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Mariners slip past Rangers, 5-4

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HERALD

TUESDAY
APRIL 24, 2007



VOLUME 102, NUMBER 127

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Lecture series

Event to feature Emily Friedman, no admission fee

By CINDY SMITH

Special to the Herald
 Emily Friedman, an independent writer, lecturer, and health policy and ethics analyst, will be the guest lecturer at the first Howard College Foundation Lecture Series to be held tonight at 7 p.m. at Hall Center for the Arts on the Howard College campus.



The lecture, Friedman "Ethical Responsibilities of Health Care Professionals," is sponsored by the Margo Glickman Fund and will be free to the public. It is an opportunity for professionals in the medical field to earn continuing education units and receive top rate information and guidance.

The lecture is also for the general public who interacts with the health care system.

Friedman is noted for her work in health policy, health trends and social ethics of health care. She has written more than 750 articles and editorials in the past 30 years and is editor of several publications.

"Ms. Friedman is a well respected professional in her field and will bring a wealth of knowledge to our community of health care professionals," said Linda Conway, executive dean of instruction at Howard College.

Friedman is known as a prolific public speaker and has received numerous honors and awards, including being named an honorary life member of the American Hospital

See LECTURE, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
 Howard County Constable Mark Winn passes out copies of a proposal to Commissioner Emma Brown and the rest of the commissioner's court Monday morning. Shortly after the presentation, which was met with no action from commissioners, Winn resigned from the office.

Constable offer falls on deaf ears

By THOMAS JENKINS
 Staff Writer

Howard County Constable Mark Winn left a stinging resignation in the hands of county commissioners Monday morning after the court decided not to support further efforts to bring his office into state-mandated compliance.

Winn's qualification for the office of constable, which requires state peace officer certification within 270 days of being elected, came under fire by county comm-

"This isn't the first time we've had this kind of trouble with a constable."



Kilgore

See CONSTABLE, Page 3A

Commissioners hear positive report on jail

By THOMAS JENKINS
 Staff Writer

Right on target.

That's how County Judge Mark Barr described ongoing repairs at the Howard County Jail Monday morning, as the

commissioner's court continues to move toward having the facility re-opened by mid May.

"Things are running very smoothly right now," Barr told the court. "We're still on target for a completion date between May 15 and May 20. We're very

pleased with the progress."

Commissioners said work on constructing a stand pipe in the jail to deliver water to firefighters has been completed, leaving the facility's inoperable smoke evacuation system as the only stumbling block in the way of

having the state reopen the jail.

"They have 75 days to complete the project, and we're 100 percent sure it's going to work at this point. Just as soon as they have it completed we'll

See JAIL, Page 3A

Few show up for HC bond election forum

□ Cost would be under \$25 a year on an average home, officials say.

By STEVE REAGAN
 Staff Writer

Bad weather plus a sparse turnout equaled an abbreviated voter forum at Howard College Monday night.

College trustees had scheduled the forum to share information and answer questions concerning the \$21.6 million bond election set for May 12, but heavy rain kept

attendance down to a minimum.

Despite the low numbers, college officials still highlighted how much the bond will cost taxpayers and what will be accomplished if the measure is approved.

College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks said the bond, the fourth in college history, would finance a multitude of construction, renovation and equipment projects across the Big Spring campus.

A majority of the build-

See BOND, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan
 Howard College Board of Trustees President John Freeman, left, addresses a sparse crowd at the start of a voter forum at the Garrett Coliseum East Room Monday evening. Also shown are fellow board members Marie Ethridge and Murray Murphy.

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 Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 7 p.m. weekdays and noon Sunday.



Settles, director on Moore Board agenda

By THOMAS JENKINS
 Staff Writer

Wednesday's meeting of the Moore Development board of directors will once again be dominated by an executive session, as board members continue moving forward on at least two projects.

The board is expected to convene in executive session during the meeting, as it continues the arduous process of sorting through the language

for a letter of intent aimed at the Settles Hotel Development Company — amounting to \$3 million in funds — and its ongoing efforts to restore the building.

"We're going to continue working on the language for the letter of intent during the session," said McLellan. "It's a pretty complicated process, and we want to make sure we thoroughly research every aspect of this before we move

on to the next phase."

Moore Development for Big Spring Inc. directors voted unanimously Dec. 8 to provide up to \$3 million to help Brint Ryan — manager of the Dallas company and the founder and CEO of Ryan & Company — renovate the Settles Hotel, which he agreed to purchase for \$75,000 from the city of Big Spring.

According to Moore Board officials, funding from the

economic development corporation will be strictly limited to costs eligible for 4A tax dollars — mainly infrastructure expenditures — to be overseen by the board's attorney.

Ryan's company has placed \$75,000 in escrow to pay for the building, according to city officials. Ryan said it was necessary for the compa-

See MOORE, Page 3A


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Sports

BIG SPRING HERALD

Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call 263-7331, Ext. 237. Email results to: sports@bigspringherald.com

Page 1B
Tuesday, April 24, 2007

IN BRIEF

Lady Steers facing Lake View today

Thunderstorms that threatened the area Monday forced Big Spring's Lady Steers to postpone their District 4-4A runner-up playoff game with San Angelo Lake View's Maidens.

The Lady Steers will play host to the Maidens at 4:30 p.m. today, the winner advancing to the Class 4A softball playoffs as the 4-4A runner-up, while the loser will enter the playoffs as the league's third-place team.

Forsan schedules date for banquet

Forsan High School's All-Sports Banquet will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, May 7, at the high school.

Tickets, priced at \$10 each, are available at the high school office and must be purchased by Thursday, May 3.

For more information, contact Debbie Burton at 457-2223.

Relay for Life ragball tournament slated

The Relay for Life Ragball Tournament has been scheduled for May 12-13 at Big Spring High School's Lady Steers Softball Field.

Teams will consist of five male and five female players. Entry fees are \$10 per player.

Registration is set for 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 12, with the first game of the tournament set to start at 11 a.m.

Howard to host Region V tourney

Howard College's Foundation Field will be site for the NJCAA Region V Softball Tournament, May 5-6.

The top four teams from the WJCAC will qualify for double elimination tournament play, with the winner advancing to the NJCAA National Tournament in Plant City, Fla., May 17-19.

Cancer scramble set for weekend

The 2007 Cancer Scramble has been scheduled for Saturday and Sunday at the Big Spring Country Club.

Players can form their own teams for the 4-person scramble or be assigned to a team. The field will be flighted by first round scores.

Entry fees are \$75 per player, plus a \$20 cart fee. Private carts are welcome.

For more information, call 267-5354.

Teenage baseball league to begin

The Big Spring Teen Baseball league is now looking for coaches or anyone willing to help with the league this season.

If anyone is interested, call Randy Phillips at 264-6600 or 517-0399.

Baseball umpires needed for season

The Big Spring Umpires Association is looking for individuals interested in umpiring baseball for the 2007 Little League season.

If interested, call Bradley Garrison at 213-1300.

OSU leads after 36 holes in Big 12 tourney

HUTCHINSON, Kan. (AP) — Oklahoma State overcame a five-stroke first-round lead by Texas A&M to take a five-stroke lead of its own after the second round Monday in the Big 12 Conference men's golf championship.

The Aggies shot a 5-over-par 285 in the opening round at Prairie Dunes Country Club, but Oklahoma State came back with a 9-over 289 in the second round

to finish the day with a 19-over 579. Texas A&M ended the day at 584, while Texas is third at 591.

"Prairie Dunes won today," said Oklahoma State coach Mike McGraw, following the difficult round. "It's an unbelievable course that exposes your weaknesses and it did that to everyone in the field. If you don't come away from Prairie Dunes a better player, I'd be surprised.

Oscar Floren of Texas Tech topped the leaderboard after 36 holes with a 1-over 141, followed by Texas A&M's Robert Gates with a 2-over 142.

Gates shot a 1-under 69 in the first round, and Floren shot a 69 in the second, for the only sub-par rounds of the day.

Brady Schnell of Nebraska and Pablo Martin of Oklahoma State were tied for third at 143.

"I think today was more of a mental battle," Gates said. "The course was playing tough, especially in the morning with the wind. The pins were very difficult. You really had to think your way around today and thankfully I hit some good shots."

The final round of the tournament was scheduled to begin at 8 a.m. today.

