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Council OKs Army training exercise plans



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Tuesday, Big Spring's City Council formally extended an invitation to U.S. Army Special Operations Command to conduct a training exercise in this area early next year.

BY LYNDEL MOODY
 Staff Writer

When it comes to inviting the military back for exercises, the Big Spring City Council says, we'll leave the light on for you.

Council members approved in a 7-0 vote a first resolution inviting the U.S. Army Special Operations Command to conduct a three-month military training in Big Spring during their meeting Tuesday night.

"We will be in direct contact with them just like we were prior this year," said Big Spring Chief of Police Chad Williams. "We will know everything that's going on."

The exercise UWEX 16 (Unconventional Warfare Exercise 16) will be held in the area from March 19, 2016 to June 5, 2016 and Big Spring will be one of only two sites in Texas this time, according to Williams. The other site is Bryan, located in East Texas.

This past year's Jade Helm 15, another USA-SOC exercise also held in parts of Howard County, stirred up some major controversy, especially around the blogosphere and produced a number of internet rumors, such as the ex-

See **COUNCIL**, Page 3

Filing deadline Monday

By STEVE REAGAN
 Staff Writer

Time is running out for people interested in running for county office in the March party primaries.

Monday is the deadline to file candidacy papers for the primary election, set for March 1, 2016.

Howard County Election Administrator Sandra Bloom said the following Howard County offices are up for election in 2016:

- 118th District Attorney —

See **FILING**, Page 3

ISD, college boards to meet

Big Spring trustees to discuss accountability issues



BY LYNDEL MOODY
 Staff Writer

Trustees with the Big Spring Independent School District will hold two public hearings to discuss a few state accountability reports before diving into a lengthy agenda when they meet Thursday evening.

First on Thursday, trustees will hold a hearing on the Big Spring ISD Financial Accountability Rating (School First) and the Annual Financial Accountability Management Report for the 2013-2014 school year. These reports, required by the state, are used to judge if the district is using sound financial practices. The district has

received top marks in this area for a number of years.

Trustees will also hold a public hearing on the 2014-2015 District Annual Report including the Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR.)

TAPR is a compilation of data about the district's academic and financial performance. The report, which is available on the Texas Education Agency website, breaks down statistics to district and campus level with comparisons to schools districts as a whole both statewide and in the region.

Big Spring ISD recently dug itself

See **ISD**, Page 3

Board member search tops Howard College special agenda

Howard College Trustees will consider appointing two new members to the board when they meet in special session Thursday.

Listed on a very short agenda, trustees are expected to head into closed session to review the qualifications of candidates who have applied for the position for two at-large vacancies.

The positions became open after the death of long-time trustee Charles Warren last month and the recent resignation of Marie Ethridge, who is moving out of the district.

Once appointed, the two members will still face an election in May to retain their position.

Trustees will meet at 2 p.m. in the Howard College Tumbleweed Room located in the Dora Roberts Student Union Building, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

In other business, trustees will,

- Consider bids
- Hear legislative and general updates by the president.

— Lyndel Moody



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To reach us:
 Please call 263-7331.
 Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.



Refugees welcomed by agencies

By NOMAAN MERCHANT
 Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — Days before a family of six Syrian refugees was to arrive in Texas, the furniture and supplies for their apartment were ready.

Local volunteers collected mattresses, toys and bicycles for two children. Syrians already settled here were prepared to welcome them and help them get acquainted with their new home thousands of miles from their war-torn homeland.

Even as governors in some states say Syrian refugees aren't welcome, resettlement agencies and volunteer groups with refugees continue welcoming them.

Refugees arrived this week in two cities in Texas and in Indiana, both states whose governors have said they reject Syrian refugees due to

See **REFUGEES**, Page 3

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Obituaries

Bobby Joe Blackshear



Bobby Joe Blackshear, 80, of Big Spring, died Monday, Dec. 7, 2015, at his residence. The family will receive friends Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2015 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral service will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel with Shane Blackshear, his nephew, officiating. Burial will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

Bobby was born Sept. 12, 1935, in Kress, Texas to Edith Opal (Bishop) and Horace Blackshear. He has been a lifetime resident of Howard County. He married Barbara Marple Dec. 30, 1958 in Channing, Texas. She preceded him in death on April 20, 2013. He was a veteran of the United States Army. He was known by his family for baking his magic brownies and beans and cornbread. He was a charter member of College Baptist Church.

Bobby is survived by his daughter, Natalie McDonald of San Angelo; two granddaughters, Marissa McDonald of San Angelo and Melanie McDonald of Austin; his great-grandson, Christian Ceniseros; two brothers, Dealy Blackshear and Tim Blackshear, both of Big Spring; two sisters, Barbara Conaway of Spring and Debra Wallace of Big Spring; and numerous nieces and nephews. He is also survived by Maddisyn Wallace, Macie Wallace, Paisley Walden and Kobi Olivas, whom he considered his grandchildren.

Bobby was preceded in death by his parents, Horace and Opal Blackshear; his wife, Barbara; his son, David Blackshear; his granddaughter, Christina McDonald; and his son-in-law, Pete McDonald.

Pallbearers will be Brent Walden, Glenn Fuqua, Johnny Flores, Cam Blackshear, Cass Blackshear, Mike Conaway and Noel Olivas. Honorary pallbearers will be All Earthco employees.

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

Paid obituary

Emma Leos



Emma Leos, 53, of Big Spring, died Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2015, at her residence. Prayer service will be at 7 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel, with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

She was born Feb. 1, 1962 in Big Spring, Texas. She was a homemaker and a member of the First Church of the Nazarene.

She is survived by her husband, Rodolfo Gonzales Jr., of Big Spring; two sons, Christopher Leos and wife, Stacey, and Rudy Gonzales, both of Big Spring; two daughters, Gina Marie Zamora and husband, Ross, of Austin, and Mary Helen Sellers and husband, Antonio, of Brownsville; eight grandchildren; a sister, Yolanda Vela of Big Spring; and three brothers, Juan Leos, Carlos Leos and Cipriano DelBosque of Abilene.

She was preceded in death by one sister, Olga Lopez; and a brother, Samuel Martinez.

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

Police/Sheriff/Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

• **MARKQUIN EARL HARRIS**, 29, of 2911 W. Highway 80 No. 204 was arrested on a charge of forgery financial instrument.

• **DALTON WILL WHITE**, 38, of 410 E. Davis Road was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.

• **DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 400 block of Davis Road.

• **THEFT** was reported on Hangar 18 on the McMahan-Wrinkle Industrial Park and Airport.

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 59 in-

mates at the time of this report.

• **SYLVIA GARCIA TREVINO**, 47, was booked by the HCSO on warrants for theft of property, more than \$1500 but less than \$20k, by check and capias/speeding 67 mph in a 35 mph zone.

• **MARQUIN EARL HARRIS**, 29, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of forgery financial instrument.

• **BILLY LEE JOHNSON III**, 20, was booked by the BSPD on charges of possession of a controlled substance, more than or equal to 1 gram but less than 4 grams; and evading arrest, detention with vehicle.

• **DUSTIN WAYNE OLSEN**, 32, was booked by the HCSO on a war-

rant for bail jumping and failure to appear.

• **DONNIE RODRIGUEZ**, 23, was booked by the HCSO on warrant for MRTP/manufacturing/delivering of a controlled substance, more than or equal to 1 gram but less than 4 gram.

• **DALTON WILL WHITE**, 38, was booked by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.

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

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1400 block of Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 700 block of 7th St. No trans-

port reported.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1600 block of Lancaster St.. No transport reported.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1600 block of Lancaster St.. No transport reported.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 800 block of Interstate 20. No transport reported.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 800 block of Interstate 20. One person transported to SMMC.

• **BUILDING FIRE** was reported in the 1900 block of Morrison St. Fire was extinguished.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1400 block of Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL CALL**

Support Groups

THURSDAY

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

• Spring Tabernacle Ministries has a faith-based support group for those who need help finding and continuing to walk down the path God has for each of us. Meetings are at 11 a.m. until noon and again at 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The classes take place at Spring Tabernacle Ministries, located at 1209 Wright St.

• Weight Watchers meets at 6 p.m. at St.

Paul Lutheran Church. Weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m. Weigh-in is confidential and you don't have to talk if you don't want to.

Flexible payment options.

• Stepping Stone Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets at Spring Town Plaza (inside the mall, next to Attitudes Hair Salon, down by Bealls).

Open meeting at 7 p.m.

• A Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder support group meeting is at 6:30 p.m. at the VA Medical Center Veteran's Healing Center.

FRIDAY

• Stepping Stone Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets at Spring Town Plaza (inside the mall, next to Attitudes Hair Salon, down by Bealls).

Open meeting at 7 p.m.

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

SATURDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting

8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m. Covered dish supper at 7 p.m.

SUNDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting 7 p.m. until 8 p.m.

