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**WEDNESDAY**

FEBRUARY 6, 2013



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## From on high



Courtesy photo

Big Spring Fire Department personnel conduct high rise firefighting drills at the BSFD training facility at McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark.

# Filing slow for area school board races

**By STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

It has been slow going in the first few days of filing for area school board races.

Three candidates — all incumbents — have filed applications with their respective school districts as of Monday afternoon, school district offi-

cialists reported.

Candidate filings began Wednesday and continue through March 1, officials said.

At Forsan ISD, Chris Evans has filed for re-election, while incumbents Daniel Ramos and Darren Patrick will seek another term on the Stanton

ISD board.

Area school districts holding elections this may include (terms are for three years unless otherwise noted):

- Big Spring ISD — Three single-member district seats are up for election this year — District 5, currently held by Chad Wash; District 6, cur-

rently held by Jeff Borman and District 7, in which Phil Fuqueron is the incumbent.

Application can be obtained at the BSISD business office during normal business hours Monday through Friday.

- Coahoma ISD — Two at-large seats — currently held

by Michael Brooks and Craig Ferguson — will be decided. Applicants can file their candidacies at the CISD administration office Mondays through Fridays up until the deadline.

- Forsan ISD — Two at-

See **RACES**, Page 3

### INDEX

Comics	14
Classified	11-13
Features	6-7
Obituaries	5
Opinion	4
Sports	9-15

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# USPS to cut Saturday mail to trim costs

**By PAULINE JELINEK**  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Postal Service will stop delivering mail on Saturdays but continue to deliver packages six days a week under a plan aimed at saving about \$2 billion annually, the financially struggling agency says.

In an announcement scheduled for later Wednesday, the service is expected to say the Saturday mail cutback would begin in August.

The move accentuates one of the agency's strong points — package delivery has increased by 14 percent since 2010, officials say, while the delivery of letters and other mail has declined with the increasing use of email and other Internet services.

**Under the new plan, mail would be delivered to homes and businesses only from Monday through Friday, but would still be delivered to post office boxes on Saturdays. Post offices now open on Saturdays would remain open on Saturdays.**

Under the new plan, mail would be delivered to homes and businesses only from Monday through Friday, but would still be delivered to post office boxes on Saturdays. Post offices now open on Saturdays would remain open on Saturdays.

Over the past several years, the Postal Service has advocated shifting to a five-day de-

livery schedule for mail and packages — and it repeatedly but unsuccessfully appealed to Congress to approve the move. Though an independent agency, the service gets no tax dollars for its day-to-day operations but is subject to congressional control.

It was not immediately clear how the service could eliminate Saturday mail without

congressional approval. But the agency clearly thinks it has a majority of the American public on its side regarding the change.

Material prepared for the Wednesday press conference by Patrick R. Donahoe, postmaster general and CEO, says Postal Service market research and other research has indicated that nearly 7 in 10 Americans support the

See **USPS**, Page 3





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# Take note

• My Redeemer Church, 1008 Birdwell, will hold its "Gigantic Sweetheart Sale" from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday Gifts for men, women and children, most from \$1-\$5, will be available.

• Big Spring State Hospital patients are in need of warm clothing. Clean items should be taken to the Community Relations Office near the south entrance of the hospital, 1901 N. U.S. Highway 87. Clothing that cannot be used by the patients will be taken to the hospital's Chalet Resale Shop for sale to raise money for patient needs. Men's clothing and larger-sized clothing are always in need. For more information, call Melissa Adams, BSSH program coordinator, at 432-268-7730.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

• Hangar 25 Air Museum needs your help. We are in need of volunteers to fill a variety of positions such as tour guides, front desk, clerical, events, and many others. or more information, contact Emma Bogard at 432-267-2963.

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

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# Texas news in brief

## San Antonio man allegedly sought nude photos

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Prosecutors say a man accused of being a fake reality TV producer lured two South Texas girls into texting nude photos to people they thought were models helping with portfolios.

The San Antonio Express-News reports prosecutors on Tuesday said the texts were from Gemase Lee Simmons.

Testimony continues before a federal judge in San Antonio as Simmons faces 39 counts related to child pornography, extortion and bank fraud.

Prosecutors say Simmons in 2011 approached one girl in a fast-food restaurant and the other in a grocery store and claimed to be seeking models. The 16-year-olds testified they later received texts from two purported models who convinced them to send naked photos.

The calls were later traced to the defendant's cellphone. Investigators believe as many as eight youths were victims.

## Prosecutors curb \$3B

### Texas cancer agency testimony

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A top Republican says former leaders of a troubled \$3 billion cancer-fighting agency in Texas won't publicly testify because of "significant legal concerns" raised by prosecutors.

House Appropriations Chairman Jim Pitts said Wednesday the request came from the Texas attorney general's office and Travis County public corruption prosecutors. Both began investigating the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas following an \$11 million grant to a private company that skirted agency rules.

Pitts said former executive director Bill Gimson and chief scientific officer Alfred Gilman were willing to testify before prosecutors stepped in. Both resigned last year as problems within the agency mounted.

Neither has been accused of wrongdoing.

Lawmakers are vowing to reform the once-celebrated agency battered by controversial awards and state auditors exposing widespread problems with accountability.

## Retired Sen. Hutchison to practice law in Dallas

HOUSTON (AP) — Retired U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison has joined the Dallas law office of Bracewell & Giuliani LLP as senior counsel.

The hiring was announced Wednesday by the Houston-based international law firm. Her husband, Ray Hutchison, is also a senior counsel at the firm's Dallas office.

Kay Bailey Hutchison holds a law degree from the

University of Texas. She was a television reporter in Houston before turning to politics.

Hutchison served nearly 20 years in the Senate before deciding not to seek re-election in 2012. Texas voters in November elected fellow Republican Ted Cruz as her replacement.

## Man who robbed same

### Texas bank twice pleads guilty

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (AP) — A man who robbed the same South Texas bank twice in 2012 and hid some of the loot in his boots has pleaded guilty and faces up to 20 years in prison.

A federal judge in Corpus Christi on Tuesday accepted the bank robbery plea from 52-year-old Nicholas Vernon Tolmie.

Investigators say Tolmie held up Texas Champion Bank in Corpus Christi last July 11 and Nov. 19. Police say the robber slipped threatening notes to tellers before fleeing with cash.

Tolmie was captured shortly after the second heist when police located him in a restaurant. The Corpus Christi man had ditched the clothes he wore in the holdup and hid some of the stolen money in his boots.

Tolmie remains in custody pending sentencing in May.

## 3 Harris County deputies fired in sex, car scandal

HOUSTON (AP) — Three Houston-area deputies have been fired amid allegations they had consensual sex with a female law enforcement volunteer while in their patrol cars.

A statement late Tuesday from the Harris County Sheriff's Office says improper conduct will not be tolerated.

The department on Monday fired Deputies Adam Wright, Michael Medina and Robert Johnson following an internal investigation that began in late 2012.

Investigators say the men — in separate incidents with the same woman — used their patrol cars as a place to have sex with her. The sheriff's office says the encounters happened when the deputies should have been working.

The woman is no longer with the Citizen's Police Academy. The sheriff's department program is meant to give Houston-area residents close knowledge of law enforcement protocol and procedures.

## Jury considers penalty of Texas man in mutilation

DALLAS (AP) — A North Texas jury continues deliberation of the punishment of a man convicted of a 2011 mutilation attack that left his former girl-

friend needing more than 500 stitches.

The Dallas County jury could sentence Jose Arreola to up to life in prison. Jurors deliberated for three hours Tuesday before recessing for the night.

The woman had testified that Arreola first attacked her in 2009.

He was free on bail when he raped and sexually mutilated her in March 2011.

Arreola had argued that the woman was the aggressor in earlier fights. He testified she drank heavily and had repeatedly attacked him with knives.

## Deputy shot serving warrant near San Antonio

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A deputy is hospitalized after he was shot twice as he and four other deputies tried to serve felony warrants at a house just outside northwestern San Antonio.

Bexar (BAYR) County sheriff's Deputy Jose Esquivel was shot about 6 p.m. Tuesday.

Sheriff Susan Pamerleau says he and the other deputies were trying to serve seven felony arrest warrants on 38-year-old Juan Daniel Gonzales Jr. The warrants accused him of felony theft, retaliation and failing to register as a sex offender.

Pamerleau says as deputies searched the house, Gonzales surprised a deputy in the laundry room and shots were fired.

No condition was available on the deputy, but Pamerleau says the 28-year veteran of the sheriff's office was alert as he was taken to a nearby hospital.

Gonzales is in custody.

## Police: Houston man killed wife, injured stepson

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston police say a 40-year-old man is charged with murdering his wife and seriously injuring his teenage stepson in a weekend attack.

Lawrence Clinton Chambers was charged Tuesday with murder and injury to a child.

A Houston police statement says Chambers was apprehended Monday for the attack at a home in south Houston and is held without bond at the city jail.

Police say he fatally stabbed 43-year-old Jemal Lockridge Chambers on Sunday and seriously injured his 13-year-old stepson.

Authorities say Jemal Chambers' teenage daughter came home to find the door locked and her mother's car missing.

She used a key to enter the home and found the victims in her mother's bedroom.

Chambers was dead at the scene and the boy was taken to a hospital in serious condition.

# USPS

Continued from Page 1

switch to five-day delivery as a way for the Postal Service to reduce costs.

"The Postal Service is advancing an important new approach to delivery that reflects the strong growth of our package business and responds to the financial realities resulting from America's changing mailing habits," Donahoe said in a statement prepared for the announcement. "We developed this approach by working with our customers to understand their delivery needs and by identifying creative ways to generate significant cost savings."

But the president of the National Association of Letter Carriers, Fredric Rolando, said the end of Saturday mail delivery is "a disastrous idea that would have a profoundly negative effect on the

Postal Service and on millions of customers," particularly businesses, rural communities, the elderly, the disabled and others who depend on Saturday delivery for commerce and communication.

He said the maneuver by Donahoe to make the change "flouts the will of Congress, as expressed annually over the past 30 years in legislation that mandates six-day delivery."

There was no immediate comment from lawmakers.

The Postal Service is making the announcement Wednesday, more than six months before the switch, to give residential and business customers time to plan and adjust, the statement said.

"The American public understands the financial challenges of the Postal Service and supports these steps as a responsible and reasonable approach to improving our finan-

cial situation," Donahoe said. "The Postal Service has a responsibility to take the steps necessary to return to long-term financial stability and ensure the continued affordability of the U.S. Mail."

He said the change would mean a combination of employee reassignment and attrition and is expected to achieve cost savings of approximately \$2 billion annually when fully implemented.

The agency in November reported an annual loss of a record \$15.9 billion for the last budget year and forecast more red ink in 2013, capping a tumultuous year in which it was forced to default on billions in retiree health benefit prepayments to avert bankruptcy.

The financial losses for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30 were more than triple the \$5.1 billion loss in the previous year. Having reached its borrowing limit, the

mail agency is operating with little cash on hand.

The agency's biggest problem — and the majority of the red ink in 2012 — was not due to reduced mail flow but rather to mounting mandatory costs for future retiree health benefits, which made up \$11.1 billion of the losses. Without that and other related labor expenses, the mail agency sustained an operating loss of \$2.4 billion, lower than the previous year.

