolds



SAN ANGELO — Roberta Ratliff Reynolds, 91 years of age, went to heaven Sunday, March 20, 2011, at her residence.

Memorial services will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 23, 2011, at First United Methodist Church of San Angelo with the Rev. William P. Proctor officiating. Graveside services will be held at 3 p.m. Wednesday, March 23, 2011, in Garden City. The family will receive

friends from 5 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. at Johnson Funeral Home on Tuesday, March 22, 2011.

Roberta was born Dec. 16, 1919, in Glasscock County to Bertha Mabel Cox Ratliff and James Brown Ratliff. She graduated from Garden City High School in 1937. Roberta attended Texas Tech University and earned a bachelor of science degree in nutrition from Texas State College for Women — today known as the University of North Texas.

Roberta married Clyde C. Reynolds on Jan. 29, 1943, in Dallas. Roberta and Clyde lived at their ranch in Glasscock and Sterling counties. Clyde passed away Nov. 10, 1992. Roberta lived on their family ranch for 51 years before moving in 1994 to San Angelo to be near her daughter and family.

She is survived by a sister and her husband, Juanita and Richard Johnson of Fort Stockton; a brother and his wife, Lester and Betty Ratliff of Big Lake; a son and daughter-in-law, Ritchie and Jeanie Reynolds; a son-in-law, Rex Cotten; two granddaughters, Rachel Leigh and her husband Brendan and Kristi Reynolds; two grandsons, Christopher Cotten and his wife Whitney and Jonathan Cotten; and one great-granddaughter, Brooke Leigh.

Known affectionately as Nana by her grandchildren and great-granddaughter, Roberta looked forward to every visit, graduation and celebration she spent with her family.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two brothers, J.B. Ratliff Jr. of Fort Stockton and Jesse Derwood Ratliff of Midland; and her daughter, Rebecca Reynolds Cotten of San Angelo.

Roberta was a member of Cumberland Presbyterian Church before moving to San Angelo to become an active member of First Presbyterian Church. She was heavily involved in Meals on Wheels, as well as her Bridge community. She volunteered as a Pink Lady at Shannon Hospital and greatly enjoyed her time as a Wells Fargo Leading Lady. Roberta was a member of Bentwood Country Club and supported numerous charitable organizations.

Honorary pallbearers are Richard Johnson, Lester Ratliff, Rex Cotten, Christopher Cotten, Jonathan Cotten, Brendan Leigh, Lee Horton, Mike Ford, Howard Derrick, Jim Johnson, James Currie and Norman Lubke.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to West Texas Boys Ranch, 10223 Boys Ranch Rd., San Angelo 76904; or Meals for The Elderly, 310 East Houston Harte, San Angelo 76903.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson's Funeral Home of San Angelo. Family and friends may sign an online guest book at [www.johnsonsfuneralhome.com](http://www.johnsonsfuneralhome.com)

*Paid obituary*

## Doyle Hooper

Doyle Hooper, 72, died March 19, 2011, at his home in Big Spring.

He was born Oct. 31, 1938, in Big Spring to Emmitt and Edna (Boren) Hooper. He worked as a firefighter in Big Spring. He also served in the U.S. Army for seven years and was stationed in Germany. He was a retired home inspector.

Doyle is survived by his wife, Patty Hooper; daughters, Sherry Stringer and husband Bobby of Odessa, Melinda Tacker of Odessa and Lisa Lang and husband Mike of San Antonio; stepson, Lester Losell of Niagara Falls, N.Y.; stepdaughter, Zenda O'Shea and husband James O'Shea of Big Spring; sisters, Rene Kennedy of Odessa and Val Solis of Wenatchee, Wash.; several grandchildren, three great-granddaughters, three great-grandsons and numerous nieces and nephews.

A family visitation will be held Tuesday, March 22, 2011, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Frank W. Wilson Funeral Directors. Services will be held Wednesday, March 23, 2011, at 10 a.m. in Frank W. Wilson Funeral Directors Chapel with Dr. Jimmy Braswell officiating. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Home Hospice of Big Spring in Big Spring.

Funeral arrangements are entrusted Frank Wilson Funeral Directors.

## Wendell Mayo

Wendell Mayo, of Big Spring, formerly of Midland, passed away Sunday, March 20, 2011.

Wendell was born Sept. 1, 1930, in Van Horn to Claude and Vesta Mayo.

He is survived by his wife, Irma Mayo; son, Greg Mayo and wife Cyndi; daughter, Cheryl McCall and husband Walter; brother, Charles Mayo and wife Pearl; three grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

The family will receive friends Tuesday, March 22, 2011, at Ellis Funeral Home in Midland from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Funeral services have been scheduled for 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 23, 2011, in the Ellis Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Mark Lindsey of the First Baptist Church of Big Spring officiating. Interment will follow at Resthaven Memorial Park.

Arrangements are under the direction of Ellis Funeral Home. Condolences may be offered at [www.ellisfunerals.com](http://www.ellisfunerals.com)

## Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the area of Highland Heather. Service refused.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 2300 block of Wasson. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1500 block of Mesquite. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported in the 700 block of N. Owens. Service refused.

## Today's Weather

### Local 5-Day Forecast

Wed 3/23	Thu 3/24	Fri 3/25	Sat 3/26	Sun 3/27
<b>85/54</b>	<b>91/58</b>	<b>91/60</b>	<b>88/46</b>	<b>83/49</b>
A mainly sunny sky. Warm. High around 85F. Winds NNW at 5 to 10 mph.	Mostly sunny. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the upper 50s.	Abundant sunshine. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the low 60s.	Sunshine. Highs in the upper 80s and lows in the mid 40s.	Sunshine. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the upper 40s.
<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:46 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 8:00 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:45 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 8:00 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:44 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 8:01 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:42 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 8:02 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:41 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 8:02 PM

## Police blotter

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

- JOSEPH ALTON MURLEY, 32, of 1405 Tucson, was arrested Monday on a warrant from another agency.
- ASSAULT was reported in the 400 block of E. Fourth Street.
- BURGLARY OF A BUILDING was reported in the 1400 block of S. Runnels.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported: In the 600 block of Ridgelea Drive. In the 4100 block of Parkway.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported: In the 800 block of Baylor. In the 1200 block of Young.

## Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 63 inmates at the time of this report.

- CALEB HECTOR, 17, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of assault — family violence.
- CALEB HALLFORD, 17, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on indictments for indecency with a child — sexual contact (two counts).
- JOSEPH ALTON MURLEY, 32, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a warrant for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.
- BILLY WAYNE ALDRIDGE SR., 51, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on an Austin warrant for violation of parole.

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# Support Groups

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**THURSDAY**

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

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

• 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. and noon, each lasting an hour. The classes take place at 1209 Wright St.

**FRIDAY**  
 • AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

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

**SATURDAY**  
 • Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m. Covered dish supper at 7 p.m.

**SUNDAY**  
 • Alcoholics Anonymous closed meeting from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 7 p.m. until 8 p.m.

# OPINION

Continued from Page 1A

Steve Campbell, member of the Concerned Citizens Council and one of the coordinators for the petition, explained the amendment shortly after it was submitted to city officials.

"The proposed amendment calls for the men and women of the Big Spring City Council to serve no more than two consecutive terms in an office," Campbell told the *Herald*. "They would have to sit out for two full terms before they would be eligible to serve in that particular seat again. However, if the council member wanted to serve in a different district or as mayor, they could run for that office at the end of their two terms."

However, according to Sjogren, there are several provisions in the proposed amendment that conflict with one another, raising questions as to the total effect achieved if the amendment should garner voter approval during the May 14 election.

"There is no reasonable way to interpret the proposed charter amendment in the way the filer's stated intent has been represented in the newspaper," Sjogren said. "If the proposed charter amendment passes... the net effect under this interpretation is that council members may only run for two consecutive terms in one position then must sit out one election — not two as indicated in the news — before running again for that same position."

"Council members may run for any other position than the one they currently hold if their term is expiring or if they are within the last year of their term, without sitting out a term. Council members cannot be elected to fill a vacancy (unexpired term) in any position on the council within six years of having served in any position on the council."

Sjogren listed the following points as part of her legal opinion issued on

the proposed amendment:

- Persons who run for and are elected to the city council after the amendment passes will be limited to running for one more consecutive term in the same council position, i.e. in the same single member district or mayoral position. This sentence is susceptible to challenge that it actually would allow three consecutive terms.

- Persons who hold a council position at the time the measure takes effect will be limited to running for two more consecutive terms in the same council position.

- Persons who have held a position on the city council may not be elected to fill a vacancy (unexpired term) on the council until six years have elapsed since the date they last held a position on the council. This does not prevent such persons from running for a council position in an election at the natural expiration of a term. This provision is susceptible to various legal challenges, but this is the only reasonable interpretation that will reconcile sentence one and sentence two of the proposed charter amendment.

- Section 3.b. of the proposed charter amendment that provides that no member of the council may retain office while seeking election or appointment to any other city, county, state or federal office, is inconsistent with the Texas Constitution which allows elected officials to retain office if the candidacy is within the last year of their term. This provision is unenforceable and void by operation of law.

