
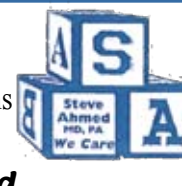


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# BIG SPRING HERALD

**FRIDAY**

FEBRUARY 3, 2012



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VOLUME 107, NUMBER 96

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## Panel sets date for redistricting hearing

By **NOLAN HICKS**

San Antonio Express News

A federal court in San Antonio signaled Thursday it will move ahead with the drawing of interim maps for the 2012 election, just a day after a Washington, D.C., court said it could take at least a month to determine whether the state's redistricting plans violate the Voting Rights Act.

In its order, the court told the groups involved in the legal fight to appear at a Feb. 15 hearing, where the panel of three federal judges will hear arguments on "all issues" pertaining to the drawing of interim maps.

The groups also were given a deadline of Feb. 10 to submit briefs and other information that the court can use to prepare the maps.

The first set of interim maps drawn by the San Antonio court was rejected by the U.S. Supreme Court because it did not give enough deference to the maps passed by the Legislature.

However, the high court gave the San Antonio judges the power to alter the state's maps where they found a "reasonable probability" that changes made by the state violate the Voting Rights Act.

Under the Voting Rights Act, the state's redistricting maps cannot be enforced until the court in Washington, D.C., certifies that they don't disenfranchise minority voters.

Delays in the preclearance process meant that the state's maps could not be used for the 2012 election, necessitating the creation of interim maps.

## 'Coming Home' author schedules local book signing

By **AMANDA MORENO**

Staff Writer

"Coming Home" ... not only what author, Kathleen Rigdon Highley is doing, but it's also the title of her new novel.

Highley — a West Texas native — was raised in Big Spring and graduated from Big Spring High School and Howard College. She will be on hand for a book signing at Inspirations Flowers and Gifts on Saturday, Feb. 11. Her book signing will take place from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

"Coming Home" tells the story of a woman who had a dream. In order to pursue that dream, she left the security of Woodland Park, Colo., and left behind her mother, father and more. Of course, in the process of pursuing her dream, she walked right into a trap.

"'Coming Home' is my third novel to be published," Highley said. "Even though my other books are available at other locations in town, I always carry a box with

them wherever I go."

Her first book, "106 Arrowhead Drive," can be found at the Heritage Museum and her other book, "In Search of Tranquility," can be found at Faye's Flowers and Inspirations Flowers and Gifts.

Highley describes her writing as action, Christian romance which she hopes contains an inspirational message and life skills that give God the glory for all accomplishments.

"You know there's a good guy and a bad guy. The boy always gets the girl," she said. "There is always a happy ending — and everyone keeps their clothes on."

She will be set up inside Inspiration Flowers and Gifts, with Barbie Robbins providing a variety of breads and apple cider for those in attendance.

"I will be on site to sign books and just be friendly and charming," Highley said, laughing.

During the book signing, Highley will have a sign in sheet in order to add names to her database for those wanting to purchase her books.

"This is a great opportunity to pick up a clean novel, with a message, action and hope for yourself, your sweetheart, church library or granddaughter," Highley said. "It's also an opportunity to get to see my reader eyeball to eyeball. An opportunity to make eye contact and swap smiles."

Contact Staff Writer Amanda Moreno at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at [life@bigspringherald.com](mailto:life@bigspringherald.com)



Hauchen Zhang

## Zhang to highlight milestone concert Saturday

### 30th anniversary event will also feature Respighi

By **BILL McCLELLAN**

Managing Editor

Van Cliburn gold medalist Hauchen Zhang will be the featured performer when the Big Spring Symphony Orchestra takes the stage Saturday night, but the audience is sure to enjoy other classical music in the show, too, said Dr. Keith Graumann, conductor.

"I think we have put together a very enjoyable evening. This is a concert that will have a lot of emotion, both power and a delicate touch," Graumann said.

The concert was originally scheduled for Big Spring Municipal Auditorium, but delays in renovation of the facility forced a change of venue to Garrett Hall at First United Methodist Church. The concert will begin at 8 p.m.

Zhang, of China, is the first gold medalist to perform with the orchestra, according to Graumann.

"The Van Cliburn piano competition ranks right up there with the Tchaikovsky competition in Moscow," said Graumann. "Several Van Cliburn finalists have played in Big Spring, but it is really special to have the gold medalist.

Zhang will play Rachmaninoff's "Piano Concerto No. 2" and other selections.

Zhang, who has won piano competitions all over the world, has performed with many of the best musicians. In the two years following the Cliburn competition, Zhang has performed in nearly 160 tour recitals in the Americas, Asia and Europe, including solos at such celebrated music festivals as Beijing Music Festival and the Gilmore International Keyboard Music Festival. He has also played almost all the best-known piano concertos with world-renowned symphony orchestras such as San Francisco Symphony, Philadelphia Philharmonic Orchestra, London Philharmonic, Israel Philharmonic, Krakow Philharmonic and Hong Kong Philharmonic.

The second half of Saturday's concert will

### Quotes from Dr. Keith Graumann, conductor

#### Anniversary

"Since this is the 30th anniversary season and my 10th year with the symphony I wanted to choose at least some of the repertoire for this concert that would be reminiscent of my tenure as conductor. I chose the "Egmont Overture" by Beethoven to open Saturday's concert. I performed it in my first years with the symphony and haven't performed it since then. It is one the best shorter pieces by Beethoven and has both beautiful and very fast, exciting sections.



Graumann

#### Zhang

"Initially, I had chosen a Prokofieff piano concerto for Haochen Zhang to perform with the orchestra because Zhang is somewhat of a Prokofieff specialist. But we have not performed Prokofieff during my tenure so I decided to perform something more familiar to our audience. Haochen agreed to play the Rachmaninoff 2nd Piano Concerto, which is one of the standards of the repertoire. Much of the music and many of the melodies will be recognizable.