The health payments are a requirement imposed by Congress in 2006 that the post office set aside \$55 billion in an account to cover future medical costs for retirees. The idea was to put \$5.5 billion a year

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into the account for 10 years. That's \$5.5 billion the post office doesn't have.

No other government agency is required to make such a payment for future medical benefits. Postal authorities wanted Congress to address the issue last year, but lawmakers finished their session without getting it done. So officials are moving ahead to accelerate their own plan for cost-cutting.

The Postal Service is in the midst of a major restructuring throughout its retail, delivery and mail processing

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operations. Since 2006, it has cut annual costs by about \$15 billion, reduced the size of its career workforce by 193,000 or by 28 percent, and has consolidated more than 200 mail processing locations, officials say.

They say that while the change in the delivery schedule announced Wednesday is one of the actions needed to restore the financial health of the service, they still urgently need lawmakers to act. Officials say they continue to press for legislation that will give them greater flexibility to control costs and make new revenues.

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Lois Hicks, 67, died Saturday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home

# RACES

Continued from Page 1

large seats (held by Tom Bill Kuykendall and Evans) are up for election. Applications can be obtained at the superintendent's office.

• Stanton ISD — Two single-member seats will be decided — District 1, in which Ramos is the incumbent, and District 5, currently held by Patrick. Prospective candidates can pick up applications at the superintendent's of-

fice during normal business hours.

• Sands CISD — At-large seats held by Michelle Zant and Jody Howard will be decided. Also, a special election will be held to fill the remaining two years of the at-large seat which was held by Bill Barnes before his recent resignation. Applications can be obtained at the district's business office.

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

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# EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

**Glenn Stiffemire**  
Publisher

**Bill McClellan**  
Managing Editor

**Steve Reagan**  
Staff Writer

**Thomas Jenkins**  
Staff Writer

## OTHER VIEWS

# Who was that guy?

A man calling himself Rick Perry addressed the Legislature (last week). That's the same name used by the Texas governor.

He said many things that indicate he might have been the real Gov. Perry: a sweet reference to his wife, a lot of bragging about how well the Texas economy is doing and how it's the envy of all other states, a push for stricter limits on state spending, a proposal for tax cuts, complaints about Washington. You know, the usual.

But this Rick Perry also proposed spending \$3.7 billion out of the state's rainy-day fund and not letting that fund build up to its projected \$12 billion during the next budget cycle. That's just the opposite of what Perry said last session, when he wanted to make the rainy-day fund untouchable.

What's more, the guts of his proposal made a lot of sense and probably will get bipartisan support among legislators. It was enough to make your head swim.

This new Perry fellow pushed a plan he said "will support critical water and transportation systems across our state, addresses our needs both short-and long-term, and ensures both water and traffic will continue to flow in Texas for generations to come."

He wasn't specific about exactly how to use that \$3.7 billion. It could be by direct spending of rainy-day money on water or transportation projects. Or, there has been talk about setting up infrastructure "banks" through which the state could guarantee bonds for those same projects, reducing finance costs and stretching the rainy-day dollars to cover more new infrastructure construction.

It's up to the Legislature to flesh out this idea, and a lot will depend on the details. But the big-picture version is intriguing.

That's not to belittle the other points in Tuesday's speech. The man who sounded more like the old Perry wants \$1.8 billion in "tax relief" during the next two years.

Again, no specifics about how to do that, but also an idea worth building some details around.

He also made another pitch for spending public money to send students to private schools.

That never has been a good idea. Texas should be doing more to improve its public schools, not draining more money out of them.

In the end, these guys were probably both Rick Perry — a little bit of good, a little bit of bad and still the governor.

*Fort Worth Star-Telegram*

## LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unauthor or do not include a telephone number or a return address will not be considered.

## HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor Bill McClellan at [newsdesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:newsdesk@bigspringherald.com).

# Recalling the turbulent '60s

Every once in a while, when time and schedule allows, Leah and I will look for a good movie to watch on TV. We are relatively easy to entertain, albeit unapologetically conservative when it comes to gore, graphic violence, bad language and any kind of immoral behavior.

We aren't prudes or self-righteous by any stretch of the imagination. We just don't see any reason to poison our minds with trash or filth unnecessarily, and life itself provides more than enough tragedy and sorrow. So, if we get a chance to watch something designed to provide entertainment it's nice to escape reality sometimes.

Even though we are capable of enjoying different genres of cinematic accomplishment, the stretch for us comes with the movies released in the 1960s. Granted, there were a few good movies produced during that era, but there was also a plethora of really odd and off-the-beaten-path celluloid disasters. By and large, I suspect the movies from that era were a reflection of the times and that's probably why many of them are senseless and idiotic unless you are high on something, which I never was or ever have been.

The decade of the '60s was a strange tapestry of profound cultural and political changes which resulted in rebellion against authority, moral decline, a rejection or redefinition of traditional values and so much more. I know because I lived through it. In fact, it was some of the most formative years of my life in many ways because it encompassed all of my teenage years and my first year in college.

After the end of World War II, birth rates across the world spiked. The explosion of new infants became known as the baby boom. During the boom, an estimated 77 million babies were born in the United States alone.

That's why those of us born in that time frame are called "baby boomers" and we comprise approximately 20 percent of the American population.

Even though much of what defines my generation is negative and things which I believe to have provided fertile soil for many of today's problems, there were also some great things that happened.

Strangely enough, in my opinion the opening paragraph of "A Tale of Two Cities", a historical novel by Charles Dickens written in 1859, provides us with a strikingly accurate assessment of a generation 100 years still removed: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way..."

The '60s decade has been described by historians as the decade that resulted in the most significant changes in our history. Among numerable momentous accomplishments, in 1969 the race to space was won by the U.S. by putting a man on the moon. The 1960s were also time of turmoil, probably described as such for the racial unrest during this period, social injustice and because of our involvement in the war in Vietnam. The magnitude of violence in the streets of U.S. cities, as well as on college campuses in protest of the war in Vietnam, was unprecedented in our history. The burning of the flag and draft cards were widely used as tools for protest.

Music and events of the day interacted with one another as we progressed through one of the most turbulent decades in modern history. The assassination of President John F. Kennedy, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and presidential hopeful Bobby Kennedy illustrated the turbulent and restless society.

While I embrace many priceless memories of those years, I



EDDY PRINCE

## I COLUMN AS I SEE 'EM

also have to honestly acknowledge that in spite of some amazing music and beautiful cars, it was also a time of devastating changes influenced by some of history's worst, such as Madalyn Murray O'Hair. Best known for the Murray v. Curlett lawsuit, which led to a landmark Supreme Court ruling ending official Bible-reading in American public schools in 1963, she later founded American Atheists and became so controversial that in 1964 "Life" magazine referred to her as "the most hated woman in America." This came one year after the Supreme Court prohibited officially sponsored prayer in schools in Engel v. Vitale.

Reflecting on a generation that stimulated so much revolutionary change inspires me to look at the 21st century with new perspective. Are we as capable of positive change now as we were of negative change then? Or have we already regressed so far that in spite of mind-boggling technology, advanced education, money and political infrastructure we are doomed to destruction?

I believe positive change is always possible because there will always be patriots and visionaries with true hearts willing to pay whatever price is demanded for it. Maria Robinson said, "Nobody can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending." Tony Robbins said, "By changing nothing, nothing changes."

We need Christians and patriots to rise up and realize that our voices must be heard and our actions must correlate in order to usher in the revival of change that is mandatory for our nation's survival and for a restoration of righteousness in America.

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.com](mailto:pastorprince@msn.com).*

# Obama doing what he does best: Taunting Republicans

President Barack Obama is not committed to fixing Washington's chronic budget woes or jump-starting an ailing economy, but that doesn't mean this administration lacks focus. If there is one area in which this administration delivers, it is taunting Republicans.

Think Lucy teasing Charlie Brown with the football — except in this case, Lucy is a twice-elected president who ought to have better things to do, such as getting Washington to work.

Three recent examples: The White House released a photo of the president skeet shooting, in reaction to the press corps' skepticism of a recent Obama statement made during an interview with The New Republic. Obama said, "At Camp David, we do skeet shooting all the time."

It's a silly story. The White House press doesn't know exactly what the president did when he learned that four Americans were killed at the Benghazi, Libya, mission, but reporters had been demanding ocular proof that the president shot clay pigeons.

The photo came out Saturday, and Obama looked as contrived

with a shotgun as former Democratic White House hopeful Michael Dukakis looked in a tank. Skeptics of various ideological stripes questioned the photo's authenticity. Conservatives got the blame.

This was exactly the reaction Obamaland had expected. In releasing the photo, Obama political guru David Plouffe tweeted, "Attn skeet birthers. Make our day — let the photoshop conspiracies begin!"

Last week, the administration announced a reputed compromise on its rule that church-based institutions provide birth control benefits in violation of a religion's deeply held beliefs.

The new rules make insurers provide and pay for contraception coverage.

To the extent that church fathers object, they remind young voters that they oppose contraception.

The administration scores bonus points when a Republican anywhere in the world says something really stupid about rape or conception.

Given former GOP Sen. Chuck Hagel's near endorsement of Obama in 2008 and his opposition to the Bush surge in Iraq, the president had to know that his decision to nominate Hagel to serve as his defense secretary would enrage the right.

Clearly, the specter of Republicans bristling at the nomination of a highly decorated Vietnam

veteran was the impetus behind the Hagel pick.

Still, the administration could not have suspected how muddled Hagel would appear before the Senate Armed Services Committee last week.

Hagel flubbed the administration's position on Iran — twice. He had to distance himself from old comments he had made about Israel and Iran.

Hagel was so mediocre that former Obama spokesman Robert Gibbs conceded on Sunday's "Meet the Press" that Hagel seemed "unimpressive and unprepared."

Sometimes the football fumbles by itself.

Last week, White House press secretary Jay Carney said he "would be stunned if, in the end, Republican senators chose to try to block the nomination of a decorated war veteran who was once among their colleagues in the Senate as a Republican." This administration never passes up a chance to blame the Republicans.

*Email Debra J. Saunders at [dsaunders@sfchronicle.com](mailto:dsaunders@sfchronicle.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](http://www.creators.com).*

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DEBRA SAUNDERS

**Obituaries**

**Thersa Verdell McKnight Stifflemire**



Thersa Verdell McKnight Stifflemire, 89, of Sweeny, Texas, passed away Monday, Feb. 4, 2013, at Emerus Hospital in Sugarland, Texas.

She was born June 18, 1923, in Kelsey, Texas, to Samuel McKnight and Gladys Corilla Luton.

She is survived by her four children, Linda Harkness and husband Jim of Scottsboro, Ala., Glenn Stifflemire and wife Lea of Sweetwater, Texas, Terry Stifflemire and wife Sharon of Huntsville, Ala., and Betty Johnston and husband Gary of Sweeny, Texas; 13 grandchildren, Steve Harkness, Jason Turk, Melissa Pollock, Lisa Polk, Seth Stifflemire, Tera Miller, Tammy Bautsch, Lori Pierce, Sheryl Herrera, Jeffrey Stifflemire, Denise Randolph, Brett Stifflemire and Amy Stifflemire; 37 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, B.T. Stifflemire; two brothers, Samuel Arthur McKnight and Austin Errol McKnight; and her parents.