- Council members may run for other office without automatically resigning if they do so within the last year of their term so long as they are in compliance with the other restrictions in Section 3a.

Contact Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at [citydesk@big-springherald.com](mailto:citydesk@big-springherald.com)

# METERS

Continued from Page 1A

smart meters installed in the Howard County area, but installation is expected to begin at the end of April or early May, according to Clements.

"Once we start installing them, it should only take about five days," Clements said. "All of our residential and small business consumers will be receiving these new meters."

The new meter is a dual-communication meter and will be able to transmit readings every 15 minutes to Oncor.

The biggest advantage to consumers is going to be real-time monitoring, Clements said. The current analog meters are about 40 years old and are only able to register electricity use. Meter readers have to be dispatched to gather the readings, but with the new meters, the meter readers will be eliminated.

"There are a lot of added abilities with these new meters," Clements said. "The mobile unit will be a great way for consumers to see how the meters will work.

It's a great opportunity that should be taken advantage of."

The meters are designed to allow consumers to not only monitor their daily usage, but to give them the ability to reduce their electricity bill. With the readings being transmitted every 15 minutes, the consumer is able to view how much electricity is being used at each time of the day and make adjustments as needed. Clements said the customer can request an online account so that they can monitor their usage.

"Through these meters we are giving the customer the power to control their usage," Clements said. "It gives them the power to reduce their usage and, in turn, save money on their bill."

As an added benefit, when there are outages, consumers won't have to call and report the problem. Clements said the new meters will allow Oncor to notice problems within a 15-minute window.

"Since the meters report every 15 minutes, if a problem occurs we will notice it when that reading doesn't come

in," Clements said. "If the problem occurs two minutes before the reading is meant to come in, we will know about the problem within two minutes. It will also allow us to narrow down the problem, instead of having to send out technicians to locate it."

In addition to their added communication skills, the new meters are reporting with a .2 percent accuracy, which is above the Oncor standard of 2 percent accuracy.

Once the installation has been completed, or attempted, a door hanger will be left at the residence. A yellow door hanger will let the customer know the new meter is coming, a red

hanger will indicate it has been installed and a blue hanger will inform the customer the meter was unable to be installed.

"In most cases they do not have to be home for the installation, but if for some reason it was unable to be installed a door hanger will be left asking them to schedule a time for them to be there," Clements said. "This will only be if we couldn't gain access to where the meter was located."

Clements said stopping by the mobile unit will be an educational experience for consumers. There will be giveaways and it's completely free to visit. The MEC is the first time in

the nation a utility company has brought an educational experience of this kind directly to the communities it serves, according to an Oncor press release.

To find out more information, visit [www.smarttexas.com](http://www.smarttexas.com)

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

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# EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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## OUR VIEWS

### Time to roundup those snakes and varmints

Time to gather up the snakes and varmints.

The 47th Annual Rattlesnake Roundup is fast approaching. This weekend, the Big Spring fairgrounds will turn into a snake den.

There will be snake weigh-ins starting Friday, for those who are hunting snakes; Saturday and Sunday there will be snake races, demonstrations and shows.

If snakes aren't your thing but you still want to do some hunting, there is a spot for you. This year there will be varmint hunting, which will include coyotes, bobcats, cougars and raccoons.

The roundup is not only a good time to learn a little about snakes and varmints, but a great time to do a little arts and crafts shopping. There will be vendors set up both days of the roundup, with free admission to the arts and crafts show.

For those wanting to venture into the snake den, admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. Not only will there be the opportunity to see professional snake handlers, but there will be the opportunity to eat snake. They say it tastes like chicken.

The varmint hunt is something new and hopefully something that will draw some interest. It doesn't matter if you're a serious hunter or simply having fun, all it takes is a group that wants to have a little outdoor time and some fun.

There will be prizes for the "big cat" which means the biggest bobcats and "big dog" which means biggest coyote. Maybe hunting snakes and varmints is something you and your team want to attempt.

The fun doesn't have to stay confined within the walls of the fairbarns, but for those doing the hunting, their fun can extend as far as their hunt takes them.

Whether you are going for the arts and crafts, varmints or snakes – one thing is for sure, there is bound to be a little bit of fun for everyone in the family.

## HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

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

## LETTER POLICIES

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- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.

- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to [newsdesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:newsdesk@bigspringherald.com)

## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Thank You, Lord, for all Your blessings.  
Amen

# It seems to be blue over the green energy promises

The promises of pie-in-the-sky liberal environmentalists that we can convert to "clean" energy sources and stimulate our economy are based on dubious environmental and economic assumptions, fantastic notions about alternative energy, and a disturbing acceptance of the tyrannies inherent in command-control economies.

It would be bad enough if President Obama and his Democratic allies were pushing budget-busting green energy solutions during an economic boom and times of a manageable national debt. But it's inconceivable that they would do so under the current dire fiscal circumstances.

They begin with the assumption that we have an urgent need to restructure our energy sources for environmental, economic and national security reasons. It's interesting they don't see the same urgency in our looming entitlement crisis — a menace that will swallow our entire budget in a few generations, absent major reform.

They attempt to bolster that assumption by manipulating the playing field to deliberately suppress our production of oil and nuclear energy and then claim we have a catastrophic supply problem. To be sure, our supply of oil isn't unlimited, but if Democrats got off their pristine high horses about domestic oil production, the problem would be considerably mitigated. A logical first step would be to admit they are smothering production, an objectively provable fact about which the president brazenly prevaricated earlier this week.

We know Democrats are philosophically comfortable with using their power to artificially skew demand in favor of their preferred sources of energy. During the presidential campaign, Obama boasted that opening a coal-fired plant would be a bank-



DAVID LIMBAUGH

rupting proposition, and he has otherwise allowed as how he has no problem with gas prices increasing (so people will be forced to consume less). His transportation secretary, Ray LaHood, has said he wants to coerce us out of our cars, and the administration is prepared to bludgeon this society into some high-speed rail system.

We also know that they intend to foist their environmental edicts on us irrespective of the damage they would almost certainly cause to our economy and standard of living. The Heritage Foundation has calculated that the Waxman-Markey cap-and-trade bill would create an average annual cost for a family of four of almost \$3,000 from 2012 through 2035, during which it would also reduce gross domestic product by an average of \$393 billion annually, for a cumulative loss of \$9.4 trillion.

(We must remember that the cost of energy affects the costs of many goods we consume, so increases in energy costs will certainly increase the costs of many other goods.) If these things don't make your jaw drop, then consider that the projected effects of the legislation's global warming-detering measures would be to reduce the Earth's temperature by merely 0.1 to 0.2 degree Celsius by 2100.

But now President Obama tells us he wants to invest billions of borrowed dollars in clean energy that would not only bring us Utopian environmental benefits but also — voilà — create untold green jobs. There is not even a consensus on what constitutes a green job, but we certainly can't be expected to place our faith in an administration to artificially create permanent green jobs when its promises to create other jobs have failed miserably.

We are told to ignore our lying eyes, ears and brains — and especially the signals of the market — and believe that within no time, we could start supplying a major portion of our energy needs from wind turbines, solar panels and

biofuels. Even though the nation's smartest money managers — private entrepreneurs — have not been salivating to invest their hard-earned dollars in these alternative energy sources, we're told that if the government forces the expenditure of money into these projects, we'll see a payoff of our investments and a healthy profit to boot. We're urged to commit the money of future generations based on the activists' less-informed and wholly biased assurances.

This nation gets less than 1 percent of its energy from wind and solar power. When you throw in hydroelectric power, you're still not above 3 percent. Also, wind and solar are significantly more expensive than our conventional energy sources — coal, natural gas and nuclear power — and have the added disadvantage that they do not operate continuously (without wind or sunshine), which makes our reliance on them more problematic.

These alternative sources are also not without controversy, as we saw with the flap over the proposed windmill in the late Ted Kennedy's "backyard." Ironically, these "clean" energy sources are not always so clean, e.g., hazardous waste is involved in the disposal of solar PV panels.

With all these unrealistic assumptions, dubious projected benefits, additional problems and complications, and enormous costs, one has to wonder why, apart from a blind faith in the secular religion of environmentalism, liberals are pushing these programs so vigorously.

*David Limbaugh is a writer, author and attorney. His new book, "Crimes Against Liberty," was No. 1 on the New York Times best-seller list for nonfiction for its first two weeks. To find out more about David Limbaugh, please visit his website at [www.DavidLimbaugh.com](http://www.DavidLimbaugh.com). To read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).*

## Politicians and the self-serving charities they have

Not long ago, Republicans mounted their high horse over Charlie Rangel's ethical lapses.

They had a right to. Among other questionable conduct, Rangel had solicited charitable donations from executives with business before the House Ways and Means Committee, which the New York Democrat chaired. The money's destination: The Charles B. Rangel Center for Public Service at the City University of New York.

Rangel was not alone in helping corporations do what may be end-runs around restrictions on campaign contributions or just plain influence peddling. Other politicians were tapping favor-seeking CEOs for their self-aggrandizing charities. Given the Rangel example, you'd think they'd cut it out.

