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THURSDAY
MARCH 1, 2012



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VOLUME 107, NUMBER 117

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HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno

Construction crews worked downtown on the corner of Fourth Street and Scurry, closing down one lane of traffic. Construction will continue until all repairs have been made, with more lane closures possible.

Garcia found guilty

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

A Big Spring man was found guilty of sexual assault of a child — a first-degree felony — in 118th District Court Wednesday, with sentencing expected to take place today.



Garcia

Ernesto Dutchover Garcia, 60, 1300 E. 11th Place, was found guilty on several counts of sexual assault of a child Tuesday afternoon following several hours of deliberation by a jury.

Garcia was indicted Nov. 18, 2010, on four counts of indecency with a child (second-degree felony), three counts of aggravated sexual assault of a child (first-degree felony) and a charge of continuous sexual assault of a child (first-degree felony).

Jury selection in the trial began Monday morning, with the first witnesses taking the stand for the prosecution — presented by Assistant District Attorney Robin Orr — Tuesday morning.

Garcia faces 5 to 99 years to life in prison and a fine not to exceed \$10,000 on each of the first-degree felony charges and 2 to 20 years in prison and a fine not to exceed \$10,000 on the second-degree felony charge.

According to court records, the alleged attacks go as far back as 2003, listing dates of offense as Dec. 31, 2003, Feb. 26, 2004, and the most recent being Aug. 29, 2010.

City elections draw little interest here

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Time is running out for area residents looking to toss their political hats in the ring for this year's municipal elections. Monday is the deadline to file.

In Big Spring filings have moved along rather slowly during the

past several weeks, with none of the three incumbents having yet filed to run for re-election to their seats on the city council.

The District 2 seat, currently held by Manuel Ramirez Jr., has drawn a single candidate so far, as local resident Carmen Moreno Harbour has filed to run for the office.

The District 4 seat, held by incumbent Gloria McDonald, has also drawn only a single candidate at this time. Loretta Farquhar filed to have her name included on the ballot.

The District 6 seat, held by Councilman Terry Hansen, has

See **FILING**, Page 3

Chamber planning new web site

By **AMANDA MORENO**
Staff Writer

New look, easier access and better service for its members are just a few of the things hoped to be accomplished by the new Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce web-

site. The chamber has been using the same website for eight years and after speaking with Corkey Mitchell of Spry Marketing, it was decided some revamping was in order. "Technology in general is changing everyday and we

figured it was time," Debbye ValVerde, Chamber executive director said. The revamp will be used to promote members of the Chamber of Commerce and offer them a better opportunity to promote themselves with different advertising op-

tions that will be provided, according to ValVerde. "The main thing is we are going to stay reasonable," ValVerde said. "Advertising on the site will be limited because we don't want to take the focus away from our members."

Easier navigation through the website will be another added bonus, she said. The goal will be to allow visitors to the page to get to the members faster and find the information they are searching

See **CHAMBER**, Page 3

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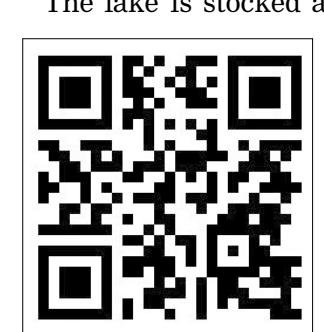
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www.bigspringherald.com

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

Kids! Reel in a good time Saturday

By **AMANDA MORENO**
Staff Writer



The lake is stocked and the tournament is scheduled. All that's left is to get the kids to attend. Saturday, youngsters under the age of 17

will have an opportunity to try and catch some of the 6,000-plus rainbow trout added to Comanche Trail Lake this year. The event is the Kids Fishing Tournament, sponsored by the Greater Big Spring Rotary Club.

Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. and door prizes will be given away at 12:30 p.m. during the orientation. The tournament will take place from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and is free to all youth.

"It's fun to see the family units out

there fishing," Ken McIntosh, Rotary member, said.

McIntosh did say that if for some reason the weather drops below 45 degrees or if it rains the tournament will be rescheduled for another Saturday.

"It hasn't happened yet, but if it's raining or it's too cold then we will postpone the tournament," McIntosh said.

See **FISH**, Page 3

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231786

T.E. (Steve) Stephenson



T.E. (Steve) Stephenson of Duncan, Okla., formerly of Big Spring, Texas, went to be with our Lord and Savior on Saturday, Feb. 25, 2012. He was born April 3, 1924, in Odell, Wilbarger County, Texas, to George R. and Mary J. Stephenson. As a child, he and his family moved to Romney, Eastland County, Texas, where he lived until he went into the service.

Steve served in the United States Army during World War II in Company B 752nd Railway Operating Battalion. He served 20 months in the European theater. On Nov. 5, 1948, Steve married the love of his life, Maudie Fay Perdue. In 1951, he started his career with Halliburton in Eunice, N.M., and ended it 34 years later in Big Spring, Texas.

Steve is survived by his wife of 63 years, Maudie Perdue Stephenson; son, Terry Stephenson and wife Mary of Midland, Texas; daughter, Vonda Stephenson and life partner Pat Dunham of Big Spring, Texas; son, Stanley Stephenson and wife Patti of Duncan, Okla.; five grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his sister, Della Pearl Richie of Seminole, Texas, and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, three brothers and four sisters.

Steve was a terrific husband, father, PaPa and friend. He loved God, his family and friends. He impacted the lives of most anyone with whom he came into contact. He loved to fish, play cards and dominoes and watch his favorite western movies and sports teams. He will be missed by all who knew him.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, March 3, 2012, at 2 p.m. at Victory Assembly Church, 208 E. Eighth St., Cisco, Texas, with Pastor Ken McMeans of College Baptist Church of Big Spring, Texas, officiating. A gathering of family and friends will be held afterward at the Hillside Community Center, which is on the west side of Humble Ave. between E. 10th St. and E. 11th St. in Cisco.

A private burial will be held prior to the memorial service at the Oakwood Cemetery in Cisco, Texas, under the directions of Callaway-Smith-Cobb Funeral Home of Marlow, Okla.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be sent to College Baptist Church, 1105 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, Texas 79720. 432-267-7429.

Paid obituary

Police blotter

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

- AVELARDO CASTILLO JR., 22, of 601 St. Paul St. in Stanton, was arrested Wednesday on warrants for theft (two counts).
- ROY PAIZ GARCIA, 52, of 1212 E. 16th St., was arrested Wednesday on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid with a previous conviction.
- MARK W. PETERS, 21, of Woodlawn, Tenn., was arrested Wednesday on a warrant for possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.
- ROBERT RODRIGUEZ VALENCIA JR., 33, of 507 N.W. 11th St., was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance and a warrant from another agency.
- THEFT was reported in the 1500 block of Owens.
- ASSAULT was reported in the 400 block of E. Fourth Street.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 1600 block of E. 11th Place.

See **POLICE**, Page 3

Obituaries

Deidra Whatley



Deidra Whatley, 84, of Bandera, formerly of Big Spring died Monday, Feb. 27, 2012, at Bandera Rehabilitation and Health Center. The family will receive friends from 6 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 Trinity Memorial Park.

Deidra was born July 10, 1927, at Texon, Texas, to Mildred and A.O. Vanderford. She was a resident of Big Spring since 1938, graduating from Big Spring High School in 1943 at the age of 15.

Deidra served in the Nurses Cadet Corps from 1943 until 1946, while attending nursing school. She graduated from West Texas Nursing School in Lubbock in 1946.

Deidra married Tommy Whatley on Jan. 29, 1947, in Big Spring. He preceded her in death Jan. 6, 1992. She was a registered nurse at Malone – Hogan Hospital and Scenic Mountain Medical Center for more than 50 years.

Deidra was the true example of the perfect nurse, always putting patients first. She inspired her staff by example, expecting the best from them. Deidra was honored by Hospital Corporation of America in 1974 with the National Nurse of the Year Award. The hospital staff honored her twice as employee of the year, in 1976 and in 1996.

When the hospital built doctors offices on the campus, Deidra was honored again by the facility being named Whatley Medical Plaza. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church.

Deidra is survived by two sons, Van Tom Whatley and wife Cindy of Bandera and Jan Tom Whatley and wife Cynthia of Dallas; one daughter, Dana Tom Whatley and husband Kerry Hall of St. Joseph, Mich.; seven grandchildren, Nick Whatley, Jace Whatley, J-Lee Whatley, John Kendrex, Travis Kendrex, Libby Whatley and Lori Davis; and one great granddaughter, Haley Hester.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by one infant son, Sam Tom Whatley in 1950.

Pallbearers will be Nick Whatley, Jace Whatley, J-Lee Whatley, John Kendrex, Travis Kendrex and Kerry Hall. Honorary pallbearers will be the 615 Settles Group.

The family suggests memorials to Relay for Life, c/o Diane Wood, 3200 Greenbrier Ave., Big Spring, TX 79720.

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

Paid obituary

Mary Ann Baker



Born to a West Texas pioneer family in February of 1936, Mary Ann Baker peacefully left this world in the same month as her birth.

She was born Feb. 17, 1936, to Lanham Brown and Mary Lois Hodnett in Howard County. The elder sister to Guy Hodnett of Sand Springs and to the late Roger "Butch" Hodnett of Vincent, she attended school with them in Coahoma. There she met the love of her life and was later wed to Bobby Gene Baker, who still resides in Sand Springs.

The couple lived out their enduring love affair together for more than 58 years. They raised five children from West Texas to the plains of New Mexico and back: Randy Baker of Tyler, Texas; Micky Baker-Berta of Hobbs, N.M.; Robert Baker of Gardendale, Texas; Misty Baker of Coahoma, Texas; and Christy Clark of Big Spring, Texas.

Her greatest joys were found in the family time she spent with her children, grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

She also had a lifelong love for animals, especially dogs and horses. Horses remained a real pleasure in her life and carried over to her love of horse racing in the mountains of Ruidoso, N.M. The Bakers are gamblers by nature and Ann was no exception – she spent countless holidays of late night poker games and thrilled to the sound of coins falling from the slots.

Ann is survived by her husband, Bobby; her brother, Guy; all of her children, Randy and Kim, Micky and Ray, Robert, Misty and Christy; her grandchildren, Brandon Baker of Longview, Texas, Alison Wells of Lubbock, Texas, Randal Clark of Midland, Texas, Cole Clark of Hobbs, N.M., Jeremy Baker of Tyler, Texas, Bryan Parker of Lubbock, Texas, Jordyn Caraway of Kilgore, Texas, and Misty Dawn Gray of Dallas, Texas.

The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. The celebration of her life will be held at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, March 3, 2012, at Myers & Smith Chapel, 301 E. 24th St., Big Spring, Texas.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hospice House Foundation, 903 N. Sam Houston, Odessa, Texas 79761. The family wishes to especially thank them, as they took such wonderful care of Mom in her final days.