Visitation will be at Lakewood Funeral Home in Lake Jackson, Texas, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2013. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 7, 2013, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints located at 502 Southern Oaks Drive in Lake Jackson. Burial will follow at Restwood Cemetery in Lake Jackson.

Pallbearers include, Steve Harkness, Jason Turk, Seth Stifflemire, Jeffrey Stifflemire, Brett Stifflemire, Chandler Pierce and Anthony Herrera.

*Paid obituary*

**A.J. Cain**

A.J. Cain, 84, of Midland died Sunday, Feb. 3, 2013, in a local care facility. Graveside services with military honors will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9, 2013, at Resthaven Memorial Park. Memorial services will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9, 2013, at Grace Presbyterian Church.

Survivors include daughters Chris Laufer and Diane Warner; five grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and two sisters.

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

**Ruth Vencil**

Ruth Vencil, 65, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2013, in a local hospital. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

**Police blotter**

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

- PAUL RAY FLANNELL, 55, of 1106 W. Fourth St., was arrested Tuesday on a warrant for dog or cat running at large.
- HOWARD BRANDON JOHNSON, 28, of 1511 S. Scurry Apt. A, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- TANYA L. WATERS, 33, of 200 N. FM 820 in Coahoma, was arrested Tuesday on charges of criminal mischief and public intoxication.
- JOHN JAY FLORES, 41, of 1207 Frazier St., was arrested Tuesday on a charge of criminal mischief – more than \$50 and less than \$500.
- RUFUS ANDREW DAVIS, 42, of Abilene, Texas, was arrested Tuesday on a warrant from another agency.
- CASSIE CHRISTINE CANTU, 24, of 814 Lorilla St., was arrested Tuesday on a warrant from another agency.
- THEFT was reported in the 1100 block of N.

- Lamesa Highway.
- STOLEN VEHICLE was reported in the 3600 block of Connally.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported: In the 1100 block of W. Fourth Street. In the 300 block of E. Eighth Street.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 1400 block of Oriole.
- ASSAULT was reported in the 800 block of Owens.

**Sheriff**

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 75 inmates at the time of this report.

- PAUL RAY FLANNELL, 55, was booked into the county detention center Tuesday by the BSPD on a municipal warrant for animal at large.
- BOBBY LEROY ESCOBEDO, 50, was booked into the county detention center Tuesday by the Glasscock County Sheriff's Office on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.
- HOWARD BRANDON JOHNSON, 28, was booked into the county detention center Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- CASSIE CHRISTINE CANTU, 24, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a Caldwell County warrant for failure to appear – assault causing bodily injury.
- JOHN RAY FLORES, 41, was booked into the county detention center Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal mischief – more than \$50 and less than \$500.
- TANYA LEE WATERS, 33, was booked into the county detention center Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of criminal mischief and public intoxication.

**Fire/EMS**

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of Harvard. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 100 block of N. Carey. One person was transported to SMMC.

**Support Groups**

**WEDNESDAY**

- RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at (432) 517-9207 for more information.

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; open 12 & 12 study meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

- Stepping Stone Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets at the Gold Rush Tobacco Shop, 800 E. Third Street. Open meeting at 7 p.m.

**THURSDAY**

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

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

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

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

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

**Today's Weather**

**Local 3-Day Forecast**

Thu 2/7	Fri 2/8	Sat 2/9
<b>76/51</b>	<b>68/41</b>	<b>71/48</b>
Mainly sunny. Warm. High 76F. Winds SSE at 15 to 25 mph.	Sunshine. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the low 40s.	Mostly sunny. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the upper 40s.
<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:36 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 6:24 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:35 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 6:25 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:34 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 6:26 PM



**Texas At A Glance**



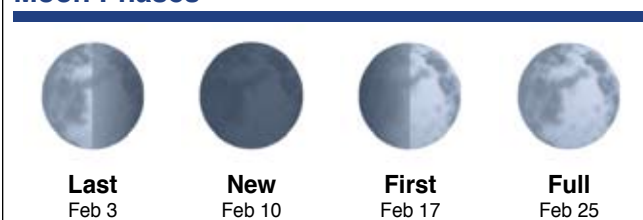
**Area Cities**

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	76	54	t-storm	Kingsville	81	66	t-storm
Amarillo	70	39	sunny	Livingston	69	55	t-storm
Austin	68	56	t-storm	Longview	67	56	t-storm
Beaumont	69	59	t-storm	Lubbock	72	40	sunny
Brownsville	80	68	t-storm	Lufkin	70	57	t-storm
Brownwood	74	56	t-storm	Midland	76	50	sunny
Corpus Christi	76	66	t-storm	Raymondville	82	66	t-storm
Corsicana	67	56	t-storm	Rosenberg	70	60	t-storm
Dallas	68	57	t-storm	San Antonio	70	60	t-storm
Del Rio	76	60	t-storm	San Marcos	69	57	t-storm
El Paso	69	42	mst sunny	Sulphur Springs	65	55	t-storm
Fort Stockton	75	51	mst sunny	Sweetwater	75	53	mst sunny
Gainesville	66	52	t-storm	Tyler	67	56	t-storm
Greenville	64	53	t-storm	Weatherford	69	54	t-storm
Houston	68	60	t-storm	Wichita Falls	70	55	pt sunny

**National Cities**

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	65	46	pt sunny	Minneapolis	31	23	sn shower
Boston	38	16	sn shower	New York	40	23	flurries
Chicago	34	29	mst sunny	Phoenix	70	48	pt sunny
Dallas	68	57	t-storm	San Francisco	57	46	pt sunny
Denver	54	25	cloudy	Seattle	47	41	rain
Houston	68	60	t-storm	St. Louis	48	36	sunny
Los Angeles	63	46	pt sunny	Washington, DC	46	29	pt sunny
Miami	81	66	mst sunny				

**Moon Phases**



**UV Index**

Thu 2/7	Fri 2/8	Sat 2/9
<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

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

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**sudoku**

ANSWERS

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

# Why not check this out at the library?

“The House at Riverton” (F MOR K) by Kate Morton is the debut novel set in England between the wars. Perfect for fans of “Downton Abbey,” it is the story of an aristocratic family, a house, a mysterious death and a way of life that vanished forever, told in flashback by a woman who witnessed it all and kept a secret for decades.



HOLLIS  
McCRIGHT

Grace Bradley went to work at Riverton House as a servant when she was just a girl, before the First World War. For years, her life was inextricably tied up with the Hartford family, most particularly the two daughters, Hannah and Emmeline.

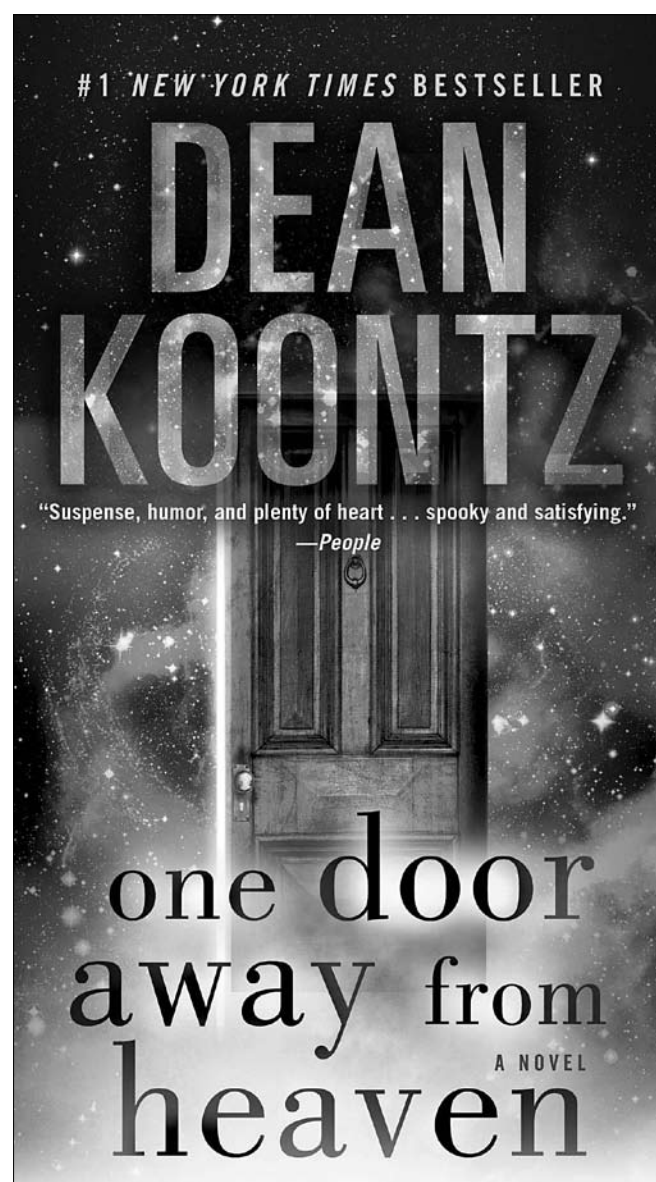
In 1999, when Grace is 98 years old and living out her last days in a nursing home, she is visited by a young director who is making a film about the events of that summer. She takes Grace back to Riverton House and reawakens her memories. This is the story of Grace's youth during the last days of Edwardian aristocratic privilege shattered by war, of the vibrant 1920s and the

changes she witnessed as an entire way of life vanished forever.

The Library also has “The Forgotten Garden” (F LP MOR K), which is similar in nature; a lost child, found on a boat bound for Australia and is taken in by strangers whose life is shattered when secrets are told.

We have another time-traveling story, this one is from Linda Lael Miller and it takes place in modern-day Seattle and on an 18th Caribbean island with a dashing pirate. In “Pirates” (F MIL L), Miller sweeps readers away — and through time itself — when a thoroughly modern woman encounters a dangerous, dashing 18th-century buccaneer. The result is a sensuous, joyous, utterly heartwarming tale of love.

Phoebe Turlow needs to get out of Seattle and forget about the man she just divorced, her dwindling finances, and the lonely nights that stretch ahead of her. But she can't foresee what awaits her on Paradise Island. Duncan Rourke is known to historians as “the pirate patriot.” He's been dead for two centuries — or at least he's supposed to be, until Phoebe Turlow steps out of a van, into a run-down island hotel and into his world. Neither Phoebe nor her pirate can envision the



glorious adventure that is about to unfold.

From Amazon Reviews.com comes a review of Dean Koontz's “One Door Away From Heaven” (F KOO D). Koontz practically invented the cross-genre novel, and in this volume, he mixes an action thriller with post-X-Files alien paranoia to remarkable effect.

Micky Bellsong is

a young woman at a crisis point in her life, using a stay at her Aunt Geneva's to sort things out. Then, the precocious and deformed Leilani Klonk walks into her life, telling stories of her stepfather and drugged-up mother, who believe aliens will beam the girl into their mothership and heal her deformities before her 10th birthday.