But barely four moons since the U.S. House censured Rangel for this activity (among others), Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal has been blatantly engaging in same. In his case, the goodies come courtesy of the state, not the federal government.

Oh, excuse me! The Supriya Jindal Foundation for Louisiana's Children is not the governor's charity, it's his wife's. Does that make it OK? It does not.

AT&T wanted to sell cable TV services in Louisiana without having to deal with the parishes, according to a New York Times

report. Done, after AT&T promised Supriya's foundation a nice \$250,000 check. Marathon Oil wanted to raise the amount of oil it could refine at a Louisiana facility. It pledged \$250,000, and its wish was Jindal's command. The list goes on.

Corporations with regulatory issues in Louisiana have given the foundation almost \$1 million.

Go ahead, insist that the contributions and the granted requests are all mere coincidences. Tell me another one. Should any would-be corporate giver miss the connection between the charity and getting the governor's attention, they need only visit the foundation's website, where Bobby poses in a photo with Supriya.

The Jindals' slippery empire of good works, if anything, breaks new grounds in audacity.

Mrs. Jindal travels the state as lady bountiful, presenting free equipment at schools and gathering flattering news coverage at the stops. No doubt many beneficiaries see these gifts as the product of the Jindals' personal beneficence.

It is an axiom in American politics that the more outrageous the behavior, the more aggressive the official response. The governor's spokesman was naturally asked about any connection between the Jindal Foundation and the donors' dealings with the state. He told the Times that the charity reflected nothing more than the first lady's deep passion for helping children in science and math. He called doubters "partisan hacks living in a fantasy land." Interesting that the charity was

established after Jindal was elected governor.

Of course, it's not just Charlie and Bobby. There's the Utah Families Foundation, established by Republican Sen. Orrin Hatch. Filling the charity's coffers were drug companies wanting Hatch to blunt the federal government's demands for cheaper generic drugs, which he helped do.

Rep. Elijah Cummings, a Democrat from Baltimore, oversees the Elijah Cummings Youth Program in Israel. Cable giant Comcast is a generous funder, and Cummings would seem a generous giver-back. The charity wrote to the Federal Communications Commission, urging it to bless Comcast's merger with NBC. At least the letter noted that Comcast was a contributor.

As Republicans were unloading on Rangel last fall, conservative pundit Bill Kristol warned them on Fox News to "shut up." "Believe it," he said, "there have been congressmen from both parties who've been imperial, arrogant and have centers named after them and have met with donors to that center."

Kristol is entirely on the mark, except for the "shut up" part. No one, not Republicans, not Democrats, should be shutting up. Such abuses of public office only stoke the public's cynicism over government. The ultimate victim: our democracy.

*To find out more about Froma Harrop, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).*



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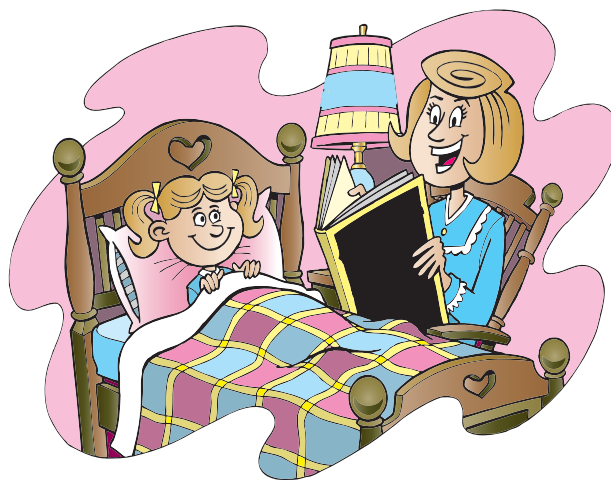
### What's the Difference?

There are four things different between Picture A and Picture B. Can you find them all?

**A**



**B**



Answers: 1. Hearts on bed aren't cut all the way out  
2. Book missing cover 3. Background is lighter  
4. Lamp is missing flowers

### THIS DAY IN...

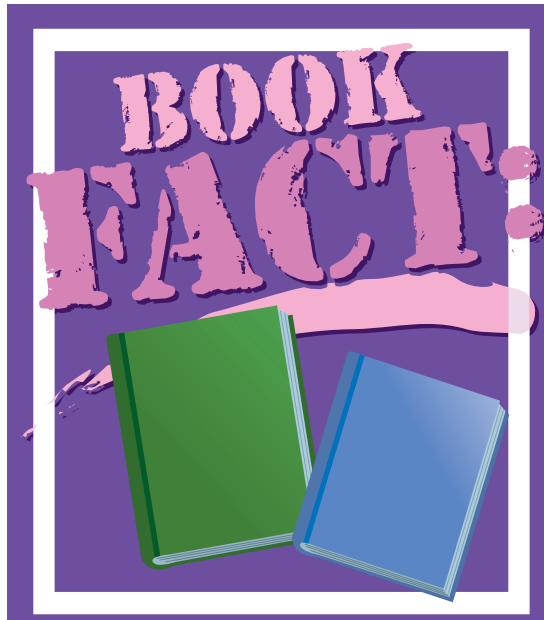


### HISTORY

• **1199:** KING RICHARD I OF ENGLAND SUFFERS A CROSSBOW WOUND WHILE FIGHTING FRANCE. THE INJURY EVENTUALLY CAUSES HIS DEATH.

• **1965:** LED BY MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVISTS END THEIR MARCH ON MONTGOMERY, AL.

• **2006:** POPULAR TV PERSONALITY AND MUSICIAN BUCK OWENS PASSES AWAY.



TRUE OR FALSE:  
MORE THAN 20%  
OF ADULTS READ BELOW  
A FIFTH-GRADE LEVEL.

ANSWER: TRUE



### literacy

ability to read  
and write

### How they SAY that in...

**ENGLISH:** Write

**SPANISH:** Escribir

**ITALIAN:** Scrivere

**FRENCH:** Écrire

**GERMAN:** Schreiben

### Did You Know?

PEOPLE WHO DO NOT  
KNOW HOW TO READ  
ARE MORE LIKELY TO  
FACE FINANCIAL  
DIFFICULTY.



### GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what  
the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: NEWSPAPERS

### SLYLOCK FOX and COMICS FOR KIDS

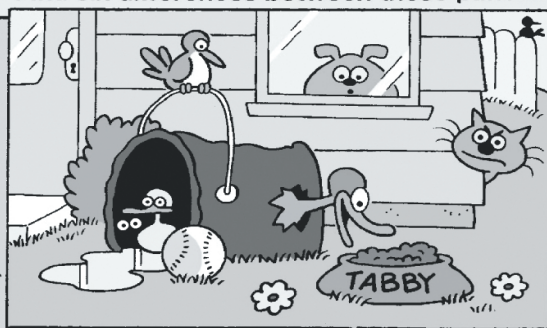
### BY BOB WEBER JR.

Max Mouse heard that a student took a copy of today's test from Slylock Fox's desk. Max told Slylock he thinks the sneaky student completed the test in advance. But Slylock gave out the test papers as planned. When he collected them, he knew which student turned in a copy of the stolen test. How?

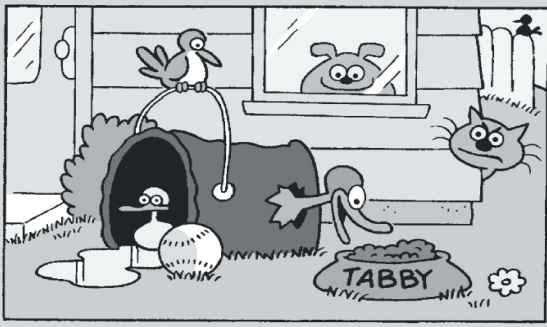


Solution -- Slylock put a small pencil mark on each test paper. When one of the students returned a paper without the mark, Slylock knew the identity of the cheater.

Find six differences between these panels.



www.kidcartoonists.com



Answer -- Bird, keyhole, ball, dog, flower and eyes in bucket.

### HOW TO DRAW a lucky mouse



### YOUR DRAWING



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Which of these animals is venomous?

- a) Python
- b) Bat
- c) Platypus
- d) Mongoose

Answer -- c) The male platypus has a spur on its heel that is connected to a venom-secreting gland.

# Diagnosing a fatal illness not always easy

Word that the bald eagle had died was troubling. My not rescuing, handling, or transporting it made no difference. As a bird rehabber there is more to our endeavors than successful releases. An incident in 2008 made me wonder if the demise of our national emblem would have the same results.

Approaching Odessa from the west on Interstate 20, a couple's vehicle neared the over/underpass. After leaving the traffic rushing eastward, they were nearly under the bridge when the husband saw it.

Standing alone among the weeds that hugged the ragged edge of the shoulder was what looked like a partially feathered bird. After slowing to a stop, the driver made a u-turn and drove back to the area.

Finally spotting it across the road, he turned and positioned his vehicle to the west of the bird. By blocking the view of any traffic coming from the In-

terstate, he felt he could protect the youngster until he decided what to do next.

Fortunately, few cars were taking this route. As the driver and his wife walked toward the bird they realized it was a very young owl. Feathering on its wings accented its buff-colored body. Through its downy attire a few weeks later would come its juvenile plumage. For some reason, the nestling had left the comfort and safety of its nest.

