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THURSDAY

FEBRUARY 14, 2013



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Merger creates largest airline

By **DAVID KOENIG**

AP Airlines Writer

DALLAS (AP) — American Airlines and US Airways have agreed to merge in an \$11 billion deal that would create the world's biggest airline.

The combined carrier will be called American Airlines and be based in Fort Worth, but US Airways CEO Doug Parker will run it.

The merger would reduce the number of major U.S. airlines to four: the new American, United, Delta and Southwest.

The deal is a coup for smaller US Airways Group Inc., which pushed for a merger almost as soon as American parent AMR Corp. filed for bankruptcy protection in November 2011.

While Parker runs the company, AMR CEO Tom Horton will serve as chairman until its first shareholder meeting, likely in mid-2014.

The boards of both companies approved the deal Wednesday. The companies announced it early Thursday and expect it to close in the third quarter of this year.

"The combined airline will have the scale, breadth and capabilities to compete more effectively and profitably in the global marketplace," Parker said in a statement. "Our combined network will provide a significantly more attractive offering to customers, ensuring that we are always able to take them where they want to go."

See **MERGER**, Page 3



Courtesy photo

QT The Therapy Dog and her owner, JP Yousha of Midland, answered questions regarding the use of therapy animals in a hospital setting at Big Spring State Hospital earlier this week. The Volunteer Services Council funded the construction of an Animal Assisted Therapy building to house the animals more than 10 years ago.

JLE tour, ceremony Friday

By **THOMAS JENKINS**

Staff Writer

Local law enforcement officials are inviting Crossroads citizens to tour the newly completed Troy Hogue Joint Law Enforcement Center on Friday following a cornerstone ceremony presented by the Staked Plains 598 Masonic Lodge.

The ceremony is expected to start at 2 p.m., according to Howard County Sheriff Stan Parker, with the open house set to follow.

"We want to invite everyone in the community to come out and take part in the cornerstone ceremony and open house," Parker said. "Everything will be taking place between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. at the new law en-

forcement center, located on Big Spring's west side on W. Highway 80.

"We realize a lot of people toured the facility back when we had the naming ceremony, however, much of it was still under construction and missing key elements. This will give

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Johnson courtship letters released

By **MICHAEL GRACZYK**

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Days after the congressional aide met the University of Texas history and journalism graduate in Austin, he boldly proposed marriage.

Claudia Alta Taylor, the 21-year-old rancher's daughter known to her friends as "Bird," was intrigued but thought Lyndon Johnson's proposal was much too impulsive. Her clearly smitten suitor, however, was persistent.

"It is an important decision," he wrote to her in one of the nearly 90 love letters the pair exchanged during their 10-week courtship in 1934. "It isn't being made in one night ... but your lack of decision

hasn't tempered either my affection, devotion or ability to know what I want."

She replied that his proposal and repeated insistence "sort of put me on the spot, didn't it, dear? All I can say, in absolutely honesty, is — I love you, I don't know how everlastingly I love you — so I can't answer you yet."

The correspondence between the 26-year-old future president and the woman the world would come to know as Lady Bird are available for public review for the first time starting Thursday — Valentine's Day — at the LBJ Presidential Library at the University of Texas at Austin.

A few of the letters were previously released but not

the entire collection, which also will be posted online.

"We've had several requests from researchers to release these," Claudia Anderson, the library's supervisory archivist, said Wednesday. "It just seemed like a good time to do it."

Unlike brief and instantaneous Twitter or Facebook posts or cryptic phone texts, the letters — most multiple pages — reflect a time when the handwritten note was the chief form of communication.

"Dearly Beloved," Taylor begins one, before reconsidering her salutation. "This sounds like a sermon — it isn't."

He signs them, "Lyndon," or "Lyndon Baines." She

signs, "Bird." One closes, "Do you still love me? Devotedly, Bird."

Her stationery carries that name, given to her by a caretaker nurse who described her as "pretty as a lady bird." Her handwriting is very neat in thin black script.

His, also in script with thick dark black ink, is on letterhead from Washington's Dodge Hotel, where he lived while working as an aide to U.S. Rep. Richard Kleberg of Texas. Other letters are on Kleberg's office stationery, sent simply to "Miss Bird Taylor, Karnack, Texas," where her home didn't have a telephone. The envelope carries 6 cents postage, but some

See **LBJ**, Page 3

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Obituaries

Edgar Helwig

Edgar Helwig, 97, of St. Lawrence died Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2013, in a Big Spring nursing home. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Police blotter

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

- DARIN FRANK WITTEN, 25, of 604 S. Goliad, was arrested Wednesday on warrants for shoplifting – more than \$50 and less than \$500, cruelty to animals – failure to provide, expired driver's license, failure to appear and expired registration certificate.
- CHRISTENE MICHELLE BEAM, 32, of Cypress, Texas, was arrested Wednesday on a warrant for abandoning/endangering a child – criminal negligence.
- THEFT was reported in the 200 block of W. FM 700.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported: In the 700 block of W. Interstate Highway 20. In the 700 block of W. Interstate Highway 20. In the 2600 block of Hunter.
- FORGERY was reported in the 3600 block of W. Highway 80.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 400 block of Edwards Blvd.
- BURGLARY OF A BUILDING was reported in the 200 block of Union Street.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 1200 block of Harding.
- ASSAULT was reported: In the 1900 block of N. Highway 87. In the 1900 block of N. Highway 87.

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 76 inmates at the time of this report.

- TERESA LORENE LANG, 30, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension and a charge of failure to identify as a fugitive from justice.
- ANTHONY HEATH WRIGHT, 25, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of criminal mischief.
- DUSTIN JAMES SAUCEDO, 23, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on charges of harassment and no driver's license – when unlicensed.
- SHANE EDDIE ANDERSON, 41, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of bondsman off bond – possession of a controlled substance and municipal warrants for expired motor vehicle inspection certificate, failure to maintain financial responsibility, no seat belt – driver and speeding.
- CHRISTINE MICHELLE BEAM, 32, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a warrant for abandoning/endangering a child – criminal negligence.
- JOHN JOE ATKINSON JR., 28, was arrested Wednesday by DPS on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.
- DARIN WITTEN, 25, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on charges of cruelty to non-livestock animals – failure to provide, theft – more than \$50 and less than \$500 and municipal warrants for displaying expired registration certificate, expired driver's license and failure to appear.
- JONATHAN LEWIS THORP, 41, was booked into the county detention center Wednesday by the Glasscock County Sheriff's Office on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

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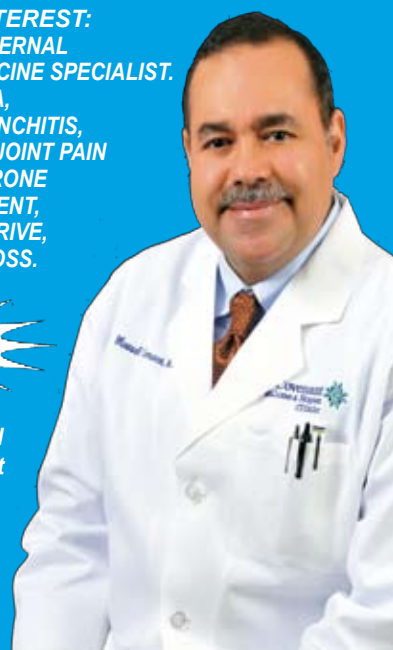
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Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 400 block of Westover Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 200 block of W. Marcy. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 800 block of S. San Antonio. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 900 block of Fourth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of Cardinal. One person was transported to SMMC.
- DUMPSTER FIRE was reported in the 600 block of E. Third Street.

Support Groups

THURSDAY

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

- 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.

- Circle of Hope, a Celebrate Recovery group, meets at 6:30-8 p.m. at Spring Creek Fellowship, located in the College Park Shopping Center. Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered recovery program dealing with life's hang-ups, hurts and habits, covering many areas. Circle of Hope group is a ministry of Spring Creek Fellowship. For further information, contact Dale at 432-270-8462.

- Overcomer's: Recovery & Restoration (R&R), a Christ-centered recovery program is held at Cornerstone Covenant Church from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the "Green Room" of the East Wing. For more convenient access to the meeting room, park in the back of the church and enter through the metal door across from the fellowship hall. If you need more information, contact the church secretary at 432-264-0015.

- Visual Awareness Support Group (VASG) is open to the public but specifically aimed for people who suffer from vision problems and their caregivers. For more information, call 263-2501.

