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INDEPENDENCE DAY



PHOTO_CREDIT/The Daily Toreador

LUBBOCK LAW ENFORCEMENT carry flags through the rain during Lubbock's annual 4th on Broadway celebration Saturday.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY PAUL HAILES/The Daily Toreador

FIREWORKS ARE TRADITIONALLY used to celebrate Independence Day, which marks the anniversary of the signing of the United States Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

Lubbock to reconstruct 34th Street

By EVAN JANSA
STAFF WRITER

One area of Lubbock will be re-ramped and revitalized in the near future.

34th Street will be undergoing a reconstruction project, though exactly how much of the street will be included in the project is yet to be determined.

According to city engineer Larry Hertel, after last November's bond election the two-mile stretch of 34th Street spanning from Avenue Q to Indiana Avenue was allocated \$20.75 million in bonds to fund the reconstruction.

According to Kerry Miller, con-

sultant project manager for the local engineering firm Parkhill, Smith, and Cooper said the city would like to increase the reconstruction project to cover the 4.4-mile stretch from Interstate 27 to Slide Road. At this point, he is designing a conceptual schematic for the reconstruction.

"What the city would like for us to do is go ahead and develop a conceptual drawing that would lay out a blueprint for what would be done in the future, including areas that don't currently have construction funding," Miller said. "We're going to develop a design schematic that will show the roadway widths, the lane configuration, where sidewalks will be located, and where driveways will

be located." According to Miller, there are currently 388 driveways along the 4.4-mile stretch but after reconstruction that number will be considerably less.

"A lot of businesses have four driveways with two of them being redundant," Miller said. "We're going to look to see if there's ways we can eliminate some of those driveways. We think doing that will help the traffic move along 34th Street and improve the safety a little bit."

Upon the project's completion, Lubbock citizens will see significant change along the street.

"It's pretty much going to be a right away to right away makeover," Miller

said. "Just about everything that's out there today will be gone. There'll be new concrete pavement, curb and gutter, sidewalks and driveways."

According to Hertel, four public meetings were held from Monday through Thursday last week in different locations along the 4.4-mile corridor to discuss the reconstruction.

Business owners in the area were able to voice their opinions and concerns regarding the project.

"They were interested in their parking and access," Hertel said. "Of course, we're very concerned about what's going to happen to them during the construction."

Miller said The next public meeting will be held in January. At that

point, the schematic will be completed and he said he will be able to deliver a more detailed presentation.

After that meeting, Miller will begin developing the construction plans for the two-mile stretch from Avenue Q to Indiana — the area that already has a viable funding source. The next meeting will be held next October and will make all affected business owners aware of how the construction will take place and affect them.

"We want to give business owners a chance to voice their concerns so we have an idea of issues that they may have," Hertel said. "As we run into more design questions such as the driveways, there will no doubt be some other one-on-one meetings that

our design consultant will have with the property owners."

According to Miller, the public's outlook toward 34th Street is flawed. In May, he went door-to-door speaking with all of the business owners along the strip and was exposed to an area that is still very critical to the city.

"I think there's a strong misperception among a lot of people that it's kind of a dying artery," Miller said. "After spending a month on that corridor, it's a strong misperception. That street is not dying. It actually carries a little more traffic per lane than 82nd Street. I don't think a lot of people in Lubbock know that."

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Hackers breach part of Bush library website

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — The George Bush Presidential Library and Museum had some unwelcome online holiday visitors.

Texas A&M administrators are trying to track down who hacked into the website on July

Fourth. Pierce Cantrell, who is vice president of A&M's technology department, says the hackers only gained access to a site that showed library events.

KBTX-TV reports hackers posted a message that read, "Say hi for George Bush. LOL. Saudi hackers."

Cantrell says just because

hackers were able to get into the Bush site does not mean they automatically had access to other sites at the university. The Bush website operates on one of hundreds of servers on the campus in College Station, with none being linked.

Bush, who was the nation's 41st president, lives in Houston.

Manson follower faces parole board for 19th time

By LINDA DEUTSCH
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Leslie Van Houten, the one-time Charles Manson follower long seen as the most likely of his ex-acolytes to win freedom someday, faces her 19th parole hearing on Tuesday with a new lawyer and new case law which may give her the best chance yet for release.

Even if there is a finding of suitability for parole at the hearing, freedom would

not be immediate. The entire state parole board would review the decision within 120 days and it would then be submitted to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger for a final ruling.

Van Houten, 60, remains incarcerated at the California Institution for Women at Frontera, the same prison where another Manson follower, Patricia Krenwinkel, is imprisoned. Susan Atkins, the third woman convicted of murder in the crimes directed by cult leader

Manson, died in prison last year after parole officials denied her dying request for freedom.

Van Houten last appeared before a parole board in 2007. Her chances for parole are enhanced by the fact that she has been discipline free since her incarceration in the early 1970s, has positive psychological reports and has been active in self-help groups at the prison including "Golden Girls," a group for elderly women inmates.

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WEATHER

Today	Partly Cloudy	Thursday	Scattered Thunderstorms
	85 / 66		79 / 66

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THE DAILY TOREADOR

Rain could have soaked my Independence Day

By RALSTON ROLLO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

To those of you who weren't in town for the holiday, you missed out on a sudden shift in weather that could have had many Lubbock residents hoping for a rain check on their Independence Day celebrations.

It all started late last week when Lubbock's typical 90-degree weather seemed to be instantaneously replaced by a wall of rain clouds that stuck around for two and a half days. Soon enough, some parts of the South Plains had been drenched by more than ten inches of rain.

I don't think I've ever spent so much time indoors at home. I just recently moved into a new house and I did enjoy spending some time with my roommates — perhaps too much. I ended up cooking for all of us twice using my own groceries, so I definitely took one for the team on that one.