DELAYED GRATIFICATION



Coahoma's Heather Newton takes a swing during the Bulldogettes' District 5-2A playoff game with Hawley's Lady Bearcats in Snyder Monday afternoon. Although the Bulldogettes were forced to endure a weather delay when thunderstorms raked the area Monday night, they came back to the field and took a decisive 7-0 win over Hawley. The win earned the Bulldogettes a bye in the opening round of the Class 2A playoffs, while Hawley will be forced to take on the third-place team from District 6-2A in bi-district play.

Courtesy photo/Dana Reid

Bush lauds Colts

By BEN FELLER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Even when football season ends, superstar quarterback Peyton Manning is hard to miss on TV. He has become such a marketable pitchman that his commercials — a sports drink here, a credit card company there — seem endless.

Apparently, President Bush has taken notice while flipping the channels.

"So a lot of people here in the White House compound have been really looking forward to seeing Peyton Manning," Bush said Monday on the South Lawn. "They wanted to see a guy who gets more air time than I do."

The good-natured poke came as Bush welcomed another championship team to the White House: The Indianapolis Colts.

The Colts beat the Chicago Bears, 29-17, in a pounding rainstorm last February to become Super Bowl champs. On Monday, players basked in the sunshine below the South Portico, as Bush hailed them for ignoring naysayers and playing as a well-balanced team.

As he usually does at these events, Bush played up the theme of perseverance. He liked that the Colts fought through ups and downs.

"Isn't that what life is about, isn't it really?" Bush said. "Through the ups — it's easy to fight hard in the ups. It's when the downs come that you've got to be a fighter."

The team's coach, Tony Dungy, became the first

See COLTS, Page 2B

Rockets win, take 2-0 lead over Jazz in series

By CHRIS DUNCAN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — The Houston Rockets have gotten away with two bad offensive performances to take a commanding lead in their playoff series with Utah.

Good thing they haven't forgotten how to make their free throws.

Tracy McGrady scored 31 points and the Houston Rockets beat the Jazz 98-90 on Monday night, offsetting Carlos Boozer's 41 points with 34-of-38 accuracy from the foul line.

The Rockets shot 36 percent from the field in Game 2 after shooting 33 percent in Game 1. Houston went 4-for-24 from 3-point range on Monday, but will still head to Utah with a 2-0 lead, a deficit the Jazz have never overcome.

"We find some way to keep ourselves in a game, despite shooting the ball extremely bad," said McGrady, who went 9-for-29 from the field in Game 2. "But we hit

big shots when we needed them. We're doing a great job of getting to the free throw line."

Boozer matched a career-high point total, tossing in jumpers from all angles over 7-foot-6 Yao Ming. He finished 17-of-30 from the field and had 12 rebounds and six assists.

Now he has to figure out a way to get the rest of his team to follow his lead. Outside of Boozer, the Jazz shot 21-of-54 (39 percent) on Monday.

Game 3 is Thursday night in Salt Lake City.

"We're going to have to be better to beat this team, we know that," Utah coach Jerry Sloan said. "We need everybody on our team to perform well in order to try to beat them."

In Monday's other NBA playoff game, Detroit beat Orlando 98-90. Yao had 27 points and hit all nine of his free throws. McGrady went 12-for-14 from the line.

The Jazz were charged with 29 personal fouls, most of them failed efforts to contain

Houston's All-Star duo. Boozer said Utah has no choice but to defend Yao and McGrady that way.

"If that's how the series is going to be called, we have to adjust a little bit," Boozer said. "But that's how we have to play them. They're two superstars."

Chuck Hayes, whose wife gave birth on Saturday, had 12 points and 12 rebounds for the Rockets, who have won seven of eight playoff series when they led 2-0.

Hayes grabbed seven offensive rebounds, a catalyst for the Rockets' 15 second-chance points.

"The first half we were really struggling to score and Chuck gave us some great second-chance opportunities," Houston coach Jeff Van Gundy said. "Tremendous hustle."

Since 2001, only six teams have rallied from an 0-2 deficit to win a series. The Rockets were one of the teams that blew a 2-0 lead, losing four of five to Dallas in 2005.

The Jazz have never come back

from an 0-2 deficit to win a playoff series. They have lost 16 of their last 17 road playoff games.

Boozer scored 15 of Utah's first 17 points as the Jazz built an early lead. But he missed four straight shots, part of Utah's 4-for-16 second quarter as the Rockets got within 41-39 at half-time.

Houston regained the lead in the third quarter and opened the fourth with a 9-2 spurt to stretch the lead to 76-64.

The Jazz made it 84-80 on baskets by Mehmet Okur and Boozer, but McGrady made two free throws with 3:13 left as chants of "MVP! MVP!" echoed through the Toyota Center.

"Mac did a great job cutting to the basket and getting to the free throw line," Battier said. "That's the only way we can survive 36 percent shooting."

The Rockets hit 10 of their last 12 free throws to secure the victory.

See NBA, Page 2B

Obituaries

Gloria Ochotorena

Gloria Ochotorena, 65, of Midland, formerly of Big Spring died Monday, April 23, 2007, in a Dallas hospital. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Weather

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Windy...Cooler. Lows in the lower 50s. West winds 20 to 30 mph decreasing to 10 to 15 mph after Midnight.
Wednesday...Sunny...Cooler. Highs in the mid 70s. Northwest winds 10 to 20 mph.
Wednesday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 40s. North winds 10 to 15 mph.
Thursday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 70s. Light and variable winds.
Thursday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 50s.
Friday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 80s.
Friday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 50s.
Saturday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 70s.
Saturday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 50s.
Sunday...Sunny. Highs in the lower 80s.
Sunday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 50s.
Monday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 80s.

Take Note

• **AMERICAN LEGION POST 506 WILL HOLD A FISH FRY** Saturday. Plates are \$8 each. Delivery will be between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. by calling 263-2084. Serving will be held from noon until 3 p.m. at the post, 3208 W. Highway 80. Everyone is invited.

• **A RABIES CLINIC** will be held from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday at the Forsan Fire Station, sponsored by Debra Hill, DVM, of the Western Hill Animal Clinic. Shots are: Rabies, \$6; Booster, \$12; Bordetella, \$13; Parvo, \$8; Distemper, \$6; Feline CVR-C, \$15; and Feline CVR-C and Feline FELV, \$20.

• **MARCY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SPRING FLING LUAU CARNIVAL** will be held from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday. There will be all types of carnival booths, a 24-foot slide, jumping castle, food and more. Everyone is invited. Tickets will be sold at the door, four for \$1.

• **THE ACKERLY LUNCH BUNCH** will meet Saturday, April 28, at 10 a.m. at 14th and Main Church of Christ Fellowship Hall in Big Spring. Lunch will be served. RSVP to 267-1449 or 213-4452

• **A BENEFIT TO DEFRAY EXPENSES** for Clayton Coffman, injured in an accident, will be held at the Ice House, 1612 E. Third St. May 12. Serving of barbecue plates and fish plates at \$7 each will begin at 11 a.m. There will be door prizes, an auction, live music and more.

• **CROSS STITCHERS ARE NEEDED** to stitch a square for the annual Howard County Fair quilt. The quilt theme this year is "Animals of Texas." Stitchers may pick up a pattern kit, containing everything they will need to finish the square, from the Posey Cotton Office, 601 Scurry. Squares need to be completed within the next several weeks to allow time to piece the quilt together and get it quilted. Funds raised through tickets sold on the quilt go to pay the expenses associated with the Howard County Fair. The fair will be Sept. 26-29.

• **ALL CREATURES SANCTUARY AND RESCUE** has an account set up with Big Spring Salvage at 3608 N. Highway 87 for all types of metals and aluminum cans. See John Kimberly, manager or Cruz Rodriguez, metal specialist, to make your donations. Please tell them that your donations are for All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue. The sanctuary is also still taking weight circles off of all Purina Brand Dog Foods. Send your Purina Weight Circles to A.C.S. & R. at P.O. Box 871, Coahoma 79511. All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue has an account also set up with Howard County Feed and Supply at 701 E. Second St. For donations of coastal or grass hay for a rescue horse.

• **CHRIST COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP IS COLLECTING INFANT CAR SEATS AND CARRIERS.** These are given to new mothers who cannot afford them. To donate your old or new car seats and carriers, call Karen Allen at 263-3517 or leave a message at Christ Community Fellowship, 263-love. All donations are appreciated.

• **ROAD TO RECOVERY**, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volunteer, or to request a ride for treatment, call Nancy Koger at 267-7809.

