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THURSDAY

MAY 17, 2012



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VOLUME 107, NUMBER 183

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Death possible result of family feud, PD says

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

Investigators with the Big Spring Police Department are still sifting through witness statements to determine the circumstances surrounding the death of 22-year-old Noe Sanchez, who was struck by a vehicle following gunfire Sunday in front of the Big Spring Mall.

According to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the BSPD, the altercation involved a feud between two Big Spring families.

"At this time it appears Sanchez and some family members were leaving Family Dollar while members of the Montanez family were walking from the movie theater in the Big Spring Mall to Family Dollar," said Everett.

"At that time, Carlos Montanez, 35, of Big Spring, saw Noe Sanchez and ran at him. A fight ensued, setting off the events. Both families had several members at the scene and three people were arrested for hindering officers."

According to BSPD records, arrested were Lee Roy Alvarado, 36, of 605 Holbert; Alex Sanchez, 26, of 906 E. 14th St.; and 21-year-old Tracey Dawn Juarez — identified by police officials as the wife of Noe Sanchez — of 1900 Martin Luther King Blvd. Apt. 511

All three were charged with hindering officers discharging



HERALD file photo

Sunday's death occurred near the Family Dollar store in the Big Spring Mall.

official duties, with Alvarado and Juarez facing one count each and Sanchez facing two counts, according to Howard County Det. See **DEATH**, Page 3A

Death plot trial holds local ties

DALLAS — Trial has begun in Dallas for a 52-year-old former Roman Catholic priest accused of plotting the death of a man who accused him of sexual abuse.



Fiala

A neighbor of John M. Fiala — when he lived in suburban Dallas — accused Fiala of asking him to kill his accuser.

The former clergyman was arrested Nov. 18 at his Dallas home and jailed on \$700,000 bond. According to court records, he was named in a lawsuit filed by the boy's family, who accused Fiala of molesting the young man, including twice at gunpoint.

The lawsuit also names the Archdiocese of San Antonio and Archbishop Jose Gomez, alleging the church should have been aware of

See **FIALA**, Page 3A

Get involved this weekend

Friday
 What: Good Scout Award Dinner
 Where: Big Spring Country Club
 When: 6:30 p.m. reception/7 p.m. dinner and program.
 Cost: \$50 per person

Saturday
 What: 3rd annual Bob Fishback Benefit 5K Run/Walk
 Where: Scenic Mountain/ Big Spring State Park
 When: 8 a.m. start/ Registration 7 a.m.
 Cost: \$20 per person

What: 5th annual Crossroads of West Texas Golf Tournament
 Where: Big Spring Country Club
 When: 1 p.m.
 Cost: \$200 per two-man team

What: Run for the Wall wreath ceremony
 Where: Vietnam Memorial
 When: Between 9:45 a.m. and 10:25 a.m.
 Cost: No charge

What: Armed Forces Day Celebration
 Where: Hangar 25 Air Museum
 When: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 Cost: Free gifts to armed forces personnel active and retired
 Bring military ID or come dressed in uniform to receive a free gift.

What: Be Still Woman's Conference
 Where: Howard College Cactus Room
 When: 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.
 Cost: Free

Sunday
 What: 5th annual Crossroads of West Texas Golf Tournament
 Where: Big Spring Country Club
 When: 1 p.m.
 Cost: \$200 per two-man team



Surprise, surprise: Voter turnout slow for primaries

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

As if taking a cue from low turnouts in the recent municipal and school board elections, local election officials say voting in the political party primaries has been much slower than expected.

Early voting in the Republican and Democratic primaries got under way Monday.

"We had 81 people come in on Monday and 61 on Tuesday. Things were moving just as slow on Wednesday," Bloom said. "This is a lot slower than we were expecting."

Bloom said despite the lack of voters, the process has gone well.

"We haven't had any problems

See **VOTE**, Page 3A

Fishback run planned Saturday at state park

By **AMANDA MORENO**
 Staff Writer

Walking or running, the cause is still the same.

The 3rd annual Bob Fishback 5k Run/Walk is set for 9 a.m. Saturday at the Big Spring State Park.

"We are glad to be hosting this once again," Park Manager Ron Alton said. "Especially for a good cause like this."

Registration can be completed

online at www.timingspecialist.com or at the event starting at 8 a.m. The entry fee is \$20 per person. According to Odis Franklin, president of Howard County Roadkill, all money raised from the event will be donated to Howard/Glasscock Relay For Life.

"This is something we keep going because it is a great way

See **RUN**, Page 3A

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www.bigspringherald.com

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Obituaries

Noe Sanchez



Noe Sanchez, 22, of Big Spring died Sunday, May 13, 2012. Vigil services will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 17, 2012, at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 2:30 p.m. Friday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with Deacon Johnny Arguello officiating. Burial will follow at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

He was born May 1, 1990, in Big Spring, Texas, to Estella and Orlando Sanchez Sr. He was a lifetime resident of Big Spring. He was employed by Don's Tire and was a Catholic.

He is survived by his wife, Tracey Sanchez of Big Spring; his parents, Estella Sanchez of Slayton, Texas, and Orlando Sanchez Sr. of Amber, Texas; nine brothers, Eddie Alvarado and wife Rosemary, Lee Alvarado and wife Rosa, Ray Alvarado, Billy Alvarado, Orlando Sanchez, Alex Sanchez and wife Mariah, Rocky Sanchez and wife Nichole, Erick Sanchez and wife Rosana and Tony Sanchez, all of Big Spring; five sisters, Maria Alfaro and husband Daniel and Margie Hernandez, both of Lamesa, Anita Garcia and husband Sal and Lisa Sanchez, both of Big Spring, and Marissa Alvarado of Washington; his grandmother, Maria Vasquez Sanchez; as well as a host of cousins, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by one brother, Oscar Alvarado; and a sister, Amy Sanchez.

A memorial fund has been set up at Myers & Smith Funeral Home to help assist the family with expenses.

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

Ethylene Parker



Services for Ethylene Parker, 78, of Tyler are set for 2 p.m. Friday in the chapel of Burks Walker Tippit Funeral Home with the Rev. Richard Luna officiating. Burial will be at Roselawn Memorial Park.

Mrs. Parker died Monday, May 14, 2012, in Tyler. She was born Nov. 25, 1933, in Ballinger to Clifford and Eva Slater Baird. She lived in Tyler the past two years,

having also lived in Big Spring and San Angelo. She was a member of Airport Baptist Church in Big Spring. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Joe Parker; and a sister, Patsy Westerman.

Survivors include two sons and daughters-in-law, Charles and Kathy Parker and Craig Bryan and Melissa Parker; and two grandchildren.

The family will receive friends at the funeral home one hour prior to service in the chapel. Memorials may be made in her name to the Whitehouse Band Boosters, P.O. Box 1812, Whitehouse 75791.

Police blotter

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

- **MARY JEAN BERRY**, 41, of 903 Abrams, was arrested Wednesday on charges of driving while license suspended/invalid – no insurance, failure to maintain financial responsibility and a warrant from another agency.
- **KIMBERLY FOSTER**, 30, of Farmington, N.M., was arrested Wednesday on charges of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and failure to identify – giving false information.
- **ROBERT RUBEN SANCHEZ**, 47, of 1023 Stadium, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication with three prior convictions.
- **JUAN HERNANDEZ**, 49, of Dallas, Texas, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **SAMUEL DAVID PITTMAN**, 28, of 705 E. 15th St., was arrested Wednesday on charges of burglary of a building and theft – more than \$1,500 and less than \$20,000 (two counts).
- **JAMES FRANK KENNEDY**, 51, of Odessa, Texas, was arrested Wednesday on a warrant from another agency.
- **GARY LEE MILLER**, 44, of 220 Texas Rd., was arrested Wednesday on warrants for criminal mischief (two counts).
- **JAMES LEE MILLER**, 17, of 1005 S. Nolan, was arrested Wednesday on warrants for failure to appear and failure to report change of address or name.
- **CALEB BROWNING LYLE**, 18, of 1712 E. 15th St., was arrested Wednesday on warrants for juvenile curfew violation and failure to appear.
- **JENNIFER ANN-MARI EMFINGER**, 26, of 1301 Lindberg Apt. 13, was arrested Wednesday on a warrant from another agency.
- **THEFT** was reported:
In the 400 block of E. FM 700.
In the 400 block of N. Scurry Street.
In the 600 block of E. Sixth Street.
- **STOLEN VEHICLE** was reported in the 600 block of Scott Drive.