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

Paid obituary

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- Served as Howard County Attorney, Big Spring City Attorney
- Member of Howard County Bar Assoc., State Bar Assoc., American Bar Assoc.



C.E. Mike Thomas
Attorney at Law

c.e.mikethomas@gmail.com

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 - salt and pepper
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Cook Time: 10 minutes
Makes: 8 servings

1. Combine hot sauce, lime juice, and olive oil in a small bowl. Place avocado halves and lime marinade in a zipper bag. Marinate for 10 minutes or more.
2. Remove meat from crab legs, combine with mayonnaise in a small bowl and season to taste with salt and pepper. Cover bowl with plastic wrap and refrigerate until avocados are grilled.
3. Heat coals or grill to Medium heat (375°F). Brush hot grill with olive oil to prevent sticking. Grill avocados on flat side 4 minutes; turn over and grill 4 more minutes. Stuff with 2 Tablespoons crab mixture and 1 teaspoon red pepper tapenade. Serve warm.

Prices Good thru Tuesday, March 6, 2012 Only at your H-E-B store. ©2012 HEB, 12-2030

FILING

Continued from Page 1

also drawn a lone candidate at this point in the filing period. Marvin Boyd, owner of Boyd's Auto Glass, has filed the necessary forms to seek the office.

According to city officials, the deadline to file to run for any of the three seats is 5 p.m. March 5. Political hopefuls have until that time to file their campaign treasurer designation form and application for placement on the May 12 ballot.

In the city of Stanton, municipal and election officials are gearing up for a busy election, as the city looks to fill several seats on its city council.

The mayoral seat is up for grabs in May, as incumbent Justin Burch looks to win his first full term in the office. Burch has served approximately a year as mayor, stepping in for former mayor Tommy Haislip, who vacated the office to move to Houston in 2011.

At this time, Burch is the only candidate running for the mayoral seat.

The at-large seat on the council — which was vacated by Burch in 2011 when he assumed

the position of mayor — is up for election. The lone candidate currently running for that seat is incumbent Danny Fryar, who has served in the capacity since assuming duties in 2011.

The District 1 seat on the council, currently held by Ronnie Christian, has drawn a pair of candidates so far. Stanton residents Jim Smith and Brian McHenry have tossed their hats in the political ring to run for the office. Christian has not filed to run for re-election.

The District 2 seat has drawn a single candidate at this time, incumbent Michelle Kidd, as has the District 3 seat on the council. James Jenkins has filed to seek re-election. Both are currently unopposed.

Political hopefuls in Stanton have until the end of the business day Friday to file, according to officials with the Martin County seat.

The city of Coahoma has three seats up for election this May. The seats are currently held by Linda Luce, Paulette Lindsey and Zach Johnson.

According to unofficial reports, candidates Billy Sullivan and Dan Shelburn have filed to run; however, officials with the city of Coahoma were unavailable to

confirm the reports at press time.

Sullivan, who said he served on the Coahoma City Council approximately 25 years ago for two terms, was able to confirm he filed this week to run for the office. Attempts to reach Shelburn were unsuccessful.

Political hopefuls in Coahoma also have un-

til 5 p.m. March 5 to file their candidacy for the May 12 election.

Early voting in this year's municipal elections is slated to begin April 30 and end May 8, according to local election officials.

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

POLICE

Continued from Page 2

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 74 inmates at the time of this report.

- JAIME HERNANDEZ, 44, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of bondsman off bond for bail jumping — failure to appear.
- ROY PAIZ GARCIA, 52, was booked into the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.
- JEREMY J. FELTS, 33, was booked into the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.
- ROBERT RODRIGUEZ VALENCIA, 33, was booked into the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of possession of a controlled substance and manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance.
- MARK W. PETERS, 21, was booked into the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana — two ounces or less.
- CANDICE BURNETT, 27, was booked into the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.
- MICHAEL DALE PRESTON, 27, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on charges of driving while intoxicated — third or more offense, evading arrest or detention with a vehicle and duty on striking unattended vehicle.
- HOWARD LEE SPACEK, 27, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a Midland County warrant for intoxication assault — violation of bond.

Obituaries

Ruben David Thomas



Ruben David Thomas, 85, of Big Spring died Monday, Feb. 27, 2012, at Hospice House in Odessa. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Graveside services will be held at 2:30 p.m. Friday at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

He was born Feb. 2, 1927, in Boyle County, Ky. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army. He owned a mowing and lawn service.

He is survived by three brothers, Don Thomas, Jimmy Thomas and Mike Thomas, all of Sweetwater; and a host of nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by four sisters and two brothers.

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

Billy Gene Dykes



Billy Gene Dykes, 84, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Feb. 29, 2012, at his residence. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 3, 2012, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Elwin Collom officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

Billy was born Aug. 18, 1927, in Boswell, Okla. and married Sybil Kennedy. She preceded him in death Aug. 3, 2000. Billy served his country in both the United States Marine Corps and the United States Air Force. He was a member of the VFW and American Legion.

Survivors include three sons, Charles Dykes and wife Joanna, Gerald Dykes and wife Linda and Bobby Dykes, all of Big Spring; one daughter, Karen Smith of Fort Worth; one brother, Charles A. Dykes of Big Spring; four sisters, Eileen Pellerin of West Virginia, Edith Gonzalez of Huntington Beach, Calif., Mary Bloesma of Harbor, Ore., and Desi Parrish of Detroit, Texas; nine grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

In addition to his wife, Billy was preceded in death by his parents, C.A. and Susie (May) Dykes; and two sons, Billy Boy Dykes and William Paul Dykes.

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

Judy Tucker

Judy Tucker, 56, of Midland County, formerly of Big Spring died Wednesday, Feb. 29, 2012, at her residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Victoria Escovedo

Victoria Escovedo, 71, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Feb. 29, 2012, at Hospice of Midland Inpatient Unit. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Fire/EMS

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

- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported near the intersection of FM 846 and North County Road 33. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1300 block of Mulberry. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 700 block of W. Interstate Highway 20. One person was transported to SMMC.

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Ruben David Thomas, 85, died Monday. Graveside services will be at 2:30 p.m. Friday at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Deidra Whatley, 84, died Monday. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.
Ann Baker, 76, died Wednesday. The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 2:30 p.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Coahoma Cemetery.
Victoria Escovedo, 71, died Wednesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.
Judy Tucker, 56, died Wednesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

CHAMBER

Continued from Page 1

for in a small time frame.

"We want the people visiting the site to be able to find the information they are looking for, whether it be the name of a member, the location, phone number or whatever, as fast and easy as possible," ValVerde said.

The site will also include a community calendar with events,

not only from chamber members, but also events going on throughout the community.

The website is expected, if all continues to move according to plan, to be up and running by June.

To find out more information about the new website or how to become a chamber member, contact ValVerde at 263-7641.

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

Expense fund is established

An account has been established at American State Bank to help defray medical expense for Brad "Ghost" Ugstad, a local resident who was severely injured in a motorcycle accident. All donations will be appreciated.

Powwow news, help is needed

As the 8th annual Powwow is coming near, organizers are seeking people interested in native American culture. The group is a family oriented organization that is looking to expand. You do not have to be native American to join. For comments, questions and answers, call Richard "Indio" Lesser at 432-935-0125 or Connie Lesser at 432-816-6772.

FISH

Continued from Page 1

Participants need to bring their own fishing equipment, as well as bait. According to McIntosh, a can of corn is the best bait when fishing for trout.

"All you need is a can of corn, hook and a fishing pole," McIntosh said. "I can't think of a better way to spend the afternoon."

To find out more information, call McIntosh at 517-4821.

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

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AN ENCOURAGING WORD

By Eddy Pitchford

Millions of people watch The Academy Awards to see which people and movies will win the highest honors. Some people are enamored with the award program more than the actual movies receiving recognition. Some folks agree with the choice of winners while others second-guess and argue about who is most deserving.

While judging movies is extremely subjective, facing God on Judgement Day is not. The judgment of The Lord will not be manipulated by our ability to act out a particular role. Instead, it will be based upon our obedience to The Lord. "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 7:21)

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Sunday Worship.....	10:20 AM
Sunday Worship.....	5:00 PM
Wednesday Class.....	7:00 PM

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.

Bill McClellan
Managing Editor

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

Steve Reagan
Staff Writer

Amanda Moreno
Staff Writer

Thomas Jenkins
Staff Writer

OUR VIEWS

Time for a gem and rock show

The beauty of the rock is in the eyes of the beholder. However, Howard County residents will be able to unlock that beauty this weekend at the 43rd annual Gem and Mineral Show.

Once again the show will take place at the Howard County Fairbarn and will feature all kind of rocks and minerals during the course of the weekend.

Doors will be open to the public and admission is free from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Sunday.

On top of free admission to the world of rocks and minerals, children will receive a tumbled rock when they arrive at the show. Door prizes will also be awarded each hour during the two-day show.

For those thinking it's just a group of people showing off rocks, don't be fooled. The rocks that will be featured in the show won't be your ordinary, everyday average stone you find laying in the street. The show will include rough rocks, finished jewelry, glass and stone beads and so much more.

More than 10 vendors will be on hand this weekend at the fairgrounds. Those attending the show will have an opportunity to vote on the favorite club for the People's Choice Award. There will be prospectors clubs represented from Midland, Lubbock and Big Spring.

Lola Lamb, member of the Big Spring Prospector's Club, will also be featuring special works which can be won at the spinning wheel. For a small fee, adults and children can have a chance to spin the wheel and walk away with one of Lamb's creations.

Of course, after gazing at all the gems and minerals, hunger might strike you, but have no fear, there will be hot dogs, hamburgers and nachos available. You can walk, eat and look or have a rest at one of the tables.

Either way, stop by and take a look at the rock show.

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.
- 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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

The best way to secure our future, Lord,
is through You.

Amen

Four shots to pick a winner

The Republican primaries have been a tough sled for God, the Father of the party. (Well, Republicans claim He is.)

First, Michele Bachmann came to Him and asked whether she should run for president. "You go, girl," He said, or words to that effect. I take her word on that. (Hey, would she lie?)

Then she started campaigning. After Republicans got a good look at her, God said: "Nevermind."

Then there was Herman Cain. Remember him? He too said he'd gone to God for career advice and God had told him to run for president. It went pretty good until Cain's nocturnal habits became public, at which point God said: "Forget what I said."

That was puzzling. You'd think God would have known about Cain's tom-cattin before He told him to run, wouldn't you? I mean, He's God. He knows everything. Oh well, I guess that's what they mean when they talk about His mysterious ways.

Next came Rick Perry, the governor of Texas. He also said he asked God whether he should run for president. God replied: "Hook 'em Horns."

It turned out that Perry had a second language — English — and no first. So he didn't do well

in debates and speeches and stuff. But he didn't give up. He went back to God and said: "Are you sure I should be running for president?" God, startled as though awakened from a nap, replied: "Of course I'm sure. I'm God. You think God goes around not being sure?"