#### Pines of Rome

"The final work on the concert will be the "Pines of Rome" by Respighi. Respighi lived and worked in Rome in the early half of the 20th century. He based the work on the centuries-old pine trees that are still prevalent in Rome.

See **QUOTES**, Page 3A

feature some other special performers. Howard College students of Dan Kiley and Eddie Vandewalker will be joining symphony regulars to perform Ottorino Respighi's "Pines of Rome."

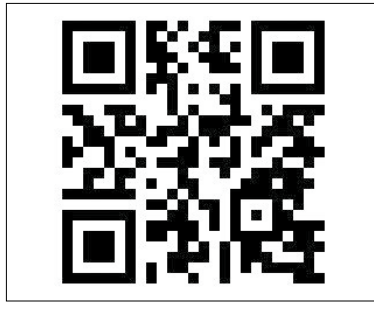
"Respighi is one of the few Italian composers in the early 20th century," said Graumann. "This is a very large work in four sections that describe the centuries-old pines of

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Obituaries

John Robert Smithwick



John Robert Smithwick, 20, died Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2012, in Houston, Texas.

Mass of Christian burial will be held Monday, Feb. 6, 2012, at 2 p.m. at St. Louis Catholic Church with Father John Guzaldo officiating. Visitation will be held Sunday, Feb. 5, 2012, from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. at Connally/Compton Funeral Directors and rosary recited at 5 p.m.

John was born Sept. 6, 1991, to Danny and Maria Lourdes Garcia Smithwick in Houston, Texas. He was a resident of Waco and graduated from A.J. Moore Academy in 2011.

John was preceded in death by his brother, Albert Ramon Smithwick; and grandfather, Ramon Garcia.

Survivors include his parents, Danny and Maria Lourdes Smithwick; brother, James Smithwick; grandparents, Guadalupe Garcia and Albert Smithwick and wife Celia; uncles, John Garcia and wife Irene and John Smithwick and wife Cecilia; and aunts Grace Zarraga and husband Baltazar, Rosie Garcia, Marissa Soliz and husband Robert, Isabel Smithwick, Rose Dominguez and husband Ruben, Alice Smithwick and Linda Smithwick.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the Cancer Society or become an organ donor.

Condolences may be offered at connally-compton.com

*Paid obituary*

Charles Ray 'Charlie' Seals



Charles Ray "Charlie" Seals, 68, of Coahoma died Thursday, Feb. 2, 2012, at his residence. The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Coahoma Cemetery.

He was born June 15, 1943, in Stamford to Oleain and Charlie Seals. He married Nona Gilbert on March 2, 1963, in San Angelo. They moved to Howard County 40 years ago from Post. He worked at Howard College, retiring after 23 years. He was a member of Grace Fellowship Church of God.

He is survived by his wife, Nona Seals of Coahoma; one daughter, Belinda Lendermon and husband Jack of Sterling City; three sons, Richard Seals and wife Carol of Sterling City, James Seals and wife Jennifer of Lubbock and Dewayne Seals and wife Olympia of Colorado City; one sister, Dorothy Williams of Lubbock; one brother, Leslie Seals and wife Vera of Post; 11 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; and a number of nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Doris Marie Seals.

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

Albert 'Beto' Chavarria



Albert "Beto" Chavarria, 58, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2012, at Medical Center Hospital in Odessa. Prayer services will be held at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 3, 2012, at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel with Michael Villareal officiating. Burial will follow at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

He was born Nov. 18, 1953, in Big Spring to Sara and Eulalio Chavarria. He was a lifetime resident of Big Spring and worked as a roustabout in the oil field. He married Maria Holguin on Aug. 6, 2011, in Big Spring. He was a Christian.

He is survived by his wife, Maria Chavarria of Big Spring; four sons, Albert Chavarria Jr. and wife Genoveva of Anchorage, Alaska, Felix Chavarria of Austin, David Chavarria and Rey Chavarria and wife Bentura, all of Big Spring; two daughters, Erica Holguin and husband Martin and Emily Holguin, all of Big Spring; 18 grandchildren; and four sisters, Yolanda Villareal and husband Ed of Odessa, Olga Chavarria, Melinda Cano and Rosa Pineda, all of Big Spring.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Edward "Lalo" Chavarria and David Chavarria; and one sister, Paula Villareal.

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

Police blotter

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

- JOSEPH JUSTIN LAROCQUE, 33, of 1406 S. Rannels St., was arrested Thursday on warrants for theft – shoplifting, failure to obtain Texas driver's license within 90 days and failure to appear.
- PAULA ISABEL LEOS, 30, of 1803 S. Owens St., was arrested Thursday on a charge of theft – shoplifting.
- MERRITA CHAMBERS, 59, of 511 N.W. Eighth St., was arrested Thursday on a charge of public intoxication.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported: In the 3300 block of W. Highway 80. In the 1900 block of Wasson Road.
- THEFT was reported: In the 200 block of W. FM 700. In the 200 block of W. FM 700. In the 200 block of W. FM 700.
- IDENTITY THEFT was reported in the 1700 block of S. Lancaster.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 100 block of Merrick Road.

Sheriff

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

Note – Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 64 inmates at the time of this report.

- JOSEPH LAROCQUE, 33, was booked into the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on charges of failure to obtain Texas driver's license within 30 days, failure to appear (three counts) and theft.
- ALEXANDER FILIBERT HINOJOSA, 23, was arrested Thursday by DPS on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension and Tom Green County warrants for motion to revoke probation for driving while intoxicated and motion to revoke probation for posses-

sion of marijuana.

• PAULA ISABEL LEOS, 30, was booked into the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of theft of property – more than \$50 and less than \$500.