Sheriff

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 64 inmates at the time of this report.
- **MARY JEAN BERRY**, 41, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on charges of bondsman off bond for theft by check, driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension, theft and a municipal capias warrant for failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- **JAMES FRANK KENNEDY**, 51, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of theft – state jail felony.
- **SAMUEL DAVID PITTMAN**, 28, was arrested Wednesday on charges of criminal mischief, burglary of a building and theft of property – more than \$1,500 and less than \$20,000 (two counts).
- **ANDREA CROFT**, 27, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of bail jumping – failure to appear and a motion to revoke probation for possession of a controlled substance.
- **CACEE DELANE CORBELL**, 28, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a bench warrant.
- **CALEB BROWNING LYLE**, 18, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on municipal warrants for juvenile curfew violation and failure to appear.
- **GARY LEE MILLER**, 44, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on charges of criminal mischief (two counts).
- **JAMES LEE MILLER**, 17, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on charges of failure to report change of address – driver's license and violation of a promise to appear.
- **KIMBERLY FOSTER**, 30, was booked into the county detention center Thursday by the BSPD on charges of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and failure to identify – giving false information.
- **JENNIFER ANN-MARIE EMFINGER**, 26, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on charges of no driver's license and violation of a promise to appear.

Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Fri 5/18	Sat 5/19	Sun 5/20	Mon 5/21	Tue 5/22
 93/66 Sunny skies. Hot. High 93F. Winds S at 20 to 30 mph.	 95/65 Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 90s and lows in the mid 60s.	 91/64 Partly cloudy, chance of a thunderstorm.	 91/65 Plenty of sun. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the mid 60s.	 93/67 Slight chance of a thunderstorm.
Sunrise: 6:46 AM Sunset: 8:39 PM	Sunrise: 6:45 AM Sunset: 8:40 PM	Sunrise: 6:45 AM Sunset: 8:41 PM	Sunrise: 6:44 AM Sunset: 8:41 PM	Sunrise: 6:44 AM Sunset: 8:42 PM



Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	88	64	windy	Kingsville	90	69	mst sunny
Amarillo	93	61	mst sunny	Livingston	89	60	mst sunny
Austin	86	64	sunny	Longview	89	63	mst sunny
Beaumont	88	65	mst sunny	Lubbock	94	62	sunny
Brownsville	90	71	pt sunny	Lufkin	90	62	mst sunny
Brownwood	89	64	sunny	Midland	94	67	sunny
Corpus Christi	87	71	mst sunny	Raymondville	91	68	mst sunny
Corsicana	87	62	sunny	Rosenberg	88	64	mst sunny
Dallas	89	64	sunny	San Antonio	88	66	sunny
Del Rio	90	66	sunny	San Marcos	87	63	sunny
El Paso	95	67	windy	Sulphur Springs	89	63	sunny
Fort Stockton	95	65	sunny	Sweetwater	90	64	windy
Gainesville	87	62	sunny	Tyler	88	61	mst sunny
Greenville	87	61	sunny	Weatherford	88	62	sunny
Houston	88	65	mst sunny	Wichita Falls	91	64	windy

Fire/EMS

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

- **MEDICAL** was reported near the intersection of Third Street and Owens. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1900 block of Simler. One person was transported to SMMC.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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Take Note

• American Legion Post 506 will be having a fish fry Saturday from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Delivery will be available from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. and serving will be from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Plates are \$10 each with carry-out available. American Legion Post 506 is located at 3202 W. Hwy 80. For more information, call 263-2084.

• YMCA is looking for childcare help for summer camp. Summer camp will start May 29. Those wanting to apply for childcare help must be over 18, have high school diploma or GED, know first aid and CPR, must pass drug test and background check and FBI print. For more information, contact Rosie Franco at 267-8234. YMCA is located at 801 Owens.

• The 50s youth group of Trinity Baptist Big Spring, will have a reunion at the church Friday through Sunday. Meeting is Friday at 6 p.m., Saturday at 10 a.m. and Sunday morning for worship services. The group has met periodically since 1980. Thanks to Trinity for their hospitality.

• An account has been established at Wells Fargo Bank to help defray medical cost for Brittney Phillips Smith. Brittney will be undergoing a kidney transplant in San Antonio on June 14. Brittney is a graduate of BSHS and is the daughter of Karan and Gary Phillips. All donations and prayers will be greatly appreciated.

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

• Dr. Clipper Strickland will be the guest speaker at the next Visual Awareness Support Group set for 5:30 p.m. May 24, at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1001 Goliad St. Dr. Strickland will speak on the topic of

diabetic retinopathy. VASG is a support group to provide assistance to individuals who have poor or deteriorating vision. It is the goal of this group to provide, through education, a sense of hope to people who have vision problems and help them, their care givers, families and friends cope with vision loss. Call 263-2501 for more information or email us at: eyeassocone@crcom.net

• 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.

• Mobile Meals is in need of volunteer delivery drivers. If you can donate one hour per week to help deliver meals to the elderly, call Macaria Cantu at 263-4016.

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

• Home Hospice is seeking volunteers. A training will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. May 18. Volunteers are needed for in office duties as well as sitters, deliveries and crafts. To find out more information or to volunteer contact Sherry Hodnett at Home Hospice by calling 264-7599.

• Hangar 25 Air Museum needs your help. We are in need of volunteers to fill a variety of positions such as tour guides, front desk, clerical, events, and many others. Set your hours and days of the week you are available. Meet new people and

enjoy a rewarding experience. For more information, contact Emma Bogard at 432-267-2963.

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

• The Homeownership Preservation Foundation (HPF) is an independent national nonprofit dedicated to helping distressed homeowners navigate financial challenges and avoid mortgage foreclosure. If you want to stop foreclosure and are in need of foreclosure help, the time to call 888-995-HOPE is now. The Homeowner's HOPE hotline is a counseling service provided by HPF to work with you to find a solution to your problem. HPF can provide counseling free of charge, in English and 170 other languages, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Free foreclosure help, call the hotline.

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

• The mission of CASA of West Texas is to promote and support quality volunteers who speak for the best interest of abused and neglected children in court in an effort to find each child a safe, nurturing and permanent home. We currently have many children in foster care without a volunteer. We need your help. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Suzy Milliken at 1-877-316-8346 or visit www.BecomeaCASA.org or www.casawtx.org.

FIALA

Continued from Page 1A

Fiala's actions. That accuser had said Fiala abused him at Fiala's former rural West Texas parish of Sacred Heart of Mary in Rock-springs between 2007 and 2008 when the man was 16.

According to information from the Edwards County Sheriff's Office, Fiala previously set his victim up with an apartment in Big Spring where the young man reportedly had a girlfriend.

The Dallas Morning News reports prosecutors told a Dallas County jury Wednesday that Fiala was distraught over the four-count indictment, which is still pending in Edwards County.

If convicted of solicitation of capital murder, Fiala could be sentenced to up to life in prison.

Fiala's attorney told jurors the death plot was Fiala's neighbor's idea.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

RUN

Continued from Page 1A

to remember Bob," Franklin said.

Scenic Mountain will provide a challenging course along with good scenery, according to Franklin.

"Any chance we can get people to get out and get healthy is one we welcome," Alton said.

This year, awards and T-shirts will be given out.

For more information, call Franklin at 432-517-0776.

DEATH

Continued from Page 1A

vention Center records.

Everett said investigators have been able to piece together the moments leading up to Noe Sanchez's death, although there are still a number of witness interviews to conduct.

"Through the investigation so far we have been able to determine shots were fired prior to one subject being struck and killed by a vehicle," Everett

said. "The handgun was produced from his vehicle by Noe Sanchez and at least two shots were fired at a white pickup, the same pickup that struck him. After he was hit, a female subject picked up the gun and fired another shot at the pickup, which was hit twice. No persons were hit by the gunfire.

"The female who fired the final round has been identified as Tracey Dawn Juarez, Sanchez's wife. She was disarmed by a witness, who handed the

firearm over to police."

According to Everett, the pickup that hit Sanchez was still at the scene when officers responded to the call.

"At this point there is some discrepancy as to who was driving the pickup," Everett said. "The pickup was at the scene when officers arrived. One round (from the handgun) had flattened a tire and another round had penetrated the passenger side window.

"The investigation will continue as more witnesses will

be interviewed and some re-interviewed until the facts are found. Once the investigation is complete, the findings will be taken to the district attorney, who will make the determination of filing charges or presenting the case to the grand jury."

Everett said no arrests have been made in direct relation to Sanchez's death.

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

VOTE

Continued from Page 1A

with the equipment or the voting machine programming," Bloom said. "Things are moving along very slowly but smoothly. The biggest problem we have right now is there is just not enough for our election workers to do."

Bloom looks for voting totals to improve soon.

"Our hope is for things to pick up by the end of this week or the beginning of next week," Bloom said. "There's just a lot going on right now. We just finished the municipal elections this past weekend, plus a lot of parents are busy with graduation and other school functions. I'm just hoping we get a good turnout so we can avoid any last-minute

rush."

Early voting will continue weekdays, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. through May 25.

"We'll also be offering extended hours Tuesday and Thursday, May 24, from 8 a.m. until 7 p.m.," Bloom said. "We do this to try to make early voting accessible to folks who can't get away from work between traditional work hours."