So Perry continued and suffered more humiliating losses.

Then God said: "Oops."

It's hard to know which candidate God favors at the moment. They all act as though they're the Teacher's pet.

Rick Santorum, however, casts himself as God's most passionate warrior in the contest, the Savonarola of the GOP.

The former lawmaker and father of seven rejects the idea of homosexuals marrying each other as repulsive and a violation of God's will. He says abortion under any circumstances is an irredeemable sin and that contraception only provides an excuse for people to do bad things to each other.

In short, he presents himself as the messenger of God's true will. Although he denies God actually told him to run, he says he feels "a calling" to do so.

And maybe Santorum is onto something. After I mistakenly declared him dead in Florida, Kid Rick has moved ahead of Mitt in many polls. Even national ones.

You wouldn't think it would take God four shots to pick a winner though, would you?

In truth it's hard to know who

really is doing well among these Republicans because they're operating in so small a universe.

As Timothy Egan recently reported in The New York Times, only 3 million Republicans voted in the first nine primary and caucus states. That comes to 11 percent of the registered voters in those states.

Moreover, the people who did vote were less than representative. Ninety-eight percent of the voters in South Carolina, for example, were white (compared to 66 percent of the population there), 72 percent were older than 45 (compared to 36 percent in the state), and 65 percent were evangelical Christians (compared to 40 percent statewide).

That pattern pretty much repeats itself in state after state. The people picking the Republican nominee for president are older, whiter, and more religious than the population at large.

You wonder why the candidates seem so out-of-touch with the times? It's because they are.

On virtually every issue — healthcare, taxes on the rich, withdrawal from Afghanistan, global warming — Romney, Newt Gingrich, Santorum, and Ron Paul, the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, are on the wrong side of the people.

So how do they expect to win? Only God knows.

OtherWords columnist Donald Kaul lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan. otherwords.org

Mr. Bumble against Mr. Scary

Is it possible to stumble and bumble your way to a presidential nomination?

Certainly. And Mitt Romney is determined to prove it.

Romney's verbal gaffes are plentiful. And often hilarious. If you really wanted to make the case that they show how "out of touch" Romney is with the average American, I wouldn't dispute it.

I would say only that all these guys running for president are out of touch. Even though most brag about their humble beginnings, all now lead lives of privilege and comfort, and come in contact with average Americans only when their water heaters give out. (And their spouses usually handle that.)

Sure, they grip and grin on the rope lines with average Americans, but that lasts for about two seconds or however long it take somebody to snap a cell-phone picture.

If these guys did not live in a bubble before they entered politics, they certainly live in one now. And they have large staffs whose job it is to keep the candidate away from the public (and press) as much as possible unless the situation is highly controlled.

Still, Romney manages to screw up.

In December, at one of the innumerable Republican debates, Rick Perry accused Romney of having changed his position on something or other. Perry had about as much chance of getting the Republican nomination as getting Texas to secede from the Union and naming him king, but he got Romney's goat nonetheless.

Romney angrily stuck out his hand and said: "Rick, I'll tell you what, ten thousand bucks? \$10,000 bet?"

Grand, Mitt. Just grand. Remind everybody that \$10,000 is chump change to you.

And who can forget Romney telling us that, "Corporations are people," or that he made "not very much" money in speak-

ing fees in year in which he made \$374,000 in speaking fees. He wasn't lying. It's just that \$374,000 wasn't very much to him.

What all this shows is a man totally sincere in his isolation from average Americans. Except for his blue jeans — which one comic says that he wears over his suit pants — Romney doesn't pretend to be average. He is a highly successful businessman, and he is proud of it.

So when he recently listed some of the American-nameplate cars he has owned — a Ford, a Chevy, a Dodge — it was only natural that he include his wife's vehicles. "Ann drives a couple of Cadillacs, actually," he said.

Actually, she doesn't do so simultaneously. One is at their La Jolla, Calif., home and one is at their Belmont, Mass., home.

But Romney is a car lover, and so he goes down to the Daytona International Speedway on Sunday, and he gets asked if he is a NASCAR fan — note to Romney team: At least try to prep the guy for the obvious questions — and Romney replies honestly.

"Not as closely as some of the most ardent fans," Romney says.

"But I have some great friends that are NASCAR team owners." Doh! Just in case you were wondering, it costs about \$15 million a year to maintain a NASCAR team, which allows you to buy really nice blue jeans and rub elbows with Mitt at country clubs.

But even with all this, Romney has one great thing going for him: Rick Santorum.

Rick Santorum doesn't flub. He speaks from his deeply held convictions. Some of which are very scary.

Speaking in Troy, Mich., on Saturday, Santorum said: "President Obama once said he wants everybody in America to go to college. What a snob."

Had Santorum gone on to say that not everyone in America wants to go to college and that there is nothing shameful about manual labor, he may have had a point.

But that's not all Santorum was saying. He added that he doesn't want kids to go to college because if they do they are going to be "taught by some liberal col-

lege professor trying to indoctrinate them."

Then on ABC's "This Week With George Stephanopoulos," Santorum opened up like he was on a psychiatrist's couch.

"You talk to most kids who go to college who are conservatives, and you are singled out, you are ridiculed, you are — I can tell you personally," Santorum said. "I went through a process where I was docked for my conservative views. This is sort of a regular routine. You know the statistic ... that 62 percent of kids who enter college with some sort of faith commitment leave without it. This is not a neutral setting."

I am not entirely sure what Santorum was venting about or what Satanic ritual he was made to undergo in college — paddling? beer pong? — but it obviously affected him deeply.

So much so that he left college convinced that the First Amendment was not only hooey, but stomach-turning. Literally.

Santorum says that John F. Kennedy's famous 1960 speech stating there should be an "absolute separation" of church and state in America "makes me throw up and it should make every American."

Santorum went on: "I don't believe in an America where the separation of church and state is absolute. The idea that the church can have no influence or no involvement in the operation of the state is absolutely antithetical to the objectives and vision of our country."

That is not a flub or a gaffe or an off-the-cuff remark. That is what Rick Santorum deeply believes and, moreover, what he believes "every American" should believe.

So you listen to Santorum. And you listen to Romney. And it sort of makes you not care how many Cadillacs Romney owns.

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

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DONALD KAUL



ROGER SIMON

Minority groups: New Texas voting maps 'devastate'

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Disheartened and angry over the latest Texas voting maps handed down by federal judges, Democrats and minority rights groups looked Wednesday to a separate court in Washington as their last likely hope of cutting deeper into a solid Republican majority in the 2012 elections.

The GOP stands poised to hardly lose any power under the latest Texas congressional and state House maps delivered this week by a San Antonio federal court, which confronted how the state's political boundaries should be changed with more than 3 million new Hispanic residents.

Minority rights groups who sued the state over the original maps — drawn by the Republican-controlled Legislature last summer — received from the court Tuesday what will likely be the maps used this election year. They slammed those maps as

a disaster, but with the twice-delayed Texas primaries on track for May 29, they also now face long odds of getting the lines redrawn yet again.

"This was a total devastation for the Latino community across Texas," said Luis Vera, attorney for the League of United Latin American Citizens.

Seeking to illustrate how poorly the maps were drawn, Vera met reporters at a San Antonio intersection where three separate congressional districts would converge. One district goes north 80 miles to Austin; across the street, another district begins that stretches more than 550 miles west to El Paso.

On Tuesday, LULAC joined with the NAACP and three other groups in asking the Washington court to expedite its ruling on whether the Texas Legislature's original maps violate the federal Voting Rights Act. They hope that a favorable ruling from

the Washington court will compel the San Antonio court to go back and alter districts ruled to be in violation.

The San Antonio court, however, is not bound to make changes to the 2012 maps based on what is handed down from the three-judge panel in Washington. In that scenario, Vera said the next step would be appealing to the U.S. Supreme Court, but even lawyers for the same minority groups acknowledge a victory there to be a longshot.

Under the court's latest map, Democrats say 11 of the state's 36 congressional seats would be minority-opportunity districts. A surge in population over the last decade awarded Texas four new congressional seats, which are likely to be evenly split among Republicans and Democrats.

Republicans largely cheered the maps as a victory. According to an analysis by the state GOP party, Republicans lost only one state House seat

from their original map and projected they could win as many 20 of the 31 state Senate seats.

In all, Republicans say they could win 100 out of 150 seats in the next state House election.

Another victory for Republicans is the increased likelihood of the May 29 primary sticking, giving the delegate-rich state a chance to remain relevant in the Republican presidential primary if Mitt Romney hasn't sewn up the nomination by then.

It's unclear when the Washington court will issue a ruling. But the timing is important because national party rules require primary elections be held by June 26. If the court doesn't act in time, this year's Texas elections would be held under the temporary maps proposed by the court in San Antonio.

The Texas primary was once considered the biggest prize of next week's Super

Tuesday, but the legal wrangling over redistricting has pushed the state's primary back twice — from March 6 to May 29.

The U.S. Supreme Court threw out the San Antonio court's first attempt to draw temporary maps because they didn't adhere closely enough to what the Legislature created. The court released a second set of maps on Tuesday following the Supreme Court's instructions.

Since the new congressional and state House maps are based on the Legislature's originals, the court-drawn maps reflect the same "intentional discrimination" of the Legislature's maps, the groups argued in the court filing Wednesday.

The Washington court has said it would probably rule sometime in March. If the courts accept the minority groups' argument, such a move could delay the Texas primaries back again.

► Texas briefs

Texas singer-horsewoman Annie Golightly dead at 80

CORSICANA, Texas (AP) — Annie Golightly, a singer and horsewoman who was the lone woman to ride with 30 cowboys on a six-month cattle drive from Texas to Montana, has died. She was 80.

Son Kenny Smith says she died Tuesday at a hospice in Corsicana.

The child of an East Texas cotton farmer was a songwriter and guitarist who performed with Tom T. Hall, Rex Allen and Rosemary Clooney. Her audiences included presidents Lyndon B. Johnson and Jimmy Carter, as well as singing cowboys Gene Autry and Roy Rogers.

Born Ann Milford, she said she adopted the name Golightly because "nobody could remember 'Ann Smith,'" her married name at the time.

Her late brother, Dale Milford, was a longtime television weatherman in Waco and Dallas and later elected to the U.S. House.

Man facing charges says dog killed his wife

GUNNISON, Colo. (AP) — A Texas businessman has pleaded not guilty to murdering his wife in southwest Colorado in 2008.

Frederick Mueller of San Angelo, Texas, is accused in the death of his wife, Leslie, in what her obituary had described as a hiking accident.

The Montrose Daily Press reports Mueller had told investigators his wife was standing near the edge of an embankment when her puppy was startled by a passing bluebird, and she lost her footing. He says she hit a granite slab below, then slid into a stream.

Investigators say Leslie Mueller's injuries weren't consistent with that story.