But tales of the step-

father's vicious past, including his hand in several murders, leads Micky to believe that a far more terrible fate awaits her friend. So when the parents take off with Leilani, Micky pursues. As is typical with a Koontz novel, nothing turns out to be what it seems and the meticulously crafted plot tightens like a noose with every turn of the page.

His characters are exceptionally drawn, driving the novel forward with realism and warmth. Micky is one of his more attractive young heroines, but the real star is Leilani, a mature young girl whose plucky nature and sparkling dialogue instantly make her Koontz's most memorable creation. She embodies his belief that despite violence, pain, and suffering, there is always goodness to be found in every person and situation. Koontz has once again proven why he is one of the premier novelists of his generation.

Kathleen Rigdon Highley's latest mystery is here to check out: “106 Arrowhead Drive” (F HIG K). Catherine Baldwin and Nanny Maggie gathered up all five children, the youngest a mere five weeks old, and ran for their lives. Catherine's husband was dead and her mother-in-law

wanted revenge, with power and influence, her weapons of choice.

You may recognize some local names in the book, even though it takes place in Lubbock and Ransom Canyon. The pacing is good, but some background is lacking ... why is Elizabeth Baldwin so determined to ruin her daughter-in-law's life? Catherine is certainly not keeping her light under a bushel (so to speak); she could be found at any time with her musical career. Why is Kim so determined to go to Lubbock to find things out? Why not one of the boys who would have remembered leaving town, instead of a three-week child?

It is a good book to check out and read when cold and blustery out, so do come down and check it out. We do have “In Search of Tranquility” (F HIG K) available for checkout as well.

We are open Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.; the internet/video room closes a half-hour early each day. You may reach us at 264-2260; our fax number is 264-2263. Our website is <http://wtls.tsl.state.tx.us/howard-county>.

Hollis McCright is  
Howard County Librarian.

# Internet cat stars scratch the surface for fame

NEW YORK (AP) — They frolic in empty boxes and stick their heads under faucet streams of water. They dance on tippy toes and fly through the air with Pop-Tarts. They play piano wearing little frocks and get tickled to distraction to the delight of millions on YouTube.

I speak, of course, of the cat stars of the Internet, a place filled with felines and their wacky uploading humans since the dawn of bandwidth. Now, after years of viral viewing, they're coming into their own in lucrative and altruistic ways.

The first Internet Cat

Video Film Festival drew a Woodstock-esque crowd of more than 10,000 — people, that is — to a Minneapolis art museum in August. Police closed a span of highway clogged with cars trying to get to the Walker Art Center for the free outdoor slate of 80 videos culled from 10,000 submissions that covered the simple, funny moment to polished animations and works made by trained filmmakers.

“People were spilling out into the streets. It kind of took our breath away. You hit the people that are the cat lovers but you also get people who just like sharing something on the Internet, and it kind of reaches across age groups,” said the museum's Scott Stulen, who worked on the festival and helped

curate entries.

Corporate kittydom is happy with the higher profile for the cat meme, which actually goes back to the '70s, when swapping VHS tapes was big and the word meme was barely known. It means, by the way, all the crazy, viral themes that spread online faster than you can say nom, nom, nom (catvid speak for the sound of a cat eating.)

In addition to the Walker's free night in cat video heaven, Fresh Step litter sponsored Catdance, an evening of felines on screen that coincided with January's Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah. A fan-voted winner among five scripted finalists — some creators received a stipend to enter — will earn \$10,000 after online voting ends later this

month.

In November, Friskies gave a lifetime achievement statue to angst-y existentialist Henri, le Chat Noir, at the brand's own awards ceremony and donated 250,000 cans of cat food to shelters around the country. Henri, the troubled Tuxedo, won another statue in Minneapolis and will soon begin a collaboration of food-focused videos with Friskies.

Oh, and Henri's putting out his first book in April.

Roly poly Maru, the megastar in Japan with millions of views for nearly 300 videos since 2007, has three books and a calendar, among other swag for sale. The squishy-faced, often blissed-out Scottish fold who loves boxes and bags was used by Uniqlo when the Japanese

brand launched its San Francisco store in October. Maru chose boxes, called “Lucky Cubes,” stuffed with giveaways for human contest winners.

Not to be outdone, Simon's Cat, a funny feline in a series of line-drawn animated videos out of London, has a book and an online store, as does Henri, who lends his fame and some of his dollars to cat charities.

Even the funny faced Grumpy Cat, whose real name is Tartar Sauce, coughs up some bucks to animal welfare groups, while captions for her still photos fly around the Internet and she sells T-shirts off her website. She put out some videos after her existence as a living, breathing and not digitally altered feline was questioned.

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# Lifestyle, pop culture drive dog breed popularity

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Help wanted: One trained, easygoing, low-maintenance dog that will work for next to nothing. It was the classified ad that Matthew VanFossan wrote in his head after going blind.

His Labrador retriever, Achilles, “will guide me across busy streets for nothing more than a pat on the head or ‘Good boy,’” said the 31-year-old writer-counselor from Los Angeles. “He loves every bit of attention, but he can also go without it. He’ll let out a low groan if he’s getting too bored.”

The breed’s friendliness, intelligence and love of physical activity helped make it the most popular dog in America for the last two decades, according to American Kennel Club data released last week. Labrador retrievers are widely used as search and rescue, guide, therapy and service dogs, and they’re also perfect for active, outdoors-loving families with children,

said club spokeswoman Lisa Peterson.

Labrador retrievers (22 years), cocker spaniels (23) and poodles (22) have been the most popular purebred dog breeds in the United States for a total of 67 of the 128 years the AKC has been counting. The data from the AKC, the country’s only nonprofit dog registry, comes from paid registrations by breeders and owners of purebred dogs, and makes the dog eligible for AKC events such as dog shows. More than 40 million purebred dogs have been registered since 1884, Peterson said.

Some critics, like the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the Humane Society of the United States, argue that owners mistake club registration as a sign of responsible breeding. “Registry with the AKC simply indicates that a dog had two parents of the same breed,” said Cori Menkin, senior di-

rector of ASPCA’s Puppy Mills Campaign. The AKC acknowledged that registration does not guarantee the quality or health of a dog.

However, Peterson condemned those who increase breeding to meet public demand, saying “responsible breeders do not produce more dogs just to meet popular demand.”

Factors, including Hollywood, pop culture and the economy, help drive changes in breed popularity. For instance, the yellow Lab featured in the bestselling memoir and the subsequent movie “Marley & Me,” help the breed’s popularity skyrocket, Peterson said.

Likewise, the popularity of other breeds has soared thanks to the beagle Snoopy in Charles Schulz’s Peanuts comics, “Lassie” for collies, and cocker spaniels from “Lady and the Tramp.” Snoopy has been one of the biggest influences, Peterson said, and is the only

non-dog to be issued an AKC registration certificate.

But “the No. 1 thing that drives changes in dog popularity is people’s lifestyles,” Peterson said. In New York City last year, larger breeds such as the Labrador retriever and German shepherd jumped over the smaller Yorkshire terrier. Peterson attributed to the economic recovery, saying “people are going back to larger dogs.”

The short-haired dogs are easier to groom, easier to walk and to exercise than the smaller, more time-intensive dogs, she said. She believes smaller dogs became popular because of the recession because that trend started in the 1990s.

Another popular breed, the cocker spaniel, has owners coming back for its friendliness. Carol Bryant, a blogger from Forty Fort, Pa., travels frequently and uses her cocker spaniel Dexter as a networking

tool. Dexter is so good that he has his own business cards, she said.

Of the breeds that made most gains in popularity, the most noticeable has been the bulldog, said Peterson. It has inched up the last five years, most recently to No. 5 nationally in 2012, she said.

She attributed some of that to “great visibility. It’s the mascot for the U.S. Marines. Think of all the colleges that have bulldog mascots. The Mack truck has a bulldog on the hood. And Tillman and Beefy are real bulldogs who skateboard.”

Bulldogs “have such great temperaments, they are adorable puppies, they are sturdy and compact, and they have the wrinkles and the eyes. They don’t require a lot of grooming or exercise and they love to stay in the house and be with you or if you like the outdoors, they love that too,” Peterson said.

The small, sturdy breed also is compat-

ible with owners of all ages, she added, making it ideal for multi-generational families. That comes in handy as the economy forces more adult children to return home.

When it comes to America’s top dog for the past 20 years, practicality beat being fashionable.

The Labrador retriever’s intelligence earned high marks among owners who sought out the breed.

VanFossan, who lost sight in both eyes by age 22, has owned two Labs. He tried using a cane for six awkward months, then got a guide dog — a Lab named Gilly. Their time together became a book in January — “Through Gilly’s Eyes: Memoirs of a Guide Dog” — and his second dog is Achilles.

“Achilles is a little more sensitive but is better at remembering. It’s incredible. I can go to a new place just once or twice, and he’ll have the route memorized.

# Monopoly players OK cat token, send iron packing

PAWTUCKET, R.I. (AP) — Scottie dog has a new nemesis in Monopoly after fans voted in an online contest to add a cat token to the property trading game, replacing the iron, toy maker Hasbro Inc. announced Wednesday.

The results were announced after the shoe, wheelbarrow and iron were neck and neck for elimination in the final hours of voting that sparked passionate efforts by fans to save their favorite tokens, and by businesses eager to capitalize on publicity surrounding pieces that represent their products.

The vote on Facebook closed just before

midnight on Tuesday, marking the first time that fans have had a say on which of the eight tokens to add and which one to toss.

The pieces identify the players and have changed quite a lot since Parker Brothers bought the game from its original designer in 1935.

Other pieces that contested for a spot on Monopoly included a robot, diamond ring, helicopter and guitar.

Fans from more than 120 countries voted, officials said.

“We put five new tokens out for our fans to vote on and there were a lot of fans of the many different tokens, but I think there were a lot of

cat lovers in the world that reached out and voted for the cat to be the new token for Monopoly,” said Jonathan Berkowitz, vice president for Hasbro gaming marketing.

The Scottie Dog was the most popular of the classic tokens, and received 29 percent of the vote, the company said. The iron got the least votes and was kicked to the curb.

The cat, which has no name, received 31 percent of votes for new tokens.

The online contest to change the tokens was sparked by chatter on Facebook, where Monopoly has more than 10 million fans.

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To My Sweethearts...

Valentine Rachel

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## News in brief

### Small tsunami damages homes in Solomons, 4 believed killed; other warnings canceled

SYDNEY (AP) — A powerful earthquake off the Solomon Islands generated a tsunami of up to 1.5 meters (about 5 feet) that damaged dozens of homes and likely killed several people in the South Pacific island chain Wednesday.

Authorities canceled warnings for tsunamis on more distant coasts.

Solomon officials reported two 1.5-meter (4 foot, 11-inch) waves hit the western side of Santa Cruz Island, damaging between 70 and 80 homes and properties, said George Herming, a spokesman for the prime minister. Many villagers had headed to higher ground as a precaution, Herming said.

Solomon Islands Police Commissioner John Lansley said local police patrols had reported that several people were presumed dead, though the reports were still being verified.

"Sadly, we believe some people have lost their lives," he said. "At the moment we potentially know of four, but there may of course be more."