Seats up for election in the 2012 election include 118th Judicial District Attorney, currently held by Hardy Wilkerson; Howard County sheriff, currently held by Stan Parker; county attorney, held by Joshua Hamby; tax assessor collector, held by Kathy Sayles; Precinct 3 county commissioner, held by Jimmie Long; and Precinct 1 county commissioner, held by Emma Brown.

Parker has drawn an opponent in local resident M.O. Horton. The two will face off on the Republican ticket, with the winner of the primary expected to go uncontested in the November election.

Brown has drawn a trio of challengers — Howard County Jailer Larry Torres, former Big Spring Council member Oscar Garcia and Ed Ware, who has attempted to unseat the longtime commissioner previously.

Brown will face Torres in the Democratic primary, while Garcia and Ware will have to compete for the Republican nomination for the seat. The winners will go head-to-head in November.

Longtime Tax Collector and Assessor Kathy Sayles announced she

will not be running for re-election. However, Diane Carter, an employee of tax collection office, will be running unopposed for the office on the Republican ticket.

Also running unopposed are Long, Green and Wilkerson. All three are running on the Republican ticket.

For more information, contact the Howard County Elections Administration at 432-264-2273.

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

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AN ENCOURAGING WORD



By Eddy Pitchford

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If I miss heaven, it will not be the desire of God.
If I miss heaven, it will be in spite of the cross.
If I miss heaven, I rejected God's promises.
If I miss heaven, I chose the way of the majority.
If I miss heaven, I did not do the will of God.

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Bill McClellan
Managing Editor

Amanda Moreno
Staff Writer

Steve Reagan
Staff Writer

Thomas Jenkins
Staff Writer

OUR VIEWS

One event filled weekend

Friday will kick-off a weekend full of things to do in Big Spring. Doesn't matter what age you are, this weekend there is plenty to see and do in good ol' Big Spring.

The 5th annual Crossroads of West Texas Golf Tournament will start with a shoot out Friday at the Big Spring Country Club. The classic will begin Saturday and Sunday beginning at 1 p.m. both days. Registration is \$200 per two-man team and is limited to the first 100 paid teams.

Saturday kicks the weekend into overdrive with several events taking place.

Runners (and walkers) will head to the top of Scenic Mountain to take part in the 3rd annual Bob Fishback Benefit 5K Run/Walk. Registration will begin at 8 a.m. and the run will start at 9 a.m. Registration fee is \$20 per person and all funds raised will go toward Howard/Glasscock Relay For Life.

Hangar 25 Air Museum will be honoring veterans and active duty military in recognition of Armed Forces Day. From 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. military members can show up at the museum with their military ID or in uniform and receive a free gift.

A women's conference will be held at the Howard College Cactus Room beginning at 9 a.m. The title of the conference is Be Still Woman's Conference. More information can be obtained by calling 816-9331.

Run for the Wall, even though not a localized event, will still be making an impact on the weekend activities. The ride, which is aimed at honoring and remembering Vietnam veterans, will make a stop in Big Spring between 9:45 and 10:25 a.m. A wreath ceremony will take place before the group of veterans get back on the road.

All the events are planned and aimed at community involvement. Whether it is helping a good cause, getting out and enjoying the weather or making memories, there are plenty of things taking place in Big Spring.

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

May we remember the goals You want us to achieve, Lord.

Amen

Our ruinous game that we play

The apparent suicide of Junior Seau, the former NFL superstar linebacker, has again raised the age-old question:

"Is playing football dangerous, as in potentially lethal?"

Let me think about that.

You've got a sport where 240-pound people are paid to run into other 240-pound people while 320-pound people try to stop them. Occasionally, as we've recently learned, they get paid to knock opposing players from the game by injuring them.

Gee, I don't know. What could be dangerous about that?

Come on, let's get real.

Of course football is dangerous, and its cumulative effects are often ruinous.

Seau's death is merely another stone on the growing pile of evidence that football is not only bad for the knees and back; it also destroys the brain.

His suicide follows close on the heels of two similar suicides by former pro football players, Ray Easterling and Dave Duerson. Both of them, like Seau, had played with abandon, recklessly sacrificing their bodies (and heads) for the glory of victory.

And, like Seau, they had suffered multiple concussions during their long careers. Easterling, the oldest of them, had been diagnosed with dementia



DONALD KAUL

not long before his death.

Amazingly enough, researchers only recently began connecting the mental deterioration of aging former football players to the concussions they suffered while playing the game.

This is partly due to the cavalier attitude taken toward concussions by the football culture. Players who were knocked semi-conscious during a game were said to have had "their bell rung" and were sent back into games at the earliest possible moment.

That's no longer the case. A series of lawsuits filed by players seeking damages for the head injuries they suffered in the service of an uncaring management has made the NFL take the problem of concussions seriously.

Not so the fans. Football fans, particularly fans of professional football, are a bloodthirsty breed. They take great delight in seeing bone-shattering collisions and hold in high regard players who can best deliver them. They have a high tolerance for pain — in others — and show little sympathy for the plight of the players who now are seeking redress for their injuries.

Lem Barney, one of the best players in the 1960s, now says he wished he'd never played football.

"Never. Never," the former defensive back told The Detroit Free Press in March. Nor would he allow his sons to play. "It would be golf or tennis," he said.

The e-mails that came flooding into the newspaper in response were stunning. They accused

Barney of being a wuss, a hypocrite, a lowlife.

"He chose to play the game. He knew what the risks were," seemed to be the general theme.

Actually, he didn't, not really. The risks of football have been masked by a conspiracy of silence involving management, players, and fans.

Malcolm Gladwell, the author of bestselling books like Blink, Outliers, and The Tipping Point, has studied the research for several years. He's convinced that college football should be banned. Failing that, the players should be paid.

"It's a bit much both to maim AND exploit college football players."

"Remember, the issue isn't concussions. It is 'repetitive subconcussive impact,'" he told Slate. "It is the cumulative effect of thousands of little hits that linemen and defensive backs... endure play after play."

But die-hard fans will argue that there's no real proof that Seau's concussions caused his suicide, or Duerson's or Easterling's either. And they rail at the "overreaction" of the NFL commissioner in penalizing the New Orleans Saints for offering "bounties" on opposing players, awarding thousands to the player who could injure a given opponent.

"It's part of the game," they chant in unison.

As indeed it is.

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

President Scissorhands? No longer are we in days of old

In days of old, when a presidential candidate got in trouble, he would hold a news conference to explain and calm things. This does not happen anymore.

Today, candidates play dodge ball, ducking and covering and hoping the media will grow bored and move on to other things.

So this was the news conference that never took place:

Reporter: Governor, when you attended a posh private prep school, you stalked a boy whose hair you thought was too long and who was presumed to be gay. Carrying a pair of scissors and accompanied by a gang of your pals, you tackled him, held him down, and hacked off part of his hair while he screamed and cried. Is that the kind of behavior a future president could be proud of?

Candidate: As I have said, "I participated in a lot of high jinks and pranks during high school, and some might have gone too far, and for that I apologize."

Reporter: But was this a "high jink" or a "prank"? If it had not occurred at the Cranbrook private prep school in swanky Bloomfield Hills, Mich., but on the streets of Detroit not far away, would it not have been called assault with a deadly weapon? And considering the student was thought to be gay, would this not today be viewed as a hate crime?

Candidate: As I have said: "I don't remember that incident. I certainly don't believe that I thought the fellow was homosexual. That was the furthest thing from our minds back in the 1960s, so that was not the case."

Reporter: But was it the furthest thing from your mind back then? Witnesses say you once interrupted a gay student in English class by shouting, "Atta girl!" at him.

Candidate: I really can't remember that.

Reporter: Do you have a bad memory?

Candidate: Of course not. I

remember every dollar I ever made. But you are talking about a shenanigan that may have happened more than 45 years ago. I have been busy since then. I saved the 2002 Winter Olympics. Have I ever told you about that?

Reporter: Repeatedly. But your forgetfulness about the incidents at Cranbrook are markedly different from the other young men who took part in or witnessed them. Thomas Buford, the school's wrestling champion, now a retired prosecutor, helped you hold the boy down. As Buford told The Washington Post, the boy was "terrified." Buford also said, "What a senseless, stupid, idiotic thing to do."

Candidate: President Obama is trying tirelessly to expand the welfare state to all Americans, with promises of more programs, more benefits and more spending.

Let's not lose sight of that.

Reporter: Considering your victim had to go around with part of his hair hacked off, were you not worried that the faculty, staff or his parents would notice? Yet nothing happened to you or the others. How did you get away with it?

Candidate: (chuckling) Well, I suppose the fact that my father was the governor of Michigan at the time did not hurt. Hey, I am joking! I chuckled. I always chuckle when I am making a joke. That's how you can tell I am making a joke.