Although I was born and raised in Lubbock and recognize its need for good rain storms, I will say Mother Nature had some horrible timing with this particular storm.

The 4th on Broadway celebration, which takes place every year on Broadway Street (this year on the third of July for some odd reason), had to carry on despite what I would call a torrential downpour that lasted all day. I hate to point

out the irony, but the parade literally did get rained on.

The rain had not soaked my Independence Day, however. The sun came out just in time for the holiday and my roommates and I got our hands on a good amount of fireworks for free.

So, we spent the day with family and friends and finished it off with a round of fireworks at Lubbock Motor Speedway on the outskirts of town and sparklers on the back porch.

Up until now, I had always seen Independence Day as something I celebrated for the United States of America — you know, all that stuff we read in middle school textbooks. This year, however, I celebrated it for myself and for my friends. I got to spend the holiday itself and the two days leading up to it with my roommates — who also happen to be my best friends — and I wouldn't take it back for the world.

I had the opportunity to bond with my new roommates, help train the dog we rescued Friday from the Humane Society of West Texas and spend the whole weekend with my best friends. Who could ask for more?

So, cheers to the rain, to newly-found pride in our nation's independence and not having to water the lawn for a week.

■ Rollo is a sophomore journalism major from Lubbock.
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MUSICAL PATRIOTISM



PHOTO BY PAUL HAILES/The Daily Toreador

TOM BRAXTON, A Texas Tech alumnus, plays the alto saxophone Sunday at the South Plains Fair Grounds as part of the annual 4th on Broadway celebration. Braxton performed the United States national anthem and an assortment of four other songs during the concert.

Today's
su | do | ku

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

Puzzles by PageFiller

In Sudoku, all the numbers 1 to 9 must be in every row, column and 3 x 3 box. Use logic to define the answers.

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

Solution to yesterday's puzzle

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~e.e. Cummings

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Widow lives with corpses of husband, twin sister

WYALUSING, Pa. (AP)—The 91-year-old widow lived by herself in a tumbledown house on a desolate country road. But she wasn't alone, not really, not as long as she could visit her husband and twin sister.

No matter they were already dead. Jean Stevens simply had their embalmed corpses dug up and stored them at her house — in the case of her late husband, for more than a decade — tending to the remains as best she could until police were finally tipped off last month.

Much to her dismay.

"Death is very hard for me to take," Stevens told an interviewer.

As state police finish their investigation into a singularly macabre case — no charges have been filed — Stevens wishes she could be reunited with James Stevens, her husband of nearly 60 years who died in 1999, and June Stevens, the twin who died last October. But their bodies are with the Bradford County coroner now, off-limits to the woman who loved them best.

From time to time, stories of exhumed bodies are reported, but rarely do those involved offer an explanation. Jean Stevens, seeming more grandmother than ghoul, holds little back as she describes what happened outside this small town in northern Pennsylvania's Endless Mountains.

She knows what people must think of her. But she had her reasons, and they are complicated, a bit sad, and in their own peculiar way, sweet.

Dressed smartly in a light blue shirt and khaki skirt, silver hoops in

her ears, her white hair swept back and her brown eyes clear and sharp, she offers a visitor a slice of pie, then casts a knowing look when it's declined. "You're afraid I'll poison you," she says.

On a highboy in the corner of the dining room rests a handsome, black-and-white portrait of Jean, then a stunner in her early 20s, and James, clad in his Army uniform. It was taken after their 1942 marriage but before his service in World War II, in which he fought in the Battle of the Bulge. After the war, James worked at a General Electric Corp. plant in Liverpool, N.Y., then as an auto mechanic. He succumbed to Parkinson's disease on May 21, 1999.

Next to that photo there is a smaller color snapshot of Jean and June, taken when they were in their late 80s.

In many ways, Jean shared a closer bond with her twin than her husband.

Though June lived more than 200 miles away in West Hartford,

Conn., they talked by phone several times a week, and June wrote often. The twins — who, as it happened, married brothers — were honored guests at the 70th reunion of the Camptown High School Class of 1937.

Then, last year, June was diagnosed with cancer. She was in a lot of pain when Jean came to visit. The sisters shared a bed, and Jean rubbed her back. "I'm real glad you're here," June said.

On Oct. 3, June died. She was buried in her sister's backyard — but not for long.

"I think when you put them in the (ground), that's goodbye, goodbye," Stevens said. "In this way I could touch her and look at her and talk to her."

She kept her sister, who was dressed in her "best housecoat," on an old couch in a spare room off the bedroom. Jean sprayed her with expensive perfume that was June's favorite.

"I'd go in, and I'd talk, and I'd forget," Stevens said. "I put glasses on her. When I put the glasses on, it made all the difference in the world. I would fix her up. I'd fix her face up all the time."

She offered a similar rationale for keeping her husband on a couch in the detached garage. James, who had been laid to rest in a nearby cemetery, wore a dark suit, white shirt and blue knitted tie.

"I could see him, I could look at him, I could touch him. Now, some people have a terrible feeling, they say, 'Why do you want to look at a dead person? Oh my gracious,'" she said.

"Well, I felt differently about death."

Part of her worries that after death, there's ... nothing. "Is that the grand finale?" But then she gets up at night and gazes at the stars in the sky and the deer in the fields, and she thinks, "There must be somebody who created this. It didn't come up like mushrooms."

So she is ambivalent about God and the afterlife. "I don't always go to church, but I want to believe," Stevens said.

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Oil reaches La. inland waters, Texas shores

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — An oil spill that was previously a problem for coastal Louisiana was trickling deeper inland Tuesday and toward the shores of New Orleans.

Oil sheen and tar balls from the Deepwater Horizon gusher have been spotted in Lake Pontchartrain, the huge lake forming the northern boundary of the city that was rescued in the 1990s from rampant pollution.