The couple scoured the undersides of the overpass. In an inaccessible corner at the very top of a steep, concrete slope, they finally saw evidence of twigs and branches.

Unable to return the youngster to its nest, they made a decision. Rather than leave the helpless bird to starvation, predators, or traffic, they took it home.

After keeping it for six



Courtesy photo

Whether a nestling great horned owl, or adult bald eagle, both raptors are federally and state protected. Although their circumstances may vary, addressing their health needs will benefit future generations.

days, and feeding it grub worms and raw chicken, they realized the little owl needed more than they could give. Telling a game warden he had a young owl, the husband was brusquely told he couldn't keep an owl. Convincing the officer that he was trying to find someone qualified to help the bird, he was given our number.

At South Plains in Lubbock, Gail Barnes found only a soft tissue injury to the left leg above the knee joint. The bruising would subside with time.

Placed in a mew with Bubo, a surrogate female, the youngster would be fed and nurtured by their resident, non-releasable great horn. For three weeks, the make-believe parent shared mice and constant attention with the growing youngster.

One day, as the nestling began looking more like a fledgling, Gail noticed the owl favored its left leg. Upon examination, she discovered what she thought was a cyst. After a veterinarian took tissue for analysis, the results were troubling.

Through surgery came a startling discovery. The growth had eaten

bone and was spreading with frightening tentacles. After euthanasia, the extremity was sent to the state's flagship of veterinary science.

As in any year, spring initiates "baby season." With fall comes a welcome rest from months of intense situations and rescues. Assuming answers had been forthcoming from the little owl's ordeal clouded my inquisitiveness as to details. Three years later, I would be prompted to remember the nestling owl when given the details concerning a bald eagle from the Dalhart area.

Unable to stand, the large bird was found with a rabbit nearby. Lately, since more raptors were being turned in with respiratory problems, the eagle was examined extensively. Its living through the night was questionable. When Gail called the next day to say the eagle had died, she was determined to know why.

Given time to digest her news, I began thinking of another effort to learn the cause of a bird's death. When I talked with Gail the following day, I reminded her of the owl of 2008 and asked what the results were.

Disappointment was evident in her reply. There was no isolation of a particular bacterium. "They didn't know

what caused its death."

What brought about the maniacal invasion of the owl's leg would go unanswered. However, insistent on seeking information elsewhere on the eagle, Gail was instrumental in getting answers. The bird was shipped to the National Eagle and Wildlife Property Repository in Fort Collins, Colo.

## BIRD POOP

By BEBE McCASLAND



Blunt force trauma had been one of the causes of the eagle's death. Known to eat carrion when desperate, the bird had been found near a rabbit. Seeking food from a roadway, it might have been hit by a car.

The second answer, West Nile virus, was more surprising. It wasn't just blue jays, blackbirds, and hawks that were in jeopardy.

The quick analysis of the eagle's plight gave both of us a resolve as to outcomes. A university's failure to identify the nestling owl's malady had resulted in other facilities being used. Since birds are such an integral part of the environment, discovering what might be affecting avian populations was paramount.

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



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**Question:** When do you qualify for Hospice Care?

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**Question:** Don't most people die at home?

**Answer:** 70-80% of Americans die in facilities. Hospice patients get their wish to die at home.

**Question:** Can Hospice patients die in a hospital?

**Answer:** **If the patient chooses to, the hospice staff will make the arrangements.**

**Question:** Will entering a Hospice make you die sooner?

**Answer:** Statistical studies show that **Morphine eases pain but does NOT shorten life.**

**Question:** Do patients admitted to hospice ever improve?

**Answer:** **Yes, some patients actually improve and in time, are discharged from hospice.**

**Question:** Isn't Hospice only for Cancer patients?

**Answer:** **Hospice services are available for anyone who has a life-limiting illness.**

**Question:** Is Hospice care expensive?

**Answer:** **Medicare and most Medicaid insurances cover hospice at 100%.**

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# News in brief

## Rebels try to save city under Gadhafi siege; U.S. warns allied strikes could end in stalemate

ZWITINA, Libya (AP) — Coalition forces bombarded Libya for a third straight night, targeting the air defenses and forces of Libyan ruler Moammar Gadhafi, stopping his advances and handing some momentum back to the rebels, who were on the verge of defeat just last week.

But the rebellion's more organized military units were still not ready, and the opposition disarray underscored U.S. warnings that a long stalemate could emerge.

The air campaign by U.S. and European militaries has unquestionably rearranged the map in Libya and rescued rebels from the immediate threat they faced only days ago of being crushed under a powerful advance by Gadhafi's forces. The first round of airstrikes smashed a column of regime tanks that had been moving on the rebel capital of Benghazi in the east.

Monday night, Libyan state TV said a new round of strikes had begun in the capital, Tripoli, marking the third night of bombardment. But while the airstrikes can stop Gadhafi's troops from attacking rebel cities — in line with the U.N. mandate to protect civilians — the United States, at least, appeared deeply reluctant to go beyond that toward actively helping the rebel cause to oust the Libyan leader.

President Barack Obama said Monday that "it is U.S. policy that Gadhafi has to go." But, he said, the international air campaign has a more limited goal, to protect civilians.

## Rate of coalition attacks on Libya is slowing; officials say U.S. role to lessen in coming days

WASHINGTON (AP) — Building on what U.S. officials called a successful first stage of international military action in Libya, the focus is shifting to widening a no-fly zone across the North African country while continuing smaller-scale attacks on Libyan air defenses and setting the stage for a humanitarian relief mission.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates and others said the U.S. military's role will lessen in coming days as other countries take on more missions and the need declines for large-scale offensive action like the barrage of Tomahawk cruise missiles fired Saturday and Sunday mainly by U.S. ships and submarines off Libya's coast.

A senior defense official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss classified data, said Monday the attacks thus far had reduced Libya's air defense capabilities by more than 50 percent. That has enabled the coalition to focus more on extending the

no-fly zone, which is now mainly over the coastal waters off Libya and around the rebel stronghold of Benghazi in the east, across the country to the Tripoli area this week.

Discord was evident Monday in Europe over whether the military operation should be controlled by NATO. Turkey blocked the alliance's participation, while Italy issued a veiled threat to withdraw the use of its bases unless the alliance was put in charge. Germany also questioned the wisdom of the operation, and Russia's Vladimir Putin railed against the U.N.-backed airstrikes as outside meddling "reminiscent of a medieval call for a crusade."

In his first public comments on the crisis, Army Gen. Carter Ham, the lead U.S. commander, said it was possible that Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi might manage to retain power.

## Anxiety, weariness burbles among evacuees as Japan nuke plant storage pool boils

FUKUSHIMA, Japan (AP) — Weariness and anxiety percolated Tuesday among people who left their homes near Japan's radiation-shedding nuclear complex as workers tried urgently to cool an overheated storage pool and methodically to reconnect critical cooling systems.

In another day of progress and setbacks, a pool holding spent nuclear fuel heated up to around the boiling point, a nuclear safety official said. With water bubbling away, there is a risk that more radioactive steam could spew out. "We cannot leave this alone and we must take care of it as quickly as possible," said the official, Hidehiko Nishiyama.

It wasn't clear if crews had to retreat to stop work hooking up electrical systems and checking machinery to power up cooling systems.

People at Fukushima city's main evacuation center waited in long lines for bowls of hot noodle soup. A truck delivered toilet paper and blankets. Many among the 1,400 people living in the crowded gymnasium came from communities near the nuclear plant and worry about radiation and weary of the daily routine of the displaced.

## With Yemen crumbling, U.S. sees fragile counterterrorism ally fading, and few good options ahead

WASHINGTON (AP) — For two years, the Obama administration has had a relationship of convenience with Yemen: The U.S. kept the Yemeni government armed and flush with cash. In return, Yemen's leaders helped fight al-Qaida or, as often, looked the other way while the U.S. did.

That relationship is about to get a lot less conve-

nient.

Of all the uprisings and protests that have swept the Middle East this year, none is more likely than Yemen to have immediate damaging effects on U.S. counterterrorism efforts. Yemen is home to al-Qaida's most active franchise, and as President Ali Abdullah Saleh's government crumbles, so does Washington's influence there.

"In the counterterrorism area, it will be a great loss," said Wayne White, a former senior State Department intelligence analyst.

## Yemen's leader says he is ready to step down by year-end, vows not to hand power to military

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — A spokesman for President Ali Abdullah Saleh says the Yemeni leader is willing to step down by the end of the year as part of a "constitutional" transfer of power.

Ahmed al-Sufi told The Associated Press on Tuesday that Saleh informed senior Yemeni officials, military commanders and tribal leaders of his intention in meetings on Monday night.

He said the president also vowed never to hand over power to the military.

Saleh's comments are a reversal of his rejection earlier this month of an opposition proposal demanding his resignation by the year's end.

It is not clear whether the opposition movement calling for Saleh's ouster will accept his latest offer, especially after his security forces shot dead more than 40 protesters on Friday.