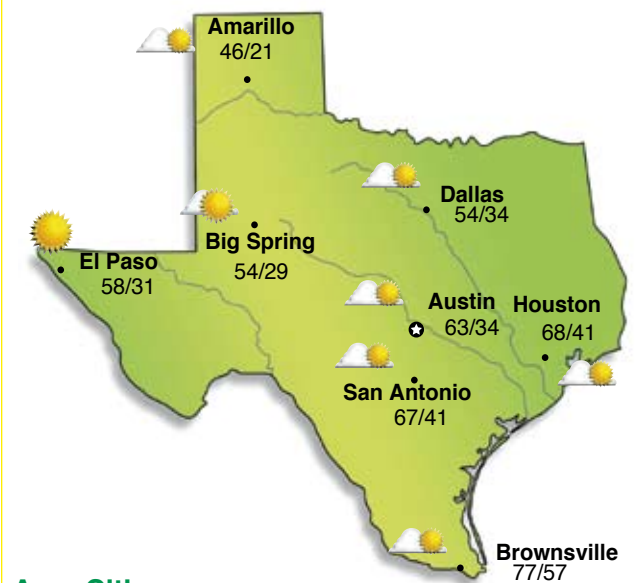
Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Fri 2/15	Sat 2/16	Sun 2/17
54/29 Generally sunny despite a few afternoon clouds. High 54F. Winds ENE at 15 to 25 mph.	62/39 Abundant sunshine. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the upper 30s.	71/46 Sunshine. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the mid 40s.
Sunrise: 7:28 AM Sunset: 6:32 PM	Sunrise: 7:27 AM Sunset: 6:33 PM	Sunrise: 7:26 AM Sunset: 6:34 PM



Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	54	31	pt sunny	Kingsville	76	48	pt sunny
Amarillo	46	21	pt sunny	Livingston	65	35	pt sunny
Austin	63	34	pt sunny	Longview	57	34	pt sunny
Beaumont	67	40	mst sunny	Lubbock	50	24	mst sunny
Brownsville	77	57	pt sunny	Lufkin	63	36	pt sunny
Brownwood	56	32	pt sunny	Midland	55	30	mst sunny
Corpus Christi	72	48	pt sunny	Raymondville	77	53	pt sunny
Corsicana	53	32	pt sunny	Rosenberg	69	40	pt sunny
Dallas	54	34	pt sunny	San Antonio	67	41	pt sunny
Del Rio	69	44	pt sunny	San Marcos	65	34	pt sunny
El Paso	58	31	sunny	Sulphur Springs	53	34	pt sunny
Fort Stockton	55	30	pt sunny	Sweetwater	53	31	pt sunny
Gainesville	49	28	pt sunny	Tyler	56	34	pt sunny
Greenville	51	30	pt sunny	Weatherford	51	30	pt sunny
Houston	68	41	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	51	28	mst sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	61	31	mst sunny	Minneapolis	15	3	cloudy
Boston	49	30	pt sunny	New York	49	35	mst sunny
Chicago	26	14	cloudy	Phoenix	70	43	sunny
Dallas	54	34	pt sunny	San Francisco	69	49	sunny
Denver	40	23	pt sunny	Seattle	54	43	pt sunny
Houston	68	41	pt sunny	St. Louis	37	24	mst sunny
Los Angeles	78	51	sunny	Washington, DC	58	36	mst sunny
Miami	76	63	rain				



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Take note

- American Legion Post No. 506 will host a fish fry Saturday at 3203 W. Highway 80. Plates are \$10 each; serving will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and delivery is available from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call 263-2084.
- An account has been established at Citizens Credit Union to help pay medical expenses for Jodi Schlipf Baird, who is being treated for Stage 4 cancer. For more information, contact the credit credit union at 267-6373 or Donna Whetsel at 432-466-9744.
- The Howard County A&M Club is accepting scholarship applications from high school students who are graduating this May and have been accepted at Texas A&M University for the Fall 2013 semester. Students must be Howard County residents and will enroll for at least 12 semester hours. Application deadline is April 1. More information and the application may be found on the club's web site: www.westexags.com
- Healthy Woman is presenting a heart healthy affair "Be Aware of YOUR Heart" at noon Feb. 21 at the Dora Roberts Community Center. Drs. Rudy and Chris Haddad will speak, along with a person story from Mitzi Knight. The event is free to the public, but reservations need to be made no later than Feb. 15 at 5 p.m. To reserve your spot, call Amanda Duforat at 432-268-4842 or Anita Cline at 432-268-4721.
- Big Spring State Hospital patients are in need of warm clothing. Clean items should be taken to the Community Relations Office near the south entrance of the hospital, 1901 N. U.S. Highway 87.

Clothing that cannot be used by the patients will be taken to the hospital's Chalet Resale Shop for sale to raise money for patient needs. Men's clothing and larger-sized clothing are always in need. For more information, call Melissa Adams, BSSH program coordinator, at 432 268-7730.

- The Big Spring State Hospital Volunteer Services Council needs assistance in The Chalet Resale Shoppe, 115 East Second St. The Chalet Resale Shoppe is a fast-paced retail shop specializing in gently worn clothing and small household appliance. Volunteers are needed to sort, price, check out and stock donated items. Volunteer hours are flexible. The Chalet is open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday. For more information, contact Jamey Stegall at james.stegall@dshs.state.tx.us or 432 268-7535.

- Compass Hospice is in need of your help. If you would be interested in offering your love and God's comfort to those who are suffering, or to their families, contact Michelle Coutermarsh at 263-5999 or come by 602 S. Main.

Volunteers are needed in many categories including patient care. You may give as much or as little time as you wish. Any amount of time is greatly appreciated. Training is offered free of charge.

- Every Friday night from 7:30 p.m. until 10 p.m. is dance night at the Senior Citizen Center. The cost is \$8 per person.

- Mobile Meals is in need of volunteer delivery drivers. If you can donate one hour per week to help deliver meals to the elderly, call Macaria Cantu at

263-4016.

- Spring Tabernacle Ministries, 1209 Wright St., has a brief, inspirational message before giving away food and clothing on Thursday mornings. It's a great way to work off community service and get help, too. Be there at 9 a.m.-11 a.m. and get two for one plus a rehab meeting.

- Home Hospice is seeking volunteers. Volunteers are needed for in office duties as well as sitters, deliveries and crafts. To find out more information or to volunteer contact Sherry Hodnett at Home Hospice by calling 264-7599.

- Hangar 25 Air Museum needs your help. We are in need of volunteers to fill a variety of positions such as tour guides, front desk, clerical, events, and many others. Set your hours and days of the week you are available. Meet new people and enjoy a rewarding experience. For more information, contact Emma Bogard at 432-267-2963.

- The Salvation Army is holding its annual heater drive and is in need of heaters. Community members can donate new or used heaters. Monetary donations are also welcomed. Donations can be made at the main office, located at 811 W. Fifth St., Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

- The Homeownership Preservation Foundation (HPF) is an independent national nonprofit dedicated to helping distressed homeowners navigate financial challenges and avoid mortgage foreclosure. If you want to stop foreclosure and are in need of foreclosure help, call 888-995-HOPE.

LBJ

Continued from Page 1

he sent by air mail or special delivery.

None of the letters is dated, but merely provides a day of the week. Fortunately for archivists, Taylor saved the envelopes — Johnson didn't — as well as the letters, allowing researchers to assemble what they believe is a chronological order.

In one letter, Taylor

defends her indecision on marriage, saying "everybody is so constantly urging" her to wait, that two months isn't long enough to know him. "My head aches," she writes.

Anderson said Johnson is "certainly romantic in these letters in that he is wooing her, he's trying to impress her and he makes various arguments why they should get married."

"I would not really call these letters sentiment-

tal. He wants a commitment from her. ... His letters express that," Anderson said. "They are fascinating."

She said the letters reflect characteristics that would come to be synonymous with the couple: "His impatience, his passion for helping people; her interest in conservation and nature."

He talks about getting jobs for people, his own job in Washington and complains how she doesn't write every day.

Hers progress from, "I'm not so sure about this," to, "I adore you."

Ten weeks after they met, Johnson showed up in November 1934 at Lady Bird's widowed father's home in Karnack in northeast Texas, to press for an answer. Even as they made the 350-mile drive to San Antonio, she wasn't sure she would "commit matrimony," as Mrs. Johnson described it later.

But the couple mar-

ried Nov. 17, 1934, four days after the last letter in the collection, at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in San Antonio.

Johnson dispatched a friend, Dan Quill, who was postmaster in the Alamo city, to get a ring for the ceremony. It came from a Sears store and cost \$2.50.

Lady Bird Johnson spent 34 years in Washington as her husband's political career took him to the chief executive's office after President

John F. Kennedy was assassinated in 1963. Lyndon Johnson was elected the following year to a four-year term, but declined to seek reelection in 1968 amid growing civil unrest and challenges from his Democratic Party over his Vietnam War policies.

He and Lady Bird retired to their ranch in Austin, and Lyndon Johnson died in 1973. Mrs. Johnson died in 2007 at age 94.

TOUR

Continued from Page 1

area residents a chance to see the finished product, fully furnished and operational."

Parker said Friday's event gives local law enforcement officials — from both the Howard County Sheriff's Office and the Big Spring Police Department — a chance to show the community how the two

agencies work hand-in-hand.

"There are a number of areas at the law enforcement center both agencies share, which is very important to saving the taxpayers money," Parker said. "It helps us to avoid the duplication of services, such as record keeping and dispatch. It also allow our law enforcement officers to quickly and easily share information on cases, which

has been vital to both agency's success."

According to BSPD Chief Lonnie Smith, the joint law enforcement center has been a major step in the right direction for both agencies, as well as the citizens they serve.

"The new center will be a cost saver to our local taxpayers and bring better efficiency to both departments," Smith said. "The benefits will have an effect on our

community. By sharing the new center, both agencies share more information and assist each other with manpower and training. This will be seen by the public as time goes on. The patrol division of both departments share briefings and work area, which conjoins the information needed to patrol more efficiently.

"The city patrol are still assigned districts and work those areas

through their shift. They start the shift and end the shift at the new building, but then they are in the districts assigned. As to noticing any difference in areas of town, the police presence should be the same. We have also completed consolidating dispatch services and records division. This consolidation has and will provide better efficiency in these areas and provide savings on both depart-

ments' budgets."

For more information on Friday's ceremony, call 432-264-2244.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

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235582

MERGER

Continued from Page 1

AMR creditors will own 72 percent of the new company, with the remaining 28 percent will going to US Airways shareholders. The creditors' portion includes a 23.6 percent share for American employees and unions, plus a small stake for existing shareholders of American's parent AMR Corp.

The airlines said they expect \$1 billion in combined benefits from the merger. They expect the bigger airline to lure corporate travelers away from competitors, contributing to \$900 million in additional revenue. They also anticipate cost savings of roughly \$150 million.

They also said they expect to spend \$1.2 billion on transition costs over the next three years.

