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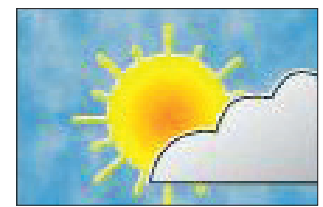
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BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY

JUNE 29, 2010



VOLUME 105, NUMBER 175

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'Pops' scare baseless

Annual fireworks and music show to go on as planned

By JOHN A. MOSELEY
 Managing Editor

Since a local television station reported that a "major Fourth of July festivity" has been cancelled in Big Spring, members of the Pops in the Park organizing committee have received numerous telephone calls expressing concern about the annual concert and fireworks show.



Condray

"We're still going to have Pops in the Park on the evening of July 3, just like we've done for years," said Committee Chairperson Jan Hansen. "The Downtown Revitalization Association decided not to hold its Funtastic Fourth event because July 4 falls on Sunday, but we'll be having Pops in the Park on Saturday night."

"It's sad that the Funtastic Fourth wasn't able to get on its feet this year, but it's more tragic that it is getting confused with something like Pops in the Park," added Big Spring Fire Marshal Carl Condray, another member of the organizing committee. "I think a lot of people are concerned because they've read that we're still short of reaching our fund-raising goal, but Pops is solvent and thriving."

In their final meeting before the Big Spring Symphony and Chorus concert and fireworks show, committee members learned that they are still short of their financial goal. However, Hansen told them that all other preparations are progressing well.

"It's all coming together very well," Hansen said. "We're expecting it to be as big and exciting as it has ever been. Bigger, actually."

Each year the July 3 event draws an estimated 10,000 to 12,000 spectators to the Comanche Trail Park Amphitheater. Since its beginning, the show has grown annually, whether it be more



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Vehicles plow through standing water on Gregg Street this morning. Forecasts call for intermittent heavy rain through tonight, with skies gradually clearing Wednesday and Thursday.

Gambling warrant issued for local man

By THOMAS JENKINS
 Staff Writer

Law enforcement officials say a third arrest warrant in the recent investigation into illegal gambling in Big Spring has been issued but no arrest has been made.

An arrest warrant for John W. Myatt, 35, of Big Spring has been issued by the Howard County Sheriff's Office, according to Sheriff Stan Parker, but locating the man has proven to be more difficult than expected.

"My understanding is he is

working somewhere in Midland, but it's unclear at this time if he has possibly moved there, as well," Parker said. "Our investigators have attempted to contact him several times, but we haven't been able to locate the man."

The arrest warrant comes after two arrests on similar charges were made during the past several weeks. Karla Kay Nix, 45, owner and manager of Bedazzled, was arrested June 9 on charges of keeping a gambling place, possession of gambling devices, equipment or paraphernalia and gambling promotion. Nix was re-

leased on a \$6,000 bond, \$2,000 for each charge.

George Scott Emerson, 41, turned himself in to Howard County deputies June 21 on charges of possession of gambling device, keeping a gambling place, gambling promotion and possession of tobacco product where tax is due. Emerson is the owner of Gold Rush, and was released on a \$7,000 bond shortly after his arrest.

The Howard County Sheriff's Office made the arrests in

See POPS, Page 3

INDEX

- Comics 12
- Classified 9-11
- Features 6
- Obituaries 2
- Opinion 4
- Sports 8,13-14

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Fans still being collected

By THOMAS JENKINS
 Staff Writer

Although recent rain and cloudy weather has given the Crossroads area a reprieve from the brutal West Texas heat, officials with the Salvation Army said there's little time to rest as the charity continues its annual fan drive.

The drive collects donated fans and money to purchase new fans, which are then distributed to area residents, said Salvation Army officials.

According to Paula Lafler, a social worker with the local Salvation Army, the program has gotten off to a good start.

"The first couple of days after the story about the fan drive appeared in the Big Spring Herald, we had someone come in and donate five fans," Lafler said. "Since then, they have come in one or two at a time, but it's really gotten off to a fast

start. We've given away 15 fans so far this year, and we have five or six still here."

According to officials with the National Weather Service in Midland, high temperatures are expected to reach the mid-to-high 80s this week, giving the area a break from the 100-plus degree temperatures seen in early June.

Lafler said she knows full well the summer is far from over and it's just a matter of time before the mercury once again rises.

"We're trying to target the elderly because they are the most susceptible to heat-related illnesses," said Lafler. "We're also trying to target families with children 5 years old and younger and who are at home through the day during the summer months."

"Donations can be made in several different ways. Donors can bring in their used fans that are in good, serviceable

condition, or they can make a monetary donation. The box fans that we normally purchase usually run about \$12 each, but with the rising cost of everything, it could end up being higher."

Donations can be made by purchasing fans and taking them to the Salvation Army office — located at 811 W. Fifth St. and open from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. with an hour break for lunch at noon — or earmarking monetary donations for the fan drive.

Those in need of fans can apply for assistance at the Salvation Army Office Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. with an hour break for lunch at noon. The office is located at 811 W. Fifth Street.

For more information, call 267-8239.

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

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Obituaries

Frances A. Bingham

Frances A. Bingham, 59, of Big Spring died Sunday, June 27, 2010, in an Odessa hospice facility. Private family services will be held at a later date.



She was born Nov. 17, 1950, in Roswell, N.M., and was a lifelong resident of Big Spring. She was a homemaker and a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles Ladies Auxiliary.

Survivors include a daughter, June Brumfield and husband Roy of Andrews; a son, B.J. Fauver and wife JoAnn of Belton; her mother, June McCracken of Big Spring;

three brothers, Lloyd Bingham and wife Judy, Steve Bingham and wife Debbie, and Cecil Bingham, all of Big Spring; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her father, Joe Bingham; one brother, Billy Bingham; and a sister, JoAnn Bingham.

The family suggests memorials be made to Hospice House of Odessa, 903 N. Sam Houston, Odessa 79761.

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

Christopher Hale Becker

Christopher Hale Becker, 48, of Stanton died Sunday, June 27, 2010, at his residence. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m.



Wednesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday with military honors at the Texas State Veterans Cemetery at Abilene.

He was born March 17, 1962, in Big Spring. He began his career with the Stanton Police Department, where he worked for two years. He lived most of his life in Ector, Howard and Martin Counties. He was a Baptist.

He is survived by two daughters, Kimberly Becker of Germany and Christi Becker of Stanton; one brother, Curtis Becker and wife Linda of Odessa; two sisters, Carol Mathies of Big Spring and Sharon Clark and husband Nicky of Hamlin; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father, Jack Becker Sr.; his mother, Blanche McCluskey Becker; and one brother, Jack (Buddy) Becker Jr.

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

Jannie Petty Early

Jannie Petty Early, 82, died June 26, 2010, in Bastrop.

Jannie was born Aug. 20, 1927, in Winnsboro. She attended Hardins Simmons University, where she met Audrey Adams Early on June 14, 1946. They were married and were together for 55 years. They had four sons, Kenneth of Austin, David of Colorado City, Johnny of Bastrop, and James (Jimbo) Early, who preceded her in death Jan. 12, 1980; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Jannie attended Midway Baptist Church near Big Spring for many years. She was a nurse and a homemaker.

Services will be held Wednesday, June 30, 2010, at Rose Hill Cemetery in Merkel at 1 p.m.

Police blotter

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

- JASON WAYNE CAREY, 28, of 1215 Ridgeroad, was arrested Monday on two warrants from another agency.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 1900 block of Martin Luther King Blvd.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported: In the 600 block of Tulane. In the 600 block of S. Nolan.
- THEFT was reported: In the 300 block of S. Gregg Street. In the 1900 block of S. Owens. In the 400 block of E. Fourth Street. In the 400 block of S. Birdwell Lane.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 1700 block of Harvard.

Sheriff

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 63 inmates at the time of this report.
- VINCENT EDWARD MCVEA, 40, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.
- JASON WAYNE CAREY, 28, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on warrants for driving while license invalid and violation of a promise to appear.

Fire/EMS

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

- TRAUMA was reported in the 100 block of Miller. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 200 block of W. Marcy. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported near the intersection of Highway 80 and FM 700. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 100 block of W. Mary. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 500 block of Washington. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of Simler. One person was transported to SMMC.

Support Groups

TUESDAY

• The Path, faith-based addiction recovery, meets at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Tabernacle Ministries, 1209 Wright St.

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. and closed discussion meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

• Al-Anon, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

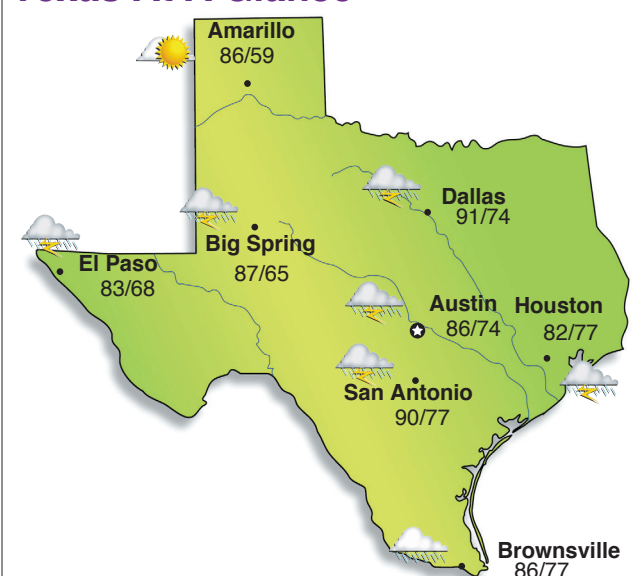
• RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at (432) 517-9207 for more information.

Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Wed 6/30	Thu 7/1	Fri 7/2	Sat 7/3	Sun 7/4
87/65	84/67	83/67	85/68	89/69
Sunrise: 6:43 AM Sunset: 8:57 PM	Sunrise: 6:43 AM Sunset: 8:57 PM	Sunrise: 6:43 AM Sunset: 8:57 PM	Sunrise: 6:44 AM Sunset: 8:56 PM	Sunrise: 6:44 AM Sunset: 8:56 PM

Texas At A Glance



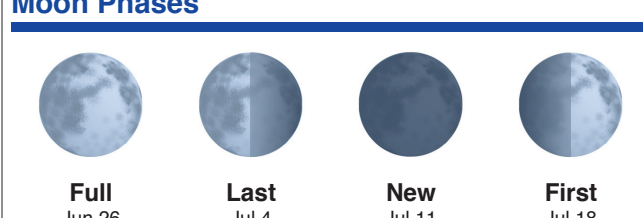
Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	87	68	t-storm	Kingsville	84	77	t-storm
Amarillo	86	59	mst sunny	Livingston	86	74	t-storm
Austin	86	74	t-storm	Longview	86	74	t-storm
Beaumont	86	76	t-storm	Lubbock	86	63	pt sunny
Brownsville	86	77	rain	Lufkin	87	75	t-storm
Brownwood	88	71	t-storm	Midland	87	68	t-storm
Corpus Christi	83	76	t-storm	Raymondville	86	77	rain
Corsicana	89	73	t-storm	Rosenberg	82	77	t-storm
Dallas	91	74	t-storm	San Antonio	90	77	t-storm
Del Rio	88	73	t-storm	San Marcos	87	75	t-storm
El Paso	83	68	t-storm	Sulphur Springs	89	73	pt sunny
Fort Stockton	82	66	t-storm	Sweetwater	86	67	t-storm
Gainesville	90	70	pt sunny	Tyler	89	73	t-storm
Greenville	89	72	pt sunny	Weatherford	90	71	t-storm
Houston	82	77	t-storm	Wichita Falls	90	67	pt sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	87	68	t-storm	Minneapolis	80	65	sunny
Boston	77	56	sunny	New York	82	63	sunny
Chicago	76	56	sunny	Phoenix	104	83	mst sunny
Dallas	91	74	t-storm	San Francisco	74	51	mst sunny
Denver	88	60	sunny	Seattle	66	51	pt sunny
Houston	82	77	t-storm	St. Louis	82	60	sunny
Los Angeles	79	63	pt sunny	Washington, DC	86	66	sunny
Miami	90	80	t-storm				

Moon Phases



UV Index

Wed 6/30	Thu 7/1	Fri 7/2	Sat 7/3	Sun 7/4
11	11	11	11	11
Extreme	Extreme	Extreme	Extreme	Extreme

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

Take Note

• United Blood Services will be in front of Beall's at the Big Spring Mall from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. July 6. Call Cody Sneed at the department store, 263-0273, for more information or to schedule an appointment.

• Mobile Meals is in need of volunteers to deliver meals to the homebound elderly in Big Spring. If you can donate at least one hour a week, call Macaria Cantu at 263-4016 and leave a message.

• If you were laid off between December 2008 and March 2010 and are interested in training, contact the Workforce Solutions Permian Basin office in Big Spring at 263-8373 or 1-800-749-8373. Training dollars are available to assist those affected by the layoffs and ultimate plant closure.

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State briefs

San Antonio woman pleads guilty to 1992 slaying

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A San Antonio woman faces up to 20 years in prison after pleading guilty to the 1992 slaying of her ex-boss. Investigators say 51-year-old Carmen Hinojosa Najera, who has a history of mental illness, pleaded guilty Monday as part of a plea agreement in the murder investigation. She was found competent last year for trial.

Convenience store manager Darren Holden was found shot to death on Feb. 8, 1992, the day after he fired the woman.

Prosecutor Cliff Herber says authorities are confident that Hinojosa Najera was responsible for the slaying, but her mental illness might have made it a risky case to take to a jury.

Sentencing is expected in July.

Defense attorney Joseph Esparza declined comment.

Year looks good for peach crop

WEATHERFORD (AP) — Texas could be heading for a bumper peach crop in 2010 after several years of so-so yields because of poor weather conditions, experts said.

Gary Hutton of Hutton Farms, the largest peach producer in Parker County, said his crop hasn't been this good since 2006.

"It's the best crop in years," Hutton told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

The former banker says peaches should be plentiful for the July 10 Parker County Peach Festival in Weatherford, about 30 miles west of Fort Worth. His family has operated orchards for 30 years.

Jim Kamas, a fruit specialist with the Texas AgriLife Extension Service office in Gillespie County, where about 40 percent of the Texas peach crop is produced, said he expects a "banner year."

Kamas, a Texas A&M assistant professor, told the newspaper that the weather has been cooperated this year, after several years of late spring frosts, flooding and drought.

"It's about time," he said. "We've had a run of low chilling years, late spring frosts, spring floods and

then the worst drought in recorded history. It has been pretty rough," he said.

Feral pigs are a new problem, according to Hutton, who says some trees have been damaged by the wild hogs.

Tech gets \$280,000 grant for hurricane studies

LUBBOCK (AP) — Texas Tech University has been awarded a federal grant to study how communities bounce back after hurricanes.

The funding from the National Science Foundation was announced Tuesday by the school in Lubbock.

The \$280,000 project is under the direction of Daan Liang, an assistant professor of construction engineering.

Liang says the funding, meant to study economic resilience, will focus on the long-term impact of hurricane damages. He's previously studied probability models to determine how the construction of buildings affects their vulnerability during windstorms.

Fort Worth police, gay leaders gather year after raid

FORT WORTH (AP) — Fort Worth police marked the first anniversary of a controversial raid on a gay bar by having dinner with the owner and patrons as a sign of unity.

Chief Jeff Halstead was on hand Monday night at the barbecue dinner at the Rainbow Lounge with operator David Schrock, who welcomed the improved relations with police.

It was June 28, 2009, when several patrons were arrested during a raid that left one man seriously hurt. A task force was later appointed to try to improve Fort Worth's relations with gays.

Halstead, who appointed an officer as a liaison to the gay community, says all sides have a new respect for one another.

The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission fired two agents for not following policy during the raid. Three police officers served suspensions.

Cops: Man killed crying girl during World Cup game

McALLEN (AP) — A south Texas man was charged with capital murder Monday night after police said he beat his 2-year-old stepdaughter to death when she wouldn't stop crying as he watched a World Cup match.

Hector Castro, 27, of McAllen was arrested Saturday. He was remained jailed Monday night on \$1 million bond, McAllen police Sgt. Joel Morales said. He was booked into the Hidalgo County jail in Edinburg, where a booking clerk said he did not yet have an attorney.

Castro told police the toddler wouldn't stop crying while he was watching the U.S.-Ghana game Saturday, McAllen Police Chief Victor Rodriguez told The Monitor of McAllen.

The girl was severely beaten, and police said a screw or bolt was forced down her throat in an apparent attempt to make it look like she accidentally choked.

"There are no words for this," Rodriguez said. "It makes you want to think about doing lots of things to this guy, but he will face the criminal justice system just like everybody else."

Castro, who was in the U.S. illegally, implicated himself in the girl's death in a confession he gave to investigators, Rodriguez said. The toddler suffered several cracked ribs.

Four other children who lived at Castro's apartment in McAllen were placed into the custody of Child Protective Services, Rodriguez said.

1 of San Antonio's 3 trauma centers to close

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The Air Force says it'll close the trauma center at Wilford Hall Medical Center, effective Thursday.

The announcement had been expected since 2005, when the Base Closure and Realignment Commission ordered the trauma services at the Lackland Air Force Base hospital to be merged with those at Brooke Army Medical Center, across town at Fort Sam Houston.

POPS

Continued from Page 1

talent or a larger fireworks display. But bigger shows call for bigger costs, and organizers have never charged for the event. Instead, they rely on donations. This year's show is expected to cost about \$40,000.

"We're a little bit below what we have been in the past, financially," said Hansen, who said some \$23,000 in donations is all that has been received so far. "We have some money in re-

serve so we'll be OK, but we're still behind what we've been in the past and that is a concern."

Less of a concern are the other factors, such as entertainment. It includes a group of performers from Big Spring's sister city, San Miguel el Alto in Jalisco, Mexico. They will be followed by a return to the Pops stage by the local band, Greengos. There will be a video tribute to area service men and women, a fly-over and a patriotic performance by the symphony and chorus, choreographed

with the fireworks show.

There are currently more than 20 different vendors that will be manning 30 or more booths. They'll be offering everything from funnel cakes to turkey legs.

Presenters of Pops in the Park include the Big Spring Herald, Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, the city of Big Spring, the Big Spring Symphony Association, Cornell Companies Inc., KBST and KBYG — each providing donations of \$5,000

or more in funding or in-kind services. Those presenters' contributions are not included in the amount the show costs each year.

The committee also seeks support at different levels — "Star & Stripes" sponsors donate \$3,000 or more, "Texas Star" sponsors donate \$2,000 or more and "Rocket" sponsors, donate \$1,000 or more. To date, H-E-B Grocery is the only Stars & Stripes member. Rocket sponsors include Water, Water Inc., Alon USA, Citizens Federal Credit

Union, Howard County Volunteer Fire Department, Moss Creek Ranch/Price Construction, Pat Gray Body Works, Porter Henderson Implement Company, Robinson Drilling of Texas, T. Blackshear Interiors, Wells Fargo Bank and the Worthy Company.

For more information about Pops in the Park or to make a donation, contact the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce at 263-7641.

Contact Managing Editor John A. Moseley

at 263-7331, ext. 230, or by e-mail at editor@big-springherald.com

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R. Lanham "Butch" Hodnett, 69, died Friday. A celebration of his life will be held at 10:30 a.m. today at the First Presbyterian Church. Christopher Hale Becker, 48, died Sunday. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will be at 2 p.m. Thursday with military honors at the Texas State Veterans Cemetery at Abilene.

WARRANT

Continued from Page 1

connection with the May 21 raid at Gold Rush, located at 804 E. Third St.; Bedazzled, located at 1907 Birdwell Lane Suite G; and Cherokee Internet Cafe, located at 1600 E. Fourth St..

According to Parker, Myatt was in charge of the Cherokee Internet Cafe at the time of the raid.

Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the Big Spring Police Department, said law enforcement personnel seized a number of gaming machines during the raid.

"In a search of the locations, approximately 120 8-liner machines and Internet-based computer-operated gaming machines, cash pro-

ceeds, documents and items used in the gambling operations were seized," Everett said. "During the investigation, undercover officers entered each business, paid a fee and were paid in cash or Visa cards with a cash value."

Parker said gambling where anything more than novelty prizes are given is illegal in Texas.

"You can't give anything of value. Places like Chuck E. Cheese and Mr. Gattis give novelty prizes in exchange for prize tickets, but anything where cash or something of cash value is given is illegal," Parker said. "That's what these three businesses were doing."

Emerson, who is being represented by Big Spring attorney Mike Thomas, has maintained since the raid

and his subsequent arrest his operation was completely legal.

"It was operated completely legal," said Emerson. "Everything was approved through the Big Spring Police Department and BSPD Street Crimes division. I'm sure once this goes to court I'll get my equipment back. I had the only legal games in town, but we'll just have to see how it comes out in court."

And while the charges against the three local residents are all misdemeanors, a guilty finding in the cases could result in more than just fines or jail time, according to Parker.

"If found guilty, the equipment we seized from the three different locations will be forfeited to the county," Parker said. "And we're not just talking about a couple of machines. There's an entire building full of the machines used in these operations. If it is forfeited, the county will have to either destroy it or sell it to a state that allows these types of gambling operations. Either way, we'll be glad to get rid of it."

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

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ADS FOR TUESDAY DEADLINE THURSDAY 3 PM

CLASSIFIEDS:
ADS FOR MONDAY & TUESDAY DEADLINE THURSDAY 11:59 AM

www.bigspringherald.com

HERALD

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.

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Managing Editor

OUR VIEW

Fireworks safety is very important during this holiday

Better to be safe than sorry — an adage, to be certain, but there's simply not disputing its validity. That's especially true when it comes to fireworks.

And since there's little doubt that the use of fireworks is greatest during the Fourth of July, as well as the days before and after the holiday, it's a message we believe needs to be made continually at this time of year. So do local fire and emergency officials, who are urging Crossroads residents to exercise extreme caution if they plan to participate in the holiday tradition.