Frederick Mueller's attorneys say prosecutors have offered no proof he killed his wife.

He pleaded not guilty Wednesday. Another court date is set for March 14, when a trial date could be set.

Escapee from jail recaptured

BURNET, Texas (AP) — A convicted sex offender who escaped from a Central Texas jail has been caught.

Burnet County Jail officials say 40-year-old Johnny Ybarra escaped around midnight Wednesday. He was recaptured Thursday morning.

The Burnet County Sheriff's Office did not immediately provide further details.

Ybarra's trial had started when he pleaded guilty last month to three counts of sexual assault involving three women during 2011. Prosecutors say Ybarra was sentenced to three life prison terms, to be served concurrently.

Survivors of 1942 sinking of USS Houston to gather

HOUSTON (AP) — Survivors of the World War II sinking of the USS Houston will gather in Texas this weekend to remember their fallen comrades.

Thursday was the 70th anniversary of the sinking

off Java by the Japanese fleet.

The Houston Chronicle reports the ship carried 1,068 crewmen, but less than 300 survived the sinking and being prisoners of war.

Howard Brooks was an electrician's mate on the USS Houston during World War II. Brooks leaped from the burning warship and made it to a raft. He was captured by the Japanese and spent more than three years as a POW.

The 92-year-old veteran from Mount Laurel, N.J., plans to attend the reunion in Houston. Brooks says it's been a "very quick 70 years" since the sinking.

Prison for Mexican man over Houston hostages case

HOUSTON (AP) — A fourth man will head to prison over a 2009 hostage incident in Houston.

A federal judge in Houston on Wednesday sentenced 26-year-old Evaristo Guzman of Mexico to more than 11 years in prison. Guzman had pleaded guilty to conspiracy to take hostages.

Investigators say a Houston man and his son were in a vehicle when they were cut off and abducted on Oct. 19, 2009. The victims were driven to Fresno, bound and guarded as their abductors tried to extort \$500,000 from relatives.

FBI agents rescued the pair the following day.

Guzman's hometown was not immediately available. Prosecutors say a man from Honduras and two men from Mexico who also pleaded guilty to conspiracy were sentenced earlier to prison.

West Texas official in federal drug case resigns

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — A West Texas elected official facing federal drug trafficking charges has quit after being released from jail.

El Paso County Commissioner Willie Gandara Jr. was freed Wednesday afternoon on \$50,000 bond.

Gandara then offered his resignation, which was accepted by County Judge Veronica Escobar. She'll name a replacement to complete Gandara's term, which runs through the end of the year.

Gandara, who was elected in 2008, declined comment after his release.

Gandara was arrested Feb. 22. He's charged with conspiracy to possess marijuana with intent to distribute, possession with intent to distribute marijuana and three counts of maintaining property for distribution of marijuana.

Law enforcement surveillance audio and video played during Gandara's detention hearing Tuesday allegedly featured him bragging about running a drug operation.

Closings set for soldier accused of spreading HIV

ABILENE, Texas (AP) — A jury is to hear closing arguments in the trial of a soldier accused of knowingly spreading the human immunodeficiency virus to an Abilene woman.

See TEXAS, Page 6

Drought twists bird migrations

MAD ISLAND, Texas (AP) — Strange things are aloft in the bird world.

Endangered whooping cranes flew 2,500 miles from Canada to Texas, where they usually spend the whole winter. Instead, they pecked around for a short time and flew back. In Nebraska, other cranes never left.

Some ducks just kept flying south — all the way to Belize in central America. And a snowy owl was spotted near Dallas, only the sixth time that's ever happened.

Throughout the winter, scientists have noticed these and other examples of bizarre bird migrations — a result, they believe, of flocks becoming desperate for food and habitat becoming increasingly scarce because of the stubborn drought in Texas. The unusually mild winter in the Northeast and Midwest has even persuaded some birds they could stay put, fly shorter distances or turn back north earlier than normal.

"We have birds scattered all over the place looking for habitat right now," said Richard Kostecke, a bird expert and associate director of conservation, research and planning at the Nature Conservancy in Texas.

The concerns go beyond a few lost flocks. Migratory birds often use the winter months to rest, eat and gain energy for the long journey back to their nesting grounds, so biologists

can only guess at the effects of this season's peculiar movements.

What will happen if the birds' diets are altered or if they expend too much energy? What if they fail to migrate at all? Will they still be able to breed after a stressful winter?

"You may see a cascade of impacts," Kostecke said. "We don't know exactly where things will end up."

In a typical winter, the Texas Gulf Coast is packed with tens of thousands of birds — songbirds, waterfowl, catbirds, gnatcatchers, warblers and other migrants. But this year, an annual count done just before Christmas found the population had dropped steeply.

Geese, for example, were 61 percent below their 19-year average. Dabbling ducks dropped 43 percent, diving ducks 60 percent and spoon-bills 74 percent.

Part of the problem is lack of food. The drought — the worst one-year dry spell in Texas history — parched thousands of acres of wetlands along the coast.

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ANSWERS

6	5	3	4	1	8	2	9	7
9	8	2	5	3	7	4	1	6
4	7	1	9	2	6	3	5	8
3	4	5	7	6	9	1	8	2
1	2	8	3	4	5	7	6	9
7	6	9	1	8	2	5	3	4
2	1	4	8	9	3	6	7	5
8	3	7	6	5	4	9	2	1
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Senate puts members on record for or against Obama law requiring free birth control

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate is considering GOP legislation aimed at rolling back President Barack Obama's policy on birth control coverage.

At issue is a measure sponsored by Sen. Roy Blunt of Missouri that would allow employers and insurers to opt out of provisions in Obama's health care law to which they object on religious or moral grounds. That includes the recently rewritten requirement that insurers cover the cost of birth control, even for religiously affiliated employers whose faith forbids contraception.

"The word 'contraception' is not in (the legislation) because it's not about a specific procedure," Blunt said. "It's about a faith principle that the First Amendment guarantees."

But Democrats, trying this election year to hold onto support from female and independent voters, said the measure was really an effort to erode women's rights generally and access to contraception in particular.

"When the other side tries so hard to claim this debate isn't contraception, that's how you know this debate is precisely about contraception," Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said.

Passengers disembark disabled cruise ship

VICTORIA, Seychelles (AP) — Hot and tired passengers disembarking from a disabled cruise ship Thursday in the Seychelles said they had prepared to abandon ship when fire broke out in the engine room three days ago, leaving the vessel adrift in waters prowled by pirates.

Life boats were even lowered, passengers said. Austrian Thomas Foaller said some passengers began to panic. Couples that were separated were calling out to each other, he said.

Among them were American couple Gordon and Eleanor Bradwell of Athens, Georgia. They were separated when Eleanor went to the couple's room to get a life vest. A crew member had handed the 72-year-old Gordon his own.

But the fire that broke out Monday was brought under control and the more than 1,000 people wound up staying aboard the Costa Allegra, which suddenly had no engine power, no air conditioning and no running water for showers or toilets.

Eleanor Bradwell said that the initial response to the alarm seemed to be disorganized but overall she and her husband felt the shipping line had handled the emergency well.

APNewsBreak: Senior NKorean nuclear envoy heading to New York on heels of breakthrough deal

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — A senior North Korean nuclear negotiator is heading to New York next week on the heels of a breakthrough nuclear agreement with the United States, a person with knowledge of the negotiations between Washington and Pyongyang told The Associated Press on Thursday.

Word of Ri Yong Ho's visit follows announcements in both capitals Wednesday of an agreement calling for the U.S. to provide food aid in exchange for a suspension of uranium enrichment and a moratorium on nuclear and long-range-missile tests by North Korea.

The agreement, announced two months after the death of longtime leader Kim Jong Il, raises hopes of a major easing in nuclear tensions under his son and successor, Kim Jong Un. It's seen as a prelimi-

nary but necessary step to restarting broader six-nation disarmament negotiations that North Korea abandoned in 2009.

The deal also serves as the strongest sign yet that the foreign policy laid out in the final years of Kim Jong Il's rule — with improved relations with the U.S. as a key goal — will be carried out by his young son. Shortly before Kim Jong Il's death was announced, the AP reported that a deal similar to the one announced this week was imminent.

A return to negotiations before the end of the semiofficial 100-day mourning period suggests stability and continuity during the closely watched transition of leadership in North Korea.

Davy Jones, who rose to fame as lead singer of The Monkees, dies

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Before there was MTV, before "American Idol" made overnight stars of people you never heard of, there was "The Monkees," a band fronted by a diminutive singer named Davy Jones who was so boyishly good looking that teenage girls swooned the first time they ever saw him.

That was at the end of the summer of 1966, when Jones and his three Monkee cohorts, Michael Nesmith, Peter Tork and Micky Dolenz, arrived on weekly television, portraying a carbon copy of another band called the Beatles.

Each Monday night for the next two years, people would tune into NBC to see the comical trials and tribulations of four young musicians who toiled around in a tricked-out car called the Monkeemobile. When they weren't introducing two or three new songs per show, they would be busy rescuing damsels in distress or being chased by bumbling outlaws in a comical display of slapstick that has sometimes been compared to the work of the Marx Brothers.

Although all four members handled the lead vocals during their music videos, it was Jones, the onetime child star of the British musical stage, who quickly became the group's heartthrob. With his boyish good looks and endearing British accent augmented by a strong, Broadway-trained singing voice, it was a role he would play for the rest of his life.

Jones died Wednesday of a heart attack near his home in Indiantown, Fla., just months after he, Tork and Dolenz had completed a tour marking The Monkees' 45th anniversary. He was 66.

Snowe's retirement, Kerrey's entrance highlight new optimism in Democrats' bid to hold Senate

WASHINGTON (AP) — Back-to-back surprises — Maine Sen. Olympia Snowe is retiring and former Nebraska Sen. Bob Kerrey is running again — have given Democrats a burst of optimism that they can hold on to control of the Senate, a goal that seemed to be slipping from reach just weeks ago.

The decisions this week by Snowe, a Republican, and Kerrey, a Democrat, put two seats Democrats were prepared to write off in 2012 back into play. Those developments, combined with positive indicators for Democrats like an improving economy and President Barack Obama's higher standing in polls, have some sensing a shift in the environment.

"Things have changed so much that Democrats' prospects of keeping the Senate are at least 50-50 now, if not better than that," said Geoff Garin, a Democratic strategist and pollster.

To be sure, Democrats must overcome challenges to compete aggressively in both Maine and Nebraska. Time is running short to recruit a strong Democratic candidate in Maine, and Kerrey will be forced to answer for his years away from Nebraska.

Despite those hurdles, Democrats now see three clear pickup opportunities in 2012, in Maine, Nevada and Massachusetts. Party officials also hope races in Indiana and North Dakota could become competitive. Kerrey, a former governor, two-term senator and presidential candidate, gives Democrats a prominent candidate to put up for a seat

they were prepared to concede when Sen. Ben Nelson announced his retirement and Kerrey initially passed on the race.