• MERRITA CHAMBERS, 59, was booked into the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 4200 block of Callahan Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported near the intersection of FM 700 and Goliad. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2000 block of S. Goliad. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 500 block of E. Marcy. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 400 block of E. Culp in Coahoma. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 600 block of N. Scurry. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of Oil Mill Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of N.W. Eighth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of Yale. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 200 block of N.W. 12th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2500 block of Central. One person was transported to SMMC.

Support Groups

FRIDAY

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

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

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

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

MONDAY

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

• PEP – Parent Education Program for CPS participating and non-participating parnts, single parent, grandparents, adoptive or fostering parents. Every first and fourth Monday of the month from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Northside Community Center. Classes are free. For information, call 263-2673.

**What's Happening**

Feb. 4  
Big Spring Symphony presents "Piano Celebration"  
Garrett Hall of First United Methodist Church  
8pm For more info contact The Symphony office at 264-7223

Feb. 11  
Run 2 Love 2 Run  
Big Spring State Park 11am  
For more info contact Ron Alton at 432-263-4913

Feb. 15  
Comanche Trail Lake Trout Stocking  
Comanche Trail Lake  
For more info contact the Convention and Visitors Bureau at 263-8235

Feb. 18  
Hangar 25 Patch Design Workshop  
Hangar 25 Museum  
Patches of Webb exhibit  
For more info contact 264-1999

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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.

<b>Bill McClellan</b> Managing Editor	<b>Ron Midkiff</b> Publisher	<b>Steve Reagan</b> Staff Writer
<b>Amanda Moreno</b> Staff Writer	<b>Thomas Jenkins</b> Staff Writer	

## We salute:

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

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

*This week we salute:*

- All participants and supporters of the chili cook-off sponsored by the Fraternal Order of Eagles this past weekend to benefit the Children in Need Fund.

- Baxter Moore for his longtime service to State National Bank. Moore retired as vice president of the bank after 34 years.

- Dominick Bonura for serving in the role of interim provost at SWCID campus until a new provost can be found.

- Dr. Mark Myers for serving SWCID in the position of provost for the past several years and helping contribute to the growth of SWCID and its presence in the community.

- Sherry Hodnett for being named Woman of the Year and Marc Marchesseault for being named Man of the Year during Tuesday night's chamber banquet.

- All volunteer firefighters and Big Spring Fire Department firefighters for all the hard work, dedication and service provided this past year and for receiving the Hero of the Year award.

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

## HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

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

## LETTER POLICIES

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

## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

**With You, Lord, our dreams have the ability to become reality.**

**Amen**

# Just call them snake oil peddlers

It takes a lot of gall to defend either Newt Gingrich or Mitt Romney in the Hispanic community nowadays. And yet, we see them out there, the Latino GOP surrogates — selling snake oil to their own people.

The Republican candidates have spent months scapegoating undocumented immigrants and sending dog-whistle, anti-Latino messages to right-wing extremists, but their surrogates apparently think Latinos are too dumb to notice.

They want us to ignore the many times these candidates have played the race and xenophobia cards to score cheap points in just the first few primaries.

They want us to forget about Herman Cain's electrified border fence, Michelle Bachmann's efforts to deny citizenship to U.S. born children of undocumented parents, Rick Perry's alliance with immigrant-bashing Arizona Sheriff Joe Arpaio. They don't want us to notice Rick Santorum's blatant contradictions when he portrays himself as a deeply religious, pro-family, son of immigrants and yet, he has zero compassion for those who live here without proper immigration documents.

They should be embarrassed to be defending a party that treats their people like dirt, yet they try to convince Latinos to vote for Republicans and in effect, become masochists.

Like broken records repeating talking points assigned by GOP bosses, Latino surrogates keep telling us that the Republican Party "loves" legal immigrants and that their only problem is with illegal immigration. It's hogwash!

They want us to ignore the many times Romney and Gingrich have supported ideas and measures that would trample over the civil rights of all Latinos — including some 12 million expected to vote for the president in November.

Romney and Gingrich support state laws that would lead to racial profiling against Latino Americans. They are both opposed to bilingual education. They both favor the censorship of foreign languages by making English the official language of government.

These are not anti-illegal immigrant measures; they are

anti-Latino sentiments that their Latino political operatives shamefully are trying to sweep under the rug.

Instead of dealing with the issues that really concern Latinos, we see TV commercials where, for example, Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen touts Romney's "vision to restore the country's national security." Really? We've lost national security under the administration that killed Osama bin Laden and wiped our most of al-Qaida?

In the same ad, Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart says we should vote for Romney because he "believes in us." Really? And his lack of compassion even for young undocumented immigrants seeking to complete their education and his pledge to veto the DREAM Act is going to make Latinos believe in him?

Gingrich's Latino political operatives are no better. "It is clear to us that you have not provided a real solution on behalf of the 12-plus million immigrants who live in the shadows of the American communities," some of them charged in a very hypocritical open letter to Romney.

With remarkable impudence, they claim that, "Newt Gingrich is the only candidate that has offered a humane approach to our immigration problem."

Really? Gingrich proposes to create a guest worker program "outsourced to American Express or Visa or MasterCard," and to establish "something like a World War II Selective Service Board" to determine which undocumented immigrants are allowed to stay here.

Yet instead of questioning the sanity of these ridiculous ideas, his Latino political hacks try to sell it as "humane." It's ludicrous!

Gingrich's proposal would create a permanent underclass of legal, non-citizens. It is probably unconstitutional and not likely to be passed by Congress. Yet his Latino operatives falsely claim that Gingrich "proposes to secure the border, deport criminals, and recognize the remainder through temporary work permits and through establishing legal status for those with American sponsorship and deep ties to their communities."

Really? He is willing to "recognize the remainder"? This is downright dishonest. If fact, Gingrich's proposal only applies to undocumented immigrants who have been here 25 years, which is probably less than a million people and leaves the country with at least another

10 million undocumented immigrants and a broken immigration system.