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- Knee Replacement Failure
- Revision Knee Surgery
- Painful loosening of the Knee Replacement

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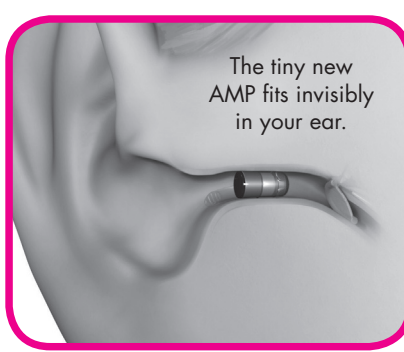


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# Capitol almanac

AUSTIN AP) — The Texas House debated contentious legislation Monday aimed at requiring voters to show a photo ID before casting a ballot.

The bill was temporarily derailed on a parliamentary maneuver after Democrats raised objections that procedures were violated, but Republicans moved quickly to fix them. Officials predicted the bill will be back on the floor by Wednesday.

Voter ID legislation sparked partisan tensions after Gov. Rick Perry put it on the fast

track to passage. Republicans in legislatures across the nation argue it's needed to combat voter fraud. Democrats contend the bill is designed to erect hurdles for poor and minority voters who are less likely to have a state-issued ID card.

Having already passed the Senate, the legislation is deemed likely to get approval during the 2011 session after being shot down during high-intensity debates in recent years.

Rep. Patricia Harless, the Houston-area Republican who is carry-

ing the bill in the House, said Texans already are required to produce an ID to get medical prescriptions, board an aircraft and obtain various goods and services.

"Ballot access should have at least the same integrity as renting a movie, boarding a commercial plane or cashing a check," Harless said. "The fact that states across the nation are passing voter ID laws is proof enough (of) the public's concerns regarding the potential of voter fraud."

Democrats know the bill is likely to pass but

were trying to delay and amend the proposal during floor proceedings Monday. Legislators on both sides had been hunkering down for a long, partisan debate when House Speaker Joe Straus, R-San Antonio, took it off the agenda due to procedural defects.

"I'm under no illusion about what the outcome is going to be today," said Rep. Rafael Anchia, D-Dallas. "My fear is that this bill is not going to increase the integrity of elections, but instead is going to keep legitimately eligible Texans from the polls."

At least eight U.S. states have strict photo ID requirements, according to a late 2010

study by the National Conference of State Legislatures. After legislatures picked up strength in the 2010 elections, photo ID bills are working their way through various state legislatures this year, including in Arkansas, Kansas and North Carolina. Harless said the Texas legislation is modeled after similar laws in Georgia and Indiana.

Republican lawmakers representing Texas in Congress say they will fight attempts by the Environmental Protection Agency to enforce tougher rules.

U.S. Representatives Joe Barton and John Carter accused the EPA of being too tough on

Texas following a meeting with state leaders. They said recent steps by the agency to reduce the state's regulatory powers are a clear case of federal overreach. They vowed to introduce legislation to stop the EPA from enforcing stricter pollution rules.

The EPA and the Obama administration have repeatedly said that Texas is not properly enforcing federal law. When the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality said it would not act on EPA instructions, the agency took away the state's power to grant pollution permits.

The dispute began when President Barack Obama took office.

The historic Texas Railroad Commission could undergo a fundamental shift under legislation Texas lawmakers are considering.

A Senate committee heard testimony Monday on a bill that would change the name of the commission--which hasn't had authority over the railroads since 2005--to the Texas Oil and Gas Commission.

But the debate centered on a more contentious portion of the bill. The draft legislation would consolidate the leadership from three commissioners to only one in an attempt to create more uniformity and transparency.

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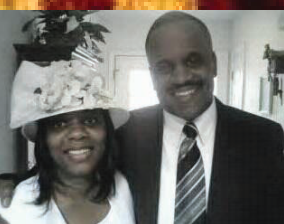
Wednesday Speaker:  
Pastor Lamar Turner  
Kingdom Covenant  
Ministries



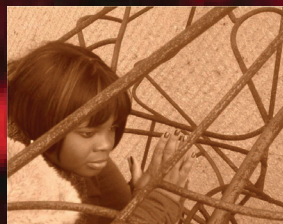
Thursday Speaker:  
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Friday Speaker:  
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# Sorry for the delay

## Three days late, BSHS wins first district contest

By STEVE REAGAN  
Staff Writer

Score an assist to Mother Nature. In a game stretched over three days because of inclement weather, the Big Spring Lady Steers used early and late offensive explosions to claim their District 5-3A softball opener, 11-9, against the Sweetwater Lady Mustangs, Monday at the Big Spring ISD Softball complex.

When the game began Friday evening, it appeared Big Spring (12-13 overall, 1-0 in district play) would breeze to a victory, plating six runs in the first two innings. However, a combination of Sweetwater offense and Lady Steers defensive miscues allowed the Lady Mustangs to close to within 7-6 in the fourth inning.



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

**Big Spring's Vickie Sotelo (8) scores on a wild pitch during the Lady Steers' 11-9 victory over Sweetwater Monday. Big Spring faces Snyder at 5 p.m. today at the Big Spring ISD Softball Complex.**

That's when Mother Nature intervened — lightning in the vicinity of the park forced officials to suspend the game until Monday.

Considering the Lady Steers were figuratively holding on by their fingernails at that point, a break was just what the doctor ordered.

"I definitely think the break helped us," BSHS shortstop Valerie Ross said. "They were starting to come back on us ... This way, we were able to relax and get our confidence back."

"I think it was crucial for the girls," BSHS coach John Sparks added. "They were down, and their heads were sagging a little bit. I think having a break and getting to relax for a couple of days helped them refocus on their game."

When action resumed Monday, it only took Sweetwater (8-9, 0-1) one inning to tie the game at 7-all, and had a runner on third base with only one out. But BSHS pitcher Logan Yarbar rebounded from a rough outing Friday, striking out consecu-

tive batters to keep the game tied. That's how things remained until the bottom of the sixth, when the Lady Steers erupted for four runs to take command.

Big Spring did it with a mixture of offense (three hits) and Sweetwater charity (two walks and two wild pitches from pitcher Taylor McKay). Valerie Ross and Vicky Sotelo each had RBI singles in the inning, which ended with the Lady Steers

See **BSHS**, Page 6B

## Sports calendar

### TODAY

Baseball — Snyder at Big Spring, 7 p.m.  
Baseball — Lubbock Roosevelt at Coahoma, 7 p.m.  
Baseball — Forsan at Midland Trinity, 5 p.m.  
Softball — Snyder at Big Spring, 6:30 p.m.  
Softball — Lubbock Roosevelt at Coahoma, 5:30 p.m.  
Softball — Lubbock Christian at Forsan, 5 p.m.  
Golf — Forsan boys at Big Lake tournament.

### WEDNESDAY

Golf — Coahoma boys and girls at Roosevelt tournament, Lorenzo CC.  
Golf — Forsan girls at Big Lake tournament.

### THURSDAY

Golf — Big Spring girls at Lamesa tournament.

To submit a calendar item, call 263-7331, ext. 235.

# Duncan hurt in Spurs' win

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Manu Ginobili scored 28 points and the San Antonio Spurs got a scare when Tim Duncan sprained his left ankle in a 111-96 victory over the Golden State Warriors on Monday night.

Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said Duncan would be out "a while" but didn't have a timetable.

The injury looked potentially serious as Duncan lay on his side, clutching his foot with both hands, for more than a minute. The 34-year-old All-Star steadied himself with the help of trainers while limping off the court.

Ekpe Udoh led Golden State with 15 points. It was Udoh's foot that Duncan appeared to be trying to avoid while landing awkwardly after hitting a short jumper in the first quarter.

Tony Parker added 17 points and 15 assists.

Until now, Duncan has avoided the aches and injuries that have hampered him in recent years. He's been so surprisingly dura-

ble that he's only missed one game. That was Saturday against Charlotte — when Spurs coach Gregg Popovich didn't want to risk Duncan injuring himself on the second night of a back-to-back.

Popovich's biggest fear happened two nights later instead.

The Warriors made a run at the Spurs run with Duncan out. Golden State trailed 64-58 in the third after a burst that left Popovich furious. His frustration cost him a technical foul, barking at official Leroy Richardson over a perceived foul on Richard Jefferson that wasn't called.

But the Spurs — and Popovich — quickly settled down.

San Antonio ended the quarter on a 20-9 run to blow the game back open. Rookie Tiago Splitter, the 7-footer who got his first NBA start in place of Duncan on Saturday, filled in again for his idol and finished with 10 points and 14 rebounds.

Steve Novak scored 13 points and Jefferson had 12 for the

Spurs.

Acie Law and Dorrell Wright scored 14 apiece as the Warriors dropped their fifth straight. Golden State played a night after getting pummeled at Dallas by 28 points, and have one stop left in Houston on Wednesday before returning home Friday to host Toronto.

The loss assured Golden State a 14th straight season without a win in San Antonio. Put another way, the Warriors have never won in San Antonio since Duncan was drafted in 1997.

But Golden State has given the Spurs two Duncan scares this season.

In January, Duncan fell to the floor and cringed for about a minute during a 113-102 win at Golden State. He was diagnosed with a hyperextended left knee and returned to the game.