"Our universe is getting very small," said Pete Gerica, the 57-year-old president of the Lake Pontchartrain Fishermen's Association. He has fished in the lake his entire life. "It's shrinking daily."

The oil's spread deeper into Louisiana came the same day that tar balls from the spill were confirmed on beaches in Texas. There's a question of whether five gallons of the stuff came naturally on the currents or was dragged by a passing ship from elsewhere, but crews combed the beach and pledged to collect the damages from BP.

Meanwhile out in the Gulf, stormy conditions have delayed the hookup of a new containment vessel, the Helix Producer, to the cap collecting oil from the gushing well head on the seafloor. Officials had originally hoped to connect it on Wednesday. A new target date hasn't been announced.

The weather also delayed the arrival of a Navy airship that will serve as a floating observation post above the Gulf. It is now expected to arrive in Mobile, Ala., on Friday.

The spill's Joint Incident Command announced Monday that sheen and tar balls had been spotted in the Rigolets, one of the waterways connecting the lake to the Gulf, and in parts of the 630-square-mile lake itself.

Crews placed boom at a natural choke point with hopes of stopping more from entering the lake. Nineteen skimmers and four containment vessels were sent to the affected areas. As of 7:30 p.m. Monday, they had collected half a ton of tar balls and waste.

The main part of the lake remained open to fishing, but a chunk southeast of an old car bridge across the lake was closed.

Oil spilling from the BP well would be the most significant environmental challenge since a massive recovery effort lifted Lake Pontchartrain from near death by pollution.

The lake had been a playground for boating and fishing for many decades, until urban runoff and dredging chased away many species by the 1970s. Swimmers were warned of high counts of bacteria. After years of efforts by lake boosters, pollution was stemmed by new regulations and dredging was halted.

The oil could have been pushed deeper into southeastern Louisiana by the tropical weather that began last week with the far-off Hurricane Alex and continued into this week with a low-level tropical system that brought high winds and heavy rain to the state.

The weather has essentially stopped offshore skimming off Mississippi, Alabama and Florida, and curtailed it off Louisiana.

Skimming across the Gulf has scooped up about 23.5 million gallons of oil-fouled water so far, but officials say it's impossible to know how much crude could have been sucked up in good weather because of the fluctuating number of boats and other variables.

The oil's arrival in Texas was predicted Friday by an analysis from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which gave a 40 percent chance of crude reaching the area.

"It was just a matter of time that some of the oil would find its way to Texas," said Hans Graber, a marine physicist at the University of Miami and co-director of the Center for Southeastern Tropical Advanced Remote Sensing.

About five gallons of tar balls were found Saturday on the Bolivar Peninsula, northeast of Galveston, said Capt. Marcus Woodring, the Coast Guard commander for the Houston/Galveston sector. Two more gallons were found Sunday on the peninsula and Galveston Island.

DYNAMIC DUO



PHOTO CREDIT/The Daily Toreador

JEFF MCCREIGHT (LEFT) and Mary Fletcher, both of Lubbock, perform Lady Antebellum's "Need You Now" Sunday as part of the annual 4th on Broadway celebration.

Feds sue to block Arizona immigration law

PHOENIX (AP) — The U.S. Justice Department on Tuesday filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of Arizona's new law targeting illegal immigrants, setting the stage for a clash between the federal government and the state over the nation's toughest immigration crackdown.

The lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Phoenix argues that Arizona's law requiring state and local police to question and possibly arrest illegal immigrants during the enforcement of other laws such as traffic violations usurps federal authority.

"In our constitutional system, the federal government has pre-eminent authority to regulate immigration matters," the lawsuit says. "This authority derives from the United States Constitution and numerous acts of Congress. The nation's immigration laws reflect a careful and considered balance of national law enforcement, foreign relations, and humanitarian interests."

The government is seeking an injunction to delay the July 29 imple-

mentation of the law until the case is resolved. It ultimately wants the law declared invalid.

The government contends that the Arizona law violates the supremacy clause of the Constitution, a legal theory that says federal laws override state laws. It is already illegal under federal law to be in the country illegally, but Arizona is the first state to make it a state crime and add its own punishment and enforcement tactics.

State Sen. Russell Pearce, the principal sponsor of the bill co-sponsored by dozens of fellow Republican legislators, denounced the lawsuit as "absolute insult to the rule of law" as well as to Arizona and its residents.

"It's outrageous and it's clear they don't want (immigration) laws enforced. What they want is to continue their non-enforcement policy," Pearce said. "They ignore the damage to America, the cost to our citizens, the deaths" tied to border-related violence.

State Rep. Kyrsten Sinema, a Phoenix Democrat who opposes the

law, said the suit should help settle questions over what states can do when they don't think federal laws are being adequately enforced.

"I hope this galvanizes Congress to gain the moral courage they need to address this (immigration) crisis," Sinema said.

Tuesday's action has been expected for weeks. President Barack Obama has called the state law misguided. Supporters say it is a reasonable reaction to federal inaction on immigration.