So, people wanting to have fun with fireworks this holiday should observe some simple rules to help keep themselves and their neighbors safe, according to Big Spring Fire Marshall Carl Condray.

The most obvious concern is where you decide to "pop" your fireworks.

"It is against the law to discharge fireworks in the city limits," Condray reminds the public. "If you're going to light fireworks you need to find a place in the county that you have access to and have permission to be there, especially if it is on private property."

Despite several fireworks bans in past years, Howard County Volunteer Fire Chief Tommy Sullivan said this year's holiday is expected to take place without burn bans or fireworks bans in place.

"Regardless of whether there's a ban in place or not, we will operate on a zero-tolerance basis when it comes to fires this July 4 holiday," Sullivan noted. "If your mistake results in the loss of someone else's property, you're looking at a charge of reckless endangerment and a \$500 fine. And if you're caught popping fireworks by the side of the road, you're looking at a fine.

"The stuff out there will still burn, make no mistake about that. It's just not as bad as it's been in the past, but we're still very concerned about the fireworks and what kind of damage they could do. We don't have a lot of patience when it comes to this, and the boneheads that make these kinds of dumb mistakes are going to pay for them."

Fireworks thrill-seekers planning to celebrate the holiday with their own collection of explosive displays should also remember to keep a few simple tools around while lighting up the West Texas sky.

"Make sure to have lots of water or a shovel where you can put out a fire," Condray said. "Discharge the fireworks on a hard surface like a parking lot, something paved, concrete or on a dirt road. Light them on the ground and then quickly move away and don't let children light them.

"Don't ever hold the fireworks in your hand and don't point them at other people," he added.

While many area residents won't be able to resist the color and beauty of fireworks this July Fourth, Condray recommends skipping the live fireworks this year and instead enjoy the warmth of friends and family.

In fact, Condray says if he had his way, people would simply enjoy the professional display at Pops in the Park.

We agree, but if you are going to celebrate with fireworks, please be careful.

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

It is a good day, Lord, to come to You through our prayers.

Amen

Fighting illegal immigration locally

It's a terrible Catch-22. For years now, the powers that be in Washington have done next to nothing to help define and refine the nation's immigration laws. So states and municipalities have started to tackle the job themselves. When the 'locals' are finally exasperated enough to take action, however, they're hauled into court for encroaching on the federal government's purview!

Let me get this straight. The feds won't act to fix our immigration mess, but the states can't do anything either because it's the feds' job? Oh, what a paralyzed mess we've become in this country!

We've all heard about what Arizona did. The state's officials showed real daring in the fight to be proactive about identifying, prosecuting and deporting those who should never have entered America in the first place. Arizona now has the toughest anti-illegal-immigrant laws in the land, but they're also mired in expensive court fights. One such suit has already reached the U.S. Supreme Court.

You may also have heard that this Monday people in the small town of Fremont, Neb., voted whether to adopt a first-step law to control those who are in their town illegally through regulating where they can live and work.

But you may not know that almost 40 other municipalities in 18 other states have already gone this route. That's how intense the frustration level is in this country! Government bodies in states across the country have thrown up their hands at

the lack of immigration action on Capitol Hill and have tried to tackle the job themselves.

All these local attempts started with something very basic to every human: housing. These state and city lawmakers figured if illegals found it tough to rent a place in their locality, they would go somewhere else. The idea was to make landlords demand hard proof of a renter's citizenship and to enforce strong penalties against those who rented to illegals.

Officials in these places — from Missouri, Illinois and Kansas to the Carolinas, Wisconsin and Oklahoma — ultimately gave up the idea of trying to regulate immigrants' housing mostly because they feared the cost of defending their actions in court. Every time one of these localities talked about how they could legislate the problem, the American Civil Liberties Union or Latino groups made it clear they would immediately file discrimination lawsuits if such laws passed.

Lawmakers in many of the 40 towns or cities also considered penalties against employers who hired undocumented workers, but they gave up on that, too. Again, just too expensive to defend, they explained.

All local attempts have failed. Courts across the land continue to rule that it is the job of the federal government to pass such laws. So where the heck is Washington in all this? President after president comes and goes. Session after session of Congress opens and closes, and we are no closer to any meaningful immigration law changes.

Remember the names Hazelton, Pa., and Farmer's Branch, Texas. Stalwart town leaders in those two locations have refused to give up — or in — to the lawsuits. Along with the state of Arizona, these two towns stand

as reminders to Washington that America will continue to hold their feet to the fire until they do something to right the sinking ship that is our current immigration policy.

Hazelton was the first American city to pass a local illegal immigration ordinance in 2006. The Dallas suburb of Farmer's Branch quickly followed the same year. So far, they've spent at least \$500,000 and \$3.4 million, respectively, defending their actions to protect their community.

Officials in both places say they fully expect the price tag will rise by several million dollars more. But they've concluded that's cheaper than paying for English as a second language programs in public schools, emergency room and health care costs, and the extra expense for adding more police. In Farmer's Branch, Texas, officials report that since they made their intentions known to crack down on illegal aliens, even the uninsured accident rate has plummeted.

So, when you read about citizens in little Fremont, Neb. — population 25,000 — going to vote next Monday on its immigration ordinance, what will you think? Maybe that it's just another futile attempt to pass a law several courts have already struck down.

I prefer to look at it as thousands more American voices rising up to tell Washington they are getting fed up and want action on the problem.

You know, if you paid a painter or plumber or electrician to do a job that never got done, you'd ask for your money back and fire them. It's a shame we can't do that with our national politicians, as we add immigration reform to the growing list of things they just never seem to get done.

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Yes, Virginia, banks are bad guys

I have here in my hand, as Sen. Joe McCarthy used to say about alleged communist evidence, a bona-fide "Delivery Authorization" from Wachovia Bank ("a Wells Fargo Company"). They've already sent two. By simply moving a gold sticker from the top of the sheet to the reply form at the bottom, and entering the last four digits of my Social Security number, I can get my valuable "free" credit report.

Of course I'll also need to sign on the dotted line. That act will not only rush me my free report but will also commit me to paying \$12.99 per month for a further series of updated reports until, more or less, Hell freezes over. The amount will be conveniently deducted from my Wachovia bank account.

Trouble is, I don't happen to need this service, nor, with only the rarest exceptions, does anybody else. It's just easier for banks to make money with gimmicks like this than by the messy business of offering loans.

The "free credit report" is by now a familiar sales technique modeled on those slippery publishers who have long used it to sell unwanted subscriptions. Thus banks have dutifully fulfilled the requirements for entering that same elite category of slimy scoundrels.

They started a while back by quietly charging unconscionable interest rates on credit cards, adding confiscatory fees if you were ever late. Then they came up with debit cards so you wouldn't unknowingly overdraw your account, but quickly proceeded to add an overdraft protection and stick you with usurious rates and fees in case you overdraw anyway. Plus they wouldn't divulge that you were unknowingly overdrawn until it was too late. From there it was just a small step up to subprime loans, credit default swaps and all those other murky depository dealings.

In fact, murky dealings are where banks now make much of their money so that they can pay their murky top executives excessive salaries. For example, they don't really relish timely debt payers like you and me as credit card customers. They prefer folks who struggle to stay even and who regularly fall behind. These are the ones who sink into their clutches. That's where the profits are.

They also don't favor savvy homeowners or other borrowers who try to refinance their existing debts at today's lower interest rates. New loans and mortgages are strongly resisted just now. Banks want you to keep paying at your old inflated rate, if you wouldn't mind, until current rates ratchet back up. Then they'll cheerfully offer you a loan. In the meantime, they'll just hide in their vaults and play the bond market while huckster-

ing credit cards and needless credit reports.

Congress is hammering out the final details of a financial reform package that, among other things, will create a new consumer financial protection agency. Let's hope it will actually put an end to such Wall Street fraud and abuse.

But the new financial regulations will fall short in other areas. For example, neither the White House nor Congress have supported proposals to break up the "too big too fail" banks.

President Obama seems incapable of appointing officials in top economic posts who have much interest in reining in Wall Street. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, Fed Chair Ben Bernanke and National Economic Council head Larry Summers are all from the old failed school of banker supremacy.

Suffice it to say, that old school has no great interest in reform. Things are going just swell for them, thank you.

Sure, the economy may be in the tank and personal suffering may be near universal, but not on Wall Street. Salaries and bonuses there remain huge and sacrosanct. Massive campaign contributions go to making sure that any new federal or state laws can be readily circumvented, and so far those dollars have been remarkably well spent.

OtherWords columnist William A. Collins is a former state representative and a former mayor of Norwalk, Conn.



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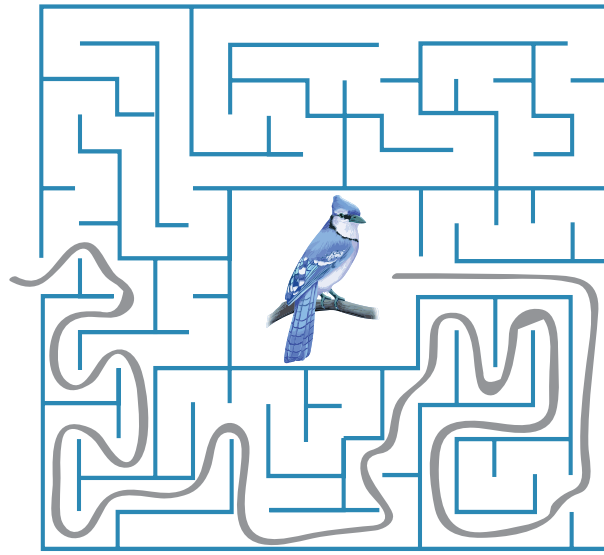
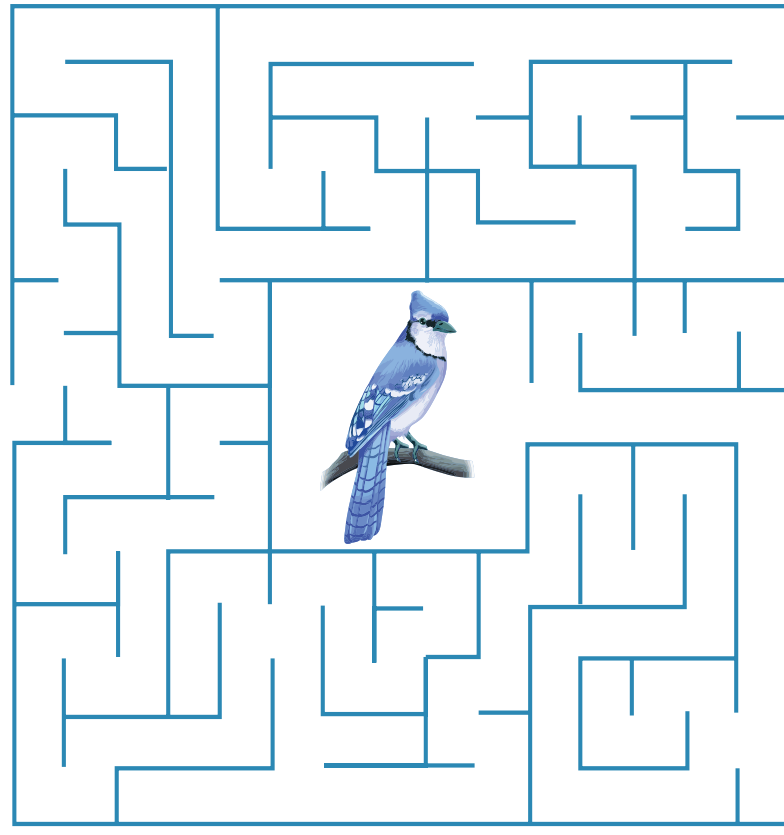
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- 1967: THE WORLD'S FIRST ATM IS INSTALLED IN LONDON.
- 1991: SLOVENIA IS INVADED BY YUGOSLAV TROOPS, STARTING THE TEN-DAY WAR.