### Obama's CIA pick Brennan, once stung by waterboarding, now opposes it

WASHINGTON (AP) — John Brennan, now President Barack Obama's nominee to be CIA director, sat quietly around a conference table at the agency's headquarters in Langley, Va., during briefings about the capture and waterboarding of key al-Qaida operative Abu Zubaydah.

Former and current U.S. intelligence officials who were part of those briefings say Brennan, then deputy executive director of the CIA's administrative arm, did not raise objections to the interrogation practices in those forums. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to discuss the top-secret meetings publicly.

Brennan's silence may have cost him his first chance to lead the spy agency. He withdrew his name from consideration in 2008 following a stream

of complaints that he was tainted by his CIA service during the administration of President George W. Bush, when harsh interrogation techniques like waterboarding came under fire.

But in his letter withdrawing his nomination, Brennan wrote that he'd been a "strong opponent" of the program. Throughout Obama's first term, Brennan added to the body of criticism of so-called enhanced interrogation techniques in his role as Obama's counterterrorism adviser.

The same issue that caused him to withdraw from consideration to be the nation's spy chief is likely to come up again this week as Brennan faces his confirmation hearings in Congress to be director of the CIA.

### Obama and GOP want to replace across-the-board cuts, but with what?

WASHINGTON (AP) — After two tumultuous years of budget brinkmanship, President Barack Obama and Republicans in Congress finally agree on something — namely, that a previous 10-year pact to cut \$1 trillion across the board was such a bad idea it must be stopped before it starts.

If consensus counts as good news in an era of divided government, consider this: They also disagree vehemently on a suitable replacement.

As a result, they seem likely to spend the spring and perhaps a good part of the summer struggling to escape a bind of their own making. And this time, Medicare and the rest of the government's benefit programs are likely to face changes.

Already, the two sides are laying down markers.

Obama called on Congress on Tuesday to join him in developing a replacement for the across-the-board reductions, "a balanced mix of spending cuts and more tax reform."

### Boy Scouts of America board meets in Texas amid discussion of changing policy banning gays

IRVING, Texas (AP) — The Boy Scouts of America's policy excluding gay members and leaders could be up for a vote as soon as Wednesday, when the organization's national executive board meets behind closed doors under intense pressure from several sides.

BSA announced last week it was considering allowing troops to decide whether to allow gay membership. That news has placed a spotlight on executive board meetings that began Monday in Irving, Texas, where scouting headquarters is located.

BSA spokesman Deron Smith said last week that the board could take a vote Wednesday or decide to discuss the policy, but the organization would issue a statement either way. Otherwise, the board has remained silent, with reporters barred from the hotel where its meetings are taking place.

At nearby BSA headquarters, a handful of Scouts and leaders delivered petitions Monday in support of letting gay members join. The conservative group Texas Values, meanwhile, says it has organized a Wednesday morning prayer vigil urging the Scouts to keep their policy the same.

President Barack Obama, an opponent of the policy, and Texas Gov. Rick Perry, an Eagle Scout who supports it, both have weighed in.

### FBI: Ala. captor rigged bunker with explosives, waged 'firefight' against SWAT team saving boy

MIDLAND CITY, Ala. (AP) — As FBI and police negotiators spent days seeking to coax an Alabama man into freeing a 5-year-old boy held hostage in an

underground bunker, the captor was making plans of his own.

FBI special agent Jason Pack said in an email that bomb technicians found two explosive devices Tuesday on the man's property. He said one was inside the bunker and the other in the plastic pipe Dykes had told officers to use to talk with him.

Pack said Dykes also "reinforced the bunker against any attempted entry by law enforcement." And when SWAT agents stormed the bunker Monday to rescue the boy, the FBI says Dykes engaged in a "firefight" before he was killed.

As the FBI released new details, the boy was reported doing well at home.

### Woman charged in lover's slaying in Arizona continues testimony in death penalty trial

PHOENIX (AP) — Jodi Arias' life changed from the moment she met the man she killed. A world of opportunities seemed possible. A good job. A promising future. A potentially loving relationship.

As Arias testifies in her murder trial, she continues to lay out in painstaking detail the events that led up to the day she stabbed and shot Travis Alexander in his suburban Phoenix home.

Her testimony was set to resume Wednesday.

Arias has told jurors of a past marred by abuse at the hands of her parents, the numerous boyfriends who cheated on her and how things seemed to take a turn for the better when she met Alexander.

The 32-year-old is now accused of stabbing and slashing him 27 times, slitting his throat and shooting him in the head in June 2008. She initially denied any involvement, then later blamed it on masked intruders before claiming self-defense.

### Mexico authorities seeking masked attackers who raped 6 Spanish tourists in Acapulco

ACAPULCO, Mexico (AP) — Authorities have information they hope will lead them to the gang of armed, masked men who raped six Spanish tourists in the Mexican resort of Acapulco, the attorney general in the southern state of Guerrero said.

The vicious, hours-long attack at a beach home on the outskirts of Acapulco before dawn Monday was the latest chapter of violence that has tarnished the once-glamorous Pacific coast resort celebrated in Frank Sinatra songs and Elvis Presley movies.

"Fortunately we have strong evidence to lead us to those responsible for this reprehensible act," Guerrero state Attorney General Martha Garzon Guzman told Mexico's Radio Formula on Monday.

The beach home on an idyllic stretch of coastline had been rented by six Spanish men, six Spanish women and a Mexican woman.

The attackers gained access to the house because two of the Spaniards were in the yard and apparently were forced to open the door, Acapulco Mayor Luis Walton told a news conference late Monday.

### Dell's founder strikes deal to turn company around

NEW YORK (AP) — It's easy to forget now, but Michael Dell was the Mark Zuckerberg of his day.

Hailed as a young genius, he created the inexpensive, made-to-order personal computer in his University of Texas dorm room and sold it straight to the public. In the 1980s and '90s, his face appeared on magazine covers, and well before he turned 40, he was a college dropout-turned-billionaire CEO, ranked alongside Bill Gates and Steve Jobs.

But that was a long time ago in the fast-moving world of high technology. Now the PC is getting eclipsed by smartphones and tablet computers, and Dell is struggling to save his company — and his legacy.

Tuesday's announcement that Michael Dell and the investment firm Silver Lake have struck a \$2.4 billion deal to buy publicly traded Dell Inc. and take it private may well be the founder's last chance to recapture his former glory. The agreement will allow the company to attempt a turnaround without having to worry about pleasing Wall Street with its earnings.

For Michael Dell, 47, the attempt to retool the company he built is personal, said technology analyst Patrick Moorhead, who runs Moor Insights & Strategy.

"His name is on the logo and all the buildings. So he takes all of this very personally," Moorhead said. "This is a way for him to solidify the way people will look at him and remember him."

Analysts said Dell Inc. will have to mine more profitable areas such as technology consulting and business software.

In a statement, Dell himself said little more than that the transformation will "take more time, investment and patience."

The company he founded some 29 years ago rose to the top of the world's PC market more than a decade ago. In its heyday, its turn-of-the-millennium ad slogan, "Dude, you're getting a Dell," became a pop-culture catchphrase. Dell took orders straight from customers, first by phone and then by Internet, cutting out stores and passing the savings along.

"What Michael Dell was all about was getting products to people faster and more directly and at a lower cost than anyone could," said Forrester Research analyst David Johnson.

While Dell PCs are still used in offices and homes around the world, the industry has proved unforgiving to those who don't evolve with it. With smartphones booming, PC sales falling 3.5 percent last year, and tablets expected to outsell laptop computers this year, Dell's old slogan is more likely to be phrased as a question, as in: "Dude, you're getting a Dell?"

## sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

## Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

### The Magic Number

East dealer.  
East-West vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ 1 7 3  
♥ A K J  
♦ A K 6 4  
♣ 9 7 2

**WEST**  
♠ 8 2  
♥ 4  
♦ J 9 7 5  
♣ K Q 10 6 4 3

**EAST**  
♠ Q 10 9 6 5  
♥ 9 7 6 5 3 2  
♦ 8  
♣ J

**SOUTH**  
♠ A K 4  
♥ Q 10 8  
♦ Q 10 3 2  
♣ A 8 5

The bidding:  
East South West North  
Pass 1 NT Pass 4 NT  
Opening lead — king of clubs.

The number 13, regarded by many as unlucky, is, without question, the single most important number in bridge. Hardly a deal goes by where an experienced declarer or defender does not take advantage of the knowledge that each suit contains 13 cards and that each player is dealt 13 cards.

Consider this case where South wound up in four notrump after North had invited a slam. North's raise to four notrump asked South to continue bidding toward slam if his one-notrump opening was based on 16 or 17 points.

West led the king of clubs, East playing the jack, and continued with the queen of clubs, taken by South with the ace. Anticipating no difficulty at all, declarer next cashed dummy's A-K of diamonds, but when East showed out on the second diamond, South unexpectedly found himself with only nine tricks.

Unfazed by this development, he proceeded to make the contract anyway. He cashed the A-K-Q of hearts and A-K of spades, reducing all hands to four cards. At this point, West was known to be holding the J-9 of diamonds and 10-6 of clubs, while South's last four cards were a spade, a club and the Q-10 of diamonds.

Declarer now led a club, and after West collected his two club tricks, he had to lead a diamond into South's Q-10. As a result, South made exactly four notrump.

In effect, West's distribution was an open book after the first six tricks had been played. At trick two, it became known that West had started with six clubs. At trick four, South learned that West had also started with four diamonds, and at trick six, South learned that West had started with precisely one heart. West's two unknown cards therefore had to be spades, and all South had to do while cashing his remaining heart and spade winners was to keep an eye on West's discards.

Tomorrow: Hidden weapon.

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## In Sunday's Big Spring Herald



### Skyscraper of Love

A New York City icon, the Empire State Building is also a sought-out romantic destination thanks to its breathtaking views of the skyline and the popularity of films such as *An Affair To Remember* and *Sleepless In Seattle*.

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# BSHS boys upset Rangers, girls to play Sweetwater for third 4-3A playoff seed

By **BRIAN MCCORMACK**  
Sports Editor

### Big Spring

#### Boys

**GREENWOOD** — The Steers almost defeated Greenwood at home last month and despite losing the close affair, it seemed to give BSBS some confidence that was unseen until that point in District 4-3A play.

Since the narrow defeat, the Steers have won three games — including Tuesday's 61-59 upset over the Rangers to keep their slim playoff hopes alive and avenge the loss for the improved hoops squad.

Tavaris Walker sank three 3-point baskets in the final quarter and contributed 21 points total, while Ty Sealy added 14 and Ty'Ral Menefield chipped in 13 in the win.

The Steers (9-20, 3-5) didn't take the lead until Menefield made a shot with under two minutes on the clock to give Big Spring a one-point advantage, making it a 57-56 ballgame.

The Steers would tack on three more points, but Greenwood cut the lead down to one with seconds on the clock.

A Steer turnover just before time expired proved harmless as the Rangers couldn't turn it into points and BSBS came away the victors.

Sweetwater will make the trek to Big Spring on Friday as the Steers try to close out the season with a win and maybe even a postseason berth, depending on how their district opponents fare that evening.