MONDAY

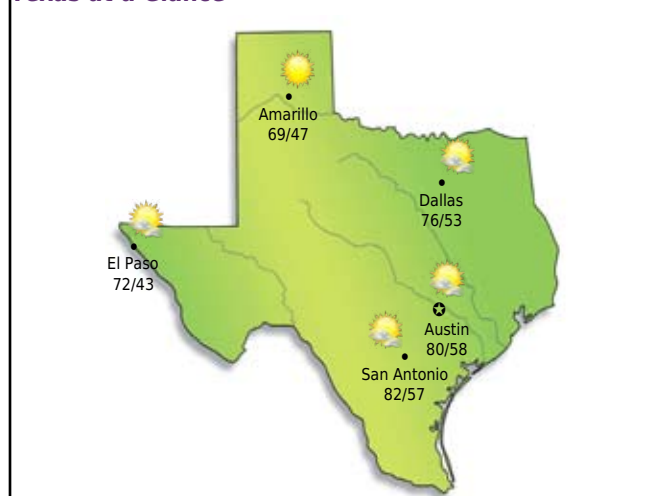
• Alcoholics Anonymous, As Bill Sees it, 615 Settles, 6:06 p.m. to 7 p.m.

• VA Alcoholics Anonymous support group, 7-8 p.m., Veterans Healing Center.

Local 5-Day Forecast

Thu 12/10	Fri 12/11	Sat 12/12	Sun 12/13	Mon 12/14
75/44	77/52	72/37	53/36	67/40
Some clouds in the morning will give way to mainly sunny skies for the afternoon. High near 75F. WSW winds shifting to N at 10 to 15 mph.	Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the low 50s.	Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the upper 30s.	Windy with a few clouds. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the mid 30s.	Sunny. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the low 40s.
Sunrise: 7:36 AM Sunset: 5:41 PM	Sunrise: 7:37 AM Sunset: 5:41 PM	Sunrise: 7:37 AM Sunset: 5:42 PM	Sunrise: 7:38 AM Sunset: 5:42 PM	Sunrise: 7:39 AM Sunset: 5:42 PM

Texas at a Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	70	49	Sunny
Amarillo	66	42	Sunny
Austin	75	52	Sunny
Beaumont	74	54	Cloudy
Brownsville	80	64	M Cloudy
Brownwood	70	44	Sunny
Corpus Christi	74	58	Foggy
Corsicana	71	49	Sunny
Dallas	72	48	Clear
Del Rio	78	48	Sunny
El Paso	67	42	P Cloudy
Fort Stockton	74	50	Sunny
Gainesville	69	46	M Sunny
Greenville	69	47	Sunny
Houston	78	56	Sunny
Kingsville	81	59	Cloudy
Livingston	73	50	Cloudy
Longview	71	48	M Sunny
Lubbock	71	44	M Cloudy
Lufkin	73	47	Foggy
Midland	72	44	Sunny
Raymondville	80	62	Cloudy
Rosenberg	77	56	Foggy
San Antonio	78	53	Sunny
San Marcos	76	52	Sunny
Sulphur Springs	71	48	Sunny
Sweetwater	70	47	Sunny
Tyler	69	48	Sunny
Weatherford	70	48	P Cloudy
Wichita Falls	73	46	Sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	65	50	M Sunny
Boston	47	42	Cloudy
Chicago	51	43	P Cloudy
Dallas	72	48	Clear
Denver	66	40	P Cloudy
Houston	63	41	Clear
Los Angeles	78	54	Clear
Miami	79	68	M Cloudy
Minneapolis	46	39	Clear
New York	55	49	Cloudy
Phoenix	77	47	Clear
San Francisco	62	57	Cloudy
Seattle	55	44	Showers
Saint Louis	59	44	Clear

Moon Phases



UV Index

Thu 12/10	Fri 12/11	Sat 12/12	Sun 12/13	Mon 12/14
3	3	3	3	3
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

The UV Index is measured on a 0 - 11 number scale, with a higher UV Index showing the need for greater skin protection.

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was reported in the 1000 block of Stadium. No transport reported.

• **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the 1700 block of Scurry. Two people were transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL CALL**

was reported in the 1800 block of Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 2200 block of Monticello. One person was transported to SMMC.

to SMMC.

To submit a news item, call 263-7331, ext. 235 or email editor@bigspringherald.com



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COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1

exercise was a precursor to a military takeover in Texas. The outcry from some of the public prompted Texas Gov. Greg Abbott to have the Texas State Guard monitor the exercise. Before the vote, Mayor Larry McLellan asked Williams if the exercise is expected to go much like this past one, very low key and "probably a disappointment that we wouldn't see a lot of military people running around with guns."

Williams said there was no reason, in his professional opinion, not to let the military hold the exercise.

In other business, city council members approved:

- A temporary permit to allow the placement of a manufactured home in the backyard of a home owned in the city limits. This waiver is given for a specific situation regarding a caregiving issue, city officials explained.

- Parameters to begin the process to refinance two city bonds series from the year 2007 in attempt to save money on the bond issuance. The bonds are callable in 2017.

- Approved additional funding to Economic Development Corporation for the rail spur infrastructure project at the McMahan-Wrinkle Industrial Park and Airport.

Staff Writer Lyndel Moody can be contacted at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by emailing citydesk@bigspringherald.com.

REFUGEES

Continued from Page 1

concerns they might pose a threat to public safety.

A family of six refugees was settled Monday night in Dallas, joining relatives living in the region already, and a couple and their four daughters arrived in Houston. They arrived as Texas was mounting the most aggressive campaign of any state against Syrian refugees.

And a couple and their two young children arrived in Indiana at the invitation of the Roman Catholic archdiocese in Indianapolis, which went on with plans to resettle them despite calls from Gov. Mike Pence not to do so.

The family in Dallas arrived to a

furnished apartment and a stocked refrigerator, said Lucy Carrigan, spokeswoman for the International Rescue Committee. An IRC caseworker was expected to meet with them shortly after their arrival and map out their next steps, from enrolling children in school to how to use local mass transit, said Donna Duvin, executive director of the IRC's Dallas office.

Duvin said her agency's work with the Syrian family was not greatly different from how it regularly helps refugees, though heavy media attention has followed this family's arrival. The agency, she said, wanted to "as much as possible, create a sense of a normal life" for this family and all refugees.

"Families who have been separated, especially by the trauma of war, are desperate to have their families with them here so they

can really feel like they can get on with their lives," Duvin said.

The Dallas area has several apartment complexes filled with new arrivals from around the world. Volunteers who regularly work with refugees say they've seen an uptick in donations and offers to help in the wake of more attention being paid to Syrian refugees.

"We've been overwhelmed with messages of support, messages to be shared with the families, and all the Syrians, and even refugees from other countries who've made their home in Dallas," said Anne Marie Weiss-Armush, president of DFW International Community Alliance.

The archdiocese in Indianapolis said the four Syrians who arrived there had fled Syria three years ago and underwent two years of security checks.

Take note

- The 29th annual Drive-through Nativity by the First Church of the Nazarene is Friday through Sunday from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. This event is free of charge and depicts the life of Jesus using sets, live animals and people for the various scenes.

- Howard College will be hosting sev-

eral "update meetings" throughout Howard County for interested citizens to gather more facts and information about Howard College as they prepare for the tax rate rollback election to be held in January 2016. Those dates are: Thursday, 6:30 p.m., Forsan High School Auditorium, Forsan; Monday, 6:30 p.m., Hall Center for the Arts.

ISD

Continued from Page 1

out of low-performance standings after several years. During the past several meeting, Big Spring administrators

and principals have presented plans to raise up the academic standing in both the district as a whole and individual schools which did not meet state standards last year

Trustees are expected

to meet at 5:15 p.m. in the high school board room, 707 11th Place.

Also on the agenda, trustees are expected to:

- Discuss pending litigation.
- Annual reports.
- Financial and per-

sonnel matters.

- Consider a resolution regarding qualifications for a new Texas Commissioner of Education.
- Consider the tax roll.
- Consider an agreement to allow CGG Land

(U.S.) Inc. to conduct seismic operations of district property.

Staff Writer Lyndel Moody can be contacted at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com.

FILING

Continued from Page 1

Republican incumbent Hardy L. Wilkerson is the only candidate to have filed to date, according to the Texas Republican Party's web site. Candidates for this office must file with either the state Republican or Democratic parties.

- County Attorney — No candidates have filed as of this morning.

ua Hamby is the current office-holder.

- County Sheriff — Republican incumbent Stan Parker has filed for re-election; no other candidates have filed as of this morning.

- Precinct 1 County Commissioner — Republican Chad Averette is the only announced candidate to date for this position, currently held by Oscar Garcia.

- Precinct 3 County Commissioner — Republican incumbent Jimmie Long is the only

announced candidate to date.

- County Tax Assessor/Collector — Tiffany Fernandez has filed for the Republican primary. Diane Carter is the incumbent.

- Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1, Place 1 — Republican incumbent Bennie Green is the only announced candidate to date.

Aside from county races, many federal and state primaries will be on the March 1 ballot, including U.S. presi-

dent, all U.S. representatives, state railroad commissioners, eight state board of education members, 16 state senators, and all 150 state representatives.

Persons wishing to run for county offices in the Republican primary need to file with county GOP Chairman Ron Farquhar by the Monday deadline. Since Howard County does not have a Democratic Party Chairman, persons wishing to run in that primary need to file with state party chairman Glen Maxey at gmaxey@txdemocrats.

org, Bloom said.

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

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Pharrah Maelynn Rios, 11 months, passed away Saturday. Prayer service was at 10:00 AM this morning at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Dwayne "Duke" Eukel, 60, died Friday. Memorial service will be held at 3:00 PM today at Spring Creek Fellowship.