YELLOW EYES, LONGER LEGS, BIGGER TEETH, AND BIGGER PAWS DIFFERENTIATE THESE ANIMALS FROM DOGS.

ANSWER: WOLVES



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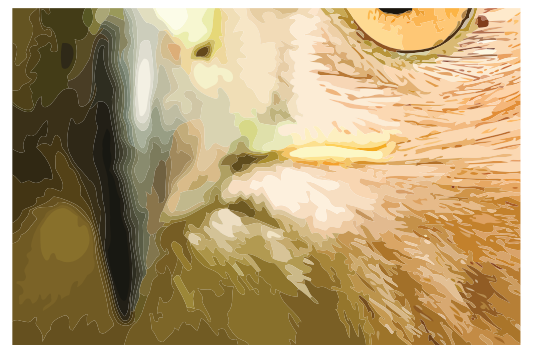
- ENGLISH:** Tree
- SPANISH:** Árbol
- ITALIAN:** Albero
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- GERMAN:** Baum

Did you know?

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GET THE PICTURE?



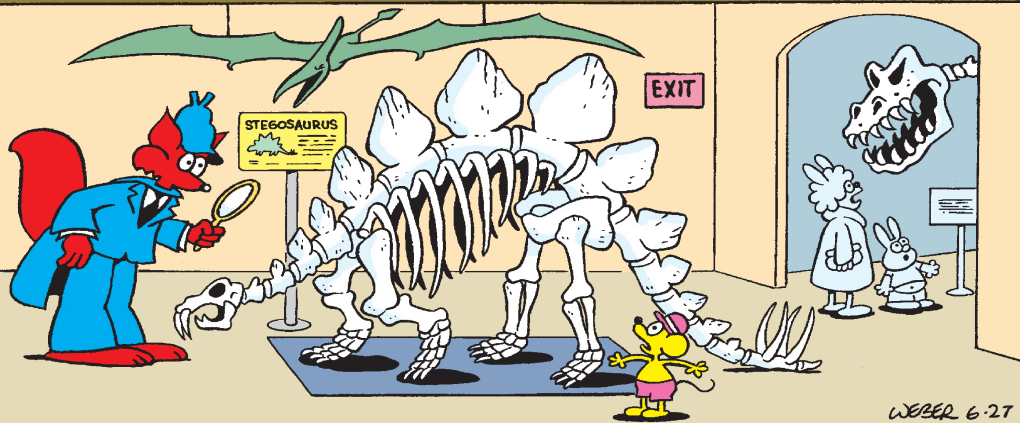
Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: AN OWL

SLYLOCK FOX and COMICS FOR KIDS

BY BOB WEBER JR.

Slylock Fox and Max Mouse are enjoying the afternoon at the Forest Museum of Natural History. While visiting the dinosaur exhibit, Slylock noticed something wrong with the Stegosaurus display. What is wrong?



HOW TO DRAW a nervous cow



YOUR DRAWING
Today's terrific artist is Terrisa Bowden, age 12, of Los Angeles, CA



Which of these dinosaurs had the smallest brain?
a) Triceratops
b) Stegosaurus
c) Tyrannosaurus rex
d) Brachiosaurus

Answer -- b) The Stegosaurus' brain was about the size of a truck.

Find six differences between these panels.



Answer -- Tree root, water, leaves, spider, tongue and tail.

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Blrd Poop:

Dislocated killdeer manages to find missing parent

The radio host warned, "No change in the forecast. Another day of triple digits. Stay indoors." Shortly after lunch, the phone rang. A concerned parent was trying to figure out what to do with two birds her daughter and other teenagers had taken from the playground at Kentwood Elementary. Wandering around the building, they had noticed in the gravel a slight depression holding two fuzzy babies.



BEBE
MCCASLAND

"Never will I understand kids," she continued. "They'll think of every excuse not to go to school, and then when it's out for the summer, that's where you'll find 'em."

From her description, the downy, long-legged birds were killdeer. Of

all the species to kidnap, this was the worst. Similar to quail, their offspring seem to be born running. After hatching, and allowing the moisture on their downy coats to dry, the young will leave the nest at the insistence of their parents. To interrupt this behavior may result in the death of the nestlings.

Through experience we had learned the futility of "saving" baby killdeer. Even though I had kept two from another city alive for five days, they had never learned to peck and search for food. Checking with other rehabbers, I was told the birds should be placed back where they were found and left alone.

"How long have you had the killdeer?" I asked. When she answered 4-1/2 hours, I told her we'd be there in five minutes since we were only a few blocks away.

Wrapped in a blanket, the squirming twosome was eager to escape. As we started



Courtesy photo

Both water and land bird, the killdeer is one of nature's most obvious actors. Pretending to have a broken wing or crippled leg, the bird is a master at leading predators away from its young.

to leave, I asked if she had heard her daughter say anything else about the birds. After telling me the girl had seen an adult bird on the ground in front of the school, we hoped it was one of the parents searching for its young or insects.

"Where are we going to release them?" asked Art, as we neared the campus. "For starters, we'll put them where hopefully a parent was

seen by one of the teenagers."

After placing the comical-looking fuzz balls in front of a dense hedge, we walked back to our vehicle.

From inside, we could watch the youngsters and hoped they would cry for their parents.

Even with the windows down and a slight breeze, the SUV gained in temperature quickly.

Being in the shade was our only consol-

tion.

Slowly, the birds appeared to search the ground. After covering the length of the hedge, they started back toward the entrance of the building.

If we left, someone else might find them. Determined, we decided to stay for a while.

Finally, one of the killdeer started calling for a parent. No answer. Again, it pled for a parent to come. Only the hot breath of summer replied.

Encouraged by its sibling, the other youngster lent its plaintive voice. Nothing. As they walked the length of the hedge and back, they continued to call. Silence. Then the answer they, and we, had hoped would come was heard.

As it approached from around the corner of the building, the parent, followed by another fledgling, was as colorful as we remembered. While brownish-gray above and white below, the adult killdeer was strik-

ing with its two black breast bands and facial markings.

Hurrying toward its wayward young, it ran, flew a few feet and ran some more. During its brief flight, its white wing-stripes and rusty rump lent to its appearance. Through our binoculars, we could see the prominent reddish orange rings surrounding its eyes.

After gently stroking the young with its short, black beak, the adult turned. With all three offspring now close behind, it led them away to the playground and beyond.

To reunite the young with their parent had been difficult and trying. Going only on the words of others in bird rehab, we had trusted their experience and judgment.

Drenched with perspiration, we couldn't have been happier.

Bebe McCasland is author of The Scoop from Bird Poop. She is federally and state licensed to rehabilitate wild birds.

Parent's Corner:

Horned toads... What interesting little creatures they are!

My family has recently moved out of the city limits of Big Spring to enjoy the wide open spaces and view the spectacular sight of West Texas sunsets.

As one of my sons and I were strolling the landscape, we happened to see a horned

toad dart across the path in front of us and it reminded me that when I was a kid growing up on the outskirts of Wichita Falls that we used to see those little critters everywhere.

Back then we called them horny toads. I would spend hours watching them and studying their habits.

I discovered that they feed primarily on ants, waiting for one to unsuspectingly crawl by before snapping it in and swallowing it whole. They are also known to eat grasshoppers, beetles and spiders.

They are really fun to watch.

As I told my son about

my earlier ventures, we began looking around to see if we could find more of the little lizards. We have heard that the horned toad populations have been in decline over the past several years. The destruction of their native habitat, efforts to eradicate ants, their staple food, and the pet trade have all contributed to this. Tire ants have also become a real threat to our little buddies.

It also interesting that despite their spiky features, horned toads are also preyed upon by a number of creatures, including hawks, roadrunners, snakes, lizards, dogs, wolves and coyotes.

Consequently, beyond their natural camouflage, they have adapted a pair of remarkable talents. In order to ward off hungry predators, horned toads are

capable of inflating their bodies up to twice their size, resembling a spiny balloon. And if this proves insufficient, some species employ one of the animal kingdom's most bizarre defensive mechanisms: They shoot blood from their eyes.

I was told about this when I was a kid but I never really believed it. However, in my research I found it to be true.

The ominous squirting blood emanates from ducts in the corners of their eyes and can travel a distance of up to three feet. It's meant to confuse would-be predators, but also contains a chemical that is noxious to dogs, wolves and coyotes. Now who would have ever thought about such a defense at that?

And there's the belief

that horned toads have the capability of living for years without food or water. I once read of a horned toad called "Ole Rip" that apparently, according to authentic records and witnesses, was sealed in cornerstone of an Eastland courthouse built in 1897. In 1928 a new courthouse was erected, the prior cornerstone was opened, and the horned frog, after 31 years, was found alive! The little critter received great publicity and was displayed nationally.

When it died the following year of pneumonia, it was placed in a glass-front casket, on view in the present Eastland County Courthouse. Now that's close enough that we need to check it out sometime!

After listening to my story, my son decided to go on a horny toad hunt. Lo and behold he was successful and came in with a smile on his face showing the results of his hunt.

So, now I know there are still horned toads in our area just as there were when I was a kid and this is thrilling. I really hate to see us lose some of the wonders of nature like the horned toad, not to mention lightning bugs! Maybe that could be another story.

Darrell Ryan is director of federal programs for the Big Spring Independent School District.



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News in brief

NY prosecutors: 10 Russian secret agents infiltrated U.S. society for inside policymaking info

NEW YORK (AP) — Behind the scenes, they were known as “illegals” — short for illegal Russian agents — and were believed to have fake back stories known as “legends.”

U.S. authorities say they sometimes worked in pairs and pretended to be married so they could blend into American society as the couple next door. Aside from fake identities, authorities say, they used Cold War spycraft — invisible ink, coded radio transmissions, encrypted data — to avoid detection.

On Monday in federal court in Manhattan, Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Farbiarz called the allegations “the tip of the iceberg” of a conspiracy of Russia’s intelligence service, the SVR, to collect inside U.S. information.

Each of the 10 was charged with conspiracy to act as an agent of a foreign government without notifying the U.S. attorney general, which carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison upon conviction. Two criminal complaints outlining the charges were filed in U.S. District Court for the southern district of New York.