Reporter: Does it occur to you that the length of your hair today is probably the length of your victim's hair back in prep school? Yet do you now consider your own hair length to be gay?

Candidate: Of course not. Monsieur douard cuts my hair every week. He would not give me a gay hair cut.

Reporter: How do you know Monsieur douard is not gay?

Candidate: Impossible. He shaves his head.

Reporter: There were other incidents. Students describe how you once tricked a teacher with diminished eyesight into walking into a closed door and then you "giggled hysterically." Are you proud of that?

Candidate: I don't remember this harmless, totally innocent

prank. But it is kind of like when the Road Runner tricks Wile E. Coyote into running off the cliff, don't you think? And that is funny.

Reporter: These were your formative years. And yet they seem to be years filled with cruelty and snobbism.

Candidate: I was never a snob. My father had been chairman and president of American Motors. Do you realize what crappy cars they made? How could I be a snob if I had to drive around in a Nash Rambler?

Reporter: And yet you once approached a scholarship student at Cranbrook and asked very condescending questions. "He wanted to know what my father did for a living," the student told The Washington Post. "He wanted to know if my mother worked. He wanted to know what town I lived in." The student told you that his father taught school and that he commuted from East Detroit and then he noticed a "souring" of your demeanor.

Candidate: That could not have happened! I never talked to scholarship students! Why would I? They never went skiing in Gstaad. They didn't summer in Biarritz. They did not even have wine stewards at home. What could we possibly talk about?

Reporter: Is it true that your old prep school pals today call you Cranbrook Scissorhands?

Candidate: Barack Obama once ate a dog! Why don't you write about that?

Reporter: Paul Gigot, editor of The Wall Street Journal's editorial page, has said these incidents will not affect the election. Gigot said: "He was a leader of the prankster group. So what?"

Candidate: So what, indeed. And in less than six months, I intend to be elected leader of another prankster group: the government of the United States.

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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Manhunt for groom charged in Ill. bride's slaying

CHICAGO (AP) — Police and FBI officials were poring over more than 100 tips as they hunted for a man accused of stabbing his new wife to death and leaving her body in her bathtub, still clad in the silver sequined cocktail dress she wore to celebrate their wedding.

More than 30 law enforcement agencies had joined federal agents in the manhunt

for Arnaldo Jimenez, who secretly married Estrella Carrera on Friday night at Chicago City Hall and allegedly killed her just hours later. Police would not say in which states they were looking for him, but that it was "all over the country."

"We are following every lead no matter where it takes us," said Capt. Joseph Ford of the Burbank Police Depart-

ment, outside Chicago. "We will not stop looking, and this will not go away."

Authorities began looking for Jimenez soon after Carrera's family reported that she failed to pick up her two children Saturday as she had arranged. The family had been unable to reach Carrera or Jimenez, so they asked police to check on her well-being at her apartment in the suburb

of Burbank.

That's when Carrera's body was found in the bathtub, still clothed.

Hours later, the bride's family received a haunting phone call from a relative of her new husband. Jimenez' sister told them he had called her and tearfully said he had left his bride bleeding after a "bad fight," Carrera's sister told The Associated Press on

Wednesday.

Jimenez was charged with first-degree murder, leaving the bride's family searching for answers as to what befell the 26-year-old mother of two in the hours after she secretly married her on-and-off boyfriend.

Jimenez had hit and bruised Carrera in the past, an older sister, Jazmin Carrera, told the AP.

► Nation, World

'Ring of Fire' eclipse visible in North Texas

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Sunrises and sunsets often dazzle, but they'll have a special ring to them in a few days for people in the western United States and eastern Asia: The moon will slide across the sun, blocking everything but a blazing halo of light.

It's been almost two decades since a "ring of fire" eclipse was visible in the continental United States. To celebrate the end of that drought, nearly three dozen national parks in the path of the eclipse will host viewing parties.

The solar spectacle is first seen in eastern Asia at dawn Monday, local time. Weather permitting, millions of early risers in southern China, northern Taiwan and southeast Japan will be able to catch the ring eclipse. Then it creeps across the Pacific with the western U.S. viewing the tail end.

The late day sun will transform into a glowing ring in southwest Oregon, Northern California, central Nevada, southern Utah, northern Arizona and New Mexico and finally the Texas Panhandle where it will occur at sunset on Sunday. For 3 1/2 hours, the eclipse follows an 8,500-mile path. Viewing, from beginning to end, lasts about two hours. The ring phenomenon lasts as long as 5 minutes depending on location.

Outside this narrow band, parts of the West, Midwest and South — and portions of Canada and Mexico — will be treated to a partial eclipse. The Eastern Seaboard will be shut out, but people can log online to sites such as the Slooh Space Camera, which plans to broadcast the event live.

A ring eclipse — technically called an annular solar eclipse — is not as dramatic as a total eclipse, when the disk of the sun is entirely blocked by the moon. As in a total solar eclipse, the moon crosses in front of the sun, but the moon is too far from Earth and appears too small in the sky to blot out the sun completely.

"A bright ring around the sun at mid-eclipse is still pretty cool," Geoff Chester of the U.S. Naval Observatory said in an email.

In a first, census figures show minorities make up more than half of babies born in U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — For the first time, racial and ethnic minorities make up more than half the children born in the U.S., capping decades of heady immigration growth that is now slowing.

New 2011 census estimates highlight sweeping changes in the nation's racial makeup and the prolonged impact of a weak economy, which is now resulting in fewer Hispanics entering the U.S.

"This is an important landmark," said Roderick Harrison, a former chief of racial statistics at the Census Bureau who is now a sociologist at Howard University. "This generation is growing up much more accustomed to diversity than its elders."

The report comes as the Supreme Court prepares to rule on the legality of Arizona's strict immigration law, with many states weighing similar get-tough measures.

"We remain in a dangerous period where those appealing to anti-immigration elements are fueling a divisiveness and hostility that might take decades to overcome," Harrison said.

Obama will use NATO summit in Chicago to raise money for Afghan army after foreign troops exit

WASHINGTON (AP) — Mapping the way out of an unpopular war, the United States and NATO are trying to build an Afghan army that can defend the country after 130,000 international troops pull out. The alliance's plans for arm's-length support for Afghanistan will be a central focus of the summit President Barack Obama is hosting Sunday and Monday in Chicago.

The problem with the exit strategy is that someone has to pay for that army in an era of austerity budgets and defense cutbacks.

The problem for the United States is how to avoid getting stuck with the check for \$4.1 billion a year. "This has to be a multilateral funding effort,"

said Pentagon spokesman George Little. "We think there should be contributions from other countries."

That's partly why so many non-NATO nations are getting invitations to the summit. About 60 countries and organizations are expected to be represented, including nations such as Japan that are far removed from the trans-Atlantic defense pact's home ground.

Closing arguments to begin at the NC trial of former presidential candidate John Edwards

GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP) — With only two hours allotted to each side to make closing arguments Thursday, prosecutors and defense lawyers neared the end of a month-long trial into whether former presidential candidate John Edwards violated campaign finance laws.

Edwards has pleaded not guilty to six criminal counts related to campaign finance violations stemming from nearly \$1 million secretly provided by two wealthy donors that helped hide his pregnant mistress during the 2008 Democratic primary. He faces up to 30 years in prison and \$1.5 million in fines if convicted of all charges.

Prosecutors likely will argue the payments were intended to influence the outcome of an election by keeping Edwards' political hopes viable. Defense lawyers will counter that Edwards had limited knowledge of the cover-up and that the payments were gifts intended to keep his cancer-stricken wife from leaning about the out-of-wedlock pregnancy.

U.S. District Court Judge Catherine C. Eagles set the two-hour limit for closing arguments. The jury is expected to begin deliberating Friday.

On Wednesday, Edwards' team wrapped up their defense without calling him, his mistress or daughter to testify, a move experts said was intended to shift focus from a political sex scandal to the nitty-gritty of campaign finance law.

Angered by deadly drug operation shooting, Honduran Indians burn offices, demand DEA leave

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP) — People in Honduras' predominantly Indian Mosquito coast region burned down government offices and demanded that U.S. drug agents leave the area, reacting angrily to an anti-drug operation in which a local mayor said police gunfire killed four innocent people, including two pregnant women.

Animosity is being aimed at both Honduran authorities and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, which confirmed on Wednesday that some of its agents were on a U.S.-owned helicopter with Honduran police officers when the shooting happened Friday on the Patuca River in northeastern Honduras.

Honduran and U.S. officials said only the police officers on the anti-drug mission fired their weapons, and not until the helicopter was shot at first. The officials said the aircraft was chasing a small boat suspected of carrying drugs on the river.

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Local officials said the two men and two pregnant women killed weren't drug smugglers. They said the victims were diving for lobster and shellfish.

"These innocent residents were not involved in the drug problem, were in their boat going about their daily fishing activities ... when they gunned them down from the air," Lucio Vaquedano, mayor of the coastal town of Ahuas, said in a telephone interview Wednesday.