Bobby Joe Blackshear, 80, died Monday. The family will receive friends tonight from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral service will be at 10:00 AM Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

Emma Leos, 53, died Tuesday. Prayer service will be at 7:00 PM Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral service will be at 11:00 AM Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

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Opinion

I column as I see 'em: Laughing your troubles away

"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 writers and not those of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

ADDRESSES

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

• **BARACK OBAMA**
President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

• **TED CRUZ**
U.S. Senator
B40B Dirksen Senate
Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-4305
Phone: 202-228-0462

• **JOHN CORNYN**
U.S. Senator
517 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-4305
Phone: 202-224-2934

• **RANDY NEUGEBAUER**
U.S. Representative
19th Cong. District
1510 Scurry
Big Spring
Phone: 432-264-0722

STATE GOVERNMENT

• **GREG ABBOTT**
Governor
State Capitol, Room 2S.1
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, 78711
Phone: 512-463-2000

• **DREW DARBY**
State Representative

Texas 72nd District
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, 78768
Phone: 512-463-0331

• **KEL SELIGER**
State Senator
Texas 31st District
Phone: 432-268-9909

BIG SPRING CITY COUNCIL

• **LARRY MCLELLAN**,
MAYOR — Office: 267-2711.

• **JIM DEPAUW** — 263-0008.

• **CARMEN HARBOUR**
— Work: 264-2401.

• **RAUL MARQUEZ JR**
— Cell: 816-1015.

• **JUSTIN MYERS** —
Home: 263-3771.

• **STEVE WAGGONER**
— Home: 267-8058.

• **RAUL BENAVIDES** —
Work: 267-2501.

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

• **KATHRYN WISEMAN**,
COUNTY JUDGE — Office:
264-2202.

• **OSCAR GARCIA** —
Home: 264-0026.

• **CRAIG BAILEY** —
Office: 816-5270.

• **JIMMIE LONG** — 432-267-4224.

• **JOHN CLINE** —
Home: 263-7158.

The world is a mess. Our government is in disarray. The economy is unstable. Society is reeling from a plethora of sicknesses. The political scene reminds me of a Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus.

I'm ready for a break from it all. Do you ever wish you could just forget it all for a little while and be entertained by some of the lighter elements of life? Actor Peter Ustinov said, "I was irrevocably betrothed to laughter, the sound of which has always seemed to me to be the most civilized music in the world." I need some of that flavor of civilization.

There's never a shortage of intelligence-deficient criminals to make me smile. In San Francisco a man walked into the downtown Bank of America and on the back of a deposit slip wrote, "this iz a stikkup. Put all your munny in this bag." While standing in line, waiting to give his note to the teller, the man began to worry that someone may have seen him write the note and might call the police before he could reach the teller.

So, the criminal left the Bank of America and walked across to the street to Wells Fargo. After waiting in line for several minutes there, he handed his note to a teller.

After reading it, the teller determined that this robber was perhaps a few sandwiches short of a picnic. She told him that because his note was written on a Bank of America deposit slip, she could not honor his demand. He would either have to fill out a Wells Fargo withdrawal slip or go back to the Bank of America. Feeling defeated, the man said he understood and left. The Wells Fargo teller promptly called the police, who arrested the man a few minutes later—still waiting in line at the Bank of America.

The Ann Arbor News reported that a man walked into a Burger King in Ypsilanti, Michigan at 8:50 a.m. flashed a gun and de-



EDDY PRINCE

manded cash. The clerk turned him down because he said he couldn't open the cash register without a food order. When the man ordered onion rings, the clerk said they weren't available for breakfast. The man, frustrated, walked away.

A woman was reporting her car as stolen and mentioned that there was a car phone in it. The policeman taking the report called the phone and told the guy that answered that he had read the ad in the newspaper and wanted to buy the car. They arranged to meet, and the thief was arrested.

45 year-old Amy Brasher was arrested in San Antonio, Texas, after a mechanic reported to police that 18 packages of marijuana were packed in the engine compartment of the car which she had brought in for an oil change. According to police, Brasher later said that she didn't realize that the mechanic would have to raise the hood to change the oil.

Dennis Newton was on trial for the armed robbery of a convenience store in an Oklahoma district court when he fired his lawyer. Assistant district attorney Larry Jones said Newton, 47, was doing a fair job of defending himself until the store manager testified that Newton was the robber. Newton jumped up, accused the woman of lying and then said, "I should of blown your [expletive] head off!" The defendant paused, then quickly added, "- if I'd been the one that was there." The jury took 20 minutes to convict Newton and recommend a 30-year sentence.

It's not only criminals that take center stage in the theater of life. How about that age-old "Hoof-in-Mouth" disease? Employed by the human-development center of a corporation in the Midwest, a lady trained employees in proper dress codes and etiquette. One day as she was stepping onto the elevator, a man casually dressed in jeans and a golf shirt got on with her. Thinking of her responsibilities, she scolded, "Dressed a little casually today, aren't we?" The man replied, "That's one benefit of owning the company".

Newspaper headlines aren't always well-thought out: "Two Sisters Reunited after 18 Years in

Checkout Counter", "New Study of Obesity Looks for Larger Test Group", "Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant", "Survivor of Siamese Twins Joins Parents", "Two Soviet Ships Collide, One Dies", "Local High School Dropouts Cut in Half", and "Chef Throws His Heart into Helping Feed Needy".

I've always been fascinated by puns. For instance, "The midget fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large." Or, "When you dream in color, it's a pigment of your imagination." Then, "I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down." What about, "A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering." That's enough of that.

How about a few ideas for your answering machine message? "You know what I hate about answering machine messages? They go on and on, wasting your time. I mean, all they really need to say is, "We aren't in, leave a message." That's why I've decided to keep mine simple and short. I pledge to you, my caller, that you will never have to suffer through another long answering machine message when you call me."

I also like the one that says, "Thank you for calling 434-2322. If you wish to speak to Tim, push 1 on your touch tone phone now. If you wish to speak to Lynn, push 2 on your touch tone phone now. If you have a wrong number, push 3 on your touch tone phone now. All of this button pushing doesn't do anything, but it is a good way to work off anger, and it makes us feel like we have a big time phone system."

Well, you may not feel any less stressed than when you started reading this column, but maybe you feel a little smarter. Hopefully, you at least smiled because as Sebastian Roch said, "Of all days, the day on which one has not laughed is the one most surely wasted."

You may not agree with anything I've said, but I column as I see 'em.

Eddy Prince is senior pastor at Grace Fellowship Church of God in Big Spring. He can be reached by email at pastorprince@msn.

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 at editor@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor. We ask you to follow these guidelines:

- 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 e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com or mailed to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721.

DAILY PRAYER

May we remain diligent about reading Your word, Lord, for our life.

Amen

The gun debate continues

There is something I forgot to mention in my Sunday column about California's gun laws and their failure to stop the San Bernardino terrorist attack last week: I supported California's 1989 assault weapon ban. The bill passed after a vicious elementary schoolyard shooting in Stockton left five children dead. The shooter had an AK-47. Sacramento passed an assault weapon ban that I believed would save lives because it would limit the speed with which a deranged thug could kill.

Fact is, I knew next to nothing about guns. I wrongly equated semi-automatic weapons with automatic weapons. I wrongly thought the guns banned in the 1989 law were faster than other semi-automatic long guns. I felt virtuous because at least I was supporting something.

In 1994, Washington adopted a national assault weapon ban. As the law was about to sunset in 2004, a Department of Justice evaluation determined that if the ban were renewed, then its effects on gun violence would be "small at best and perhaps too small for reliable measurement." That's in part because the banned firearms were used

in about 2 percent of crimes before the law was enacted, according to most studies.

In his Sunday night speech on the San Bernardino attack, President Barack Obama told America that to fight terrorism, Washington has to make it "harder for people to buy powerful assault weapons like the ones that were used in San Bernardino." Methinks he wants some partisan cage-rattling to distract from the frightening prospect of terror in the homeland. On Saturday, a New York Times front-page editorial opined likewise. The editorial noted that European bans have not stopped terrorist attacks, "but at least those countries are trying."

That's the spirit of the assault weapon ban community; it is a good thing to enact laws that don't work, because it shows you really care.

Pat yourself on the back quickly because you've just chased other Americans — people who fear that this is an early step in a march against their Second Amendment rights — to their local gun dealer to buy what they think you want to ban.

For the record, I don't think it's a good thing if more people own guns. Irresponsible owners leave loaded weapons where children can find them. Also, more than 20,000 Americans kill themselves with guns annually.

But this is important: There has been "a remarkable decrease

in violent crime and gun crime in the U.S. since the early 1990s, even though the number of firearms has increased by about 10 million every year," Center for Research in Crime and Justice Director James Jacobs told Time magazine. "There's no simple correspondence between the number of firearms in private hands and the amount of gun crime, and I often find it somewhat strange that there seems to be a perception that things are worse than ever when, in reality, things are really better than they've been for decades."

So what's my plan? A few readers have asked me. To start, I don't believe in enacting laws that do not work. I know what did work — the heroic San Bernardino Police Department. Officers arrived at the scene in four minutes. A surveillance team found the terrorists' rented van; the shootout that followed very likely prevented another deadly attack. The officers' training saved lives. The key is to know your enemy. The enemy is Islamic extremism, not American gun owners.

Email Debra J. Saunders at dsanders@schronicle.com. To find out more about Debra J. Saunders and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.