Republicans use Kagan’s record on Harvard recruiters to ask: Is she anti-military?

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republicans and Solicitor General Elena Kagan are facing off over whether her objection to the military’s ban on openly gay soldiers and her decision to restrict recruiters at Harvard Law School disqualify her from serving on the Supreme Court.

Just minutes into Kagan’s confirmation hearing Monday, Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions charged she had “kicked the military out of the recruiting office” at Harvard, “in violation of federal law.”

“Her actions punished the military and demeaned our soldiers as they were courageously fighting two wars overseas,” Sessions said. “I can’t take this issue lightly.”

The recruitment matter is one of the few points on her resume that Republicans have been able to use against her. Her policies and writings on the issue call up broader themes of patriotism and equal rights, both emotional topics at a time when the nation is at war and both parties are gearing up for the midterm elections. In some measure, the November balloting will be a referendum on her patron, President Barack Obama.

At the very heart of Kagan’s decision at Harvard is an even more sensitive topic — her opposition to the military’s “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy on openly gay soldiers.

Tropical storm could disrupt oil spill cleanup; BP races to develop better containment system

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The tropical storm plowing across the Gulf of Mexico could send oil skimmers back to port and make containment booms useless, even from far away. But the rough weather also might give nature a hand in breaking down crude from the massive oil spill.

Waves churned up by Tropical Storm Alex could help break up the patches of oil scattered across the sea, and the higher-than-normal winds that radiate far from the storm could help the crude evaporate faster. Forecasters said Monday they didn’t expect the center of Alex to pass near the site of BP’s busted well.

“The oil isn’t in one solid sheet. It’s all broken up into patches anyway. It will actually work to break those patches down,” said Piers Chapman, chairman of the oceanography department at Texas A&M University.

Alex could send high winds and rough seas — perhaps as high as 12 feet — rippling across the Gulf. Skimming vessels operating far from the storm’s center may be idled because they can’t operate in such swells. Floating oil-containment booms could be rendered useless by waves slopping over them and may have to be pulled out of the water.

Supreme Court ruling dooms longstanding Chicago handgun ban, but mayor vows to fight on

CHICAGO (AP) — A Supreme Court ruling finding that Americans have the right to bear arms anywhere they live almost certainly means the end of Chicago’s decades-old handgun ban, but it may not make handgun ownership there much easier if the city’s powerful mayor has his way.

Shortly after the high court voted 5-4 Monday along familiar ideological lines — with five conservative-moderate justices in favor of gun rights and four liberals opposed — Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley said officials were already at work rewriting the city ordinance to adhere to the court ruling while protecting Chicago residents from gun violence.

“We will never give in to those who use guns to harm others,” Daley said in comments aimed at his constituents. “Your fight is my fight and we’re in this together.”

And in other cities and states, officials said they were confident their gun control laws would withstand legal challenges.

“We do think it’ll probably give us some bigger legal bills, but I suspect that we will be able to continue to do exactly what we’ve been doing — have reasonable regulations as to who can buy and where you can carry,” New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg said of Monday’s ruling.

A Decade In Sports

2000-2009

Who do you think is the most influential sports figure for the past decade from Big Spring, Coahoma, Forsan & Howard College?

Here’s your chance to nominate them in the categories listed below. All areas in the ballot must be completed for your nomination to count. Ballot must be turned into the Big Spring Herald at 710 Scurry, Big Spring, TX 79720 by Tuesday, June 29, 2010

Coach Of The Decade

Name: _____

School: _____

Year/Years Attended: _____

Why You’re Nominating Them? _____

Male Athlete Of The Decade

Name: _____

School: _____

Year/Years Attended: _____

Why You’re Nominating Them? _____

Female Athlete Of The Decade

Name: _____

School: _____

Year/Years Attended: _____

Why You’re Nominating Them? _____

Sports Team Of The Decade

Name: _____

School: _____

Year/Years Attended: _____

Why You’re Nominating Them? _____

NOMINATOR INFORMATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

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Long HRs, 21-game hit streak for patient Hamilton

ARLINGTON (AP) — Josh Hamilton no longer has a need for Home Run Derby — not during the All-Star break or with impressive pregame batting practice shows.

Oh, he can still hit the ball a long, long way. His 468-foot homer in the Texas Rangers' last game was the second-longest ever hit at their ballpark.

"It looked like it would clear the whole stadium," manager Ron Washington said.

That impressive shot against Houston ace Roy Oswalt, landing several Sunday into the upper deck Sunday night, also extended Hamilton's career-best hitting streak to 21 games. And it was his 47th hit this month, tying

a team record.

"At first (this season), I was trying to hit the ball far. That wasn't working too good," Hamilton said. "Now I just try to put the barrel on the ball. I'm getting on being more patient, on getting my swing more level."

With that approach and the elimination of a toe tap from his swing, Hamilton has hit .477 (41 of 86) during a stretch of more than three weeks.

His average was up to .346 and tied for second-best in the majors going into Monday, a day off for the AL West-leading Rangers before a series at the Los Angeles Angels. Hamilton was fifth in 18 home runs and 57 RBIs.

"I've been really impressed

with his discipline as far as his routine goes," teammate Michael Young said. "The guy can put on BP shows with the best of them, and he's hitting nothing but line drives up the middle in batting practice right now just trying to really work on his craft. ... It's like he's maturing and growing up."

Hamilton's hitting surge coincides with a strong push by the Rangers, who are 20-5 in June to build a 4½-game division lead over the Angels. Los Angeles has won five of the last six AL West titles.

The Rangers, who last won the division in 1999, have never been better through 75 games and are only game behind the New York Yankees

(47-28) for the majors' best record. Texas is already exactly halfway to team president Nolan Ryan's preseason expectation of 92 victories.

"Any time you get momentum going in a positive direction is good for everybody," Hamilton said. "We're having confidence, playing loose and we're bonding more as a team."

The 29-year-old Hamilton was the No. 1 overall draft pick in 1999 by Tampa Bay, but is only in his fourth major league season. His career was derailed by his well-documented cocaine and alcohol addictions after getting hurt while in the minors. He has since made quite a comeback personally and profession-

ally. Hamilton hit .304 with 32 homers and an AL-leading 130 RBIs in his first full season two years ago after the Rangers acquired him from Cincinnati.

There was also his awe-inspiring performance that inspired in the Home Run Derby at old Yankee Stadium, where his record 28 homers in the first round included going deep on 13 consecutive pitches.

Hamilton skipped the derby last summer, when he was an All-Star again despite two stints on the disabled list and being limited to 89 games by injuries.

See **RANGERS**, PAGE 14



File Photo

Former Howard College outfielder Joe Leftridge hits a pitch during his freshman season as a Hawk. The departed Leftridge was just added to the North Texas Copperheads' roster to play in the Texas Collegiate League this summer. He went to work quickly with a run, RBI and two stolen bases in a 4-2 win against the Alexandria Aces on Sunday. The win snapped a nine-game losing streak for the Copperheads.

Astros erase early deficit, beat Milwaukee Brewers for 9-5 win

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Houston Astros could pout about no longer playing third base every day.

Instead, he's getting credit from Houston Astros manager Brad Mills for continuing to work hard.

Feliz's RBI double gave Houston the lead in the seventh inning, capping a comeback from an early deficit and helping the Astros to a 9-5 victory over the Milwaukee Brewers on Monday night.

"He's been a professional on how he's handled this little excursion of losing some playing time," Mills said. "He comes out early for work and came out today early for work. That's just how he is, and you really want to tip your hat to him."

Houston trailed by four runs after two innings but got three to tie the game in the sixth, then added two in the seventh on Feliz's double and an RBI single by Jason Bourgeois.

Corey Hart had three hits and two RBIs for Milwaukee, while Ryan Braun hit his 11th home run. But the Astros' bullpen held the Brewers scoreless from the fourth inning on.

The Brewers had won their last seven coming into Monday, and had been getting much better efforts from their pitching staff than they did during their disappointing start to the season.

At least for a night, everybody seemed to take a step backward. Milwaukee pitchers issued six walks.

"Every once in a while, you're going to have a stinker," Brewers manager Ken Macha said.

It was a big night for Houston's Michael Bourn, who had four hits, including a solo home run in the third and an RBI single in the sixth. Only one thing really went wrong all night for him — but it stood out.

Bourn raised his arm to call for time during an at-bat in the fourth inning. Then he stepped out of the box as Manny Parra was in the middle of his delivery.

But plate umpire Tony Randazzo apparently didn't see or hear Bourn and didn't grant the request, so he called Bourn out on strikes while he watched the pitch go by from a few feet away.

"He said he didn't hear me," Bourn said. "I was debating whether I should step out or not, for the three or four sec-

onds while he was just sitting there — 'I want to step out, I want to step out.' And when I tried to, he said he didn't hear me. Of course I was upset, but you know, I just went on and went back to the dugout and tried to finish the rest of the game. It worked out for me."

Trailing 5-2, the Astros rallied to tie in the sixth. Bourn's RBI single scored Feliz, and Houston went on to load the bases. Todd Coffey (2-2) replaced Carlos Villanueva and immediately allowed a two-run single to Hunter Pence.

Houston took the lead in the seventh, when Chris Johnson reached on a fielding error by third baseman Casey McGehee and Feliz followed with an RBI double to give the Astros a 6-5 lead. Bourgeois later bounced a two-out single over McGehee's head to score Feliz.

Gustavo Chacin (1-0) pitched a scoreless sixth to earn the win.

Braun came up in the seventh with runners on second and third and two outs, but reliever Brandon Lyon struck him out. Carlos Lee added a two-run double in the eighth.

It was a rocky return to the mound for Astros starter Bud Norris.

Pat Riley's master free-agent plan started long before July 1

MIAMI (AP) — Pat Riley's summer of 2010 truly started with the summer of 2005.

There was no elaborate plan for the Miami Heat to woo Dwyane Wade, LeBron James and Chris Bosh then. Instead, that's when Riley got Shaquille O'Neal to sign a \$100 million, five-year contract. A championship followed the very next season. Riley believed another NBA dynasty was on the way.

Then, thud. O'Neal was traded in February 2008, Miami was the NBA's worst

team and Riley quickly realized the bloated contracts the Heat had to accept in exchange for shipping Shaq elsewhere would keep his team from spending real money to spend until 2010.

At long last, that time has arrived.

"So here we are," Riley said.

Yes, and that dynasty Riley envisioned four years ago might still be born. Dwyane Wade wants to stay in Miami. He wouldn't mind having LeBron James join him. Or Chris Bosh. Or both, for that matter.

And if there's one team in the NBA that has the financial ability to get three of the top five picks in the 2003 draft together for the next few years, it's likely going to be Miami.

It's a heckuva fantasy basketball lineup, Wade, James and Bosh.

Yet in the summer of 2010, fantasy could actually become reality.

"I think it will be equivalent to a space shuttle launch," Riley said back in May, shortly after the season ended and the Heat summer of 2010 began. "Everybody who's covering

"I don't look at it as recruiting. I look at it as gauging conversation between guys to see what they like."