Travelers on American and US Airways won't notice immediate changes. It likely will be months before the frequent-flyer programs are combined and years

before the two airlines are fully integrated.

The companies had negotiated since August, when creditors pushed AMR to conduct merger talks so they could decide which earned them a better return: a merger or an independent American.

The deal would need approval by AMR's bankruptcy judge and antitrust regulators, who have permitted three other big airline mergers to go ahead since 2008.

The rapid consolidation has allowed the surviving airlines to offer bigger route networks that appeal to high-paying business travelers. And it has allowed them to limit the

supply of seats, which helps prop up fares and airline profits.

The new American would have more than 900 planes, 3,200 daily flights and about 95,000 employees, not counting regional affiliates. It will be slightly bigger than United Airlines by passenger traffic, not counting regional affiliate airlines.

The new airline will

keep all of American's and US Airways' hubs.

The companies said the new board of directors will have 12 members: Three from American, including Horton; four from US Airways, including Parker; and five appointed by American's creditors.

AMR shareholders are poised to get a 3.5 percent stake in the new airline, the companies

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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.

Glenn Stiffemire
Publisher

Bill McClellan
Managing Editor

Steve Reagan
Staff Writer

Thomas Jenkins
Staff Writer

OTHER VIEWS

Putting an end to amnesty argument

The more complex and important the debate, the more likely a single word can sway public opinion, which in turn exerts irresistible pressure on members of Congress who face the voters again soon enough.

No matter how much we might agree that the nation's immigration system is a broken mess in desperate need of reform, one word swells into a Jabba-the-Hut barrier to sensible advancement: amnesty.

It has become almost tiresome to argue over the definition. Supporters, like this newspaper, will point to fact upon fact to show that comprehensive reform is anything but amnesty. Instead of granting guilt-free citizenship, plan after plan requires illegal immigrants to pass background checks, pay fines and back taxes, learn English and start their path to legalization at the back of the line.

Opponents shake their heads and dig in: “They broke the law, didn’t they? Secure the border, and enforce the laws we already have.”

Everyone remains stuck in an angry place that precludes progress toward a smarter, fairer system. It needn’t be this way, and this newspaper is optimistic — for the first time in years — that reasonable people of good intention can push the debate beyond a single nettlesome word.

At some point, those who decry amnesty must contend with a question they might rather avoid: What do you do about the 11 million illegal immigrants already here?

If you believe the fix is as simple as rounding them up and sending them home, consider the prohibitive personnel and transportation costs — not to mention the visual of police-state sweeps of entire neighborhoods. There are reasons no one seriously offers this as a solution. In a nation already running massive annual deficits and debt approaching \$17 trillion, it makes no fiscal sense.

Neither does leaving these people in the shadows, a half-step removed from American life.

As Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida puts it, “If we do nothing, what we have is de facto amnesty because we don’t know who the undocumented are.” That’s one reason he joined a bipartisan Senate group offering a better way. In addition to the penalties and requirements, the Gang of Eight’s legalization process would not begin until the border was judged secure and other enforcement measures were in place.

Opponents remain stung by memories of the 1986 Simpson-Mazzoli Act, which effectively legalized 3 million illegal immigrants but never provided the promised enforcement and border security. That truly was amnesty, and it’s no surprise that it led to more, not fewer, illegal crossings over the years.

Opponents would have a point today if the Senate framework or President Barack Obama’s similar plan were as feckless. Instead, their goals are to make legality a stronger inducement than illegality and finally put the amnesty argument in the shadows, where it belongs.

— *The Dallas Morning News*

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or a return address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721.

Writing our American story

Stories are important not as simple entertainment, but also as education and indoctrination. What we believe happened in the past and the stories we highlight shade our present and influence our future.

The best stories not only have a moral, where good triumphs over evil, but engage us intellectually and also emotionally.

This past Tuesday night, President Barack Obama delivered his first State of the Union address for his second term on the floor of the House of Representatives. In attendance were Supreme Court justices, military generals, Cabinet officers, senators, congressmen and guests — but Obama was not talking to the people in the audience as much as he was speaking to the people of our country.

He has to tell his story, to sell his story.

With a Republican-controlled House, the president must appeal to the country as a whole if he is going to accomplish his goals.

The best way to move the members of Congress is to move their constituents, the voters who vote them in — and out — of office. The people then press on their representatives regarding the action that they want them to take.

Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida gave the Republican response to Obama’s speech.

Written before he knew what Obama was going to say, it takes



JACKIE
GINGRICH
CUSHMAN

on themes and policies without being specific.

Both men finished their speeches with the same conclusion: It is our responsibility to write our chapter of our American story.

The importance of stories led Jim Loehr to write “The Power of Story: Rewrite Your Destiny in Business and in Life.” “Stories impose meaning on the chaos,” he wrote. “They organize and give context to our sensory experiences. ... Facts are meaningless until you create a story around them. ... A story is our creation of a reality; indeed our story matters more than what actually happened.”

This focus on words and stories was evident in the closing passages of the speeches by Obama and Rubio.

“We may do different jobs, and wear different uniforms, and hold different views than the person beside us, but as Americans, we all share the same proud title: We are citizens,” Obama said.

“It’s a word that doesn’t just describe our nationality or legal status.

It describes the way we’re made. It describes what we believe. It captures the enduring idea that this country only works when we accept certain obligations to one another and to future generations; that our rights are wrapped up in the rights of others; and that well into our third century as a nation, it remains the task of us all, as citizens of these United States, to be the authors of the next great chapter in our American story.”

While Obama focused on the

rights and responsibilities of citizens, Rubio focused on the hope our nation gives to people.

“This dream — of a better life for their children — it’s the hope of parents everywhere,” Rubio said. “Politicians here and throughout the world have long promised that more government can make those dreams come true.

“But we Americans have always known better,” he continued. “From our earliest days, we embraced economic liberty instead. And because we did, America remains one of the few places on earth where dreams like these even have a chance.

“Each time our nation has faced great challenges, what has kept us together was our shared hope for a better life.

“Now, let that hope bring us together again. To solve the challenges of our time and write the next chapter in the amazing story of the greatest nation man has ever known.”

Obama’s close grouped all citizens together, with shared rights and responsibilities. Rubio’s close brought Americans together through hope for the future, and an embrace of economic liberty — not government — as the way to solve problems.

It will be interesting to watch and listen as the national conversation about the alternative stories take place and to see how our chapter of the American Story turns out.

To find out more about Jackie Gingrich Cushman, visit www.creators.com.

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Guns and ammo ... and sex

I learned a lot about biology by watching a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing that was titled: “What Should America Do About Gun Violence?”

I am not sure biology was supposed to be the point, but an odd witness, who is not an expert on gun violence, let it rear its ugly head.

Gayle Trotter is a senior fellow at the Independent Women’s Forum, a self-described conservative group that believes in “limited government, personal liberty and free markets.”

Trotter also believes in guns and ammo. Lots of ammo.

She testified that women must be able to arm themselves with military-style semi-automatic rifles that contain large ammo magazines because women are smaller than men and need an equalizer.

A large ammo magazine allows a shooter to fire the weapon many, many times before reloading. At Newtown, the shooter was able not only to murder 20 children, but shoot each of them a sickening three to 11 times because he had a large ammo magazine.

Last year in Tucson, Ariz., the shooter who killed six people and wounded U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords used a 33-round magazine.

At Aurora, Colo., James Holmes used a 100-round drum magazine in his Smith & Wesson semiautomatic rifle, according to police, to kill 12 people and wound 58.

Police have testified that their greatest opportunity to rush shooters is when the shooter must stop firing to reload. If the shooter doesn’t have to reload for a long time, that opportunity is diminished.

None of which in convincing to Gayle Trotter.

“You are a large man, tall man, a tall man,” Trotter said to one senator who questioned the need for large ammo magazines. “You



ROGER
SIMON

Hunters do not need large-capacity magazines. If you need 100 rounds to shoot a deer, you need another sport.

are not a young mother who has a young child with her. You cannot understand.

“You are not a woman stuck in her house, not able to defend her children, not able to leave her child, not able to go seek safety on the phone with 911.”

This might be understandable if Trotter lived in Syria and needed to defend her family on a daily basis. But she lives in the United States. There is certainly violent crime in the United States, but little of it comes from criminals who kick down the doors of homes and come after women and children with guns blazing.

If that does happen, the safest thing to do is to call 911.

The most dangerous thing to do is to keep loaded weapons around the house where children can find them and accidentally kill themselves or others. (And the Newtown shooter killed his mother in her sleep with one of the many guns she kept around the house for self-defense.)

As Slate recently pointed out: “The Harvard Injury Control Research Center has found that states with more guns have more female violent deaths. ... The Violence Policy Center’s research showed that in 1998, the year they studied, 83 women were killed by an intimate partner for every woman who used a gun in self-defense.”

But Trotter testified: “Guns make women safer. In a violent confrontation, guns reverse the balance of power. Armed with a gun, a woman may even have the advantage over a violent attacker.”

This is a position upon which

reasonable people can differ.

Personally, I believe a 100-round gun magazine is far more likely to be used by a criminal to kill innocent civilians and police than by a homeowner protecting herself.

Hunters do not need large-capacity magazines. If you need 100 rounds to shoot a deer, you need another sport.

But Trotter believes that guns even the biological score. Big men can be killed by small women. Which is only fair.

“If we ban these types of assault weapons, you are putting women at a great disadvantage, more so than men, because they do not have the same type of physical strength and opportunity to defend themselves in a hand-to-hand struggle,” Trotter told the senators.

OK. But there is one place women can go, arm themselves and legally shoot large, dangerous men: the military.

The U.S. military recently announced that women will officially be allowed in combat — they have unofficially been in combat for years — and you would think Trotter would be in favor of this.