According to polling and a memo released by President Barack Obama's campaign, Republicans have "sealed the political fate of their party with the Hispanic electorate" because of their "extreme rhetoric on immigration." The memo notes that Obama could win the Hispanic vote by a bigger margin than ever because, "The speeches and policy statements of both Romney and Gingrich on issues like the economy, the creation of jobs, health care, public education, housing, programs for seniors, and immigration are deeply unpopular with most Hispanics."

Yet because he has the least draconian immigration proposal, Gingrich had the gall to call Romney "anti-immigrant" in a Spanish-language radio commercial in Florida last week.

Of course, Romney is indeed anti-immigrant. He has earned that label by progressively hardening his position against undocumented immigrants in the past few months.

But wait: Sen. Marco Rubio disagrees. "The truth is that neither of these two men is anti-immigrant," Rubio told The Miami Herald. "Both are pro-legal immigration and both have positive messages that play well in the Hispanic community." Really? On what planet?

Here's another Hispanic Republican selling snake oil. "This kind of language is more than just unfortunate," Rubio said. "It's inaccurate, inflammatory, and doesn't belong in this campaign."

You have to wonder why Rubio is not so bothered by the "inaccurate" and "inflammatory" language constantly used by Republicans against his own people. Does GOP support for racial profiling and immigrant bashing belong in this campaign?

If he gets nominated to be the GOP vice president, in a desperate Republican attempt to appeal to the same Latino voters they have harassed and insulted for so long, Rubio may yet become the biggest snake oil peddler of them all.

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

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# Primaries have a purpose

If the goal of the primary process is simply to nominate a candidate, essentially to nominate the man or woman most likely to win in the end, then this primary season should be declared over. Clear the stage, and give it to Mitt Romney. Newt Gingrich's promise to go the next 46 notwithstanding, you couldn't find anyone in Vegas to give you ballpark odds on his winning. And forget about Ron Paul or Rick Santorum. They never had a chance.

But that's not the only thing this process is about. If elections were only about picking winners, there would never be more than two people on a ballot — and sometimes, in "safe" districts, not even that. Independents would be limited to Vermont. Third parties would be told to take their message somewhere else.

Now, I can certainly make the argument that in general-election contests voters shouldn't "waste" their votes on candidates with no chance of winning. I still remember the fights I had with Ralph Nader supporters back in 2000, trying to convince them that the message they wanted to send would elect George Bush.

And I can certainly make the case that the two-party system,

whatever the flaws of the two particular parties, ensures that a candidate will not be elected based on the support of an ideologically extreme minority (as everyone's favorite example Hitler was), and that a fractured result would effectively give such power to a small minority (as everyone's other favorite example the ultra-orthodox have sometimes wielded in Israel).

But the Constitution protects the rights of losers to run and voters to support them. Ballot access must be afforded to every candidate who can show enough support not to win but to be counted. Elections are about electing people, but that's not all they are about.

And nowhere is this clearer than in the selection of party nominees for president.

Political parties are nowhere mentioned in the Constitution, but in a series of landmark decisions, the Supreme Court has upheld their power to control the nominating process, even against a majority will expressed by state legislatures. The party can limit participants to registered party members, even where the state demands that it be open to all. The party can deem that delegates be bound to vote for the candidate whose slate they ran on, even when state law provides that they should be free to cast their vote to nominate whomever they please. The purpose of these contests, the Court has recognized, is not simply to nominate delegates or choose a candidate,

but to build the party and shape its platform.

That, win or lose, is exactly what Gingrich is likely to accomplish in these next few months if he stays the course. Under the rules of the Democratic Party, much debated, states are prohibited from holding winner-take-all contests, making it more difficult for the winner to win and far easier for a loser to hold sway. While the Republican Party does not enforce that rule across the board, most of the states that will be holding caucuses and primaries do. So even if he loses, Gingrich will pick up significant representation. And even putting aside the numbers, if he does stay in the race, it all but assures that his more conservative ideology will influence where both Romney and the party end up.

Maybe that will help the Democratic president in the end. Selfishly, I hope so. But there certainly have been cycles in which the Republicans benefited from long races. It doesn't matter. I may not agree with Gingrich about much, but he is absolutely right in saying the media have no business declaring this process over.

And it's not just Gingrich and me saying it. Blame the Founding Fathers.

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



MIGUEL PEREZ



SUSAN ESTRICH









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### Grilled Chicken Wings with Roquefort Dip

Serves 6-8 people

3 lbs. chicken wings, cleaned and trimmed  
Select wings of roughly equal size for evenness of cooking.

#### Ingredients

##### Marinade:

- 1/3 cup vegetable oil
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 1 teaspoon oregano
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar

#### Blue Cheese Dip

- 1/2 cup Mayonnaise
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon onion, grated
- 1 teaspoon fresh thyme, chopped
- 1 tablespoon red wine vinegar
- 1/3 cup blue cheese, crumbled



#### Directions

Preheat the barbecue on high.

Cut each wing at the joint to make two pieces, and discard wing tip if still attached. In a large re-sealable bag, whisk together vegetable oil, garlic, spices and vinegar. Add chicken wings and toss to coat.

If using rotisserie basket, spray or brush lightly with vegetable oil to prevent sticking. Place chicken wings on bottom of basket, cover with the top part, and fasten on tightest setting to secure the wings in place. Cooking grids will need to be removed, and a drip pan placed beneath. If using rear rotisserie burner, set to high. If using lower burners, set to medium. Place the basket on spit and in the rotisserie and start the motor. Cook until golden brown and crisp, about 45 minutes to an hour.

If cooking directly on well oiled cooking grids, turn heat to low, and cook, turning frequently until golden brown and crisp, 30 - 45 minutes. Use an instant-read thermometer to ensure that all wings are cooked through and ready to eat.

Stir together all the dip ingredients. May be made ahead of time and chilled until ready to serve with chicken wings, celery and carrots.