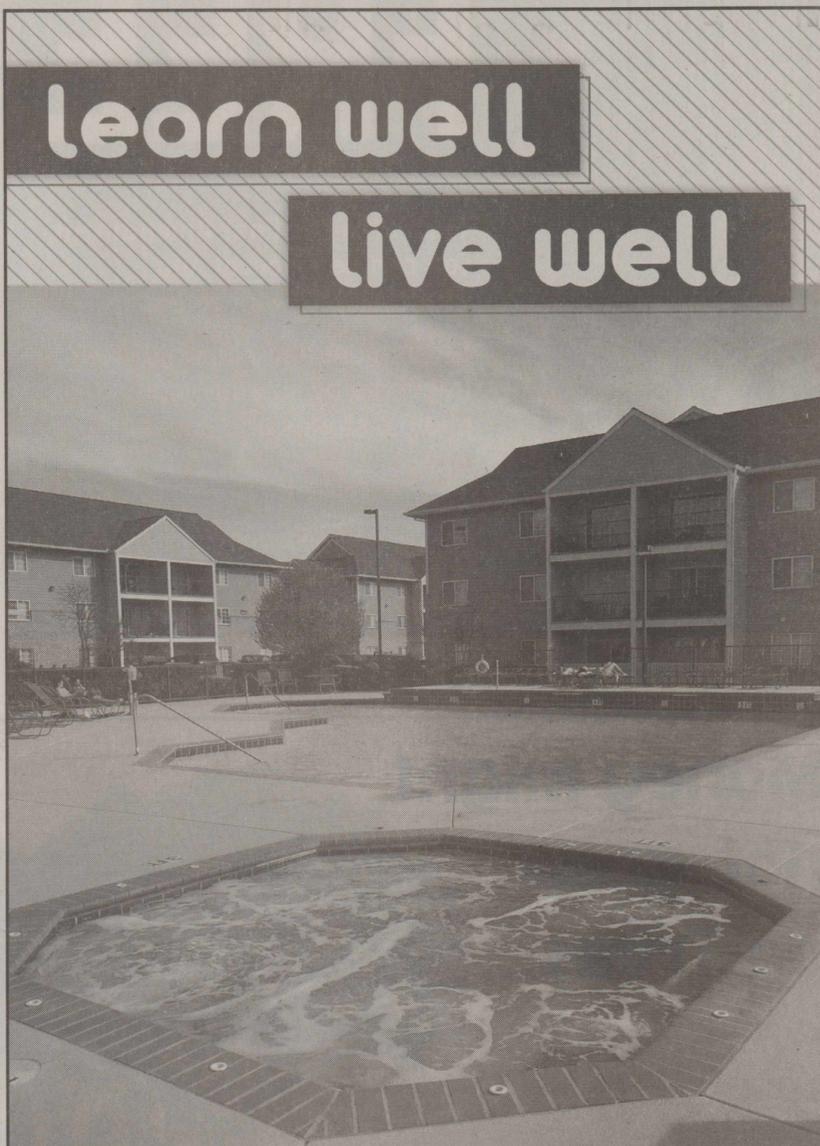
Gov. Jan Brewer's spokesman called the decision to sue "a terribly bad decision."

"Arizona obviously has a terrible border security crisis that needs to be addressed, so Gov. Brewer has repeatedly said she would have preferred the resources and attention of the federal government would be focused on that crisis rather than this," spokesman Paul Senseman said.

Three of the five Democrats in Arizona's congressional delegation, who are facing tough re-election battles, had also urged Obama not

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OPINIONS

Spies may have been let off easy amid improvement in US-Russia relations

By CHRIS LEAL

Last week the Federal Bureau of Investigation announced that it has made several arrests of alleged long-term Russian spies living undercover in the United States.

These deep-cover spies had been living in the United States since the 1990s, primarily in the New England area, working civilian jobs and attempting to gain access to a broad array of information. There were eleven arrests made on June 27, ten accused spies and one financier. The ten alleged spies had fake passports claiming to be American, Canadian or Peruvian, when all were actually Russian nationals.

Their reported objectives, broadly categorized, were to attempt to gain access to U.S. policy-making circles, learning about new technology (not from a government level, but more like a university level), gathering information about the 2008 presidential election, and even obscure things such as following the gold market.

The group held a variety of mainly white-collar jobs ranging from consulting and investing firms to owning a real estate business and even writing columns for a New York newspaper. A few of the Russian nationals attended prestigious U.S. universities, with one even earning a master's degree from Harvard.

Excuse me, is this 1957?

While these FBI reports certainly sound like perfect movie-making material, it leaves some wondering whether this startling and seemingly unexpected event will prove detrimental to attempts to improve American-Russian relations.

It may seem contrary to initial reaction, but my firm belief is that this won't have any significant impact on our relationship with our former Cold War enemy, and there are a number of reasons why.

First, from an intelligence standpoint, it shouldn't be too surprising that a powerful foreign nation has spies in our country. Practically every country that has the means spies on other countries in one way or another, and if Russia has spies here I would be astounded if we didn't have spies there.

Second, this announcement comes just days after Russian president Dmitri Medvedev's two-day visit to Silicon Valley, where he met with President Obama to discuss better economic ties between our countries.

The United States government has known about this spy operation for some time now, so its announcement was surely delayed out of respect of Medvedev, and also to avoid pressure for Obama and Medvedev to discuss the issue publicly.

Also, if you look at the FBI report you can see that while this operation had many sophisticated aspects to it, it also had many blunders and reeked the commonality of a remote, outdated government project struggling to prove its worth to its superiors. Out of the transcripts between the alleged spies one even complains "they [Russian HQ] don't understand what we have to go through here."

Since this operation has been going on for the better part of twenty years, it's clear that current president Medvedev, and even Prime Minister Putin, were probably not involved

in its initial execution. Its timing of the early 1990s, shortly after the collapse of the Soviet Union, means the operation could very likely have been cooked up by what are known in Russian as 'siloviki' — former officials that held office in the USSR — and managed to stick around and keep government posts after its collapse.

Lastly, it is curious to note what the alleged spies were charged with. All of them were charged with conspiracy to act as an agent of a foreign government without notifying the Attorney General, which carries only a maximum of 5 years in prison. Additionally, some of them were charged with money laundering conspiracy charges, which carries a hefty maximum of 20 years in prison. However, if this spy-operation had yielded valuable information and the United States wasn't attempting to improve relations with Russia, these foreign nationals probably would have been slapped with outright espionage charges, which carry a maximum sentence of life in prison.