Here is a chance for small women to arm themselves with large weapons and kill all the big, male attackers that they want. And Afghanistan is one good place they can do it.

But Trotter is opposed to this.

“There are real reasons to avoid putting women in combat,” Trotter wrote on her blog last June. “When you mix young women with fit young men, pregnancies are to be expected.”

But we have the finest fighting forces in the world. They are capable of both killing the enemy and fooling around. Quite possibly at the same time.

And we owe it to America and biology to give them the chance to prove it.

To find out more about Roger Simon, and read features by other Creators writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators webpage at www.creators.com.

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News in brief

Ex-judge says he helped Austin attorney's lawsuits

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (AP) — A former South Texas judge who faces prison in a bribery scandal has testified he helped an Austin attorney with cases and planned to join his firm.

Testimony continues in the Corpus Christi bribery and racketeering trial of Marc Rosenthal. Ex-state District Judge Abel Limas earlier pleaded guilty to racketeering and awaits sentencing.

The Valley Morning Star reports Limas on Wednesday testified about his relationship with ex-state Rep. Jim Solis and Rosenthal. Solis was convicted of extortion-related counts.

Limas described talks with Rosenthal and Solis, saying they issued instructions on orders and rulings for two cases. Limas says discussions also involved him joining Rosenthal's firm and getting \$100,000 up front for his favors while on the bench.

The defense says Solis was the person making deals with the judge.

Houston police shoot, kill man holding toddler son

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston police have shot and killed a man who threatened his year-old son with a butcher knife and refused to surrender while smoking crack cocaine.

The toddler was not injured Wednesday night. Police didn't immediately release the name of the father or the officer who opened fire during the standoff at an apartment.

Neighbors called police about a man and a woman fighting. Police forced their way into the unit and the woman holding the boy put him down and ran outside.

Police spokesman John Cannon says the man picked up his son while smoking crack from a pipe. Cannon says an officer fired when the father put the knife to the child's throat.

Police say the boy's mother was at the complex but not present during the argument.

Ex-Stanford execs to learn fate for \$7B swindle

HOUSTON (AP) — The last two defendants awaiting sentencing for their roles in a \$7 billion Ponzi scheme run by disgraced Texas financier R. Allen Stanford head to federal court in Houston to learn their fate.

Gilbert Lopez Jr. and Mark Kuhrt are set to be sentenced Thursday. They were each convicted last year of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and nine counts of wire fraud. Each count carries a maximum of 20 years in prison.

Stanford was convicted last year on 13 fraud-related counts and sentenced to 110 years in prison. Prosecutors say Lopez and Kuhrt helped to hide Stanford's misuse of assets. Lopez was Stanford's chief accounting officer, while Kuhrt was the global controller.

Besides Stanford, two other former executives with his now-dismantled business empire have been sentenced.

Escaped prisoner described as 'a schizophrenic'

GRAPEVINE, Texas (AP) — The Florida prisoner who stabbed a detective and escaped near Dallas while being transported to Nevada is "a schizophrenic" who vowed not to return to prison, according to authorities and a 911 call released Wednesday.

Alberto Morales, 42, escaped Monday after using a piece from his eyeglasses to stab Miami-Dade Detective Jaime Pardinas, one of two officers transferring the prisoner by car to Nevada. The escape happened while they were stopped in a Wal-Mart store parking lot in Grapevine, a community near the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport.

Grapevine police spokesman Robert Eberling

said authorities continue to search near the airport and will do so until they believe they should look elsewhere. He said the search covers "any place anybody can hide," including yards and drainage ditches.

Eberling said inmates who knew Morales in prison have told investigators that he had vowed not to return.

"He's made it pretty clear that he's not going back to prison," Eberling said.

On a recording of a 911 call released Wednesday, Pardinas can be heard breathing heavily as he tells the operator that he's been stabbed. He described Morales' height, weight and appearance and then added, "He's a schizophrenic."

On another 911 call, a bystander told the operator: "There's a guy with a gun and somebody on the floor bleeding." The caller then clarified that "the guy with the gun is helping the guy that's bleeding."

Texas providers urge more women's health funding

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A new coalition of Texas health providers on Wednesday called for more funding for women's health programs after the state cut off money to Planned Parenthood and other clinics.

The Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition that debuted Wednesday doesn't include Planned Parenthood, which Republican lawmakers targeted in 2011 under a bill that prohibits abortion-affiliated providers from participating in a state health program for low-income women.

Dr. Janet Realini, a chief organizer behind the coalition, says state budget drafts indicate that family planning services will mean 147,000 fewer women will receive preventive care and family planning than in 2010. Her organization argues that cuts will also lead to 24,000 additional unplanned pregnancies that will cost the state hundreds of millions in dollars in additional Medicaid costs.

"This coalition is designed to be another voice that this is not just about Planned Parenthood," Realini said.

The Texas Medical Association and Texas Hospital Association are among the coalition members.

A Texas judge last made a key ruling last month refusing to allow Planned Parenthood to rejoin the Texas Women's Health Program. State health officials have said that have recruited more than enough new providers to make up for the exclusion of Planned Parenthood in the program.

CPRIT chief: No moratorium end targeted yet

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A moratorium that has prohibited Texas' troubled \$3 billion cancer-fighting agency from handing out more money since December will continue for now as hundreds of funded projects continue being reviewed, the state official in charge of the decision said Wednesday.

Wayne Roberts, interim executive director of the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas, declined to offer a timetable on when the agency that remains mired in a criminal investigation and widespread rebuke might begin operating as normal again.

"I'm weighing whether or not we ought to unfreeze anything," Roberts said.

He spoke after the embattled agency, known as CPRIT, ended two weeks of testimony in front of angry state lawmakers who questioned what led to the approval of more than \$56 million in taxpayer dollars for grants that weren't endorsed by peer-review councils — if the projects were reviewed at all.

As the agency kept plunging into deeper turmoil by December, Gov. Rick Perry and other top lawmakers called for a moratorium on new grants until confidence in the beleaguered efforts was restored. CPRIT immediately agreed to the request.

Roberts said the agency still needs to review more than 300 previously awarded grants to make sure none of those were handled improperly. He stopped short, however, of saying he would wait until review is complete to propose an end to the moratorium.

Among the troubled grants uncovered at CPRIT was an \$11 million grant to a Dallas-based startup that completely bypassed the review process. Another was a \$25 million for a cancer clinical network that spent more than \$100,000 on office furniture, and never secured matching funds from outside investors as required under state law.

Roberts said he understood that lawmakers needed to vent their anger and disappointment since the Legislature convened last month, but he said he hopes the conversations will now shift toward repairing the agency and moving forward.

3 executives plead guilty in fraud scheme

PLANO, Texas (AP) — Three more executives have pleaded guilty to charges in a multimillion-dollar oil and gas investment fraud case.

A Justice Department statement Wednesday announced the guilty pleas in federal court in Plano by Brendan W. Coughlin of Dallas, Henry D. Harrison of Dallas and W. Mark Miller of Plano.

Documents show Coughlin and Harrison founded and controlled Provident Royalties, which had its main office in Dallas but is no longer in business. Miller served as chief financial officer and later as president. The news release says Coughlin and Harrison conspired with others to defraud investors of \$2.3 million, and Miller knew of the caper, failed to report it and helped conceal it.

Coughlin and Harrison face up to five years in federal prison. Miller faces up to three years.

Special prosecutors appointed in teen beating case

HOUSTON (AP) — A judge has granted a request by prosecutors to recuse themselves from the cases of three former Houston police officers accused of beating a teenage burglary suspect.

The Harris County district attorney's office says it asked to be removed to avoid a potential conflict of interest. The wife of recently elected District Attorney Mike Anderson previously represented another officer who was investigated in the case.

During a court hearing Wednesday in Houston, state District Judge Ruben Guerrero appointed two Houston defense attorneys as special prosecutors.

Former Houston police officers Phillip Bryan, Raad Hassan and Drew Ryser face misdemeanor charges for their roles in the alleged March 2010 beating of the teen, which was caught on video surveillance. A fourth ex-officer who had been indicted was acquitted in May.

Terrell hospital closes amid government scrutiny

TERRELL, Texas (AP) — A North Texas hospital has closed amid regulatory questions over care after two patients died and failure to pay more than \$425,000 in property taxes.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services on Tuesday halted federal funding for Renaissance Hospital in Terrell (TEHR'uhl), a city of nearly 16,000 located 30 miles east of Dallas.

The hospital owner, Dr. Tariq Mahmood, could not immediately be reached for comment Wednesday.

Several government entities have tax claims against the 102-bed hospital that was operated in a building leased from Terrell. All 150 employees lost their jobs Tuesday.

The Texas Department of State Health Services last month began the process to revoke the hospital's license and cited the recent deaths of two patients for alleged care failures.

Democrats want immigration talks back at Capitol

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — National Republican activist and powerbroker Grover Norquist told a conservative forum Wednesday that his party is not anti-immigrant, even though many people have been led to believe so by a small, vocal group of extremists.

His sentiments came hours after a pair of Democrats in the Texas House called on the Republican-controlled

state Legislature to pass a resolution urging leaders in Washington to enact nationwide immigration reform as the White House and Congress propose new paths to citizenship for an estimated 11 million people in the U.S. illegally.

Norquist is president of Americans for Tax Reform, but lately has advocated for overhau-

ling the nation's immigration laws.

He said the majority of Republicans are with him — not the extremists.

"We've had some very loud voices, unnecessarily angry voices, that have been too loud and the reason that they've been loud and been heard is that the other people, the people

here, have been silent," Norquist said, referring to business and religious leaders who gathered at a Baptist church in Austin for the forum.