DEBRA SAUNDERS

Ports-to-Plains encourages safer highways

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the second in a series of articles highlighting the Ports-to-Plains project.

The primary mission of the Ports-to-Plains Alliance is to advocate for expansion of existing two-lane highways through the Ports-to-Plains region to four-lane divided.

Today we will look at this from a safety viewpoint. As discussed last week, the number of trucks will continue to grow so the need for expanded highways will continue to grow. In addition to increasing numbers of trucks, there is the increasing speed differential in trucks. Many trucks, because of the need for fuel efficiencies, are governed to speeds slower than the speed limit. Other trucks and passenger vehicles who want to travel the speed limit or faster become impatient and try to pass on the two-lane highways resulting in dangerous situations.

Accidents will be significantly reduced on current two-lane segments of the corridor when they are upgraded to four-lane-divided highway. Rural roads are dangerous and improving them SAVES

LIVES. Each year, more than 42,000 Americans are killed and nearly 3 million are injured on our nation's highways. The total economic cost of these crashes exceeds \$230 billion annually. Unfortunately, nearly 60 percent of highway fatalities typically occur on two-lane rural roads. When adjusted for vehicle miles traveled, according to the Governmental Accounting Office, some rural roads have a fatality rate over six times greater than urban interstates. These facts are extremely troubling since only 40 percent of all vehicle miles are traveled on two-lane rural roads.

The Ports-to-Plains Corridor Development and Management Plan, looking at the Texas to Colorado corridor, stated the economic benefit associated with crash reduction was calculated using national costs per crash by type of crash. Those costs include actual costs incurred, such as emergency and legal services, insurance costs, travel delay for other motorists and also include a component to measure more intangible costs such as lost productivity and reduced quality of life resulting from injury. The total reduction in crashes associated with expansion to four-lane along the Corridor is estimated to be approximately 3,296 Property Damage Only crashes, approximately 1,369 crashes involving an injury, and approximately 70 crashes involving a fatality through 2030.

Please let your state departments of transportation know that by expanding to four-lane, Ports-to-Plains can improve rural highway safety. Both your state and federal elected officials need to hear this safety message: Accidents will be significantly reduced on current two-lane segments of the corridor when they are upgraded to four-lane-divided highway.

Ports-to-Plains is a grassroots alliance of over 275 communities and businesses, including alliance partners Heartland Expressway, Theodore Roosevelt Expressway and Eastern Alberta Trade Corridor Coalition, whose mission is to advocate for a robust international transportation infrastructure to promote economic security and prosperity throughout North America's energy and agricultural heartland including Mexico to Canada. Additional information on the Ports-to-Plains Alliance is available at "http://www.portstoplains.com/"



MICHAEL REEVES

Republicans criticize construction of new US embassy in London

WASHINGTON (AP) — Obama administration officials on Tuesday defended the innovative design of a \$1 billion U.S. Embassy being built in London, saying it meets high security standards in a time of evolving terrorist threats against Americans abroad.

Republican lawmakers at a hearing sharply criticized the State Department officials for certifying the building's design and said construction began before blast testing was completed.

The Republicans, led by Rep. Jason Chaffetz of Utah, chairman of the House Oversight Committee, pointed to a report the State Department inspector general issued last summer, which concluded that the department violated the law because it did not "certify to Congress that the project design will meet security standards prior to initiating construction."

"Initiating construction prior to security

certification and blast testing increased the financial risk to the department and taxpayers and was contrary to the department's policy," Steve Linick, inspector general for the State Department, told the committee.

Gregory Starr, assistant secretary for diplomatic security, countered, saying the design of the building, "a steel-framed cube surrounded by a glass curtain wall," was endorsed by the architect, top blast construction experts and others in November and December 2013.

Based on the endorsement of the professionals, Starr said he certified the construction design and was confident it would adequately protect the Americans who would work there. He said the certification relied on computer simulations and even though the certification process did not require a full-scale blast test, that was done, too.

Starr said testing validated what the experts

had said. "It passed with flying colors," Starr said.

Chaffetz alleged that the State Department was "gambling with federal dollars."

"State's premature certification and construction violated federal law and its own internal policies, which require State to prove the new embassy would be safe before construction began," Chaffetz said. "The blast testing did not start until at least three months after State certified to Congress that the curtain wall was safe."

Chaffetz said State accelerated the construction because it sold the existing embassy and faces financial

penalties if construction of the new one runs over schedule.

Lydia Muniz, director of the bureau of overseas building operations at State, said the U.S. sold other properties in London to finance the entire cost of the new embassy.



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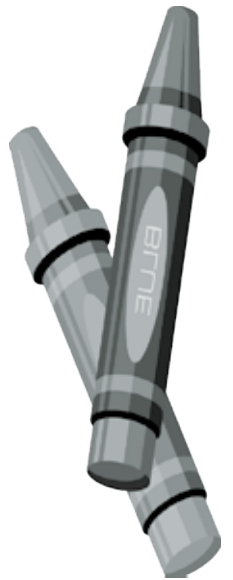
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COLORING CONTEST RULES

- Contest open to children ages 2-12
- Limit one contest submission per person
- Contest entries may be completed using markers, crayons, or colored pencils.
- Adults may assist in completing entry form information, but NOT in coloring pictures.
- All entries must be received by the Big Spring Herald by 5 pm on Monday, December 14, 2015.
- Winners will be published in the Sunday, December 20, 2015 edition.
- Decision of judges is final.
- Employees of the Big Spring Herald and contest sponsors are not eligible to win.
- All submissions become property of the Big Spring Herald and may be published accordingly.

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Parent's Name: _____

Child's Age: _____

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Big Spring boys stifled by Monterey Plainsmen, 71-43

By TAYLOR ELLIS
Sports Editor

The Big Spring boys varsity basketball team ran into a tough, long, and athletic Monterey squad Tuesday night in Steer Gym.

The Steers defeated the Steers 71-43 behind great defense.

The Steers struggled at times dealing with the full court press. In total, the Steers committed 25 turnovers, which the Plainsmen converted into 26 points.

"Too much sloppy and careless passing," head coach Nicholas Tyerman said.

The turnovers gave Monterey chances in transition, as they totaled 21 transition points.

The Steers kept things close in the first quarter, but were out-scored 5-2 in the final two minutes. The Plainsmen started the second quarter on an 8-0 run.

Big Spring struggled again from the free throw line, shooting 35 percent.

"It's frustrating because we've been working on it in practice and it hasn't really

improved from the tournament," Tyerman said.

The Steers trailed 21-41 at halftime, and the Plainsmen started the third hotter than they did the second with a 12-2 run. The Steers responded well, and ended the third quarter on an 8-0 run.

"We played well in the fourth quarter as we started to calm down," Tyerman said. "I told them 'play like you do when you're down 20.' We need to play a complete game with that mind set."

The Steers showed off their athleticism and a growing knowledge of Tyerman's dribble-drive offense, but the team still has more learning to do.

"It's about execution right now. Stay calm, composed, and learn from our mistakes. We saw a little bit of that tonight. I really wish they could understand how close we are. They just need to get over that mental hurdle and believe, because we are good enough to beat anybody," Tyerman said.

Senior guard Israel O'guin led the team in scoring with 14 points.

Senior forward Eric Ortega recorded another double-double with 10 points and 11 rebounds.

SCORING LEADERS
Israel O'guin- 14
Eric Ortega- 10
Kolton Knudson- 7
Lorenzo Jones- 5
Kameron Cooper- 3
Chase Williams- 2
Jeremiah Rushin- 2

REBOUNDING LEADERS
Eric Ortega- 11
Jeremiah Rushin- 4
Kolton Knudson- 4
Chase Williams- 2
Lorenzo Jones- 2
Kameron Cooper- 1
Israel O'guin- 1
Jacob Scott- 1

JUNIOR VARSITY
The boys junior varsity squad lost 65-13 to Monterey junior varsity Tuesday night at Steer Gym. Sophomore guard Tyler Sparks led the team with five points.

Contact sports editor Taylor Ellis at sports@bigspringherald.com or 432.263.7331, ext 237



Photo by Tony Claxton
Israel O'guin (32) puts up a finger roll against Monterey Tuesday night at Steer Gym.

Forsan Buffs cruise past Highland, 61-28

By TAYLOR ELLIS
Sports Editor

The Forsan boys varsity basketball team won big Tuesday night, defeating Highland High

School 61-28.

Sophomore guards Bryce Hergert and Garrett Evans led the team in scoring with 10 points each.

Over half the team scored at least four points in the Buffaloes biggest win of the young season.

"The Buffs really

played well as a team tonight with solid defense and good ball movement on offense," head coach Gary Huckabee said.