#### Girls

**GREENWOOD** — It was a heartbreaking loss for the Lady Steers on Tuesday, as the

Rangerettes pulled off a 44-39 win over Big Spring, who must now play Sweetwater a third time to determine the final District 4-3A playoff seed.

The good news for BSBS Head Coach Mike Warren is, his team has already dispatched the Lady Mustangs twice.

"We may have lost," Warren said of Tuesday's game, "But I feel we played one of our best games all year. We're excited for the opportunity to play Sweetwater again. We count this as our playoff game."

Warren is hoping to throw the Lady Mustangs — who have seen Warren's offensive and defensive schemes — a curve ball.

"We practiced some new things against Greenwood," Warren said. "We will have some new wrinkles on defense. We have to just go and try not to make it a close game. I'm proud of the way the team has played and we will try to push through to the playoffs and get some more wins. That's the grit and determination this team has — we don't want the season to end yet."

Diamonique Mayes led the Lady Steers with 14 points. Julianna Rodriguez had seven and Dyrshae Vanderbilt added six in the regular season closer.

#### Forsan

#### Boys

**TAHOKA** — Kade Fannin recorded a stunning 26 rebounds and led the Buffs with 15 points in Tuesday's 55-40 win over Tahoka. Matthew Mims registered 11, Aric Hernandez put up 10 and Tyler Evans added nine as playoff-bound Forsan (18-8, 8-1) kept rolling

See **HOOPS**, Page 10



HERALD file photo/visit [www.claxtonphotography.com](http://www.claxtonphotography.com)

**Big Spring's Ty'Ral Menefield soars up for a basket during last week's game against Abilene Wylie. The Steers pulled off a thrilling upset over Greenwood on Tuesday to keep their playoff hopes alive. Menefield put up 13 points in the 61-59 road win. The Steers are now 3-5 in District 4-3A action and will face Sweetwater in the season finale Friday at Steer Gym.**

## Local sports briefs

### Benefit hoops game slated for Thursday

The Big Spring ISD Athletic Department is sponsoring a benefit basketball game on Thursday at Steer Gym.

Their daughter, Cecili, was in a severe accident out of state and the family has accrued unexpected medical expenses.

Tickets will be \$3 for adults and \$2 for students. Any further donations to the Sotelo's are greatly appreciated. No free passes will be accepted as entry to the event.

John Sotelo is a postal worker and his wife, Anna, is the receptionist at the high school.

The game will feature members of the Big Spring coaching staff against senior boys.

Hilarity on the coaches' part is guaranteed.

The public is urged to come out and have fun while supporting a good cause.

For more information, contact Kay Cook at 264-3662.

### BSLL registration

### now open

Sign-ups for Big Spring Little League are being held at the Big Spring Mall on Saturday, Feb. 9 and Saturday, Feb. 16 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Another registration will be held on Monday, Feb. 11 through Friday, Feb. 16 from 5:30 p.m. until 7 p.m., also at the mall.

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

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

### Big Spring C.C. set to hold 4-person scramble

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

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

Entrance fee includes one

mulligan per day and barbeque on the course Saturday. Practice rounds will be available Friday.

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

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

### Coahoma Girls Softball Association sign-ups being held

The Coahoma Girls Softball Association is holding open registrations for girls ages 3-18 and boys ages 3-6.

All sign-ups will be held at Coahoma City Hall. Early birds can take advantage of a \$10 discount for signing up Saturday, Feb. 9 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. (The cost is \$50 instead of \$60.)

Additional registrations will be held on Saturday, Feb. 23, March 2 and March 9 from 2-4 p.m., also at city hall.

For more information, contact Melissa at 270-3833.

## Rockets tie NBA record for 3s against Warriors

**HOUSTON (AP)** — The Houston fans knew the Rockets were on the verge of history against Golden State on Tuesday night, needing one more 3-pointer to set an NBA record.

Warriors coach Mark Jackson wasn't going to let that happen.

The Rockets settled for tying an NBA record and set a franchise mark with 23 3-pointers in a 140-109 win over the Warriors. Houston matched the single-game record for 3s set by Orlando in a win over Sacramento on Jan. 13, 2009.

The Toyota Center crowd realized the outright record was within reach in the final three minutes, chanting "One more 3!" But the Warriors took away Houston's chances of getting it by fouling at the end.

"We're not going to lay down," Jackson said. "If you're going to try to get the record, we're going to stop it."

The Warriors should've employed that plan sooner.

Jeremy Lin sank five 3-pointers, a career high, and Chandler Parsons and James Harden hit four apiece as the

Rockets reached a season-high point total. They also tied an NBA record with 14 3-pointers in the first half and dished out a season-high 35 assists on 46 field goals overall.

"Thankfully, we were just able to get a bunch of open looks and knock them down," Lin said. "That's just the way it is sometimes."

Lin scored 28 points, Harden added 18 and Parsons had 16 for Houston. The Rockets put on the shooting display without their best 3-point shooter — Carlos Delfino, who sat out with a right elbow injury.

"We just got hot tonight," Harden said.

Jarrett Jack scored 20 points and David Lee had 18 for the Warriors. Stephen Curry, averaging 21 points per game, scored only seven points on 3-for-12 shooting.

Houston set a Toyota Center scoring record and reached 140 points for the first time since April 1995.

"Throughout the whole game, you figured they'd cool off," Curry said. "But we

See **RECORD**, Page 15

# Mayor defends New Orleans after power outage

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — New Orleans' mayor defended his city days after a power outage plunged the Super Bowl into 34 minutes of darkness, while authorities still baffled by the cause announced they were bringing in a consultant to help investigate.

The outage that embarrassed New Orleans as it sought to showcase its rebound from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina happened despite hundreds of thousands of dollars of improvements to decaying utility lines, documents show.

Mayor Mitch Landrieu sought to put an upbeat spin on the matter at

a news conference Tuesday, saying the city's performance as host was near flawless despite the lights-out episode.

"The 34 minutes of darkness will never overshadow or outshine the city of New Orleans and how we performed this Super Bowl week," Landrieu said.

Concerned the Superdome might not be able to handle the energy needed for its first Super Bowl since Katrina, officials spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on upgrades to decayed utility lines, according to the documents obtained by The Associated Press.

The improvements apparently weren't enough, however, to prevent the glaring third quarter outage that was as much talked about as the Baltimore Ravens' 34-31 victory over the San Francisco 49ers.

Still, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said the city did a terrific job hosting this time. "I fully expect that we will be back here for Super Bowls," he said.

On Tuesday, Superdome officials and the power provider Entergy New Orleans said they had failed to find a cause for the outage.

"We thought it was important to get

another party looking at this to make sure we were looking at everything that we need to," Entergy spokesman Chanel Lagarde said.

Tests on the electrical feeders that connect incoming power from utility lines to the stadium showed decay and "a chance of failure," state officials warned in a memo dated Oct. 15. The documents also show that Entergy expressed concern about the reliability of the service before the Super Bowl.

The memo said Entergy and the Superdome's engineering staff "had concerns regarding the reliability of the Dome service."

## HOOPS

Continued from Page 9

through district play.

"(Fannin) had some great rebounding," Head Coach Gary Huckabee said. "The whole team played great defense and really pulled us through."

The Buffs will close out the season against Smyer on Friday.

### Girls

TAHOKA — The Lady Buffs also took care of business in the season finale against Tahoka on Tuesday, winning 40-30 in their final regular season appearance.

Ali Knight accounted for 13 Forsan points and Raegan Haggard chipped in eight.

The Lady Buffaloes (21-9, 7-3) will play a tune-up game

next week before beginning postseason play, but Head Coach Lindsey Schmidt was unsure at press time who the opponent would be at.

### Coahoma

#### Boys

COAHOMA — It has been a tough year for the Bulldogs, who despite having a roster full of explosive athletes, found themselves out-matched in District 4-2A. The latest loss came at the hands of Denver City, who handed Coahoma a 73-45 loss.

Tanner Ruiz had a game-high 27 points against the Mustangs, including four 3-point shots, but it wasn't enough as Denver City rolled past the Bulldogs.

"We played hard against a top district team," Head Coach Kim Nichols said.

Coahom will conclude its

season against Brownfield on Friday.

### Girls

COAHOMA — Bulldogettes' Head Coach Paul Hartman's season came to a disappointing end Tuesday with a 52-46 loss against Denver City, but he and the Coahoma fan base have a lot to look forward to next season.

"We definitely aren't happy with our overall win-loss record," Hartman said. "But I feel this team has improved drastically over the course of the season. We played a very competitive game (against Denver City) that came down to the last few possession to decide the outcome. We played as hard as we have all year and left everything on the court."

Julia Castilaw led the Bulldogettes with 14 and Kyla Clanton added 14.

Hartman wishes his senior players a farewell and looks forward to a better season next year.

"We are losing Devine Martin and Tobi Robinson," Hartman added.

"I want to thank those two for competing hard and being coachable all season. We as a team wish them luck as they move forward in their lives. We are definitely excited about next season. We have a great, young core group who gained valuable knowledge this season. We look forward to great things being accomplished in the Bulldogette program."

Coahoma finished with a 9-22 overall record.

### Other scores:

#### Boys

• Garden City (No. 14) defeated Paint Rock, 70-38.

Sam Miller 15, Corbin Davis 10. Next at Sterling City, Friday, 8 p.m.

• Grady (No. 7) defeated Dawson, 93-28. Brandon Lucas 22, Taylor Polson 17, Beau Lucas 15, Ivan Sanjuan 12. Next at Sands, Friday, 7 p.m.

• Lamesa defeated Stanton, 71-50. Scott Smith 26, Cole Schroyer 10. Next at Denver City, Friday, 8 p.m.

### Girls

• Grady (No. 8) defeated Dawson, 74-23. Charmynee Arnold 19, Cayley Oppeward 14, Faith Hunter 12, Ellyn Avery 10. Next vs. Lubbock Titans at Sterling City, Friday, 2:30 p.m.

Contact Sports Editor Brian McCormack at 263-7331 ext. 237 or by e-mail at sports@bigspringherald.com

## Tomorrow's Horoscope

you'll not only get along swimmingly, but you'll also form an alliance that does some real good in the world.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Unlike boring people, when you get the nonverbal cues that another party is not interested in your talk, you change your subject or approach. It's what makes you a fun and exciting communicator.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It is futile to search for mythical lands or quest for articles of magic and power when all that's necessary to create a new world is already around you.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Were you taught to shake your shoes out before you put them on, lest an insect has decided to make it his temporary home? Following this and other random but pertinent safety tips will make today more pleasant.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). Good karma swings back now. You could finally get the cooperation and partnership you've needed to launch a project you're sure will be an uplifting experience for all involved.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (Feb. 6). It's your year to change your karma in one area of your life that's been challenging for you. You'll make money by acting on your hunches this month. March introduces auspicious new friends and mentors. April brings willpower, and it will be relatively easy for you to trade a bad habit for a good one. Travel in August. Capricorn and Pisces people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 14, 7, 4, 24 and 38.