Norquist said the party got saddled with the wrong message because of radio talk show hosts and TV commentators who "get described as very conservative."

sudoku

ANSWERS

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Happy Valentine Day & Happy 13th Birthday



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Mom, Dad, Sister, Nana, Stacie, Isaac, Brothers And Baby Lilley, Niece & Nephews



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News in brief

Ex-LA cop who led deadly rampage ultimately done in by series of mistakes and miscalculations

LOS ANGELES (AP) — He styled himself as a Rambo-like guerrilla, someone trained to outwit and outshoot the police at every turn, and while Christopher Dorner left no doubt he could be unforgivingly violent, when it came to keeping ahead of the law during his deadly rampage, he made one gaffe after another.

The last one — letting one of two people he tied up get loose and call police as he made off in their purple car — tipped authorities he was coming.

The angry ex-cop, who authorities say boasted that police agencies had no chance of capturing him except on his terms, appears to have been killed Tuesday in a fierce gun battle after he wrecked two getaway cars and had to make a last stand in a mountain cabin 80 miles east of Los Angeles.

The cabin went up in flames after authorities launched pyrotechnic tear-gas canisters into it, and authorities were all but certain the charred body found inside afterward was Dorner's. They are waiting for forensic tests to confirm that, but in the meantime San Bernardino County Sheriff John McMahon said Wednesday that authorities consider the hunt over.

Police: Olympic athlete Oscar Pistorius in custody after woman shot dead in his home

PRETORIA, South Africa (AP) — Olympic athlete Oscar Pistorius was taken into custody and was expected to appear in court Thursday after a 30-year-old woman who was believed to be his girlfriend was shot dead at his home in South Africa's capital, Pretoria.

Police Lt. Col. Katlego Mogale told The Associated Press that officers received a call in the early hours of the morning that there had been a shooting at the double-amputee runner's home in a gated housing complex.

Mogale said when police arrived they found paramedics trying to revive the woman, who had been shot an unspecified number of times. Mogale, who was speaking to the AP from the scene, said the woman died at the house.

Officers found a 9 mm pistol at Pistorius' house and Mogale said the 26-year-old Pistorius is expected to appear in court later on Thursday.

Police have not released the name of the woman, but the publicist for Reeve Steenkamp, Pistorius' girlfriend, told Sky News that Steenkamp had died. Tributes to Steenkamp, a model, poured onto social media sites.

Scarred from political skirmishes, Boehner content to let Democratic proposals come to him

WASHINGTON (AP) — John Boehner is pulling back. After two stressful years as Washington's most powerful Republican and a pair of failed, high-

profile rounds of budget talks with President Barack Obama — and disappointment over Obama's re-election — the battle-scarred House speaker has adopted a you-first approach to the Democrat in the White House, his allies who control the Senate and anyone else who wants to work with them.

Upcoming across-the-board spending cuts set to slam the economy in two weeks? Boehner says a solution is up to Obama and Senate Democrats.

New ideas to prevent gun violence? Let's see what the Senate can pass, Boehner says, then we'll take a look.

Immigration reform? Boehner says it's best left to bipartisan working groups in both the House and Senate.

And the litany of new initiatives unveiled by Obama in Tuesday's State of the Union address?

Republicans linking Hagel's nomination to demand for information on Benghazi

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republicans have questioned Chuck Hagel's truthfulness and they've challenged his patriotism.

Now they're threatening to stonewall his nomination to be President Barack Obama's defense secretary unless the White House gives them more information about what Obama was doing on the night of the deadly attack on the U.S. diplomatic mission in Benghazi, Libya.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., has set the stage for a full Senate vote on Hagel, a former two-term Republican senator from Nebraska and twice-wounded Vietnam combat veteran. Reid filed a motion Wednesday to limit debate and force a vote, which is expected to be held Friday. While Democrats hold a 55-45 edge in the Senate and have the numbers to confirm Hagel on a majority vote, they need the support of five Republicans to clear the way for an up-or-down vote on him.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said he'll vote against ending debate on Hagel's nomination and Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., may join him if the White House doesn't tell them whether Obama spoke to any Libyan government official during the assault and requested assistance for the American personnel at the mission. U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans died in the raid last September at the compound in Benghazi.

"There seems to not be much interest to hold this president accountable for a national security breakdown that led to the first ambassador being killed in the line of duty in over 30 years," Graham said. "No, the debate on Chuck Hagel is not over. It has not been serious. We don't have the information we need. And I'm going to fight the idea of jamming somebody through until we get answers about what the president did personally when it came to the Benghazi debacle."

Outgoing Social Security commissioner says benefit cuts, tax hikes inevitable

WASHINGTON (AP) — Outgoing Social Security Commissioner Michael J. Astrue has some parting shots for Congress, the White House and advocates for seniors. They have all "really walked away from Social Security," he says, leaving the program "fraying because of inattention to its problems."

Instead of making the hard choices to fix Social

Security's financial problems, policymakers "use it as a tool of political rhetoric," Astrue said.

Astrue, 56, has headed the federal government's largest program since 2006 — he was nominated by former President George W. Bush. By law, Social Security commissioners serve six-year terms, so President Barack Obama will now have the opportunity to choose his own nominee, who must be approved by the Senate. Astrue's last day on the job was Wednesday.

The trustees who oversee Social Security say the program's trust funds will run dry in 2033, leaving Social Security with only enough revenue to pay about 75 percent of benefits. Already the program is paying out more in benefits than it collects in payroll taxes.

As commissioner, Astrue served as a trustee. He regularly urged Congress to address Social Security's long-term financial problems but refrained from publicly weighing in on various options to cut benefits or raise taxes — until now.

After days stranded at sea aboard disabled Carnival ship, bus trip awaits weary passengers

MOBILE, Ala. (AP) — After days stranded in the Gulf of Mexico in conditions some have described as dismal, most passengers aboard the disabled Carnival Triumph can look forward to a two-hour bus ride Thursday after they reach dry land.

The company announced its plan for passengers late Wednesday as the Triumph was being towed to a port in Mobile, Ala., with more than 4,000 people on board, some of whom have complained to relatives that they have limited access to food and bathrooms.

"It's a nightmare," said Vivian Tilley, whose sister, Renee Shanar, is on the ship. Tilley said Shanar, of Houston, told her the cabins were hot and smelled like smoke from the engine fire, forcing passengers to stay on the deck. She also said people were getting sick.

The company has disputed the accounts of passengers who describe the ship as filthy, saying employees are doing everything to ensure people are comfortable.

Meanwhile, officials in Mobile were preparing a cruise terminal that has not been used for a year to help passengers go through customs after their ordeal. The Triumph is expected to arrive Thursday afternoon.

Documents sketch close dealings of Nixon, Clinton, on Russia, foreign affairs

YORBA LINDA, Calif. (AP) — In the final months of his life, Richard Nixon quietly advised President Bill Clinton on navigating the post-Cold War world, even offering to serve as a conduit for messages to Russian President Boris Yeltsin and other government officials, newly declassified documents show.

Memos and other records show Nixon's behind-the-scenes relations with the Clinton White House. The documents are part of an exhibit opening Friday at the Nixon Presidential Library, marking the centennial of his birth.

Clinton has talked often of his gratitude to Nixon for his advice on foreign affairs, particularly Russia. In a video that will be part of the exhibit, Clinton recalls receiving a letter from the 37th president shortly before his death on April 22, 1994, at a time when Clinton was assessing U.S. relations "in a world growing ever more interdependent and yet ungovernable."

"I sought guidance in the example of President Nixon, who came to the presidency at a time in our history when Americans were tempted to say, 'We've had enough of the world,'" Clinton says in the video. "But President Nixon knew we had to continue to reach out to old friends and to old enemies alike. He knew America could not quit the world."

The documents from late February and early March 1994 show Nixon, then 81, in his role of elder statesman. It was two decades after he left the White House in disgrace during Watergate.

From Valentine's Day to zombies, Vegas embraces in-your-face gun promotion as others pull back

LAS VEGAS (AP) — One Las Vegas shooting range is selling "take a shot at love" packages that include 50 submachine gun rounds. Another is offering wedding packages in which the bride and groom can pose with Uzis and ammunition belts. And a third invites lovebirds to renew their vows and shoot a paper cutout zombie in the face.

Never known for its understatement or good taste, Sin City is bucking the national trend of avoiding flippant gun promotions after the Newton, Conn., elementary school shooting. Instead, it is embracing tourists' newfound interest in big guns the only way it knows how: by going all in.

The newest crop of outlandish Valentine's Day offers is no exception.

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Accidentally on Purpose

East dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♦ 1 9 4
♥ A 8 5
♦ A Q J
♠ A J 10 9

WEST
♦ 6
♥ Q J 10 9 6
♦ 10 8 5 3
♠ K 6 2

EAST
♦ 5
♥ K 7 3
♦ K 9 7 4 2
♠ Q 8 5 3

SOUTH
♦ A K Q 10 8 7 3 2
♥ 4 2
♦ 6
♠ 7 4

The bidding:
East 4♣ **South** 4♣ **West** Pass **North** 6♣
Opening lead — queen of hearts.

Some card combinations offer declarer a choice of finessing against either opponent. A typical case would be one in which declarer has, say, the A-J-2 and dummy has the K-10-3 of the same suit. Declarer can make three tricks in the suit by taking a finesse in the right direction, basing his decision on who he thinks is more likely to hold the missing queen.

Declarers who are successful most or all of the time in these situations are frequently deemed by their opponents to be "lucky." But in many cases, luck really has nothing to do with it.

Consider the North-South dia-

mond holding in today's hand, where South is in six spades. It illustrates another version of a "two-way finesse." If declarer thinks West has the missing king, he leads the six and finesses the jack.