More information on grilling and great recipe ideas is available at [www.broilkingbbq.com](http://www.broilkingbbq.com).

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HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Dexter Kjerstad slides safely into third base during the Hawks' game with Frank Phillips College Thursday afternoon at Jack Barber Field.

## Hawks pitch their way to season-opening sweep

By **STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

Heading into Thursday's season opener, Britt Smith was counting on pitching to be a strength for the Howard College baseball team.

So far, so good. Five Howard pitchers combined to surrender only one earned run as the Hawks opened their season with a 7-4, 10-0 doubleheader sweep of Frank Phillips College at Jack Barber Field Thursday afternoon.

In the opener, back-to-back homers by Jordan Allen and Colt Bickerstaff broke open a tie game in the sixth inning and made a winner of Austin Blount, the second of three Howard pitchers in the game. Nick Sawyer pitched a scoreless seventh to pick up the save.

Starting pitcher Michael Frank, last year's pitcher of the year in the Western Junior College Athletic Conference, surrendered only one earned run in three innings of work, but two Howard errors allowed

Frank Phillips to tie the game at 4-all heading into the decisive sixth inning.

"Really, my only complaint about the way we played was our defense," Smith said. "Defensively, we're not very sharp right now."

Howard's pitching staff continued its strong showing in the nightcap as Blake Smith and Spencer Davis combined for a two-hitter. Offensively, the Hawks capitalized on FPC error for five unearned runs in

See **SWEEP**, Page 2B

## A split decision

*HC takes men's game, women fall vs. NMJC*

By **STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

Mark Adams has long been an advocate of defense first in basketball, but even he approved of the offensive fireworks the Howard College Hawks set off inside Garrett Coliseum Thursday night.

A scorching first half paved the way for Howard to take a 71-54 win over New Mexico Junior College in Western Junior College Athletic Conference men's basketball action Thursday night.

The win improved the Hawks to 15-5 overall and 4-2 in WJCAC play, while NMJC dropped to 15-6, 3-3.

In the women's game, league-leading NMJC's defense proved too tough for Howard to handle as the Lady Thunderbirds claimed a 60-46 victory to improve to 20-2 and 5-0 for the season; Howard dropped to 14-8 and 1-3 with the loss.

### Men's game

It wasn't just the Hawks shot well against NMJC

Thursday — for a significant stretch of the first half, they couldn't miss.

Their first two shots of the game were off the mark, but after that, the Hawks went 10 minutes before they misfired again, opening up a comfortable 28-14 lead in the process.

What made the offensive explosion especially noteworthy is that most of the production came from outside — 18 of the Hawks' points during that first-half stretch came from three-point range.

Among those impressed with the outburst was Adams, the Hawks' defensive-minded head coach.

"We were off the charts, we shot so well," Adams said.

"When you shoot like that, it's a mix of good and bad news — there's no way you can keep that pace up and there's a tendency to be-



Thomas

See **HAWKS**, Page 2B

## Report: Hamilton has relapse

DALLAS (AP) — Rangers outfielder and recovering drug addict Josh Hamilton had a relapse this week when he drank alcohol at a bar, The Dallas Morning News reported Thursday night.

The newspaper, citing unidentified "individuals familiar with the episode," reported Hamilton was drinking at a Dallas-area bar on Monday.

In a statement to the newspaper, the Rangers said they were "aware of a situation, but we don't have further comment at this time."

Hamilton, 30, was suspended for more than three years for drug and alcohol use while in the Tampa Bay organization. He missed the entire 2004 and 2005 seasons. He won the AL MVP in 2010.

This was Hamilton's second known

alcohol-related relapse in three years. In January, 2009, he drank to excess in a bar in Tempe, Ariz. Before that, Hamilton said he hadn't taken a drink of alcohol since Oct. 6, 2005.

When the Rangers acquired the 28-year-old outfielder from the Cincinnati Reds on Dec. 21, 2007, they were aware of Hamilton's off-the-field problems and came out with a "zero tolerance" policy regarding his drinking.

He is tested for drug use three times a week and has had an accountability partner to support him in his recovery — though that job is now vacant.

The Rangers announced last month that Hamilton's father-in-law had been hired as a staff special assistant

to be the accountability partner for the slugger. But Michael Dean Chadwick has since decided against accepting that position due to "family considerations."

Hitting coach Johnny Narron filled that role before he left in November for Milwaukee. Narron joined the Rangers when Hamilton was acquired four years ago in a trade from Cincinnati. His primary role was to support the former No. 1 overall draft pick, who rebounded from his substance-abuse problems to become one of the top players in baseball.

Hamilton can become a free agent after this season, and has said he will not negotiate an extension after he reports to spring training.

He said he plans to leave for spring training on Feb. 17.

## Duncan, Parker lead Spurs to win

By **PAUL J. WEBER**  
Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Tim Duncan may not make the All-Star game for the first time in 12 years, or even give the San Antonio Spurs much scoring on most nights.

But even in back-to-backs, he can still resemble his old self.

Duncan scored 19 points, Tony Parker had had 18 and the Spurs ran away from the New Orleans Hornets in the fourth quarter to win their third in a row, 93-81 on Thursday night.

A night after Duncan scored 25 in a win over Houston, it was somewhat surprising he even played. Coach Gregg Popovich said he vowed to limit Duncan's

wear and tear — even declaring that the 35-year-old will sit at least one game when the Spurs play four in five nights — and playing the West's worst team seemed to invite a night off.

On the other hand, Popovich said, Duncan's body is holding up just fine so far.

"We kept his minutes down," said Popovich, who played Duncan for 22 minutes against New Orleans. "He didn't play that much. As long as the minutes are low, he feels pretty good."

The Hornets didn't make it easy.