Dwyane Wade,
Miami Heat

the day it's going to get launched, you never know it is until they hit the button. When they hit the button, a lot of things explode down underneath to lift the rocket up."

Get ready for some explosions.

With a league-high \$43.3 million — not counting what Wade would make next season — in salary cap room,

the Heat are in a stronger position than anyone when the free agency shopping window finally opens at 12:01 a.m. Thursday. Miami's first priority is keeping Wade, who wants to stay and although he'll visit other clubs, it would be a shocker if he left South Florida.

If Wade re-signs, Miami would still have about \$27 million left to

court others. And Wade has been letting certain guys know that he'd like them as teammates.

Let the games begin. "I don't look at it as recruiting," Wade told The Associated Press. "I look at it as gauging, conversation between guys to see what they like. It's not like we're getting together saying

See **HEAT**, Page 14

Sports in brief

Chubby Abrego Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament

The Chubby Abrego Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament takes place at 8 a.m. July 10 at the Comanche Trails Golf Course and will benefit Coahoma High School Athletes.

It is \$50 per person, four person scramble. Prizes will be included. Call Rocky McCullough at 213-4868 or DeLloyd Hooser at 816-9051 for more information

Cavern City Tennis Tournament

This is a USTA sanctioned tennis tournament for participants of all ages and those interested must

be USTA members.

Fee for singles players is \$20 and fee for doubles teams is \$30. Open draw is 9 a.m. June 28 at the Rio Pecos Tennis Shop in Carlsbad N.M.

The entry deadline is 6 p.m. June 27.

All first place winners get \$100, second place winners get \$50. Call tournament director Charlie Jurva at 575-887-1980 for more information.

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All questions should be directed to Jason Mims, Director of Business Services, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720, e-mail jmims@howardcollege.edu (432)264-5167. Howard County Junior College District reserves the right to reject any and all bids. #6595 June 27 & 29, 2010

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

What if everything you've accepted about yourself is wrong? What if your DNA matters much less to your health and physicality than you think? The Aquarius moon is open-mindedness. Believe something new about yourself — for instance, that you are unstoppable — and you will likely prove it true by day's end.



HOLIDAY MATHS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The way you put yourself together is a gift to others. Today, the special care you take assembling an outfit pays off. People will feel happy to look at you and proud to be seen with you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). As usual, there are practical realities to process, some of them unpleasant, but nothing you haven't seen before. You'll be in charge, and you'll tell the truth in a way that goes down easily for others.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The way you deal with your friends is commendable. You won't speak ill of any-

one even though some are eager to find a scapegoat or to use other people's shortcomings as a hot topic. Others learn from you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It may feel as though the stress that a higher up, parent, teacher, authority figure or client puts on you is cramping your style. But this restriction will force you to do your best work.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll be surrounded by interesting characters, and the more you study them the more fascinating they get. You seem to know just the question to ask that will open up the whole life story.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You will be in the mood to experience a spontaneous adventure. You're a free spirit. As long as all prior commitments are handled, nothing and no one will stop you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your subconscious speaks to you in the form of curiosity. You'll feel compelled to say hello to someone or to walk through a certain door. You would be wise to honor this instinct.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). For you, the going is as important as the arriving: The means by which you reach your goal are as important as the goal itself.

This kind of high-mindedness will attract to your work a new and potentially powerful player.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's never too late to take up a new interest. Your dedication to your existing obligations and habits has served you well, but a little spice wouldn't hurt. Moreover, there's growth in discomfort.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're active, but you're not a busybody. Your motions are many, but they come from a place of stillness and quiet. You have a larger purpose in mind, and your actions will push you to that end.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You come across like a brave conqueror. The invisible parade behind you is comprised of people waving bright banners and singing your favorite songs. They are celebrating you, the mighty and triumphant hero.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). A previously healthy relationship between you and a beloved family member has for some reason suffered lately. A light-hearted greeting might gently usher you both toward a new closeness.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 29). You find new inspiration. Also, you'll be a muse to oth-

ers. You'll work on yourself to get ready for a fun event in August. Because you're prepared, you'll have a blast. October brings an enriching relationship. You'll get better and better at thinking things through. One of your brilliant strategies will pay off in November. Gemini and Aries people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 20, 44, 31 and 19.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "My ex, a Pisces, was so wishy-washy that he could never make up his mind about anything — including how he felt about me! He could never seem to get out of neutral. Is that typical of Pisces?"

Well, let me put it to you this way: The Tarot card that is said to represent Neptune — the planet that rules Pisces — is The Hanged Man. That's not as bad as it sounds, but it's still challenging. On the one hand, The Hanged Man symbolizes being hung up and going nowhere fast. The person who draws this card is stuck in limbo and can't seem to move forward — he's just hanging out, same as it ever was. This, sad to say, is not an uncommon state of being for those under the influence of Neptune. They have a tendency to drift

whatever way the wind's blowing. What they really need is an anchor. On the other hand, both Neptune and The Hanged Man have a very important spiritual lesson to impart: the concept of "surrender." Start with those expectations of yours. Give them up, as they are causing you to paddle against the tide. It's better to throw up your hands and go with the flow of things.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Academy

Award-winner Kathy Bates has been busy on both the big and small screens. She recently played the offbeat tutor Miss Sue in "The Blind Side," and her characterization of dog-loving CEO Jo Bennett in "The Office" has won her some new fans. Bates was born under a highly empathetic Pisces moon and is capable of dissolving into characters that are very different from herself.

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su | do | ku
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Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box. Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

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

Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: My widowed uncle has two sons, ages 11 and 13. My uncle is as skinny as a rail, but the boys are quite fat.

They eat healthy food — my uncle is a great cook — but their portions are large, and their father makes no effort to control how much goes into their mouths.

When we were with the extended family over the holidays, there were nonstop comments about the boys' weight, none of which was constructive and all of which included ridicule.

Yet, these same relatives filled the boys' Christmas stockings with chocolate and candy and fed them a huge meal with all the fat-laden trimmings, plus desserts.

The boys were encouraged to serve themselves as much as they wanted. Later, when they grabbed a snack, they were asked, "You're eating again?"

Not once did anyone say "no candy before lunch," yet I heard plenty of comments like "you're well-marbled." This really bothered me, as I'm sure it affects the boys' self-esteem.

It happened again when we were together for Mother's Day. I don't feel it is my place to

comment on how the boys are raised, but I can't handle another family event like this. I feel terrible for those kids. I love my family, Annie, but they are clueless and unsympathetic. — *Don't Make Fun of Fat Children*

Dear Don't: It's possible some of the weight will drop off as the boys go through puberty and gain some height, as well as an interest in looking good. But in the meantime, please be their advocate.

Talk to the family members who are the worst behaved. Say you are certain they don't intend to harm these children by mocking them, but their comments are hurtful and undoubtedly contribute to the boys' overeating.

Ask those responsible for the food to present more healthful alternatives — for everyone's sake. Offer to bring dessert to the next gathering. Stand up for those kids as often as you can.

Dear Annie: I am a 21-year-old female and am depressed. I recently started seeing a therapist and have come to the realization that the majority of this depression is due to the emotionally abusive rela-

tionship I have with my parents.

The therapist suggested I move out of their home, but I'm scared I won't be able to support myself.

Is it possible to stay in the house for another eight months to complete school and ensure that my tuition is paid? — *Stuck in Watertown, N.Y.*

Dear Stuck: Your therapist gave you good advice, but it is a suggestion, not an order. If you need to stay with Mom and Dad in order to finish your education, it's OK, although it will not be easy.

Ask your therapist to help you work on ways to cope while focusing on your future. Find a job, start saving your money, and scout around for roommates and rentals.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Help," whose husband doesn't close any cabinet doors.

My mother left her cabinet door open and stood up quickly, hitting her head smack into the corner.

Nothing happened right away, but a month later, she bent over to pick up a book and felt nauseated and got a severe headache.

Thankfully, my father was home and took her to the hospital.

The neurosurgeon said this blunt trauma to her head caused a cerebral hemorrhage that left her left side temporarily paralyzed. If she had been alone, it could have been fatal. Her rehab took more than a year. Thankfully, Mom has made a complete recovery, but should she bump her head in the same spot, she is at risk of dying.

I hope this helps someone else understand the seriousness of not closing cabinet doors. — *Laurie B.*

Dear Laurie: And for those who believe it can't happen to them, please consider the other people who live in your home, not to mention guests who know lawyers.

su | do | ku
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ANSWERS

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

To the Victor Belongs the Spoils

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ 6 4 3 2
♥ K 6 4
♦ 8 5 3
♣ A J 2

WEST
♠ —
♥ 10 9 7
♦ A K Q 10 4
♣ Q 10 8 6 3

EAST
♠ K 9 8 7
♥ 8 5 3 2
♦ 7 2
♣ 9 5 4

SOUTH
♠ A Q J 10 5
♥ A Q J
♦ J 9 6
♣ K 7

The bidding:
1♠ 2♦ North East
4♠ 2♠ Pass

Opening lead — king of diamonds.

There are hands where the outcome depends entirely on how well each side performs its allotted task. Should one side slip, the chances are that the other side will reap the benefits.

Consider this deal where West, defending against four spades, cashed the K-A-Q of diamonds

before shifting to the ten of hearts. Declarer won the heart with dummy's king, led a trump and finessed the queen, on which West showed out.

This development meant South would need to take two more trump finesses to overcome East's king, which would in turn require two more entries to dummy. Accordingly, at trick six South led the seven of clubs and, after West played low, finessed the jack!

As a result, declarer brought home the contract. He took a second trump finesse, then overtook the king of clubs with the ace and took a third trump finesse to finish with 10 tricks. There is no doubt that South deserves an A-plus for his effort. However, the fact remains that West could have stopped the contract had he concentrated fully on the task at hand. All he had to do to foil declarer was to play the queen of clubs when South led the seven toward dummy's A-J-2!

This unusual but essential play would have deprived declarer of a vital entry to dummy, and eventually he would have lost the setting trick to East's king.

Tomorrow: A horrible nightmare.