But if declarer thinks East has the king, he leads the six to the ace and returns the queen through East's king, ruffing if East plays the king or discarding a loser if East follows low. Declarer scores two diamond tricks either way.

Which way to take the finesse would therefore appear to be a guess, but that is not really true in this case since South can assure the slam by simply playing his cards correctly.

Declarer should win the heart lead with the ace, cash the ace of spades and ace of diamonds, then lead the queen of diamonds from dummy. Let's assume East follows low (it doesn't help him to cover).

In that case, South is sure to make 12 tricks by discarding a heart. Even if West wins the trick, declarer can later discard his losing club on the jack of diamonds to secure the slam.

The same, of course, would not be true if South elected to finesse against West for the king. If the finesse lost, as it would in the actual deal, East would cash a heart to defeat the contract. Thus there is only one right way to take the two-way finesse, and neither luck nor guesswork enters into it.

Tomorrow: Test your play.
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Sudoku Answers on Page a5

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.

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

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Howard College's Stephanie Carrillo attempts a shot during a game earlier this season against Clarendon College. Both the Lady Hawks (17-9, 5-5) and Hawks (21-4, 8-3) will be in action today in Hobbs against New Mexico Junior College.

Sports Calendar

TODAY

Women's Basketball

• Howard College at New Mexico Junior College, Hobbs, N.M., 5:45 p.m. MST.

Men's Basketball

• Howard College at New Mexico Junior College, Hobbs, N.M., 7:45 p.m. MST.

Powerlifting

• Big Spring at Sweetwater meet.

FRIDAY

Girl's Basketball Playoffs

• Forsan vs. Christoval, Robert Lee High School, 6:30 p.m.
• Grady vs. Balmorhea, Buena Vista High School, 6 p.m.

Boy's Basketball

• Garden City vs. May, Ballinger High School, 6:30 p.m.

Softball

• Howard College at Midland Classic Tournament (through Saturday), TBA.

Golf

• Big Spring at Snyder (through Saturday, girls only).

Tennis

• Big Spring at Odessa Invitational (through Saturday).

SATURDAY

Boy's Basketball

• Grady vs. Clarendon, Canyon, Randall High School, 3 p.m.

SUNDAY

Baseball

• Howard College at Cloud County Community College, Hobbs, N.M. (doubleheader), noon & 3 p.m. MST.

To submit a calendar item, please call 263-7331, ext. 237, or e-mail sports@bigspringherald.com

Area Briefs

Chicano Golf Association to hold Membership Drive Tournament

The Chicano Golf Association of Big Spring is holding an open membership drive tournament Sunday at the Comanche Trail Golf Course. Sign-ups are from 8 a.m. until 9:30 p.m., with a shotgun start at 10 a.m.

It is a 4-man scramble format and you can bring your own team. Cost will \$35 per person with mulligans offered for \$5 apiece. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. Food will be provided. For more information, contact Tommy Billalba at 816-1091 or Charlie Garcia at 213-2081.

Big Spring Little League registration now open

Sign-ups for Big Spring Little League are being held at the Big Spring Mall on Saturday, Feb. 16 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Another registration will be held on Monday, Feb. 11 through Friday, Feb. 16 from 5:30 p.m. until 7 p.m., also at the mall.

There are several age divisions and children from 4-16 years are invited to join. The cost is \$80 per child, regardless of age. A birth certificate must be presented at the time of registration.

For more information, call Robert Smith at 816-8161 or Paige Jackson at 213-2062.

Big Spring Country Club to hold 4-person scramble

The Big Spring Country Club will be hosting a four-person scramble Saturday and Sunday, February 23-24. Entry fee is \$100 per player plus cart fees. Private carts are welcome.

A shotgun start will commence at 1 p.m. each day.

Entrance fee includes one mulligan per day and barbecue on the course Saturday. Practice rounds will be available Friday.

Field will be flighted by first round score, with the number of flights determined by number of entries.

For more information, contact the pro shop at 267-5354.

Carter passes Bird, Mavs put away Kings, 123-100

DALLAS (AP) — Move over, Larry Legend. Vinsanity still has a few special moments in him.

Vince Carter scored 26 points to pass Larry Bird on the NBA's career scoring list, and the Dallas Mavericks headed into the All-Star break with a 123-100 victory against the Sacramento Kings on Wednesday night.

Carter earned his nickname with circus

dunks but can't quite rattle the rim like he used to. He's more dangerous these days from one of the places where Bird did plenty of damage: the 3-point line.

The 14-year veteran turned aside a Sacramento rally in the third quarter by going 5 of 7 from long range and scoring 17 of Dallas' last 21 points in the period. He ended the night with 21,796 career points for 29th on the all-time list,

five ahead of Bird.

"There were open shots and I was shooting them to make them. I wasn't shooting to get attention," said Carter, who also became the 11th NBA player with at least 1,600 3-pointers. "I've talked to Larry before. He is a legend and one of the greatest to play the game."

Tyreke Evans scored 23 for the Kings, who lost their 18th straight regular season game in

Dallas dating back almost 10 years.

The 3-pointer that pushed Carter past Bird came from a couple of feet behind the line with 2.9 seconds left in the third quarter and gave Dallas a 92-77 lead.

"It seems like every night, one of our guys is breaking a record," said Shawn Marion, one year shy of Carter in NBA experience.

See **MAVS**, Page 12

Late 3-pointer lifts Spurs past Cavs

CLEVELAND (AP) — The San Antonio Spurs had all of their stars together for the first time in a month — and the game-winning shot still came from a role player.

Kawhi Leonard made a 3-pointer with 2.9 seconds remaining to give San Antonio a 96-95 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Wednesday night.

The Spurs, who have won 14 of 15, had Tim Duncan, Tony Parker and Manu Ginobili on the floor together for the first time since Jan. 13, but it was Leonard who saved the day.

"It was tough situation and we

won it," Ginobili said.

Leonard's clutch basket from the right corner off Parker's assist came after Dion Waiters' jump shot with 9.5 seconds remaining put Cleveland ahead 95-93.

San Antonio called timeout after Waiters' shot. The Cavaliers had a foul to give and grabbed Duncan with 8.8 seconds remaining. The ensuing inbounds pass went to Parker, who drove into the lane and found a wide-open Leonard in the right corner. Leonard drilled the shot, giving the Spurs a two-point lead.

"We practiced that 1,000 times

so I knew we'd be able to execute it," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "If Tony had the open layup, he would've have gotten the layup. That was his alternative."

"I thought I had the layup, but I saw Kawhi open," said Parker, who led the Spurs with 24 points. "I wasn't only playing for the win, but I'd been setting up my teammates all night."

"One thing we didn't want to give up at the end of the game was a 3," Cleveland coach Byron Scott said. "That's the one

See **SPURS**, Page 12

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Garage Sales

DOWN SIZING Sale: 2413 South Anderson Rd., Friday and Saturday 9:00-5:00. Windberg prints, saddles, horse clocks, oak furniture, Montarray western ware, Fred Roberts china, misc. items. Call (432)267-3547.

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GARAGE SALE: 3305 Cornell Ave, Saturday 8-12. Lots women's of clothing, mens clothing, household items and lots more.

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AMERICAN TRUCK and Equipment Painting is looking for Experienced Painters & Coaters. 100% Employer paid Blue Cross & Blue Shield Insurance after 90 days. Call (432)756-3388 or apply in person at 3262 East I-20, Stanton, TX.

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DAY'S INN needs Front Desk and Housekeeping person. Apply at Front Office @ 2701 South Gregg Street.

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LEGAL SECRETARY- resume required. Excellent computer skills. Send resumes to 608 Scurry, Big Spring, TX 79720 or Fax to 432-267-1043.

LOCAL SALVAGE Yard accepting applications and hiring for a parts puller and a dismantler. Must have own tools. Fill out application at Westex Auto Parts, 1511 Hwy 350 in Big Spring.

LOOKING FOR a rock solid company to grow and retire with? Blue Bell Creameries is accepting applications for a full time Route Salesperson in the Big Spring Area. Route Sales Experience and Commercial Drivers License helpful. Good driving record required. Job will require physically working with Ice Cream Products in a cold environment. Blue Bell is a market leading company with a 106 year proven history. Competitive Salary + benefits. Never had a lay off! Apply in person: 401 East Interstate 20.

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Responsible for maintaining the District's raw water pipelines, pump stations, and wells. Entry to intermediate level position. CRMWD is an equal opportunity employer. Benefits include health insurance, retirement plans, and sick, vacation and holiday leave. Applications are required and are available at the District's office, 400 E. 24TH Street, Big Spring, Texas 79720, by calling (432)267-6341 or www.crmwd.org.

RUSTY'S OILFIELD Service In Stanton has immediate openings for Mechanic, CDL Driver, Roustabout Pushers and Helpers. Must have valid drivers license. Apply in person at 3327 W I20 in Stanton. 432-756-2821.



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STANTON ISD is accepting applications for a full time skilled & unskilled maintenance positions. Any questions regarding job description and employment can be directed to the Stanton ISD Administration office at 200 North College, Stanton, TX 79782, or by phone at (432)756-2244.

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Dear Margo: And who were you, dear!