That wasn't the case this time. He limped off the court with the help of trainers and did not

See **SPURS**, Page 6B

# Bonds' perjury trial to begin

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Now that a jury has been selected in the Barry Bonds perjury trial, the prosecutors and the slugger's lawyers are scheduled Tuesday to deliver opening statements.

Both sides spent five hours Monday picking a jury of eight women and four men with two women alternates. The jurors were excused Monday afternoon without hearing testimony, which will begin after opening statements.

Along with the swearing in of the jury and opening statements, U.S. District Judge Susan Illston is expected to send the jurors out of the courtroom Tuesday so she can send Bonds' former personal trainer Greg Anderson to jail.

Illston told Anderson on March 1 that she plans to have him kept in custody for the length of the trial if he follows through as expected

on his vow of silence. Anderson's attorney, Mark Geras, said he will argue that Anderson can't be jailed on contempt charges because he already served a little more than a year on similar charges after refusing to testify before a grand jury investigating Bonds.

After she dispenses with Anderson, the jury will be seated and instructed on how to consider evidence during the two-to-four week trial. They will also be admonished from discussing the case outside of court.

Bonds, the all-time leader in home runs (762) and homers in a season (73), is facing four counts of lying to a grand jury and one of obstruction for testifying that he never knowingly took performance-enhancing drugs. He was indicted in 2007, weeks after he played his last game.

Bonds' legal team has asked the judge to specifically order

jurors to refrain from discussing the case on Twitter, Facebook, or through instant messaging and other popular communication tools.

Several cases nationwide have been derailed by mistrials or appellate reversals after jurors were discovered discussing ongoing trials on social network sites.

"In a high profile case such as this, we believe that in this era of ready access to the Internet and social networks it is of paramount importance to impress upon jurors in clear, direct and plain English the requirement that they comply with the Court's prohibitions against independent research and/or disclosure from the very outset," Bonds attorney Cris Arguedas wrote in making the request to the judge March 2.

The judge hasn't indicated whether she will deliver that specific instruction.

## In brief

### KBSB to host kickball event

Keep Big Spring Beautiful will host its inaugural Kickball Klean-Up tournament April 2 at the Cotton Mize Complex in Comanche Trail Park.

Cost is \$100 per team. All proceeds go to KBSB.

For more information, call Danny Valle at 213-8579 or Chad Averette at 213-3828.

### Howard to hold cheerleader tryouts

The Howard College Cheerleaders Squad will hold tryouts Saturday, April 30 at 9 a.m. in the Harold Davis Fitness Center on the Howard College campus.

A clinic will be held for applicants to learn all try-out material Thursday, April 28 and Friday, April 29 from 4-6 p.m. in the fitness center.

All interested persons

need to fill out the online application, found on the Howard College athletic website ([www.hchawk.com](http://www.hchawk.com)), under the Cheerleading tab.

For more information, please see the website, or contact Hollie Allred at 432-264-8538 or hallred@howardcollege.edu.

### Ragball tourney in Snyder

SNYDER — The St. Elizabeth Youth Group will host a ragball tournament here Friday and Saturday.

Registration fee is \$10 per person with a maximum of 15 people per team.

All proceeds benefit the youth group, which is raising money to finance a trip to a World Youth Day event in Spain.

For more information, call Melissa Chavez at (325) 207-0016.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

The Aries sun can be impulsive, and the Scorpio moon, with her tendency toward jealousy, doesn't help matters any. When the green-eyed monster comes to visit, detach yourself from your situation and objectively observe your own emotions. Maybe your sudden urges don't need to be squashed so much as monitored.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You strike a perfect balance between spending and saving. You will save just enough to feel secure about your future and spend enough to feel content with your present.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You have such a high need for order now that you may work overtime to get your environment in tip-top shape. Whether or not this is really your job or your responsibility will be irrelevant to you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There's a habit you've been trying to break for a while now.

The answer is right in front of you today. It's as simple as getting in touch with your emotions and talking about what you are feeling.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Pressure and challenge go together. You can handle what the day brings. And if you come to tears over the whole thing, this is good. Crying purges your body of stress hormones.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Perhaps no one is singing out to praise the sustained genius of your work — and maybe someone should be. All it takes is one person to get the ball rolling. Could the instigator be you? If you're sly!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You seldom allow yourself a reprieve from all the constant improving. There are times, however, when vigilance is counterproductive. Today it's better to relax — so give it a rest.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your day will be focused on friends. You'll happily adapt to the curveballs they throw into your schedule. You want to stay connected, and your friends sense and appreciate how important this is to you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Even if you've yet to learn the new interface for your upgraded software and you're slow at spelling with your thumbs, you could still do an absolutely impressive job today. Old skills will give you an advantage now.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Life is not a melodrama — well, not usually. However, the roles of the "hero," "villain" and "heroine" seem to be, at for least today, typically and clearly defined.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Multitasking offers the illusion that you can do more than one thing at a time, when, in actuality, it's just that many things are undone at the same time. Focus on one task, and finish it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your possessions need attention. Reorder, repair and replace. You'll feel much better once your things are arranged in a way that is both visually pleasing and functional.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). A turgid presentation or tedious

meeting could be cause for bonding. Look for the humor in professional situations, but be careful not to share your observations with just anyone. Use timing and discretion.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 22). You are a true original. Your work is developing as you always wanted it to, and you will get many chances to show your talent. In April, you will walk a fine line and gain political favor. June brings moonlit romance. There's a windfall in July. Family celebrations and other reunions happen in August. Capricorn and Pisces people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 20, 14, 13 and 34.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "This is embarrassing. I suddenly had an overwhelming crush on a certain guy, and it lasted for three weeks. He was all I thought about. I couldn't even look at him without turning red. Then I got up the nerve to talk to him. And he was really nice. And we went on one date — to the sandwich shop and the movies. And it was just OK. And now he's calling me all the time, and honestly, I feel almost grossed out by him. My

friends are amazed. They even called me 'ditzzy'! How could I be sooooo into someone one day and then drop him like a hood the next day? And will I always be this way? Sometimes I wish I weren't a Gemini."

The twins can definitely be two minds, but that's not a bad thing — and it's certainly not 'ditzzy.' The ancient Greek brainiac Aristotle said, "It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it." That is what you were doing in this case — entertaining the idea of this relationship. And you couldn't really know what it would be like to date him until you actually did date him. Now you know. So tell your friends to stop being so hard on you!

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Academy Award-winner Reese Witherspoon spent last year charming horses, riding elephants and kissing Robert Pattinson

in the soon-to-be released "Water for Elephants." With her sun and natal Jupiter in high-energy Aries, the ever-chipper southern belle is always up for an adventure. Mercury and Venus in Pisces shows a highly intuitive manner of dealing with life and work.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. © 2011 CREATORS.COM

NOBODY ASKS FOR IT Help STOP Sexual Assaults Call 263-3312 Rape Crisis Services Big Spring

Contract Bridge No Peek Necessary By Steve Becker. South dealer. Neither side vulnerable. NORTH: ♠72, ♥932, ♦AK76, ♣Q842. WEST: ♠1094, ♥K, ♦J9543, ♣10963. EAST: ♠KQJ853, ♥J1085, ♦Q10, ♣7. SOUTH: ♠A6, ♥AQ764, ♦82, ♣AKJ5. The bidding: South 1♥, West Pass, North 2♥, East 2♠. Opening lead — ten of spades. Certain plays might cause a casual observer to conclude that a player has seen through the backs of the cards. Upon subsequent analysis, however, it usually turns out that the play in question — odd as it might appear — was dictated by the special circumstances of that deal. Consider this case where South got to four hearts on the bidding shown and West led a spade. Declarer took the ten with the ace and, without batting an eye, laid down the ace of hearts, dropping West's singleton king! After that, South could not lose more than a

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. www.sudoku-puzzles.net

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5:PM :30	News ABC	Alma Notic.	Lopez	News	Noticias	News	Seinfeld	Scrivner	World Business	70s Show	Cash Cab	Michael Biehn	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Good Wizards	Nation Basket.	SportsCenter	
6:PM :30	Jeopardy!	Lena de Amor (SS)	Two Men	News	Caso Cer-rado	News	King	McDonald	PBS News-Hour	Seinfeld	Dirty Jobs	Movie: Under Siege, Gary Busey	Bones		Phineas	Women's College Basketball	College Basketball	
7:PM :30	No Ordinary Family	Eva Luna (SS)	Glee	NCIS (DVS)	Aurora (SS)	The Biggest Loser	Office	Chumney Cortes	Ferrets: Pursuit	One Tree Hill	Auction Kings	Movie: The Rainmaker, Jon Voight	NBA Basketball: Chicago Bulls at Atlanta Hawks.	Together Game	Adventures of Sharkboy			
8:PM :30	Best in Film: The Greatest Movies of Our	Triunfo de Amor	Raising Traffic	NCIS: Los Angeles	Herederos-Monte		Office	Light of the Southwest	Frontline (DVS)	Hellcats	Auction	(.45) Movie: On Deadly Ground, Joan Chen		Game	Deck	Women's College Basketball	College Basketball	
9:PM :30	News	Impacto Amor	How I Met	News	Noticias	News	Conan	Brad Cortes	Charlie Rose	Roseanne	Auction	Movie: The Rainmaker, Jon Voight	NBA Basketball: Suns at Lakers	Together	Phineas			
10:PM :30	Nightline	Noticiero Raymond	Letterman	La Reina del Sur	La Reina del Sur	Jay Leno	Lopez Tonight	Ministerio-Vida	World T. Smiley (Off Air)	South Pk	Auction	Ways Die	UFC Fight Night	Mo'Nique	Wizards	Score.		
11:PM :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Para Volver a Amar	Law & Order: SVU	Late	Decisiones (SS)	Late Night	Conan	Brad Cortes	World T. Smiley (Off Air)	South Pk	Auction	Inside the NBA	Leverage	Wendy Williams	Hannah	SportsNation	NFL Live	
12:AM :30	Extra	Destilando Amor	Raymond	Insider	Pagado	News	Lopez Tonight	Brad Cortes	Light of the Southwest	Focus 4	American	Movie: 48 HRS., An-	Disorderly Conduct	Wizards	NBA	NASCAR	2010 Poker	SportsCenter
1AM :30	Paid	Mujer...	King-Hill	(.37) Up to	Pelicula:	Poker After Dark				Homecoming	Overhaul			Wizards	NBA	NASCAR	2010 Poker	SportsCenter