• **NEW LIFE MINISTRIES** Church of God In Christ is holding a soup kitchen every second and fourth Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 204 N.W. 10th. The meal is free. Call 264-0771 for more information.

• **THE PET PATROL** helps locate lost pets and owners of found pets. To volunteer or for more information, call Melanie Gambrell at 267-PETS (7387).

Police blotter

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

- **FRANK EDWARD JAMISON**, 35, transient, was arrested Monday on a charge of criminal trespass.
- **ALISHA FAY MCGEE**, 28, transient, was arrested Monday on a charge of failure to identify - giving false information.
- **STEPHANIE MCDOWELL**, 21, transient, was arrested Monday on charges of public intoxication, possession of drug paraphernalia and a Midland County warrant.
- **LONNIE RAY GRAY JR.**, 27, of 2400 Monticello, was arrested Monday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **ANTHONY MUNOZ**, 48, of 1803.5 Lancaster, was arrested Monday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA** was reported in the 800 block of 15th Street.
- **FAILURE TO IDENTIFY - GIVING FALSE INFORMATION** was reported in the 600 block of State.
- **CRIMINAL TRESPASS** was reported in the 400 block of Birdwell Lane.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported:
 - in the 1100 block of Nolan.
 - in the 1400 block of Mt. Vernon.
 - in the 2300 block of Allendale.
- **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 1400 block of Sixth Street.

Sheriff's report

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 51 inmates at the time of this report.

- **ANTONIO JOE FLORES**, 26, was arrested Monday by DPS on a charge of evading arrest or detention with a vehicle.
- **DAVID HELLUMS**, 33, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of bondsman off bond for failure to identify as a fugitive from justice - giving false information, bondsman off bond for theft by check, forgery/counterfeiting and theft by check.
- **JEREMY JOHN MILLER**, 29, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on charges of possession of a controlled substance and driving while license invalid with a previous conviction.
- **JORGE GUZMAN SANCHEZ**, 35, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of failure to appear.
- **BILLY NELSON**, 35, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of driving while license invalid (two counts).
- **MICHAEL ANTHONY CARDONA**, 20, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of evading arrest or detention, failure to identify as a fugitive from justice and a Texas Youth Commission parole violation.
- **SUZIE ELIZABETH MATTIX**, 18, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of failure to identify - giving false information.
- **ALISHA GAY MCGEE**, 28, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of failure to identify - giving false information.
- **JAMIE RAE SMITH**, 30, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of failure to identify as a fugitive from justice, bondsman off bond for burglary of a habitation, bondsman off bond for driving while license invalid and failure to appear - motion for enforcement.
- **CALVIN JACOB LAWSON**, 23, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for escape while arrested.
- **ANGELA MARIE ALSBAUGH**, 38, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of theft by check.
- **FRED LAWTON PETTY**, 42, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.

Fire/EMS

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

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1300 block of Boykin. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 500 block of W. 17th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1600 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.

Lottery

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 3-11-12-22-35.
Number matching five of five: none.

...

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 14-27-30-32. Bonus Ball: 5.
Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: none.

...

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 9-7-4.

Bulletin Board

If you have items for the Bulletin board, contact the Herald news room at 263-7331 or email editor@bigspringherald.com

TODAY

- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third, for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.
- The Powwow Committee of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church annex, 809 Scurry, or the fellowship hall at 810 Scurry. Call Robert Downing at 263-3255 for information.

WEDNESDAY

- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Senior Circle meets at 10:30 a.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.
- Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.
- Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.

THURSDAY

- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room. Call 267-6479.
- Staked Plains Lodge No. 598 meets at 6:30 p.m. at 221 Main. Meal served. Meeting at 7 p.m.

FRIDAY

- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.
- AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
- Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Spring City Senior Citizens Center country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. featuring Monroe Casey and the Prowlers. All area seniors are invited.

Support Groups

TUESDAY

- The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) support group meets from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main. Anyone who has a mental illness or has a friend or family with mental illness is invited to participate. Call Felicia Talley at 268-3835 for more information.

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

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

WEDNESDAY

- RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at 264-1213 for more information.

- Dual Recovery Anonymous (DRA), 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Howard County Library Basement Community Room. DRA is a 12-step meeting for those who have a desire to stop drinking and/or using drugs and also have a mental or emotional illness.

All meetings are non-smoking and coffee is not available but members can bring their own coffee or non-alcoholic beverage. For more information, call Deidra F. at (432) 816-3033. Leave a message if you get voice mail.

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 615 Settles 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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Mariners knock off Rangers

ARLINGTON (AP) — Brandon Morrow impressed Mike Hargrove with his velocity in spring training so much, the rookie right-hander made the Seattle Mariners' pitching staff with no previous major league experience.

"I did it because he can throw a ball through a brick wall," Hargrove said. "He has an above-average slider and above-average split. It was a no-brainer."

Morrow earned his first major league victory — and a shaving cream pie in the face from his teammates to celebrate — after combining with J.J. Putz on 4-2-3 innings of one-hit, shutout relief as Seattle snapped a six-game losing streak with a 5-4 victory over the Texas Rangers.

Morrow (1-0) pitched 3 1-3 innings of one-hit relief in helping the Mariners to their first win since beating Texas at home on April 15. He featured a fastball clocked as high as 97 mph, so he didn't need to throw many off-speed pitches.

"I've gotten a few innings in so I wasn't nervous," said Morrow, drafted out of California last June with the No. 5 overall pick. "It was more of an adrenaline thing."

The Rangers tied it at 4 in the fifth against starter Cha Seung Baek, but Morrow struck out Ian Kinsler and Nelson Cruz with the bases loaded to keep the Mariners even.

Morrow struck out the side in the ninth inning against Texas on April 14, and Kinsler was one of them. Morrow remembered how he pitched to



MCT photo/Brian Lawdermilk/Fort Worth Star-Telegram
Texas Rangers pitcher Kevin Millwood (right) walks back to the mound as Seattle's Yuniesky Betancourt (left) congratulates teammate Jose Lopez after they scored in the fourth inning Monday night. The Mariners defeated the Rangers, 5-4, at the Rangers Ballpark in Arlington.

Kinsler in that game. "I got him in Seattle with a fastball," said Morrow, who made his fifth big league appearance. "I don't know if he doesn't see the ball well out of my hand or what. I wasn't really thinking too much at that point. I was just rearing back and throwing."

Putz got the final four outs in order for his first save, leaving the tying run at second base in the eighth.

"Brandon Morrow picked us up just huge," Putz said. "His fastball was 96, 97 (mph). He was

throwing strikes, he was pitching inside, he had everything going."

Ichiro Suzuki went 3-for-5 with a three-run triple for the Mariners, and Jose Lopez had three hits for Seattle, which improved to 3-1 against Texas this season. The Mariners are 3-8 against the rest of the League.

Hank Blalock had a two-run homer for Texas, which has lost four of six.

Seattle took a 5-4 lead in the seventh on Raul Ibanez's RBI groundout. Adrian Beltre and Jose Vidro hit consecutive singles off Kevin Millwood

(2-3) to put runners on first and third. Ibanez then drove in Beltre with a sharply-hit grounder off reliever Ron Mahay.

Millwood allowed five runs and 10 hits in six-plus innings with five strikeouts and two walks.

"I felt great all night," Millwood said. "It was probably the best I've pitched all year. But a few balls fell in."

Lopez's fourth-inning based-loaded single just past a diving Kinsler at second base gave the Mariners a 1-0 lead. Millwood struck out the next hitter.

COLTS

Continued from Page 1B

black coach to win a Super Bowl. Long one of the most respected figures in the National Football League, Dungy coped with the suicide of his son, James, in late 2005. Bush alluded to that.

"He is a man who has used his — a position of notoriety to behave in a quiet and strong way in the face of personal tragedy that has influenced a lot of our fellow citizens," Bush said of Dungy, who stood next to him on stage. "And I want to thank you for your courage."

The Colts are used to getting showered with attention. More than 93 million people watched the Super Bowl. Yet the team's players and execu-

tives seemed awed to be at the White House, and they didn't hide it.

Players pulled out personal cameras to get photos with Bush. They did the same with another political star and football fan who showed up for the ceremony — Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Earlier, players visited injured troops at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Manning, Dungy and a handful of others also got a 20-minute tour of the Oval Office from Bush.

"Winning the Super Bowl a few months ago was probably about as special as you could get," Manning told reporters after the White House ceremony. "But I'm not sure you could actually beat what's happened here today."