Carly Landry scored 17 points and Greivis Vasquez added 16 points starting in place of Jarrett Jack, keep-

ing New Orleans close before the Spurs blew on the game in the fourth.

Jack sat out with a sore knee but the pain isn't considered serious. The Hornets have lost 12 of their last 13.

New Orleans trailed by just 3 after the third quarter but was outscored 22-12 in the fourth.

The Hornets shot 29 percent in the final period, while the Spurs missed only five shots.

"We lost the last two games in the fourth quarter," Vasquez said. "We play hard in the third quarter and then we do not execute in the fourth. As a point guard it's hard to fill Chris Paul's shoes but I expect myself to be better and

that takes a little work"

Tiago Splitter added 16 points and Danny Green had 11 off the bench for the Spurs, who improved to an NBA-best 12-1 at home. They need to stockpile all the home wins they can: After hosting the NBA-leading Oklahoma City Thunder on Saturday night, the Spurs won't be back home for three weeks.

Runs the Spurs out of town every February — but the franchise has never seen a stretch like this. The compressed schedule in wake of the NBA lockout has San Antonio in the midst of playing 16 of 21 games outside the AT&T Center, the toughest road run in Spurs history.

### Sports Calendar

#### TODAY

#### Tennis

Big Spring at Andrews Invitational.

#### Baseball

Frank Phillips College at Howard College (DH), noon.

#### Softball

Lubbock College at Howard College (DH), 1:30 p.m.

#### Girl's basketball

Big Spring at Brownwood, 6 p.m.  
Lubbock Roosevelt at Coahoma, 6:30 p.m.  
Stanton at Forsan, 6:30 p.m.

#### Boy's basketball

Big Spring at Brownwood, 7:30 p.m.  
Lubbock Roosevelt at Coahoma, 8 p.m.  
Stanton at Forsan, 8 p.m.

#### SATURDAY

#### Tennis

Big Spring at Andrews Invitational.

#### MONDAY

#### Women's basketball

Howard College at Frank Phillips College, 5:45 p.m.

#### Men's basketball

Howard College at Frank Phillips College, 7:45 p.m.

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







Tomorrow's Horoscope

When Neptune was first discovered in 1846, the gassy giant was shifting from Aquarius to Pisces — like he is now. It means that we have finally seen the entire cycle of big blue, and we're about to go for round two. Today, Neptune moves into the spiritual water sign of Pisces, and this time, he's planning to stay for 14 years.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). The balance of nature requires that nothing is "all good." That's why you fully appreciate the examples of extreme kindness and integrity that show up in your life today.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). There are things you wouldn't recommend to your friends or family but that you choose for yourself nonetheless. It's a function of being intimately acquainted with your own taste and tolerances.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). You appreciate one who is charming and clever, but what you love most is when those qualities are coupled with a large dose of practicality. It's the doers who change the world.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). You'll be creative. Much of what you dream up would take so much time and energy to pull off, that you'd hardly find joy in it. But there's at least one idea that you can implement now to instantly improve your life.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). There is nothing to be resolved in this day's work. Rather, you'll get the most out of the day if you keep exploring. You'll enjoy testing out your various options and courting new ambitions as well.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Plan a trip, preferably involving a plane. An aerial view of your life on earth will have an expansive influence on your mindset. The bigger you think, the bigger you'll accomplish.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). New patterns are forming in your life. It will be nearly impossible to tell where you are in a cycle until you're reasonably deep in the sequence. Stay aware; assume the best and march on.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There will be much that gets lost as people try to relay information verbally. Written correspondence is better, but the best way of all is to show how everything relates in action.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You are being subtly influenced to step up your game. You realize that the competition is stiff and that the other players are in it to win. You'll send quiet signals that say, "Bring it on."

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You might not be entirely proud of your production level thus far this week, but go easy on yourself. You tend to forget that you need recreation in your life, too.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Depending on the route, a step sideways is sometimes the best way to move up. You could really use a map, at least figuratively. Ask around to see if anyone knows the lay of the land.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). Know what your unique offerings are. Not everyone can do what you're doing. Others may have the resources, but they don't think like you, and that's what makes the difference.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (Feb. 3). You're not afraid to surrender yourself to admiration, and your enthusiasm attracts new connections and friends. Financial and personal growth opportunities come to you in March. You'll stand behind your loved ones in April and cause them to strive. You'll make a game-changing discovery in May. Leo and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 2, 33, 39 and 50.

**WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST:** **ARIES:** You'll say what you feel and be received in the best possible way. **TAURUS:** You'll give positive feedback and raise the esteem of someone for

whom you care deeply. **GEMINI:** You'll provide many kinds of support for the one you love, including financial. **CANCER:** Keep giving where you see a need. Someone is falling in love with your heart of gold. **LEO:** You'll try new things, and you may not like them, but you'll be invigorated by the experience. **VIRGO:** Your investigations will prove fruitful. **LIBRA:** Being loved is about feeling good about yourself when you're with the other person. **SCORPIO:** You have a genuine interest in getting to know people, so you'll find it easy to strike up conversations. **SAGITTARIUS:** Your fiery passion will have the perfect target. **CAPRICORN:** Everyone needs to feel worshiped once in a while, and it's your turn to have that need satisfied. **AQUARIUS:** Someone is making you wait for what you want, and your excitement is building. **PISCES:** You love people for who they are, not what they can give you. Not everyone thinks like you do though.

**COUPLE OF THE WEEKEND:** Aquarius and Cancer are inexplicably drawn to connect and will increase their fortunes by doing so. Aquarius will love Cancer's soulful, caring style and will feel most at home in the nurturing energy that Cancer brings. Cancer will appreciate the Aquarian worldview and be impressed with the generosity of spirit that this sign embodies. Together they could solve a few of the world's problems -- at least hypothetically!