The fact that this long-term operation has been functioning for almost two decades now, still has no focused or concentrated objective and has seemingly provided nothing of importance to Russia indicates it is probably not a high-priority mission and that the US regarded it as necessary to prosecute the individuals in our country, but does not hold the current executive powers in Russia responsible and does not wish this situation to have a severe adverse affect on our attempts to improve relations with Russia.

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History, religious beliefs should be taught from all possible viewpoints

By THOMAS LOTT

A few weeks ago, a federal judge rejected a Dallas-based institute's lawsuit against the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. The lawsuit was meant to force the board to allow the institute to teach young earth creationism. Had they won, they would have been able to offer students master's degrees in the subject.

I can understand why the board would not allow this to be taught as a master's degree program. It is not a science.

But people do believe in it. For people to truly understand each other, I believe we need to understand one another's beliefs. If schools do not teach why people believe in young earth creationism, their students are not getting the whole story.

The only place I know of that teaches young earth creationism with the possibility of getting a degree is Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va. This is Jerry Falwell's Baptist university. Falwell was the man that accused the ACLU, among others, of being responsible for the terrorist attacks of September 11, citing their sin as the root cause.

I am not sure if this is true. In fact, I know it is not true. If he knew anything, he is just as sinful as any of these people he was accusing. But I believe he had every right to say what he said. It may not have been true, but he had the right.

He also had the right to have his

school teach young earth creationism. He took a long time to get his school fully accredited so it could be taught, and I admire him for teaching what he believes.

Personally, I do not know for sure whether the earth was created in six days. I know in Genesis the Hebrew word used for day meant a literal 24-hour day, but the fact is I was not there. I do not know whether the earth was created in that time.

I do believe the language used in Genesis has a very poetic base to it, and I know poetry is not always to be taken literally, so I really do not know how literal the book was supposed to be.

However, I do believe above all else that God created the world. I do not know how he did it, or how long it took, but I cannot see the order of this world being possible without a creator.

That being said, young earth creationism is not a science. I believe it may be backed up by science, I really do not know because I have not studied it myself, but creationism is based solely on faith.

But schools teach classes on religion every day. When I was in high school I learned a general history of all the major religions, and the key figures of each.

Some of the biggest leaders of the Christian church were the leaders of the Protestant Reformation. Schools put the reformation into the history books that are used in their curriculum. They clearly teach why these men were so upset with

the way the church was being run at the time. These men all had their core beliefs, one of which being the notion that God created the world. I could say with confidence as well that they believed he did it in six days.

I really believe this should be researched. Why did these men believe this? What made them so positive about their faith? They were some of the most articulate men of their time. All you have to do is read their writing.

If these men believed in their God so strongly, there must have been some sort of merit to their faith.

I believe all sides of history should be taught. I think that the theory of evolution should be taught in schools. I also believe the teachers need to emphasize that it is a theory and not a law.

The fact is, all over the world people believe in some sort of deity. Whether they believe the god of the Jews, Muslims and Christians is the same god, or that they are all separate from each other, people still worship the god of creation.

If people all over the world believe something, then all sides of that story should be taught. If that means a school starts preaching young earth creationism alongside evolution, then so be it. History is one big story, and it does not make a whole lot of sense if you skip a few chapters.

» tlott33@yahoo.com

Is our generation addicted to the internet?

BY LINDSEY PURVIN
THE DAILY TEXAS (U. TEXAS)

As we spend more time online, researchers are investigating more into the risks for problematic behaviors associated with our reliance on the Internet.

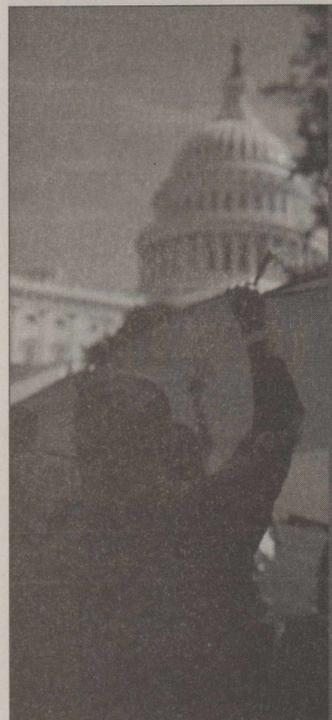
Some studies suggest that excessive dependence on cell phones and the Internet is similar to an addiction, according to The New York Times. They reveal that searching for information online is a stimulating activity that

provokes the brain to release dopamine into our neural system. Therefore, the irresistible pull to retrieve and peruse my phone, while interrupting conversations or social outings, may be attributed to a need to trigger an addictive neurological response.

It is not unreasonable to conclude that the persistent behavior has the ability to become consuming. For over a decade now, I've spent more and more time online, searching and surfing the Internet. As a student, the

Net is a godsend. Research that once required days in the stacks or periodical rooms of libraries now takes a matter of minutes.

A few online searches, some quick clicks on hyperlinks, and I've found the pertinent fact or witty quote I was after. Even when I'm not working, I'm generally gleaming through online thickets of e-mails, scanning headlines and blogs, watching videos and IM'ing on Facebook; or lightly tap-tapping from link to link to link.



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Library finds success in Dallas shopping mall

DALLAS (AP)—People streamed into a storefront on a recent summer day at an upscale Dallas mall, but they weren't drawn to a heavy discount on designer clothes. It was storying-a-long time for babies at one of the city library's newest outposts.

The library for kids 12 and under has been wildly successful in offering unconventional access to families who might not make a trip to a traditional public library, and it's one of a growing number of strategies used by librarians nationwide to reintroduce communities to their local library.