As voters buck the establishment, GOP hopes of taking Senate control again rest on insurgents

WASHINGTON (AP) — For Senate Republicans, 2012 is starting a lot like 2010.

They have a shot at taking control away from Democrats as long as insurgent conservatives who are defeating the party's more establishment candidates in primaries don't frighten too many independent voters like they did two years ago.

Deb Fischer, a little-known state senator, became the latest unexpected Senate GOP nominee Tuesday, rallying late to upset the favored — and better funded — choices of both the party's mainstream and tea party establishments: Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning and state Treasurer Don Stenberg.

Her victory occurred just a week after tea party and other conservative groups embraced Indiana state Treasurer Richard Mourdock, who scored an arguably bigger upset — knocking off six-term Sen. Richard Lugar, the Senate's longest-serving Republican.

The message for the GOP: Insurgents are back.

A 13 percent drop in oil prices this month is helping drivers and businesses

NEW YORK (AP) — What only weeks ago was seen as a serious threat to the economic recovery could now turn into a stimulus everyone can love.

Oil and gasoline prices are sinking, giving relief to businesses and consumers who a few weeks ago seemed about to face the highest fuel prices ever.

President Barack Obama's re-election prospects could also benefit, especially if prices keep falling as some analysts expect. A majority of Americans disapproved of Obama's handling of gas prices in an AP-GfK poll early this month. But that was before the full effect of the recent drop had reached drivers.

The average U.S. retail gasoline price has dropped 21 cents a gallon to \$3.73 since hitting a 2012 peak of \$3.94 on April 6.

The economy could gain, too. Consumers who spend less on fuel have more to spend on other purchases, from autos and furniture to appliances and vacations, which could help drive economic output and job growth.

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State News

FBI links white-powder envelopes to Texas

DALLAS (AP) — The FBI says it suspects the mailings of hundreds of envelopes containing white powder over the last four years are the work of someone in Texas.

The FBI released a statement Wednesday saying the letters contain postmarks from North Texas and similar references to subjects such as al-Qaida and Nazis. A \$150,000 reward is being offered for information leading to a conviction in the case.

More than 380 threatening letters in envelopes containing white powder have shown up across the U.S. and overseas since 2008. Last week, more than 20 were mailed to daycare centers, elementary schools and an aerospace-related business in Texas and other states.

Tests showed the powder wasn't hazardous.

The letters also have been sent to government offices, churches, schools, restaurants and U.S. embassies overseas.

Jury to see images in airline exec porn case

BROWNSVILLE, Texas (AP) — A federal jury in South Texas will be allowed to view most images allegedly found on a computer owned by an airline executive.

Robert Hedrick has been charged with five counts related to child pornography and sexual exploitation of children. The trial of the founder of Brownsville-based Pan American Airways continues Thursday.

The Brownsville Herald reports a judge Wednesday viewed hundreds of the images, then ruled jurors will be allowed to see a majority of the photos.

The defense objected, saying some images could not be proven to involve a minor or depict child pornography.

Police have testified that an undercover officer posing as a girl chatted online with someone using a screen named linked to Hedrick.

The defense has said 61-year-old Hedrick wasn't the person in those chats.

Police say 2 found dead in Fort Worth apartment

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Police are investigating the deaths of a man and a woman whose bodies have been found in a North Texas apartment.

Names of the pair and further details on the deaths at the Fort Worth complex were not immediately released Thursday.

Fort Worth police say an employee of the apartment complex discovered the bodies late Wednesday. The worker was trying to drop off a notice at the unit when the bodies were found.

Police say the man is believed to have been in his 30s. The woman apparently was in her 60s.

Sisters get prison, victim lured from Austin bar

GEORGETOWN, Texas (AP) — A judge has ordered prison for two sisters linked to the 2010 death of man who was lured from a Central Texas bar, robbed and shot.

A judge in Georgetown on Wednesday

day sentenced Veronica Ortiz to 35 years in prison. Isabel Gonzales received a 15-year term.

The Austin American-Statesman reports the sisters pleaded guilty to aggravated robbery with a deadly weapon. Both originally were charged with capital murder in the slaying of 18-year-old Raul Vizueth Torres.

Investigators say Ortiz and Gonzales met the victim and another man at an Austin bar and later asked for a ride to Taylor.

Authorities say the women's brother-in-law, Bobby Burks Jr., fatally shot Torres. Burks was convicted in February of capital murder and sentenced to life in prison. Both women testified against him.

Street racing in San Antonio blamed for death

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — San Antonio police say street racing has led to the death of a driver whose truck went off a road, fell more than 40 feet and crashed into a creek.

The name of the man who died was not immediately released Thursday. Police are looking for the driver of a car involved in Wednesday night's accident.

Sgt. Mark Hubbard says the two vehicles apparently were racing when they collided and the pickup driver lost control. That vehicle smashed through a bridge guardrail and tumbled into the creek. The victim was dead at the scene.

Hubbard says the driver who fled could face charges of racing and failure to stop and render aid. The car was found abandoned about a mile from the accident scene.

Death of Baylor student in burned car was suicide

WACO, Texas (AP) — A coroner has ruled the death of a Baylor University student whose body was found in a burning car was a suicide.

The body of 18-year-old freshman William David Patterson of San Antonio was discovered Feb. 9 in a vehicle near Waco.

Initial autopsy results were released Wednesday by a McLennan County justice of the peace. The report found that Patterson died of thermal burns and smoke inhalation.

Toxicology test results are pending. Patterson graduated from Churchill High School in San Antonio. He was studying film and digital media at Baylor.

4.3 magnitude earthquake rattles East Texas

TIMPSON, Texas (AP) — A moderate earthquake rattled an area in east Texas near the Louisiana border.

National Earthquake Information Center geophysicist Amy Vaughan says the quake happened at 3:12 a.m. Thursday and had a magnitude of 4.3. It was centered near Timpson, Texas.

Shelby County Sheriff's dispatcher Jacob Allen says the only injury reported they've received is an elderly woman who fell out of her bed and cut her arm. Allen says the quake caused broken windows and fallen dishes, but no major damage has been reported.

Vaughan says the quake was felt within 75 miles of its epicenter. She

also said the same area was the site of a 3.9 magnitude quake on May 10.

Inactive missile drops from Army chopper in Texas

KILLEEN, Texas (AP) — A 6-foot-long inactive training missile accidentally fell from a military helicopter into field near a Texas military post, causing the brief evacuation of nearby homes but not harming anyone, officials said.

About 100 homes in a neighborhood near Fort Hood were evacuated Tuesday night after a witness reported seeing something fall from the sky around 8 p.m., Killeen police spokeswoman Carroll Smith said. Residents were allowed back into their homes within an hour of the incident.

Ordnance technicians from the Army post examined the missile and determined it didn't have a warhead or propulsion system, Fort Hood officials said. The training missile, which had implanted itself into the ground, was removed before midnight and left a hole in the ground several feet deep.

"Safety is always our No. 1 concern, and we regret the inconvenience to the families affected in the area," Col. Howard Arey, a Fort Hood aviation officer, said in a statement Wednesday. "We want to reassure the public that our military aircraft never fly off the installation with live munitions."

Arey said the post is investigating and reviewing its safety procedures, but "we believe at this time that it is not

a systemic issue."

\$5.2M Medicare fraud gets nurse 8 years in prison

HOUSTON (AP) — A judge has sentenced a Houston-area nurse to eight years and a month in prison after a jury convicted her of a \$5.2 million Medicare fraud scheme.

Former Family Healthcare Group nursing director Ezinne (eh-ZEEN') Ubani also must pay \$2.5 million in restitution. U.S. District Judge Nancy Atlas sentenced her in Houston on Wednesday after a jury convicted her last May of conspiracy count and making false statements.

Trial evidence showed she falsified documents to support the fraudulent payments. She's the seventh defendant to be sentenced in the case, with three others still to be sentenced.

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- the taxable status of your property
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- the ownership of property
- the change of use of land receiving special appraisal
- any action taken by the chief appraiser, appraisal district or appraisal review board that applies to and adversely affects you.

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For an informal review please contact the Glasscock County Appraisal District at 432-354-2580.

Review by the Appraisal Review Board
If you can't resolve your problem informally with the county appraisal district (CAD) staff, you may have your case heard by the appraisal review board (ARB).

The ARB is an independent board of citizens that reviews problems with appraisals or other concerns listed above. It has the power to order the CAD to make the necessary changes to solve problems. If you file a written request for an ARB hearing (called a notice of protest) before the deadline, the ARB will set your case for a hearing. You'll receive written notice of the time, date and place of the hearing. If necessary, you may request a hearing in the evening or on a Saturday or Sunday. Prior to your hearing, you may ask to review the evidence the CAD plans to introduce at the hearing to establish any matter at issue. The law provides that before a hearing on a protest or immediately after the hearing begins, you or your agent and the CAD shall each provide the other with a copy of any written material intended to be offered or submitted to the ARB at the hearing. To the greatest extent practicable, the hearing will be informal. You or a designated agent may appear in person to present evidence or you may send notarized evidence for the ARB to review at your hearing. The CAD representative will present evidence about your case. You may cross-examine the CAD representative. The ARB will make its decision based on the evidence presented. In most cases, the CAD has the burden of establishing the property's value by a preponderance of the evidence presented.