*If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to [www.creators.com](http://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](http://www.creators.com).*

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Dear Margo

A Little Perspective, Please

**Dear Margo:** My best gay male friend recently admitted he's in love with a woman, despite dating men his whole adult life without any bisexual inclinations.

I can handle this sudden revelation, but I am deeply hurt and feel betrayed that it took him months to reveal this information.

We're extremely close and share the tiniest details of our lives. I noticed a behavior change several months ago and repeatedly asked him what it was. He always brushed me off.

He's since begged my forgiveness, but I can't move past the idea of his keeping this secret from me. I find myself so hurt that I can barely speak to him. And I'm not secretly in love with him. I'm gay, as well, and have no romantic interest in men. Where do I go from here? — *Allie*

**Dear Al:** What you are calling a betrayal I regard as a "sin" of omission. Your close friend chose not to tell you his news until now, and I frankly can't see why you're so broken up about this. I suggest you accept the fact that he kept this to himself for a while ... for whatever reason. Some things are worth a commotion; this is not one of them. — *Margo, forwardly*

The Luck of the Draw

**Dear Margo:** When I started playing poker, I always won. The first tournament in which I played, I came in first. I thought I must have some sort of gift or something. This streak lasted for three months, and then I started reading books and studying the game.

At one point, I played in what was the most important tournament of my poker career. Gavin Smith came to my local poker club, and I won a satellite to the tournament in which he was playing. It was a big

deal. I was steadily grinding about 13 hours a day and doing very well. I am not a donkey.

I had the chip lead at every table I played. It was down to four tables, and long story short, I could have sat there and folded every hand and would have made it to the final table.

Instead, I did the opposite and got involved in a hand I probably shouldn't have. I risked my entire stack and lost it all to someone on a flush draw. I was devastated and cried for weeks.

Ever since then, poker has seemed intimidating, and I haven't made it as far in tournaments as I used to. How is it that an inexperienced player like me could have done so well in the beginning, and then gone to hell?

I had been able to tap into a certain rhythm and was able to trust my gut, but I seem to have lost that. Is there any way to move past this situation and embrace what used to come so naturally? Will I ever be able to dominate a room full of men again, or should I just give up and break up with poker for good? — *Texas Hold 'Em*

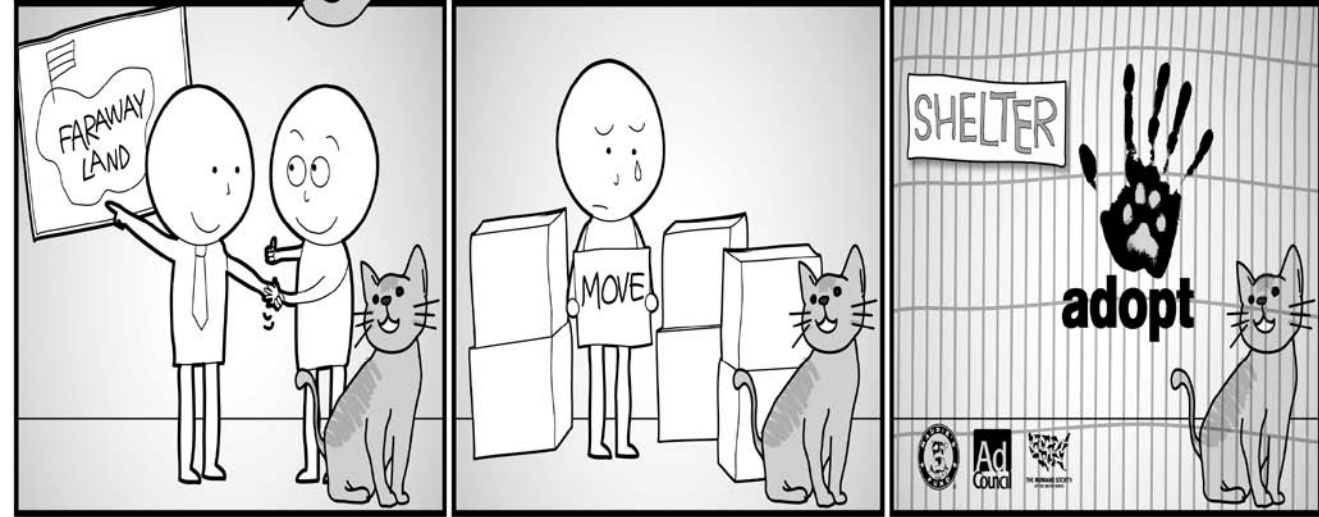
**Dear Tex:** I do not know whether you will ever dominate a room full of men again, but I do believe there is such a thing as beginner's luck. I had it when I first started to shoot skeet. Then it went away. Forever. I also started to study something I took pleasure in (symphonic music), but after I took a course, I was so busy parsing movements, etc. that it was no longer enjoyable. Perhaps this is what happened to you. Although I know people who love the game, it is gambling, and if you're on the fence about continuing, perhaps "breaking up with poker" is the emotionally and financially smart thing to do. — *Margo, bluffing*

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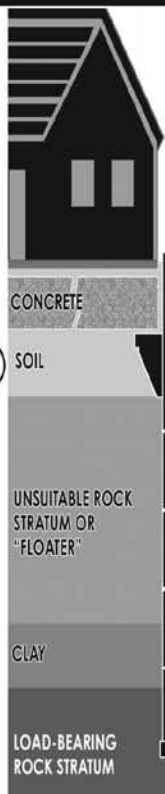
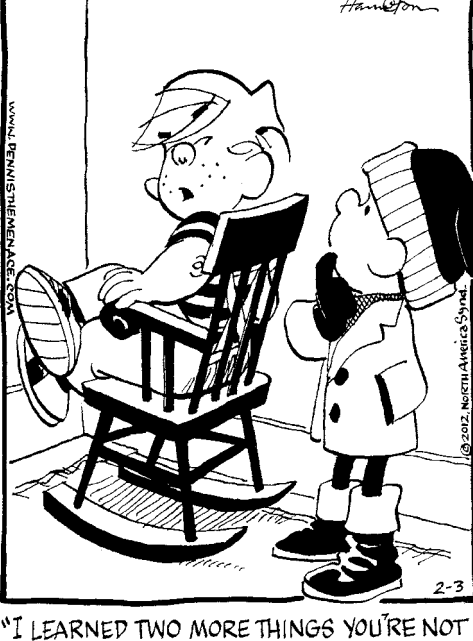