SCORING LEADERS
Bryce Hergert- 10
Garrett Evans- 10
Josh Evans- 9
Jesse Cervantes- 7
Ian Park- 5

Ben Mikeska- 4

Contact sports editor Taylor Ellis at sports@bigspringherald.com or 432.263.7331, ext 237

Scoreboard

NBA Sunday's Games	NHL Sunday's Games	Baseball Transactions	Football Transactions	Other News	
<p>Memphis 95, Phoenix 93 Golden State 114, Brooklyn 98 Detroit 111, L.A. Lakers 91 Dallas 116, Washington 104 Oklahoma City 98, Sacramento 95</p> <p>Saturday's Games San Antonio 119, Philadelphia 68 Charlotte 104, Detroit 84 Toronto 102, L.A. Lakers 93 Dallas 104, New York 97 Washington 114, Miami 103 Phoenix 103, Chicago 101 L.A. Clippers 110, Minnesota 106 Boston 111, New Orleans 93 Milwaukee 90, Portland 88</p> <p>Tuesday's Games Cleveland 105, Portland 100 Golden State 131, Indiana 123 Brooklyn 110, Houston 105 Oklahoma City 125, Memphis 88 Orlando 85, Denver 74 Sacramento 114, Utah 106</p> <p>Wednesday's Games Chicago at Boston, 7 p.m. Houston at Washington, 7 p.m.</p> <p>Thursday's Games Miami at Charlotte, 7 p.m. San Antonio at Toronto, 7:30 p.m. Memphis at Detroit, 7:30 p.m. L.A. Lakers at Minnesota, 8 p.m. L.A. Clippers at Milwaukee, 8 p.m. New York at Utah, 9 p.m. Orlando at Phoenix, 9 p.m. Atlanta at Dallas, 9:30 p.m.</p> <p>Friday's Games Philadelphia at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m. L.A. Clippers at Chicago, 8 p.m. Atlanta at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m. New York at Sacramento, 10:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Carolina 5, Arizona 4 Chicago 3, Winnipeg 1 New Jersey 4, Florida 2 N.Y. Rangers 4, Ottawa 1 Edmonton 4, Buffalo 2 Anaheim 2, Pittsburgh 1 Los Angeles 3, Tampa Bay 1</p> <p>Monday's Games Nashville 3, Boston 2 Colorado 2, Minnesota 1, OT Vancouver 5, Buffalo 2</p> <p>Tuesday's Games N.Y. Islanders 4, Philadelphia 3, SO Washington 3, Detroit 2, SO Toronto 3, New Jersey 2, SO Los Angeles 3, Columbus 2, OT Ottawa 4, Florida 2 St. Louis 4, Arizona 1 Chicago 4, Nashville 1 Dallas 6, Carolina 5 Calgary 4, San Jose 2</p> <p>Wednesday's Games Boston at Montreal, 7:30 p.m. San Jose at Edmonton, 9:30 p.m. Pittsburgh at Colorado, 10 p.m. N.Y. Rangers at Vancouver, 10 p.m.</p> <p>Thursday's Games Montreal at Detroit, 7:30 p.m. Ottawa at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m. Washington at Florida, 7:30 p.m. Philadelphia at St. Louis, 8 p.m. Chicago at Nashville, 8 p.m. Columbus at Winnipeg, 8 p.m. Buffalo at Calgary, 9 p.m.</p> <p>Friday's Games Detroit at New Jersey, 7 p.m. Los Angeles at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m. Winnipeg at Chicago, 8:30 p.m. Philadelphia at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Minnesota at Arizona, 9 p.m. N.Y. Rangers at Edmonton, 9:30 p.m. Carolina at Anaheim, 10 p.m.</p> <p>TRANSACTIONS BASEBALL American League BALTIMORE ORIOLAS — Extended their working agreement with Delmarva (SAL) through the 2018 season. BOSTON RED SOX — Assigned RHP Roman Mendez outright to Pawtucket (IL). DETROIT TIGERS — Agreed to terms with RHP Mark Lowe on a two-year contract. National League ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Agreed to terms with RHP Zack Greinke on a six-year contract. Designated RHP A.J. Schugel for assignment. CHICAGO CUBS — Agreed to terms with RHP John Lackey on a two-year contract and INF Ben Zobrist on a four-year contract. Traded INF Starlin Castro to the New York Yankees for RHP Adam Warren and a player to be named. COLORADO ROCKIES — Agreed to terms with RHPs Jason Motte and Chad Qualls on two-year contracts. MIAMI MARLINS — Claimed LHP Mike Strong off waivers from Milwaukee. PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES — Released LHP Joely Rodriguez outright to Lehigh Valley (IL). ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Traded OF Jon Jay to San Diego for 2B Jeddy Gyorko and cash. Frontier League GARY SOUTHWEST RAILCATS — Traded OF Justin Byrd to Schaumburg for a player to be named. NORMAL CORNBELTERS — Traded UT Ozney Guillen</p>	<p>to Sioux Falls (AA) for a player to be named. SCHAUMBURG BOOMERS — Signed RHP Derek DeYoung. WINDY CITY THUNDERBOLTS — Released RHP Dylan Nuernberg. BASKETBALL National Basketball Association MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES — Reassigned F James Ennis to Iowa (NBADL). PHILADELPHIA 76ERS — Assigned F Carl Landry and Christian Wood to Delaware (NBADL). FOOTBALL National Football League NFL — Suspended Tampa Bay LB Kwon Alexander for the final four games of the regular season without pay for violating the NFL policy on performance-enhancing substances. ARIZONA CARDINALS — Placed OL Earl Watford on injured reserve. Signed S D.J. Swearingin from the practice squad. ATLANTA FALCONS — Waived-injured DT Ricky Haviili-Heimuli. Released CB T.J. Heath from the practice squad. Signed S Terrance Parks to the practice squad. BALTIMORE RAVENS — Waived LB Zach Thompson. BUFFALO BILLS — Released TE Matthew Mulligan. Signed TE Nick O'Leary from the practice squad. CHICAGO BEARS — Placed TE Martellus Bennett on injured reserve. Released QB Justin Worley from the practice squad. Signed TE Rob Housler. Signed QB Matt Blanchard to the practice squad. CLEVELAND BROWNS — Placed FB Malcolm Johnson on injured reserve. Released DB Kendall James from the practice squad. Re-signed OL Darrian Miller. Signed TE Con-</p>	<p>nor Hamlett and DB Tim Scott to the practice squad. DENVER BRONCOS — Waived QB Christian Ponder. GREEN BAY PACKERS — Released DB Kyle Sebetich from the practice squad. Signed WR Jamel Johnson and RB Ross Scheuerman to the practice squad. MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Placed S Antone Exum Jr. on injured reserve. Waived DE Justin Trattou. Signed S Shaun Prater. Signed S Anthony Harris from the practice squad and LB Terrance Plummer to the practice squad. NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Released CB Rashaan Melvin. Released TE Joseph Fauria from the practice squad. NEW YORK GIANTS — Placed LS Zak DeOssie and TE Larry Donnell on injured reserve. Signed LS Danny Aiken. Signed CB Tramain Jacobs from the practice squad. NEW YORK JETS — Placed DE Mike Catapano on injured reserve. Signed S Ronald Martin from the practice squad and TE Brandon Bostick to the practice squad. OAKLAND RAIDERS — Signed FB/RB Jamize Olawale to a three-year contract extension. SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — Placed TE Garrett Celek on injured reserve. Re-signed LB Shayne Skov to a two-year contract. WASHINGTON REDSKINS — Placed S Trenton Robinson on injured reserve. Canadian Football League WINNIPEG BLUE BOMBERS — Named Paul LaPolice offensive coordinator. HOCKEY National Hockey League CAROLINA HURRICANES — Assigned D Tyler Ganly from Charlotte (AHL) to Florida (ECHL).</p>	<p>PITTSBURGH PENGUINS — F Pascal Dupuis announced his retirement. American Hockey League SAN DIEGO GULLS — Returned D Shayne Taker to Utah (ECHL). ECHL BRAMPTON BEAST — Released G Sean Bonar. ELMIRA JACKALS — Signed F Phil Bronner. EVANSVILLE ICEMEN — Released G Brent Troyan as emergency backup. Signed G Matt Zenzola. INDY FUEL — Signed F Tim Hall. MANCHESTER MONARCHS — Released G Sean Archia as emergency backup. Signed G Doug Carr. TOLEDO WALLLEY — Released G Dustin Carlson. Released G Josh Unice as emergency backup. SOCCER Major League Soccer LOS ANGELES FC — Named John Thorington executive vice president of soccer operations. National Women's Soccer League CHICAGO RED STARS — D/M Lori Chalupny announced her retirement. COLLEGE BIG EAST CONFERENCE — Added Liberty and Quinnipiac as affiliate members for field hockey. COLORADO STATE — Agreed in terms with football coach Larry Eustachy on a one-year contract extension through the 2019-20 season. EASTERN KENTUCKY — Named Mark Elder football coach. JACKSONVILLE — Named Ian Shields football coach. MEMPHIS — Named Dan Lanning defensive assistant coach.</p>

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1901 North Highway 87
Big Spring, TX 79720

Blue Sky Pipeline Services is looking for an experienced backhoe/CDL driver. Experience in digging on a live line. Benefits are available. Send resume to: P. O. Box 13742, Odessa, Texas 79768/ e-mail: delight@bluskyinc.com/ call 432-580-7332.

Hiring experienced maintainer operators for oilfield dirt work/construction. 2 yrs. experience in finish work required. Pay DOE. Health, vision, and dental insurance 100% paid! Apply in person: 9400 S. Service Rd., Coahoma, TX, or call 432-394-4604 for more information.

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Top Notch Landscaping is hiring for all positions! Must have valid driver's license. Apply under careers and opportunities at topnotchlandscapingco.com

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Needed Medical Assistant for Family Physician clinic in Stanton. For information please call 432-607-3240

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Miscellaneous

PIANO TUNING \$48 until December 22nd. Repairs since 1972. Former full-time University of Wisconsin tuner. Stewart Speers 432-638-0618 call anytime.