"I think what's happening now is really that focus on convenience," said Sari Feldman, president of the Public Library Association, a division of the American Library Association. "How do we make the public library as convenient as Amazon, Netflix? Part of that is putting library branches in the path of customer."

"We are very aware of the fact that our biggest advantage is that we're free, but if time is actually a commodity for people, will people be willing to spend money rather than go to a library?"

She said putting libraries in malls is one of many efforts by public libraries to become more convenient. Even at more traditional branches, libraries have built cafes, provided downloadable books or installed drive-through windows.

With about 5,000 items, including books and DVDs, the Bookmarks branch in Dallas' NorthPark Center checks out as many items as branches eight times its size, said Jo Giudice, youth services manager. She said in the two years since it opened, it's had to increase story times to 12 a week compared to the two or three at most branches.

"It's been extremely successful. Numbers have risen every month in respect to programming and book checkout," said Giudice. "We've reintroduced the library to some young families."

The American Library Association doesn't have a comprehensive list of how many libraries are in malls or shopping centers but has an informal tally of around two dozen such branches. One of those opened as far back as the 1960s, but the idea seemingly has grown in popularity in the last decade.

Some locations are arranged like traditional libraries, while others resemble a bookstore. There's also a handful of libraries with arts centers, museums and even apartment buildings.

In Wichita, Kan. there's a library in a grocery store, and a small annex opened by the Chicago Public Library to offer best-sellers to patrons in a visitor center in the city's historic Water Works Pumping Station along Michigan Avenue.

Meanwhile, traditional libraries are trying to become more convenient. Leslie Burger, executive director of

New Jersey's Princeton Public Library, said her library in downtown Princeton has a cafe, a bookstore selling donated books, return boxes around town and will mail books to borrowers. This summer, it started hosting a farmer's market.

"It's really that public libraries are really in the midst of some amazing transformation," Burger said. "I think the point of all this is we have multiple generations that we're serving right now and what we're trying to do is surprise and delight our customers."

More people are visiting public libraries, with the Institute of Museum and Library Services showing an almost 20 percent increase from 1999 to 2008, even though the number of librarians remains the same and more libraries have decreased hours and flat or decreased funding.

While there was a bump in library use as the economy faltered, libraries have been seeing consistent growth over the last decade, said Larra Clark, project manager in the Library Association's office for Research and Statistics.

In the face of budget concerns,

Feldman, who is also executive director of Ohio's Cuyahoga County Public Library in suburban Cleveland, said a shopping center location can be a good fit for people and the library system.

Opening a new location in a strip mall nine months ago, one of her branches found affordable rent because of the large number of vacant shops. And since the library is arranged like a bookstore with a self-service focus, they only need the equivalent of 2 1/2 staffers compared to the 11 needed for a full stand-alone branch, she said.

For Bookmarks in Dallas, the owners of NorthPark paid for the mall space to be converted into a library and charge only \$1 a year for rent. The library's programs are sponsored by a local energy company.

Curled up reading a book to her 4-year-old son at Bookmarks, 31-year-old Priscilla Gluckman said they came for a yoga class and stayed to read. On such visits they also usually have lunch or shop at NorthPark, which offers higher-priced storefronts like Neiman Marcus and Carolina Herrera.

Postal Service requests two-cent increase of postage rates to combat struggling economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—Buy those Forever stamps now. The cost of mailing a letter is going up again.

Fighting to survive a deepening financial crisis, the Postal Service said Tuesday it wants to increase the price of first-class stamps by 2 cents — to 46 cents — starting in January. Other postage costs would rise as well.

The agency's persisting problem: ever-declining mail volume as people and businesses shift to the Internet and the declining economy reduces advertising mail.

"The Postal Service faces a serious risk of financial insolvency," postal vice president Stephen M. Kearney said, an indication that without significant changes a time could come when the agency would be unable to pay its bills.

The post office lost \$3.8 billion last year, despite cutting 40,000 full-time positions and making other reductions, and Kearney said it is facing a \$7 billion loss for this year and the same for fiscal 2011, which begins in October. The rate increase would bring in \$2.5 billion, meaning there still would be a large loss for next year.

The post office, though part of

the government, does not receive a tax subsidy for its operations.

While the cost of a first-class stamp would go up, people who bought Forever stamps at the current 44 cents or at lower prices would still be able to use them without paying the difference.

Officials also said they plan a new design for Forever stamps, which currently have an image of the Liberty Bell. New Forever stamps will have images of evergreen trees. All Forever stamps would remain valid.

Under the proposed increases, in addition to the 46-cent rate for the first ounce, the cost for each additional ounce would go up a penny to 18 cents. The cost to mail a post card would go up 2 cents to 30 cents.

The price to send periodicals would go up about 8 percent, and other rates for advertising mail, parcels and services would rise by varying amounts.

The current 44-cent first-class rate took effect May 11, 2009.

The rate increases proposed Tues-

day now go to the independent Postal Rate Commission, which has 90 days to respond. If approved the new prices would take effect Jan. 2, Kearney said. Besides the first-class increase, postage costs would rise an average of 5 percent.

After going more than three years without an increase, the post office has raised stamp prices annually since 2006.

The latest increase is part of a series of deficit-fighting plans, announced in March, that include reducing mail deliveries to five days a week, closing offices and making other cuts in expenses. Congress would have to agree to eliminating deliveries on Saturdays.

The weak economy has sharply reduced mail volume as companies cut their advertising. At the same time there has been a significant drop in lucrative first-class mail, with more and more people turning to the Internet to communicate with each other as well as to receive and pay bills.