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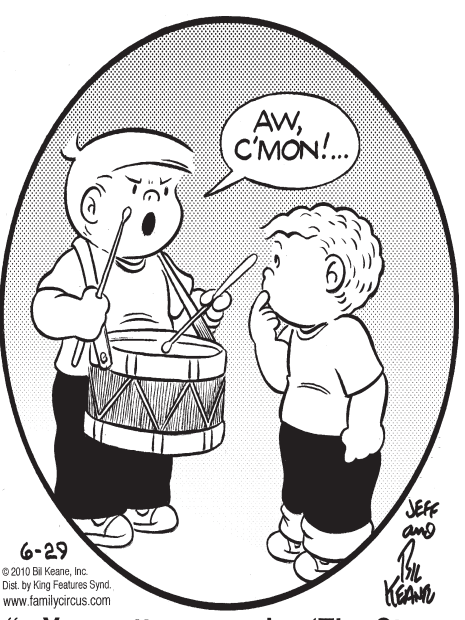
	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5:PM	News ABC	Vida Notic.	Lopez	News	Noticias	News	King	Scrivner	World Business	King	Cash Cab	in the Iron Mask, John Malkovich	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	106 & Park: Top 10	Phineas Deck		SportsCenter
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Mi Pecado (SS)	Two Men	News	A Corazón Abierto	News	King	Uri Harel	PBS News-Hour	King	Cash Cab		Good Pets-Bad	Bones	BET Awards 2010	Hannah Montana	WNBA Basketball: Fever at Mystics	College Baseball
7:PM	Wipeout	Hasta que el Dinero	Hell's Kitchen	NCIS	NCIS	NCIS	King	Jim	NOVA (DVS)	King	70s Show	Movie: Pearl Harbor, Kate Beckinsale	Good Pets-Bad	Bones		Wendy Wu: Warrior		
8:PM	(:01) Down-fall	Soy Tu Dueña (SS)		NCIS: Los Angeles	Perro Amor	America's/ Talent	King	Victory	Frontline/ World	King	One Tree Hill	Movie: Pearl Harbor, Kate Beckinsale	Prisoners/ Control	Hawthorne			Nation	
9:PM	Mind Games	Aquí y Ahora (SS)	Simpsons Friends	The Good Wife	¿Dónde Está Elisa?	Last Comic Standing	King	Office	P.O.V.	King	Married... Married...	Movie: Hamburger Hill, Don Cheadle	Deadliest Warrior	Memphis Beat	To Be Announced	Phineas Hannah	Baseball Tonight	SportsCenter
10:PM	News	Impacto	Raymond	News	Noticias	News	King	Mark Cortes		King	Roseanne	Movie: Hamburger Hill, Don Cheadle	Blue	Hawthorne	The Mo'Nique	Wizards Deck	World Cup Primetime	
11:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Corazón Salvaje	Law & Order: SVU	Late	Decisiones	Jay Leno	King	My Boys	World T. Smiley (Off Air)	King	Bernie	Movie: Hamburger Hill, Don Cheadle	DEA	Memphis Beat	Wendy Williams	Suite Life So Raven	Baseball NFL Live	
12:AM	Extra	Amar sin Límites	Paid King-Hill	Insider	Pagado	Late Night	King	Sex & Upd		King	Cops	Movie: The Goonies, Jeff Cohen	CSI: Crime Scn	CSI: NY	Movie: Fresh, Samuel L. Jackson	Cory Kim Poss	NASCAR World	SportsCenter
1:AM	Paid	Mujer...	Paid	Ent	Pagado	News	King	Lopez		King	Video		CSI: Crime Scn	Leverage		World Cup Soccer	SportsCenter	
1:30	Paid	Cero	RENO 911	Paid	Pelicula: El	Poker After	King	Lopez		King	Overhaul							

DENNIS THE MENACE



"DON'T WORRY, JOEY. THEY WON'T THROW THE LIMPIRE OUT. IF THEY DID, THEY'D HAFTA STOP THE GAME."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"...You gotta recognize 'The Star-Spangled Banner' when you hear it!"

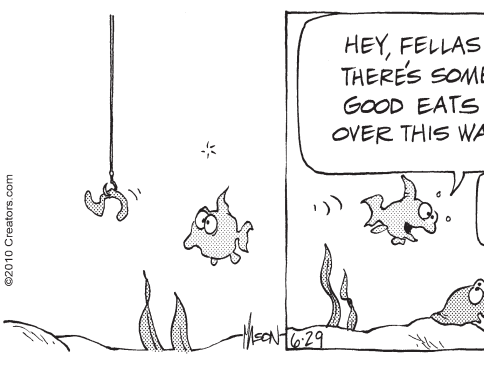
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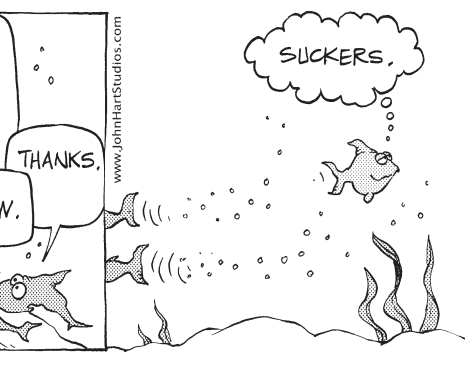
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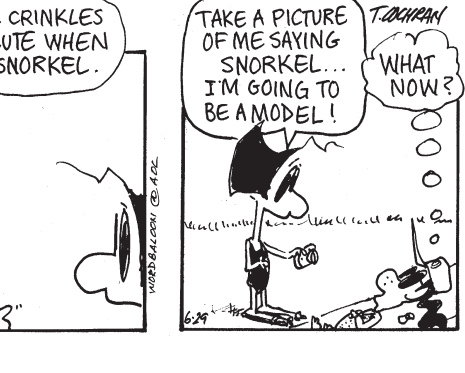
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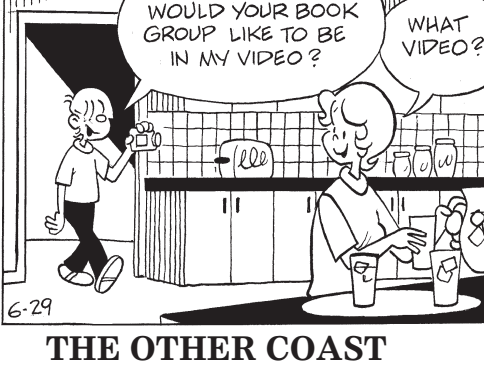
THE OTHER COAST



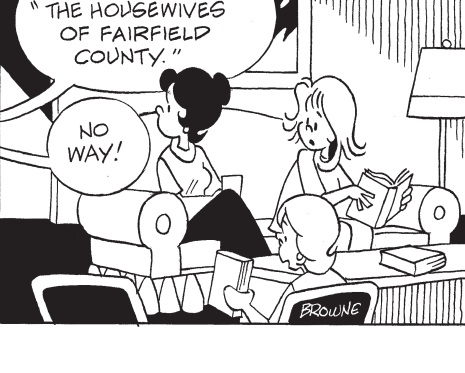
SNUFFY SMITH



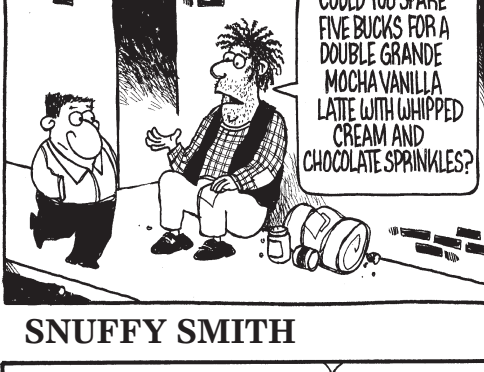
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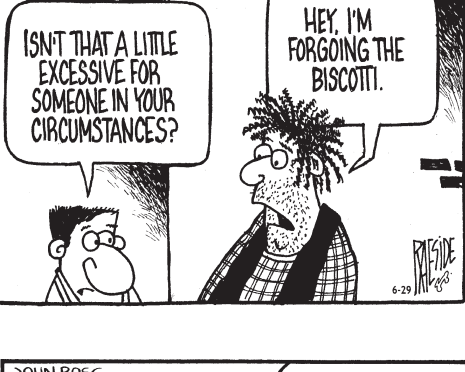
FER PAYIN' ATTENTION TO THEM RASCALS !!



HE HIRED A LION TAMED FROM THE CIRCUS



WHAT IS HE DOING NOW?



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, June 29, the 180th day of 2010. There are 185 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 29, 1910, composer-lyricist Frank Loesser (LEH'-suh), who wrote the songs for such Broadway musicals as "Guys and Dolls," "The Most Happy Fella" and "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying," was born in New York.

On this date:

In 1776, the Virginia state constitution was adopted, and Patrick Henry was made governor.

In 1946, authorities in British-ruled Palestine arrested more than 2,700 Jews in an attempt to stamp out extremists.

In 1954, the Atomic Energy Commission voted against reinstating Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer's access to classified information.

In 1966, the United States bombed fuel storage facilities near the North Vietnamese cities of Hanoi and Haiphong (HY'-fahng).

In 1967, Jerusalem was reunified as Israel removed barricades separating the Old City from the Israeli sector.

In 1970, the United States ended a two-month military offensive into Cambodia.

In 1972, the Supreme Court ruled the death penalty as it was being meted out could constitute "cruel and unusual punishment." (The ruling prompted states to revise their capital punishment laws.)

In 1988, the Supreme Court upheld the independent counsel law.

In 1995, a department store in Seoul (sohl), South Korea, collapsed, killing at least 500 people.

Actress Lana Turner died in Century City, Calif. at age 74.

In 2003, actress Katharine Hepburn died in Old Saybrook, Conn., at age 96.

Today's Birthdays: Movie producer Robert Evans is 80. Songwriter L. Russell Brown is 70. Actor Gary Busey is 66. Comedian Richard Lewis is 63. Actor-turned-politican-turned-radio personality Fred Grandy is 62. Rock musician Ian Paice

Answer to previous puzzle

DADA	RACE	BEGS
IDOL	APES	PEARL
MOMANDPOP	RATIO	
ERE	OILS	TENANT
DESPISE	TRAINS	
	ASH	BRACED
REPLY	COUCH	RAT
OGRE	SHOCK	LURE
TOO	STEAK	MINE
	ARTIST	MEN
	KNEELS	SILENCE
ENDSIT	PESO	AUG
BACON	HUEANDCRY	
AVOWS	ARID	SHIP
YENS	MEND	TOOT

Newsday Crossword

COOKOUT MENU by Billie Truitt

- Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com
- ACROSS**
- 1 National bird
 - 6 Italian (summer treat)
 - 10 Tupperware sound
 - 14 Northern Italian city
 - 15 Relocate
 - 16 Korea's continent
 - 17 Studies frantically
 - 18 Prayer ender
 - 19 fu (Chinese martial art)
 - 20 Cookout menu item
 - 22 Lighten, as a burden
 - 23 Fish eggs
 - 24 Lots and lots
 - 26 Force (to do)
 - 30 Bushy plant
 - 32 Vicinity
 - 33 Behind schedule
 - 35 Equip anew
 - 39 Dog walker's need
 - 41 So-so test grade
 - 42 Zesty chip dip
 - 43 "Semper Fi," for one
 - 44 Pitch in
 - 46 Close at hand
 - 47 Started a poker pot
 - 49 Say yes
 - 51 "Hurry up!"
 - 54 By way of
 - 55 Song for a diva
 - 56 Cookout menu item
 - 63 Turnpike fee
 - 64 Withstand
- DOWN**
- 1 Engrave, as on glass
 - 2 Mystique
 - 3 Small metric weight
 - 4 Tree branch
 - 5 Make certain
 - 6 Mirror reflection
 - 7 Arrive
 - 8 At any time
 - 9 Electric eye, e.g.
 - 10 Cookout menu item
 - 11 Customary
 - 12 Washer cycle
 - 13 Leaves of a book
 - 21 Dice throw
 - 25 Yours and mine
 - 26 Tranquil
 - 27 Sandwich cookie
 - 28 Butcher-shop product
 - 29 Cookout menu item
 - 30 Spirited horse
 - 31 Sock part
 - 34 Dull pain
 - 36 Run away
 - 37 "No man island . . ."
 - 38 Small fruit pie
 - 40 Kong (Chinese region)
 - 45 Duo
 - 48 Car-trailer connection
 - 50 Take a taste of
 - 51 Caesar's language
 - 52 Wear away
 - 53 Flooring installer
 - 54 Poetry
 - 57 Prefix for dynamics
 - 58 Scottish caps
 - 59 Tel Aviv-based airline
 - 60 Acreage
 - 61 A single time
 - 62 -do-well

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
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				47		48			49	50			
51	52	53						54					
55						56	57	58		59	60	61	62
63						64				65			
66						67				68			
69						70				71			

82nd-ranked Lu crashes Wimbledon quarterfinals

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal are there. So are Novak Djokovic, Andy Murray and Robin Soderling.