Contract Bridge

A Question of Priorities

South dealer. East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
♦ Q 8 4 2
♥ K 9 7 3
♦ Q 10 5
♣ 7 6

WEST
♦ A 10 8 5 2
♥ 9 8 6
♦ Q J 9 4 3

EAST
♦ A K J
♥ Q J 6 4
♦ J 7 3 2
♣ 10 5

SOUTH
♦ 10 9 7 6 5 3
♥ —
♦ A K 4
♣ A K 8 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
4 ♠

Opening lead — queen of clubs.

Whenever declarer is playing a suit contract, he is faced with the question of whether or not to start drawing trumps. Unfortunately, there is no hard and fast rule to guide him; each case must be decided strictly on its own merits.

Consider this deal where South was in four spades and West led the queen of clubs. Declarer won with the ace and, without giving the matter much thought, played a trump.

The moment West discarded a heart on the trick, South wished he could take back his play. But it was

now too late. East cashed his A-K-J of spades, leaving only one trump in dummy to ruff South's two club losers, and declarer eventually finished down one.

While it was undeniably unlucky to find East with all three missing trumps, the fact remains that South went down in an ice-cold contract. When play began, his only possible losers were three trumps, and even if he lost all three of them, he would still make 10 tricks. The one trick he could not afford to lose was a club.

Since both of his low clubs could be ruffed in dummy, it was declarer's responsibility to make sure that he did so while there were an adequate number of trumps available for this purpose. No method of play that jeopardized this goal was acceptable.

Accordingly, at trick two, South should cash the club king and then ruff a club in dummy. In the actual deal, East can overruff with the jack and cash his A-K of trumps, but this does not alter the outcome. There is still a trump in dummy to take care of South's last club, so making game is assured.

What declarer should recognize at the outset is that regardless of how the opposing cards are divided, no ruff or overruff by either opponent can stop him from scoring 10 tricks if he plays correctly. Only if trumps are led prematurely is the contract in danger.

Tomorrow: Safety first.
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NBA

Continued from Page 1B

Pistons 98, Magic 90

Richard Hamilton scored 22 points to lead four Pistons with at least 17 and Detroit took a 2-0 series lead.

Chauncey Billups had 21 points, eight assists and only one turnover for the Pistons, while Tayshaun Prince scored 18 points and Rasheed Wallace had 17 points, 11 rebounds and three blocks.

Hedo Turkoglu scored 22 points and Grant Hill

had 21 for Orlando, but Dwight Howard, who coach Brian Hill said was bothered by a stomach ailment, was held to eight points and didn't score in the second half until the final minute.

The Pistons were in control for much of the game, but just like the opener,

Orlando rallied late to make the final score look respectable. Detroit led by 15 points early in the fourth quarter, but was ahead by just six with 1 1/2 minutes left. On the ensuing possession, Billups ended the Magic's comeback hopes with a three-point play.



MY GOOD FISHING BUDDY, AUDREY

It was not the kind of place where you would normally look for a good fishing buddy. I wasn't even looking for a fishing buddy that day. I was with my mom in a grocery store. My mom always wanted me to go with her to the store so I could help. I am a big boy. I am almost five years old. I love helping my mom, do you? I love helping my dad, too. And I know they love helping me!

My mom and I were walking up and down the aisles, finding just the right foods that would make us big and strong. I want my mom to be big and strong, just like me. It was then and there that my soon-to-be fishing buddy appeared. My mom had seen something on a very high shelf that we needed, and asked me if I could reach it. She couldn't! I tried very hard to reach it, but I couldn't either. I didn't want to let my mom down or disappoint her, ever! But,

what could I do? Then, a very nice thing happened!

All of a sudden, a hand seemed to come out of nowhere and easily reached the very thing that neither my mom nor I could reach. With a very big smile on her face, she handed me the package that I wanted so much to get for my mom. "She is so pretty," I thought. And, her smile made her whole face seem to glow. I handed the package to my mom, feeling very good that this pretty little girl had helped me, and now, I could help my mom. I asked her what her name was.

"Audrey," she said. "Her name is as pretty as her smile," I thought.

While Audrey's mom and my mom were shopping, and filling their carts with wonderful food, Audrey and I talked about other important things, such as fishing. I love fishing. So

does Audrey! I asked her where she lived.

She lived very close to my home. I asked her if



she would like to go fishing with me one day, soon. "Yes," she said. "The river that runs near my home and yours is a very nice place to go fishing. Let's ask our moms if they will go fishing with us tomorrow." We both asked our moms and they

said, "Why yes, we would love to go fishing with you!" Our fishing trip was all set. We would go

Mom was, too! She had been awake long enough to pack a nice picnic lunch for all of us. She is such a wonderful mom. And, I was sure that I would be mighty hungry after a hard morning of fishing and pulling in all those big fish. Audrey would be, too!

We met near the big river. Audrey, her mom, my mom, and me! I saw Audrey first. She still had that great big smile on her face. "What a nice friend," I thought. She turned out to be an even better friend than I could ever hope for. It was time to put bait on the hooks, cast the line into the water, and then pull the biggest fish you have ever seen out of this river. There was only one problem. Even though I am a big boy, I didn't know how to put bait on a hook. Audrey saw me struggling with the bait. "Here, let me help," she said. She then showed me how

to bait a hook in such a way that the bait would stay there until I could catch that big fish. Audrey is such a good friend. I cast my line into the river and waited for that big fish to bite the bait.

I didn't catch the big fish that day. I did catch a small one. Audrey caught two. Somehow, it didn't matter now if I caught a big fish or not. I had my good fishing buddy with me and she is the reason I always enjoy going fishing now. She is so nice and sweet. We are going fishing again tomorrow. But, right now it is time to go to sleep. I'll bet if Audrey was here, she would be telling me, with a great big smile on her face, "Good Night!"

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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OUR VIEWS

Replacement for TAKS now clearly needed

Increasing unhappiness with the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills, a standardized exit exam for high-school students, appears to be on its way out.

On Thursday, the Texas Senate voted to replace the controversial TAKS with exams that would cover four core subjects and would be administered to students in grades 9-11.

However, TAKS wouldn't completely disappear because the exams would still be given to younger students.

Almost everyone has heard the phrase "teaching to the test." That's probably the main gripe with TAKS, with students, parents and teachers alike saying that too much time is being spent in the classroom preparing students specifically to pass the test.

Few people would dispute that some kind of effective exit testing is needed for high-school students. We agree.

But TAKS has taken on a life of its own and has become an academic goal rather than an academic assessment. It imposes undue stress on students, teachers and parents. Its relevance has come under question.

As currently envisioned, according to an Associated Press article, the new exit tests would cover English, math, science and social studies. Each test would be worth 100 points and students would be required to accumulate a minimum of 840 points to graduate.

That translates to 70 percent of a possible 1,200 points, which isn't unreasonable, although some might see it as too low.

Additionally, test grades would comprise 15 percent of the students' course grades, and good scores on tests such as the SAT could be counted toward the exit exam requirement.

The whole process seems a bit complicated, yet it appears to be more workable than the TAKS.

The bill now goes to the House, where a committee has already approved a similar bill.

We urge favorable consideration of the Senate initiative or at least a measure that combines the best of both bills.

THE TIMES
EL PASO

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions. In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

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 - Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
 - We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
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 - 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

Thank You, Lord, for making our life work when we come to You.

Amen

Green Giant's big carbon footprint

When President Jimmy Carter wanted Americans to conserve energy in 1979, he set an example by wearing a sweater and turning down the White House thermostat. Today, California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger boasts that he is a world leader in the fight against global warming — but his advocacy shouldn't keep him from flying in private jets or driving a Hummer.



DEBRA SAUNDERS

The gas-guzzling governor is on the cover of Newsweek. The Austrian Oak is now global warming's jolly green giant. Last week at Georgetown University, Schwarzenegger explained how he was making environmentalism more attractive. The problem with enviros, he said, was that people thought they "were no fun" — "like prohibitionists at a fraternity party."

Plan Arnold is to turn environmentalism from a phenomenon based on guilt to a successful movement "built on passion." Call it You-Can-Have-It-All Environmentalism.

Sure, the Republican governor told Georgetown students, enviros used to criticize (real) men like him for "powering my private airplanes. So it is too bad, of course, that we can't all live simple lives like the Buddhist monks in Tibet. But you know something. That's not going to happen."