In certain protests where the owner has submitted an independent appraisal before the hearing, the chief appraiser has the burden of proving the property's value by clear and convincing evidence. You can get a copy of a protest form from the appraisal district office at 124 S. Myrl St., Garden City, TX 79739.

Note: You shouldn't try to contact ARB members outside of the hearing. The law requires ARB members to sign an affidavit saying that they haven't talked about your case before the ARB hears it.

Review by the District Court or an Arbitrator or SOAH
After it decides your case, the ARB must send you a copy of its order by certified mail. If you're not satisfied with the decision, you have the right to appeal. If you choose to go to court, you must start the process by filing a petition within 60 days of the date you receive the ARB's order. In certain cases, as an alternative to filing an appeal in district court, you may file, not later than the 45th day after you receive notice of the ARB order, a request for binding arbitration with the county appraisal district. In certain cases, originating in certain counties, as an alternative to filing an appeal in district court, you may appeal to the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH). An appeal to SOAH is initiated by, not later than the 30th day after you receive notice of the ARB's order, filing with the chief appraiser of the county appraisal district a notice of appeal. Appeals to SOAH court. Binding Arbitration, or SOAH all require payment of certain fees or deposits.

Tax Payment
You must pay either the amount of taxes due on the portion of the taxable value not in dispute or the amount of taxes due on the property under the order from which the appeal is taken.

More Information
You can get more information by contacting your appraisal district. Glasscock County Appraisal District
P.O. Box 155, 124 S. Myrl St.
Garden City, TX 79739 PH: 432-354-2580
You can also get a pamphlet describing how to prepare a protest from the appraisal district or from the State Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division at P.O. Box 13528, Austin, Texas 78711-3528.

Deadline for Filing Protests with the ARB*

Usual Deadline
On or before May 31 (or 30 days after a notice of appraised value was mailed to you, whichever is later).

Late protests are allowed if you miss the usual deadline for good cause. Good cause is some reason beyond your control, like a medical emergency. The ARB decides whether you have good cause. Late protests are due the day before the ARB approves records for the year. Contact your appraisal district for more information.

Special Deadline
For change of use (the appraisal district informed you that you are losing agricultural appraisal because you changed the use of your land), the deadline is not later than the 30th day after the notice of the determination was mailed to you.
For ARB changes (the ARB has informed you of a change that increases your tax liability and the change didn't result from a protest you filed), the deadline is not later than the 30th day after the notice of the determination was mailed to you.

If you believe the appraisal district or ARB should have sent you a notice and did not, you may file a protest until the day before taxes become delinquent (usually February 1) or no later than the 125th day after the date you claim you received a tax bill from one or more of the taxing units that tax your property. The ARB decides whether it will hear your case based on evidence about whether a required notice was mailed to you.

*The deadline is postponed to the next business day if it falls on a weekend or holiday.

Judge recuses herself from ex-BP engineer's case

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A federal judge in New Orleans has recused herself from the criminal case against a former BP engineer charged with deleting text messages about the company's response to the 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

U.S. District Judge Jane Triche Milazzo didn't specify in Tuesday's order why she is recusing herself.

But she cited a law that says judges should disqualify themselves if their "impartiality might reasonably be questioned."

The case against 50-year-old Kurt Mix, of Katy, Texas, has been reassigned to Judge Stanwood Duval Jr.

Mix pleaded not guilty on May 3 to two counts of obstruction of justice. An indictment accuses

him of deleting text messages to a supervisor and a contractor to prevent them from being used in a grand jury probe of the spill.

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Hawks fall to Cisco in championship

By **BRIAN MCCORMACK**

Sports Editor

LUBBOCK — It wasn't exactly how Howard College Head Baseball Coach Britt Smith wanted the season to end, but as he pointed out after the Hawks' 5-2 loss to the Cisco College Wranglers on Wednesday, "These guys went 91-25 in two years. That's .800 baseball — you can't ask for much better than that."

One bad inning — the top of the second — would come back to haunt the Hawks as the normally dependable starting pitcher Logan Ehlers and the defense gave up five Cisco runs on five hits, a walk and an error.

"(Ehlers) was on short rest," Smith said. "He didn't have the same velocity."

Behind 5-0, Smith pulled Ehlers after only two and one-third innings on the mound. Dominic Moreno entered in relief and later Nicholas Sawyer would take over for Moreno. The pair allowed no runs for the duration of the outing, but the offense just wasn't firing on all cylinders.

The Hawks finally generated some momentum in the bottom of the eighth inning when Hector Lorenzana belted a one-out, solo homerun to make it a 5-1 game.

The HC fans who traveled to Texas Tech's Dan Law Field for the Region 5 championship anticipated a rally when Paul Hendrix drew a walk and then stole second during designated hitter Elliot Richoux's at-bat.

See **HAWKS**, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Brian McCormack

The Howard College Hawk baseball squad, managers and staff gather for one last huddle after a disappointing 5-2 loss to Cisco Junior College in the Region 5 tournament championship game Wednesday.



Photo submitted by John Kennady

Grady High School held its All Sports Banquet on Tuesday at Wildcat Gym. Receiving awards at the event were: back row (from left) Bransen Richards, Zeke Clay, Sam Warren, Brett Glaze and Charmynee Arnold; front row (from left) Ty Beaty, Sara Clay, Ariel Arnold, Michael Jimenez and Lupita Jimenez. Not pictured is Kelly Cook.

Darvish, Rangers down Athletics 4-1

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Except for one inning — actually one pitch — rookie Tommy Milone stood toe-to-toe with baseball's best hitting team on the road in their high-profile first-year pitcher, Yu Darvish.

Milone gave up a two-run home run to Adrian Beltre in a decisive four-run fourth inning in the Rangers' 4-1 victory Wednesday.

Beltre homered his ninth against Oakland pitching the past two years.

"It's kind of hard, especially when you feel good, and you're out there and feel like you got your 'A' game going and you get an inning like that," said Milone (5-3), who walked only

one batter and struck out four over seven innings.

"But I think the important thing was to come back from that and continue to stay in there and keep the team in the game and hopefully score. It didn't happen tonight, but that's the game plan as a pitcher.

A big reason for a lack of run support was Darvish (6-1), who struck out seven and gave up one run on four hits in 7 2-3 strong innings in winning his sixth game in seven decisions.

After giving up a run in the first, Darvish settled down and retired 11 of the last 15 batters he faced. He lowered his ERA to 2.60.

Mike Adams struck out

See **RANGERS**, Page 2B

Lee drives in three, leads Astros over Milwaukee

KRISTIE RIEKEN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston starter Bud Norris spoke to manager Brad Mills before the season about being more consistent and pitching deeper into games this year.

So far, Norris is getting just what he wanted.

Carlos Lee had three hits, including his first homer since April 22, and three RBIs to back another solid outing by Norris, and the Houston Astros beat the Milwaukee Brewers 8-3 on Wednesday night.

Norris (4-1) yielded four hits and a run with a season-high nine strikeouts in seven innings, improving to 3-0 in his last four starts to help Houston end a four-game skid.

"He came in saying he wanted to have a different year this year and I think with the way he's gone about his business and gone about how he's pitched has been along those lines," Mills said. "There's no reason to think that's going to change as he continues to put together good outing after good outing."

The team is 7-1 in his eight starts this season and he's pitched fewer than six innings just once this year.

"I'm growing up and I guess I'm getting a little older and a little wiser,"

the 27-year-old said. "Each offseason I'm going to try to make strides in the right direction and I've got a lot of people around me helping."

Lee's home run was a solo shot to left-center field in the seventh inning that put Houston up 8-1. His third homer of the season came just moments after he narrowly avoided being hit by a foul ball from J.D. Martinez while waiting in the on-deck circle.

"It was too close," he said. "If the ball is coming right at you, you're so close right there that by the time you react, the ball's already by you. So it's scary to be out there."

Lee looked a bit shaken after ducking to avoid the ball and running out of the way. He recovered by the time he was at the plate, and the homer was the culmination of a good night for Lee, who singled and scored in the second, then drove in two runs with a single in Houston's three-run third.

He's had 10 hits combined in the last four games after getting nine in the previous 10 games.

"I'm feeling real good right now," he said. "I've kind of found something that's keeping me in a good position to hit."