Israel unveils sophisticated shelters in Tel Aviv, a likely Iran target

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Underneath the plaza outside Israel's Habima national theater, Israel has put the finishing touches on a new gathering place that it hopes will never host a crowd: the country's most advanced public underground bomb shelter.

The shelter, four stories underground and with space for 1,600 people, is usually a parking lot. It is also part of Tel Aviv's elaborate civil defense infrastructure. City officials have been beefing up shelters and emergency services in recent months at a time of rising tensions with Iran and militant groups in the Gaza Strip.

Recent talk of conflict with Iran has given the safety measures extra relevance.

Officials say the timing is coincidental. Israel is under constant threat from hostile groups on its northern and southern frontiers. Security forces run frequent safety drills, cities are equipped with public air-raid shelters, and new apartments must have bombproof rooms.

Israeli leaders have hinted they may mount a strike against Iran's nuclear facilities, even as American military leaders urge Israel to wait for tough economic sanctions to take effect.

Life under lockdown: China tightly patrols Tibetan town's roads, minds after self-immolations

ABA, China (AP) — China's stifling lockdown of this Tibetan town has not only been about patrolling its sleepy streets, but also policing the minds of a community at the center of self-immolation protests against Chinese rule.

Soldiers with helmets, rifles, sticks and shields march in rows along this monastery town's main road against a backdrop of snow-speckled mountains, while police stare at passing cars, scanning license plates and faces of passengers for unwelcome visitors. In school dormitory rooms in the county, there are random checks for books that go against the ruling Communist Party establishment — and the constant questions about political leanings.

"They'll ask you questions and if you answer with your true feelings, they will be very unhappy. If you keep quiet, they will also be unhappy," said a Tibetan who teaches at a school in Aba county and who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of government reprisals.

"They want you to say that the party is good and their policies are good," he added.

Teachers also are banned from making any mention — positive or negative — of the Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama.

Deadline looms for possible charges against teen suspect in Ohio school shooting that killed 3

CHARDON, Ohio (AP) — The deadline to file charges in a fatal Ohio high school shooting loomed as students still reeling from the slaying of three teenagers planned a march to return to their school.

A judge said prosecutors had until Thursday to file charges against the suspect, T.J. Lane, a thin, quiet 17-year-old accused of opening fire on a group of students sitting at a cafeteria table at 1,100-student Chardon High School on Monday. Three students died, and two were seriously wounded.

A prosecutor has said Lane, who is in custody, will probably be charged with three counts of aggravated murder and other offenses. Prosecutors are expected to ask that he be tried as an adult.

Longtime neighbors and friends on Wednesday expressed disbelief at how Lane could be the suspect, describing a boy from a broken family who had struggled in school but appeared to improve once he began staying with his grandparents.

TEXAS

Continued from Page 5

Johnathan McCain is accused of spreading the virus in 2009 to a woman stationed at Dyess Air Force Base near Abilene. The Abilene Reporter-News reports the Fort Sill, Okla.-based soldier testified Tuesday that the woman knew he had the virus that causes AIDS when they had unprotected sex. The woman, now 33, denies McCain's testimony.

If convicted of aggravated assault, McCain could be sentenced to two to 20 years in prison.

Penalty phase opens in ex-guard's scalding trial


SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Testimony is to begin in the penalty phase of the San Antonio trial of a former prison guard convicted of injury to a child in the scalding of his girlfriend's son.

The San Antonio Express-News reports the Bexar County jury will begin hearing evidence Thursday on the punishment of 31-year-old Henry Benson.

That's after jurors deliberated for more than 16 hours over three days before finding him guilty Wednesday of recklessly causing injury to the 3-year-old boy after he soiled himself.

The jury could sentence him to up to 20 years in prison.

The child was taken to the hospital with severe burns on his feet and a shin in 2009.



Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Self-Preservation

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH		EAST	
♠ A 7		♠ 9 5	
♥ Q 10 4		♥ A J 9 7 6	
♦ K Q J 9 7 4		♦ A 10 5 2	
♣ 10 8		♣ 3 2	
WEST		SOUTH	
♠ 10 8 6 3 2		♠ K Q J 4	
♥ 8 2		♥ K 5 3	
♦ 8 6		♦ 3	
♣ K 7 5 4		♣ A Q J 9 6	

The bidding:
 South West North East
 1♣ Pass 1♦ 1♥
 1♠ Pass 3♦ Pass
 3NT

Opening lead — eight of hearts.

Declarer must always view the play of the hand as a whole rather than focusing on each trick as a problem in its own right.

Consider this case where South arrives at three notrump on the bidding shown, and West leads the eight of hearts. The question is which heart declarer should play from dummy to the first trick.

South should resolve this question by referring to the bidding and the overall layout of the hand. Observe what happens if declarer unthinkingly plays, say, the ten of hearts at

trick one.

East covers with the jack, and South wins with the king. Declarer then presumably leads a diamond to the king, taken by East's ace. East returns a club, and the contract is down whether South finesses or not. If he finesses, he goes down two after West wins with the king and returns a heart; if he doesn't finesse, the best he can do is to cash out for down one.

The result is the same if declarer plays the four of hearts from dummy at trick one. East ducks, and the rest of the play is identical.

The winning play is not that difficult to find, given the circumstances. East is known to have at least a five-card heart suit, and West is obviously leading his top heart. South can therefore go a long way toward neutralizing East's hearts by playing the queen from dummy at trick one.

East must take the queen with the ace — otherwise declarer will score two heart tricks instead of one. After taking the ace, however, East cannot return a heart without allowing dummy's ten to take a trick. Whatever East shifts to, declarer has time to develop his clubs and so finish with nine tricks consisting of four clubs, four spades and a heart. The diamond suit need never be touched.

Once the threat of East's hearts has been defused, South has nothing to worry about.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.
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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.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Crossroads softball tourney begins



Courtesy photo

Forsan's Ashley Buzbee, shown in action earlier this season, and the Lady Buffaloes will be among 28 area softball teams competing in Big Spring High School's Tournament At The Crossroads, which runs through Saturday at the Roy Anderson Complex.

28 teams converge on Big Spring for three-day event

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Local softball lovers will find themselves close to nirvana starting today.

Thirty teams from across West Texas, including the host Big Spring Lady Steers and the Forsan Lady Buffaloes, will converge on the Roy Anderson Complex for the three-day Tournament At The Crossroads, which runs through Saturday.

The Lady Steers (5-5) will open play in Pool C, along with Alpine, Jim Ned, Fort Stockton, Odessa Permian and Lubbock Estacado. Forsan will play in Pool B, which also includes Andrews, Midland Lee junior varsity, Levelland, Hawley and Odessa.

Other teams which will participate include:

- Pool A — Clyde, Sweetwater, Lubbock Cooper, Midland Christian,

Monahans and San Angelo Central

- Pool D — Colorado City, Breckenridge, Odessa High School junior varsity, Lamesa, Snyder and Westbrook.

- Pool E — Permian JV, Monahans, JV, Levelland JV, Midland JV, Andrews JV and a team to be announced.

Pool play will be held Thursday. Games will be limited to 55 minutes (or four complete innings).

Friday's "mini-bracket" games will be 80 minutes, with a 10-run mercy rule after five innings (or 15 runs after three innings) in effect. Those game rules will also be applicable for Saturday's championship bracket play.

Big Spring was scheduled to face Permian at 8 a.m. today, followed

See **TOURNEY**, Page 12

Tiger fires back over book

By **DOUG FERGUSON**

AP Golf Writer

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. — It didn't take long for Tiger Woods to go on the attack in his first trip to the Honda Classic in nearly 20 years. But he was in the press room, not on the golf course.

His road to the Masters is not off to a smooth start.

After closing out 2011 with a birdie-birdie finish to win the Chevron World Challenge against an 18-man field, there were high hopes for Woods going into the new season. And the way he has hit the ball, there is reason for optimism.

But he failed to close out a win in Abu Dhabi with a share of the 54-hole lead

against Robert Rock. In the second-to-last group at Pebble Beach while paired with Phil Mickelson, he closed with a 75. The putter is getting attention, especially after missing a 5-footer on the last hole to get eliminated in the second round of the Match Play Championship.

And now, excerpts from Hank Haney's book on his six years as Woods' swing coach are starting to be released.

So when he was asked about the relentless scrutiny of his swing, his putting, just about everything, Woods fired the first volley.

"Yeah, I know," he said. "I think you're one of the guys that does that, too."

There was nervous

laughter before Woods continued.

"It's part of who I am and what I've accomplished," he said. "I think it would have been probably similar if Jack (Nicklaus) was probably in my generation. Didn't quite have the media scrutiny that they do now. And it's just a different deal and I know that a lot of players don't get the same analysis with their games that I do. But it's been like that since I turned pro."

When questions turned to the book, Woods grew testy.

Haney's book, "The Big Miss," is scheduled for release March 27, the week before the Masters. Golf Digest on Tuesday began to release excerpts

through its tablet applications, and in one of them, Haney details Woods' fascination with the military, particularly the Navy SEALs.

"I was beginning to realize that his sentiment ran deep, and that as incredible as it seemed, Tiger was seriously considering becoming a Navy SEAL," Haney wrote, referring to the summer of 2007. "I didn't know how he'd go about it, but when he talked about, it was clear that he had a plan. After finding out that the Navy SEAL age limit is 28, I asked Tiger about his being too old to join. 'It's not a problem,' he said. 'They're making

See **TIGER**, Page 12

Sports Calendar

TODAY

Baseball

Big Spring at Snyder tournament, TBA.

Coahoma at Crane tournament, TBA.

Midland Classical at Forsan, 1 p.m.

Howard College at Odessa College (DH), 1 p.m.

Softball

Big Spring and Forsan at Big Spring tournament, TBA.

Women's basketball

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

Men's basketball

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

FRIDAY

Baseball

Big Spring at Snyder tournament, TBA.

Coahoma at Crane tournament, TBA.

Softball

Big Spring and Forsan at Big Spring tournament, TBA.

Boy's basketball

Grady vs. Nazareth, Region I-1A Div. II tournament, 1 p.m., South Plains College, Levelland.

Sands vs. Texline, Region I-1A Div. II tournament, 2:30 p.m., South Plains College, Levelland.

Garden City vs. Graford, Region II-1A Div. II tournament, 7 p.m., Abilene Christian University, Abilene.

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

Longhorns outlast Oklahoma

By **JIM VERTUNO**

AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN — A freshman may have saved Texas' season.

Sheldon McClellan scored a career-high 24 points and Texas rallied to a 72-64 win over Oklahoma on Wednesday night, avoiding what could have been a devastating blow to the Longhorns' NCAA tournament hopes.

McClellan's 3-pointer gave Texas (19-11, 9-8) its first lead, 59-58, with about six minutes left. He also had a dunk in an 8-0 Texas burst in the final three minutes that opened a comfortable lead.