Translation: Schwarzenegger can boast about signing a bill that calls for California to reduce its

greenhouse gas emissions by 25 percent by the year 2020 — but don't expect him to curb his own super-size emissions.

It was not that long ago that your average politician did not want to be seen owning a few big SUVs while pushing for more stringent federal fuel-efficiency standards for American cars. They did not want to be branded as hypocrites.

Now Al Gore, who hyper-consumes energy in his Tennessee home, and Schwarzenegger, who is always jumping on a private jet after eco-friendly media events, can burn energy like the most flagrant energy hogs.

As long as they say they believe in global warming, they personally don't have to do much about global warming.

Spokesman Aaron McLearn told me that the governor is looking into solar panels for his home and buys credits to offset his carbon footprint. Schwarzenegger also converted one of his four Hummers to hydrogen power — actually GM converted the car and lets Schwarzenegger drive it when he wants — and another to biodiesel.

"It's not the car," McLearn explained, "it's the engine."

Also, Schwarzenegger does not drive much these days — the California Highway Patrol drives him.

That's not enough. I do not expect Schwarzenegger to ride the bus. But he should not hype his GM-converted Hummer as "environmentally muscular." He should show some respect for fuel-efficient cars — those we mere mortals can afford — and try flying commercial. Get out some, and

meet a few real folk — in first class.

Because, while Schwarzenegger boasted at Georgetown that California is "sending the world a message" on global warming, his behavior and his rhetoric send a different signal: Conserving energy is for girlie men.

I will receive many e-mails defending Schwarzenegger — all along the lines that at least he believes in global warming. And he has signed bills to force other people to conserve in the future.

After all, no one really expects stars or rich people to sacrifice. All the glitterati have to do is really believe in global warming, maybe ride in a hybrid to the Oscars — and then their carbon trails (which are much larger than those of people who take the bus every day) won't stink.

It's laughable. Those who believe that global warming is caused by man — I am agnostic on that score — claim that they are on the side of Science. That's Science with a capital S.

Yet they applaud when a so-called leader on global warming speaks as if "environmentally muscular" technologies and carbon offsets can manufacture a 25-percent reduction in greenhouse gases by 2020.

They have this odd belief that the key to fighting global warming is not by cutting energy use, but by believing in global warming.

They embrace wishful thinking — and call it science.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@schronicle.com.

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The blame game's going again

Here we go again. Assume your positions.

Guns kill. No, guns don't kill. People kill. No, people don't kill. Asians/aliens/others kill. No, it's not who people are; it's what they watch and "play."



SUSAN ESTRICH

People don't kill. It's people who play video games and watch television who kill.

Video games kill. They teach kids to kill. They do it without forcing them to really learn how to use a gun or face the consequences of killing. Kids need to be trained to use real guns, not conditioned by the use of phony ones. Kids need more guns. Or fewer video games.

In 2002, an armed gunman was killed by armed students at Appalachia Law School. Or maybe he was unarmed or his gun was empty or he had put it down by the time he was shot dead. The congressman from the district that includes Virginia Tech has been sponsoring legislation every year to expand the right to carry concealed weapons, allowing for reciprocity between states. No, we need more regulation.

We license drivers, insisting on training, the ability to pass a test, clear proof that the individual is capable of handling a car. My 16-year-old got her permit, did not pass the road test on the first try (more than that I cannot say), took more lessons and now has a license, but is subject for the first year to a curfew and can't take passengers. We take it one step at a time. Why not also with guns?

No, we need better policing on campus, better security for students. How long will it take before the first lawsuit is filed against the University, claiming that it acted in a grossly negligent fashion in failing to take action after the first shooting to warn students and secure the campus? The first two students to be shot would have been the only ones had the University not erred so completely in assessing the situation.

No, it didn't err so completely, except in hindsight. The University was reasonable in its judgments and should enjoy at least qualified immunity from suit when a reasonable judgment turns out to be wrong. Otherwise, taxpayers get stuck with the bill.

No, we need more community. Here was this clearly troubled kid living in the middle of this dormitory, a student who was sufficiently "troubled" that the English department at one point intervened, a kid who simply didn't

speak to anyone, and no one did anything/enough to get him the help/attention/expulsion he so clearly needed.

No, if he was so troubled, it was his parents who should have known — they raised him; they sent him into the world. Why didn't they know or do something? Control him? Warn the rest of us?

No, it's the culture that did it, that created his anger. It was the way he felt about "rich kids" and the way they behaved, and there was some/no reason/excuse for that.

Everyone will find someone to blame. Most people will find more than one person or thing. The person who is obviously most to blame is dead, leaving us to search for other scapegoats. The lawyers will find a way to sue. The screamers will have much to say.

So we'll take to our usual corners and try to impose rationality, and even if no one changes anyone else's mind, at least it is an exercise that feels like doing something. So long as we're arguing, we can almost convince ourselves that we have control, the capacity to protect our children, to offer them the safety we all crave in a world that, on some days, feels like a very scary place to send your children into.

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Bird Poop:

Young barn owls transplanted from CAF hangar

Maneuvering through the opening that was designed to accommodate the tail of a B-29, the bird of prey used the entrance nightly to access the Commemorative Air Force hangar. Ghosts of the past dotted the vast floor of this tribute to World War II flight abilities. As she had done previously, the night flier circled before landing. Located on a preferred spot on the horizontal steel beams that lined the sides of the building were six eggs she was incubating.

Distracted by a sudden noise, she misjudged her approach. After the upper part of her wing slammed into one of the planes, she fell to the floor. The barn owl was grounded.

Called to pick up the owl, Harry Hopkins, a Midland volunteer, was upset when he later described the bird's condition. "The wing's a mess." When he delivered the bird, we could readily see the damage and the hopelessness of the situation. "Do you think there's a nest in that building," we asked. Our question was answered the next day. Phoning from the hangar, Mark Baxter, a CAF mechanic, inquired about the owl. After being told that the injury was so severe euthanasia was required, he said he would check to see if the female had chosen the hangar as a nest site. After some time, the phone rang. "Six white eggs on the beam above the north door. One is starting to hatch. Do you think the mate can raise them by himself?" asked Mark.

Of equal importance was whether the male would abandon the nest. Since both sexes assist in incubation, and pairs were often found sitting side by side, with a portion of eggs under each parent, this was a situation that would require constant monitoring. Laid at different intervals, the eggs would hatch in sequence and the young would vary in size.

For the next month, Mark checked the nest. The father bird continued his assigned task. Except for his nightly sojourn for food, he remained on the nest. Constant communication between Mark, Gail Barnes of the wildlife center in Lubbock and us was vital to the outcome.

When Mark reported, "Two hatched," then later, "Two more," we worried if the male could feed all six if the remaining eggs were successful.

When we accepted an invitation to come and see the foursome, Mark introduced us to Gary Austin, chief mechanic for the B-29 "Fifi." Both men were excited about the CAF "family," and recalled that they had first noticed the parent owls in December. Provided with a portable steel ladder, we climbed about 20 feet, then stepped carefully on to the door assemblage and approached the nest.

Only the curved edge of the horizontal steel beam kept eggs or nestlings from plummeting to the



BEBE MCCASLAND



Although the B-29 in the background is grounded for repairs, the baby barn owl and its siblings were given a chance to prosper and fly someday by caring mechanics at the CAF hangar.

floor below. Unbelievable was the lack of a nest. Mostly debris from pulverized pellets, rabbit hair, and the remains of mice and rats littered the beam. Essentially, the eggs had been laid on cold steel, and the youngsters had nothing to push against in their efforts to stand. Their legs would be splayed and underdeveloped if this continued. Not long after our visit, Mark reported, "We have six!" With the age of the nestlings ranging from 2-1/2 weeks to a few days old, the decision to intervene was made. A single parent would eventually be unable to obtain enough food for an increasingly hungry family.

Arriving at the hangar, we saw Mark and Gary with a cardboard box. Earlier, they had climbed to the nest and gathered the nestlings. When we opened the box, the familiar whimpering sound of baby owls greeted us. The four oldest had graduated from their fuzzy, white down to a woolly, buff-colored down. The remaining two were rather bedraggled and hardly larger than a baby chick.

Once the nestlings were placed in our incubator, we headed to Lubbock. Stopping in Lamesa, I checked on the babies. The four oldest were enjoying their soft, warm environment. Startled at the appearance of the youngest, I knew their fate even before handling them. Cold, with distended abdomens, their lives had been too brief.