Public Notice

We have a Gray Ford Super Deluxe that was picked up at 1203 W. 3rd St. on 12/04/2015 and was brought to Mitchem Wrecker at 5715 W. I-20.

Howard County Public Hearing

Howard County will be conducting a Public Hearing on December 14, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in the Commissioner's court room on the 3rd floor of the Howard County Courthouse.

We will be asking for comments on speed limits for Old Colorado City Road, Derrick Road, Cameron Road and Murphy Road.

Brian Klinskiak the Howard County Engineer, will be available for discussion on December 14, 2015 from 5:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

#8906 December 6 & 9, 2015

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1 acre of land for 1 RV (not in trailer park). Septic/water well, BSISD/Coahoma school bus. \$500/month. Call 432-267-3541

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1102 HWY 176 #3. Nice 3 bed, 2 bath, CH/A, large carport. Quiet location. \$1,090/month \$750/dep. Call 432-517-2876

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1603 Vines. 4 bed, 1 bath. CH/A. \$875/month, \$800/dep. Call 432-816-6992

1702 Morrison. 3 Bed, 1 Bath, CH/A, Tile Floors, Storage, \$1025/month, \$850/dep. 12 Month Lease. 432-816-1255.

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT

Encana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc. 370 17th STREET, SUITE 1700, DENVER, CO 80202 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is NOT productive of Oil & Gas.

The applicant proposes to amend the Callie "42-B", Well Number 1 injection permit number 11552. The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the Grayburg & San Andres formations, Callie "42-B", Well Number: 1. The proposed injection well is located 8 miles North West of Big Spring, Texas in the Silver Queen (Penn Canyon) Field, in Howard County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 2531' to 2758'.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of West Texas Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Natural Resources Codes, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil & Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for Public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil & Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, PO Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin Texas 78711-2967 (Telephone 512-463-6792)

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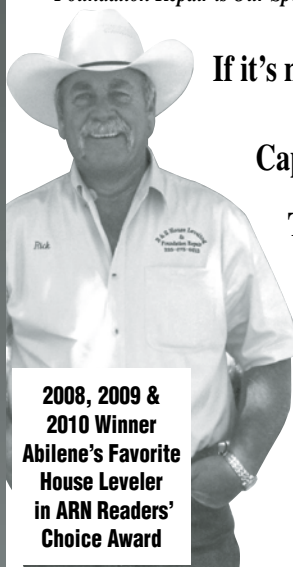
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HERALD

Tomorrow's Horoscope



HOLIDAY
MATHIS

Split Moon

Give yourself options. Avoid making sweeping statements or committing to plans. However you feel about things in the morning, those feelings could change when evening rolls around. The moon moves from Scorpio to Sagittarius taking the emotional energy from introverted to extroverted in a matter of hours.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The ancient Greek tragedian Euripides said, "Slight not what's near by aiming for what's far." Today offers a stellar opportunity to get your needs met and it's right under your nose.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). First you have to believe you can do it. Half-hearted efforts are pointless. Either get into it more fully with a commitment or cut it free and open yourself up to other possibilities.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Strip away what you've been taught and you'll find that you've something unique to express. The reason you haven't expressed it yet is that it's so much a part of you that you don't even realize how original it really is.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Last night hit the cosmic "refresh" button while you were sleeping. It's like you woke up with a new brain this morning. Don't waste your new thoughts on your old worries.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Wanting to please the crowd could have an adverse affect on your creativity. What kind of presentation would you put on if your audience was only one person, and that one person was you?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Some are adventurers by choice; others are adventurers out of necessity. You've been both kinds, which is what allows you to be fearless in today's scenario.

LIBRA (Sept.

23-Oct. 23). You're not worried about the same things you used to worry about when you were small, but somehow you still feel as vulnerable as you did back then. Luckily, today brings support, friendship and love.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There's not one philosophy you dogmatically believe. You are a student of many trains of thought and you'll enjoy exploring new ones today. They don't have to be reasonable or feasible to be interesting to you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There is no magic fix. The answer isn't glamorous. There is no success secret -- it's rather obvious what's needed. Hard work consistently in the same direction will get the job done.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It's not so easy to see where you fit in, but it's clear to see where you don't, so start with that. When you feel it's a bad fit, move on quickly. There's no time to

waste. **AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Strong teams are diverse teams. You don't have to like or understand everyone -- it's better if you don't. A team of you-clones can't accomplish anything beyond what you could accomplish alone.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Not content to keep the regular pace, you're ready to take a risk. Why creep along when you can fly? What would it take to launch you? You'll get there faster and you'll have a better view too.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 9). You'll do your best work this month and you'll be recognized in at least three different meaningful ways. Apply the bonus you receive in February to club dues or tuition. Your social horizons open up in April. There will be a new force for good in your family circle. Group vacations are featured in June. Aquarius and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 45,

21, 22 and 19. **HOLIDAY STRESS RELIEVERS:** This time of year can be hectic as people rush around to try and fulfill their holiday and end-of-the-year expectations. Mix in the complications of increased financial dealings, family dynamics, travel and extreme weather conditions and it is not difficult to figure out why so many wind up feeling spent and blue this time of year. So, what can you do to counteract holiday stress?

ARIES can start with the mantra, "Out with the old." The sign of the ram loves to try new things and is adventurous in this regard. It might be a new kind of exercise, a hobby, class or domestic project. Aries will dive right in and if the endeavor is a good match will quickly include the activity in daily life. If the endeavor is not a good match, Aries bails -- a good strategy, and Aries is better off for the experience no matter how brief it was.

But there is often leftover residue that sits around long after Aries has moved on from the activity. Books, equipment, computer files, instructions and more, piled up and never to be used again, create negativity for Aries. For instantaneous stress relief, pack up the car and head for the donation site or the dump.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Sagittarius is the sign of exploration, exemplified by Simon Helberg exploring outer space as his character Howard Wolowitz of "The Big Bang Theory." Three natal Sagittarius luminaries suggest that Helberg is an independent thinker who loves to travel and learn different cultures. The moon and Mars in Capricorn indicate a highly structured approach to life and stellar business instincts.

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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: My next-door neighbors and their kids (who are adults) always park in front of my house and don't leave enough space for my car. The family owns four cars, but there is sufficient space in front of their home and in their driveway. We have a narrow driveway (no garage), but my husband parks there because otherwise, I'm blocking him.

I asked that if they do plan to park in front of my house, then they at least leave enough room for my car. They rarely do, so I have to knock on their door and ask nicely that they move their vehicle. They either ignore me or say, "I'm leaving in 10 minutes," expecting me to wait.

Last night, when I got home from work, I saw one of their cars smack dab in front of my home. Again, I knocked on the door. They said that they couldn't move it because it had a flat tire, and that's where the tow truck dropped it. It wasn't until I got into my house that I wondered why they had the tow truck put it there to begin with.

This time, I said, "I have always been patient, so I'll make a deal with you. When your car gets fixed, I'd like you to park it

in front of someone else's house for one week. If they don't tell you to move it, you can park in front of my house and I'll never tell you to move it again." He just stood there and smiled.

Am I wrong to ask them to always move the car? -- At My Wits' End

Dear Wits: You have tried to be a good neighbor, but they are not cooperating. And you have no guarantee that other neighbors will object to having that car in front of their home, or that the car owners will tell you the truth about it.

Your problem is, the street does not belong to you, and you have no control over who takes the spot in front of your house. If the neighbors block your driveway, you are entitled to call the police and have them ticketed or towed, and we recommend doing so. But otherwise, you can only park in another spot or ask your husband to park on the street so you can have the driveway. Sorry.

Dear Annie: In your answer to "Know Better," you mentioned that there are ways to verify someone's photo online -- as well as those flowery, romantic statements used on online dating

sites. Please tell me how to do that. I, too, have met a man on a dating website who seems too good to be true. -- Noreen in Nebraska

Dear Noreen: Your best bet is to upload a photo to Google Image search. Some scammers will use pictures of models or other attractive people found online. Google will tell you whether or not that photo has appeared in other places. It is not foolproof, but it can help. (You also can upload those "flowery, romantic statements" to Google or a similar search site to see whether they are from a piece of poetry or other published material.) Also check

out romancescam.com for more information on this type of problem.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please email your questions to anniesmailbox@creators.com, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 737 3rd Street, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254. You can also find Annie on Facebook at Facebook.com/AskAnnie. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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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.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net



Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Reducing the Luck Factor

South dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 4 2
♥ K J 6 4
♦ K Q 9 8 3
♣ A J

WEST
♠ A 10 8 3
♥ 10 3 2
♦ 4
♣ 10 9 8 7 4

EAST
♠ K Q 7 6 5
♥ Q 8 7
♦ 6
♣ 6 5 3 2

SOUTH
♠ J 9
♥ A 9 5
♦ A J 10 7 5 2
♣ K Q

The bidding:
South 1♥
West Pass
North 1♥
East Pass

Opening lead — ten of clubs.

hearts (a 50 percent chance), in which case finessing dummy's jack would make the contract. But West might not have the queen, in which case finessing the jack would prove fatal.

Declarer does best by trying to avoid the heart finesse. He wins the club lead with the queen, draws trumps, cashes the ace of clubs and exits with a spade. The defenders cash two spade tricks, but what can they do next?