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

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By Gareth Bain 7/7/10

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

LOOT	WELT	SLOTH
ARCO	OLIO	COCOA
PATERNITY	RIGHTS	
UTERO	CREE	AREA
PETRIFIED	FOREST	
LIT	SDI	
SAGA	JIMA	ITSOK
PITCHING	MACHINE	
ADORE	GMAC	MEOW
ORE	REA	
POTBELLIED	STOVE	
AVIA	OUST	TIDAL
PUTTING	ITMILDLY	
ALLIS	ATOM	DEES
LEECH	RISE	ERTE

39 Twilled pants material
 40 Little trickster
 42 Move about absentmindedly, as one's thumbs
 43 Touchy
 45 Get hold of
 46 One half of a tiff
 49 Clicking fastener
 50 to: halted, nautically
 51 Asian s
 52 Gets hitched
 53 Infinitesimal time period: Abbr.
 55 Data on airport skeds
 56 Bo follower?
 57 Ivan IV, for one
 60 Dallas sch.
 61 Synonym for the starts of the answers to starred clues

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US soldier linked to Iraq attack video charged

BAGHDAD (AP) — An American soldier suspected of leaking a military video of an attack on unarmed men in Iraq was charged with multiple counts of mishandling and leaking classified data and putting national security at risk, the U.S. Army said in a statement Tuesday.

Army Spc. Bradley Manning is suspected of leaking a classified video that shows a group of men walking down the street before being repeatedly shot by the Apache helicopters. The American gunners can be heard laughing and referring to the men as "dead bastards."

If convicted on all charges, Manning could be sentenced to a maximum 52 years in prison.

The classified video was taken from the cockpit during a 2007 fire fight and posted last April on the website Wikileaks.org. It was an unflattering portrait of the war that raised questions about the military's rules of engagement and whether more should be done to prevent civilian casualties.

Among those believed to have been killed in the attack were a Reuters photographer Namir Noor-Eldeen, 22, and his driver Saeed Chmagh, 40. Two children were wounded.

Hours after the military announcement, Wikileaks sent out a tweet complaining that while Manning was charged, the "trigger-happy Apache crew remain uncharged."

Manning, 22, from Potomac, Md., was detained in Baghdad in early June and is now being held in Kuwait.

A military version of a grand jury hearing will determine if Manning should face a trial by court-martial, the Army's statement said.

No date has been set for the hearing that will take place in Baghdad, Army spokesman Lt.

Col. Eric Bloom told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

A criminal investigation is still open, the Army statement said, detailing charges against Manning including "transferring classified data onto his personal computer and adding unauthorized software to a classified computer system."

Manning was also charged with "communicating, transmitting and delivering national defense information to an unauthorized source" and with "disclosing classified information concerning the national defense with reason to believe that the information could cause injury

to the United States."

An internal military investigation concluded that the troops in the helicopters acted appropriately. According to a last year's summary of the results of the inquiry, Reuters employees were likely "intermixed among the insurgents" and difficult to distinguish because of their equipment, the document states.

Former computer hacker Adrian Lamo of Sacramento, Calif., said he alerted the military after Manning confided in him online that he had leaked the video in addition to 260,000 classified diplomatic cables.

Lamo, who first provided his account to Wired.com, told The AP last month that he agonized over the decision.

"I turned him in because, for the rest of my life, I'd wonder if something he leaked would have cost a human life," Lamo said.

In 2004, Lamo had pleaded guilty to breaking into The New York Times' computer system and still owes \$62,800 in federal restitution. He said he has received no financial benefit from turning in Manning and that the money he owes was never discussed.

Jimmy Buffett hopes to boost Gulf spirits

ORANGE BEACH, Ala. (AP) — Singer Jimmy Buffett is just another mad Gulf Coast native when it comes to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, but with an exception: He's got millions of fans and a way to help lift spirits over the seemingly endless crisis.

Buffett and his Coral Reefer Band will play Sunday on the beach in Gulf Shores, Ala., which has been sporadically hit by oil for weeks. The show already has been postponed once because of Hurricane Alex, and Buffett is hoping bad weather lurking in the Gulf doesn't create problems this weekend.

Known for laid-back tunes like "Margaritaville" and "Cheeseburger in Paradise," Buffett told The Associated Press in an interview Tuesday that it's perfectly normal for people to be

mad when they see oil washing up on beaches and marshes.

"If you're born and raised on the Gulf Coast and it's kind of in you, and you don't feel anger and rage initially over what's going on down there, I think you're a hypocrite," he said in a telephone interview from New York. "That's the way I felt. Now, what you do with that is a big question."

"If you're born and raised on the Gulf Coast and it's kind of in you, and you don't feel anger and rage initially over what's going on down there, I think you're a hypocrite."

JIMMY BUFFETT
63, Singer

Buffett said a beachfront concert seemed like the right thing to do after talking to people on the coast. "People were going, 'What are you going to do about things?' I mean, hell, I can't stick my finger in that hole. Everybody wishes they could," said Buffett.

"But there's a huge amount of frustration and probably it will boil over in summertime anger, and I know what

I've done for years is entertain. What I'm best at is two hours of escapism for people that have to go back and either live jobs that they don't like or whatever," he said. "It's that Mardi Gras mentality."

Born in Mississippi and raised in Alabama, Buffett has lived all over the Gulf Coast. He said memories of the region are laced through his music.

"I have pretty much surrounded myself with Gulf Coast influences for a long time, and ... if you listen to those songs, I think it's pretty much in there," said Buffett, 63.

Buffett, a supporter of President Barack Obama, said the roots of the spill lie with the administration of former President George Bush, which was often criticized for being too cozy with the petroleum industry.

"To me it was more about eight years of bad policy before (Obama) got there that let this happen. It was Dracula running the blood bank in terms of oil and leases," he said. "I think that has more to do with it than how the president reacted to it."