As we continued the drive, I tried to figure

out what had gone wrong, what should I have done. With no answers, we arrived at the center. From the look on my face, Gail knew something had happened. Handling each of the newly born, she reassured me that there was nothing anyone could have done to save them. Infection in the umbilical cords and malnutrition had claimed the tiny lives.

After returning home, I called Mark to relate the outcome of our efforts. He was not surprised by the news of the two youngest owls. As he and Gary had carefully gathered the nestlings, they had wondered if those babies could make it. They were so different from the older ones at that same age. Both men were relieved to learn that the surviving four could be raised by surrogate parent owls. To know they would eventually "earn their wings" made Mark feel that he had done something good. Soon the owls were just memories, until August.

As he walked toward the 40-gallon trash barrels near the north doors of the hangar, Mark jumped when he first

heard a high pitched scream. Daring to look in each container for this eerie sound, he was greeted by a heart shaped head and small black eyes. Hissing harshly and swaying from side to side, the young barn owl lowered its head and extended its wings.

At this moment, Mark realized that the father owl must have been successful in attracting another mate and having a second family. When this youngster had attempted to leave the area above, it had only enough strength to break its fall. Instead of gliding to the floor below, it had muddled its solo flight into a trash bin. Unable to fly out of this narrow, round prison, the feathered but not flight-worthy creature had to wait for someone to find it. Thinking he could reach in and grab the bird, Mark learned in a hurry that the fledgling would throw itself on its back, and strike at him with both feet.

We were happy to help a second time. After pulling the screaming owl from the barrel, I noticed its feathers were coated with a gritty, oily substance. At the wildlife center, they christened



Growing, the four CAF barn owls are watched closely by one of their surrogate parents.

the newest CAFeR, "Pig-pen." Since he ate like a pig, and was as dirty as the cartoon character, he was aptly named. Put with surrogate parents named "Mean" and "Nasty," the youngster would have nothing to do with them. When five more youngsters were placed in the mew to be nurtured, Pig-pen positioned himself between the new arrivals and the

surrogates. Once Nasty pummeled him with her one good wing, he decided to help the adult feed the younger ones, but intentionally kept Mean away.

How anything so vulnerable, could become so formidable, was nature's secret.

Bebe McCasland is federally and state licensed to rehabilitate wild birds.

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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

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

Parents Corner:

A couple of stories that provide several different morals

Life is interesting and presents many things for us to learn. It isn't always what it seems and sometime appearances can really be deceiving. Please consider the following stories and note the interesting morals.

First story:

It was October and the Indians on a remote reservation asked their new chief if the coming winter was going to be cold or mild. Since he was a chief in a modern society he had never been taught the "old secrets." He looked at the sky and couldn't tell what the winter was going to be like. Nevertheless, to be on the safe side, he told his tribe that the



DARRELL RYAN

winter was indeed going to be cold and that the members of the village should collect firewood to be prepared. However, being a practical leader, after several days, he got an idea. He went to the phone booth, called the national weather service and asked what the coming winter would be like. The weather service meteorologist responded, "It looks like this winter is going to be quite cold!"

The new chief returned to his people and told them to collect even more firewood in order to be prepared. A few weeks later he called the National Weather Service to inquire again upon the coming winter. "Yes," the meteorologist replied, "this is going to be a very cold winter!"

The chief again went back to his people and ordered them to collect every scrap of firewood they could find. Two weeks

later the chief called the weather service again and inquired, "Are you absolutely sure that the winter is going to be extremely cold?"

"Absolutely," the meteorologist replied, "it's looking more and more like it will be one of the coldest winters we have ever had!" To this the new chief inquired, "How can you be so sure?" The weatherman quickly replied, "I have been watching the local Indians and they are collecting firewood like crazy!"

Second story:

There was a man who had four sons. He wanted his sons to learn not to judge things too quickly. So he sent them each on a quest, in turn, to go and look at a pear tree that was a great distance away. The first son went in the winter, the second in the spring, the third in summer, and the youngest son

in the fall. When they had all gone and come back, he called them together to describe what they had seen.

The first son said that the tree was ugly, bent, and twisted. The second son said no it was covered with green buds and full of promise. The third son disagreed; he said it was laden with blossoms that smelled so sweet and looked so beautiful, it was the most graceful thing he had ever seen. The last son disagreed with all of them; he said it was ripe and drooping with fruit, full of life and fulfillment.

The man then explained to his sons that they were all correct, but they had each seen only one season in the tree's life.

He told them that you cannot judge a tree, or a person, by only one season, and that the essence of who they are and the

pleasure, joy, and love that come from that life can only be measured at the end, when all the seasons are up. If you give up when it's winter, you will miss the promise of your spring, the beauty of your summer, fulfillment of your fall.

These stories have several morals:

Don't judge life by what is happening around you; don't judge life by one difficult season; don't let the pain of one season destroy the joy of all the rest; persevere through the difficult patches and better times are sure to come some time; and "Aspire to Inspire Before You Expire!"

May we make our motto to live simply; love generously; care deeply and speak kindly.

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

National news in brief

Suicide car bombing in Baghdad kills 9 American soldiers

BAGHDAD (AP) — In one of the deadliest attacks on American ground forces since the Iraq war started more than four years ago, a suicide car bomber struck a patrol base northeast of Baghdad and killed nine U.S. soldiers and wounded 20, officials said.

An Iraqi civilian also was wounded in the attack on Task Force Lightning soldiers in Diyala province, a volatile area that has been the site of fierce fighting involving U.S. and Iraqi troops, Sunni insurgents and Shiite militias.

At least 48 Iraqis were killed in seven other bombings, violence that has persisted despite a nearly 10-week-old U.S.-Iraqi security crackdown aimed at pacifying Baghdad.

Of the 20 wounded in the attack on the patrol base, 15 soldiers were treated and returned to duty while five others and the Iraqi were evacuated to a medical facility for further care, the military said.

Republican lawmaker warns Democrats not to turn a deaf ear to military commanders

WASHINGTON (AP) — As Democrats head toward a showdown with President Bush on Iraq, a leading Republican warned that they are making an all-too-familiar mistake: not listening to seasoned commanders.

Rep. C.W. Bill Young, R-Fla., said catastrophe always follows when civilians turn a deaf ear to their military officers.

In the 2003 run-up to the war, Young said in an interview, administration officials dismissed a top Army officer's estimate that securing Iraq would probably require several hundred thousand troops.

"I just don't think that it's a good idea for us here in the Congress to try to manage the conduct of the war," Young, a military appropriations expert, told his colleagues during a meeting Monday.

Gen. David Petraeus, the new Iraq commander, will try to persuade lawmakers in a private briefing this week not to set a timetable on the war.

Russia's farewell to Yeltsin a reflection of the country's transformation

MOSCOW (AP) — Perhaps unavoidably, Russia's farewell to Boris Yeltsin will be filled with symbols and ceremonies that reflect the epochal changes that transformed the nation during his eight years as president.

The body of the first president of post-Soviet Russia will be placed for public viewing on Tuesday afternoon, a day after his death at age 76, in Moscow's Christ the Savior Cathedral — a vast, gleaming church that is the most potent emblem of the Russian

Orthodox revival after decades of Communist official atheism.

The cathedral is a replica of the original, which sat on the banks of the Moscow River not far from the Kremlin. It was blown up by the Soviet authorities in 1931, just a few months after Yeltsin's birth.

The plan was to use the site for a skyscraper called the Palace of Soviets topped by a statue of Vladimir Lenin — essentially a secular temple — but the ground proved too shaky for its foundations.

Tillman-Lynch hearing set to open as drone footage question lingers

WASHINGTON (AP) — As the Army probed Pat Tillman's death, investigators implored the CIA and Pentagon last year to scour their databanks for aerial video of the friendly fire incident, footage they believed might have been captured as a Predator drone flew over the scene.

The trail ran cold in October, but lawmakers plan to press the Pentagon on Tuesday with questions still hovering over the one-time National Football League star's shooting: Was a drone flying overhead when Tillman was killed? Did it videotape the incident, and if so, where is the footage?

Some members of Congress hope to elicit the new information Tuesday when the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform holds a hearing as part of an investigation into misleading information from the U.S. military.

The most recent investigation by the Army, released last month, documented a monthlong search for the video. The undertaking "suggests the distinct possibility that a Predator drone overflew the battle scene, and, if it did, may have captured yet-unrevealed material information," said Daniel Kohns, a spokesman for Rep. Mike Honda, a Democrat who represents the San Jose, Calif., area where Tillman grew up.