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"How long before PJ gets to change his own diaper?"

HAGAR



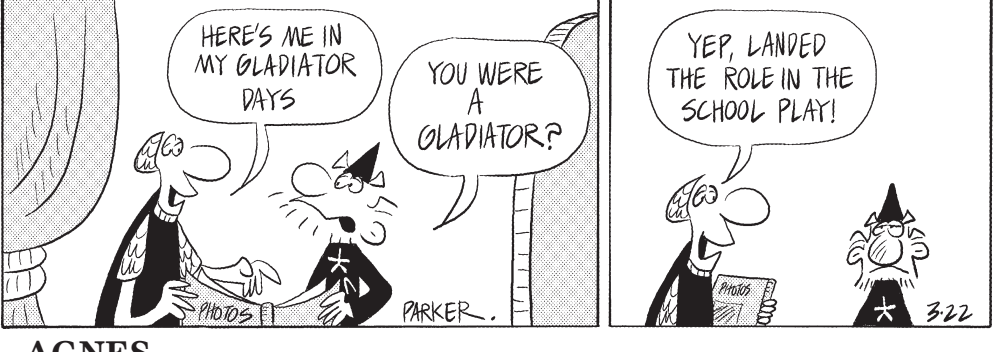
BLONDIE



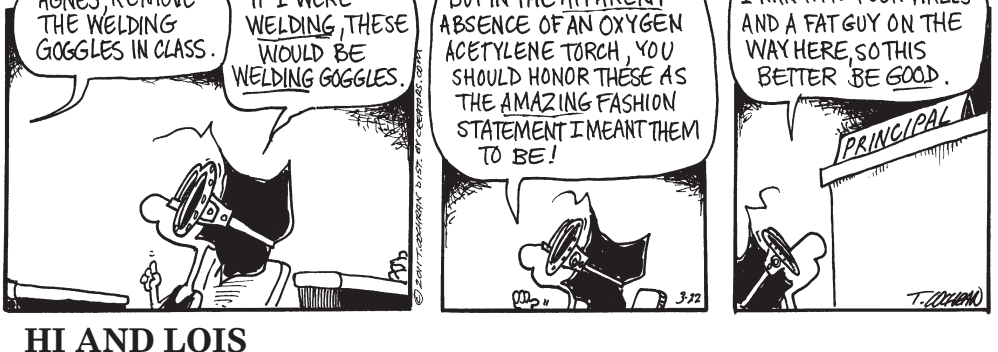
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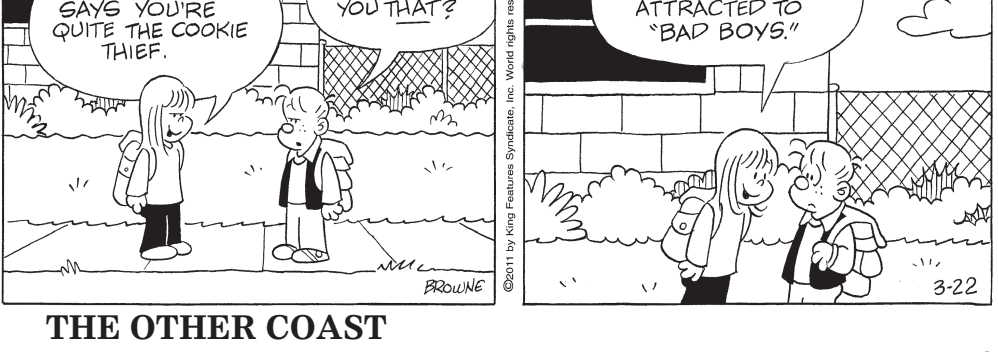
WIZARD OF ID



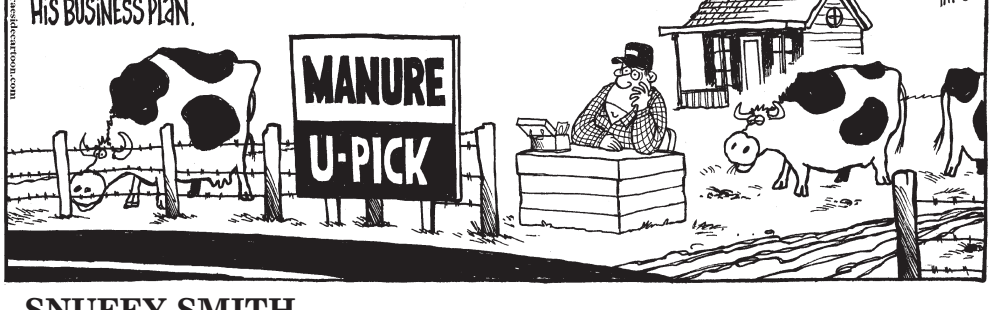
AGNES



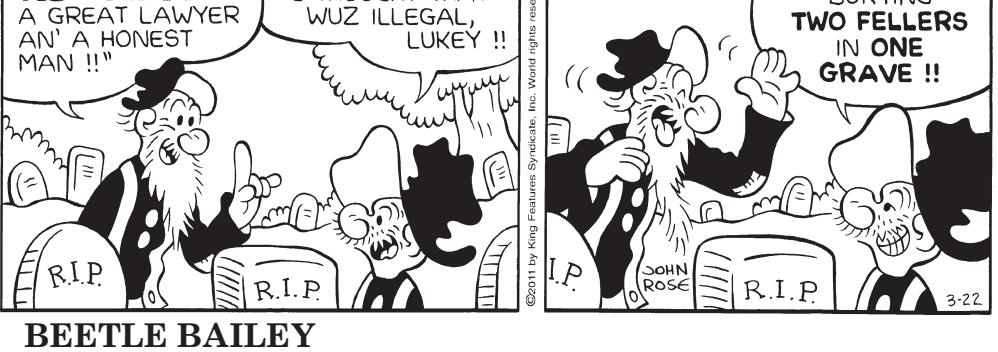
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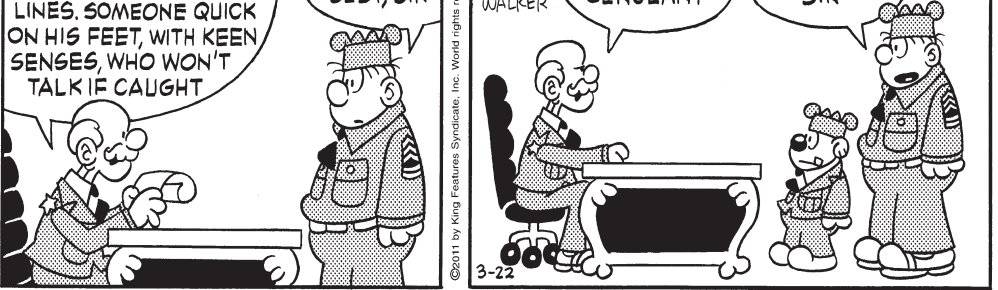
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, March 22, the 81st day of 2011. There are 284 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 22, 1765, Britain enacted the Stamp Act of 1765 to raise money from the American colonies. (The Act was repealed the following year.)

On this date:

In 1638, religious dissident Anne Hutchinson was expelled from the Massachusetts Bay Colony for defying Puritan orthodoxy.

In 1820, U.S. naval hero Stephen Decatur was killed in a duel with Commodore James Barron near Washington, D.C.

In 1929, a U.S. Coast Guard vessel sank a Canadian-registered schooner, the I'm Alone, in the Gulf of Mexico. (The schooner was suspected of carrying bootleg liquor.)

In 1933, during Prohibition, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a measure to make wine and beer containing up to 3.2

percent alcohol legal.

In 1941, the Grand Coulee hydroelectric dam in Washington state went into operation.

In 1958, movie producer Mike Todd, the husband of actress Elizabeth Taylor, and three other people were killed in the crash of Todd's private plane near Grants, N.M.