Milwaukee starter Randy Wolf (2-4) allowed seven hits and

See **ASTROS**, Page 2B

Engineer in Cowboys tent collapse to pay \$12k fine

DANNY ROBBINS

Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — The engineer who signed off on plans for the tent-like Dallas Cowboys practice facility that collapsed and seriously injured two team employees three years ago is paying a \$12,000 fine to settle faulty design charges from the Texas Board of Professional Engineers.

Enrique Tabak entered into an agreement with the board to pay an administrative penalty of \$12,040 last August, and the Canadian engineer has been making quarterly payments that are due to end in June, records show.

The board began investigating Tabak shortly after the 88,000-square-foot facility, covered by canvas and braced by steel, collapsed in a wind storm during a rookie minicamp in May 2009. Cowboys special teams coach Joe DeCamillis suffered a broken vertebrae and scout Rich Behm was paralyzed from the waist down as result of falling debris.

Board executive director Lance Kinney said the fine is one of the largest handed out by the agency in recent years.

"This isn't just another jaywalking-type thing," he said. "It's a sig

See **FINE**, Page 2B

TCU sells full allotment of season tickets

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — The Big 12 is already a boon to TCU football.

TCU announced Wednesday that it has sold out its full allotment of 30,000 season tickets for 2012, when the Horned Frogs begin Big 12 play in newly renovated, 45,000-seat Amon G. Carter Stadium.

Along with those season tickets, there will be about 5,000 tickets set

aside for students each game and another 4,000 for each opponent.

It's the third consecutive year that TCU has set a new mark for football season ticket sales. It sold 19,143 season tickets in 2010, and 22,500 last year.

TCU's season opener is Sept. 8 at home against Grambling State. The first Big 12 home game is Oct. 6 against Iowa State.

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There's a sign on the wall that reads: "Drink coffee. Do stupid things faster." The Aries moon can be like a double espresso, injecting great vigor and excitement into the scene. It's essential that you have a smart plan, though. Applying this energy level to anything less would be a waste, or perhaps even destructive.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Before you can master a task, you must learn to master yourself. It will be much easier to do so when you get on your own side. Be nice. Self-correction can happen without self-punishment.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll need some additional direction in order to get motivated. Ask the people in your organization, family or business to share their point of view. You'll receive recommendations and useful ideas.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll celebrate your

passions, going deeper into the things that interest you. A knowledgeable air sign (that's Gemini, Libra or Aquarius) will be a rich resource.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll enjoy the feeling that you're moving fast and that lots of things are happening simultaneously. Later, you'll count this among your most productive days.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Experiencing confusion while you're learning something new is quite positive and necessary. The confusion makes your brain work at a higher level. Confusion makes you ask better questions.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). If you want to believe something but can't seem to fully get behind the belief, you probably need more information. It's impossible to change your beliefs without learning something new.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You won't have to come up with the passion it takes to reach a goal. You already have that passion inside you. All you have to do is stir it up a bit and then unbridle it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov.

21). You won't concern yourself with any matter or person over which you have no influence. This certainly makes life simpler, and it conserves energy, too. Your circle of influence will soon grow to include even more people and situations.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll attain information about your goal. Keep learning until you're both knowledgeable and wise. Wisdom is knowing how and when to apply your knowledge.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Eye contact will reveal much. Look deeply into the eyes of the one you want to know, understand or persuade. Bonus: The other person will feel like the most fascinating individual in the world.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). When it comes to a loved one, your commitment level is strong, and you'll constantly act in a manner that proves it. Be forward-thinking, as well, and you'll avoid falling into a relationship rut.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll have something in common with top athletes today, as you'll

experience a situation in which everything seems to ride on one instant. You'll shine in that instant, as graceful as ever.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY: (May 17). More love comes into your life over the next 10 weeks. Family issues are happily sorted out in June, smoothing the way for your big plans. July brings an experimental mood. Your playful approach to work and life leads to money and fun. September introduces intriguing new environments -- and you'll like who you are when you are in them. Leo and Libra people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 20, 25, 40 and 13.

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Annie's Mailbox ®: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: My wife and I have been married for 45 years. We both grew up in this small Midwestern town. Until 10 years back, I thought it was a good marriage.

The problem began when I found out some things that happened during our high school years. Through discussions with other classmates and conversations with friends, it became evident that there's a lot I didn't know about my wife.

However, from our very first discussion about these incidents, she said this was none of my business, it's in the past, and she shouldn't have to answer any of my questions. But, Annie, some of what was revealed is hard to forget.

I have sought counseling for this, and it has helped to some degree. My question now is: Am I in the wrong to

want some kind of explanation or discussion of this information? Is a spouse in such circumstances required to clear the air? I don't need every detail, but shouldn't I have enough to settle my anxiety? -- Surprised Husband

Dear Surprised: To your wife, these incidents are ancient history, and she'd like to forget about them. But you insist on picking the scabs off of her teenage scars because to you these incidents are fairly recent and you are still absorbing their impact. As far as she's concerned, the explanation is simple: She was young and made mistakes. She grew up and changed her life.

We understand that you'd like more of an explanation, but she absolutely does not want to rehash her life before she married you. Unless something she did then

has consequences that require action now, please accept that she is not that person any longer, and apparently, all for the good. You've been obsessing over this for 10 years, and we are certain it hasn't helped your marriage. Whatever it was she did, please find a way to forgive her and let it go.

Dear Annie: My wife and I have a small group of friends with whom we do something fun as a group every week or so. The problem is, we are the only ones who initiate this time together. If my wife and I don't plan or host it, we sometimes won't hear from these people for a month or more.

To make it worse, we often hear about the fun things they did without us during this time. We are tired of feeling left out and unimportant. Aside from finding new

friends, we are at a loss. - Frustrated with Friends in South Dakota

Dear South Dakota: Are those "fun things" planned by others? Your friends could be the type of people who need to be organized by those willing to put forth the effort. And if they are arranging and hosting events and not including you, they are users who are happy to eat your food and share your plans, but have no intention of reciprocating. Most people fall somewhere in between. They aren't trying to be rude. They simply aren't paying attention. Your situation is in the category of "nothing to lose." Take one of these so-called friends aside and ask what's going on.

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5:PM	News ABC	La Mujer Notic.	Two Men Two Men	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News King	King King	Israel Andrew	Charlie Rose	King King	Auction Auction	CSI: Miami	Jail Jail	Bones	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Shake It Good	NFL32	SportsCenter
6:PM	Jeopardy! Wheel	Una Familia con Suerte (SS)	Big Bang Big Bang	News Ent	Especial	News Millionaire	Seinfeld Seinfeld	Dr. Wil Scrivner	PBS News-Hour	Seinfeld Seinfeld	Auction Auction	CSI: Miami	Jail Jail	Bones	ANT Farm Austin	NFL Live	NBA NBA	NBA
7:PM	Missing	Grey's Anatomy	Abismo de Pasión	Touch	Person of Interest	Corazón Valiente	Commun 30 Rock	Fam. Guy Fam. Guy	Pioneers, Television	Perez Hilton	Auction Auction	Movie: Death Wish 4: The Crack-down	Jail Jail	Bones	Movie: The Marriage Chronicles, Terri J. Vaughn	Phineas	30 for 30	Basketball: Conference Semifinal: Teams TBA.
8:PM	(:01) Scandal	La Que No	Simpsons How I Met	The Mentalist	Relaciones Peli	Awake	Big Bang Big Bang	Big Bang Big Bang	Frontline	The Vampire Diaries	Auction Auction	Movie: Death Wish V: The Face of Death	Jail Jail	Bones	Movie: The Kingdom, Jennifer Garner	Phineas	Baseball Tonight	NBA Basketball: Conference Semifinal: Teams TBA.
9:PM	News Nightline	Impacto Noticiero	How I Met Raymond	News Letterman	Noticias Titulares	News Jay Leno	Conan	Dr. Diana Van Impe	Charlie Rose	Til Death '70s	Auction Auction	MMA Ways Die	CSI: NY	Wendy Williams	Wizards	SportCtr	SportsCenter	
10:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Hasta-Dinero	Law Order: CI	Late	Decisions (SS)	Late Night	Office Conan	Sala	T. Smiley (Off Air)	South Pk	Auction Auction	Movie: Caddyshack, Bill Murray	CSI: NY	Lavell Crawford: Can a Brother	Good	NBA Live	SportsCenter	
11:AM	Extra	Mañana-Siempre	Raymond Fam. Guy	Insider	Pagado	News	Seinfeld	Light of the Southwest	World	South Pk	Auction Auction	Movie: Overboard, Edward Har.	CSI: NY	Wendy Williams	Wizards	Baseball Tonight	SportsCenter	
12:AM	Paid	La Jaula	American Ent	Paid	Paid	(:06) Today	Seinfeld	Light of the Southwest	World	South Pk	Auction Auction	Movie: Overboard, Edward Har.	CSI: NY	Wendy Williams	Wizards	Baseball Tonight	SportsCenter	
1:AM	Paid	Par Ases	TMZ	Paid	Paid	(:06) Today	Seinfeld	Light of the Southwest	World	South Pk	Auction Auction	Movie: Overboard, Edward Har.	CSI: NY	Wendy Williams	Wizards	Baseball Tonight	SportsCenter	

DENNIS THE MENACE



"I WANT A JOB WHERE I DON'T HAVE TO BE RIGHT ALL THE TIME."