High Society

Dear Margo: I have, as they say, “married up.” My in-laws are in the Social Register, which is all quite foreign to me. They’re lovely to me and aren’t snooty at all — but neither are they unaware of their standing in the communities where they summer and winter. Whenever I am to meet someone new from their circle of acquaintances, my m-i-l always tells me their background. Since I don’t want to ask her, I will ask you: if I ever have to refer to it, is someone’s background considered a provenance or a pedigree? — *Muffy (Not Really)*



MARGO HOWARD

Dear Muff: Well, I think a provenance has to do with origin and most often refers to prior ownership — mostly used when speaking of art. The word “pedigree,” I guess, can be and has been used regarding people, but to me a pedigree has to do with bloodlines of dogs. That said, I have long thought the Social Register to be the American Kennel Club for humans, so maybe “pedigree” is the right word. If one must use a word for this, I would probably say “lineage.” And “summer” and “winter” as verbs, by the way, definitely came to us from the Social Register crowd, since most of us simply “live” in one place ... summer and winter. Your question does remind me of a friend’s mother who was interested in where everyone fit in, and her wonderful question to

anyone new was, “And who were you, dear?” — *Margo, categorically*

Talk Back

Dear Margo: I wanted to add something to the answer you gave to the woman whose cousin came out to her and she felt she fumbled the answer. As a gay man, I still remember vividly the very different reactions my parents had when I came out to them. I was 22 at the time, and my parents had gone through a very messy divorce a few years prior. I’d been “forced” to side with my mother and behaved in a hurtful way toward my father. To say I was shocked at their different reactions is an understatement. I always thought I was close to my mother. But when she found out, she basically said the following: “You never gave women enough of a

chance. Here’s a book on how to change. How could you do this to the family?” Her final comment was: “If this is the life you choose, I can’t have you around your younger brothers.” (They were 8 and 10 at the time.) My father, on the other hand, was told over the phone, as we were just beginning a relationship again. His comment? “I hope you are safe, because I don’t want anything to happen to you, and I hope you find someone special to spend your life with, because I know it’s not easy to find that.” It’s a testament to how much of an impact their differing responses had, as I still remember all this 25 years later. Your advice was spot on, but I thought I’d share my experience. — *Eric in San Diego*

how you bet on the wrong horse. That whole sorry history is your mother’s loss. And so it goes. For the life of me, I cannot understand homophobic thinking. It is like wishing a right-handed child were left-handed. — Margo, normally

Dear Margo: Just a comment on the letter about what to say to someone who’s come out. When my brother told me he was gay (about 35 years ago), I said, “Great! Terrific!” — and then I added in genuine bewilderment, “So what?” His shoulders went down as he relaxed, and he said, “That’s it! Exactly! It should be ‘so what?’” My feeling was, well, he’s my brother and I love him. So what if he’s gay? I just said what I thought, and it was nice to know I got it right! — *Vic*

Dear Margo is written by Margo Howard.
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Dear Er: Interesting

Tomorrow’s Horoscope

Aries Moon Rules Valentine’s Day

The passionate Aries moon rules this day of hearts, encouraging bold expression and surprises. Typically, the Aries moon is ready to do battle on a moment’s notice, so this is no time to disappoint your love. If you’re not sure how to celebrate the special people in your life, keep this in mind: It’s better to do too much than too little.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You have no fear of saying “I love you,” but you don’t want to say it so much that it loses its specialness and meaning. Today you could say it a million times, and it would still be just as fresh as the first time.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Arrange to meet your loved ones somewhere new — preferably a place you’ve never been before. Completely fresh experiences will be the luckiest kind.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your sign mate Marilyn Monroe famously said that the one who couldn’t handle her at her worst didn’t deserve her at her best. Today you’ll reward the ones who love the full spectrum of you by giving your very best.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Small gestures will be greatly rewarding. The simple act of holding hands or smiling into

each other’s eyes will have a profound impact on the development of a relationship.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your relationships thrive because you take the time and make the effort to create an environment of trust and mutual admiration. Now you’ll enjoy the benefits of that work.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You work to make your relationships special every day and don’t need outsiders to tell you when to celebrate those you love. However, this holiday is just the excuse you needed to go all-out.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Romantic love may be deep and intense, but other kinds of ties are just as important to you, if not more so. You’ll be fascinated by the many forms your affections take.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). One ancient proverb suggests that love is a high form of tolerance. You strive for something far more active. Your heart will reach greater heights of joy because you believe it’s possible.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You love the chance to recognize those who put the color in your cheeks and a fire in your eye. The only bad part is that the time you spend together seems to go by too quickly.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Because you concern yourself mostly with giving to others, the reality of today is better than your dreams of yesterday. This is the life you deserve. Your

perspective makes this possible.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your sweetness will be appreciated, and so will the other tones of your choosing. Your personality has many colors that are beautiful to those who know and love you well.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). When it’s your turn to take a solo, you do an amazing job. But at your core, you’re really not a solo instrument. You work brilliantly in concert with others, playfully harmonizing to create works of beauty.

TODAY’S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 14). Valentine’s baby, you’ll use your creative gifts to delight your loved ones and win new fans this year. Your soulful words will resonate on multiple levels, uniting people and sparking their imaginations. Next month brings career advancement. April and June are your windfall months. Moves happen in October. Gemini and Libra people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 20, 11, 39 and 48.

LOVE AND THE EARTH SIGNS: Is your valentine an earth sign? If so, you likely feel lucky to be involved with one so sensual, genuine and trustworthy. The description “salt of the earth” or “down to earth” is fitting for Taurus, Virgo and Capricorn people, because these signs tend to be authentically good and inclined toward right action. As a rule, they dislike drama and complication and don’t equate

those qualities with love at all. They gravitate toward mutually supportive relationships and believe that people should work together for higher purposes than simply being happy or being in love. Earth signs build relationships by working with their loved ones to build something that’s bigger than the relationship itself.

But don’t get the wrong impression that these signs are all work and no frivolity. They need play as much as anyone; however, they prefer even their play to have a clear purpose. Making things (like music, art, food and domestic niceties) is a pleasure for earth signs. Also, they appreciate whatever you make for them. So busy your hands with some homemade fun for your earth-sign valentine, and your efforts will make them feel totally loved.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Rob Thomas is the first songwriter in the Songwriter’s Hall of Fame to receive the Starlight Award — for contributing a lasting musical influence that’s rare for one so young. Besides his hits with Matchbox Twenty, the Aquarian prodigy has collaborated with Mick Jagger, Willie Nelson and Santana, to name a few. Thomas’ natal sun, moon and Mercury are all in musical Aquarius.

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.
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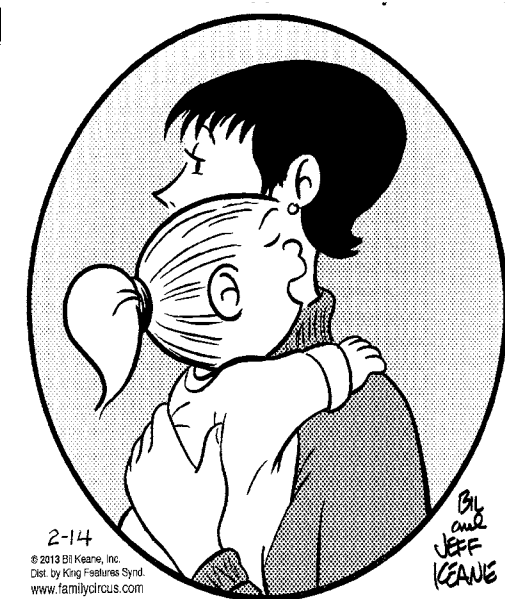
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	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Atlanta	Odessa	Odessa	Odessa	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney	Sports	Sports
5 PM 30	News ABC	Casa Notic.	Two Men CBS	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News News	King Seinfeld	Yohanan House	Charlie Rose	King 70s	Property Moonshiners	The Walking Dead	Jail Jail	The Mentalist	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Good Jessie	Around Pardon	SportsCenter
6 PM 30	Jeopardy! Wheel	Corona de Lágrimas	Big Bang Big Bang	News Ent	Caso Cerrado	News Millionaire	Seinfeld Seinfeld	Swallow R. Shap	PBS News-Hour	Seinfeld Rules	Moonshiners		Jail Jail	The Mentalist		Austin Jessie	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	College Basketball: Teams TBA.
7 PM 30	Zero Hour	Por Ella Soy Eva	American Idol	Big Bang Two Men	Pasión Prohibida	Commun Parks	Fam. Guy Big Bang	Mark Blitz Light of the Southwest	Daytrip Parks	The Vampire Diaries	Moonshiners	The Walking Dead	iMPACT Wrestling	NBA Basketball: Heat at Thunder	Husbands Second BE - Hollywood	Movie: WALL-E, Jeff Garlin	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	College Basketball: Teams TBA.
8 PM 30	Grey's Anatomy	Amores Verdaderos	Glee (DVS)	Person of Interest	La Patrona (SS)	Office 1600	Big Bang Big Bang	King of the Nerds	Antiques Roadshow	Cops Seinfeld	Property Moonshiners	Immortal Comic	Bellator MMA Live	NBA Basketball: Clippers at Lakers	Movie: Getting Played, Vivica A. Fox	ANT Farm Good	College Basketball	SportsCenter
9 PM 30	(02) Scandal	Amor Bravío (SS)	Simpsons How I Met	(01) Elementary	El Rostro de	(01) Do No Harm	King of the Nerds	McGee Justice	Charlie Rose	Rules Property	Immortal	Freak				Jessie	SportsCenter	
10 PM 30	News Jimmy Kimmel Live	Impacto Noticiero	How I Met Letterman	News	Noticias Titulares	News Jay Leno	Conan	Scrivner Upd	World T. Smiley (Off Air)	Til Death Browns	Property Moonshiners	Immortal	Bellator MMA Live			Wizards	SportsCenter	
11 PM 30	Nightline	Mar de Amor (SS)	Raymond Fam. Guy	Insider	Pagado	(06) Today	Movie: The Long Kiss Goodnight	Light of the Southwest		Browns	Property Bluegrass	Thunderdome		Inside the NBA	Movie: Imagine That, Yara Shahidi	Deck Good	Basket NFL Live	SportsCenter
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DENNIS THE MENACE