In 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson named Gen. William C. Westmoreland to be the Army's new Chief of Staff.

In 1978, Karl Wallenda, the 73-year-old patriarch of "The Flying Wallendas" high-wire act, fell to his death while attempting to walk a cable strung between two hotel towers in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

In 1991, high school instructor Pamela Smart, accused of recruiting her teenage lover and his friends to kill her husband, Gregory, was convicted in Exeter, N.H., of murder-conspiracy and being an accomplice to murder and was sentenced to life in prison without parole.

Today's Birthdays: USA Today founder Allen H. Neuharth is 87. Composer-lyricist Stephen Sondheim is 81. Evangelist broadcaster Pat

Robertson is 81. Actor William Shatner is 80. Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, is 77. Actor M. Emmet Walsh is 76. Actor-singer Jeremy Clyde is 70. Singer-guitarist George Benson is 68. Writer James Patterson is 64. CNN newscaster Wolf Blitzer is 63. Composer Andrew Lloyd Webber is 63. Actress Fanny Ardant is 62. Sportscaster Bob Costas is 59. Country singer James House is 56. Actress Lena Olin is 56. Singer-actress Stephanie Mills is 54. Actor Matthew Modine is 52. Country musician Tim Beeler (Flynnville Train) is 43.

Thought for Today: "Better to be alone than with a bad companion." — Spanish expression.

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Answer to previous puzzle

SIPS	SHAM	PARED
LOOT	HARE	OCALA
AWEE	ERAS	SONAR
VAMPIRE	BAT	RATE
	DORM	WANTED
STONY	GOERS	
CLAW	GENEE	TIS
DIANTS	LEEN	PAWINK
SPA	WEEKS	ICKY
	BITES	TANKS
ASSENT	WIPE	
DATA	ONTHE	BLINK
ABASE	ORES	ISEE
PELTS	DIET	SLOG
TRESS	SOLO	TENS

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Minor tiffs
  - 6 Painting and dance, e.g.
  - 10 Parts of a tea set
  - 14 "To err is ..."
  - 15 Horrible smell
  - 16 "Aha!"
  - 17 More than enough
  - 18 Hostile, as a crowd
  - 19 Melody
  - 20 Lavish costume party
  - 22 Tug hard
  - 23 Enthusiasm
  - 24 Walks leisurely
  - 26 Gizmo
  - 30 Eve's second son
  - 31 Rent- (travel-agent offering)
  - 32 Armchair athlete's channel
  - 35 Pisa's tall attraction
  - 39 Miss from Mex.
  - 40 Origins
  - 42 Part of a Dracula costume
  - 43 Of great weight
  - 45 Dog's annoyance
  - 46 Leg joint
  - 47 Lotus-position discipline
  - 49 Tried out
  - 51 Sculptor's work
  - 54 In the thick of
  - 56 3,600 seconds
  - 57 Very kind person
  - 63 Forever \_ day
- DOWN
- 10 Urban distance units
  - 11 Customary
  - 12 Tubular pasta
  - 13 Looks for
  - 21 Prevent
  - 25 Ran into
  - 26 Deep cut
  - 27 Land measure
  - 28 Facts and figures
  - 29 Source of easy money
  - 30 Poker-pot starter
  - 33 Couch
  - 34 Officeholder, for short
  - 36 Long for
  - 37 Fencing blade
  - 38 Sax player's purchase
  - 41 Lustrous fabric
  - 44 " \_ said it!"
  - 48 Easy-to-swallow tablet
  - 50 Lawn-trimming tools
  - 51 Shelter from the sun
  - 52 Invigorating medicine
  - 53 Sound transmission
  - 54 To no \_ (useless)
  - 55 Catchers' gloves
  - 58 Tiny amount
  - 59 Profound
  - 60 Top-selling cookie
  - 61 Elevate
  - 62 Not as much

TOY BOX by Billie Truitt  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

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## VCU relishing giant-killer role

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — VCU has emerged from the First Four to become the darling of the NCAA tournament by sending a trio of major programs home — all in convincing fashion.

Not bad for a team many said had no business being invited in the first place.

The Rams have beaten Southern Cal, Georgetown and Purdue, which VCU ousted in a stunningly lopsided 94-76 runaway.

"It's still a bit surreal," Rams forward Bradford Burgess said.

The reality is VCU has been dominant. Their three wins in the tournament are one more than anyone else and their average margin of victory has been more than 16 points.

Southern Cal was beaten 59-46 in one of the opening round games in Dayton, Ohio. Georgetown never really challenged in its 74-56 loss.

Next up is Florida State Friday night in San Antonio.

Not a bad run so far for a team that didn't even watch the selection show together because second-year coach Shaka Smart was skeptical of their chances to get an at-large bid. He didn't want the potential disappointment of being left out to become the defining moment of a 23-win season.

However, guard Brandon Rozzell says none of what has happened since has been a surprise.

"At the next practice, the enthusiasm, I think

it's just carried over," he said. "After the USC win, it opened a lot of eyes to the nation, but we weren't shocked at all. Georgetown, we weren't shocked. We were just playing our brand and it's come together at the right time."

It helps that Rodriguez, the point guard, is playing the best of his career. It was never more evident than against the Boilermakers when he had 11 assists and no turnovers.

Rodriguez said the bashing and second-guessing VCU endured from analysts who felt the Rams didn't deserve a bid has helped motivate the team, but the way they have adjusted since losing in the CAA championship has helped more.

## Tennessee axes Pearl

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Tennessee wanted to stick with the coach who led the Volunteers program to its greatest achievements. In the end, the university fired Bruce Pearl for too many transgressions away from the court.

Tennessee athletics director Mike Hamilton said in a statement released late Monday that school officials decided to dismiss Pearl, who has been charged by the NCAA with unethical conduct, after learning of additional violations committed on Sept. 14, 2010, and in March 2011.

"Upon receipt of our NCAA Letter of Inquiry in September, we made the difficult decision to forego common national opinion and forge ahead with Bruce and his staff pending any further major infractions or issues that would preclude our basketball program from representing the University of Tennessee in the right manner," Hamilton said. "The cumulative effect of the evolution of the investigation combined with a number of more recent non-NCAA-related incidents have led to a belief

that this staff cannot be viable at Tennessee in the future."

Hamilton did not offer any more detail on the March violation or incidents not related to the NCAA investigation.

He said the search for a new coach will begin immediately and named video scouting coordinator Houston Fancher, a former Appalachian State coach, as interim coach until Pearl's replacement is hired.

Pearl acknowledged in a tearful press conference on Sept. 10 that he had given investigators false information when asked about a cookout at his home attended by high school juniors.

The NCAA has since charged the Tennessee basketball and football programs with a dozen violations.

He failed to notify Tennessee of another possible recruiting violation that occurred Sept. 14. Instead, the NCAA informed Tennessee that Pearl had violated its "bump rule" after speaking with a high school junior on a recruiting trip to Georgia that day.

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## SPURS

Continued from Page 1B

return.

The AT&T Center fell quiet when Duncan crashed to the court and reached for his foot.

Parker was one of the first players over to

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check on him; Parker then turned and winced at Popovich, who was standing in front of the Spurs bench with his hands in his pockets and watching his two-time MVP writhe on the ground.

Before Saturday, Duncan had been the only Spurs player to start the team's first 68 games.

Even though his role has greatly diminished and his averages are at career lows, Duncan remains a big reason why the Spurs (57-13) are on pace to surpass their franchise record of 63 wins set in 2005-06.

Notes: Parker tied a season high in assists.

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## BSHS

Continued from Page 1B

holding an 11-7 lead.

With all the drama the game had produced up to that point, however, a little bit more suspense was probably to be expected. Sweetwater rallied in their final at-bat, scoring two runs on an error and three consecutive singles, but that's as close as the Lady Mustangs came. Ross snagged a pop-up from Suede Shirley and forced out Jerren Villa at second for a double play, then Yarbar gloved an Alicia Finn pop-up to end the game.

The Lady Steers' strengths this season have been pitching and defense, but their bats definitely were the difference Monday, collecting 10 hits off a pair of Sweetwater pitchers.

"Our last few games, we only had a few people hitting the ball," Ross said. "This game, everybody was hitting. We made things happen on both offense and defense."

The Lady Steers return to action today at home against Snyder. Game time is 5 p.m. at the BSISD Softball Complex.

Sweetwater 004 210 2 - 9 8 2  
Big Spring 421 004 x - 11 10 4  
Finn, McKay (2) and Turner; Yarbar, Ross (3), Yarbar (4) and Castillo; W - Yarbar; L - McKay; LOB - Sweetwater 8, Big Spring 8; 2B - Sweetwater (Garza), Big Spring (Ross); HR - Sweetwater (Ken. Crosson); SF - Sweetwater (Ken. Crosson); SAC - Big Spring (Gomez); SB - Sweetwater (Kel. Crosson, McKay, Villa), Big Spring (Dimidjian, Castillo); CS - Big Spring (Castillo); E - Sweetwater (Shirley, Turner), Big Spring (Yarbar, Ross, Herrera, Stone); PB - Sweetwater (Turner); HBP - By McKay (Castillo, Herrera).

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