The win guarantees Texas will finish at least .500 in the Big 12, a critical mark for a team hoping to make its 14th consecutive tournament appearance. Texas closes the regular season Saturday

at No. 3 Kansas, where it has won only once before.

After a nervous start that included letting a pass go between his legs and out of bounds, McClellan was 10 of 18 shooting in just 29 minutes on the court. He kept Texas in the game in the first half and made big plays in the second to help them win it down the stretch.

"I got discouraged in the first half when I missed early shots, but the coaches told me to keep shooting, and that's what I did in the second half," McClellan said.

Texas has let several close games slip away this season but held on twice in the last week to win ones they simply could not afford to lose. The Longhorns survived an overtime win over Texas Tech and got pushed to the limit by the Sooners before finally clinching the victory.

Coach Rick Barnes called his team together during a second-half timeout and told them what was on the line.

"You've got 16 minutes that might define your whole year right here. If we don't defend, I can tell you the result right now," Barnes said. "They fought through it and got things done. ... If we're good enough, we'll be where we need to be. March is a great time. This is when you've got to want to play."

J'Covan Brown, the Big 12's leading scorer, added 22 points for the Longhorns, who at one point trailed by 12.

"We've got to continue this ride," said Texas freshman point guard Myck Kabongo, who scored just one point but finished with nine assists. He also had three steals, including one that led to McClellan's late dunk.

U.S. soccer team earns rare victory over Italy, 1-0

GENOA, Italy (AP) — The United States and its latest coach have a signature victory. Against four-time world champion Italy, no less.

Gaining a rare win over a soccer power, the United States beat Italy 1-0 Wednesday night on Clint Dempsey's goal in the 55th minute for

the Americans' first win over the Azzurri in 11 games spanning 78 years.

"It's just a confidence builder," Dempsey said. "We're just trying to move in the right direction and trying to get as sharp as we can for the summer and the World Cup qualifying

games because the goal is to qualify for the World Cup. It's important to come to places like this and play big teams on their own soil and get results. At times it wasn't pretty, but we grounded out the result tonight."

American players applauded each other

and their fans, who cheered loudly and proudly waved the red, white and blue after Jurgen Klinsmann's biggest win as U.S. coach.

Klinsmann, the former German national team star player and coach who has lived in California for

more than a decade, replaced the fired Bob Bradley last summer. The Americans won their fourth straight match with their third consecutive shutout to improve to 5-4-1 under Klinsmann.

"It's historic for us beating a team of Italy's level," Klinsmann said.

"If you beat Italy on your own soil then that means a lot. ... Obviously as a coach you're pleased because you see them progressing, you see young players stepping up and playing against these amazing, experienced Italian

See **SOCCER**, Page 12

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Announcements

RATTLESNAKES

AMBUC'S
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for Big Spring,
Rattlesnake Roundup.
We will be buying
Fridays at 6PM.
Call (432)213-6802 or
(432)270-8783
for directions or
more information.

Garage Sales

2924 MELROSE (Coronado area) Friday 3:00p-5:00p and Saturday 8:00a-Noon. Good clothes, ski clothes, Noritake China, Mikasa pottery, silver plate and crystal platters, bowls, antique embroidered table clothes, much more.

GARAGE SALE: 1514 E. 18th (behind Harris Lumber) Friday & Saturday 8am-? Tools, antiques, coke items, yearbooks, platform scale, misc. items.

GARAGE SALE: 2604 Lynn, Saturday Only 8-3. Clothing, glassware, books and lots more.

MOVING SALE: 2700 Larry Drive, Saturday 8am to Noon. Compound bow, BBQ smoker on wheels, flower pots, new shower curtains, pictures & frames, glass vases, knife collection, vintage John Deere toys, 1978 Plymouth Road Runner, 20 years of stuff!!!

Help Wanted

APPLICATOR DRIVER

Helena Chemical Company, a national agricultural-chemical company, has an immediate opening for spray applicator driver. Class A- CDL license and farm experience helpful; but will consider training. Requires high school diploma or equivalent. We offer an excellent working environment and outstanding compensation and benefits package. For consideration, please apply in person: Helena Chemical Company 100 S. St. Peter Stanton, TX 79782 Pre-employment drug screen required.
EOE
M/F/V/H

BIG DOG RIG Movers is looking for Truck Pusher, Fork Lift Operator, Gin Truck Driver, Poil Truck Driver & Slickback Driver. Great Pay with benefits. Must live in Howard County. Apply in person at 309 East IH-20, Big Spring. EOE.

BUFFALO COUNTRY taking application for Assistant Manager & Sales Clerk (all shifts). Experience required. Must apply in person 4911 South Hwy. 87 ask for Salitta. No Phone Calls.

CARING HEARTS Home Health is accepting resumes for a RN. We offer Freedom of flexible scheduling, paper work made easier with lap top and a pleasant environment. Bilingual a plus. One year of experience required. Prior Home Health experience preferred. Fax resumes to (432)714-4511 or come by 1900 Scurry Street.

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Help Wanted

COASTAL TRANSPORT is seeking **Owner-operators** with a Class A CDL. Must be 23 years, X endorsement. For More Information, Call 877-314-0700 between 9am-4pm, Monday-Friday.

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We are now hiring drivers to deliver petroleum products in and around the Permian Basin. Qualifications:
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Please contact
1-888-527-7221

COCKTAIL WAITRESSES. Outgoing & Enthusiastic? No experience necessary. Must be 18 or older. Call 432-213-0946 for application, San Franciscan Bar & Grill.

DAY CAMP Worker Needed at The Boys & Girls Club. Must have outgoing personality, patience, & love children. Apply at The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club, 811 West 5th.

DELIVERY, ASSEMBLY, clean-up, etc. Must have valid driver's license & good driving record. Apply at Branham Furniture, 2004 West 4th.

DO YOU Enjoy Serving others in a Christian Positive Environment? Beans World Cafe and Coffee House is looking for flexible persons for Waitstaff/Coffee barista and Cooks/Kitchen help. All volunteers receive daily cash tips and free lunch. Apply at 100 Main Street (in the box car) ask for Michelle. M-F.



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EXTRA MONEY Work 5:00A.M. -7:30AM or 6:30AM -1:30 PM at Jack & Jill Child Care. Later hours also available. Apply in person at 1708 Nolan.

NEW HOPE Christian School is hiring substitute and part time teachers at this time. Apply in person at 118 Cedar Road. Prefer at least 1-year experience in a licensed child-care facility.

Also are looking for someone to work in Church nursery on Wed. evenings and Sunday mornings. Apply at 118 Cedar Rd.

Help Wanted



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Now hiring! 48 hours per week guaranteed. Customer Service & sales skills a plus. Apply in person at 1900 Gregg St., Big Spring, Texas 79720 or apply online at www.rentacenter.com

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GENERAL MAINTENANCE: Must have a desire to work in a team environment and the ability to follow directions. Must have at least 1 yr maintenance experience. Abilities to include: painting experience; general plumbing, general sheetrock repair and texture and HVAC skills. Must have own tools, ability to take afterhours and weekend calls; valid TX drivers license and liability insurance. Apply in person at Bent Tree Apartments, 1 Courtney Place.

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IMMEDIATE OPENING for Driver/ Delivery Warehouseman. Must have Texas Drivers License and Clean Record. **APPLY IN PERSON** Allan's Gallery of Furniture, 202 Scurry, Big Spring.

IPREMS IS looking for fugitive emission technicians to work in Big Spring refinery. Pay start at \$11 to \$12 an hour. Go to website www.iprems.com to download an application and fax it to 281-488-9729.

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NOW HIRING Concrete Finishers in Big Spring (local project). Contact Tony Alvarez Construction 1-806-548-2335 for more info.

Help Wanted

MANAGER/ TRAINEE person needed for local Furniture and Appliance Store. Bilingual and outgoing personality a plus. All inquires are to be made in person at 1611 South Gregg, Big Spring.

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PART-TIME MAINT Tech needed for property in Big Spring. Applicant must have strong organizational skills and enjoy working outdoors. 20 hrs/week plus Vacation. Fax resume to (432)264-1761.

Help Wanted



OIL COMPANY looking for an experienced lease pumper to operate 3 small fields. Must have computer experience using Excel. Must have min. of 5 yrs experience taking care of disposal systems, pumping wells, chemical pumps, heaters, FWKO's, handle call out's, must turn in daily production & work with P.O. system. Please call Bruce @ 832-613-3809. Experienced only need apply.



PARKS FUELS needs Car Wash Attendant. Good Starting Salary plus tips. Apply at 303 East 1st Street.

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PECOS GATHERING and Marketing L.L.C. is hiring Crude Oil Haulers. \$15,000.00 sign on bonus. Need hazmat and CDL. Pay is at the top of the industry (will match written offers), full benefits and matching IRA. 5 day work week, 3 days off, home every night! Will train qualified candidates. For more information call Jack Merrill at 432-557-8249.

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THE COLORADO River Municipal Water District, regional raw water supplier for the Permian Basin, is accepting applications for following position in the Big Spring Area.

Operations Maintenance Technician- Responsible for maintaining the District's raw water pipelines, pump stations, and wells in the Big Spring Area. 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 our website www.crmwd.org

THE COLORADO River Municipal Water District, regional raw water supplier for the Permian Basin, is accepting applications for following position for Lake Thomas area.

Park Maintenance Technician- Responsible for general maintenance of park and facilities. 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 St., Big Spring, Texas 79720, by calling (432)267-6341 or www.crmwd.org

THE SALVATION Army boys & girls club is seeking Program Coordinator Monday-Friday. Child development experience necessary. Apply at 811 West 5th.

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Secretary/ Receptionist with Quick Book experience preferred, but will train. Salary DOE. Please send resume/ application to P.O. Box 2684, Big Spring TX. 79721.

SECURITY OFFICERS Needed for Hospital Federal Inmate Protection detail. All positions are Part-time and PRN.

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Experience Requirements: One year (2040) hours of experience in the armed forces or coast guard which involved significant performance of guard duty of detainees or prisoners; or the equivalent experience in a federal, state, or local government, or private organization which involved protecting/police duties, or college level training in courses such as corrections or police science may be substituted for experience at the ratio of two hours of instructions for one hour of experience.
Apply at Workforce Center (1001 Birdwell Ln., Howard College- Charles Warren Bld. 106), KEYWORD: PARAGON. EOE.

TOT STOP Learning Center is now hiring for experienced classroom workers. Must be at least 18 yrs old and have a GED or High School Diploma. Apply in person at 2009 S. Main St.