If East winds up on lead, he is endplayed. He can return a heart into dummy's K-J-6-4, or alternatively lead a spade or a club, allowing South to discard a heart as he ruffs in dummy. Either way, declarer makes the contract.

If West wins the second spade, he is in similarly dire straits. If he returns a low heart, declarer plays low from dummy, and East must hand declarer the contract whether he plays the seven, eight or queen. If West returns the ten instead of a low heart, declarer covers with dummy's jack to accomplish the same end.

The suggested method of play loses only when East has both the queen and ten, and thus offers a far better chance of success than the straightforward finesse for the queen.

Tomorrow: Two wrongs make a right.
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Table with 20 columns (KMID, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLT, KWES, KMLM, KPBT, KWWT, KWES2, WTBS, TNT, ESPN, ESPN2, FSN, USA, A&E, DISC) and 24 rows of TV listings.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"BUT I DID PICK UP ALL MY DIRTY CLOTHES, ...THESE ARE JUST LEFTOVERS."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

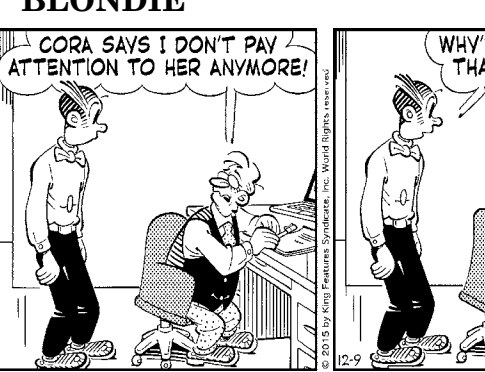


"Why didn't Mary and Joseph take baby Jesus out of his car seat?"

HAGAR



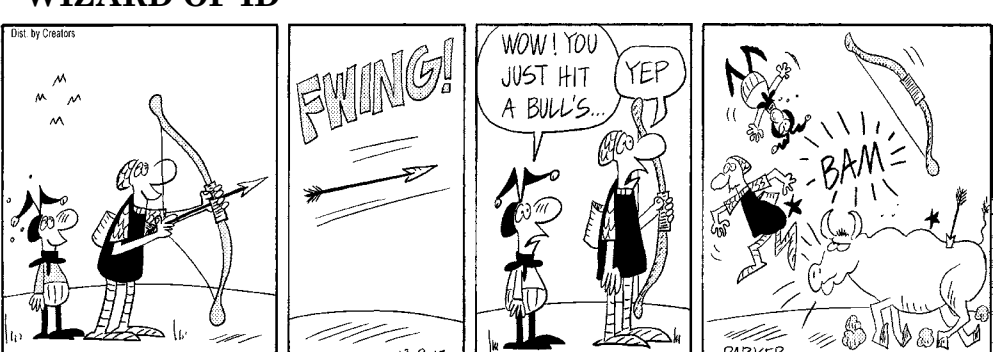
BLONDIE



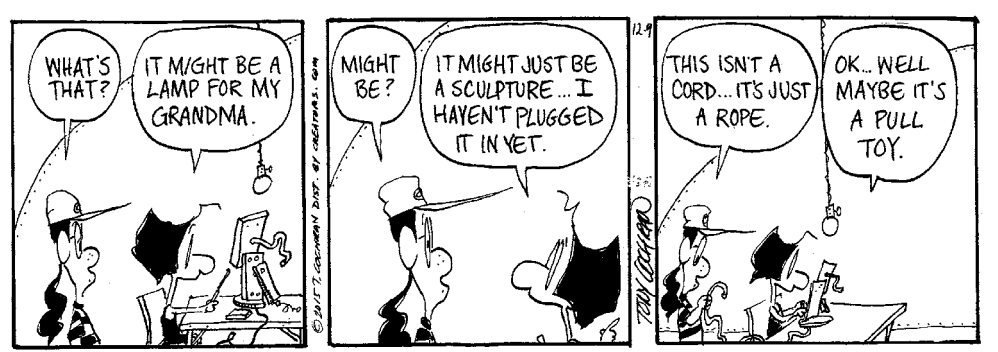
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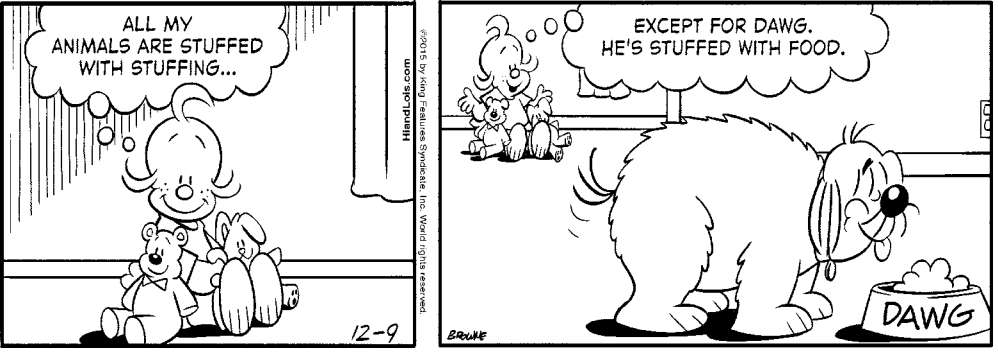
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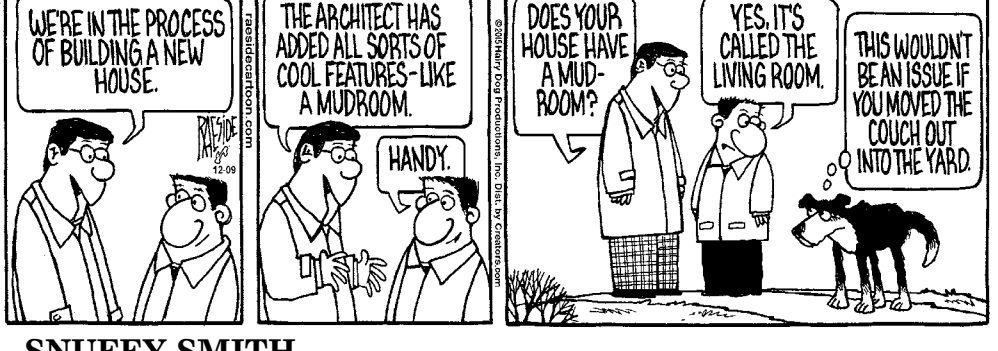
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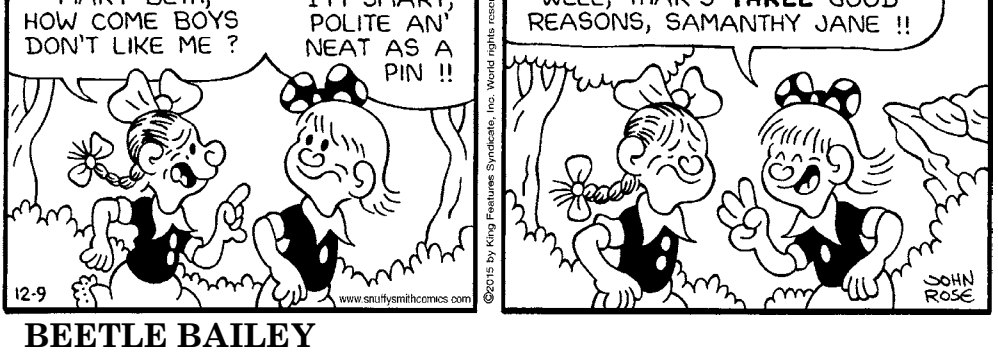
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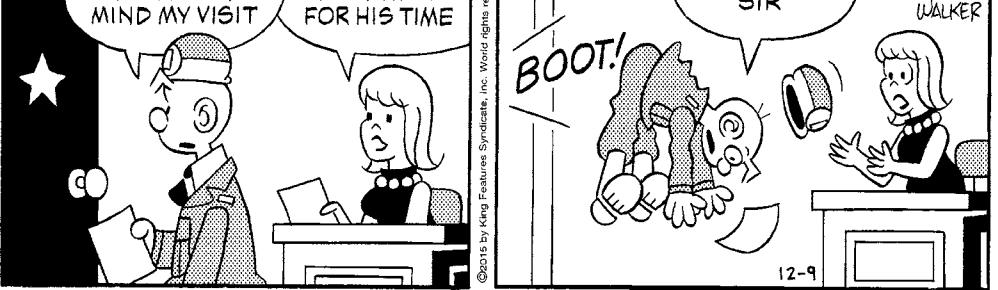
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 9, the 343rd day of 2015. There are 22 days left in the year. Today's Highlights in History: On Dec. 9, 1965, Nikolai V. Podgorny replaced Anastas I. Mikoyan as chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet...

Chicago with the DAC Trophy, which later became known as the Heisman Trophy. In 1940, British troops opened their first major offensive in North Africa during World War II. In 1958, the anti-communist John Birch Society was formed in Indianapolis. In 1962, the Petrified Forest in Arizona was designated a national park. In 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed a \$2.3 billion seasonal loan authorization that officials of New York City and State said would prevent a city default.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush, addressing a political fundraiser in Minnesota, said the United States would wage an unrelenting battle in Iraq to protect Americans at home. A congressional report said the federal government's medical response to Hurricane Katrina was bungled by a lack of supplies and poor communication.