A week after shootings, Virginia Tech students return to classes, but not to normal

BLACKSBURG, Va. (AP) — On Virginia Tech's first day of classes since last week's shootings, Joe Merola

just wanted to give his students a lecture on an equation explaining the voltage in batteries.

But he couldn't get through it. Looking out at 100 students and a Virginia Tech sweatshirt he had placed on a seat to honor a student who was wounded, he broke down.

"I lost it halfway through class," Merola said. "I burst into tears and had to turn it over to the counselors."

It was a common sentiment around campus as grieving students returned Monday, one week after Seung-Hui Cho killed 32 people before turning the gun on himself.

Students and staff paused for moments of silence at the times when Cho opened fire in two campus buildings more than two hours apart. The tributes included an emotional ceremony in which a man in a Virginia Tech hat rang a bell 33 times and students and faculty released white balloons for each victim.

GOP presidential candidates try to find solid ground on immigration policies

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ask the leading Republican presidential candidates about dealing with illegal immigration, and inevitably the answer focuses on tightening border security and building fences.

What voters aren't hearing a lot about is giving legal status, under certain conditions, to illegal immigrants in the United States, even though each of the top three GOP candidates has supported such a policy.

The reason has a lot to do with a deep fissure in the GOP base: Business and industry are demanding more low-wage workers, while grass-roots conservatives are demanding that those workers be shipped home.

From coffee shops in Iowa to barbecue joints in South Carolina, GOP voters troubled by what they see as an unchecked influx of immigrants into their communities are peppering the candidates with often-angry questions at campaign stops.

"The country's being invaded by people that really shouldn't be here, that are coming here illegally," said Ron Dupuis, who confronted Sen. John McCain at a New Hampshire forum last year.

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Officials arrest caviar smugglers

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — An illegal caviar ring has been broken up with the arrest of a dozen people accused of dealing in the ill-gotten fish eggs, conservation officials said.


Indiana conservation officers spent more than a year infiltrating the fishing ring, Sgt. Dean Shadley said.

"It's just like a drug dealer, you've got to hang out where they hang out and talk the talk and walk the walk," he said.


Members of the ring caught paddlefish — distant cousins of caviar-producing sturgeon — in Ohio River tributaries and sold their eggs as caviar, according to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. One paddlefish can yield as much as \$800 worth of eggs, and annual income for those who catch them can range from \$100,000 to \$400,000.

For those people who want to win the battle over Acid Reflux Disease, we'd like to say

"Bravo."



The area's only Bravo pill system is now available at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for the treatment and diagnosis of Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (also called GERD). The new Bravo pill procedure allows you to monitor your acid levels without the insertion of tubes or cameras, and without drinking unpleasant barium solution. It's as simple as wearing a pager and as easy as using a TV remote. Talk to your doctor or call 432-263-6018 for more information.



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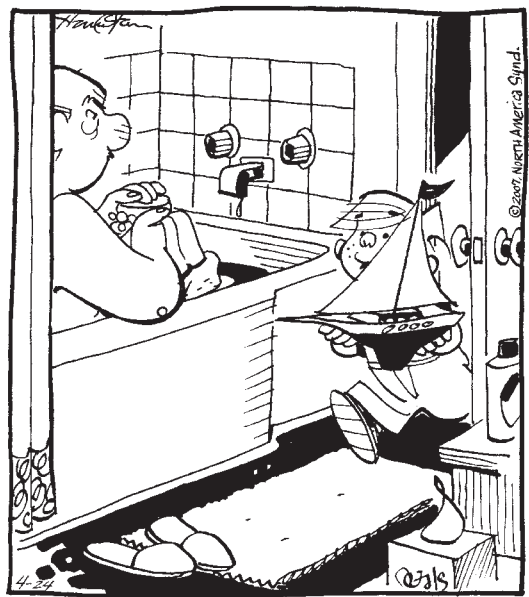
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TUESDAY

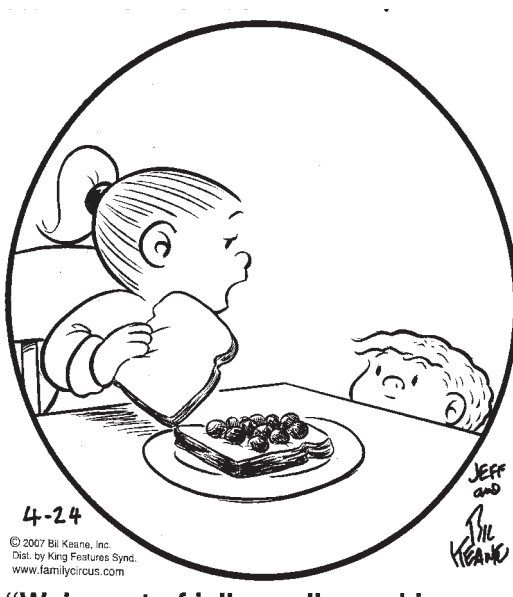
Table with 20 columns representing different TV channels (WFDA, KMID, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLT, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN, SCIFI) and 7 rows representing different times of day (6:30 AM to 12:30 AM) with program listings.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"OKAY IF I USE YOUR TUB? MY MOM'S TAKIN' A BATH AN' TOLD ME TO FLOAT MY BOAT SOMEWHERE ELSE."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"We're out of jelly, so I'm making you a sandwich out of a few grapes."

HAGAR

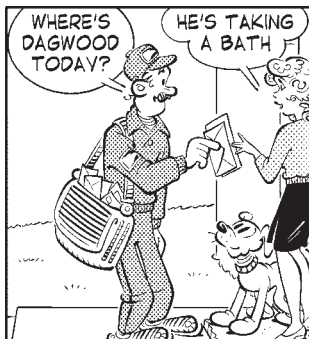


WHAT ARE WE HAVING FOR DINNER TONIGHT?



NOT LEFTOVERS AGAIN!!

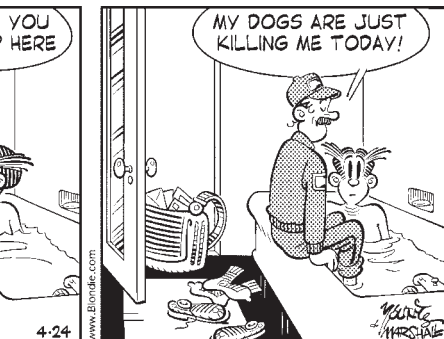
BLONDIE



WHERE'S DAGWOOD TODAY?



I HEARD YOU WERE UP HERE



MY DOGS ARE JUST KILLING ME TODAY!

BC

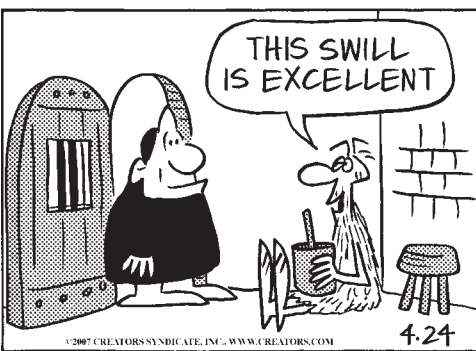


ANY IMPROVEMENTS IN STORE FOR THE TEAM THIS YEAR, COACH?

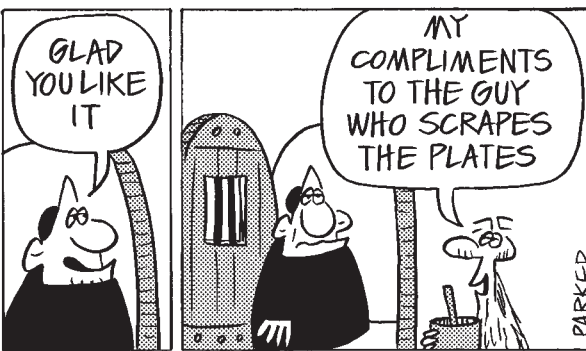


WE'RE GONNA NEED TO EXPAND THE WARNING TRACK.

WIZARD OF ID



THIS SWILL IS EXCELLENT

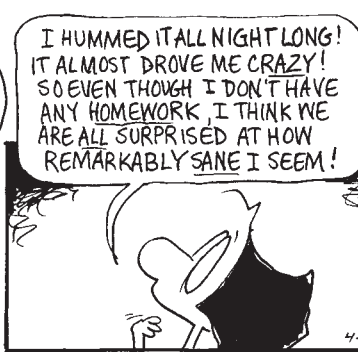


GLAD YOU LIKE IT

AGNES



AGNES, WHERE IS YOUR HOME-WORK?