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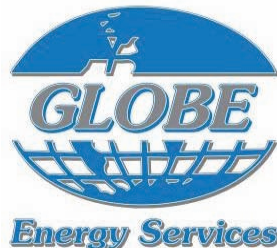
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Many professional organizations have laid claim to the month of March, declaring various focuses for the third month of the year. Whether you choose to acknowledge International Mirth Month, National Craft Month, Sleep Awareness Week, March Into Literacy Month (or None of the Above month), the trendy Gemini moon ushers in the new.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You will find yourself in less than inspiring circumstances. The lack of stimuli presents a chance to daydream about pleasant places or recall a happy memory.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Just as every item you own needs a place where it belongs, every person in your life fulfills a role. You feel the roles shifting in interesting ways now. It's as though your emotional life is getting reorganized.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Frustration is only a dead end if it causes you to quit. Don't give up. Just because things aren't coming together easily doesn't mean they won't come together at all. The next solution you try may work like a charm.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You like it when silly things happen. It makes for a good story later. There are people in your life who thrill to hear your stories, by the way. Call one of them tonight.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll give thought as to

the functionality of things in your life. If they don't serve an obvious purpose, you'll be in just the kind of mood to lighten your load and throw them out.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Time is one of the worst things to lose or waste, because there's no way to get it back. That's why it's important to think ahead, make the best arrangements you can make and bring something to do while you wait.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Responsibilities come into play. You'll do what it takes to maintain your lifestyle and relationships. You'll take care of the things you own, and they will work for you for many years to come.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll enjoy your time alone today and realize how truly comfortable you are in your own company. It will be easier to be a good friend to others when you're first a good friend to yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). To outsiders, you may appear to be easygoing, but you have a pensive side, too. You are most discerning in matters pertaining to how you look, where you go and what you put in your mouth.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're even more powerful than usual, so be careful what you think about. Your thoughts have a way of becoming realities rather quickly. Fill your head with the outcomes you think you'd most like to occur.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Shake off the early morning's dreamy mood, and get busy.

Everyone knows that "someday" never comes — probably because it doesn't exist. There is only today. Make concrete plans, and act on them.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Matters of scale will have a bearing on your situation. You can't play small for big goals. You'll go home with the prize if and only if the size of your game matches the game you're in.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 1). A burden will be lifted in the next few weeks. Giving credit where credit is due will bring luck. Often this will involve honoring the spiritual aspects of your life and the many ways love shows up in your world. Nature brings joy and healing through the spring. June brings an eye-opening journey. Aquarius and Leo people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 40, 42, 35, 28 and 19.

COSMIC

CONFIDENCE: In the age of Facebook and YouTube, there are more opportunities than ever before to project yourself in a public forum. Whether in interpersonal dealings or in presenting yourself to the world at large, your astrological sign offers unique insight to help you gain the confident edge that will make others take notice and give you the right kind of attention. So what's your cosmic advantage?

CANCER: Your likeability factor is high because you wear your heart on your sleeve and most people can relate to your emotional journey. You're also warm and welcoming with a tendency to make others feel at home. Your lack of

pretention is disarming, and it helps people open up to the degree that confidence is no longer an issue. You bring things to the human level — people relating to people — and therefore, the need to impress or persuade is trumped by the need to understand and be understood.

There will be instances in which your natural inclinations won't be enough to get the situation in order. When it's your turn to perform a presentation, give a speech or deliver difficult news, other skills will come into play. In those instances, practice and repetition help you come across just right.

CELEBRITY

PROFILES: Avid Justin Bieber fans call themselves "Beliebers" these days, and they are excitedly awaiting many appearances by this young pop star, including his hosting debut on "Saturday Night Live." Bieber's natal sun, Venus and Saturn are in Pisces, the sign of old souls. Mercury is in musical Aquarius, and Uranus and Neptune are in the hardworking, business-oriented sign of Capricorn.

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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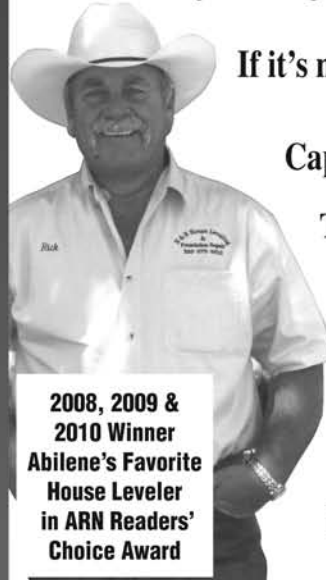
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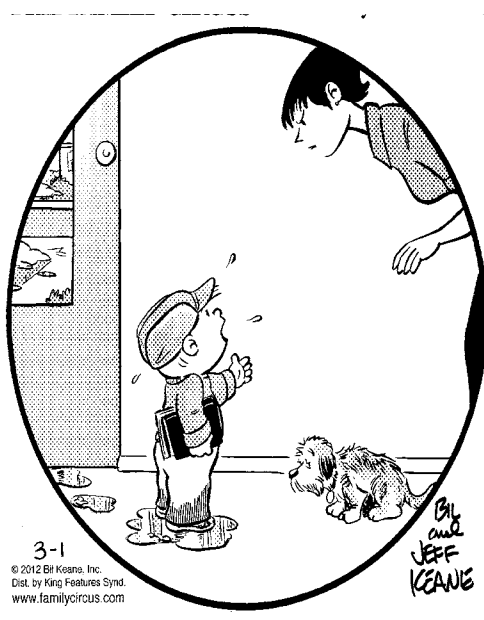
	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWTT (14) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5:PM	News ABC	Alma Notic.	Two Men	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News	King	Israel Andrew	Charlie Rose	'Til Death King	Cash Cab	CSI: Miami	Jail	Bones	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Shake It Good	NFL.32	SportsCenter
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Una Familia con Suerte (SS)	Big Bang	News Ent	Caso Cer-rado	News	Seinfeld	Dr. Wil	PBS News-Hour	Seinfeld	Dirty Jobs	CSI: Miami	Jail	Bones	Movie: National Security, Colm Feore	Good	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	College Basketball: Teams TBA.
7:PM	Wipeout		American Idol	Big Bang	Una Maid en	30 Rock	Fam. Guy	Upd	Travel Parks	The Vampire Diaries	Dirty Jobs	Movie: The Godfather, Part II, Diane Keaton	Jail	NBA Basket-ball: Thunder at Magic	Movie: Sky High	Jessie	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	College Basketball: Teams TBA.
8:PM	Grey's Anatomy	El Talismán (SS)		Person of Interest	Flor Salvaje (SS)	Office	Big Bang	Light of the Southwest	This Old House Hr	Supernatural	U.S. Drug Wars		IMPACT Wrestling		Movie: Notorious, Jamal Woolard	Fish	College Basketball: Teams TBA.	College Basketball: Teams TBA.
9:PM	(:02) Private Practice	La Que No	Simpsons	The Mental-ist	Relaciones Peli	Awake	Big Bang		Frontline	Cops	First Week In			NBA Basket-ball: Miami Heat at Portland Trail Blazers.	Good	College Basketball	SportsCenter	
10:PM	News Nightline	Impacto	How I Met	News	Noticias Titulares	News	Conan	Dr. Diana	Charlie Rose	'Til Death King	U.S. Drug Wars				Wendy Williams	College Basketball	SportsCenter	
11:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Hasta-Dinero	Law Order: CI	Late	Decisions (SS)	Late Night	Conan	Sala	World	T. Smiley	First Week In				Wizards	SportsCenter		
12:AM	Extra	Mañana-Siempre	Fam. Guy	Insider	Pagado	News		Upd	Conan	Roseanne	Dirty Jobs	Movie: The Godfather, Part II, Diane Keaton	Jail	Inside the NBA	Movie: National Security, Colm Feore	Good	NFL Live	SportsCenter
1:AM	Paid	La Jaula	American	Ent	Pagado	(:06) Today	Seinfeld	Light of the Southwest		ACTIVE Influence	Dirty Jobs		Entourage	Rizzoli & Isles	ANT Farm	SportsNation	SportsCenter	

DENNIS THE MENACE



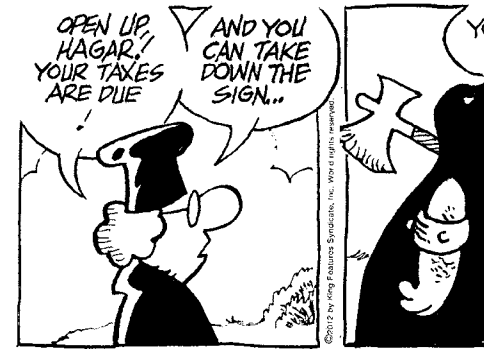
"I think we need to speed up, Dad. Even old ladies are passin' us."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

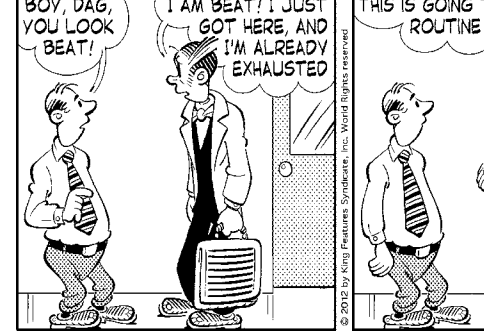


"Of course I'm acting childish. I'm a CHILD!"

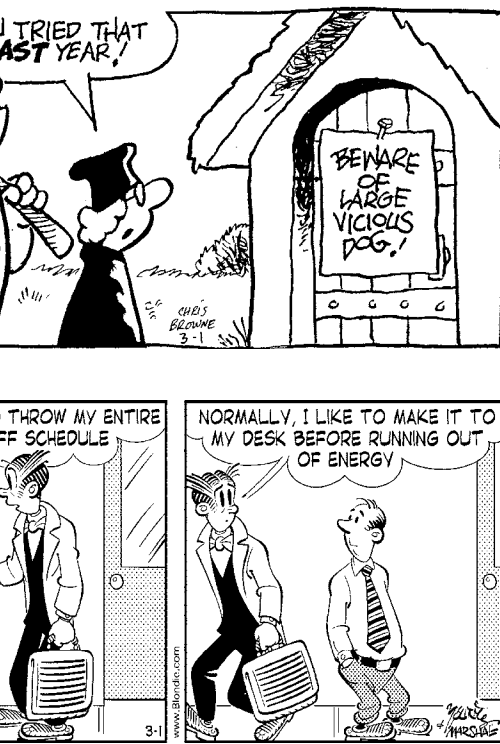
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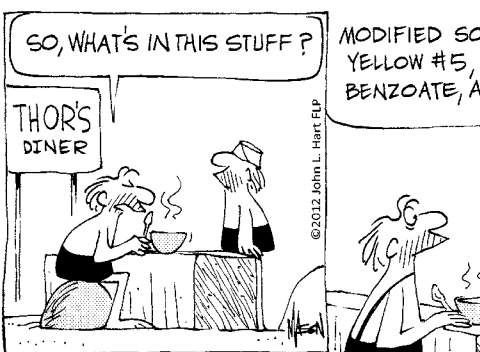
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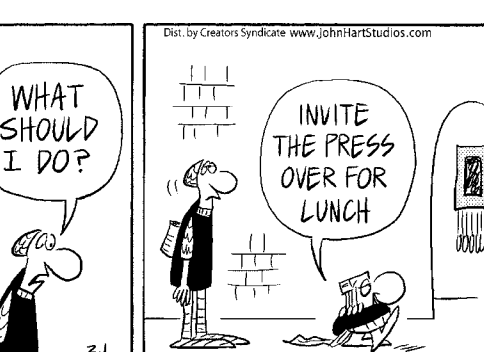
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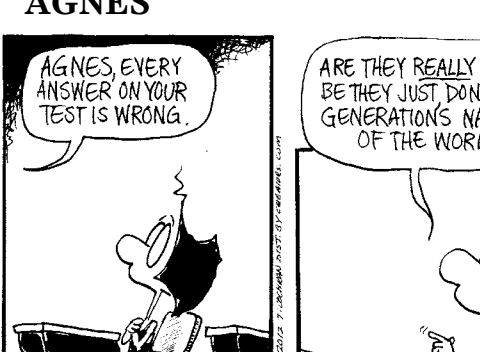
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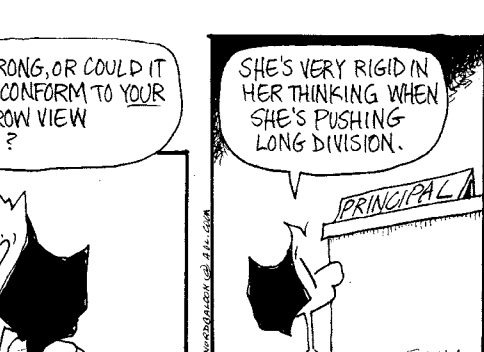
THE OTHER COAST