Thought for Today: "The real question is not whether machines think but whether men do. The mystery which surrounds a thinking machine already surrounds a thinking man." B.F. Skinner American behaviorist 1904-1990

Answer to previous puzzle: SPAM CATS ATBAT LIMA ACRE LOOSE EPIC STUN PUNTS PENALTIES ACEIT TROWEL REACH FEW RADISH DEBIT HEFT OBOE ICON SOLOS WEAR SHOT NAME INTRO COMETO SAD ROBIN GODIVA SPECIES SIDELINES LEAVES LEAN MARK CREPE MINDS ACID ELSE TENTS MESA

Newsday Crossword

SQUARE FOOD by Fred Piscop Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS 1 Initial poker payment 5 Mineral springs 9 Envelope part 13 Voting compartment 15 Serene 16 Top-rated 17 Somewhat, informally 18 Vicinity 19 Not any 20 One making finger sounds 23 Young goat 24 Have a bite of 25 Most congenial 29 "A likely story!" 31 Touch lightly 34 Frigidaire rival 35 Typical cruise stop 36 Ruination 37 Former name for Hawaii 40 Census data 41 Worked a garden 42 Not moving 43 Misérables 44 Charged atoms 45 Sharpshooter Annie 46 Swiss peak 47 Glide on snow 48 Be politically indecisive 56 Quite often 57 Do perfectly 58 Leading the pack 60 Oral history 61 Cry of dismay 62 Volatile liquid, for short 63 Impolite look 64 Mardi Gras day: Abbr. 65 Prepared to play golf 10 Glimpse 11 Novelist Rice 12 Jury member 14 Metal-cutting tool 21 Boxful to assemble 22 Comics bark 25 Twangy, as a voice 26 Mental picture 27 Christmas candy shapes 28 Boundaries 29 Fire residue 30 Lost traction 31 Group of experts 32 Agassi of tennis 33 Bad-tempered 35 Reversed figure 36 Vault venue 38 "Heaven forbid!" 39 Go-between 44 Under the weather 45 Approves of 46 Later than 47 Rural towers 48 Humpty Dumpty's perch 49 Succulent houseplant 50 Fairway shout 51 Waikiki locale 52 Supreme Court count 53 Group of troops 54 Diminutive suffix 55 Bad-tempered 59 Case for peas

Crossword grid with numbers 1-65 indicating starting positions for words.

Sharp's late power-play goal helps Stars beat Hurricanes 6-5

DALLAS (AP) — Patrick Sharp showed why the Dallas Stars acquired him from the Stanley Cup champion Chicago Blackhawks.

Sharp scored the game-winning goal on the power play with 19 seconds remaining after Dallas had blown a four-goal lead in the third period, and the Stars beat the Carolina Hurricanes 6-5 on Tuesday night.

Sharp took a pass from John Klingberg above the right faceoff circle and sent a slap shot off Carolina goalie Eddie Lack and into the net.

"(Sharp has) lived enough games that you don't play well but you win," Stars coach Lindy Ruff said. "He's been in big games late. For some reason, those guys if they get a puck on their stick, they put it in."

Sharp said it helped that the puck went in through traffic between him and the net.

"(Klingberg) kind of one-touched it back to

me, and I knew I had to get it to net. It wasn't the best shot, but I got slashed as I was shooting and maybe that affected the goalie."

Carolina coach Bill Peters had a different perspective.

"A shot on the ice through a guy, right?," he said. "You either need a penalty killer or need a save, one or the other or you'd like both."

The Hurricanes had neither.

Carolina had rallied with four third-period goals to tie the score with 6:43 remaining, and didn't get another shot on goal the rest of the way.

Dallas' Jamie Benn scored his league-leading 19th goal and added three assists. He combined with linemates Tyler Seguin (goal, 3 assists) and Valeri Nichushkin (goal, 2 assists) for three goals and eight assists. Patrick Eaves and Johnny Oduya also

scored, and Klingberg also had three assists.

Justin Faulk had two goals, and Jacob Slavin, Phillip Di Giuseppe and Jeff Skinner also scored for Carolina. Victor Rask had three assists, and Noah Hanifin added two.

Lack, who stopped 10 shots, replaced Cam Ward after he gave up four goals on eight shots in the first period. Dallas' Antti Niemi took over for Kari Lehtonen after Skinner tied the score at 5-5. Lehtonen finished with 25 saves.

Faulk leads the NHL with 11 power-play goals — all 11 of his goals this season.

The Stars started slowly and didn't put a shot on goal until 6:49 of the first period, when Eaves scored his first goal of the season on a wrist shot from the left faceoff circle.

Benn increased Dallas' lead to 2-0 just 26 seconds later when he sent a wrist shot from the

right circle past Ward.

Oduya sent a wrist shot from the high slot off a defender and into the net at 14:41. Just 17 seconds into the Stars' first power play, Seguin one-timed a pass from Klingberg for a 4-0 lead with 1:16 left in the first.

"We just capitalized on our chances early," Benn said, "and then found a way to get a good (power-play) goal there at the end."

"They probably outplayed us most of the game. We sat back most of the game, just weren't skating. They were buzzing there."

The Hurricanes

knocked one goal off Dallas' lead when Slavin poked in the rebound of Riley Nash's shot at 3:10 of the second period.

The Stars restored their four-goal lead with 33 seconds left in the period. Nichushkin skated past two defenders and went in alone. His shot went off Lack toward the goal line. The original ruling was no goal, but a replay review showed that the puck trickled across the goal line.

NOTES: The Stars had blown four-goal leads in the third period only twice before in their 29 seasons in Dallas. The last was Nov. 10, 2007, at Los Angeles, when the

Kings scored four times in just 3:13 and won 6-5 in overtime. ... In 10 career games against Carolina, Benn has 15 points (seven goals, eight assists). The Hurricanes' Eric Staal has played 14 games vs. Dallas, with 15 points (nine and six). ... Slavin, playing his ninth game, and Di Giuseppe his third, both scored their first goal of the season. ... The Stars were 0 for 11 on the power play during their four-game trip. ... Stars D Jason Demers (upper-body injury) missed his third straight game. ... Dallas swept both games of the season series by a combined score of 10-6.

Lady Buffs beat 1A powerhouse Highland

By TAYLOR ELLIS

Sports Editor

FORSAN — The Forsan girls defeated Highland High School 44-41 in a competitive match.

The Lady Buffs outscored Highland 24-15 in the second half.

Chasidy Grantham had 10 points, while Kaylee Kemper had a team-high 13 points.

The Lady Buffs had a phenomenal team effort

against a team that has been to the state tournament two out of the last three years.

"I cannot say enough good things about the focus that this team brought tonight," head coach Lindsey Schmidt said. "It was an amazing team effort and took all 10 girls to get this win." Sophomore Jenna Evans had one of her best games defensively.

"This team is really coming together and doing it at the right time as we begin district next Tuesday against Iraan," Schmidt said.

The Lady Buffs will play their next game against New Home on Thursday morning at 9:00 a.m. in the Borden Co. Tournament.

JUNIOR VARSITY
Forsan defeated Highland 30-12.

Bulldogs fall to Post, 63-25

By TAYLOR ELLIS

Sports Editor

COAHOMA — The Coahoma Bulldogs

struggled in their 63-25 loss to district foe Post High School Tuesday

night. Jon Bermea led the team with 14 points and nine boards.

Cade Ramsey tallied 11 rebounds on the night.

Coahoma: 7-5-6-7: 25
Post: 11-17-20-15; 63

The Bulldogs next game will be against Christoval at Hooptown in Stanton, TX, Thursday at 1:30 p.m.

Happy Holidays!

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Lady Bulldogettes cruise past Post, 40-29

By TAYLOR ELLIS
Sports Editor

POST —The Coahoma girls varsity squad defeated the Lady Lopes of Post High School 40-29.

The Lady Bulldogettes exploded for 23 points in the third quarter after compiling just 17 points in the first two quarters.

Senior Lauren Simer had a team-high 16 points, shooting 40 percent from the field. Simer also recorded a team-high eight rebounds.

Senior Julia Castilaw

poured in 10 points, shooting 57 percent from the field.

Coahoma had a great night defensively, recording 19 steals and five blocks. Junior Klarissa Martinez recorded a team-high nine steals.

The Lady Bulldogettes shot 40 percent from the field, 25 percent from beyond the arc, and 52 percent from the free throw line.

The Lady Bulldogettes will travel to Sweetwater, TX, as they take on Sweetwater High School

tomorrow night at 6:00 p.m.

SCORING LEADERS

Lauren Simer- 16
Julia Castilaw- 10
Makayla Overton- 5
Klarissa Martinez- 4
Cassie Grant- 4
McClayne Holgorsen- 2
Brenna Grant- 2

REBOUNDING LEADERS

Lauren Simer- 8
Julia Castilaw- 5
Klarissa Martinez- 4
Makayla Overton- 4
McClayne Holgorsen- 3
Cassie Grant- 2
Brenna Grant- 2

STEAL LEADERS

Klarissa Martinez- 9
Makayla Overton- 4
Lauren Simer- 3
McClayne Holgorsen- 3

Contact sports editor bigspringherald.com or Taylor Ellis at sports@bigspringherald.com 432.263.7331, ext 237

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