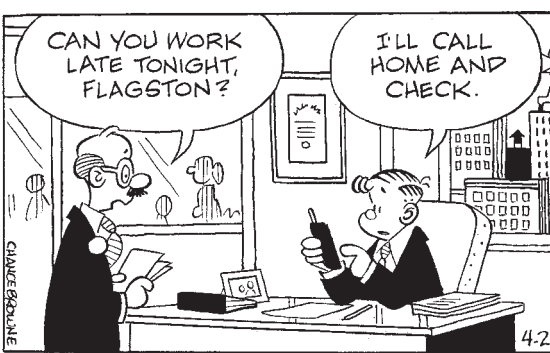


I HUMMED IT ALL NIGHT LONG! IT ALMOST DROVE ME CRAZY!

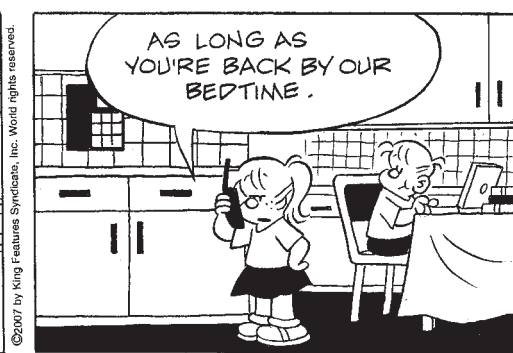


I CAN'T TELL YOU THE SONG... WE NEED A PRINCIPAL, NOT A HUMMING NUT.

HI AND LOIS



CAN YOU WORK LATE TONIGHT, FLAGSTON?



AS LONG AS YOU'RE BACK BY OUR BEDTIME.

THE OTHER COAST



I APPRECIATE THAT YOU WERE EXCITED TO BE PICKED AS AN OLYMPIC TORCH BEARER.

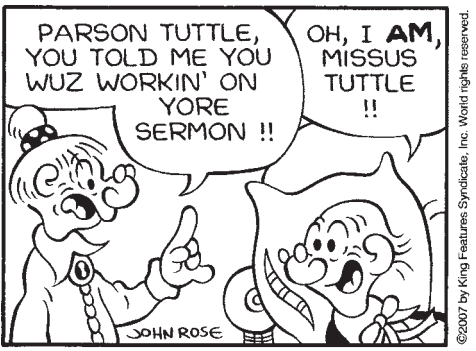


I ALSO APPRECIATE THAT YOU WANTED TO PRACTICE WITH IT.

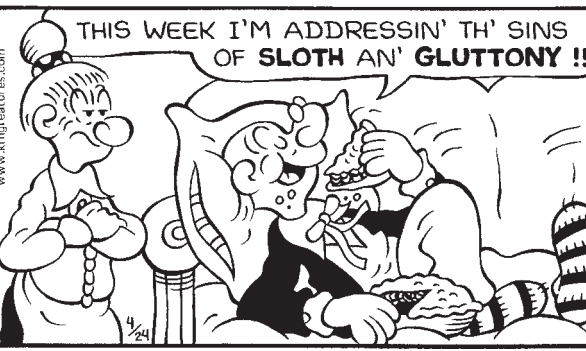


BUT DID YOU HAVE TO DO IT IN THE HOUSE?

SNUFFY SMITH



PARSON TUTTLE, YOU TOLD ME YOU WUZ WORKIN' ON YORE SERMON !!



THIS WEEK I'M ADDRESSIN' TH' SINS OF SLOTH AN' GLUTTONY !!

BETLE BAILEY



STOP WORRYING ABOUT THE END OF CIVILIZATION



MAYBE IT WASN'T SUCH A GOOD IDEA IN THE FIRST PLACE

This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, April 24, the 114th day of 2007. There are 251 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On April 24, 1916, some 1,600 Irish nationalists launched the Easter Rising by seizing several key sites in Dublin. (The rising was put down by British forces almost a week later.) On this date: In 1792, the national anthem of France, "La Marseillaise" was composed by Capt. Claude Joseph Rouget de Lisle. In 1800, Congress approved a bill establishing the Library of Congress. In 1877, federal troops were ordered out of New Orleans, ending the North's post-Civil War rule in the South. In 1898, Spain declared war on the United States after rejecting America's ultimatum to withdraw from Cuba.

In 1915, the Ottoman Empire began the brutal mass deportation of Armenians during World War I. In 1953, British statesman Winston Churchill was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II. In 1968, leftist students at Columbia University in New York began a weeklong occupation of several campus buildings. In 1970, the People's Republic of China launched its first satellite, which kept transmitting a song, "The East is Red." In 1980, the United States launched an abortive attempt to free the American hostages in Iran, a mission that resulted in the deaths of eight U.S. servicemen. In 1986, Wallis, the Duchess of Windsor, for whom King Edward VIII had given up the British throne, died in Paris at age 89. Today's Birthdays: Film and drama critic Stanley Kauffmann is 91. Movie director-producer Richard Donner is 77. Actress Shirley MacLaine is 73. Author Sue Grafton is 67. Actor-singer Michael Parks is 67. Actress-singer-director Barbra Streisand is 65. Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley is 65. Country singer Richard Sterban (The Oak Ridge Boys) is 64. Rock musician Doug Clifford (Creedence Clearwater Revival) is 62. Actor-playwright Eric Bogosian is 54. Actor Michael O'Keefe is 52. Rock musician David J (Bauhaus) is 50. Rock musician Billy Gould is 44. Actor-comedian Cedric the Entertainer is 43.

Answer to previous puzzle: LOST ATARI SCAB, ABLE BORED TUBA, GOOSEBUMPS EBBS, SETTLER SABRE, BOYS MILKY, SWAPS BABA HAD, SPINE BERET ODE, KISS LEAST GLEN, ICE NORTH PREPS, DEC OURS FEAST, READY SOON, SLASH TUNDRAS, PECS CHERRY PITON, ANKA ABOUT ATON, NOISY MONTH SAPS

Newsday Crossword

NO KIDDING by Sally R. Stein Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS: 1 Donkey sound, 5 Hive dwellers, 9 Out of whack, 14 Make simpler, 15 Jane Austen novel, 16 Last baseball inning, usually, 17 Wicked, 18 Quantities: Abbr., 19 From the sun, 20 Survivor or The Apprentice, 23 ___ out a living, 24 Belittle, slangily, 25 Made a home, as a hawk, 27 Tried to rip open, 31 Despicable one, 33 From Dublin, 34 Be a nag, 35 Scandinavian capital, 39 Situation's essential truth, 42 Dog pest, 43 Laundry appliance, 44 Donald Duck nephew, 45 Piece of dinette furniture, 47 Bearlike zoo beasts, 48 Erase, 51 Recruiting-poster Uncle, 52 Ecology agcy, 53 "Honestly...", 60 Must, slangily, 62 Crowd sound, 63 Diva's performance, 64 Intermission follower, 65 63 Across, for example, 66 Tie tightly, 67 Luster, 68 Business envelope abbr., 69 Is a spectator at, DOWN: 1 Beverage on tap, 2 Enthusiastic review, 3 Where India is, 4 Scream, 5 "Get lost!", 6 Television awards, 7 CPR experts, 8 Wide belt, 9 Exam-sheet entry, 10 "O Sole ___", 11 Small bay, 12 Amount bet, 13 Destroy, as documents, 21 It's east of Oregon, 22 Lunch time, at times, 26 Exactly right, to a Brit, 27 Spat, 28 Type of vaccine, 29 Cereal grain, 30 Many-acred residence, 31 Nevada/California lake, 32 Small songbird, 34 Computer-keyboard key, 36 Cuff-link alternative, 37 Star Wars princess, 38 Miner's discoveries, 40 ___-optic cable, 41 San Antonio attraction, 46 Reach, as a goal, 47 Store customer, 48 French painter Edgar, 49 Historical period, 50 Coffeehouse order, 51 Ten Commandments verb, 54 ___ Major (Big Dipper), 55 Car-horn sound, 56 Keep ___ on (watch), 57 Cleveland's lake, 58 Poem unit, 59 Young fellows, 61 All-even game

13x13 crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-68 indicating starting positions for words.