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This Date In History

Today is Thursday, March 1, the 61st day of 2012. There are 305 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 1, 1932, Charles A. Lindbergh Jr., the 20-month-old son of Charles and Anne Lindbergh, was kidnapped from the family home near Hopewell, N.J. (Remains identified as those of the child were found the following May.)

On this date:

In 1565, the city of Rio de Janeiro was founded by Portuguese knight Estacio de Sa.

In 1790, President George Washington signed a measure authorizing the first U.S. Census.

In 1809, the Illinois Territory came into existence.

In 1867, Nebraska became the 37th state.

In 1872, President Ulysses S. Grant signed an act creating Yellowstone National Park.

In 1912, Isabella Goodwin of New York City was appointed the first female police detective.

In 1940, "Native Son" by Richard Wright was first published by Harper & Brothers.

In 1954, Puerto Rican nationalists opened fire from the gallery of the U.S. House of Representatives, wounding five congressmen.

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy signed an executive order establishing the Peace Corps.

In 1962, an American Airlines Boeing 707 on a scheduled flight to Los Angeles crashed after taking off from New York's Idlewild Airport, killing all 95 people on board. The first Kmart store opened in Garden City, Mich.

In 1971, a bomb went off inside a men's room at the U.S. Capitol; the radical group Weather Underground claimed responsibility for the pre-dawn blast.

In 1981, Irish Republican Army member Bobby Sands began a hunger strike at the Maze Prison in Northern Ireland; he died 65 days later.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Robert Clary is 86. Singer Harry Belafonte is 85. Former U.S. Solicitor General Robert H. Bork is 85. Actor Robert Conrad is 77. Rock singer Mike D'Abo (Manfred Mann) is 68. Former Sen. John Breaux, D-La., is 68. Rock singer Roger Daltrey is 68. Actor Dirk Benedict is 67. Actor Alan Thicke is 65. Actor-director Ron Howard is 58. Actress Catherine Bach is 58. Country singer Janis Gill (aka Janis Oliver Cummins) (Sweethearts of the Rodeo) is 58. Actor Tim Daly is 56. Singer-musician Jon Carroll is 55. Rock musician Bill Leen is 55. Actor Maurice Bernard is 49. Actor Russell Wong is 49. Actor John David Cullum is 46. Actor George Eads is 45. Actor Javier Bardem (HAH'-vee-ayr bahr-DEHM) is 43.

Answer to previous puzzle

ALMS	SILOS	EARN
COAT	PIECE	AWAY
HAIR	RAISER	ROTC
ENDEAR	SAVABLE	
PITA	NILE	
ABS	DARE	CINDER
NOTES	DUDE	DELT
GRAY	SOLES	EVEN
LAME	PREP	PRIGS
EXPOSE	ROSE	LYE
PICA	TEAS	
ONETIME	ARMADA	
THIN	MIND	FLOWER
LONG	ENDBLE	TEAM
CHER	NOSED	EDDY

Newsday Crossword

FIVE TO TEN by Fred Piscop Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 Hangs in there
 - 6 Whole bunch
 - 10 Junk e-mail
 - 14 Fifth word of the Koran
 - 15 Drop for a 10-count
 - 16 Prefix for legal
 - 17 Sudden burst
 - 18 Always
 - 19 M __ "mnemonic"
 - 20 Line on a Harrod's bill
 - 23 11/11 marcher
 - 24 Potpie veggie
 - 25 WWII admiral
 - 29 Exodus author
 - 32 Obedience-school command
 - 35 Get caught in __
 - 36 Chum
 - 37 Have the role of
 - 38 Niacin, thiamine, etc.
 - 42 UN Day month
 - 43 Be gaga over
 - 44 Deliver a tirade
 - 45 Animation collectible
 - 46 Granny
 - 47 "Humble" dwellings
 - 49 Chow down
 - 51 Civil War monogram
 - 52 Beginning of spring
 - 59 Oodles
 - 60 RNs' workplaces
 - 61 General vicinities
 - 64 Doily trim
 - 65 Send overnight, say
- DOWN**
- 1 __ Cruces, NM
 - 2 Yodeler's perch
 - 3 Czech or Slovak
 - 4 "Toodles!"
 - 5 Set aside for now
 - 6 Target game
 - 7 Fuji outflow
 - 8 Took a gander at
 - 9 Scramble formation
 - 10 Trench maker
 - 11 Banquet appetizer
 - 12 Opera solo
 - 13 Tailless cat
 - 21 Road reversal, slangily
 - 22 English Derby town
 - 25 Rack and ruin
 - 26 Pulitzer author
 - 27 City on the Arkansas River
 - 28 Briny expanse
 - 29 Eclipse shadow
 - 30 Jambalaya ingredient
 - 31 "My turn!"
 - 33 Major 2011 hurricane
 - 34 Some cell-phone messages
 - 36 Soon, in poems
 - 39 Ray that swims
 - 40 Neighbor of Ore.
 - 41 Old hand
 - 47 " __ was saying . . ."
 - 48 Cereal topper, perhaps
 - 50 They start 68 Across
 - 51 Zodiac boundaries
 - 52 Low-lying area
 - 53 Midwest airline
 - 54 Talk like Daffy Duck
 - 55 Recording studio effect
 - 56 Throw in the towel
 - 57 Metal sources
 - 58 Kids of boomers
 - 62 Many a state name, in D.C.
 - 63 Collector's completion

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TIGER

Continued from Page 7

a special age exemption for me.”
When asked about the book, Woods said his disappointment with Haney hasn't changed. When asked his reaction to the excerpt, Woods replied, “Well, I've already talked about it.”
His agent, Mark Steinberg, said in a statement Tuesday afternoon that Haney engaged in “armchair psychology” that was “ridiculous.”
“Because of his father, it's no secret that Tiger has always had high respect for the military, so for Haney to twist that admiration into something negative is disrespect-

ful,” Steinberg said.
Woods' father, Earl, was part of the U.S. Army's special forces.
The news conference at PGA National turned awkward when Alex Miceli, a Golfweek senior writer and contributor to Golf Channel, asked Woods if he considered being a Navy SEAL at the height of his career.
“I've already talked about everything in the book. I've already commented on everything, Alex,” Woods said.
“Then I must have missed you answering that question,” Miceli replied.
“Well, I've already commented on the book. Is that in the book? Is it in the book?” Woods said.
Miceli replied he had not seen the book.

“You're a beauty, you know that?” Woods said, forcing a smile.
Miceli said Steinberg's statement suggested something was wrong with the excerpt and he wanted to know if it was true. Woods paused for a moment, said with indifference, “I don't know,” then stared at him for nearly five seconds and said, “Have a good day.”
It was a change from the way he handled a news conference in December 2010. Tom Callahan had written in “His Father's Son” that he would not have been surprised if Woods had followed his father into the military. Woods was asked that day where Callahan came up with that notion.
“Well, I've always wanted to become a SEAL,” Woods said back then. “That's something

that I told my dad from the very get-go — either I'm going to become a professional golfer or I'm going to go become a Navy SEAL.”
On Wednesday, Woods worked hard to contain his anger.
Even in questions related to golf, such as how he plays the Masters with the lead and his pursuit of the Nicklaus record, Woods rushed through his answers. He did not look as comfortable as he had been in dealings with the media earlier this year.
He goes onto the course Thursday at PGA National, a course he has not seen since he was 14 and lost on the last day of the PGA Junior Championship to 17-year-old Chris Couch, who went on to win in New Orleans in 2006.

TOURNEY

Continued from Page 7

by Estacado at 11:45 a.m. and Fort Stockton at 2:15 p.m.
BSHS Head Coach John Sparks said the tournament will be a great way for teams to face a wide variety of opponents.
“Everybody will get a lot of playing time and that's particularly important this time of year,” Sparks said. “Teams will be able to find the people who will really be able to contribute when district play starts later in the season.”
Teams won't be the only beneficiaries, Sparks added.
“It will be a great weekend for softball in West Texas,” he added. “The city has built a complex here that is just fabulous. All the coaches I've talked to have been very complimentary of it.”

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SOCCER

Continued from Page 7

players who have won the World Cup and played big tournaments year in and year out. Obviously it was a big step for us.”
Dempsey has made a habit of taking big steps recently, for both his national team and

for Fulham in the English Premier League.
The Texan put a right-footed shot from just inside the penalty area past an outstretched hand of goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon. Fabian Johnson had crossed to Jozy Altidore, who with his back to the goal against Italy's Andrea Barzagli touched the ball back toward the top of the area.
“Initially I was going to stay

where I was, but I saw the guy who was covering him had moved, so I moved to my right to try to get open so he could play me the ball,” Dempsey said. “He did a great job of holding it up, playing me, so I tried to hit it low and hard at the far post and it went in.”
After returning to the World Cup for the first time in 40 years in 1990 and advancing to the quarterfinals in 2002,

the Americans have struggled to make additional progress. They were knocked out in the first round of the 2006 World Cup and the second round of the 2010 tournament, eliminated both times with defeats to Ghana.
They wasted a two-goal lead against Mexico last June and lost 4-2 in the final of the CONCACAF Gold Cup, their regional championship.



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