**STRANGE SUPERSTITIONS:** A survey of reader superstitions highlighted some unusual ones! Read on:

"If I hear the same words or phrase three times in one day, I'll immediately act on the phrase regardless of what it is. Many times it's a no-brainer, but sometimes I have to do an Internet search before I figure out what to do. Words I've acted on: feather duster, truck stop, macaroni, opt out, and give it a rest." — *Gemini*

"When my computer freezes, glitches or doesn't respond in the way it's supposed to, I never, ever go back to the original function that happened right before the glitch. If it's a spreadsheet, I rearrange it. If it's a paper I'm writing, I change some of the words. If it's an email, I rewrite the whole thing or don't send it at all." — *Sagittarius*

"I'll change my walking route depending on the

looks on the faces of people I encounter. If I see more than one person frowning or giving off a bad vibe of any kind, I'll move to the other side of the street, zigzag to another block or change direction entirely. Of course, I don't avoid people who need help or are sad. That's different. Then I give a smile or offer a hand." — *Aquarius*

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** The golden rule of entertainment is: "The show must go on." Rip Torn takes the adage quite literally, noting that he has worked "with broken legs, arms, ankles..." and even passed a kidney stone on one opening night. His moon and Mercury in Pisces suggests that this Aquarian show business veteran still thrills to the feeling of dissolving himself into a character for the theatrical effect.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com) and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).

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### Highly Suggestible Pisces Aspects

Has the sound of your own grumbling stomach ever been answered by the grumbling stomach of the person next to you? That's because human hunger is a contagious phenomenon. Whatever you are hungry for as Mercury, Mars and Neptune pull together in Pisces, your appetites will influence those around you.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). How can you defuse these strong feelings you are still carrying? The same way you defuse other strong essences: Open the container and leave them exposed to the open air for a while.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). You know people who need to know each other. It will be convenient for you to make the connection now, thus altering the destiny of all parties involved, including you.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). You're more sensitive today — and not just regarding your own feelings, but also the feelings of others. You may be the only one who recognizes another person's pain, which makes you responsible for helping.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). You love the creature comforts of home, and you're as territorial as any other animal on the planet. So you understand when others need to spend time in their own space, and you don't take silence personally.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). Open up to your higher mind. You have nothing to fear. Your intuition springs from a loving place in your being and will guide you with the good judgment of an amazing parent or a wise teacher. It will not frighten you.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You are being gently prodded toward a sunnier mood. The attitude adjustment is up to you. Should you choose to make it, you will see and seize an opportunity that was previously obscured by clouds.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your soul and your ego are of different opinions as to what your next move should be. Can you blame them for being so far apart on the matter? Each has a completely different agenda.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). If those you influence are as graceful and humble as you these days,



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may occur 30 to 50 years after exposure to asbestos. Many workers were exposed from the 1940s through the 1970s. Industrial and construction workers, along with their families (second hand exposure) are among those at risk for mesothelioma, lung cancer or gastro cancer (throat, stomach, colon). Call us for professional insight.

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**Assistant Manager/Collector** Security Finance is now taking applications. We offer benefits, competitive pay, and advancement opportunities. Apply in person at 501 E. 3rd.

**BIG SPRING** Country Club is looking for Line Cook/Sauté person, 1 year experience preferred. Apply in person. No phone call.

**CAT CONSTRUCTION** now hiring Roustabout Pushers, Hands and Dozer Operators. Top Pay. Apply in person 600 S. E. Broadway, Coahoma.

**Dental Hygienist** South Plains Rural Health Services is in need of a Dental Hygienist at Howard County Community Health Center in Big Spring. The Dental Hygienist works as part of the Dental Provider Team providing dental services to the patients of the Center. The Dental Hygienist performs dental prophylactic services and provides educational information for the prevention of dental disease. This full-time position offers a competitive salary, benefits, and holidays. Please mail resume/ applications to Dale Moore, South Plains Rural Health Services, Inc. 1000 FM 300, Levelland TX 79336, or fax to (806)894-3378. Or apply online at www.sprhs.org EOE. No phone calls please.

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

**Help Wanted**

**CERTIFIED PHARMACY TECHNICIAN**

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:**

South Plains Rural Health Services is in need of two Certified Pharmacy Technicians at Howard County Community Health Center in Big Spring. The Pharmacy Tech assists the Pharmacist in the operations of the pharmacy in conjunction with the health services provided within the community health center. Primary duties include maintaining all quality control and inventory control records on pharmaceuticals as outlined by the pharmacist in charge. Assists the Pharmacist, under direct supervision, in the practice of Pharmacy, in accordance to local, state, federal, and company regulations. Educational requirements include High School Diploma and a Pharmacy Technician Certification. This full-time position offers a competitive salary, benefits, and holidays. Please mail resume/ applications to Dale Moore, South Plains Rural Health Services, Inc. 1000 FM 300, Levelland TX 79336, or fax to (806)894-3378. Or apply online at www.sprhs.org EOE. No phone calls please.

**CHEMICAL PRODUCTION** Company accepting applications for Truck Treating Driver and Truck Treating Driver Trainee. Individual will be responsible for delivering chemical to customer locations and other duties, as needed. Oilfield knowledge preferred. This position is based in Big Spring, TX. We offer a \$5,000 sign on bonus, competitive Salary, 401(K), Medical, Dental, and Vision, paid vacation and holidays. Submit resume c/o P.O. Box 1431/ Blind Box 226, Big Spring, TX 79721-1431.



**CHILD CAREGIVER-** 2 Positions available 1:30pm-6:30pm & 5:30pm-8:30pm. Apply at Jack & Jill, 1708 Nolan.

**DRIVERS NEEDED** Professional Transportation, Inc. is seeking local drivers for passenger vans in the Big Spring, TX area. Drug screen, driving record, and criminal background check required. 1-800-471-2440 www.professionaltransportationinc.com EOE

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**CROSSROADS HOSPICE**

is hiring for the position of Volunteer/Bereavement Coordinator. This is a part-time position... approximately 20-24 hrs/week. Application can be completed at 421 Main St or fax resume to 432.263.5304 attention Debbie Read.

**CROSSROADS HOSPICE** is hiring for the position of social worker pt/ft. Candidate will provide care to hospice patients in the Howard and surrounding counties. Bi-lingual candidate preferred. Candidate must meet DADS/MC requirements for a hospice social worker. Interested candidates should fax resume to 432-263-5304 attention Debbie Read.

**CROSSTEX ENERGY** Services is a midstream natural gas company. We are seeking a Plant Operator on a contract basis. This position is responsible for assisting in the operation of natural gas cryogenic processing facility in Glasscock County. This includes but not limited to monitoring operations of natural gas processing plant, product treating, and compression, making necessary adjustments, performing inspections, preventive maintenance, lab tasks, and truck loading. Send resume to Michael.Solomon@crosstexenergy.com

**DESERT TANKS LLC.** Locally based company now accepting applications for Experienced Truck Driver in a fast paced work environment. Must have a Class A CDL. Benefits including vacation and retirement. Call 432-816-5570 ask for Jared

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**Help Wanted**

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**Comfort Keepers** is seeking kind, caring & personable individuals to provide non-medical in-home care to the elderly. Full & Part time positions available and weekends. Flexible schedule. CNA's preferred but not required. Must have Own Transportation. Please apply at Texas Workforce Solutions.

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**LAQUINTA INN & SUITES--** Hiring Full-time Housekeeping. Must be able to work weekends. Apply at 1102 West I-20. No phone calls please.

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

**Help Wanted**

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

**MARTIN COUNTY** Home Health is now taking applications for a Full Time Marketer/Office Clerk. Monday through Friday 8:30 to 5:00. Excellent Benefits with competitive pay and mileage. Also looking for PRN/Weekend RN. Call Allison Roy RN/DON At 432-607-3249 or fax resume to 432-607-3299.

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**Check this one!**

This link [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com) connects people to pets up for adoption from the Big Spring Animal Control (432)264-2372.

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**Legals**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Guardianship of the Person and Estate of Eugene Drake, Jr. were issued on January 29, 2013, in Cause No. G221 pending in the County Court of Howard County, Texas, to: Covenant Outreach, LLC, Guardian of he Person and Estate of Eugene Drake, Jr.  
The mailing address of the Guardian is in Taylor County, Texas, as follows:  
Covenant Outreach, LLC  
c/o S. Clinton Nix  
P.O. Box 59  
Abilene, Texas 79604  
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.  
DATED January 31, 2013.  
**BRADBURY & NIX**  
P.O. Box 59,  
Abilene, Texas 79604  
(325)673-7317 phone  
(325)673-3833 fax  
By: S. Clinton Nix  
State Bar No. 15043300  
#7651 February 6, 2013

**AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION AT THE BIG SPRING ANIMAL SHELTER**

**Shy-Ann**  
Bull Terrier Mix  
Medium, Adult,  
Female

Available for adoption until February 14

**432-264-2372.**

**Legals**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AVISO DE AUDIENCIA PUBLICA**  
The Board of Trustees of the Big Spring Independent School District will hold a public hearing to receive public input regarding a proposed change to its trustee election system. All Big Spring ISD trustee positions are currently elected by majority vote through single-member voting districts. Big Spring ISD is considering a change to elect its trustees by plurality vote, beginning with the general trustee election in May, 2013. Should this change be approved by the Board, the candidate in each single-member voting district who received the most votes among all the trustee candidates running from that single-member voting district shall be elected as a Big Spring ISD school board trustee. This is the only change to the trustee election system being considered. The public hearing on the above-described proposed change is scheduled to occur on Thursday, February 14, 2013, at the Big Spring High School Board Room, 707 East 11th Place, Big Spring, Texas, beginning at 5:15 p.m. The Board will receive public comments regarding the proposed change in the trustee election system. El Consejo de Administracion del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Big Spring celebrara una audiencia publica para recibir comentarios del publico relacionados con un cambio propuesto al sistema de elecciones de los miembros del Consejo. Todos los puestos de los miembros del Consejo del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Big Spring se eligen actualmente por mayoria de votos en los distritos electorales de un unico miembro. El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Big Spring esta considerando un cambio para elegir a los miembros del Consejo mediante mayoria relativa, comenzando con las elecciones generales de miembros del Consejo en mayo de 2013. Si este cambio fuera aprobado por el Consejo, el candidato en cada distrito electoral de un unico miembro que reciba mas votos entre todos los candidatos que se presentan en ese distrito electoral de un unico miembro sera elegido miembro del Consejo escolar del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Big Spring. Este es el unico cambio al sistema de elecciones de miembros del Consejo que se esta considerando. La audiencia publica que tratara del cambio propuesto arriba descrito esta programada para el jueves, 14 de febrero de 2013, en el Salon de juntas de la escuela secundaria de Big Spring, 707 East 11th Place, Big Spring, Texas, a partir de las 5:15 de la tarde. El Consejo recibira comentarios publicos relacionados con el cambio propuesto al sistema de elecciones de miembros del Consejo.  
#7649 February 6 & 10, 2013