The beach concert on Sunday will also feature Jesse Winchester and Allen Toussaint, who also were in the original lineup. Country singers Kenny Chesney and Zac Brown had to drop out because of prior commitments. Buffett said he is still making phone calls trying to add additional acts for Sunday, but he's not sure of the final roster.

Netherlands beats Uruguay to reach FIFA World Cup final

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) — Arjen Robben emerged from the bottom of an Oranje mosh pit, mud on his brow and a smile on his face.

For good measure, he threw kisses at his teammates and fans. His goal gave the Netherlands a 3-2 victory over Uruguay and a spot in the World Cup final.

Now that's a Dutch treat!

The big prize — that elusive first title — is still one game away. But this was such a moment to savor that most of the squad made a curtain call nearly an hour after the biggest Netherlands victory in decades, leading about 1,000 orange-clad fans in cheers that figure to last until Sunday.

That's when the Dutch play either Spain or Germany for the championship of the world.

"If you win the final, you make yourself immortal, at least in our country," Robben said. "We will do everything we can to take the Cup back."

Long wasteful with its soccer talent, the Netherlands sure has found the right touch in this tournament.

Stars Wesley Sneijder and Robben scored three minutes apart in the second half as the Netherlands advanced to its first title match since losing in 1978 to Argentina. "We are so close," Sneijder said. "There is nothing bigger than the World Cup."

And nothing better than sharing it with their countrymen.

So out came Robben, Sneijder and their teammates long after the final whistle, to join the celebration in an empty stadium — empty except for that rollicking section of fans still singing Dutch songs, waving flags, and bowing in unison. The players joined in from the field, several on the shoulders of others, some taking photos. Back home in Amsterdam, the victory touched off mass celebrations, too.

Winners of all six games in South Africa, 10 in a row overall and in the midst of a 25-match unbeaten streak, the Dutch have the look of champions — with an Oranje hue, of course.

"This is unforgettable," said Sneijder, now tied with Spain's David Villa for top scorer at the tournament (five goals). "It was a tough fight and toward the end we

fell flat to the turf as he ran back onto the pitch. Mark van Bommel hustled over to where the ball came to rest, picked it up and hugged it. His teammates then began a joyous stroll around the field, some of them barechested, as the vuvuzelas blared and Dutch flags waved in the stands.

"Sunday we play in the World Cup final. I have to get used to that."

Besides the loss to Argentina in '78, the Netherlands fell in its only other appearance in the final, to West Germany in 1974.

Both of those title-game defeats came during the golden period of Dutch soccer, and in the opposition's homeland. No such worries this time, and no country outside of Africa has had as much fan support as the Netherlands.

Inside Green Point Stadium it looked like a Florida orange grove. Outside, a Netherlands fan in a blue and white bodysuit stood on stilts and played a vuvuzela — badly. It was about the only thing that didn't measure up for the Dutch.

And a tournament that looked like a South American fiesta early on will end in a European showdown for the second straight World Cup. Sneijder and Robben made sure of that.

Sneijder's goal came somewhat unexpectedly because Uruguay had shut down the Dutch offense for much of the second half. His left-footed shot from just inside the penalty area barely ticked the leg of defender Maximiliano Pereira and, with Robin van Persie almost deflecting it again, the ball skidded past goalkeeper Fernando Muslera.

Then Robben sent a cross from Dirk Kuyt past a flat-footed Muslera with a brilliant header. His teammates piled on in an Oranje Crush celebration, and Robben came up from it muddied and merry — and with the knowledge that, ahead 3-1, the Netherlands was likely headed to the championship match.

Uruguay was without dangerous striker Luis Suarez, whose handball on the goal line in the final seconds of extra time against Ghana saved his team in the quarterfinals. He drew a red card for that, and spent his suspension on the bench watching his undermanned teammates come up just short.

Pereira made the Netherlands sweat with a goal in injury time, and Stekelenburg's late save preserved the biggest Dutch win in decades. The Dutch have now won 10 straight and are unbeaten in their last 25 games.

Robben was replaced late in the match, and at the final whistle he

fell flat to the turf as he ran back onto the pitch. Mark van Bommel hustled over to where the ball came to rest, picked it up and hugged it. His teammates then began a joyous stroll around the field, some of them barechested, as the vuvuzelas blared and Dutch flags waved in the stands.

"This is very special," Van Marwijk said. "After 32 years we play the final again. Such a small country! We can be very proud of this."

The Jabulani ball Van Bommel grabbed has been a source of criticism for its unpredictability, particularly the way it can soar. When Giovanni Van Bronckhorst, a true defensive halfback, puts one in from 30 yards off the far goalpost, well, let the debate begin again.

The Dutch captain gave his team the lead in the 18th minute, and the Oranje pressed for more, but when they let up slightly on defense, the superb Diego Forlan pounced. He was given far too much open space in the middle of the field and, from just under 30 yards, his left-footed drive went off goalkeeper Maarten Stekelenburg's hand and into the net.

Stekelenburg was screened just enough by defender John Heitinga and didn't get a good view of the ball until it was too late.

While several Dutch players threw up their hands in frustration, Forlan celebrated his fourth goal of the tournament with a suave wave of his arm. Suarez leaped off the bench in jubilation.

Forlan left in the 85th minute and coach Oscar Tabarez revealed after the match that his star played with a painful thigh.

"From minute one he had a problem," Tabarez said. "I'm not dumb enough to take him out at 3-1 when the match wasn't lost. He was injured and could not continue."

Tabarez said the better team won. "We did what we could, we accept the defeat," he said. "We're sad because even though nobody gave us a chance, we were close."

Van Bronckhorst was in his accustomed role early in the second half when he headed a long shot by Alvaro Pereira away from the net after Stekelenburg was caught out chasing a stray back pass. And the Dutch defense was under siege in the final minutes as Uruguay

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