"YOU WANT TO BE A WEATHERMAN?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



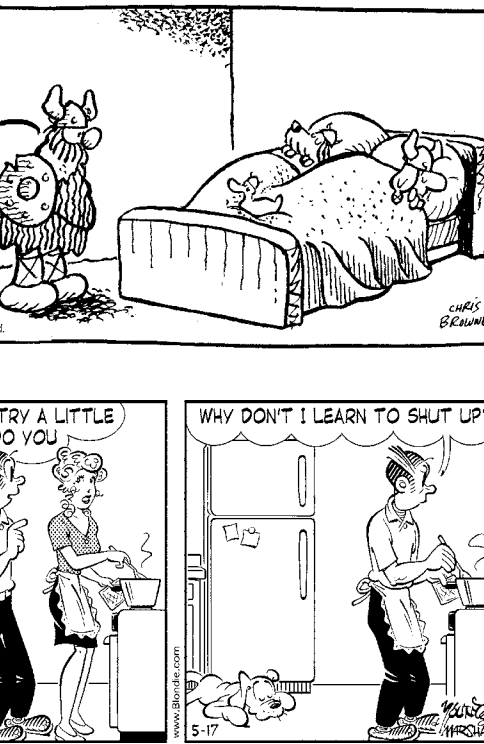
"I have to go to the bathroom shop."

HAGAR



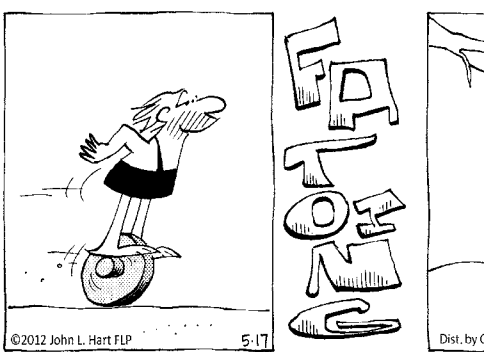
"I'M HOME EARLY AND I CAN'T WAIT TO HAVE A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP IN MY OWN BED!"

BLONDIE



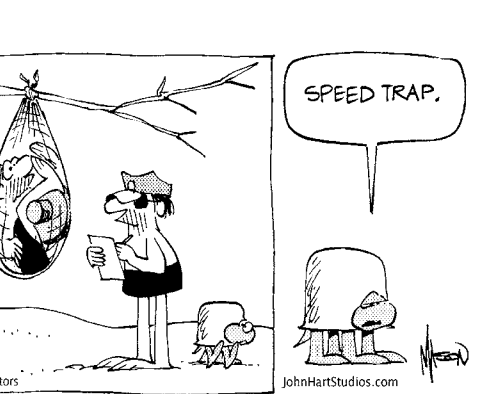
WHY DON'T YOU TRY A LITTLE ALLSPICE? WHY DO YOU ALWAYS STIR CLOCKWISE? WHY DON'T YOU TURN DOWN THE HEAT?

BC



"I CAN ONLY AFFORD A SMALL INSCRIPTION"

"LUCKILY, TEXTING HAS MADE THAT POSSIBLE"



SPEED TRAP.

This Date In History

Today is Thursday, May 17, the 138th day of 2012. There are 228 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 17, 1937, Teddy Hill and His Orchestra recorded "King Porter Stomp" for RCA Victor's Bluebird label in New York; making his recording debut was trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie.

On this date:

In 1510, Early Renaissance painter Sandro Botticelli died in Florence, Italy; he was probably in his mid 60s.

In 1792, the New York Stock Exchange had its origins as a group of brokers met under a tree on Wall Street.

In 1849, fire erupted in St. Louis, Mo., resulting in the loss of three lives, more than 400 buildings and some two dozen steamships.

In 1912, the Socialist Party of America nominated Eugene V. Debs for president at its convention in Indianapolis.

In 1939, Britain's King George VI and Queen Elizabeth arrived in Quebec on the first visit to Canada by reigning British sovereigns.

In 1946, President Harry S. Truman seized control of the nation's railroads, delaying — but not preventing — a threatened strike by engineers and trainmen.

In 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court, in Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, unanimously struck down racially segregated public schools.

In 1961, Cuban leader Fidel Castro offered to release prisoners captured in the Bay of Pigs invasion in exchange for 500 bulldozers. (The prisoners were eventually freed in exchange for medical supplies.)

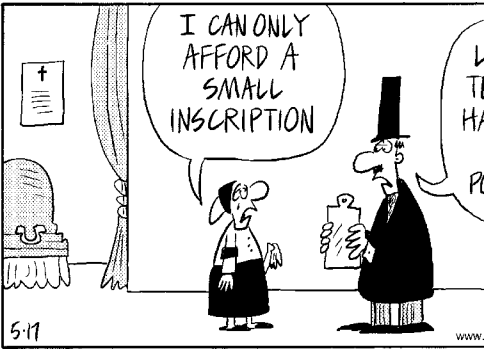
In 1971, "Godspell," a contemporary musical inspired by the Gospel According to St. Matthew, opened off-Broadway at the Cherry Lane Theatre.

In 1980, rioting that claimed 18 lives erupted in Miami's Liberty City after an all-white jury in Tampa acquitted four former Miami police officers of fatally beating black insurance executive Arthur McDuffie.

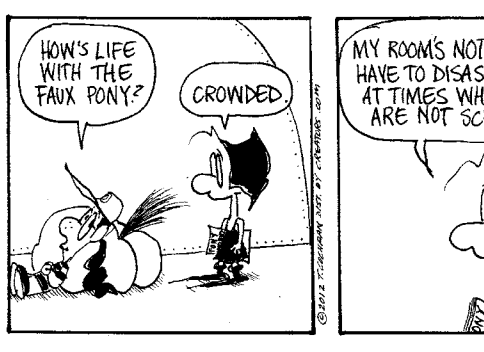
Answer to previous puzzle

PINT	SAMBA	ABLE
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SELLOUT	TROT	
SAWS	SEER	DMZ
ANTI	SPRAT	RUE
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FUTURE	DRAFT	PICK
CRAB	GRANT	ERIE
SOBS	GYPSEY	ZEDS

WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



Newsday Crossword

TAILOR MADE by David W. Cromer
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 Part of a Santa costume
 - 6 Madrid Mrs.
 - 9 Sounded content
 - 14 Emotion that may need "management"
 - 15 Longing
 - 16 Have a longing for
 - 17 Amuse greatly
 - 20 UK record label
 - 21 Polar region
 - 22 Hair quantity
 - 23 Ball of fire
 - 25 Play part
 - 27 "Say it ___ so"
 - 29 Square-dance call
 - 33 Tart-tasting
 - 36 In the dark
 - 39 In this day and age
 - 40 Get through a narrow passage
 - 44 Part of the UK
 - 45 Tennis umpire call
 - 46 No longer green, perhaps
 - 47 Library section
 - 49 Only
 - 52 Receives guests
 - 55 Insurance category
 - 59 For whom the bell tolls
 - 62 Maleshift Frisbee
 - 64 Oath affirmation
 - 65 Be overfilled
 - 68 Unfamiliar
 - 69 Lucy of Kung Fu Panda
- DOWN**
- 1 Like hay, perhaps
 - 2 The other side
 - 3 From the top
 - 4 Pastor, for short
 - 5 Fond hopes
 - 6 Harmony, so to speak
 - 7 Takes a break
 - 8 Prank
 - 9 False show
 - 10 Parts of feet
 - 11 Amused reaction
 - 12 Uniform
 - 13 Place to work
 - 18 Fairway club
 - 19 Stranded, perhaps
 - 24 Ending for million
 - 26 Pay attention to
 - 28 Ballet garb
 - 30 Annual auto race, familiarly
 - 31 Parcel (out)
 - 32 Still outstanding
 - 33 Short distance
 - 34 "Yikes!"
 - 35 Press for awarder
 - 37 Stanley Cup
 - 38 "I'm game"
 - 41 Big hairdo
 - 42 Masseur employer
 - 43 Idyllic place
 - 48 End of a Hemingway title
 - 50 Garfield pal
 - 51 Important parts of specs
 - 53 Words on a spine
 - 54 Take hold
 - 56 Royal crown
 - 57 Own up to
 - 58 Misplaces
 - 59 Skier's transportation
 - 60 TV show subscription service
 - 61 Celtic land
 - 63 Sound of a dull impact
 - 66 Blaster's buy
 - 67 Slender swimmer

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