**Legals**

**Colleen Barton**  
312 Scurry  
Big Spring, Texas 79720  
THE STATE OF TEXAS  
NOTICE OF DEFENDANT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on Monday next following the expiration of 42 days after this citation was issued, a default judgment may be taken against you."  
**To: Gina Davis,**  
Defendant, Greeting:  
You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiff's Petition at or before 10:00 o'clock A.M. on the Monday next after the expiration of 42 days after the date of issuance of this citation the same being Monday March 18, 2013, before the Honorable 118th District Court of Howard County, at 312 Scurry Street in said County in Big Spring, Texas. Said Plaintiff's Petition was filed in said court on the 11/26/2012 in the entitled cause CHARLES M. DAVIS vs. GINA DAVIS  
A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to wit: **Charles M. Davis v Gina Davis** as is more fully shown by the Plaintiff's Petition on file in this suite.  
Issued and given under my hand seal of said court at office this 1st day of February, 2013.  
**Colleen Barton**  
District Clerk of  
Howard County, Texas  
By: **Jury Padron**  
#7650 February 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2013

**"It Pays To Read Big Spring Herald Classifieds"**

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5:PM	News ABC	Casa Notic.	Two Men CBS	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News News	King Seinfeld	Shepherd's Heart	Charlie Rose	King 70s	Moonshiners	CSI: Miami	Auction	Castle	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Good Jessie	SportsNation	SportsCenter
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Corona de Lágrimas	Big Bang	News Ent	Caso Car-rado	News	Seinfeld	Mani	PBS News-Hour	Seinfeld Rules	Moonshiners	CSI: Miami	Auction	Castle	Good Dog	College Basketball	College Basketball	
7:PM	Middle Neighbors	Por Ella Soy Eva	American Idol	Person of Interest	Pasión Prohibida	Whitney Gays-	Fam. Guy Upd	Nature (DVS)	Nova (DVS)	Supernatural	Moonshiners	Movie: The Shawshank Redemption, Bob Gunton	Auction	Castle	Husbands Second	Tinker Bell and the Lost	Pre-Match Soccer	NBA Basketball: Spurs at Timber-wolves
8:PM	Mod Fam Suburg.	Amores Verdaderos	Simpsons How I Met	CSI: Crime Scene	El Rostro de	Chicago Fire	Big Bang	Life on Fire	Cops Seinfeld	Moonshiners	Diggers	Castle	Husbands	Jessie	ANT Farm	Basket	SportsCenter	
9:PM	News	Impacto	How I Met	News	Noticias	News	Conan	Rik McDonald	Charlie Rose	Rules	Moonshiners	Movie: The Shawshank Redemption, Bob Gunton	Diggers	CSI: NY	Husbands	Jessie	SportsCenter	
10:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Noticiero	Raymond	Letterman	Victorinos (SS)	Jay Leno	Office	Alewine	World	King	Moonshiners	Auction	CSI: NY	Wendy Williams	Wizards	NFL Live	SportsCenter	
11:PM	Nightline	Mar de Amor (SS)	Raymond Fam. Guy	Insider	Pagado	(.06) Today	Movie: Nothing to Lose	Light of the Southwest	Light of the Southwest	Moonshiners	Movie: Mrs. Doubtfire, Pierce	Diggers	The Closer	Movie: Video Girl, LisaRaye	Good	NBA	SportsCenter	
12:AM	Extra Super	Conducta	American	Back Fat?	Pagado													
1:AM	Stop Pain	Casa	TMZ															

### DENNIS THE MENACE

2-6

"Wow! A blizzard! That oughta keep ol' Margaret at home."

### THE FAMILY CIRCUS

2-6

"Grandma, can you please teach us how to order a pizza?"

### HAGAR

YOU SEEM SAD, HAGAR - WHAT'S WRONG?  
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT MY LIFE...  
... AND I REALIZE I'M NOT FULL FILLED YET!  
YOU SURE LOOK FILLED TO ME!

### BLONDIE

I WONDER IF YOU COULD SPARE A SANDWICH FOR A MAN WHO'S OUT OF A JOB?  
OF COURSE! I'D BE HAPPY TO HELP YOU OUT  
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN OUT OF A JOB?  
WELL, ACTUALLY, THAT'S KIND OF A TECHNICALITY...  
I DECIDED TO QUIT MY STUPID JOB RIGHT AFTER LUNCH

### BC

IN THE FUTURE, MAN WILL EMBRACE A DIET OF NO SUGARS, NUTS, BEANS OR GRAINS... EATING ORGANIC MEAT AND FRUIT ONLY.

### WIZARD OF ID

THEY WILL CALL THIS WAY OF EATING "GOING PALEO!"  
WHAT DID THE SWAMI SAY?  
SOME DAY THIS WILL BE TRENDY.

### This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Feb. 6, the 37th day of 2013. There are 328 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:**  
On Feb. 6, 1788, Massachusetts became the sixth state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

**On this date:**  
In 1778, the United States won official recognition from France with the signing of a Treaty of Alliance in Paris.  
In 1899, a peace treaty between the United States and Spain was ratified by the U.S. Senate.  
In 1911, Ronald Wilson Reagan, the 40th president of the United States, was born in Tampico, Ill.  
In 1922, Cardinal Archille Ratti was elected pope; he took the name Pius XI.  
In 1933, the 20th Amendment to the Constitution, the so-called "lame duck" amendment, was proclaimed in effect by Secretary of State Henry Stimson.  
In 1943, a Los Angeles jury acquitted actor Errol Flynn of three counts of statutory rape.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actress Zsa Zsa Gabor is 96. Actor Patrick Macnee is 91. Actor Rip Torn is 82. Actress Mamie Van Doren is 82. Actor Mike Farrell is 74. Former NBC News anchorman Tom Brokaw is 73. Singer Fabian is 70. Actress Gayle Hunnicutt is 70. Actor Michael Tucker is 69. Producer-director-writer Jim Sheridan is 64. Singer Natalie Cole is 63. Actor Jon Walmsley is 57. Actress Kathy Najimy is 56. Rock musician Simon Phillips ('Toto) is 56. Actor-director Robert Townsend is 56. Actor Barry Miller is 55. Actress Megan Gallagher is 53. Rock singer Axl Rose (Guns N' Roses) is 51. Country singer Richie McDonald is 51. Singer Rick Astley is 47.

### AGNES

HOW DO YOU GET AWARDED "THE WORLD'S BEST WHAT HAVE YOU" AWARD?  
YOU HAVE TO DO SOMETHING BETTER THAN THAT SOMETHING HAS EVER BEEN DONE IN THE HISTORY OF HUMANS OR AT LEAST FOR THE PAST YEAR OR SO.  
SO... WHAT WAS THE SOMETHING YOU DID?  
I MADE THIS UNIQUE TROPHY.

### HI AND LOIS

UH-OH, I BET CHIP ISN'T GONNA BE HAPPY...  
WHEN DAD MAKES HIM MOW ALL THAT SNOW.

### Newsday Crossword

**SHOWTIME** by Bruce R. Sutphin  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

**ACROSS**

- 59 At any time
- 60 "Darn it!"
- 61 Bloodhound trail
- 62 Grain housing
- 63 Talks too much
- 64 Government revenue
- 65 Coin opening

**DOWN**

- 1 Narrow cut
- 2 Pal of Eeyore
- 3 Start the pot
- 4 Declare again
- 5 Pleasant smells
- 6 Send in payment
- 7 Racetrack shapes
- 8 Far from adequate
- 9 Grand-scale
- 10 Tied to the pier
- 11 Postal measure
- 12 Happen
- 13 Nearby things
- 21 Lend a hand
- 22 Perfection standard
- 25 Solemn ceremony
- 26 Yearn (for)
- 27 Lemon rind
- 28 Glided
- 29 Small, in rappers' names
- 31 Unfreeze
- 32 Impress greatly
- 33 Bed frame piece
- 34 Rabbit relative
- 35 Looks at
- 37 Cedar Rapids resident
- 38 Covert org.
- 39 Royal daughter
- 43 Clown props
- 44 Newspaper section
- 45 Place for pigs
- 46 Rice field
- 47 Lexus alternative
- 48 Porterhouse, e.g.
- 49 Building wing
- 50 Play portion
- 52 Main idea
- 53 Ancient Andean
- 54 Up to no good
- 55 Move, in real estate lingo
- 56 Jogging pace

CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2013 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 2/6/13

### THE OTHER COAST

HEY, SCOUT, I HEAR YOU'RE NO LONGER A POLICE DOG.  
YEP, I WAS OFFICIALLY RETIRED FROM THE FORCE LAST WEEK.  
NO MORE LATE-NIGHT PATROLS, AND I SURE WON'T MISS THE TASTE OF UNWASHED FELON.  
BUT I STILL GET A RUSH OF ADRENALINE EVERY TIME I HEAR THE JINGLE OF HANDCUFFS.

### SNUFFY SMITH

COULD I BORRY A L'L MOLASSES, LO?  
AN' A BIT O' SUGAR... SOME HONEY... AN' A SMIDGE OF MAPLE SYRUP?  
SWEET TOOTH?  
TEETH!!

### BETLE BAILEY

AREN'T YOU GOING TO TELL HIM THE NEWS FROM THE PENTAGON?  
AW... LET HIM SLEEP

### BEETLE BAILEY

NO NEWS IS GOOD SNOOZE

Answer to previous puzzle

Y	E	S	E	S	E	S	P	N	I	B	E	T			
E	L	I	T	E	G	A	L	E	L	A	V	A			
T	L	I	G	H	T	R	O	P	E	W	A	L	K	E	R
S	N	I	P	E	S	A	S	S	E	S	P				
C	O	A	T	T	R	A	P								
T	A	G	I	R	I	S	E	N	L	I	S	T			
A	L	L	I	N	E	A	S	E	U	N	T	O			
M	O	U	N	T	A	I	N	C	L	I	M	B	E	R	
P	E	E	L	U	N	D	O	T	E	E	N	S			
A	S	S	E	R	T	L	O	S	S	D	O				
T	O	O	L	P	U	N	S								
S	P	A	T	S	O	S	B	O	A	S	T				
P	A	R	A	C	H	U	T	E	J	U	M	P	E	R	
A	C	E	D	O	P	A	L	S	O	N	D				
R	E	A	D	W	E	B	S	E	A	R	N	S			

**RECORD**

Continued from Page 9

have to force them to take tougher shots. You just can't give them open looks."

The Rockets were 18 of 27 from 3-point range through three quarters. They finally hit a dry spell early in the fourth, missing their first three 3-point attempts. It didn't last long — Marcus Morris connected on a 3 from the wing and Parsons flashed him a smile as the two trotted back down the court.

With the outcome decided, Rockets coach Kevin McHale pulled his starters with 5:49 left, leaving the pursuit of the NBA record to the reserves. By then, everyone on Houston bench knew the record was within reach.

"Obviously, the amount of 3s we hit is pretty ridiculous," Parsons said. "We were open, and nobody is going to turn down open shots."

The fans were ready to explode anticipating the record-setting 3. Reserve point guard Patrick Beverley drove for

a one-handed dunk with 1:04 remaining, prompting a mix of cheers and groans.

Beverley took a hard foul from Draymond Green on a 3-point try with 34 seconds left. Beverley and Green

snapped at one another, prompting a heated argument between several players. Green and Morris were ejected.

"Some nights, it's not your night and it wasn't ours and we didn't play particularly well," Jack-

son said. "That doesn't mean, lay down and surrender. That's not in

our DNA." But the Warriors had to be a bit demoralized.



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