But there's one name among the list of Wimbledon quarterfinals that may not be quite so familiar — Yen-hsun Lu.

He's the 82nd-ranked player from Taiwan who shocked three-time runner-up Andy Roddick to become the first Asian player to reach the men's quarters of a Grand Slam tournament in 15 years.

The 26-year-old from Taipei pulled off the biggest upset of the tournament so far Monday when he outlasted fifth-seeded Roddick 4-6, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (4), 6-7 (5), 9-7 in a match that stretched over 4 1/2 hours.

After Lu ripped a running forehand passing shot on match point to break Roddick for the first time, he looked and pointed to the sky. He said he had bittersweet feelings in memory of his father, a chicken farmer who passed

away in 2000.

"I'm really proud to share this victory with him in the sky," Lu said. "In that moment, I just told myself, I've done it. I've done it for my father. I've done it for myself also. I've done it for all the people who supported me."

It was a stunning turnaround for Lu, who had lost in the first round at Wimbledon the past four years and failed to win a match at the last five Grand Slams.

Lu said he didn't believe he could win during Monday's match but told himself to keep fighting and keep holding serve.

"I just tried to stay with him, try to find a chance to win the set, set by set, until at the end, I was shaking his hand and I won," he said.

Before Monday, Lu was 9-18 in Grand Slam matches, 11-17 on grass and 2-10 overall against top-10 ranked players. It was his first win over a top-10 player since he beat

Murray in the first round of the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

It was a crushing defeat for Roddick, who was hoping to finally win his first Wimbledon title after losing three times to Federer in the finals, including last year's epic match that went to 16-14 in the fifth set. He had beaten Lu in straight sets in three previous meetings.

Roddick served 38 aces but converted only one of eight breakpoint chances. Lu had 22 aces.

Roddick said he played "horrendously" the first three sets, got better after that but Lu served better than ever before.

"When you dig yourself a hole, it's tough to get out," he said. "He played high risk, but he executed very well. He had a game plan, he stuck to it, and he deserved to win more than I did, that's for sure."

Lu had become the first man from Taiwan to reach

the third round at a Slam when he did at the 2009 Australian Open. The last Asian man to reach the quarterfinals at a Slam was Japan's Shuzo Matsuoka, who got to the final eight at Wimbledon in 1995. Thailand's Paradorn Srichapan reached the round of 16 here in 2003.

Lu earned a quarterfinal meeting with third-seeded Djokovic, who beat 2002 champion Lleyton Hewitt 7-5, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 to reach the last eight for the second year in a row.

Federer, chasing a record-tying seventh Wimbledon title, swept past 16th-seeded Jurgen Melzer 6-3, 6-2, 6-3 and will meet Tomas Berdych.

Nadal, forced into five sets the previous two rounds, needed only three Monday to beat Paul-Henri Mathieu 6-4, 6-2, 6-2, and showed no sign of the right knee trouble which bothered him. The Spaniard now faces sixth-seeded Robin Soderling, the Swede who

beat him in the fourth round at the French Open last year and lost to him in last month's final in Paris.

"I think the match is completely different," Nadal said. "Nothing similar to playing on grass than on clay."

Murray beat American Sam Querrey 7-5, 6-3, 6-4 to reach the final eight for the third consecutive year and is the only player in the men's draw who hasn't lost a set.

Murray, seeking to become the first British player to win the men's singles title since Fred Perry in 1936, will next meet 10th-seeded Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga.

Kim Clijsters will face Vera Zvonareva on Centre Court, followed by defending champion and top-seeded Serena Williams against China's Li Na. Venus Williams, the No. 2-seeded player and five-time champion, will be up against Bulgaria's Tsvetana Pironkova on Court 1, followed by Petra Kvitova vs. qualifier Kaia Kanepi.



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6:00 P.M. ~ Performance by Sister City's Performers.	9:25 P.M. ~ Video Presentation Recognizing
6:45 P.M. ~ Performance by Greengos	Servicemen & Women
7:50 P.M. ~ Welcome and Announcements	9:45 p.m. ~ Fireworks Display

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Braves beat Strasburg, Nationals for 5-0 win

ATLANTA (AP) — Stephen Strasburg said he “kind of battled myself” through the most difficult of his five big league starts. It was too much for the rookie that he also was battling the first-place Atlanta Braves.

The Braves scored four runs in the seventh inning against the Washington Nationals’ star rookie, and Tim Hudson threw seven scoreless innings in a 5-0 victory Monday night.

Strasburg (2-2) said he aban-

doned his breaking ball too early in the game, leaving his fastball and changeup as his primary pitches.

“I don’t think I threw as many breaking balls as I have,” he said. “You have to have that up here, because they square up on your fastball.”

Strasburg’s fastball reached 100 mph and he struck out seven, leaving him two shy of matching Herb Score’s record of 50 in his first five starts. Strasburg has two losses and a no-decision after winning

his first two starts.

The 21-year-old right-hander had no help from his offense in this one as he gave up six hits and four runs, including three earned, in 6 1-3 innings. The Nationals have scored one run in Strasburg’s last three starts.

His previous high for runs allowed was two in his debut, a 5-2 win over Pittsburgh on June 8.

“I understand I’m not going to have lights-out stuff every time,” Strasburg said. “I’m human.”

Braves manager Bobby Cox said the rookie was as impressive as expected.

“He’s as advertised,” Cox said. “He’s dynamite. He’s great. He’s got maybe the best changeup for a first-year player I’ve ever seen.”

After the game, the Braves announced they have placed their star rookie, right fielder Jason Heyward, on the 15-day disabled list with a deep bone bruise in his left thumb. Heyward’s injury was diagnosed in an MRI on Monday.

Heyward’s injury threatens

his availability for the All-Star game. He ranks second among outfielders in the NL voting.

Heyward, the NL’s rookie of the month for April and May, will be eligible to come off the DL during the July 12-14 All-Star break.

Cox also announced Ken-shin Kawakami is moving to the bullpen. Kris Medlen will remain in the rotation when Jair Jurrjens returns from a hamstring injury to start against the Nationals on Wednesday.

Cooper allows 3 hits against UCLA, South Carolina within win of title

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Blake Cooper has done all he can to put South Carolina in position for its first national championship in baseball.

Now it’s up to his teammates to take it the rest of the way.

“I finally got my last start tonight,” the senior right-hander said, “and it was a big one for me.”

Big, indeed.

Pitching on three days’ rest for the second straight time at the College World Series, Cooper allowed three hits in eight-plus innings and Bobby Haney drove in a career-high three runs, moving the Gamecocks within a win of the title with a 7-1 victory over UCLA on Monday night.

“I certainly wanted to pitch him today,” Game-

cocks coach Ray Tanner said. “But I encouraged him to take another day, if he felt that it would be in his best interests.”

Cooper shook his coach off.

“I really didn’t think another day was going to matter at this point,” he said.

Cooper struck out 10 and carried a one-hitter into the ninth before running into trouble.

South Carolina fans cheered a drawn-out “COOOOOP” as he left after 136 pitches and the bases loaded with no outs in the ninth. Reliever John Taylor finished, but not before the Bruins broke up the shutout when Cody Regis scored on a double-play grounder.

“I just wanted to do what I’ve been doing all year, go out and give my

team a chance to win,” Cooper said. “And I was able to do that today and do a little extra.”

The Gamecocks (53-16) and Bruins (51-16) play Game 2 of the best-of-three finals on Tuesday night.

UCLA coach John Savage said he probably would start Rob Rasmussen (11-3), who was knocked around for three runs on six hits

in 4 1-3 innings against TCU on Friday.

Tanner didn’t name a starter but said he probably would go with a left-hander, making Tyler Webb, who has a 3-2 record, the likely candidate.

Seven of Webb’s 16 appearances this season have been starts, with his longest outing of the year lasting 5 2-3 innings.

RANGERS

Continued from Page 8

He is virtually assured of being a third-time All-Star next month since he is up to second among AL outfielders in fan voting that ends this week. Hamilton has already said he won’t take part in the long-ball exhibition.

With two June games left, Hamilton is tied with Mickey Rivers (August 1980) and Frank Catalanotto (August 2001) for the most hits by a Rangers player in any month.

“When you get in a zone, it means that work you put into it, and the consistency with that work to try to get to this point, is paying off,” Hamilton said. “I think

it’s finally becoming a realization of what I need to do.”

Hamilton went to Young during spring training and asked the longest-tenured Ranger, also a perennial All-Star, how long it took him to settle into a routine of preparation for games and staying on the field.

Young answered “about four years.” That is where Hamilton is now.

“The one constant with Josh is the talent and the desire,” general manager Jon Daniels said. “This year, he’s putting together not just the physical side, but the mental side — the preparation, the approach, the understanding of what guys are going to try to do to do him and how he’s going to prepare for that and approach that.”

HEAT

Continued from Page 8

“You go here, I’ll go here and we’ll meet in the conference finals.”

It’s not like that. You do conversations to see what a guy is thinking. If they’re a free agent and want to know what Miami can do for them, I’ll gauge them in conversation.”

What Miami will start doing Thursday is a rarity.

When that clock hits 12:01, the Heat could have only two players under contract. Every deal Riley has struck

for the last few years has been with this day in mind, not wanting to take on any contract that would keep him from digging as deeply as possible in owner Micky Arison’s pockets this summer.

“We have been in this for two years,” Riley said.

Unlike other teams with cap space, Miami can offer the likes of James and Bosh the chance to play with a former NBA finals MVP, assuming Wade wants to stick around. There’s no state income tax in Florida, so millions more would stay in a free agent’s bank account. And then there’s the lure of Riley, who even though he’s retired from coaching still has an exalted reputation among many players.

“The great Pat Riley,” is what O’Neal called his boss during his stay in Miami.

If he puts together another title team, he might become “the greater Pat Riley.”

“We’ve been in constant communication,” Wade said. “He knows what I want.”

If plans for neither James nor Bosh pan out, Miami has plenty of other options. Carlos Boozer has said Miami’s his top choice. Amare Stoudemire has a home in South Florida. Rudy Gay is a restricted free agent who was impressed by the Heat and coach Erik Spoelstra after a humanitarian trip to Haiti.



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