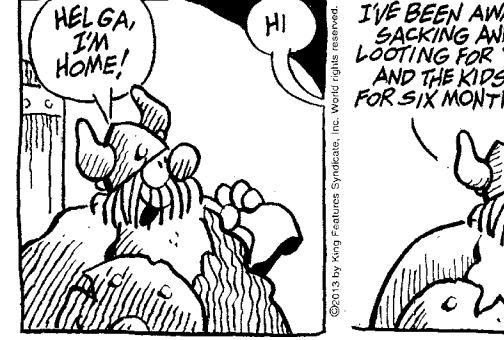
"IF WE EVER GET MARRIED, I HOPE IT'S ON VALENTINE'S DAY."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

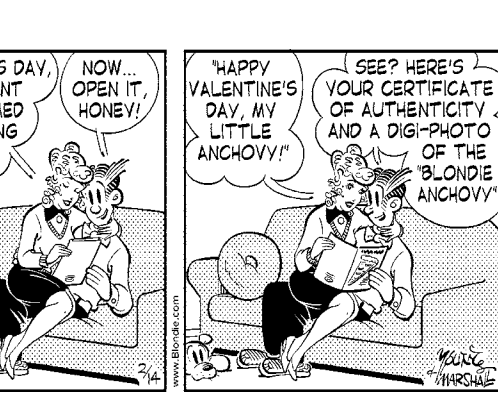
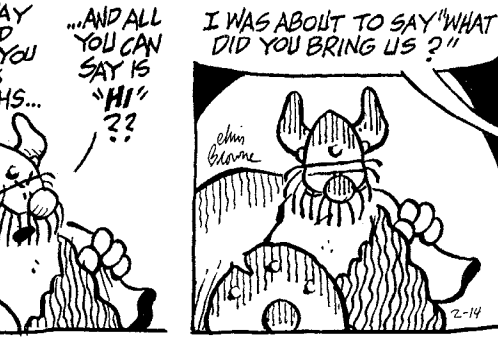
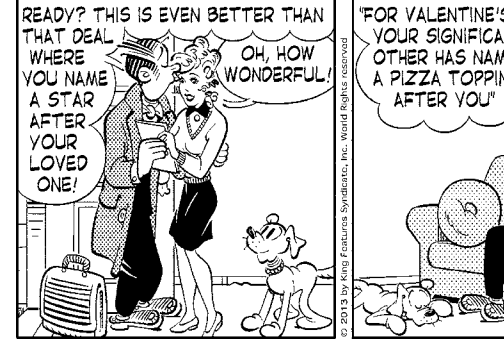


"I love you just as much as Daddy, but that'll be our secret."

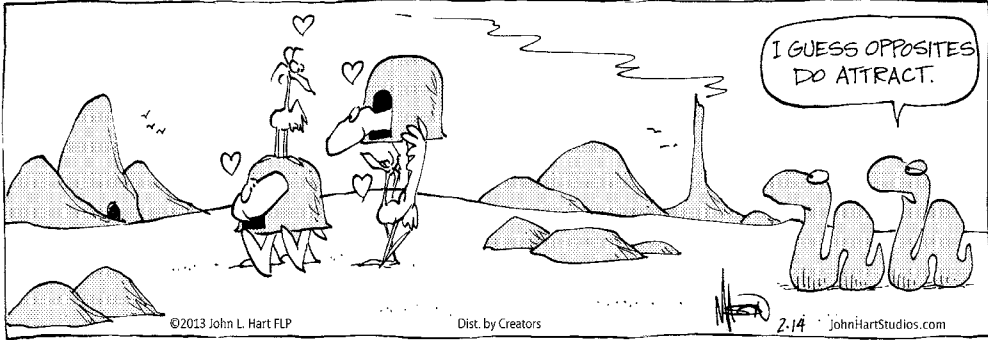
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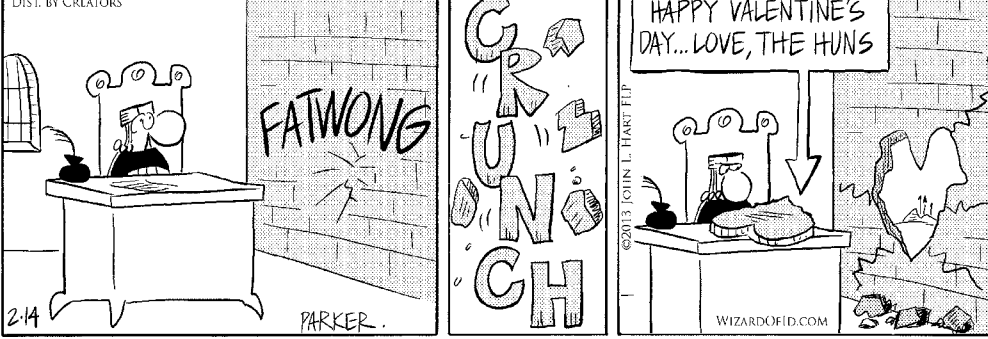
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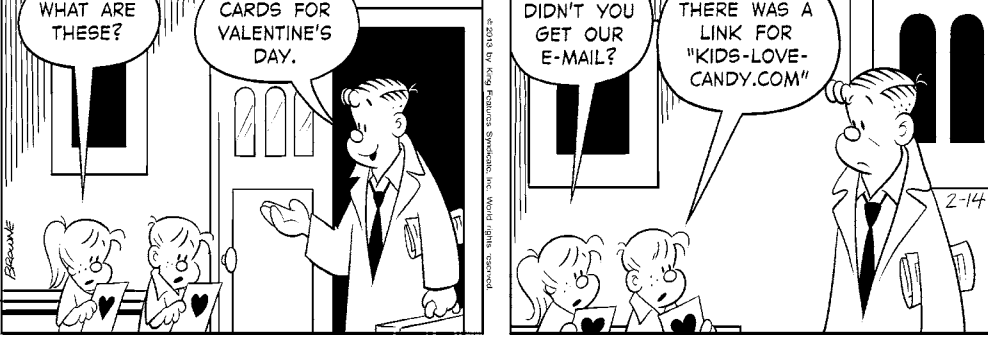
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This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Feb. 14, the 45th day of 2013. There are 320 days left in the year. This is Valentine's Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 14, 1963, Federico Fellini's art-house classic "8," a movie about a movie director played by Marcello Mastroianni, was first released in Italy.

On this date:

In 1778, the American ship Ranger carried the recently adopted Stars and Stripes to a foreign port for the first time as it arrived in France.

In 1859, Oregon was admitted to the Union as the 33rd state.

In 1895, Oscar Wilde's final play, "The Importance of Being Earnest," opened at the St. James's Theatre in London.

In 1903, the Department of Commerce and Labor was established. (It was divided into separate departments of Commerce and Labor in 1913.)

In 1912, Arizona became the 48th state of the Union as

President William Howard Taft signed a proclamation.

In 1913, labor leader Jimmy Hoffa was born in Brazil, Ind.; college football coach Woody Hayes was born in Clifton, Ohio; sports broadcaster Mel Allen was born in Birmingham, Ala.

In 1920, the League of Women Voters was founded in Chicago; its first president was Maud Wood Park.

In 1929, the "St. Valentine's Day Massacre" took place in a Chicago garage as seven rivals of Al Capone's gang were gunned down.

In 1949, Israel's Knesset convened for the first time.

In 1979, Adolph Dubs, the U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan, was kidnapped in Kabul by Muslim extremists and killed in a shootout between his abductors and police.

In 1988, Broadway composer Frederick Loewe, who wrote the scores for "My Fair Lady" and "Camelot," died in Palm Springs, Calif., at age 86.

In 1989, Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini called on Muslims to kill Salman Rushdie, author of "The Satanic Verses," a novel condemned as blasphemous.

Today's Birthdays: TV per-

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

1 Be in the red

4 Stack in a tot's dresser

8 Pot-cleaning implement

14 Fled the scene

15 Not being used

16 Revolutionary War turncoat

17 Graphic display

18 Look rudely

19 Circuit components

20 Let some air in

23 Floral necklaces

24 Intuitive sense

25 *The X-Files* employer

28 Calls upon

32 Scornful one

34 "Don't play," in a score

36 Uncool person

37 One way to get attention

43 Wishful feeling

44 Word on a Phi Bete's diploma

45 Be somewhat redundant

48 Rather outdated

53 Put a gloss on

54 Picks, with "for"

56 Wheel bar

57 Sudden acceleration

61 City on the Rio Grande

64 Sector

65 Where a price is printed

66 Naval crew

67 Authentic

68 Biblical fruit sampler

69 Diner courses

70 Achy

71 Brake-light color

DOWN

1 Seer

2 Name near the top of the Forbes 400

3 Necessarily involve

4 Swindle

5 Mental impression

6 Exploded

7 Calligraphy stroke

8 Depress

9 Black-and-orange bird

10 February forecast

11 Bean holder

12 Tavern serving

13 Oral care deg.

21 CBS franchise

22 Wall-to-wall hatchlings, perhaps

25 For the asking

26 Tavern serving

27 Displeases

29 Messy place

30 Confucian principle

31 Works with clay

33 Custard ingredient

35 Slice of history

37 Demonstrate

38 PBS science series

39 High point

40 According to

41 Oath affirmation

42 Fresh out of the package

46 Spoiled, with "up"

47 Sauce catchers, at times

49 Dance specialty

50 Devonshire city

51 Use a hatchet on

52 Wouldn't commit

55 Walk of Fame symbols

57 Nickname on a Tuscaloosa T-shirt

58 Crumbled ice-cream additive

59 Dread

60 What a register registers

61 Half a figure eight

62 Grazing spot

63 Crony

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