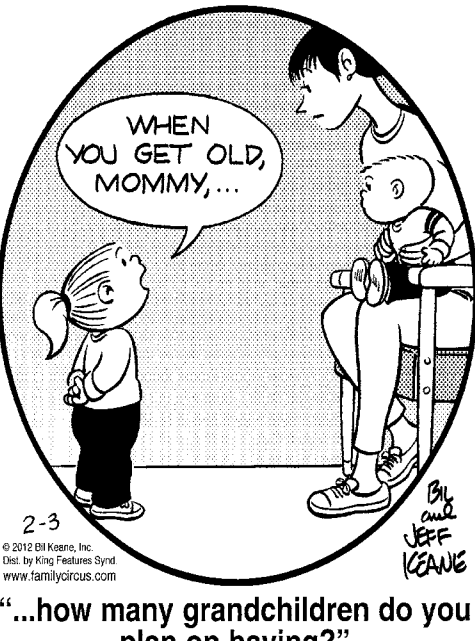
Table with 29 columns representing different TV channels and their programming schedules for the week of Feb 3-9, 2012.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"I LEARNED TWO MORE THINGS YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO PUT IN THE MICROWAVE."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"...how many grandchildren do you plan on having?"

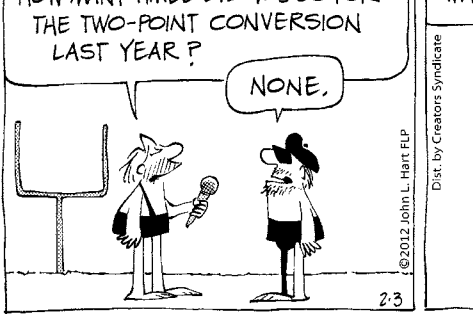
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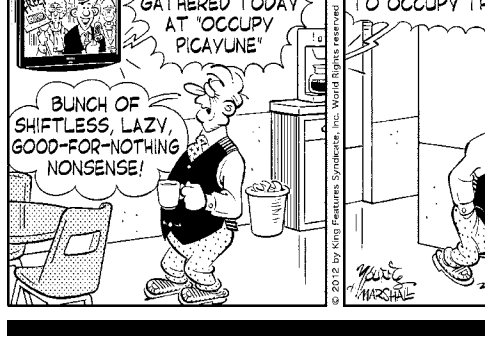
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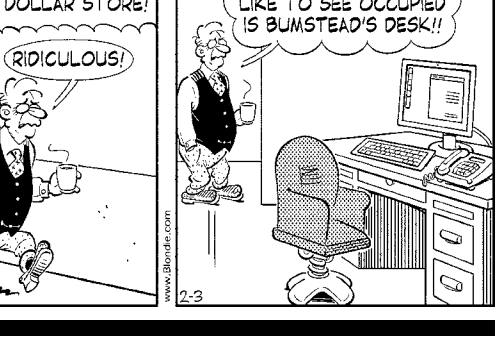
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This Date In History

Today is Friday, Feb. 3, the 34th day of 2012. There are 332 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Feb. 3, 1959, rock-and-roll stars Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and J.P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson died in a small plane crash near Clear Lake, Iowa.

In 1930, the chief justice of the United States, William Howard Taft, resigned for health reasons. (He died just over a month later.) In 1943, during World War II, the U.S. transport ship Dorchester, which was carrying troops to Greenland, sank after being hit by a German torpedo; of the more than 900 men aboard, only some 230 survived.

killings of two people in 1983; she was the first woman executed in the United States since 1984. A U.S. Marine plane sliced through the cable of a ski gondola in Italy, sending the car plunging hundreds of feet, killing all 20 people inside.

Answer to previous puzzle

Grid of letters for the crossword puzzle answer.

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS 1 Say something 5 World's largest cruise port 10 Sixth-day creation 14 Horseshoe material 15 Choreographer Ailey 16 Galileo's hometown 17 Electricity source 19 World Series of Poker aier 20 Much-honored architect 21 Summer treats 23 Awed one's reaction 24 "Ain't happening!" 25 Weather-report stat 29 Sheet of stamps 30 Carload lots 31 Attendee 34 Not of the clergy 37 Flying Pan 40 Organization's procedural guide 43 SeaWorld symbol 44 Mata 45 Throws in 46 Sesame Street regular 48 Hammer part 50 '50s fashion 54 Hydrotherapy spot 57 Drum holder 58 CPR class locale 59 Peripheral 61 Prominent periods 63 Justin Bieber gig 66 Pork chop?

CRACKPOTS by Randall J. Hartman Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- 12 "Quaking" tree 13 The Spanish Singer painter 18 Morning TV host 22 Examine, with "out" 26 Just 27 Setter fetter 28 Unaccompanied 29 Ready for action 31 SUV option 32 "That's amazing!" 33 Add details 35 Give-go connection 36 Wrist bones 38 Furthestmost point 39 Subj. of Amendments 1-10 41 Undulating 42 Quality level 47 Appeals strongly to 49 Where Prince William turned 18 50 Annoy 51 Was in a regatta 52 "Get out of here!" 53 Frat letter 54 Horseshoe material 55 Risk exposure 56 Fancy-schmancy 60 Home of the Bruins 62 Junior, to Senior 64 Junkyard dog 65 Elect, with "for"

Grid for the Newsday Crossword puzzle.